新编大学英语阅读教程

（第二版）

◆ 提高篇 ◆

New College English Reading

Book III

(2nd Edition)

总 主 编 孔令翠

分册主编 李清源

分册副主编 魏晓红 杨柳

高等教育出版社

Xinbian Daxue Yingyu Yuedu Jiaocheng

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高等教育出版社·北京

图书在版编目（CIP）数据

新编大学英语阅读教程．提高篇 / 孔令翠主编；李清源分册主编．-- 2版．-- 北京 ：高等教育出版社，2016.8

ISBN 978-7-04-045631-8

Ⅰ．①新… Ⅱ．①孔… ②李… Ⅲ．①英语－阅读教学－高等学校－教材 Ⅳ．①H319.37

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2016)第189860号

策划编辑 谢 森　　责任编辑 谢 森 马小洁　　封面设计 王 鹏
版式设计 孙 伟　　责任校对 巩 熠　　责任印制 赵义民

出版发行 高等教育出版社
社　　址 北京市西城区德外大街4号
邮政编码 100120
印　　刷 北京市白帆印务有限公司
开　　本 787mm×1092mm 1/16
印　　张 14.5
字　　数 317千字
购书热线 010-58581118
咨询电话 400-810-0598

网　　址 http://www.hep.edu.cn
http://www.hep.com.cn
网上订购 http://www.hepmall.com.cn
http://www.hepmall.com
http://www.hepmall.cn
版　　次 2009年8月第1版
2016年8月第2版
印　　次 2016年8月第1次印刷
定　　价 32.00元

物 料 号 45631-00

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前　言

四川省“十二五”普通高等教育本科规划教材《新编大学英语阅读教程》系列教材自2009年推出以来，受到使用院校的广泛好评。为了适应新时代对大学英语教学的更高要求，我们组织了攀枝花学院、四川理工学院、成都理工大学和四川农业大学等高等学校的专家和教师对教材进行了修订。四川师范大学部分长期从事大学英语教学与研究并对教材编写具有丰富理论修养和实践经验的学者应邀组织、指导并参与了修订工作(具体名单与分工参见各册封面与扉页)。总主编孔令翠教授负责整套教材的框架设计、指导与审校。

修订后的《新编大学英语阅读教程》主要有以下特点：

一、紧扣教学计划，体现循序渐进。

本套系列教材由基础篇、进阶篇、提高篇及高级篇四册组成，分别供大学英语一年级和二年级四个学期使用。每册16个单元，涵盖16大主题，学习内容满足大学英语16周/学期的学时需求。教材中的语言知识训练、能力提升和素质培养严格按照《大学英语教学指南（送审稿）》中的教学要求逐层递进，遵循并充分体现语言学习、应用和思辨能力发展规律。

二、主题丰富多样，兼顾统一个性。

每册均包含以下共同主题，充分体现了本套系列教材内容设计上的系统性与连贯性：教育（中外高等教育、教育思想、教育技术等）、文学（人物传记、文学体裁介绍等）、文化（多元文化与跨文化、习俗、历史地理、文明演变等）、政治军事与国际关系、国际组织、经济（互联网、金融证券等）、法律与公共安全、伦理（社会与家庭伦理等）、艺术（音体美等多种艺术形式）、医疗社保、新科技（科学新发展、新材料）、环境保护、休闲娱乐和饮食。各册的个性化主题由编写院校根据自己的学科特色设定，既保证了校本特色，又有利于开拓学生视野，培养学生的综合素质。每个主题下的阅读内容分为三个模块：Passage A为主阅读篇章，Passage B为配合阅读能力与语用和思辨能力提高而选编的阅读篇章，Passage C为与单元主题相关的文化阅读篇章。

三、选材新颖别致，语言地道优美。

本套系列教材注重选材的时效性与真实性。除经典篇章外，选材还包括近年来出版或发表的英美报刊文章或网络文章以及一定数量的英美文学作品和历史、哲学、美学等方面的名篇佳作。在重视篇章本身意义的同时，本套系列教材将知识拓展与审美能力提高结合起来，文以载道，寓道于语言教学之中，让学生感受美，树立健康的审美情操，在阅读中耳濡目染，从而形

成积极向上的人生观和世界观。

四、服务国家战略，重视文化输出。

本次修订的一大变化就是贯彻习总书记指示精神，通过外语教学培养学生讲好中国故事、传播中国好声音、展现中国好形象的跨文化交流的意识和能力。因此，编者在选材时特别注重选择有助于培养学生中国文化修养与中国故事英语表达的材料，在阅读材料中融入中华文化，包括民族文化和地域文化。

五、输入与输出并重，语言运用与思辨并举。

本套系教材在吸取同类教材特色的基础上力求有所创新：十分重视阅读技巧、策略与阅读思维能力训练，旨在培养学生发现、探究、解决问题的能力以及判断、分析、推理、创新的思维能力。教师在使用时配以研讨式和启发式的教学模式，能激发学生思维的火花、智慧的光芒和创新的灵感。为实现这一教学目标，每个单元中的三篇文章帮助学生完成输入训练，同时后两篇文章通过加入翻译和写作技能的讲解与训练，构建起完整的输入—输出的循环体系。具体设计上，在基础篇和进阶篇的单数单元设计了输入（阅读）相关的技巧和策略讲解；在提高篇和高级篇的单数单元设计了输出（写作、翻译）相关的技巧和策略讲解。

