



全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

大学英语 阅读教程

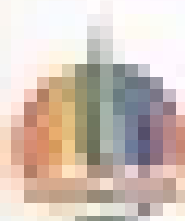
第二册

唐滢 主编

COLLEGE ENGLISH

*Reading
Course*

 中国农业出版社



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《大学英语阅读教程》

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前言

《大学英语阅读教程》系全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材，供高等农林院校非英语专业一、二年级使用，亦适用于农林牧类专科院校及同等程度的英语自学者。教材旨在提高学生的阅读理解能力，扩大词汇量，掌握阅读技巧，通过四个学期的授课和自学达到大学英语教学的基本要求，并掌握与农林牧水相关的基本专业英语知识。

本教材的主要特点为：

一、阅读材料题材广泛，涉及英语国家社会、经济、文化、历史等诸多领域，内容新颖，同时兼顾了农业院校的专业特点，收入了有关最新科学技术，尤其是农林牧水方面发展的文章，注重文章的趣味性、可读性及文体的多样化。

二、由于高等农林院校学生的外语整体水平与其他类别院校相比，在入学成绩、教学条件及语言学习环境等方面具有一定差距，本阅读教程根据学生语言学习和专业学习的实际需要，既能提高英语学习水平，扩大学生专业知识视野，又能增加文化背景知识，全面提高学生的英语素养，达到迅速提高英语水平、学习英美文化、了解农业最基本内容的目的。

本教程共四册，每册 12 个单元，供大学英语教学一到四学期使用。每单元分为三部分，第一部分为阅读课文及练习。练习包括阅读理解、完形填空、词汇、翻译及课堂讨论题。第二部分为快速阅读，

提供有关农林牧水及现代科技的两篇短文，教师可根据学生的实际情况选用。每两个单元附有相关阅读技巧，重点介绍各种阅读技能，并配有相应的练习。书后附有练习答案，供教师和学生参考。

受编写时间与编者经验和水平所限，教材中不当之处在所难免，诚望广大读者不吝指正。

编 者

2007.1

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Unit One

Text

Mother Nature Provides School with New Thinking

In a traditional lesson, students usually sit in a classroom listening to the instruction of teachers. But the students of Gaia School were not in the classroom, they were at the country park taking lessons straight from nature. The school aims at enhancing students' appreciation of nature and learning in pleasure.

For the students of Gaia School, it was an amazing experience; Learning from nature.

In a normal mathematics lesson, they would usually sit in a classroom listening to the instruction of teachers. But the students of Gaia School were not in the **conventional** classroom, they were at the country park taking lessons straight from nature. With **digital** camera, the students **identified** the objects related to the math concept. For example, the **rectangular** road sign and the tree leaves. The experience was **absolutely thrilling**.

Gaia means mother earth in Greek. The school aims at enhancing students' **appreciation** of nature and learning in pleasure.

While the school staff are still **liaising** with the government and **community** groups for a **permanent** campus, short-term programs are currently organized for students and parents to experience the educational **concepts**.

The school principal, Lau Wing-kai said the campus site should ideally be located in **remote** area, probably at the village schools which were closed in re-

cent years because of **declining** students' number. Lau expressed hope that the school would have permanent campus next year, and the school would be fully operational by September.

—We enjoy the mountain and the river. We want to take the students out to nature. Students should learn in pleasure. We believe that students will learn **unobtrusively** and **imperceptibly** in a pressure-free and enjoyable **atmosphere**, he said.

The school founder, the Gaia Association, has been organizing nature education activities since 1993.

If the school was established, the students would still learn Chinese, English and mathematics, he said.

“Parents said their children were learning well from these activities,” Lau said.

However, apart from these three **compulsory** subjects, students need to choose **elective** subjects in four areas, including nature and technology; society and humanity; arts; and health. Students and teachers will take physical work each week, such as planting flowers. Students will also be given responsibility to manage the school, such as operating a science corner.

Despite less **academic** subjects, Lau believed that the students would not find it difficult to **adapt to** secondary school education, which was blamed for being **exam-oriented** and concentrating on academic studies. “The principal aim for primary education is to let students enjoy learning and to make them learn on their own. If these two aims were achieved, then students would eventually **figure out** how to learn the academic subjects,” he said. The secondary education is also under reform, with the introduction of liberal studies as compulsory subject, meaning it requires students to have a broad vision, Lau added. The compulsory and elective subjects are not the only parts of the **curriculum**. The school would also introduce lifestyle program, including a lifestyle meeting and court, which they had already organized in their short-term course, he added.

Students and teachers will discuss problems facing the school and draft regulations, Lau said. For example, they will discuss the handling of students who always create trouble and **chaos**. “This will enhance students' participation and a sense of belonging to the school. We hope to collect as much opinion as possible through rational discuss with students. Students will also be more

familiar with problem-solving technique, ” Lau said.

The rôle of judge will be played by teacher or senior students, and the **jury** will be other students. For example, when students lodge a complaint that a teacher has violated his promise, the court would be opened to allow both the “**prosecution**” and the “accused” to present their case, The judge will decide what action to take after hearing the jury decision.

Lau believed such civic education was important about the concept of **democracy** and the importance of a fair judicial system. “Students will learn arguing on the basis of reasons and fight for reasonable cause. They will also know how to **convince** others, ” he said.

