

高忠信 王 坚 主编

大学英语泛读

第 2 册

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前 言

《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)指出:“阅读是掌握语言知识,打好语言基础,获取信息的重要渠道。阅读能力是大部分大学生今后工作所需的重要技能。”在我国已经加入世界贸易组织的今天,全面提高大学生的英语应用能力,特别是阅读能力,已成为大学英语教学的重点。我院的大学英语教师长期以来一直孜孜追求,在努力教学的同时,投入了大量时间和精力,多方收集和精心选编了许多适合当代大学生阅读的文章,以满足大学英语教学的需求。

经过长期酝酿和精心的准备,并在我院外语系领导的大力支持和与苏州大学出版社联手合作下,《大学英语泛读》第1-4册终于与广大教师和学生见面了。我们精选了许多当代大学生普遍感兴趣而且难易适中的文章。还由教学经验丰富的大学英语教学骨干负责撰写了相关的配套练习,以供学生读后检测之用,并附有部分答案,以供读者参考。

本教程所含文章大多选自国内外最新出版的书刊和杂志。教程分四册,每册一学期,可供大学英语教学四学期使用。为便于学生阅读,我们对文章中部分语言点作了注释。

我们相信我们所做的各项工作将有助于学生提高自己的阅读能力。对相关部门和个人对我们出版、发行和使用该教程提供的许多便利和文持,我们表示由衷的感谢,并希望在使用过程中提出宝贵意见,以便在再版时修正。

编 者

2002年9月

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Reading Passage One

There is a piece of paper on my desk carefully marked "New Year's Resolutions." I intend to fill it up just as soon as I figure out how.

A strange uncertainty has kept the page blank for days, although I have filed my list on deadline, January 1, since I was a child. It has been a grocery list of past flaws and future hopes. A reminder to replenish the things I had run out of, like patience or kindness, and to stock upon things I'd never tried, like Spanish or Dostoyevsky.

I have always meant to cross the items off, one by one, as I pushed my cart up the aisles of months. But my resolutions have so often lost their resolve.

Now what do I do? Recycle the same old items? Doesn't a new year require new resolutions?

Perhaps the problem is that we never actually get a new year. We carry our old years along with us and try writing our New Year's resolutions on the same dusty slate.

Stop smoking, someone writes, talking about last year's habit. Lose ten pounds, someone else writes, confessing last year's indulgence. Be a better parent, friend, child, worker, we write, steered back to last year's faults. It seems we are ever last year's people.

But the tradition of New Year's resolutions is an acknowledgment that, despite all that is known and set and past in our lives, we can change. It's a way to tip our hats to possibilities, to the idea that we can still produce a different future.

In the pause between last year and next year, we need to resolve something: to break a pattern, take a risk, get some "new" in the year.

There, must be at least one pattern in our lives that has degenerated into a habit as accepted as the idiosyncrasies of a partially broken toaster. Dinner at Mother's every Sunday? The same seat at the table every mealtime?

In everyday life, there are taken-for-granted, expectations, obligations. How many of them have simply existed, unexplored over a decade? What would happen if we left the dishes in the sink? Or if we said no?

The unexamined routines sit there like old wedding presents that no one mentions, no one likes, no one gets rid of. They take up the room we need for the new in the year.

If we resolve to sort them out and send the useless baggage off, then we have a space for risk. Then we can resolve to take a chance. To reach out to try something we can't yet do. To surprise someone. Even to discover that some of the obligations and expectations and taken-for-granted are really voluntary pleasures.

Enough. I have a list to make. I think I will start it again and call it "Resolutions for a Relatively New Year." I will list only one thought: Break a Pattern.

