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《21世纪大学英语》配套教材

阅读 3

READING 3

本册主编 钱文伟 陈希文 须文瑜

上海大学出版社

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编 者 的 话

本系列教材是普通高等教育国家级重点教材《21 世纪大学英语》的配套系列教材,包括《阅读》、《口语》和《词汇》三种,每一种分一、二、三册,供大学非英语专业的基础英语课堂教学和练习使用。

《阅读》以提高学生的阅读能力为目的。第一册和第二册每册十单元。每一单元介绍一种阅读技能,并带针对性训练。各单元还配有三篇快速阅读,旨在通过反复训练以帮助学生掌握阅读技能,提高阅读速度。第三册以介绍文学名著为主,通过对各种不同文体和风格的文字进行讲解与分析,以增强学生对文学作品的欣赏能力。

《口语》用图片、图表等形式,围绕课文的主题,通过朗读、陈述、讲故事、小组讨论、辩论以及情景对话等活动,加深学生对课文的理解,帮助学生提高口语表达能力,以实现“大学英语课程要求”所规定的“培养学生的英语综合能力,特别是听说能力”的教学目标。

《词汇》教材主要以训练为主,结合每个单元所学到的词汇,通过课内课外各种形式的练习,使学生掌握前缀、后缀和词根等语言基本知识,丰富词汇量,夯实语言功底,从而使学生达到并超越“大学英语课程要求”所规定的词汇的一般要求。

《阅读》、《口语》和《词汇》是围绕《21 世纪大学英语》这一主干教材并针对课堂教学而设计的。题材广泛,内容丰富,语言规范,结构巧妙,训练多样,不仅能使教师从“一言堂”和以教师为中心的课堂教学中解放出来,而且能使学生的主观学习能动性发挥出来,变被动学习为主动学习。

本系列教材由上海大学外国语学院教师编写,美籍专家 John Nix 对《口语》一、二、三册和《阅读》一、二册部分内容作了修改和补充,Johnny Toal 审阅了《阅读》第三册,《口语》教材的部分插图由陈阡陌、孙剑、黄诗嘉、张睿、苏晔婷、王一鸣、顾姗姗、瞿晔等同学创作,对他们的辛勤工作,我们表示衷心的感谢。

编 者

2005 年 11 月

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nit One

Text A

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The Gift of the Magi

O. Henry

There is only one happiness in life, to love and to be loved. — George Sand, Letter

One dollar and eighty-seven cents. That was all. And sixty cents of it was in pennies.^[1] Pennies saved one and two at a time by bulldozing the grocer and the vegetable man and the butcher until one's cheeks burned with the silent imputation of parsimony that such close dealing implied.^[2] Three times Della counted it. One dollar and eighty-seven cents.^[3] And the next day would be Christmas.

There was clearly nothing left to do but flop down on the shabby little couch and howl. So Della did it, which instigates the moral reflection that life is made up of sobs, sniffles, and smiles, with sniffles predominating.

While the mistress of the home is gradually subsiding from the first stage to the second, take a look at the home. A furnished flat at \$8 per week. It did not exactly beggar description, but it certainly had that word on the lookout for the mendicancy squad.^[4]

In the vestibule below was a letterbox into which no letter would go, and an electric button from which no mortal finger could coax a ring.^[5] Also appertaining thereunto was a card bearing the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young".

The "Dillingham" had been flung to the breeze during a former period of prosperity when its possessor was being paid \$30 per week. Now, when the

income was shrunk to \$20, the letters of "Dillingham" looked blurred, as though they were thinking seriously of contracting to a modest and unassuming D. But whenever Mr. James Dillingham Young came home and reached his flat above he was called "Jim" and greatly hugged by Mrs. James Dillingham Young, already introduced to you as Della.

