

精读

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(修订本)

INTENSIVE READING

COLLEGE  
ENGLISH

2



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## 修 订 本 前 言

《大学英语》是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲(文理科本科用)》编写的一套系列教材,分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程,于1986年出版试用本,1992年出版正式本。

本教材的精读、泛读、快速阅读和听力教程各按分级教学的要求编写六册,每级一册,供1—6级使用;语法与练习编写四册,供1—4级使用。精读与听力教程均配有教师用书和录音磁带,泛读教程1—6级也配有教师用书。对低于大纲规定入学要求的学生,另编预备级精读、泛读教程各两册。全套教材由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学分工编写,复旦大学董亚芬担任总主编。前大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组的全体成员对这套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关注。

这次修订是在广泛听取全国各地使用本系列教材的教师们的意见并通过问卷形式对数以万计的师生征求意见的基础上进行的。大学外语教学指导委员会综合大学英语组对本教材的修订提供了多方面的指导与帮助。修订的宗旨是“面向21世纪,将大学英语教学推上一个新台阶”。修订本根据各教程的具体情况,对课文作适当调整,提高大纲词汇的覆盖率和常用词汇的重现率,进一步完善练习,突出重点词语的操练;同时加强各教程间的横向联系,做到既自成体系又相互补充,形成整体。修订本更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性,力求给学生打好“宽、厚、牢”的语言基础。

精读教程的修订重点放在改善对词汇的处理和改进练习两个方面,在培养学生阅读能力的同时,更好地加强对学生的表达能力的训练。具体说来,有如下几点:

一、筛选出每课的重点词,加以反复操练。1. 将每课生词表中凡属《大学英语教学大纲通用词汇表》的词,一律用黑体标出。某些词虽不是大纲词,但确系较为常用的,亦用黑体标明;2. 从上述用黑体标出的词中,每课再精选出20—30个左右更具活力的常用词,连同词组一起作为该课练习的重点。为醒目起见,将这部分重点词另用“Words to Drill”一栏列出。一至四册重点操练的词和词组总计有1345个。

二、进一步提高大纲词汇的覆盖率和重现率。修订本尽可能在各种练习中补进课文没有覆盖的《大纲通用词汇表》中的词。凡在书中各种场合出现的1—4级大纲词汇,在该册附录的词汇表(Glossary)中,均用“\*”号标明;5—6级大纲词,用“△”号标注。

三、修订本对练习部分作了较大的修订,以加强句子和语篇水平的操练。1. 词语练习改为全部围绕各课列出的重点操练词和词组进行;2. 进一步增加主观

题:除保留各单元阅读材料中的英译汉练习外,一至六册均设汉译英练习;一至四册每课增设一篇根据课文内容写成的完形填空题(Cloze);各册均增设了简答题、改写句子等练习;改进写作练习,从第一册起就让学生开始写成段文章,使其在写作实践中学会写作。

四、一至四册增设复习题(Revision Exercises)。除对原有的两套自测题(Test Yourself)加以改进,分别置于各册的第五单元和第十单元后面外,每册再各增两套复习题,分别放在第三单元和第八单元之后。主要用于进一步操练并巩固所学过的有关各课的重点词语和语言技能。

五、新增科普文章阅读(Supplementary Readings in Popular Science)一栏。每册增收数篇反映当前各种科普内容的文章并附若干简答题,供学生自测。

《大学英语》精读教程由复旦大学英语教学部负责编写。翟象俊主编第一、二、五册;李荫华主编第三、四、六册;程雨民、孙骊担任主审。参加编写第一册的还有张增健、王德明、任建国、赵建、杨晨等。英国专家 Anthony J. Ward 和美国专家 Craig M. Breon 以及 Janet W. Helfand 协助编写和审阅。

本书为精读教程第二册的修订本,供大学英语二级学生使用,由翟象俊主编,孙骊主审,王德明负责具体修订工作。参加修订的还有夏国佐、赵建等。美籍专家 Mark Eades 和 Renée Florence 协助编写和审阅。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付梓前仔细编审,精心设计,谨此一并致谢。

