

Extensive Reading



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泛读教程 ≈ 1



西安交通大学出版社
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

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江苏工业学院图书馆
泛读教程 书章 1



西安交通大学出版社
XI'AN JIAOTONG UNIVERSITY PRESS

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

泛读教程(1) / 王炳炎主编. — 西安: 西安交通大学出版社, 2007.5

(新空间大学英语系列教材)

ISBN 978-7-5605-2457-3

I. 泛… II. 李… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2007) 第 056544 号

书 名 泛读教程(1)
主 编 王炳炎
出版发行 西安交通大学出版社
地 址 西安市兴庆南路 10 号 (邮编: 710049)
电 话 (029) 82668315 82669096(总编办)
(029) 82668357 82667874(发行部)
印 刷 陕西江源印刷科技有限公司
字 数 217 千字
开 本 787mm×1092mm 1/16
印 张 8.875
版 次 2007 年 5 月第 1 版 2007 年 5 月第 1 次印刷
书 号 ISBN 978-7-5605-2457-3/H·669
定 价 12.00 元

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总序

在中国,英语的教与学,无论是教师或是学生,不可谓不重视,各方面的投入也很多,然而其效果之差,人皆知之。相当多的人在学了几年英语之后便陷入了一种尴尬的局面:单词认识了不少,语法规则背了不少,可是英语却读不懂,说不出,写不成,无法用英语进行真正的交际,因而由厌倦变灰心,继而最终放弃,不但浪费了宝贵的年华,而且当需要使用英语时又常常会后悔不已。

面对这种情况,作为英语教育工作者,我们一直在探求提高英语教学效果的有效途径,比如如何针对中国学生英语学习的特点和规律,创新教材体系,激发学生和教师的积极性和主动性,营造良好的语言实践环境,促进学生语言综合运用能力的提高。“新空间大学英语”系列教材就是为此所作的一次尝试。

“新空间大学英语”系列教材编写依据是教育部《全国大学英语教学基本要求(课程标准)》,同时参考教育部《高职高专教育英语课程教学基本要求》,并根据发展的需要有一定的前瞻性。

“新空间大学英语”系列教材的对象为大学本科、专科院校非英语专业对英语综合应用能力要求较高的专业及高职高专英语专业等相关专业。

“新空间大学英语”系列教材从中国学生的实际出发,注重培养学生的扎实语言技能,全面提高学生的英语综合运用能力。将英语阅读和交际性相结合,正确处理听、说、读、写、译的关系,听说与读写并重,强调英语教学应从实际出发,博采众长,讲究实效。

“新空间大学英语”系列教材的编写吸收了当代语言学和教学理论研究的最新成果,它是一套开放性的、立体式的现代化教材。其《综合教程》在词汇量等方面略有超越,选取有一定难度的文章来激发学生的学习热情,增加学生的语感,为启发学生深入思考提供充裕的素材,帮助学生提高阅读能力、分析和解决问题的能力。《泛读教程》选材难度控制严格,有助于提高学生的阅读速度,扩大学生的知识面,增强其对英语国家文化的了解。《听说教程》以系统的训练方法帮助学生打牢听说基础,激发学生的学习兴趣,提高学生的整体语言水平。“新空间大学英语”系列教材在教学理念方面走的是综合创新之路,使教师在教学上有更大的弹性,有助于发挥教师的潜力,培养教师的创造力,为教师施展才能提供了广阔的空间,创造出各种新颖的教学法。

“新空间大学英语”系列教材包括:《综合教程》、《泛读教程》、《听说教程》,并配有相关教师参考书。

《综合教程》全书共分四册,每册使用一学期。《综合教程》既继承传统的英语精读的优点,又强调英语语言知识和技能的综合训

总序

练,全面培养学生的听、说、读、写、译的能力。全套教材以阅读材料为主线,配合课文设计了形式多样,内容生动的练习和活动。学生可以把学习过程中获得的信息和语言知识在活动和练习中运用,达到熟练掌握英语的目的。

《泛读教程》全书共分四册,每册使用一学期。其题材广泛,文字新颖,思想性好。旨在使学生通过大量阅读来扩充词汇,提高阅读技能,培养学生获取信息的能力,提高人文素质。

《听说教程》全书共分四册,每一册使用一学期。通过听说能力的综合训练,着重提高学生的听力和口头表达能力,以适应用英语进行交际的需要。

与“新空间大学英语”系列教材配套的教材还有:

《全新英语语法》编写角度新颖,语法体系完整,面向教学需求,重在语言运用,其目的是帮助学习者系统学习语法,打好语法基础,提高语言运用能力。

《全新英语写作》(国家级“十一五”规划教材)力求理论从简,首次提出实践类写作和翻译类写作的观点;强调写作实践和表达能力的培养,使学生在例文分析和仿写的过程中学会根据不同的目的而采用恰当的语篇体裁和写作技巧,从而达到准确地表达思想,流畅地进行交际。

《全新英语语音》从中国人学习英语语音的难点和特点入手,将语音学习与英语听力、口语和语法、词汇结合起来。本书教学设计新颖,练习多样,生动活泼,实用高效,有助于学生积极参与课堂活动和教师组织教学,使学生学会用地道的语音语调进行自然流畅的交际。

本系列教材是解放军外国语学院英语教师和其他大专院校的教师通力合作的成果。西安交通大学出版社对教材的编写和出版投入了很大的力量,给予了大力的支持,解放军外国语学院音像出版社总编赵小江同志作了大量的前期工作。对此,我们全体编写人员表示衷心的感谢。

本系列教材的编者怀着为中国英语教学尽力的心情,编写了这套教材。教材的编写是一项开创性工作。由于我们经验不足,水平有限,缺点在所难免。我们诚挚地希望广大师生和读者提出批评和建议,使本教材在今后的修订中得到进一步完善。

丛书总主编

2007年3月

前言

《泛读教程》是“新空间大学英语”系列教材的主干教材之一。全套教材共四册,可供四个学期使用。

本教材具有较强的针对性,无论是选材还是练习的编排都充分考虑到教学要求和学生的特点。所选材料难度适中,短小精干,便于老师课堂操作和学生课上课下阅读;同时强调趣味性,所选文章贴近学生生活,反映学生感兴趣的话题,能够比较充分地调动学生阅读的热情;同时也注意将不同的文体和题材包括其中,使学生对不同类型的文体和话题有所接触,为他们在今后的就业中很快适应实际工作打好基础。

课后练习形式上注重多样性和趣味性。每个单元除了配有检查学生阅读理解的传统练习,还配有形式新颖的词汇巩固和扩展练习、文化知识练习、任务型练习等。词汇巩固和扩展练习将课文中重点词汇提出来操练,并从课文的题材出发,对相关词汇进行联想扩充,比较好地处理了阅读和词汇量积累之间的关系;任务型练习则有助于开发学生的创新思维能力,加深对所学语言知识的记忆,提高课下自主阅读的积极性。在练习中还融入了很多文化知识,有助于在提高学生理解能力的同时,扩大学生的知识面,增强对英语国家文化的了解。

在编写前期工作中我们广泛征求了其他院校第一线教学老师的意见,经过多次讨论,拟定了详细的编写计划。《泛读教程》由解放军外国语学院的王炳炎教授牵头,组织了一大批骨干教师,同时有经验丰富的其他院校老师参与,大家群策群力,付出艰苦努力,遂成此书。

由于编者水平和经验的局限,教材中难免还有不足之处,希望广大读者批评指正。

编者

2007年3月



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Key to Some of the Exercises

1

Tell me a Tale



Text A

The King on the Balcony

Anonymous

Words to Know	
balcony / 'bælkəni / n.	阳台
tremendous / trɪ'mendəs / adj.	极大的, 巨大的
perform / pə'fɔ:m / vt.	履行, 执行
mighty / 'maɪti / adj.	强大的, 有力的
ignorant / 'ɪgnərənt / vi.	无知的
permit / pə'mɪt / vt.	许可, 允许

About twenty centuries ago, there ruled a great king with tremendous powers over his subjects^①.

Their life and death were in his hands.

There was only one duty, however, that he had to perform every year, which he did not like to do.

Once a year he had to speak to his subjects from the balcony of his palace.

And since this was his only duty, he did not like it very much.

In the year of which we speak the day came and the king spoke to his people.

He said to them, "Do you know what I am going to talk about this year?"

With one voice the people answered, "No, mighty king, we do not know what you are going to say to us this year."

The king then replied, "Why should I speak to such ignorant people?" and he left his balcony.

But still it was necessary that he perform his duty of speaking to his people.

So the next day he again spoke to them from his balcony and said, "Do you know what I am going to say to you this year?"

And the people answered, "Yes, oh great king. We do know what you are going to say."

The king then answered them. "If you already know, then why should I tell you?"

There was one wise man who then said to the people, "When the king comes tomorrow to talk to us from his balcony, permit me to answer him."

The people agreed to let him do the answering.

The next day the king again spoke from the balcony of his palace.

"Tell me," he said, "do you know what I am going to talk to you about this year?"

