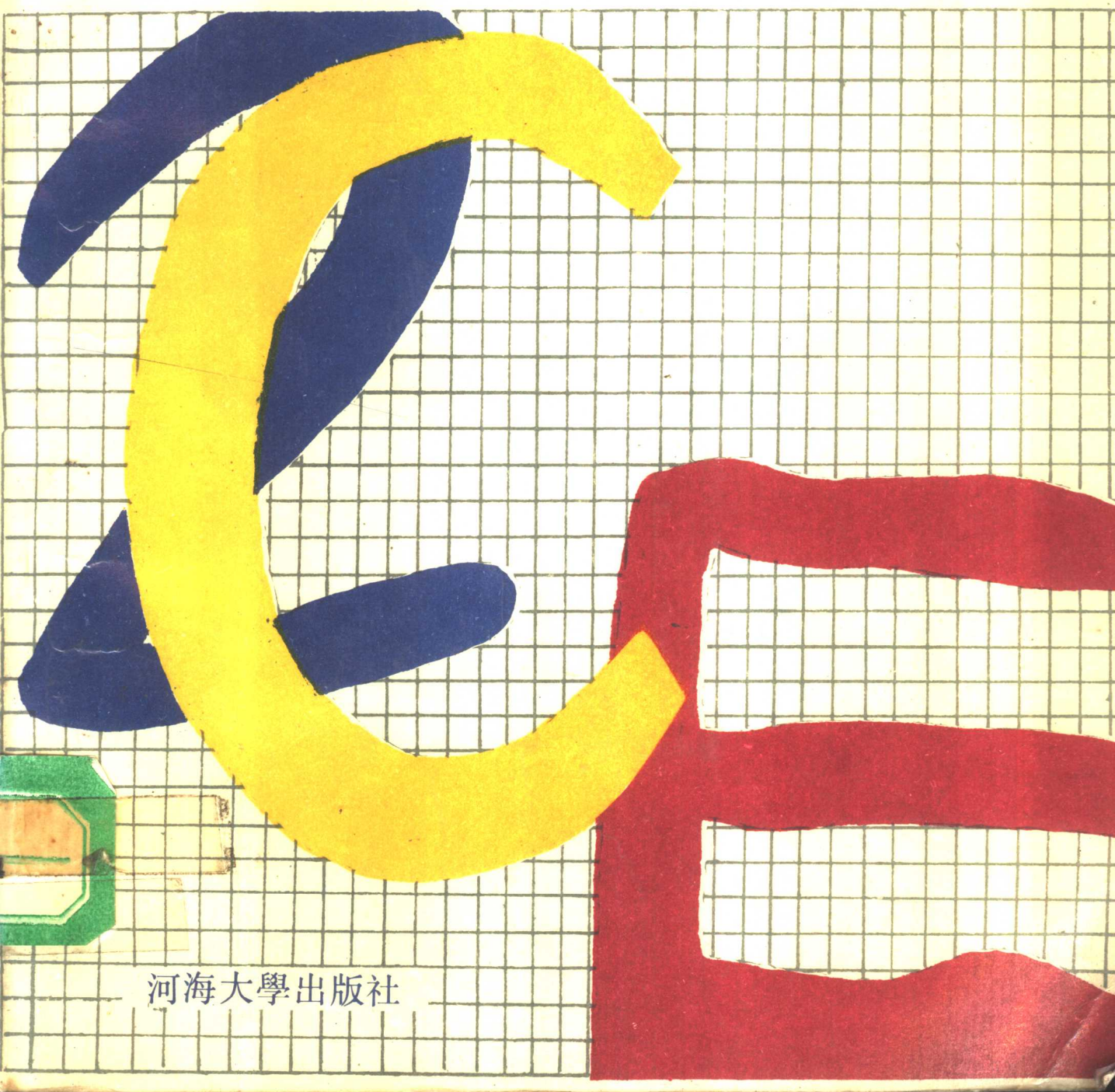
當代大學英語泛讀教程

BOOK II

CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE ENGLISH EXTENSIVE READING

于忠喜　陳佐卿　主編



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当代大学英语泛读教程

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前　言

《当代大学英语泛读教程》是根据国家教委审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲》编写的一套泛读教材，共四册，总阅读量为十二余万词（课文部分），符合大纲规定的泛读量。

泛读的目的在于陶冶学生的阅读情趣，养成阅读习惯，强化阅读技能训练，提高阅读理解能力，巩固已学会的词汇，扩大总词汇量，以达到大纲规定的词汇要求。泛读为学生提供了应用学过的知识和阅读技能获得信息的实践机会，也是扩大学生知识面的一种有效手段。

