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★ 黑龙江省教育厅06年
人文社会科学研究项

★ 高等学校多媒体教学
系列教材

网络英语阅读教程

主编 马兴芝 张梦军 艾军
主审 孟 晖

[上册]

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网络英语阅读教程

WANGLUO YINGYU YUEDU JIAOCHENG

(上册)

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前 言

本教材为《网络英语阅读教程》，供高等学校本科多媒体英语课程教学使用。

本册书共有 26 个单元，52 篇文章，供高校英语多媒体教学课一个学期使用。

一、《网络英语阅读教程》的选材

《网络英语阅读教程》针对高校英语专业本科学生。在选材上注重趣味性、信息性、可思性、时代性和前瞻性，题材广泛，内容丰富，主要涉及语言、文化、习俗、伦理、信息、科学、社会焦点，等等。

每一个单元侧重于讨论一个话题，但两篇课文的体裁却不尽相同，体现文体的多样性。课文完全选自互联网上的各大著名媒体。为配合教学需要，《网络英语阅读教程》每篇课文控制在 400~500, 600~700, 1000~1500 英文词汇左右，重点培养不同水平学生的阅读能力。

二、《网络英语阅读教程》(上册)的主要内容

《网络英语阅读教程》(上册)每单元由 Section A, Section B 构成。并附有相关的练习。Section A 和 Section B 主要是为了在课堂上训练学生的阅读能力和理解能力，老师可参照不同的学生阅读水平，选取不同的阅读内容进行教学。教师应在上课时进行必要的检查。

三、鸣谢

本册教程在编写的过程中得到了黑龙江大学、东北农业大学、哈尔滨工程大学等老师的大力支持。其中黑龙江大学马兴芝老师编写了 14 万字，东北农业大学张梦军老师编写了 13 万字，黑龙江大学艾军老师编写了 13 万字。哈尔滨工程大学孟晖老师担当本书的主审工作。对以上老师的辛勤工作一并表示感谢。

四、《网络英语阅读教程》系黑龙江省教育厅 2006 年度人文社会科学研究项目子课题。

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Unit One

Section A Striking 'Soft' Targets Complicates Security

Disrupting terrorist attacks, already a daunting job, has been made tougher still because extremist groups are increasingly willing to attack vulnerable, "soft" targets like the Israeli-owned resort gutted this week in Kenya. Counter-terrorism officials in the United States and overseas have already been struggling to find ways of guarding traditional and somewhat predictable targets, like embassies, military installations, airports, landmarks and reactors.

But the suicide bombings at a hotel, coming just six weeks after suspected operatives or affiliates of Al Qaeda killed more than 190 people at a resort in Bali, presented intelligence officials with yet another set of vexing problems. The challenge comes in deciding where to focus security and intelligence resources if the enemy appears able to strike almost anywhere. "Because this was such a soft target, it's impossible to guard against something like this," said Vincent M. Cannistraro, a former counter-terrorism official at the Central Intelligence Agency. "There are targets all over the world, and tourists are totally defenseless."

The Sept. 11 attacks demonstrated with shocking clarity Al Qaeda's ability to penetrate even those sites already considered likely targets. The World Trade Center was considered a possible target because of its symbolic and commercial value and because it had been hit before, in 1993, while the Pentagon's military value put it on the short list of possible domestic targets. Intelligence officials around the world say they have become much more aggressive in collecting and distributing intelligence tips about possible threats, even those considered improbable.

Indeed, in Australia, home to nearly half the victims of the Bali

bombing , intelligence officials said they received reports two weeks ago of a threat in Mombasa, leading them to urge citizens not to go there. A senior Australian official said today that intelligence received by Australia is "automatically" passed to the United States. But American law enforcement and intelligence officials said they were unaware of any credible and specific information that could have predicted the Kenyan attacks.

The attacks on a remote Israeli target in Kenya would be particularly troubling if ultimately linked to Al Qaeda, because they would represent a broadened strategy. Although Al Qaeda has been linked to an April attack on a Tunisian synagogue, the group has aimed its strikes primarily at American targets in the past, rather than Israelis or Jews. An American official said the rise in such targets "is something we've been concerned about for some time," adding, "Certainly Al Qaeda is going to aim where they have the best chance of success, and they're going to hit soft targets that they know are more vulnerable."

