

上册

大学英语

DAXUE YINGYU YUEDU JIAOCHENG

阅读教程

主编 张 敏

哈尔滨地图出版社

大 学 英 语 阅 读 教 程

DAXUE YINGYU YUEDU JIAOCHENG

(上 册)

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前 言

《大学英语阅读教程（上）》是在总结历年来预科英语教学经验的基础上，针对少数民族预科学生的实际水平和需要精心编写而成，可供大学预科学生及相应英语水平的学习者使用。

本书注重内容的趣味性、信息性、启发性和前瞻性的同时，亦注重语言的规范性和实用性。本书所选内容多出自近几年的最新报刊书籍，难度适宜，便于学生学习。

本教程由英语系多名教师利用业余时间精心编写而成。第一、二、四单元由张敏老师编写。第三、六单元由杨光辉老师编写。第五、七单元由杨琳老师编写。第八单元前半部分由杨琳老师编写，后半部分由杨光辉老师编写。单词部分及文章的校对工作由杨金凤老师完成。

本书分为人物，科学，文化与习俗，背景知识，节日，习惯用语，教育，电影等，共 8 单元，79 篇文章，能够发展学生的英语运用能力，提高学生阅读理解英语文章的水平，为日后学习与工作打下必要的语言基础。

本书的编写得到了黑龙江民族职业学院领导的支持与关心，在此深表感谢。对本书中的欠妥和不足之处，热忱希望读者批评指正。

编 者

2006 年 8 月

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Unit 1 Background Knowledge

Passage 1

Las Vegas

Today we report about an American city that is increasing its population faster than any other in the country. It is the city that is increasing its popularity as a holiday area for families. It is the city in the west desert of the United States—Las Vegas, Nevada.

The United States Census Bureau reports that Las Vegas is the fastest growing city in the United States. The population increased almost 14 percent between 1990 and 1992. The city now has more than 970 thousand people. There are several reasons why people are moving to Las Vegas. The weather is always warm and sunny. There are many jobs in the building industry and in the hotels. There are no earthquakes. And people do not have to pay state taxes on the money they earn.

City officials say there is one problem, however, that may limit the growth of Las Vegas. That is a lack of water. Everyday each person in Las Vegas uses more than one thousand liters of water. This is almost 2 times the national average. And it is almost 3 times the amount of water used by people in other desert cities like Los Angeles and Tucson, Arizona. Water use is high, even though the area receives only 10 centimeters of rain a year. So perhaps it is not surprising then that farmers and developers are having serious disputes about the right to use water.

The number of people who visit Las Vegas has increased by 100 percent in 10 years. More than 23 million people visit every year. Las Vegas is famous as a place for people who like to gamble, to play games of chance to win money. People from all over the country go to Las Vegas with a hope of winning lots of money. Most of them lose money.

Las Vegas is a city of hotels. In recent years 10 of the biggest hotels in the world have been built there. All the hotels have big casinos, special rooms where people can gamble. And all have special shows for adults. Recently hotels have begun providing entertainment for children and families. Much of the new entertainment is based on special effects. Most hotels are now designed around one special idea. One, for example, has circus performers. Another has a volcano that explodes several times a day.

In recent months 3 huge new hotels have opened in Las Vegas. One is the Treasure Island Hotel. It has its own sea. Visitors can watch a battle between two ships that are copies of 18th century sailing ships. There are fires and explosions. And 6 times a day one of them sinks into the hotel's sea. Down the street is the Luxor Hotel. It is named after the ancient Egyptian city. The hotel is shaped like an Egyptian pyramid. It is made of black glass. Inside visitors ride in boats on water that represents the Nile River. They can see a copy of the ancient Egyptian statue called the Sphinx. And they can see a copy of the burial place of the ancient Egyptian King Tutenkhamon.

The newest hotel in Las Vegas is the MGM Grand Hotel. It is the biggest hotel in the world. It cost one thousand million dollars to build. The MGM Grand has more than 5,000 rooms. It has the

world's largest gambling casino. Guests enter the hotel by walking through a doorway shaped like a huge lion. The lion is the symbol of the MGM Motion Picture Studio. The MGM Grand Hotel has a separate amusement park where visitors can see shows and go on rides.

Archaeologists say the Anasazi Indians were the earliest people to live in the area that is now Las Vegas. The Indians raised crops. They also mined turquoise stones and salts. Later Spanish explorers came. They first settled in the area in 1829. They found a place where water rose from natural springs in the ground. Grass and other plants were growing. So they named the place Las Vegas, the Spanish word for the "green fields".

