



# Extensive

# Reading

# 3

# 英语泛读教程

总主编 黄源深 虞苏美

主 编 刘乃银

高等教育出版社

总主编 黄源深 虞苏美

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## 英语泛读教程

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## 内 容 提 要

《英语泛读教程》系受教育部委托编写的教材,供高等学校英语专业一、二年级使用,亦适用于同等程度的英语自学者。

全套教材共4册。本书为第三册,共15个单元,每单元分为四部分:第一部分为阅读课文及练习,练习包括判断课文中心思想、阅读理解、课堂讨论题和词汇练习;第二部分为阅读技巧,重点介绍报纸杂志等阅读技能,并配有相应的练习;第三部分为快速阅读练习,提供3篇短文,要求在规定的时间内完成;第四部分为课外阅读,提供和课文长度相当的语言材料,配有阅读理解和思考题。书后附有练习答案,供教师和学生参考。

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## 前 言

《英语泛读教程》系受国家教育部委托编写的教材，供高等学校英语专业一、二年级使用，亦适用于同等程度的英语自学者。教材旨在提高学生英语阅读理解能力，扩大英语词汇量，并且掌握基本的阅读技巧。

本教材编写的主要特点是：

- 一、阅读材料题材广泛，涉及英语国家社会、政治、经济、文化等方面；内容新颖，注意收入反映近年来社会进步和科学技术发展的文章；注重趣味性，文体多样。
- 二、突破传统教材课文篇幅太短的局限，阅读量明显加大。课文长度从第一册的1200词增加到第四册的2400词。
- 三、注重培养学生快速、准确、有效地获取信息的能力，把握文本中心思想，重点训练学生见“树”亦见“林”的能力。

《英语泛读教程》全套共4册。每册15个单元，按阅读材料的内容和难度编排。每单元一般分为四部分。第一部分为阅读课文及练习。练习包括判断课文中心思想、阅读理解、课堂讨论题和词汇练习。第二部分为阅读技巧，重点介绍各种阅读技能，并配有相应的练习。第三部分为快速阅读练习，提供三篇短文，要求在规定的时间内完成。第四部分为课外阅读，提供和课文长度相当的语言材料，配有阅读理解和思考题。书后附有练习答案，供教师和学生参考。

本册教材编写过程中曾有多位教师参加，在此谨表谢意。本套教材的一部分曾在华东师范大学英语系试用，有关教师和同学给予了热情的支持。华东师范大学美籍教师Mr.Glen Chesnut仔细阅读了教材，提出修改意见。复旦大学孙骊教授、高等学校外语专业教学指导委员会委员秦秀白教授、大学英语专业课程指导委员会委员王蔷教授、湖北黄冈师范学院蓝葆春教授和河南新乡师范学院郭爱先副教授也为本教材提出了宝贵的意见，谨在此一并表示感谢。由于编者的水平和经验的限制，错误和缺点在所难免，欢迎读者批评指正。

编 者

2001年3月

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## 英语专业类精品教材简介

教育部高等教育出版社主要负责全国普通高等教育、成人教育、职业技术教育等方面的教学用书、学术专著、译著、工具书、录音教材、录像教材、电子出版物等的出版发行工作。

包括此书在内的英语专业系列教材被列为“教育部面向21世纪课程教材”和“普通高等教育‘九五’国家级重点教材”，同时，与之相配套的网络课程也将于不久与广大学生见面。

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# Unit 1

## 1 Text

### ***Invented Words***

**New words appear in English every day. Do you know how these words are born? Read the following passage to find various ways English words are invented.**

Scholars guess that English has about 600 000 words, but there are probably more. New words continue to come into the language at such a rate that no dictionary could possibly keep up with them. The old words which were born centuries ago in the Anglo-Saxon, Germanic and French languages make up four fifths of the English language. The other one fifth is made up partly of borrowed words and partly of three other kinds of words: words from the names of peoples and places; imitative words; and invented words.

Ampere, volt and watt are all units of electricity, and they are named for the men who discovered them; Andre M. Ampere, a French physicist; Alessandro Volta, an Italian physicist; and James Watt, a Scottish engineer and inventor. Nowadays we all drink pasteurized milk, that is, milk which is clean and purified. Pasteurized gets its name from Louis Pasteur, a French doctor who invented the process for purifying milk. There are many words like this in the English language.

Imitative words are words that sound like the thing or action they stand for. Here are some examples:

buzz	click	bang	mumble	chirp	bawl
crash	clap	mutter	giggle	hum	gulp

There is no need to say anything else about these words, for they speak for themselves. You can probably think of many more.

