

大学英语 系列阅读教程

主编 王 勇 主审 吴稚倩

科技 分册

Reading Course
for College English



Science and Technology

上海科技教育出版社

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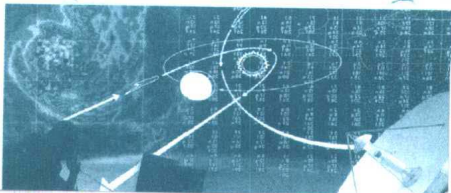
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前言

《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、报刊、人物、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、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读本。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。

本分册的内容涉及计算机、天文、环保、生命科学、机械、化学、医学等领域,题材广泛,内容新颖。文章篇幅适中,语言规范。

本套大学英语系列阅读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,初丽岩、许玲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

2000年初夏

于上海华东师范大学

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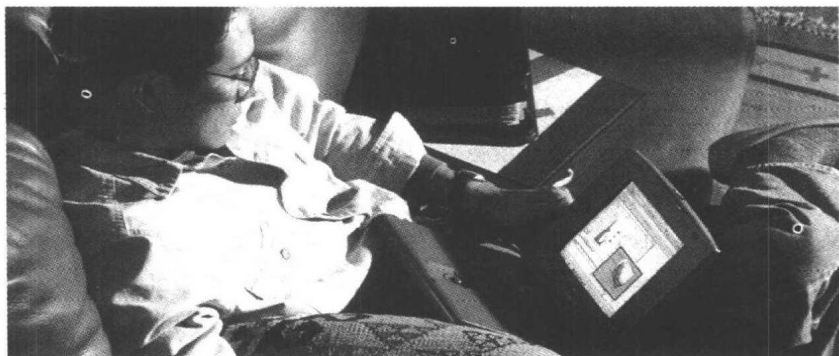
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Unit One



1

E-mail Phones

E-mail, i. e. electronic mail is, by now, no longer a strange word to common people. With a P. C (personal computer) opening an account, you can send and receive mails freely. But can you imagine sending and receiving e-mail phones? This is not a fairy tale. E-mail phones have already been in use around us. If you want to know something more about them, the following passage will satisfy you.

[1] Do you send and receive more phone calls or e-mail? When you're looking for information, do you reach for **the World Book Encyclopedia** or **the World Wide Web**? If your answers are e-mail and the Web, or you wish they were, then a new breed^① of telecommunications device

variously called an e-mail phone or Internet phone may soon find its way into your kitchen or living room.

[2] What's an e-mail phone, or e-phone for short? Essentially, it's the merger^② of telephone and computer—or at least a tantalizing^③ slice^④ of what a computer provides. With most of these new screen phones, that means being able to read and reply to electronic mail directly from the phone, without *booting up* (or even owning) a PC. With some, it also means being able to scour^⑤ the Web to make vacation plans or research homework assignments, albeit^⑥ at slow speeds and on a rather small screen. And, oh yes, you can still make phone calls, too.

[3] Why an e-phone? This is one invention that seems to *be following our lead*. Millions of us already exchange e-mail routinely^⑦ with family and friends at home, not just business colleagues and customers at the office. And the kitchen or *the family room* is often more conducive^⑧ to these personal missives^⑨ than wherever the computer sits, assuming there is one.

[4] No computer experience is required to use an e-phone. Most let you sign up with your choice of Internet service provider (ISP), which typically charges about \$20 per month. Some phones offer a preselected menu of ISPs, which can make getting started even easier. Ironically, it's harder to set up an Internet phone if you already have an e-mail account. You'll need to get a battery of arcane^⑩ information from your current ISP.

[5] Once you're past this tedious^⑪ hurdle and enter the account information into the phone, you can check your e-mail from either your computer or phone.

