


高 等 学 校 教 材

现代英语教程

精读

总主编 赵国杰
主 编 黄乃圣
胡 丹

1



*Modern
English Course*

Intensive Reading

江西高校出版社

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现代英语教程 精读(1)

总主编 赵国杰

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前 言

《现代英语教程》是根据新的教学大纲编写的大学英语教材，分精读、泛读和听力三种，分四级出版，供各高校课堂教学和课外学习使用。

本教材体现以下特点：

1. 取材广泛，编排科学。所选文章包括社会科学和自然科学，包括小说、故事、人物、天文、地理、外国文化及反映现代信息的科普文章，读者可以感受到最新的时代信息和语言变化。旨在既使学生接触各种题材和文体，以达到理解各种信息的全面训练，又扩大了学生的词汇量。

2. 富有时代气息。本教材大部分课文选自最近几年出版物上的新材料，所反映的信息多为社会热点和焦点，极大的提高了学生的学习兴趣，学生参与性强。

3. 内容丰富，练习多样。本教材练习包括理解、口语训练、词汇和语法、翻译和写作等多项练习。丰富的练习内容与课文相辅相成，体现了教学大纲的各项要求。

4. 语言简明，准确流畅，可读性强。不少文章还是学习背诵的佳作。

5. 结构完整、分量适当。本教材既体现了教学要求的各个方面，又符合了教学的实际需要。恰如其分地解决了学时、内容、教与学之间的各种关系。

美籍专家 Lisa·J·Peterson, Cindy Stevens, Wes Beasley, Mark King, Pat King, Michelle L·Stabler, Greg A·Entzian 审校全书并为该教材录音。不少专家、前辈提供了许多宝贵的建议，广大教师在试用过程中提出了中肯的意见，在此一并表示衷心的感谢。

《现代英语教程》编写组

1997年8月

Contents

Unit 1	(1)
Text A	A Special Physical Examination
Text B	The Gentleman In White
Unit 2	(20)
Text A	Communication
Text B	Learning A Language
Unit 3	(38)
Text A	A Table Full Of Memories
Text B	Learning From Stamps
Unit 4	(57)
Text A	Loving Kara (1)
Text B	It's So Good To Be Alive
Unit 5	(79)
Text A	Loving Kara (2)
Text B	Cure For A Hardhead
Unit 6	(98)
Text A	Life In Death
Text B	Monday Morning Miracle
Unit 7	(118)
Text A	A Country On The Move
Text B	Why People Buy
Unit 8	(141)
Text A	The Brain
Text B	Child Development
Unit 9	(159)
Text A	The Story Of Jazz
Text B	Louis Armstrong
Unit 10	(179)
Text A	You Should Live So Long
Text B	Study Says Smoking Kills Six People Every Minute
Glossary	(196)

Unit 1

Text A

A Special Physical Examination

Anonymous

It is a true story which happened during World War II in a certain state in the east of the U.S.A..

One day a young man named Jim received an enlistment notice in which he was told to undergo the physical examination the next day. To Jim it seemed like a bolt from the blue. He was troubled so much that he couldn't get to sleep all the night. In all fairness, Jim wasn't a coward and he hated the Fascists deeply. But he wouldn't join the army. Why? It was all because he was in love with a beautiful girl and he would not be separated from his girl friend. "If I could find a way to make the doctors believe there are some defects in my body," he thought, "I would avoid being sent to serve in the army. But how? ..." He thought and thought. Suddenly to his great joy, a good idea crossed his mind.

The next morning Jim got to the hospital on time. He was led into a large room where he found an aged medical officer sitting behind a large writing-desk, busy looking through the sheets of paper carefully. "It must be the chief doctor," to himself Jim thought. "And I'd best try not to be paid attention to by that old fellow." With the thought, he hurriedly found a seat to sit down on and took out an out-of-date newspaper, pretending to read it.

Not long after that, Jim heard his name called. He knew it was his turn to be examined. When Jim came up to the doctor, the old man raised his head slowly from his papers and took a quick and sharp look at him, then in a whisper he ordered Jim to put his newspaper on the table and take off his clothes at once. Of course, Jim had to do what he was wanted to. After that, he was told to go straight to a corner and sit down on a chair there. But to Jim's great surprise, no sooner had he seated himself on the chair than he heard the doctor murmuring to his assistants: "Finished! That lad is quite up to the standard."