The wise man answered, "Oh powerful king, some of us know but some of us do not know."

"Then," replied the king, "let those who know tell those who do not know."

Answer the following questions.

1. Did the king have to perform a lot of duties every year?
2. What was the duty that the king hated to do?
3. Why did the king refuse to speak to his subjects the first time?
4. What happened the next day?
5. How did the wise man respond to the king's question the third day?
6. How did the king outwit the wise man the third day?

① subject n. 国民, 臣民

Text B

The Pot of Gold

Anonymous

Words to Know

tax / tæks / n.	税
expect / ɪk'spekt / vt.	期待
arrest / ə'rest / vt.	逮捕, 拘留
dig / dɪg / vt.	掘, 挖

Once a farmer was put in prison. Even though this farmer was in prison, he wasn't a bad man. He hadn't done anything wrong. At this time the King's men were collecting money. The king needed money so that he could fight his wars and the people had to pay a lot of taxes. Now this farmer didn't have any money. He told this to the king's men. When they came to his house, he said, "I can't give you any money. I am such a poor man I've hardly got enough to live."

The King's men laughed, "You don't expect us to believe that," they said. "We've heard you're so rich that you've got a pot of gold." They looked in every room in the house, but even though they didn't find anything, they arrested the poor farmer and put him in prison. "You will stay there until we receive the pot of gold," they said.

The poor farmer was very sad. He hadn't done anything wrong. While he was in prison he thought about his farm. His wife couldn't dig the fields by herself. One day he received a letter from his wife. She wrote, "I am so worried about our farm. It's nearly spring. It's time to plant the potatoes. I must dig up the fields." The farmer read this letter sadly. "What can I do?" he thought. Then he smiled. He had had a good idea. He wrote a letter to his wife. "Don't dig the fields," he wrote. "This is where my pot of gold is. Don't plant the potatoes until I tell you to."

The farmer gave this letter to the prison guard. "Please send this letter to my wife," he said. Now, of course, the prison guards read all



the letters which the prisoners wrote and received. They had read the letter from the farmer's wife and now they read the farmer's answer. "Mm," they said. "This sounds very interesting. It looks as though this farmer really is a rich man. He writes that there is a pot of gold in his fields."

"He doesn't say which field," another guard said. "This farmer has got lots of fields."

"It doesn't matter," the first guard answered. "We know there's gold in his fields. He has hidden it there."

Two weeks later, the farmer received another letter from his wife. "Something funny happened," his wife wrote. "Two weeks ago, about ten men came to our farm. They all had spades and they all began to dig our fields. They dug all our fields and now they've gone away. I can't understand it. It looks as though they were looking for something. What shall I do now?"

The farmer smiled when he read his wife's letter. He didn't feel sad now, even though he was in prison. He wrote a letter to his wife at once. It was very short. "These men have dug up our fields," he wrote, "so now you can plant the potatoes."

Decide whether each of the following statements is True or False.

1. The farmer was put into prison because he couldn't pay his debts.
2. The king's men believed the farmer had a pot of gold.
3. Once in prison the farmer was worried about his wife because of her bad health.
4. The farmer didn't expect that the guard would read his letter to his wife.
5. The soldiers dug all the farmer's fields where the gold was buried.
6. In the end, the farmer had his fields dug up and the king got his gold.

Learning Activities

Increase your word power

1. Fill in the correct form of the words listed below.

1. perform, performance, performer
 - A. He is faithful in the _____ of his duties.
 - B. You should always _____ what you promise.
 - C. A _____ in evening dress plays classical selections on the violin.
2. might, mighty
 - A. He said he _____ not be back until tonight.
 - B. There was a flash and a _____ bang.
 - C. The _____ of the army could prove a decisive factor.
3. ignorant, ignorance
 - A. People don't like to ask questions for fear of appearing _____.

- B. _____ of the law is no excuse.
- C. She is very _____ about her own country.
4. permit, permission
- A. You must ask _____ if you want to leave early.
- B. She won't _____ dogs in the house.
- C. Do you _____ your children to smoke?

2. Write your own sentences using each of the idiomatic expressions listed below.

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. in his hands | 2. perform his duty |
| 3. hardly have enough to eat | 4. set free |
| 5. stay for the night | 6. break one's promise |
| 7. out of sight | |

Idioms

The following phrases and idioms are all connected with "king". Read them carefully and see if you can translate them into Chinese.

- ✓ as happy as a king
- ✓ king of beasts \ birds
- ✓ The king can do no wrong.
- ✓ Kings go mad, and the people suffer for it.
- ✓ Kings have long hands \ arms.

