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大学英语

快速阅读

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快速阅读

第三册

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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,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、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学合作编写,复旦大学董亚芬教授审订。

大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组的全体成员对这套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关注,分工审阅了全套教材并提出宝贵意见。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,给予我们很大帮助和促进。

《大学英语》快速阅读教程由中国人民大学外语系负责编写。谌馨荪教授担任主编,许孟雄教授担任主审,参加编写的有余申燕副教授和陈志强同志。

在编写过程中,本教程还承英籍专家 Anthony Ward 审阅,谨此致谢。

本书为快速阅读教程第三册,供大学英语三级学生使用。

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

1990年2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。为保证语言文字的规范化,课文全部选自英、美原著,但有少量删改。选材力求多样化,知识性和趣味性兼顾。

全书共分六册,每册十单元二十课。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,因此每篇材料均略浅于相应的精、泛读课文。篇幅跨度为 250—600 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

1990 年 2 月

College English

Fast Reading

Book Three

By

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1. On the Stock Exchange

The London Stock Exchange has always been famous as a place for men only, and women used to be strictly forbidden to enter. But the world is changing day by day, and even the Stock Exchange, which seemed to be a man's castle, is gradually opening its doors to the other sex. On 16th November 1971, a great decision was taken. The Stock Exchange Council (the body of men that administers the Stock Exchange) decided that women should be allowed on to the new trading floor when it opened in 1973. But the "castle" had not been completely conquered. The first girls to work in "The House" were not brokers or jobbers. They were neither allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms, nor to be authorised dealers in stocks and shares. They were simply junior clerks and telephone operators.

Women have been trying to get into the Stock Exchange for many years. Several votes have been taken in "The House" to see whether the members would be willing to allow women to become members, but the answer has always been "No". There have been three refusals of this kind since 1967. Now women are admitted, although in a very junior capacity. Two firms of jobbers made an application to the Stock Exchange Council to be allowed to employ girl clerks. Permission was finally given. A member of the Stock Exchange explained, after this news had been given, "The new floor is going to be different from the old one. All the jobbers will have their own stands, with space for a telephone and typewriters. Therefore there will have to be typists and telephone operators. So women must be allowed in." This decision did not mean a very great victory in the war for equal rights for women. However, it was a step in the right direction. The Chairman of the Stock Exchange said: "I think that the opening of the new building will eventually lead to women being allowed to have full membership of the Stock Exchange. It is only a matter of time; it must happen."

345 words

1. On the Stock Exchange

Comprehension Exercise

1. The London Stock Exchange is famous _____.
 - a. because it has been a place for men only
 - b. for its policy of opening its doors to women
 - c. for its favourable location
 - d. because women are now beginning to enter its doors to work

2. It was not until 16th November, 1971 that _____.
 - a. the "castle" was completely conquered
 - b. women began to work in the London Stock Exchange for the first time
 - c. the Council decided to allow women on to the new trading floor when it opened in 1973
 - d. the London Stock Exchange opened its doors to women

3. "The House" here refers to _____.
 - a. any stockbroking firm
 - b. the Stock Exchange Council
 - c. any place women were forbidden to enter
 - d. the London Stock Exchange

4. The first girls _____.
 - a. were allowed to enter "The House" in a very junior capacity
 - b. served as brokers or jobbers in "The House"
 - c. were allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms
 - d. were authorised as dealers in stocks and shares

5. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Since 1973 women have been allowed to work with the London Stock Exchange.
 - b. Women have recently been allowed to become partners in stockbroking firms.
 - c. Women were never officially allowed to enter the Stock Exchange.
 - d. Only brokers or jobbers can get into the Stock Exchange.

6. Several votes have been taken in "The House" so as _____.
a. to see if women were willing to become members
b. to decide when women would be allowed into "The house"
c. to find out whether the members were willing to allow women to become members
d. to decide when to allow women on to the new trading floor
7. Who had the power to decide whether or not to employ girl clerks?
a. The Stock Exchange Council.
b. Any member of the Council.
c. The firms of jobbers.
d. The chairman of brokers.
8. According to the context, "It is only a matter of time" implies _____.
a. women would very soon have full membership of the Stock Exchange
b. women would eventually have equal rights with men in the Stock Exchange
c. more and more women would be willing to work in the Stock Exchange
d. a new building would eventually be built for women
9. What is this article about?
a. Women's place in society.
b. How the London Stock Exchange functioned in 1971.
c. How women have been struggling for full membership of the Stock Exchange.
d. How women were gradually allowed to work in the Stock Exchange.

2. Six Pence per Second

Sarah and Brian have travelled by air from London to Sydney, Australia. Sarah has promised her mother that she will ring her to let her know that they have arrived safely. This is something she has done ever since she was a child. Brian thinks it is a silly idea to ring so far, to spend so much, and to say so little.

"If there were an accident," he says, "they'd know soon enough. Bad news travels fast."

But Sarah has promised that she would ring. "Besides," she says, "it doesn't cost much when you consider that it's the other side of the world. It's only six pence per second."

