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序 言

在我国实施科教兴国和即将进入 WTO 之前，应沈阳工业大学和沈阳大学师范学院的邀请，为他们的科研新成果《新编大学英语泛读教程》作序，我非常高兴。

国内以前出版的英语泛读教材大多数课文冗长，单调，选材陈旧。广大师生迫切需要能有升级换代产品。我现在向广大师生推荐这套由辽宁教育出版社出版的《新编大学英语泛读教程》。该教材给人耳目一新的感觉，其特点是：

第一，材料新，信息量大，知识性强。

第二，形式灵活多样，短小精悍，趣味性强。

第三，练习题针对性强，备有参考答案。使阅读建立在科学的指导之下，读者对自己的不足与进步了如指掌。

除此而外，本套教程也适用于英语爱好者，对其参加多种多样的英语考试也有指导作用。

在此，我对参加编写的同行表示衷心祝贺。感谢他们的辛勤劳动。我坚信本教材对提高英语教学将有巨大的推动作用。

范 岳

辽宁省翻译学会主席

2000 年 9 月

前 言

应广大师生的急需，我们沈阳工业大学和沈阳大学师范学院两家单位合作，出版了这套大学英语泛读教程，希望对广大师生以及自学成才者的英语学习有所帮助。现将本套教材的编写体系和使用方法介绍如下。

教材的编写体系：

本套教材共四册，每册有30个课文。其中大部分选自1999年以后出版的国外杂志和报刊，有相当一部分选自今年刚出版的材料。还有一部分是首次与国内读者见面。

书中内容涉及最新国际时事政治、人文历史、奇闻轶事、科学新动态以及网上信息，林林总总，基本描绘了信息社会的方方面面。

一、二册课后练习题参照辽宁省二、三级考试水平，三、四册课后练习题以全国统考四、六级的题型(包括新题型)为主，兼顾国内外有影响的流行的英语考试题型，包括TOEFL、GRE以及国内研究生各类考试等。

课后练习题均附有参考答案，每册还提供英语统考相应等级的三套全真试题及模拟试题，供学生自测。

忠告：

阅读是所有英语考试占比例最大的部分，建议使用者持之以恒，加强自测。

首先读完每单元，然后及时完成相应的练习题。

其次，要控制阅读时间，以便提高阅读速度。

另外，还要记录好自己的答题成绩。否则，自己就无法了解自己的阅读进展情况。

最后，每一单元读完课文后，再完成相应的练习。千万不要边答题，边看参考答案。否则，既影响提高答题速度，同时使自己不能清楚地了解自己的阅读水平。

致谢

借此机会，我们对提供信息及材料的单位和有关作者表示由衷地感谢，由于篇幅所限，未能一一注明出处，请多加谅解；另外由于时间仓促，还有许多不尽人意之处，不当之处诚请指正，以便再版时及时修订。

最后，祝广大读者的英语水平有一个质的飞跃。

编 者

2000年9月于沈阳

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College Classes Now on Net

网上大学

It is the weekend, time for Fu Yan to go to class. But instead of taking the bus to Tsinghua University where she is working towards a master's degree, the 25-year-old computer programmer switches on her PC and logs onto the Internet from home. She enters her student number and password. Fu Yan attends her classes without stepping foot onto the *brick and concrete campus*¹ in Beijing. She is participating in a post-graduate pilot program offered by Tsinghua's School of Continuing Education that primarily takes advantage of the Internet to deliver lectures.

Once only a theory, attending school electronically is coming true with the booming of Internet usage in China.

"You have all the comforts of home while attending class," Fu said.

Like her, most students attending online courses are

white-collar workers too busy to make daily trips to the campus. They have neither time nor energy to attend on-campus classes after a busy day at work.

Another attraction is the exemption from the university entrance examination. However, passing the courses require meeting the same standards that on-campus students must meet. Fu said that she just had no time to prepare for the increasingly intensified entrance examination for postgraduates.

