

大学 英语 阅 读 教 材

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# COLLEGE ENGLISH

## 大学英语主题阅读

● 主 编 / 黄开胜



· 华中科技大学出版社 ·

# 大学英语主题阅读

(第2册)

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## 内 容 提 要

本书是《大学英语主题阅读》系列的第2册，共分12个单元，每一单元针对同一主题分别安排了3篇课文——1篇基础课文，1篇快读课文，1篇泛读课文。基础课文和泛读课文后有注释及难句讲解，快读课文则在文中注释生词含义。泛读课文属于深入阅读课文，以同行侧排释义的形式，帮助学生理解课文。词汇表中标出4级、6级词汇标志，方便学生自主学习。

书中文章选材丰富，内容涉及亲情关爱、商务贸易、旅行、健康、语言学习、信息技术等方面，贴近生活，时代感强。

学生通过该书的使用，在提高阅读技能的同时，也掌握了一定的应试技巧，为能顺利通过大学英语四级考试打下一定基础。

## 前 言

《大学英语主题阅读》(1~4 册)是按照教育部最新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》中关于英语阅读理解能力的一般要求而编写的一套阅读教材。该教材以 4 个学期来安排 1~4 级的阅读课程,并根据我国高等教育多样化的特点,将学习者定位于绝大多数普通高等院校的学生。该教材可以作为独立的阅读教材使用,也可以配合大学英语主干教材使用,从而丰富语言表达方式,提高阅读能力。该教材的作者来自直接授课的大学英语教师,他们教学经验丰富,熟悉教学大纲,了解学生的现实基础和教学中的实际环境。根据教学实践活动的反映,帮助学生答疑解惑,提高英语阅读能力,进而完成大学英语阅读课程的任务。同时,为体现教学中的循序渐进原则和多样化形式的结合,各册的编排形式和体例基本统一,又根据学期和进度,各有特点。

该教材的选材特点是注重题材的新颖性与信息性,所选课文大多来自近期出版的英美书籍、报刊,贴近生活、时代感强。为配合教学需要,对选材的部分内容进行适当的简化和删改,选材内容丰富,涉及教育、体育、文化、通信、广告、科技等社会生活的方方面面。每一单元三个部分的阅读文章围绕同一个主题选材,这样有利于语言点的重复率;同时,这三篇文章又注意涉及该主题的不同侧面,照顾到了该主题的广度。

该教材的结构特点是每个单元的总标题给出了该单元的主题,每个单元三个部分题材相近,但体裁、目的和要求不尽相同。基础课文,要求学生反复阅读,深刻理解。浏览课文后有初读后的问答题提示与训练,可鼓励学生形成思考性的积极阅读习惯。初读目的在于了解文章大意,抓住主题,培养学生见“树”亦见“林”的能力。在了解词汇的基础上进行复读,复读目的在于了解细节信息,要求学生深入理解并掌握相关词汇和表达方式的使用。快读课文,主要目的在于培养学生快速阅读的能力。泛读课文,旨在扩大学生的知识面,培养阅读兴趣。三篇课文的长度根据不同学期的不同要求而不同,快速阅读为了计时方便,文章稍短,字数约为 300~400 字,泛读文章较长,600 字以上,而基础文章适中,大约为 500 字。具体如下。

第 1 册共 12 个单元。每个单元对同一主题安排 3 篇课文——基础课文、快读课文、泛读课文。基础课文要求学生通篇基本掌握。快读课文属于快速阅读的范畴,要求学生在限时限字的条件下了解大意。泛读课文属于拓展阅读之类,目的是扩大词汇量和知识面,训练阅读技巧。

第 2 册共 12 个单元。每个单元对同一话题安排 3 篇课文——基础课文、快读课文、泛读课文。基础课文通过初读和复读,来了解要点和信息,再完成课后习题。快读课文主要是训练阅读速度与方法。泛读课文有一定的阅读深度,目的是通过扩大词汇量和阅读量,输入更多的信息。