六、题型多种多样，目标明确具体。

本套系教材以提升英语阅读理解能力为教学目标，以提高学生自主学习能力为宗旨，同时兼顾学生所需通过的英语A、B级和大学英语四、六级考试、研究生入学以及出国留学英语考试。

本书配有网络教育资源，包括习题答案和拓展学习资源（拓展阅读篇章、音频、视频等），可从“中国外语网”（http://www.cflo.com.cn）“学生资源”版块获取。

本套系列教材是多所高校合作的成果，在某些细节可能存在百密一疏的状况；又由于本教材视创新为生命线，也势必存在不够完善之处，恳请各位专家、同仁和同学不吝赐教，以便再版时进一步修订完善。

《新编大学英语阅读教程（第二版）》编委会

2016年6月

Contents

UNIT 1

Environmental Protection

PARTS

PART 1 Intensive Reading

Passage A

Preserve Soil's Riches

薄膜

[A] Soil is sometimes described as the Earth's skin—a thin living **membrane** (a thin piece of skin that connects or covers parts of a person's or animal's body) stretching across landscapes. It is, in many ways, one of the vital organs that support life on the planet. Soils contain three times as much carbon as plants, and twice the amount found in the Earth's atmosphere. We rely on it for the vast majority of our **agricultural** production. It provides **nutrients** and water for the world's forests, grasslands and deserts. It filters and retains water. It's a place for the cycling of nutrients and heavy metals, and both a source and sink of greenhouse gases. In short, soil is a physical and **biogeochemical wonderland**.

农业的 营养物

生物地球化学的 奇境

[B] In recognition of the importance and **vulnerability** of this critical natural resource, the 68th United Nations General Assembly declared 2015 the International Year of Soils. At the *Nature* journals we celebrate this **designation** with a collection of articles and opinion pieces. The International Year of Soils is intended to **highlight** just how central soil is to the **sustainability** of the human **endeavor**, and to promote the importance of soil research.

易损性

命名

强调 持续性

努力

[C] **Arguably**, soil is a natural resource of far more fundamental value to **humanity** and to the planet than oil or **platinum** (a very valuable, silvery-grey metal); without it, there would be little for humans, or animals, to eat. And like many natural resources, soil is increasingly being **commoditized**. For example, widespread **media** reports highlight the rise in **controversial acquisitions** of agricultural land in Africa by **investors** in food-importing

可论证地

人类 铂

商品化的

媒体 有争议的 获得

物 投资者

countries such as China and Saudi Arabia—despite the fact that food security remains a long-lasting challenge in Africa itself. Individuals can buy into farms and forests through publicly traded **real estate** investment trusts and agricultural **mortgage**-backed securities.

房地产　抵押

[D] Soil is a **renewable** resource, but it is not **inexhaustible**: care must be taken in maintaining and preserving soils and their **fertility** if they are to retain their value. That lesson hasn't always been easy. In the Dust Bowl of the 1930s, that thin skin of productive earth was stripped away from the Great Plains of North America. As wheat production expanded across the plains in the early twentieth century, farmers removed native grasses, which held soil together, even during drought conditions. With the arrival of drought in 1931, the wheat crops failed and the **tilled** soil quickly began **eroding** in the wind. As the drought continued through the decade, millions of acres of soil were lost.

可再生的　用不完的
肥力

耕种的
侵蚀

[E] Soils are also under pressure today. Sub-Saharan Africa is experiencing a **degradation** of soils that is much slower than in the American Dust Bowl, but no less **disastrous**. In this slow-motion **calamity**, farmers across much of the region have used little or no fertilizers over decades of farming. Each year, soils become increasingly reduced of nutrients, as the nutrients **extracted** by the crops are harvested, but not replaced. As discussed by Christopher B. Barrett and Leah E. M. Bevis, farming on low-fertility soils can create self-reinforcing poverty traps: low-productivity soils prevent farmers from accumulating the capital necessary to make their soils more productive. And soils reduced of essential **micronutrients** such as **iodine** or **zinc** have led to negative health outcomes around the world.

退化
灾难性的
灾难

提取

微量营养素　碘　锌

[F] Where mineral fertilizers are readily available, on the other hand, their excessive use is leading to the **eutrophication** (excessive nutrients in a lake or other body of water, usually caused by runoff

富营养化

酸化
散发

of nutrients from the land, which causes a dense growth of plant life) of inland waters, **acidification** (the process of becoming acid or being converted into an acid) of soils, and increased soil **emissions** of greenhouse gases. Future changes in climate are likely to add stress to our soils. Shifts in climate towards fewer but more intense **precipitation** (rain, snow, or hail) events can increase rates of **runoff** and soil **erosion**, while more intense drought stress can reduce protective **vegetative biomass.**

降水
径流　侵蚀
植物的　（单位面积或体积内的）生物量　大量的　北极的
泥煤
易受伤害的
矿化　二氧化物　甲烷

[G] Because of the **massive** volumes of carbon stored in soils, they can represent an important feedback to global climate. **Arctic** and **peat** soils represent some of the largest pools of soil carbon, and are particularly **vulnerable** to changes in climate and land use. Increased soil temperatures may accelerate soil carbon **mineralization** and emissions of carbon **dioxide** and **methane** (a colorless gas that has no smell), but they can also increase nutrient availability and productivity. The ongoing expansion of agricultural systems into forested areas can result in substantial losses of soil carbon.