[6] To access your e-mail account from one of these phones, you typically have to select e-mail service from a menu. Phones with touch-

screens have an icon^⑫ for that on the opening screen. For other phones, you press one of the buttons lining the bottom or sides of the display, much as with an *ATM* machine. The phone then calls your ISP. When the ISP *picks up*, the phone automatically transfers your account name and password^⑬. Once accepted, the ISP will start sending the phone your messages. They appear in a list with the name of the sender, the subject of the message, and the date the message was sent. By touching the item you want to read or hitting a button next to it, the message will be displayed. Once you've read it, you can reply to the message, move on to the next one, or, with most phones, delete the message from your account. You can check your e-mail manually^⑭, but most e-phones can also be set to check several times a day automatically. In automatic mode, the phone flashes to tell you mail is waiting. If you happen to be using the phone when it is scheduled to check for e-mail, the phone will automatically try again when the line is free.

[7] E-mail by any means can be habit-forming, so it's worth paying close attention to your keyboard options with these phones. Some have full-size, wireless keyboards that can be stashed^⑮ elsewhere when not in use. The others have keyboards built into their units, or tucked^⑯ away in a slide-out drawer. The wireless variety are *by far* the easiest to type on. The slide-out keyboards are considerably smaller and more cramped^⑰, and a keyboard drawer adds to the overall size of the phone. But you can't lose the keyboard, and you will never have to replace the keyboard's batteries, as you do with the wireless models.

[8] One serious drawback to e-mail by phone is that none of these models can receive (or send) attached files, whether they contain documents or graphics^⑱. And since swapping^⑲ pictures of the kids or grandkids via e-mail appendages^⑳ has become one of the more appeal-

ing aspects of electronic messaging, that's real loss. Some phones will attempt to display simple text files as part of the message, but other types of files will appear as gibberish^④, or not at all. If you share the e-mail account with a PC and don't delete the message, however, you can usually retrieve^② the message and file on your computer.

[9]Screen size matters, too, especially on e-phones designed to cruise^② the Web as well as park your e-mail.

[10]Starting a Web browsing^④ session is similar to retrieving your e-mail. You touch a button or screen icon and the phone dials your ISP. Once connected the default page (often a Web search page like Yahoo or Excite) is displayed. The quality of the graphics is surprisingly good on these phones, but the images are not as big or as sharp as on desktop PCs. And the Web browsers built into these phones are more limited than on their PC counterparts. Often, the software doesn't recognize some *formatting codes*, so pictures can pop up in odd locations.

[11]For retrieving basic information, checking *stock quotes*, and so on, the phones are adequate Web surfers^②.

[12]They are not especially fast surfers, however. The modems^② integrated into these phones are usually 28.8 or 33.6K(bps) models, and you can't *trade up* later to a higher-speed modem, as you can with PCs. They are up-to-date in most phone features: Most support caller ID, call waiting, and call logging. More phones are on the way. Early next year, *Samsung* and others expect to sell Java-based e-phones that will offer even more features and services. In particular, electronic banking and shopping services are expected to be a part of that expanded menu of options.

[13]Are e-phones really ready for the kitchen? Maybe. Certainly, many of these models cost more than we're used to spending on

phones, and they offer something less than the kind of full e-mail and Web browsing capabilities we're used to with computers. But the notion of a universal message center has at least been spawned^⑦ into the real world, and the kitchen may never quite be the same again.



Vocabulary

- ① breed *n.* a particular type or kind of sth.
- ② merger *n.* combination or mixture
- ③ tantalizing *a.* possessing a quality that arouses or stimulates desire or interest
- ④ slice *n.* part or portion
- ⑤ scour *v.* to search very carefully in order to find sth.
- ⑥ albeit *conj.* although
- ⑦ routinely *ad.* often or regularly
- ⑧ conducive *a.* likely to produce
- ⑨ missive *n.* an official, formal or long letter
- ⑩ arcane *a.* known only by a few people; secret
- ⑪ tedious *a.* uninteresting and tiring; boring
- ⑫ icon *n.* a symbol on a computer screen used to give the computer an instruction
- ⑬ password *n.* (计算机的)口令, 密码
- ⑭ manually *ad.* by hand
- ⑮ stash *v.* to store or hide sth.
- ⑯ tuck *v.* to put sth. into a safe or convenient place

