

COLLEGE ENGLISH
READING

精编英语阅读

《精编英语阅读》编写组

上



兰州大学出版社

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上 册

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前 言

《精编英语阅读》是根据《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)编写的一套阅读教材,可作为高等专科学校英语专业的泛读教材,也可用作较低起点的全日制本科一、二年级大学英语教材,同时也可供具有同等英语水平,期望进一步提高英语阅读能力的学习者使用。本套教材从编写设想、资料收集到汇编成稿,历时两年。在选材方面,力求做到语言规范,题材多样,内容新颖,且兼顾知识性、趣味性和科学性,以利于激发读者学习英语的积极性和兴趣。在编排上由浅入深、循序渐进,以便读者在学习中逐步增加词汇量,扩大知识面,养成良好的阅读习惯,增强阅读兴趣,为不断提高英语阅读水平,打下良好的基础。本套教材分为上、中、下三册,分别由刘玮、马彩琴、田文燕主编并统稿;张天虹、郭磊、常钢为参编,其具体编写分工如下:

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作为校级教改项目,本套教材的编写得到了兰州工专校长何开源、副校长郭维俊,教务处长王华栋、副处长朱玉红、刘新辉等领导的关心和支持,我们全体主、参编人员对各位领导的帮助指导表示衷心感谢!同时,感谢甘肃天河彩印有限责任公司吴冬梅经理对本教材的精心策划和鼎力协助。

本套教材在编写过程中,参阅了大量国内外资料,限于篇幅,恕不一一注明,谨对原作者表示感谢。

由于时间仓促,加之水平有限,书中错误疏漏在所难免,恳请读者及同行不吝赐教。

编 者
2005年6月

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UNIT 1

Passage A

Public Holidays in the UK

In England, Christmas Day and Good Friday¹ have been holidays (literally “Holy Days”) for religious reasons since the establishment of Christianity in this country. Christmas is celebrated on December 25, not on Christmas Eve as in several other European countries. The other public holidays or “Bank Holidays”² are Easter Monday³, May Day (May 1st)⁴, the Spring Bank Holiday (the last Monday in May), the Summer Bank Holiday (the last Monday in August), Boxing Day(December 26th)⁵, and New Year’s Day. The term “Bank Holiday” goes back to the Bank Holiday Act of 1871, which owes its name to the fact that banks are closed on the days specified.

Boxing Day takes its name from the old custom of giving employees or tradesmen (such as the milkman) a present or “Christmas box” on that day every year. It has nothing to do with the sport of boxing. If Christmas Day or Boxing Day falls at the weekend, the weekday which follows December 25th and 26th becomes a Bank Holiday.

Easter Monday is usually regarded as an unofficial consecration of spring. In many towns there are funfairs with roundabouts, switchbacks and other amusements. The fair on Hampstead Heath, in the north of London, is particularly famous. Easter Monday used to be the day, on which the ladies would parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats. Although this custom is dying out, the tradition still provides the ladies with an excuse for buying spring clothes.

The August Bank Holiday is probably the most popular one of the year, partly because it comes at a time when children are not at school. Very many people try to make this a long weekend, and go away to the seaside or the country (as they may indeed have done at Easter or in Spring). The result is that anyone who can manage to take a holiday at another time would be well advised to do so, for the roads get crowded with traffic.

In recent years, there has been a good deal of talk of creating another Bank Holiday mid-

way between August and Christmas, but nothing has yet been done. October would be a good month, as the weather is often very pleasant then. Many people would welcome an extra Bank Holiday or two as England has fewer than most Continental countries.

In Ireland, St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)⁶ is also a Bank Holiday. St. Patrick is the Patron Saint of Ireland. It is strange that St. George's Day (April 23rd) is not a public holiday in England, for Saint George is the Patron Saint of England, and in addition, that day is the anniversary of the birth of the most famous Englishman, William Shakespeare. However, the flag of St. George (a red cross on a white background) or the Union Jack⁷ is flown on that day, particularly by churches of the Church of England.⁸

The public holidays in Scotland are New Year's Day and the second day of January (the third, if the first or the second day of January is a Sunday), Good Friday, May Day and usually the first Monday in August. There are local differences. New Year's Eve is called Hogmanay⁹ in Scotland and is an occasion for much joyous and noisy celebration. In London, Scottish people come together on the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral¹⁰ and sing "Auld Lang Syne"¹¹ at midnight. There are also large crowds in Piccadilly Circus¹² and Trafalgar Square¹³, and New Year's Eve is a great occasion for parties and happiness.