Words and Expressions

figure 解决;领会到

replenish 把……装满;把……再备足

aisles 走廊,过道

confess 声称,声明;坦白;承认

indulgence 放纵

steer 驾驶

tip one's hat 轻触帽沿(表示尊敬)

degenerate 堕落,退化

idiosyncrasy 特性

figure out 计算出;解决;断定;领会到

toastmaster 祝酒人,致祝酒词的人,宴会主持人

Notes

1. filed my list on deadline, January 1: 把我所要做的事一件件记下来,并限定在1月1日前完成
2. stork upon: 贮存
3. cross...off: 勾销
4. aisles of months: 时间长廊
5. ever last wear's people: 经受磨炼的人
6. sort...out: 把……分类
7. risk: 挑战

Reading Comprehension

1. The "grocery list" means _____.
 - A. a list of a grocery store
 - B. a list with a lot of minor things
 - C. a list that one must pay the grocery
 - D. a list that the grocery keeps

2. When the author says “we never actually get a new year” he means _____.
 - A. he always lives in poor
 - B. he is not always in the old year
 - C. he can not break the pattern in the old year
 - D. he can't forget the old year
3. What does “my resolutions” refer to?
 - A. the resolution in the old year.
 - B. the resolution in the next year.
 - C. the resolution to break the old pattern and live a new life.
 - D. the resolution to recycle the same old items.
4. What is the best title?
 - A. My Resolution in the New Year
 - B. Put Some New in Your Year
 - C. The Old Year and the New Year
 - D. Make Up Your Mind
5. The author's attitude toward the new year's resolution is _____.
 - A. determined
 - B. dilemmatic
 - C. as usual
 - D. it is not mentioned

Translation

1. But the tradition of New Year's resolutions is an acknowledgment that, despite all that is known and set and past in our lives, we can change.
2. The unexamined routines sit there like old wedding presents that no one mentions, no one likes, no one gets rid of.

Short Answer Questions

1. When will he fill in the resolution paper?
2. What does he think of his New Year's resolution list?

3. What will he do in the pause between last year and next year?
4. What does “they” in the third paragraph from the bottom refer to?
5. What will happen “if we resolve to sort them out and send the useless baggage off”?

Reading Passage Two

Elaborate devices have been used to extract letters from unwilling writers. Not long ago, a student newspaper ran this advertisement: "Sweet little old lady wishes to correspond with six-foot student with brown eyes answering to initials J.D.B." signed, "His mother." Andrew Carnegie once wagered \$100 that he could entice an uncommunicative nephew to write. He sent the boy a chatty letter, ending, "P.S. I enclose a \$5 bill." By not enclosing the money, he won an immediate and plaintive reply: "Dear Uncle Andrew ..."

The problem of the nonletter-writer is not new. Nearly 2000 years ago, Pliny the Younger rebuked a dilatory correspondent: "You say there is nothing to write about. Then write me that there is nothing to write about." But there are other solutions for those who hate to write letters.

Send postcards The postcard is of restricted length. You can devote much space to the picture on the reverse and you can write large. Always carry stamped postcards in your handbag or briefcase. You can dash off a witty note in a bus, in the dentist's waiting room, or wherever you are when the mood is upon you.

Mail objects This curious branch of the nonletter-writer's art has many adherents. A reticent naturalist sends his colleagues scraps of bark and dried rare flowers. "See Joe's been in the mountains," they mutter after a little pleasant research. A strong but silent fisherman scrapes a few impressive scales from a notable catch and dispatches them to his envious friends. A gourmet sends lightweight ashtrays, matchbooks and menus from notable hostelrys. If he found the food was disappointing, the menu is slashed with a big X.

Use greeting cards There are cards nowadays to cover every human triumph or tragedy, from the 67th birthday to the death of a favorite goldfish.

Record your messages With thousands of tape recorders around, no one has to go far to record a message, or play one back. There's no need to prepare a formal speech—the family at dinner or the neighbors in for a party all provide good material.

- C. one is in good emotion D. all the above
2. The “dash off” in Paragraph 3 means _____.
A. rush out B. write
C. to finish in a hurry D. bump
3. It is implied in Paragraph 4 “Mail objects” that _ _ _ .
A. gourmets are always particular
B. all the people like to send objects
C. different people have different habit of sending different things
D. fisherman are unfriendly
4. What did Andrew enclose in the letter to his nephew?
A. \$5. B. A gift.
C. Nothing. D. \$100.
5. According to the author, the pictures you send _____.
A. muse be clear enough
B. should be in big size
C. can remind you of the story that happened even a long time ago
D. both A and C

Translation

1. Elaborate devices have been used to extract letters from unwilling writers.
2. There's no need to prepare a formal speech—the family at dinner or the neighbors in for a party all provide good material.

