



高等教育“十一五”规划教材

大学英语 泛读教程

主编◎卢春雁 岳进分

主审◎侯彦宾

第2册

*College English
Extensive Reading Course*

 北京理工大学出版社

BEIJING INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY PRESS

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主 编	卢春雁	岳进分	
主 审	侯彦宾		
副主编	刘立敏	牛亚卿	
参 编	王 静	刘 敏	刘 杰
	富苏苏	岳 坤	贾 芳
	徐红艳	张小倩	张艳红

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前 言

《大学英语泛读教程》(College English Extensive Reading Course)是我课题组在“多媒体教学技术环境中的分层次教学以培养学生个性发展”(批准文号:教高司函[2004]250号“大学英语教学改革扩展项目第72项”)项目中,结合教学实验及教学改革的需要编写的一套学生阅读用书。本套教材主要是针对那些已完成高中英语基础知识学习的大学一、二年级学生读者群而做,也适合有一定英语基础的广大英语爱好者阅读。

这套教材分4册,每册10个单元,每单元2篇文章。第一、第二册每单元的第一篇文章介绍西方文化背景知识,第二篇文章介绍课文背景相关知识。根据学科特点,结合学生的当前需要,本套教材从第三册开始,每单元的第一篇文章是科普知识,旨在为学生提供各类学科的一定量词汇和相关知识,以扩充他们的英文词汇量和相应学科知识面,为学生将来阅读所学专业领域的英文资料,直接了解世界上该学科的先进技术和科研动态奠定扎实的英文阅读基础。为了方便学生自学和课下阅读,我们在每篇文章后增加了注释,而且在课文后附设了答案、问题解析以及参考译文,以便读者自学。

本套教材还有两个特点:一是文章篇幅由短到长,逐渐递增,到第三、第四册,每篇文章扩展到800甚至1000多个单词,以逐步提高学生的阅读速度和阅读能力,使其适应大学英语四级考试的需要;二是为了让学生加深理解和记忆,我们在每篇文章后附设了5个问题供学生练习、实践。有的文章不算太长,适合学生在课下阅读,用5~8分钟完成两篇文章的阅读,其中包括附设的练习内容。

教师在使用这套教材时,可根据学生的英语水平使用。英语基础扎实、自学能力强的学生,重点解释个别词汇和句子难点,稍加点拨,加深学生印象即可;而语言功底较差、阅读英文感到吃力的学生,教师除了加强学生基础知识训练外,应重点解决词汇生疏、长句难句给学生带来的焦虑,帮助这部分学生树立学习英语的信心,培养他们学习英语的兴趣以及学习英文的可持续能力。

编者 卢春雁

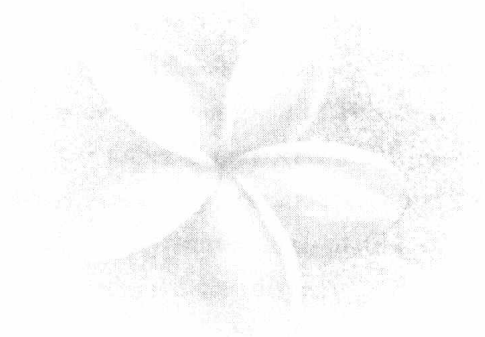
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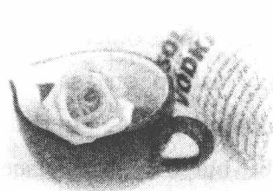


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Part One Texts







Unit 1

I. Western Civilization



Passage One

Zeus and His Wife

Hera (Juno), known to us chiefly as the wife of Zeus, was a daughter of Cronus and Rehea. Born on the islands of Samosor, some say, at Argos, she was brought up in Arcadia by Temenus, son of Pelasgus. The Seasons were her nurses. After banishing their father Cronus, Hera's twin-brother Zeus sought her out at Gnossus in Crete or, some say, on mount Thornax (now called Cuckoo Mountain) in Argolis, where he courted her, at first unsuccessfully. She took pity on him only when he adopted the disguise of a bedraggled cuckoo, and tenderly warmed him in her bosom. There he at once resumed his true shape and ravished her, so that she was shamed into marrying him.

Hera and Zeus spent their wedding night on Samos, and it lasted three hundred years. Hera bathes regularly in the spring of Canathus, near Argos, and thus renews her virginity.

