

总主编：杨惠中 张彦斌

College Core English

— Reading and Writing —

大学核心英语 读写教程

第一册(上)

编写：刘鸿章 孔庆炎
张彦斌 沈子文

审 阅：Geoffrey Thompson

上海交通大学教材科

前 言

《大学核心英语》(内部试用本)是一套供理工科大学使用的大学英语教材。本教材的编写以国家教育委员会印发的《大学英语教学大纲(理工科适用)》为依据。教学大纲规定:大学英语的教学目标是“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听和译的能力以及初步的说与写的能力,使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息,并为进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。”教学大纲还规定,大学英语教学分为基础阶段和专业阅读阶段,为了便于组织教学,基础阶段共分六级,在大学一、二年级中开设。本教材就是供基础阶段英语教学使用的。

为了体现上述教学目标,在编写《大学核心英语》过程中,我们采纳了现代外语教学理论中有关交际法的一些合理的思想,即认为英语课应以培养学生使用英语的能力为根本目的,而不应以传授关于英语的知识为根本目的。教材要着重发展学生的英语交际能力。我们力求正确处理以下几点:在理解方面,主要是培养学生通过英语获取信息的能力;在表达方面,则在大纲规定的范围内培养学生表达思想的能力;语法是手段而不是目的,重点应是发展运用语法结构的能力;在流畅与准确的关系上应以流畅带动准确,因此在阅读与听力训练中要有一定的量与速度的要求。本教程还要有利于发展学生独立学习英语的能力。为了体现以上的教学指导思想,编者未采用以语法为纲进行编写的传统做法,而是根据语言技能及语言功能来设计教材,安排教学内容。全书

分为两条主线：一条为读写教材，共六册，每级一册；一条为听说教材，共三册，每两级一册。两套教材相互独立而又相互配合，分设两种课型，可由不同教师分别担任，以发挥教师的专长。此外，还辅以词汇与语法练习手册(共三册，每两级一册)，可以在课内使用，也可供学生在课外自学。

本书是读写教程的第一册(分上、下分册)，按照书面语言的特点，培养学生的阅读技能，提高其阅读能力和帮助学生打下初步的写作基础。本书共有十五单元，每一个单元由三部分组成：第一部分为阅读技能(Reading Skills)，主要培养利用构词法知识和上下文推测词义和理解句子的能力。第二部分为阅读材料(Reading Passages)，每一单元有三篇(共四十五篇)，每篇约有500~600词，其中A篇为主要阅读材料，B篇为辅助阅读材料，C篇为课外阅读材料；总阅读量约为24,000词。第三部分为写作技能(Writing Skills)，培养学生正确地写出英语句子的能力。本书教学时数约为60小时(每单元3~4学时)。如一学期教学时数不足，可将第五、第十、第十五单元的B篇阅读材料和各项复习性练习放在课外进行。以一学期学完本书为宜。

本书阅读材料均选自原文，题材广泛，语言规范，内容生动，知识性强，练习丰富。书后附有总词汇表、词组表和专名表。

《大学核心英语》全书由上海交通大学科技外语系杨惠中和张彦斌主编。第一册由刘鸿章(上海交通大学)、孔庆炎(大连海运学院)、张彦斌(上海交通大学)、沈子文(上海科技大学)编写，并经英国专家、上海交通大学科技外语系顾问 Geoffrey Thompson 详尽审阅。

在本书编写过程中，编者得到上海交通大学科技外语系

许多同志的热情支持,特别是冯玉柱、龛骏、巴源、蒋美玲、谢善禄以及张耀辉等同志在计算机统计、打字、复印、出版等方面给予的帮助,对此编者表示衷心的感谢。同时,对大连海运学院和上海科技大学的大力支持也一并表示谢意。

《大学核心英语》的编写是一种新的尝试,是否有利于达到教学大纲所规定的教学目标,是否便于组织课堂教学,还有待实践的检验。我们迫切希望使用本书的教师和学生提出宝贵意见。

编 者

一九八六年一月

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Unit One

衡量阅读能力的两个尺度

Criteria of Reading Ability

大学英语的教学目标，是培养以英语为工具进行交际的能力，主要是培养阅读能力。阅读能力表现在：1. 能准确地理解所阅读的材料，2. 能进行流利的阅读。两者是相辅相成的。

I. 何谓准确地了解

准确地理解文章，是指理解它包含的四层意思：

1. 单词的意思：理解单词的意思，对理解文章有着重要的意义。但大多数词是多义的，从单个的词还无法判断其在文章中的确切含义。如：duty（责任；任务；税；敬意；负荷……），truth（真理；真相；真实；精确；忠诚……）。

2. 句子的意思：词只有在句子中才具有明确的含义。如：He refused to tell the truth 这个句子中，truth 只能有“真相”这一个意思。但是从这个孤立的句子中，我们还不知道“He”指的是谁，truth 又指的是什么真相。