Translation

Translate the following sentences into Chinese. Pay special attention to the italic words.

We went to a *tremendous* party.

I felt a *tremendous* pressure on my chest.

I thought they played *tremendously* well, didn't you?

The talks are *expected* to continue until tomorrow.

I wasn't *expecting* a visitor.

I do *expect* to have some time to myself in the evenings.

The police say seven people were *arrested* for minor offences.

The police made three *arrests* yesterday.

When she was *arrested*, the detective found out that the shop-assistant was her daughter.

He is *digging* in his garden.

The old miner was *digging* for gold.

Rescue workers are *digging* through the rubble in search of other victims.



Writing Task

The following is an unfinished story. Use your imagination and make up the whole story with your partner.

Once upon a time, there was the beautiful town of Wonderland. The town of Wonderland was full of rats. The mayor of the town did not know what to do. Then one day a man appeared. "My flute and I will clear the town of rats for a small amount of money," he told the mayor. The mayor was overjoyed, "Oh thank you kind sir, thank you." So the man played his flute and the rats followed him out of town. The man took them far away.

When he went back to receive his money, the mayor said, "That was so easy that I won't pay you any money."...

Supplementary Reading

The Lady or the Tiger?

Anonymous

Many centuries ago, in a far off country, there lived a king who had some rather strange ideas. At least, these ideas seem strange to us today although, in the period of history in which this king lived, they were, perhaps, not so strange.

For one thing, this king had his own particular system of carrying out justice and deciding cases of law. When a person was accused of some crime, he was not taken before a judge or the usual court of law. Instead, he was taken to a large arena^①, such as was popular during the period of Greece and Rome. Here he was made to stand a special trial before the king himself.

These trials were always open to the public and a great number of people naturally attended them. When all was ready and the king and the members of his court had taken their seats, a signal was given. A door near where the king sat was then opened. Through this door the prisoner who was to be tried walked out into the arena.

Directly opposite this first door, there were two other doors on the far side of the arena. These two doors were exactly alike and stood side by side. It was now the duty of the accused person to walk directly toward these two doors and to open one of them. He could open either door he pleased. He was subject to no force or obligation. It was completely a matter of chance. But if he opened the one door, out of it came a hungry tiger, the fiercest animal that could be found anywhere. This tiger immediately jumped upon him and tore him to pieces. In this manner the king considered the accused man to

① arena *n.* 竞技场

have been punished for his crime. If, however, the man was lucky enough to open the other door, then there came out a young lady, the most beautiful of her class that could be found anywhere in the country. This young woman was always chosen carefully to suit the character and position of the man in every way. She was the reward for being proved innocent, and he was immediately married to her publicly in the arena before all the people.

It did not matter whether the man already had a wife and family or that his affections might be directed toward some other woman. It was the king's decision that the prisoner marry the lady who came from the opened door, and, of course, the king's will was the law in all such matters.

Now it so happened that this king had a young daughter who was very beautiful and whom he loved more than anything in the world. Also, within the court, there was a young man who was as handsome as the young woman was beautiful. The two young people fell in love. The young man, however, was not a prince. In fact, he was not even of high station within the court. Yet he was strong and of good character, and the king's daughter loved him deeply. Their love affair went on for some months and both young people were very happy. Then the king happened to hear about it. He did not hesitate for a moment concerning his duty. The young man was put into prison, and a day was set for the usual trial in the king's arena.

Never before had such an important trial taken place and naturally there was great interest in the matter on all sides. The king gave orders to bring from the forests the fiercest tiger that could be found. He himself chose the fairest and most beautiful lady among all those in the court as the reward of the young woman if, by opening the right door, he proved himself to be innocent^①.

The day finally arrived. The arena was full of people who had come from far and wide to see the result. The king and members of the court sat in their usual places. The king's daughter sat alongside her father. From the day that her lover had been put into prison she had thought of nothing else except this final moment. But, having more power than anyone who had ever been interested in such a case, she had used this power to discover the secret of the doors, in which room waited the fierce tiger and in which room waited the beautiful young lady. She also knew who the young lady was. She not only knew this young lady well, but also hated her. Often at court she had seen this same young woman look upon her lover with great affection. Now and then, she had seen the two of them talking together. It was only for a moment but sometimes much can be said in short periods of time. So she felt sure that the two were in love.

Now the king gave the usual sign, and the young man came out into the arena. As was the custom the young man bowed in the direction of the king. But his eyes were not on the king. Instead they were fixed on the king's daughter. For, a few hours earlier, the young man had received a message from the king's daughter in which she said she would signal to

① innocent *adj.* 清白的, 无辜的