由于编者水平与经验有限,教材中难免还有不足之处,希望广大读者批评指正。

本书录音磁带由上海外语音像出版社出版发行。

编 者  
1997 年 3 月



## 使用说明

本书为《大学英语》精读教程第二册,供大学英语二级的学生使用。

第二册共有十个单元。每一单元由课文(Text)、生词(New Words)、注释(Notes)、练习(Study and Practice)、阅读练习(Reading Activity)和有引导的写作(Guided Writing)六部分组成。

课文全部选用原文材料,但有少量删改。选材力求题材、体裁多样,内容丰富有趣,并有一定的启发性。讲解课文时应从全篇内容着眼,并对一些常用词和词组的用法进行分析,既要防止只讲语言点而忽略通篇内容,也要避免只注意文章内容而忽视语言基础训练。

为便于学生学习,生词释义采用英、汉结合的方式。在一般情况下,尽可能用英语释义,并酌情加注汉语,难以用英语解释清楚的则直接用汉语释义。

注释尽量用浅近的英语,主要介绍有关的背景知识,说明一些特殊的语言现象,供学生预习时参考。

本册的练习包括朗读和背诵(Reading Aloud and Memorizing)、课文理解(Comprehension of the Text)、词汇(Vocabulary)、构词(Word Building)、结构(Structure)、完形填空(Cloze)和翻译(Translation)等部分。朗读和背诵练习主要要求学生掌握句重音和意群,并熟记课文中有关段落。课文理解练习要求学生根据课文回答问题,有的则要求学生陈述自己的看法;有条件的班级可用一定的时间在教师引导下进行讨论,以提高学生的口头表达能力。词汇练习旨在巩固课文中所学常用词和词组的用法。构词练习要求学生熟悉现代英语中的主要构词法,熟练掌握一些常用的前缀、后缀,借以扩大词汇量。结构练习的目的是使学生掌握一些英语常用句型,以提高学生的表达能力。完形填空练习是一种综合性的练习,分A、B两篇。前者根据课文写成,主要围绕该课重点词和词组作语篇水平的操练;后者选自课外的文章。这一练习有一定难度,需要由教师予以启发引导。翻译练习每单元安排八句汉译英,可作为课外书面作业。

阅读练习旨在培养学生的阅读技能,每一(或二)单元编列一项技能,并配有一篇内容与课文相近而难度较浅的阅读材料;其中1—4级的大纲词汇均加注汉语,放在前面,希望学生尽量掌握。教师应紧扣技能的培养,不必在语言现象的分析上花太多时间。收在书末的科普补充阅读文章(Supplementary Readings in Popular Science),主要供学生自学,教师也可酌情选用。

有引导的写作在本册中主要是培养学生连句成段的能力,并进一步练习段落写作。

书中每隔两或三单元后所设的复习题(Revision Exercises)或自测题(Test

Yourself), 供学生复习并巩固所学内容。书末附有参考答案。

总之,练习是按照教学大纲和本册教程的要求编写的,练习量较大,难度适当照顾各类学生的需要。教师可以根据学生的具体情况有选择地加以利用。

编 者  
1997 年 3 月

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# Unit One

## Text

*It is a humorous essay. But after reading it you will surely find that the author is most serious in writing it.*

### IS THERE LIFE ON EARTH?

*Art Buchwald*



There was great excitement on the planet of Venus this week. For the first time Venusian scientists managed to land a satellite on the planet Earth, and it has been sending back signals as well as photographs ever since.

The satellite was directed into an area known as Manhattan (named 5

after the great Venusian astronomer Prof. Manhattan, who first discovered it with his telescope 20,000 light years ago).

Because of excellent weather conditions and extremely strong signals, Venusian scientists were able to get valuable information as to the feasibility of a manned flying saucer landing on Earth. A press conference was held at the Venus Institute of Technology.

"We have come to the conclusion, based on last week's satellite landing," Prof. Zog said, "that there is no life on Earth."

"How do you know this?" the science reporter of the Venus Evening Star asked.

"For one thing, Earth's surface in the area of Manhattan is composed of solid concrete and nothing can grow there. For another, the atmosphere is filled with carbon monoxide and other deadly gases and nobody could possibly breathe this air and survive."

"What does this mean as far as our flying saucer program is concerned?"