第 3 册共 9 个单元。每个单元安排了 1 篇基础课文、1 篇快读课文、1 篇泛读课文。基础课文注重通篇课文的理解,安排了句子分析的内容,并有适量的练习。泛读课文各有不

同重点。在难句分析中以举例和类比的形式加强训练,有利于学生在已有基础上理解词汇和结构的运用。

第4册共9个单元。每个单元安排了1篇基础课文、1篇快读课文、1篇泛读课文。基础课文有注释和难句讲解。泛读课文属于深入阅读课文,但程度不一,有一定层次要求。

由于3篇课文考查角度、层次各异,选材篇幅、体裁多样,练习方式、难度不同,可以激发学生的学习兴趣,也使学习过程富于变化,生动活泼。另外,编排形式注重以学生为主体,充分考虑学生的自主学习实际,词汇表标出4级、6级、6级后词汇标志(词汇右上角数字标注,未标注的即为6级后词汇),采用同行侧表注释等。总之,通过该系列教材的学习,满足大学英语1~4级阅读教学要求,使学生们顺利通过大学英语四级考试。

该教材经过各位主编、编者和策划编辑对框架结构的讨论而确定,在编写过程中得到有关院系领导、老师们以及出版社领导、英语编辑的支持,在此表示谢意;不足之处恳请广大读者和同仁指教。

编 者

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## Intensive Reading

### *Cyber Step-mother*<sup>①</sup>

I've often felt that "step-parent" is a label we attach to men and women who marry into families where children already exist, for the simple reason that we need to call them something.<sup>②</sup> It is most certainly an enormous "step", but one doesn't often feel as if the term 'parent' truly applies.<sup>③</sup> At least that's how I used to feel about being a step-mother to my husband's four children.

My husband and I had been together for six years, and with him I had watched as his young children became young teenagers. Although they live primarily with their mother, they spent a lot of time with us as well. Over the years, we all learned to adjust, to become more comfortable with each other, and adapt to our new family arrangement. We enjoyed vacations together, ate family meals, worked on homework, played baseball, rented videos. However, I continued to feel somewhat like an outsider, infringing upon foreign territory.<sup>④</sup> There was a definite boundary line that could not be crossed, an inner family circle which excluded me. Since I had no children of my own, my experience of parenting was limited to my husband's four, and often I lamented that I would never know the special bond that exists between a parent and a child.<sup>⑤</sup>

When the children moved to a town five hours away, my husband was understandably devastated. In order to maintain regular communication with the kids, we contacted Cyberspace<sup>®</sup> and promptly set up an e-mail and chat-line service. This technology, combined with the telephone, would enable us to reach them on a daily basis by sending frequent notes and messages, and even chatting together when we were all on-line.

Ironically, these modern tools of communication can also be tools of alienation,

making us feel so out of touch, so much more in need of real human contact. If a computer message came addressed to “Dad”, I’d feel forgotten and neglected. If my name appeared along with his, it would brighten my day and make me feel like I was part of their family unit after all. Yet always there was some distance to be crossed, not just over the telephone wires.

Late one evening, as my husband snoozed in front of the television and I was catching up on my e-mail, an “instant message”<sup>⑦</sup> appeared on the screen. It was Margo, my oldest step-daughter, also up late and sitting in front of her computer five hours away. As we had done in the past, we sent several messages back and forth, exchanging the latest news. When we would “chat” like that, she wouldn’t necessarily know if it was me or her dad on the other end of the keyboard — that is unless she asked. That night she didn’t ask and I didn’t identify myself either. After hearing the latest volleyball scores, the details about an upcoming dance at her school, and a history project that was in the works, I commented that it was late and I should get to sleep. Her return message read, “Okay, talk to you later! Love you!”

As I read this message, a wave of sadness ran through me and I realized that she must have thought she was writing to her father the whole time. She and I would never have openly exchanged such words of affection. Feeling guilty for not clarifying, yet not wanting to embarrass her, I simply responded, “Love you too! Have a good sleep!”

