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主编 欧阳俊林



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A New Course of English Reading for College Learners 3

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欧阳俊林 主编

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编写说明

随着大学英语教学和考试系统的改革,大学英语的教与学对目的语的输入提出了更高的要求,体现了素质教育的基本导向。作为一门以扩大知识面和增强语言应用能力为目的的大学英语阅读课,迫切需要一套与之相适应的教材。《新编大学英语阅读教程》就是要体现这样的导向,满足这样的需求。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》广泛收集了现代英语,特别是近十年来英美社会的多式样语言文本。话题覆盖了当今政治、经济、文化、科技、教育、心理、人文、社会等诸多方面,帮助读者了解当今国际各领域的发展动态和问题,并从接触真实语料入手,学习和掌握语言形式、功能和用法,加深语言理解,从而全面提高学生英语语言的阅读水平,增强学生参加新体制下的大学英语四、六级考试的应试能力。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》一共四册,与目前大学英语教学的课程设置平行,每学期一册,循序渐进,由浅入深。通过课堂教学和学生课外阅读,逐步培养学生良好的语言思维和语言学习习惯,以达到最佳的教与学效果。

本书也可以作为英语专业泛读课程的选用教材。

参加本书编写的人员有:顾正敏、胡祥鑫、夏月霞、刘钰、郑高红、时慧、沈洁玉、孙玉莲。本册主审:顾正敏、盛绘、朱章华。

限于水平和时间,疏漏难免,恭请广大读者和学界同仁批评指正。

编者于

2008年6月

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Unit 1 Biography

Passage 1 A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups:

Charles and Camilla's Once upon a Time

1 If you're looking for a good fairy tale, the story of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker Bowles is a rotter. Their love story is full of false starts, bad choices and lousy luck. So the announcement yesterday that the two will be married in April is not the stuff of romantic dreams. It's a tale of two grown-ups who loved, lost, took their lumps, still loved, and hope to live happily ever after, despite everything.

2 "I'm thrilled," says Robert Higdon, executive director of the Prince of Wales Foundation. "The bottom line is that they both make each other very happy."

3 The news was met with cheers from fans of the future king, who are happy that Charles, 56, and Camilla, 57, are finally getting hitched. The jeers come from loyalists of the late Princess Diana, who blame Camilla for everything bad that happened to their beloved Di. The majority of royal subjects and royal watchers support the union, but they don't want Camilla, the "other woman," to be their queen. She's been forgiven, but won't be rewarded with a crown.

4 Lots of people marry the wrong person, get a messy divorce and then marry the right person. Most of us don't have tabloid reporters following every move, taking opinion polls or bemoaning the future of the monarchy. The fact that Charles and his mistress can finally become husband and wife without creating a massive scandal is the triumph of real life and adult love over fantasy.

5 "I'm very glad — he's been in love with her all these years," says columnist Aileen Mehle, who writes as Suzy for W magazine. "It's so obvious that he's supremely comfortable with her. Their ease with each other is almost palpable. God love her, the marriage to Diana was a mistake."

"How about It?"

6 A great deal of the grudging public acceptance has to do with their 30-plus-year relationship — sometimes lovers, sometimes friends, always devoted to each other. The couple met in 1970 or 1971 at a polo match, and for better and worse, seemed fated for each other. Camilla's great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, had been the

mistress of his great-great-grandfather, King Edward VII, and she grew up hearing stories about “Granny Alice,” who often told the family, “My job was to curtsy first, and then jump into bed.” Legend has it that Camilla flirtatiously introduced herself to Prince Charles, reminding him of their randy ancestors and saying, “How about it?”

7 The two, then in their early twenties, had a serious romance for three years. It was so serious that Charles wanted to marry her, but his family was opposed for a variety of reasons: He was too young, she wasn’t royal or a virgin, they were afraid her former boyfriends would talk to the press. When Charles joined the Royal Navy without proposing or even asking her to wait for him, Camilla married Andrew Parker Bowles just a few months later.

8 Then came all the messy and tragic parts: Affairs, children, divorces, all played out in excruciating detail. Shortly after his separation from Diana, recordings of late-night cell phone conversations between Charles and Camilla were leaked to the press, and the future king of England was heard telling his mistress he wished to be reincarnated as her tampon.

Not a Stereotypical Princess Bride

9 Much has been written about Camilla’s lack of obvious sex appeal, her less than fashionable clothes, her robust laugh. She’s not, by any stretch of the imagination, a stereotypical princess bride. For anyone over 18, this is oddly reassuring.

