

泛 读 EXTENSIVE READING



College English

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国家教委高等学校第二届优秀教材一等奖

高等学校教材

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大学英语

Sub-Band

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预备级

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总主编 董亚芬

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College English (修订本)

(Revised Edition)

泛读

Extensive Reading

预备二级

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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。修订本更加注重文、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。

预备级泛读教程由南京大学大学外语部负责编写。孙淑强担任主编,杨治中担任主审,参加编写的有许水耀和钱兴荣。本教程还承大学外语教学指导委员会委员郭杰克以及英籍专家 Anthony J. Ward 协助审阅。

本书为泛读教程预备二级修订本,由孙淑强修订,杨治中主审,供大学英语预备二级学生使用。修完预备二级教程后可任选按大学英语教学大纲所编写的各类后续教材。美籍专家 Florence Renée 对修订本提出了宝贵意见。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,给予我们很大帮助和促进。谨此一并致谢。

由于编者水平与经验有限,教材中难免有不足之处,希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1997年3月

使用说明

本教程是根据《大学英语》预备级泛读教程的特点和教学对象的英语水平,按以下指导思想修订的:

1. 选材内容作了适当调整和补充,难度逐步提高,信息量逐步加大,题材逐步多样。通过一定量的阅读增强学生的语感,提高学生的阅读速度,使之初步掌握阅读技巧,为进入一级的学习打下基础。

2. 在编写各类练习时,注意逐步培养学生在阅读过程中的分析、归纳、综合和推断的能力,以配合精读教程在阅读技能方面的教学。

3. 选材较浅于相应的精读课文,并加必要的注释,以便于学生顺利阅读。

4. 教材绝大多数选自原文,略经删节或改写,在保证语言文字规范化的同时,尽量使之适合预备级学生的英语水平。

5. 选材力求内容新颖、题材广泛、体裁多样、知识性与趣味性并重。

6. 考虑到学生阅读能力上的差异,每册的阅读量都略高于大纲所规定的指标。

本教程分一、二级两册,每册选编课文三十六篇,每课编有少量注释,配有若干练习,以测试学生对文章的理解能力。书末附有练习答案和总词汇表。为了配合精读教程,每册按十二单元编写,三课为一个单元。每单元的前两课篇幅较长,跨度为350—800词,第三课较短,跨度为300—500词,可作一般课文使用,也可用作快速阅读的材料,在课内进行,读后即做练习,所需时间(包括练习)约十五分钟。

编者
1997年3月

突破传统教学模式,提高大英教学质量

《大学英语》(修订本)多媒体系列教学光盘正式出版

为了繁荣我国的大学外语教育事业,支持我国的大学外语教学改革,上海外语教育出版社开发了《大学英语》(修订本)多媒体系列教学光盘。该系列教学光盘与《大学英语》(修订本)系列教材同步。精读和听力的每册教材各配 2 张光盘。

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CONTENTS

UNIT 1

- 1. Ants Are Smarter Than We Think 1
- 2. Salt 4
- 3. The Greatest Magician, Harry Houdini 6

UNIT 2

- 4. Wrong Number 8
- 5. Hitting the Books 11
- 6. Dox — A Great Police Dog 14

UNIT 3

- 7. The Girl on the Roof 16
- 8. Suntan and Society 19
- 9. Fire! 22

UNIT 4

- 10. How Tea Came to Asia 25
- 11. Kon-Tiki 28
- 12. An Unusual Notice 31

UNIT 5

- 13. Archimedes and the Crown 34
- 14. The Case of Miss Fraser 37
- 15. Four Beautiful Things about Hawaii 40

UNIT 6

- 16. Clumsy World for Lefty 43
- 17. The Disney World 47
- 18. My Grandfather's Watch 50

