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21 世纪高校英语专业基础课系列教材

英语阅读教程

南开大学外国语学院英语系教材编写组 编

(一)

YOU CAN
Correct
Appropriate
Native

南开大学出版社

21 世纪高校英语专业基础课系列教材

英语阅读教程（一）

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前 言

我们谨将南开大学英语系集体智慧的结晶——《21 世纪高校英语专业基础课系列教材》奉献给广大的学生,奉献给崭新的 21 世纪。

这套教材是 2000 年教育部批准实施的《高等学校英语专业英语教学大纲》颁布后,国内出版的第一套英语专业基础课系列教材,共计 8 种,分两次出齐,包括:

- 1.《英语口语教程》
- 2.《英语阅读教程》(一、二)
- 3.《英语听力教程》(一、二)(含学生用书与教师用书)
- 4.《英语翻译教程》
- 5.《英语口译教程》
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- 7.《基础英语教程》(一、二)(含学生用书与教师用书)
- 8.《高级英语教程》(一、二)(含学生用书与教师用书)

新世纪的教材应该有新世纪的特点。我们在教材编写中努力做到:全面贯彻新《大纲》,立足培养具有扎实的英语语言基础和广博的文化知识的复合型英语人才;反映当代科技、文化的最新成就;反映教学内容和课程体系改革的最新成果;在教材内容和体系上有明显特色。

系列教材编写工作难度大,时间紧,要求高。参加编写工作的所有教师兢兢业业,一丝不苟,历冬寒夏暑,始成此书。

我们倾全系之力编写这套教材,因为我们知道:我们正在为新世纪奉献自己的微薄之力。我们倾全系之力编写这套教材,因为我们相信:新世纪需要这样的教材。

这套教材得到了南开大学各级领导,尤其是学校教材建设委员会的关心和支持,并被列为教材重点建设项目;这套教材还得到了南开大学出版社的大力支持和帮助。

我们真诚地感谢所有关心、支持、帮助我们的朋友,我们真诚地欢迎批评和建议。

编者

2001 年 9 月
于南开大学

为贯彻高等院校外语教学指导委员会 2000 年 3 月最新颁布的《高等学校英语专业教学大纲》精神,培养跨世纪的英语专业人才,我们组织编写了这套《英语阅读教程》。

《21 世纪英语专业阅读教程》收录的文章绝大多数来自国内外最新报刊杂志,内容广泛,涉及社会、政治、经济、文化、语言、科技、贸易等诸方面。该教材在编写过程中力求做到语言知识新、文章选材精、背景知识丰富,突出文章的学术性和实用性。我们在教材中除涉及一般文学、语言及生活内容的片段外,还选编了一些与现代科技、贸易密切相关的实用性文章,例如特别节选了一篇与 IT 行业代表 Yahoo 公司相关的文章,同时对搜索引擎的应用进行了介绍。这样读者在阅读中不仅能够提高语言应用技巧和培养良好的语感,而且还能够接触到最新科技信息,既拓宽了知识面,也开阔了视野。

该教材不仅提供了丰富的阅读材料,而且在每五个单元之间由浅入深地介绍了主要阅读技巧,使学生自如掌握和灵活运用所学技巧,从而提高整体阅读水平。同时,教材中还穿插了很多饶有趣味的图片,合理调整了文章布局,读来令人耳目一新。

全书共分为上下两册,每册 20 个单元,每一个单元由两篇主要阅读课文和三篇速读课文组成,共计约 200 篇文章。单元主要阅读课文后配有包括词汇、阅读理解、判断等在内的多种练习,形式灵活,紧密配合本书中教授的阅读技巧。

该教程适用于英语专业一、二年级的阅读课教学,也可作为非英语专业高年级的泛读教材。由于编者水平有限,书中如有错误和不当之处,请读者不吝指正。

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* The asterisk means the title of the passage is mentioned in the exercises.

Reading Skill I: Skimming

Skimming is the quickly reading for the general idea of a passage.

One often skims through a passage to see what it is about before deciding whether it is worth scanning a particular paragraph for the information one is looking for. This skill is also used when there is no time to read something carefully.

Unlike scanning which involves searching for details or isolated facts, skimming requires you to note only information and clues which provide an idea of the central theme or topic of piece of prose.

