



《《 大学英语精品课系列教材 》》

# 大学英语实践课教程

## 技能拓展篇

College English Practice Course

主 编 王 芳

主 审 陈向京

本册主编 黄 奕

编 者 (按姓氏拼音顺序)

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西安交通大学出版社  
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## 内容提要

本教程是在学生完成英语基础综合技能训练的基础上重点训练学生存在的弱项及对学生未来学业和职业规划有积极影响的重要技能。

本教程每单元都针对一个特定目标进行训练,在内容安排上以输入为先导,将理论内容学习融入听力和阅读训练,之后再在指导下的输出实践和综合性的输出实践。本教程在内容呈现方式上强调学生的自主参与性。

本教程适合大学二年级本科生及相应程度的英语学习者使用。

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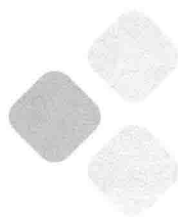
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# 前言

## Preface

为充分体现教育部 2007 年 7 月颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》的精神，西安交通大学自 2010 年起率先在大学英语课程体系中开设了实践课，并增设了大学英语自主学习的实践环节。学生在完成了综合英语阶段的学习之后进入拓展英语阶段，其对实践课学习的内容需求也从基础技能训练变为技能的拓展提升训练。为了给拓展英语阶段的实践课和自主学习提供必要的学习内容，并方便教师在实践环节能够给予学生有效的指导，大学英语教学中心组织骨干教师，精心编写了《大学英语实践课教程》（技能拓展篇）。本教程适用于英语技能训练进入拓展提升阶段的实践课教学或自主学习。

本教程在编写过程中特别强调“能力的拓展提升”这一目标，训练方向从语言的正确性过渡到语言的适切性和丰富性，篇章逻辑的顺畅性和连贯性，以及国际交流的适应性等。每单元在材料的编排上以具体的技能为目标，充分调动学生的自主参与性，使学生通过各种形式的读、听练习对丰富的语言实例进行分析探讨，强化对理论的进一步理解和掌握，然后通过写、说、译等练习使学生将该技能应用到语言实践中。

本教程的编写特色主要体现在以下四个方面：

### 1. 输出驱动，输入引领

本教程每单元都以实现特定的技能提升为着眼点及最终落脚点，在学生最终实现有效的写、说、译等输出之前，提供大量形式多样的输入型任务。每单元在内容安排上以输入为引领，将理论内容学习融入到输入型训练中，使学生在理论及感性认识方面首先实现提升，之后再行进行形式多样的输出型实践，实现应用能力的提升。

### 2. 目标明确，循序渐进

本教程重点突出学生英语应用能力中存在的弱项及对学生未来学业和职业规划有积极影响的技能。每单元材料在选择及编排上紧扣单元教学目标，按照从理论指导到实践任务，从针对性任务到综合性任务，从指导性输出到综合性输出的顺序，循序渐进且环环相扣，最终实现教学目标。

### 3. 自主实践，以练促学

本教程作为拓展英语阶段的实践课教材，强调学生学习过程中的自主参与性与实践性。本教程将必备的理论内容学习融入到形式多样的任务中，使学生在听、说、读、

写、译的实践过程中发现自己的不足之处，并且能够通过进一步的实践和学习弥补这些不足。

#### 4. 材料丰富，实用为先

本教程选材内容丰富，篇幅长短有序，同时既有文本材料又有视听材料。在编写过程中，本教程充分考虑拓展英语阶段学生的英语语言能力、认知兴趣及在未来对英语技能的需求，为学生设定一个既可望又可及的目标，并配以丰富多样的实践内容和形式引导学生达到预定目标。

本教程分为 8 个单元，每个单元的构成及编写思路如下：

**I. Introduction** ——本部分为单元理论内容导入，以短文听力填空练习方式呈现。

**II. Exploratory Activities** ——针对单元理论设计的分项及综合引导强化任务，分文本材料和视听材料两部分。本部分以形式多样的输入型任务为主，促进学生对理论部分的掌握，强化方法技巧意识。

**III. Quick Reminder** ——本部分为单元重点内容小结。

**IV. Productive Activities** ——针对实现单元目标设计的输出型实践任务。本部分通过形式多样的输出型任务检验学生此前的学习效果，并引导学生逐步达到学习目标，实现英语应用能力的提升。

**V. Leisure-time Activity** ——本部分为额外补充的轻松练习。

本教程所用音视频材料仅为教学目的，获取音视频材料请登录：<http://202.117.216.253:8002>，用户名为 jineng，密码为 123456。