Then there are the invented words. English-speaking people have always made up words as it suited them, and they continue to do so every day. One kind

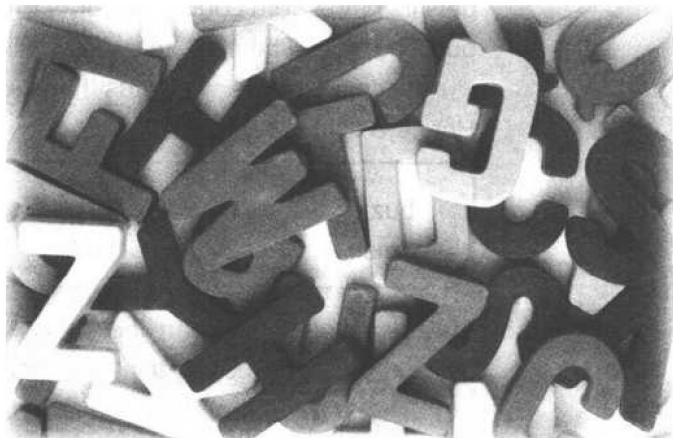
of invented word is one which is made up of two other words. Dictionaries call this kind of word a compound. If you put “play” and “thing” together, you get the compound, “plaything.” How many can you add to this list?

raincoat	milkshake	upstairs	standstill	headlight
shutout	sailboat	downstairs	income	headline

As well as putting two whole words together, we also add parts of words called prefixes and suffixes to whole words. Most prefixes and suffixes come from Latin or Greek, and each has a special meaning of its own. When we add a prefix before a word or a suffix at the end of it, we change its meaning. For example, the prefix *re-* means “again.” If we add *re-* to “do” or “paint”, we get two new words meaning “do again” and “paint again.” *Un-* means “the opposite of” or “not.” By adding *un-* to “happy” or “kind”, we get “unhappy” or “unkind”, meaning “not happy” and “not kind.” The suffix *-ness* means “the condition of.” “Happiness” and “kindness” are the conditions of being happy and kind. It is easy to see the meanings of unhappiness and unkindness. The word to which we attach the prefixes and suffixes is called the root word. In a word like unkindness the root word is kind.

Some words, like astronaut, are made up entirely of Greek or Latin prefixes and suffixes. *Astro-* is a Greek prefix meaning “having to do with the stars”; *naut-* means “having to do with sailing.” So, an astronaut is a “star-sailor.” Other words can be root words, prefixes or suffixes, depending on where they come in the word. Remember, the prefix comes first, the root word second, and the suffix last. As an example, let’s take the word “graph” and build several different invented words with it by adding prefixes and suffixes to it or using it as a prefix or suffix. Graph by itself means anything which is shown to us in pictures or writing. For instance, your teacher might want to keep track of your reading progress by drawing a graph of your reading test scores, or a businessman might draw graphs which show the ups and downs of his company’s sales records. Now,

by adding the prefixes and suffixes listed below to graph, we can make several new words. Notice that graph is part of a longer suffix as well as a suffix by itself.



Prefixes		Suffixes	
auto-	self	-graphy	study of ; art of
bio-	life	-graph	something written
phono-	sound	-ic	similar to; like
photo-	light	-ology	study of
tele-	distant	-phone	sound

Here are some words made with “graph”.

autograph — signature; a person’s name written in his or her handwriting  
 biography — story of a person’s life  
 autobiography — study of a person’s life written by himself or herself  
 graphology — study of handwriting  
 telegraph — distant writing  
 phonograph — writing or a picture in sound  
 photograph — writing or a picture in light  
 photography — art of taking pictures  
 graphic — clearly written or drawn

You may have noticed that you can make even other words using some of these prefixes and suffixes without graph. “Biology” is the study of life. What do you think is the meaning of “biologic”? If the prefix *anti-* means “against,” what does “antibiotic” really mean? There are hundreds of Latin and Greek prefixes in the English language, and the possibilities for inventing new words are endless. Every day, as we make new discoveries in science and technology, we invent new words to describe them. Many of these new words are combinations of root words and prefixes and suffixes which have already existed in English for centuries.

Another kind of invented word is the nonsense word. Some nonsense words are used for a while by only a few people and then disappear completely from the language, never to be used again. Others, when they become popular enough and are used over a period of time, become a permanent part of the language. If enough people decide and agree on the meaning of an invented word, it is here to stay. Some examples of everyday modern words which probably began as nonsense words centuries ago are: bad, big, lad, lass, chat, job and fun. Linguists guess that these are nonsense words because they have not been able to trace them back to any of the ancestor languages. Just who invented them, and when or where remains a puzzle. Puzzle itself is one of these mystery words. No one knows where it came from.

Lewis Carroll, author of *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*, was a great inventor of nonsense words. As a matter of fact, he created a whole

language of nonsense. Most of Carroll's nonsense words are not used in English, except for "chortle." Chortle, Carroll tells us, is a cross between a chuckle and a snort. The word is formed by packing two different meanings together in it. The dictionary calls such words blends. A fairly recent blend, which, unfortunately, we hear almost every day, is "smog," a combination of smoke and fog.