3. 句子在上下文中的意思：如果把上面这个句子放在具体的上下文中，其含义就明显了。如：The police questioned the young man for two hours. But he refused to tell the truth. 根据第一句话我们才知道，he 是指 the young man（要知道 the young man 是指谁，还要从它的上文去理解），而 the truth 是指某个“案件的真相”，而不是别的“真相”。

4. 作者的用意：即作者通过句子表达的态度、意见、感情，等等。从上面的两句话我们还可以了解到，作者对 the young man 也许持否定的态度。

只有对这四层含义都理解了，才能达到准确理解的目的。试再分析下面这段文字：

Ranch life has always centered around the cowboy, one of the most colorful people in the history of the American West. Stories about cowboys are very popular in America and all over the world. People think of cowboys as free people, unafraid to battle with wild animals, living close to nature, with the trees and the sky and the stars. Today there are far fewer cowboys, and they no longer live as they did. But their hold on the imagination is still strong. The old-time cowboy is the hero of many books, films and songs. He is a national hero and a treasured part of the national past.

注：1. 单词的意思：以第一句中的 colorful 一词为例。从词典中可以查出，它的意思是“富于色彩的；花哨的；华美的；精彩的；吸引人的”。

2. 句子的意思：从第一个句子中 the most colorful people 这一搭配可知，colorful people 是指“富于(某种)色彩的人”或“吸引人的人”，而不是“花哨的人”或“华美的人”。

3. 上下文的意思：从上下文对美国牛仔的描写我们可以进一步理解，colorful people 是指“富于传奇色彩的人”(free, unafraid to battle with wild animals, living close to nature...)。又因为下面还说，Today there are

far fewer cowboys”，所以他们是 the most colorful people in the history of the American West (美国西部历史上最富有有传奇色彩的人物)。

4. 作者的用意：通过全段可知，作者对 cowboys 表示了钦佩和仰慕的心情，因为作者用了 “national hero” “a treasured part” 等词语。由此也可知 colorful 是表示褒意的词。

II. 何谓流利地阅读

流利主要是指阅读时应有一定的速度。阅读速度太慢是没有实用价值的。《大学英语教学大纲》规定，学完第四级，平均阅读速度要求达到每分钟 50 个词，紧张阅读速度应达到平均每分钟 80 个词，学完第六级，平均速度要求达到每分钟 70 个词，紧张阅读应达到平均每分钟 120 个词。各级要求列表如下：

阅 读 速 度 要 求

| 英 语 级 | 一 | 二 | 三 | 四 | 五 | 六 |
|--------------------|----|----|----|----|-----|-----|
| 平均每分钟正常 阅读速度(词) | 30 | 35 | 40 | 50 | 60 | 70 |
| 平均每分钟紧张 阅读速度(词) | 40 | 60 | 60 | 80 | 100 | 120 |

III. 如何培养阅读能力

1. 阅读的目的

人们总是为了一定的目的而阅读的。大致有两种情况：

(1) 为消遣而阅读：如看小说，读剧本等；

(2) 为获取信息而阅读：如读信件、通告，报纸、杂志，读论文、参考书和教科书，看说明书，等等。

2. 阅读的方法

阅读的目的不同，采取的阅读方法也不同。阅读方法可以分为三种：

(1) 细读：为了了解文章的细节而阅读；

(2) 略读：快速地浏览，以了解文章的大意和主要情节；

(3) 查读：迅速地查找需要了解的信息，也即为了解决某些特定的问题而阅读。

阅读方法不同，速度也有变化。善于阅读的读者能根据需要不同的速度进行阅读。三种阅读方法有时也是交叉进行的，例如先迅速地略读，以了解文章的概貌，再细读感兴趣的部分；或者很快地查找出所需要了解的部分，然后再细读这一部分。

3. 培养良好的阅读习惯

要提高阅读能力，首先应注意培养良好的阅读习惯。主要有：

(1) 视读：阅读应是“看”的过程。出声朗读或低声默读都会影响阅读速度。

(2) 尽量少查或不查词典，要根据构词法或上下文推测词义。只有在无法猜测词义，而该词又对理解句子十分重要时才查阅词典。

(3) 不要逐词阅读，要把注意力放在关键词上，跳过非关键词。如：Henry Ford was the first one to build cars which were fast, reliable and cheap. 只要看懂 Henry Ford ... first ... build cars ... fast, reliable ... cheap 全句意思便基本上清楚了。

(4) 立足于看一遍就理解，不要时时回头阅读。

(5) 把注意力放在情节和内容的发展上，以理解作者思想为目的。

(6) 尽量直接理解原文，不逐词逐句翻译。

试以比你平时略快的速度集中精力阅读下面这篇短文，记下阅读时间，然后做后面所附的练习：

Throughout history, people have been interested in knowing how language first began, but no one knows exactly where or how this happened. However, we do know a lot about languages, the languages of today and also the languages of earlier times. There are probably about three thousand languages in the world today. Chinese is the language with the most speakers. English, Hindi-Urdu, Russian and Spanish are also spoken by many millions of people. On the other hand, some languages in the world have less than one hundred speakers.

