

XIN SIWEI GAOJI

# 新思维

## 高级英语阅读教程

YINGYU YUEDU JIAOCHENG

人文知识 课文导读 批判性阅读与思考 开心一读

赖红玲 姚 斌 ◎ 编著



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责任编辑: 孙 燕

封面设计: 王林强

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投稿邮箱: [liuxintian@yahoo.com.cn](mailto:liuxintian@yahoo.com.cn)

发行部: 葛慧 联系电话: 0931-8773271 (传真) E-mail: [gsmzgehui3271@tom.com](mailto:gsmzgehui3271@tom.com)

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# 前言

随着 21 世纪知识经济时代的到来, 社会对创新人才的迫切需求向我国的教育提出了严峻挑战, 怎样实施创新教育已成为亟需解决的新课题。由此, 也引发了英语教育界对英语专业教学目标、教学内容和方式的再思考, 如何在英语学习中培养学生创新思维的问题更提上了讨论日程。

文秋芳(2002)提出, 培养创新型的英语人才应根据自身专业特点形成特色。《新思维高级英语阅读教程》正是倡导学生通过自主创新型学习, 在学习内容、学习方法等方面有所创新, 创造性地对已有的知识质疑或重新构建, 深化对目标语知识的理解和再学习, 提高语言水平和学习效率。正如郑金渊(2000)所说, 学生的创新思维依赖于其心智模式的改变, 能以新的方式对已有目标语知识和经验重新构建和认识, 以新的方式去解决学习中的问题。基于此, 《新思维高级英语阅读教程》以张汉熙主编的《高级英语》为蓝本, 引导学生以全新的视角重新审视语言学习内容和方法。本教程不仅有助于培养学生创新思维的能力, 而且有助于学生解决英语高级阶段面临的语言“石化”问题, 革新学习方法和内容, 提高语言水平。

《新思维高级英语阅读教程》共有十六个单元, 每单元含有以下板块:

- 人文知识(Humanities and Culture Knowledge), 涉及英美国家文化现象的解释;
- 课文导读(Guided Reading), 涉及文章的语篇、文体分析、全旨讨论等;
- 词汇积累(Vocabulary Building), 介绍英文常 19 词根、词缀, 从构词解释英文单词意义, 特别是熟悉单词、形近词或同源派生词间的意义联系(七)区别;
- 批判性阅读(七)思考(Critical Reading and Thinking);
- 开心一读(Happy Reading), 呈现英文 20 默故事。

该教程贯彻了新时期社会对创新型英语人才培养的要求, 具有以下特色:

1. 选文题材广泛, 体裁多样, 内容体现出“时代性和新 1. 性”。根据创新教育宽基础和素质培养的原则, 选文兼顾社会科学和自然科学知识, 力图把新的人文、科技研究成果和科学概念融入语言学习中, 帮助学生建立一个发展变化而不是孤立静止的客观物质世界的基本观念, 引导他们去探索、更新知识。语言学习贯穿于了解、思考、探讨现

实生活中的各种问题的过程中,它不仅能使学习者在语言文化方面得到良好的熏陶,而且能够帮助学习者树立正确的人生观、世界观和价值观,具备开放的思维和宽广的知识面。学生把枯燥的英语阅读变成百科知识的涉猎,使英语阅读不再枯燥,增强了学习英语的兴趣和动力,提高了其运用英语的能力和综合素质。

2. 丰富的人文背景知识,体现跨文化交际研究成果。教程编者长期从事跨文化交际和外语教学研究,在教材编写中充分体现了语言学习的跨文化交际性,将培养学生的跨文化意识融入语言学习之中。《新思维高级英语阅读教程》精心设计了“Humanities and Culture Knowledge”,提供详尽的文化背景知识,有效帮助学生理解课文。“Happy Reading”旨在为学习者提供丰富多彩、有趣的文化阅读素材,将语言——文化——行为三者融为一体,帮助语言学习者开阔视野、改善思维。学生通过阅读相关文化背景知识和英美国家的幽默故事,不仅能理解语言、文化(与)行为之间的关系,而且能提高学生的思辨性思维能力,增强跨文化意识。

