

An Extensive Reading Course

二十一世纪大学英语

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泛读教程

21st Century College English

东 南 大 学 出 版 社

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第四册

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世纪大学英语 泛读教程

东南大学出版社

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主 编：周建平
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Reading Course

Book 4

for

21st Century College English

内 容 提 要

本教程系一套面向 21 世纪信息社会,具有强烈时代气息和突出语言交际技能培养的新编大学英语 1~4 级泛读教材。各级教程所选课文题材广泛,文理兼顾;内容新颖,时代气息浓郁;并融思想性、知识性、趣味性和可读性于一体。所选语篇语言由浅入深、循序渐进;篇幅适中,便于课堂教学操作。课后练习分为固定题型(Exercise A)和可变题型(Exercise B)两大部分。书后附有练习参考答案及总词汇表。本教程主要使用对象为大学一、二年级本科生,同时也可供社会上高中毕业以上文化程度或具有中级英语水平的广大英语爱好者自学或培训使用。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

21 世纪大学英语泛读教程 第四册/周建平主编.
—南京:东南大学出版社,1999.12
ISBN 7-81050-583-1

I . 21… II . 周… III . 英语—高等学校—教材
IV . H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 63400 号

东南大学出版社出版发行

(南京四牌楼 2 号 邮编 210096 电话 025-7711295)

出版人:宋增民

江苏省新华书店经销 南京邮电学院印刷厂印刷

开本:787mm×1092mm 1/16 印张:17 字数:450 千字

2000 年 1 月第 1 版 2000 年 1 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1~6500 定价:18.00 元

《21 世纪大学英语泛读教程》

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序

改革开放以来，中国的英语教学取得了有目共睹的成绩。在21世纪即将来临之际，我们国家正处于一个快速发展时期，经济建设蒸蒸日上，对外交流不断扩大。飞速发展的形势对高等院校的英语教学及人才培养的质量提出了更高的要求。为了适应这种新的形势和要求，我们需要深化教学改革，转变教育思想和教学模式。加强英语教材建设是改革大学英语教学重要的一环。一套好的教材无疑会调动教与学两个方面的积极性，促进教学质量的不断提高。

南京邮电学院外语部周建平十几位教师根据文理本科兼用的《大学英语教学大纲》的基本要求，同时又考虑到新大纲的即将颁布及21世纪对专业人才外语水平的更高要求，并结合他们多年来的教学经验，精心编写了这套《21世纪大学英语泛读教程》，体现了一种教学改革的超前意识和探索精神，值得肯定和鼓励。

英语的听、说、读、写四项基本技能是一个整体，不可分割，而阅读是基础，十分重要。一个中国学生，如果英语读都读不懂，怎么能听得懂？怎么能用英语进行口头或笔头交际？我一向主张学习英语要大量阅读。通过大量阅读，可以积累语言知识，巩固语法，扩大词汇量，掌握用法，提高速度，培养语感。《21世纪大学英语泛读教程》为学生提供了丰富的阅读材料。这套教材结构合理，编排得当。课文语篇题材广，内容新，具有鲜明的时代特征，且文理兼顾，篇幅适中。练习设计题型多样，可以对学生阅读进行有效指导。除传统的多项选择客观题外，编写者还设计了简短回答题、讨论题、应用文习作等主观题，为学生创造使用语言的机会，以锻炼他们运用英语的能力，从而将阅读训练与其他技能训练有机结合起来。

相信这套教材的正式出版将有助于大学英语教学改革的深入开展和教学质量的进一步提高。

王守仁

1999年6月27日于南京大学

前言

为了加快大学英语教材建设,探索外语教学改革的新路,激发学生对泛读课的学习兴趣,拓宽他们英语基础知识的范围,开扩对现代社会多向信息的视野,培养他们应用英语的基本技能,进一步提高他们的语言交际能力,我们根据《大学英语教学大纲(文理科本科用)》的基本要求,从我国改革开放不断深入和对外交往不断扩大的实际需要出发,在总结多年来泛读教学经验的基础上,精心研编了这套《21世纪大学英语泛读教程》。