本实践课教程是在大学英语课程设置呈现多样化，同时教学课时不断缩减，学生对英语综合应用能力提升需求逐渐增强的背景下编写完成的。作为对大学英语教学的创新尝试和有益补充，本教程的编写得到了学校和学院的大力支持。本教程在编写过程中虽然经过了反复讨论和修改，但是难免会出现一些疏漏，对此编者恳请读者和同行不吝赐教。

编者

2016 年 6 月



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# UNIT 1

## *Choose Between Formality and Informality*



[http://jjckb.xinhuanet.com/invest/2011-01/21/content\\_283993.htm](http://jjckb.xinhuanet.com/invest/2011-01/21/content_283993.htm)

In this unit, you can

- ◆ distinguish various levels of formality in written and spoken English;
- ◆ use lexical and grammatical devices to produce an English text with a proper level of formality in accordance with different situations.



# Introduction

---

Listen to the following passage and fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

## Levels of Formality in English

The use of language should always be (1) \_\_\_\_\_ situations. In different situations a speaker or a writer must use different types of language to (2) \_\_\_\_\_, which appears as different levels of formality. According to scholars, these levels of language range from intimate through casual, consultative and formal, up to frozen.

**Intimate** language is used between lovers or other close family and friends, such as using pet names and shortened words.

**Casual** language is usually used between friends, sometimes in everyday speech.

**Consultative** language means less formal Standard English, for instance in the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ and the conversation between the employee and the employer.

**Formal** language means Standard English, which is usually used in speeches, school lessons, business letters, or academic texts.

**Frozen** language means the language that never changes, for instance in wedding vows, (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

Grammar handbook writers sometimes (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of usage by imagining a sort of ladder on whose steps words, phrases, and sentences are ranked in an (6) \_\_\_\_\_ of formality.

Different levels of formality can be achieved through lexical devices. **General and small words** like *do*, *get* and *good*, or **shortened words**, like *photo*, *pop* and *bike*, are commonly used in everyday conversation. **Slang words**, like *piss off*, are expressions often used in casual language. **Phrasal verbs** like *result in* are colloquial and often used in (7) \_\_\_\_\_.

However, in more formal situations, **abstract nouns**, **gerunds** (a form regularly derived from a verb and functioning as a noun), **unusual adjectives** and

**adverbs** are (8) \_\_\_\_\_. For instance, *popularity* is more formal than *be popular*; *his falling ill* is more formal than *the fact that he fell ill*; *detrimental* is more formal than *harmful*.

The following grammatical forms are generally used in more formal style. A **periodic sentence** sounds more formal than a **loose sentence**. Compared with a periodic sentence, a loose sentence is a more natural language, with the major points (subject and verb, or main clause) placed at the beginning before other (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (like adverbial phrases or clauses). In a periodic sentence, however, the information is organized invertedly. For example, "*Afraid of unexpected difficulties, he decided to give up.*" is a periodic sentence, which sounds more formal than "*He decided to give up because he was afraid of unexpected difficulties.*"

Besides, we could also use **participial phrases** (分词短语), which means a word group consisting of present participle or past participle, used in a sentence to (10) \_\_\_\_\_ a noun, noun phrase, verb, or verb phrase, and then playing a role (11) \_\_\_\_\_ an adjective or adverb. For example, "Children are hurt by pets *raised by* their family."

**Passive voice**, contrasting with (12) \_\_\_\_\_ is also commonly seen in formal written or spoken context. It means a type of sentence or clause in which the subject (13) \_\_\_\_\_ of the verb. For example, "A good time *was had by* all."

Another grammatical form is **parenthesis** (插入语), which means the (14) \_\_\_\_\_ of some verbal unit that interrupts the normal syntactic flow of the sentence. For example, "China, *I believe*, will catch up with the developed countries sooner or later."

In addition, the **nominative absolute construction** (独立主格结构) is also (15) \_\_\_\_\_ formal style. In English grammar, a nominative absolute is a free-standing or absolute part of a sentence that describes the main subject and verb. It is usually at the beginning or end of the sentence, although it can also appear in the middle. For instance, "*The meeting being over*, all of us went home."

# Exploratory Activities

## I. Identifying levels of formality in written context

### Task 1

Read the following excerpts. Identify the content of each excerpt and the level of formality in language. Examples have been provided for you to follow.

#### Example

Content: <u>Comment from a News Website</u>	Level of Formality
I always felt awful after a breakup. Except for this one case. The guy was an abuser wannabe in the true sense of the term, and when things began to spiral out of control in his mind, he ramped it up. So it was only relief after all the ties were broken. Didn't feel too guilty about it either.	A. intimate B. casual C. consultative D. formal E. frozen Your choice: <u>B</u>

#### Excerpt 1

Content: _____	Level of Formality
I am writing this letter to get permission for the leave which I will have to take on 28th of this month. I am taking this leave because I have to move out of city to see my grandpa on that particular day who is very ill and I want to make sure that he is taking proper treatment for his disease or not. I have been connecting with him on phone from long time but this time he personally requested me to visit him. I will manage to come back to city on the same day and therefore I request to allow me one day leave on February 28, 2012.	A. intimate B. casual C. consultative D. formal E. frozen Your choice: _____
I shall be highly obliged for your act of kindness.	