People invent nonsense words by combining certain sounds that just seem to fit the things or actions they describe. Often we make up words for anything which is basically rather silly. Spoof was invented by an English comedian some fifty years ago. It means "to poke fun at." Hornswoggle was used a great deal in the United States during the nineteenth century, and it means "to cheat." If a dishonest politician wants to hornswoggle the taxpayers, he invents a "boondoggle," which is a useless, expensive project which does nobody any good. Fairly recently someone invented the word "gobbledygook." When people talk or write using long, fancy words that really mean nothing, we call it gobbledygook. Unfortunately, many people use gobbledygook because they want to seem more important than they are, or because they don't really want people to understand what they mean or what they are doing. So, when the dishonest politician wants to hornswoggle the public with a boondoggle, he usually explains things in gobbledygook.

When Lewis Carroll was writing his books the word gobbledygook had not been invented yet, but Carroll would have known exactly what it meant. Carroll loved to spoof or poke fun at people who used fancy, important-sounding words when simple language would have done better. In one part of *Through the Looking Glass*, Alice has a conversation with Humpty Dumpty in which Humpty Dumpty insists words can mean whatever he wants them to mean. Alice insists that this is impossible. If everyone did that no one would understand anyone else. The conversation goes like this:

"But 'glory' doesn't mean 'a nice knockdown argument'," Alice objected.

"When I use a word," Humpty Dumpty said, in rather a scornful tone, "it means just what I choose it to mean — neither more or less."

"The question is," said Alice, "whether you *can* make words mean so many different things."

"The question is," said Humpty Dumpty, "which is to be the master — that's all."

The question is, just as Humpty Dumpty said, which is to be master. But Humpty Dumpty used words in an odd way, and that made him a master of gobbledygook, not a master of language. A master of language knows what words really mean, and where they come from; knows when to use big, important ones and when to use the shorter, equally important simple ones. Winston Churchill was a great British prime minister. He was also a great writer, truly a master of language. He said once, "Short words are best, and old words when they are short, are best of all."

(1 545 words)

 **xercises****A. Determining the main idea.****Choose the best answer.**

The main idea of the text is \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. that English ancestors invented the main part of the English language in four different ways
- b. that invented words are generally made up in three different ways
- c. that borrowed words and other kinds of words make up about one fifth of the English language
- d. how various kinds of English words are invented

**B. Comprehending the text.****Choose the best answer.**

1. English has \_\_\_\_\_ words.  
a. 6 000                      b. 60 000                      c. 600 000                      d. 6 000 000
2. Ampere, volt and watt are examples of \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. invented words  
b. imitative words  
c. borrowed words  
d. words from the names of persons
3. Prefixes and suffixes are \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. whole words that don't have their own meanings  
b. parts of words that have their special meanings  
c. from either Greek or Latin  
d. parts of words that are meaningless
4. According to the text, "graph" can be used as \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. a root word      b. a prefix      c. a suffix      d. all of the above
5. Every day, \_\_\_\_\_ lead to the invention of many new words to describe them.  
a. new discoveries in science and technology  
b. Anglo-Saxon words  
c. root words  
d. nonsense words
6. An invented word may become a permanent part of the English language, if \_\_\_\_\_.  
a. people know where it came from  
b. it was invented by a famous writer  
c. it has been used by many people over a long period of time



- d. linguists are interested in it
7. In the text, the author repeatedly mentions Lewis Carroll as he was \_\_\_\_\_.
- an English actor good at making people laugh
  - a dishonest politician
  - a character in *Alice in Wonderland*
  - a great inventor of meaningless words
8. "Gobbledygook" is an example of \_\_\_\_\_.
- imitative words that sound like the thing or action they stand for
  - words invented by combining different meanings together
  - words made up of prefixes and suffixes
  - long big words that mean nothing
9. In the author's opinion, the best words are \_\_\_\_\_.
- short ones
  - gobbledygook
  - long, fancy ones
  - short, old ones
10. The author's primary purpose in writing this article is to \_\_\_\_\_.
- please the reader with the interesting story of different kinds of words
  - give a general account of the formation of three kinds of words
  - encourage the reader to learn words according to the word formation
  - introduce the history of the English language

**C. Discussing the following topics.**

- Why do many people use gobbledygook?
- Do you agree with Humpty Dumpty's opinion regarding the meaning of a word? Why or why not?
- What makes a master of language? Can you name some masters of language?

**D. Understanding vocabulary.**

**Choose the correct definition according to the context.**

- The other one fifth is made up partly of borrowed words and partly of three other kinds of words: words from the names of peoples and places; *imitative* words; and invented words.
  - reproducing closely
  - similar
  - original
  - root
- Pasteurized* gets its name from Louis Pasteur, a French doctor who invented the process for purifying milk.
  - Distilled
  - Purified
  - Processed
  - Invented
- Some words, like *astronaut*, are made up entirely of Greek or Latin prefixes and suffixes.
  - one engaged in the study of the stars