

● 新世纪高等教育教学改革工程
大学外语教学改革与实践项目

大学英语 系列阅读教程

主编 王 勇 主审 吴稚倩

文学 分册

Reading Course
for College English

Literature

上海科技教育出版社

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前言

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《大学英语教学大纲》明确指出:大学英语教学的目的在于培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译的能力,使他们能用英语进行交流。因此,大学英语教学改革的重点就是培养学生的语言实际运用能力。学生学习外语不仅要打下扎实的语言基础,更应注重学以致用;通过学习和实践,顺利地完成从学习英语到使用英语的转变。

《大纲》同时规定:大学英语教学分为基础阶段和应用提高阶段两部分。学生在完成基础阶段的学习任务、达到英语四级或六级后,都必须修读专业英语。专业英语的学习是大学英语教学必不可少的一个组成部分,是培养学生正确使用英语的一个重要过程。专业英语阅读课程的设置可以巩固学生在基础阶段所学到的英语知识,使他们的英语学习“不断线”。

本套英语系列阅读教程是以《大学英语教学大纲》为指导,以提高学生学习英语的兴趣、培养学生语言运用能力为宗旨而设计和编写的专业英语教程,适用对象主要为已通过大学英语四级考试的学生,准备大学英语六级考试和研究生入学考试的考生,出国进修者和欲继续深造的英语爱好者。全教程分为科技、经贸、人物、报刊、文化、文学等六本分册,可以满足不同专业和不同层次读者的需要。教程中的课文选材注重科学性、知识性、趣味性和可读性。每篇课文前配有导读语,课文后编有阅读理解题、思考讨论题和英汉翻译题,并对课文中的有关生词、习惯用法与词组、专用名词及背景知识作了注释。另外,每册书后附有阅读理解题和英汉翻译题的参考答案。所以本教程既适用于专业英语的课堂教学,也不失为一套很好的英语自学课本。它对于扩大学生的知识面,提高他们的文化素质,培养其语言综合运用能力将起到积极的促进作用。

本分册选编了英、美、加、澳等国作家的文学作品,体裁多样,内容丰富,既有小说,也有散文和剧本。这些作品大都出自文学史上颇有影响的大手笔,诸如乔治·奥威尔、查尔斯·兰姆、杰克·伦敦、欧·亨利、欧内斯特·巴克勒、戴维·马

洛夫、凯瑟琳·曼斯菲尔德等。学生通过对本书的学习,可以培养直接阅读英文原著的能力,提高语言水平和欣赏水平,学会分析文学作品的艺术特点和掌握正确的评价方法。

《大学英语系列阅读教程》是教育部“新世纪高等教育教学改革工程”项目。全套教程由华东师范大学大学外语部负责编写,王勇教授担任主编,吴稚倩教授担任主审,李晓菲、郁政雯、初丽岩、汪珍珠参加了本册书的编写。在编写和出版过程中,我们得到了学校、外语学院和上海科技教育出版社的大力支持和帮助,在此表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平和经验所限,教程中存在的不足和疏漏之处,恳请广大读者批评指正。

编 者

2001 年夏

于上海华东师范大学

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Unit One



1

The Long Way Out

Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald

It seemed hopeless to remain in prison for a long time to wait for nothing. To the narrator and his friends it was horrible even to hear and think about it. So, a doctor told a story which seemed to have nothing to do with the sufferings in prisons. However, was the story a real relief to help the listeners get rid of the association with terrible oubliettes or did the story cause them to feel sadder about the tragedy that happened in the world?

[1] We were talking about some of the older castles in *Touraine* and

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we *touched upon* the iron cage in which *Louis XI* imprisoned *Cardinal Balue* for six years, then upon oubliettes¹ and such horrors. I had seen several of the latter, simply dry wells thirty or forty feet deep where a man was thrown to wait for nothing; since I have such a tendency to claustrophobia that a *Pullman* berth is a certain nightmare, they had made a lasting impression. So it was rather a relief when a doctor told this story—that is, it was a relief when he began it, for it seemed to have nothing to do with the tortures long ago.

