

NEW

A New Intensive Reading Course

新编 英语 精读 教程

主 编 李经纬

(第 4 册)



西安交通大学出版社

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北方工业大学图书馆



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主 编 李经纬

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西安交通大学出版社

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内容简介

本教材由解放军外国语学院英语系组织多名富有教学经验的专家教授编写,供英语本科生或有一定英语基础的自学者使用。语言标准规范、新颖生动、信息量大、时代感强,充分体现了当代英语的面貌和特点。所选文章有较深的思想内涵,融知识性和趣味性于一体。大部分课文选自20世纪80年代以后出版的英美报刊、书籍上的文章。题材广泛,包括科技、自然、文化、军事、体育、经贸等方面的文章。体裁以叙事文和议论文为主,兼顾小品、杂文和人物传记。练习形式多样,重点和难点分布合理,详略得当,内容编排紧扣高等学校英语专业教学新大纲,布局科学合理,有利于培养学生扎实的英语语言基础和熟练运用英语的基本技能。

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前言

《新编英语精读教程》是根据解放军外国语学院2000年新修订的本科教学计划(大纲)编写的英语主干教材之一。其对象为英语本科一、二年级学生,也可供科技英语和程度相当的函授学生使用。全书共分四册,每一册使用一学期。

本书为第三册,共有12课,每课由下列几个部分组成:(1) 预习(Preview)以问题的形式对课文的难点和重点进行适当的引导,从而为准确理解全篇课文作好准备。问题的设计具有一定的针对性,例如关于课文题目、文章的主旨、段落的划分以及对段落大意等方面的提问。(2) 课文A (Text A)是选取的精读范文,作为语言输入的主要渠道和学习重点,课文B在主题和内容方面与课文A相近,作为对课文A的补充,以满足程度较高的学生的需要。(3) 课文注释(Notes to Text A)一般包括作者简介、相关的背景知识和部分超过学生实际理解水平的语言难点。(4) 生词表(New Words)除了中学所学的单词之外均列出,其中包括注音、词性和中文释义。(5) 短语(Phrases and Expressions)从课文A中提取,以常用的为主,释义以本义为主,兼顾特殊意义。(6) 课文理解(Understanding the Text)是针对课文理解设置的选择题,其目的是培养和训练学生对课文的整体把握和对个别关键细节的理解。另外,还包括出现在特定语境中的词语的释义和选择判断。(7) 口语练习(Oral Practice)就课文相关的主题和补充的材料,进行口头表达、小组讨论、讲演和辩论技能的培训。(8) 词汇与结构(Vocabulary and Structure)包括构词练习、同义词和近义词的辨析、词汇和短语填空、句型模仿和转换、单句和短文翻译(汉译英)、改错和完形填空等,共10项内容。本册总词汇表作为附录列于书后。

本教程的目的是培养学生扎实的英语语言基础和熟练运用英语的基本技能,重在対英语语篇的分析和准确理解,兼顾英语国家文化知识的传授。本教程的编写原则是注重语言基本功的训练,但不大包大揽。也就是说,单项技能的培养,如阅读、听力、口语、写作分别由单设课程来解决。我们认为,综合运用英语进行交际的能力难以通过一门课程来解决,特别是指较高层次意义上的交际能力。它需要多门课程的系统训练才能得以实现。因此,我们认为“英语精读”课程的任务应侧重于帮助学生打好英语语言基础,为其牢固掌握语言规则、准确熟练运用语言提供必要的实践机会。通过阅读精选的范文和一定量的语言练习,使学生

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既弄懂和学会语言表达形式，同时又能熟悉和掌握语言运用规律。

本书所选编的课文和部分练习与我院原精读教材相比有较高的难度。其目的是想保持本教材的生命力和一定的超前性，以跟上我国英语教学快速发展的步伐。为了帮助学生提高阅读能力、分析问题和解决问题的能力，我们认为有必要选取有一定难度的文章来激发学生的学习热情，增强他们的语感，为启发他们深入思考提供充裕的素材和广阔的空间。这样，有助于发挥学生的潜力，培养他们的创造力。

