

总主编：戴炜栋

新世纪研究生 公共英语教材

READING B (STUDENT'S BOOK)

阅读

(学生用书)

B

主编：王 哲 王善平
赵伟礼


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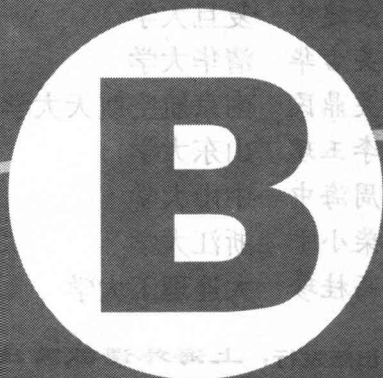
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主编：王 哲 王善平 赵伟礼

编者：王 哲 王善平 刘绍龙

杨晓清 陈 慈 尚媛媛

赵伟礼 Brad Warren

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随着大学外语教学水平的不断提高,研究生外语学习的起点也逐年抬升,全国大学英语教学大纲和研究生英语教学大纲相继作了修订。研究生入学时,绝大多数已经具备了较为扎实的语言基础,基本上都通过了四级考试,不少还通过了六级考试。然而在教材上,目前许多学校使用的仍然是外教出版的《大学英语(修订版)》5、6册。为了编写出适应新时代要求的教材,外教社联系了清华大学、复旦大学、浙江大学、山东大学、中山大学、大连理工大学、南京航空航天大学等近10所重点大学,召开了教材编写委员会会议,作了广泛而深入的调研。在认真分析当前研究生英语教学现状的基础上,编写出了这套教材。

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本书为《新世纪研究生公共英语教材》阅读教程之一,可供大学英语六级以上的硕士生和博士生使用。

全书共分十五个单元,每单元由读前练习(Warm-up)、课文(Text)、生词(New Words)、注释(Notes)、读后练习(Exercises)和补充阅读(Supplementary Readings)六部分组成。

本教材选文题材广泛,内容丰富,富有思想性,可读性强。全书共四十五篇文章,全部选自国外出版的教材、书籍,其中绝大部分为经典文选,内容涉及政治、哲学、经济、科学、文化、文学、艺术、语言等,从各个侧面反映了西方世界具有代表性的思想文化,具有一定的深度。通过对这些文章的分析阅读,学习者不仅可以较快地提高语言水平,为直接阅读英文原著打下较为扎实的语言基础,而且可以扩大知识面,了解诸多学科的相关背景知识,在学习语言的同时,获取知识与信息。

本教材练习的编写以我国传统精读教材的练习形式为基础,吸取了国外同类阅读教材的优点,将练习分为读前与读后。在每单元课文前均配有读前练习,要求学习者在阅读课文前,先根据自己已有的知识,发挥联想思维,思考课前问题,然后再阅读原文。这种阅读方法有助于调动学习者的主动性,提高阅读理解能力,更好地了解作者的思想观点及思维过程。

每单元课文的生词和词组基本上均采用英语直接释义,以培养学习者查阅英语词典以及用英语思维的习惯。许多词项的释义中增加了若干同义词或近义词,目的是希望通过词汇学习这一直接途径迅速扩大词汇量。

读后练习是根据语言学习自上而下(Top-down)和自下而上(Bottom-up)的原则编写的。这些练习包括课文理解(Comprehension Check)、词汇(Vocabulary Study)、翻译(Translation)和写作(Writing)。课文理解练习中多项选择题直接检查读者对课文的理解。问答题和讨论题供训练口头表达能力使用。词汇练习分多种形式,主要是操练课文中出现的常用词或词组,起到掌握、巩固并扩大词汇的作用。翻译练习中汉译英是一段与课文内容相近的短文,如有一定难度,教师可在遣词造句上作适当的讲解与提示。英译汉练习亦如此。另外,在每单元的写作部分,均有对一项英语写作技巧的概括性讲解,并设计了与之相关的写作任务,以期巩固、提高学习者的英语写作水平。

补充阅读分为A、B两篇,A篇除了阅读思考以外,主要是供英译汉练习使用,每篇可酌情选择部分段落做翻译练习。B篇配有阅读理解练习。教师应指导学生在阅读和练习过程中学

会正确使用各种参考书和工具书。

本教材阅读与练习量均较大,其中部分选文亦有一定难度,教师可根据学生的具体情况有选择地使用。本教材另配备教师用书,附有全部练习答案和课文译文,可供教师备课时参考或作为同等程度自学者的辅导用书。

编者

2001年10月

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UNIT ONE

Warm-up

I. Group Discussion

Discuss the following topics in a group of four.

1. Why do you like or dislike going to parties? Talk about the party that impressed you most.
2. What do we usually do at parties apart from eating, drinking, singing and dancing?
3. What do you prefer: going to a party with a friend or partner or going on your own?
4. Do you know the differences between the following: *ball*; *prom*; *masque*; *cocktail party*?

