

大学英语泛读精编

第二级

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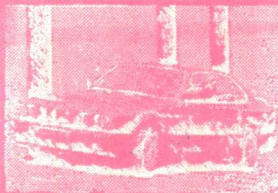
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大学英语泛读精编

第二级

张明华 李维佳 编

张彦斌审

上海交通大学出版社

(沪)新登字 205 号

内 容 提 要

本泛读教材适用于大学英语基础阶段。全书共分四级,每级一本,每级含 60 篇泛读材料,配合现在各大学使用的第一至第四级的《大学核心英语》、《大学英语》和《新英语教程》的精读教材。本书文章选自原文,选题面广,内容丰富,涉及英语国家的社会生活,风土人情,文化艺术,人物传奇,交通通讯等。编者精心编写,历时三年。试用本深受教师与学生的喜爱。学生不仅能学到地道的英语,而且还能了解英语国家的许多背景知识。

责任编辑 张天蔚

封面设计 雨 风

大学英语泛读精编

(第二级)

出版:上海交通大学出版社

(上海新华山路1954号 邮政编码:200030)

发行:新华书店上海发行所

印刷:上海交通大学印刷厂

开本:850×1168(毫米) 1/32

印张:5.5 字数:151000

版次:1994年8月 第1版

印次:1994年8月 第1次

印数:1—9000

ISBN 7-313-01306-X/H·31

定 价:5.70 元

前 言

这套泛读教材是配合大学英语第一至第四级精读教材而编写的。本书为学生提供了大量的课外阅读材料,通过强化手段帮助巩固和扩大词汇量,培养阅读兴趣,提高阅读速度,进而达到具有较强的阅读理解能力之目的。

全书共分四级。供高等院校非英语专业学生基础英语阶段使用。为了配合四级考试,一、二、三级按每学期 15 周计算,每周读 4 篇,各级分别为 60 篇;根据四级考试的特点,编者建议,四级按每学期 10 周计算,每周读 6 篇,共 60 篇。

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为了让学生能接触地道现代英语,全书 240 篇文章均是从近年来国外出版的近千本书刊杂志精选出来的。全书所选文章语言规范,流畅,生动,活泼;内容多样,通俗,易懂,具有一定的知识性和较高的趣味性,其难易程度略低于精读教材。每篇文章之后均编有 5~6 个多项选择题。选择题经过精心设计,以检测学生对全文,对具体信息理解能力及推论能力。每篇文章之后均有生词表,每级书后附有练习答案。

编写一级的有:王文才,王秀莲,许世静;编写二级的有:张明华,李维佳;编写三级的有:张友生,梁素琴,赵白生;参加第四级选材的除上述编者外还有张彦斌,第四级编写的有:王忠良,陶红英,夏莲莲。

全套泛读教材承蒙上海交通大学张彦斌教授主审,上海交通大学外语系卢国梁老师及出版社的同志们为本书的出版给予了极大的支持,我们致以深切的谢意。

美籍教师 Rainbird (中文姓名:雨敬丝)对全书进行了详尽的审阅,并提出了宝贵意见,对此我们表示衷心的感谢。

限于水平,书中缺点和错误在所难免,希望广大读者及同行批评指正。

主编

1994年2月

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1. How Can I Get to the Post Office?

I have a special rule for travel: never carry a map. I prefer to ask for directions. Sometimes I get lost, but I usually have a good time. I can practice a new language, meet new people, and learn new customs. And I find out about different "styles" of directions every time I ask, "How can I get to the post office?"

Foreign tourists are often confused in Japan because most streets there don't have names; in Japan, people use landmarks in their directions instead of street names. For example, the Japanese will say to travelers, "go straight down to the corner. Turn left at the big hotel and go past a fruit market. The post office is across from the bus stop."

In the countryside of the American Midwest, there are not usually many landmarks. There are no mountains, so the land is very flat; in many places there are no towns or buildings within miles. Instead of landmarks, people will tell you directions and distances. In Kansas or Iowa, for instance, people will say: "Go north two miles. Turn east, and then go another mile."

People in Los Angeles, California, have no idea of distance on the map; they measure distance in Los Angeles in time, not miles. "How far away is the post office?" you ask. "Oh," they answer, "it's about five minutes from here." You say, "yes, but how many miles away is it?" They don't know.