**Excerpt 2**

Content: _____	Level of Formality
<p>No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.</p>	<p>A. intimate B. casual C. consultative D. formal E. frozen</p> <p>Your choice: _____</p>

**Excerpt 3**

Content: _____	Level of Formality
<p>The number of migrants at the EU's borders reached a record high of 107,500 in July, officials say, as a sharp surge in expected asylum requests was reported in Germany.</p> <p>Germany has seen a wave of migration from Syria and the Balkans, and now says it could receive as many as 750,000 asylum seekers this year. The EU has been struggling to cope with migrant arrivals in recent months. France and the UK say they will sign a deal to tackle the crisis in Calais.</p> <p>Over the summer, thousands of migrants have sought to get to the UK through the Channel Tunnel from makeshift camps around the northern French city.</p>	<p>A. intimate B. casual C. consultative D. formal E. frozen</p> <p>Your choice: _____</p>

Excerpt 4

Content: _____	Level of Formality
Landscape metrics are measurements of land-use patterns and land-use change, but even so, have rarely been integrated into land-use change simulation models. This paper proposes a new artificial neural network-cellular automaton by integrating landscape metrics into the model. Results indicate that the proposed model is more appropriate for simulating both quantity and spatial distribution of land use change in the study area.	<p>A. intimate</p> <p>B. casual</p> <p>C. consultative</p> <p>D. formal</p> <p>E. frozen</p> <p>Your choice: _____</p>

Task 2

Using abstract nouns is an effective method to add formality to an essay or a speech. Choose a proper word from the box below, and use its noun form to complete each of the following sentences. Please choose to use the singular or plural form of the noun.

A. disable	B. valuable	C. recede	D. capable
E. coalize (加入联盟)	F. emerge	G. tempt	H. nominate

- Winning in Presidential primary will put Mrs Clinton and Mr Trump closer to securing their \_\_\_\_\_.
- In its most prosperous cities, already giddy prices continue to shoot up, while unsold flats pile up in markets where \_\_\_\_\_ were low to begin with.
- The \_\_\_\_\_ of a single mutation that gives a big advantage is derided by biologists as a hopeful monster theory.
- The trends for other vaccine-preventable diseases, such as rubella (风疹), which can cause congenital (先天的) \_\_\_\_\_ if a pregnant woman catches it, are alarming, too.
- The Workers' Party and its \_\_\_\_\_ allies are enmeshed in a bribery scandal and the country is going through the worst \_\_\_\_\_ since the 1930s.

6. If the \_\_\_\_\_ to unlock iPhones exists, so will the \_\_\_\_\_ for the authorities to use it repeatedly.

### Task 3

Slang is often used in casual language. Read the following sentences with slang shown in bold, and figure out the meanings of the sentences and the slang words in them. Then match the sentences with the corresponding meanings of the slang words in them.

Sentences	Meanings of slang words
1. This course is <b>as much as a chocolate teapot</b> , so I want to quit next semester.	A. make a person angry
2. This party's dead. Let's <b>bounce out</b> .	B. sleep over
3. His irritating mannerisms really <b>hack me off</b> .	C. useless
4. Mom is going to <b>flip out</b> when she finds out about my F in Math.	D. in a bad mood
5. Although Jim doesn't <b>have deep pockets</b> , he'll give you his shirt off his back when you are in serious trouble.	E. very busy
6. I wouldn't try asking dad for money. He's <b>in a huff</b> today.	F. leave
	G. be rich, wealthy
	H. freak out

### Task 4

Participial phrases and nominative absolute constructions are both favored to create sentences which sound more formal. Read the following sentences with participial phrases or nominative absolute constructions in them, and choose the correct grammatical forms of the verbs to complete the sentences.

