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# 大学英语

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## 阅读强化教材

COLLEGE ENGLISH

孟广坪 主编

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重庆大学出版社

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# 大学英语阅读强化教材

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# 前 言

根据国家教委颁发的高等学校文理科和理工科使用的“大学英语教学大纲”的精神,以“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力”这一教学目的为宗旨,为了满足通过四级的学生及广大英语自学读者的需要,我们编写了这本“大学英语阅读强化教材”。

这本教材的特点一是“新”,二是紧跟大纲要求。书中材料多选自 90 年以来的英美各种报刊、杂志、书藉。共选编了 62 篇文章(50 篇精读,12 篇补充阅读)。内容由浅入深,体裁广泛:文学、言语、教育、学习技能、科技知识、报道、经济、政治、生态学、海洋、医学、心理学、文艺、体育、美术、音乐、风俗人情、生活哲理等等方面的问题,具有知识性、科学性、趣味性。词汇将按 5—6 级大纲要求编入,适当超出一些,共约 4000。文章后配有注释、理解题、词汇题、改错题书后还有参考答案。

本教材适合于各种学科的大学生、研究生、科技工作者和具有一定外语基础的广大读者使用。

本教材由孟广坪教授主编,由四川省外语协会会长,重庆大学外语学院院长姜治文教授主审。编写人员有王道坤、王红、齐曦、牟瑛、陈宏、孟广坪、费敏、莫新华、黄赞林和韩萍(以姓名笔划为序)。

我们感谢所有关心本教材编写的各方面人士。特别是在编写过程中得到了英籍教师 Gil 女士的关心以及中国高教出版社曹根望先生的支持。

由于时间仓促,缺点和错误在所难免,热情欢迎广大读者和同行提出宝贵意见。

编者

1994 · 4

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# 1 Science and Reality

The table before which we sit may be ,as the scientist maintains ,composed of dancing atoms ,but it does not reveal itself to us anything of the kind ,and it is not with dancing atoms but a solid and motionless object that we live . So remote is this “real” table—— and most of the other “realities” with which science deals——that it cannot be discussed in terms which have any human value ,and though it may receive our purely intellectual credence it cannot be woven into the pattern of life as it is led in contradistinction to life as we attempt to think about it. Vibrations in the ether are so totally unlike ,let us say ,the color purple that the gulf between them cannot be bridged ,and they are , to all intents and purposes ,not one but two separate things of which the second and less “real” must be the most significant for us . And just as the sensation which has led us to attribute an objective reality to a non-existent thing which we call “purple” is more important for human life than the conception of vibrations of a certain frequency ,so too the belief in God . However ill founded ,has been more important in the life of man than the germ theory of decay ,however true the latter may be .

We may ,if we like ,speak of consequence ,as certain mystics love to do ,of the different levels or orders of truth. We may adopt what is essentially a Platonistic trick of thought and insist upon postulating the existence of external realities which correspond to the needs and modes of human feeling and which ,so we may insist ,have their being in some part of the universe unreach-



able by science. But to do so is to make an unwarrantable assumption and to be guilt of the metaphysical fallacy of failing to distinguish between a truth of feeling and that other sort of truth which is described as a "truth of correspondence", and it is better perhaps, at least for those of us who have grown up in an age of scientific thought, to steer clear of such confusions and to rest content with the admission that, though the universe with which science deals is the real universe, yet we do not and cannot have any but fleeting and imperfect contacts with it; that the most important part of our lives——our sensations, emotions, desires, and aspirations——takes place in a universe of illusions which science can attenuate or destroy, but which it is powerless to enrich.

## Exercises

**A. Read the passage and choose the best answer from the following:**

1. The author suggests that in order to bridge the puzzling schism between scientific truth and the world of illusion, the reader should
  - a. try to rid himself of his world of illusion.
  - b. accept his world as being one of illusion.
  - c. apply the scientific method.
  - d. establish a truth of correspondence.
2. It can be inferred from the first passage that
  - a. scientific conceptions of reality have no significant function in our lives.
  - b. reality is more important than the conception.
  - c. objects are composed of atoms and they are not solid.

- d. scientific conceptions of reality should be discussed in our daily life.
3. According to this passage, a scientist would conceive of a "table" as being
- a. a solid motionless object.
  - b. certain characteristic vibrations in "ether"
  - c. a mass of atoms in motion.
  - d. a form fixed in space and time.
4. Judging from the ideas and tone of the selection, one may reasonably guess that the author is
- a. a humanist.
  - b. a nuclear physicist
  - c. a doctor of medicine.
  - d. a writer of popular articles on science.
5. According to the author, which of the following statement is true?
- a. Vibrations in the ether are totally similar.
  - b. The color purple is one not two separate things.
  - c. Sensations, while in "reality" quite different from what we sense, are nevertheless what we sense.
  - d. Beliefs, are less important to us than scientific findings.
6. By "objective reality" the author means
- a. symbolic existence.
  - b. reality colored by emotion.
  - c. a phenomenon we can directly experience.
  - d. scientific reality.
7. The topic of this selection is
- a. the distortion of reality by science.
  - b. the confusion caused by emotion.

c. Platonic and contemporary views of truth.

d. the place of scientific truth in our life.

**B. Choose the correct word from the following list to fit into each sentence, using its proper form:**

sensation conception postulate assumption steer

confusion fleet enrich intellectual mystic illusion

1. A good novelist needs great powers of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. An actor must have a clear \_\_\_\_\_ of the past he is to play.
3. His unexpected arrival threw everything into \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Their \_\_\_\_\_ that the war would end quickly was proved wrong.
5. Everybody should \_\_\_\_\_ the mind with knowledge to suit the society.
6. It was dark, the travellers had to \_\_\_\_\_ their cars by the stars.
7. Our popular newspapers deal largely in \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Euclidean geometry are the possibility of drawing a straight line between any two points.
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ is under orders to set sail.
10. He cherished the \_\_\_\_\_ that everyone admires him.