[2] There was a young woman named Mrs. King who was very happy with her husband. They were well-to-do and deeply in love, but at the birth of her second child she went into a long coma² and emerged with a clear case of schizophrenia³ or “split personality”. Her delusion, which had something to do with the Declaration of Independence, had little bearing on the case and as she regained her health it began to disappear. At the end of ten months she was a convalescent⁴ patient scarcely marked by what had happened to her and very eager to go back into the world.

[3] She was only twenty-one, rather girlish in an appealing way and a favorite with the staff of the sanitarium⁵. When she became well enough so that she could take an experimental trip with her husband there was a general interest in the venture. One nurse had gone into Philadelphia with her to get a dress, another knew the story of her rather romantic courtship⁶ in Mexico and everyone had seen her two babies on visits to the hospital. The trip was to Virginia Beach for five days.

[4] It was a joy to watch her make ready, dressing and packing meticulously⁷ and living in the gay trivialities⁸ of hair waves and such things. She was ready half an hour before the time of departure and she paid some visits on the floor in her powderblue gown and her hat

that looked like one minute after an April shower. Her frail^⑨ lovely face, with just that touch of startled sadness that often lingers after an illness, was alight with anticipation.

[5] "We'll just do nothing," she said. "That's my ambition. To get up when I want to for three straight mornings and stay up late for three straight nights. To buy a bathing suit by myself and order a meal."

[6] When the time approached Mrs. King decided to wait downstairs instead of in her room and as she passed along the corridors, with an orderly^⑩ carrying her suitcase, she waved to the other patients, sorry that they too were not going on a gorgeous^⑪ holiday. The superintendent^⑫ wished her well, two nurses found excuses to linger and share her infectious joy.

[7] "What a beautiful tan^⑬ you'll get, Mrs. King."

[8] "Be sure and send a postcard."

[9] About the time she left her room her husband's car was hit by a truck on his way from the city—he was hurt internally and was not expected to live more than a few hours. The information was received at the hospital in a glass-in^⑭ office adjoining^⑮ the hall where Mrs. King waited. The operator, seeing Mrs. King and knowing that the glass was not sound proof, asked the head nurse to come immediately. The head nurse hurried aghast^⑯ to a doctor and he decided what to do. So long as the husband was still alive it was best to tell her nothing, but of course she must know that he was not coming today.

[10] Mrs. King was greatly disappointed.

[11] "I suppose it's silly to feel that way," she said. "After all these months what's one more day? He said he'd come tomorrow, didn't he?" The nurse was having a difficult time but she managed to pass it off until the patient was back in her room. Then they assigned a very experienced and phlegmatic^⑰ nurse to keep Mrs. King away from

other patients and from newspapers. By the next day the matter would be decided one way or another.

[12] But her husband lingered on and they continued to prevaricate. A little before noon next day one of the nurses was passing along the corridor when she met Mrs. King, dressed as she had been the day before but this time carrying her own suitcase.

[13] "I'm going to meet my husband," she explained. "He couldn't come yesterday but he's coming today at the same time."

[14] The nurse walked along with her. Mrs. King had the freedom of the building and it was difficult to simply steer her back to her room, and the nurse did not want to tell a story that would contradict what the authorities were telling her. When they reached the front hall she signaled to the operator, who fortunately understood. Mrs. King gave herself a last inspection in the mirror and said:

[15] "I'd like to have a dozen hats just like this to remind me to be this happy always."

[16] When the head nurse came in frowning a minute later she demanded:

[17] "Don't tell me George is delayed?"

[18] "I'm afraid he is. There is nothing much to do but be patient."

[19] Mrs. King laughed ruefully. "I wanted him to see my costume when it was absolutely new."

[20] "Why, there isn't a wrinkle in it."

[21] "I guess it'll last till tomorrow. I oughtn't to be blue about waiting one more day when I'm so utterly happy."

[22] "Certainly not."