本书课文选自当代英、美报刊书籍和互联网上的资源，其中绝大部分是20世纪80、90年代的作品。为了便于教学我们对部分课文进行了删节和修改。我们力求课文的题材和体裁多样，内容充实，语言地道，融知识性和趣味性于一体，从而有利于调动学生的学习积极性。

在编写本书的过程中，解放军外语学院的部、系领导李绍山教授和程工教授以及三系一教的许多教师都给予了热情的关心和有力的支持；英语讲师陈丽、高航、李科、刘孜群、张媛等同志为本册提供了部分课文素材；冯翠华教授亲自参与了本教材的试用工作并提出了中肯的意见；美籍教师Donnalyn Parrish女士帮助审校了本书部分内容。我们在此一并表示感谢。由于我们水平有限，书中会有不少错误和不妥之处，希望得到专家和同行们的指正。

编者

2004年1月



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Lesson 1

Preview

1. Do you agree with the author's statement: "Sport is a ritual, an acting out of a myth or series of myths"?
2. What do you think of baseball, American football and golf respectively?
3. Which sport, in your opinion, can be considered a national pastime of the American people?
4. How does the author describe the regulation and almost military precision of American football?
5. What are the differences between American football and baseball?
6. What role has television played in the rise of popularity of American football and the decline of baseball?
7. Could you specify the change in national character that is reflected in the replacement of baseball by American football as a national pastime?
8. Do you have any idea of "the robber baron stage of capitalism"?
9. What myth, according to the author, does golf reenact?
10. Can you name a sport that is regarded as a national pastime of the Chinese people?



Text A

Sport and the American Dream

Jeffrey Schrank

1 Sport is a ritual, an acting out of a myth or series of myths. A sport that can be considered a national pastime can be expected to reflect national values and

wishes. Sports that capture the national fancy are ritualistic enactments of the American Dream. Baseball is still called our national pastime but is rapidly being replaced by American football. That football should become our “national pastime” is understandable to those who can see sports as reflections of national character.

2 American football is passionately concerned with the gain and loss of land, of territory. The football field is measured and marked with all the care of a surveyor and the ball's progress noted to the nearest inch. Football is a precise game and its players are often trained like a military unit on a mission to gain territory for the mother country. The players are the popular heroes but the coaches and owners run the game, using the players to carry out their plans—there is comparatively little room for individual initiative. A score comes as the result of a strategic series of well-executed maneuvers and is bought on the installment plan, yard by yard.

3 The regulation and almost military precision of American football is a reflection of national psychology. Even the words we use to describe the game include throwing the bomb, marching downfield, game plan (which has become nearly a national phrase for any field, from selling toothpaste to covering up political scandals), guards, executions, blitz, zone, platoon, squad, drills, attack, drives, marching bands for entertainment, stars on helmets, lines that can be blasted through and even war paint. Much of the verbal similarity comes from the fact that war was originally the ultimate game played within the confines of certain rules agreed upon by both “teams.”

4 Football, more than any other sport, is a game for spectators to watch superhuman, mythical heroes. Football is a sport that more people watch than play. The game requires too many people, too much space and is simply too dangerous for the weekend athletes. The size and speed of professional players and their uniforms make them into heroic figures capable of feats that invite admiration but not imitation. The football spectator is in awe of the armored monsters. The viewer of a golf match or even baseball or tennis dreams of going out the next day and doing likewise, but football is played only by the gods who can run the 100 yard dash in ten seconds, stand six feet three and weigh 260 pounds.

5 The demise of baseball as our national pastime reflects a change in national character. The change does not mean the disappearance of baseball, merely its

relocation to a position as just another game rather than *the* game. Professor John Finlay of the University of Manitoba, writing in *Queen's Quarterly*, compares baseball to an action out of the robber baron stage of capitalism, whereas football more clearly reflects a more mature capitalism into which we are now moving. Hence, the rise in popularity of football and apparent decline in baseball. He notes that Japan, still in the early stages of capitalism, has taken avidly to baseball but not to football. It is not a question of Japanese physique serving as a determinant since rugby has a large Asian following. He predicts that when their capitalism moves into a higher stage, the Japanese will move on to football as have Americans.