3. 特色的语篇和文体分析,引导学生掌握高级阶段的阅读策略和技能。高级阶段的语言学习承担着“夯实基础,培养学生对名篇的分析和欣赏能力、逻辑思维和独立思考的能力”的任务。以阅读为切入点,培养学生对文章的整体把握能力,就需要以篇章结构为主线,以文体修辞为重点,加强学生对语篇语言学、文体学知识的了解。《新思维高级英语阅读教程》博采众长,借鉴国内外先进的、可以为我所用的理论、研究成果(与)方法,摒弃只注重词汇、语法难点注解、课文译文、练习答案的编写套路,从学习方法和思维入手,对学生进行导读。《新思维高级英语阅读教程》运用衔接、关联、修辞等语言学理论,对《高级英语》的文章进行了示范性的分析,学生通过此部分不仅能深刻、高水平地理解掌握高年级阶段的语言知识和阅读技能,增强专业素养,而且能够把这种创新型的学习思维方式迁移到学习新知识、文章的阅读理解过程中。

4. 评判性阅读,兼具知识性(与)哲理性,语言地道,思想深邃,体现批判性思维能力的培养。“Critical Reading and Thinking”板块阅读文章的选择是对一个现象(课文主题)的批判性反思,所选文章或表达正反(不同)观点,或提供问题的解决思路或途径,旨在引导学生将话题延伸或向更深层次挖掘思考,讨论(与)课文相关的其他内容,鼓励学生结合社会现象(与)个人经历,从不同角度分析问题,阐述观点;同时,选文篇幅适度,文章长度一般控制在700—1200词左右,由浅入深,循序渐进地培养学生的阅读技能。

5. 紧扣英语高阶阅读词汇要求的阅读教材。全书通过让学生熟悉各类时文话题的相关语言材料,掌握高阶阅读中所要求的高频率词汇,使学生在逐步提高阅读能力及运用能力的同时,扩充必要的词汇。在“Critical Reading and Thinking”板块每篇阅读文章的后面,都有对核心词汇的注解。“Vocabulary Building”板块则着重引导学生尝试从词汇构成、积累英语词根和词缀知识角度扩充词汇,加深对已学词汇的理解,易于学

生把握形近词或同源单词间的联系(七)区别,预测未知词汇,这是一种“授之以(二)”的做法。

《新思维高级英语阅读教程》旨在促进学生的语言技能、学科素养和创新思维能力的培养。编者在积累自己十五年的英语高级阶段教学经验的基础上,广泛调研、详尽分析、科学判断,梳理了现有的教材教程,更新教学理念,优化高级阶段英语学习内容和结构,旨在强化学生语言专业素质和人文素养的同步提升,专业技能、专业知识、相关专业知识的完美匹配,帮助学生打下扎实的语言基本功,增强其分析问题、解决问题的能力,使学生真正成为国际化、创新型、高素质的英语专业人才。

本书是供高等学校英语专业高年级本科生或具有同等水平的英语学习者使用的阅读教材。

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# Unit 1

## The Middle Eastern Bazaar

### Humanities and Culture Knowledge



#### 1. The Middle East

The Middle East is a strategically, economically, politically, culturally and religiously sensitive area.

Middle East is a term traditionally applied by Western Europeans to the countries of SW Asia and NE Africa lying W of Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The area was viewed as midway between Europe and East Asia (traditionally called the Far East). It is sometimes used, however, in a cultural sense to mean the group of lands in that part of the world predominantly Islamic in culture, thus including the remaining states of N Africa as well as Afghanistan and Pakistan. Now it has been used to refer to the large region that covers parts of northern Africa, southwestern Asia, and southeastern Europe. Thus defined it includes Cyprus, the Asian part of Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, the West Bank and Gaza, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, the countries of the Arabian peninsula (Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Sudan, and Yemen), and Egypt and Libya.

