



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材

# College English 2

## 新通用大学英语

### 阅读教程

Reading Course

《新通用大学英语》项目组 编



高等教育出版社

Higher Education Press

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2

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# 《新通用大学英语》立体化系列教材

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# 前 言

《通用大学英语》最早出版于1998年8月，是国内开发较早的一套面向学习者需求的系列电子教材。

《新通用大学英语》是在“九五”国家重点科技攻关项目——《通用大学英语》的研究、开发与应用的基础上，依据教育部2004年颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求（试行）》重新研发的供大学基础阶段英语教学使用的立体化系列教材。

本系列教材共分为6级，供大学英语课程的一般要求和较高要求层次的教学使用。每级由《综合教程》、《阅读教程》、《综合技能训练》、《教学参考书》以及配套的电子教案、网络课程等组成。

本系列教材以面向信息时代的大学英语教学内容、课程体系和教学方法的改革为出发点，充分考虑现代教育技术在大学英语教学中的应用，力图建立一套能适应以学生主动、交互和自主学习为主的，集先进的语言学习理论、教学理论和教学手段与媒介于一体的，具有时代特色的本土化与国际化相结合的新型大学英语立体化教材。在设计及编写上充分吸纳了国内外教材先进的编写理念与特色，引进了于2006年获得美国教育出版大奖的Top Notch，为教材提供了真实、自然与鲜活的语料。在教材的引进、改编与自主研发等方面，我们进行了积极有益的探索，主要体现在以下几个方面：

## ※ 系统化的语言教学思想

本套教程采用了多技能交际大纲的编写原则，融语言知识与听、说、读、写四项技能于一体，同时扩展了语音和词汇部分内容，并辅以先进的多媒体与网络教学手段；以全面提高学习者的英语交际能力为目标，以交际主题为线，意义构建为本，以活动为导向，任务为驱动，通过多样化的交际活动与探究式学习来进行知识建构，并以形成性评价作为教学重要的评价方法，来培养学生的综合分析能力和跨文化交际的能力。

## ※ 模块化的内容架构

《综合教程》每一册书共有10个单元，每单元2课。这10个单元的主题均贴近学生的生活现实，其情景的设置与学生在学校、社会以及未来的生活密切相关。每个课程单元又分为单元导入、听、说、读、写等几大模块，每个模块的内容均与主题相关，并重点操练2~3种语言功能。

## ※ 知识性、趣味性与文化性并重

在语料的选择方面，注重语言素材与中西方文化的结合，融知识性、趣味性与文化性于一体，题材广泛、体裁多样、语料真实、语言地道、版式活泼、图文并茂。在内容的设计上，力求语言知识学习、文化意识与批判性思维能力的培养并重。

## ※ 一体化的教学解决方案

由《综合教程》、《阅读教程》、《综合技能训练》、《教学参考书》、电子教案、网络课程和基于教学内容的语料库等构成了完备的一体化的教学解决方案。

《阅读教程》是基于本系列教材的设计理念编写的，以全新的视角诠释了信息时代大学英语的教学内容、教学方法和教学规律，以先进的语言学习理论和教学理论为指导，独树一帜，充分突出了本教程与众不同的特色。在语料的选用上，内容丰富，极具时代感和先进性；在版式设计上，图文并茂、生动活泼；在编写模式上，不拘一格、富有创意；在操练形式上，体现了多样化和活泼性，寓学于乐。