Della finished her cry and attended to her cheeks with the powder rag. She stood by the window and looked out dully at a grey cat walking a grey fence in a grey backyard.^[6] Tomorrow would be Christmas Day, and she had only \$1.87 with which to buy Jim a present. She had been saving every penny she could for months, with this result. Twenty dollars a week doesn't go far. Expenses had been greater than she had calculated. They always are. Only \$1.87 to buy a present for Jim. Her Jim. Many a happy hour she had spent planning for something nice for him. Something fine and rare and sterling — something just a little bit near to being worthy of the honour of being owned by Jim.

There was a pier-glass between the windows of the room. Perhaps you have seen a pier-glass in an \$8 flat. A very thin and very agile person may, by observing his reflection in a rapid sequence of longitudinal strips, obtain a fairly accurate conception of his looks. Della, being slender, had mastered the art.

Suddenly she whirled from the window and stood before the glass. Her eyes were shining brilliantly, but her face had lost its colour within twenty seconds.^[7] Rapidly she pulled down her hair and let it fall to its full length.

Now, there were two possessions of the James Dillingham Youngs in which they both took a mighty pride. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. Had the Queen of Sheba lived in the flat across the airshaft, Della would have let her hair hang out of the window some day to dry just to depreciate Her Majesty's jewels and gifts. Had King Solomon been the janitor, with all his treasures piled up in the basement, Jim would have pulled out his watch every time he passed, just to see him pluck at his beard from envy.^[8]

So now Della's beautiful hair fell about her, rippling and shining like a cascade of brown waters. It reached below her knee and made itself almost a garment for her. And then she did it up again nervously and quickly. Once she faltered for a minute and stood still while a tear or two splashed on the worn red carpet.

On went her old brown jacket; on went her old brown hat.^[9] With a whirl of skirts and with the brilliant sparkle still in her eyes, she cluttered out of the door and down the stairs to the street.

Where she stopped the sign read: "Mme Sofronic. Hair Goods of All Kinds." One eight up Della ran, and collected herself, panting. Madame, large, too white, chilly, hardly looked the "Sofronic".

"Will you buy my hair?" asked Della.

"I buy hair," said Madame. "Take your hat off and let's have a sight at the looks of it."

Down rippled the brown cascade.

"Twenty dollars," said Madame, lifting the mass with a practised hand.

"Give it to me quick," said Della.

Oh, and the next two hours tripped by on rosy wings. Forget the hashed metaphor. She was ransacking the stores for Jim's present.

She found it at last. It surely had been made for Jim and no one else. There was no other like it in any of the stores, and she had turned all of them inside out. It was a platinum fob chain simple and chaste in design, properly proclaiming its value by substance alone and not by meretricious ornamentation — as all good things should do. It was even worthy of the watch. As soon as she saw it she knew that it must be Jim's. It was like him. Quietness and value — the description applied to both. Twenty-one dollars they took from her for it, and she hurried home with the 87 cents. With that chain on his watch Jim might be properly anxious about the time in any company. Grand as the watch was, he sometimes looked at it on the sly on account of the old leather strap that he used in place of a chain.

When Della reached home her intoxication gave way a little to prudence and reason. She got out her curling irons and lighted the gas and went to work repairing the ravages made by generosity added to love. Which is always a tremendous task dear friends — a mammoth task. Within forty minutes her head was covered with tiny, close-lying curls that made her look wonderfully like a truant schoolboy. She looked at her reflection in the mirror long, carefully, and critically.

"If Jim doesn't kill me," she said to herself, "before he takes a second look at me, he'll say I look like a Coney Island chorus girl. But what could I do —

oh! what could I do with a dollar and eighty-seven cents?"

At 7 o'clock the coffee was made and the frying-pan was on the back of the stove hot and ready to cook the chops.

Jim was never late. Della doubled the fob chain in her hand and sat on the corner of the table near the door that he always entered.^[10] Then she heard his step on the stair away down on the first flight, and she turned white for just a moment. She had a habit of saying little silent prayers about the simplest everyday things, and now she whispered, "Please, God, make him think I am still pretty."

The door opened and Jim stepped in and closed it. He looked thin and very serious. Poor fellow, he was only twenty-two — and to be burdened with a family! He needed a new overcoat and he was without gloves.