10 Charles is obviously crazy for her and she for him. Last night in their first appearance after the official announcement, the couple accepted congratulations and Camilla showed off her heirloom diamond engagement ring to guests at Windsor Castle. Yes, the prince got down on one knee to propose, and yes, she was as giddy as any new fiancée. “I’m just coming down to earth,” she said.

11 They share common interests, experiences and three decades together. This will be a marriage of two mature people — wrinkles and all — who clearly care deeply for each other. “They just seem to belong together,” says Mehle. “This is a love mixed with a lot of respect and devotion. The way he treats her is lovely.”

12 But royal romance, even the genuine article, goes so far, even in this day and age.

13 “It’s always been unpopular when a king marries his mistress,” says Eleanor Herman, author of “Sex With Kings: 500 Years of Adultery, Power, Rivalry, and Revenge.” “It’s slightly more palatable when the mistress doesn’t take the title of

queen, which is why it's wise for Camilla to take the title of Princess Consort. ”

14 Historically, subjects want their king to marry a virgin princess, says Herman, which makes for pure bloodlines and unfortunate inbreeding. If a king has done his duty — married a royal bride and produced heirs — mistresses are expected, often exalted, but rarely married. If the queen happened to die before the king, some monarchs could finally marry for love.

15 Louis XIV of France secretly married his alleged mistress, Madame de Maintenon, but never publicly acknowledged the union. Czar Alexander II of Russia married his mistress, Katia Dolguruky, a month after his wife died but was assassinated before he could make his new bride empress — much to the relief of the court. Then there's the infamous case of England's Henry VIII, who divorced his first wife and the Catholic Church to marry Anne Boleyn and make her queen. When he had her beheaded three years later, the English cheered.

16 The British royals have had more of their fair share of scandal in modern history, but nothing quite topped the Duke of Windsor and his marriage to mistress Wallis Warfield Simpson. That love affair cost England a king, and made royal mistresses poison at the very proper court. The Queen Mother, who died in 2002, never forgave the duke for bringing so much turmoil to the family. Charles, fully aware of his grandmother's opposition to a formal marriage with Camilla, slowly and patiently began building public acceptance of the relationship after he was divorced from Diana in 1996.

A Carefully Planned Strategy

17 “Charles and Camilla are aware how disastrously the Duke of Windsor handled his marriage to his mistress, and so planned a very clever strategy to get themselves to the altar,” says Herman.

18 In July 1997, Charles hosted a 50th birthday party for Camilla which was widely regarded as a public acknowledgment of their relationship. The following month, Diana was killed in a car accident in Paris. The death was stunning, and the British public responded with an unprecedented outpouring of grief for the “People's Princess. ” Charles had to pretend to give Camilla up for a while, although she had nothing tangible to do with the tragedy. “There was a lot of anger toward Camilla as the ‘other woman,’ ” says Herman.

19 The couple resurfaced in early 1999, and gradually began appearing together

at unofficial events in London. Shortly after the Queen Mother died, the Church of England officially decreed that people with living ex-spouses could remarry in the church. That cleared the way for Charles and Camilla, although they announced they will wed in a civil ceremony.

20 Princes William and Harry are reportedly very comfortable with Camilla, and the queen has accepted the relationship. Charles quietly moved her into Clarence House in the fall of 2003, and the stage for a wedding was set.

21 “What is going on now is the loosening of all those old strictures,” says Mehle.

22 Marriage will make life easier on a number of fronts. Camilla will be a duchess until Charles becomes king, when she will become Princess Consort (and no, that's *not* a piece of furniture). The couple has carefully navigated the social protocol of their position, and reportedly pulled out of an event last year when the couple was not seated together because they were not married. Tricky social questions will become simpler. “When they're legally bound, it's not, ‘How do we approach this one?’” says Higdon.

23 And so, a happy ending for two crazy fifty-somethings — with castles, servants and a mother-in-law who really does have the last word. No fairy tale, but a messy, real-life love story. “People know that they're an item for life,” says Herman. “The marriage is not a big deal anymore.”

