

高等学校教材

英语

泛读教程

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上海外语教育出版社

高等学校通用教材

大学基础阶段

英语泛读教程

第二册

曾肖千 陈道芳 编
胡斐佩 王炳炎

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第二册
曾青干等 编

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出版说明

《英语泛读教程》是为我国高等院校英语专业基础阶段编写的一套泛读课教材。全书分四册，即每学期一册。本书的编写指导思想、教学要求和选材标准力求体现《高等院校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲》的基本精神和有关规定，经过试用，教学效果良好。国家教委高等学校外语专业教材编审委员会于1987年组织了审查。

参加本书审稿会议的有上海外国语学院、天津外国语学院、北京师范大学、四川外国语学院和南开大学等高等院校的代表。审稿会由上海外国语学院何兆熊教授主持，上海外国语学院李冬教授担任主审。参加审稿会议的代表对这套教材提出了宝贵的意见和建议，并认为本书是按《高等院校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲》要求选编的比较完整的教材，一致推荐作为全国高等学校英语专业通用教材，现经国家教委教材编审委员会批准出版。

编者的话

(一)本教程是高等学校英语专业基础阶段的课内阅读教材，它的编写指导思想是：通过课内大量阅读实践，提高学生英语阅读理解能力；培养学生细微观察语言、分析归纳、假设判断、推理论证等逻辑思维能力；训练阅读技巧，提高阅读速度；扩大学生认知词汇量，增加学生文化背景知识。本书不包括快速阅读材料及有关速读技巧的训练。

(二)本教程分四册，近100万字，供英语专业基础阶段第一至第四级使用，即每学期一册。每册分为20个单元，每周一个单元，略有余裕，由教师根据实际授课时间自由取舍。

(三)本教程的选材原则是：(1)由浅入深、从易到难，最后达到《高等学校英语专业基础阶段教学大纲》所规定的阶段终点阅读要求。鉴于各地区、各院校新生入学水平不一，第一、二册对难度作了适当控制，选用了较多的浅易材料，并以反映一般生活的故事、小说题材为主；非故事性题材为辅，以便于培养学生阅读兴趣和通过口、笔头活动配合其他各项语言技能的发展。从第三册开始，逐步提高难度，扩大题材范围，以适应阅读理解能力发展的需要。为便于教学双方掌握有关阅读水平的要求，本书选用了《大纲》所开列的阅读标准篇目，如第二级结束时的“The Story of My Life”和第四级结束时的“The Moon Is Down”。(2)坚持思想标准、语言标准和文化标准的统一。本书所选材料既要求思想

内容健康，引人向上，又力求语言文字规范、题材广泛、内容新颖，以便于学生在思想上获得教益的同时，尽量扩大语言接触面，并增加对所学语言的国家社会文化背景的了解。为此，本教程除保留了一些多年实践证明教学效果较好的传统篇目(如 The £ 1, 000,000 Bank-note, An Inspector Calls 等)外，还选用了一些反映 80 年代英美国家社会情况的材料(如 Iacocca, One Doctor against the Plague 等)。

(四)为便于组织课堂教学，本教程在编写体例上每单元由课文、注释、理解点 (Comprehension points) 和练习四个部分组成。

课文：每单元长度为 7000 — 8000 字，通常由一篇完整的材料组成，最多不超过三篇；长篇连用，一般不超过三单元。学生对课文应阅读两遍，第一遍用快速进行预读 (preview)，要求对所读材料的主题及文章结构具有概略了解，第二遍用正常速度 (average reading speed) 逐句阅读，进一步了解所读材料的中心大意、抓住主要情节或论点，并根据所读材料进行推理分析，领会作者真实意图，同时完成一定量的笔头作业。

注释：注解包括少量单词、短语和部分难句的注释以及相关背景知识和重要作者的介绍。第一、二册的注释以中文为主，第三册以后增加英文注释比例。少数生词和语言难点未加注释，是为了培养学生查阅工具书的习惯和独立解决问题的能力，也是便于教师课堂检查和讲解。

理解点：每单元根据具体内容列出了数量不等的理解点。这些理解点包括了语言和内容两个方面的理解问题，其目的在于培养学生细致观察语言的能力和引导学生分析判断、深入理解作者意图。它既可作为学生独立阅读时的阅读

指导提纲 (Guide to Reading), 也可作为教师课堂检查的依据, 教师可根据学生理解上的共同问题, 讲解有关阅读技巧。每题括号中的数字分别表示页码和行数。

练习: 练习的形式有三种, 即正误判断题、多项选择题和综合性问答题。练习的内容包括检查学生对课文大意、中心思想、基本观点、基本事实、具体论点以及语言的含蓄意义等方面的理解情况。从第三册开始, 通过多项选择题的形式增加了一些词汇理解练习。以期引导学生扩大词汇知识。上述各项练习, 既可由教师在课堂上进行口头检查, 也可指定为学生阅读过程中的笔头作业。

本书的编写得到了中国英语教学研究会中南地区分会和中国人民解放军外国语学院的大力支持以及试用单位的热情鼓励, 谨此致谢。

编者 1988年2月
于中国人民解放军外国语学院

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Unit One

DREAM OF STARS

If we stand on a city street and look up at the sky, the stars seem dim and far away. The lights of the city blind¹ us. Tall buildings shut out² great parts of the sky.