**C. Error Correction**

The beavers were building a dam in a small stream. The land around the stream was dry. Few plants grew there. Not many animals went to the 1. \_\_\_\_\_ stream.

When the stream was finished, there was a 2. \_\_\_\_\_ new pond. The pond made many changes in the land: The pond caught and hold rainwater. Fish 3. \_\_\_\_\_ grew in great numbers in the stream. Frogs came 4. \_\_\_\_\_

and soon there were new tadpoles swim in the water . Birds came to feed in the fish and tadpoles . Wild animals came to drink the clear water and eat the new water plants.

These beavers have not always lived in this stream. They had brought here by men who wanted to make this dry land poor again. The beavers had been taken from another stream far away and brought to this stream by airplane. The beavers, in special boxes, had been dropped by parachutes. when the parachutes had hit the ground , the beavers had jumped out and run to the stream. The changing of the land had begun.

## 2 Adolescent Students

In dealing with students on the high-school level—that is , the second, third, and fourth year of high school—we must bear in mind that to some degree they are at a difficult psychological stage, generally called adolescence. Students at this level are likely to be confused mentally, to be subject to involuntary distractions and romantic dreaminess . They are basically timid or self-conscious, they lack frankness and are usually very sensitive but hate to admit it . They are motivated either by great ambition, probably out of all proportion to their capabilities , or by extreme laziness caused by the fear of not succeeding or attaining their objectives . Fundamentally they want to be kept busy but they refuse to admit it . They are frequently the victims of earlier poor training , and this makes every effort doubly hard. They are usually willing to work , but they hate to work without obtaining the results they think they should obtain. Their critical faculties are beginning to develop and they are critical of their instructors and of the materials they are given to learn. They are beginning to feel the pressure of time; and although they seldom say so, they really want to be consulted and given an opportunity to direct their own affairs, but they need considerable guidance. They seldom admit that they need this guidance and they frequently rebel against it, but if it is intelligently offered they accept it with enthusiasm. If they are healthy they are capable of long periods of concentration and an extraordinary amount of work . They are trying, most of them, to form political ideas and they

have a tendency to be either extremely idealistic (which is usually another term for radical) or conservative, blindly accepting what their fathers and grandfathers believed in. It is in this period that students can be most easily and permanently influenced. It is the period in which they form strong attachments for their teachers. Their outlook on life is usually extremely exaggerated. They are either far too modest and retiring, or extravagantly boastful. They are much more susceptible to the influence of a strong personality than to that of a great intelligence. Of all periods of life this is what may best be called the 'plastic age'.

## Exercises

### A. Reading Comprehension

1. The writer's view of adolescents can be summed up by saying \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. they have difficulty in concentrating
  - b. their relationship with adults is difficult
  - c. they have a variety of problems and often behave in contradictory ways
  - d. their intelligence is developing
2. According to the author, the contradictory behaviour of adolescents is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. abnormal
  - b. natural
  - c. ridiculous
  - d. incredible
3. It can be inferred from the passage that adolescents \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. often irritate their parents.
  - b. never blame adults
  - c. seldom work hard

- d. sometimes fail to reach their goals
- 4. The author suggests that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. adolescents do not need much guidance
  - b. guidance should be given to adolescents in a skilful way
  - c. adolescents should not rebel against guidance
  - d. guidance should not be given to adolescents
- 5. Why adolescence is called 'plastic age'?
  - a. Because adolescents have a strong desire to be successful.
  - b. Because at this age adolescents are very difficult to deal with.
  - c. Because adolescents are most likely to be influenced at this level.
  - d. Because adolescents are too modest.

**B. Choose the correct word to fill into each sentence, using proper forms.**

confuse   sensitive   ambition   objective  
 faculty   consult   guidance   extraordinary  
 radical   attachment   modest   boastful  
 personality   intelligence   rebel

1. If your baby is losing weight, you should \_\_\_\_\_ your doctor promptly.
2. Her \_\_\_\_\_ prevented her from making her feelings known to him.
3. Mobil's primary \_\_\_\_\_ is to win.
4. My grandfather was a most \_\_\_\_\_ man.
5. Her \_\_\_\_\_ was to be a teacher.
6. This is a book for the \_\_\_\_\_ of beginners in English.
7. He has a wonderful \_\_\_\_\_.
8. His unexpected arrival threw everything into \_\_\_\_\_.

9. We have a strong \_\_\_\_\_ to every tree and bush there.
10. Her remarks showed a lack of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Williams \_\_\_\_\_ of his influence on the Prime Minister.
12. There were a new group of \_\_\_\_\_ who turned against the established social order.
13. The child has a great \_\_\_\_\_ for learning languages.

### C. Error Correction

For many people the most exciting development in recent years are Picturephone service. Picturephone service, which will become available commercially in the 1980s, will at first probably be used by large business corporations. But as picturephone service becomes available, it will no doubt spread from the office to the home. It is already clear that "the next beat thing to being there" is going to be a picturephone answer.

Possibly the most significant research now conducting is in the use of the laser beam in telephone communications. This "new light", first produced by scientists in 1960, can beam continually and with extraordinary intensity. Instead of using light to see by, telephone researchers are thinking of ways to use light to communicate in. In other words, they are thinking of using light for same purpose radio waves are now used—to transmit telephone calls, television programs, and data messages from one point to another. As the expan-



sion of picturephone service and high-speed data communications between computers, present message-carrying capacities may soon become inadequate. If it turns out to be technically and economically sound, the laser might prove to be a major breakdown in telephone communications.

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_