

普通高等教育"十一五"国家级规划教材

英语专业精品教材

# CONTEMPORARY 现代大学英语

总主编:杨立民 主 编: 梅仁毅

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第二版 Second Edition

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精读



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### 第二版前言



"现代大学英语"精读教材,自2000年年初陆续出版以来,不知不觉到了该修订的时候。再不修订,作为编者,我们于心难安。基于此,我们计划陆续推出1-6册的第二版。但是由于第一版一、二册的原编者当中有相当一部分人目前其他任务十分繁重,实在分身乏术,因此只好委托杨立民、徐克容两位(原主编陆培敏也参与了第二版的酝酿和讨论)具体负责前两册的再版工作。

根据使用者的反馈,这次修订我们不打算推倒重来。原来的总体结构和编写原则大致不变,课文也尽量保留,以保证教材的相对稳定,便于经验的积累。但是我们希望工作做得再细一些,更加合理一些,能更好地体现我们编写的各项原则。

具体说来,我们改动的地方大致有以下几个方面:

- 1. 根据使用的情况,我们发现有的课文不够理想,决定予以替换。还有的课文,因为时过境迁,也更换成了更近一些的篇章。但替换的课文不超过总量的30%。
- 2. 第一版课文的前后次序也不尽合理,难易梯度不够自然,因此也做了较大的调整。
- 3. 考虑到中学大纲对词汇量的要求已经达到 5,000 左右,原来我们设定的词汇量为 2,000 左右的起点需要适当提高。原来有意在第一学年放慢进度,集中精力盘活中学所学,第二版不再做此强调。
- 4. 由于以上原因,牵一发动全身,必须重新编写练习和其他相关部分。这方面 修改的部分可能超过了一半。
- 5. 首先练习部分总量大大压缩。词汇和语法练习尽量控制在 10 个之内。我们希望这样一来,一方面能突出重点,另一方面能有效减轻学生负担,使学生学得更加轻松自如。
  - 6. 第二版教材将明显强调课前预习。要求学生尽量自主解决难点,理解课文;

而且自主发现、整理、归纳本课语言要点。尤其重要的是,他们必须开动脑筋,学会思考,对课文内容、观点、意图、主题等提出尽量多、尽量深刻的问题,培养批判性思维能力。第二版中练习的另一个特点是更加强调口语实践,尤其是围绕课文内容的各种口语活动,形式更加多样,要求也更有挑战性。练习的第三个特点是设计中尽可能取得综合性的效果。

- 7. 1-4 册每册十六单元。其中十四个单元以课文为中心,每周一单元,剩余两单元为阶段性复习。其目的:一是通过练习和复习巩固已学的部分;二是通过测试让学生进行自我评估;三是留下余地,使教师可以根据情况做一些必要的填平补齐的工作。每册最后一单元都是较长的剧本,可以留作机动。5-6 册另有安排,详见补充说明。
- 8. 第二版教材前四册后面都附有本册书中出现的常用动词、常用动词短语(或短语动词)、常用介词短语及其他惯用语、常用的动词用法类型、常用动宾词组等。希望学生重视,能很好利用。

以上是我们这次修订所做的改动。如前所说,第一版的一些基本方面我们仍然坚持,其中最重要的一点是关于基本功的理念,因为我们认为在本科教学阶段,它应该是重点中的重点。教师不能也不必试图把一切都教给学生,关键是打好基本功。精读课的名称可以商量,但我们必须努力坚守基本功的最后阵地,切不可对基本功的标准设定过低,对学生基本功的现状估计过于乐观,或是不顾条件,无视生源、师资和培养目标的不同,盲目贪多图快。

我们为什么始终坚持精读课的重要性呢?有时学生也会问:为什么好好一篇文章要切割分解,并在上面花那么多时间?对此我们的回答是:有些文章内容是如此重要,语言是如此含蓄,思想是如此深刻,结构是如此严谨,如不反复阅读,细细揣摩,就很难真正读懂、读通。实际上,人并不是生来就会读书。不少人一辈子都没有读书的兴趣和习惯,也不懂读书的方法,因此需要专门的训练。精读课之所以重要,是因为我们把它当作基础阶段进行基本功训练的主要平台。这不仅指的是语音、语法和词汇的教学以及听说读写译技能的培养,而且还包括知识面的扩大和分析批判能力的提高。此外,这门课也是指导学习方法,培养人文素质的理想平台。

