

大学英语阅读系列教材

大学英语

快读与泛读教程

(第2册)

◎ 主 编 徐宜良

COLLEGE ENGLISH

*F*ast Reading and
Extensive Reading

华中科技大学出版社

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前 言

《大学英语快读与泛读教程》(1~4册)是按照教育部最新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》(以下简称《课程要求》)中的基本要求和较高要求而编写的一套阅读教材。本教材的难度对应目前我国大多数本科高校使用的大学英语教材,可作为普通高等院校大学英语的独立阅读教材使用,也可配合大学英语主干教材使用,以拓宽学生阅读视野,丰富英语语言知识和表达方式,提高阅读能力。本教材的编者均为授课第一线的大学英语教师,他们既有丰富的教学经验,又熟悉教学要求,了解学生的基础、需求和所能适应的教学方法,所以能按学习的需求来设计、编写教材,使本教材既能适用于老师讲授,又可方便学生自学。

本教材所选篇章全部来自近期出版的英、美等英语国家的报刊、书籍,贴近生活,贴近时事。为了让大学生们多接触到真实(authentic)英语,体验时代气息,选材力求内容丰富,趣味性强,涉及大学生生活和就业、金钱与幸福观、家庭、教育、情感、社会问题,直至人口、全球化等现实世界生活的多个方面,可让学生在提高英语能力的同时,汲取更多的文化、社会知识,增强综合素质。

本教材特别突出学生学习的“自主性”,将课堂学习与课后学生自学相结合。按目前的大学英语教改方案,考虑到大学英语四、六级考试改革后推出的阅读理解部分中的仔细阅读理解和快速阅读理解之分,每册书编排10~11个单元,每单元有2篇快速阅读和1篇泛读。快速阅读部分选材较短,生词也较少,主要训练学生快速阅读理解的能力,学生可记录阅读时间,理解题对错比率,并参考《课程要求》中的一般要求阅读速度(70~100词/分钟)或较高要求的阅读速度(80~120词/分钟),设定适合自己的目标。泛读部分旨在扩大学生的相关话题阅读面,更多地接触有关的信息和英语语言表达形式。在泛读材料的阅读理解后,我们还编写了适量练习,以训练学生的篇章综合能力,并将重点放在篇章阅读理解和篇章词汇理解两个方面,习题形式包括多项选择、选词填空、是非判断、句子填充、错误辨认并改正、简短回答及翻译。

本教材考虑到大学英语课程的实际,对阅读材料的量采取“精”的方式处理。总量适当,力求培养大学生们自主学习和独立思考的能力。我们希望,本教材能作为英语学习的一座桥梁,帮助学生直接进入真正的英语阅读世界。

本教材的1~4册在整体框架结构上是一致的,但是考虑到目前大学英语教学的



多样化形式,在细节的处理上各有特点。如1~2册泛读课文的生词部分含音标,考虑到第3、第4学期的教学实际,第3~4册中相应部分采用只给出词性和释义的形式,以强化训练学生阅读的能力。

本教材编写时间仓促,不足之处,恳请广大读者和同仁不吝指教;承蒙华中科技大学出版社领导和英语编辑杨鸥老师等的大力支持,在此表示衷心感谢。

编 者
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Unit 1

Public Transportation

Fast Reading A

On Public Transportation

1 A taxi, sometimes called a cab, is the most comfortable way to travel. You simply hail the taxi in the street or go to a taxi-rank(*n.* 出租车停车处), where there are several taxis waiting, for example at a station. At the end of your journey, you can see how much the fare is by looking at the meter(*n.* 计量表). You add a tip to this, and that's it. Very simple. But expensive!

2 What about taking a bus? If it has two floors, it's called a double-decker(*n.* 双层车) and you can get a good view from the top. If it has only one floor, it's called a single-decker. Most buses have a two-person crew: the driver, who drives, of course, and the conductor, (or the conductress) who takes your money. Keep your ticket because an inspector might want to check it. You catch a bus by waiting at a bus stop. You can see where a bus is going because the destination is written on the front. But try to avoid the rush hour.

3 Quicker than the bus is the underground (called the tube in London, the subway in New York and the metro in Paris and many other cities.) You buy your ticket at the ticket-office. Go down to the platform on the escalator(*n.* 自动扶梯) or in the lift. The train comes. The sliding doors open. You get on. You look at the map of the underground system. Very simple.