◇ Notes

| | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| rotter <i>n.</i> | [俚]无赖,讨厌的家伙 |
| take one's lumps | 遭到指责 |
| jeer <i>n.</i> | 嘲讽奚落的话 |
| subject <i>n.</i> | 臣民,国民 |
| tabloid <i>n.</i> | 通俗小报 |
| monarchy <i>n.</i> | 君主政体,君主制 |
| palpable <i>a.</i> | 可感知的,明显的 |
| randy <i>a.</i> | 好色的 |
| flirtatious <i>a.</i> | 卖弄风情的 |
| excruciating <i>a.</i> | 极度的,精心制作的 |
| reincarnate <i>v.</i> | 转世 |
| heirloom <i>n.</i> | 传家宝 |

| | | |
|------------|----|-------------|
| palatable | a. | 认可的, 认同的 |
| consort | n. | (尤指在位君王的)配偶 |
| inbreeding | n. | 近亲结婚, 排他性 |
| alleged | a. | 靠不住的, 可疑的 |
| empress | n. | 皇后, 女皇 |
| decree | v. | 命令, 颁布 |
| stricture | n. | 限制, 约束 |
| protocol | n. | 礼仪, 外交礼节 |

◇ Exercises

• *Decide whether each of the following statements is True (T) or False (F) according to the passage.*

- () 1. Charles and Camilla are going to get married in April.
- () 2. Camilla is completely accepted by the royal subjects and royal watchers.
- () 3. The fact that Charles and Camilla finally become husband and wife created a massive scandal.
- () 4. The couple got to know each other about 30 years ago at a basketball match.
- () 5. Before Charles joined the Royal Navy, he had proposed to Camilla.
- () 6. There used to be some royal members who married their mistresses.
- () 7. The British royals were greatly shocked by the Duke of Windsor and his marriage to mistress Wallis Warfield Simpson.
- () 8. By law, Charles and Camilla can marry in the church now.
- () 9. When Charles becomes King, Camilla will take the title of Queen instead of Princess Consort.
- () 10. Finally there is a happy ending for Charles and Camilla.

Passage 2 Stand-Up for Her Man

Laura Bush gets the laughs, but her mission is no laughing matter.

1 With a plaintive face that seemed inspired by the dusty prairies of bucolic Texas, Laura Welch was born in Midland, Texas on November 4, 1946. The

daughter of a carpenter father and a housewife mother not unlike Joseph and Mary themselves, Laura learned early to happily adhere to the traditional gender roles that would one day make her an object of feverish desire for Stetson-wearing alpha males. A popular girl, high school saw Laura blossom into an accomplished dancer and enthusiastic consumer of the fine, life-affirming tobacco products of the RJ Reynolds Corporation. In the fall of 1963, Laura narrowly averted a life of pointless obscurity, when she ran into a stop sign and collided with another vehicle, inflicting a fatal neck fracture on Mike Douglas, a then-serious boyfriend not genetically affiliated with a burgeoning political dynasty.

2 The White House theater was not built for stand-up comedy. But two Fridays ago, Laura Bush was definitely, as they say at the Friars Club, “in the house.” She was practicing a then secret, now acclaimed comedy routine that she would deliver the next night at the White House Correspondents’ Association dinner, a tribal feast on the Potomac where some 3,000 reporters — and their sources — converge in a hotel ballroom for steak and fish, wine and laughs. Traditionally, the President does the wisecracking. But earlier this year, after surveying the string of press dinners on his calendar, Bush told aides, “Laura should give one of these.” So there she was, rehearsing her shtick in front of her staff and Bush aides Nicolle Devenish and Dan Bartlett, as well as Landon Parvin, who penned her jokes. As she practiced, Laura cracked herself up but also asked her audience, “Do you all think this is funny?”

3 They did, and they weren’t alone. Mrs. Bush brought down the house the next night with a string of withering one-liners that skewered her husband’s sleeping (and, well, never mind) habits, her in-laws’ hyperkinetic vacation style, the Vice President’s seemingly willful resistance to exercise and, of course, her own poor, pitiful plight as a long-suffering spouse. “Ladies and gentlemen, I am a desperate housewife,” she deadpanned. “I mean, if those women on that show think they’re desperate, they ought to be with George.” If the performance turns out to be Laura’s most memorable, it was also a reminder that the least outspoken First Lady since Pat Nixon nonetheless plays a crucial role in her husband’s presidency, reminding his critics that someone can, if nothing else, bring him down to size. Plus, she’s the ultimate character witness. A Republican lobbyist remarked after her performance, “He must not be all bad if she likes him.”

4 The comic tonic came at a helpful moment for the Bush operation, which is off

to one of the slowest second-term starts in memory. The President's plan for an overhaul of Social Security is flat on its back, and most Washington Republicans privately say it's unlikely to get back up. Bush's popularity is sagging again, as gasoline prices have jumped, the economy has struggled to show sustained momentum, and American casualties in Iraq are mounting. Several veteran reporters at the White House correspondents' dinner noted that one reason the comedy routine fell to Laura was that Bush didn't have much to joke about.