II. Pair Work

Work with a partner and decide whether you share the same opinions on the following statements concerning "the party as a social gathering". Mark each of the statements with a "+" for agreement, "-" for disagreement and "?" for uncertainty.

1. Parties are important occasions for people to make new friends.
2. Going to parties is a great way to entertain oneself and pass the time.
3. If you want to enjoy yourself you'd better not go to an office party with your spouse.
4. One should care about his or her dress no matter what kind of party he or she is going to.
5. Talking about business or work is a bad idea at a party.
6. You can discover more about your boss and your peers at a party than in the office.
7. Parties usually provide opportunities for one to meet a girlfriend or boyfriend.
8. If you want to do business with someone, invite him/her to a dinner because this can lubricate professional relationships.

Text**Party Politics***Judith Martin*

1 Etiquette at an office party? Why, these people have been socializing happily every working day of their lives, give or take a few melees, rumors, and complaint petitions. All it takes to turn this into holiday merriment is a bit of greenery looped around the office — the staff will soon be looped, too. Surely it is enough that the annual Christmas party has the magic ingredients: time off from work, free food and drink, and a spirit of fun replacing such ugly work realities as sexual harassment.

2 Furthermore, partygoers figure, it offers relief from such pesky obligations as thanking anyone or being kind to wallflowers because there really aren't any hosts. Nobody has to pay (that same nobody who generously provides the telephone line for long-distance personal calls), and so nobody's feelings need be considered.

3 This is all pure hospitality — there for the taking, like the office-supplied felt-tipped pens everyone has been pocketing all year. Out of the natural goodness of its corporate heart and the spirit of the holiday season, the company wishes only to give its employees a roaring good time, and the employees, out of loyalty and the thrill of getting to know their bosses off-duty as equals, delight in the opportunity.

4 For those still dimly aware of the once-standard give-and-take of real social life, this no-fault approach to business entertaining seems a godsend. In the now-rare domain of genuine society, hosts are supposed to plan and pay for the entertainment of their guests, on their own time and in their own houses. Guests have strict duties, as well — from answering invitations to cooperating with all arrangements, even to the extent of pronouncing them perfectly lovely.

5 Business entertaining appears to remove the burdens of time, effort, money, individual responsibility — and the etiquette connected with them. The people who do the planning are paid for their trouble, so those who benefit need not consider they have incurred a debt. Why, the annual Christmas party ought to be an inspiration to lower-level employees to work their way into realms where company-sponsored partying can be enjoyed all year long.

6 Not so fast. Flinty Miss Manners does not recognize any holidays from etiquette. (Employees, if not employers, should consider themselves lucky that she is only on the

Party Committee, not the one that might take up ethical questions about those pens and calls.) Office parties differ from private ones but are no freer from rules.

7 If it were indeed true that everyone has a better time without etiquette, Miss Manners could easily be persuaded to take the day off. But having long served on the Office Party Etiquette Cleanup Subcommittee, she is aware that things generally do not go well when there is no recognized etiquette and everyone is forced to improvise.

8 Let us look at all this spontaneous, carefree fun: There being no proper place for the boss, he or she hangs around the door, concerned about mixing with everyone. It might discourage hospitable bosses to see guests staring at them in horror and then slithering in by a side door. But etiquette's solution of having everyone greeted in a receiving line was rejected as too stiff. So one can hardly blame employees for recalling a long-ingrained principle of the workplace: Seeing the boss and having a good time are best not scheduled at the same time.

9 Desperate to make the time count, the boss grabs the nearest available person and starts delivering practiced words about the contribution he makes to their great enterprise. The reaction is not quite what was hoped for. Discreet questioning establishes that this is an employee's guest. He doesn't work for the company, recognize the boss, or appreciate the attention — and, as a matter of fact, has only a passing acquaintance with the employee who issued the invitation. What this guest wants is not professional fellowship but a fresh drink, if the boss would kindly step out of the way.

10 Now, the reason the invitation said "and guest" was to avoid the ticklish issue of who is still married to whom and what the spouse calls itself. Last year, unmarried employees were furious when their partners were not included, and married employees complained that the forms by which their spouses were addressed were offensive: "Mrs." offended women who preferred "Ms.," and wives who had the same surnames outraged everybody who didn't. This year, the complaints will be from spouses who were not told that there was a party or who were told that spouses weren't invited — but found out otherwise. There won't be many complaints. They will, however, be memorable, darkly charging the company with promoting immorality.