"We shall have to take our own oxygen with us, which means a much heavier flying saucer than we originally planned."

"Are there any other hazards that you discovered in your studies?"

"Take a look at this photo. You see this dark black cloud hovering over the surface of Earth? We call this the Consolidated Edison Belt. We don't know what it is made of, but it could give us a lot of trouble and we shall have to make further tests before we send a Venus Being there."

"Over here you will notice what seems to be a river, but the satellite findings indicate it is polluted and the water is unfit to drink. This means we shall have to carry our own water, which will add even greater weight to the saucer."

"Sir, what are all those tiny black spots on the photographs?"

"We're not certain. They seem to be metal particles that move along certain paths. They emit gases, make noise and keep crashing into each other. There are so many of these paths and so many metal particles that it is impossible to land a flying saucer without its being smashed by one."

"What are those stalagmite projections sticking up?"

"They're some type of granite formations that give off light at night."

Prof. Glom has named them skyscrapers since they seem to be scraping the 40  
skies."

"If all you say is true, won't this set back the flying saucer program  
several years?"

"Yes, but we shall proceed as soon as the Grubstart gives us the added  
funds." 45

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

"Because if we Venusians can learn to breathe in an Earth atmo-  
sphere, then we can live anywhere."

### New Words

<b>humorous</b> /'hju:mərəs/a.	funny; that makes people laugh 幽默的
<b>humor</b> <i>n.</i>	
<b>essay</b> /'esei/n.	散文, 随笔
<b>excitement</b> <i>n.</i>	the state or quality of being excited
<b>planet</b> /'plænit/n.	large body in space that moves round a star, esp. round the sun 行星
<b>Venusian</b> /vɪ'nju:siən/a.	of or having to do with the planet Venus 金星的
<i>n.</i>	supposed Venus being 金星人
<b>satellite</b> /'sætələit/n.	spacecraft that goes round the planet earth and sends back radio and television signals; heav- enly body that goes round a planet (人造)卫 星
<b>signal</b> /'signəl/n.	信号; 暗号
<b>astronomer</b> /ə'strɒnəmə/n.	person who studies the science of the sun, moon, stars and planets 天文学家
<b>telescope</b> /'teliskəup/n.	instrument with special glasses used for seeing distant things
<b>extremely</b> /iks'tri:mli/ad.	very 极端, 非常
<b>extreme</b> <i>a.</i>	
<b>feasibility</b> /'fi:zə'biliti/n.	possibility of being carried out or done 可行性
<b>feasible</b> <i>a.</i>	
<b>manned</b> /mænd/a.	occupied by one or more persons 载人的
<b>saucer</b> /'sɔ:sə/n.	浅碟; 茶托
<b>flying saucer</b> <i>n.</i>	飞碟

**conference** /'kɒnfərəns/ *n.*

press conference *n.*

**technology** /tek'nɒlədʒi/ *n.*

**conclusion** /kən'klʊʒən/ *n.*

**conclude** *v.*

**reporter** *n.*

**compose** /kəm'pəʊz/ *vt.*

**concrete** /'kɒkri:t/ *n.*

**atmosphere** /'ætməsfɪə/ *n.*

**carbon** /'kɑ:bən/ *n.*

monoxide /mɒ'nɒksaɪd/ *n.*

**deadly** *a.*

**gas** *n.*

**survive** /sə'vaɪv/ *vi.*

*vt.*

**survival** *n.*

**program** *n.*

**concern** /kən'sɜ:n/ *vt.*

**oxygen** /'ɒksɪdʒən/ *n.*

**originally** /ə'ɪrɪdʒɪnəli/ *ad.*

**original** *a.*

**hazard** /'hæzəd/ *n.*

hover /'hɒvə/ *vi.*

**consolidated** /kən'sɒlɪdeɪtɪd/ *a.*

**consolidate** *vt.*

**belt** /belt/ *n.*

**indicate** /'ɪndɪkeɪt/ *vt.*

**indication** *n.*

**pollute** /pə'lʊt/ *vt.*

meeting

meeting arranged by an important person to which news reporters are invited to listen to a statement or ask questions 记者招待会