本《阅读教程》共10个单元。每一单元由4篇文章组成：2篇短文章，2篇长文章。包括实用文、记叙文、议论文和说明文等。每个单元的开始部分均设有Unit Goals 和 Lead-in。Unit Goals 配上与文章主题相关的图片，使学习者对本单元的学习要点一目了然；Lead-in 提出与本单元4篇文章相关的启发性问题，供学习者思考、讨论或就文章涉及的主题与教师展开互动；Pre-reading Questions 设在2篇长文章的开始，就文章主题和内容提出相关问题，引发学生对文章的阅读兴趣，启发学生对文章的理解；Notes 设在文章的结尾，主要对文章的文化背景及专有名词进行解释，使学习者对相关国家的文化有更全面的了解，以便更好地理解文章；Comprehension Questions 形式新颖独特，丰富多彩，包括 Matching, True or False Statements, Chart Completion, Translation, Multiple Choice 等。Extended Activities 帮助学生巩固所学内容，培养其实际应用语言的能力；Reading Strategy 既讲又练，使学生逐步积累和掌握阅读技巧，达到提高阅读理解能力的目的；Fun Zone 设在每单元的最后，包括笑话，幽默故事、漫画、游戏、智力测试、脑筋急转弯等，使学生在轻松愉快的气氛中结束一个单元的学习。

《阅读教程》在设计和编写过程中得到了高等教育出版社编辑的帮助。香港中文大学的孔宪辉教授、David Coniam 教授、Arthur McNeill 博士、马冠芳博士担任了本教程的审定与顾问工作，在此一并表示感谢。尽管编写时作者在探索和体现新型教学思想方面尽了最大努力，但由于水平、经验有限，本教程中难免有一些不尽如人意之处，我们热诚欢迎广大师生在使用时提出宝贵意思。

《新通用大学英语阅读教程》项目组

2007年5月

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# Greetings and Small Talk



- Learners will be able to
- greet people from English speaking countries properly;
  - make small talk to maintain a conversation;
  - have some idea of the different greeting customs in different cultures;
  - avoid misunderstandings caused by not being able to greet people from other cultures;
  - form good reading habits to improve their reading speed.

## Lead-in

1. How do you greet others in your daily life? List the ways of greeting you know: handshake, "Hi", kisses. And anything else?
2. What will you say after greeting someone if you want to continue your conversation with him?

## Matching

Guess the meanings of the words and expressions in Readings 1 & 2. Look them up in a dictionary if necessary.

- |                |  |
|----------------|--|
| 1. essential   | a. including a lot of information and detail |
| 2. convey      | b. say that something will happen            |
| 3. detailed    | c. extremely important and necessary         |
| 4. predict     | d. communicate information or a message      |
| 5. appropriate | e. correct or suitable                       |
| 6. breed       | f. something that is told as a story         |
| 7. narrative   | g. chance for action or thought              |
| 8. scope       | h. cause or be the beginning of              |

## Reading 1

Required Time: 4 mins

Start Time:

Finish Time:

## The Structure of Conversations

It is easy to predict the structure of most conversations. Usually, a person initiates a conversation with a greeting followed by small talk. Greetings are essential when starting a social interaction. Greetings can be rather generic, meaning they are not detailed or do not convey specific information. Rather, they signal awareness of someone's presence, show the speaker's friendliness and offer to start a conversation. Despite the simplicity of greetings, however, one must have some awareness of the social status or ages of the individuals involved when choosing an appropriate greeting. This awareness is usually communicated through the degree of formality in the greeting. Small talk is often used in social interactions to begin and keep up a conversation. Some conversations only contain small talk and others have small talk before sharing information. When speakers do not know each other well and possess little shared information, small talk serves as a transition between greeting and sharing actual information. The shared information can take a variety of forms, including stories (i.e., narratives), procedural descriptions, etc. It can also be content-specific, such as what takes place at a certain meeting. Most conversations close with some wrap-up remarks and a final farewell.



(198 words)

### Comprehension Questions

#### **A** True or False Statements

Decide whether the following statements are True or False according to the passage. Write T for true and F for false.

- ( ) 1. A conversation is usually initiated with a greeting conveying specific information.
- ( ) 2. To select appropriate greetings, one must be aware of the social status or age of the individual involved.
- ( ) 3. Small talk is a type of conversational exchange to help people share more information.
- ( ) 4. If the communication partners do not know each other well, they will not continue their conversations.
- ( ) 5. Most conversations progress in a way that people can expect.