Notes:

1. Good Friday (基督教)耶酥受难日(复活节前的星期五)。
2. Bank Holidays 银行假日,英国法定假日之一。
3. Easter Monday 复活节后的星期一。
4. May Day (英国风俗)五朔节,用以祭祀树神,谷物神,庆祝农业收获及春天的来临。
5. Boxing Day 节礼日,英格兰及威尔士的法定假日。在圣诞节次日,如遇星期日,顺延一天;按英国俗例,这天向邮递员等赠送“节礼”,故称“节礼日”。
6. St. Patrick's Day 圣帕特里克节,据说圣帕特里克是一位基督教传教者,使爱尔兰人皈依了基督教。圣帕特里克卒于 493 年 3 月 17 日,爱尔兰人为纪念他,便把这一天定为圣帕特里克节。
7. Union Jack (also Union Flag) [术语] 英国国旗。
8. the Church of England (also English Church, Anglican Church) 英国国教,圣公会。
9. Hogmanay (苏格兰)大年夜,除夕。
10. St. Paul's Cathedral 圣保罗大教堂,伦敦最大的教堂,是仅次于梵蒂冈彼得大教堂和佛罗伦萨圣母院的全球第三教堂。
11. Auld Lang Syne(苏格兰语)昔日,美好的往日,常译作“友谊地久天长”。
12. Piccadilly Circus 皮卡迪利广场,位于伦敦西部。
13. Trafalgar Square 特拉法加广场,位于英国伦敦。

Exercises

I . Decide whether the following statements are True or False according to the passage.

1. Christmas Day and Good Friday are holidays in England.
2. Christmas is celebrated on Christmas Eve in several European nations.
3. "Bank Holidays" are so called because they are holidays only for banks.
4. Boxing Day takes its name from the sport of boxing.
5. Today the ladies still parade in the parks, wearing new dresses and hats on Easter Monday.
6. Many people may not take the August Bank Holiday if they can manage to do it at another time.
7. In recent years, people want another Bank Holiday mid-way between August and Christmas, but it is not decided.
8. St. George's Day is a public holiday in England, for St. George is the Patron Saint of England.
9. People throughout the UK have the same number of days as holidays in a year.
10. New Year's Eve is a great occasion of parties and happiness for many people.

II . Choose the definition from Column B that best matches the word in Column A.

A	B
1. religious	a. tradition
2. funfair	b. the date on which an event took place in a previous year
3. parade	c. a time when something happens
4. specify	d. New Year's Eve in Scotland
5. act	e. of religion
6. anniversary	f. liked by many people
7. Hogmanay	g. amusement park
8. popular	h. state exactly
9. custom	i. a law made by a parliament or similar body
10. occasion	j. walk about

III . Complete the following sentences with the appropriate expressions given below. Change the form where necessary.

go back manage to have nothing to do regard as used to
die out provide with in addition owe...to such as

1. It _____ be a very prosperous town.
2. During the interview he learned about the working conditions. _____, he heard of promotion prospect.

3. They _____ us _____ much valuable information.
4. Boxing Day _____ the sport of boxing.
5. Rose _____ accomplish her work in time.
6. We've planted lots of different flowers, _____ roses, carnations, and tulips.
7. He _____ his present position _____ having worked very hard.
8. What a wonderful film! I _____ it _____ the best one I've ever seen.
9. The friendly contacts between our two peoples _____ to the 3rd century.
10. Many species _____.

Passage B

The Spirit of Giving

In Hollywood, we celebrate Christmas by sending elaborate gifts to people who don't need them. Every agent, studio executive, network president and entertainment lawyer sends every writer, actor, agent, studio executive and network president they're in business with (or want to be) some kind of gift. Food is popular, as are small electronics.

We also mark the season by firing all our low-level employees, forcing them off the payroll and onto state-sponsored unemployment benefits for the two-week holiday spanning Christmas and New Year's. Then we rehire them the first Monday in January. A hugely profitable television production company did just that last week, claiming that it needs to "make economies to compensate for our increased level of executive gift-giving." In other words: we're doing so much business that we can barely afford to send everyone presents. See you in January.