UNIT 7

- 19. An Unknown Dance 53

20. A Time for Courage	55
21. The Revenge	58

UNIT 8

22. The Linguistic Habits of a New Generation	60
23. Desert Doctor	63
24. A New Car — Model T Ford	67

UNIT 9

25. A Valuable Hour	70
26. A Letter	74
27. The Pelican	77

UNIT 10

28. "The Peanut Man"	80
29. Clocks through Time	84
30. Leonardo da Vinci	88

UNIT 11

31. The Spy in the Sky	91
32. Pity for a Stranger	95
33. He Made Us a Team	98

UNIT 12

34. Treasure from Flavius	101
35. Unreality of TV	105
36. A Gift of Dreams	108

KEY TO EXERCISES	112
-------------------------------	-----

VOCABULARY	117
-------------------------	-----

UNIT 1

1. Ants Are Smarter¹ Than We Think

There was a weekend last summer when an ant scientist was a guest at our cottage. I told him that I could store food in an open container for a whole week and keep it safely out of the reach of house ants².

On Sunday night the experiment got under way³. I put a large wooden tub on the kitchen floor of our cottage. After filling it with some water, I placed a high wooden stool in the middle of it. On top of the stool, I put a saucer containing the bait; three or four pieces of chocolate candy.

Then I painted a wide band of very slow-drying⁴ glue around the outside of the wooden tub. With that⁵, I stood back and admired my trap, fully confident that the bait would be untouched upon my return to the cottage the following weekend.

When my friend and I entered the cottage just six days later, ants were swarming over the bait!

Here's how they put me to shame⁶. Single files of ants had marched into the band of glue around the outside of the wooden tub. A small number of them had fixed themselves end to end⁷ in the glue to form a bridge with their bodies.

Ants hate water, but they managed to build a highway in order to get the wonderful chocolate. They had got tiny pieces of grass and wood and had glued them together with saliva⁸ until their bridge extended from shore to island. Once they reached the leg of the wooden stool, traffic was almost all one way⁹ toward the chocolate bait.

There were also some funny fellows¹⁰ around; they were doing things which ants have been known to do rarely. We noticed that a few were walking across the ceiling, and when they came directly over the bait they let themselves fall right in to the middle of their brothers.

The ability of an ant to travel great distances from its home and return to it has puzzled more than one scientist.

For example, Professor Charles Michener of the University of California

captured ants wandering far from their home. He painted them with various colours and followed them in their travelling.

When he put blinders¹¹ over their eyes, he discovered that the ants wandered about hopelessly. But as soon as the blinders were removed, they found their way very quickly and were able to reach their homes.

These experiments have supported the belief that an ant finds its way by means of a remarkable memory. It seems capable of remembering tiny twigs, flowers, pebbles, or cracks on the ground which serve as guideposts¹².

Ants are great athletes in proportion to their size¹³. They can lift a weight four hundred times their own weight. Theoretically a five-pound ant could easily lift a ton.

approximately 400 words

NOTES

1. smarter: cleverer and more capable
2. out of the reach of house ants: 家蚁无法接触到
3. got under way: started
4. slow-drying: 干得很慢的
5. With that: Following that 接着
6. put me to shame: made me feel ashamed 使我羞愧
7. end to end: 头尾相接
8. saliva: 唾液
9. all one way: 单向通行
10. fellows: here referring to some of the ants
11. blinders: 遮眼物
12. guideposts: 路标
13. in proportion to their size: 与它们的大小相对而言

EXERCISES

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. Like humans, ants seem to have _____.
 - a. memory and intelligence
 - b. a great interest in chocolate
 - c. courage and a spoken language
 - d. a strong love for long-distance travel

-
2. The author set his trap by using a bait made of _____.
a. grass
b. leaves
c. glue
d. chocolate
3. What were the three things the author thought could keep the ants from reaching the bait?
a. A wooden tub, water and candy.
b. Grass, wood and glue.
c. Water, height and glue.
d. A wooden tub, a stool and candy.
4. The word "swarming" (Para. 4) most probably means _____.
a. moving in great numbers
b. dying slowly
c. fighting each other
d. escaping in all directions
5. The author said the ants had put him to shame because _____.
a. he had done the experiment in the wrong way
b. they proved much cleverer than he had thought
c. he was afraid his friend would laugh at him
d. he had wasted the chocolate candy
6. The sentence "... they were doing things which ants have been known to do rarely" (Para. 7) most probably means _____.
a. they were doing strange things
b. they were doing very little
c. they were doing things few people have heard that ants could do
d. they were doing things people seldom do
7. Ants can travel great distances and return safely because they can "remember" _____.
a. the directions of the sun
b. the location of their home
c. the smell of their food
d. the tiny things on the way
8. Theoretically a five-gram ant could lift a weight of _____.
a. 1 kilogram
b. 2 kilograms
c. 4 kilograms
d. 20 kilograms