11 Meanwhile, what about those who are interested in promoting a bit of immorality, or just plain romance, of their own? They, too, are creating problems that will reach far into the new year. True office romances are the least of them, with their charges of favoritism and melding professional and personal time. More serious is the fact that, in spite of the liquor and high spirits, it still counts as sexual harassment when anyone with supervisory powers makes unreciprocated overtures to a lower-ranking employee. And fool-

hardy when a lower-ranking employee annoys a higher-ranking one.

12 Some employees have their minds only on business and will be spending party time actively promoting workaday concerns. Remembering the company rhetoric about open communications and all being in this together, they will actually seek out the boss, who by this time is grateful to be addressed by anyone at all.

13 But they don't want to engage in platitudes. They accept compliments with: "Well, then how about a raise?" They plead for promotions, explain confidentially who ought to be fired, and advance previously submitted ideas about revolutionizing the business that have been unaccountably unappreciated for years. In one evening, they manage to cut through the entire hierarchy and procedures the boss has painstakingly established for the purpose of being spared this kind of importuning.

14 Eventually — usually somewhat late in the party — it occurs to someone that this informal setting is just the time to offer the boss some constructive personal criticism. What else does talking frankly and informally mean but an invitation to unload opinions without any career consequence?

15 Here is where the company has pulled a fast one on its employees. "Go ahead," it has said, "relax, have a good time, forget about the job." And the naive have taken this at face value. This event is called a party — a place where one lets loose without worrying about being judged by the cold standard of professional usefulness.

16 Even employees who adhere strictly to standard business dress in the office may not know what the bosses might consider vulgar in evening wear. Here is a chance to show off their racy and imaginative off-duty clothes. But over there are supervisors murmuring that people who look like that can't really be sent out to represent the company.

17 Worse are the comments on anyone whose idea of fun is a little boisterous. It may be just the behavior that makes one a delight — or a trial — to one's friends. But here, it is not being offered for the delight or tolerance of friends. It is being judged on criteria other than whether the person is a riot.

18 It is not that Miss Manners wants to spoil the office party by these warnings. She just wants to prevent it from spoiling careers. And the solution is what was banished from the party for being too inhibiting: etiquette.

19 The first formality that must come back is inviting everyone by name. The practice of merely counting every invitation as two is as dangerous as it is unflattering. But people who have been clearly identified and told that they must respond — the suggestion must be made neutrally, to show that the party is a treat, not a requirement —

already have some sense that they are both individually sought after and expected to be responsible.

20 What constitutes a couple is a murkier question than Miss Manners and any sensible employer ought to investigate, but employees simply can be asked to supply the name of a spouse or friend they want to invite. (An office party can be limited by confining it to employees, in which case it should be held during office hours. But inviting spouses and such is better. Having to work is enough distraction from one's more intimate relationships, and the staff was not compiled like a guest list, according to personal compatibility.)

21 Since we have established, Miss Manners hopes, that the point of an office party is not whooping it up or telling people off, what is it? It is showing appreciation of the staff.

22 This starts with a well-run receiving line. However much popular opinion may regard receiving lines as nasty ordeals, they were invented to be, and remain, the easiest way to get everyone recognized by the key people. The oldest receiving-line trick in the world still works: Someone whose business it is to know everyone — or someone unimportant enough to be able to ask each guest his name — announces the guests to the host as they go through the line. The host can then scornfully declare: "Of course I know Annette. We couldn't run this place without her." For extra charm, the employee's guest is also told how wonderful that employee is. This always seems more sincere than straight-out flattery, and from then on, whenever the employee complains that everyone at the office is an idiot, the spouse will counter by repeating that appreciation.

23 It is often erroneously assumed that the style of the party ought to be what employees are used to: their own kind of music, food, and other things the executive level believes itself to have outgrown. Nonsense. What employees want is a taste of high-level entertaining. This may vary greatly according to the nature of the business. If, however, the party is too formal for the employees' taste, they'll get a good laugh and enjoy the contrast all the more when they continue partying on their own afterward.

24 The clever employee will dress as the executives do, keeping in mind that there are few fields in which people are condemned for looking insufficiently provocative. Refusing or limiting drinks is not the handicap at business parties that it may be under the overly hospitable eye of a private host. And the real opportunity for career advancement is not petitioning a boss but rescuing one who has been cornered or stranded, thus demonstrating that one knows how to talk charmingly about nonbusiness mat-

ters.

25 At the end, there is another receiving line. That is, the bosses plant themselves conspicuously by the exit, grabbing the hand of anyone trying to get away and thanking him for coming. Even the dimmest guest will then realize it is appropriate to thank back — that is, to realize that something has been offered and deserves gratitude.

26 After all, isn't that why the office Christmas party is given?

27 If the only goal were for the company to show the staff its appreciation, this could be effectively done with a day off and a bonus to go with it.

