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大学英语泛读读本

- 胡永久 张隆胜/主编 黄小群 张新建/副主编
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第四册

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前 言

《大学英语泛读读本》是根据《大学英语教学大纲》编写的一套教材。全书分为四册,每册 40 篇文章,配有生词、词组、注释、练习,并附有答案。

文章主要选自 80~90 年代初国外阅读教材和书刊,选材力求体裁多样,题材广泛,符合思想性、科学性、知识性、趣味性、可读性和语言规范性等原则。文章篇幅为 400~1000 词左右,超纲词不超过 1.5%。

这套读本可作为大学英语基础阶段的泛读教材,也适合英语专业低年级学生和英语业余爱好者提高英语阅读技能和技巧的需要。

本套读本由胡永久副教授、袁桂英副教授、羊松衡副教授、余颖芳副教授、张隆胜副教授和冯光睿老师主编,林承璋教授、蒋开陆副教授和张健副教授主审。

本书主编胡永久、张隆胜,副主编黄小群、张新建,主审林承璋,编者(以姓氏笔画为序)刘玉珍、孙逸勇、杨虹、张隆胜、张新建、胡永久、袁桂英、黄小群、智晋平。

由于编者水平有限,书中错误在所难免,恳望读者和外语界同仁批评指正。

编 者 1992 年 9 月

作者赠书

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Passage 1

Overseas Chinese

In the first half of the 19th century, there were a number of major political and other troubles in China. Local wars, famine and floods killed millions of people and forced thousands to seek their fortunes overseas in unknown and hostile lands. Many Singaporeans are descendants of emigrants who risked their lives to sail southwards from China. Some went to countries which are now Malaysia or Indonesia. Others set off across the Pacific Ocean, hardly daring to expect that they would ever reach the USA, and uncertain of the reception that awaited them there. 5 10

In 1848, three Chinese arrived at San Francisco on the American sailing ship 'Eagle'. They took a tremendous personal risk in venturing into a foreign country. There were rewards to be obtained : prospecting for gold, starting restaurants or laundries, working in mines and on the railway, but they faced racial and other problems. 15

In 1847, there were 479 people in San Francisco. The number doubled in 1848 and then rose dramatically when gold was discovered inland. After a short war, America won what is now California from Mexico. In 1849, there were over 600 ships anchored in San Francisco Bay, most of them abandoned. The crew had gone ashore to search for gold. Thousands of immigrants from Europe and China swelled the population of San Francisco, set up their own crude form of law, and, when the gold mines were worked out, found ways of earning a living.

Some Chinese immigrants grew and sold vegetables. Some were fishermen. Some imported silks, ivory fans, sandalwood and other things from China. Then they set off from house to house as travelling salesmen. By the 1880s there were over 30 000 Chinese living (often under poor conditions) in San Francisco. At first, local people welcomed them. 'They are among the most industrious, quiet, patient people among us,' one newspaper commented. Governor Stanford employed many Chinese (who made him immensely rich) and said they were 'peaceable, industrious and apt to learn'.

However, the attitude to Chinese immigrants soon changed. There was widespread unemployment when the gold rush petered out. Frugal Chinese immigrants

had saved up their money and started their own businesses, in which they normally employed only Chinese workers. Some Americans blamed the Chinese for their troubles. Others were envious of the success which many Chinese had attained. In addition, the Chinese tended to keep themselves to themselves, and this also caused resentment.

At times, there were disputes and fights between the Chinese and other immigrants. Attempts were made to pass laws which discriminated against the Chinese. For example, a Laundry Ordinance was passed, levying heavier taxes on laundrymen who did not own horse-drawn carts. Although these laws were eventually declared unconstitutional and invalid, they made life difficult for many Chinese at the time. Another source of difficulty was the attempt of some Chinese to exploit their fellows or to control them. Gangs were sent from China to extort money from Chinese living in California. Men, women and children were sold as slaves. The opium trade developed, and secret societies flourished.

Despite all these difficulties, thousands of Chinese people settled down as shopkeepers, farmers, miners or in other occupations. Their children attended American schools. Some remembered how to speak, read and write Chinese. Others gradually forgot. They grew taller and stronger than their relatives back in China.

If you go to California now, you will find Chinese professors at many universities, Chinese lawyers, doctors, judges and police officers. Some Chinese are proud of their cultural heritage but others no longer accept that they are Chinese at all. 'I'm American, not Chinese' is as common as other immigrants who say, 'I'm American, not English, Irish or Italian.' What is very clear, however, is that in the face of tremendous difficulties the immigrants from China struggled on and established a reputation for considerable intelligence and the willingness to work hard to build a secure future. There is a parallel here for us in Singapore, where people of various races (most of them the descendants of immigrants) have combined to work hard for Singapore. Our ancestors faced and overcame many difficulties. It is our job now to build for the future, thinking first of ourselves as Singaporeans rather than as members of any particular race. Our unity is our strength.