"How can you draw such a conclusion like that before you give me a careful check? It's too rash!" Still on the chair, Jim shouted at the doctor. "Don't be impetuous, young man! Get off and put on your clothes, and



then I'll explain it to you." the doctor said calmly.

And when Jim stood before the old man, the doctor held out his hand and gave a pat on his broad shoulder. A smile on his face, he said to Jim in a kind voice: "My boy, you said we didn't examine you carefully, didn't you? But I don't think it necessary for us to do that. You might be puzzled about this. Now let me tell you how and why." After a pause to take a breath, he went on: "When I whispered to you to put down the newspaper and take off your clothes, you did it as I told you. It shows you have good ears. And then when you were asked to go and sit on the chair in that corner, you did it, too. It shows you can see any object within a certain distance. So you are not nearsighted at all. Besides, you were found reading the newspaper just now, and we are certain you are a man of intelligence. In a word, we have no doubt that you are perfect in mind and body. Now I'm glad to say you've passed the physical examination. That is to say you'll be a glorious soldier. Congratulations!"

With those words the medical officer stretched out both hands to Jim, and Jim could do nothing but hold them in his own. "I wish you to be a good fighter and fight for the justice and freedom of human beings!" said the old man in an inspiring voice. And Jim was so moved that his eyes were full of tears.

Half a year later, Jim was killed in the European battlefield. At this news his girl friend nearly went mad. She dashed down to the shore and stood there, looking out to the boundless ocean. She kept weeping, while calling her lover's name. "Don't be like that, my dear." It was an old man's trembling voice. "Your Jim died a real man. He devoted his life to the people all over the world. It is right that we should be proud of him..." Saying this, the old man, her father, was choked. His only regret was that he had never let Jim know who he was. This old man was no other than the medical officer who had given Jim the health check.

New Words

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| physical ['fɪzɪkəl] <i>adj.</i> | of or concerning the body 体格的, 身体的 |
| ✓enlistment [ɪn'lɪstmənt] <i>n.</i> | entering (the armed forces) 征募, 服兵役 |
| undergo [ʌndə'gəʊ] <i>vt.</i> | go through, experience 经受; 经历 |
| (underwent, undergone) | |
| ✓bolt [bəʊlt] <i>n.</i> | a flash of lightning 闪电, 霹雳 |
| ✓fairness ['fɛənis] <i>n.</i> | justice, honesty 公正, 公平 |
| ✓coward ['kəʊəd] <i>n.</i> | 懦夫, 胆怯者 |
| ✓defect [dɪ'fekt] <i>n.</i> | fault; imperfection 毛病; 缺陷 |

- out-of-date *adj.*
 ✓ sharp [ʃɑ:p] *adj.*
 murmur ['mɜ:mə] *vi.*
 ✓ lad [læd] *n.*
 conclusion [kən'klu:ʒən] *n.*
 ✓ rash [ræʃ] *adj.*
 ✓ impetuous [im'petjuəs] *adj.*
 puzzle ['pʌzl] *vt.*
 pause [pə:z] *n.*
 nearsighted ['niə'saitid] *adj.*
 intelligence [in'telidʒəns] *n.*
 ✓ glorious ['glɔ:riəs] *adj.*
 congratulation [kən'grætju'leiʃən] *n.*
 stretch [stretʃ] *vt.*
 justice ['dʒʌstis] *n.*
 inspire [in'spaɪə] *vt.*
 battlefield ['bætlfi:ld] *n.*
 ✓ dash [dæʃ] *vi.*
 ✓ boundless ['baundlis] *adj.*
 ✓ choked [tʃəukt] *adj.*
- not modern, not fashionable 过时的, 陈旧的
 quick and sensitive (in thinking, seeing, hearing) 敏锐的, 机警的
 utter in a low voice 低声说
 boy; young man 男孩; 小伙子
 judgement; inference 判断; 结论
 too hasty; careless 急躁的; 草率的
 acting quickly and suddenly without thinking 冲动的, 鲁莽的
 confuse; cause uncertainty (使) 困惑
 a short stop; break 停顿; 暂停
 shortsighted 近视的
 ability to learn and understand 智力
 splendid; honourable 辉煌的; 光荣的
 well-wishing; words that congratulate 祝贺词
 make longer, wider by pulling; extend; draw out 拉长, 伸展; 抽出
 rightness 公正, 正确
 encourage; fire 激励; 鼓舞
 战场
 run quickly and suddenly 猛冲
 vast; without limit 广阔的; 无边际的
 哽咽的

