

阅读技能综合训练

大学英语阅读阶梯教程

主编 汪宏 栾海峰 主审 吴树敬

四级

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Reading Practice

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阅读阶梯教程

(四级)

——阅读技能综合训练——

主编 汪 宏 栾海峰

编者 栾海峰 王 红

主审 吴树敬



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在迎来了新世纪之际,我国的大学外语教学面临着新的挑战。如何全面提高在校大学生的外语综合运用能力是摆在全国外语教学界同行面前的首要任务。随着我国加入WTO,成为“世界经济联合国”的一个成员,这一任务显得尤为重要。

为了使学生们能在听、说、读、写诸方面有均衡的进步,进而在毕业后能够比较自如地运用外语来完成各方面的工作,我们一定要在教学大纲的基础上更上一层楼,根据实际情况有所突破,培养出社会需要的真正合格人才。要做到这一点,教材在教学中起着举足轻重的作用,它对贯彻教学大纲、系统体现教学要求、规范学科内容都是十分重要的。

《大学英语阅读阶梯教程——阅读技能综合训练》以2000年新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》为依据,整套教材具有连续性,内容由浅入深、循序渐进,语言材料的难度有别于精读教材,各级材料的难度级差明显。这套教材在选材的文体标准、语言标准和词汇标准以及练习设计等各方面紧扣《大纲》,充分体现了《大纲》中大学英语各级对教学对象在语言运用能力方面的界定:

1)选材的文体标准和语言标准。语言规范地道,体裁新颖,题材广泛,主题积极向上,知识性和趣味性兼顾,便于学生接触到丰富多彩的语言现象,领略到各国尤其是英语国家的文化风情、历史政经、教育科技等方方面面。

2)选材的词汇标准。选材时严格控制词汇,对《大纲》所规定的词汇覆盖面广、复现率高,超纲词不多,共核词突出,词汇分级标注。编者保留了文章中部分超纲词汇甚至对个别词不加注释,旨在锻炼学生从篇章层次上对语义的阅读推理能力,并使学生掌握如何避开或减少非重要词汇的干扰而不影响对篇章总体的理解的阅读技能。

3)练习设计。练习数量充足,有利于强化学生语言基本功训练,题型多样,其中培养学生语言运用能力的主观题占有适当的比例。

这套教材在编写模式上对传统的大学英语速读、泛读教材有所突破。为了全面培养学生的英语阅读技能,编者结合篇章特点,有针对性地编排练习,使读、译、写多项技能训练有机结合,让学生在以篇章为载体获取信息的同时,及时理解、反复操练、有效掌握相应的词汇和结构,并培养其翻译技能和书面简短表述信息的能力,从而提高学生的英语阅读综合技能。

符合教学规律,便于因“材”施教是这套教材的又一特色。这里的“材”兼指教材和教学对象。一方面,其选材特点有利于教师结合不同版本的精读和视、听、说教材在题材上

灵活取舍;另一方面,练习题型丰富、难度层次分明,便于教师因材施教。因此,这套教材在施教方法和深度的选择上给教师和自修者留有最大限度的自由度和灵活性。

这套教材已在北京理工大学大学英语的教学过程中(尤其是实验班的教学)中反复实践,是在总结分析各方面意见之后,认真修订而成的,也是教师们数年乃至数十年教学经验的积淀。

总之,《大学英语阅读阶梯教程——阅读技能综合训练》能够贯彻《大纲》的要求,通过篇章的阅读为以汉语为母语的中国大学生提供语言环境,满足分层次教学、因材施教和培养新世纪高素质人才的需求,是提高学生英语阅读综合技能必备的一套教材,也是帮助考生阅读技能全面升级的益友。



二〇〇二年初夏于北京阳春光华

随着我国改革开放步伐的加快,特别是在我国加入世贸组织的大好形势下,社会各方面对大学生的英语水平,尤其是对他们的语言应用能力提出了更高的要求,要求他们不仅要具有较强的阅读能力和一定的翻译和写作能力,而且还要了解与英语语言相关的西方政治、经济、文化、科技等诸方面的背景知识。

正是顺应了这种形势,《大学英语阅读阶梯教程——阅读技能综合训练》系列教材(1~6级)具有对非英语专业的大学生和自学者进行阅读技能综合训练和语用能力培养的双重作用。本套教材体系完整,一至四册(一~四级)注重体现2000年新《大纲》对大学英语基础阶段在词汇、阅读、翻译等方面的基本要求,第五册(五、六级)也提供了大量的具有针对性的阅读技能综合训练,能够帮助学习者实现英语阅读能力从四级到六级甚至到研究生入学统考水平的全面提高。

