

总 主 编 覃朝宪 尹明祥
本册主编 尹明祥 闫小昆



Learner Autonomy Series

大学英语 4

自主阅读



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大学英语自主阅读

Learner Autonomy Series

第四册 Book Four

总 主 编：覃朝宪 尹明祥
本册主编：尹明祥 闫小昆
副 主 编：成 军 罗家琼 施云峰
编 者：（以姓氏笔画为序）
王 晓 尹明祥 成 军
闫小昆 严 怡 杨 畅
李长庆 林海明 罗家琼
施云峰 解宇红

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编写前言

随着我国现代化建设和改革开放的纵深发展,对既懂专业又熟练掌握外语的优秀人才的需求日益迫切,这无疑给大学英语教学提出了更新、更高的要求。因此,提高大学英语学习者的综合素质,转变和更新大学英语学习者的学习理念,满足国家建设对人才的需求,成为了《大学英语自主阅读》的主攻方向和探索目标。

编写原则:根据《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)的精神和要求,结合当前大学英语教学改革的发展趋势,力图以建构主义为理论基石,构筑“以动机为先导,以兴趣为动力,以学生为中心,以任务为基础,以自学为途径”的全新教学理念,编写了本套以自主学习为中心的新型教材。

编写思路:本着打造精品教材的宗旨,针对学习者的特点和大学英语教学现状,我们首先确定了编写的根本原则,由一批深谙大学英语教学理念且富有经验的专家和一线老师牵头设计了全书框架,精心编写出了两个样课单元并在学生中试用,然后以问卷调查及座谈的形式就教材体例、板块结构、文章题材等方面广泛征集了反馈信息,并以此为依据对教材进行反复修改,力求达到材料的最优组合和体系的最佳平衡,同时力求保持教材的科学性、趣味性和可操作性。

教材特色:在素材选取方面,本套教材注重精泛并举,涵盖了人文、地理、文学、法律、经贸、名人演讲、高科技等领域;在学习方式方面,本套教材突出了“自主性”,强调从学习者的学习兴趣、生活经验和认知水平出发,倡导自主、体验和实践的学习方式;在操作方式上,本套教材突出了“在读中练,在练中学,在学中用,在用中学”的特色,贴近学习者、贴近现实生活,从而更易于操作和自主学习。

本套教材从内容到形式都有不少新的尝试,但是不足之处在所难免,我们会虚心听取各位同行和学习者的宝贵意见,不断加以完善。

编者

2005年8月

使用说明

本套教材共4册。每册共12个单元,并配有两套水平自测题,每个单元紧扣一个特色主题(theme)展开,融知识性与愉悦性于一体。

第一、二册由以下四个部分构成:

Part One Comprehensive Reading (综合阅读)

1) Pre-reading Activities ——主体课文热身活动,由 Lead-in Questions 和 Word Warming-up 两部分组成,藉此扫清阅读中的部分单词障碍,增强学习者的阅读信心,同时训练其根据语境猜词的能力,提升阅读前的预期感。

2) Text ——单元主体课文,由精选时文及美文佳作组成。文中生词均附在当页下方,以便学习者查阅;重要词组和难句难点均进行归纳和详注,有助于学习者明确语言要点、释疑解惑。

3) Post-reading Exercises: 本部分旨在让学习者全方位掌握文章意旨并通过不同类型的练习内化语言知识。参考译文及练习答案附于每册书后,便于学习者自测自评。

Part Two Reading Skill and Word Building (阅读技巧与词形构造)

此部分对专项阅读技巧和词形构成进行精讲精练,以全面提高学习者的阅读能力、扩大学习者的词汇量,并减少学生在阅读过程中对词典的依赖。

Part Three Fast Reading (快速阅读)

本部分旨在使学习者透过海量资讯,快速获取所需信息,从而提高阅读速度。

Part Four Reading for Pleasure (趣味阅读)

秉持“外语学习是一种愉快的体验”的理念,我们设计了 Reading for Pleasure 这一辅助板块,精选幽默故事、名人名言,采撷美文编汇诵读菁华,希望学习者既能领会到英语学习的愉悦,又能浸润感受英语语言的魅力,以缓解学习压力。