I thought again of their family circle, that self-contained, private space where I was an intruder. I felt again the sharp ache of emptiness and otherness.<sup>⑧</sup> Then, just as my fingers reached for the keys, just as I was about to return the screen to black, Margo’s final message appeared. It read, “Tell Dad good night for me too.” With tear-filled, blurry eyes, I turned the machine off.<sup>⑨</sup>

## 1

*First reading — Reading for gist***Exercise 1: True or false.**

1. The author used to think the word “parent” in “step-parent” is not an appropriate form of address.
2. The author’s step-children did not like her, so they treated her like an outsider.
3. The author’s step-children first lived with her and her husband, but later moved to live with their own mother in a town five hours away.
4. In the author’s opinion, modern technology does only good to human beings.
5. The author or her husband contacted her step-children over the phone or on-line every day when they lived far away from them.

6. The author did not care about her step-children's message on-line.
7. When they chatted on-line, they usually first asked who was on the other end of the keyboard.
8. When Margo returned the message "Okay, talk to you later! Love you!", she knew she was writing to her step-mother all the time.
9. Margo often sent such a kind of affectionate words to her step-mother.
10. We can infer from the end of the story that the author was overjoyed with her step-daughter's message of affection — "love you!" to her.

### Exercise 2: Answer the following questions.

1. What did the author use to feel about being a step-mother?
2. Do you think the author realized her step-children's affection in the end?

### Vocabulary

attach <sup>4</sup>	[ə'tætʃ]	vt.	to fasten, secure, or join 系, 贴或连接
enormous <sup>4</sup>	[i'no:məs]	adj.	very great in size, extent, number, or degree 巨大的, 庞大的
adapt <sup>4</sup>	[ə'dæpt]	vt.	to make suitable to or fit for a specific use or situation 使适合, 使适应
primarily <sup>4</sup>	['praɪməri]	adv.	chiefly; mainly 主要地, 根本上
adjust <sup>4</sup>	[ə'dʒʌst]	vt.	to adapt or conform, as to new conditions 使适应, 使适合
somewhat <sup>4</sup>	['sʌm(h)wɒt]	adv.	to some extent or degree 稍微, 有点, 有些
infringe	[in'frɪndʒ]	v.	to transgress or exceed the limits of; violate 破坏, 侵犯, 违反
territory <sup>4</sup>	['terɪtəri]	n.	an area of land; a region 领土, 版图, 地域
definite <sup>4</sup>	['defɪnɪt]	adj.	having distinct limits 明确的, 一定的
boundary <sup>4</sup>	['baʊndəri]	n.	something that indicates a border or limit 边界, 分界线
inner <sup>4</sup>	['ɪnə]	adj.	located or occurring farther inside 内部的, 里面的, 内心的
lament	[lə'ment]	vt.	to regret deeply; deplore 非常懊悔痛惜
devastate	['devəsteɪt]	vt.	to confound 挫败
ironically	[aɪə'rɒnɪkəli]	adv.	讽刺地
alienation <sup>6</sup>	[,eɪliə'neiʃən]	n.	the act of alienating or the condition of being alienated; estrangement 疏远
snooze	[snu:z]	vi.	to take a light nap; doze<口> (尤指在白天) 小睡, 打盹儿
identify <sup>4</sup>	[aɪ'dentɪfaɪ]	vt.	to ascertain the origin, nature, or definitive

			characteristics of 识别, 鉴别
affection <sup>4</sup>	[ə'fekʃən]	n.	feeling or emotion 情感或感情
clarify <sup>4</sup>	['klærɪfaɪ]	v.	to clear of confusion or uncertainty 澄清, 阐明
embarrass <sup>4</sup>	[im'bærəs]	vt.	to cause to feel self-conscious or ill at ease 使困窘, 使局促不安
intruder	[in'tru:də]	n.	the person who comes in rudely or inappropriately; enter as an improper or unwanted element 入侵者
otherness	['ʌðənɪs]	n.	the quality or condition of being other or different, especially if exotic or strange 相异, 不同, 另一物
blurry	['blɜ:ri]	adj.	indistinct; unclear 模糊的, 不清楚的