#### **B** Short Answer Questions

Answer the following questions according to the passage.

- 1. The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. Some awareness of the social status or age of the other side of conversation may help people \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3. People usually initiate a conversation with a greeting and maintain it with \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4. Which stage often comes after small talk? \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5. How do people usually bring the conversation to a close? \_\_\_\_\_.



## Reading 2

Required Time: 4.5 mins

Start Time:

Finish Time:

### The Art of Conversations

There is a common misconception that a person who is good at talking to others always has amazing stories to tell and is full of jokes. In fact, most people want a two-way dialogue with interaction, not just one person talking the whole time.

A good way of creating good dialogues is by asking questions in a specific way. For example, questions like "Do you live in London?" can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no", which is not good for breeding conversations. But if a person asks "Where do you live?", there is scope for a longer and, hopefully, more interesting reply. This is what is called an open-ended question. If you are looking for something a little deeper and more involved then you could try out probing questions. These questions start with words like "how", "why" and "in what way".

Avoid starting questions with "are" or "do". since these are closed questions, which will only require a "yes" or "no". Questions which begin with "what", "where", "which", "who" and "when", are open questions, usually requiring fuller answers.

Sparking up a conversation can be seriously tricky, especially when two people involved appear to have nothing in common to talk about. If there is nothing obvious to talk about it can be hard to break the ice and start a conversation. However, there are four topics of conversation that are always helpful for such difficult situations: family, work, sports or hobbies and education. These topics can be used in almost any situation since most people have a family, job, do things in their spare time — even if it is watching television, go or have gone to school at some point in their lives. Everyone will be able to talk about at least one of these subjects.

What is so useful about having these topics up your sleeve is that you do not need to always keep up the conversation by yourself. If you are interested in what the other person has to say you can join in enthusiastically; otherwise you can sit back and listen to what is being said — the options are there.

(355 words)



### Comprehension Questions



#### Choice Making

Suppose you are invited to an American friend's birthday party and meet some strangers at the party. Decide which of the following questions are appropriate to start and keep on a conversation



with a stranger and which are inappropriate.

appropriate questions	inappropriate questions

### Questions:

- Where did you go on your last vacation?
- Do you watch TV a lot?
- What kind of movies do you like seeing?
- Did you like the movie *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*?
- Have you read the recent news of the Hollywood actor?
- Who is your favorite actor or actress?
- How is your job going?
- What's your opinion of the new shopping center in the neighborhood?
- Do you know there is a new shopping center located in the neighborhood?
- Where did you get your schooling?
- Oh, there is the photograph of your family. Tell me something about your children.
- Do you like music?
- What kind of music or song do you enjoy most?

### Sentence Rewriting

Rewrite the following sentences by replacing the underlined words or expressions with the words or expressions from the passage that best keep the original meaning.

- There are plenty of opportunities for particular talents to develop in this job.
- The farmers could hardly wait to test the new farming method.
- Sharon tried to make us less nervous and more willing to talk by suggesting that we all play a game.
- His attitude makes me think he have a secret plan that will be useful later.

## Reading 3

### Pre-reading Questions

- Do you know how people greet each other in France and in America?
- Do you think we should be mindful when greeting people from another culture?

### International Greetings

Different countries have their fascinating differences with how people greet each other. What can

show affection among friends in one country may be a sign of attraction to someone in another country.

One example is the difference between French greetings and American greetings. When the French people first see each other they *faire la bise*, or “do the kiss”. The most common way of doing this is a kiss on each cheek. My friend Monique from France came to visit me and my family earlier this month. While my husband and I waited for her to arrive at the airport, I clued my husband in on this custom. He was surprised and said, “Well, at least she’s a woman!”



The American method of greeting someone for the first time is usually a handshake. Some women don’t follow this custom, though some younger women do. Most people in the business world shake hands when meeting a business associate — whether when meeting for the first time or not. But if two people work in the same office, they usually will not shake hands every day.