6 Baseball is a game of a quieter age when less action was needed to hold interest, when going to the park was enjoyable (baseball is still played in ball parks while football is played in stadiums), when aggression was subservient to finesse. Baseball players did not need exposure as college players to succeed as football players do; they play a relatively calm game almost daily instead of a bruising gladiatorial contest weekly. Baseball has room for unique and colorful characters, while football stresses the more anonymous but effective team member. Baseball is a game in which any team can win at any given contest and there are no favorites; only football has real "upsets." Football's careful concern with time adds a tension to the game that is lacking in the more leisurely world of baseball.

7 Football has replaced baseball as the favorite American spectator sport largely because of television. A comparison between a telecast of a football game on one channel and a baseball game on another could reveal baseball as a game with people standing around seemingly with little to do but watch two men play catch. Football would appear as twenty-two men engaged in almost constant, frenzied action. To watch baseball requires identification with the home team; to watch football requires only a need for action or a week of few thrills and the need for a touch of vicarious excitement.

8 Baseball is a pastoral game, timeless and highly ritualized; its appeal is to nostalgia and so might enjoy periods of revitalization in comparison to football. But for now, the myth of football suits the nation better.

9 According to a 1974 Harris survey, baseball has already been statistically dethroned. In a sports survey a cross section of nearly fourteen hundred fans was asked, "Which of these sports do you follow?"

10 The decision to play or “follow” a certain sport is also the decision to live a certain myth. The team violence of football, the craftiness of basketball, the mechanistic precision of bowling, the auto racer’s devotion to machinery are all subworlds within the universe of sport.

11 Golf, for example, is a unique subworld, one of the few left as a sport (unlike hunting which does not involve scoring or teams) in which the game is played between man and nature. The winner of a match is one who has beaten the opponent, but the game itself is a person versus the environment. To understand the appeal of golf it is again necessary to consider the game as a ritual reenactment of an appealing myth.

12 Golf, perhaps more than any other sport, has to be played to be appreciated. Millions who never played football can enjoy the game on TV, but only a dedicated participant can sit through two hours of televised golf. Golf is growing in participation but still has the stigma of an upper-class game. Eighty percent of the nation’s golfers must play on 20 percent of the nation’s courses that are open to the public. The ratio of public to private facilities hurts public participation in the game but mirrors the inequities of society and provides a convenient status symbol for those who can afford club membership. Its TV audience is not the largest of any sport but it is the most well heeled.

13 Golf is a reenactment of the pioneer spirit. It is man versus a hostile environment in search of an oasis. The goal is a series of lush “greens,” each protected by natural hazards such as water, sand and unmanageably long grass. The hazards are no threat to physical life but they are to the achievement of success. Golf is a journey game with a constantly changing field. Golfers start the eighteen-hole journey, can rest at halfway point and then resume until they return to near the point of origination.

14 The winner of the match is one who has fallen victim to the fewest hazards and overcome the terrain. Many golf courses have Indian names as if to remind the golfer of the frontier ethos. A local course called Indian Lakes invites golfers to use either one of two courses—the Iroquois trail or the Sioux trail.

15 Golf, like baseball, is a pastoral sport—with a high degree of tensions and drama but relatively little action. It is a game in which players are constantly in awe of the magic flight of the golf ball. To hit any kind of ball 100 or 200 or more yards with accuracy or to hit a small target from 150 yards is an amazing

feat to be appreciated only by those who have at least tried the game. Golf is very likely the most difficult game to master, yet one in which the average player occasionally hits a shot as good as the best of any professional. It is this dream of magic results that keeps the golfer on course.

