



全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

大学英语 阅读教程

第三册

宋铁花 主编

COLLEGE ENGLISH

*Reading
Course*



中国农业出版社

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前言

《大学英语阅读教程》系全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材，供高等农林院校非英语专业一、二年级使用，亦适用于农林牧类专科院校及同等程度的英语自学者。教材旨在提高学生的阅读理解能力，扩大词汇量，掌握阅读技巧，通过四个学期的授课和自学达到大学英语教学的基本要求，并掌握与农林牧水相关的基本专业英语知识。

本教材的主要特点为：

一、阅读材料题材广泛，涉及英语国家社会、经济、文化、历史等诸多领域，内容新颖，同时兼顾了农业院校的专业特点，收入了有关最新科学技术，尤其是农林牧水方面发展的文章，注重文章的趣味性、可读性及文体的多样化。

二、由于高等农林院校学生的外语整体水平与其他类别院校相比，在入学成绩、教学条件及语言学习环境等方面具有一定差距，本阅读教程根据学生语言学习和专业学习的实际需要，既能提高英语学习水平，扩大学生专业知识视野，又能增加文化背景知识，全面提高学生的英语素养，达到迅速提高英语水平、学习英美文化、了解农业最基本内容的目的。

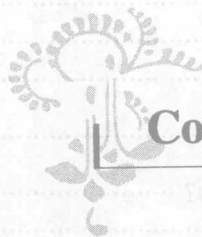
本教程共四册，每册 12 个单元，供大学英语教学一到四学期使用。本册每单元分为两部分，第一部分为阅读课文及练习。练习包括阅读理解、完形填空、词汇、翻译及课堂讨论题。第二部分为快速阅

读, 提供有关农林牧水及现代科技的两篇短文, 教师可根据学生的实际情况选用。每两个单元附有相关阅读技巧, 重点介绍各种阅读技能, 并配有相应的练习。书后附有练习答案, 供教师和学生参考。

受编写时间与编者经验和水平所限, 教材中不当之处在所难免, 诚望广大读者不吝指正。

编者

2007年5月

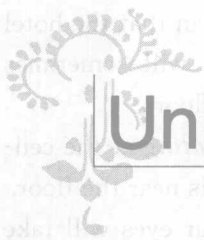


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Unit One

Text

How to Survive a Hotel Fire

When people are caught in a hotel fire, it can be even more disorienting than at home, because they are in unfamiliar surroundings, often asleep. So it is important to be prepared in case a fire does break out.

Surviving a hotel fire begins right after you check in. Now the author tells you how to do it directly and step by step.

As a firefighter, I have seen many people die in hotel fires. Most could have saved themselves had they been prepared. There are over 10,000 hotel fires per year in the United States. In 1979, the latest year for which figures are available, there were 11,500 such fires, resulting in 140 deaths and 1,225 injuries.

Contrary to what you have seen in the movies, fire is not likely to chase you down and burn you to death. It's the **byproducts** of fire—smoke and **panic**—that are almost always the causes of death.

For example, a man wakes up at 2:30 A. M. to the smell of smoke. He pulls on his pants and runs into the hallway—to be greeted by heavy smoke. He has no idea where the exit is, so he runs first to the right. No exit. Where is it? Panic **sets in**. He's coughing and **gagging** now; his eyes hurt. He can't see his way back to his room. His chest hurts; he needs oxygen **desperately**. He runs in the other direction, completely **disoriented**. At 2:50 A. M. we find him dead of smoke **inhalation**.

Remember, the presence of smoke doesn't necessarily mean that the hotel will burn down. Air-conditioning and air-exchange systems will sometimes pick up smoke from one room and carry it to other rooms or floors.

Smoke, because it is warmer than air, will start **accumulating** at the ceiling and work its way down. The fresh air you should breathe is near the floor. What's more, smoke is extremely **irritating** to the eyes. Your eyes will take only so much irritation, then they will close and you won't be able to open them.

Your other enemy, panic—a **contagious**, **overpowering** terror—can make you do things that could kill you. The man in the foregoing example would not have died if he had known what to do. Had he found out beforehand where the exit was—four doors down on the left—he could have gotten down on his hands and knees close to the floor, where the air is fresher. Then, even if he couldn't keep his eyes open, he could have felt the wall as he **crawled**, counting doors.

Here are my rules for surviving hotel fires:

Know where the exits are. As soon as you drop your luggage in your room, turn around and go back into the hallway to check for an exit. If two share a room, both should locate the exit. Open the exit door. Are there stairs or another door beyond? As you return to your room, count the doors you pass. Is there anything in the hallway that would be in your way—an ice machine, maybe? This procedure takes very little time and, to be effective, it must become a habit.

Become familiar with your room. See if your bathroom has an **exhaust fan**. In an emergency you can turn it on to help **remove** smoke. Check the window. If it opens, look outside. Do you see any **window sills**? How high up are you?

Leave the hotel at the first sign of smoke. If something awakens you during the night, **investigate** it before you go back to sleep. In a hotel fire near Los Angeles airport, one of the guests was awakened by people yelling but went back to bed thinking it was a party. He nearly died in bed.