[23] That night her husband died and at a conference of doctors next morning there was some discussion about what to do—it was a

risk to tell her and a risk to keep it from her. It was decided finally to say that Mr. King had been called away and thus destroy her hope of an immediate meeting; when she was reconciled to this they could tell her the truth.

[24] As the doctors came out of the conference one of them stopped and pointed. Down the corridor toward the outer hall walked Mrs. King carrying her suitcase.

[25] Dr. Pirie, who had been in special charge of Mrs. King, caught his breath.

[26] "This is awful," he said. "I think perhaps I'd better tell her now. There's no use saying he's away when she usually hears from him twice a week, and if we say he's sick she'll want to go to him. Anybody else like the job?"

[27] One of the doctors in the conference went on a fortnight's vacation that afternoon. On the day of his return in the same corridor at the same hour, he stopped at the sight of a little procession coming toward him—an orderly carrying a suitcase, a nurse and Mrs. King dressed in the powder-blue suit and wearing the spring hat.

[28] "Good morning, Doctor," she said. "I'm going to meet my husband and we're going to Virginia Beach. I'm going to the hall because I don't want to keep him waiting."

[29] He looked into her face, clear and happy as a child's. The nurse signaled to him that it was as ordered, so he merely bowed and spoke of the pleasant weather.

[30] "It's a beautiful day," said Mrs. King, "but of course even if it was raining it would be a beautiful day for me."

[31] The doctor looked after her, puzzled and annoyed—why are they letting this go on, he thought. What possible good can it do?

[32] Meeting Dr. Pirie, he put the question to him.

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[33] “We tried to tell her,” Dr. Pirie said. “She laughed and said we were trying to see whether she’s still sick. You could use the word unthinkable in an exact sense here—his death is unthinkable to her.”

[34] “But you can’t just go on like this.”

[35] “Theoretically no,” said Dr. Pirie. “A few days ago when she packed up as usual the nurse tried to keep her from going. From out in the hall I could see her face, see her begin to go to pieces—for the first time, mind you. Her muscles were tense and her eyes glazed^③ and her voice was thick and shrill^④ when she very politely called the nurse a liar. It was touch and go there for a minute whether we had a tractable^⑤ patient or a restraint case—and I stepped in and told the nurse to take her down to the reception room.”

[36] He broke off as the procession that had just passed appeared again, headed back to the ward. Mrs. King stopped and spoke to Dr. Pirie.

[37] “My husband’s been delayed,” she said. “Of course I’m disappointed but they tell me he’s coming tomorrow and after waiting so long one more day doesn’t seem to matter. Don’t you agree with me, Doctor?”

[38] “I certainly do, Mrs. King.”

[39] She took off her hat.

[40] “I’ve got to put aside these clothes—I want them to be as fresh tomorrow as they are today.” She looked closely at the hat. “There’s a speck^⑥ of dust on it, but I think I can get it off. Perhaps he won’t notice.”

[41] “I’m sure he won’t.”

[42] “Really I don’t mind waiting another day. It’ll be this time tomorrow before I know it, won’t it?”

[43] When she had gone along the younger doctor said:

[44] "There are still the two children."

[45] "I don't think the children are going to matter. When she '*went under*', she tied up this trip with the idea of getting well. If we took it away she'd have to go to the bottom and *start over*."

[46] "Could she?"

[47] "There's no prognosis^②," said Dr. Pirie. "I was simply explaining why she was allowed to go to the hall this morning."

[48] "But there's tomorrow morning and the next morning."

[49] "There's always the chance," said Dr. Pirie, "that some day he will be there."

[50] The doctor ended his story here, rather abruptly. When we pressed him to tell what happened he protested that the rest was anticlimax—that all sympathy eventually wears out and that finally the staff of the sanitarium had simply accepted the fact.

[51] "But does she still go to meet her husband?"

[52] "Oh yes, it's always the same—but the other patients, except new ones, hardly look up when she passes along the hall. The nurses manage to substitute a new hat every year or so but she still wears the same suit. She's always a little disappointed but she makes the best of it, very sweetly too. It's not an unhappy life as far as we know, and in some funny way it seems to set an example of tranquillity^③ to the other patients. For God's sake let's talk about something else—let's go back to oubliettes."