技术

decision or opinion reached by reasoning 结论

person who gathers news for a newspaper, magazine, or radio or TV station 记者

make up, form 组成, 构成

building material made by mixing cement with sand, small stones and water 混凝土

all the gases round the earth; air in a place 大气; 空气

碳

一氧化物

causing death; likely to cause death 致命的

气体

remain alive; continue to live or exist 活下来; 幸存

remain alive after; live longer than 经历...后还活着; 比...活得长

plan of what is to be done 计划

be of importance or interest to; have an effect on 涉及, 关系到

氧, 氧气

formerly 起初, 原来

danger

stay in or near one place in the air 盘旋

united; combined 联合的

area that has some special quality; zone (地)带  
show

make (air, water, soil, etc.) dirty with man-made waste 污染

<b>pollution</b> <i>n.</i>	
<b>unfit</b> /ʌn'fit/ <i>a.</i>	not good enough; not suitable
<b>particle</b> /'pɑ:tɪkl/ <i>n.</i>	粒子;微粒
<b>emit</b> /i'mit/ <i>vt.</i>	send out 散发, 射出
emission <i>n.</i>	
<b>crash</b> /kræʃ/ <i>v.</i>	fall or strike suddenly, violently and noisily 坠 落;猛撞
<b>smash</b> /smæʃ/ <i>v.</i>	(cause to) break into pieces violently (使)碎裂
<b>stalagmite</b> /'stæləgmait/ <i>n.</i>	石笋
<b>projection</b> /prədʒekʃən/ <i>n.</i>	sth. that stands out from a surface 凸出物
<b>project</b> <i>v.</i>	
<b>type</b> /taɪp/ <i>n.</i>	a particular kind, class or group 类型, 种类
<b>granite</b> /'grænit/ <i>n.</i>	hard grey stone used for building 花岗岩
<b>formation</b> /fɔ:'meɪʃən/ <i>n.</i>	sth. that is formed; way in which sth. is formed 形成(物)
<b>skyscraper</b> /'skaɪskreɪpə/ <i>n.</i>	very tall building 摩天大楼
<b>scrape</b> /skreɪp/ <i>vt.</i>	rub with sth. rough or sharp 刮, 擦
<b>proceed</b> /prə'si:d/ <i>vi.</i>	continue after having stopped (停顿后)继续进 行
<b>fund</b> /fʌnd/ <i>n.</i>	sum of money set apart or available for a special purpose 资金;基金
<b>billion</b> /'bɪljən/ <i>n.</i>	one thousand million
<b>zilch</b> /zɪltʃ/ <i>n.</i>	zero; nothing at all

## Phrases & Expressions

<b>(be) known as</b>	also publicly called; named 以...闻名, 通常名叫
<b>name after</b>	give the same name as 以...名字命名
<b>as to</b>	about, concerning 关于
<b>base on / upon</b>	use as a basis or foundation for 以...为基础, 把...基于
<b>for one thing... (for another)</b>	in the first place... (in the second place)
<b>be composed of</b>	have as members or parts 由...组成
<b>as far as... be concerned</b>	to the degree that it matters to 就...而言
<b>stick up</b>	stand upright; project 直立;突出
<b>give off</b>	emit; send out 发出;散发出
<b>set back</b>	delay the advance or development of 耽搁;阻碍



## Proper Names

Art Buchwald /'ɑ:t 'bʊtʃwəld/

阿特·布奇沃德

Venus /'vi:nəs/

金星

Manhattan /mæn'hætən/

曼哈顿(纽约市中心区)

Zog /zɒg/

佐格(姓氏)

Edison /'edisən/

爱迪生(姓氏)

Glom /glɒm/

格洛姆(姓氏)

