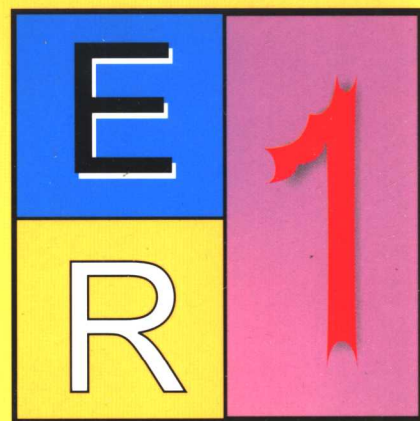


● 沈素萍 总主编 高云智 总策划



大学英语

阶梯阅读训练

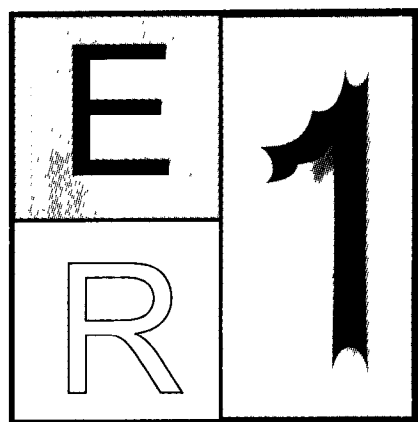
College English
Reading Comprehension

主编 单凌云

 天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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主 编 单凌云
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前 言

为了帮助学生更多地掌握一些英语阅读的素材,我们根据教育部最新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》,编写了这套英语泛读教材。

本套书共分4册,每册收录35~45篇文章。全套书配合英语分级考试以及大学英语四、六级的新题型,每课包括课文、生词和短语、课文注释及阅读理解、难句翻译、简短回答问题等内容。每册书为一级,共四级,适用于具有5000单词量以上的学生使用。

该书的特点是:

1. 内容新颖,题材多样。富有现代生活气息,介绍英美国家的风景名胜、社会现状、传奇故事、寓言故事、体育赛事、科技知识、名人轶事、文化教育、时事报道等内容。希望学生在学习语言的同时获得新信息和西方文化背景知识。

2. 幽默趣味,可读性强。选材注重内容生动活泼,能提高阅读的轻松感,降低学习压力。

3. 语言地道,原汁原味。文章皆选自近几年来有较大影响的国外期刊、书报,语言的规范性强,又体现了现代英语的新发展。

4. 循序渐进,难度适宜。同级各课的难度大体相当,学生可以通读全书,亦可选读部分课文。每册书的难易程度与英语分级考试相关性强。练习答案附在课后,以便读者自测阅读效率。

目前,全国尚缺少能全面地配合分级考试的泛读教材。为落实教学大纲的新精神,对外经济贸易大学一线英语教师编写了这套教材,并充分考虑到对于自学者的适用性。

由于编者水平有限,至于书中存在的缺点和错误,还希望广大读者予以批评、指正。

编 者

2001年7月于北京

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Unit 1

Memory

Warm-up:

1. How do you remember things every day and why do you forget something?
2. How can you remember better? Give some ideas.

"Memorize^[1] these words." "Learn this spelling rule." "Don't forget the quiz tomorrow." You remember things every day, but how do you do it?

You find a telephone number in the phone book, dial^[2] it, and then forget it. This is your short-term memory. It lasts less than 30 seconds. (There are 60 seconds in a minute) (1) However, you don't look in the phone book for a friend's number. You know it. This is long-term memory. Your long-term memory has everything that you remember.

Why do you forget something? What is the reason? You did not learn it in the beginning. This is the major reason for forgetting. For example, you meet some new people, and you forget their names. You hear the names, but you do not learn them. Then you forget them. You can remember better. Here are some ideas.

1. (2) Move information^[3] from your short-term memory to your long-term memory. Practice the information. Say the information to yourself. Think about it. Spend time on it.

2. Overlearn^[4]. After you learn something, study it some more. Learn it more than you need to. For example, when you know a list of new words, don't stop practice the words a few more times.

3. Be sure^[5] that you understand the information. It is difficult to memorize something you don't understand.

4. (3) Do only one thing at a time. Study in a quiet place. You cannot listen to music or people and memorize at the same time.

