

普通高等教育“十二五”规划教材

# 大学英语 阅读教程

■ 主编 孔令然 朱明艳 郭晓燕



辽宁大学出版社

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主 编 孔令然 朱明艳 郭晓燕

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# 前言

随着我国大学英语教学改革的不断深入与发展,大学本科生对英语学习有了更高的要求。许多学生在通过了大学英语四级考试之后,希望尽快进入选修课程的学习,如实用写作、高级听说、英美社会与文化、报刊选读等,以便更有针对性地加强某项语言技能或提高某方面的语言能力和文化素养。从多数院校的实际情况来看,为高年级或通过大学英语四级考试后的学生开设英语选修课程,已成为高等院校大学英语课程建设与发展的一个重要的方面。

本书对各类英语进行了全面概括,分类整理,涵盖了现代社会生活的方方面面,使学生全面深入地掌握丰富的语言知识、文化信息,同时培养学生的听、说、读、写、译等综合应用能力。在选材上,注重中西方不同文化的对比,以此培养学生的文化素养,唤起他们的本土和跨文化意识。

本书具有以下编写特点:

(1) 科学性、系统性和时代性的完美体现。以国内外先进外语教学理论为指导,融多种教学模式和手段为一体,满足一般要求、较高要求和更高要求的分层次教学需要。选材贴近时代、贴近生活;强化听说,注重听、说、读、写、译等技能协调发展;练习编写充分体现实用性、新颖性和可操作性。

(2) 语言能力和文化素质的同步提升。注重培养学习者的英语思维习惯,开拓跨文化交际视野,实现语言综合应用能力和人文素养的全面提高。

(3) 分类指导和因材施教的教学原则。综合听说、阅读、写作、快速阅读等,有助于学生提高语言综合应用能力,从容应对各级语言能力测试。

本书主编为:哈尔滨师范大学的孔令然,哈尔滨石油学院的朱明艳,平顶山学院国际教育交流学院的郭晓燕;副主编为:长春工业大学人文信息学院的张永慧,四川外国语大学国际关系学院的颜艺。其中,孔令然编写第一至四章节;朱明艳编写第五至八章节;郭晓燕编写第九至十二章;张永慧编写第十三章节与附录1;颜艺编写第十四章节与附录2。

本书可作为高等院校非英语专业教材,也可供广大英语爱好者自学使用。

由于编者水平有限,加之时间仓促,书中疏漏之处在所难免,敬请广大读者批评指正。

编者

2013年5月

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# Unit One



**Text A** >>>>>**Learning Foreign Languages**

- 1 Language will continue to diverge. Even if English were to become the universal language, it would still take many different forms. Indeed the same could happen to English as has happened to Chinese: a language of intellectuals which doesn't vary hugely alongside a large number of variants used by local people.
- 2 We will continue to teach other languages in some form, and not just for reasons of practicality. Learning a language is good for your mental health; it forces you to understand another cultural and intellectual system. So I hope British education will develop a more rational approach to the foreign languages available to students in line with their political importance. Because so many people believe it's no longer important to know another language, I fear that time devoted to language teaching in schools may well continue to decline. But you can argue that learning another language well is more demanding than, say, learning to play chess well—it involves sensitivity to a set of complicated rules, and also to context.
- 3 Technology will certainly make a difference to the use of foreign languages. Computers may, for instance, alleviate the drudgery that a vast translation represents. But no one who has seen a computer translation will think it can substitute for live knowledge of the different languages. A machine will always be behind the times. Still more important is the fact that no computer will ever get at the associations beyond the words associations that may not be expressed but which carry much of the meaning. In languages like Arabic, context is very important. Languages come with heavy cultural baggage too—in French or German if you miss the cultural references behind a word you're very likely to be missing the meaning. It will be very hard to teach all that to a computer.
- 4 All the predictions are that English will be spoken by a declining proportion of the world's population in the 21st century. I don't think foreign languages will really become less important, but they might be perceived to be—and that would in the end be a very bad thing.

## New Words

diverge

intellectual

variant

intellectual system

approach (to)

available

say

alleviate

cultural baggage

cultural reference

vi. 分化

n. 知识分子

n. 变体(这里指“方言”)

知识体系

n. (解决问题的)方法

adj. 可获得的, 可得到的

vt. 例如(作插入语, 举例时使用)

vt. 减轻(痛苦等); 缓解; 缓和

文化沉淀

文化典故

## Exercise

I. Answer the following questions based on the above passage.

1. What does the author of this passage most probably work as?

2. What do language learners benefit from learning foreign languages?

3. Why is learning a foreign language a demanding job?

4. What are the limitations of the computer in aspect of foreign language translation?

5. What else do you need to learn if you want to have a good command of foreign languages, such as French?

II. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions or incomplete statements according to the passage.