Phrases and Expressions

- ✓ a bolt from (the) blue something completely unexpected and very unpleasant 晴天霹雳
 ✓ in all fairness 平心而论
 ✓ cross one's mind (of ideas) occur to one (指念头) 掠过脑海
 ✓ look through examine 查看
 ✓ up to the standard equal to the required level 符合标准
 ✓ draw a conclusion come to / arrive at a conclusion 得出结论
 ✓ hold out stretch out 伸出
 ✓ nothing but just; only 就是; 只有
 ✓ none/no other than the person oneself; no other person 不是(别人)正是(某人自己)



Proper Names

Jim [dʒim]

吉姆

Fascist ['fæʃɪst]

a supporter of fascism 法西斯主义者

Notes

1. **Anonymous**: Unknown by name
2. **Suddenly to his great joy, a good idea crossed his mind.**
The preposition "to" is often followed by some emotional nouns to express one's feeling. For example: to one's surprise, to one's satisfaction, to one's sympathy, etc..
3. **I'd best try not to be paid attention to by that old fellow.**
"I'd best" equals the same structure as "I'd better". e.g. I thought I had best/better have your opinion first.

Exercises

I. Comprehension of the Text

Choose the best answer for each of the following according to the text.

1. When Jim received an enlistment notice he was much troubled because _____.
A. he loved his parents
B. he was a coward
✓C. he wouldn't like to leave his girl friend
D. he wouldn't like to leave his hometown
2. Jim thought of a good idea to make the doctors believe there were some defects in his body. What's that idea?
A. Going to the hospital on time.
B. Obeying the doctors.
✗C. Being impetuous to the doctors.
✓D. The author didn't mention it.
3. Why did the old doctor give his order in a whisper?
✓A. Because he tried to test Jim's hearing.
B. Because he was so old that he could not speak in a loud voice.
C. Because he did so in order to show his politeness.
D. Because it was a private conversation.
4. During the physical examination _____.
✓A. the doctor knew Jim was his daughter's boy friend
B. both the doctor and Jim knew each other
C. Jim knew the chief examiner was the father of his girl friend
✗D. Jim didn't know the doctor, nor did the doctor know Jim



5. The doctor examined Jim _____ .
 - A. with medical instruments
 - B. by Jim's reactions
 - C. by Jim's appearance
 - D. without a careful check
6. According to Para.4, which of the following statements made Jim feel surprised?
 - A. The old man raised his head slowly.
 - B. The old man ordered Jim to take off his clothes.
 - C. The old man asked Jim to go straight to a corner.
 - D. The old man told his assistant that Jim had passed the physical examination.
7. When he heard that he was up to the standard, Jim was _____.
 - A. happy
 - B. sorry
 - C. excited
 - D. impetuous
8. "Impetuous" in Para.5 probably means _____.
 - A. hopeless
 - B. sad
 - C. sorry
 - D. hot-headed
9. At the news of Jim's death the old man _____.
 - A. persuaded his daughter to forget him
 - B. regretted what he had done with Jim during the physical examination
 - C. was proud of his daughter's boy friend
 - D. felt sorry that he couldn't help Jim to avoid being sent to the army

II. Question Answering

Answer the following questions based on the text.

1. Where and when did the story take place?
2. What did Jim receive one day? And what was he told to do the next day?
3. Why was Jim unwilling to join the army?
4. Who was the old medical officer?
5. What was the old medical officer doing when Jim was led into the room?
6. Did Jim know that the chief medical officer was the father of his girl friend?
7. Why was Jim surprised when he knew he had passed the physical check?
8. Did Jim survive the war in Europe?
9. What did the old man regret when he heard the bad news?

III. Question Discussion

Please discuss the following questions in groups or write your answers in your exercise books.

1. What kind of physical examination did Jim undergo? Do you think it was a careful check?
2. What do you think of the old medical officer?