第三、四册大致沿承了第一、二册的体系,保留了 Part One 和 Part Four 两个板块,并各自新增了一个特色板块。第三册中的 Part Two 设置为 Translation Technique (翻译技巧),对翻译的基本理论及技巧进行了讲与练,旨在提高学生的翻译能力。第四册中的 Part Two 则设置为 Figures of Speech (修辞),旨在培养学习者的修辞素养,提高鉴赏评析文章的能力。第三册中的 Part Three 设置为 Reading for Test (阅读测试),提供了两篇长度和难度与四级考试接近的阅读理解文章,第四册中的 Part Three 除了保持两篇与四、六级考试接近的文章外,还增加了一篇与考研新题型接近的结构阅读文章,旨在培养和提高学生的阅读理解能力与应试能力。

本套教材拟定两个学年完成,建议一学期完成一册的学习任务,每个单元的学习时间以一周半为宜,而对于水平自测题,建议学习者能尽量在规定的两个小时之内完成。学习者也可根据个人情况参照我们的建议妥善调整。

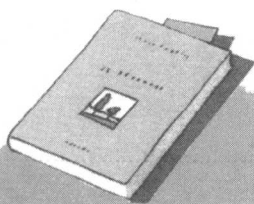
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Part One



UNIT ONE

The Survival of the Fittest

Charles Darwin said, "I have called this principle, by which each slight variation, if useful, is preserved, by the term Natural Selection." His theory of evolutionary selection holds that variation within species occurs randomly and that the survival or extinction of each organism is determined by that organism's ability to adapt to its environment. He set forth these theories in his book *The Origin of Species*. Is his theory applicable to human society? Undoubtedly, his work and his theory have a tremendous impact on the world after his death.

concerned?

Word Warning-up

Directions: All the italicized words or phrases in the sentences below are taken from the following text. Use the context provided to determine their meanings.

- () 1. The developmental history of the society tells us that man has evolved from the ape.
 - A. involved
 - B. developed
 - C. solved
 - D. resolved
- () 2. The government decided to exploit the water power and solar energy.
 - A. produce
 - B. explode
 - C. expose
 - D. use
- () 3. It is known to all that war often drains a country's economy.
 - A. depletes
 - B. practices
 - C. develops
 - D. prospers
- () 4. He put forward a new theory by the synthesis of several earlier theories.
 - A. sympathy
 - B. combination
 - C. syndrome
 - D. understanding
- () 5. Her refusal to conform to the normal social conventions made her unpopular.
 - A. keep to
 - B. turn to
 - C. confront with
 - D. contribute to
- () 6. Racial prejudice may generate hatred.
 - A. comfort
 - B. relieve
 - C. cause
 - D. strike
- () 7. The professor was besieged with questions from his students.
 - A. satisfied
 - B. angered
 - C. overwhelmed
 - D. disappointed
- () 8. He was grave when he told them about the bankruptcy of his business.
 - A. jealous
 - B. brave
 - C. cautious
 - D. serious



Part One

Comprehensive Reading



Pre-reading Activities



I Lead-in Questions

1. Who is Darwin? What is he famous for?
2. Have you ever heard the term "the law of the jungle"? What does it mean?
3. What does "the survival of the fittest" mean? Is it still the case as far as human's society is concerned?



II Word Warming-up

Directions: All the italicized words or phrases in the sentences below are taken from the following text. Use the context provided to determine their meanings.

- () 1. The developmental history of the society tells us that man has *evolved* from the ape.
A. involved B. developed C. solved D. resolved
- () 2. The government decided to *exploit* the water power and solar energy.
A. produce B. explode C. expose D. use
- () 3. It is known to all that war often *drains* a country's economy.
A. depletes B. practices C. develops D. prospers
- () 4. He put forward a new theory by the *synthesis* of several earlier theories.
A. sympathy B. combination C. syndrome D. understanding
- () 5. Her refusal to *conform to* the normal social conventions made her unpopular.
A. keep to B. turn to C. confront with D. contribute to
- () 6. Racial prejudice may *generate* hatred.
A. comfort B. relieve C. cause D. erase
- () 7. The professor was *besieged* with questions from his students.
A. satisfied B. angered C. overwhelmed D. disappointed
- () 8. He was *grave* when he told them about the bankruptcy of his business.
A. jealous B. brave C. gracious D. serious



