



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材
高职高专英语专业立体化系列教材

英语

泛读教程

Extensive Reading Course

2

(高职高专英语专业适用)

主 编 / 梅德明

副主编 / 汪永兴



高等教育出版社
Higher Education Press



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前 言

近年来,我国高职高专教育的改革和发展取得了长足的进步。无论是学校数量,还是在校生人数都占到普通高校总数和学生人数的一半以上。与此同时,高职高专英语专业的数量和学生人数也增长很快。为了满足新形势对高职高专英语专业教育和人才培养的要求,我们编写了这套“高职高专英语专业立体化系列教材”。该套教材被列为普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材。

本套教材的编写力图体现我国高职高专英语专业的教学实践的特点,遵循高职高专教育“实用为主、够用为度”的总体指导方针,充分反映中国学生学习英语的学习规律和要求,同时体现我国英语教学研究的最新成果、新思想和新理念。教材的设计充分考虑高职高专英语专业的课程设置、课时、教学要求应符合高职高专英语专业人才培养要求与目标,处理好打好英语语言基础与培养英语语言应用能力的关系,强调英语语言基本技能的训练与培养实际运用英语从事涉外交际活动的语言应用能力并重。

《英语泛读教程》(以下简称《泛读》)是“高职高专英语专业立体化系列教材”之一,是一套以高职高专英语专业学生为主要对象的阅读教材。《泛读》由高等教育出版社组稿,由上海外国语大学英语学院和高职院校教师合作编写。

《泛读》共4册,每册用于一个学期的教学。第1册和第2册的内容以教育文化类的话题为主,第3册以行业类话题为主,第4册以经济商务类的话题为主。

《泛读》每册含16个单元,每单元由3篇课文组成。第1、2篇课文为现代时文,第3篇课文为常见应用文。我们建议在教学中应该以第1篇课文为主课,第2篇课文为补充教材,第3篇课文为任务型练习。作为主课的第1篇课文含“阅前提问”、“课文”、“注释”、“阅读理解”、“阅读理解练习”、“词汇解意练习”和“语境提示练习”等部分的内容。

每册在第4、8、12单元之后附有“阅读技巧”的介绍和练习。

《泛读》的编者遵循“明确对象、准确定位、精心选材、合理设计、科学编排、规范编写”的原则精心编写,努力打造出一套“选材广泛、体裁新颖、课文经典、语言纯正、练习适量、操作性强”的高职高专英语阅读教程。

编者建议,有关教师在使用《泛读》的同时,可设计一些有利于激发学生创新思维的教学内容,鼓励学生充分利用网络资源进行自主学习,达到“学以致用、用以促学”的目的。

编 者

2007年11月

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UNIT 1

TEXT I

Crazy English



Pre-reading Questions.

1. *Someone says that English perhaps is the most beautiful language in the world. Do you agree? Why or why not? In your opinion, what is the most difficult thing in learning English?*
2. *Despite the fact that English is not easy to learn, English can be an amusing language. Can you give some examples to show that learning English is fun?*

Now read the following passage quickly, and try to get the main idea. (Time limit: 5 minutes)

English was invented by people, not computers, and it reflects the creativity of the human race, which of course isn't a race at all.

1 Let's face it, English is a crazy language.

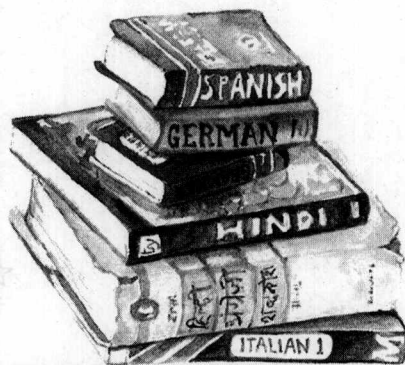
2 There is no egg in the eggplant, nor ham in the hamburger; neither pine nor apple in the pineapple.

English muffins¹ were not invented in England and French fries were not invented in France. We sometimes take English for granted, but if we examine some of its expressions we will find that quicksand takes you down slowly, boxing rings are square, and a guinea pig² is neither from Guinea nor is it a pig.