本套泛读教材选自当代英语原版教材，内容新颖，语言规范，题材多样，融教育性、科学性、趣味性、知识性于一体。词汇逐级递进，文章长短适中。每篇之后均配有阅读理解测试题，能使学生了解自己的理解能力，也能使教师掌握学生理解能力的提高指数，以便调整教学环节。每篇之后还配有一定量的词汇练习，使学生不必花太多时间就能复习和巩固教材中出现的大纲所规定的词汇，每篇材料后列出生词及词组，并配有注释，使学生不需多查词典及其它参考资料就能较好较顺利地读懂文章，提高阅读速度，达到泛读的目的。本套教材由华东地区省（市）属师范大学大学外语协作组编写，山东师范大学李玉麟副教授统稿，复旦大学翟象俊教授主审。第二册由于忠喜、陈佐卿主编。

参加本册编写的教师有：

南京师范大学：于忠喜，戴乐础

上海师范大学：周忠杰，裘正铨

山东师范大学：赵俊英

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浙江师范大学：过雪晴，吴国良，周心红

江西师范大学：陈润基，毛玺英，刘传骅

福建师范大学：陈建，杜敏

南京师范大学戴乐础老师还打校了大量稿件。

华东交通大学大学外语教研室赵振春同志提供了部分资料并参与了本教材的编写工作。

由于编写时间仓促，编者水平与经验有限，教材中不妥之处在所难免。敬请广大读者批评指正。

华东地区省(市)属师范大学
大 学 外 语 协 作 组
1991 年 10 月

CONTENTS

Unit 1

1. EXPLORING ANTARCTICA——THE FROZEN CONTINENT

The Antarctic Continent, with an area of over five million square miles, is a huge and desolate world of ice and snow, rather different (except in climate) from the Arctic area, which is sea surrounded by land. This mass of land stretching from the Antarctic Circle at latitude 66°S to the South Pole is usually covered by pack ice up to two miles thick. Indeed, it contains 95% of the world' s ice and it has been calculated that if it melted, the sea level throughout the world would rise by 70 to 90 metres, submerging most of the world' s great cities.

The average annual temperature at the South Pole has been estimated at -50°C, and the continent supports little life on land except for some algae and mosses and a few insects. What other animal life there is—— whales, seals, fish, penguins——is found primarily in the sea that surrounds the continent, and these animals get their food from the water, not the land.

In spite of its inhospitable climate, explorers arrived in the area as long ago as 1897, and by 1908 Sir Ernest Shackleton and his expedition had reached a point only one hundred miles from the South Pole, before being forced to turn back. The South Pole was finally reached in the Antarctic summer of 1911—1912 by two competing expeditions. The first to arrive was the expedition organised by the expert Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen, who only five or six years previously had commanded the first boat to make the notorious Northwest Passage between Canada and the North Pole and through the Bering Straits. Thirty-four days later, a British expedition organised by Captain Robert Scott also reached the Pole, only to find the Norwegian flag already there.

In spite of the short time between the arrival in Antarctica of the two expeditions, and their similar objectives, the two groups were very different and their journeys ended very differently. To begin with, Amundsen had more experience as an explorer and had learnt how useful dogs were in Arctic and Antarctic conditions, whereas Scott was firmly convinced that ponies would provide the best sort of transport for men and equipment. Secondly, Amundsen had prepared his expedition very thoroughly over a long period of time and had chosen his companions very carefully. Scott, on the other hand, had to prepare rapidly and take his men to Antarctica with little or no training in order to "race" Amundsen to the Pole. The disadvantages Scott was working under, combined with bad weather, gradually brought about disaster for the party during the return trip, as they suffered increasingly from injuries caused by frost-

bite and falls on the ice. One of the group died on the march. A second walked out into the snow in order not to be a burden on the remaining men. Finally, Scott himself froze to death on the ice pack with his last two companions, whilst still trying to complete his record of the expedition. This record was later discovered and published.

Subsequent explorations of Antarctica were, fortunately, less tragic and more profitable. Gradually, the whole continent was mapped by sea and by air. Then, from July 1957 to December 1958, the Inter- national Geophysical Year was held there. Twelve nations participated in various scientific surveys of the icy land mass. These included geographic, geological and oceanographic mapping, and experiments in geomagnetism, glaciology and seismology.