5. Try to connect the new information with some put together thing

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. memorize v. 记住, 熟记
2. dial v. 拨(电话号码)
3. information n. 信息, 情报
4. overlearn v. 反复学习
5. be sure 确信



you already know. For example, when you learn the name of a new kind of food, think of a similar^[6] kind of food.

6. Divide the information into parts. Do not have more than seven parts. Learn one part and stop for a few minutes. Don't try to learn all the parts at the same time.

7. Make a picture in your mind. For example, maybe you see a new word. It is a kind of furniture. Make a picture in your mind of this furniture in a room. Remember what it looks like.

8. Try to relax^[7] when you study. Enjoy it. You cannot remember things when you are tired or unhappy.

(4) Some people have a photographic^[8] memory. They see everything like a picture. Later they can see the picture in their mind again and describe^[9] everything in it. They can remember long lists of numbers and thousands of other things. Would you like to have a photographic memory?

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

- 6. similar *a.* 相像的
- 7. relax *v.* 放松, 休息
- 8. photographic *a.* 逼真的, 像照下来的
- 9. describe *v.* 描绘

Notes:

- 1. This is your short-term memory. 这是你的短时记忆。
- 2. long-term memory 长时记忆
- 3. Try to connect the new information with some put together thing you already know. 尽力把新信息和你已熟知的信息联系起来。
“connect... with...” 意为“把……和……联系起来”。
“put together” 意为“组合, 拼凑, 整理(思绪等)”。
- 4. Make a picture in your mind. 在你的脑海中形成一幅图画。

Exercise:

I. Check Your Comprehension.

- 1. Your short-term memory lasts only _____.
 - a. less than twenty minutes
 - b. more than ten minutes
 - c. less than 30 seconds
 - d. for only half an hour
- 2. When you try to learn something you should _____.
 - a. overlearn it
 - b. repeat it
 - c. memorize it
 - d. forget it

3. Be sure that you _____ the information.
a. glance at b. understand
c. look at d. examine
4. The word "similar" means _____.
a. the different kind b. the same
c. promptly d. colorful
5. People that have a photographic memory can _____ everything in their minds.
a. describe b. handle
c. see d. look through

II. Translate the Underlined Sentences into Chinese.

英语锦言妙语

Life is sweet.

人生是美好的。

All things in their being are good for something.

天生我才必有用。

He is born in a good hour who gets a good name.

生逢其时，美誉自至。

Life lies not in living but in liking.

生活的意义并不在于活着，而在于爱好人生。

The supreme happiness of life is the conviction that we are loved.

生活中最大的幸福是坚信有人爱我们。

——[法] V. Hugo 雨果

Unit 2

What Words Can Do?

Warm-up:

1. *Where did Atsuko go to attend college?*
2. *Who changed her life?*

In the city of Fujiyama, Japan, lives a woman named Atsuko Sae-ki. When she was a teen-ager, she dreamed of going to the United States. Most of what she knew about American life is what she had read in textbooks. "I have a picture of the daddy sitting in the livingroom, the mommy baking cookies and their teen-age daughter off to the movies with her boyfriend."

Atsuko arranged to attend college in California. When she arrived, however, it was not the dream world she had imagined. "People were struggling with problems and often seemed tense^[1]," she said. "I felt very alone."

One of her hardest classes was physical education, "We played volleyball," she said. "The other students were good at it, but I wasn't."

(1) One afternoon, the instructor assigned^[2] Atsuko to hit the ball to her teammates so they could knock it over the net. No big deal^[3] for most people, but it terrified Atsuko. She feared humiliation^[4] if she failed.

(2) A young man on her team sensed what she was going through^[5]. "He walked up to me and whispered, 'Come on. You can do that.'"

"You will never understand how those words of encouragement made me feel. Four words: *You can do that*. I felt like crying with happiness."

She made it through the class. Perhaps she thanked the young man; she is not sure.

Six years have passed. Atsuko is 27 years old and back in Japan,

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. tense *a.* 紧张的
2. assign *v.* 分配, 安排
3. deal *n.* (口) 事情, 局面, 情况,
4. humiliation *n.* 羞辱, 丢脸, 屈辱
5. go through 经历, 遭受

working as a salesclerk. "I have never forgotten the words," she said. "When things are not going so well, I think of them."

She is sure the young man had no idea how much his kindness meant to her. "He probably doesn't even remember it," she said.

(3) Which may be the lesson. Whenever you say something to a person—cruel or kind—you have no idea how long the word will stick.

