

大学英语阅读精选

COLLEGE ENGLISH READING

(二)

主 编 尹忠孝 王 峰
审 定 余宝珠 金 莉



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前 言

本书为大学英语系列教材中的泛读教材，主要使用对象为大学英语专业一、二年级的学生，参加自学考试、培训的学生以及欲在短期内提高阅读及应试能力、具有中等以上水平的广大英语学习者。

阅读在英语学习和提高中具有极其重要的作用，要想提高自己的英语整体水平，采用正确、有效的阅读方法是至关重要的。为使阅读的实践与理论得以充分结合，并使理论能够正确指导实践，本书对主要的阅读技巧都做了简要阐述，并附有范文。

本书旨在通过系统、科学的阅读，以较快地提高学生的英语水平，为此在每个单元之前都附有 **Prep Work**（课前预习），使学生借助其他图书资料及自己原有的知识对课文中的部分难点、重点有所了解，并能加以解决，以达到培养学生独立解决问题之能力。为了加强对课文的理解，我们在每篇课文之后都安排了形式不同的练习；为了方便课堂讨论，在每篇课文之后安排了2~3个讨论题，供学习者参考使用。在编写过程中我们还充分考虑到社会上广大英语学习者的需要，因此本书还增加了单词表、注释及参考答案。

本书课文全部选自近年来国内外出版的书籍、报刊及杂志，编者对各位作者的辛勤劳动表示衷心地感谢。本书内容丰富新颖，题材多样，包括名人传记、风土人情、史地常识、短篇故事、语言文化、社会知识等，以期在提高学生阅

读能力的同时增强学习兴趣，扩大知识面。

本书在编写过程中得到西安外国语学院副院长兼英语系主任余宝珠教授及加拿大籍英语专家 **Alex Proudfoot** 教授的大力支持与关怀，在此全体编写人员对他们的辛勤劳动表示衷心地感谢。

由于编者的水平有限，加之时间紧迫，本书难免存在不足之处，敬请各位使用者及同仁提出批评建议，编者不胜感激。

编者

一九九八年五月

于西安外国语学院

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Unit 1

Text A Standing Room Only

Prep Work

1. Do you think the population in the area where you are from grows too quickly? Give specific figures to show it.
2. Why are people around the world becoming more and more concerned about the population explosion?
3. Talk briefly about the family planning situation in your hometown.

Look at your watch for just one minute. During that time the population of the world increased by eighty-five people. Perhaps you think that isn't much. In the next hour, more than 5, 000 additional people will be living on this planet. So it goes, hour after hour. In one day, there are about 120, 000 additional mouths to feed. Multiply this by 365. What will happen in 100 years?

This population explosion may be the greatest challenge of the present time. Within the next forty years, the world population may double. Can the new frontiers of science meet the

needs of the crowded world of tomorrow?

If the present rate of population increase continues for the next 600 or 700 years, there will be standing room only. Each person will have between 3 to 10 square feet of space in which to live. This includes the mountaintops, deserts, and the ice and snow fields of the polar regions. Of course, no one expects such a thing to happen. War, plague, famine, or some other catastrophe can be expected to occur long before the population reaches this point. Actually, the danger is not in an overcrowded world where people are huddled together so that they cannot move arms and legs, but in an upset balance between population and resources.

Since 600 years is so far away, take a look at the year directly ahead. How can the hungry people be fed? About half the babies born this year will not have enough to eat. Is the world running out of water? Will there be enough fuel? What will supply the energy needed to run the machines of tomorrow's world? Certainly, man must look to the future and find new ways of providing for his needs.

People around the world are becoming more and more concerned about the population explosion. Some are holding that there can be some control of the number of people that are born; but population control is a subject which touches on the moral and religious beliefs of many people. Even if many families have fewer children, the speed of the population explosion will only be reduced — not halted. There will still be problems of food supply, water, and power.

The earth would not be so crowded if it were not for the

great strides made by modern medicine. The average life span has doubled in the last 500 years. If you were living in the days of Columbus, you could expect to live only thirty-five years. Today, a person in America can expect to live until he is almost seventy. The increase in life span around the world has been a major factor in increasing the population.

People are being born faster than they are dying, or they are dying at a slower rate than they are being born. Longer life span is a fine achievement, but it does add to the number of people who live on the earth.