1. Which of the following words has nearly the same meaning as the word “rational” (Line 4, Para. 2)?

A. sensible

B. meaningful

C. practical

D. reliable

2. Which of the following best expresses the meaning of the word "decline" (Line 7, Para. 2)?
  - A. Keep unchanged.
  - B. Increase only slightly.
  - C. Go from higher to lower.
  - D. Be on the rise.
3. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word "demanding" (Line 8, Para. 2)?
  - A. Requiring more time.
  - B. Challenging.
  - C. Bringing more pleasure.
  - D. Requiring more experience.
4. Which of the following does the word "drudgery" (Line 2, Para. 3) mean?
  - A. Interesting but time-consuming work.
  - B. Easy and boring work.
  - C. Work that requires high concentration.
  - D. Hard, uninteresting work.
5. What does the phrase "substitute for" (Line 3, Para. 3) refer to?
  - A. Be equal to.
  - B. Take the place of.
  - C. Keep up with.
  - D. Have the capacity for.

## Text B

### Social Responsibility of Scientists

- 1 There has been much debate for a number of years about how far scientists should be responsible to society for the results of their work. This question applies particularly to university scientists as they are the ones who are free to choose their field of research.
- 2 The greater number of scientists today work for government sponsored bodies, or in industry; in their case, the responsibility lies mainly with the authorities that employ them; they are not entirely free agents, short of resigning from their post.
- 3 In 1979 legal charges were brought against the University of California claiming that agricultural research which it promoted had led to increased automation and consequently farm workers losing their jobs. The University's defense was that the results of research have been of benefit to the community as a whole through increased productivity and lower food prices, and that in any case the social consequences of its research were the responsibility of the whole community rather than of the University.

- 4 In 1970 the British Society for Social Responsibility in Science held an international conference in London on "The Social Impact of Modern Biology". Twenty famous scientists, including three Nobel Prize winners and six fellows of the Royal Society, presented papers which were subsequently published along with the discussions in a book. It was generally accepted that within the next few decades developments in the biological sciences will radically change civilization as we know it today.
- 5 Discoveries used wisely can be of immense benefit to mankind, but many can also be used in ways that either intentionally or unintentionally have disastrous effects on man and on the other inhabitants of this planet. Most scientists feel involved and have well-developed consciences in these matters, but the problems are extremely complex.
- 6 In the first place scientists—especially those doing pure research—often do not know what sort of discovery they are likely to make, or, having made it, they cannot foresee the eventual impact on society. Very occasionally a scientist may find himself in a cruel dilemma.
- 7 The conference indicated that most scientists do have a feeling of responsibility toward society, but how far they are able to influence the application of their work is another matter. What they can do is to keep the public informed and especially to advise politicians and other influential persons. When a new technical development becomes available it should be examined by a commission on which all sections of the community are represented, including of course scientists competent in the particular field. The universities have a role to play here in that they can provide unbiased experts. The scientists should make the technological assessment of foreseeable benefits and harmful effects, and these should be clearly stated for all to see, but the decisions and responsibilities should be shared by all sections of the community. One of the problems is to arrive at a general agreement about social values and goals. Public debate through the media is essential in helping to shape values and make choices, but everyday experience of politics in democratic countries shows how difficult this often is.
- 8 One of the clearest statements I have read about the social responsibilities of scientists is an article by Nobel Prize winner Ernst Boris Chain. First he makes the point, with which I agree, that the general run of scientists outside their own specialty are no wiser than non-scientists, nor are they free from prejudice and emotional attitudes. Indeed even within their own field they are sometimes intolerant of the views of

colleagues with whom they disagree. Their advice should be sought and respected on technical, factual matters within their competence, but outside the most scientists should be regarded in the same light as other citizens of comparable standing. Chain concludes that scientists cannot be held responsible for the unpleasant effects of their inventions; responsibility lies with the society that adopts the technological application. It is up to society to take-and-pay for measures against the unwanted side-effects such as pollution or invasion of privacy. Like others, Chain says that one thing scientists can and should do is to counteract the tendency of the news media to exaggerate and sensationalize new developments.

9 A point on which all scientists agree as an ideal when discussing these matters is that a scientist should be responsible for presenting a true picture to the public about new developments in his own field, and for indicating possible implications so far as he can see them. But of course scientists working in the defense services are rarely free to do this, nor are most of those in industry. A final word: whatever critics may say or wish, today science is an extremely important part of our culture, and modern civilization is in fact based on technology; there is no going back, and science and technology will influence our lives and the world we live in to an increasing extent. Therefore man will have to adjust to this situation as he has to other changes. Scientists must take a positive part, individually and collectively, in helping people understand the spirit of the brave new world.