### Notes

- ① Cyber step-mother: 网络继母。
- ② marry into: 结婚后成为……的一员。该句中的“who marry into families”为定语从句修饰“men and women”; “where children already exist”为定语从句修饰“families”; 介词短语“for the simple reason”作原因状语; “that”引导一个同位语从句作“reason”的同位语。  
全句可译为: 我总觉得“继父继母”这个词是对那些和有孩子的人成婚的男男女女们所贴的标签。这样做的原因很简单: 我们总得管他们叫个什么。
- ③ 做继父或继母是人生中的一大“步”, 一般人很少认为“父母亲”这个字眼用在这儿真正合适。这里用了step的双关意。
- ④ infringe upon: 侵犯。句中的“infringing upon foreign territory”为现在分词短语作后置定语, 相当于一个定语从句“who infringed upon foreign territory”。  
该句意思是: 我还是多少觉得自己是个进入他人领地的外人。
- ⑤ 句中的“that exists between a parent and a child”为定语从句修饰“bond”。  
该句可译为: 我时常悲叹我可能永远无法领略到父母亲和孩子之间那种特有的纽带关系。
- ⑥ Cyberspace: 一家网络公司。
- ⑦ instant message: 即时信息。
- ⑧ 我又一次感受到了那种深切的痛楚: 寂寞寥落, 与他们格格不入。
- ⑨ “with tear-filled, blurry eyes”为独立主格结构作伴随状语。  
该句可译为: 泪眼朦胧中, 我关上了电脑。

## 2

### Second reading—Reading for information

**Exercise 3: Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.**

1. The author used to feel the term “parent” in “step-parent” is not appropriate because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. she thought it impossible for those who married into families with children existing to be

- treated truly as a parent by their step-children
- B. she could not treat her husband's four children like a parent
  - C. she thought "step-parent" was just a label to those who married into families with children existing
  - D. she thought "step-parent" was something used to call those who married into families with children existing
2. The author felt like an outsider of their family because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. she did not get along well with her step-children
  - B. she was an intruder who infringed upon foreign territory
  - C. she felt there was a boundary line between them
  - D. she was not a part of the their family unit
3. The meaning of the word "reach" in the sentence "...enable us to reach them on a daily Basis..." (Para. 3) is "\_\_\_\_\_".
- A. make a motion to touch
  - B. make contact with
  - C. arrive at
  - D. get as far as
4. The author often did on-line except \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Checked up her e-mail
  - B. sent message and notes to her step-children
  - C. chatted with her step-children
  - D. guessed who is on the other end of the keyboard
5. When the author read Margo' return message "Okay, talk to you later! Love you!", she was sad. It was because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. she felt cheated by her step-daughter's such words of affection
  - B. she regretted not clarifying her identify
  - C. she believed Margo mistook her as her husband and this message was written to him by Margo, she felt empty and other.
  - D. she was embarrassed by the words.

**Exercise 4: Fill in each of the blanks with an appropriate word.**

I have four step-children. Although they lived 1 with their own mother, they spent a lot of time with us. For more than six years, I had felt somewhat like an 2 of the inner family. There seems to be a 3 line for us to cross. Emptiness and otherness often 4 through me. They have just 5 to a town five hours away. My husband was at a complete loss for their leaving. Fortunately, we could 6 with them daily with the help of Cyberspace. We 7 frequent notes and messages and even 8 when we were on line. One evening, when my oldest step-daughter Margo sent me a message saying "Love you", I was extremely delighted to realize their long-hidden 9 to me. Tears 10 my blurry eyes.