People in Greece sometimes do not even try to give directions because tourists seldom understand the Greek language. Instead, a Greek will often say, "Follow me." then he'll lead you through the streets of the city to the post office.

Sometimes a person doesn't know the answer to your question. What happens in this situation? A New Yorker might say, "Sorry, I have no idea." But in Yucatan, Mexico, no one answers, "I don't know." People in Yucatan believe that "I don't know" is impolite. They usually give an answer, often a wrong one. A tourist can get very, very lost in Yucatan!

One thing will help you everywhere — — — in Japan, the United States, Greece, Mexico, or any other place. You might not understand a person's words, but you can probably understand the person's body language. He or she will usually turn and then point in the correct direction. Go in that direction, and you may find the post office!

New words and expressions

confuse *v.* 弄糊涂

landmark *n.* 路标

New Yorker 纽约人

Reading comprehension

1. The author's rule for travel

- A. usually gives him a good time in travelling.
- B. helps him learn new customs in a new country.
- C. allows him to make more new friends.
- D. helps him practice a new language.

2. The Japanese may tell you directions by

- A. reference of distances.
- B. using landmarks.
- C. reference of time.
- D. leading a stranger to the post office.

3. From the passage we learn that the American Midwest countryside is

- A. of grassland.
 - B. full of mountains.
 - C. dense with cottages and huts.
 - D. of vast even plain.
4. Which of the following show directions by the reference of time?
- A. New Yorkers.
 - B. People in Los Angeles.
 - C. The Japanese.
 - D. People in Greece.
5. If you ask your way in Yucatan, Mexico, people usually
- A. lead you to your destination.
 - B. tell you the way according to landmarks.
 - C. tell you how much time is needed to get there.
 - D. give you wrong directions.
6. Languages and customs are different but one thing helpful everywhere is
- A. going to the post office first.
 - B. understanding the body language.
 - C. taking the opposite direction.
 - D. understanding that "I don't know" is impolite.

2. When Were You Born?

It is often said that differences between people can be caused by the different times when the people were born. For example, people who were born between March 21 and April 20 are supposed to be active, daring, and strong. They like power and enjoy adventures. They think quickly and have strong wills.

On the other hand, those who were born between April 21 and May 20 are supposed to learn more slowly, but they remember what they learn. They love children, and they usually have many friends.

People born between May 21 and June 21 are bright and interesting. They like to talk, and they enjoy wearing fine clothes. Those born between June 22 and July 22, on the other hand, think deeply. They would rather hide their feelings than express them.

People who were born between July 23 and August 22 are generally proud. They are interested in many subjects, and it is interesting to hear them talk. Those born between August 23 and September 22 are said to be calm and thoughtful. They like to read and often become successful scientists.

Those who were born between September 23 and October 22 seldom become excited. They love beauty and have a great desire to learn. And those born between October 23 and November 21 are often admired because they learn quickly and can express their ideas easily.

It is said that people born between November 22 and December 21 enjoy meeting strangers, and they are able to command those around them, while people born between December 22 and January 19 have strong feelings, which they are quick to express.

People who were born between January 20 and February 18 are dreamers, and they have the power to make their dreams come true. And those born between February 19 and March 20 are successful with money, but they are also peaceful and kind.

These are some of the beliefs of astrologers, who think human differences are caused by the positions of the sun, moon, and stars.

New words and expressions

astrologer *n.* 占星家

Reading comprehension

1. The passage is mainly about
 - A. the characteristics of the twelve months.
 - B. the influence of the sun on people's characters.
 - C. the relations of the sun, moon and stars.
 - D. the relationship between people's characters and their birthdays.
2. People born in late May are supposed to be
 - A. active.
 - B. proud.
 - C. clever.
 - D. strong.
3. Those who love children are probably born on
 - A. May 10.
 - B. June 10.
 - C. July 25.
 - D. September 25.
4. According to the passage, which of the following might be true?
 - A. People born in spring are all clever.
 - B. Those who become wealthy are probably born in late winter.
 - C. Children born in September may have many friends.
 - D. Important people were usually born in autumn.
5. The author's purpose in writing this passage is probably
 - A. to provide reference for fortune tellers.
 - B. to help parents cultivate their children's characters.
 - C. to tell the reason for different characters among people.
 - D. to provide reference for people to check their characters.