精读课虽然要照顾到方方面面,但中心任务仍是提升阅读能力。具体包括三个方面:

1 理解能力 首先要做到字面上的理解,即对生词、词组或句子要能借助工 具书用英语释义,解决语言的难点。其次要进一步学会在作者话说半句时猜出全句 的意思;在字里行间和文字背后看到作者的别意、真意和深意;还要透过作者幽 默、讽刺、反话、夸张等文字手段体会其表达的深层含义。对文章的理解必须由表及里,举一反三,由浅入深。再进一步还要从语言到内容,准确抓住文章中心思想。为此不仅需要了解作者必要的情况和文章相关的历史、地理、文化、社会、宗教等背景,而且还需要熟悉文章涉及的各种题材和学科知识。同时还要学会必要的联想和引申,过去的文章要联系到现在,外国的东西要对照中国,文学的东西或许可以反映社会,简单的东西可以挖掘出深奥的哲理,复杂的东西可能归纳成一般的常识。

2 赏析能力 对文章理解了还不够,还要努力提高欣赏水平,学会细细品味文章的思想美、修辞美、结构美、逻辑美、音韵美。为此,还需要了解不同的题材、作家、时代、观点、文体和风格,还要关切人世间各种问题,倾听过去各种优秀人物的真知灼见。

对好的东西要能够欣赏,但是另一方面也要加强对文章进行分析、评论和批判的能力。当今社会的多元化产生了意识形态的多元化,我们的学生必须在这纷繁复杂的世界里学会明辨是非,决不能成为书本的奴隶。我们所选的课文不会句句都是真理,作者也不一定比读者都高明。他们总有所处时代、生活经历、所受教育、知识结构、文章目的和篇幅等的局限,很可能会有表面或片面的看法,会有偏见或谬误。我们的学生应该敢于质疑,敢于反思,敢于挑战。

3 应用能力 精读课还不能停留在理解和欣赏上,还要对学生语言技能的提高有实际的帮助。精读通过"读"带动了"听、说、写、译"的训练。为此,课文还是要朗读;背诵还是要鼓励;教师还是要坚持用外语讲课;学生应该坚持听课文录音;生词和有用的短语、句型还是要会活用;各种练习还是不能照抄教学参考书应付;围绕课文的问答、复述、讨论还是要认真进行。为此,必须保证课内外有足够的操练时间。

精读课要发挥它的作用,就必须强调质量,强调精确性,保证真正做到一个"精"字。数量过大、速度过快容易导致急躁冒进。而在心浮气躁的情绪下,学生浮光掠影,教师蜻蜓点水,精读课就形同虚设。倘若不朗读,不背诵,不查词典,不记笔记,不充分预习复习,不反复熟悉课文,甚至不做练习,一句话,不把精读当精读,囫囵吞枣地上完这门课,那么精读课的核心价值就给阉割了。

由于我们为精读课设定了那么多的任务,因此寻找合适的课文就成为我们最艰难的工作。实际上,要想找到的文章题材丰富且体裁多样,长短适中且难易恰当,文字优美且内容可圈可点,所涉问题既要热点又要普世,凡此种种,谈何容易!

有不少同行希望我们尽可能使教材贴近现实,我们在第二版中就是朝这个方向 努力的。但在实际操作时,我们发现给古今下定义也并不容易,搞不好又会犯不要 历史、忽视文化遗产的错误。"古"、"今"毕竟是一个相对的概念。某些旧东西有永久的魅力和价值,而许多当前热门的东西却可能很快成为过眼烟云。此外,精读毕竟不同于报刊阅读,时间性强调过分了,就不能保证教材相对的稳定性,不利于经验的积累。这些矛盾如何处理,希望各位同行不吝指教。

还有不少朋友提出我们的教材文学味较重,另有一些选篇的内容又比较抽象,不够实用。他们希望多一些经贸英语、法律英语、新闻英语、科技英语、旅游英语等更有实用价值的材料。这些意见都需要我们认真考虑。但是,为了培养比较高级的人才,我们觉得也不能只顾眼前就业,还需要有包括文学在内的更为深厚的基础,这就要有更为系统的语言训练。而从语言的基本功训练考虑,文学题材有其特有的优势。因为它语言现象丰富,基本词汇、常用短语多,句子形式也多样,对学生理解和欣赏能力提高的适用性,非其他材料可比。此外我们还要考虑教材的文化内涵。而这一点,一般所谓的"实用英语"材料很难体现。目前市场上的"实用英语"因为介绍了不同行业的一些行话,能给从事该行业的使用者一种立竿见影的效果。但我们担心它们不一定能有效地为高级外语人才打好基本功。相反,基础打好了,其他都不难学会。我国传统的中学语文课,多少年来也是"床前明月光,疑是地上霜"、"故乡"、"祥林嫂"之类,但语文课学得好的学生,进大学无论学什么都没有太大困难。我们学院历年的毕业生到国外深造,攻读经济、政治、历史、法律、新闻等各种社会科学,也都顺利,这就证明以上看法并非完全没有根据。