She's all the way over in Japan. But still she hears those four simple words: *You can do that.*

Notes:

1. Fujiyama 富士(日本本洲岛中南部城市)
2. California 加利福尼亚(美国州名)

Exercise:

I. Check Your Comprehension.

1. When Atsuko was a teen-ager, what did she dream of?
 - a. Becoming an athlete.
 - b. Getting a doctor degree.
 - c. Going abroad.
 - d. Going to the United States.
2. Before she came to America, Atsuko thought of the US _____.
 - a. full of challenges
 - b. mysterious
 - c. harmonious
 - d. tense
3. When she came to the college in California, she felt _____.
 - a. delighted
 - b. excited
 - c. lonely
 - d. tense
4. What was her hardest class?
 - a. English.
 - b. Philosophy.
 - c. Physical education.
 - d. Sociology.
5. Who helped her out of her trouble?
 - a. One of her volleyball teammates.
 - b. Her instructor.
 - c. Her roommate.
 - d. Her parents.

II. Translate the Underlined Sentences into Chinese.

Unit 3

Days of the Dinosaurs^[1]

Warm-up:

1. What can help people know about dinosaurs?
2. Can you describe a brontosaur?
3. Why did the dinosaurs die out?

It was a terrible fight! But no man was there to see it. It happened more than 100 million years ago.

Before the battle, one large lizard hid in the thick jungle^[2]. With small, hungry eyes he watched his prey^[3], a larger lizard, about 90 feet long! It was eating grass by a lake.

(1) Both beasts were like animals that we might see in a bad dream. The one in the jungle stood 20 feet tall on his powerful back legs. His two front legs were short, with sharp claws on the feet. His teeth were like long knives.

(2) With a great roar^[4], this meat-eater crashed^[5] through the jungle toward his prey.

There was only one hope for the great lizard. Even though he was three times as large as his enemy, he was not a fighter. He could only try to get away, into deep water. There he would be safe.

The grass-eater tried to move fast. The round footprints he left were as large as washtubs^[6]. But the enemy was faster. His three-toed footprints show that he came closer and closer. . .

How did the fight end? We can't be sure. We can only tell by the animals' footprints that the fight did take place. The mud where the two dinosaurs walked has turned into stone.

We can see those footprints today—in Texas. They tell us that the meat-eater did catch up with the great lizard. Who won we can only guess. But we know that meat-eating dinosaurs often killed those that ate

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. dinosaur
[ˈdaɪnəsɔːr] n. 恐龙
2. jungle n. 丛林
3. prey n. 猎物
4. roar n. 吼叫
5. crash v. 猛冲
6. washtub n. 浴盆

grass and the leaves of trees.

Footprints are not all that tell us about dinosaurs. Their bones and teeth have also been found. We even gave some of their eggs in museums.

Scientists know how to fit a dinosaur's bones together. Then they can tell how the animal may have looked. From its teeth they know whether it ate meat or grass.

The prey was a brontosaur^[7], or "thunder lizard." A brontosaur was very slow and heavy. His small head and four small teeth were of no use for fighting. He could fight only with his long tail.

(3) Dinosaurs were of many sizes and shapes. Some were as small as chickens. But all of them had very small brains.

Millions of years ago, the dinosaurs ruled the earth. Since then, there have been no dinosaurs. What happened to them?

We know they did not all die at once. It may have taken a few million years for all of them to die.

In the days of the dinosaurs, the whole earth was warm and wet. There were many green jungles. But the earth changes slowly, all the time. When parts of the earth became cold and dry, the jungles there died. Then dinosaurs could not find enough to eat. This must be one reason why the dinosaurs died out^[8].

(4) There may be other reasons that we do not yet know about. Each year, more dinosaur prints and bones are found. Scientists tell us that the most exciting discoveries about these "terrible lizards" may yet be made.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

7. brontosaur *n.*

[ˈbrɒntəsoʊ]

亦作 brontosaurus 雷龙

8. die out 灭绝, 绝种

Notes:

1. The mud... has turned into stone 软泥……已变成石头。
“turn into” 意为“变成”。
2. Scientists know how to fit a dinosaur's bones together. 科学家们知道如何把恐龙骨头装在一起。
“fit... together” 意为“把……安装在一起”。
3. But the earth changes slowly, all the time. 但是地球始终在缓慢地变化着。
“all the time” 意为“始终, 从头到尾”。