## Notes

1. **Art Buchwald (1925 - )**: well-known humor columnist (幽默专栏作家) for the *Washington Post* (《华盛顿邮报》).
2. **Manhattan**: the commercial and cultural center of New York City, famous for its tall buildings and theaters.
3. **20,000 light years ago**: A light year is the *distance* that light travels in one year, about 6 trillion (6,000,000,000,000) miles. Art Buchwald is being humorous when he deliberately (故意地) says "20,000 light years ago". The intended meaning is only "a very, very long time ago."
4. **Consolidated Edison Belt**: There is a radiation zone (辐射带) encircling (环绕) the earth, called the Van Allen Belt (范爱伦辐射带). Consolidated Edison is the company that makes and supplies electricity for much of eastern New York State. They burn a lot of coal, which makes air polluted. Here Buchwald uses the Consolidated Edison Belt to suggest that the company is burning so much coal and creating such air pollution that there is a belt of coal dust and smoke encircling the planet earth.
5. **Grubstart**: In American English there is a word "grubstake", which means money supplied to a prospector (探矿者) on the condition of sharing in whatever he finds. Here the author has changed "grubstake" into "Grubstart" to mean a supposed government agency (机构) in charge of supplying funds to scientific research programs.
6. **...spending billions and billions of zilches...**: "zilch" is a slang word (俚语词) meaning zero or nothing. In our text it is used as if it were a monetary unit such as *yuan* or dollar. A native speaker would immediately see the humor in spending billions and billions of nothings.

## Study & Practice

### Words to Drill

atmosphere	compose	conclusion	conference	crash
deadly	emit	extremely	feasibility	fund
hazard	indicate	originally	pollute	proceed
signal	smash	survive	type	unfit

### Reading Aloud and Memorizing

I . Read the following paragraphs until you learn them by heart:

There was great excitement on the planet of Venus this week. For the first time Venusian scientists managed to land a satellite on the planet Earth, and it has been sending back signals as well as photographs ever since.

The satellite was directed into an area known as Manhattan (named after the great Venusian astronomer Prof. Manhattan, who first discovered it with his telescope 20, 000 light years ago).

Because of excellent weather conditions and extremely strong signals, Venusian scientists were able to get valuable information as to the feasibility of a manned flying saucer landing on Earth. A press conference was held at the Venus Institute of Technology.

### Comprehension of the Text

II . Choose the best answer for each of the following:

1. During the week of great excitement the Venusian scientists succeeded in getting important information as to
  - a. the feasibility of landing a satellite on Earth.
  - b. the possibility of making a first-rate flying saucer.
  - c. the feasibility of sending a Venus Being to Earth.
  - d. the possibility of directing a flying saucer into Manhattan.
2. According to Prof. Zog, the Venusians will have to take their own oxygen with them when they carry out their flying saucer program because

- a. they need it on their way to the planet of Earth.
  - b. the Earth's atmosphere is filled with deadly gases.
  - c. oxygen is far from enough in the area of Manhattan where the saucer is to land.
  - d. there is no air on the planet of Earth.
3. The "dark black cloud" on the photograph alludes to (暗指)
- a. the polluted air hovering over the surface of Earth.
  - b. the mass of tiny drops of water floating above Earth.
  - c. the mass of small things moving through the air.
  - d. the dark clouds gathering before a storm breaks.
4. The "tiny black spots" on the photographs refer, in fact, to
- a. planes flying over Manhattan.
  - b. rockets (火箭) being launched into space.
  - c. fire engines (救火车) carrying firemen to a fire.
  - d. vehicles (车辆) moving along streets.
5. What, according to Prof. Zog, will set back the flying saucer program several years?
- a. The discovery of the stalagmite projections sticking up.
  - b. The Grubstart's refusal to give the scientists added funds.
  - c. The Venusians' failure to learn to breathe in an Earth atmosphere.
  - d. The various hazards that Venusian scientists discovered in their studies.
6. Venusian scientists discovered several hazards
- a. during their long years of study of the planet Earth.
  - b. when they studied the information sent back by the satellite.
  - c. shortly after the press conference held at an institute.
  - d. long before working out the flying saucer program.
7. The author wishes to call our attention to the fact
- a. that modern man has polluted his environment (环境) to such an extent that he might destroy himself if he went on like this.
  - b. that there is no point in spending billions and billions of zilches to land a flying saucer on Earth.
  - c. that pollution has become so serious a problem on Earth that even Venusians find life there unbearable.
  - d. that it is difficult, if not altogether impossible, to land a manned flying saucer on Earth.
8. The tone of this essay is
- a. calm and objective (客观的).
  - b. serious and thought-provoking (发人深省的).