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大学英语

泛读

预备级

2

SUB-BAND

COLLEGE
ENGLISH

EXTENSIVE
READING



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大学英语

泛 读

预备二级

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前言

《大学英语》是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲(文科本科用)》编写的一套系列教材,分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程。本系列教材于1986年出版试用本,经反复修订,于1992年出版正式本。

本教材重视英语语言基础,从各方面保证文、理科的通用性,适用于大学英语基础阶段的教学。

本教材的精读、泛读、快速阅读和听力教程各按分级教学的要求编写六册,每级一册;语法与练习编写四册,供1—4级使用。精读与听力教程均配有教师用书和录音磁带。对低于大纲规定入学要求的学生,另编预备级精读、泛读教程各两册。

上述五种教程根据各自的课程特点自成体系,但又相互配合,形成整体,以贯彻大纲所提出的三个层次的要求:“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力、一定的听的能力、初步的写和说的能力。”全套教材由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学合作编写,董亚芬教授担任总主编。

《大学英语》预备级精、泛读教程经大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组和理工科英语编审组共同审定选文,可供文、理、工各类本科生使用。预备级泛读教程由南京大学大学外语部负责编写。孙淑强副教授担任主编,杨治中教授担任主审,大学外语教材编审委员会理工科英语编审组郭杰克教授以及英籍专家 Anthony Ward 审读了全书。参加编写的有许水耀、傅玉华、冯卓三位副教授和钱兴荣同志。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付梓前仔细编审,精心设计,给予我们很大的帮助和促进。

本书为预备级泛读教程第二册,供大学英语预备二级学生使用。修完预备二级教程后可任选按文理科大纲或理工科大纲所编写的各类后续教材。

由于时间仓促,编者水平与经验有限,教材中不妥之处在所难免。希望广大读者批评指正。

大学英语系列教材

责任编辑暨编者

1992年6月

使用说明

本教程按以下指导思想编写：

1. 通过一定量的阅读增强学生的语感,提高学生的阅读速度,使之初步掌握阅读技巧,为进入一级的学习打下基础。
2. 在编写各类练习时,注意逐步培养学生在阅读过程中的分析、归纳、综合和推断的能力,以配合精读教程在阅读技能方面的教学。
3. 选材较浅于相应的精读课文,并加必要的注释,以便于学生顺利阅读。
4. 教材绝大多数选自原文,略经删节或改写,在保证语言文字规范化的同时,尽量使之适合预备级学生的英语水平。
5. 选材力求内容新颖、题材广泛、体裁多样、知识性与趣味性并重。
6. 考虑到学生阅读能力上的差异,每册的阅读量都略高于大纲所规定的指标。

本教程分一、二级两册,每册选编课文三十六篇,每课编有少量注释,配有若干练习,以测试学生对文章的理解能力。书末附有练习答案。为了配合精读教程,每册按十二单元编写,三课为一个单元。每单元的前两课篇幅较长,跨度为 350—700 词,第三课较短,跨度为 200—300 词,可作一般课文使用,也可用作快速阅读的材料,在课内进行,读后即做练习,所需时间(包括练习)约十分钟。

编者

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1. Ants Are Smarter¹ Than We Think

There was a weekend last summer when an ant scientist was a guest at our cottage. I told him that I could store food in an open container for a whole week and keep it safely out of the reach of house ants².

On Sunday night the experiment got under way³. I put a large wooden tub on the kitchen floor of our cottage. After filling it with some water, I placed a high wooden stool in the middle of it. On top of the stool, I put a saucer containing the bait: three or four pieces of chocolate candy.

Then I painted a wide band of very slow-drying⁴ glue around the outside of the wooden tub. With that⁵, I stood back and admired my trap, fully confident that the bait would be untouched upon my return to the cottage the following weekend.

When my friend and I entered the cottage just six days later, ants were swarming over the bait!

Here's how they put me to shame⁶. Single files of ants had marched into the band of glue around the outside of the wooden tub. A small number of them had fixed themselves end to end⁷ in the glue to form a bridge with their bodies.