Text

Applying Fittest Survival to Human Society

- 1 Darwin is basically right, though only to some extent, that species and individuals compete, fight, and kill, and that survival belongs to the fittest. This is one of the most important **mechanisms**^[1] by which life **evolves**^[2] and maintains its quality. As the human society builds upon and is an extension of the **ecosystem**^[3], does it mean that for the human society to work well, man must apply this mechanism to her/his society also, say, let those who are not skillful enough to land a job starve to death?
- 2 We may be enlightened with respect to this question through the examination of **evolution**^[4] in an ecosystem in comparison with the human history. Taking the **maritime**^[5] swamp land as an example, the **mangrove**^[6] species *kandelia candel* competes successfully over other mangrove species and dominates the area chiefly through the evolution of droppers that other species do not have. The seeds of *kandelia candel* grow into seedlings inside the droppers before leaving their mother plant body and when the droppers still hang on the branches of their mother plant. The dropper's shape is like a pen, with a sharp and heavier lower end. So when it ripens, it drops and inserts itself together with the seedling into the mud below. As a result, the seedling can get hold of the ground, start to tap the much fresher water under the mud surface. This **adaptive**^[7] evolution of droppers enables *kandelia candel* to have a much greater successful rate. Seeds of other mangrove species just find it difficult to locate a suitable site for them to grow.
- 3 When it is the industrial society that dominates a place, it always **exploits**^[8] resources from the land, **drains**^[9] out **nutrients**^[10] from the soil and plays environmental **havoc**^[11] to the place as a result of stupid human intelligence and selfish human **manipulation**^[12]. But when the mangrove dominates a **mudflat**^[13], millions of nature-evolved complex mechanisms come together with it. It taps water, minerals from the mud and then let them combine with carbon dioxide in the air to form the building materials of its plant body first through the process of **photosynthesis**^[14] and then through the **synthesis**^[15] of various organic matters. The effect ends up providing much better

- [1] mechanism /'mekənɪzəm/ *n.* working parts of a machine, an organism or system, etc. 机械装置; 机构; 机制
- [2] evolve /'ɪvəlv/ *vt.* develop or achieve gradually 逐渐发展或完成; (生物学) 进化
- [3] ecosystem /'ɪkəʊsɪstəm/ *n.* an ecological community together with its environment, functioning as a unit 生态系统
- [4] evolution /ɪˈvəʃlʊːʃən/ *n.* gradual development 逐渐的发展; (生物学) 进化
- [5] maritime /'mærɪtaɪm/ *n.* of or relating to the sea, marine shipping or navigation (有关) 海的; 海船的; 航运的
- [6] mangrove /'mæŋɡrəʊv/ *n.* (植物) 红树林
- [7] adaptive /ə'dæptɪv/ *adj.* tending to, or having a capacity for adaptation 倾向于; 有适应能力的 adaptive evolution 适应进化
- [8] exploit /ɪks'plɒɪt/ *vt.* use, to work or develop fully 开发; 开采
- [9] drain /dreɪn/ *vt.* to deplete gradually, especially to the point of complete exhaustion 耗尽; 逐渐耗尽, 尤指消耗直至完全枯竭
- [10] nutrient /'njuːtrɪənt/ *n.* a source of nourishment, especially a nourishing ingredient in a food 营养品; 滋养 *adj.* providing nourishment 有营养的
- [11] havoc /'hævək/ *n.* widespread destruction; devastation 大范围的破坏; 浩劫
- [12] manipulation /mə'nɪpjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n.* the act or practice of operation 操作行为或实践
- [13] mudflat /'mʌdflæt/ *n.* muddy land covered by the sea at high tide 泥滩
- [14] photosynthesis /fəʊtəʊ'sɪnθəsɪs/ *n.* 光合作用
- [15] synthesis /'sɪnθəsɪs/ *n.* combining of separate parts, elements to form a complex whole 综合; 合成

and more diverse living environment for more land, water and air species to dwell in, even for other competing mangrove species.