**English is a
crazy language.**



- 3 And why is it that writers write, but fingers don't fing, and hammers don't ham? If the teacher taught, why can't we say the preacher praught? In what language do people recite at a play, yet play at a recital³? In what language do people park on driveways and drive on parkways?
- 4 If the plural of tooth is teeth, shouldn't the plural of phone booth be phone beeth? Is cheese the plural of choose? Why the plural of box is boxes, but the plural of ox should be oxen, not oxes? The one fowl is a goose but two are called geese, yet the plural of moose should never be meese. You may find a lone mouse or a whole set of mice, yet the plural of house is houses not hice. If the plural of man is always called men, why shouldn't the plural of pan be called pen? If I speak of a foot and you show me your feet, and I give you a boot, would a pair be called beet?
- 5 Remember your study of irregular verbs? Do you recall the verb to fly, as in fly, flew, flown? Well, we also have fly, flied, flied when we talk about the game of baseball. For example, the batter hit the ball hard, but unfortunately, he flied out!
- 6 Let's look at expressions which would seem to be opposite in meaning but are actually almost the same in meaning. How can a slim chance and a fat chance be the same? Both expressions mean there is a very low probability that something will happen, but a slim chance is standard, formal English and a fat chance is an informal, amusing expression. Then we have expressions which would seem to be the same in meaning but are actually almost opposite or very different in meaning. Why are a wise man and a wise guy opposite? Notice that "man" is stressed in the former and "wise" is stressed in the latter; wise 'man, 'wise guy. Let me explain, a wise man is a man with much wisdom or knowledge about the world. In informal English, a wise guy is a guy or a fellow who is not very wise at all, but he pretends to know everything, and he tries to sound very clever. In fact, a wise guy is neither wise nor clever. "Wise guy" is definitely a negative label.
- 7 And how can the weather be hot as hell one day and cold as hell the next: Hell, in certain Christian religion stories, is a fiery⁴ place of punishment after death, so literally, or according to that religious belief, the weather is hot as hell some days, meaning very hot! However, the word "hell" is also used to intensify our feelings about people or things, so in that sense, the weather can be cold as hell or even windy as hell, meaning very cold or very windy. And a person or a language can be crazy as hell! But remember that this intensifier is strong and informal.





- 8 We also have expressions which are used only in the negative. They are classified as idioms. I can only say that someone is no spring chicken, which means that he or she is probably over 45 or 50 years of age; that he wouldn't hurt a fly, which means he's kind and gentle; that I wouldn't touch something or someone with a ten-foot pole, which means the thing or person is highly undesirable.
- 9 You have to marvel at the crazy English language where a house can burn up as it burns down; and in which you fill in a form by filling it out. That is why when the stars are out they are visible, but when the lights are out they are invisible, and why when I wind up my watch, it starts, but when I wind up this essay, it ends.

NOTES

1. **English muffin** — a small thick round kind of bread, usually eaten hot with butter. 英式松饼
2. **guinea pig** — a small round animal that has fur, short ears, and no tail, which is kept as a pet. 天竺鼠, 豚鼠(一种小型宠物)
3. **recital** — a performance of music or poetry, usually given by one performer. 独奏会
4. **fiery** — containing or looking like fire. 火一般的

Comprehension

I. Decide whether the following statements are true or false according to TEXT I.

- _____ 1. English muffins were not invented in England while French fries were invented in France.
- _____ 2. We should park on driveways and drive on parkways.
- _____ 3. The plural form of *goose* is *geese*, so the plural of *moose* should be *meese*.
- _____ 4. When we talk about the game of baseball, we can have *fly*, *flied*, *flied*.
- _____ 5. A *fat chance* means very high probability for something to happen.
- _____ 6. A *wise man* and a *wise guy* are of the same meaning.
- _____ 7. In the utterance "He is crazy as hell!", the intensifier is strong and formal.
- _____ 8. We can use *no spring chicken* to refer to a middle-aged person.
- _____ 9. We can fill in a form and fill it out at the same time.
- _____ 10. In "I wind up an essay.", the phrase *wind up* means "to start writing".