Vocabulary

- ① oubliette *n.* 地牢
- ② coma *n.* 昏迷状态
- ③ schizophrenia *n.* 精神分裂
- ④ convalescent *a.* recovering health and strength gradually after sickness or weakness
- ⑤ sanitarium *n.* 疗养院
- ⑥ courtship *n.* 求婚, 求爱
- ⑦ meticulously *ad.* very carefully
- ⑧ triviality *n.* something unimportant
- ⑨ frail *a.* weak in body or health
- ⑩ orderly *n.* a person who helps in a hospital, usu. without special professional training
- ⑪ gorgeous *a.* wonderful
- ⑫ superintendent *n.* a person who is officially in charge of a place
- ⑬ tan *n.* 晒黑的皮肤
- ⑭ glass-in *a.* 四周均是玻璃围起来的
- ⑮ adjoin *v.* to be next to
- ⑯ aghast *a.* shocked
- ⑰ phlegmatic *a.* calm and unexcitable
- ⑱ glaze *v.* to become dull and lifeless
- ⑲ shrill *a.* piercing
- ⑳ tractable *a.* easily controlled or persuaded
- ㉑ speck *n.* very small piece, spot, or colored mark
- ㉒ prognosis *n.* 预断(医生对病情的预测)
- ㉓ tranquillity *n.* the state of being calm and peaceful and without noise, violence, anxiety, etc.

Notes

1. Francis Scott Key Fitzgerald: 弗朗西斯·斯科特·凯·菲茨杰拉德(1896 ~ 1940), 美国著名作家, 代表作品有《了不起的盖茨比》、《夜色温柔》等。
2. Touraine: 都兰(法国西部一地区)
3. touch upon: 简略地谈到
4. Louis XI: 路易十一(1423 ~ 1483, 法国国王)
5. Cardinal Balue: 红衣主教巴吕
6. Pullman: 普尔门式火车卧车(或客车)
7. go under: 失败, 垮掉
8. start over: 重新开始

Exercises

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

1. The passage is mainly about _____.
 - A. a horrifying and adventurous trip to the oubliettes in some old castles in France
 - B. the misunderstandings between the patients and the staff members of the hospital
 - C. the sudden death of Mr. King and the consequent tragedy of his life
 - D. Mrs. King's great efforts to avoid facing the misfortunes of her life
2. Which of the following statements can be learned from the passage?
 - A. At first the story of Mrs. King seemed to distract the listeners from the horrible associations of the oubliettes.
 - B. Mr. and Mrs. King lived a poverty-stricken yet happy life before the birth of their children and her illness.
 - C. The couple decided to take a five-day trip because Mrs. King was brought back to health completely.

D. The whole hospital enthused over Mrs. King's approaching trip and helped her get prepared for it.

3. When the news of Mr. King's car accident arrived at the hospital,

_____.
A. Mrs. King came to know what had happened to her husband from the expressions of the nurses and doctors

B. the urgent decision was made by a doctor that nothing about the news should be told to Mrs. King

C. the nurse persuaded Mrs. King to go back to her room with very eloquent and convincing words

D. Mrs. King was given an immediate special treatment so that she might not get access to other patients

4. After Mr. King died, _____.

A. the doctors decided to go on hiding the truth from Mrs. King after careful consideration

B. only Dr. Pirie, who was in charge of Mrs. King's treatment, thought it was better to tell her the truth

C. people in the hospital attempted to tell Mrs. King the truth and prevent her from the routine packing up but they failed

D. Mrs. King did not believe the sad news of the death of her husband after she was told the truth several times

5. It can be inferred from the passage that _____.

A. the story of Mrs. King might be even more unbearable to the listeners than the tortures in the oubliettes

B. almost everyone on the staff of the sanitarium liked Mrs. King and was interested in her experimental trip

C. if Mrs. King was forced to accept her husband's death, she would break down and never recover again

D. as time went by, people in the hospital no longer showed their