The Middle East is built on a magnificent legacy of civilizations dating back to ancient times. Science, the arts, written language, mathematics, a legal system, and other hallmarks of civilization flourished in ancient Sumer, Persia, Egypt, and other parts of the Middle East, leaving a lasting influence on the later cultures of Greece and Rome. Today, the Middle East continues to offer the world a rich cultural contribution, as home to three major world religions (the birthplace and spiritual center of Judaism, Christianity and Islam), a vibrant entertainment industry, a fascinating tradition of folkloric music and dance, and a growing economic power base. The area encompasses many distinct cultural and ethnic groups, including the Arabs, Armenians, Assyrians, Azeris, Berbers, Chaldeans, Druze, Greeks, Jews, Kurds, Maronites, Persians and Turks.

Languages of the Middle East span many different families, including Indo-European, Afro-Asiatic, and Altaic. The main language groups include Arabic, Armenian, Assyrian (also known as Aramaic and Syriac), Hebrew, Persian, Kurdish and Turkish. Arabic in its numerous varieties and Persian are most widely spoken in the region, with Arabic being the most widely spoken language in the Arab countries.

In the Western world, the Middle East is generally thought of as a predominantly Islamic Arabic community defined by frequent war. Throughout the 20th and into the 21st century, the region has experienced both periods of relative peace and tolerance and periods of conflict and war. In the 20th century, the Middle East has been the scene of political turmoil and major warfare, including World War I, World War II, the Arab-Israeli Wars, the Iran-Iraq War and the Persian Gulf Wars and now has been at what could be considered the center of world affairs. Current issues include Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Iranian nuclear program and the Syria Civil War.

## 2. Three Main Religions in the Middle East

The Middle East is very diverse when it comes to religions, many of which originated there. Islam in its many forms is by far the largest religion in the Middle East, but other faiths, such as Judaism and Christianity, are also important. God is the Deity, the Divinity, Holy One, Jehovah, the Lord, Providence, the Almighty, and the Creator. There is only one God in heaven or maybe in the world. But the belief in God has developed three religious sections, namely, Christianity, Judaism and Islam.

Islam is a strictly monotheistic religion. The literal meaning of Islam is peace, surrendering of one's will, i.e. losing oneself for the sake of God and surrendering one's own pleasure for the pleasure of God. The message of Islam was revealed to the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings on him) 1,400 years ago. It was revealed through angel Gabriel (on whom be peace) and was thus preserved in the Holy Quran. The followers of this religion are called Muslims. Muslims are restricted in their diet. Prohibited foods include pork products, blood, dead meat and alcohol. Therefore, while sharing the same God with the Christians and Jews, the Islamic believe in Muhammad, who is the last of the prophets (Adam, Noah-Adam's 9th generation grandson, Abraham, Moses and Jesus being the others), and that there will be a final judgment at the end of the world. Heaven awaits the faithful and hell the infidels. They call God Allah, and their bible is Koran. Their sacred symbol is not the cross but a crescent. A Moslem/Muslim must make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca, birthplace of Muhammad, their holy city in Saudi Arabia. Islam believes that each person is born pure. The Holy Quran (Koran) tells us that God has given human beings a choice between good and evil and to seek God's pleasure through faith, prayer and charity.

The Islamic are divided into two groups, Shiite who believe Muhammad's successor was his

cousin and son-in-law Ali, and Sunnis who believe Ali was only one and the last of Muhammad's four successors. Most Iranians are Shiite while 85% of all Moslems are Sunnis. At present there are 1.5 billion Muslims worldwide and they form the majority in more than 50 countries of the world. In the Middle East, most Arabics and Persians are Muslims and believe in Islam. Today Islam is the fastest growing faith in the world — its beautiful message is reaching millions in the far corner of the earth.

A large number of people in the Middle East are in another famous religion called Christianity. Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on the life and teachings by Jesus of Nazareth as presented in the New Testament. Christianity comprises three major branches: Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy (the two split from one another in 1054 A.D.), and Protestantism (which came into existence during the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century). Protestantism is further divided into smaller groups called denominations. Christians believe Jesus is the Son of God, having become human and the savior of humanity. Christians, therefore, commonly refer to Jesus as Christ or Messiah.