Notes

Notes to Text A

1. *Jeffrey Schrank*: an American writer (1949-1994) who wrote widely on communications and popular culture. He was the author of several books, including *Snap, Crackle, and Popular Taste*; *The Illusion of Free Choice in America* (1977) from which Text A is taken.
2. *the weekend athletes*: people who take physical exercise only on weekends
3. *the robber baron stage of capitalism*: “Robber baron” originally refers to a nobleman of feudal times who robbed people traveling through his domain. “The robber baron stage of capitalism” refers to an early stage of capitalist development during which a number of capitalists acquired vast wealth by exploitation and ruthlessness.
4. *a 1974 Harris survey*: “The Harris survey” or “the Harris poll” is a famous series of surveys measuring public opinions in the U. S. The Harris survey published survey data on a wide variety of subjects including politics, the economy, health care, foreign affairs, science and technology, sports and entertainment, and lifestyles. Results of the Harris survey are frequently quoted in the media, receiving thousands of mentions annually.
5. *the Iroquois trail*: “Iroquois” (易洛魁族人) was a member of a former confederacy of six American Indian peoples (including Mohawk, Oneida, Seneca, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Tuscarora) who lived mainly in southern Ontario (安大略) and Quebec (魁北克) and northern New York state. “The Iroquois trail”, also known as the Mohawk trail, extended from Albany (the state capital of New York) west to the eastern end of Lake Erie (伊利湖), where Buffalo (布法罗) is now located.
6. *the Sioux trail*: “Sioux” (苏人) is another term for the Dakota (达科他) people of North America. “The Sioux trail”, also known as “the Bad Pass trail”, is a foot trail marked by a line of stone cairns (锥形石堆) that may date from many thousands of years ago. For the native Americans who lived in the Bighorn Basin (in Wyoming) it was their access to the Grapevine area where the bison (野牛) herds were more plentiful.

New words

ritualistic / ˈritʃʊəlɪstɪk / *adj.* 仪式的

enactment / ɪˈnæktmənt / *n.* performance 展现; 制定(法律)