When you skim, it is necessary to read only selected sentences in order to get the main idea. You should also use textural clues such as italicized or underlined words, headlines or subtitles, spacing, paragraphing, etc. Do not read every word or sentence.

Once you have a general idea about an article you may decide to read the entire selection carefully, or only to scan for specific pieces of information in order to answer questions which have occurred to you.

Skim the following passage and try to finish the exercise:

Internet May Cause Depression

Internet use appears to cause a decline in psychological well-being, according to research at Carnegie Mellon University.

Even people who spent just a few hours a week on the Internet experienced more depression and loneliness than those who logged on less frequently, the two-year study showed. And it wasn't that people who were already feeling bad spent more time on the Internet, but that using the Net actually appeared to cause the bad feelings.

Researchers are puzzling over the results, which were completely contrary to their expectations. They expected that the Net would prove socially healthier than television, since the Net allows users to choose their information and to communicate with others.

The fact that Internet use reduces time available for family and friends may account for the drop in well-being, researchers hypothesized. Faceless, bodiless "virtual" communication may be less psychologically satisfying than actual conversation, and the relationships formed through it may be shallower. Another possibility is that exposure to the wider world via the Net makes users less satisfied with their lives.

"But it's important to remember this is not about the technology, perse; it's about how it is used", says psychologist Christine Riley of Intel, one of the study's sponsors. "It really points to the need for considering social factors in terms of how you design applications and services for technology."

Questions: Decide whether the following statements are true:

1. A research at a university shows that Internet use may cause a decline in psychological well-being.
2. The researchers think that Internet use reduces time available for family and friends, which may cause the decline in psychological well-being.
3. Internet communication may be as satisfying as actual conversation.

Unit One

Lesson One

The Peoples of Britain

Many foreigners who have never visited Britain call all the inhabitants English, for they are used to thinking of the British Isles as England. In fact, the British Isles contain a variety of peoples and only the people of England call themselves English. The others refer to themselves Welsh, Scottish, or Irish, as the case may be; they are often slightly annoyed at being classified as "English".



2) Even in England there are many differences in regional character and speech. The chief division is between southern England and northern England. South of a line going from Bristol to London, people speak the type of English usually learnt by foreign students, though there are local variations.

3) Further north (roughly beyond a line going from Manchester to Hull) regional speech is usually "broader" than that of southern Britain. Northerners are apt to claim that they work harder than the Southerners, and are more thorough. They are openhearted and hospitable; foreigners often find that they make friends with them quickly. Northerners generally have hearty appetites; the visitor may look forward to receiving generous helpings at meal times.

4) In accent and character the people of the Midlands represent a gradual change from the southern to the northern type of English man.

5) In Scotland the sound denoted by the letter "R" is generally a strong sound, and "R" is often pronounced in words in which it would be silent in southern English. In the Highlands and the Western Isles the ancient Scottish language, Gaelic, is still heard. The Scots are said to be a serious, cautious people, rather inventive and somewhat mystical. All the Celtic peoples of Britain (the Welsh, the Irish, the Scots) are frequently described as being more "fiery" than the English. They are of a race that is quite distinct from the English.

6) The Welsh have preserved their language to a remarkable extent. The English generally look upon the Welsh as an emotional people who are, however, somewhat difficult to get to know easily.

7) Ireland is divided into two parts. The six counties of Northern Ireland are still part of Great Britain, though, in normal circumstances, they have their own Parliament. The majority of people in Northern Ireland are Protestants. Republic of Ireland, which covers the

larger part of the island, is a separate state, not part of Great Britain. The population is predominantly Catholic. Irish, often called Erse, is a form of Gaelic. It was in danger of dying out, but when the territory of the Republic became independent (the Irish "Free State", 1922), Erse was revived, and is now the official first language of the Republic. English being the second. The Irish are known for their charm and vivacity, as well as for the beauty of the Irish girls.

The Highlands

8) The drive from England to Scotland provides the traveler with many pleasant changes of scenery. As it is a fairly long journey, it is good to be able to travel with a friend who can take turns with you at the wheel.