II. Cracking vocabulary.

1. Study the words or phrases in the following bank. Choose **ONE** from the bank to complete each of the following sentences, making changes, if necessary, to the

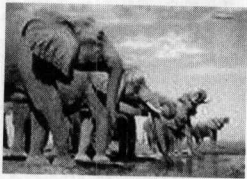
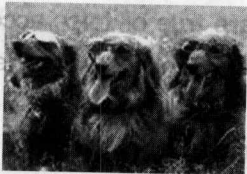
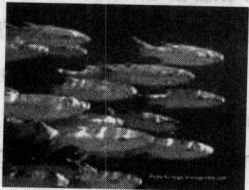



verb.

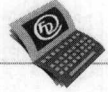
take it for granted speak of a slim chance in that sense
burn up marvel at fill in wind up




- 1) _____, many of today's computer networks are still in the steam age.
- 2) Although it is _____ to get the offer, you'd better catch it and go on working.
- 3) Well, I just _____ that you would come to the party and dance with me.
- 4) I have to _____ my watch to make it start working.
- 5) _____ the Devil and he will appear.
- 6) Please _____ your name as in your passport and separate your first name, middle name and last name.
- 7) We all _____ the beautiful scenes during the travel in Hangzhou.
- 8) The old house was completely destroyed, after it was _____ by the fire.

2. Try to match the animals in Column A with different measure words in Column B.

Column A	Column B
 <p>1) elephants</p>	a. a batch of
 <p>2) dogs</p>	b. a brood of
 <p>3) fish</p>	c. a host of
 <p>4) bees</p>	d. a school of

(To be continued)



Column A	Column B
 <p>5) chickens</p>	<p>e. a team/field of</p>
 <p>6) horses</p>	<p>f. an army of</p>
 <p>7) monkeys</p>	<p>g. a hive of</p>

3. The following are a list of idioms and their meanings. Try to choose ONE idiom to complete each of the following sentences, making changes, if necessary.

Idiom	Meaning
have ants in one's pants	to be unable to sit still or remain calm out of nervousness or excitement
cat nap	a short sleep
chicken out	to decide not to do something out of fear
dog days	very hot days
have a cow	to get extremely upset (often over something minor)
hold your horses	to wait and be patient
get the lion's share	to get the greatest percentage
let the cat out of the bag	to reveal a secret

- 1) I sleep in the basement during the _____ of August.
- 2) I was going to take a ride on Geoff's motorcycle, but I _____ when he gave me a helmet to wear.
- 3) Who _____ about the surprise party?



- 4) Lisa _____ the day before her interview.
 5) I'm going to have a _____ while you're cooking dinner.
 6) My teacher _____ when she realized nobody had done the homework.
 7) My aunt _____ of the inheritance.
 8) _____ ! I'll be done in the washroom in a minute.

III. Contextual clues.

Choose from the bank **ONE** word to fill in each of the following blanks in the passage. Each word in the bank should be used only once.

differences	change	influence	instead	language	order
potato	sweater	same	separate	system	understand

Language experts say that spoken English was almost the (1) _____ in the American colonies and Britain two hundred years ago. Americans began to (2) _____ the sound of their speech after the Revolutionary War in 1776. They wanted to make it different to (3) _____ themselves from the British in language, in the same way they separated themselves from the British government.

Some American leaders proposed major changes in the (4) _____. Benjamin Franklin wanted a whole new (5) _____ of spelling. His reforms were not accepted. But his ideas did (6) _____ others. One was Noah Webster.

Webster wrote that all words should be said in the (7) _____ of the letters that spell them. This is why Americans use the letters "e-r" to end many words (8) _____ of the British "r-e." Webster spelled the word "center", for example, "c-e-n-t-e-r," instead of the British "c-e-n-t-r-e."

Sometimes Americans and British people do not (9) _____ each other because of different word meanings. For example, the word "jumper" in Britain means a (10) _____. In the United States, it is a dress. The British word "brolly" is an "umbrella" in America. And the British call (11) _____ chips "crisps". All of these (12) _____ led British writer George Bernard Shaw to joke that Britain and America are two countries separated by the same language!

TEXT II



"Mother" — The Most

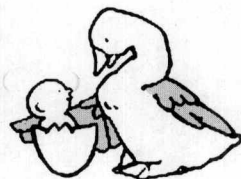
Beautiful Word in the English Language

- 1 There is good and bad news for parents today. The word "mother" has been voted the most beautiful word in the English language. But "father" failed even to make it on the list of the 70



best words compiled in a survey of thousands of non-English speakers across the globe. From Ankara¹ to Zurich², “mother” was voted above “love”, “smile” and “blossom”.