"We expect to see more of these kinds of attacks around the world," the official said, "and obviously it makes our job more difficult. We talk about Al Qaeda's global reach, and it is indeed global." The police throughout Southeast Asia have been on edge for weeks for fear of another Bali-style attack, perhaps aimed at an international school or a church. Authorities in the region say they are convinced that the leaders of the loosely affiliated network that Osama bin Laden put in place in the last decade remain at large today and ready to reactivate sleeper cells.

In Mombasa, three suicide bombers at the Israeli-owned hotel killed at least 13 people and injured dozens when they drove up to the doors of the hotel and detonated their explosives. Minutes earlier and

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- B. They were convinced that the members of bin Laden have nothing to do with the blast on Bali.
 - C. They thought that the leaders of Al Qaeda have been remaining at large in the last decade.
 - D. They thought the blast has been proved to be done by the members of Al Qaeda.
3. Why was Al Qaeda immediately suspected to have committed the blast?
- A. Because they attacked the American Embassy and the Heaven Hotel Israeli-owned in Kenya
 - B. Because they were famous for using American missiles in the Middle East.
 - C. Because they can use Russian missiles freely in the Middle East and North America.
 - D. Because they once attacked American Embassy and can also use shoulder-launched missiles.
4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
- A. In Mombasa, three suicide bombers at the American-owned hotel killed at least 13 people and injured dozens.
 - B. The suicide bombers drove up to the doors of the hotel and detonated their explosives.
 - C. The targets such as hotels and Bali islands are tough to protect.
 - D. Officials say they are still uncertain who was behind the attack.
5. According to the text, what does the "soft target" refer to?
- A. It refers to the places such as hotels, resorts, etc.
 - B. It refers to the airports, landmarks, etc.
 - C. It refers to the reactors, embassies, etc.
 - D. It refers to the military installations, hospitals, etc.

KEYS: DDBBC

Section B

A Beautiful Mind

The first annual report of the New Jersey State Lunatic Asylum contained the following descriptive passage: "Reposing in the midst of the most beautiful scenery in the valley of the Delaware, combining all the influences which human art and skill can command to bless, soothe, and restore the wandering intellects that are gathered at its bosom." Pretty insightful stuff, considering it was written in 1848; and especially poignant when it comes to the life of John Forbes Nash, Jr. He was not only a "wandering intellect", but a genius who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia and was in and out of mental institutions for most of his life. As is said, Nash's story could be divided into "three acts: genius, madness, reawakening".

Naturally introverted, even at a young age, John Nash was described as being "bookish and slightly odd". His mother had him reading by the time he was four and instead of coloring books, his father gave him science books to read. But despite their efforts, the young Nash was prone to daydreaming in school, which led his teachers to describe him as an underachiever. A longer, his best friends were books. By the time he was 12, his room resembled a science lab. He was always the last to be chosen for baseball, and at a school dance he danced with chairs rather than girls.

Although his elementary school math teachers complained he couldn't do the work, his mother observed he wasn't following the teachers' instructions because he had devised a simpler way to solve the problems. By high school, he was solving problems his chemistry teacher wrote on the blackboard without using pencil or paper. In college, his math professors would call on Nash when they themselves ran into problems solving complex equations they were presenting to their classes.

But together with his brilliance were eccentricities that became more evident as Nash aged; the repeated playing of the same chord on the piano; an ice cream cone left to melt on a pile of clothes; pouting after losing a game or an argument; constantly whistling Bach. Those close to him characterized him as “disconnected” and “deeply unknowable”.

Fiercely independent, Nash rarely discussed the problems he was working on with anyone but he seemed to have an intuitive, irrational capability for the possible, which allowed him to devise unique solutions to problems. He had little use for textbooks and was known to work in his office from 10:00 p.m. till 3:00 a.m., solving difficult problems using “no references but his own mind”. His peers called the results he was able to obtain “beautiful” and “striking”.

Perhaps his greatest achievement being his work on game theory, which led to a Nobel Prize for economics in 1994. He possessed a true love of discovery—he just had to know about things. While swimming with a friend in California, the two were dragged out to sea by an undercurrent and nearly drowned. Finally reaching shore exhausted, the friend was grateful for surviving while Nash, after briefly catching his breath, re-entered the surf exclaiming, “I wonder if that was an accident. I think I’ll go back in and see”.

