

大学英语

阅读教程

主编 郭红 王伟

主审 朱维举



第 2 册

READING BOOK

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大学英语阅读教程
College English Extensive Reading Course

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前 言

1999 年颁布的新《大学英语教学大纲》明确要求“大学英语教学的目的是:培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力,使他们能用英语交流信息”。根据这一要求,我们针对非英语专业学生的实际水平编写了这套阅读教程。

本书选材广泛,涉及面广。有科普常识、英语国家的风土人情、日常生活知识、教育、社会问题、环境污染、人口、文化等方面的内容。体裁多样,有叙述文、说明文、议论文等。文章语言幽默,由浅入深,循序渐进,并加注超纲词汇的汉语释义。

本书还根据大学英语四级考试新题型的要求,设置了翻译、简答等新题型,目的是培养学生语言综合运用能力。

全书共四册,按四级编排,可做精读教材的配套教材,也可单独用做泛读教材或自学用书。

编 者

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Unit One

Passage 1

Shopping Behavior of Men & Women

Shopping for clothes is not the same experience for a man as it is for a woman. A man goes shopping because he needs something. His purpose is settled and decided in advance. He knows what he wants and his objective is to find it and buy it; the price is a secondary consideration. All men simply walk into a shop and ask the assistant for what they want. If the shop has it in stock, the salesman promptly produces it, and the business of trying it on proceeds at once. All being well, the deal can be and often is completed in less than five minutes, with hardly any chat and to everyone's satisfaction.

For a man, slight problems may begin when the shop does not have what he wants, or does not have exactly what he wants. In that case the salesman, as the name implies, tries to sell the customer something else. He offers the nearest he can to the article required. No good salesman brings out such a substitute bluntly; he does so with skill and polish: "I know this jacket is not the style you want, sir, but would you like to try it for size? It happens to be the colour you mentioned." Few men have patience with this treatment, and the usual response is: "This is the right

colour and may be the right size, but I should be wasting my time and yours by trying it on."

Now how does a woman go about buying clothes? In almost every respect she does so in the opposite way. Her shopping is not often based on need. She has never fully made up her mind what she wants, and she is only "having a look round". She is always open to persuasion; indeed she sets great store by what the saleswoman tells her, even by what companions tell her. She will try on any number of things. Uppermost in her mind is the thought of finding something that everyone thinks suits her. Contrary to a lot of jokes, most women have an excellent sense of value when they buy clothes. They are always on the lookout for the unexpected bargain. Faced with a roomful of dresses, a woman may easily spend an hour going from one rail to another, to and fro, often retracing her steps, before selecting the dresses she wants to try on. It is a laborious process, but apparently an enjoyable one. Most dress shops provide chairs for the waiting husbands.

Notes:

1. bluntly *ad.* 直率地
2. polish *n.* 完美, 优雅
3. uppermost in one's mind 头脑里最主要的
4. retrace one's steps 顺原路返回
5. laborious *a.* 艰苦的, 费力的

Reading Comprehension:

1. When a man is buying clothes, _____.
A. he buys cheap things, regardless of quality

- B. he chooses things that others recommend
 - C. he does not mind how much he has to pay for the right things
 - D. he buys good quality things, so long as they are not too expensive
2. What does a man do when he cannot get exactly what he wants?
- A. He buys similar things of the colour he wants.
 - B. He usually does not buy anything.
 - C. At least two of his requirements must be met before he buys.
 - D. So long as the style is right, he buys the thing.
3. In commerce a good salesman is one who ____ .
- A. treats his customers sharply
 - B. always has in stock just what you want
 - C. does not waste his time on difficult customers
 - D. sells something a customer does not particularly want
4. What does the passage tell us about women shoppers?
- A. They welcome suggestions from anyone.
 - B. Women rarely consider buying cheap clothes.
 - C. Women often buy things without giving the matter proper thought.
 - D. They listen to advice but never take it.
5. What is the most obvious difference between men and women shoppers?
- A. The fact that men do not try clothes on in a shop.
 - B. Women bargain for their clothes, but men do not.
 - C. Women stand up to shop, but men sit down.
 - D. The time they take over buying clothes.

Passage 2

Changes in the American Family

How much change has really occurred in the American family and what are the implications of these changes? First, the household size has changed greatly since 1790. From 1790 to 1978 the mean family size was cut in half from 5.79 persons to 2.81 persons. In 1790 almost 63 percent of all persons lived in the households of five or more people. By 1978 the size accounted for a little over 14 percent of all households.

By the end of the 19th century a majority of Americans were living in urban areas, and the family was very much influenced by the rapid development of industrialization. With the arrival of immigrants, the urban population was increasingly heterogeneous. This challenges the exclusiveness of any single family pattern.

In the 20th century, the ideal American family consisted of a husband and wife living with dependent children. They lived in a household of their own provided for by the husband's earnings. The wife was responsible for emotional maintenance of the marriage and for raising the children and running the household.

