

全国高校网络教育公共基础课教材

# 大学英语

专升本阶段



主 编：石发林 欣 羚 俞森林  
副主编：杨安文 黄小俐 夏新蓉

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS





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# 前言

## 一、编写背景

自1998年9月教育部正式批准国内4所大学开展远程（网络）教育试点以来，我国网络教育呈蓬勃发展的趋势，在不到8年的时间里，试点院校由最初的4所增加到68所。各网络学院依托传统名牌大学及其教学资源优势，充分满足在职成人对于“学历”和“随时随地学习”的需求，也正因为如此网络教育得以快速发展。

为确保网络教育人才培养的质量，教育部决定2004年3月1日以后入学的网络教育学生，部分公共课实行全国统考，其中大学英语为非英语专业网络教育学生的必考科目。全国高校网络教育考试委员会针对统考制定了考试大纲、并提供了考试指南和样题，统考工作也于2005年全面启动，网络教育学生的统考结果成为其电子注册的前提条件。

而在目前的大学英语教材中，我们很难找到依据我国网络教育特点，为网络学生专门编写的大学英语网络课程教材。网络教育是一种全新的教育方式，它在教学方式、师生关系、学习方式等方面表现出与传统教育不一样的特点。师生之间处于分离状态是远程教育的主要特征。因此，远程教育的一个重要原则就是要以学生的学习活动为中心，确保教材、课件的设计从学生的实际需要与现实水平出发，在实际的授课内容以外，为学生提供大量的支持性资源，以帮助其自主学习。

正是在当前远程教育蓬勃发展的形势下，在外语教学与研究出版社的全力支持和协调下，我们编写了这套符合网络教育特点和网络教育学员学习水平的大学英语教材，旨在帮助和指导全国广大网络教育学员提高英语语言能力并顺利通过网络统考。希望这套教材能更好地为我国网络教育的大学英语教学服务。

## 二、编写原则及教材特点

教材的编写充分体现了网络教育中英语语言学习的特殊性，教材内容全面，涵盖了全国高校网络教育考试委员会制定的《大学英语考试大纲》、考试指南所涉及的内容。同时，我们参照了2004年教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》，结合网络教育学生学习基础的实际情况制定了教材的学习目标。

**本教材在编写过程中遵循以下原则：**

1. 注重难易度的把握，确保知识的系统性。由于网络教育学生是在缺少外语语言环境，同时又缺少集中课堂教学的情况下进行学习的，因此在教材的编写过程中，我们遵循循序渐进的原则，在确保知识性、系统性的同时，注意控制好教材的难度，缩小各册书之间的梯度和跨度，由易至难、由浅入深地编排所有课文和练习，实现既注重语言文化知识的学习，又注重语言技能培养的教学目标。



2. 知识性、实用性和趣味性相结合。网络教育的学生90%为在职成人学生。他们具有社会阅历丰富、思维成熟、学习目的性强等特点。为了充分吸引成人学生，增强其学习目的性和学习动机，本教材在选材和编排上充分考虑了成人的学习特点和心理，遵循趣味性、知识性和实用性结合的原则，使整个学习过程实现以兴趣为导向、知识为线索、学有所用为目的的理想状况。

本教材具有以下特点：

1. 选材丰富。课文题材广泛，内容丰富，涉及英语国家的社会、政治、经济、文化、历史、新闻、体育、文学、风土人情、科普知识等各个领域；既有文学作品，又有记叙文、说明文、议论文、新闻等语言风格不同的文章。同时，强调语言的规范性、实用性、趣味性和时代性。所选课文不仅语言规范，而且颇有文采、引人入胜，给人以启迪。
2. 注解详尽。介绍有关的文化背景、写作特点、篇章结构，同时提供难句译文、难点分析、词组及句型的使用等内容，为学生自主学习提供有利的条件。
3. 针对性强。课后练习的设计包含网络教育统考题型，所有练习都以帮助网络教育学生打好语言基础和提高语言应用能力为目的，针对网络教育学生的薄弱环节和实际需要，做到有的放矢。练习涉及本课的重点词汇与句型，使学生能够对本课知识举一反三，融会贯通。针对成人学生的特点，本教材注重抓基础，将应掌握的语法知识分单元逐步进行介绍，并设计练习帮助理解和巩固。
4. 注重阶段检测。考虑到学生在学完四册教材之后将参加高校网络教育公共基础课全国统一考试的实际需要，本教材除了在各单元设有一定量的类似大纲要求的考题形式的练习之外，还在每一册设置了两套模拟测试题，以帮助学生逐步熟悉考试形式，对考试有所准备。
5. 学习辅导资源丰富。该教材除了文字内容之外，还有配套的自学辅导材料、学习软件和网络学习系统，以满足不同条件的网络教育学生的要求。
6. 开放式的自主学习设计。考虑到网络教育学生学习模式的特殊性，本教材注重学生自主学习的设计安排，以书本教材和配套学习软件为依托，以网络学习和管理平台为工具，建立开放式的自主学习框架，合理有效地引导学生逐步提高英语语言综合能力。