As of the early 21st century, Christianity has around 2.2 billion adherents. Christianity represents about a quarter to a third of the world's population and is the world's largest religion. So, we can safely say that one in three persons on earth is Christians. In addition, Christianity is the state religion of several countries.

Judaism is the “religion, philosophy, and way of life” of the Jewish people. Judaism, originating in the Hebrew Bible and explored in later texts such as the Talmud, is considered by Jews to be the expression of the covenantal relationship God developed with the Children of Israel. The Hebrews / Israelites were referred to as Jews, already, as early as in the Book of Esther. The term Jews replaced the title “Children of Israel”. Judaism doesn't believe in Jesus Christ. They believe in Moses who led them away from persecutions of the Egyptians, and they suppose that God will come to the world one day in the future. Their prophets include King David and his son Solomon who was famous for his wealth and wisdom. They think that God had granted them a place of inhabitancy, the Promised Land which is the nowadays Israel. Jewish people have suffered religious discrimination by Christians over the long run of history. The Jewish people were not allowed to own land or serve at any government offices.

Nevertheless, Judaism claims a historical continuity spanning more than 3000 years. It is one of the oldest monotheistic religions, and the oldest to survive into the present day. Its texts, traditions and values have inspired later Abrahamic religions, including Christianity and Islam. Today, 14 million people identify themselves as Jewish, and about 4 millions of them live in Israel.



### 3. Architecture in the Middle East

#### The Mosque

A mosque is symbolically very important to Muslims, and is a humble way for man to recreate pure divine presence on earth. But mosques are not built according to what is believed to be divine patterns, even if they are divinely guided, nor after very clear rules, except on some few points. It shall have a clear indication of the direction of Mecca (Qiblah or kiblah). The indication is in most mosques a mihrab, a niche in the wall. A mosque shall have a roofed area in front of the mihrab, and doors can be placed in the walls where the mihrab is not. Masjid (Mescit) is a word meaning 'place for prostration', and was used by the early Muslims for houses of worship, even for other religions. Today the Arabic 'masjid', and the English 'mosque' are used exclusively for religious houses in Islam. It is characterized by the repeated use of geometric patterns (Arabia type pattern), the dome and cupola, minaret or tower, decoration with Islamic calligraphy and the use of bright colors. All is associated with the repeated use of universal theme to express the concept of Allah almighty. Especially the large dome, towering called hyperbole worship buildings and large courtyard, is used to express infinite power.

The first mosque is the one in Mecca, meaning the area that surrounded the Kaaba or Caaba, the most holy shrine. But the model of early mosques was the courtyard of Muhammed's house in Madina, which was constructed in 622 AD. This was organized with a qiblah, first facing in the direction of Jerusalem. This Madina mosque had social, political, and judicial functions, as well as housing Muhammad's family. Mosques soon grew into becoming more complex and uniform in their shape.

Mosques are centers of cities, or of neighborhoods in cities. This function does not always have to be structured, but can be connected to mentality, and the construction of a new mosque makes a centre emerge.

When entering the mosque, a person shall take off his shoes or sandals. Entering the mosque shall be done with the right foot first, while one utters blessings to Muhammad and his family. A person inside the mosque shall talk softly, not loudly, so that he or she does not disturb people praying. For the Friday prayer, nice clothes and perfumes are recommended. In some Muslim countries, women entering mosques have not been welcomed, and mosques can be closed to women, either by local rules, or by habit. Nevertheless, in Turkey women can easily go into any mosque.

#### Gothic Architecture

For nearly four hundred years Gothic style dominated the architecture of Western Europe. Originating in northern France in the twelfth century, it spread rapidly across England and the Continent, invaded the old Viking Empire of Scandinavia, confronted the Byzantine provinces of Central Europe and even made appearances, under the aegis (armor plate that protects the chest)