One of the most spectacular achievements during the IGY was another expedition, led by Sir Vivian Fuchs, from Shackleton Base on one side of the continent to Scott Base on the other side, a journey through blizzards and bitter cold which took ninety-nine days. This time, however, the scientific results were of far greater usefulness, providing the world with much valuable scientific information about the almost unknown continent.

Antarctica has been the subject of an international treaty of neutrality since 1960. This specifies that the continent should be reserved for scientific exploration and investigation and never used for military or other national interests, in the way that the lands of the Arctic are used.

approximately 650 words

New Words

antarctic /æn′ tɑ:ktik/ a.	南极的
desolate /′ desəlit/ a.	无人居住的，荒凉的
latitude /′ lætitju:d/ n.	纬度
pack ice	(海中成堆的)大块浮冰
alga /′ ælgə/ ([复]algae /′ ældʒi:/) n.	水藻，海藻
penguin /′ peŋgwin/ n.	企鹅
inhospitable /in′ hɔspitəbl/ a.	不适于居住的
frostbite /′ frɔstbait/ n.	冻伤
geomagnetism /ˌdʒi:əu′ mægnitizm/ n.	地磁学
glaciology /ˌglæsi′ ɔlədʒi/ n.	冰河学
seismology /saiz′ mɔlədʒi/ n.	地震学
spectacular /spek′ tækjulə/ a.	引人注目的，惊人的
neutrality /nju:′ træliti/ n.	中立

blizzard /ˈblizəd/ n. 暴风雪

Notes

1. This article is taken from College Reading.
2. Gradually, the whole continent was mapped by sea and by air; Little by little, the whole continent of Antarctica was shown on the map by scientists reaching there by sea and by air.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Check: Multiple Choice

1. The animals of the Antarctic _____.
   A. depend on the sea
   B. live only on the pack ice
   C. stay in the sea all the time
   D. support one another
2. The South Pole was first reached by _____.
   A. Sir Vivian Fuchs
   B. Sir Ernest Shackleton
   C. Roald Amundsen
   D. Robert Scott
3. The most important factor that led Scott's return trip to a tragedy was _____.
   A. he was working under terrible weather conditions
   B. he had not done careful preparations
   C. his men were not well qualified
   D. all of the above
4. Scott hurried his preparations because _____.
   A. he was eager to compete against Amundsen
   B. his men urged him to start the journey
   C. he found that he was fully prepared
   D. time was limited
5. One of Scott's companions left the main party because _____.
   A. he did not like the others in the party
   B. he found there were too many of them on the team
   C. he could not bear the hardships any longer
   D. he did not want to cause his companions any more trouble

6. The International Geophysical Year was mainly concerned with _____.

A. aerial mapping
B. science fiction
C. exploration
D. scientific experiments

7. Which of the following term does not refer to the Antarctic?

A. The Arctic
B. The Antarctic Circle
C. The Antarctic Continent
D. The South Pole

8. Antarctica is now mainly controlled by _____.

A. the IGY
B. Britain
C. Norway
D. none of the above

Ⅱ. Work out the meaning of each of the following words and expressions from the context in which it appears, and then tick the best alternative.

1. Desolate in para. 1 probably means _____.

A. cold
B. strange
C. deserted
D. abnormal

2. Submerging in para. 1 probably means _____.

A. covering
B. lowering
C. eliminating
D. changing

3. The expression to begin with in para. 4 can NOT be replaced by which of the following?

A. Above all
B. First of all
C. Firstly
D. As the first reason

4. Disaster in para. 4 probably means _____.

A. great misfortune
B. severe sufferings
C. unfavourable conditions
D. important changes

5. Subsequent explorations in para. 5 probably means _____.

A. other explorations
B. unimportant explorations
C. previous explorations
D. explorations that followed

6. Surveys in para. 5 probably means _____.

A. investigations
B. researches
C. detailed studies and inspections
D. calculations

7. Spectacular in para. 6 probably means _____.

A. interesting
B. extraordinary
C. unforgettable
D. special

8. Specifies in para. 7 probably means _____.

A. definitely includes
B. points out
C. makes it clear
D. brings about

2. POPULATION AROUND THE WORLD

Because of better sanitation, better food production, and better control of diseases, the birth rates in Asia are high and the death rates are dropping. India now has 580,000,000 people, and each year India adds another 14,000,000 people. That is an increase of about two and one-half percent (2. 5 percent) each year. China, which has about 830,000,000 people, also adds about two and one-half percent more each year (about 22,000,000 people).