understandable / ˌʌndə'stændəbl / *adj.* comprehensible 可以理解的

territory / 'teritəri / *n.* 领土,版图

surveyor / sə'veiə / *n.* 测量员,检查员

comparatively / kəm'pærətivli / *adv.* 相比较而言,相对地

well-executed / weleksikju:tɪd / *adj.* 很好实行的

installment / in'stɔ:lmənt / *n.* 分期付款

downfield / 'daʊnfild / *adv.* (橄榄)在前场,向前场

game plan / 'geɪm'plæn / *n.* strategy 策略,战略

execution / ˌeksɪ'kju:ʃən / *n.* carrying out 实行,完成,执行

blitz / blɪts / *n.* a sudden heavy attack 突袭;闪电战

platoon / plə'tu:n / *n.* 一群人,一组人;(军)排

squad / skwəd / *n.* (体育)队;(军)班

helmet / 'helmit / *n.* 头盔,钢盔

blast / blɑ:st / *vt.* 猛击球至远方;炸

war paint / wɔ:pəɪnt / *n.* paint put on bodies before going to war

作战前涂于脸上或身上的颜料

verbal / 'və:bl / *adj.* connected with words and their use 语言的,词语的

originally / ərɪdʒɪnəli / *adv.* in the beginning 最初,原先

confine / 'kɒnfain / *n.* (pl.)limits or borders 界限,边界

superhuman / ˌsjʊ:pə'hju:mən / *adj.* beyond human powers 超人的

mythical / 'miθɪkl / *adj.* 神话式的,神话的

feat / fi:t / *n.* a notable act or deed 技艺;壮举

admiration / ædmə'reɪʃən / *n.* a feeling of wonder and respect 钦佩,羡慕

imitation / ɪmɪ'teɪʃən / *n.* 模仿,效法

armored / 'ɑ:məd / *adj.* 穿戴盔甲的,装甲的

dash / dæʃ / *n.* a sudden quick run; sprint 短跑,猛冲

demise / dɪmaɪz / *n.* a loss of position or status; death 地位的丧失;死亡,终止

relocation / ˌri:ləu'keɪʃən / *n.* 重新安置,再分配

quarterly / 'kwɔ:təli / *n.* 季刊

baron / 'bærən / *n.* 男爵

robber baron / 'rɒbə'bærən / 强盗资本家

determinant / dɪ'tɜ:mɪnənt / *n.* a determining factor 决定因素

rugby / 'rʌɡbi / *n.* 英式橄榄球

stadium / 'steɪdiəm / *n.* 露天大型运动场

subservient / səbsə'vɪənt / *adj.* less important; subordinate 从属的;屈从的

finesse / fines / *n.* delicate skill 灵活,灵巧,技巧

gladiatorial / glædiə'tɔ:riəl / *adj.* 斗剑的,格斗的

leisurely / 'leɪzəli / *adj.* moving or acting without haste 从容不迫的;悠闲的

- telecast / 'telikɑ:st / *n.* a broadcast on TV 电视广播
- frenzied / 'frenzid / *adj.* mad; frantic 疯狂的, 狂乱的
- identification / aidentifi'keiʃən / *n.* 认同, 视为一致
- vicarious / 'vikeəriəs / *adj.* indirect 产生共鸣
- pastoral / 'pɑ:stərəl / *adj.* of simple peaceful country life 田园的; 牧(羊)人的
- ritualized / 'ritʃuəlaizd / *adj.* (pp) 仪式化的
- nostalgia / nɒ'stældʒiə / *n.* 怀旧, 留恋过去
- revitalization / ri:vaitəlaizeiʃən / *n.* 新生, 复兴
- statistically / stə'tistikəli / *adv.* 统计上地, 统计地
- dethrone / di'θrəʊn / *vt.* to remove from power 废黜, 罢免
- cross section / 'krɒssekʃən / *n.* a group that is typical or representative of the whole
具有代表性的实例, 典型
- craftiness / 'krɑ:ftinis / *n.* 灵巧多变; 狡猾
- mechanistic / 'mekənistik / *adj.* 机械的, 机械论的
- versus / 'vɜ:səs / *prep.* against 对(指诉讼、比赛等中), 与……相对
- reenactment / ri:'næktmənt / *n.* 再次展现
- dedicated / 'dedikeitid / *adj.* (pp) committed; devoted 热诚的, 一心一意的
- stigma / 'stigmə / *n.* a sign of shame 耻辱, 污名
- golfer / 'gɒlfə / *n.* a golf player 打高尔夫球的人
- inequity / in'ekwiti / *n.* 不平等, 不公平
- heel / hi:l / *vt.* to follow closely 紧随, 紧跟
- oasis / 'əʊeisis / *n.* (沙漠中)绿洲
- lush / lʌʃ / *adj.* (of plants, esp. grass) growing very well 繁茂的, 葱翠的
- unmanageably / ʌn'mænidʒəbli / *adv.* 难处理地, 难控制地
- origination / ə'ridʒəneiʃən / *n.* beginning 开始, 起点; 发源
- victim / 'viktɪm / *n.* 受害人, 牺牲品
- terrain / 'tereɪn / *n.* 地形, 地势
- course / kɔ:s / *n.* golf course 高尔夫球场; 球场
- trail / treil / *n.* 小径, 小道

Proper names

- John Finlay / 'dʒɒnfinlei / 约翰·芬莱
- Manitoba / 'mæni'təʊbə / 马尼托巴省(加拿大一省名)
- Harris / 'hæris / 哈里斯
- Iroquois / 'irəkwɔiz / 易洛魁族人(北美印第安人)
- Sioux / su:/ 苏人(美国南部和加拿大北部的印第安人, 即达科他人)

Phrases and expressions

- to act out 将……表演出来; 将……付诸行动
 to buy sth. on an installment plan 用分期付款方式购买
 to cover up (political scandals) 掩盖(政治丑闻)
 to blast through 炸开
 to be within the confines of …… 在……界限或范围内
 to be in awe of... 对……十分崇敬; 对……望而生畏
 to take to 喜欢; 沉溺于
 to serve as / for 起……作用; 担任
 to be subservient to 屈从
 to have room for 有……的机会或时机
 to play catch 做传球接球的游戏
 a cross section of (fans) 一群具有代表性的(球迷)
 to sit through 一直捱到结束, 耐着性子看完(或听完)
 in search of 寻找
 to fall a victim to 成为……的牺牲品