Ants hate water, but they managed to build a highway in order to get the wonderful chocolate. They had got tiny pieces of grass and wood and had glued them together with saliva⁸ until their bridge extended from shore to island. Once they reached the leg of the wooden stool, traffic was almost all one way⁹ toward the chocolate bait.

There were also some funny fellows¹⁰ around; they were doing things which ants have been known to do rarely. We noticed that a few were walking across the ceiling, and when they came directly over the bait they let themselves fall right into the middle of their brothers.

The ability of an ant to travel great distances from its home and return to it has puzzled more than one scientist.

For example, professor Charles Michener of the University of California captured ants wandering far from their home. He painted them with various colours and followed them in their travelling.

When he put blinders¹¹ over their eyes, he discovered that the ants wandered about hopelessly. But as soon as the blinders were removed, they found their way very quickly and were able to reach their homes.

These experiments have supported the belief that an ant finds its way by means of a remarkable memory. It seems capable of remembering tiny twigs, flowers, pebbles, or cracks on the ground which serve as guideposts¹².

Ants are great athletes in proportion to their size¹³. They can lift a weight four hundred times their own weight. Theoretically a five-pound ant could easily lift a ton.

approximately 400 words

NOTES

1. smarter: cleverer and more capable
2. out of the reach of house ants: 家蚁无法接触到
3. got under way: started
4. slow-drying: 干得很慢的
5. with that: following that 接着
6. put me to shame: made me feel ashamed
7. end to end: 头尾相接
8. saliva: 唾液
9. all one way: 单向通行
10. fellows: here referring to some of the ants
11. blinders: 遮眼物
12. guidepost: 路标
13. in proportion to their size: 与它们的大小相对而言

EXERCISE

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. Like humans, ants seem to have _____.
 - a. memory and intelligence
 - b. great interest in chocolate
 - c. courage and a spoken language
 - d. a strong love for long-distance travel
2. The author set his trap by using a bait made of _____.
 - a. grass
 - b. leaves
 - c. glue
 - d. chocolate
3. What were the three things the author thought could keep the ants from reaching the bait?
 - a. A wooden tub, water and candy.
 - b. Grass, wood and glue.

- c. Water, height and glue.
 - d. A wooden tub, a stool and candy.
4. The word “swarming” (Para. 4) most probably means _____.
a. moving in great numbers
b. dying slowly
c. fighting each other
d. escaping in all directions
5. The author said the ants had put him to shame because _____.
a. he had done the experiment in the wrong way
b. they proved much cleverer than he had thought
c. he was afraid his friend would laugh at him
d. he had wasted the chocolate candy
6. The sentence “... they were doing things which ants have been known to do rarely” (Para. 7) most probably means _____.
a. they were doing strange things
b. they were doing very little
c. they were doing things few people have heard that ants could do
d. they were doing things people seldom do
7. Ants can travel great distances and return safely because they can “remember” _____.
a. the directions of the sun
b. the directions of their home
c. the smell of their food
d. the marks on the way
8. Theoretically a five-gram ant could lift a weight of _____.
a. 1 kilogram
b. 2 kilograms
c. 4 kilograms
d. 20 kilograms

2. The Greatest Magician¹, Harry Houdini²

Magicians are popular everywhere. We all know that a magician does not really depend on 'magic' to do his tricks³ but on his ability to act at great speed. However, this does not prevent us from enjoying watching a magician produce ducks from a hat, take eggs out of his empty pocket, or cut his wife in two⁴.

Probably the greatest magician of all times⁵ was Harry Houdini who died in 1926. His real name was Ehrich Weiss, but he named himself Houdini after reading a book which he liked very much. This had been written by a famous magician called Robert Houdini. Houdini mastered the art of escaping⁶. He could free himself from the most complicated locks in seconds.⁷ Although no one really knows how he did this, there is no doubt that he had made a close study of every kind of lock in existence⁸. He would carry a small steel needle-like tool tied to his leg and use this in place of⁹ a key.