- 4 When different races of man compete to dominate the earth, the end result is completely opposite in sense. One of the means they evolve are more and more powerful weapons, some of human races also evolve droppers, but those droppers are droppers of nuclear bombs, which are all life destructive when used.
- 5 Animals never burn up a forest, or practice fighting skill twelve hours a day in order to defeat their competitors; they just let Nature cut out the weaker or less fortunate portion of the species, or their species simply cannot survive in the first place.
- 6 On the contrary, men can work round the clock, and exhaust all the natural resources just to defeat their enemies, whether military or commercial, as we can all see in our modern societies. Such practice **generates**^[16] quite grave problems. First, it pushes human activities into a very narrow goal of defeating their enemies militarily as well as economically. Second, all the available time, energy and resources of an individual as well as the society are exhausted by the competition, very little is left to other activities, so nearly all men suffer very much in the process and countless new problems **besiege**^[17] modern societies. Third, as all participants input as much time, energy and resources as can be exploited by them, most of these inputs are wasted. Such effort creates a lot of waste and exhausts all resources as a result.
- 7 We should also view how man should **conform**^[18] to Nature in such a way that man has to compete for survival. In fact, this is Nature's way of telling man how to act. If only man could listen to the internal guidance, both man and the ecosystem could live much happier. So, making the human society Darwinistic is not conforming to Nature, but living in peace both militarily and economically with other man is.

(711 words. Suggested time for reading: 7 min. 30 sec.)



Phrases to Learn

1. **apply ... to:** put to or adapt for a special use 把……应用于
2. **with respect to:** with regard to, about, concerning 关于;至于
3. **in comparison with:** compared with 与……比较
4. **get hold of:** take hold of, have and keep in one's grasp 抓住;得到
5. **end up:** reach or come to a certain place, state or action, especially by a lengthy route or process 终归;到头来还是
6. **dwell in:** live in, exist in a given place or state 居住;在一定地点或状态下存在

[16] generate /'dʒenəreɪt/ vt. to produce, cause to exist or occur 产生;引起;导致

[17] besiege /bɪ'siːdʒ/ vt. to surround, crowd around; overwhelm 包围;困扰

[18] conform /kən'fɔ:m/ vi. to act in accordance with current customs or modes 符合;顺应

7. **cut out**: remove; take the place of; supplant 去除;取代;排挤掉
8. **as a result**: consequently, therefore 结果;从而



Notes

1. Darwin (Para. 1): Charles Robert Darwin was born on February 12, 1809 in Shrewsbury, England. He was the British naturalist who became famous for his theories of evolution and natural selection. Like several scientists before him, Darwin believed all the lives on earth evolved (developed gradually) over millions of years from a few common ancestors. Darwin's theory of evolutionary selection holds that variation within species occurs randomly and that the survival or extinction of each organism is determined by that organism's ability to adapt to its environment. He set these theories forth in his book *The Origin of Species*.
2. As the human society ... starve to death? (Para. 1): As human society is based on and is an extension of the ecosystem and has to keep developing, does it mean that man can blindly apply the mechanism of it to his/her society, for instance, to make the less skilled jobless and starve to death?
3. the maritime swamp land (Para. 2): 海边沼泽 kandelia candel (Para. 2): 秋茄树 droppers (Para. 2): 棒状体
4. Seeds of other mangrove ... to grow. (Para. 2): It is difficult for seeds of other mangrove species to find a suitable place and grow from there.
5. organic matters (Para. 3): matters of, relating to, or derived from living organisms 有机物
6. One of the means they evolve ... when used. (Para. 4): In competition man also work out droppers totally different from that of kandelia candel. Kandelia candels evolve droppers just to seek greater rate to live, while men make droppers of nuclear weapons to destroy all the lives.
7. They just let Nature ... in the first place. (Para. 5): They (animals) just let Nature clear up the weaker or the less fortunate part of their species; otherwise they will be first of all faced with the problem of survival.
8. Darwinistic (Para. 7): of Darwinism, or of the theory "survival of the fittest" 符合达尔文主义的



Post-reading Exercises



I Questions

Directions: Answer the following questions according to the information you get from the text.