Zeus and Hera bickered constantly. Vexed by his infidelities, she often humiliated him by her scheming ways. Zeus never fully trusted Hera, and she knew that if offended beyond a certain point he would flog or even hurl a thunderbolt at her. She therefore resorted to ruthless intrigue, as in the matter of Heracles's birth; and sometimes borrowed Aphrodite's girdle, to excite his passion and thus weaken his will.

A time came when Zeus' pride and petulance became so intolerable that Hera, Poseidon, Apollo, and all the other Olympians, except Hestia, surrounded him suddenly as he lay asleep on his couch and bound him with rawhide thongs, knotted into a hundred knots, so that he could not move. He threatened them with instant death, but they had placed his thunderbolt out of reach and laughed insultingly at him. While they were celebrating their victory, and jealously discussing who was to be his successor, Thetis the Nereid, foreseeing a civil war on Olympus, hurried in search of the hundred-handed Briareus, who swiftly untied the thongs, using every hand at once, and released his master. Because it was Hera who had led the conspiracy against him, Zeus hung her up from the sky with a gold bracelet about either wrist or an anvil fastened to either ankle. The other deities were vexed beyond words, but dared attempt no rescue for all her piteous cries. In the end Zeus undertook to free her if they swore never more to rebel against him; and this each in turn grudgingly did. Zeus punished Poseidon and Apollo by sending them as bond-servants to King Laomedon, for whom they built the city of Troy; but he pardoned the others as having acted under duress.



Questions

1. What's their original relationship before Hera and Zeus got married?
 - A) They were intimate friends.
 - B) They didn't know each other before their marriage.
 - C) Zeus was Hera's twin-brother.
 - D) They were relatives.
2. In what way did Hera try to regain her virginity?
 - A) Hera was shamed into marrying Zeus after she was raped by Zeus.
 - B) They spent their wedding night on Samos for quite a long time.
 - C) She often went to Canathus to bathe.
 - D) She tried to commit suicide to keep his fame.
3. In which aspect, according to the text, was Hera dissatisfied with Zeus?
 - A) Hera hated Zeus for his physical abuse to her.
 - B) Zeus didn't trust her at all.
 - C) Zeus was known for his disloyalty to marriage.

- D) Her dissatisfaction resulted from the lack of love between them.
4. All Olympians and the following gods bound Zeus with thongs when he lay asleep with the exception of _____.
- A) Poseidon B) Hera C) Apollo D) Hestia
5. Which of the following is not true according to the passage?
- A) Zeus was set free by the hundred-handed Briareus.
- B) Zeus punished Hera severely because she was the chief instigator in the riot.
- C) Poseidon and Apollo were sent to King Laomedon as bond-servants.
- D) Zeus killed several gods who were involved in this rebellion.



Notes

1. court *vt.* 向……献殷勤 (He courted her. 他向她献殷勤。)
2. the Seasons *n.* 季节女神
3. bedraggled *a.* 全身泥污的, 湿透的
4. petulance *n.* 闹气, 性急
5. rawhide thongs 生牛皮带
6. conspiracy *n.* 阴谋; 共谋; 谋叛
7. vexed *adj.* 焦急的; 恼怒的
8. grudgingly *adj.* 不情愿的
9. in the matter of 关于, 就……而论

II. Background Information to the Text



Passage Two

The Real Life Theater of a Cross-Border Marriage

Having been one of the best students in school and in university, I was not at all satisfied with the low mark. Bad in the oral test, I wished to gain a good



mark not at least in the written examination! One day, I went on a business trip to Germany, which offered me a good opportunity to take a written test. I was certainly unwilling to let it slip through my fingers. As soon as I arrived, I let my pen have its way: "My darling, since I left you, your voice, as melodious as a song, as clear as a bell, is ringing in my ears, just as the sound of a murmuring stream flows gently and slowly into my heart. I am enchanted. Your beautiful silhouette, just like a landscape painting, touches me so deeply..." Unexpectedly, my letter, even though expressing my love indirectly, gave me a high mark, as it was quickly echoed by an emotional Western style reply from my wife: "My darling, thank you for your letter. I love you looking at me so tenderly. I love you caressing me. I love you consoling me. I love the tiny wrinkles in the corners of your eyes. I love your exotic accent. I love your tender feelings. I love you!"