In 1865, a man from Ohio, Ateibies Ges, has a farm there. He owned about 320 hectares of land. Later the land was sold to William Clark, a United States senator from Montana. He built a railroad line between Las Vegas and Los Angeles. In 1905, Mr. Clark sold the land to many hopeful settlers. Six years later the Nevada legislature passed an act that created the City of Las Vegas. In 1930 the Federal Government began building a huge dam to create a lake on the Colorado River. Hoover Dam still supplies power to parts of 3 western states-Nevada, California and Arizona.

Las Vegas is not popular with all Americans. Some say it represents all that is bad about American culture. Some still do not approve of a place where people go to gamble away their money. Some do not like the way women are shown as sex objects. And some denounce what they see as a wasteful use of water and electricity. For many years Las Vegas was called America's sin city. That is because it permitted activities that other cities would not permit. Now observers say two things seem to be happening: Las Vegas is becoming more like other American cities, and other cities are becoming more like Las Vegas.

Words and expressions:

The United States Census Bureau:	美国人口普查局
centimeter:	n. 厘米
dispute:	v. 争论, 争吵
gamble:	v. 赌博
casino:	n. (有表演, 舞池等的) 卡西诺场
Sphinx:	n. 斯芬克斯; 即狮身人面像
MGM:	米高梅电影制片厂
senator:	n. 议员
comedian:	n. 戏剧演员
sin:	n. 罪恶

Activity:

As we know, Las Vegas is a famous place for people to entertain themselves. However, it is also a place for gambling. What is your opinion about such activities? If one day you will visit Las Vegas, what will you do?

List some reasons why Las Vegas became famous? Can you tell the meaning of "Las Vegas"? How was the place found? What do you think of the existence of such a sin city in a country? Are

you for or against it? Illustrate your ideas with some examples.

Passage 2

Environmental Problems Caused by Skyscrapers

In the late 1960's, many people in North America turned their attention to environmental problems, and new steel-and-glass skyscrapers were widely criticized. Ecologists pointed out that a cluster of tall buildings in a city often overburdens public transportation and parking lot capacities.

Skyscrapers are also lavish consumers, and wasters, of electric power, in one recent year, the addition of 17 million square feet of skyscraper office space in New York City raised the peak daily demand for electricity by 120,000 kilowatts-enough to supply the entire city of Albany, New York, for a day.

Glass-walled skyscrapers can be especially wasteful. The heat loss (or gain) through a wall of half-inch plate glass is more than ten times that through a typical masonry wall filled with insulation board. To lessen the strain on heating and air-conditioning equipment, builders of skyscrapers have begun to use double-gazed panels of glass, reflective glasses coated with silver or gold mirror films that reduce glare as well as heat gain. However, mirror-walled skyscrapers raise the temperature of the surrounding air and affect neighboring buildings.

Skyscrapers put a severe strain on a city's sanitation facilities too. If fully occupied, the two World Trade Center towers in New York City would alone generate 2.25 million gallons of raw sewage each year as much as a city the size of Stamford, Connecticut, which has a population of more than 109,000.

Skyscrapers also interfere with television reception, block bird flyways, and obstruct air traffic. In Boston in the late 1960's, some people even feared that shadows from skyscrapers would kill the grass on Boston Common.

Still, people continue to build skyscrapers for all the reasons that they have always build them-personal ambition, civic pride, and the desire of owners to have the largest possible amount of rentable space.

Words and expressions:

skyscraper:	n. 摩天大厦
ecologist:	n. 生态学家
overburden:	v. 装载过多, 负担过多
lavish:	adj. 浪费的, 挥霍的
masonry:	n. 石造物
air-conditioning:	n. 空气调节装置
sanitation:	n. 公共卫生, 卫生设备

obstruct:	v. 阻塞 (通路等), 妨碍交通
ambition:	n. 企图, 野心
rentable:	adj. 可出租的

Activity:

According to the passage, what is one disadvantage of skyscrapers that have glass walls? According to the passage, in the late 1960's some residents of Boston were concerned with which aspect of skyscrapers? What is the main idea of the passage?

Passage 3

Geography of the U.S.A

The vast expanse of the United States of America stretches from the heavily industrialized, metropolitan, Atlantic seaboard across the rich, flat farms of the central plains, over the Rocky Mountains to the state of Hawaii. The American scene awes the viewer with both its variety and size. The continental United States measures 4,500 kilometers from its Atlantic to Pacific covers an area of 9 million square kilometers and has a population of 220 million people.

The sparsely settled, far-northern state of Alaska is the largest of America's 50 states. It is more than two and half times the size of Sichuan Province. Texas is half the size of Alaska.