为了适应新时期创新教育和素质教育的要求,在编写时,对传统的英语速读和泛读教材的编写模式有所突破,集能力提高和水平应试于一体,旨在通过强化阅读训练,全面提高学生的英语水平,改变学生高分低能的状况。本套教材的第一稿已在北京理工大学的部分班级中进行了试用,师生反映较好。本书在此基础上修改而成。书中共设13个单元,每个单元分别备有A、B两篇读物,并在每篇文章后设有分级标注的词汇(*为四级,▲为六级,◆为六级后,[P]为专有名词)、阅读理解题、词汇练习题、翻译练习题以及相应参考答案;书后附有两套模拟自测题及答案。教师可根据教学目的和进度以及学生的水平灵活安排取舍教学内容。由于诸种原因我们未能与书中所选文章及插图的原作者一一取得联系。希望原作者见到本书后,能主动与我们联系,以便按《中华人民共和国著作权法》支付相关报酬。

本书由栾海峰、王红编写,特邀北京理工大学人文学院副院长吴树敬教授(兼任北京市大学英语教学检查专家组组长、北京市大学英语研究会副理事长)担任主审。北京理工大学出版社社长苏青同志、原总编林国璋同志和责任编辑刘小亦同志对本套教材的出版给予了热情的支持和大量的帮助。在此表示诚挚的谢意。

由于编者水平有限,书中难免出现疏漏与错误,敬请同行和读者批评指正。

编 者

2002年5月于北京

Contents

目

录

4

Unit One

Passage A: WTO to Change World Trade (1)

Passage B: Free Trade: Yes or No (5)

Unit Two

Passage A: Cupid Goes Hi-tech (9)

Passage B: A Story for Valentine's Day (13)

Unit Three

Passage A: IT Neither Good Nor Bad (17)

Passage B: Be Brave with New Things (22)

Unit Four

Passage A: Freezing a Human Body (25)

Passage B: Gene Map Brings Hope (29)

Unit Five

Passage A: Great Brands Made, Not Born (33)

Passage B: The Jeans: A Fashion Statement (37)

Unit Six

Passage A: How to Live Another Year (40)

Passage B: How You Can Get a Few Good Laughs (45)

Unit Seven

Passage A: Future Careers (49)

Passage B: Working at Home (54)

Unit Eight

Passage A: Nature's Perfect Medicine	(58)
Passage B: The Disease Men Don't Talk about	(63)

Unit Nine

Passage A: Marco Polo Bridge	(67)
Passage B: Marco Polo	(71)

Unit Ten

Passage A: "It's Not My Fault!"	(75)
Passage B: Who Is Eddie Morey	(79)

Unit Eleven

Passage A: Education in Australia	(83)
Passage B: Going to America for a Degree	(88)

Unit Twelve

Passage A: He Gave Windows to the Blind	(93)
Passage B: Three Days to See	(98)

Unit Thirteen

Passage A: City Planning (I)	(104)
Passage B: City Planning (II)	(109)

Appendix

Simulated Test Paper (I)	(113)
Simulated Test Paper (II)	(131)

Unit

One

Passage A

WTO to Change World Trade

A sea change in the conduct of international commerce took place on Jan.1st, 1995 when the World Trade Organization (WTO) began operations as the supreme rule-setting body.

2 The product of eight years of global talks known as the Uruguay Round, the WTO replaced the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) as world trade watch-dog. But unlike its predecessor, which since its creation in 1947 was limited to monitoring international trade in goods, the WTO will have a much bigger jurisdiction.

3 Besides the traditional goods areas, the WTO will have responsibility for lowering barriers in sectors such as banking, insurance, tourism and telecommunications, and will supervise trade-related intellectual-property rights including patents and copyrights.

4 The WTO provides the basis for stability and trade into the next century, said

Peter Sutherland, WTO director general. He said the new organization will substantially strengthen the principles of the multilateral trade system and enhance "its proper functioning".

5 Rich industrial nations and poor developing countries are expected to gain from the new body. Indeed, provisional estimates by GATT economists indicate that in the goods area alone, the benefits will increase world income by US \$510 billion a year by 2005. The annual gains for the United States will be on the order of US \$122 billion; for the European Union, US \$164 billion; approximately US \$27 billion for Japan; and US \$116 billion for developing nations.