One week later, with boundless joy and impatience to experience the burning love expressed in her comments, I came back home. But unexpectedly, she didn't come over to hug me as I had expected. "Darling, how about my written test?" I had to take the initiative to ask the question. "Yes, this time the mark of your written test is quite high, but you never rang me this week, therefore the mark of your oral one is zero! If I average out both your written and oral marks, your total is below the level of pass." She stared at her stupefied husband. Tears came to her eyes and swept me away like a flood. "Oh, no. I have disappointed her again, but...?" I tried to survive her "flood" and explained: "My darling, as soon as I arrived at the hotel, I wrote a love letter to you. You know, you are very important in my heart." "Fool, why didn't you phone me every day and say straightaway that you love me?" My goodness, I had completely forgotten that there was a daily oral test. What a sad experience from which a Chinese husband should draw an important lesson! I finally realized that I should not only keep my love for her in my writing, in my eyes, and in my actions, but also, clearly declare it in a loud voice and at least once per day.

"Even though my clothes have become loose, I don't regret it; for you, I have become wan and sallow." This popular ancient Chinese verse is intended to express tender feelings toward love. Such an indirect way to express love is poetic and well appreciated in Asian culture, but may be considered inadequate on its own in European culture. On the contrary, a simple and straightforward

love declaration such as "I love you" turns out to be essential, just as daily bread is essential to a European. However, it seems as insipid as a cup of hot water in Asian culture where tea is more appreciated.

"When in Rome, do as the Romans do." From then on, as a foreign husband, I started to do as my French wife wishes. She patiently taught me and finally succeeded in turning an Asian husband shy of words into a Western "glib talker." If ever dark clouds enshroud her face, I let the magic phrase jump from my mouth, then they immediately disperse. If she feels tired and nervous, I say it and she instantly feels relaxed, beaming with smiles. When the curtain of night falls, I again use this magic formula. She then treats me to a romantic and special night. "ILY" is simple, all embracing, indispensable and a panacea capable of curing all family problems. Believe it or not, it is certainly worth taking the trouble to try it.



Questions

1. Why did the wife say that the mark of her husband's oral test was zero?
 - A) Because the husband was not good at expressing his love to the wife.
 - B) Because the husband had forgotten to say "I love you" to his wife.
 - C) Because the husband was not aware of saying "I love you" directly.
 - D) Because the wife was too critical to her husband.
2. On what kind of occasion did the author write a very beautiful letter to his wife?
 - A) In his office while working.
 - B) While he was on a business trip to Germany.
 - C) During his vacation in another country.
 - D) After he went back home from work.
3. Which statement is true of different ways of expressing love to the spouse between Chinese and Europeans according to the passage?
 - A) Chinese express their feelings in indirect and tender ways, while Europeans do frankly and directly.
 - B) Chinese seldom show their love to their spouses while Europeans do that readily and frequently.
 - C) Europeans are very tender and indirect in expressing the sentiment, while



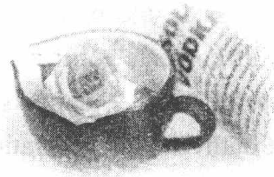
Chinese are very direct and frank.

- D) Europeans seldom show their love to their spouses while Chinese do that readily and frequently.
4. What does the author think of the oral utterance — “I love you” in life?
- A) He thinks it is redundant.
 B) He thinks it is favorable.
 C) He thinks it is suitable to all the couples.
 D) He thinks it is not necessary.
5. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
- A) The author dislikes the direct way of expressing his love.
 B) The western way of showing one's love is better than the Chinese one.
 C) There is no difference in people's attitude toward love between China and Europe.
 D) Sometimes couples need to say “I love you” to promote their love.



Notes

1. melodious *adj.* 音调优美的; 悦耳的
2. silhouette *n.* 侧面影像, 轮廓
3. Even though my clothes have become loose, I don't regret it; for you, I have become wan and sallow. 整句话的意思为: 衣带渐宽终不悔, 为伊消得人憔悴。
4. glib *adj.* 口齿伶俐的, 油腔滑调的
5. not at least (= not in the least) 一点也不, 丝毫不, 决不
6. insipid *a.* 没有味道的, 平淡的



Unit 2

I. Western Civilization



Passage One

Medea the Sorceress

Amid the rejoicings for the recovery of the Golden Fleece, Jason felt that one thing was wanting, the presence of Aeson, his father, who was prevented by his age and infirmities from taking part in them. Jason said to Medea, "My spouse, could your arts do me one further service, take some years from my life and add them to my father's?" Medea replied, "Not at such a cost shall it be done, but if my art avails me, his life shall be lengthened without abridging yours." The next full moon she issued forth alone, while all creatures slept. To the stars she addressed her incantations, and to the moon; to Hecate, the goddess of the underworld, and to Tellus, the goddess of the earth. While she spoke the stars shone brighter, and presently a chariot descended through the air, drawn by flying serpents. She ascended it and, borne aloft, made her way to distant regions, where potent plants grew which she knew how to select for her purpose. Nine nights she employed in her search, and during that time came not within the doors of her palace nor under any roof, and shunned all intercourse with mortals.