For longer distances take a train or a long distance bus, usually called a coach, which is slower but cheaper. The train is very fast. Put your luggage on the rack(n. 行李架) and sit and wait till you arrive.

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. How to take a taxi?

A. You can go to a taxi-rank.	B. You can wave a taxi.
C. None of the above.	D. Both A and B.
2. What is the crew of a bus made up of?

A. A driver.	B. A driver, a conductor and a conductress.
C. A driver and a conductor or conductress.	D. A driver, a conductor and an inspector.
3. Where can you buy the ticket for the underground?

A. At the ticket-office.	B. On the underground.
C. On the platform.	D. You just give money to the driver.
4. How many types of transportation means are mentioned here?

A. 5.	B. 4.	C. 3.	D. 6.
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5. Which transportation means is the best one?

A. Bus.	B. Underground.	C. Train.	D. Not mentioned.
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Fast Reading B

Alcohol Limit

Good evening, everyone. Today is the first day the new Law of Driving is put into practice. Let's first look at the alcohol limit, the most concerned problem. The limit of the amount of alcohol a driver is allowed to have in his blood is 80 milligrams for every 100 millilitres of blood: that is about one and a half litres of beer, or one double whisky.

- 2 If the driver is convicted of (证明有罪) “being drunk while in charge of a motor vehicle”, the usual sentence is a heavy fine and disqualification from driving for 12 months. If the driver causes an accident, the sentence can be stricter. For example, a drunken driver who killed a pedestrian(n. 行人) was sent to prison for 9 months, as well as being fined and losing his license for a year.
- 7 If the police suspect you of having drunk more than the limit, they can ask you to blow into a breathalyser(n. 呼吸分析器), which is a plastic bag; if the crystals inside turn green, the police can take you to a police station and take a blood sample. If the driver has had a drink less than 20 minutes before he is stopped, the breathalyzer cannot be used. Officially the police can stop you only if they think you are driving badly, but in practice they sometimes simply stop drivers, and give them the breathalyzer test.
- 8 How do citizens react to this new regulation, then? Chief Inspector Lamb, head of Southern Police, would like the alcohol limit lowered and sentences made much stricter.
- 9 Mrs. Goldsmith, a lawyer, is always professionally involved in drinking and driving cases. She thinks judges are too kind, and that sentences should be made tougher.
- 10 Mr. Robinson has just knocked down a pedestrian while slightly drunk. He feels very guilty, and is convinced (v. 相信) that it would not have happened if he had not had a few drinks.
- 11 Mrs. Burt, whose four-year-old daughter was killed by a drunken driver, wishes the driver should have been sent to prison for life.
- 12 James Connery, a famous racing driver, thinks that everybody reacts differently to alcohol. He himself would be quite safe after drinking three whiskies. He thinks the limit should be raised.

18 Gabrielle Savage, a famous film actress, thinks the law should be abolished because it stops people from having a good time.

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. What may this passage be?

A. A new law of driving.	B. An academic lecture.
C. A TV program.	D. A book review.
2. If a driver is charged of drunken driving, _____.

A. he will be put into prison	B. his driving license will be suspended
C. he will be slightly fined	D. he will be arrested
3. Which of the following statements is true?

A. The police are not entitled to stop drivers for a breathalyser test unless they are sure of the drunken driving.	B. Mrs. Robinson feels very sorry for the person she knocked down.
C. If a drunken driver causes an accident and is sent to prison, he still has to pay the fine.	D. Southern Police believes that the alcohol limit is too high.
4. What does the word "tougher" mean in Para.5?

A. Stricter.	B. Laxer.	C. More suitable.	D. More flexible.
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5. In Gabrielle Savage's opinion, this new law should be _____.

A. continued	B. abandoned	C. revised	D. popularized
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Extensive Reading

Aspects of Cars

The use of motor cars is becoming more and more widespread since the 20th century. As an increasing number of countries develop both technically and economically, a larger proportion of the world's population is able to buy and use a car. Possessing a car gives a much greater degree of mobility, while at the same time, this has

brought about some problems to the society and even to the driver himself.

Cars and Road Accidents

It has been rightly said that when a man is sitting behind a steering wheel, his car becomes the extension of his personality.^① There is no doubt that the motor-car often brings out a man's very worst qualities. People who are normally quiet and pleasant may become unrecognizable when they are behind a steering wheel. They *swear*, they are ill-mannered and *aggressive*, willful as two-year-olds and utterly selfish. All their hidden *frustrations*, disappointments and jealousies seem to be brought to the surface by the act of driving.