### 三、教材框架

本教材针对网络教育英语教学和学习的特殊性，以主题为依据划分单元，涵盖语言、文化、教育、习俗、经济、科技、社会等各个方面。全套书共四册，每册八个单元，供一学期使用。每单元由三部分组成：

1. 背景信息 (**Pre-reading**)：介绍背景，导入主题，以文本介绍和提问为主，旨在激活学生相关知识背景，激发学生学习兴趣。

## 2. 精读课文 (Intensive Reading): 课文A (Text A)

本部分为语言认知、巩固和提高阶段,旨在从词、句、语篇等角度对学生进行读、写、译多方面的语言操练,帮助学生积累和运用与单元主题相关的词汇,着重培养学生的英语读、写能力。其中课文A又包括:

- 1) Text Learning: 主课文,主要语言输入文章,体现主题语汇;
- 2) Word Bank: 包括New Words, Phrases and Expressions和Proper Names三个部分,列出课文A中的生词和常用短语;
- 3) Notes: 详解课文A中出现的语言点及文化知识;
- 4) Text Comprehension: 与课文A篇章理解相关的练习,帮助学生从整体结构和细节上去理解文章;
- 5) Vocabulary: 词汇扩展与练习(构词法、词语辨析、同义词反义词等);
- 6) Structure: 与课文A中出现的重要语法点相关的语言结构练习,如:句型转换;
- 7) Comprehensive Exercises: 综合练习,包括完型填空、翻译等。

## 3. 泛读课文 (Extensive Reading (I)): 课文B (Text B)

- 1) Text Learning: 课文B与单元主题相关,突出阅读技能的运用,扩展学生对主题词汇的运用;
- 2) Word Bank: 包括New Words, Phrases and Expressions和Proper Names三个部分,列出课文B中的生词和常用短语;
- 3) Notes: 详解课文B中出现的语言点及文化知识;
- 4) Exercises: 包括简答、理解性多项选择题、翻译等,提高学生的阅读能力。

## 4. 泛读课文 (Extensive Reading (II)): 课文C (Text C)

- 1) Text Learning: 供学生赏析和背诵,集中体现语言输入的文化性、知识性和鉴赏性;
- 2) Word Bank: 包括New Words, Phrases and Expressions和Proper Names三个部分,列出课文C中的生词和常用短语;
- 3) Notes: 详解课文C中出现的语言点及文化知识。

## 5. 语言拓展 (Further Study)

本部分从多个方面拓展学生的语言运用能力。其中包括:

- 1) Use of English: 针对网考大纲的要求,分类介绍实用交际英语知识,设置相应练习题;
- 2) Reading Skills: 针对阅读训练,重点探讨阅读技巧和方法,设置相应练习题;
- 3) Writing Skills: 针对写作训练,详细讲解写作技巧和方法,设置相应练习题;
- 4) Grammar: 针对网络教育成人学生英语基础较弱的特点,循序渐进地系统讲解主要语法知识,并设置相应练习题。

(注: Reading Skills只是第三册和第四册的构成部分。)

#### 四、使用说明

本套教材可供网络学院各层次（高升专、高升本及专升本）非英语专业大学生作为大学英语教程使用。本教程也为广大英语爱好者、自学者提供了一条系统补习英语基础知识、快速提高英语读写能力、全面掌握各项英语技能、丰富欧美文化知识的捷径。

全套教材共分四册，一册和二册供网络教育高升专阶段大学英语教学使用；三册和四册供网络教育专升本阶段大学英语教学使用。每学期使用一册，每册各设八个单元。在课堂教学模式下每单元可安排6—8学时完成，课堂教学主要讲授主课文和语言的重点、难点部分，课文B和课文C部分由学生课外自主学习完成；在自主学习模式下学生可在配套软件和网络学习平台的辅助下两周完成一个单元的学习。