A land of heavy forests and barren deserts, of high-peaked mountains and deep canyons, America also enjoys bountiful rivers and lakes. The broad Mississippi River system, famed in song and legend, meanders 6,400 kilometers from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the world's largest inland water transportation route and the largest body of fresh water.

America's early settlers were attracted by the fertile land and varied climates America offered for farming. Today, with 121 million hectares under cultivation American farmers plant spring wheat on the cold western plain, raise corn and fine beef cattle in the central plains, and rice in the damp heat of Louisiana. Florida and California are famous for their citrus fruits and tropical avocados, the cool rainy northeastern states for apples, pears, berries and vegetables.

Underground, a wealth of minerals provides a solid base for American industry. History has glamorized the gold rushes to California and Alaska, and the silver finds in Nevada, yet America's yearly production of gold (\$140 million) and silver (\$150 million) is now valued far less than the oil (\$25,000 million), copper, iron, coal and other minerals it mines. Texas, a big oil producer in the southwest, alone accounts for one-fifth, the value of all U.S. mineral production.

America has long been known a "melting pot". for it is a nation of immigrants from all over the world. It is believed that the first immigrants to arrive were the American Indians, who came from Siberia more than 10,000 years ago. Today, about half of their numbers have "melted" into the American population of 220 million, while the rest of the 850,000 still live on land set aside for them in 31 states.

Europe, the major source of immigration, began sending colonists to America in the early 17th

century .Tens of millions flooded to America's shores from Europe between 1800 and the First World War .The next largest group of Americans traces their ancestry to Africa. Black people now constitute over 11 percent of the population .The melting pot has also absorbed nearly 600,000 Japanese, half a million Chinese and 340,000 Filipinos. Many live in Hawaii, more than two-thirds of whose people boast an Asian or Polynesian heritage.

Once a nation of farmers, the United States has become increasingly urban since the turn of the century. Today three out of four Americans live in towns, cities, or suburbs.

Americans are always on the move. Each year, one in every five Americans leaves home and job to find a new one elsewhere The population is shifting ever westward. California recently passed New York as the most population state, although New York City (population 8 million) and Chicago (3 million) are still large than California largest city, Los Angeles.

The nation's capital, Washington, is ninth in size, with a population of over 700,000.Laid out by the French architect. Pierre L'Enfant in the late 18th century, it was the world's first city specifically planned as a center of government .Here ,the elected representatives of the American people make the decisions that reflect the course Americans want their nation to take.

Words and expressions:

metropolitan:	n. 城市居民
bountiful:	adj. 丰富多样
fertile:	adj. 肥沃
cultivation:	n. 耕种
representative:	n. 代表
immigrant:	n. 移民

Activity:

After reading the passage, try to summarize the geography of the U.S.A.

Passage 4

The Voyage

There were already a few small, scattered settlements on the east coast of North America. One of these was in Virginia, and it was decided by the Puritans at Leyden that the best thing to do would be to join them.

It was a very small group which at the end of July, in the year 1620, embarked in a little ship of sixty tons at a Dutch port. In this ship they sailed to Southampton .At Southampton the Speedwell, which had brought them safely from Holland, joined the famous ship Mayflower. Here also they found a party of about ninety emigrants bound like themselves for America.

The Speedwell had safely crossed the North Sea, but no sooner did she reach rougher waters than her captain complained that she was leaking badly. He said that it would be very dangerous to attempt to reach America in this ship. The two ships put back first into Dartmouth and then into

Plymouth.

Here they were told that it was impossible to get the Speedwell well immediately. So they decided that the Mayflower should sail alone. She set sail from Plymouth at the beginning of September, 1620.

She was very small, even for those days. We must picture a little sailing ship of 180 tons, with two masts carrying square sails. She was less than 100 feet long, and there was no cabin accommodation for the hundred or so pilgrims on board. They slept and ate wherever they could find room during the nine weeks. At one point the captain wanted to turn back, but in spite of sea-sickness and accidents, the brave Pilgrim Fathers insisted on continuing the voyage.

On December 21st they landed on the historic Plymouth Rock. This is one of the most famous landing places in the history of the United States of America. The Rock is still preserved and treasured because on it a party of poor outcasts from the Old World took their first steps in the New World.