In what I now realize were the Fat Year, my television writers' office was a Christmas Wonderland. Baskets and baskets of fruit and whisky and horrible-tasting Italian cookies jostled for space among the flowers and useless crystal items. The office reception area was thronged with messengers and deliverymen bearing gifts. One year, a television network sent out large red footlockers filled with candles and doodads and, oddly, a terrycloth bathrobe. The thought of emerging from the shower, naked and dewy moist, and wrapping myself in something that came from the president of a television network was just too creepy. I gave it to my assistant.

In fact, most gifts end up with the assistants. After all, in Hollywood it's the thought that counts. We don't care if the baked goods are stale, if the wine is obscure, if the bathrobe is creepy, or if the last thing we want is a weird crystal toe-shaped thing with the AOL Time Warner logo on it. We just want it, wrapped and delivered. We just want to know that we're

loved, even if only by a corporation's computer-generated, people—we're—doing—business—with—this—year list. And then we want to give it to our assistant, whatever it is.

A lot of entertainment—industry types treat their assistants in a way that Ebenezer Scrooge's clerk, Bob Cratchit, would envy. Not us. In our office, we have always given out Christmas bonuses to our employees. Cash bonuses, by the way, and fairly generous ones, we thought. In years when we have a television series in production, the bonus pool gets quite large—split among six or seven office assistants. In the years that we're developing a new series, the support staff is quite small: just one, our colorful but surly assistant.

Earlier this month he made it subtly clear that his annual bonus was too small. "My annual bonus is too small, you know," he would say in his thinly veiled, insinuating way. "If it's going to be that small again this year, please just don't bother with it at all. It's too humiliating to take it to the bank." Though cranky and reflexively disrespectful, he is in fact an excellent assistant: his typing skills are impeccable, his shorthand is efficient and complete, and when we're in production he runs a flawless team of subassistants. In short, a valuable employee.

And at Christmastime, when our offices overflow with ridiculously extravagant food baskets and creepily personal gift items (examples: this year, from a postproduction facility in the far Valley, massage oil; from the guy who comes to fix the fax machine, a lavender eye mask), it seems churlish not to spread the largesse around a bit. So we decided to give our assistant what is known in Hollywood as a "bump". As in: "We're bumping up your bonus."

On bonus day, I marched up to our assistant's desk.

"Merry Christmas," I said.

He looked at me critically. "Is that an anti-Semitic comment?" he asked.

I gave up trying to be cheery and simply handed him the bonus envelope. He instantly put it aside and continued typing a script.

"Aren't you going to open it?" I asked.

"After I finish this," he said airily. "I don't want to lose my motivation to do a good job."

"Open it," I said in a low, irritated voice.

"After I finish typing..."

"Open it!" I barked.

He opened the envelope. The Christmas bonus check—now adjusted north in a major way—tumbled out.

He looked at the check. Barely a flicker crossed his face. "What happened?" he asked. "Did you get visited by three ghosts last night?"

"It's in recognition of all that you do," I said, with distinct irony.

"Well," he grumbled. "Thanks, I guess."

"You're welcome," I snapped.

"Merry Christmas," he sneered.

"Happy holidays," I corrected him.

The Christmas spirit, when it comes in Hollywood, always has a dollar sign.

(By RobLong)

Exercises

Choose the best answer for each of the following according to the passage.

1. The phrase Fat Years(Line 1, Para.3)refers to the years in which _____.
 - A. they produced large numbers of films
 - B. they wrote more television plays
 - C. they received a great deal of Christmas gifts
 - D. they made large profit
2. In Hollywood, the low-level employees are fired at Christmas time because _____.
 - A. there is no work for them to do at that period
 - B. they want to get the unemployment benefits sponsored by the state
 - C. they want to spend their holidays abroad
 - D. a big sum on gift - giving can be saved
3. The word“bump”(Line 5, Para.7)probably means _____.
 - A. push
 - B. a rise in bonus
 - C. check
 - D. blow
4. The author's tone of this passage is _____.
 - A. sympathetic
 - B. sarcastic
 - C. critical
 - D. objective
5. We can infer from the passage that _____.
 - A. the assistant had expected more bonus
 - B. the assistant was fired on receiving the bonus envelope
 - C. the assistant was very satisfied with the bonus
 - D. the assistant did not open the envelope immediately at first because he was so busy with his work

Passage C

The Mother of Mother's Day

When Anna May Jarvis's mother died on the second Sunday of May, 1906, Anna May and America were changed forever.