本书的编写从内容到形式都有不少新的尝试，加之编者水平有限，不妥之处，敬请读者批评指正。对本书所选用的阅读篇章的作者及出版社编者在此致以深切的谢意。本书由外籍专家David John Clarke和John Hedrick审阅，在编写过程中得到了西南交通大学323项目工程的大力支持，在此一并致谢。

编者

2006年5月

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# Marriage

## Part I *Pre-reading*

A good marriage is the best way that society has found for ensuring the emotional well-being of the partners and the children. A good marriage helps us absorb and respond to the stresses of everyday life in a much healthier way than isolated individuals can. But not all marriages are good marriages with happy ends. Couples can be miserable together for a lifetime. They may choose divorces to end their marriages. Why do some couples have happy marriages while some do not? The key element of a good marriage is the awareness that a marriage is a developing relationship. It requires you to accommodate the needs and wants of your partner, without losing sight of your personal goals and sense of self.



### Questions

- 1) What is needed to make a good marriage?
- 2) What might be the causes of a divorce?

## Part II *Intensive Reading*

Text A

### Their Marriage Was No Fairy Tale

1 "I love you, Bob." "I love you, too, Nancy." It was 2 a.m. and I was hearing my parents' voices through the thin wall separating my bedroom from theirs. Their loving reassurances were sweet, touching—and surprising.

2 My parents married on September 14, 1940, after a brief courtship. She was nearing 30 and knew it was time to start a family. The handsome, well-educated man who came by the office where she worked looked like a good bet. He was captivated by her figure, her blue eyes. The romance didn't last long.

3 Seeds of difference sprouted almost immediately. She liked to travel; he hated the thought. He loved golf; she did not. He was a Republican, while she was an ardent Democrat. They fought at the bridge table, at the dinner table, over money, over the perceived failings of their in-laws. To make matters worse, they owned a business together, and the everyday



frustrations of life at the office came to roost at home.

4 There was a hope that they would change once they retired, and the furious winds did calm somewhat, but what remained steeled itself into bright, hard bitterness. I always thought we'd... my mother would begin, before launching into a precise listing of my father's faults. The litany was recited so often that I can reel it off by heart today. As he listened, my father would mutter angry threats and curses. It was a miserable duet.

5 It wasn't the happiest marriage, but as their 60th anniversary approached, my sister and I decided to throw a party. Sixty years was a long time, after all; why not try to make the best of things? We'd provide the cake, the balloons, the toasts, and they'd abide by one rule: no fighting.

6 The truce was honored. We had a wonderful day. In hindsight it was an important celebration, because soon after, things began to change for my parents. As debilitating dementia settled in, their marriage was about the only thing they wouldn't lose.

7 It began when their memories started to fade. Added to the frequent house-wide hunts for glasses and car keys were the groceries left behind on the counter, notices of bills left unpaid. Soon my parents couldn't remember names of friends, then of their grandchildren. Finally they didn't remember that they had grandchildren.

8 These crises would have at one time set them at each other's throats, but now they acted as a team, helping each other with searches, consoling each other with "everyone does that" or "it's nothing," "you're just tired." They found new roles—bolstering each other against the fear of loss.

9 Financial control was the next thing to go. For all of their marriage, my parents stubbornly kept separate accounts. Sharing being unthinkable, they'd devised financial arrangements so elaborate that they could trigger war at any time. He, for example, was to pay for everything outside the house, she for whatever went on inside. The who-pays dilemma was so complex for one trip that they finally gave up traveling entirely.

10 I took over the books. Now no one knew how things got paid. Next I hired a housekeeper. Cooking and cleaning, chores my mother had long complained about, were suddenly gone. Finally—on doctor's orders—we cleared the house of alcohol, the fuel that turned more than one quarrel into a raging fight.

11 You could say my parents' lives had been whittled away, that they could no longer engage in the business of living. But at the same time, something that had been buried deep was coming up and taking shape. I saw it when my father came home after a brief hospital stay.

12 We'd tried to explain my father's absence to my mother, but because of her memory, she could not keep it in her head why he had disappeared. She asked again and again where



he was, and again and again we told her. And each day her anxiety grew.