The major change in the family in this century has been due to married women entering the work force. This, at least for periods of time, has taken the woman out of her full-time involvement in the home. Of all husband and wife families about 40% have both in the work force at any given time.

In the past the identity of the individual was submerged in the family. In general, reputation in the community came from the family. To-

day, however, whatever individuals achieve is usually assessed on its own merit, and family has little relevance. Individuals make it or don't make it essentially on their own.

A sociologist describes another way in which the American family has changed. Today in the Western world, the major burdens that are a part of the family system are emotional ones. But in the 19th century the family was much more involved with economic needs and tasks; family and relatives were valued for providing assistance during crises.

Notes:

1. mean *a.* 中等的, 普通的
2. urban *a.* 城市的
3. heterogeneous *a.* 由不同成分组成的
4. exclusiveness *n.* 排他主义
5. involvement *n.* 复杂的情况
6. identity *n.* 身分, 本身
7. submerge *v.* 淹没
8. merit *n.* 价值, 优点

Reading Comprehension:

1. What can we infer from the figures about the American household sizes in the first paragraph?
 - A. In the 20th century, there are some families without children.
 - B. Most of the families in the 19th century had five or more children.
 - C. More and more Americans tend to live with their parents after marriage.
 - D. Fourteen percent of the U. S. families now have five or more chil-

dren.

2. What made the American families in the 19th century change greatly?
 - A. The disadvantage of the single family pattern.
 - B. The great increase of the urban population.
 - C. The rapid development of industrialization and the arrival of immigrants.
 - D. The improved living conditions and the women's entrance into the work force.
3. According to the author, the most important change in the American family in the 20th century is that _____.
 - A. the wife and husband live with dependent children
 - B. the family income has grown a lot
 - C. the wife is no longer responsible for taking care of the children
 - D. the wife has joined the work force
4. What does the sentence "Individuals make it or don't make it essentially on their own" in the fifth paragraph mean?
 - A. An individual makes his own living or doesn't do it.
 - B. An individual is solely responsible for his success or failure.
 - C. Individuals work separately and produce their own things.
 - D. Individuals succeed or fail depending on their families.
5. What does the sociologist want to say about the burdens of the American family in the last paragraph?
 - A. They are forever on the shoulders of the husband.
 - B. They are much eased by the growing income of the family.
 - C. They have shifted from economic needs to emotional balances.
 - D. They are involved in providing assistance to relatives.

Passage 3

Lincoln's Autobiography

I was born on February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. My parents were both born in Virginia, of undistinguished families — second families, perhaps I should say. My mother, who died in my tenth year, was from a family named Hanks, some of whom now reside in Adams County, and others in Macon County, Illinois. My paternal grandfather, Abraham Lincoln, emigrated, about 1781 or 1782, from Virginia to Kentucky, where he was killed by the Indians a year or two later, not in battle, but when he was laboring to open a farm in the forest.

My father, at the death of his father, was six years old, and he grew up literally without education. He moved from Kentucky to Indiana when I was seven. We reached our new home about the time the state came into the Union. It was a wild region, with many bears and other wild animals still in the woods. I grew up there. There were some so-called schools, but no other qualification was ever required of a teacher beyond "reading, writing, and adding". If a stranger supposed to understand Latin happened to reside for a time in the neighborhood, he was looked on as a wizard. There was absolutely nothing to excite ambition for education. Of course, when I came of age, I did not know much. Still, somehow, I could read, write, and add, but that was all. The little advance I have now made upon this store of education, I have picked up under the pressure of necessity.

I was raised to farm work, which I continued until I was twenty-two.

At twenty-one, I came to Illinois. I remained in New Salem, Illinois for a year as a clerk in a store. Then the Black Hawk War came; I was elected a captain of volunteers, a success which gave me more pleasure than any I have had since. I went into the campaign, ran for the legislature the same year(1832), and was defeated — the only time I have ever been rejected by the people. In the next and the three succeeding biennial elections I was elected to the legislature. I was not a candidate afterward. During that legislative period, I studied law, and moved to Springfield to practice it. In 1846 I was elected to the lower house of Congress. I was not a candidate for re-election. From 1849 to 1854 I practiced law more assiduously than ever before. I was losing interest in politics when the repeal of the Missouri Compromise aroused me again. What I have done since then is pretty well known.

If any personal description of me is thought desirable, it may be said that I am nearly six feet, four inches in height; lean in flesh, weighing one hundred and eighty pounds on the average; I have a dark complexion, with coarse black hair and gray eyes. I have no other marks or brands.

Notes:

1. undistinguished *a.* 平常的
2. reside *v.* 居住
3. paternal *a.* 父方的
4. emigrate *v.* 移居
5. literally *ad.* 实际上
6. wizard *n.* 高手, 奇才
7. legislature *n.* (美)州议会; 立法机关