Always take your key. Don't lock yourself out of your room. You may find conditions elsewhere unbearable. Get in the habit of putting the key in the same place. The night **stand**, close to the bed, is an excellent spot.

Stay on your hands and knees. If you do wake up to smoke, grab your key from the night stand, roll off the bed and crawl toward the door. Even if you could tolerate the smoke when standing, don't. Save your eyes and lungs for as long as possible. Five feet up, the air may already be full of carbon **monoxide**. If the door isn't hot, open it slowly and check the hallway.

Should you decide to leave, close the door behind you. Most doors take hours to burn. They are excellent fire shields, so close everyone you go through.

Make your way to the exit. Stay against the wall closest to the exit, counting doors as you pass.

Don't use the elevator. Elevator **shafts** extend through all floors of a building, and easily fill with smoke and carbon monoxide. Smoke, heat, and fire do **odd** things to elevator controls. Several years ago a group of firemen used an elevator in responding to a fire on a 20th floor. They pushed No. 18, but the elevator **shot** past the 18th floor and opened on the 20th—to an **inferno** that killed the firemen.

If you can't go down, go up. When you reach the exit **stairwell** and begin to descend, **hang on to** the **handrail** as you go. People may be running and they could knock you down.

Sometimes smoke gets into the stairwell. If it's a tall building, the smoke may not rise very high before it cools and becomes heavy. You could enter the stairwell on the 23rd floor and find it clear, then as you descend, encounter smoke. Do not try to run through it; people die that way. Turn around and walk up.

When you reach the roof, **prop** open the door. (This is the only time to leave a door open.) Any smoke in the stairwell can now **vent** itself. Find the windward side of the building (the side that the wind is blowing from) and wait until the firefighters reach you. Don't panic if you can't get out onto the roof because the door is locked. Many people have survived by staying in the stairwell until the firefighters arrived. Again, don't try to run through the smoke.

Look before you leap. If you're on the ground floor, of course, just open the window and climb out. From the next floor you might make it with only a **sprained** ankle, but you must jump out far enough to **clear** the building. Many

people hit windowsills on the way down, and cartwheel to the ground. If you're any higher than the third floor, chances are you won't survive the fall. You would probably be better off staying inside and fighting the fire.

If you can't leave your room, fight the fire. If your door is too hot to open or the hallway is completely filled with smoke, don't panic. First, open the window to help vent any smoke in your room. (Don't break the window; if there is smoke outside, you may need to close it.)

If your phone is still working, call the fire department. (Do not assume it has been notified. **Incredibly** enough, some hotels will not call the fire department until they **verify** whether there is really a fire and try to put it out themselves.)

Switch on the bathroom fan. Fill the tub with water. Wet some sheets or towels, and stuff them into the cracks around your door to keep out smoke. Fill your ice bucket or wastebasket with water from the bathtub and **douse** the door and walls to keep them cool. If possible, put your **mattress** up against the door and **secure** it with the **dresser**.

Keep everything wet. A wet towel tied around your nose and mouth can be an effective filter of smoke **particles**. Swing a wet towel around the room; it will help clear the smoke. If there is fire outside the window, remove the **drapes**, move away as much **combustible** material as you can, and throw water around the window. Use your common sense, and keep fighting until help arrives.

(1,299 words)

R. H. Kauffman. *Student's Book of College English*. p. 179

Notes

- by-product ['baɪˌprɒdʌkt] *n.* something additional that is produced during a natural or industrial process 副产品
- panic ['pænik] *n.* a sudden strong feeling of fear or nervousness that makes one unable to think clearly or behave sensibly 惊慌, 惊恐
- set in something begins and seems likely to continue for a long time 开始并持续下去
- gag [gæɡ] *v.* to be unable to swallow and feel as if one

	is about to bring up food from his stomach 窒息,作呕
desperately ['despəritli] <i>adv.</i>	very or very much 拼命地
disoriented [dis'ɔ:riəntid] <i>adj.</i>	confused about where one is or which direction one should go 迷失方向的, 迷惑的
inhalation [ˌinhə'leɪʃən] <i>n.</i>	the act of breathing in air, smoke, or gas 吸入
accumulate [ə'kju:mjuleit] <i>v.</i>	to gradually increase in numbers or amount until there is a large quantity in one place 收集,堆集
irritating ['iriteitiŋ] <i>adj.</i>	an irritating habit, situation etc keeps annoying somebody 刺激的
contagious [kən'teidʒəs] <i>adj.</i>	spreading or tending to spread from one to another 易传染的;有感染力的
overpowering [əʊvə'pauəriŋ] <i>adj.</i>	very strong 强烈的
crawl [kro:ɪl] <i>v.</i>	to move along on your hands and knees with your body close to the ground 爬,爬行
exhaust fan	a fan on or in a building that waste gases pass through 排气风扇,抽风机
remove [ri'mu:v] <i>v.</i>	to do away with; eliminate 处理掉,排除
windowsill ['windəʊsil] <i>n.</i>	a shelf fixed along the bottom of a window 窗架,架状突出物
investigate [in'vestigeit] <i>v.</i>	to observe or inquire into in detail; examine systematically. 调查,研究
stand [stænd] <i>n.</i>	a piece of furniture or equipment used to hold or support something 架子,置物台
monoxide [mə'nɒksaid] <i>n.</i>	an oxide with each molecule containing one oxygen atom 一氧化物
shaft [ʃɑ:ft] <i>n.</i>	a passage which goes down through a building or down into the ground, so that someone or something can get in or out 电梯的垂直升降井
odd [ɒd] <i>adj.</i>	different from what is normal or expected,