The society smiles so *benignly* on the motorist and seems to *condone* all his behaviours. Everything is done for his convenience. Cities are allowed to become almost uninhabitable because of heavy traffic; towns are made ugly by huge car parks; the countryside is *desecrated* by road networks; and the mass annual *slaughter* becomes nothing more than^② a statistic, to be conveniently forgotten.

With regard to^③ driving, the laws of some countries are notoriously lax and even the strictest are not strict enough. The driving test should be standardized and made far more difficult than it is; all drivers should be made to take a test every three years or so; the age at which young people are allowed to drive any vehicle should be raised to at least 21; all vehicles should be put through *stringent* annual tests for safety. Even the smallest amount of alcohol in the blood can impair a person's driving ability. Present drinking and driving laws (where they exist)

swear [swɛə] vi. 诅咒

aggressive [ə'gresiv] a. 爱寻衅的, 侵略的

frustration [frʌs'treɪʃən] n. 挫败, 受挫

benignly [bi'nainli] a. 仁慈地, 和蔼地

condone [kən'dəʊn] vt. 宽恕, 赦免

desecrate ['desɪkreɪt] vt. 亵渎, 污辱

slaughter ['slɔ:tə] n. 残杀, 屠杀

stringent ['strɪndʒənt] a. 严格的, 严厉的

should be made much stricter. Maximum and minimum speed limit should be imposed on all roads. These measures may sound *inordinately* harsh, but surely nothing should be considered as too severe if it results in reducing the annual *toll* of human life. After all, the world is for human beings, not motor-cars.

Cars and Fuel Issue

Cars account for^① half the oil consumed in the U.S., about half the urban pollution and one fourth the greenhouse gases. They take a similar oil of resources in other industrial nations and in the cities of the developing world. As *vehicle* use continues to increase in the coming decades, the U.S. and other countries will have to deal with these *issues* or else face unacceptable economic, health-related and political costs.^② It is unlikely that oil prices will remain at their current low level or that other nations will accept a large and growing U.S. contribution to global *climate* change.

Policymakers and industry have four options: reduce vehicle use, increase the efficiency and reduce the *emissions* of *conventional* gasoline-powered vehicles, switch to less harmful fuels, or find less polluting driving systems.^③ The last of these — in particular the introduction of vehicles powered by electricity — seems to be the only *sustainable option*, but it has still some puzzles in technology to be worked out by scientists and researchers. The other *alternatives* are attractive in theory but in practice are either impractical or offer only marginal improvements.^④ For example, reduced vehicle use could solve traffic problems and a host of social and environmental problems, but, evidence from around the world suggests that it is

inordinately [i'nɔ:dɪnɪtli] *ad.* 过度地, 无节制地

toll [təʊl] *n.* 死亡人数

vehicle ['vi:ɪkl] *n.* 交通工具, 车辆

issue ['ɪʃju:] *n.* 引起争论的问题

climate ['klaɪmɪt] *n.* 气候, 风土

emission [i'mɪʃən] *n.* (光、热、气等的)散发, 发射

conventional [kən'venʃənəl] *a.* 常规的, 传统的

sustainable [səs'teɪnəbl] *a.* 足可支撑的

option ['ɒpʃən] *n.* 选项, 选择

alternative [ɔ:l'tə:nətɪv] *n.* 替换物

difficult to make people give up their cars to any significant extent. In the U.S., mass-transit ridership and carpooling^① have declined since World War II. Even in Western Europe, with fuel prices averaging more than \$1 a liter (about \$4 a gallon) and with easily *accessible* mass transit and *dense* populations, cars still account for 80 percent of all passenger travel.

Improving energy efficiency is also appealing, but automotive fuel economy has barely made any progress in 10 years. Alternative fuels such as natural gas, burned in internal — *combustion* engines, could be introduced at relatively low cost, but they would lead to only marginal reductions in pollution and greenhouse emissions^② (especially because oil companies are already spending billions of dollars every year to develop less polluting types of gasoline).