我们在第二版精读课教材里一如既往地重视人文关怀和人文素质培养。这是因为外语毕竟是了解外部世界的一个窗口,是对世界的一种新的视角。它实际上不可避免地会置学生于西方文明的影响之下,影响到学生文化、精神和道德的发展,并使学生成为中西文化的桥梁。所以,外语教学和教材编写事关重大,说到底,关系到我们教育的根本目的,关系到我们要培养的是什么样的学生。

一谈到文化,从事英语教材编写和英语教学工作的人就无法回避对西方文化态度的问题。西方文化中有糟粕,也有值得我们学习的好东西,这已是老话。我们要批判它的糟粕,也要虚心地引进外国优秀的文化传统。我们不能忘记,从哥伦布"发现"新大陆以来,宗教改革、文艺复兴、机械化、工业化、电气化、现代化,法治化、信息化、网络化、全球化,以及民主、宪政、自由、平等、博爱、人权、环保等思想都发源于西方。引进西方文明中的精华正是为了我们自己的文化再造,这是真正爱国的每一个英语学习者的使命。

我们希望我们的学生有独立思考的习惯、分析批判的能力和追求真理的勇气。 我们希望我们的学生克服非此即彼的简单思维模式,防止随大流、赶时髦、瞎起哄; 学会尊重不同的观点,学会理性、客观、全面地看待问题。我们应该养成一个习 惯,一种凡事都要问一个为什么的习惯;我们应该学会一种本领,一种通过分析、 思辩寻找真理的本领。总之,我们的学校不能培养只具有一定谋生技能的学生, 也不能出品头脑里只装有一些固定软件,只能定向思维的机器人。近年来,外语 教育界在热议如何培养学生的批判性思维能力,这的确抓到了教育的根本。我们 只有在明确了希望培养什么样的人以后,再具体研究教学法、教材编写等实际问题 才有意义。

以上是我们在修订这套教材时考虑到的一些问题。我们非常感谢使用我们教材的众多兄弟院校同仁的垂爱。我们也努力把我们的教材修改得对得起诸位的信任。但是我们就只有这三板斧,加上修订版的两位编者都已年过七旬,心有余而力不足,只好请大家原谅,同时敬请批评指正。

最后,我们还要对帮助我们审核把关的加拿大专家 Sandra Sachs 和新西兰专家 Helen Wylie,以及外研社的朋友们表示诚挚的谢意。

编 者 2010年5月

### 补充说明

《现代大学英语精读》(第二版)五、六册是"现代大学英语"(第二版)高级阶段的教材,其使用对象为高校英语专业高年级学生、非英语专业研究生以及其他具有同等英语基础的语言工作者和爱好者。

相较本系列基础阶段的四册教材, 五、六册有以下几个特点:

- 所选文章更深、更难、更有挑战性,更能体现当代英语的文采与风范。
- 为了增加语言素材的输入,文章长度有所增加。不再简化文字,不再控制生词数量,尽量保持原汁原味。要求学生在接近实战条件下提高自己的理解力、欣赏力和语言运用能力。
- 扩大了题材范围,给予课文内容更多关注。选篇内容涉及中西文化交流中更深层、更微妙、更尖锐复杂的问题。这些改变对学生的知识结构提出了更高的要求。尤其重要的是:在编写课后练习时有意识地大力加强了批判性思维能力的培养,鼓励学生开动脑筋,独立思考,对课文中的各种观点进行认真的分析和评议。
- 强调语言能力的提高要更加紧密地结合思想的表达。词汇方面不再强调基础 阶段中的词形变化、语法规则、基本词汇、常用短语与句型的运用。对词汇的 关注不再停留在一般字面上的意义和用法,而是引导学生发现文字的各种引申 意思,学习文字字面意思以外的更加深奥的内涵,学习各种修辞手法以及它们 对文字意义的微妙影响,学习根据上下文判断字里行间隐含的意思。
- 要求学生有更高的自学能力:要求学生自己发现并解决问题;要求学生学会使用各种手段收集资料,提高他们研究问题的能力。要淡化学生对传统考试的依赖,强化他们对语言、知识和思想的自觉吸收。