Jim stepped inside the door, as immovable as a setter at the scent of quail. His eyes were fixed upon Della, and there was an expression in them that she could not read, and it terrified her. It was not anger, nor surprise, nor disapproval, nor horror, nor any of the sentiments that she had been prepared for. He simply stared at her fixedly with that peculiar expression on his face.

Della wriggled off the table and went for him.

"Jim, darling," she cried, "don't look at me that way. I had my hair cut off and sold it because I couldn't have lived through Christmas without giving you a present. It'll grow out again — you won't mind, will you? I just had to do it. My hair grows awfully fast. Say 'Merry Christmas'! Jim, and let's be happy. You don't know what a nice-what a beautiful, nice gift I've got for you."

"You've cut off your hair?" asked Jim, laboriously, as if he had not arrived at that patent fact yet, even after the hardest mental labour.

"Cut it off and sold it," said Della. "Don't you like me just as well, anyhow? I'm me without my hair, ain't I?"

Jim looked about the room curiously.

"You say your hair is gone?" he said, with an air almost of idiocy.

"You needn't look for it," said Della. "It's sold, I tell you — sold and gone, too. It's Christmas Eve, boy. Be good to me, for it went for you. Maybe the hairs of my head were numbered," she went on with a sudden serious sweetness, "but nobody could ever count my love for you. Shall I put the chops

on, Jim?”

Out of his trance Jim seemed quickly to wake. He enfolded his Della. For ten seconds let us regard with discreet scrutiny some inconsequential object in the other direction. Eight dollars a week or a million a year — what is the difference? A mathematician or a wit would give you the wrong answer. The magi brought valuable gifts, but that was not among them. This dark assertion will be illuminated later on.

Jim drew a package from his overcoat pocket and threw it upon the table.

“Don’t make any mistake, Della,” he said, “about me. I don’t think there’s anything in the way of a haircut or a shave or a shampoo that could make me like my girl any less. But if you’ll unwrap that package you may see why you had me going a while at first.”

White fingers and nimble tore at the string and paper. And then an ecstatic scream of joy; and then, alas! a quick feminine change to hysterical tears and wails, necessitating the immediate employment of all the comforting powers of the lord of the flat.

For there lay The Combs — the set of combs, side and back, that Della had worshipped for long in a Broadway window. Beautiful combs, pure tortoise-shell, with jewelled rims — just the shade to wear in the beautiful vanished hair. They were expensive combs, she knew, and her heart had simply craved and yearned over them without the least hope of possession. And now, they were hers, but the tresses that should have adorned the coveted adornments were gone.

But she hugged them to her bosom, and at length she was able to look up with dim eyes and a smile and say: “My hair grows so fast, Jim!”

And then Della leaped up like a little singed cat and cried, “Oh, oh!”

Jim had not yet seen his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly upon her open palm. The dull precious metal seemed to clash with a reflection of her bright and ardent spirit.

“Isn’t it a dandy, Jim? I hunted all over town to find it. You’ll have to look at the time a hundred times a day now. Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it.”

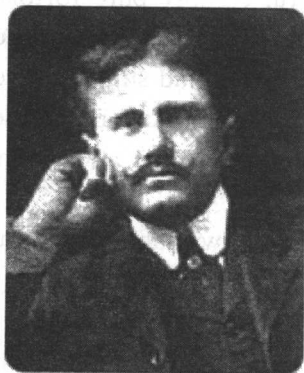
Instead of obeying, Jim tumbled down on the couch and put his hands under the back of his head and smiled.

"Della," said he, "let's put our Christmas presents away and keep 'em a while. They're too nice to use just at present. I sold the watch to get the money to buy your combs. And now suppose you put the chops on."

The magi, as you know, were wise men — wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger.^[11] They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

I. About the Author

O. Henry (1862 - 1910) was a prolific American short-story writer, a master of surprise endings, who wrote about the life of ordinary people in New York City. A twist of plot, which turns on an ironic or coincidental circumstance, is typical of O. Henry's stories.