By the age of 30 it became apparent Nash was more than just eccentric as he started to display symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia: behaving suspiciously, becoming suspect of others, and finally announcing that “abstract powers from out space” were communicating with him through encrypted messages printed in the New York Times and broadcast by radio stations. He developed “an obsession with the stock and bond markets”. Investing his mother’s savings, convinced he could outsmart the markets and earn a profit.

Instead, the results were “disastrous, to say the least”. He was offered a prestigious chair in the mathematics department at the University of Chicago—something he had long strived for—but the chairman of the department received a strange letter from Nash declining the offer since he had decided to become the “Emperor of Antarctica” instead.

By now, his illness had gone into remission and he was able to stop taking anti-psychotic drugs while learning to separate rational thinking from delusional thinking. In spite of his amazing recovery, awarding him with the Nobel Prize was a contentious issue due to his history of schizophrenia. But once awarded, there was resolve that the right decision had been made about a very worthy individual. One committee member recalls, “We resurrected him in a way. It was emotionally satisfying”. Soon after the announcement, Nash half-joked” he hoped that getting the Nobel would improve his credit rating because he really wanted a credit card.

Notes :

1. lunatic asylum 疯人院
2. game theory 对策论, 博弈论
3. get into remission 减轻
4. poignant adj. 切中要害的
5. paranoid schizophrenia 妄想型精神分裂症
6. anti-psychotic n. 安定药
7. resurrect vt. 使复苏
8. underachiever n. 学习成绩不良的学生

Questions:

1. What happened one day in the sea and what did it imply to Nash?
A. Both of the friends were almost drowned and they were

frightened.

- B. Both of the friends were about to swim in the undercurrent quite well and they wanted to try once again.
 - C. Both of the friends were nearly drowned but Nash wanted to try the death again .
 - D. Both of the friends were nearly drowned but Nash re-entered to discover undercurrent.
2. Nash's story can be divided into ____.
- A. genius, madness, killing
 - B. reawakening, genius, madness
 - C. genius, madness, rewarding
 - D. madness, genius, rewarding
3. When he was young, Nash was described as ____.
- A. bookish and slightly odd
 - B. lively and lovely
 - C. bookish and heavily active
 - D. lively and slightly odd
4. Nash was a strange person and he was ____.
- A. fiercely dependent
 - B. fiercely independent
 - C. fiercely crazy
 - D. fiercely unconfident
5. Which of the following statement is not true according to the text?
- A. By the age of 30 it became apparent Nash was not only eccentric but with symptoms of paranoid schizophrenia.
 - B. He was invited to take place in the mathematics department at the University of Chicago, so he agreed.
 - C. He failed with his mother's money.
 - D. New York Times printed his encoded messages.

KEYS: DCABB

Unit Two

Section A The Age of Innocence

Perhaps the most vivid image left over from the murder of Kayla Rolland is a basically benign one: six-year-old boy sitting at a table, drawing pictures. That he did this only hours after killing Kayla has been taken to mean that he didn't grasp the gravity of his act and so is not criminally culpable.

Fast-forward 10 years. Suppose the same boy, now 16, kills a member of a rival gang. On his way home, he picks up a pizza and rents a video—a comedy. He enjoys a few yuks and then turns in early. This segue from mayhem to amusement would be taken as proof of his brutality. A jury would find it easier to give him a stiff sentence than if he had gone home and paced the floor, racked by remorse.

Such paradoxes pervade the way we think about blame, and few cases have displayed them more clearly than this one. There has been much pondering of whether this child knew what he did was wrong. Well, probably not. But that's often the problem, isn't it—that criminals disagree with society over what is wrong? Shootings often arise out of grievance, a sense of just retribution. And more than a few robbers weave elaborate theories—not always implausible—about why their victims didn't deserve their money in the first place. Should we let these reflective thieves walk?

As for the question of whether six-year-olds have a sense of right and wrong: absolutely. Kids whine about unfairness almost as soon as they can whine. They instinctively justify their social retaliation—physical or not—as just deserts. Kayla probably died because the killer felt he was wronged.

To stress the continuity of moral development between young