IV. Vocabulary Learning

1. Fill in the blanks with the words or expressions given below and change the forms where necessary.

1) devote one's life to	2) in all fairness	3) murmur	4) pretend	5) avoid
nothing but	6) none other than	7) defect	8) coward	9) undergo

- To his great surprise, the boss found that the waiter working in his restaurant was 7 his brother.
 - On the way to Yan-an (延安) the Red Army men underwent many difficulties.
 - You can hardly 15 meeting her if you both work in the same office.
 - He was to be reading when his mother came in.
 - They were all so tired that they could do 6 complain.
 - Her bad temper is a 8 in her kind and generous nature.
 - The stream kept murmuring all the year round as if telling a never-ending story of sorrows.
 - Tony is such a 9 that at the first sight of danger he runs away.
 - Li Si-guang devote his life to the research work of geological science.
 - 2, it must be pointed out that the students did work very hard on the project.
2. Complete each of the following sentences with the correct form of the given word on the left of each sentence.

- enlist The old soldier's fifteen-year enlistment will be over in two years.
They both enlisted in the navy a year before the war broke out.
- tremble After reading her husband's letter the young lady was so angry that she tore it into little bits with trembling fingers.
There was a slight tremble in her voice as she recalled her husband.
- care The slightest carelessness in a surgical operation can result in death.
She thinks only of herself; she doesn't care about other people.
- fair I hope the case will be dealt with fairness.
Our teacher is known for her fairness in grading students.
- hurry The work seemed to have been done hurriedly.
If you want the ice in a fridge to melt more quickly, you can hurry it up by leaving the door open.

- 6) attend Manufacturing chemists focused their attention on the recent tests with new man-made fibres.
The school attend almost entirely by local children.
- 7) pat He patted the child on the head and encouraged him to work harder.
Mark got a pat on the back from the boss for his excellent work.
- 8) intelligence All human beings are much more intelligent than animals.
Anybody with ordinary intelligence and no special training can fill the position.
- 9) glory They won a victory; everyone said the army had fought bravely.
He revelled in the glory of scoring three goals in the last 8 minutes.
- 10) inspire The strike has given a new inspiration to the whole working-class movement.
The news instantly inspired the soldiers with redoubled courage.
- 11) congratulation We congratulated him on having passed the examinations.
Please accept my sincere congratulations on your recovery from illness.

3. Use the verb in the bracket to form an appropriate verbal phrase and complete the sentence with it.

- 1) She stretched her foot out to move the stone away. (stretch)
- 2) Put down that knife before you hurt somebody! (put)
- 3) These children got up the bus and walked to their school. (get)
- 4) I must look at these bills and check them before I pay them. (look)
- 5) He has put on his best clothes for the press conference. (put)
- 6) He held up his two hands to the Foreign Minister to welcome his visit. (hold)
- 7) He stood at the window and looked at the country view. (look)
- 8) After the operation the surgeon took off his cap, mask and gloves, and then went out. (take)
- 9) The Atlantic Ocean separates America from Europe. (separate)

4. For each of the underlined words or phrases, four choices are given. Choose the one that best explains or defines the underlined part.

- 1) My brother had to undergo three months of military training.
 - A. suffer
 - ✓ B. experience
 - C. go over
 - D. receive
- 2) Some were in very good condition but others had small defects.



- A. effects
 ✓ C. imperfections
- B. difficulties
 D. troubles
- 3) The old man took a quick and sharp look at Jim.
 ✓ A. acute and direct
 ✓ C. strong and sudden
- B. short and kind
 D. firm and keen
- 4) You will find that the dictionary is out of date and will mislead you on this point.
 A. useful
 C. not current
- ✓ B. useless
 D. fashionable
- 5) The work isn't up to the standard I required.
 ✓ A. good enough to reach
 ✓ C. above
- B. as much as
 D. below
- 6) The medical officer stretched out both hands to Jim.
 A. held on
 C. held up
- B. held over
 ✓ D. held out
- 7) A sudden thought crossed my mind.
 ✓ A. flashed through my mind
 C. passed from me
- B. thought of
 D. produced quickly
- 8) The new arrival was none other than the secretary of the Party committee.
 A. except
 ✓ C. just
- B. anything
 D. only
- 9) Everything now seems as perfect as could be.
 A. awful
 C. suitable
- ✓ B. excellent
 ✓ D. right
- 10) She decided to employ her boundless energies by returning to the stage.
 A. limited
 C. extra
- ✓ B. limitless
 D. additional
5. Select an appropriate word from those listed below to complete the following sentences.

joy	satisfaction	delight	surprise	disappointment
-----	--------------	---------	----------	----------------

- 1) To the joy ^{surprise} of everybody, the beggar took out a large piece of gold.
- 2) To her great disappointment, it rained on the day of the picnic.
- 3) The work was done to his own satisfaction, but in my opinion it was badly done.
- 4) To the delight of his friends, he succeeded at last.
- 5) To his great surprise his novel was accepted for publication.