Car possession, *boon* or *menace*?

accessible [ək'sesəbl] *a.* 易接近的, 可到达的

dense [dens] *a.* 密集的, 浓厚的

combustion [kəm'bastʃən] *n.* 燃烧

boon [bu:n] *n.* 福利

menace ['menəs] *n.* 威胁, 危险物

Notes

- ① It has been rightly said that when a man is sitting behind a steering wheel, his car becomes the extension of his personality. 有人说, 当一个人开车时, 便会使他的个性得以充分展现。这句话不无道理。

it has been rightly said that ... 有人说……这是有道理的
extension: 延伸, 这里引申为表现(个性)。

- ② nothing more than: 仅仅, 只是
③ with regard to: 关于

With regard to population, I am going to dwell upon it in the next chapter. 关于人口问题, 我将在下一章中详细讲述。

- ④ account for: (指数量等)占

- ⑤ As vehicle use continues to increase in the coming decades, the U.S. and other

countries will have to deal with these issues or else face unacceptable economic, health-related and political costs. 鉴于在未来的几十年车辆的使用还会继续增长, 美国和其他国家将不得不想办法应对这些问题, 否则的话, 将会面临一些经济的、有关健康的和政治方面的代价。

or else: 否则

Freeze! Or else I will shoot. 站住! 不然我就开枪了。

- ⑥ Policymakers and industry have four options: reduce vehicle use, increase the efficiency and reduce the emissions of conventional gasoline-powered vehicles, switch to less harmful fuels, or find less polluting driving systems. (为了解决燃料问题)决策者们与工业企业面临四种选择: 减少车辆的使用; 提高效率, 减少常规汽车的尾气排放量; 转用危害较少的燃料; 找出污染较小的驾驶体系。

- ⑦ The other alternatives are attractive in theory but in practice are either impractical or offer only marginal improvements. 其他的选择从理论上讲很有吸引力, 但从实际考虑, 要么不切实际, 要么解决不了什么问题。

marginal (经济学术语)收益仅够支出的, 形容利润极其微薄。如 marginal profit, 边际利润。

- ⑧ mass-transmit ridership and carpooling: 合伙用车

mass-transmit: 大批量交通运输; ridership: 公共交通工具乘客总人数; pool: 合伙经营, 共享。mass-transmit ridership and carpooling: 指为了节约生活开支, 几个人合伙使用同一部车, 这种方式起源于美国, 近年来在中国的城市里也逐渐流行, 称为“拼车”。

- ⑨ Alternative fuels such as natural gas, burned in internal-combustion engines, could be introduced at relatively low cost, but they would lead to only marginal reductions in pollution and greenhouse emissions. 像天然气这样在内燃机里燃烧的替代燃料, 虽然可以用较低成本引进, 但是其对减少污染和温室气体的排放收效甚微。这句话的主语是 alternative fuels(替代燃料), 非谓语动词形式 burned in internal-combustion engines(在内燃机里燃烧)是用来修饰 natural gas 的。

Exercises

I. Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words in brackets.

1. Cities are allowed to become almost _____ because of heavy traffic. (habit)
2. Reserved and studious, he prefers study to _____ of any kind. (amuse)

3. While we were busy working out how many people we would need to invite, he just stood there _____ watching. (idle)
4. Present drinking and driving laws should be made much _____. (strict)
5. The driving test should be _____ and made far more difficult than it is. (standard)

II. True or false.

- () 1. In the part “Cars and Road Accidents”, the author’s tone is negative.
- () 2. According to the author, being injured by a car can make a man ill-mannered.
- () 3. The society treats motorists very tolerantly.
- () 4. Nowadays, towns are no longer as beautiful as they used to be because of heavy traffic.
- () 5. The minimum age for young people to drive any vehicle is 21 now.
- () 6. It’s high time that the government took some measures to limit car driving.
- () 7. Cars accounts for about half the greenhouse gases and one fourth the urban pollution.
- () 8. It’s likely that oil prices will remain at their current level in the next year.
- () 9. Mass-transit ridership and carpooling have declined in the U.S. since World War I.
- () 10. Policymakers and industry failed to work out one effective solution to deal with fuel issue.

III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. The mass annual slaughter becomes nothing more than a statistic, to be conveniently forgotten.
2. With regard to driving ,the laws of some countries are notoriously lax and even the strictest are not strict enough.
3. These measures may sound inordinately harsh, but surely nothing should be considered as too severe if it results in reducing the annual toll of human life .
4. Cars account for half the oil consumed in the U.S., about half the urban pollution and one fourth the greenhouse gases.
5. The last of these—in particular the introduction of vehicles powered by electricity—seems to be the only sustainable option, but it has still some puzzles in technology to be worked out by scientists and researchers.
6. Improving energy efficiency is also appealing, but automotive fuel economy has barely made any progress in 10 years.