New Words

famine /'fæmɪn/ n.

an extreme lack of food 饥荒

emigrant /'emɪɡrənt/ n.

a person who leaves his own

	country to settle in another 移民 定居
laundry /'ləʊndri/ n.	a building where clothes are washed and ironed 洗衣店
immigrant /'ɪmɪgrənt/ n.	a person who comes into a foreign country (自国外移入 的)移民
sandalwood /'sændlwud/ n.	檀香木
governor /'gʌvənə/ n.	an elected head or a state's government 州长
apt /æpt/ a.	quick to learn 聪明的
peter /'pi:tə/ v.	slowly disappear 逐渐消失
envious /'enviəs/ a.	忌妒的
resentment /ri'sentmənt/ n.	怨恨
discriminate /dis'krimineit/ v.	make a difference between 区别
levy /'levi/ v.	collect (taxes) 征(税)
unconstitutional /'ʌn kənsti'tju:ʃənəl/ a.	违反宪法的
invalid /in'vælɪd/ a.	without legal force 无效的
gang /gæŋ/ n.	a group of 一帮, 一群
extort /ɪk'stɔ:t/ v.	obtain by force 勒索
opium /'əʊpɪəm/ n.	鸦片
heritage /'herɪtɪdʒ/ n.	遗产
parallel /'pærələl/ n.	likeness 相似

Useful Expressions

1. apt to learn : quick to learn 聪明,接受快
2. peter out : come gradually to an end 逐渐停止
3. discriminate against : treat unfairly, as less important
歧视

Notes

1. the American sailing ship 'eagle' : 美国“鹰”号帆船
2. San Francisco Bay : 圣弗兰西斯科湾
3. set up their own crude form of law : 制定了他们自己的
不大完善的法律
4. Governor Stanford : 斯坦福州长
5. The Chinese tended to keep themselves to themselves : 那
些中国人不常与人交往。
6. For example, a Laundry Ordinance...horse-drawn carts.
: 例如,通过了洗衣法,对没有马车的洗衣工征收重税
7. secret societies flourished : 帮会活跃
8. There is a parallel here for us in Singapore,... : 同我们
这些在新加坡的人情况有些相似:.....

Exercises

A. True or False :

1. Some Chinese set off across the Pacific Ocean, nearly dar-

ing to expect that they would ever get to the USA.

2. To search for gold, many ships sailed to San Francisco in 1849.
3. In America, the economical Chinese immigrants had kept their money for starting their own businesses.
4. The Laundry Law was finally declared unconstitutional and invalid.
5. The descendants of the Chinese immigrants and the people of other races have combined to work hard for Singapore.

B. Multiple Choice :

6. Quite a number of Chinese were forced to look for their fortunes overseas because of _____.
 - a. famine and floods
 - b. other troubles in China
 - c. local wars
 - d. local wars, famine and floods
7. Thousands of immigrants from Europe and China the population of San Francisco.
 - a. rose above the level
 - b. expanded
 - c. grew bigger
 - d. widened
8. At first, one local newspaper in San Francisco said that Chinese immigrants were _____.
 - a. industrious and quiet
 - b. industrious, peaceable and quick to learn
 - c. quiet
 - d. hard-working

9. Gangs of persons were sent from China to _____ from Chinese living in California.

- a. get money by force b. make money
- c. use unfairly d. collect taxes

10. Which of the following is NOT true?

- a. The immigrants from China struggled on and gained reputation for much intelligence and the willingness to work hard to build a sure future.
- b. The immigrants from China faced and overcame many difficulties.
- c. Overseas Chinese are working hard for the countries they live in.
- d. It is their job for overseas Chinese to build the future, thinking of themselves only.

Passage 2

Postal Services and Telephones

Transport of people and goods represents only one aspect of communications. The transmission of information is another, in its way no less important. In twentieth-century American communications we find one notorious contrast, that between the postal services and the telephones. The postal services, run by the central government, are always under attack—slow, expensive and irregular. The private enterprise telephones, on the other hand, are no less praised for their efficient, reasonably priced and courteous service. These popular images are not without foundation, though they are often exaggerated.

In having government responsibility for the postal services, the United States is following a universal practice among modern states. This is the only public service that has not been left to private enterprise. Until 1971, postmasterships were given on the recommendation of the state party organisations, working through their sen-

20 ators or members of Congress. These appointments
were traditionally important in the relations between
the national administration and the state party ma-
chines : not a good basis for efficiency. In 1971 the
status of the Post Office was changed so that it could
work more like a normal commercial undertaking. The
25 use of sophisticated machines and technology was ex-
tended, but people continued to complain of slow ser-
vice, lost letters, damaged parcels and high costs.

 The postman's work in delivering letters is kept
down by one very simple device. In streets where the
30 houses are separate and standing well back from the
road, each in its individual garden, the postman does
not come to the door of each house, because each house
has a box of standard type by the roadway, designed so
that the postman can put the letters in it without getting
35 out of his car—and he can also collect outgoing post.

 The postman need have no difficulty in finding
the houses where he is to deliver the letters — and
strangers have little need to ask the way—as one thing
that tends to be standardised, both in cities and in sub-
40 urbs, is the system of numbering streets and houses.
Some people may find this soulless, but it has some re-
al advantages. A house with a name may sound very
grand, but it is a trouble to the postman and to friends
peering from house to house on a dark night, and

American habits prefer convenience. If you have to go 45
to a house in a strange place, and the address is 2240
North West Thirty-fifth Street, you can find your way
straight to it without a map and without asking the way.
The number 2240 does not mean that it is the 2240th
house in the street. The number is really a kind of map 50
reference, indicating that on North West Thirty-fifth
Street it is two-fifths of the way between the twenty-
second and twenty-third roads (or 'avenues') that cross
Thirty-fifth Street at right angles.

This method of numbering usually starts from two 55
main roads crossing one another in the town centre; the
north-south roads may be called 'streets' and those run-
ning east-west 'avenues', with the number of each
house determined by its position. This standardisation
does not strike Americans as rigid or inappropriate. Af- 60
ter all, much of the northern frontier of their country is
along an artificial straight line, the forty-ninth parallel
of latitude, and many state, county and city boundaries
follow straight lines too. These are some of the signs
that show that the Americans, in building a new soci- 65
ety, new towns and political units, could already see
where they were going.

The telephone was first developed on a substantial
scale in the United States. Alexander Graham Bell,
born and educated in Scotland, moved first to Canada 70