Houdini once asked the Chicago police to lock him up in prison. They put chains round his body, and locked him up, but he freed himself in a minute. The police said he had used a tool, and locked him up again. This time he wore no clothes and there were chains round his neck, wrists, and legs; but he again escaped in a few minutes. Houdini had probably hidden his 'needle' in a wax-like material and dropped it on the floor in the passage. As he went past, he stepped on it so that it stuck on the bottom of his foot. His most famous escape, however, was altogether¹⁰ astonishing. He was heavily chained up¹¹ and put in an empty wooden box, the cover of which was nailed down¹². The box was dropped into the sea near New York. In one minute Houdini had swum to the surface. When the box was brought up, it was opened and the chains were found inside.

approximately 370 words

NOTES

1. magician: 魔术师
2. Harry Houdini: / 'hæri hu: 'di: ni / 哈利·胡迪尼 (1874—1926), 美国极负盛名的魔术师
3. do tricks: 变戏法
4. cut his wife in two: cut his wife into two parts
5. of all times: 历代

6. the art of escaping; the skill of escaping 逃跑术
7. He could free himself from the most complicated locks in seconds: He could escape very quickly from the most complicated locks.
8. every kind of lock in existence: 现有的各种锁
9. in place of; instead of
10. altogether: completely
11. He was heavily chained up: Many chains were put round his body.
12. was nailed down: was fixed with nails 用钉子钉牢

EXERCISES

I. Write T for True in the space if the statement is true; write F for False if the statement is not true:

- _____ 1. A magician always uses magic to produce ducks from a hat, takes eggs out of his empty pocket, or cuts his wife in two.
- _____ 2. Ehrich Weiss used the name 'Houdini' because it appeared in a book which he liked very much.
- _____ 3. Houdini had made a close study of various types of locks.
- _____ 4. Houdini used a small steel needle-like tool to open locks.
- _____ 5. Once the Chicago police locked Houdini in prison because he had killed his wife.
- _____ 6. The first time the policemen locked Houdini up they put chains round his neck, wrists and legs.
- _____ 7. Although he was put in an empty wooden box which later was dropped into the sea, Houdini was able to swim to the surface in one minute.
- _____ 8. When the box was opened, there was nothing inside except the chains.

II. Choose the proper word in Column B to fill in each blank in Column A:

- | A | B |
|---|----------------|
| 1. We all know that a magician does not really depend on 'magic' to _____ tricks. | a. astonishing |
| 2. Houdini mastered the _____ of escaping. | b. hidden |
| 3. He had the ability to _____ at great speed. | c. art |
| 4. Houdini had probably _____ his 'needle' in a wax-like material. | d. do |
| 5. His most famous escape was altogether _____. | e. free |
| 6. Even if Houdini was heavily chained, he was able to _____ himself in one minute. | f. act |
| 7. Once he was kept in a box, which was later dropped into the _____. | g. popular |
| 8. Everywhere magicians are very _____. | h. sea |

3. Diamonds or Glass?

Miss Lin of Singapore went to Hong Kong for a holiday. Soon after she got to Hong Kong, she went shopping along Nathan Road. Suddenly a man came up to her and said, "Hello, there, I haven't seen you for a long time." The stranger continued talking to her for a while and then took out a small box from his pocket. "Would you like to buy some diamonds?" he asked, opening the box to show some shining stones. "I'm willing to sell them to you cheap — only \$ 300 for this diamond. How about it?" Miss Lin didn't want to buy the diamond because she had heard many stories of people being tricked. Also, at that moment a woman stopped and warned her, "Don't buy from him. He's not an honest man. He's trying to trick you!"

The man raised his voice at once, "I'm honest. These diamonds are real." In the end they took one of the diamonds to a jeweller — one who sells diamonds and the like. The jeweller examined the stone and told Miss Lin that it was real. He said it cost around \$ 900.

Satisfied that the diamonds were real, Miss Lin decided to buy from the man. She chose two of the largest stones from his box and paid him \$ 400. Then she went back to the jeweller and asked, "How much will it cost to fix these on a ring?"