Because most of the countries of Asia have a population problem, most of the governments of those countries are starting family-planning programs. India began a family-planning program in 1951, and China started one in 1954. In China, for example, the government tells people not to marry when they are young. It suggests that men wait until they are between twenty-five and twenty-nine and that women wait until they are between twenty-three and twenty-seven.

In industrialized countries, the population has been increasing slowly in the twentieth century. For example, the United States has about 220,000,000 people and adds two and one-half million each year, an increase of approximately 1. 5 percent. The majority of the people in these industrialized countries, such as Japan, the United States, the Netherlands, England, and West Germany, live in cities or in the suburbs of cities. Most of these countries also have plans to control their population.

In 1920, Latin America had 87,000,000 people; in 1972, there were 294,000,000. The population increase in Latin America is one of the fastest in the world. If it continues, the population will double in twenty-five years. But a majority of the countries of Latin America do not have plans for the control of the population. In 1971, there were only nine countries with family-planning policies, and these nine countries had only 15 percent of the total population in Latin America.

Not only is population increasing, but urbanization is also. In Asia, about 16 percent of the population lives in large cities (cities with 100,000 or more people). Some countries, such as Thailand and the Philippines, have only one large urban area, and these areas are expanding rapidly. In other countries such as India, there are many large cities, and each of these cities is becoming larger.

In China, however, the situation is a little different. In 1970, one-fifth of the people in China lived in the cities. There were twenty-one cities with one million or more people. But the population in the cities is not increasing very much now. The government is encouraging industrialization in the countryside by building good roads and factories there. It is also providing people with land, food, and health services so that they will not want to move to the

cities.

In Latin America, urbanization is increasing rapidly. In Mexico, in 1960, 51 percent of the population was urban; in 1970, 59 percent was urban. In Brazil, in those same ten years, the percentage went from 45 to 56 percent. This increase in urbanization has created many problems. There is a need in the cities of Latin America for between fifteen and twenty million places to live. There is also a need for better sanitation. Only 66 percent of the urban population gets water through pipes, and only 40 percent has services for waste. It is clear that the problems of population and urbanization together are creating serious problems for countries that have large cities.

approximately 600 words

New Words

sanitation /ˌsæniˈteiʃən/ n.	卫生设备(尤指下水道设备)
Netherlands /ˈneðələndz/ n.	荷兰
Thailand /ˈtailænd;ˈtailənd/ n.	泰国
Philippines /ˈfilipiːnz/ n.	菲律宾
urbanization /ˌəːbənaiˈzeiʃən/ n.	都市化

Notes

1. The article is taken from Challenge: A First Reader.

2. family planning: use of birth control, contraceptives for planning the number of children 计划生育

Exercises

I. Comprehension Check: Multiple Choice

1. In developing countries _____.
   - A. families with only one child are rare
   - B. the birth rates are dropping
   - C. the population is increasing rapidly
   - D. people like to live in the countryside
2. In industrialized countries _____.
   - A. there are no population problems at all
   - B. the birth rates are high

C. the birth rates are low

D. none of the above.

3. The governments in some countries have to begin family- planning programs to _____.

A. help solve the problems caused by the increase in population

B. keep up with industrialized countries

C. warn their people of the danger of rapid increase in population

D. produce more goods for their people

4. From this passage we know that governments in different countries have _____.

A. different attitudes about family planning

B. the same attitude about family planning.

C. nothing to do with family planning

D. both B and C

5. In Thailand and the Philippines _____.

A. most people like to live in the countryside

B. most people like to live in large cities

C. most people like to go abroad

D. all of the above

6. According to the article, one serious problem in the cities of Latin America is _____.

A. transportation B. production

C. sanitation D. education

7. Which of the following countries has a slower population increase in the 20th century?

A. India B. China

C. America D. Thailand

8. The population of Latin America will be about _____ in the year 2000 if it keeps growing as it was in 1972.

A. 400,000,000 B. 294,000,000

C. 600,000,000 D. 174,000,000

Ⅱ. Choose the right word which would best keep the meaning of the original sentence if it were substituted for the underlined part.