Words and expressions:

voyage:	n. 航海
Virginia:	n. 弗吉尼亚
embark:	v. 上船
Southampton:	n. 南安普敦 (英国港口)
Speedwell:	婆婆纳号船
Mayflower:	五月花号船
emigrant:	n. 移民
bound for:	(船等) 开往……的
rough waters:	汹涌的海面
Dartmouth:	n. 达特茅斯 (地名)
Plymouth:	n. 普利茅斯
set sail:	启航
mast:	n. 桅杆
cabin:	n. 船
accommodation:	n. 膳宿供应
insist on:	坚持
Plymouth Rock:	普利茅斯岩石
preserve:	v. 保留; 保管
treasure:	v. 珍藏; 珍惜
outcast:	n. 被遗弃者; 被逐出者

Activity:

Can you give a small description of this ship? Do you like sailing? Do you know some of the famous adventurers? Who are they?

Passage 5

Settlement

It was mid-winter, and winter in North America was no milder then than it is now. The settlers could not remain in the Mayflower indefinitely, and the first thing to be done was to build shelter on shore for themselves and their goods. On Christmas Day, 1620, they began the building of a storehouse.

House for men, women and children were the next most urgent need. In the bitter, wintry weather these had to be built quickly as they cleared the snow from one patch after another. The best they could do was to roughly fasten a few upright logs and cover some branches with turf to make roofs. They piled some unshaped stoned together to contain a fire. It was very cheerless and uncomfortable. But the Pilgrim Fathers were prepared to face discomfort and danger in order to be free to live their own lives in their own way.

It was a terrible winter. By the end of March the last of the Pilgrims had come ashore, and by that time some sort of shelter had been built for those who had survived.

These were far fewer in number than those who had left England so hopefully in September. Disease due to lack of good food, and the conditions in which they were forced to live and work, had reduced their numbers to only fifty persons.

The Pilgrims chose William Bradford to be the Governor and to watch over the affairs of the little colony. He was a devoted leader. In caring for the fortunes of the settlement he proved to be a wise one as well. His name is remembered and honored.

For weeks, as they worked to build their poor huts, the Pilgrims had seen groups of natives, the American Indians, in the distance, but when they tried to speak with them, they always ran away into the woods. Then, about the middle of March, an Indian came into the settlement. His name was Samoset.

From Samoset and other natives they learnt all about planting and harvesting the crop which was called Indian corn. This saved them from starvation. They were also shown how to obtain the sweet sap from the maple trees, and how to trap the animals which were plentiful in the forest. The coming of Samoset to the little settlement was one of the most fortunate things which ever happened to it. Without his help and that of other Indians, it is doubtful whether it would have survived. The Pilgrims gave thanks to God who, they believed, had sent this help in their time of great need.

Words and expressions:

indefinitely:	adv. 无限期地
shelter:	n. 隐蔽处
storehouse:	n. 储藏室
patch:	n. 块, 小块
upright:	adj. 垂直的, 竖式的

log:	n. 航行日志
turf:	n. 草根土, 草皮
come ashore:	登上岸
due to:	由于, 因为
colony:	n. 殖民地
fortune:	n. 财产
native:	n. 土著人
starvation:	n. 饥饿
sap:	n. 树液
trap:	v. 诱捕; 陷阱
doubtful:	adj. 怀疑的

Activity:

When the first settlers came to America, the Indians helped them greatly. However, there are a lot of western films which describe the conflicts of the Indians and later settlers. Do you know some of the reasons for these conflicts?

Passage 6

Chicago

"I have struck a city, and they call it Chicago. Having seen it I urgently desire never to see it again." That was the reaction of English writer Rudyard Kipling, when he visited Chicago at the turn of the century.

Before World War II Chicago, standing at the southern end of vast Lake Michigan, had the reputation of being one of the toughest, most lawless and corrupt cities in the world. It earned its evil reputation largely from the gang warfare promoted by the most notorious gangster of all time, Al Capone. Al Capone flourished by selling illegal liquor during the days of prohibition (1919-1933), when a federal law forbade Americans to make or sell alcohol in any form.

Chicagoans have a great pride in their city. They boast that it is of greater importance to the nation than New York. It is the center of American commerce and transportation. O'Hare Airport is the busiest airport in the world. 44 million passengers pass through it every year, and there are 2000 take-offs and landings every day. Chicago is still the center of the American railroad system.

Chicago is also a great inland port, unique in the world. It can send goods by ocean-going ships all the way to Europe via the Great Lakes and the Saint Lawrence Seaway. It can send goods by barge, through waterways and canals, to the Mississippi and down it to the Gulf of Mexico.

Chicago makes steel and refines oil, but it also stands on the edge of the Great Plains. So the cereals and the beef from the prairies pass through the city. From the 1830s to the 1960s Chicago was one of the great meatpacking centers of the USA. The smell of its stockyards and slaughterhouses once pervaded the whole city.