(from *Business Week*, December 3, 1990)

New Words

- etiquette** / 'etiket / *n.* formal rules of correct and polite behavior in society or among members of a profession 礼节; 礼仪
- melee** / 'meleɪ / *n.* struggling or disorderly crowd 混战
- petition** / 'pɪtɪʃn / *n.* request or demand to a government or other bodies
- merriment** / 'merɪmənt / *n.* entertainment and enjoyment
- loop** / lu:p / *v.* form a shape of a curve
- looped** / lu:pt / *a.* drunken
- pesky** / 'peski / *a.* annoying and causing trouble
- wallflower** / 'wɔ:lflaʊə / *n.* person, usu a woman, who sits by the wall at a dance because no one has asked her to participate 舞会上无人陪伴, 坐壁上观者
- pocket** / 'pɒkɪt / *v.* take (money or sth small) for one's own use, usu dishonestly
- roaring** / 'rɔ:riŋ / *a.* very noisy
- thrill** / θrɪl / *n.* sudden strong feeling of fear, joy or excitement
- incur** / ɪn'kɜ: / *v.* receive (sth unpleasant) as a result of certain actions
- flinty** / 'flɪntɪ / *a.* hard, cruel and unmerciful
- improvise** / ɪm'prɒvaɪz / *v.* do or make (sth) one has not prepared for
- discreet** / dɪ'skri:t / *a.* careful; cautious
- slither** / 'slɪðə(r) / *v.* move in a slipping and twisted way
- ingrained** / ɪn'greɪnd / *a.* (of habits, tendencies, etc) deeply fixed 根深蒂固的, 一成不变的

- ticklish** /'tɪklɪʃ/ *a.* (of a question or issue) difficult or needing special care and attention 棘手的;需小心处理的
- unreciprocated** /ˌʌnrɪ'sɪprəkeɪtɪd/ *a.* unreturned; unshared
- overtures** /'əʊvətʃuəz/ *n.* attempt to begin a friendly relationship with a person, country, etc 主动表示;姿态
- foolhardy** /'fu:lhɑ:di/ *a.* foolishly adventurous
- platitude** /'plætɪtju:d/ *n.* statement that is true but not new, made by someone who thinks it is both 陈词滥调
- unaccountably** /ˌʌnə'kauntəblɪ/ *ad.* surprisingly or not easily explained
- importune** /ˌɪmpə'tju:n/ *v.* beg someone repetitively to do something 坚决请求;纠缠不休
- racy** /'reɪsɪ/ *a.* amusing and lively
- boisterous** /'bɔɪstərəs/ *a.* cheerful and noisy
- banish** /'bænɪʃ/ *v.* stop thinking about; drive out; put away
- murky** /'mɜ:kɪ/ *a.* dark and unpleasant
- compatibility** /kəm'pætə'bɪlətɪ/ *n.* state of being compatible 兼容性;相容性
- ordeal** /ɔ:'di:l/ *n.* difficult or painful experience
- scornfully** /'skɔ:nfʊli/ *ad.* in a way of showing contempt
- erroneously** /ɪ'rəʊniəsli/ *ad.* incorrectly
- provocative** /prə'vɒkətɪv/ *a.* causing or intended to cause interest or some other emotive reaction
- corner** /'kɔ:nə/ *v.* force someone into a difficult or threatening situation
- stranded** /'strændɪd/ *a.* in a helpless position, unable to get away
- conspicuously** /kən'spɪkjʊəsli/ *ad.* noticeably or obviously
- gratitude** /'grætɪtju:d/ *n.* state or feeling of gratefulness 感激;感谢之情

Phrases and Idiomatic Expressions

- hang around** stay near (a person or a place) with no clear purpose or activity
- have one's mind on** mind or care about something

let loose	give someone freedom or the chance to make changes or be in charge
whoop up	have a wild and enjoyable time usually with drink (alcohol) 欢闹; 狂欢; 庆祝
tell off	find fault with someone 责备

Notes on the Text

Background Information Parties are social gatherings or occasions that range from very formal, luxurious and large balls to informal, private and small gatherings. No matter which type of parties one goes to, there are certain unwritten rules for party-goers to observe in terms of the proper behavior or etiquette. This unit elaborates the etiquette rules for one such occasion — the office party, a gathering held within a business, firm or corporation. Such rules are, to a certain extent, culturally specific. For instance, in different cultural contexts the topics for informal conversation (or “small talk”) at a party can vary greatly. In the United States strangers may talk about weather and other general uncontroversial events while in France strangers may talk about politics. In Mexico strangers frequently talk about families, which may not be an acceptable topic in the US. “Politics” in the preceding article generally refers to the tactics one adopts while socializing with others.

Exercises

I. Comprehension Check

- i. For each of the following unfinished statements, choose the most appropriate answer from the choices provided.
 1. According to the text, the annual Christmas party is a chance for merriment because it enables employees to enjoy _____.
 - A. pocketing felt-tipped pens
 - B. chatting with the boss