本教程是一套面向 21 世纪信息社会,具有强烈时代气息和突出语言交际技能培养的新编大学英语 1~4 级泛读教材。各级教程所选课文题材广泛多样,文理兼顾;内容新颖,具有浓郁的时代气息;范围涉及文学、历史、音乐、影视、艺术、体育、军事、教育、文化习俗、社会生活、新闻报导、金融财政、动物趣闻、自然地理、天文研究与发现、航空航天、宇宙探秘、气象学、生态学、自动化技术、计算机应用、人物传记、绿色革命、卫生保健、医学最新成果、管理工程学等诸多方面,反映了当今社会信息的多向性和丰富性,展现了现代科技、经济和文化教育的飞速发展以及人们生活、思想观念变化的多姿多彩,并融思想性、知识性、趣味性和可读性于一体。

各级教程所选语篇在语言上有比较明显的梯度,体现了由浅入深、循序渐进的原则;在体裁上以说明文、记叙文、散文和小杂文为主;在篇幅上绝大多数比较适中,便于课堂教学操作。

各级教程中课文后面所设计的练习分为固定题型练习(Exercise A)和可变题型练习(Exercise B)两大部分。这是本教程的一大特色。固定题型练习包括阅读理解题、简短问答题和讨论题 3 种题型;可变题型练习包括根据上下文猜测词意、选择段落主题句、小结句子概意、归纳段落及短文的中心意思、完成应用文习作等 10 余种不同的题型。前者主要培养学生的阅读理解能力,后者着重提高学生的语言运用和应变能力。

本教程既确保了语言基础知识的传授,又突出了语言基本技能和交际能力的培养和提高。

《21 世纪大学英语泛读教程》总主编为周建平。

本册主编由周建平担任,副主编由戴苏东、胡碧媛担任。主审由美国专家 John Luckey 担任。全书由东南大学出版社出版。

南京大学外国语学院院长、博士生导师王守仁教授在百忙中为本教程作了序,谨此表示衷心的感谢。

吴淑华同志担任全书电脑文字录入和排版工作,在此我们也表示衷心的感谢。

本教程主要使用对象为大学一、二年级本科生，同时也可供社会上高中毕业以上文化程度或具有中级英语水平的广大英语爱好者自学或培训使用。

由于编者水平与经验有限，加之时间仓促，教材中难免还有不足和疏漏之处，恳请同行专家和广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1999年12月

使用说明

本书为《21 世纪大学英语泛读教程》第 4 册，供大学英语二年级下学期学生使用。

本册共有 10 个单元，每个单元包括 3 篇课文。每篇课文后有生词短语和练习，书后附有练习参考答案及总词汇表。

课文语篇全部选自国内外公开出版的原文材料，少数语篇略有删改。课文选材既突出了一个“新”字，又体现了一个“泛”字，且注意了思想性、知识性、趣味性和可读性四者的并重。

课文注释一律采用脚注形式，释义以英文为主、中文为辅，主要解决有关背景知识和疑难语言现象。部分注释条目用英文不易解释清楚，则直接注出汉义，以帮助學生顺利阅读。

生词短语部分主要列出当课出现的新词、难词及一些有用的词组或短语。一方面帮助学生扫除阅读中的语言障碍，另一方面逐步扩大他们的词汇量。

课后练习包括固定题型 (Exercise A) 和可变题型 (Exercise B) 两大部分。固定题型练习设有选择题、简短问答题和讨论题 3 种题型，旨在帮助学生回忆课文内容，检查学生对课文的理解程度，也可结合课文内容和现实生活，引导学生用英语展开对一些问题的讨论，将思想素质教育贯串其中；可变题型练习在本册中设有段落和短文隐含信息推论、概括句意、段落和短文的中心思想、快速阅读及完成若干应用文习作，着重训练和提高学生的阅读技能和语言应用能力。所有练习原则上由学生独立或商讨（主要是可变题型部分）完成，教师可在课堂上予以检查和纠正。

第 4 册的阅读量约为 40 460 字，略高于大纲所规定的指标。教师可视具体情况有选择地使用。

泛读本是学生独立的广泛阅读，但在目前情况下应由教师给予指导，先由学生在课前预习，然后在课堂上进行必要的讲解、讲座和检查。教师的一切活动应有利于激发学生的阅读兴趣，使学生通过大量的阅读实践逐步掌握必要的阅读技能，全面提高阅读能力和语言的综合运用能力。

编 者

1999 年 12 月

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Unit One

1. Forecasting Life in the 21st Century

Marvin Cetron & Thomas O Toole

The majority of us will be better off in the year 2000 than we are today. We'll look better and we'll live longer. Of course, there will be change but it won't be the kind of change that worsens our lot in life. There will be hardship but most of it will be the kind of hardship we can endure and overcome.