6 Moreover, industrial nations have agreed to cut tariffs on industrial goods by 40% from an average of 6.3% down to 3.8%. And the number of goods that will enter rich nations duty-free under the WTO-administered accords will more than double from 20% to 44%.

7 Trade economists predicted that once the Uruguay Round accords are fully in force, world trade in goods will increase 9% to 24%. But if the impact of trade in services and of new market-opening commitments is taken into account, the gains will be much higher.

8 Traditional areas that were effectively locked out of the old system, such as agriculture and textiles, will come under WTO jurisdiction. A key task of the WTO will be to ensure that its 125 member nations honor their commitments to reduce export subsidies by 36% and domestic support levels for farm goods by 20%.

9 Mr. Sutherland said the new and more streamlined dispute settlement mechanism, plus its renewed appellate structure, will enhance the sense of security and predictability for importers and exporters worldwide.^[1] The *phaseout* of "gray area" trade measures like the so-called voluntary export restraints will be another WTO plus.

10 Trade officials said that whether the WTO meets the world's high expectations will depend largely on whether the major players choose to play by the rules or try to avoid the structure and unilaterally pursue their goals.

11 The obstacles over the selection of a WTO chief is an early warning that trade tensions are not likely to disappear overnight with the new body.^[2]

(490 words)

Word Bank

- ▲ **tariff** ['tærɪf] *n.* 关税
- ◆ **jurisdiction** [ˌdʒʊərəs'dɪkʃən] *n.* 司法权; 裁判权
- ◆ **multilateral** [ˌmʌltɪ'lætərəl] *adj.* 多边的
- ▲ **streamlined** ['stri:m,laɪnd] *adj.* 有效率的; 流线型的
- ◆ **appellate** [ə'pelɪt] *adj.* 上诉的
- ◆ **unilaterally** [ˌjuːni'lætərəli] *adv.* 单方面地; 单边地

Exercises

I. Reading comprehension

1. What is the difference between the function of GATT and that of the WTO?
 - A) The GATT had a bigger functioning area than the WTO.
 - B) The GATT has been replaced by the WTO as the world trade supreme rule-setting body.
 - C) Traditional trade areas such as agriculture and textiles will be locked out of the WTO.
 - D) Apart from traditional fields, the WTO will work at a much wider range.
2. It can be reasonably inferred from paragraph four that the WTO will _____.
 - A) cut trade barriers
 - B) lower its responsibility for banking
 - C) keep intellectual-property rights out of control
 - D) neglect patents and copy rights
3. What are the WTO member countries supposed to do according to the passage?
 - A) The annual gains will fall for both industrial nations and developing countries.
 - B) Industrial countries have made a commitment to reduce their tariffs.
 - C) They will honour their commitments to support their domestic farm goods.
 - D) Trade tension will be dissolved quickly by the new body.
4. The WTO will have the power to monitor _____.
 - A) banking, insurance, tourism and telecommunications
 - B) agriculture, textiles, patents and copyrights

C) the phaseout of “gray area” trade measures

D) all of above

6. The possible meaning of “phaseout” (Line 3, Para. 9) is “ ”.

A) control

B) restriction

C) removal

D) setting aside

II. Sentence translation

Mr. Sutherland said the new and more streamlined dispute settlement mechanism, plus its innovative appellate structure, will enhance the sense of security and predictability for importers and exporters worldwide.

7. The obstacles over the selection of WTO chief is an early warning that trade tensions are not likely to disappear overnight with the new body.

Answer: 1. D 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. C

I. 1. D 2. A 3. B 4. D 5. C

II.

[1] 萨泽兰德先生说,用以解决争议的更加合理有效的新机制及其改革后的上诉机构将会增加世界各国进出口商的安全感和预见性。

[2] 挑选世贸组织领导的困难预示着贸易纷争并不会由于世贸组织的产生而在一夜之间消失。

Passage B

Free Trade: Yes or No

The arguments in favor of free trade appear to be so obvious that it might be expected that all countries by now would have accepted them. In fact, the opposite has been the case.^[1] At no time in history has any country ever carried out a free trade policy.

2 There are several reasons why governments try to restrict the imports and exports of a country. One reason is that a country enjoys an advantage if it exports more than it imports. Wealth comes to the exporting country. Some countries have special programs to encourage exports.

