

高级英语教程

张中英 李孟权 主编
章文 王建民 编
虞京春

AN
ADVANCED
ENGLISH
COURSE

天津大学出版社

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An Advanced English Course

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内 容 提 要

本书精选 25 篇阅读材料。按时文、科技文、短篇小说、人物记述、人文及新闻报导等体裁分为 7 个单元,并根据各自的特点加以说明和介绍。所选材料内容新颖、语言规范,既重视知识性又兼顾趣味性。

各篇阅读材料均附有实践性较强的练习。各单元既有联系又有区别,可根据需要取舍或变更阅读顺序。书后并附有语法练习。

本书可作为高等院校非英语专业研究生英语教学使用的教材,具有大学英语四级水平的自学者也可使用。

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前 言

《高级英语教程》是在吸收了近年来国内外大学英语教材之长,考虑了我国硕士研究生英语在教与学两方面水平逐年提高的实际情况,并在编者多年教学实践的基础上编写出来的。

《高级英语教程》的使用对象主要是非英语专业的硕士研究生及具有相当水平的英语自学者。具体地说,适用于已掌握英语的一般语法规则,拥有大约4000个单词词汇量,能较熟练阅读理解科普及一般题材英语文章的英语学习者。

编者在进行硕士研究生英语教学过程中,深感过去教材的内容过于集中在科普方面。题材的单一限制了多种语言现象的出现,对进一步提高学习者的理解水平有一定局限。因此,在本教程编写过程中,编者十分注重以下两点:1. 选入多种题材和体裁的文章,使学习者扩大英语视野,掌握更多、更实用的语言现象;2. 每课练习的重点,从语言结构移至对课文的理解及讨论,以此激发讨论式教学,使学习者利用每课所学到的语言材料表达自己的思想,逐步培养运用所学语言进行交际的能力。以上两点,目的在于克服非英语专业硕士研究生经过多年英语学习后,仍只能阅读,不能实际运用的弊端。

本教程根据所选文章的题材和体裁分为七个单元:一、时文;二、科技文选;三、小说选读;四、散文;五、人物记述;六、人文选读;七、新闻报导。由于篇幅所限,每一种题材只选二至三篇文章(第一单元的时文除外),而且注意每一单元中的文章都由浅入深排列。

本教程的练习形式有理解性问答题(或讨论题)、以课文内容为基础用自己的语言完成句子、复述课文内容以及词汇、填空、完形等。其中理解性问答题(或讨论题)是练习的重点,每课均要求学生在教师组织下有准备地以此为基础开展课堂讨论。其它各种形式的练习可供教师根据每课的具体内容决定选用取舍。

使用本教程时,教学时数可以伸缩、灵活。第一单元中的10篇时文,题材广泛(主要介绍美国风俗民情、名人事迹、科技知识等),语言生动、内容有趣、通俗易懂。通过第一单元的阅读,使学习者在英语语言方面温故知新,增强语感,为阅读以后各单元中其它题材和体裁的文章,特别是一些寓意较深、语言微妙、语体规范的文章做好准备。教师可根据学习者不同的英语学习背景调整第一单元的阅读速度,或对文章进行选择加以取舍。

全书文章的语言力求规范、实用,并注意知识性及趣味性。书中也收集了

少量名家的经典之作。它们富有人生哲理,有益于学生的品德修养,以收教书育人之效。

本书大部分内容曾在天津大学研究生英语教学实践中使用过,收到了较满意的效果。编者希望新编的《高级英语教程》能够保持原书的优点,并进一步提高,能够较好地适应高等院校非英语专业研究生英语教学的需要,也能适应广大英语自学者较高水平的学习需要。

由于编者水平所限,书中如有谬误,欢迎使用本书的教师、同行及学习者不吝指正。

本书在编写过程中,得到天津大学外语系广大教师的支持和帮助,在此一并致谢。

编 者

1992年1月1日

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Unit One

Contemporary Writings

Contemporary Writing, as the term suggests, is generally written in modern language and about people and things that live and happen in the present age. Texts in this unit are characterized by such features of this kind of writing as natural and vivid description and vital and rich raw materials taken from the life of people as members of a society. Students can learn, through reading them, some modern American English and get, as well, a glimpse of the American people's way of life, their values, what they think about and what are the present condition and problems in their society.