Like most of us, Anna had ignored the warning “Lavish your flowers on the living, not the dead.” Now, driven by remorse, the gentle, easygoing Anna May had one obsession—to see her mother and motherhood honored throughout the world.

After a year's planning, the first Mother's Day was celebrated on the second anniversary of her mother's death, May 10, 1908, at St. Andrew's Methodist Church in Grafton, West

Virginia, where Anna's mother had taught Sunday School.

Anna was still not content and a year later, Philadelphia became the first city to proclaim an official Mother's Day. Three years after that, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed Public Resolution 25, establishing forever the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Ironically, Anna May Jarvis then retired from her insurance company job to spend the remaining 34 years of her life, as well as her fortune of over 100,000 dollars, campaigning against Mother's Day!

From one day, Mother's Day had become a great commercial extravaganza to boost the incomes of card and candy makers, and a salve to soothe the consciences of those who each May made their mothers "queens for the day" while neglecting them the other 364 days.

Anna May complained, "Mother's Day has nothing to do with candy. Candy is junk."

"A maudlin, insincere printed card or a ready-made telegram means nothing except that you're too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone else in the world. You ought to go home and see your mother on Mother's Day. You ought to take her out and paint the town red. . . ."

"You ought to give her something useful, something permanent. . . . Is she sleeping warm at night? Could she use an eiderdown? Maybe the stairs in her home need fixing. . . ."

For 30 years Anna May championed the integrity of mother's Day, until old, tired, deaf, blind and penniless, she was placed in a West Chester, Pennsylvania, sanitarium, where she died—unmarried, and never a mother!

Fifty years later, mothers may be more neglected than ever. Sadly, over one-half of retired American mothers live in penury. They do indeed deserve something more permanent than cards and candy one day a year and anonymity the other 364.

Only now, as a father, am I slowly beginning to appreciate motherhood. As I watch my wife, in both sickness and health, unselfishly spend herself on her two sons (and her husband as well!), I am moved by the glorious gift of motherhood. Each day I love more deeply the young mother I married—and by my own mother who now lives in retirement so far away in the hills of Tennessee.

My wife too increasingly appreciates her own mother's struggles in raising two sons and a daughter in Taiwan while her husband taught College English to Chinese students for over 30 years. Amazingly, even to this day, when both of our mothers should be enjoying their well-deserved retirement, they spend much more time caring for their children and grandchildren than we do for them!

The hardest thing about living in China may be the difficulty of fully expressing appreciation and concern for parents 12,000 miles away. Like most "modern" Western youths, we send the obligatory Mother's Day card, and we write faithfully, but is this enough?

The past two years we have paid the expenses for Sue's parents to visit us in Xiamen. Though we live in China, half way around the world from our mothers, this is at least one way we can work to "Give our flowers to the living, not the dead."

Today, as Mother's Day catches on in China, let us labor to make every day special for all

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mothers, both in China and abroad. Let us make Mother's Day not just a card - and - candy substitute for well - deserved love but rather the crown and pinnacle of a full year's expression of love and appreciation for those who gave us life: mothers.

(By William Brown)

Exercises

Choose the best answer for each of the following according to the passage.

1. The purpose of writing the article is to _____.
 - A. introduce Mother's Day in America to the Chinese people
 - B. remind us of more care, appreciation and love for our mothers
 - C. tell us the history of the Mother's Day in America
 - D. to see mothers and motherhood honored throughout the world
2. The sentence "Lavish your flowers on the living, not the dead." in the text means that _____.
 - A. one should care and love his/her mother more when she is living
 - B. we should plant more flowers in honor of the living people, not the dead
 - C. we give too many flowers to the living, too few to the dead
 - D. death is a natural process, so we should respect the living more
3. Anna May Jarvis spend many years of her life and her fortune _____.
 - A. starting Mother's Day to honor mothers and motherhood throughout the world
 - B. persuading President Woodrow Wilson to establish forever the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day
 - C. campaigning against Mother's Day because of its commercialization
 - D. doing something useful, something permanent to honor mothers throughout the world
4. After reading the text we can say that _____.
 - A. now the Americans increasingly appreciate what mothers have done and are doing for them
 - B. we cannot appreciate what mothers have done and suffered for us until we have our children
 - C. retired mothers in American are enjoying more and more of their retirement
 - D. there is more commercialism, less integrity and sincere care for mothers in Mother's Day
5. In the past two years the writer's mother has been _____.
 - A. living in retirement in south China
 - B. enjoying an easy and carefree retirement
 - C. living in retirement in America
 - D. trying to make Mother's Day a special day for all mothers

UNIT 2

Passage A

Culture Shock¹

Culture shock might be called an occupational disease of people who have been suddenly transplanted abroad. Like most diseases, it has its own symptoms and cure.