Americans usually greet acquaintances and friends with a simple “hi”. Family members may give a kiss on each cheek. Friends and family members who have not seen each other for a long time may give a kiss and an upper body hug. This is usually between a man and a woman or two women but usually only between two men who are family members.

Monique has clarified the greeting customs in France to me. The French also shake hands at a formal business meeting but, outside of business, greetings are usually kisses. “With friends and family, we’d usually give two kisses. In some places it’s three kisses, in other places, like Paris, it’s four kisses. But I couldn’t find a map of France with different colors to show how many kisses they give in each town,” said Monique. It is called *faire la bise* even if there are several kisses. *Une bise* means a smack on the cheek. A kiss between a couple is called *Un baiser* but can also have a double meaning of more than just a kiss. “One kiss in France usually means a very close relationship, usually romantically involved,” Monique told me.

Between friends and family members, the French *faire la bise* every day but only once a day in the case that two people see each other several times in a day.

This is between two women or a man and woman. Men usually shake hands or pat each other on the shoulder or hug each other. If the two men are family members or close friends and have not seen each other for a long time, they will kiss. In some families, people even kiss each other’s cheeks when saying good morning and good night.

Hugs are also different between the French and Americans. Americans often hug each other with head and shoulders touching but not the rest of the upper body. In France, hugs are usually reserved for funerals and long goodbyes but those hugs are whole upper bodies close together.

When I introduced Monique to my parents, I told them about giving one kiss on each cheek, as is the custom of French people. That is how they greeted Monique (and vice versa) the first time they met.



I asked Monique if she had met my parents under normal circumstances (that is, without me having discussed greeting customs beforehand) would she have kissed them twice on the cheeks (since she sort of knew them through me), or would she only have shaken their hands. She answered, “About meeting your parents: given that they’re your parents, I could have done either (shaken their hands or kissed them on each



cheek) when meeting them, because we'd never met before. Actually, it depends on what you feel. According to the way I 'felt' about them as people, independently of the fact that they're your parents, my first 'feeling' would have been to kiss them twice when meeting, and when leaving. But we step here into personal relationships, besides the customs."

There is some "grey" area about customs in general. They can be interpreted differently depending on the region and also the individual. One thing is sure, be mindful when greeting an individual from another culture. One friendly kiss we'd give to friends in Paris would signal something more romantic in New York.

(740 words)

### Comprehension Questions



#### Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer from the four choices given below according to the passage.

1. What is the passage mainly about?
  - A. Cultural differences between the US and France.
  - B. Different greeting customs in the US and France.
  - C. The author's French friend, Monique's life in the US.
  - D. The friendship between Monique and the author.
2. Which of the following statements is not true?
  - A. In the US people usually greet a family member with a kiss on each cheek.
  - B. In France people usually greet a family member with a kiss.
  - C. In the US when greeting a business associate, people usually shake hands.
  - D. In France when greeting a business associate, people usually shake hands.
3. What does Monique mean by saying "I couldn't find a map of France with different colors to show how many kisses they give in each town."? (Para. 5)
  - A. She is not good at making maps.
  - B. A map showing how many kisses people give in each town is hard to find.
  - C. It is difficult to tell exactly how many kisses people give in each town.
  - D. She does not know how many kisses people give in other towns.
4. Which of the following may explain the sentence "There is some 'grey' area about customs in general." in the last paragraph?
  - A. The way people greet each other varies from region to region.
  - B. The way people greet each other varies from individual to individual.
  - C. The way people greet each other depends on both the region and the individual.
  - D. Both the region and the individual have nothing to do with the way people greet each other.



5. Which word in the last paragraph indicates the appropriate attitude we should have when greeting people from other cultures?
- A. Romantic. B. Sure.  
C. Mindful. D. Friendly.
6. We can infer from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. people greet each other differently in different countries  
B. people from different cultures should greet each other in the same way  
C. people do not mind different greeting customs if they are close friends  
D. if people do not know difference between greeting customs, there will be misunderstandings

### **B** Chart Completion

Complete the following chart with the information in the the passage.