第二版每册主课文仍然是十二篇,供一学期使用。其中三分之一强是新选的课文。课文配有作者介绍、课文背景介绍、注释、词汇和课后练习。第一版中原来每个单元开头提供了课文导读,第二版中改成了对作者及课文的扼要介绍,以 Introduction的形式附在文后。根据需要,部分单元还在此模块中提供了课堂操作建议,供使用者参考。每册附有建议学生课外阅读的六篇课文,其中半数为新选的篇章。提供这些篇章的目的有两个:一是希望给学生增加一些材料输入;二是教师们在使用第二版教材时,如果出于个人喜好,需要更换个别主课文,可以考虑与这部分里的课文对调。

学生用书中针对课文内容和语言精心设计了一些练习,希望学生能认真去做。练习中的阅读理解问题按学习的步骤分为三类:第一类旨在帮助学生通过预习粗略掌握课文大意,做好充分的课前准备;第二类旨在帮助学生尽可能全面细致地理解整个课文,希望学生能口头予以回应;第三类是讨论题,旨在引导学生拓展思维,训练学生的批判性思维能力。这部分内容供师生自由选择。讨论可以先小组后全班,发言可以是有准备的代表发言,也可以是临场自由发言。其他的练习突出三个重点:一是转述,要求学生准确地将原本结构复杂、语言艰深、含意或背景需要发掘和解释的句子转换成自己尽可能直白的语言;二是中英互译,目的是帮助学生更加敏感地观察两种语言及文化表达方法的异同;三是对文中各种修辞手法的辨认和使用。除此以外,每课都列有相当数量的词或短语,要求学生认真查阅工具书,找到契合课文的含义与用法。依据高级阶段语言训练的特点,建议对写作与翻译的能力更加重视。使用者在条件许可的情况下,务必在这方面进行必要的补充。

除了学生用书,我们同时提供了《同步测试》与电子版的《教师用书》。有需要《教师用书》的老师请登录 http://www.heep.cn/support /免费下载。

第二版五、六册由加拿大专家 Sandra Sachs 负责审校,加拿大教授 Ruth Gamberg 也参与了此项工作。她们为此花了大量心血,我们在此向她们一并表示诚挚的谢意。

教材在修订前的调研阶段曾经得到许多使用院校老师们的批评指正,我们在 此也向他们表示衷心感谢。我们希望使用本书的老师们能继续不吝指教。

> 编者 2014年 5月

### **Acknowledgements**

We are completely grateful to the authors and publishers of all the articles, stories and plays we have chosen as the texts for this textbook. Every effort has been made to obtain permission to use previously published materials. Any error or omission is unintentional. We regret that we have been unable to trace the copyright owners of a number of the materials. We apologize for this. We intend to show every respect for intellectual property rights, and hope our pleading for the permission to use the related materials for teaching purposes will receive kind and generous consideration.

### **■** Texts (Title/Author/Sources)

- Unit 1 "Who Are You and What Are You Doing Here?" by Mark Edmundson. First published in *The Oxford American* (the Education Issue), 2011.
- Unit 2 "Two Kinds" by Amy Tan from *The Joy Luck Club*, G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York, 1989.
- Unit 3 "Goods Move. People Move. Ideas Move. And Cultures Change." by Erla Zwingle from *National Geographic*, Millennium Supplement: Culture, August, 1999.
- Unit 4 "Professions for Women" by Virginia Woolf from *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*, eds. by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedan, St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- Unit 5 "Love Is a Fallacy" by Max Shulman from *Current Issues and Enduring Questions*, eds. by Sylvan Barnet and Hugo Bedan, St. Martin's Press, 1987.
- Unit 6 "The Way to Rainy Mountain" by N. Scott Momaday from *Reporter*, 26 January, 1967.
- Unit 7 "Rewriting American History" by Frances Fitzgerald from *The Norton Reader*, Shorter Edition, Fifth Edition by W. W. Norton & Company, New York, 1980.

