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大学英语 阅读教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH
READING

总主编 杨 辉

主 编 荆 燕 辛运国 张 萍

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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前言

《大学英语阅读教程》的编写以最新的外语教学理论为指导，全面贯彻《大学英语课程教学要求》对学生阅读理解能力要求的精神，帮助学生通过拓展阅读提高英语水平，开拓知识视野，培养文化意识。本书是针对大学生的学习特点和大学英语教学现状而编写的，可与各主要版本的综合教程配套使用。

根据《大学英语课程教学要求》，一般要求的快速阅读的速度为每分钟100个词；要能借助词典阅读题材熟悉英文报刊文章，掌握中心大意，理解主要事实和有关细节；能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。为了贯彻这一要求，在新改革后的大学英语四、六级考试中，增设了快速阅读理解，分值占总分的10%。我们敏锐地捕捉到了这一变化，在《大学英语阅读教程》（1—4册）的编写过程中，始终把快速阅读能力的培养放在重要的地位，以阅读技巧、阅读方法为主线，体现“精讲多练”的原则，旨在使学生能按《课程教学要求》，掌握阅读技巧，高效、快速地阅读中等难度的、一般性题材的英语文章，进行一定的分析、推理和判断，促进应试和实际应用能力的提高。

本教程共分4册，第1册围绕“运用语言技能理解文章”这一层面的阅读技能展开训练；第2册重点解析和训练“辨别和理解中心思想和重要细节”这一层面的阅读技能；第3册训练“运用专门的阅读技能（略读、查读）”这一层面的阅读技能；第4册提高了阅读材料的难度，把前3册的阅读技能贯穿于其中。每册分为8个单元，各单元由同一题材的2篇文章、生词注释、有关文化背景介绍、练习等组成。每一册书按4单元为一组设计了两份试卷，供学生阶段性复习使用。为了帮助大学生准备四、六级考试，我们在每个单元增加了阅读训练部分，由3篇带有多项选择题目的小短文组成；同时在文章的练习中，增加了汉译英练习。

本套教程的编写体现了如下特点：

1. 本教程由具有丰富的教学经验的大学英语教师分工协作、集体编写而成，具有很强的专业性。

2. 本教程在编写过程中充分吸收了我国大学英语教学界长期积累起来的、行之有效的经验和方法，取各家之长，兼容并蓄，能适应各种英语教学的需求。

3. 本教程旨在通过教师的“精讲”和学生的“多练”来提高学生学习的主动性、积极性和创造性。

4. 本教程选用当代英语常见语体或文体的典型样本作为素材，内容新颖，搜选范围主要是近五年来英美国家出版的报纸杂志文章或最新的网络文章，涵盖教育、科技、政治、经济和文化等各个方面，阅读文章素材均具有可读性、文化教育性和时代性。

5. 本教程练习题型均按照最新的大学英语四、六级考试的题型标准和难度设计。每篇文章后附设了6种题型：一是快速阅读类（包括是非判断题和句子填空题）；二是阅读理解类（为多项选择题）；三是篇章理解类（为选词填空题），依据阅读文章的内容编出一篇小短文，留出10个空，给出15个词供读者进行选择填空；四是简答题，一般用问句形式命题，要求学生做简短回答；五是翻译题，共5个句子。句中的一部分已用英文给出，要求学生根据全句意思将汉语部分译成英语；六是讨论题，针对文章内容提出两个问题，供学生讨论。各题型的题量适当，可以有效帮助学生逐步熟悉考试形式。

杨辉教授担任本套教材的总主编，设计了“编写提纲”和“编写要求”；张淑莲、李显、邵光庆、荆燕老师完成了全套书的选材工作，对所选文章进行了严格的筛选、分类和分册处理。加拿大专家Kenwood对全书进行了审阅。