## Fast Reading

### *Love Is Not Merchandise*

A reader apparently hurt by some personal experience, writes in to complain, "If I steal a nickel's (五分镍币) worth of merchandise(商品), I am a thief and punished; but if I steal the love of another's wife, I am free."

5 This is a common misconception in many people's minds—that love, like merchandise, can be "stolen." But love is not a commodity; the real thing cannot be bought, sold, traded or stolen. It is an act of the will, a turning of the emotions, a change in the climate of the personality.

10 When a husband or wife is "stolen" by another person, that husband or wife was already ripe for the stealing, was already inclined (倾向于) to a new partner. The "lovebandit" (爱匪) was only taking what was waiting to be taken, what wanted to be taken.

15 Most of us, when young, had the experience of a sweetheart being taken from us by somebody more attractive and more appealing. At the time, we may have resented (憎恨) this intruder—but as we grew older, we recognized that the sweetheart had never been ours to begin with, but the lack of a real relationship.

On the surface, many marriages seem to break up because of a "third party." This is, however, a psychological illusion(错觉). The other woman or the other man merely serves as a pretext (借口, 托词) for dissolving a marriage that had already lost its essential integrity (完整性).

20 Nothing is more futile (无用的) and more self-defeating (自我折磨的) than the bitterness of spurned (驱逐, 一脚踢开) love, the vengeful (复仇心重的) feeling that someone else has "come between" oneself and a beloved. This is always a distortion (扭曲, 变形) of reality, for people are not the captives (俘虏) or victims of others—they are free agents (代理商), working out their own destinies for good or for ill.

25 But the rejected lover or mate cannot afford to believe that his beloved has freely turned away from him—and so he attributes sinister (险恶的) or magical (魔术的) properties (特性, 性质) to the interloper (闯入者). He calls him a hypnotist (催眠者) or a thief or a homebreaker. In the vast majority of cases, however, when a home is broken, the breaking has begun long before any "third party" has appeared on the scene.

(362 words)

Write down the time you started	
Write down the time you finished	
Work out your reading speed	
Check your answers	

### Exercise 5: True or false.

1. In many people's opinion, love can be stolen like merchandise.
2. In the author's eye, a husband or wife can be "stolen" by another person just because he or she does not love his wife or her husband any more and wants to be a new partner.
3. We can infer from the passage that the author was rejected by his beloved.
4. If your sweetheart were taken away from you by an intruder, it indicates you were less attractive and less appealing.
5. We usually think many marriages break up because of a "third party".
6. The "third party" is, in fact, an excuse to bring a marriage that lacks real relationship to a close.
7. The "third party" is often thought of as having sinister or magical properties by the rejected lover.
8. The rejected lover can't help resenting or revenging on the "third party".
9. The passage tells us that the break-up of most marriages does not result from a third party, but from the lack of real love, because real love is not merchandise that can be stolen or taken away by a "third party."
10. In this passage, the words "intruder", "interloper", "lovebandit" and "third party" are synonym.

## Extensive Reading

100 / 0

As a teenager I had certain ideas in my mind that constituted the idyllic life of love and marriage.<sup>\*</sup> In Home Economics, our teacher had us plan the perfect wedding and the perfect *reception*, right down to the throwing of rice and driving away in a *limousine*.<sup>①</sup> It was just like the movies where the nice guy gets the beautiful girl and they live

constitute<sup>4</sup> *vt.* 构成, 形成  
 idyllic *adj.* 田园短诗的, 牧歌的, 生动逼真的  
 reception<sup>4</sup> *n.* 接待, 招待会

\* 为便于学生理解课文, 标有下划线的句子均安排了课后练习的翻译题, 可对照答案自查。全书同。

happily ever after. Reality was not a part of the picture.

After high school, I went to college and was determined to become a nurse. I forgot about marriage. I could put that  
 [10] on hold<sup>②</sup> since I was going to help people and travel. Surprisingly, two years later I met the man I would marry. It's often said, "*opposites attract*." This was really true about  
 us.