To keep a close teacher-students relationship, Lau said the school would not take more than 100 students. “Education is not a business. It is not necessary to admit a high number of students for **profit** and tell others that we are popular, ” he said. “We will let students enjoy going to the school. Students should also feel close to their schoolmates and staff. ”

Hostel might be provided in the school, but that would depend on the campus location, Lau added.

(699 words)

(From China Daily. Hong Kong Edition. October 11, 2006)

Notes

- | | |
|--|--|
| conventional [kən'venʃənl] <i>adj.</i> | a conventional object or way of doing something is of a type that has been used or available for a long time and is considered the usual type 传统的, 惯例的 |
| digital ['dɪdʒɪtl] <i>adj.</i> | being or using information recorded as a series of the numbers zero and one 数字的, 数码的 |
| identify [aɪ'dentɪfaɪ] <i>vt.</i> | to show, prove, etc. who or what sb/sth is; to recognize it and show that it exists 识别, 确定 |
| rectangular [rek'tæŋɡjələ] <i>adj.</i> | 长方形的 |
| absolutely ['æbsəlu:tli] <i>adv.</i> | especially spoken completely and in ev- |

thrilling [ˈθrɪlɪŋ] *adj.*

appreciation [əˈpriːʃiˈeɪʃən] *n.*

liaise [liˈeɪz] *vi.*

community [kəˈmjʊnɪti] *n.*

permanent [ˈpɜːmənənt] *adj.*

concept [ˈkɒnsept] *n.*

remote [riˈməʊt] *adj.*

decline [diˈklaɪn] *vi.*

unobtrusively [ˌʌnəbˈtruːsɪvli] *adv.*

imperceptibly [ˌɪmpəˈseptəbli] *adv.*

atmosphere [ˈætməsfɪə] *n.*

compulsory [kəmˈpʌlsəri] *adj.*

elective [ɪˈlektɪv] *adj.*

academic [ˌækəˈdemɪk] *adj.*

every way 完全地，绝对地

exciting 使人激动的，令人兴奋的

pleasure you feel when you realize something is good, useful or well done 欣赏，赞赏

to work closely with more than one group in order to communicate information between them 建立联系

the people living in one particular area or people who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, background or nationality 社团，社区
lasting for a long time or for ever 长期的，固定的，永久的

a principle or idea 概念，观念

far away in distance, time or relation 遥远的，久远的，疏远的

to go, often slowly, from a higher or better position to a lower or worse one 下降，下倾，衰弱

in a way not attracting attention and therefore not likely to be noticed 不引人注目地

in a way difficult to see or notice 难察觉地

the character or feeling or mood of a place or situation 气氛，氛围

something that is compulsory must be done because it is the law or because someone in authority orders you to do 强制的，必修的

elective subjects are subjects you choose to study 选修的

relating to schools, colleges and univer-

adapt [ə'dæpt] *v.*

adapt to

exam-oriented *adj.*

figure out

curriculum [kə'rikjuləm] *n.*

chaos ['keiəs] *n.*

jury ['dʒuəri] *n.*

prosecution [ˌprəsi'kju:ʃn] *n.*

democracy [di'mɒkrəsi] *n.*

convince [kən'vins] *vt.*

profit ['prɒfit] *n.*

sities, or connected with studying and thinking, not with practical skills 学校的, 学术的

to change to suit different conditions or uses (使) 适应, (使) 适合

适应

应试教育的

to think about a problem or situation until you find the answer or understand what has happened 断定, 解决, 领会到 (*pl*) curricula or curriculums

the group of subjects studied in a school, college, etc., or a particular course of study in one subject 课程

a situation in which everything is confused and in a mess 混乱状态

a group of people who have been chosen to listen to all the facts in a trial in a law court and to decide whether a person is guilty or not guilty, or whether a claim has been proved 陪审团

the process or act of bringing a charge against someone for a crime, or of being judged for a crime in a court of law 起诉
the belief in freedom and equality between people, or a system of government based on this belief, in which power is either held by elected representatives or directly by the people themselves 民主, 民主主义, 民主政体

to make someone certain; to persuade 使信服, 说服

money which is earned in trade or business 利润, 盈利

Exercises

I. Comprehension

Read the following questions and statements and choose the best answer for each one.

1. Where did the students of Gaia School have their mathematics lesson?
A. At the country park. B. In the classroom.
C. At campus. D. In the library.
2. Gaia in Greek refers to _____.
A. community B. new thinking
C. mother nature D. short-term program
3. The campus site should be located in remote area, because _____.
A. village schools were closed
B. the school hope to have permanent campus
C. students will learn in a pressure-free and enjoyable atmosphere
D. students were not taken out to nature
4. The experience in learning math this way was _____.
A. exciting B. wonderful C. sad D. terrific
5. The compulsory subjects include the following Except _____.
A. Chinese B. mathematics C. arts D. English
6. Apart from compulsory and elective subjects, the students would also have _____.
A. technology B. humanity
C. arts and health D. physical work
7. Students would discuss problems facing the school, because _____.
A. it would increase students' sense of belonging to the school
B. they wanted to attract the teachers' attention
C. they wanted to criticize the school
D. they wanted to argue with the others
8. The example of role-play of the court showed us how to develop the students' _____.
A. sense of participation B. problem-solving technique