9) A patriotic Scotsman travelling with an English friend may tell him he is going to see, in the Highlands, the finest scenery in the world. This may sound exaggerated, but on arriving in the Highlands most people readily agree that the scenery is indeed magnificent.

10) The Highlands are, as the name implies, the hilly or mountainous region of the country; they form the greater part of the western half of Scotland north of Glasgow.

11) On the first night in Scotland a tourist may choose to put up at a hotel in the little town of Callander, which is known as one of "the Gateways to the Highlands". On the following day he can set out to see the various lakes, or rather "lochs" in the neighborhood, and will be delighted with the wild and romantic aspect of the countryside. When he returns to his hotel he will be glad to eat a copious "high tea". This is a meal that, in Scotland and many parts of northern England, takes the place of tea and dinner. It consists of one substantial course, such as one would have at dinner, followed by bread-and-butter, with jam or honey, and some kind of cake or cakes; tea is drunk with the meal, which is taken at about six o'clock in the evening. One has a light supper late in the evening.

12) The next morning many tourists journey on to the west coast, passing on their way Loch Lomond, one of the largest and most famous of the Scottish lakes (these are called "lochs", with the exception of the Lake of Menteith, not far from Glasgow). The road twists and turns, dips and climbs, but is not dangerous. The greatest hazard is the black-faced sheep; these animals are as active and impudent as goats, and frequently wander recklessly into the road. The tourist may also see a herd of long-haired Highland cattle, which look savage but are no more so than ordinary cattle. Eventually the road runs parallel with the sea along a coastline.

Edinburgh

13) Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland, is a fine old city built partly in the valley of the River Leith and partly on the rolling hills which surround it. The city is dominated by the castle, an ancient fortress standing on the summit of a massive rock, which has been the scene of many battles throughout centuries of Scottish history. Today what remains of the original castle is preserved as a museum piece and a home for military relics.

14) The road from the castle to the royal palace of Holyroodhouse is known as "The Royal Mile". It is a very old thoroughfare running through the oldest part of the city where there are many famous historic houses and narrow lanes called "closes". The newer part of the city lies north of the famous Princes Street, which is the widest and most impressive of the many wide streets, elegant squares and imposing terraces that are to be found in Edinburgh.

15) The trains bringing visitors to Edinburgh run right into the heart of the city. Climbing up the steps from Waverley Station, the visitor is greeted by a blaze of colour in Princes Street Gardens and a splendid view down the mile-long length of Princes Street itself.

16) The grey stone buildings that line one side of Princes Street have been described as "a series of palaces"; they are, in fact, department stores and shops. In some shops you can see beautiful displays of Scottish tartans and woolens, and tempting arrangements of shortbread, Edinburgh rock and, of course, Scotch whisky. About half way along Princes Street is the tallest spire in the city—a monumental memorial to Sir Walter Scott—and a little farther on is the Floral Clock. This unique clock, made entirely of growing flowers, is always in full bloom during Festival.

17) For three weeks every summer, Edinburgh is alive with happy festival goers and performers who come from all over the world, and the city is gay with flags and decorations. This international festival of the arts fills every theatre, concert hall and exhibition gallery with performances of opera, dancing, music, plays, films, puppet shows, and exhibitions of painting and sculpture. The festival is not limited to indoor activities: every weekday the noise of the city's traffic is lost in the sound of music as the Scottish pipers march along Princes Street with kilts swinging and drums beating. But the most spectacular event of the festival is undoubtedly the military tattoo. This takes place under searchlights with the floodlit castle in the background. Nowhere could one find a natural setting more impressive and appropriate.

Wales—"Land of Song"

18) On the western side of Britain lies one of the most beautiful parts of the British Isles: Wales. The Welsh mountains have a beauty which is rugged and forbidding, but the slopes are as green and fertile as the valleys and provide rich pasture for sheep and cows.

19) In central and north Wales, farming is the main occupation, but the valleys of south Wales are very heavily industrialized. Here the wealth of the land lies below the surface in rich coal seams, and the mining villages have grown into busy towns around iron and steel plants, chemical works and oil refineries.