3. You Can do That

In the city of Fujisawa, Japan, lives a woman named Atsuko Saeki. When she was a teenager, she dreamed of going to the United States. Most of what she knew about American life she had read in textbooks. "I had a picture of the daddy sitting in the living room, the mommy baking cookies and their teenage daughter off to the movies with her boyfriend."

Atsuko arranged to attend college in California. When she arrived, however, it was not the dream world she had imagined. "People were struggling with problems and often seemed tense," she said. "I felt very lonely."

One of her hardest classes was physical education. "We played volleyball," she said. "The other students were good at it, but I wasn't."

One afternoon, the instructor assigned Atsuko to hit the ball to her teammates so they could knock it over the net. No big deal for most people, but it terrified Atsuko. She feared humiliation if she failed.

A young man on her team sensed what she was going through. He walked up to me and whispered, 'Come on. You can do that.'

"you will never understand how those words of encouragement made me feel. Four words; YOU CAN DO THAT. I felt like crying with happiness."

She made it through the class. Perhaps she thanked the young man; she is not sure.

Six years have passed. Atsuko is 27 years old and back in Japan, working as a salesclerk. "I have never forgotten the words," she said. "When things are not going so well, I think of them."

She is sure the young man had no idea how much his kindness meant

to her. "He probably doesn't even remember it," she said.

Which may be the lesson. Whenever you say something to a person — — — cruel or kind — — — you have no idea how long the words will stick.

She's all the way over in Japan. But still she hears those four simple words: YOU CAN DO THAT.

New words and expressions

tense *a.* 紧张的

terrify *v.* 使恐怖, 惊吓

humiliation *n.* 丢脸, 侮辱

Reading comprehension

1. Atsuko dreamed of going to the U. S. A. because she

- A. had never been there.
- B. wanted to make money there.
- C. longed for a wonderful life there.
- D. planned to play volleyball there.

2. When Atsuko arrived in U. S. A. she was

- A. only a teenager.
- B. a college graduate.
- C. around 21 years old.
- D. accompanied by her mother and father.

3. After she arrived, Atsuko found life in America was

- A. the same as at home.
- B. not as good as she had imagined.
- C. exciting and interesting.
- D. full of wonderful adventures.

4. The phrase "no big deal" in para. 4 means nothing
- A. difficult.
 - B. important.
 - C. serious.
 - D. easy.
5. The young man's words "You can do that. "
- A. made Atsuko feel humiliated.
 - B. pleased Atsuko a great deal.
 - C. encouraged Atsuko all her life.
 - D. terrified Atsuko to some extent.
6. From Atsuko's experience with the young man we can learn that
- A. words are sometimes of great magic force.
 - B. friendship often occurs between male and female.
 - C. a word of encouragement is sometimes very important.
 - D. women always need men's help.

4. Christmas Lost

Christmas was a quiet affair when I was growing up. There were just my parents and me. I wished that someday I'd marry and have six children, and at Christmas my house would be full of energy and love.

I found the man who shared my dream, but we had not expected the possibility of infertility. So we applied for adoption and, within a year, he arrived.

We called him our Christmas boy because he came to us during that season of joy, when he was just six days old. Then nature surprised us again. In rapid succession we added two biological children to the family — — — not as many as we had hoped for, but compared with my quiet childhood, three made an entirely satisfactory crowd.

As our Christmas boy grew, he made it clear that only he had the ex-

pertise to select and decorate the Christmas tree each year. He rushed the season, starting his gift list before we'd even finished the Thanksgiving turkey. He pressed us into singing carols, our froglike voices contrasting with his musical gift of perfect voice. Each holiday he stirred us up, leading us through a round of merry chaos.

Our friends were right about adopted children not being the same. Through his own unique heredity, our Christmas boy brought color into our lives with his good cheer, his wit. He made us look and behave better than we were.

Then, on his 26th Christmas, he left us as unexpectedly as he had come. He was killed in a car accident on an icy Denver street, on his way home to his young wife and infant daughter. But first he had stopped by the family home to decorate our tree, a ritual he had never abandoned.

Grief-stricken, his father and I sold our home, where memories clung to every room. We moved to California, leaving behind our friends and church.

New words and expressions

infertility *n.* 不能生育

expertise *n.* 专门知识或技术

heredity *n.* 遗传

ritual *n.* 仪式

abandon *v.* 抛弃, 放弃

cling *v.* 坚守, 抓紧

Reading comprehension

1. "I found the man who shared my dream." (para. 2) suggests that the author