Culture shock is caused by the anxiety that results from losing all our familiar signs and symbols of social intercourse. These signs, which may be works, gestures, facial expressions, customs, or norms, are acquired by all of us in the course of growing up and are as much a part of our culture as the language we speak or the beliefs we accept. And we are not consciously aware of most of them.

Now when an individual enters a strange culture, all or most of these familiar signs are removed. He or she is like a fish out of water². No matter how broad-minded or full of goodwill you may be, a feeling of frustration and anxiety has been knocked from under you. People react to the frustration in much the same way. First they reject the environment which causes the discomfort. "The ways of the host country are bad because they make us feel bad." When foreigners in a strange land get together to complain about the host country and its people, you can be sure they are suffering from culture shock. Another phase of culture shock is regression. The home environment suddenly assumes a tremendous importance. All the difficulties and problems are forgotten and only the good things back home are remembered.

Some of the symptoms of culture shock are excessive washing of the hands, excessive concern over drinking water, food dishes, and bedding, fear of physical contact with attendants, a feeling of helplessness, great concern over minor pains, and finally, that terrible longing to be back home.

Individuals differ greatly in the degree in which culture shock affects them. Although not common, there are individuals who cannot live in foreign countries. However, those who have seen people go through culture shock and on to a satisfactory adjustment can figure out steps in the process. During the first few weeks most individuals are fascinated by the new. They stay in hotels and associate with nationals who speak their language and are polite and gracious to foreigners. This honeymoon stage may last for a few days and is very important. He or she will be shown the show places, and in a press interview will speak glowingly about goodwill and in-

ternational friendship.

But this will not normally last if the foreign visitor remains abroad and has seriously to cope with real conditions of life. It is then that the second stage begins, characterized by a hostile and aggressive attitude toward the host country. This hostility evidently grows out of the genuine difficulty which the visitor experiences in the process of adjustment. There are house troubles, transportation troubles, shopping troubles, and the fact that people in the host country are largely indifferent to all these troubles. They help, but they don't understand your great concern over these difficulties. Therefore, they must be insensitive and unsympathetic to you and your worries. The result, "I just don't like them." Instead of trying to account for the conditions and the historical circumstances which have created them, you talk as if the difficulties you experience are more or less created by the people of the host country for your special discomfort.

The second stage of culture shock is in a sense a crisis in the disease. If you come out of it, you stay; if not, you leave before you reach the stage of nervous breakdown.

If visitors succeed in getting some knowledge of the language and begin to get around by themselves, they are beginning to open the way into the new cultural environment. Visitors still have difficulties but they take a "this is my problem and I have to bear it" attitude. Their sense of humor begins to exert itself. Instead of criticizing, they joke about the people and even joke about their own difficulties. They are now on the way to recovery.

In the fourth stage, your adjustment is about as complete as it can be. The visitor now accepts the customs of the country as just without a feeling of anxiety, although there are moments of social strain. Only with a complete grasp of all the cues of social intercourse will this strain disappear. With a complete adjustment you not only accept the food, drinks, habits, and customs, but actually begin to enjoy them. When you go home on leave, you may even take things back with you; and if you leave for good, you generally miss the country and people to whom you became accustomed.

Notes :

1. Culture Shock 文化冲击, 文化不适应症。
2. (to feel like) a fish out of water [成语](感到)如鱼离水, 生疏(或不自在, 不适应)。

Exercises

I. Choose the best answer for each of the following according to the passage.

1. What can we infer from the first two paragraphs?
 - A. Culture shock has its own symptoms and cure, for it occurred overseas.
 - B. People will feel anxious once they are not consciously aware of the signs and symbols of social intercourse.
 - C. We sometimes acquired the signs and symbols of social intercourse unconsciously.
 - D. The language we speak is one of our familiar signs and symbols of social inter-