How People Greet Each Other			
Country	When first meeting someone	When greeting a family member	When greeting a friend
In the US	a. _____.	Give a kiss on the cheek or d. _____.	e. _____ with the one you have seen recently. f. _____ and a hug with the one you have not seen for a long time.
In France	b. _____ at a business meeting. c. _____ outside the business world.	Give two or more kisses.	g. _____.

### **C** Word Filling

Fill in the following blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

fascinate   associate   clarify   clue   circumstance   independent

- Reporters asked the Congressman for a \_\_\_\_\_ of his position on welfare reform.
- I know nothing about this mystery.  
— Mark will \_\_\_\_\_ you in about this.
- Under no \_\_\_\_\_ should we do anything that will benefit ourselves but harm the interests

of the state.

4. What \_\_\_\_\_ me most about him is his accent. Where does he come from?
5. Most people prefer to \_\_\_\_\_ with friends at their own age.
6. She told me that she wanted to have a life of \_\_\_\_\_, and then left me.

### **Extended Activities**

Step 1. Work in small groups to discuss the following greeting customs.

- 1) Greeting others by asking questions, such as "Where are you going?", "Have you eaten?" and "How old are you?".
- 2) Addressing the elders by their "titles" (e.g. Uncle, Aunt, Grandma, etc.) and having proper terms for different relatives, not just cousins or uncles.

Step 2. Exchange your opinions on the following questions.

- 1) Are these customs typically Chinese ones? List some other Chinese greeting customs.
- 2) Do you think these customs are appropriate when greeting foreigners? Why?

## **Reading 4**

### **Pre-reading Questions**

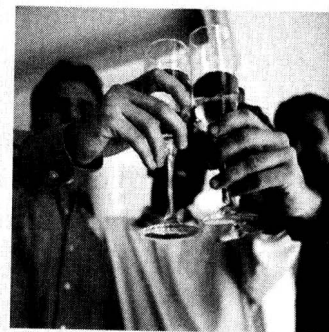
1. Do you often have parties on campus? How do you usually make friends when you attend gatherings or parties?
2. Do you have some idea of American style of party conversations? Compare it with the Chinese style of party conversations.

### **Small Talk at Cocktail Parties**

Americans often socialize. Artists go to gallery openings where drinks are served and people chat. Athletes and sports fans often go drinking after a game to talk over the action. Business people have parties in their homes for office associates and their families, or attend conferences and office parties. On campus students have dances and dorm parties to make new friends. To know how to make small talk at such occasions is an important skill for both survival and having fun in America.

Although people everywhere are basically the same, each culture has its own style of party conversations. This article can help the Asian students understand some basic techniques for making friends at parties in America. Travelers will find this information useful for Australia, England, or just about anywhere English speaking people get together.

The first point to remember is the difference in the role of women in American society versus most Asian societies. In the U.S., women are expected to "hold their own" in conversations. To be silent, when spoken to, can be a sign of ignorance and/or rudeness. When a woman does not participate actively in the conversation people may think she is either stupid or snobbish. Therefore the first





challenge for women in most Asian countries or regions abroad is to overcome her shyness and modesty and learn to participate fully.

When Americans introduce themselves, everyone wears at least two hats. It is assumed people have a career of some kind and an active social life outside of work. Therefore, people should be prepared to talk about themselves in two ways, as a professional and a private person. By private, I do not mean very personal things, but of an interest outside of work like painting, fishing, baseball, travel, etc.

The two most common questions at parties are "What do you do?" and "What do you do for fun?". "What do you do?" means "What is your job?", but is more open-ended, to include being a student, a musician, an actor, or other way someone may see themselves professionally. We usually answer with our career title plus some additional information. For example, "I am an art student. I love to paint, and hope to be a professional oil painter someday." or "I am an English teacher in Japan. I specialize in teaching art students how to talk about their work in English."

