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ENGLISH

大学英语

精读

INTENSIVE  
READING

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# 大学英语

精 读

第二册

翟象俊(主编)

张增健 王德明

夏国佐 任建国 杨 晨

上海外语教育出版社

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# 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。

本教材重视英语语言基础教学,从各方面保证文、理科的通用性,适用于大学英语基础阶段的教学。

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;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。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。

上述五种教程根据各自的课型特点自成体系,但又相互配合,形成整体,以贯彻大纲所提出的三个层次的要求:“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力、一定的听的能力、初步的写和说的能力。”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合作编写,复旦大学董亚芬教授审订。

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,分工审阅了全套教材并提出了宝贵意见。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付样前仔细编审,精心设计,给予我们很大帮助和促进。

《大学英语》精读教程由复旦大学大学英语教学部负责编写,翟象俊、李荫华担任主编,程雨民、孙骊两位教授担任主审,并由英籍专家 Mr Anthony J. Ward 和美籍专家 Mr Craig M. Breon 以及 Janet W. Helfand 协助审阅,谨此致谢。

本书为精读教程第二册,由翟象俊副教授主编,张增健副教授、王德明副教授、夏国佐副教授以及任建国、杨晨等同志参加编写,供大学英语二级学生使用。

由于时间仓促,编者水平与经验有限,教材中不妥之处在所难免,希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1989年11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 Practice*)和写作练习(*Writing Practice*)六部分组成。

课文全部选用原文材料,但有删改。选材力求题材多样,内容丰富有趣,并有一定的可思性。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。

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;不太明确的再加注汉语;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(*Reading Aloud*)、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。朗读练习主要要求学生掌握句重音和意群。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。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英语中的主要构词法,熟悉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,在本册中兼顾虚、实词的运用。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;其中的I级生词均加注汉译列在前面,希望学生尽量掌握。教师应紧扣技能的讲解和运用,不必在语言现象的分析上花太多时间。写作练习在本册中主要是培养学生连句成段的能力。

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

1988年11月

# *College English*

*Intensive Reading*

*Book Two*

*By*

*Zhai Xiangjun*

*with the assistance of*

*Zhang Zengjian*

*Wang Deming*

*Xia Guozuo*

*Ren Jianquo*

*Yang Chen*

*Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press*

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## Unit One

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

### Text

#### 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 after the great Venusian astronomer Prof. Manhattan, who first discovered it with his telescope 20,000 light years ago). 5

Because of excellent weather conditions and extremely strong signals, Venusian scientists were able to get valuable information as to the



10 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."

15 "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."

20 "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?"

25 "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.

30 "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?"

35 "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?"

40 "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 skies."

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

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

"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 atmosphere, then we can live anywhere."

humorous / 'hju:mərəs/ a. funny; that makes people laugh 幽默的

humor n.  
essay / 'esei/ 散文, 随笔

excitement n. the state or quality of being excited.

**New Words**

planet / 'plænit/ n. large body in space that moves round a star, esp. round the sun 行星

Venusian / vi'nju:siən/ a. of or having to do with the planet Venus 金星的

land vt. n. supposed Venus being 金星人

bring to land; set on sth. solid 使着陆  
come to land 着陆

satellite / 'sætəlaɪt/ n. spacecraft that goes round the planet earth and sends back radio and television signals; heavenly body that goes round a planet (人造) 卫星

signal / 'sɪgnəl/ n. sign n. v. 信号; 暗号 *Commander made*

photograph / 'fəʊtəgræf/ n. picture made with a camera

direct vt. turn (sth.) straight to or at

astronomer / əs'trɒnəmə/ n. person who studies the science of the sun, moon, stars and planets 天文学家

telescope / 'telɪskəʊp/ n. instrument with special glasses used for seeing distant things

extremely / ɪks'trɪmli/ ad. very

feasibility / 'fi:zə'bɪlɪti/ n. possibility of being carried out or done 可行性

*feasible* manned / mænd/ a. occupied by one or more persons 载人的

saucer / 'sɔ:sə/ n. 浅碟; 茶托

flying saucer n. 飞碟

press n. *报纸* newspapers and magazines or those who write for them *报社*

conference / 'kɒnfərəns/ n. *assembly* meeting *The National Congress of People*

press conference n. *记者招待会* 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

*Parent-teacher conference* institute / 'ɪnstɪtju:t/ n. 学院; (研究) 所

*technical* technology / tek'nɒlədʒi/ n. 技术

conclusion / kən'kluzən/ n. decision or opinion reached by reasoning 结论

reporter n. person who gathers news for a newspaper, magazine, or radio or T.V. station

compose / kəm'pəʊz/ vt. make up, form

*Composer* n. 作者 (作曲家)

gas n.