在《大学英语阅读教程》的策划、编写和出版过程中，得到了山东轻工业学院教务处和外国语学院的支持和帮助，在此一并表示致谢！

编者

2011年2月

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Unit 1

FORCES OF NATURE

Part 1

Reading Text

Forces of Nature

CBC News Online January 11, 2005

- ❶ The following is a list of some of the worst natural calamities to strike the world since 1900. The list is by definition arguable. Earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes and other storms are all clearly natural phenomena.
- ❷ The picture is less clear for disasters like floods and famine. What some people may consider a natural disaster, others may consider more of a political act (for instance, some of the world's deadliest floods and famines were caused, at least in part, by policy decisions taken by hostile, indifferent or negligent regimes).
- ❸ For our purposes, we have included floods and famines in our list. We will also include flu pandemics, on the assumption that disasters that are not man-made are by definition (at least, our definition) natural.
- ❹ This list is also limited to disasters since 1900—an arbitrary cut-off to be sure—but one made to reflect so-called “modern” disasters only. The death tolls from disasters in the long-distant past are, at best, rough estimates. But there can be no doubt that our pre-1900 ancestors endured some appalling disasters—the bubonic plague (“the Black Death”) that spread through Europe beginning in 1348 wiped out an estimated one-third of humanity,

about 25 million people.

⑤ And finally, by “worst” we mean the deadliest, not the costliest. So the list will exclude 1992’s Hurricane Andrew, which caused an estimated U.S. \$25 billion in damage in Florida and Louisiana, but left “only” 26 people dead.

Earthquakes/Tsunamis (with 100,000 deaths or more)

⑥ July 28, 1976—The world’s most devastating quake of the 20th century (magnitude 7.8) hit the sleeping city of Tangshan, in northeast China. The official death toll was 242,000. But some unofficial estimates put the actual number of dead as high as 655,000.

⑦ May 22, 1927—A magnitude 7.9 quake near Xining, China, killed 200,000.

⑧ Dec. 16, 1920—China was also the site for the world’s third-deadliest quake of the 20th century. An estimated 200,000 died when a magnitude 8.6 temblor hit Gansu, triggering massive landslides.

⑨ Dec. 26, 2004—A magnitude 9.0 quake struck off the coast of Sumatra, triggering tsunamis that swept through the coastal regions of a dozen countries bordering the Indian Ocean. More than 156,000 died and thousands more are missing.

⑩ Sept. 1, 1923—A third of Tokyo and most of Yokohama were leveled when a magnitude 8.3 earthquake shook Japan. About 143,000 were killed as fires ravaged much of Tokyo.

⑪ Dec. 28, 1908—Southern Italy was ravaged by a 7.2 magnitude quake that triggered a tsunami that hit the Messina-Reggio-Calabria area, killing 123,000.

⑫ Oct. 5, 1948—More than 110,000 were killed when a 7.3 quake rolled through the area around Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.

Volcanic Eruptions

⑬ May 8, 1902—Mt. Pelee erupted on the Caribbean island of Martinique, destroying the capital city of St. Pierre. Up to 40,000 were killed.

⑭ Nov. 13-14, 1985—At least 25,000 are killed near Armero, Colombia, when the Nevado del Ruiz Volcano erupted, triggering mudslides.

⑮ July 15, 1991—Mt. Pinatubo on Luzon Island in the Philippines erupted, blanketing 750 square kilometers with volcanic ash. More than 800 died.

⑯ Two of the most famous eruptions took place before our 1900 cut-off. In 1883, two-thirds of the Indonesian island of Krakatoa was destroyed when a volcano erupted. A resulting series of tsunamis killed more than 36,000. And in A.D. 79, Mt. Vesuvius erupted in southern Italy, destroying the ancient Roman city of Pompeii and two other communities. Thousands died.

Hurricanes/Cyclones/Floods

- ⑮ July-August 1931—Massive flooding of China's Yangtze River led to more than three million deaths from drowning, disease and starvation.
- ⑯ Nov. 13, 1970—A cyclone in the Ganges Delta killed at least 300,000 in Bangladesh.
- ⑰ July 1, 1991—Cyclones triggered flooding in Bangladesh that killed 138,000.
- ⑱ August 1971—An estimated 100,000 died when heavy rains led to severe flooding around Hanoi in what was then North Vietnam.
- ㉑ Aug. 5, 1975—At least 85,000 were killed along the Yangtze River in China when more than 60 dams failed following a series of storms, causing widespread flooding and famine.
- ㉒ Oct. 26—Nov. 4, 1998—Hurricane Mitch was the deadliest hurricane to hit the Americas. It killed 11,000 in Honduras and Nicaragua and left 2.5 million homeless.

