

修订本

大学

精读自学导读

英语



上海外语教育出版社

第 2 册

大学英语
(修订本)
精读自学导读
第二册

**A GUIDE TO INTENSIVE READING
OF COLLEGE ENGLISH
(REVISED EDITION)**

Book Two



上海外语教育出版社

《大学英语》(修订本)精读自学导读
第二册

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前 言

1995年下半年,上海外国语大学英语学院主办的《英语自学》打算在“课文讲解”栏目刊登《大学英语》精读的课文讲解连载文章,该杂志的副主编史志康教授嘱我将他们的想法形诸于笔墨。大约两年以后,陆续刊登的文章积铢累寸有了一定的“规模”,上海外语教育出版社编辑来电告诉我,他们有意将“讲解”结集出版。于是就有了这套书。

《大学英语》(修订本)是一套颇受读者推崇、专家青睐的优秀教材,出版以后,市面上也出现了形形色色的配套辅助读物。虽然这些读物各有优点,但我发现有不少不尽如人意之处,有的在讲解中避重就轻、避难就易,有的在引用例句时从各种参考书中照搬。前车之鉴,使我在讲解中能够注意避免重蹈前人的覆辙,讲解力求清楚,语言力求简洁,例句力求创新自然。在讲解过程中,我参考了《大学英语》(修订本)教师用书,但对教师用书中已涉及的语言点一般不再赘述。另外,我还参考了 *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English* (1978)、《英汉大词典》(陆谷孙主编,1993)、《新英汉词典(增补本)》(1985)、《远东英汉大词典》(梁实秋主编,1977)、《汉英大辞典》(吴光华主编,1993)、《现代英语用法词典(重排本)》(张道真主编,1994)、*The New American Roget's College Thesaurus* (1985)等工具书。在此,我谨向以上辞书的编纂者表示谢意。

为了便于读者自测,我的同事袁贤铨老师编写了配套练习,练习紧扣课文内容,采用大学英语国家四级考试形式,并附参考答案。

在本书的编写过程中,我得到了许多人的帮助。我要感谢宁波大学外语学院的廖菁菁、颜峰等老师的大力协助,尤其要感谢傅洁莹老师的无私帮助,是她提供了构成本书不可或缺的资料。

这套书出版了,我自然感到高兴,但同时又感到不安,因为我的水平有限,书中一定有许多错误和不当之处。我诚挚期望各位专家和广大读者不吝赐教。

刘继华

1998年4月于宁波大学外语学院

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Unit One

Is There Life on Earth?

本课课文借假想的金星人之口,以煞有介事的语调,对地球现代工业文明的负面极尽嘲讽,在作者的诙谐后面,是他敲响环境保护警钟的良苦用心。这一科幻式的故事以新闻发布会为场景,语言均较为正式(formal),这一点在学习过程中需加以注意。

1. **...the author is most serious in writing it.**

most serious 是不带定冠词的形容词最高级形式。不带定冠词的形容词或副词最高级形式往往不表示比较,而只表示程度,相当于 very, very very。又如:

He was most excited on hearing the news.

听到这个消息,他十分兴奋。

2. **There was great excitement on the planet of Venus...**

the planet of Venus “金星”,这是一个以 of 结构形式出现的同位语,实际上 planet 和 Venus 指的是同一件事物。相同的情况如:

the city of Shanghai 上海市

the matter of banking business 银行业务

3. **...who first discovered it with his telescope 20,000 light years ago.**

这里的两万光年是一假想的时间,这类情况在科幻作品中是很常见的。

4. **Venusian scientists were able to get valuable information...** 金星

星上的科学家们得以获取宝贵的资料……

be able to 的过去式在具体场合表示“成功地做某事,得以做某事”,其意义相当于 manage。又如:

He was able to finish all the exercises before the football match started.

他在足球比赛开始之前做完了所有的练习。

With the help of the chief of police, we were able to get to the camping site in time.

在警长的帮助下,我们终于及时赶到了野营基地。

5. **...the feasibility of a manned flying saucer landing on Earth.**

man 作及物动词时意为“为……配备人员”。如:

What sort of people does NASA have to man this spaceship?

