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高等学校试用教材

大学英语

(文理科本科用)

快速阅读
FAST READING

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第 一 册

湛 馨 茹 主 编

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快速阅读 第一册(修订本)

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前 言

《大学英语（文理科本科用）》试用教材是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲（文理科本科用）》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。

本教材重视英语语言基础教学，从各方面保证文、理科的通用性，适用于综合大学、师范院校和文科院校。

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。

上述五种教程根据各自的课型特点自成体系，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、华东师范大学和中国人民大学合作编写，复旦大学董亚芬教授审订，同时还聘请两名专职外籍专家参加编写和文字审定工作。

《大学英语（文理科本科用）》快速阅读教程由中国人民大学外语部负责编写。谌蓉荪副教授担任主编，许孟雄教授担任主审，参加编写的有余申燕、王敏同志。

本书为快速阅读教程第一册，供大学英语一级学生使用。

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。

编 者

一九八六年三月

使用说明

本教程旨在培养学生的正确阅读习惯，提高学生的阅读能力和速度。所选材料全部来源于英、美原著，一般不作改动，仅个别篇章稍有删节。选文力求语言规范，题材多样，知识性和趣味性兼顾。

全书共分六册，每册十单元共二十课。每篇选文均配有多项选择练习，以测试学生对课文的理解能力。快速阅读主要着眼于培养阅读速度，强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息，因此每篇选文的难易程度均略低于相应的精、泛读课文。篇幅跨度为250—500词左右，生词控制在2%—3%之间。快速阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行一次，每次使用一至两篇，阅读后即做练习，所需时间（包括练习）约十分钟。每次练习后，学生应及时记录阅读和练习所分别占用的时间，供日后进行自我评估。

使用本教程时，应注意下列各点：

1. 为便于教学，本教程印成活页，由教师保管，使用时临时分发。学生不得预习。
2. 阅读时不能查阅词典，如有生词，可根据上下文进行猜测以确定词义。
3. 培养边阅读、边理解、边记忆的良好习惯。读完课文即做练习，做练习时，不再翻阅已读过的课文。
4. 阅读后，由教师收回快速阅读材料和练习，予以批改并记录成绩。

编 者

一九八六年三月

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1. Mr. Baker In Trouble?

Mrs. Baker's sister was ill. She had someone to look after her from Monday to Friday, but not at the weekend, so every Friday evening Mrs. Baker used to go off to spend the weekend with her at her home in a neighbouring town. But as Mr. Baker could not cook, she had arranged for his sister to come over and spend the weekend looking after him at their home.

This meant that Mr. Baker had quite a busy time when he came home from work on Friday evenings. First he had to drive home from the railway station. Then he had to drive his wife to the station to catch her train. And then he had to wait until his sister's train arrived, so as to take her to his house.

Of course, on Sunday evening he had to drive his sister to the station to catch her train back home, and then wait for his wife's train, so as to bring her home.

One Sunday evening he had seen his sister off on her train and was waiting for his wife's arrival when a porter, who had often seen him at the station, came over and spoke to him.

'You are having a lot of fun,' he said. 'But one day one of those women is going to catch you with the other, and then you will be in real trouble!'

233 words

Comprehension exercise

1. Who was ill?
 - a. Mr. Baker.
 - b. Mrs. Baker.
 - c. Mr. Baker's sister.
 - d. Mrs. Baker's sister.
2. Who looked after the sick person on weekdays?
 - a. Mr. Baker's sister.
 - b. Mrs. Baker's sister.
 - c. Mrs. Baker.
 - d. Someone acting as a nurse.
3. How did Mr. Baker get to work?
 - a. By bus and train.
 - b. By train.
 - c. By car and train.
 - d. By car.
4. Mr. Baker did not have to go to the railway station
_____.
 - a. on weekdays
 - b. on weekends
 - c. on Sunday
 - d. on Saturdays
5. Why did Mr. Baker go to the railway station every day?
 - a. Because he worked in another town.
 - b. To take his sister to his own home.
 - c. To bring his wife back home.
 - d. To look after his sister.
6. Where did Mr. Baker spend the weekend?
 - a. At home.
 - b. In his office.
 - c. In his sister's home.