1. Better Living With Machinery

by Charles McDowell, Jr.

[1] Although we live in a wonderful age of computers, my contact with thinking machines has been limited to the lowest order—— automatic vending machines. I have known many of them well, but never one I trusted deep down. Though some have been reliable in a rude sort of way, others have been unpredictable, overbearing—— downright villains.

[2] A particularly fearsome machine was stationed in the building where I work. This machine vended, or claimed it did, hot coffee (with cream and sugar, cream only, sugar only, or black), hot chocolate, and three kinds of soft drinks, all in paper cups. It also made its own change. But the machine's outrages against the dignity of man were almost endless.

[3] It gave out the three soft drinks at random for several days, and then began charging for a cup half filled with warm water. Once it accepted a dime for a cup of coffee, flipped an empty cup onto the floor, and poured the coffee down its own drain. Another time, it accepted a quarter for hot chocolate and gave in return a cup of coffee (sugar only) and five cents' change. The machine soon became even bolder. It poured a cup of coffee, and then dropped its heavy nozzle into the full cup, splashing the customer's suit. Subsequently, with its nozzle missing, it sprayed the next unsuspecting customer from head to foot.

[4] Bitter outcries led to the removal of that machine. It was replaced by one that concentrated on coffee and hot chocolate and didn't fool around with soft drinks. But this was not a dumb machine. Nine times out of ten it would perform properly. The tenth time, it would serve weak coffee, or a short portion, or mix in a little hot chocolate. Sometimes it would go on a brief kick, handing out only hot water. Then it would seem to reform for a while. In its own subtle way the machine was working on the nerves of all of us.

[5] Later it began to shortchange an occasional customer who put a quarter into it. Finally it took to stealing money—— not always, not even often, just a dime here and a quarter there—— without returning anything. Some of the robbed customers would

leave notes saying, "This monster owes me ten cents," and sign their names. Others would just grumble and kick the machine and then walk, or limp, back to their work.

[6] The machine's keeper, who visited it every day or so, was a good, honest man. He would go around, apologetically settling accounts with the people who had left notes. But not everyone left notes, and some of the machine's insults couldn't be paid for with money, anyway.

[7] One morning a long-suffering customer cautiously dropped in a quarter for coffee. The machine gurgled strangely and handed out a cup of coffee and twenty-one nickels in change. The customer kept shaking his head. Coolly he tested the machine by dropping in two nickels and getting another cup of coffee. The machine clicked and returned the two nickels. It had happened. The machine, with all its schemes, had given itself a nervous breakdown.

[8] As the word spread, the victims of this machine (and the earlier one) gathered around it and put in nickels, dimes and quarters, most of which the machine returned, usually with a little extra. Amid cheering and good fellowship, customers lined up and drank three and four cups of coffee in a row. Rarely has there been such a scene of joyous revenge.

[9] To keep the occasion on a high plane, somebody provided a box for the deposit of the mad machine's payoffs. The machine's keeper later accepted this money, while agreeing, of course, that it was no more than simple justice that the coffee was free. He didn't get his machine under control until one afternoon. For the better part of the day I stood there, sipping coffee and watching the thing make a fool of itself.

