

A New Course of 新编大学英语阅读教程 一级 English Reading for College Learners 第二版

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A New Course of English Reading for College Learners 1

新编大学英语阅读教程 一级(第二版)

欧阳俊林 主编

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编写说明

随着大学英语教学和考试系统的改革,大学英语的教与学对目的语的输入提出了更高的要求,体现了素质教育的基本导向。作为一门以扩大知识面和增强语言应用能力为目的的大学英语阅读课,迫切需要一套与之相适应的教材。《新编大学英语阅读教程》就是要体现这样的导向,满足这样的需求。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》广泛收集了现代英语,特别是近十年来英美社会的多式样语言文本。话题覆盖了当今政治、经济、文化、科技、教育、心理、人文、社会等诸多方面,帮助读者了解当今国际各领域的发展动态和问题,并从接触真实语料入手,学习和掌握语言形式、功能和用法,加深语言理解,从而全面提高学生英语语言的阅读水平,增强学生参加新体制下的大学英语四、六级考试的应试能力。

《新编大学英语阅读教程》一共四册,与目前大学英语教学的课程设置平行,每学期一册,循序渐进,由浅入深。通过课堂教学和学生课外阅读,逐步培养学生良好的语言思维和语言学习习惯,以达到最佳的教与学效果。

本书也可以作为英语专业泛读课程的选用教材。

参加本书编写的人员有:王木春、吴颖、郭颖、张瑰君、汪宁、陈丽、陈静琳、沈洁瑕、尹百艳、盛萍。本册主审:王木春、沈洁玉、裴正铨。

限于水平和时间,疏漏难免,恭请广大读者和学界同仁批评指正。

编者于

2008年6月

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Unit 1 Holidays and Festivals

Passage 1 The Lantern Festival and the Mid-Autumn Festival

1 The Lantern Festival falls on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month, usually in February or March in the Gregorian calendar. As early as the Western Han Dynasty (206 BC — AD 25), it had become a festival with great significance.

2 This day's important activity is watching lanterns. Throughout the Han Dynasty (206 BC — AD 220), Buddhism flourished in China. One emperor heard that Buddhist monks would watch sarira, or remains from the cremation of Buddha's body, and light lanterns to worship Buddha on the 15th day of the 1st lunar month, so he ordered to light lanterns in the imperial palace and temples to show respect to Buddha on this day. Later, the Buddhist rite developed into a grand festival among common people and its influence expanded from the Central Plains to the whole of China.

3 Till today, the Lantern Festival is still held each year around the country. Lanterns of various shapes and sizes are hung in the streets, attracting countless visitors. Children will hold self-made or bought lanterns to stroll with on the streets, extremely excited.

4 "Guessing lantern riddles" is an essential part of the Festival. Lantern owners write riddles on a piece of paper and post them on the lanterns. If visitors have solutions to the riddles, they can pull the paper out and go to the lantern owners to check their answer. If they are right, they will get a little gift. The activity emerged during people's enjoyment of lanterns in the Song Dynasty (960 — 1279). As riddle guessing is interesting and full of wisdom, it has become popular among all social strata.

5 People will eat yuanxiao, or rice dumplings, on this day, so it is also called the "Yuanxiao Festival". Yuanxiao also has another name, tangyuan. It is small dumpling balls made of glutinous rice flour with rose petals, sesame, bean paste, jujube paste, walnut meat, dried fruit, sugar and edible oil as filling. Tangyuan can be boiled, fried or steamed. It tastes sweet and delicious. What's more, tangyuan in Chinese has a similar pronunciation with "tuanyuan", meaning reunion. So people eat them to denote union, harmony and happiness for the family.

6 In the daytime of the Festival, performances such as a dragon lantern dance, a lion dance, a land boat dance, a yangge dance, walking on stilts and beating drums

while dancing will be staged. On the night, except for magnificent lanterns, fireworks form a beautiful scene. Most families spare some fireworks from the Spring Festival and let them off in the Lantern Festival. Some local governments will even organize a fireworks party. On the night when the first full moon enters the New Year, people become really intoxicated by the imposing fireworks and bright moon in the sky.

7 The Mid-Autumn Festival falls on the 15th day of the 8th lunar month, usually in October in Gregorian calendar. The festival has a long history. In ancient China, emperors followed the rite of offering sacrifices to the sun in spring and to the moon in autumn. Historical books of the Zhou Dynasty had the word "Mid-Autumn". Later aristocrats and literary figures helped expand the ceremony to common people. They enjoyed the full, bright moon on that day, worshipped it and expressed their thoughts and feelings under it. By the Tang Dynasty (618 — 907), the Mid-Autumn Festival had been fixed, which became even grander in the Song Dynasty (960 — 1279). In the Ming (1368 — 1644) and Qing (1644 — 1911) dynasties, it grew to be a major festival of China.