5 You can expect an eight percent per year inflation rate out to the year 2000, which is an acceptable rate of inflation. That means that interest rates in the world will stabilize at 11 percent, which is a livable rate of interest for people who want to own cars, appliances, and their own homes. There will be fewer billionaires but that will be the result of tax reform cuts^①, which after all are long overdue in the United States. There will also be
10 fewer Americans living in poverty as jobs and welfare reforms are made through the years ahead. Do you want to be rich? The top entertainer's or professional athlete's already high salary will be tripled by cable television. You will retire later as you live longer. Taxes will go down as stock prices go up and as America reindustrializes robot factories to raise productivity. The energy crisis will be a crisis of the past when we begin to generate
15 nuclear electricity with fusion power for the first time.

Cars will cost twice what they do today but they will be half their present weight and get twice the gasoline mileage. Automobile lifetimes will double in the next 20 years, in part because people will once more put a value on durability. Cars will be safer because they'll all be smaller.

20 In the Unites States, the future looks south. The only thing that will restrict mass migrations to the Sun Belt^② is a water shortage. Look for much of the world to suffer water shortages but look for much of the world to solve its water shortages. Look for the countries of the Middle East to build nuclear desalting plants and look for the Unites States to tow glaciers out of the Arctic to the East and West coasts to tap them for their water.

25 Women will be much better off by the year 2000. Almost 60 percent of all the adult women in the United States will be in the work force by the year 2000, holding down jobs held only by men in the fifties and sixties. More women will fulfill themselves

①tax reform cuts: reduction of taxes resulted from tax reform

②the Sun Belt: the area that covers the southern states of the U.S.

professionally, socially and sexually in the years ahead. There will be morning-after birth control pill for women. Fewer elderly women will live alone, choosing if they are widows to move in with single elderly men. Liberal attitudes about sex are here to stay...

There will be medicines that improve and restore memory and hold off senility. There will be pills that cure fear of heights, fear of elevators, and fear of flying. Men will take drugs to grow hair, women will take drugs to keep their hair from turning gray. There will be a nutlike snack to keep teeth white, strong and free of cavities. There will be a hormone for weight control, another for growth control and a third for memory control. There will be a nonaddictive painkiller more powerful than morphine. There will be medicines that cure addictions to drugs and alcohol.

Ahead of us lie vaccines to prevent tuberculosis and immunize people against their own tumors, the kinds of cancer like breast cancer that appear to be caused by viruses and seem to run in families. The list of diseases that will be cured by gene splicing is staggering. Sickle-cell anemia^① and Tay-Sache disease^② may be racial ailments of the past. People with genetic disease will undergo gene therapy, where the abnormal gene is removed and a healthy gene spliced in to take its place. There will be new drugs to dissolve blood clots and gallstones, new drugs to prevent the buildup of stomach acids that trigger ulcers and of cholesterol and glycosides that cause hardening of the arteries. There will be an artificial liver, an artificial spleen, and an artificial pancreas. There will be artificial blood that can be given to people with any blood type that carries none of the risk of infection that human blood can.

We will soon enter a checkless and cashless society. Funds will be transferred by voiceprint and almost nobody will shop in person. Two-way home television will let you dial a store, check prices on your screen and order by credit card^③. You will still need cash but instead of carrying it around you'll stop at your neighborhood automated teller^④ and withdraw it when you need it. Don't be frightened by depression talk. The United States is depression-proof, partly because of the ongoing computer revolution that exercises such tight controls on money supply. The variable interest rates will catch on. Instead of rising with inflation, interest rates will be adjusted every few years based on the consumer price index. For those with long-term money to spare, your best return will still be in housing and real estate.

The strongest, most stable country in the world will continue to be the United States. Second in turn will be Austria and Canada, mostly because they're so rich in raw resources.

①sickle-cell anemia: 镰形血球贫血症

②Tay-Sache disease: a disease of the nerves that a baby is born with, characterized by mental and physical retardation (among the Jewish people)

③credit card: 信用卡

④automated teller: 银行自动付款机

China will be more of a world power for the same reason. Japanese influence will wane.
China has its own coal, oil, and minerals. Japan has almost none of its own.