There are several important families of languages in the world. For example, most of the languages of Europe are in one large family called Indo-European. The original language of this family was spoken about 4,500 years ago. Many of the present-day languages of Europe and India are modern forms of the language of 4,500 years ago.

Languages are always changing. The English of today is very different from the English of 500 years ago. In time, some even die out completely. About 1,000 years ago English was a little-known relative of

German spoken on one of the borders of Europe!

If a language has a large number of speakers, or if it is very old, there may be differences in the way it is spoken in different areas. That is, the language may have several dialects. Chinese is a good example of dialect differences. Chinese has been spoken for thousands of years by many millions of speakers. The differences between the dialects of Chinese are so great that speakers of Chinese from some parts of China cannot understand speakers from other parts.

Total words: 284 Reading time _____

Exercise: Choose the correct answers to the following according to the passage you have just read:

- 1) The subject of this passage is about _____.
 - a) language
 - b) dialects
 - c) the difference between language and dialect
 - d) speakers of different languages
- 2) The main idea in the first paragraph is that _____.
 - a) we have much knowledge about languages
 - b) most people in the world speak Chinese
 - c) there are thousands of languages in today's world
 - d) some people know several languages
- 3) In today's world, there are about _____ languages!
 - a) 3,000
 - b) 3,500

- c) 4,500
- d) 5,000
- 4) Most European and Indian languages _____.
 - a) are no longer spoken
 - b) are very much like each other
 - c) came from the same family
 - d) are important languages of the world
- 5) The example which the writer gives to show the changes of a language is _____.
 - a) Spanish
 - b) English
 - c) German
 - d) Chinese
- 6) The word 'dialect' in paragraph 4 means _____.
 - a) the language spoken by some Chinese
 - b) a place where a special kind of language is spoken
 - c) a people who speak a special language
 - d) the form of a language used in one part of a country

如果你读得太慢，或理解力太低，不要灰心。只要坚持训练，你的阅读能力是会迅速提高的。

Reading Passages

(A) Ranch Life

To many people ranch life means the Wild West! Many children dream of becoming cowboys or cow-

girls and leading romantic adventurous lives. But ranch life is in fact a hard business, demanding strength and a great deal of work.

Ranchers raise cattle for the meat that people eat. Since meat is a favourite food of people everywhere, ranching is a very important job. Ranching is one of the oldest and biggest industries in the world!

Most ranches are located in flat open country where there is plenty of grass for the cattle to feed on. Like all other kinds of farming, ranching is a difficult job. Dry weather or rainstorms can destroy the food needed for the cattle, or the cattle themselves may become sick and die. The rancher must always be on guard against the dangers that nature can create.

History of ranching

A long, long time ago, at the very beginning of civilized life, people began to keep cattle! These people were wanderers, driving their herd from place to place, looking for fresh grass and water. Later, man began to settle in the places where the food and water were plentiful. They built houses for themselves and shelters and yards for their animals! These were the first ranches!

Cowboys

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Ranch life has always centered around the cowboy.

one of the most colorful people in the history of the American West. Stories about cowboys are very popular in America and all over the world. People think of cowboys as free people, unafraid to battle with wild animals, living close to nature, with the trees and the sky and the stars. Today there are far fewer cowboys, and they no longer live as they did. But their hold on the imagination is still strong. The old-time cowboy is the hero of many books, films and songs. He is a national hero and a treasured part of the national past.

The American cowboy first appeared in Texas around 1836. Soon ranches spread and cowboys were working in almost every part of the west.

Cowboys' lives centered around the roundup and the cattle drive. Every winter and summer the cattle fed at the ranch. In the spring and autumn the cowboys rounded up the cattle, and separated the beef cattle from the rest of the herd, and drove them over many miles of open country to the nearest railroad station. From there the cattle were sent to slaughterhouses. In the 19th century, railroads were few and far between. Driving the cattle was a long hard job. There was danger from cattle thieves. The cowboy rose at sun-up to start the cattle moving. They drove them all day through the heat or dust or wind. The men were often on horseback 15 hours a day. Cow-

boys had to be skillful and strong. They had to be skilled horsemen and good gunmen. Their clothing was made for protection. The wide-brimmed hat was worn to protect them from the sun, dust and the rain. The gun protected them against cattle thieves!

Now much of the adventure has gone out of the cowboy's life. He no longer has to struggle with thieves. Most ranches are quite close to railroad stations so the long cattle drive is a thing of the past. Modern inventions have taken over many of the cowboy's old jobs. The modern cowboy must often be a technician himself in order to use the new devices for the care of cattle and for the running of the ranch.

Notes to the Text

ranch /rɑ:ntʃ/ *n.* a very large farm where sheep, cattle or horses are produced 大牧场

to ranch 办大牧场

romantic [rə'mæntɪk] *a.* 浪漫的; 传奇(色彩)的

cattle /'kætl/ *n.* large four-legged farm animals, especially cows

herd /hɜ:d/ *n.* a group of animals of one kind which live and feed together

Texas /'teksəs/ (美)德克萨斯州

roundup /'raundʌp/ *n.* 赶拢

to round up — to gather together

cattle drive 驱赶畜群