8 Folklore about the origin of the festival goes like this. In remote antiquity, there were ten suns rising in the sky, which scorched all crops and drove people into dire poverty. A hero named Hou Yi was much worried about this, he ascended to the top of the Kunlun Mountain and, directing his superhuman strength to full extent, drew his extraordinary bow and shot down the nine superfluous suns one after another. He also ordered the last sun to rise and set according to time. For this reason, he was respected and loved by the people and lots of people of ideals and integrity came to him to learn martial arts from him. A person named Peng Meng lurked in them.

9 Hou Yi had a beautiful and kindhearted wife named Chang E. One day on his way to the Kunlun Mountain to call on friends, he ran upon the Empress of Heaven Wangmu who was passing by. Empress Wangmu presented to him a parcel of elixir, by taking which, it was said, one would ascend immediately to heaven and become a celestial being. Hou Yi, however, hated to part with his wife. So he gave the elixir to Chang E to treasure for the time being. Chang E hid the parcel in a treasure box at her dressing table when, unexpectedly, it was seen by Peng Meng.

10 One day when Hou Yi led his disciples to go hunting, Peng Meng, sword in hand, rushed into the inner chamber and forced Chang E to hand over the elixir. Aware that she was unable to defeat Peng Meng, Chang E made a prompt decision at that critical

moment. She turned round to open her treasure box, took up the elixir and swallowed it in one gulp. As soon as she swallowed the elixir her body floated off the ground, dashed out of the window and flew towards heaven. Peng Meng escaped.

11 When Hou Yi returned home at dark, he knew from the maidservants what had happened. Overcome with grief, Hou Yi looked up into the night sky and called out the name of his beloved wife when, to his surprise, he found that the moon was especially clear and bright and on it there was a swaying shadow that was exactly like his wife. He tried his best to chase after the moon. But as he ran, the moon retreated; as he withdrew, the moon came back. He could not get to the moon at all.

12 Thinking of his wife day and night, Hou Yi then had an incense table arranged in the back garden that Chang E loved. Putting on the table sweetmeats and fresh fruits Chang E enjoyed most, Hou Yi held at a distance a memorial ceremony for Chang E who was sentimentally attached to him in the palace of the moon.

13 When people heard of the story that Chang E had turned into a celestial being, they arranged the incense table in the moonlight one after another and prayed kindhearted Chang E for good fortune and peace. From then on the custom of worshipping the moon spread among the people.

14 People in different places follow various customs, but all show their love and longing for a better life. Today people will enjoy the full moon and eat moon cakes on that day.

15 The moon looks extremely round, big and bright on the 15th day of each lunar month. People selected the August 15 to celebrate because it is a season when crops and fruits are all ripe and weather pleasant. On the Mid-Autumn Festival, all family members or friends meet outside, putting food on tables and looking up at the sky while talking about life. How splendid a moment it is!

◇ Notes

Buddhism	<i>n.</i>	佛教
cremation	<i>n.</i>	火化
strata	<i>n.</i>	阶层
glutinous	<i>a.</i>	粘性很大的
walk on stilts		走高跷
intoxicated	<i>a.</i>	极为兴奋的
imposing	<i>a.</i>	气势宏伟的

rite	n.	礼仪
antiquity	n.	古代
dire	a.	极严重的
scorch	v.	烤焦
superfluous	a.	多余的
lurk	v.	暗藏
elixir	n.	灵丹妙药
disciple	n.	门徒,信徒
incense	n.	香(祭祀时焚烧用的)

◇ Exercises

- *Decide whether each of the following statements is True (T) or False (F) according to the passage.*
 - () 1. It was said that the Lantern Festival originated from the Buddhist rite.
 - () 2. In Tang Dynasty, people liked to take part in “Guessing Lantern Riddles”.
 - () 3. Chang E ate the elixir because she wanted to become a celestial being.
- *Answer the following questions briefly.*
 - 1. In the daytime of the Lantern Festival, what performance will be put on?
 - 2. On which days are the Mid-Autumn Festival and the Lantern Festival?
 - 3. Why was Houyi respected and loved by people?
 - 4. What was the effect of the elixir according to the story?

Passage 2 Mother's Day and Father's Day

Mother's Day — the Second Sunday in May (Universally)

1 Mother's Day is a time of commemoration and celebration for Mom. It is a time of breakfast in bed, family gatherings, and crayon scribbled “I Love You”.

2 The earliest Mother's Day celebrations can be traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods. During the 1600's, England celebrated a day called “Mothering Sunday”. Celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40 day period leading up to Easter), “Mothering Sunday” honored the mothers of England.

3 During this time many of the England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses

of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.

4 As Christianity spread throughout Europe the celebration changed to honor the “Mother Church” — the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time the church festival blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church.