13 When I finally brought him home, we opened the front door to see my mother sitting on the sofa. As he stepped into the room, she rose with a cry. I stayed back as he slowly walked toward her and she toward him. As they approached each other on legs rickety with age, her hands fluttered over his face. "Oh, there you are," she said. "There you are."

14 I don't doubt that if my mother and father magically regained their old vigor, they'd be back fighting. But I now see that something came of all those years of shared days—days of sitting at the same table, waking to the same sun, working and raising children together. Even the very fury they lavished on each other was a brick in this unseen structure that reveals itself increasingly as the world around them falls apart.

15 In the early morning I once again heard the voices through the wall. "Where are we?" my father asked. "I don't know," my mother softly replied.

16 How lucky they are, I thought, to have each other.

(838 words)

## New Words

reassurance	/ˈriːəˈʃʊərəns/	<i>n.</i>	sth. that is said or done which makes sb. feel calmer and less worried or frightened about a problem 保证
courtship	/ˈkɔːtʃɪp/	<i>n.</i>	the period of time during which a man and woman have a romantic relationship before marrying 恋爱期
captivate	/ˈkæptɪveɪt/	<i>vt.</i>	to attract sb. very much and hold their attention 迷住, 迷惑
sprout	/spraut/	<i>v.</i>	(vegetables, seeds, or plants) to start to grow, producing shoots, buds, or leaves 萌芽, 发芽
ardent	/ˈɑːdənt/	<i>adj.</i>	showing strong positive feelings about an activity, political party, etc. and determination to succeed at it or to support it 热心的, 激进的
perceive	/pəˈsiːv/	<i>vt.</i>	to become aware of 意识到, 感知 to notice, see, or recognize sth. 注意到
in-law	/ˈɪnlɔː/	<i>n.</i>	your relatives by marriage, especially the father and mother of your husband or wife 姻亲, 亲家
frustration	/frʌsˈtreɪʃən/	<i>n.</i>	the feeling of being annoyed, upset, or impatient, because you cannot control or change a situation, or achieve sth. 挫败, 挫折



roost	/ruːst/	vi.	if a bird roosts, it rests or sleeps somewhere 栖息, 安歇
retire	/rɪ'taɪə(r) /	vi.	to stop working, usually because you have reached a certain age 退休
furious	/'fjuəriəs/	adj.	with a lot of energy, anger, or speed 狂怒的, 激烈的
precise	/'pri'saɪs/	adj.	clear and accurate 精确的, 准确的
fault	/fɔːlt/	n.	a bad or weak part of sb.'s character 缺点, 毛病
litany	/'lɪtəni/	n.	a long boring recital 枯燥冗长的述说
recite	/rɪ'saɪt/	v.	to say a poem, piece of literature, etc. that you have learned, for people to listen to 背诵, 朗读
mutter	/'mʌtə(r) /	v.	to speak in a low voice, especially because you are annoyed about sth., or you do not want people to hear you 咕哝, 嘀咕
curse	/kɜːs/	n.	a swear word or words that you say because you are very angry 诅咒, 咒语
miserable	/'mɪzərəbl/	adj.	extremely unhappy 痛苦的, 悲惨的
duet	/djuː'et/	n.	a piece of music for two singers or players, used here for a repeated conversation 二重奏
truce	/truːs/	n.	an agreement between enemies to stop fighting or arguing for a short time, or the period for which this is arranged 停战, 休战协定
debilitate	/dɪ'bilɪteɪt/	vt.	to make sb. ill and weak 使衰弱, 使虚弱
dementia	/dɪ'menʃiə/	n.	an illness that affects the brain and memory, and makes you gradually lose the ability to think and behave normally 痴呆症
console	/kən'səʊl/	vt.	to make sb. feel better when they are feeling sad or disappointed 安慰, 减轻痛苦
bolster	/'bəʊlstə(r) /	vt.	to help sb. to feel better and more positive 鼓励, 支持
stubbornly	/'stʌbənlɪ/	adv.	obstinately 倔强地, 固执地
account	/ə'kaʊnt/	n.	an arrangement in which a bank keeps your money safe so that you can pay more in or take money out 账户
devise	/dɪ'vaɪz/	vt.	to plan or invent a new way of doing sth. 设计, 发明
elaborate	/ɪ'læbəreɪt/	adj.	having a lot of small parts or details put together in a complicated way 精心制作的, 详细阐述的
		vt.	to give more details or new information about sth. 详细阐述
trigger	/'trɪɡə(r) /	vt.	to make sth. happen very quickly, especially a series of events 引发, 引起