有雄心的
数字化地

[H] The International Year of Soils arrives in the midst of **ambitious** efforts to advance our knowledge of soil science. These range widely in scope, from efforts to **digitally** map the soils of the world to the development of inexpensive, low-tech solutions that can provide farmers in the developing world with access to the kinds of information farmers in the developed world rely on to ensure their soils remain healthy and productive.

生物圈

[I] With recognition of the universal and essential value of soils to humanity and the **biosphere**, and with investment in research, conservation and sustainable development, we can ensure that the Earth's skin can maintain a healthy and productive glow.

(861 words)

Exercise 1 Multiple Choice

Directions: There are 5 questions or unfinished statements, for each of which there are 4 choices marked A, B, C, and D. Please decide on the best choice.

1. Soils contain _____ more carbon than plants do.
   A. three times
   B. twice
   C. four times
   D. five times
2. At the *Nature* journal the declaration of _____ was celebrated with a collection of articles and opinion pieces.
   A. the International Year of Nature
   B. the International Year of Water
   C. the International Year of Forest
   D. the International Year of Soils
3. People who want to buy into farms and forests can make it through _____ .
   A. publicly traded real estate investment trusts
   B. private trade
   C. agricultural mortgage-backed securities
   D. Both A and C.
4. Increased _____ may accelerate soil carbon mineralization and emissions of carbon dioxide and methane.
   A. rainfalls
   B. drought
   C. soil temperatures
   D. air pollution
5. What is the author's attitude towards the future of soil?
   A. Positive.
   B. Negative.
   C. Neutral.
   D. Not implied.

Exercise 2 Matching Questions

Directions: There are 5 statements, each of which contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter.

1. _____ Just as many other natural resources, soil can be sold and bought.
2. _____ The International Year of Soils aims at emphasizing the importance of soil.
3. _____ Native grasses were removed because of the expansion of wheat production in the early twentieth century, which, together with drought, eventually caused the loss of millions of acres of soil.
4. _____ Great losses of soil carbon can be caused by the increasing expansion of agricultural system into forest areas.
5. _____ Climate events which are fewer but more intense, such as rain, snow, and hail, can increase rates of runoff and soil erosion.

PART 2 Practice Reading and Skill Enhancement

❶ Practice Reading

Passage B

We Need Energy Miracles

I often talk about the miracle of vaccines: With just a few doses, they protect children from deadly diseases forever.

When it comes to clean energy, we need breakthroughs that are just as miraculous.

Just like vaccines, clean-energy miracles don't just happen by chance. We have to make

them happen, through long-term investments in research and development. Unfortunately, right now neither the private sector nor the US government is making anywhere near the scale of investment it takes to produce these breakthroughs.

Why are clean-energy breakthroughs so important? As I mentioned here, the world is going to need a lot more energy in the coming decades—an increase of 50 percent or more between 2010 and 2040, according to US government estimates. But today our biggest sources of energy are also big sources of carbon dioxide, which is causing climate change.

In other words, the world's energy sources have to be clean, as well as reliable and affordable.

Today's technologies are a good start, but not good enough. Some places don't get enough regular sunlight or reliable wind to depend heavily on these sources. In any case, these and other clean-energy technologies are still too expensive to be rolled out widely in poor countries. They're getting cheaper, but many developing countries aren't waiting for these tools to become affordable. They're building large numbers of coal plants and other fossil-fuel infrastructure now. That's very unfortunate, but it's understandable. We can't expect them to wait decades for cleaner alternatives when their people need energy now.

That's why we need a massive amount of innovation in research and development on clean energy: new ways to stabilize the intermittent flows from wind and solar; cheaper, more efficient solar panels; better equipment for transmitting and managing energy; next-generation nuclear plants that are even safer than today's; and more.

Unfortunately, the United States is severely underinvesting in clean-energy R&D (Research & Development). Let's look at the two main sources of R&D investment. First there's the private sector. As for the percentage of sales that different industries put into R&D, pharmaceuticals are the highest, while energy is the lowest.

Why is energy so low? Because there's a long lag time—often decades—before an investment in energy research delivers a commercial payoff (if it ever does). In addition, energy research results in a lot of public goods—economic competitiveness, national security, and environmental protection—that private markets don't care much about.

In theory, when private markets under-invest, government can step in. But in practice, the US government isn't investing nearly as much as it should either. About 60 percent of the federal government's R&D spending goes to defense. Around 25 percent goes to health. While energy is just 2 percent.