He was from a small town in Idaho<sup>③</sup> and farmed with  
 [15] his father. I was from a southern town, which had a great population than the entire state of Idaho. I had always been *emphatic* that I didn't know whom I would marry, but one thing was for sure—he would not be a farmer or dairyman!<sup>④</sup> Well, I was wrong in both cases. They were not only farmers  
 [20] but dairymen as well.

We were married in October just prior to the beginning of heavy snowfalls. It would snow heavily throughout the whole winter. Our only entertainment was listening to the radio or the local high school sporting events. My new  
 [25] husband was a lover of sports. He had been a *champion* boxer and also participated in most sports. I was a lover of the arts. Speech, drama and dance were my first love. The nearest town with this kind of entertainment was forty miles away and the highway was closed off and on<sup>⑤</sup> all winter.

We had only been married seven months when I received word that my mother, who was *battling* cancer, would not live much longer. Even though there was the dairy with 75 cows and 1 400 acres to farm, as soon as my husband read the telegram, he sadly said, "Honey, get your bags  
 [30] packed while I make *reservations* for you. Your place is with your mother and your father right now." To him there had been no other decision to make. Every week I would receive a letter telling me all about how the farm was doing and *inquiring* about my parents and how we were all doing. Little  
 [35] was said about his sadness of being alone, or of missing his new bride, except at the very end of his letters where an *unmistakable* "I love you" was written. Teenage dream

limousine *n.* 豪华轿车

opposite<sup>4</sup> *n.* 相反的事物

emphatic *adj.* 显著的, 断然的

champion *n.* 冠军

battle<sup>4</sup> *vi.* 搏斗, 斗争

reservation<sup>4</sup> *n.* 预定, 预约

inquire<sup>4</sup> *v.* 询问, 问明

unmistakable *adj.* 明白的,



letters would have been filled with remarks of undying love and pain of missing me, but his letters were simple words of reality.

不会弄错的

remark<sup>4</sup> *n.* 备注、评论，  
注意，注释

Four months later, after the *funeral* and final matters were taken care of with my father and brother, I returned to Idaho where I knew my husband would be at the airport to meet me.<sup>⑥</sup>

undying *adj.* 不死的，永恒的，不朽的

funeral<sup>4</sup> *n.* 葬礼，出殡

The look in his eyes told me more than any dream letter could. The joy and honesty of love was deep. On the 80-mile drive to our home, I talked *incessantly* while he quietly listened, without interrupting. When he finally had a chance to respond, he asked me to open the glove compartment<sup>⑦</sup> of

incessantly *adv.* 不间断地

the car and take out an envelop with my name on it. “I wanted to give you something special to let you know how much I missed you,” he said quietly.

I opened the envelop to find season tickets, for both of us, to all of the area’s fine art functions.<sup>⑧</sup> Our income was not all that great and I was *stunned*. “I don’t believe this,” I cried. “You don’t enjoy these things.”

stun<sup>6</sup> *vt.* 使晕倒，使惊吓

When I finally stopped protesting, he reached out, hugged me and quietly said, “No, but you do, and I will learn.”

In that moment I realized marriage wasn’t 50/50, but real love was made of 100/0 sometimes.<sup>⑨</sup> Love means putting the other one first. His example taught his young wife a great lesson—a lesson that has made a happy marriage for 51 years.

## Notes

① Home Economics: (复) (用作单或复) 家政学 (常略作 home ec).

这句话的意思是：在家政课上，老师让我们设计理想的婚礼、理想的婚庆招待会，一直到撒大米、新郎新娘开着豪华轿车缓缓离去。

② put...on hold: 推迟。

③ Idaho: 爱达荷，美国西北部的一个州，略作 Id.。

④ 句中的 “whom I would marry” 为宾语从句作 know 的宾语；“he would not be a farmer or dairyman” 作 “one thing” 的同位语。