- d. In a neighbouring town
7. On weekdays _____.
a. Mr. Baker himself did the cooking
b. Mrs. Baker cooked for him
c. his sister cooked for him
d. he ate in a restaurant
8. Who thought Mr. Baker would be in trouble some day?
a. His wife.
b. His sister.
c. Someone who lived in a neighbouring town.
d. Someone who did not know him well.
9. A porter is a person _____.
a. who lives near the railway station
b. whose work is to carry luggage at the railway station
c. who often goes to the railway station
d. who travels by train
10. Which of the following is true?
a. Mr. Baker would be in real trouble because he was having a lot of fun.
b. Some day one of the two women would get angry with Mr. Baker.
c. Those two women did not know each other.
d. The porter did not understand what Mr. Baker was doing.

2. Poor Sidney

Last Thursday was a very important day for Sidney Shooter. He telephoned a girl and invited her to the movies. And she said Yes.

Sidney didn't have a girl friend. In fact, he never had a real girl friend and no one wanted to go out with him. He wasn't very tall and he didn't have a car. All the girls that he knew liked tall men with cars. So Sidney sent £1.50 and a self-addressed envelope to Computer-Date. After a few days he received a letter: "Find love at last..." They also sent him the names and addresses of six girls. "Six girls who are waiting to meet you!"

Sidney rushed to the phone. He phoned Amanda Shelling who was at the top of his list.

"How lovely," she said, "Will you come for me in your car?"

Sidney put the phone down quietly.

Then he rang Deborah Basil.

"How lovely," she said, "I'll meet you at the bus-stop outside my house." This is fantastic, thought Sidney.

At half-past seven Sidney put on his best suit and his comfortable tennis-shoes. He didn't brush his hair because he liked it 'natural'; then he walked to the bus-stop. A girl was standing by the stop looking at her watch.

"Excuse me," said Sidney. "Are you Deborah Basil?"

"Are you Sidney Shooter?" she asked after a minute.

"Yes, that's right," said Sidney with a smile.

"There's some mistake."

She answered. "I'm not Deborah Basil."

240 words

[The page contains extremely faint, illegible text, likely a scan of a document with very low contrast or significant noise. No specific words or phrases can be reliably transcribed.]

Comprehension exercise

1. Sidney invited a girl _____.
 - a. for a walk
 - b. for a drive
 - c. to the cinema
 - d. to a dinner party
2. She was _____.
 - a. a good friend
 - b. a stranger
 - c. his girlfriend
 - d. an acquaintance
3. Sidney _____.
 - a. didn't like girls
 - b. couldn't dance
 - c. would rather keep away from girls
 - d. wasn't popular with girls
4. Sidney only knew girls who like _____.
 - a. tall men
 - b. intelligent men
 - c. fast cars
 - d. both a and c
5. Sidney sent Computer-Date £1.50 and an envelope _____.
 - a. with six addresses
 - b. with his name on it
 - c. with a girl's name on it
 - d. with no address
6. At Computer Date _____ found six girls for Sidney.
 - a. a doctor
 - b. a machine
 - c. a director
 - d. a nurse

7. Sidney received the letter and telephoned a girl _____.

- a. after work
- b. the next morning
- c. immediately
- d. several hours later

8. Sidney knew that Amanda Shelling _____.

- a. preferred the theatre
- b. preferred men with cars
- c. preferred her boyfriend
- d. preferred men taller than himself

9. Sidney went to meet Deborah _____.

- a. on foot
- b. by bus
- c. after a game of tennis
- d. in his car

10. Deborah Basil thought that Sidney was _____.

- a. not the man who telephoned
- b. at the wrong bus stop
- c. not very attractive nor rich enough
- d. a handsome man

3. The New World

In the eighteenth century young ladies in Italy were taught reading, writing, music and arithmetic. But their knowledge of history and geography was very poor.

Once the French ambassador in Rome was giving a ball to which many important people were invited. The Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs came very late. A young lady, who was well acquainted with him, saw him enter the ball-room and asked why he was so late.

"You see," said the Minister, "there has been a little accident at the King's palace."

The curious young lady asked the Minister to tell her what had happened at the King's palace.

"Oh, nothing important," answered the Minister, "the ambassador of Brazil, who was to be presented to the King, forgot to take his credentials with him and was obliged to go back to his hotel to bring them. If he had left them in Brazil we should have had to wait at least six months for them."

"Is Brazil so far from Rome?" asked the lady, who knew very little geography.

"It is in the New World," said the Minister.

"In the New World?" repeated the lady in great astonishment.

"Yes, in the New World," answered the Minister in a sarcastic tone, "which was discovered by Christopher Columbus."

When the young lady heard this she rushed into the middle of the ball-room and shouted as loud as she could:

"Ladies and gentlemen, have you heard the latest news? A new world has just been discovered by a certain Christopher Columbus."

253 words