Exercise:

I. Check Your Comprehension.

1. If the grass-eater wants to be safe, he should _____.
 - a. fight with the meat-eater with his long tail
 - b. escape into deep water
 - c. roar to fright its enemy
 - d. stay there, because he is much bigger and there is no need for fear
2. What can we know from the footprints left by the two dinosaurs?
 - a. Their feet were all as large as washtubs.
 - b. They moved faster than anything else.
 - c. The meat-eater was faster and caught up with the brontosaur.
 - d. The grass-eater had a small head.
3. The most noticeable difference between the meat-eater and the grass-eater is _____.
 - a. their footprints
 - b. their sizes and shapes
 - c. their teeth
 - d. their eggs
4. Which of the following is not the feature of a meat-eating dinosaur? He had _____.
 - a. teeth like long knives
 - b. a small head
 - c. two short front legs
 - d. powerful back legs
5. The main purpose of this article is _____.
 - a. to describe a terrible fight between two dinosaurs taking place millions of years ago
 - b. to tell us meat-eating dinosaurs often killed those that ate grass and the leaves of trees
 - c. to introduce one of the reasons why the dinosaurs died out
 - d. to show that the dinosaurs ruled the earth millions of years ago but then died out

II. Translate the Underlined Sentences into Chinese.

Unit 4

Eureka

Warm-up:

What does "eureka" mean by Archimedes? What does it mean by Kissinger?

In about 250 BC, the Greek scientist Archimedes was asked by King Hieron to find out if his crown was pure gold. Archimedes thought and thought about the problem. (1) Suddenly the answer came to him when he was having a bath.

(2) As he got into the bath, Archimedes realized that if he immersed^[11] the king's crown in a vessel^[12] full to the brim with water, it would cause some water to overflow^[13]. If he then immersed a piece of pure gold of the same weight as the crown, the same amount of water would overflow if the crown was pure gold. In this way, Archimedes found that the crown was not pure gold.

(3) He is believed to have rushed naked^[14] from his bath into the street shouting 'Eureka', which means 'I've found it'.

Archimedes made many important scientific discoveries, including pulleys^[15], and he first explained why things float.

A single coded word cabled from Kissinger to Nixon, "Eureka," advised that the trip had been successful. After returning from Peking, Kissinger and Aide Winston Lord drafted a report to Nixon that exulted^[16]: "We have laid the ground work for you and Mao to turn a page in history."

(4) On July 15 Nixon informed stunned^[17] television viewers of Kissinger's secret trip and his own plan to visit China some time before May 1972.

In October 1971, Kissinger returned to China, with a team of "advance men^[18]," to prepare for Nixon's own visit.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

1. immerse *v.* 沉浸
2. vessel *n.* 容器
3. overflow *v.*
水满溢出来
4. naked *a.* 赤身的,
裸体的
5. pulley(s) *n.* 滑轮(组)
6. exult *v.* 狂喜,
欢欣鼓舞
7. stun *v.* 震惊,使吃惊
8. advance man
先遣人员

Notes:

1. eureka 源于希腊语 Heureka, 意为“找到了”。现指因重大发现或搞清某线索时的胜利惊呼。
2. Archimedes (287?—212 BC) 阿基米德, 希腊数学家、物理学家及发明家。
3. Dr. Henry Kissinger 亨利·基辛格博士, 美国外交家, 1923 年出生于德国。

Exercise:

I. Check Your Comprehension.

1. King Hieron asked Archimedes to _____.
 - a. make a pure gold crown
 - b. find out whether the crown was made of pure gold
 - c. examine the gold content of the crown
 - d. explain why things float
2. How did Archimedes get the result?
 - a. By chance.
 - b. Instructed by others.
 - c. By hard thinking.
 - d. By thousands of experiments.
3. What was the crux of the problem?
 - a. It was hard to measure the volume of the crown.
 - b. It was hard to measure the weight of the crown.
 - c. It was hard to know the specific gravity of the gold.
 - d. It was hard to tell the king that the crown was impure.
4. Which of the following statements is not true?
 - a. Kissinger cabled Nixon with “Eureka” as the single code word.
 - b. “Eureka” advised that Kissinger’s trip to China was successful.
 - c. Kissinger’s visit to China turned over a new leaf in the diplomatic history.
 - d. In October, 1971 Nixon visited China.

II. Translate the Underlined Sentences into Chinese.