dilemma	/dɪˈlemə/	<i>n.</i>	a situation in which it is very difficult to decide what to do, because all the choices seem equally good or equally bad 进退两难的局面，困难的选择
chore	/tʃɔː(r) /	<i>n.</i>	a small job that you have to do regularly, especially work that you do to run a house 家务杂事
alcohol	/ˈælkəhɒl/	<i>n.</i>	drinks such as beer or wine that contain a substance which can make you drunk 烈酒，酒精
raging	/ˈreɪdʒɪŋ/	<i>adj.</i>	very great and hard to control 狂怒的
rickety	/ˈrɪkɪtɪ/	<i>adj.</i>	weak or shaky 不牢靠的，摇晃的
flutter	/ˈflʌtə(r) /	<i>vt.</i>	to move lightly 摆动，挥动
vigor	/ˈvɪɡə(r) /	<i>n.</i>	physical or mental energy and determination 精力，活力
lavish	/ˈlævɪʃ/	<i>vt.</i>	to give sb./ sth. a lot of love, praise, money, etc. 大量地给予

### Phrases and Expressions

fairy tale	神话故事
come by	经过，途经
a good/safe bet	好机会，好运气
launch into	投入，进入
reel sth. off	滔滔不绝地讲
throw a party	举行宴会
abide by	坚持，遵守
in hindsight	事后看来
at each other's throats	激烈争吵
take over	接收，接管
whittle away	削减
engage in	从事于，参加
come up	出现
take shape	成形，具体化
fall apart	破裂，瓦解



## Notes

1. (Para. 2) The handsome, well-educated man who came by the office where she worked looked like a good bet.

### *a good/safe bet*

an action or situation that is likely to be successful or does not involve much risk 好机会，好的选择（这里指的是当时在作者母亲的眼里，他父亲是个很不错的男人。）

e.g. Only a few months ago he had looked like a good bet.

仅在几个月前，他看起来都还是个不错的选择。

- **参考译文：**从她工作的办公室旁边走过的男人，英俊潇洒，又受过良好教育，看起来很中她的意。

2. (Para. 3) Seeds of difference sprouted almost immediately.

### *seeds of difference*

这里是隐喻的用法，指两人的分歧。

- **参考译文：**他们之间很快出现了分歧。

3. (Para. 3) She liked to travel; he hated the thought. He loved golf; she did not.

“the thought”指“去旅游的想法”。“she did not.”在这里是一个省略句，完整的句子应该是“She did not like golf.”。这两句话简短而有力地表现出了两人之间的分歧。

- **参考译文：**她喜欢旅行，而他压根儿就不想去。他喜欢打高尔夫球，但她却毫无兴趣。

4. (Para. 4) There was a hope that they would change once they retired, and the furious winds did calm somewhat, but what remained steeled itself into bright, hard bitterness.

### *furious winds*

这里用来比喻他们之间激烈的争吵。

“There was a hope that...”是that引导同位语从句，表示抽象名词hope的内容。类似的抽象名词还有：idea, news, fact, opinion, belief, suggestion, truth, doubt, suspicion等。除that外，同位语从句的引导词还有：what, who(m), whether, when, where, why, how。

e.g. They were delighted at the news that their team had won.

当听到他们的球队获胜的消息时，他们欣喜若狂。

We ought to discuss carefully the question whether we can do it or not.

我们应该仔细讨论一下这个问题：我们到底能不能做。

### *somewhat: adv.*

to some degree 某种程度上，稍微，有些

e.g. He answered somewhat nervously.



他回答时有些局促不安。

- **参考译文：**本以为他们在退休以后会有所改变——事实上也确实有所好转，但是他们之间尚存的分歧仍然会演变为毫无掩饰，尖酸刻薄的相互责骂。

**5. (Para. 4) The litany was recited so often that I can reel it off by heart today.**

**reel sth. off**

to repeat a lot of information quickly and easily 滔滔不绝地讲

e.g. Jack reeled off a list of names.

杰克一口气说出了一长串的名字。

- **参考译文：**这种祷告般的唠叨可谓家常便饭，今天我还记忆犹新。

**6. (Para. 5) It wasn't the happiest marriage, but as their 60th anniversary approached, my sister and I decided to throw a party.**

**approach: v.**

1) to move towards or nearer to sb. or sth. 接近, 靠近

e.g. As I approached the house, I noticed a light on upstairs.