From *Clearing in the Sky*, Northwest
Polytechnical University Press, 1997
Approximately 880 words

New Words and Expressions

worsen	/ˈwɜːsn/	vt.	使变得更坏；使恶化
livable	/ˈlivəbl/	a.	(生活)过得去的
billionaire	/ˌbɪljəˈneə/	n.	亿万富翁
overdue	/ˈəʊvəˈdjuː/	a.	期待已久的；过期的
reindustrialize	/ˌriːɪnˈdʌstriəlaɪz/	vt.	再工业化，二次工业化
lifetime	/ˈlaɪftaɪm/	n.	寿命
durability	/ˌdʒʊərəˈbɪlɪti/	n.	耐用，耐久
desalt	/ˈdiːˈsɔːlt/	vt.	除去…的盐分，脱盐
tow	/təʊ/	vt.	拖，拉；牵引
glacier	/ˈglæsjə/	n.	冰河，冰川
tap	/tæp/	vt.	使流出；开发
sexually	/ˈseksjuəli/	ad.	在性生活方面
senility	/ˈsiːnɪlɪti/	n.	衰老
snack	/snæk/	n.	小吃，快餐
cavity	/ˈkævɪti/	n.	洞，中空
hormone	/ˈhɔːmɒn/	n.	(生化)荷尔蒙，激素
nonaddictive	/ˈnɒnəˈdɪktɪv/	a.	不上瘾的
painkiller	/ˈpeɪnˌkɪlə/	n.	止痛药
vaccine	/ˈvæksɪn/	n.	牛痘苗；疫苗
immunize	/ˈɪmjʊːnaɪz/	vt.	使免疫
splice	/splaɪs/	vt.	拼接
staggering	/ˈstægərɪŋ/	a.	令人惊愕的
anemia	/əˈniːmiə/	n.	贫血症
ailment	/ˈeɪlmənt/	n.	(较轻微的)病
gallstone	/ˈgɔːlstəʊn/	n.	胆结石
ulcer	/ˈʌlsə/	n.	溃疡
glycoside	/ˈglɑɪkəˌsaɪd/	n.	(生化)葡糖苷
spleen	/spliːn/	n.	脾
pancreas	/ˈpæŋkriəs/	n.	胰(腺)
automated	/ˈɔːtəmeɪtɪd/	a.	自动化的
teller	/ˈtelə/	n.	(银行等的)出纳员

ongoing	/ˈɒŋ.ɡəʊɪŋ/	a.	不断发展中的, 不断前进的
variable	/ˈvɛəriəbl/	a.	易变的; 常变的
wane	/weɪn/	vi.	衰落, 衰退; 变小
be better off	(L.1)		境况 (尤指经济境况) 较好
go down	(L.13)		下降, 减少
go up	(L.13)		上升, 增长
hold down	(L.26)		保持 (职位)
hold off	(L.31)		推迟, 拖延
carry around	(L.52)		随身携带

Exercise A

I Select one answer which is most accurate according to the information given in the text.

- Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a distinctive feature of the cars in the new century?
A) Lighter in weight. B) Faster in speed.
C) Longer in lifetime. D) Higher in price.
- The second paragraph of the passage mainly describes _____.
A) how the American people are going to get rich in the next century
B) what reforms the American government will carry out to better the life of the people
C) how America is going to put an end to energy crisis
D) what economic benefits the American people are likely to get in the new century
- The phrase "catch on" (in Line 55) most probably means _____.
A) become popular B) become flexible
C) become stable D) become adaptable
- According to the passage, the majority of the American people in the 21st century will most likely enjoy all of the following EXCEPT _____.
A) better medical treatment
B) more convenience in handling financial affairs
C) shorter length of service
D) more economic benefits and material comfort
- The author's attitude towards life in the new century can best be described as _____.
A) pessimistic B) optimistic
C) critical D) practical

II Give a short answer to each of the following questions according to your understanding of the text, using as few words as possible.

- In what aspects will most women in the United States be better off in the new century?

- How will a patient with liver cancer most probably be cured in the years ahead?

-
3. What is the basic condition, according to the author, for a country to become increasingly powerful?

 4. Why will people in the next century probably live longer than in this century?

 5. What good will the reindustrialization of robot factories do to America and the American people?

III Discussion Questions

1. What do you think life will be like in the 21st century?
2. Are you optimistic of the future? Why?
3. What might the U.S.A. and China be like in the next century?