5 In the United States Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe (who wrote the words to the Battle hymn of the Republic) as a day dedicated to peace. Ms. Howe would hold organized Mother's Day meetings in Boston, Mass every year.

6 In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. By the next year Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia.

7 Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessmen, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful as by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day as a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

8 While many countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, there are some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

Father's Day — the Third Sunday in June

9 The United States is one of the few countries in the world that has an official day on which fathers are honored by their children. On the third Sunday in June, fathers all across the United States are given presents, treated to dinner or otherwise made to feel special.

10 The origin of Father's Day is not clear. Some say that it began with a church service in West Virginia in 1908. Others say the first Father's Day ceremony was held in Vancouver, Washington.

11 The president of the Chicago branch of the Lions' Club, Harry Meek, is said to have celebrated the first Father's Day with his organization in 1915; and the day that they

chose was the third Sunday in June, the closest date to Meek's own birthday!

12 Regardless of when the first true Father's Day occurred, the strongest promoter of the holiday was Mrs. Bruce John Dodd of Spokane, Washington. Mrs. Dodd felt that she had an outstanding father. He was a veteran of the Civil War. His wife had died young, and he had raised six children without their mother.

13 In 1909, Mrs. Dodd approached her own minister and others in Spokane about having a church service dedicated to fathers on June 5, her father's birthday. That date was too soon for her minister to prepare the service, so he spoke a few weeks later on June 19th. From then on, the state of Washington celebrated the third Sunday in June as Father's Day. Children made special desserts, or visited their fathers if they lived apart.

14 States and organizations began lobbying Congress to declare an annual Father's Day. In 1916, President Woodrow Wilson approved of this idea, but it was not until 1924 when President Calvin Coolidge made it a national event to "establish more intimate relations between fathers and their children and to impress upon fathers the full measure of their obligations." Since then, fathers had been honored and recognized by their families throughout the country on the third Sunday in June.

15 When children can't visit their fathers or take them out to dinner, they send a greeting card. Traditionally, fathers prefer greeting cards that are not too sentimental. Most greeting cards are whimsical so fathers laugh when they open them. Some give heartfelt thanks for being there whenever the child needed Dad.

◇ Notes

commemoration <i>n.</i>	纪念, 庆祝
in honor of	出于对某人/物的敬意
Christianity <i>n.</i>	基督教
dedicate <i>v.</i>	奉献
veteran <i>n.</i>	老军人, 老兵
branch <i>n.</i>	分部
lobby <i>v.</i>	游说
whimsical <i>a.</i>	奇形怪状的, 异想天开的

◇ Exercises

• Answer the following questions briefly.

1. When is Mother's Day and Father's Day?

2. What should be done to celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day?

Passage 3 Christmas Day

1 From November onwards, it is impossible to forget that Christmas is coming. Colored lights decorate many town centers and shops, along with shiny decorations, and man-made snow painted on shop windows.

2 In streets and shops, "Christmas trees" will also be decorated with lights and Christmas decorations.

3 By mid-December, most homes will also be decorated with Christmas trees, colored lights and paper or plastic decorations around the rooms. These days, many more people also decorate garden trees or house walls with colored electric lights, a habit which has long been popular in USA.

4 In shops or at children's parties, someone will dress up as Father Christmas and give small presents to children, or ask them what gifts they want for Christmas. Christmas can be a time of magic and excitement for children.

Who was he?

5 Father Christmas is based on a real person, St. Nicholas, which explains his other name "Santa Claus" which comes from the Dutch "Sinterklaas". Nicholas was a Christian leader in the 4th century AD. He was very shy, and wanted to give money to poor people without them knowing about it. It is said that one day, he climbed the roof of a house and dropped a bag of money down the chimney. It landed in the stocking that a girl had put to dry by the fire! This may explain the belief that Father Christmas comes down the chimney and places gifts in children's stockings.

Boxing Day

6 In English-speaking countries, the day following Christmas Day is called "Boxing Day". This word comes from the custom which started in the Middle Ages around 800 years ago when churches would open their "alms boxes" (boxes in which people had placed gifts or money) and distribute the gifts or money to poor people in the neighborhood on the day after Christmas. The tradition continues today — small gifts are often given to delivery workers such as postal workers and children who deliver newspapers.

Making Sense of Christmas

7 Today in the West, not many people consider the religious meaning to Christmas. Most people in UK or Europe will not go to a religious church meeting, even at Christmas. It has become a busy race to spend money on presents, and get ready for the Day. In UK, shops stay open till late Christmas Eve and often open again on Boxing Day with the cut-price “sales”. A visitor from another world would think that Christmas was a festival to the gods of money and shopping.

How did Christmas Start?

8 Since about 400 AD, Christians have celebrated the birth of Jesus. “Christ” means “Messiah” — the title given to Jesus — and “Mass” was a religious festival.