Perhaps you do not think of the earth as a crowded planet. Perhaps you live in a part of the world where there are vast stretches of fields and forests; where farms are dotted here and there on the rolling-countryside. Your nearest neighbour may be miles away. Such is not the case in all parts of the world.

In many countries people are huddled together in shacks built one next to the other. In India, where there are only 332 persons for every square mile of land, it is crowded. In Japan, there are about twice as many. In Holland, many young people wait for years before marrying in order to obtain a place to live. Asia, which covers one-sixth of the world's land, holds one-half of its population. People from around the world are flocking to the wide open spaces of Australia and the less crowded parts of the earth.

Glossary

- plague n. any disease causing death and spreading quickly to a large number of people 瘟疫
- famine n. very serious lack of food
- catastrophe n. a sudden, unexpected, and terrible event that causes great suffering, misfortune, or ruin
- flock vi. gather, come or go together in great numbers

Notes

1. frontiers of science: 尖端科学
2. polar regions: 极地 (区)

Comprehension

I. Select the answer which is most accurate according to the information given in the passage.

1. According to the author, in forty years' time
 - A. the world population may double
 - B. each person will have only 3 square feet of space in which to live
 - C. each person will have only 10 square feet of space in

which to live

- D. the new frontiers of science can meet the needs of the growing population
2. The greatest danger of population explosion is that _____.
A. the space is too small for each person to live in
B. there won't be enough food to feed the hungry people
C. there won't be enough water for people
D. an upset balance between population and resources
3. An upset balance between population and resources means _____.
A. only a few people will have enough resources
B. the resources will not be shared evenly by all the people
C. a few people will have more resources than most of the people
D. natural resources can't meet the needs of the people at large
4. The major reason for the increase of the world population is that _____.
A. many families want to have more children
B. there have been fewer wars, famines and plagues
C. many families can provide enough food for their children
D. there is the increase in life span
5. People from around the world are flocking to the wide open spaces of _____.

- A. Canada
 - B. Australia
 - C. the U. S. A.
 - D. Asia
6. Which of the following statements is not true?
- A. It is spacious to live in India, Japan and Holland.
 - B. The great achievements in medicine help the increase of world population.
 - C. More and more people in the world are becoming concerned about the population explosion.
 - D. More people are being born each day than they are dying.
7. According to the author, on the average, just within one second _____ in the world.
- A. one child will be born
 - B. two children will be born
 - C. 1. 4 children will be born
 - D. fewer than one child will be born
8. According to the author, the basic necessities for human beings are _____.
- A. food, water and power
 - B. food, power and shelter
 - C. food, water and shelter
 - D. food, power and medicine

9. Which of the following is not true?

- A. If the present rate of population increase continues for the next 600 or 700 years, there will be standing room only.
- B. If we exclude the deserts, mountaintops, etc. we'll have less than 3 to 10 square feet of space in which to live.
- C. People around the world are becoming more and more concerned about the population explosion.
- D. All the people in the world want to control the number of people.

II. Mark each of the following statements T if it is true or F if it is false.

- 1. _____ If the mountaintops, deserts, and the ice and snow fields of the polar regions are not included, each person will have less than 3 to 10 square feet of space in which to live in 600 or 700 years.
- 2. _____ Population control is a subject which may be opposed by people who have certain religious beliefs.
- 3. _____ If many families have fewer children, population explosion will be stopped.
- 4. _____ If you were living 500 years ago, the average life span was only about 35 years.
- 5. _____ Today the life span in America is about 70.
- 6. _____ It is more crowded to live in India than it is to live in Japan.

7. Asia is more crowded than other parts of the world.

III. Choose the one which is closest in meaning from Column B to the one in Column A.

Column A	Column B
() 1. multiply	A. unbroken or continuous period of time, or extent of country
() 2. stride	B. one long step
() 3. shack	C. take (a given quantity or number) a given number of times
() 4. stretch	D. small, roughly built hut or house
() 5. halt	E. stop or pause
() 6. touch on	F. concerning principles of right and wrong
() 7. moral	G. talk about (something) shortly
() 8. huddle	H. crowd or press together

Discussion on the Text

1. Discuss the problems of population control in the place where you are from.
2. What is the best way to control the increase of population?
3. What are the factors that make the population grow so