- 2 “Mother-in-law” was also nowhere to be seen. Funny that maybe the hyphens disqualified it.
- 3 In second place was “passion”, followed by “smile”, “love” and “eternity”, with “fantastic”, “destiny”, “freedom”, “liberty” and “tranquility” completing the top 10.
- 4 The result was revealed by the British Council which carried out a huge survey of more than 40,000 people in 102 non-English speaking countries. The study was undertaken to celebrate the group’s 70th anniversary—and it threw up a few surprising entries to the list.
- 5 “It’s interesting that ‘mother’, the only word of the 70 that describes a direct relationship between people, came top of the poll,” said British Council spokesman Greg Selby. “It is great to see words in survey that are so positive and suggestive of the British Council’s purpose—words such as ‘freedom’, ‘liberty’ and ‘peace’.”
- 6 Those surveyed were allowed to choose their words on either meaning or sound, said Mr. Selby. This explained why words that are satisfying to pronounce, like “flip-flop”, made the list.
- 7 Famous mothers like Kate Winslet, Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer have all done their bit to make the word popular.
- 8 Kate, 28, even pulled out of Woody Allen’s new film to spend more time with her young family.
- 9 Singer Robbie Williams is proud to declare his love for his mother, while comedian Peter Kay endured a marathon British tour to pay for a new house for his mom.
- 10 The mood was added to by Britney Spears yesterday as she expressed her love for her mother.
- 11 She said: “My mom was and still is a super mom. She is just so much fun and I think the reason why I relate to her so well is because she’s a young mom.”





12 She added: "Mom, thanks for being the best role model—you rock."

NOTES

1. **Ankara**—a city, the capital of Turkey. 安哥拉(土耳其首都)
2. **Zurich**—a city which lies in northern Switzerland. 苏黎世(瑞士北部城市)

Comprehension

I. Reading comprehension questions.

1. Choose, according to TEXT II, the best answer to each of the following questions.

- () 1) Which of the following statements is **TRUE**?
 - A. "Father" wasn't on the list of the 70 best words in a survey of English speakers all over the world.
 - B. "Mother-in-law" wasn't on the list of the best words.
 - C. Only in Ankara and Zurich was "mother" voted the first beautiful word.
 - D. "Mother" is not the only word of the 70 that shows a direct relationship between people.
- () 2) Which of the following shows the correct order of the first five words?
 - A. Mother, smile, passion, love and eternity.
 - B. Mother, passion, smile, love and eternity.
 - C. Mother, smile, love, eternity and passion.
 - D. Mother-in-law, passion, smile, love and eternity.
- () 3) According to the passage, why is the word "flip-flop" on the list of the 70 best words?
 - A. Because the word is very popular in the English language.
 - B. Because the word has a positive meaning.
 - C. Because the word is satisfying to pronounce.
 - D. Because the word has a meaning that is interesting.
- () 4) Why did the British Council conduct the survey?
 - A. Because it wants to tell us the importance of mother.
 - B. Because it wants to show the positive side of the world.
 - C. Because it wants to show a list of some good words.
 - D. Because it wants to make non-English speakers learn more words.
- () 5) What can we conclude from the passage?
 - A. It was Kate Winslet, Elle Macpherson and Claudia Schiffer that made their efforts to make the word "mother" popular.



- B. Kate stopped shooting a new film in order to stay with her family.
 C. Peter Kay took part in a marathon in order to pay for a new house for his mother.
 D. Britney Spears took pride in her mother.
- () 6) What does the underlined part "you rock" in the last paragraph mean?
 A. You are fantastic. B. You like rock and roll.
 C. You are as solid as a rock. D. You are trembling.