### ► New Words ►►►►►►►►►►

sponsor

*n.* 资助, 赞助; 赞助者, 保证人

subsequent

*adj.* 随后的

influential

*adj.* 有影响(力)的

competent

*adj.* 有能力的, 能胜任的

assess

*vt.* 对……进行估价

prejudice

*n.* 偏见, 成见

exaggerate

*vt.* 夸张

collective

*adj.* 共同的, 集体的



## Exercise

### I. Fast Reading (15 minutes).

**Directions:** For questions 1 – 7, mark Y (for Yes), if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage; N (for No), if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage; NG (for Not Given), if the statement is not given in the passage. For questions 8 – 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- ( ) 1. The university scientists are different from other scientists because they seem to have less sense of responsibility.
  - ( ) 2. Admittedly, it's hard to understand his message, but a committee of scientists could figure it out.
  - ( ) 3. One problem that needs our attention is how to get a general agreement about social values and goals.
  - ( ) 4. In fact, he found that individual scientists usually were able to understand only the parts of the message related to their own specialties.
  - ( ) 5. The author believes that a scientist should tell the truth to the public about new developments in his field.
  - ( ) 6. We may infer from the passage that some scientists are not qualified because they sometimes fail to be aware of the disastrous effects their discovery may bring about.
  - ( ) 7. Chain believes the scientists should be responsible for the unpleasant side-effects of their inventions.
8. The responsibility of scientists mainly lies with \_\_\_\_\_ rather than \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Scientists' research can bring both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ on mankind.
10. Though scientists cannot foresee the eventual impact on society, they should \_\_\_\_\_.

### II. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions or incomplete statements according to the passage.

1. The British society for Social Responsibility in Science held an international conference in London on "The Social Impact of Modern Biology" in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 1979                      B. 1989                      C. 1980                      D. 1970
2. How many famous scientists did present papers which were subsequently published along with the discussions in a book?  
A. 3                              B. 20                              C. 6                              D. 14
3. In 1979 legal charges were brought against the University of California claiming that \_\_\_\_\_.

research which it promoted had led to increased automation and consequently agricultural workers losing their jobs.

- A. industrial                      B. farm                      C. food                      D. plastics

4. The conference indicated that most scientists \_\_\_\_\_ a feeling of responsibility toward society, but how far they are able to influence the application of their work is another matter.

- A. had                      B. have had                      C. do have                      D. has

5. A point \_\_\_\_\_ all scientists agree as an ideal when discussing these matters is that a scientist should be responsible for presenting a true picture to the public about new developments in his own field.

- A. on which                      B. by which                      C. in which                      D. with which

## Text C

### Jack Neo Says Sorry

1 Film-Maker Jack Neo apologized to his family and his fans on his blog on Friday, a day after breaking his silence on his affair with a young actress at a dramatic five-minute press conference filled with tears and drama.

2 He also said his public fall from grace was “a retribution”.

3 “There is a saying: You reap what you sow. I often use this phrase as line to strengthen the plot. I didn’t expect it to apply to me,” the 50-year-old actor-director of films such as Money No Enough said in an open, letter on his blog.

4 “What Man does, Heaven sees. Don’t not believe in retribution, and don’t think that if you hide in a dark place and do bad things, Heaven won’t see. My fate is sufficient proof.”

5 He added that the scandal is “a painful awakening” for him—and one which he will not forget for the rest of his life.

6 Holding up the importance of family, he also resolved to cherish his wife of 27 years, Madam Irene King, 46, and be “faithful” to her, promising to work harder to ensure their marriage stay intact.

7 The Cultural Medallion winner, who has been vilified by the local media and netizen



over his philandering ways, also on that he will be “very careful with his own behavior and the way he treats women from now on—to avoid misunderstanding.”

8 “I can’t reverse what I have done. I am just human and can make mistake. Although I have admitted my fault right from the start, I beg you again to forgive me and give me a second chance.”

9 At Thursday’s five-minute press conference, both Neo and his wife broke down. Madam King collapsed and had to be helped off the stage, prompting Netizens to hit out at Neo once more for making use of his wife.

### ► New Words

press conference

新闻发布会, 记者招待会

fall from grace

失宠

retribution

n. 报应, 惩罚

reap

v. 收获

sow

v. 播种

scandal

n. 丑闻

intact

adj. 未受损的

vilify

vt. 诽谤, 诋毁

philander

vi. 用情不专, 调情

reverse

v. 逆转, 后退

collapse

vi. 倒塌

prompt

v. 提示, 启发

hit out at

痛殴, 抨击

### Exercise

Give a short answer to each of the questions.

1. What did Jack Neo write about on his blog?
2. What film was directed by Jack Neo?
3. What does “What Man does, Heaven sees” mean to Jack Neo?
4. What was the response of his wife at the press conference?
5. How did the Netizens think about his wife’s presence at the press conference?