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- ⑰ cramped *a.* limited; confined
- ⑱ graphics *n.* pictures and photographs
- ⑲ swapping *n.* exchanging
- ⑳ appendage *n.* sth. that exists as a smaller and less important part of
sth. larger
- ㉑ gibberish *n.* meaningless sound or talk
- ㉒ retrieve *v.* to find and bring back something
- ㉓ cruise *v.* to travel and visit
- ㉔ browse *v.* to look over casually
- ㉕ surfer *n.* people who ride on waves on special boards
- ㉖ modem *n.* modulator-demodulator 的缩写, (计算机的) 调制—解调器
- ㉗ spawn *v.* cause sth. to start or exist

Notes

1. the World Book Encyclopedia: 世界图书百科全书
2. the World Wide Web: 万维网
3. boot up: 启动(电脑)
4. follow one's lead: 仿效某人, 以……为榜样
5. the family room: (美) 家庭娱乐室
6. ATM: Automatic Teller Machine 的缩写, 自动取款机
7. pick up: 收听到, 接收到
8. by far: (修饰比较级, 最高级等)……的多, 最……
9. formatting codes: 格式编码
10. stock quotes: 股票报价
11. bps: bytes per second 的缩写, 字节/秒
12. trade up: 以一物折价换进同类中较贵(或较高档)的东西
13. Samsung: (韩国的)三星公司

Exercises

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

1. The passage mainly tells about _____.
 - A. a comparison between a personal computer and an e-mail phone
 - B. a new telecommunications device—e-mail phone and its functions
 - C. an explanation of the operation of an e-mail phone
 - D. a brief sketch of the development of telecommunication
2. According to the passage, an e-mail phone is a real valuable invention in that _____.
 - A. it is a combination of telephone and computer
 - B. this electronic product has a great function
 - C. only the experts can use it
 - D. it can serve as a liaison between two far away places
3. With an e-mail phone, you can not _____.
 - A. read electronic mails directly from the phone
 - B. reply to e-mail directly on the phone
 - C. make common phone calls
 - D. browse the internet quickly and freely
4. As for the operation of an e-mail phone, which of the following procedures is not necessary?
 - A. to sign up with your choice of ISP
 - B. to enter the account information into the phone
 - C. to select e-mail service from a menu
 - D. to transfer your account name and password
5. E-mail phones have got some disadvantages, for example, _____.
 - A. their software doesn't recognize any formatting codes
 - B. they are not efficient Web surfers

- C. they can not send or receive all kinds of files
D. the browsing speed is not higher than that of PC's
6. Which of the following pairs of words can best explain the meaning of "park" and "sharp" in paragraph 9 and 10 respectively?
- A. store; clear
B. stop; exact
C. store; real
D. stop; clear
7. According to the passage, which of the statements below is NOT true?
- A. E-mail phones are more convenient than PCs in many aspects.
B. People can check their e-mail and make their phone calls at the same time with e-mail phones.
C. E-mail phones have less capabilities in Web browsing than computers.
D. Only after ISP accepts your account, name and password, will it start sending your message.
8. It's implied in the passage that _____.
A. an e-mail phone is better than a personal computer in every aspect
B. more and more people are communicating with each other by e-mail
C. people without computer experience can also use an e-mail phone
D. you don't need to open an account to handle e-mail on e-mail phones

II . Topics for Discussion :

1. Have you seen an e-mail phone in use? If yes, describe its operation to those who haven't. If not, describe it according to the information presented in the passage.
2. Compare e-mail phones with mobile phones. Which one do you prefer? And give your reasons.

III . Translate the following sentences into Chinese :

1. And the kitchen or the family room is often more conducive to these personal missives than wherever the computer sits, assuming there is one.
2. Once you're past this tedious hurdle and enter the account information into the phone, you can check your e-mail from either your computer or phone.
3. If you happen to be using the phone when it is scheduled to check for e-mail, the phone will automatically try again when the line is free.
4. Some phones will attempt to display simple text files as part of the message, but other types of files will appear as gibberish, or not at all.
5. But the notion of a universal message center has at least been spawned into the real world, and the kitchen may never quite be the same again.