William Sydney Porter (O. Henry) was born in Greenboro, North Carolina. When he was three, his mother died, and he was raised by his paternal grandmother and aunt. William was an avid reader, but at the age of fifteen he left school, and then worked in a drug store and on a Texas ranch. He moved to Houston, where he had

a number of jobs, including that of a bank clerk. After moving to Austin, Texas, in 1882, he married.

In 1884 he started a humorous weekly *The Rolling Stone*. When the weekly failed, he joined the *Houston Post* as a reporter and columnist. In 1897 he was convicted of embezzling money, although there has been much debate over his actual guilt. In 1898 he entered a penitentiary at Columbus, Ohio.

While in prison O. Henry started to write short stories to earn money to support his daughter Margaret. His first work, "Whistling Dick's Christmas Stocking" (1899), appeared in McClure's Magazine. After doing three years of the five years sentence, Porter emerged from the prison in 1901 and changed his name to O. Henry.

O. Henry moved to New York City in 1902 and from December 1903 to January 1906 he wrote a story a week for the New York World. Henry's first collection, Cabbages And Kings appeared in 1904. The second, The Four Million, was published two years later and included his well-known stories "The Gift of the Magi" and "The Furnished Room". The Trimmed Lamp (1907) included "The Last Leaf". Henry's best known work is perhaps the much anthologized "The Ransom of Red Chief", included in the collection Whirligigs (1910). The Heart of the West (1907) presented tales of the Texas range. O. Henry published 10 collections and over 600 short stories during his lifetime.

O. Henry's last years were shadowed by alcoholism, ill health, and financial problems. He married Sara Lindsay Coleman in 1907, but the marriage was not happy, and they separated a year later. O. Henry died of cirrhosis of the liver on June 5, 1910, in New York. Three more collections, Sixes and Sevens (1911), Rolling Stones (1912) and Waifs and Strays (1917), appeared posthumously.

II. Words and Expressions

bulldoze	v. to treat in an abusive manner; bully 威胁, 恫吓
parsimony	n. 过度节俭, 吝啬
instigate	v. to stir up; foment
subside	v. to sink to a lower or normal level
sterling	a. of the highest quality
ransack	v. to search or examine thoroughly
intoxication	n. 陶醉
prudence	n. the care and good sense that someone shows when making a decision or taking action 审慎
discreet	a. marked by, exercising, or showing prudence and

	wise self-restraint in speech and behavior; circumspect 谨慎的,做事谨慎理智的,周到的
duplication	<i>n.</i> 重复,复制
beggar description	非言语所能形容
on the lookout for	alert and careful about something 密切注视
attend to	deal with
collect oneself	make an effort to calm oneself or prepare oneself mentally 镇定下来
singed cat	<i>n.</i> 实质优于外表的人

III. Notes to the Text

1. Della had very little money, and this was further emphasized by the value of one third of the amount she possessed.
2. This illustrates the difficult life of the couple and the hard struggle and sacrifice for Della to save up such a small amount of money. (Note the effect of the derogatory word "bulldoze".)
3. She wished that she had got it wrong and frantically hoped that the amount could be larger.
4. Their living conditions were so poor as to be identified for mendicancy only.
5. Probably because they were unable to afford the bills, the electricity was cut off.
6. The three grey objects set off her dull, depressed mood.
7. Della got a sudden change in her mood at the thought of something revealed later.
8. These two comparisons emphasize the great value of their two possessions.

The Queen of Sheba:

"The Queen of the South will appear at the Judgment when this generation is on trial."

The Queen of Sheba was said to "test Solomon with hard questions" — she wanted to know whether he was really as wise as they said he was. So, the Bible is interested in her because of her mind. But posterity has

remembered her for the rich gifts she brought with her, spices, gold and precious stones, gifts that lend her a kind of oriental exoticism. She was said to be “breathless” before Solomon’s wisdom and admitted that his God must be the greatest. Though almost his equal in money and brains, she gave in and adored Solomon. A foreign queen from a distant land with strange gods, she converted to Solomon and his god.