1. Does the author totally agree with Darwin? Why?

2. What is compared with human society in this passage?
3. In what way does an industrial society do harm to the environment?
4. Do any animals or plants do damage to the nature?
5. What do you suggest human being to do in order to conform to the nature and environment?



True or False Questions

Directions: Decide whether each of the following statements is true (T) or false (F) according to the text.

- () 1. Human society has little to do with the ecosystem.
- () 2. In order to make clear the question whether man must apply the mechanism of ecosystem to human society, an examination of evolution in the ecosystem in comparison with the human history is needed.
- () 3. Kandelia candel is one kind of the mangrove species.
- () 4. The droppers evolved by Nature and by human races are the same in shape and function.
- () 5. Both man and animals practice killing twelve hours a day to defeat their competitors.
- () 6. Men exhaust all the natural resources just to defeat their enemies commercially in our modern societies.
- () 7. Competition does generate some serious social and environmental problems today.
- () 8. To live in peace militarily and economically with each other, man can learn a lot from the nature.



Multiple Choice

Directions: Choose the best answer to each of the following statements.

- () 1. This "mechanism" in the last sentence of the first paragraph refers to _____.
 - A. the extension of the ecosystem
 - B. the survival of the fittest
 - C. the maintenance of life's quality
 - D. the evolution of life
- () 2. The evolution of the mangrove species is described to _____.
 - A. illustrate the similarities of human society to the natural world
 - B. provide a contrastive example to the development of human society
 - C. explain how Nature ruthlessly get rid of the weaker species
 - D. how plants evolve to maintain their quality of life
- () 3. The key difference between human and plant competition for survival is that _____.
 - A. the aim of the latter is not to get resources
 - B. the former is unnecessarily more complicated than the latter
 - C. the latter has evolved some more complex mechanisms
 - D. the latter makes the environment more habitable
- () 4. According to the passage, all of the following will result from human competition

EXCEPT _____.

- A. a waste of human and natural resources
 - B. economic dominance over the competitors
 - C. constant creation of social problems
 - D. formation of an even more complex society
- () 5. To learn lessons from Nature, the author advocates that human should _____.
- A. make the human society more Darwinistic
 - B. make peace with every other species in Nature
 - C. make the environment better for fellow beings
 - D. protect the environment they find themselves in



Words Used Alive

Directions: Choose the correct word form to fit into each of the following sentences. Use appropriate verb tenses, singular or plural forms for nouns and passive voice where necessary.

1. extend, extension, extensive, extent, extensively

- A. The students dislike the _____ of the term at will.
- B. Jennie came forward, _____ her hand and blushing.
- C. The river flooded _____ areas and caused damages in the countryside.
- D. He had read _____ and had assimilated his reading.
- E. If a material is stretched, the larger the force is, the longer the _____ will be.
- F. The tourist season _____ from May till October.
- G. The _____ of the forest was unknown to the settlers.

2. dominate, domination, dominant, dominance

- A. She has been under the _____ of her father since childhood.
- B. My elder brother had a very _____ nature; we all did what he wanted.
- C. Even as a child he showed an inclination to _____ over the other children.
- D. The governing party won the absolute _____ in the election.
- E. Money, and not morality nor virtue, seem to _____ this society.

3. diverse, diversity, diversify, divert, diversion

- A. The wild life in Africa is extremely _____.
- B. My sister and I have _____ ideas on how to raise children.
- C. _____ of opinions makes for an interesting discussion.
- D. He had fixed on his target for the next two months. Nobody and nothing would _____ him from this.
- E. The magician's talk creates a _____ of attention so that people do not see how he does his tricks.
- F. How can we _____ her thought from her deep thinking.
- G. A wise investor is careful to _____ his holdings.

4. compete, competition, competitive, competitor

- A. Because there is so much unemployment, the _____ for jobs is very fierce.
- B. The children _____ against each other to reach the other end of the pool.
- C. Sales representative is a highly _____ post.
- D. A _____ is one who competes with another, as in sports or business.