当我靠近房子的时候注意到楼上有灯光。

As winter is approaching, many animals are storing food.

冬天就要来临，很多动物在贮存食物了。

2) to begin to deal with a situation or problem in a particular way or with a particular attitude  
着手处理

e.g. It might be possible to approach the problem in a different way.

这个问题可以用不同的方式来处理。

**throw a party**

to give a party 举行聚会

e.g. The university threw a party to welcome them.

学校为他们举行了一场欢迎会。

- **参考译文：**虽然他们的婚姻不是最幸福的，但是当他们的60周年结婚纪念日临近时，我和姐姐仍然决定举行聚会为他们庆祝一下。

**7. (Para. 6) As debilitating dementia settled in, their marriage was about the only thing they wouldn't lose.**

**settle in**

to go to live in a new place, and stay there for a long time 迁入新地方定居，并安顿下来。此处比喻他们年老体衰、老年痴呆的时候到来了。



e.g. We only moved house last week and we haven't settled in yet.

我们上星期才搬的家，还没有安顿下来呢。

● 参考译文：当他们年老体衰、几近痴呆的时候，婚姻便成了他们唯一不愿失去的东西。

**8. (Para. 7) Added to the frequent house-wide hunts for glasses and car keys were the groceries left behind on the counter, notices of bills left unpaid.**

这是一个倒装句，作者为了强调内容运用倒装来渲染气氛。其语气较自然语序强烈，因而具有极佳的修辞效果。正常语序为：The groceries left behind on the counter, notices of bills left unpaid were added to the frequent house-wide hunts for glasses and car keys.

**leave sth./sb. behind**

to fail or forget to take sth. 未能或忘记带某物

e.g. Wait—don't leave me behind.

等等，别把我丢下！

**leave sth. unpaid**

此处unpaid为过去分词作补语，补充说明宾语的情况。

e.g. The trial left many questions unanswered.

这次审讯中很多问题未能得以答复。

● 参考译文：他们除了常常满屋子地找眼镜和车钥匙，还经常把买的东西忘在柜台上，甚至连账也忘了付。

**9. (Para. 8) They found new roles—bolstering each other against the fear of loss.**

**against: prep.**

in preparation for 防备

e.g. take precautions against fire 采取防火措施

an injection against rabies 狂犬病预防针

● 参考译文：他们发现他们的角色变了——只有相濡以沫，才能抵御失去记忆的恐惧。

**10. (Para. 10) I took over the books.**

**take over**

to take control of 接收，接管

e.g. When she fell ill her daughter took over the business from her.

她患病期间生意曾由女儿代管。

**books: n.**

这里指的是 account books.

● 参考译文：我接管了他们的账簿。



11. (Para. 10) Finally—on doctor's orders—we cleared the house of alcohol, the fuel that turned more than one quarrel into a raging fight.

*clear the house of alcohol*

to take away alcohol 拿走所有的烈酒

*the fuel*

在此，酒被比喻成助长争吵的燃料。

- 参考译文：最后，我们遵照医嘱，把房间里所有的烈酒都撤走，因为酒不止一次地把他们小小的口角变成了一场冲天怒火。

12. (Para. 14) Even the very fury they lavished on each other was a brick in this unseen structure that reveals itself increasingly as the world around them falls apart.

*lavish sth. on/upon sb./sth.*

to give sb./sth. a lot of love, praise, money, etc. 慷慨地给予

e.g. They lavish care on their only child.

他们对自己的独生子关怀备至。

*reveal: v.*

to make known sth. that was previously secret or unknown; show sth. that was previously hidden  
揭示；展现，显露

e.g. The doctor didn't reveal the truth to him.

医生并没有向他透露真相。

*fall apart*

to break; fall into pieces 破裂；瓦解

e.g. Their marriage finally fell apart.

他们的婚姻最终破裂了。

- 参考译文：甚至他们过去相互之间的激烈争吵，也成了他们感情生活这一无形大厦的一个组成部分，在周遭的世界崩塌之际，这一大厦却又不断地显露了出来。

## Text Comprehension

### Reading for Main Idea

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words according to the text.

- My parents' marriage 1) \_\_\_\_\_ over 60 years although it was not the happiest one.  
2) \_\_\_\_\_ her age, and thinking my father, a well-educated and handsome guy, good