But let us go out and climb a hill some clear summer night. The city's lights and buildings are left far behind. The sky seems like a soft blue curtain over our heads. And the stars are like diamonds twinkling brightly in the sky.

As we stand looking upward, we are doing something that men have been doing from the beginning of history. Wise men and shepherds looked in wonder at the same pinpoints³ of light thousands of years ago. What were they made of? How did they come to be up there in the sky?

People watched the heavens⁴ to find answers to these questions. The study of the stars is the oldest of all sciences. We call it astronomy⁵. People who study astronomy are called astronomers⁶.

(1) EARLY ASTRONOMY

People of long ago knew much less about the world than we do. Often they believed things that were not true.

They saw many groups of stars up in the sky. They gave each group a name, and made up stories to tell how it had come to be there. These groups are called constellations.

The constellations were named after gods and giants, heroes and beautiful girls, fish and dragons and horses. The bright wide belt that runs across the sky overhead was thought to be a road that the sky people traveled over.

On a clear summer night we can find that bright road today. We call it the Milky Way.

And we can find the stars of each constellation too. To us most of them do not seem to have the shape of any living thing. But we still call the stars and the constellations by the names given to them by the people of long ago.

The very first astronomers learned one important thing about the stars. They saw that every year at the same time the stars were in the same place in the sky.

As soon as men knew that, they could make use of the stars in many ways. By watching the sky they could tell what time of the year it was, and they could make a calendar.

They discovered, too, that one star never moved at all. It always shone directly to the north. So they called it the North Star⁹, or the Pole Star¹⁰. Now they could go farther on the sea in ships. As long as the captain could see the North Star, he knew which way he was going.

Early astronomers also learned that all the stars seemed to move together. They moved as if they were stuck to¹¹ a great ball turning around the earth. No star ever appeared to come closer to another star or get farther away from it. So men said the stars were fixed.

But early astronomers were soon surprised to find that not quite all the stars were fixed stars. Five stars seemed to move differently from the others. Sometimes they rose in one part of the sky, sometimes in another. Sometimes all five of them could be seen sometimes none. And because they acted in this strange way, the early astronomers called them planets¹². That means wanderers.

Now even in those days not all the people believed that the stars were gods and heroes. Some astronomers knew those were just make-believe¹³ stories.

One of these astronomers was an Egyptian named Ptolemy¹⁴. Ptolemy lived over 1,800 years ago, in the 2nd century A.D. He had watched the sky very carefully. He knew that the sun and the moon moved across the sky. He also figured out¹⁵ that the earth must be round. And he was right about that.

But Ptolemy's idea about the universe was wrong. He

thought that the earth was set inside a great hollow ball. The inside of this ball was the sky. On its surface were set the stars, each in its place. Within the great ball were smaller glass-like balls that held the sun and the moon and the planets. He thought the earth was standing still in the center of the great ball. And all the smaller balls circled around the earth. So the stars and the sun and the moon and the planets seemed to travel across the sky.

Ptolemy's idea was welcomed by the Church at the time. The Church believed that the earth was created by God and therefore was the center of the universe. In the middle of the sixteenth century a truer idea was given to the world by Copernicus¹⁶, father of modern Astronomy.

(2) COPERNICUS

Copernicus was born in Poland¹⁷ in 1473. He spent nearly forty years studying quietly the movements of planets and stars. He wrote a thick book explaining his radical views. Word of them spread across Europe. But the book was not published until his death in 1543, because Copernicus knew his ideas were too radical. They would upset the whole science of astronomy and cause cruel persecution by the Church.

Copernicus said that the stars and the sun did not turn around the earth. Instead, it was the earth that was turning! The sun and the stars were not really moving.

Sometimes when we are traveling on a train it seems as if the trees outside are moving quickly past us. But the trees only seem to be moving. The truth is that the train is moving past the trees. In the same way, the sun and the stars seem to be moving over the earth in the sky. But it is the earth that is really moving.

The earth is turning like a top¹⁸. And as it turns, half of it is always facing the sun, and half of it is in darkness. When the place where we live is facing the sun, we have daylight. When it is turned away from the sun, we have night.