2. Salt

We do not know when man first began to use salt, but we do know that it has been used in many different ways throughout history. Historical evidence shows, for example, that people who lived over 3,000 years ago ate salted fish. Thousands of years ago in Egypt¹, salt was used to preserve the body of the dead.

Stealing salt was considered a major crime during some periods in history. In the 18th century, for instance, about ten thousand people were put in prison for stealing salt. About 150 years before, in the year 1553, stealing salt could be punished as a crime and the stealer's ear was cut off. Salt was an important item on the table of royalty². It was traditionally placed in front of the king when he sat down to eat. Important guests at the king's table were seated near the salt. Less important guests were given seats farther away from it.

In the Roman Empire³, one of the most important roads was the one that carried salt from the salt mines to Rome. Guards were stationed along the route to protect against salt thieves. The guards received their pay in salt, hence the English word, salary⁴. Any guard who fell asleep while on duty was said to be "not worth his salt", and as a result he would get a little less salt on his next payday. The expression "not worth his salt" is still used today in English to refer to a person who is thought of as incapable of doing a job.

In the early days in the United States, salt was very scarce. So, the storekeeper at that time was very careful with his salt. As he poured out salt for a customer, he did not like for anyone to walk across the floor of the store. The walking might shake the floor and could cause the salt to "settle" and as a result the storekeeper would have to add a little more salt.

In the modern world salt has many uses beyond the dining table⁵. It is used in the making of glass and airplane parts, in the growing of crops, and in killing weeds. It is also used to make water soft, to melt ice on roads and highways, to make soap, and to fix colours in cloth⁶. Salt even helps to relieve itching⁷ when it is rubbed on mosquito or insect bites⁸.

Salt can be obtained in various ways. Evaporation of salt water from the ocean or salt water lakes is one of the more common processes for getting salt. However it is obtained, salt will continue to play an important role in the lives of the people everywhere.

approximately 430 words

NOTES

1. Egypt /'i:dzɪpt / : 埃及
2. royalty: 皇家, 王族
3. the Roman Empire: 古罗马帝国
4. hence the English word, salary: 由此产生了英语 salary (薪水) 一词
5. beyond the dining table: 除了用在餐桌上外
6. to fix colours in cloth: 使布的颜色不褪
7. relieve itching: 止痒
8. mosquito or insect bites: 蚊虫叮咬之处

EXERCISES

Choose the best answer to each question:

1. Throughout history salt has been used in _____.
 - a. preserving dead bodies
 - b. making glass and airplane parts
 - c. growing crops and killing weeds
 - d. all of the above
2. Some ten thousand people were arrested for stealing salt. This happened _____.
 - a. in the year 1553
 - b. 150 years ago
 - c. in the sixteenth century
 - d. in the eighteenth century
3. A usual kind of punishment to a salt thief in the 16th century was _____.
 - a. to give him less salt
 - b. to give him a seat farther away from the salt
 - c. to put him in prison
 - d. to cut off his ear
4. In the Roman Empire many people were employed as guards to _____.
 - a. carry salt from the mines to Rome
 - b. protect the city of Rome
 - c. prevent thieves from stealing salt
 - d. prevent people from falling asleep while on duty
5. The expression "not worth his salt" (Para.3) refers to _____.
 - a. one who fails to do his work well
 - b. one who should not be paid in salt
 - c. one who doesn't want to work at all
 - d. one who should get less salt

3. The Greatest Magician¹, Harry Houdini²

*M*agicians are popular everywhere. We all know that a magician does not really depend on “magic” to do his tricks³ but on his ability to act at great speed. However, this does not prevent us from enjoying watching a magician produce ducks from a hat, take eggs out of his empty pocket, or cut his wife in two⁴.