1. Because of better living conditions, the death rate is dropping in many countries.

A. surviving B. becoming lower

C. escaping D. doubling

2. These small rural communities do not have many of the things that you find in big towns.

A. urban B. suburban C. potential D. imperial

3. Good sanitation is necessary for everyone' s health.

A. hygiene B. wealth C. policy D. mission

4. Our foreign trade has expanded in recent years.

A. inspired B. developed C. confused D. expressed

5. The majority of the union members voted to strike.

A. Most B. Many C. Some D. Few

6. The story is continued on p. 53.

A. kept back B. kept off C. kept on D. kept up

7. You should not encourage him in his idle ways.

A. cast B. endure C. educate D. support

8. She has been in bed for six days with a very serious illness.

A. important B. dangerous C. sincere D. earnest

3. VOLCANOES

Throughout history volcanoes have erupted in different parts of the earth. Some of them have been newly formed "babies" that grew into adult volcanoes, and others have been old volcanoes that have come to life again. This raises a question: Can people be sure that a volcano is extinct or dead, or is there danger that it may erupt again? Although they feel it probably will not, scientists admit that they do not know for sure.

There are a number of examples in history of extinct volcanoes coming to life again. In Costa Rica a few years ago, a volcano called Mount Arenal suddenly came to life. It had been extinct for more than 500 years. Many people, as well as hundreds of cattle, died from the effects of the exploding volcano and the resulting flow of lava.

Volcanoes in Hawaii, Alaska, and along the West Coast of the United States are part of a "chain of fire" that runs around the Pacific Ocean. The chain of fire is a string of volcanoes and earthquake zones running along the borders of the Pacific Ocean in the Western Hemisphere and in Asia in the Eastern Hemisphere. In 1959 a part of this chain of fire erupted after having been quiet for 91 years. At the height of its 1959 activity, two million tons of lava per hour gushed from the volcano' s opening, spreading over a wide area and hardening to form new rock.

An interesting story of the birth of a volcano concerns the formation of a new island off the coast of Iceland. On the morning of November 13, 1963, Olafur Vestmann was standing quietly at the rail of his fishing boat. Suddenly, the boat began to move as if it were caught in a whirlpool. A large, black cloud of smoke began to rise from the water. The captain turned his boat around and approached the cloud of smoke. He and his crew could see that the smoke contained ashes and pieces of lava that were being thrown into the air from an underwater volcano. That same night the volcano broke through the surface of the water. By morning a small volcanic cone stood ten meters above the water.

The volcano continued to grow. In two days it was nearly 40 meters high and 545 meters long. A column of smoke nearly 17 kilometers high could be seen 125 kilometers away. By the end of the year the volcanic cone stood 150 meters above the surface of the ocean and the new island was about a kilometer wide. Icelanders called the island Surtsey.

As can be seen in the case of Surtsey, volcanoes give warnings of their activity. The action begins deep underground and can be heard or recorded on seismic instruments which can record movements or sounds in the earth. Hot, melted rock called magma and hot gases come to the surface through weak places in the earth' s crust. Finally, they create an opening through which they can rise to the surface. The magma cools into red-hot lava, which then

rolls down the sides of the volcano. The volcano gets its cone shape from the lava that has poured out during earlier eruptions.

Scientists have always been interested in volcanoes. Volcanologists, the scientists who make a study of volcanoes, often take their lives in their hands. For example, to get useful information about volcanic activity, these experts go down into the craters of live volcanoes. During their stay they may see many explosions and have to avoid "bombs" of red-hot lava. For protection, the scientists wear fiberglass armor with helmets to cover their shoulders. Volcanologists enjoy the excitement and challenge of studying the drama of the changing crust of the earth. From their studies they hope to be able to predict new volcanic eruptions before they happen.

approximately 620 words

New Words

volcano /vɔl′ keinəu/ n.	火山
erupt /i′ rʌpt/ vi.	喷发
extinct /iks′ tiŋkt/ a.	熄灭了的
Costa Rica /′ kɔst ′ ri:kə/ n.	哥斯达黎加[中美洲一国家]
lava /lɑ:′və/ n.	熔岩
Hawaii /hɑ:′ waii/ n.	夏威夷[美国州名]
Alaska /ə′ læskə/ n.	阿拉斯加[美国州名]
hemisphere /′ hemisfiə/ n.	半球
the Eastern Hemisphere	东半球
the Western Hemisphere	西半球
gush /gʌʃ/ vi.	涌出；喷出
Iceland /′ aisland/ n.	冰岛
whirlpool /′ hwə:lpu:l/ n.	旋涡
cone /kəun/ n.	火山锥
magma /′ mægmə/ n.	岩浆
seismic /′ saizmik/ a.	地震的
crater /′ kreitə/ n.	火山口
bomb /bɔm/ n.	火山弹(指火山喷出的球状熔岩)
fiberglass /′ faibəglɑ:s/ n.	玻璃纤维
helmet /′ helmit/ n.	头盔；钢盔