Notes

- [1] overbearing—masterful, forcing others to one's will, eg. He is so overbearing no one wants to work for him.
downright—thorough, out-and-out, eg. It's a downright lie.
- [2] soft drinks—drinks containing no alcohol and usu. sweet
- [3] at random—aimlessly, without any plan, eg. His clothes were scattered about the room at random.
- dime—a coin of the U. S. and Canada, worth 10 cents or 1/10 of a dollar
quarter—(in the U. S. and Canada) a coin worth 25 cents (1/4 of a dollar)

cent—0.01 of any of certain money standards, such as the dollar

- [4] fool around with—fool about with, not to treat seriously, eg. She shouldn't have fooled about with the boy's love.
- [5] take to—adopt as a practice or hobby, as a means of livelihood, get into a habit, eg. take to gardening when one retires
- [6] nickel—the coin of the U. S. and Canada worth 5 cents, eg. Can you give me a dime for 2 nickels?

Exercises

I. Try to answer the following questions for comprehension and discussion.

- (1) What do you know about computers?
- (2) How did the vending-machine insult people coming to drink?
- (3) How did it make fool of itself?
- (4) Describe an incident involving you and some inanimate object, for example, a drawer that refuses to open for you, a radio or television that fades out when you most want to hear or watch, etc.

II. Complete the following sentences in your own words.

- (1) Although we live in a wonderful age of computers, _____.
- (2) I have known many of them well, but _____.
- (3) Nine times out of ten _____.
- (4) Finally it took to _____.
- (5) As the word spread _____.
- (6) To keep the occasion on a high plane _____.
- (7) The machine's keeper later accepted this money, while _____.
- (8) He didn't _____ until _____.

III. Word forms

Choose the correct word form to fit into each sentence. Use appropriate verb tenses, singular or plural forms for nouns, and passive voice where necessary.

- (1) vendor (vender), to vend

a. The founder of this store got his start by _____ old clothes from a pushcart.

b. A street _____ is a person who sells goods in the streets.

- (2) rudeness, rude, rudely
- What prompted him to behave so _____ to his guests?
 - I wished to meet you to apologize for my _____ on Saturday last week.
 - It was _____ of you to interrupt that lady when she was speaking.
- (3) dignity, dignitary, to dignify, dignified
- Several foreign _____ were entertained by the president.
 - The proceedings were _____ by the presence of the governor.
 - The prince was full of _____ as he walked into the hall.
 - In his new uniform he looked handsome and _____.
- (4) end, ending, to end, endless, endlessly
- When the concert _____ I made my way out of the hall.
 - I used to feel it a terrible thing that my mother should have to toil so _____.
 - A good beginning makes a good _____.
 - The school is at the south _____ of the town.
 - This is why such study gives me _____ pleasure.
- (5) occasion, occasional, occasionally
- it snowed _____ but not enough for skiing.
 - It's my birthday, and we are going to celebrate the _____ by having a few friends in for the evening.
 - The weather was good except for an _____ shower.
- (6) apologist, to apologize, apologetic
- He is nothing but an _____ for the crimes of his political leaders.
 - He asked in an _____ voice if we would mind getting out of his way.
 - That's not something that has to be _____ for.
- (7) automation, to automate, automatic, automatically
- The heating system here has an _____ temperature control.
 - Welding can be _____ in a variety of ways.

- c. Some doors have locks which _____ lock the doors when we close them.
- d. _____ ranges from the operation of a simple device to the fully automatic factory.
- e. _____ is a mechanical figure or contrivance constructed to act as if by its own motive power.
- (8) computer, computation, to compute, to computerize
- a. Can you _____ the distance of the moon from the earth?
- b. _____ may be designed to carry out complex and lengthy mathematical analytical operation very rapidly, to control industrial operation, or to undertake routine clerical work.
- c. Our firm _____ years ago!
- d. It will cost £500 at the lowest _____.

IV. Cloze

Radio and television are, today, an important (1) of our daily lives. Like newspapers, (2) keep us informed of news from home and (3). They educate us in many different subjects and inform us about how people live and work in (4) countries. However, radio and television give us something that newspapers cannot; they entertain us (5) singing, dancing and acting.