Short Answer Questions

1. Why did the student newspaper run the advertisement?
2. Why did Andrew write to his nephew?

3. When will you send a greeting card according to the passage?
4. To mail clipping is the easiest way to keep in touch with others, isn't it? Why?
5. Give other two means to keep in touch without writing letters.

Reading Passage Three

The idea of rainmaking is almost as old as man, but it was not until 1946 that man succeeded in making rain. In ancient times, rainmakers had claimed to bring rain by many methods: dancing, singing, killing various kinds of living creatures (including humans), and blowing a stream of water into the air from a kind of pipe.

During World War II, Dr. Irving Langmuir, a scientist, was hired by the General Electric Company to study how and why ice forms on the wings of airplanes. He and a young assistant named Schaefer went to a mountain in the state of New Hampshire, where snowstorms are common and cold winds blow.

While in New Hampshire, Langmuir and Schaefer were surprised to learn that often the temperature of the clouds surrounding them was far below the freezing point, and yet ice did not form in the clouds. After the War, Schaefer experimented with a machine that created cold, moist air similar to the air found in clouds. To imitate the moist air of a cloud, Schaefer would breathe into the machine. Then he would drop into the freezer a bit of powder, sugar, or some other substance. For weeks and months he tried everything he could imagine. Nothing happened. No crystals of ice were formed. None of the substances would serve as the center of a snow crystal or raindrop.

One July morning, Schaefer was dropping in bits of various substances and watching the unsuccessful results. Finally, a friend suggested that they go to eat lunch, and Schaefer gladly went with him. As usual, he left the cover of the freezer up, since cold air sinks and would not escape from the box.

Returning from lunch, Schaefer was beginning to perform his experiments again when he happened to look at the temperature of the freezer. It had risen to a point higher than that required for ice crystals to remain solid. The warm summer weather had arrived without his noticing it. He would have to be more careful in the future.

There were two choices now. He could close the cover and wait for the freezer itself to lower the air temperature, or he could make the process occur faster by adding dry ice,

a gas in solid form that is very, very cold. He chose the latter plan. He decided to try a container of dry ice.

As he dropped the steaming white dry ice into the freezer, he happened to breathe out a large amount of air. And there, before his eyes, it happened! In the ray of light shining into the freezer, he saw tiny pieces of something in his breath. He knew immediately that they were ice crystals. Then he realized what had happened! He had made ice crystals, not by adding centers to the moisture but by cooling the breath so much that the liquid had to form crystals! Schaefer called to his helpers to come and watch. Then he began to blow his breath into the freezer and drop large pieces of dry ice through it to create crystals which became a tiny snowstorm falling slowly to the floor of his laboratory.

If he could make snow in a freezer, Schaefer thought, why couldn't he do so in a real cloud? He decided to try it in an airplane with a machine to blow dry ice out into the clouds.

On a cold day in November, Schaefer and Langmuir saw clouds in the sky, and Schaefer climbed into the airplane. He realized he would have to fly some distance before finding the right kind of cloud—a big gray one that must be filled with moisture. Seeing one, Schaefer told the pilot of the plane to fly above the cloud. At the proper time, he started the machine, and dry ice began to fall from the airplane into the cloud below. When half the load of dry ice was gone, the motor stopped because it had become too cold. Schaefer had to think quickly. He merely threw the remaining dry ice out of the window of the plane and into the cloud below.

On the ground, Dr. Langmuir watched excitedly and saw snow falling from the bottom of the cloud. When Schaefer returned to the ground, blue with cold, Langmuir ran to him, shouting, "You have made history!" And indeed he had. Almost as soon as the news of his accomplishment was sent across the United States and around the world, a hundred other rain makers were throwing dry ice into clouds—or "seeding the clouds" as it was called.

When Schaefer discovered that ice crystals could be formed without finding the right material to make centers for the crystals, he stopped searching for such materials. But another young worker at General Electric, Bernard Vonnegut, had become interested in the problem. Vonnegut began looking through a chemistry book for some chemical compound that might have the right size and shape to form crystals around it. He found what he was looking for. It was a compound called silver iodide. He got some silver iodide and