20) Wales is very popular for holidays. Every year, thousands of people spend their summer holidays at the seaside resorts on the North Wales coast or, if they prefer it, enjoy undisturbed peace and quiet in isolated villages remote from town life. Those who like to be energetic will probably choose Snowdonia. This part of the country round Snowdon, the highest peak in the Welsh mountains (and the second highest in Britain), is ideal for climbing and walking holidays.

21) Wales has been called "The Land of Song". The Welsh people are renowned for their good voices and it is rare to find a village without at least one choir competing in an arts festival. The biggest festival of all is the International Arts Festival held every year in Llangollen in Clwyd. Singers, dancers, musicians and poets come from all over the world to compete for the awards, often wearing colorful national costume. The Welsh girls contribute to the festival gaiety with their national dress—a tall black hat, a scarlet skirt and a starched white apron. The streets of this small country town bustle with the comings and goings of visitors speaking many languages. One of the foreign languages heard will be English, for in North Wales many of the local people speak Welsh as their native tongue. Today only about a quarter of the Welsh population speak this ancient language as their first language, although many more who use English can understand Welsh as well, and encourage their children to learn it at school. The Welsh people are proud of being Celtic, different from the Anglo-Saxon English, with an ancient language and a heritage of their own.

Exercise 1 Word meaning

Match the words in Column A with the statements in Column B:

A	B
___ 1. inhabitant	a. go from place to place without any special purpose
___ 2. hospitable	b. place where something is made pure
___ 3. generous	c. make something larger, better, etc. than it really is
___ 4. exaggerate	d. giving friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests
___ 5. wander	e. loving and ready to defend one's country
___ 6. massive	f. cheerfulness; bright appearance
___ 7. patriotic	g. threatening
___ 8. gaiety	h. noble-minded; ready to give
___ 9. forbidding	i. large, heavy and solid
___ 10. refinery	j. person living in a place

Exercise I Using context clues

Guess the meaning of the word or phrase in *italics* in each sentence, using **only** the context.

Do not use a dictionary for this exercise:

- Northerners are *apt to* claim that they work harder than the Southerners, and are more thorough. (Para. 3)

A. likely to	B. hard to
C. able to	D. asked to
- Northerners generally *have hearty appetites*; the visitor may look forward to receiving generous helpings at meal times. (Para. 3)

A. eat much	B. are healthy and generous
C. eat only good things	D. like food very much
- The Welsh have preserved their language *to a remarkable extent*. (Para. 6)

- A. greatly satisfied B. in a slight degree
C. in a large degree D. in a general way
4. Erse *was revived*, and is now the official first language of the Republic. (Para. 7)
A. came into use again B. died out
C. developed D. advanced
5. As it is a fairly long journey, it is good to be able to travel with a friend who can *take turns with you at the wheel*. (Para. 8)
A. replace the wheel B. take your place fully
C. put you on the wheel D. drive in turn with you
6. It consists of one *substantial* course, such as one would have at dinner, followed by bread-and-butter, with jam or honey, and some kind of cake or cakes. (Para. 11)
A. material B. of a particular kind of matter
C. full D. main
7. The city is *dominated* by the castle, an ancient fortress standing on the summit of a massive rock. (Para. 13)
A. built B. overlooked
C. given D. ruled
8. About half way along Princes Street is the tallest spire ... —and a little farther on is the *Floral Clock*. (Para. 16)
A. of flowers B. of flour
C. on the floor D. underground
9. Nowhere could one find a natural setting more impressive and *appropriate*. (Para. 17)
A. popular B. suitable
C. appreciate D. acceptable
10. Every year, thousands of people spend their summer holidays at the seaside *resorts* on the North Wales coast. (Para. 20)
A. beach B. waters
C. place often visited D. sands

Exercise II Understanding words

1. Refer back to the passage and find synonyms for the following words:

- | | | |
|-----------------|------------|-------|
| 1) retain | (para. 6) | _____ |
| 2) prevailingly | (para. 7) | _____ |
| 3) danger | (para. 12) | _____ |
| 4) famous | (para. 21) | _____ |
| 5) clothes | (para. 21) | _____ |

2. Refer back to the passage and find antonyms for the following words:

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|-------|
| 1) seldom | (para. 6) | _____ |
| 2) minority | (para. 7) | _____ |
| 3) civilized | (para. 12) | _____ |