The jeweller examined the stones and said, "Why do you want to do that? These are just glass."

"But you told me just now they were diamonds."

"The first stone was a diamond; these are not."

Miss Lin ran out of the shop hoping to catch the stranger and get her money back. However, the man was nowhere to be found.

approximately 280 words

EXERCISE

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. Miss Lin was _____.
 - a. living in Hong Kong
 - b. a visitor to Singapore
 - c. a diamond-seller
 - d. a traveller to Hong Kong

2. Miss Lin met the man _____.
a. on her way to Hong Kong
b. on her way home
c. when walking along a street in Hong Kong
d. when buying diamonds in a store
3. The man tried to _____.
a. make friends with Miss Lin
b. lead her to a jeweller
c. help her find a hotel
d. sell her some false diamonds
4. Miss Lin didn't buy the diamonds at first because she _____.
a. was afraid of being tricked
b. did not have enough money
c. already had too many diamonds
d. did not like the diamonds
5. They took one of the diamonds to the jeweller to _____.
a. find out its weight
b. examine it
c. fix it on a ring
d. have it examined
6. Miss Lin decided to buy from the man, thinking that _____.
a. one stone was real, the rest weren't
b. the larger stones were real and the smaller ones were glass
c. all the stones were real
d. the stones were more precious than glass
7. After buying two of the largest stones from the man, she went back to the jeweller to _____.
a. buy a ring
b. have them examined again
c. ask about the cost of fixing them on a ring
d. phone the police
8. Miss Lin ran out of the jeweller's store because she _____.
a. wanted to report the matter to the police
b. wanted to buy some more diamonds
c. was angry with the jeweller
d. wanted to catch the stranger and get her money back
9. Which of the following is true?
a. The jeweller helped the stranger in the trick.
b. The man was finally arrested by the police.

- c. Miss Lin didn't get her money back.
- d. A woman helped her catch the man.

4. Dox — A Great Police Dog

“Dox, you are a very old dog,” said Policeman Joe. “Today you are 13 years old. But you are still the best police dog in the world!”

“ARF, ARF!” barked¹ Dox. “Now let’s get your birthday dinner,” said Joe. “Show me where you want to eat.”

Dox led Joe down the street. Good smells came from all the eating places, but Dox walked on. At last he stopped at a door. He smelled around the door and then pushed it open. “Is this where you want to eat?”² asked Joe, but Dox did not answer. He put his nose to the floor and ran across the room. Then he jumped on a man at a table. “Good boy³, Dox!” said Joe. “We have looked for this robber for six years. And now you have found him!” Dox and Joe took the robber to the police station. Then Joe said, “All right, Dox, you have done your work. Now do you want that birthday dinner?” “ARF!” barked Dox. “ARF! ARF!” “Let’s go,” said Joe. “I’m hungry, too.”

A city has many smells, but Dox could follow one smell for miles. How did he know what smell to follow? Joe would show him a robber’s coat or shoe. Dox would smell it, and then go to work.

One night, a robber broke into⁴ a store. The night watchman⁵ tried to hold⁶ him, but the robber ran away. The police sent for⁷ Dox. Joe let Dox smell the watchman’s clothes, for the robber had put his hands on them. Then Joe said, “Find him, Dox!” Dox led the police through the city. He went to a room where a man was sleeping. The police woke the man. “Is this man the robber?” Joe asked the night watchman. “I am not sure. But I do not think he is,” the watchman answered. “Dox! You must be more careful!” said Joe, shaking his finger at the dog. Dox just gave a bark. He started off again. He led the police back to the store. On the floor, he found a button. He put it into Joe’s hand. Then he barked again. Dox led the police back to the man. He showed Joe the robber’s coat. Its buttons were like the one Dox had found, and one was missing⁸ from the coat. So the robber was found out. Dox was right again, as he had been so many times⁹.

approximately 400 words

NOTES

1. barked: 吠叫