There are stars all around the world, but we can see them only at night. The sun shines so brightly in the daytime that it outshines¹⁹ the stars.

So the stars disappear in the daytime. But at night they appear again, and move together across the sky.

Suppose some night after dark we look at the sky. Then we look at it again two hours later. The stars have moved over to the west a little!

Now if we look at the sky a month later at the same time, we see that the stars have moved even farther to the west. In the east are some stars that were not there a month before.

The reason for this change night after night is that every night the place where we are on the earth is turned toward a slightly different part of the sky. The earth is moving in a wide circle around the sun, and every night it is at a

different place in the heavens. Astronomers have found that because of the earth's movement, stars rise and set each day four minutes earlier than the day before.

When one year has passed, the earth is in the place from which it started. And so every year at the same time the stars look exactly the same.

Other astronomers who came after Copernicus found out that he had been right. But a long time passed before everyday people could believe that the earth on which they lived was not the center of the whole world. And as astronomers found out more about the stars, people learned to believe even stranger things.

(3) THE WORLD THROUGH TELESCOPES²⁰

About three hundred years ago an Italian named Galileo²¹ heard about an instrument which helped the astronomers find much more about the heavens. This instrument was the telescope.

The telescope is a long tube with special pieces of glass in it that make things far away seem bigger. It is something like field glasses²², but is very much stronger.

Since Galileo made his first telescope for the study of stars, men have been making bigger and better telescopes. Not long ago a new type of telescope called the radio telescope²³ was made. Radio telescopes don't look at, but listen to the skies. They find out new stars by picking up

radio waves from them. This new type of telescope can get to stars three or four times farther away than the old type. But it is also much bigger. Some radio telescopes are as big as a football field. With these powerful telescopes, astronomers have found out some very exciting things about the stars.

With the telescope people could see that there were many, many more stars than they had ever dreamed of. Even Galileo's first weak telescope showed that the Milky Way was not just a cloudy pathway²⁴ across the sky. It was made of millions of stars, crowded close together.

Using nothing but our own eyes, we can see about six thousand stars. But with the latest telescope we can see one billion²⁵! There are many more, so far away that we cannot see them even through the telescope. Astronomers tell us that there are probably a hundred billion in our own neighborhood — the Milky Way. And we have found at least one billion such neighborhoods!

The number of stars is so great that we can scarcely think of what it means. There are forty times as many stars in the Milky Way as there are people on the whole earth.

(4) BILLIONS OF SUNS

What are these billions of bright stars in the sky? They are suns! They are not small bright pinpoints at all. They

are great glowing suns, some of them thousands of times bigger than our own sun. They look small because they are so high up in the air.

The stars are very much higher than any plane could fly. Some of them are so far away that if we could think of going on and on for many years we could still not think of how far they are.

Suppose we tried to write out the distance to the stars in miles²⁶. The numbers would stretch right across a whole page. So astronomers have thought of a simpler way to tell how far away the stars are. They tell the distance by the amount of time it takes the light to get to the earth from the stars.

We all know that light travels with terrific speed. Lightning flashes across the sky so fast that it is gone almost before we see it. Light moves thousands and thousands of times faster than our fastest airplanes. It can flash around the whole earth seven and one-half times in one second. In one second it travels 186,000 miles!

Yet the nearest star is so far away that it takes the light from it four years to get to the earth. Many stars are so far that the light reaching us from them now started before Jesus²⁷ was born. That was two thousand years ago. Some are even much farther than that. The farthest heavenly body we know today was discovered in 1973. It is some ten billion light years away.

One of the nearest stars is Sirius²⁸. Sirius is in

the southern part of the sky in the winter time. It seems like the very brightest and biggest of all the stars in the sky. But that is not true. Sirius looks big and bright partly because it is much nearer than the other stars. Some of the dimmest stars are really hundreds of times bigger than our own sun. Sirius is only three times bigger than the sun.

One of the very biggest stars is Antares²⁹, another winter star. Antares is so big that it looks bright even though it is much farther away than Sirius. It is one of the brightest stars in the sky. It is more than a million times bigger than the sun. So we can see that our sun is very small beside the other heavenly bodies.

The largest stars are called giants. And the smaller ones are dwarfs³⁰. Antares is a giant, but our sun is a dwarf.

We might think that the giants would always be much heavier than the dwarfs, because they are so much bigger. But that is not always true. Some of the giants are light and thin, almost like a shining cloud. They are so thin, that the earth could pass through them just as we would walk through a fog.

If we watch the stars carefully on a clear moonless night, we see that they are not all the same color. Sirius looks blue-white. Antares looks orange-red. Others look red, or green, or yellow, or pure white.

All these great balls are shining with a great light. And