She next erected two altars, the one to Hecate, the other to Hebe, the goddess of youth, and sacrificed a black sheep, pouring libations of milk and wine. She implored Pluto and his stolen bride that they would not hasten to take the old forth, and having thrown him into a deep sleep by a charm, had him laid

on a bed of herbs, like one dead. Then, with streaming hair, she thrice moved round the altars, dipped flaming twigs in the blood, and laid them thereon to burn. Meanwhile the caldron with its contents got ready. She added fragments of the shells of tortoises, and the liver of stags — animals tenacious of life — and the head and beak of a crow, that outlives nine generations of men. These, with many other things “without a name,” she boiled together for her purposed work, stirring them up with a dry olive branch; and behold! The branch when taken out instantly became green, and before long was covered with leaves and a plentiful growth of young olives.

Seeing that all was ready, Medea cut the throat of the old man and let out all his blood, and poured into his mouth and into his wound the juice of her caldron. As soon as he had completely imbibed it, his hair and beard laid by their whiteness assumed the blackness of youth; his paleness and emaciation were gone; his veins were full of blood, his limbs of vigor and robustness. Aeson is amazed at himself, and remembers that such as he now is, he was in his youthful days, forty years before.

Medea used her arts here for a good purpose, but not so in another instance where she made them the instruments of revenge. Pelias, our readers will recollect, was the usurping uncle of Jason, and had kept him out of his kingdom. Yet he must have had some good qualities, for his daughters loved him, and when they saw what Medea had done for Aeson, they wished her to do the same for their father. Medea pretended to consent and prepared her caldron for him in a very different way. She put in only water and a few simple herbs. In the night she with the sisters entered the bed chamber of the old king, while he and his guards slept soundly under the influence of a spell cast upon them by Medea. The daughters stood by the bedside with their weapons drawn. Turning away their faces, and giving random blows, they smote him with their weapons. He, starting from his sleep, cried out, “My daughters, what are you doing? Will you kill your father?” Their hearts failed them, and the weapons fell from their hands, but Medea struck him a fatal blow and prevented his saying more.

Then they placed him in the caldron, and Medea hastened to depart in her serpent-drawn chariot before they discovered her treachery. She escaped, but had little enjoyment of the fruit of her crimes. Jason, for whom she had done so much, wishing to marry Creusa, Princess of Corinth, put away Medea. She,

enraged at his ingratitude, called on the gods for vengeance, sent a poisoned robe as a gift to the bride, and then killing her own daughters, boarded on the serpent-drawn chariot and fled to Athens, where she married King Aegeus, the father of Theseus.



Questions

1. Why could not Aeson go to join in Jason's rejoicings?
 - A) Because he was unwilling to do so.
 - B) Because Aeson was too old and weak to take part in.
 - C) Because Jason would ask Medea to lengthen his father's life span.
 - D) Because the bad weather added difficulties to his journey.
2. From the passage, we know that Hebe was _____.
 - A) the war goddess
 - B) the goddess of youth
 - C) the son-god in Greek mythology
 - D) the goddess of love in Greek mythology
3. What did Aeson look like after he had taken in the juice of Medea's caldron?
 - A) He felt much worse than before.
 - B) He recovered himself after a long period of illness.
 - C) He looked much younger than before.
 - D) More white hair and beard appeared on his body.
4. When entering the old king's bed chamber, Medea and the sisters found the king and his guards slept soundly, why?
 - A) Because they entered in a very quiet way.
 - B) The king and his guards were not cautious and careful.
 - C) Because the king was very proud and paid no attention to raid.
 - D) Because they were controlled by Medea's spell.
5. Which of the following is NOT TRUE according to the passage?
 - A) It was Medea who killed the old king.
 - B) Jason later wanted to marry Creusa, which made Medea very angry.
 - C) Hecate was the goddess of the underworld.
 - D) Poseidon was the goddess of the earth.