Probably the greatest magician of all times⁵ was Harry Houdini who died in 1926. His real name was Ehrich Weiss, but he named himself Houdini after reading a book which he liked very much. This had been written by a famous magician called Robert Houdini. Harry Houdini mastered the art of escaping⁶. He could free himself from the most complicated locks in seconds.⁷ Although no one really knows how he did this, there is no doubt that he had made a close study of every kind of lock in existence⁸. He would carry a small steel needle-like tool tied to his leg and use this in place of⁹ a key.

Houdini once asked the Chicago police to lock him up in prison. They put chains round his body, and locked him up, but he freed himself in a minute. The police said he had used a tool, and locked him up again. This time he wore no clothes and there were chains round his neck, wrists, and legs; but he again escaped in a few minutes. Houdini had probably hidden his “needle” in a wax-like material and dropped it on the floor in the passage. As he went past, he stepped on it so that it stuck on the bottom of his foot. His most famous escape, however, was altogether¹⁰ astonishing. He was heavily chained up¹¹ and put in an empty wooden box, the cover of which was nailed down¹². The box was dropped into the sea near New York. In one minute Houdini had swum to the surface. When the box was brought up, it was opened and the chains were found inside.

approximately 370 words

NOTES

1. magician: 魔术师
2. Harry Houdini / 'hæri hu:'di:ni / 哈利·胡迪尼 (1874—1926), 美国极负盛名的魔术师
3. do tricks: 变戏法

4. cut his wife in two; cut his wife into two parts
5. of all times; 历代
6. the art of escaping; the skill of getting away 逃跑术
7. He could free himself from the most complicated locks in seconds. ; He could unlock the most complicated locks and escape very quickly.
8. every kind of lock in existence; 现有的各种锁
9. in place of; instead of
10. altogether; completely
11. He was heavily chained up; Many chains were put round his body
12. was nailed down; was fixed with nails 用钉子钉牢

EXERCISES

Write T for true in the space if the statement is true; write F for false if the statement is not true:

- ___ 1. A magician always uses magic to produce ducks from a hat, take eggs out of his empty pocket, or cut his wife in two.
- ___ 2. Ehrich Weiss used the name "Houdini" because it appeared in a book which he liked very much.
- ___ 3. Houdini had made a close study of various types of locks.
- ___ 4. Houdini used a small steel needle-like tool to open locks.
- ___ 5. Once the Chicago police locked Houdini in prison because he had killed his wife.
- ___ 6. The first time the policemen locked Houdini up they put chains round his neck, wrists and legs.
- ___ 7. Although he was put in an empty wooden box which later was dropped into the sea, Houdini was able to swim to the surface in one minute.
- ___ 8. When the box was opened, there was nothing inside except the chains.

4. Wrong Number

*W*illiam Browning: a businessman
Caroline Browning: his wife

The sitting-room of the Brownings' house in Humbledon. A telephone stands on a small table near the door. Caroline is wearing an old dress. William comes in from his day's work at the office.

- C: Oh, there you are¹, William! You're late, aren't you?
W: A little. Sorry, my dear, but business is business². And I'm ready to go. Are you? You don't look ready. You can't go in that old dress. Why haven't you changed it? Did you get the cinema tickets?
C: Yes, I telephoned and got the last two. They're waiting for us at the cinema.
W: Good!
C: Everyone in the town seems to want to see this picture. It must be wonderful.
W: Yes. We'll have a nice evening. At what time have we to be at the cinema?
C: Half past seven; not later than that.
W: Well, we haven't much time. Why aren't you ready?
C: It's that telephone. I've answered it about twenty times today, and it was the wrong number every time. How can I do my work and talk to my friends when I have to go to the telephone every ten minutes?
W: Why are there so many wrong numbers? It didn't happen before.
C: Of course not. The Winter Garden Cinema has only just opened. There wasn't a Winter Garden Cinema last month.
W: Cinema? We're talking about the telephone.
C: Yes, yes. Oh, William, don't you understand? The number of the cinema is 88465. You know our number is 88456. When people want cinema tickets, they're careless, and they get the wrong number, our number. I'm tired of it.³