5 But it is also true that Laura has avoided the dusty cables that have tripped up other contemporary First Ladies. It's not easy in the modern age to find a role that's supportive but not threatening, true to oneself and helpful to the elected spouse. The First Lady — the title itself is a quaint anachronism — is scrutinized like the heroine of an Edith Wharton novel for any flaw, real or perceived. Nancy Reagan got in trouble for ordering high-priced china during a recession. Barbara Bush was poked for being far frostier behind the scenes than her doting public persona suggested, a point Laura gently affirmed to her audience when she said her mother-in-law is less grandmother and more Don Corleone. (Barbara is telling Houston friends she loved the routine and has taken to calling herself the Don.) For her part, Hillary Clinton underestimated public resistance to her role as a policymaker. By the perverse logic of the job, Laura's great achievement is that she hasn't tried to have one — which is why she is a success. But what, really, is Laura's role? Chiefly, she has three functions.

She is an Envoy to Purple America

6 Laura can't win over the Bush haters. But a comedy routine that was at times racy is a reminder that Laura is not a founding member of Focus on the Family. Whatever hard-core Democrats may imagine, she has never been a nodding Stepford wife. Her bookshelves contain *Gore Vidal* and *The Da Vinci Code*. In Austin, Texas, she had out-there, colorful friends like Kinky Friedman, the writer-musician who toured with his band the Texas Jewboys. She told *TIME* last year that she had no problem with a gay couple staying at the White House, although she wouldn't necessarily know their sexual orientation because she's too decorous to ask.

7 Besides, there's a long-standing Bush tradition of winking at the country, particularly when the family has to pay homage to the conservative wing of the Republican Party. Laura's earthy jokes — for instance, about Bush knowing so little

about animals he once tried to milk a male horse — all but said, “We’re not as different from you as you think. So don’t be afraid.” Laura and her mother-in-law Barbara both have signaled that they are pro choice on abortion, despite what their husbands may think.

She Puts a Softer Face on His Policies

8 Laura has her causes, from discouraging kids from joining gangs to promoting literacy. They didn’t garner a lot of attention when the President’s agenda was working, but they could matter more if his policies continue to sputter. She and all the living First Ladies will donate red dresses this week to raise money to promote her campaign to combat heart disease. She will travel to Jordan later this month to deliver a speech on democracy at the World Economic Forum. And in a gambit previewed by Barbara Bush more than 15 years ago, the President’s team will roll out Laura when nothing else is working. When the re-election campaign was in trouble last year, Laura showed up in her husband’s TV ads, first as a quick, cutaway picture on his desk and then with speaking roles, as aides realized how her power registered with focus groups. “She’s obviously the most popular figure in politics today,” says Matthew Dowd, Bush’s campaign pollster. “It’s clear a lot of people who don’t like the President like her. She adds to the President’s humanity.”

She is His Greatest Defender

9 Laura has been saving Bush for decades. She persuaded him to stop drinking on his 40th birthday. He converted to her Methodism, giving him the religious faith that has guided his remarkable trajectory. At the moment she has no plans to campaign for his signature, second-term Social Security proposal, but a senior White House official says, “We’re not ruling anything out.”

10 Like her mother-in-law, Laura is a shrewd defender of the President’s agenda. She stepped up to support his strict position against federal funding for research on new embryonic stem cells, and she created a stir last year when she told *TIME* that she approved of the Swift Boat ads against John Kerry. (She noted that the Democrats deserved them for not opposing independent 527 groups.) Even after the correspondents’ dinner, the First Lady waxed serious, testifying to what a joy her husband is. All that remained was for Bush to provide the final touch, noting a few days later in a malapropism so goofy it may just have been intended: “My wife has become quite a one-liner.”

11 A First Lady should strive to be like the glistening, waxing moon. She neither seeks nor has a light of her own. Instead, she is made happy by simply reflecting the shining example of her husband. When describing First Lady Mrs. George W. Bush (“Laura”), it is appropriate on countless levels to defer to the superior psychophysical summary offered by her husband, President George W. Bush: “She doesn’t try to steal the limelight.” Indeed, Mrs. Bush is in many ways most noteworthy for her intensely admirable inclination to allow her husband to methodically overshadow each and every element of her unfortunately female being. Such is the way and the path of a goodly Republican first lady.