Although "What do you do for fun?" is usually translated "What is your hobby?", this is not the best way to ask this question. The American word "hobby" means "doing something small with your hands in your spare time", like collecting postcards, making model airplanes, or perhaps knitting. Hobbies usually do not include activities like sports, fine arts, music, etc. and the word is often associated with very young teenagers or old retired people.

When Americans talk about their "after work" activities it is important to sound excited. We say "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." We expect people to have an interest or two outside of work. Someone who only talks about his or her job is usually considered boring. Because we are responsible for the careers we choose and interests we have, people are expected to be authorities or at least enthusiastic about their area of interest. For example, if you say you study art, people may ask you "What kind of art do you like?", "Who are your favorite artists?", "Have you seen the latest show at the museum?", etc. If you say you like baseball, people may ask you "Who is your favorite team?", "What position do you like to play?", "Who do you think will win the pennant?", etc.

We recommend students carefully study the vocabulary for their specialty. For example an artist may want to talk about their favorite medium, what they like and dislike in art, which artists influenced them, etc. If you can talk about your work and interest with sincerity and enthusiasm, people will feel relaxed with you and want to talk. If you are silent, or answer questions with one word or "yes and no" answers, people will assume you are not friendly. In America, silence is often used to express anger or disinterest, and one word answers are usually a sign of rudeness, meaning "Go away, I don't want to speak to you!"

Sometimes the conversation may be going in a direction you are not interested in. It is helpful to know how to change the subject. For example, you may not like discussing politics, religion, or an area you may know nothing about. Simply say, "I know little about ...(the subject you don't like) but would love to talk about ... (the subject you do like)." In this way you can direct the conversation to an area you feel comfortable.

This is why it is helpful to have vocabulary and some knowledge of at least two or three different subjects. You may make start talking about sports and find the handsome man or beautiful woman you are talking to is not interested in sports, with proper preparation you can easily switch to art, music, etc. The trick is, the more subjects you know well, the greater the



possibility of finding a common interest.

Many people feel they have little to talk about, but actually we all know lots of things about many subjects. It is just necessary to choose our favorite subjects and learn the important vocabulary before we attend a party. With knowledge of two or more subjects we can easily find friends with similar interests at almost any American party. A little preparation goes a long way.

(941 words)

### Comprehension Questions

#### Yes, No or Not Given Statements

Read the following statements and decide if they agree with the information given in the passage. Mark Y (for Yes) if it agrees; N (for No) if it contradicts the information or NG (for Not Given) if the information is not given in the passage.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The passage is helpful for both students and travelers in English-speaking countries.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. In the US, people are expected to exchange some personal information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Doing something small personally is coming back into fashion these years.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. With the vocabulary for their specialty, Asian students may communicate freely with Americans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The more subjects you know well, the more easily you will find friends at American Parties.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. By asking "What do you do for fun", you can change the conversation to an area that interests you.

#### Communicative Questions

Decide whether the following actions or questions are appropriate (✓) or not (×) when you are at an American party.

- ( ) 1. Keeping silent when unfamiliar questions are asked.
- ( ) 2. Talking about work only, making no references to other things.
- ( ) 3. Showing interest in others' income.
- ( ) 4. An artist talking about what he likes and dislikes in art.
- ( ) 5. Answering all the questions with a couple of words.
- ( ) 6. Changing the subjects if your conversation partner is not interested in what you are talking about.

#### Sentence Completion

Complete the following sentences with the information given in the passage. The first letter of each word has been given.

- 1. In the US if you do not participate actively in the conversation, people will think you are s\_\_\_\_\_ or s\_\_\_\_\_.
- 2. The Americans usually talk about themselves both as a p\_\_\_\_\_ person and as a p\_\_\_\_\_ person.