Pandemics/Famines

- ㉓ 1918-1919—An epidemic of "Spanish Flu" spread around the world. At least 20 million died, although some estimates put the final toll at 50 million. It's estimated that between 20 per cent and 40 per cent of the entire world's population got sick.
- ㉔ 1957-1958—The Asian flu swept around the world, making it the second flu pandemic of the century.
- ㉕ 1968—The Hong Kong flu became the third flu pandemic of the 20th century. The World Health Organization estimated that a total of 1.5 million died in the above Asian and Hong Kong flu pandemics.
- ㉖ 1980 to present—Toll from AIDS worldwide since 1980 is estimated at 25 million, with 40 million others infected with HIV.
- ㉗ 1959-1961—The "Great Leap Famine" cost an estimated 20 million to 40 million lives in China. China was also hit by major famines in 1907, 1928-1930, 1936 and 1941-1942.
- ㉘ 1932-1933—Failures in Soviet central planning and Stalin's decision to withhold food from the Ukraine led to huge loss of life. At least five million Ukrainians were among the seven million victims of that famine.
- ㉙ 1921—A Soviet famine in 1921 began with a drought that caused massive crop failures. The initial death toll was greatly magnified when Lenin refused to acknowledge the famine and sent no aid. The Soviets later estimated that 5.1 million died.
- ㉚ 1984-1985—Famine killed at least one million in Ethiopia as severe drought led to desperate food shortages.

New Words and Expressions

- **negligent** /'neglɪdʒənt/ *adj.* guilty of a lack of due care or concern 疏忽的
- **regime** /reɪ'ʒi:m/ *n.* a government in power; administration 政体, 政权, 政权制度
- **arbitrary** /'ɑ:bɪtrəri/ *adj.* based on personal opinion or impulse, not on reason 任意的, 主观的
- **mudslide** /'mʌdslaɪd/ *n.* a mudflow, especially a slow-moving one 泥流
- **Ganges** 恒河
- **delta** /'deltə/ *n.* (河流的) 三角洲
- **pandemic** /pæn'demɪk/ *adj.* widespread; general 广泛流传的; 普遍的
- **Ethiopia** 埃塞俄比亚 (非洲东部国家)

Exercises

I Fast Reading 15 minutes

Directions: For questions 1-7, mark Y (for Yes) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage, mark N (for No) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage, mark NG (for Not Given) if the statement is not given in the passage. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- _____ 1. Natural disasters are considered by some people to be the result of political acts.
- _____ 2. The Black Death is the deadliest disaster in the history.
- _____ 3. The world's most devastating earthquake of the 20th century occurred in Tangshan in northeast China.
- _____ 4. The three most devastating earthquakes in 20th century all occurred in China.
- _____ 5. The government should be responsible for some natural disasters.
- _____ 6. Central planning of the government is prone to famine.
- _____ 7. Natural disasters often occurred in underdeveloped countries.
8. In A.D. 79, Mt. Vesuvius erupted in southern Italy, destroying the ancient Roman city of _____.
9. Natural disasters occurring in coastal areas mostly relate to _____.
10. Monitoring and pre-warning system should be enhanced because natural disasters can be _____ and overwhelming.

II Reading Comprehension Reading in Depth

Directions: The following are 5 questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are 4 choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice.

- Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the passage?

A. Earthquakes.	B. Famine.
C. Volcanic Eruptions.	D. Typhoon.
- What can be inferred from the passage about the aftermath of Natural disasters?

A. Economic losses.	B. Heavy casualties.
C. Environmental losses.	D. All of the above.
- Earthquakes occurred in the following places in China, with _____ excluded.