Television is the most modern instrument of communication, and gives us sound and picture at the (6) time. Many changes have taken (7) since the first television transmissions in the 1930's. Pictures are now received in (8), as well as in black and white. Since the use of satellites started, pictures can be transmitted all (9) the world. In 1984, almost two thousand million people (10) the Los Angeles Olympic Games in their homes.

2. Sam Genensky's Marvelous Seeing Machine

by George A Boehm

[1] One July afternoon in 1969, a slender fair-haired woman sat down at a desk in a cluttered office in Santa Monica, California. The woman peered at the screen of a television set that stuck out from the wall a few inches from her nose. She stared at the two-inch-high letters projected by a television camera aimed at a book that lay open on the desk. Slowly, she began to spell out, "M-e-t-a-....." Suddenly she grinned and cried, "It's 'metallurgy!' Good Lord, this is the first time I've seen printing in 20 years!"

[2] Evelyn Bryant had hardly used her eyes since college days, when glaucoma destroyed all sight in one eye and left the other able only to tell light from darkness. Yet on that July afternoon, with the aid of a wonderfully simple new machine, she read from a book.

[3] As of the time of this report (January 1971), more than 70 other people, with a wide variety of seeing defects, have also tried this machine. Their experience indicates that it can help as many as a million Americans to live normal lives and succeed in jobs from which their weak vision now bars them. And this figure takes in more than half of the 400,000 whose poor vision classifies them as blind.

[4] Here are some cases in point. A civil engineer who had had to give up his job because of failing vision can once again use a slide rule. An elderly cellist can now read a musical score for the first time in many years. A hamburger-shop manager whose sight had become so bad that he could no longer do his job can now read bills and shipping notices and handle all the paper work himself.

[5] The man chiefly responsible for all this is Samuel Genensky, a mathematician of Rand Corporation. Since 1966, Genensky has worked with a dozen or so Rand scientists and engineers and with a few people from outside the company on the closed-circuit television machine called RANDSIGHT. This is a machine that is allowing a growing number of nearly blind people to read and write again. Genensky's interest is more than scientific. He, too, is classified as blind.

[6] Shortly after Sam Genensky's birth, an infection totally destroyed the sight of

his left eye. And his right eye was so badly scarred that he sees through a "window" no bigger than the head of a pin. He can read only by holding a book an inch or so from his eye, and he depends on high-power binoculars to look at street signs, movies or other more distant objects.

[7] Genensky has always shunned the life of a blind person. He gives credit to his mother for a good part of his determination. Time and again she told him, "Sam, you're not going to succeed in everything——nobody does. But you must not settle for failure, and you must not make alibis." As a result, although he has had to make many adaptations, he says, "I do not think of myself, and most of my friends and associates do not regard me as sightless." And now, with RANDSIGHT, he reads as rapidly as most people——130 words per minute. He adds, "About the only things I can't do that I really would want to do are drive a car and watch girls walking by."

[8] Sam Genensky's understanding of the problems of the nearly blind is, of course, one of the chief reasons RANDSIGHT is proving to be a highly practical invention. Besides making objects larger, RANDSIGHT can be tuned for more contrast and brightness. This is far more important than just making something larger. Most people with poor vision see a misty world. What they most need is extra brightness and contrast to make sharper such details as the outlines of letters on a page.

[9] After a few minutes of instruction and less than an hour of practice, most of those who try RANDSIGHT treat it as an extension of their eyes and hands. Genensky puts them at their ease by saying at the start, "Look, I don't know exactly what your problem is, but I'll bet you see better than I do." (His vision is worse than that of 60 percent of the people classified as blind.) The user sits at a table or desk with the screen at eye level. He puts a book, letter or note pad under a small television camera aimed downward and then checks the picture on the screen.

[10] With fingertip controls, he moves the camera up and down to bring the print into focus and magnify the letters to the size he needs. (Most people want them about 20 times their real size.) Two knobs on the front of the set adjust brightness and contrast. A larger knob, on the table, turned with the left hand, moves the camera back and forth so that the user can follow a line across the page. A switch in the back of the set reverses black and white and for many people cuts down glare.