Many universities are offering online courses, although only five of them have been approved by *the Ministry of Education*² to offer courses leading to degrees.

These are Tsinghua University, Beijing University, Zhongshan University, Hunan University and Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT).

Tsinghua is the only one that uses the Internet as its main venue to deliver lectures. The other schools provide courses through video conferences or on TV. BUPT will offer online courses for bachelor's degrees in computer science beginning in September—combining the advantages of the Internet and video conferencing.

Tsinghua also will offer online bachelor's degree courses in September.

The ministry expects to grant approval to more universities to conduct online degree courses, which ministry officials say is a good way to spread quality education across China.

Tsinghua received about 500 applications for the 160 places open when it introduced its online postgraduate degree

program in March

“I am getting the same fine education at home as do those physically attending Tsinghua,” Fu said. Her bachelor’s degree is from the Luoyang Engineering Institute in Henan Province, from which she graduated two years ago.

The Tsinghua lectures are available on the website www.webc.com.cn, as are the notes highlighting important points that the instructors add. The price for each credit is 240 yuan. Thirty-six credits are required to complete the course.

While schools developing online curricula hope to make a profit, they also must take care to maintain their quality and reputation. For each course, four face-to-face meetings at Tsinghua between each online student and the teacher are scheduled. During the sessions, students can clarify points raised by online lectures.

They were also serious in selecting the students. In order to allow in-person counseling only students in Beijing are enrolled in the pilot program, to some extent limiting the advantages of online education.

Because only one major is offered—Computer Technology and Application—applicants have to be computer-science majors with a minimum of three years’ work experience. The examination for each course is given at Tsinghua. “They come to Tsinghua and take the same examination at the same time as the on-campus students,” said Sun Xuewei, vice-dean of Tsinghua’s School of Continuing Education. “We will not lower the educational standard simply because it is online.”

Those who pass the 14 courses in four years can apply for their master's degrees to the Ministry of Education

Words: 614

Time

Notes

- ① brick and concrete campus 这里指高校
② the Ministry of Education 教育部

Exercises

I True or False Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the text

- () 1 Those who have college classes on net are required to be less than 25 years old.
- () 2. They choose online classes only because they have no time.
- () 3. More universities are expected to deliver online degree lectures to spread the quality education.
- () 4. Each online student is required to get 36 credits for 240 yuan.
- () 5. Online students have no chance of seeing their teachers face to face, but through computers.

II. Vocabulary:

Section A: Fill in the blanks with the proper forms of the given words

- 1 It is of wide (apply)

- 2 He passed the _____ examination for the college
(enter)
- 3 He gave his _____ to the plan (approve)
- 4 I _____ the volume of the radio so that my mother
could hear me. (low)
- 5 The number of cars _____. (increase)

Section B: Choose the words or expressions that best fit the meaning of the following underlined parts.

- ()1 The people in China are the master of the country
A boss B owner
C critic D head
- ()2 He has a good reputation as a movie star.
A request B. fame
C. republic D repetition
- ()3 They're trying to improve the standard of living.
A level B condition
C situation D. item
- ()4 "Are they white-collar workers?"
"No, they aren't They are blue-collar workers."
A clerks B workers
C farmers D cleaners
- ()5 He attended the international conference.
A confidence B. congress
C meeting D report

Why Is the Native Language Learnt So Well

为什么本族语学得这么好

How does it happen that children learn their mother tongue so well? Let us compare them with adults learning a foreign language, for the comparison is both interesting and instructive. Here we have a little child, without knowledge or experience; there a grown-up person with fully developed mental powers. Here a method of teaching without planning; there the whole task laid out in a system. Here no professional teachers, but parents, brothers and sisters, playmates; there teachers specially trained to teach languages. Here only oral instruction; there not only that, but textbooks, dictionaries and *visual aids*¹. And yet this is the result: here a complete mastery of the language, however stupid the children; there, in most cases, even with people otherwise highly gifted, a faulty and inexact command. Why is there such a difference?