shoot [ʃʊt] <i>v.</i>	especially in a way that you disapprove of or cannot understand 奇怪的, 古怪的
inferno [in'fɜ:nəu] <i>n.</i>	to move quickly in a particular direction, or to make something move in this way 突进, 迅速经过
stairwell ['steəwel] <i>n.</i>	a place of fiery heat or destruction 炽热之地, 毁灭性的大火
hang on to	the space going up through all the floors of a building, where the stairs go up 楼梯井, 楼梯间
handrail ['hændreil] <i>n.</i>	hold, grip, or keep tenaciously 紧紧抓住不放
prop [prɒp] <i>v.</i>	a long bar that is fixed to the side of a set of stairs for people to hold while they walk up or down 扶手, 栏杆
vent [vent] <i>v.</i>	to support something by leaning it against something, or by putting something else under, next to, or behind it 支持, 支撑
sprain [sprein] <i>v.</i>	to release or discharge (smoke, for example) through an opening 放出, 排出
clear [kliə] <i>v.</i>	to damage a joint in body by suddenly twisting it 扭伤, 扭坏关节
verify ['verifai] <i>v.</i>	to leave a place quickly 离去, 迅速地离开
incredibly [in'kredəbli] <i>adv.</i>	to discover whether something is correct or true 核实, 查对
douse [daʊs] <i>v.</i>	in a way that is hard to believe 难以置信地, 可疑地
mattress ['mætris] <i>n.</i>	to cover something in water or other liquid 使湿透; 浸湿
secure [si'kjʊə] <i>v.</i>	the soft part of a bed that you lie on 床垫
dresser ['dresə] <i>n.</i>	to make certain; ensure 确定, 确保
	a piece of furniture with drawers for storing clothes, sometimes with a mirror on top 梳妆台

particle ['pɑ:tɪkl] *n.*

a very small piece of something 颗粒,微粒

drape [dreɪp] *n.*

long heavy curtains 窗帘,帷幕

combustible [kəm'bʌstəbl] *adj.*

able to burn easily 易燃的,可燃的

Exercises

I. Comprehension

Read the following questions and statements and choose the best answer for each one.

- What's the main idea of this article?
 - To explain why there are many people die in fires.
 - To inform people that living in hotel is dangerous.
 - To tell people how to escape from the hotel fire.
 - To introduce some information about the fires in America.
- What does the author think about hotel fires in America?
 - Most of fires can be put out in time.
 - Most of the victims can be saved if they are prepared.
 - There are too many hotel fires to be put out.
 - Most people know how to escape from the hotel fire.
- What're the true causes of death in hotel fires?
 - Fire.
 - Smoke.
 - Terror.
 - Both B and C.
- How many people died from hotel fires in America in 1979?
 - 1,225.
 - 140.
 - 11,500.
 - 10,000.
- The author tries to instruct _____ to survive in hotel fires.
 - hotel service
 - firefighters
 - officers
 - guests
- In Para. 6 the man who awakens to the smell of smoke fails to survive because _____.
 - he doesn't find the fire earlier
 - it is 2:30 in the morning
 - he inhales smoke
 - he loses his conscience
- What is the most important rule to take when one checks into the hotel ac-

- cording to the author?
- A. To take one's luggage.
 - B. To stay in the room.
 - C. To check for the key.
 - D. To check for living surrounding.
8. On what condition should one climb up the stairwell rather than climbing down?
- A. There is an elevator nearby.
 - B. The downward stairs are blocked by smoke.
 - C. The smoke begins to rise.
 - D. The hotel is burning down.
9. How can a man do to avoid the poisonous effect of smoke in a burning hotel?
- A. Trying to stand up.
 - B. Staying on hands and knees.
 - C. Running through the smoke quickly.
 - D. Entering the stairwell.
10. Which of the following is NOT true?
- A. All hotels will call the fire department as soon as they find a fire.
 - B. Most of the hotel doors take long time to burn out.
 - C. The air five feet up the floor could be full of carbon monoxide in a fire.
 - D. The elevator sometimes is out of control in a fire.

II. Maze

The following passage, taken from the selection you have just read, has words omitted from it. Fill in each blank using a word from the set of five words below the passage.

Remember, the 1 of smoke doesn't necessarily mean that the hotel will 2. Air-conditioning and air-exchange systems will sometimes 3 smoke from one room and carry it to other rooms or floors.

Smoke, because it is warmer than air, will start 4 at the ceiling and work its way down. The fresh air you should 5 is near the floor. What's more, smoke is extremely 6 to the eyes. Your eyes will take only so much irritation, then they will close and you won't be able to open them.

Your other enemy, 7—a contagious, overpowering terror—can