Exercise B

I Read each of the following paragraphs. Then, work with another student, and try to infer the author's opinion of (or attitude towards) the subject he discusses. Write it on the lines below the paragraph and give whatever clues that helped you.

1. He was a glamorous (富有魅力的) public hero of sorts whose style of writing and living was probably more imitated than any other writers in human memory. He was so precisely, because he acted out the theme of his own books. That was why he liked sports of all kinds and was thought of as one going deep-sea fishing, big game hunting, going into the bullring or becoming a prize ring boxer. His public image was one of a tough guy whom even an air-crash could not kill. During the 1930s and the 1940s his non-literary activities were widely publicized and did more to advance his reputation. In 1942 he began to work for the United States Navy and for two years scoured (搜索) the Cuban coast to seek to help destroy enemy ships. In 1944 he went on several flights with the British Air Force as a reporter. He took part in the landing of the Allied Forces on the French coast and fought with a small force of his own in Paris before the French entered their capital themselves. He was injured many times, suffered at least a dozen injuries to the brain, and survived three bad automobile accidents and two aircrashes. From wounds in the war, 237 steel fragments were taken out of his body. In his later years he often behaved in an odd manner and looked much older than his years. Possibly because he could not write any more or possibly because he could not act out his code (准则), or because of both and his ill health, he shot himself on July 2, 1961. The world was shocked into the disconcerting awareness that, with his death, an era had come to an end.

What is the author's opinion towards Hemingway?

How do you know?

2. In many countries around the world, women are entering the work force in great numbers for the first time. It is true that more women are currently employed than ever before. However, the goals of equal opportunity of employment for women have not been fully realized. For a variety of reasons, women usually hold low-ranking positions. The last to be hired, they are usually the first to be laid off when employment drops off. They are usually hired in lower-paying positions than men, and, often, they receive less pay even when they are doing the same work. Certainly, great strides have been made toward equal opportunity in recent years, but the obstacles to reaching this goal are becoming increasingly evident all the time. Although women have come a long way, they still have a long way to go in their struggle for equal opportunity.

What is the author's opinion of the present women's status?

How do you know?

2. Why Java Is Hot?

Sun's^① Microsystem had a problem on its hands. One of the company's brightest software developers had created a new computer-programming language called Oak that nobody seemed to want. Originally designed for writing control software for the computer chips that run microwave ovens and other state-of-art^② household appliances, it had been reconfigured several times over the past five years—for cable TV set-top boxes, for videogame machines, for personal computer CD-ROMS^③. But every time it looked as if Oak might finally find a home, the deal somehow fell through. Even its name was a problem: it couldn't be protected by trademark because hundreds of companies had already used it. In the end, Sun decided that the best thing it could do for Oak was to give it a new name and give it away. So Sun called it Java—a slang term for coffee that dates back to the days when the best brews came from Indonesia, not Seattle—and made it available, free of charge, on the Internet^④.

Seven months later, to everybody's surprise—including Sun's—Java is the hottest thing in cyberspace. More than 100, 000 copies have been downloaded by software developers eager to try out the new language, which promise to make sending programs across a computer network as easy as sending E-mail or pictures. Hundreds of little Java applications (dubbed “applets”) have started to pop up on the World Wide Web^⑤, the multimedia portion of the Internet. One site lists more than 700 working Java applets—that generate everything from small dancing cartoon figures and steaming cups of coffee to knock-offs of such games as Pac-Man and Missile Command. With Java, data and programs—the twin staples of computing—don't have to be stored on your computer anymore. They can reside anywhere on the Internet, called up by whoever needs them, whenever they need them. It's a development that could finally make true Sun's original and hitherto cryptic slogan: “There's a paradigm shift every 10 or 15 years,” says Marc Andreessen, a Web pioneer and cofounder of Netscape Communications^⑥. “And we're in one right now.”

The key to Java is the way it will run with equal ease on a variety of computer

①Sun: (美国)太阳公司

②state-of-art: (学科、技术等当前或某一时期的)发展水平; 最新水平

③CD-ROMS: compact disk-read only memories 光盘只读存储器

④Internet: 国际互联网

⑤World Wide Web: 环球网 (也称万维网, Internet 中基于超文本的信息系统)

⑥Netscape Communications: (美国)网景公司