气体

concrete / 'kɒŋkri:t / n.

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

atmosphere / 'ætməsfɪə / n.

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

carbon / 'kɑ:bən / n.

碳

monoxide / mɒ'nɒksaɪd / n.

一氧化物

deadly a.

causing death; likely to cause death

survive / sə'vaɪv / vi.

remain alive; continue to live or exist

survivor n. 幸存者 vt.

remain alive after; live longer than

program n.

plan of what is to be done 计划

oxygen / 'ɒksɪdʒən / n.

氧, 氧气

originally / ə'rɪdʒɪnəli / ad.

formerly

hazard / 'hæzəd / n.

danger

hover / 'hɒvə / vi.

stay in or near one place in the air 盘旋

consolidated / kən'sɒlɪdeɪtɪd / a.

united; combined 联合的

belt / belt / n.

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

indicate / 'ɪndɪkeɪt / vt. <sup>indication 迹象</sup>

show

pollute / pə'lju:t / vt.

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

unfit / 'ʌn'fɪt / a.

not good enough; not suitable

particle / 'pɑ:tɪkl / n.

粒子; 微粒

emit / 'ɪmɪt / vt.

send out

crash / kræʃ / v.

fall or strike suddenly, violently and noisily 坠落, 猛撞

smash / smæʃ / v.

( cause to ) break into pieces violently ( 使 ) 碎裂

stalagmite / 'stæləgmɪt / n. <sup>type 类型</sup>

石笋

projection / prə'dʒekʃən / n.

sth. that stands out from a surface 凸出物

granite / 'grænɪt / n.

hard grey stone used for building 花岗岩

formation / fɔ:'meɪʃən / n. <sup>形状</sup>

sth. that is formed; way in which sth. is formed

skyscraper / 'skaɪskreɪpə / n.

very tall building 摩天大楼

scrape / skreɪp / vt.

rub with sth. rough or sharp 刮, 擦

proceed / prə'si:d / vi. <sup>继续</sup>

continue after having stopped

fund / fʌnd / n.

sum of money set apart or available for a special purpose 资金; 基金

billion / 'bɪljən / n. <sup>十亿</sup>

one thousand million

zileh / zɪltʃ / n.

zero; nothing at all

## Phrases & Expressions

as to	about, concerning 关于
for one thing...(for another)	in the first place...(in the second place)
stick up	stand upright; project 直立; 突出
give off	emit, produce
set back	delay the advance or development of

## Proper Names

Art Buchwald / ɑ:t'butʃwɔld /	阿特·布奇沃德
Venus / 'vi:nəs /	金星
Manhattan / mən'hætən /	曼哈顿(纽约市中心区)
Zog / zɔg /	佐格(姓氏)
Edison / 'edɪsən /	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

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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

### Reading Aloud

- I. Read the following paragraphs:

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. nothing whatever can grow on Earth.
  - b. the Earth's atmosphere is filled with deadly gases.
  - c. carbon monoxide is a deadly gas.
  - 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
- planes flying over Manhattan.
  - rockets (火箭) being launched into space.
  - fire engines (救火车) carrying firemen to a fire.
  - vehicles (车辆) moving along streets.
5. What, according to Prof. Zog, will set back the flying saucer program several years?
- The discovery of the stalagmite projections sticking up.
  - The Grubstart's refusal to give the scientists added funds.
  - The Venusian's failure to learn to breathe in an Earth atmosphere.
  - The various hazards that Venusian scientists discovered in their studies.
6. Venusian scientists discovered several hazards
- during their long years of study of the planet Earth.
  - when they studied the information sent back by the satellite.
  - shortly after the press conference held at an institute.
  - long before working out the flying saucer program.
7. The author wishes to call our attention to the fact
- that modern man has polluted his environment (环境) to such an extent that he might destroy himself if he went on like this.
  - that there is no point in spending billions and billions of zilches to land a flying saucer on Earth.
  - that pollution has become so serious a problem on Earth that even Venusians find life there unbearable.
  - that it is difficult, if not altogether impossible, to land a manned flying saucer on Earth.
8. The tone of this essay is
- calm and objective (客观的).
  - serious and thought-provoking (发人深省的).
  - humorous and satirical (讽刺的).
  - sentimental (感伤的) yet philosophical (富有哲理性的).

III. Answer the following questions:

- What caused the excitement on the planet Venus?
- Is there such a place as Manhattan on earth?  
Where is it if the answer is yes?  
What do you think the author intends by the use of this name?
- What led the Venusian scientists to believe that there is no life on Earth?
- What, according to Prof. Zog, will add weight to the saucer? Explain.
- Why does Prof. Zog think it impossible to land a flying saucer on Earth with-