1. I am therefore very touched by the magnificent gift before me, generously \_\_\_\_\_ by many of you.
- A. subscribed                      B. to be subscribed  
C. subscribing                    D. having subscribed

2. The more social scientists are able to teach us about how bystanders react to an emergency, the better the chances that we will take appropriate action when \_\_\_\_\_ with one.  
A. to be faced      B. facing      C. be faced      D. faced
3. There are many reports of animals \_\_\_\_\_ in collaboration but ultimately these behaviours are proved to be strategies to benefit the individual.  
A. worked      B. working      C. be working      D. to be working
4. \_\_\_\_\_ in the right balance, the urge to constantly improve can be a strong motivational factor that positively impacts a team.  
A. Kept      B. Keeping      C. Being kept      D. Having kept
5. The next secretary-general also will have to deal with the disturbing issue of the U. N. 's own peacekeepers \_\_\_\_\_ in dozens of sexual abuse cases from Africa to Haiti.  
A. are accused      B. accused      C. been accused      D. accusing
6. With the new finding \_\_\_\_\_ online last week, fuel was added to an already heated debate over the best way to prepare the next generation of biomedical scientists.  
A. had posted      B. been posted      C. posted      D. being posted

### Task 5

Using parenthesis can add formality to a sentence. Choose appropriate parenthetical remarks from the box below to make the following sentences sound more formal.

- |                               |               |                   |
|-------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| A. no matter how well-meaning | B. it is said | C. it would seem  |
| D. to our knowledge           | E. I believe  | F. like countries |

1. This is, \_\_\_\_\_, the first documented case with a concurrence of *EAC*(食管腺癌)and breast *carcinoma*(癌).
2. Prince Philip is, \_\_\_\_\_, well-known for declining compliments of any kind.
3. Many times lovers do quarrel, sometimes violently. But they may strongly resent an outsider, \_\_\_\_\_, intruding into their affairs.
4. Businesses, \_\_\_\_\_, have a unique history and a set of assets.

5. The result of American Presidential Election, \_\_\_\_\_, is less relevant to young voters.
6. Science, \_\_\_\_\_, will dehumanize people and turn them into numbers.

### Task 6

Read the following excerpts and choose the suitable expressions in the square brackets to fit the level of formality of the language.

#### Excerpt 1

I am writing this letter (1) [for / on behalf of] the welfare center for children. It was (2) [quite a few / many] years that Children's Medical Center has provided thousands of children in our community with (3) [free access to / free way to] counseling, after school tutoring, mentoring and recreational programs. Last year, (4) [plenty of / munificent] donations helped us a lot to facilitate children, such as we have (5) [bought / purchased] new books for our growing library and start a scholarship fund to help (6) [deserving children / children in need] pay for college. Without your generosity and support, we (7) [are unable to / can't] do anything and for this we are really thankful to you.

#### Excerpt 2

Zero-hours contracts allow firms to (1) [employ / hire] workers for as few or as many hours as they need, with (2) [no prior notice / no notice in advance]. In theory, at least, people can refuse work. Fully 1.4 million jobs (3) [were based on / resulted in] these contracts in January 2014, according to a snapshot taken by the Office for National Statistics. That is just 4% of the total, but the share (4) [rises / goes up] to a quarter in the hospitality business.

The contracts are useful for firms (5) [with erratic patterns of demand / whose patterns of demand are not fixed], such as hotels and restaurants. They have also helped firms to (6) [expand / scale up] during the recovery—allowing them to test new business lines before (7) [hiring permanent staff / they hire permanent staff], who would be more costly to make redundant if things went wrong.

#### Excerpt 3

(1) [I think that, from a biological standpoint, / From a biological standpoint, I think that] human life almost reads like a poem. It has its own rhythm and beat,



its internal cycles of (2) [growth and decay / decay and growth]. It begins with innocent childhood, (3) [after which is / followed by] awkward adolescence (4) [trying / tried] awkwardly to adapt itself to mature society, with its young passions and follies, its ideals and ambitions; then it reaches a manhood of intense activities, profiting from experience and learning more about society and human nature; at middle age, there is a slight (5) [easing / easiness] of tension, a (6) [mellowing / growing] of character like the ripening of fruit, and the gradual (7) [acquiring / obtaining] of a more tolerant, more cynical and at the same time a kindlier view of life; then in the sunset of our life, the endocrine glands decrease their activity, and if we have a true philosophy of old age and have ordered our life pattern according to it, it is for us the age of peace and security and leisure and contentment; finally, life flickers out and one goes into eternal sleep, never to wake up again.

## II. Identifying levels of formality in spoken context

### Task 1

Watch the following video clips. Fill in the blanks with the words you hear, and then identify the level of formality of each speech.

#### Excerpt 1

Course Introduction: History of Ancient Greeks	Level of Formality
<p>The position of the Greeks is at the most (1) _____ of Western civilization, which is the culture that most (2) _____ not only the West but most of the world today. It seems to me (3) _____ that whatever it's other (4) _____, the West has (5) _____ of government and law that (6) _____ for its people. It's also (7) _____ that together natural scientific knowledge and technological achievements make possible a level of health and (8) _____ in earlier times, and unknown outside the West and those places that have been influenced by the West.</p>	<p>A. intimate B. casual C. consultative D. formal E. frozen Your choice: _____</p>