"If you're on that telephone for less than one minute, I'll eat my hat," Brian says. "And one minute's nearly four pounds."

"That's no more than you'd pay for a new hat," Sarah replies.

She has asked the man at the hotel desk to get her the number. The telephone rings. Sarah picks it up.

"Hello, Mum. Is that you?" she says.

"Six pence per second," Brian reminds her.

"Hello, love." It is Mrs Lee, Sarah's mother, speaking from London. "My word, you do sound clear. You could be in the next room. It's a better line than when you used to call me from the University. Do you remember? I used to shout and still you couldn't hear me sometimes. And just think, you're on the other side of the world."

"Yes, Mum," Sarah puts in, "I just wanted to ring to..."

"I remember how you used to ring when you went to Betty's house to tea, when you were a little girl. And then when you used to go to camp with the Guides..." Mrs Lee is a great talker.

"Nearly four pounds," says Brian.

Sarah manages to tell her mother that it is time to say goodbye.

"Yes, all right," says Mrs Lee. "But you will write, won't you, like you used to do when you were at University..."

Once again, Mrs Lee speaks fondly of the past, and there is no stopping her.

"Four pounds fifty," says Brian.

Finally, Sarah cuts her mother short, promises to write, and rings off.

"There! That wasn't long, was it?"

"Four pounds, ninety pence," Brian replies. "And you didn't even say that we've arrived!"

384 words

2. Six Pence per Second

Comprehension Exercise

1. Sarah is telephoning home to _____.
 - a. tell her mother some bad news
 - b. say that she and Brian have arrived safely
 - c. report an accident to her mother
 - d. say that she and Brian have left London
2. Brian thinks that _____.
 - a. it is too expensive to ring so far and to say so little
 - b. it is silly not to have a long conversation
 - c. Sarah's mother will have heard the bad news already
 - d. it is silly for Sarah to ring so far
3. Sarah doesn't think it expensive to ring, considering that _____.
 - a. it only costs four pounds and ninety pence
 - b. it is even more expensive to buy a new hat
 - c. she often telephoned home when she was travelling abroad
 - d. she will be speaking from one side of the world to the other
4. Brian _____ that Sarah will be on the phone for less than one minute.
 - a. doesn't believe
 - b. hesitates to believe
 - c. is quite sure
 - d. never doubts
5. Sarah has asked _____ to get her the number.
 - a. the receptionist
 - b. the hotel manager
 - c. a telephone operator
 - d. an office secretary
6. When Mrs Lee hears Sarah's voice _____.
 - a. she thinks that Sarah is in the next room

- b. she has to shout to make herself heard
 - c. she is surprised at how clear it sounds from so far away
 - d. she is surprised that Sarah and Brian have already arrived
7. Mrs Lee remembers how Sarah used to _____.
a. be a great talker
b. ring her up when she was away from home
c. shout on the telephone when she was a girl
d. telephone home from the other side of the world
8. Brian says, "Nearly four pounds," because _____.
a. he wants to remind Sarah that she has already been talking for a minute
b. he wants to buy himself a new hat
c. Sarah has not told her mother they have arrived
d. he wants Mrs Lee to know how much the call costs
9. Mrs Lee goes on talking for so long because _____.
a. she likes to hear all about the past
b. she likes talking
c. Sarah has not told her that she has arrived
d. she is going to pay for the telephone call
10. Sarah manages to stop her mother by _____.
a. telling her how much the call is costing
b. writing a letter as she has promised to do
c. telling her that they have arrived safely
d. promising to write, and ringing off

3. Local Newspapers in Britain

Visitors to Britain are sometimes surprised to learn that newspapers there have such a large circulation. The "Daily Mirror" and the "Daily Express" both sell about four million copies every day. British families generally buy a newspaper every morning and frequently take two or three on Sundays.

Apart from the national papers, there is, however, another branch of the British press which sells almost as many copies. Local newspapers have a weekly circulation of 13 million. Almost every town and country area has one. Nearly all of them hold their own financially and many of them are very profitable.

These papers are written almost entirely for readers interested in local events — births, weddings, deaths, council meetings and sports — but the content is naturally influenced by the kind of community they serve. Editors prefer to rely on a small staff of people who all know the district well. A great deal of local news is regularly supplied by clubs and churches in the neighbourhood and it does not get out of date as quickly as national news. If there is no room for it in this week's edition, an item can sometimes be held over until the following week.

The editor must never forget that the success of any newspaper depends on advertising. He is usually anxious to keep the good will of local businessmen for this reason. But if the newspaper is well written and the news items have been carefully chosen to attract local readers, the businessmen are grateful for the opportunity to keep their products in the public eye.

Local newspapers do not often comment on problems of national importance and editors rarely hold with taking sides on political questions. But they can often be of service to the community in expressing public feeling on local issues. A newspaper can sometimes persuade the council to take action to provide better shopping facilities, improve transport in the area and preserve local monuments and places of interest.

These papers often sound rather dull and it seems surprising that they all make a profit. But for many people in small towns and villages the death of someone known to them or the installation of traffic lights at a busy corner nearby can sometimes be more important than a disaster in a foreign country.

381 words