[11] It has taken a great deal of time and skill to reach this stage in RANDSIGHT'S development. The story goes back to 1958 when Genensky accepted

a job offer from Rand, largely because he was promised that he could do research on any problem that interested him. By 1965, however, Genensky and his friends at Rand realized that the amount of reading Sam had to do in his field was too great for a man with so little vision. One day, a friend and neighbor David Grey pointed out that what Genensky needed was the brightness and contrast that closed-circuit television offers. This was the germ of the RANDSIGHT idea. Some of Rand's top scientists pitched in to produce a seeing machine for Sam.

[12] At the beginning, the research was carried on at odd times with a tiny television set borrowed from another Rand worker. Then Rand management, judging that the project was promising, began to finance it with company money (\$ 60,000 so far) and set Genensky and several other scientists and engineers to work on it part-time. During the early trial-and-error stages, they made several false starts. One of the first machines, for example, was so big that it left hardly any room on the desk top for a book or writing pad.

[13] Though the size problem has been licked now, Genensky is far from satisfied. Happily, the government gave him a two-year \$ 140,000 contract last spring to continue his research on ways to improve RANDSIGHT.

[14] There is also the problem of costs. Last spring, Apollo Lasers, Inc., a small Los Angeles company, began marketing a RANDSIGHT machine under the trade name Magnivision. The price is \$ 1700, but the company hopes to be able to lower this as production is stepped up. This price is not so high as it may seem. Libraries, training schools for the blind and companies that make a point of hiring the handicapped can spread the cost among many users.

[15] Fortunately, many partly sighted persons do not need all the features that the costly Magnivision machine offers. For them, simpler and cheaper machines will do. And these can be built by any skilled workman, using parts that can be ordered from most optical and electronic stores. Robert M. Beltz, of the California Department of Rehabilitation, built a portable machine for his own needs which can plug into any television set. And it cost just \$ 600, not counting the TV. Beltz has written a builder's manual for his machine. "It's so simple," he says. "Anyone can follow it." Also, Genensky himself is happy to give plans and advice freely to anyone who asks.

[16] Several people who have visited Genensky or exchanged letters with him have had machines built for their own use. A young woman in Torrance, California, has

one at home so that she can keep up with her graduate studies in social work. A housewife in Encino, California, uses hers for writing letters, reading magazines and newspapers, and taking part in community projects. An electrical engineer at Johns Hopking University depends upon his machine for reading all the scientific papers he needs to keep up with developments in his field. Genensky has heard of several dozen others, including five at one college alone.

[17] Little by little, Sam Genensky is approaching the most important goal of his life: independence for the partly sighted. He says, "Too many people are playing nursemaid to the blind or visually handicapped instead of trying to help them to be mature, self-sufficient individuals."

[18] Hardly anything pleases Genensky more than the happy excitement of someone using his machine for the first time. One visitor, after receiving a few minutes of instruction from him, was able to read by herself a letter she had brought along. Always before someone else had to read her mail to her. "This is real privacy," she said. "With RANDSIGHTH your life is your own again."

Notes

- [1] cluttered office——untidy and confused office
California——a most populous state in the U. S. located in the Far West
metallurgy——art of separating metal from ore, purifying it; and of working in metal
Good Lord——also "Oh Lord", a term of surprise, wonder, fear, etc.
- [2] glaucoma——disease of the eye characterized by an excess of fluid within the eyeball, causing increased pressure on the retina and impairment of vision ranging from slight abnormalities to blindness
- [4] civil engineer——a person who plans, builds and repairs public works, such as roads, bridges, large public buildings
slide rule——an instrument for calculating numbers, usu. made of a ruler (marked with logarithms) with a middle part that slides along its length
hamburger——(1) ground or chopped beef made into round flat cakes and fried (2) sandwich or bread roll filled with this
- [6] binoculars——a pair of glass like short telescopes for both eyes, used for looking at distant objects