◇ Notes

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Stetson <i>n.</i> | 美国西部牛仔戴的阔边高顶毡帽 |
| stand-up comedy | 滑稽表演 |
| shtick | [俚]噱头 |
| crack sb. up | 捧腹大笑 |
| one-liner | 俏皮话, 说俏皮话 |
| tonic <i>n.</i> | 使人兴奋或激励人的东西 |
| overhaul <i>v.</i> | 彻底改革 |
| flat on one’s back | 卧病 |
| anachronism <i>n.</i> | 落伍的人或事 |
| recession <i>n.</i> | 经济衰退期 |
| perverse <i>a.</i> | 有悖常理的 |
| envoy <i>n.</i> | 代表使节 |
| hard-core <i>a.</i> | 中间的, 骨干的 |
| decorous <i>a.</i> | 端庄稳重的 |
| pay homage to | 讨……欢心 |
| pro choice on abortion | 主张妇女有权人工流产 |
| roll out | 展开 |
| gambit <i>n.</i> | 招数, 策略 |
| cutaway <i>n.</i> | 切换镜头 |
| be registered with | 引起……的注意 |
| trajectory <i>n.</i> | 起落, 兴衰 |
| embryonic <i>a.</i> | 初期的, 萌芽的 |
| malapropism <i>n.</i> | 荒唐的用词错误 |

| | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| Edith Wharton | 艾迪丝·沃顿(美国女小说家) |
| Don Corleone | 唐·科里昂(小说《教父》中的黑手党领袖) |
| Gore Vidal | 戈尔·维达尔(剧作家、艺评家、散文家) |
| John Kerry | 约翰·克里 |
| Swift Boat ads | 指约翰·克里竞选的最大优势:越战英雄记录 |

◇ Exercises

• *Choose the best answer according to the passage.*

- Most of Laura's one-liners joked about _____.
A. her husband's sleeping habits, her in-laws' hyperkinetic vacation style
B. the Vice President's seemingly willful resistance to exercise
C. her own poor, pitiful plight as a long-suffering spouse
D. all of the above
- Which of the following statements is not the possible reason for Bush's sagging popularity? _____.
A. The President's plan for an overhaul of Social Security is flat on its back
B. Gasoline prices have jumped
C. Laura makes people laugh while Bush doesn't have much to joke about
D. American casualties in Iraq are mounting
- Laura's great achievement is that _____.
A. she has not ordered high-priced china
B. she is more easy-going than her mother-in-law
C. she is clever enough to avoid the dusty cables
D. she has never tried to have one job, especially, as a policy maker
- According to the passage, which of the following statements is not true? _____.
A. Laura had no problem with a gay couple staying at the White House
B. Laura has her causes, from discouraging kids from joining gangs to promoting literacy
C. A lot of people who don't like the President like her
D. Laura strongly disapproves of abortion
- What is the writer's attitude towards Laura? _____.
A. Positive B. Negative C. Neutral D. Down-to-earth

Passage 3 Albert Einstein

He was the pre-eminent scientist in a century dominated by science. The touchstones of the era — the Bomb, the Big Bang, quantum physics and electronics — all bear his imprint. — Frederic Golden

1 He was the embodiment of pure intellect, the bumbling professor with the German accent, a comic cliché in a thousand films. Instantly recognizable, like Charlie Chaplin's *Little Tramp*, Albert Einstein's shaggy-haired visage was as familiar to ordinary people as to the matrons who fluttered about him in salons from Berlin to Hollywood. Yet he was unfathomably profound — the genius among geniuses who discovered, merely by thinking about it, that the universe was not as it seemed.

2 Even now scientists marvel at the daring of general relativity. But the great physicist was also engagingly simple, trading ties and socks for mothy sweaters and sweatshirts. He tossed off pithy aphorisms ("Science is a wonderful thing if one does not have to earn one's living at it") and playful doggerel as easily as equations. Viewing the hoopla over him with humorous detachment, he variously referred to himself as the Jewish saint or artist's model. He was a cartoonist's dream that had come true.

3 Much to his surprise, his ideas, like Darwin's, reverberated beyond science, influencing modern culture from painting to poetry. At first even many scientists didn't really grasp relativity, prompting Arthur Eddington's celebrated wisecrack (asked if it was true that only three people understood relativity, the witty British astrophysicist paused, then said, "I am trying to think who the third person is"). To the world at large, relativity seemed to pull the rug out from under perceived reality. And for many advanced thinkers of the 1920s, from Dadaists to Cubists to Freudians, that was a fitting credo, reflecting what science historian David Cassidy calls "the incomprehensiveness of the contemporary scene — the fall of monarchies, the upheaval of the social order, indeed, all the turbulence of the 20th century."

4 Einstein's galvanizing effect on the popular imagination continued throughout his life, and after it. Fearful his grave would become a magnet for curiosity seekers, Einstein's executors secretly scattered his ashes. But they were defeated at least in part by a pathologist who carried off his brain in hopes of learning the secrets of his genius. Only recently Canadian researchers, probing those pickled remains, found that he had an unusually large inferior parietal lobe — a center of mathematical