Exercises**Understanding the Text****1. Choose the best answer for each of the following sentences.**

- (1) Which of the following is NOT true of American football?
 - A. It is less popular than baseball in Japan.
 - B. Much individual initiative is allowed in this game.
 - C. Americans are fascinated with the team violence of the game.
- (2) Which of the following is true of baseball?
 - A. It will never regain its position as a national pastime.
 - B. It requires less finesse than aggression.
 - C. It is a pastoral game, a game of a quieter age.
- (3) The differences between American football and baseball lie in the following except that
 - A. football is carefully concerned with time while baseball is more leisurely.
 - B. football is played to act out a certain myth but baseball is played for fun.
 - C. football is played in stadiums while baseball is played in ball parks.

- (4) American football is rapidly replacing baseball as a national pastime because
 - A. at present the myth of football suits the nation better.
 - B. many football players are superhuman, mythical heroes.
 - C. football is a more precise game than baseball.
- (5) Golf reenacts the myth of
 - A. the pioneer spirit.
 - B. military conquest.
 - C. the upper-class life.

2. Choose the answer that best explains the italicized part in each sentence.

- (1) The *demise* of baseball as our national pastime reflects a change in national character.
 - A. death
 - B. disappearance
 - C. removal from a prominent position
- (2) It is not a question of Japanese physique serving as a determinant since rugby has *a large Asian following*.
 - A. a great number of Asian followers
 - B. a large group of Asian spectators
 - C. many Asians who follow the Americans
- (3) Baseball has room for unique and colorful characters, while football stresses the more *anonymous* but effective team members.
 - A. nameless
 - B. unknown
 - C. characterless
- (4) Baseball is a game in which any team can win at any given contest and there are no favorites; only football has real "*upsets*."
 - A. emotional distress
 - B. contests in which the favorite is defeated
 - C. acts of overturning
- (5) Golfers start the eighteen-hole journey, can rest at halfway point and then resume until they return to near the point of *origination*.
 - A. origin
 - B. departure
 - C. creation



Oral Practice

1. *Oral interpretation*

Read aloud the following passage and then interpret it into Chinese.

Sports

Many people enjoy taking part in sport as a contrast to their daily work, especially if they sit in an office or work in a factory all day. Some people are just passive sport fans—they prefer to watch rather than to take part themselves. Whether they are active or passive, most people are interested in a sport of some sort. We also often hear about the national sports of a country. In England the most popular sports are football and rugby in winter, and in summer cricket and tennis. The Olympic Games is the biggest and most well-known event in the sporting calendar—attracting the largest number of sportsmen and the greatest variety of sports.

2. *Pair work*

Talk with your partner about different sports. You may start like this:

- (1) Sports can be divided in two main groups—team sports where a group of people are working together and individual sports where each person is playing or taking part himself. Some people think team games—such as football—can teach children to get on with each other and to co-operate. What do you have to say about this? Would you prefer team games or individual games?
- (2) Cricket is a very English game. It is an outdoor game played between two teams. Players try to score points, called runs, by hitting a ball with a wooden bat. The other day I watched on TV...
 - Hockey is a very fast game...
 - Tennis/ Table tennis/ Basketball/ Golf/ Bridge/ Boxing/ Boat racing is...

3. *Group discussion*

- (1) Name two or three indoor and outdoor popular games and recreational activities that people in your hometown go in for in different seasons.
- (2) Do you know any games that are usually popular with boys / girls?
Can you name one or more of the oldest forms of sports?
- (3) We sometimes hear that sports or sportsmen have been influenced by political factors. Can you think of any example that a sporting event has been ruined by some outside influence that was beyond the control of sportsmen themselves?