9 In the West today, the real meaning of Christmas is often forgotten. It has become a non-religious holiday! More children believe in Father Christmas than in Jesus. Christmas Day is a time for eating and drinking too much and watching television.

10 But the real Christmas story is found in the Christian Bible. After reading, you may think that the story of the birth of Jesus, and the way that the West celebrates Christmas today, do not seem to have many connections.

Mary Says “Yes”

11 This part tells how Jesus was born as a baby to Mary. This was no ordinary birth! She was not married, she was a virgin, (yes, really!) and an angel had told her she would bear a special baby. Her husband-to-be, Joseph, did not believe her at first. Who would? Then an angel told him in a dream that it was true! Probably no one else believed it. So when they had to travel from their home to Bethlehem, to register their names with the ruling Roman government, they probably escaped many hard words from other people.

12 Jesus was born that night, and as they had no bed for him, they used an animal-feeding box filled with the dry grass the animals ate.

13 Christmas cards and pictures today make it all seem very nice. In truth, it must have been dirty and frightening for a young couple, far from their home and families. This was a very poor place for Jesus to start his life on earth.

God’s Plan

14 Christians believe that it was exactly God’s plan that things happened this way. They say that it shows that Jesus came as a humble, poor person and not as a strong, rich king. They also claim that the birth of Jesus was told many years before in the books of the prophets.

15 At that time, sheep farmers were seen by other people as low and of no value. Yet it was to these shepherds that the birth of Jesus was first announced in an amazing dramatic way.

16 “That night there were some men looking after sheep in the fields nearby. Suddenly they saw a great light. It was an angel.”

17 They were certainly men of learning — probably today we would call them philosophers or scientists. They had seen an unusual new star in the sky, and knew that it told of the birth of a special king. They followed the direction of the star — East — and finally found the place where Mary, Joseph and Jesus were staying. To bring honor to the child, they brought rich gifts gold, frankincense, and myrrh. These gifts tell us in pictures three key things about Jesus.

18 Gold: a gift fit for a King

19 Frankincense: burnt in worship of God

20 Myrrh: a sign of mortal human-ness — it was used to bury the dead

Jesus a Refugee

21 Herod, the evil king of the area, heard about the child, saw Him as a threat, and sent soldiers to kill Jesus. But God told Joseph in a dream to take Mary and the baby and escape to Egypt. They lived there till King Herod died and then returned. We read nothing more about the life of Jesus, except for one story when he was 12, until he reached 30. By the way — note one important thing, Jesus was not a white European, and Christianity is not a Western religion. Christmas cards from different countries often show Mary, Joseph and Jesus in the landscape of that country, and with the racial appearance of that nationality, be it black African, Indian, or Japanese. This is good and right — Jesus came to identify with every racial group. He is “Everyman” for us all.

◇ Notes

decorate <i>v.</i>	装饰, 为……做室内装修 (decoration <i>n.</i> 装饰品)
alms boxes	公德箱 (信徒放置救济物, 如钱, 衣物, 食品等)
delivery <i>n.</i>	递送 (deliver <i>v.</i>)
Christ	[基督教] 救世主 (特指耶稣基督)
Messiah	弥赛亚 (犹太人盼望的复国救主)
Mass <i>n.</i>	(天主教的) 弥撒
Christian Bible	基督教的《圣经》

virgin n.	处女
register v.	登记户籍
humble a.	卑下的, 谦逊的
prophet n.	先知, 预言者
philosopher n.	哲学家, 哲人
frankincense n.	乳香
myrrh n.	[植]没药树, 没药(没药树的树胶脂)
mortal a.	临终的
refugee n.	难民, 流亡
St. Nicholas, Santa Claus, Sinterklaas	圣诞老人
Boxing Day	圣诞节的次日, 节礼日
Jesus	耶稣(基督教信奉的救世主)
Mary and Joseph	(圣母)玛利亚和(圣父)约瑟夫
Bethlehem	伯利恒(耶路撒冷南方六英里一市镇, 耶稣诞生地)
Herod	希律王(约公元前73 — 公元前4)

◇ Exercises

• Choose the best answer according to the passage.

- When do most Westerners decorate their homes? _____.
A. In November
B. In Mid-December
C. On December 25th
D. In Mid-November
- What's the name of Father Christmas? _____.
A. St. Nicholas
B. Santa Claus
C. Sinterklaas
D. All of the above
- On Boxing Day, who will get gifts from churches? _____.
A. Children who deliver newspaper
B. The shop workers
C. Postal workers
D. Both A and C
- Where was Jesus born? _____.
A. On a bed
B. In Bethlehem
C. An animal feeding box
D. Both B and C
- What gifts did the men of learning take to Jesus? _____.
A. Gold
B. Frankincense
C. Myrrh
D. All of the above