Sheba might have been a match for Solomon and the Bible text almost has it so. But tradition has made him her conqueror and so inspired and validated many other victories of Europe over the orient, of man over women, of “Truth” over error. But Jesus promised that Sheba would have her day, that she would rise up in judgment.

King Solomon:

Solomon, the son of King David and Bathsheba, was the third king of Israel. Solomon was renowned for his wisdom, wealth and for his construction projects. Israel enjoyed an era of security, prosperity, and international political and economic importance under Solomon.

Solomon began his 40-year reign in 967 B.C. and his domain stretched from Tipshah on the Euphrates to Gaza on the border of Egypt. The Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted. Solomon asked for wisdom to lead the Israelites. God was so pleased with Solomon’s reply, He not only gave him wisdom, but riches and honor too.

It was in the fourth year of Solomon’s reign, that he began the construction of the Temple. Seven years later it was completed, and the Ark of the Covenant was moved from the Tabernacle in Zion, the City of David, to the Temple. He also built a large palace for himself, Fort Millo, the wall of Jerusalem, and the cities of Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.

He also built cities for grain storage, cities to keep his chariots, homes for his army, and resort cities. He built a fleet of ships to bring gold in from Ophir. People from many lands came to visit him and to listen to his God-given wisdom, including the Queen of Sheba.

Solomon was the author of 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. The Books of Ecclesiastes, The Song of Songs, and parts of the Book of Proverbs are ascribed to him.

9. The poor quality and the dull color provided another illustration for the couple's poverty.
10. Della was eager, as well as uneasy, for the return of Jim to give him the wonderful gift.
11. Magi: Plural of Latin magus; Greek magoi.

The "wise men from the East" who came to adore Jesus in Bethlehem (Matthew 2).

The term Magi was originally reserved for a tribe of the Medes who were priests for the Persian empire and the Zoroastrian Religion and was being used of any mysterious person who had access to knowledge not normally known to most people.

The advent of the Magi caused a great stir in Jerusalem; everybody, even King Herod, heard their quest. Herod and his priests should have been gladdened at the news; they were saddened. It is a striking fact that the priests showed the Magi the way, but would not go that way themselves. The Magi now followed the star some six miles southward to Bethlehem, "and entering into the house, they found the child". The Magi adored the Child as God, and offered Him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The giving of gifts was in keeping with Oriental custom. The purpose of the gold is clear; the Child was poor. The giving of this incense to Jesus has been interpreted as symbolizing his priestly office.

"The Babe in the manger" refers to Jesus Christ.

IV. Text-Related Practice

A. Questions for discussion:

1. What does the title of the story suggest?
2. What is the theme of the story?
3. What do you think of the ending of the story?

B. Word matching:

Match the words in Column A with those in Column B.

A

1) sobs

B

a. worn

- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 2) coax | b. enfold |
| 3) thin | c. mammoth |
| 4) tremendous | d. nimble |
| 5) still | e. yearn |
| 6) hug | f. sniffles |
| 7) agile | g. immovable |
| 8) crave | h. instigate |
| 9) shabby | i. slender |

C. Find out:

1. the words and expressions denoting the couple's poverty and love.
2. the similes and metaphors in the story.

D. Translate the following into Chinese:

The magi, as you know, were wise men — wonderfully wise men—who brought gifts to the Babe in the manger. They invented the art of giving Christmas presents. Being wise, their gifts were no doubt wise ones, possibly bearing the privilege of exchange in case of duplication. And here I have lamely related to you the uneventful chronicle of two foolish children in a flat who most unwisely sacrificed for each other the greatest treasures of their house. But in a last word to the wise of these days let it be said that of all who give gifts these two were the wisest. Of all who give and receive gifts, such as they are wisest. Everywhere they are wisest. They are the magi.

Text B

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Early Autumn

Langston Hughes

What is love? So many people wonder, yet few really know. Love is blind, but if you are fortunate to find true love, you should cherish it and never let it go because love is ever changing.

When Bill was very young, they had been in love. Many nights they had spent walking, talking together. Then something not very important had come