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# Who Are Your and What Are You IDoing Here? Mark Edimendson

- Welcome and congratulations: Getting to the first day of college is a major achievement. You're to be commended, and not just you, but the parents, grandparents, uncles, and aunts who helped get you here.
- It's been said that raising a child effectively takes a village: Well, as you may have noticed, our American village is not in very good shape. We've got guns, drugs, two wars, fanatical religions, a slime-based popular culture, and some politicians who—a little restraint here—aren't what they might be. To merely survive in this American village and to win a place in the entering class has taken a lot of grit on your part. So, yes, congratulations to all.
- You now may think that you've about got it made. Amidst the impressive college buildings, in company with a high-powered faculty, surrounded by the best of your generation, all you need is to keep doing what you've done

- before: Work hard, get good grades, listen to your teachers, get along with the people around you, and you'll emerge in four years as an educated young man or woman. Ready for life.
- Do not believe it. It is not true. If you want to get a real education in America you're going to have to fight—and I don't mean just fight against the drugs and the violence and against the slime-based culture that is still going to surround you. I mean something a little more disturbing. To get an education, you're probably going to have to fight against the institution that you find yourself in—no matter how prestigious it may be. (In fact, the more prestigious the school, the more you'll probably have to push.) You can get a terrific education in America now—there are astonishing opportunities at almost every college—but the education will not be presented to you wrapped and bowed. To get it, you'll need to struggle and strive, to be strong, and occasionally even to piss off some admirable people.
- I came to college with few resources, but one of them was an understanding, however crude, of how I might use my opportunities there. This I began to develop because of my father, who had never been to college—in fact, he'd barely gotten out of high school. One night after dinner, he and I were sitting in our kitchen at 58 Clewley Road in Medford, Massachusetts, hatching plans about the rest of my life. I was about to go off to college, a feat no one in my family had accomplished in living memory. "I think I might want to be prelaw," I told my father. I had no idea what being prelaw was. My father compressed his brow and blew twin streams of smoke, dragonlike, from his magnificent nose. "Do you want to be a lawyer?" he asked. My father had some experience with lawyers, and with policemen, too; he was not well-disposed toward either. "I'm not really sure," I told him, "but lawyers make pretty good money, right?"
- My father detonated. (That was not uncommon. My father detonated a lot.) He told me that I was going to go to college only once, and that while I was there I had better study what I wanted. He said that when rich kids went to school, they majored in the subjects that interested them, and that my younger brother Philip and I were as good as any rich kids. (We were rich kids minus the money.) Wasn't I interested in literature? I confessed that I was. Then I had better study literature, unless I had inside information to the effect that reincarnation wasn't just hype, and I'd be able to attend college thirty or forty times. If I had such info, prelaw would be fine. Otherwise I better get to

work and pick out some English classes from the course catalogue.

- What my father told me that evening was true in itself, and it also contains the germ of an idea about what a university education should be. But apparently almost everyone else—students, teachers, and trustees and parents—sees the matter much differently. They have it wrong.
- Education has one salient enemy in present-day America, and that enemy is education—university education in particular. To almost everyone, university education is a means to an end. For students, that end is a good job. Students want the credentials that will help them get ahead. They want the certificate that will give them access to Wall Street, or entrance into law or medical or business school. And how can we blame them? America values power and money, big players with big bucks. When we raise our children, we tell them in multiple ways that what we want most for them is success—material success. To be poor in America is to be a failure—it's to be without decent health care, without basic necessities, often without dignity. Then there are those backbreaking student loans—people leave school as servants, indentured to pay massive bills, so that first job better be a good one. Students come to college with the goal of a diploma in mind—what happens in between, especially in classrooms, is often of no deep and determining interest to them.
- In college, life is elsewhere. Life is at parties, at clubs, in music, with friends, in sports. Life is what celebrities have. The idea that the courses you take should be the primary objective of going to college is tacitly considered absurd. In terms of their work, students live in the future and not the present; they live with their prospects for success. If universities stopped issuing credentials, half of the clients would be gone by tomorrow morning, with the remainder following fast behind.
- The faculty, too, is often absent: Their real lives are also elsewhere. Like most of their students, they aim to get on. The work they are compelled to do to advance—get tenure, promotion, raises, outside offers—is, broadly speaking, scholarly work. No matter what anyone says, this work has precious little to do with the fundamentals of teaching. The proof is that virtually no undergraduate students can read and understand their professors' scholarly publications. The public senses this disparity and so thinks of the professors' work as being silly or beside the point. Some of it is. But the public also senses that because professors don't pay full-bore attention to teaching they don't have to work very hard—