V. Structure Learning

Rewrite the following sentences after the model.

Model 1. He seated himself on a chair.

He heard the doctor talking to his assistant.

No sooner had he seated himself on the chair than he heard the doctor talking to his assistant.

- 1) We sat down in the armchair. We found it was time to go.
- 2) He arrived in England. He fell ill.
- 3) She put down the receiver. The phone rang again.
- 4) I left home. It began to rain.
- 5) The medical workers arrived. They began putting up simple wards and treating the injured.

Model 2. When the old man said this, he was choked.

Saying this, the old man was choked.

- 1) When the old lady crossed the street with a basketful of eggs, she was knocked down by a bicycle.
- 2) When our hostess noticed that my daughter was very shy, she went out of her way to make her feel at home.
- 3) When Emma saw these small insects, she felt her flesh crawl (起鸡皮疙瘩).
- 4) As Mr. James felt cold, he didn't have any desire for a swim.
- 5) Because I didn't know what to do, I telephoned the police.

VI. Translation

1. Translate the following sentences into English.
 - 1) 我相信他会准时到校的。(make no doubt) *I made no doubt that he would come on time.*
 - 2) 我刚进门电话铃就响了。(no sooner... than) *No sooner had I come into the room than the telephone rang.*
 - 3) 他正是导演想要找的那种演员。(no other than) *No other than the director found actor.*
 - 4) 使他十分失望的是他物理考试又没及格。(to one's...) *He didn't pass physical examination.*
 - 5) 我得想个办法让老师相信这故事是真的。(find a way) *I'd best look through the test paper before I hold it up.*
 - 6) 在交卷之前我最好还是仔细查看一下试卷。(I'd best) *I'd best look through the test paper before I hold it up.*
 - 7) 汤姆已得出结论,他的失败完全是由于他的粗心。(draw a conclusion) *Tom had drawn a conclusion, his failure because of his carelessness.*
 - 8) 这个消息对我犹如晴天霹雳。(a bolt from the blue) *The news is a bolt from the blue.*
2. Translate the following into Chinese. *I should find a way that let teacher believe the story is true to me.*

Half a year later, Jim was killed in the European battlefield. At this news his girl friend nearly went mad. She dashed down to the shore and stood there, looking out to the boundless ocean. She kept weeping, while calling her lover's name. "Don't be like that, my dear." It was an old man's trembling voice. "Your Jim died a real man. He devoted his life to the people all over the world. It is right that we should be proud of him..." Saying this, the old man, her father, was choked. His only regret was that he had never let Jim know who he was. This old man no other than the medical officer who had given Jim the health check.

Tom had drawn a conclusion, his failure because of his carelessness.



three years.

VIII. Applied Writing

After you arrive at a new place, you will inform your family and friends of your new address. Here are two letters for you to learn how to give your address.

Dear,

A short note to inform you that our new address is:

Chemistry Department
Nanchang University
17 Nanjing Road
Nanchang
Jiangxi 330047
People's Republic of China

Sincerely yours,

(signature)

Li Hua

Dear,

This card is sent to let you know my new address.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91109
U. S. A.

IX. Topic Writing

Write a composition with no less than 120 words on your own family background.

The following points might help you order your ideas:

- where and when you were born
- the story of your name
- your first house, your first town (compared with your present situation)
- your father's/mother's profession
- something to typify your mother
- where your parents originated from

X. Passage Exercise

Filling the missing words.

It must have been around nine o'clock when I drove to home from work because it was already dark. As I approached the gates I switched off the headlamps of the car so as to prevent the beam from swinging in through the window and waking Jack, who shared the home with me. But I needn't have bothered. I noticed that