Chicago disproves the melting-pot theory of American society. Among its population of 3.1 million there over 1 million blacks, as well as Hispanics, Germans, Irish, Poles, Jews, Russians, Swedes, American, Indians, Chinese and Japanese, more or less in that order. There are some mixed neighborhoods, but for the most part the different ethnic groups still live apart, and still celebrate in the streets of the city their own special festivities.

Yet the city has a powerful personality of its own which is very American. Since Chicago built the first skyscraper, it is appropriate that the city should now have the two tallest skyscrapers in the world. Much of its downtown architecture is magnificent, and very original. But Chicago's chief glory is its 29-mile Lake Front. It is laid out with beautiful parks. It is the neighborhood of the museums and of the luxurious homes of Chicago's rich.

A few years ago Lake Michigan was so polluted that no one would swim in it, and the water was discolored. Most of the fish had died. Now both the lake and the sky are clear. Pollution has been conquered, though the people of Chicago are still not completely satisfied. The rise and fall of Chicago's pollution is a good example of the speed with which Americans create problems----and then solve them.

Words and Expressions:

urgently:	adv. 迫切地, 急切地
reputation:	n. 名誉, 名声
corrupt:	adj. 腐败的, 贪污的
promote:	vt. 促进, 发扬
notorious:	adj. 声名狼籍的
flourished:	adj. 繁茂的, 繁荣的
boast:	v. 自夸, 以有...而自豪
commerce:	n. 商业
unique:	adj. 惟一的, 独特的
barge:	n. 驳船, 游艇
pervade:	v. 遍及
skyscraper:	n. 摩天楼
glory:	n. 荣誉, 光荣
appropriate:	adj. 适当的

Activity:

Before the Second World War, why did Chicago have an evil reputation?

Unit 2 Famous Person

Passage 1

Ingrid Bergman

This has been the first autumn without Ingrid, but who she was is part of how I experience the

air—the colors of the leaves—the people preparing for the winter ahead. Who she was is part of what I understand about life—about being a woman—a mother—an actress—about the sorrows and the joys and the choices. Who she was is part of what I know about strength and courage, and thus, for me, she is still alive.

We spent a wonderful and creative fall in Sweden and Norway five years ago shooting *Autumn Sonata*, a film about a famous pianist and her daughter. And I used to sit and watch her—feeling such pride over who she was. These are some of my memories. I remember Ingrid on her knees washing—no, scrubbing—the floor of her dressing room. “I love to make it shine around me,” she would laugh. I remember her leaving a private screening early that we all had looked forward to—and didn’t like. “Good night,” Ingrid whispered in my ear, “I don’t have time to waste.”

And I remember acting with her. As her daughter in the picture, I had to scream at her, to accuse her of being a bad mother. The script called for Ingrid to end the scene by stretching out her arms to me, crying softly: “Please hold me. Please love me.” When I had finished my long, hateful monologue, Ingrid looked at me, her film daughter, and then to the director, Ingmar Bergman, and she exclaimed: “I can’t ask her to hold me and to love me the way she just behaved! I want to slap her in the face and leave the room.”

Another memory is from the production of *Autumn Sonata*. Ingrid was playing the role of a pianist. Ingmar Bergman brought one of his previous wives into the studio, because that is the way he is. This wife is a concert pianist. I was sitting in the corner and only observing—because that is the way I am.

The concert pianist was an incredibly beautiful woman, relaxed and natural at an enormous grand piano. She was to instruct Ingrid in the art of playing Chopin. The actress was seated on a small stool next to a small artificial piano—the keys as false as the instrument itself. Ingmar and the previous wife argued about the actual scene: she felt that no pianist could play and talk at the same time. “Of course it’s possible,” said Ingmar, “because this is a film. In film you are free to do whatever you want.”

Both women were quiet. Then, ever so slightly, Ingrid moved her chair toward the toy piano. She mumbled to herself: “Of course, no pianist would talk while she is playing.” Obediently, like a little schoolgirl, Ingrid then turned her head toward the real pianist—to watch her movements. Ingrid’s fingers are on the wooden keys; her strong wide hands are full of determination and conviction that she would soon reach the desired goal of perfection. And both the women knew that the final frame had been predestined by the all—powerful Ingmar, the director.

I once invited her to the actresses’ club I belong to—seven hardworking Norwegian women who get together whenever all of us happen to be in the same town. Ingrid was the first outside guest we ever had. That evening we shared our dreams and our disappointments and our needs. In the end, Ingrid stood up and she was crying while she smiled. “Do you know that I always wanted to have girlfriends? But my travels took me to so many places, to so many people, and since I was always on my way, there was never really time for woman talk, just simple woman talk.”

An actress’s life is in many ways unlike that of other women. An actress is the product around