3 On the other hand, governments impose taxes and quotas to restrict imports of certain products. For example, to protect Japanese farmers, Japan limits the amount of products that can be imported. Sometimes governments want to protect a domestic industry because that industry provides employment for the population. Besides, the labor unions also encourage the government to establish protectionist controls.

4 Restrictions on foreign trade reduce the volume of international trade and turn production away from areas where it can be most advantageously carried on. ^[2] The result is that the world as a whole is poorer than it otherwise might have been. After the Second World War efforts were made to secure greater freedom of international trade and these basically took two forms: 1) the formation of regional free trade areas of which the European Economic Community and European Free Trade Association were



the outstanding examples; 2) the general lowering of tariffs through the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

5 Another reason why most industrial countries have tended in recent years to adopt a more liberal attitude to free trade is their increased concern with economic growth. Internal economic growth depends to a great extent on a corresponding expansion of international trade. All countries that wish to expand their developing economies or who wish to maintain their high standard of economic growth must come to recognize this point.^[3]

(330 words)

Word Bank

- ▲ **quota** ['kwəʊtə] *n.* 限额, 配额; 定量
- ▲ **protectionist** [prə'tekʃənɪst] *adj.* 保护贸易主义的 *n.* 保护贸易主义者
- ▲ **advantageously** [ˌædvən'teɪdʒəsli] *adv.* 便利地; 有利地, 有益地

Exercises

I. Reading comprehension

1. According to the passage, no countries in the world_____.
 A) wish to expand their developing economies and maintain high standard of economic growth
 B) have rejected the idea of free trade
 C) have ever put the free trade policy into effect
 D) are arguing about free trade
2. In some countries protectionist controls are established to_____.
 A) secure the output of their national industries
 B) protect their farmers
 C) satisfy the leaders of labor unions
 D) secure employment in some national industries
3. From the passage we know that a country gains more wealth by_____.
 A) turning to the GATT for help
 B) turning down the free trade policy

- C) restricting the imports while increasing the exports
D) restricting both the imports and the exports
4. Which of the following can be inferred from paragraph four?
- A) The world is getting poorer in spite of the efforts to increase foreign trade.
B) The purpose of free trade is to ensure that production is carried on in the place where it can be done most efficiently.
C) European Economic Community and General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade are mentioned as examples of regional free trade areas.
D) Restrictions on foreign trade have proved to be a failure.
5. In the last paragraph, "*this point*" (Last line) refers to the fact that_____.
- A) the economic growth of the world is very much influenced by the expansion of its foreign trade
B) the economic growth of a country is very much influenced by the expansion of its foreign trade
C) most industrial countries have adopted a more open attitude to free trade
D) most industrial countries have become more concerned with economic growth

II. Sentence translation

- [1] The arguments in favor of free trade appear to be so obvious that it might be expected that all countries by now would have accepted them. In fact, the opposite has been the case.
-
-
- [2] Restrictions on foreign trade reduce the volume of international trade and turn production away from areas where it can be most advantageously carried on.
-
-
- [3] All countries that wish to expand their developing economies or who wish to maintain their high standard of economic growth must come to recognize this point.
-
-

Key to Exercises

I. 1. C 2. D 3. C 4. B 5. B

II.

- [1] 赞同自由贸易的论点似乎如此明了,以致人们可能会期望到目前为止,应该是所有的国家都接受这些论点了。而事实上,情况却相反。
- [2] 对(对)外贸(易)的限制减少了国际贸易的数额,并且使生产活动不能够在最有利的地区进行。
- [3] 所有那些希望拓展其日益增长的经济,或希望保持其高水平经济增长的国家都必须逐步认识到这一点。



Unit

Two

Passage A

Cupid Goes Hi-tech

Every February 14, candies, flowers and gifts are exchanged between loved ones around the world, all in the name of St. Valentine. This year, the holiday is going hi-tech.

2 A Japanese biotech firm is introducing ways to let young couples exchange samples of each other's DNA as gifts on St. Valentine's Day. While the idea may sound novel, most youths are content with sending romantic text messages over mobile phones to their loved ones.

3 In many countries, the volume of Short Message Service (SMS) messages increases sharply this week as couples send each other love notes.

4 "When you're struck with a soft, fuzzy thought about your significant other, you don't want to pick up the phone within earshot of your colleagues and murmur sweet