2. Match the words in Column A with the appropriate definition in Column B.

- | A | B |
|---------------------|---|
| () 1) blossom (n.) | a. time without end |
| () 2) hyphen | b. an event that will inevitably happen |
| () 3) eternity | c. to make a list, record, etc. , using different pieces of information |
| () 4) tranquility | d. believing that you will be successful |
| () 5) poll | e. a flower or all the flowers |
| () 6) comedian | f. an actor who performs comical acts |
| () 7) destiny | g. connected |
| () 8) survey (n.) | h. a short written or printed line that joins words |
| () 9) positive | i. a set of questions to ask many people to find out their opinions |
| () 10) compile | j. quietness; peace |
| () 11) purpose | k. an aim |
| () 12) related | l. an inquiry into public opinion |

3. Choose the appropriate word from the brackets to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) Women have gained the freedom to decide whether or not to marry.
 (freedom, freely)
- 2) We spent a lot of money to build a garden to beautify our campus.
 (beautiful, beautify)
- 3) You can see a painting which is suggestive of a desert landscape.
 (suggest, suggestive)
- 4) It is very satisfying to know that she expressed her love for her mother.
 (satisfying, satisfaction)
- 5) I think you have all the right qualifications to become a good manager.
 (qualify, qualifications)

4. The chart below is the list of the 70 most beautiful words. Try to figure out the



meanings of the words by looking them up in the dictionary.

70

most beautiful
WORDS

Results

70 words
7,000 English learners
35,000 overseas voters
100 countries

01

Mother

02

Passion

03

Smile

mother passion smile love eternity fantastic destiny freedom
 liberty tranquillity peace blossom sunshine sweetheart gorgeous
 cherish enthusiasm hope grace rainbow blue sunflower twinkle serendipity
 bliss lullaby sophisticated renaissance cute cosy butterfly galaxy hilarious
 moment extravaganza aqua sentiment cosmopolitan bubble pumpkin
 banana lollipop if bumblebee giggle paradox delicacy peek-a-boo umbrella
 kangaroo flabbergasted hippopotamus gothic coconut smashing whoops
 tickle loquacious flip-flop smithereens ot gazebo hiccup hodgepodge
 shipshape explosion fuselage zing gum hen-night

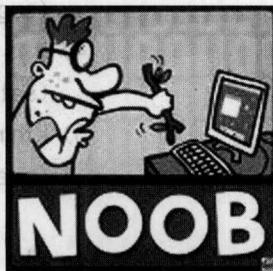
BRITISH COUNCIL 70TH ANNIVERSARY 1934-2004

TEXT III

Slang, Jargon and Idioms



- 1 In any language, familiar words and phrases are included in talking and writing to convey a certain style or tone. Many American slang and idioms are commonly used in written correspondence and verbal conversation. These expressions in English usually don't mean what they seem if you translate them literally. Trying to understand slang by breaking it into words may not help because of multiple meanings.
- 2 Take the word coke. This term often refers to the popular soft drink, Coca Cola. Coke also is slang for cocaine, an illegal drug in the United States. Moreover, coke is a type of coal.
- 3 A clearer grasp of the word cool would come from the context in which it is used. Look at a simple statement such as, "He is cool!"





This would mean literally that the person's temperature was closer to cold than hot. A slang meaning would be that this person possesses outstanding qualities.

- 4 You may not be comfortable at first using American slang, jargon and idioms. But it is important to learn and understand the more commonly used expressions.

Comprehension

I. Match the colloquial expressions in Column A with the more formal meanings in Column B.

Colloquial Expressions

More Formal Meanings

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| () 1. call the shots | a. Don't waste any time. |
| () 2. cut a class | b. dump a job on someone |
| () 3. juggle your schedule | c. be in charge; the boss |
| () 4. That's for the birds. | d. quarrelsome; stubborn |
| () 5. pass the buck | e. undesirable; inferior |
| () 6. Ace the test. | f. rearrange your time |
| () 7. to scarf | g. miss a class entirely |
| () 8. Don't beat a dead horse. | h. score very well on an exam |
| () 9. He'd argue with a post. | i. to eat quickly |
| () 10. Don't let any grass grow under your feet. | j. Don't pursue closed issues. |

II. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

- _____ 1. American slang and idioms are only used in verbal conversations.
- _____ 2. We can understand slang by breaking it into words.
- _____ 3. A clearer grasp of slang comes from the context in which it is used.
- _____ 4. The word coke also is slang for cocaine which is an illegal drug in the United States.
- _____ 5. "He is cool!" means that this person's temperature was closer to cold.