美国国家航空航天局可以给这艘宇宙飞船配备什么样的人員?

flying saucer“飞碟”。此飞碟与我们通常讲的 UFO 飞碟有所不同, flying saucer 为碟形飞行器,而 UFO 是 unidentified flying object 的首字母缩略语,意为“不明飞行物”,并无前者那样明确的形状指示。

此句中 manned flying saucer 为“载人飞碟”。

6. **...the science reporter of the Venus Evening Star asked.**

the Venus Evening Star 为一假想之报纸名。报刊名前往往往要带定冠词,如 the New York Times (《纽约时报》), the Washington Post (《华盛顿邮报》)等。

7. **...the atmosphere is filled with carbon monoxide and other deadly gases and nobody could possibly breathe this air and survive.**

be filled with 和 be full of 两个词组虽然简单,但粗心的初学者

常常误将两词组中的介词调换使用，须多加小心。

carbon monoxide “一氧化碳”。

nobody could possibly breathe this air and survive 是一个虚拟句，表示一种假设情况，相当于 it would be impossible for anybody to breathe this air and survive。此句否定的不只是 breathe 一词，而是 breathe this air and survive，意即“在呼吸这种空气的情况下生存是不可能的”。同样情况的例子尚有：

You can't eat the cake and have it too.

你不可能又要把这蛋糕吃了又要把这蛋糕留下。

You can't sell the cow and milk it.

你不可能又要把奶牛卖了又要挤它的奶。

此二例是大家熟知的英语谚语，意义类同于汉语的“鱼与熊掌不可得兼”。

survive 意为“活下来，幸存下来”等，既可作不及物动词，亦可作及物动词。尤需加以注意的是其作及物动词时后面不带介词，意为“从……中幸存下来”。如：

It was a lucky thing that he survived the air crash.

飞机失事，但他幸存了下来，实在是万幸。

Few birds survived the severe winter last year.

去年冬天寒冷异常，活下来的鸟儿寥寥无几。

He survived his son.

他儿子死了，他却依然活着。

8. **... which means a much heavier flying saucer than we originally planned.**

此句相当于 ... which means the flying saucer shall have to be much heavier than we originally planned/we shall have to launch a much heavier flying saucer than we originally planned.

9. **Are there any other hazards...**

hazard: a danger “危害”。如：

a hazard to health/a health hazard 对健康的危害

hazard 的形容词形式为 hazardous。如：

Smoking is hazardous to your health.

吸烟有害您的健康。

10. **We call this the Consolidated Edison Belt.**

从课文第 25 行开始，作者以戏谑的笔调对地球的工业文明进行了嘲讽。表面上看来，金星人似乎不知地球上的环境污染为何物，实际上作者是在说地球上环境污染的程度已到了无以复加的地步。第 25 至 28 行写的是大气污染，the Consolidated Edison Belt 虽以电气公司为目标，实际指的是地球上所有的工业。

11. **...but it could give us a lot of trouble and we shall have to make further tests before we send a Venus Being there.**

it could give us a lot of trouble 是一个虚拟句，此虚拟句省略了 if we sent a Venus Being there now 的非真实性条件句。

further “进一步的，更多的”。它与 farther 的区别在于：farther 用来指实际距离上的“更远”；而 further 则通常是指抽象意义上的“更进一步”。如：

If you go two miles farther down the road, you can see the McDonald's there.

沿着这条路再往前走 2 英里，就能看见那家麦当劳店了。

He cannot go any further in his research as he lacks all the necessary materials.

所需的材料他全没有，因此他无法继续进行此项研究。

Venus Being “金星人”，此词系仿 human being 一语而成。

12. **...but the satellite findings indicate it is polluted and the water is unfit to drink.**

finding “发现，发现的情况，探测的结果”，通常用复数。又如：

They published the findings of their research and made a hit.
他们将研究成果予以发表，引起了轰动。

indicate “表示，表明”。又如：

What he said indicated that he was unwilling to do so.
他的话表明他不愿意这样做。

Fever indicates illness.
发烧即是生病的表现。

unfit “不适合，不合适”。又如：

This hat is unfit for summer wear.
这顶帽子不适合夏天戴。

unfit 的反义词为 fit。

课文的这一段将地球上受污染的河流说成是“像河流一样的东西(what seems to be a river)”，极具讽刺意味。

13. **... which will add even greater weight to the saucer.**

even 和比较级连用表示“比(本来已经……的)更加……, 比……还要”。如：

It was very hot last summer, but it is even hotter this summer.
去年夏天已经很热了，可今年夏天还要热。

He was even more confused when he heard it on the radio.
在无线电上听到这个消息的时候，他更加糊涂了。

add... to... “在……中/上加上……”。如：

Could you add some sugar to my tea, please?
你能在我的茶里加点糖吗？

The snow storm added great difficulty to their mission.
暴风雪给他们的这次任务增加了巨大的困难。

14. **They seem to be metal particles that move along certain paths.**

metal particle “金属微粒”，指地球人使用的汽车及其他类似的交通工具；path 乃指公路等。此段也是极具讽刺意味的。

15. **They emit gases, make noise and keep crashing into each other.**

crash into “撞上”。又如：

The plane crashed into the mountain ridge.

飞机撞上了山脊。

The car crashed into a tree.

汽车撞上了一棵树。

16. ... it is impossible to land a flying saucer without its being smashed by one.

该句中的 its 指 the flying saucer, one 指前半句中提到的 metal particle。

17. They're some type of granite formations...

some: a certain “某一”，表示不确定。又如：

He worked in some shipping firm before he went to India.

他先在一家船运公司工作，后来去了印度。

granite formations “花岗岩构成(物)”，与课文第 38 行中的 stalagmite projections (石笋状突出物)一起均指地球上的建筑。

18. ... won't this set back the flying saucer program several years?

set back “延误，延缓”。所延误的时间前的介词应用 by, by 亦可省略。如：

The traffic jam set us back (by) two hours and ten minutes.

交通阻塞，耽搁了我们 2 小时 10 分钟。

19. ... why are we spending billions and billions of zilches to land a flying saucer on Earth when there is no life there?

此处的连词 when 与 while 相同，表面上表示时间，实际上表示条件，意为“在……情况下”，相当于 since, as, considering that。又如：

How could you still want to do it when you knew it was absolutely impossible?

你既然知道这事完全不可能，怎么还想去呢？

Why shall we take the taxi when we can easily take a bus?

我们乘公共汽车毫不费事，干嘛还要坐出租车呢？

I can't tell you the story when you won't listen.

你们不听，那我就没法跟你们讲这事了。

Model Test 1

Part I Vocabulary and Structure

1. He told her to phone him _____ where she would be going.
a. as
b. for
c. of
d. as to
2. She came to Shanghai three years ago _____ has lived in Shanghai _____.
a. who...already
b. that...since
c. and...ever since
d. who...ever
3. After such a long discussion, what conclusion did you _____?
a. come to
b. take
c. bring
d. have
4. The British home fleet was based _____ Scapa Flow until 1957.
a. on
b. in
c. at
d. of
5. *The Lion King* is based _____ the famous play *Hamlet* written by Shakespeare.
a. in
b. at
c. of
d. on
6. _____ your intelligence is concerned, you don't have to worry about passing the exam.
a. when
b. while
c. as long as
d. as far as
7. I don't smoke now, as smoking is said to be _____ to health.

5. The manager put his _____ (sign) to the bottom of the contract.

Part III Error Correction

1. The Classic Maya who considered the numbers and the days in their calendar as a procession of Gods who marched along an eternal trail with no beginning and no end.
a
b c
d
2. Once considered a luxury, the video recorder has become a necessary even for middle class people all over America.
a b
c d
3. Columbus landed on an island in the Caribbean Sea, off the coast of North America, in October 12, 1492 and thought he had reached India.
a b
c d
4. Neither too much rest nor a diet of rich food are good for the body.
a b c d
5. Leavening agents such as baking powder are used to make bread and cake raise.
a b c
d

Part IV Cloze

Henry's job was to examine cars which crossed the frontier to make sure that they were not smuggling anything into the country. Every evening except at weekends, he 1 see a factory worker coming up the hill towards the frontier, 2 a bicycle with a big load of old straw on it. When the bicycle 3 the frontier, Henry used to stop the man and 4 him take the straw off and 5 it. Then he would examine the

straw very carefully to see 6 he could find anything, after which he would look in all the man's pockets 7 he let him tie the straw again. The man would then put it on his bicycle and go off down the hill with it. Although Henry was always 8 to find gold or jewelry or other valuable things 9 in the straw, he never found 10, even though he examined it very carefully. He was sure that the man was 11 something, but he was not 12 to imagine what it could be.

Then one evening, after he had looked 13 the straw and emptied the factory worker's pockets 14 usual, he 15 to him, "Listen. I know that you are smuggling things 16 this frontier. Won't you tell me what it is that you're bringing into the country so successfully? I'm an old man, and today's my last day on the 17. Tomorrow I'm going to 18. I promise that I shall not tell 19 if you tell me what you've been smuggling." The factory worker did not say anything for 20. Then he smiled, turned to Henry and said quietly, "Bicycles."

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. a. should | b. would |
| c. might | d. must |
| 2. a. pushing | b. pulling |
| c. filling | d. carrying |
| 3. a. arrived | b. appeared |
| c. came | d. reached |
| 4. a. force | b. order |
| c. make | d. call |
| 5. a. show | b. load |
| c. untie | d. loose |
| 6. a. that | b. where |
| c. how | d. whether |
| 7. a. before | b. thus |
| c. first | d. so |