A. The Yangtze River	B. Gansu
C. Tangshan	D. Xining
- Which continent is NOT mentioned in the passage?

A. America.	B. Asia.	C. Oceania.	D. Africa.
-------------	----------	-------------	------------
- What measures can be taken to mitigate the impact of natural disasters?

A. Disaster prevention.	B. Disaster mitigation programme.
C. Enhancement of international cooperation.	D. All of the above.

III Passage Understanding

Direction: In this section, there is a passage with 10 blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A natural disaster is the 1 of a natural event with significant human and social 2. The passage gives a summary of some of the natural 3 which showed great forces of nature since 1900, 4 earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, cyclones, hurricanes, even floods and famine and flu pandemics. In effect, people may have 5 ideas on how to define natural disasters. Some natural disasters, like floods and famines, are considered by many people to be the result of political acts, for instances, the famine in Ukraine. And earthquakes are prone to 6 tsunamis sweeping through the coastal regions. And the force of nature can also 7 a

volcanic eruption generating 8 _____ power to 9 _____ a whole city. At times the disasters are as a 10 _____ of these processes.

- | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| A. contrary | B. excluding | C. trigger |
| D. appalling | E. ravage | F. site |
| G. worst | H. including | I. costliest |
| J. casualties | K. causing | L. result |
| M. damaged | N. calamities | O. find full expression in |

IV Short Answer Questions

Directions: Answer the questions or complete the statements in fewest possible words. Your answer may be a word, a phrase, or a short sentence.

- How do you understand the word “worst” in the first paragraph?
- Most mega-killer disasters occur in densely populated belt through Asia, along Indian Ocean—the number of fatalities is proportional to the density of _____.
- Please enumerate at least three kinds of other natural disasters.
- The author holds that disasters like floods, famine and flu pandemics are _____
- Can you give two synonyms of the word “calamity”?

V Translation

Direction: Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese into English.

- I _____ on the list of things to buy.
包括了鸡蛋
- The war _____
夺去了很多人的生命
- We _____
估计他一年的收入大约 6,000 英镑
- I picked a sheltered _____
有遮蔽的地方搭帐篷
- The forest fire _____
使数英里范围的农村遭到破坏

Questions for Discussion

1. Should human beings themselves be responsible for some of the natural disasters?
2. How to protect our environment?

Part 2

Reading Practice

There are three short passages in this part. Read the passages quickly and do the comprehension exercises.

Passage 1

① In the days immediately following Hurricane Andrew's deadly visit to South Florida, Allstate Insurance hastily dispatched more than 2,000 extra claim adjusters to the devastated area to assist the 200 stationed there. Many of the reserves arrived in convoys of motor homes. Others flew in from as far away as Alaska and California. Since the storm had knocked out telephone lines, Allstate rushed to set up its own communications system. Allstate expects to pay out 1.2 billion to cover more than 121,000 damage claims as a result of Andrew.

② All told, U.S. property and casualty insurers have been hit with more than 8 billion in Andrew-related claims, making the hurricane the most costly single calamity to strike the industry since the San Francisco earthquake and fire in 1906 (cost 6 billion, after inflation). With claims continuing to pour in, Andrew threatens to take a painful toll on the already battered property-casualty insurance industry and its 100 million policy-holders. The final bill, analysts predict, is likely to top 10 billion. While most well-capitalized insurers are expected to weather the storm, less anchored firms are in danger of being blown away, leaving U.S. consumers stuck with the tab. Says Sean Mooney, senior researcher at the Insurance Information Institute, it will take years before the industry digs itself out from the wreckage left by Andrew. Some [companies] will be buried by it.

③ Hurricane Andrew is the latest in a string of mishaps to plague the American insurance industry this year. In April an overflowing Chicago River flooded the city's downtown district, costing insurers 300 million in claims. A month later, Los Angeles was rocked by the worst civilian riot in the U.S. since the Civil War, with the insurance toll: 1 billion. Then came a series of major hailstorms in Texas, Florida and Kansas. They cost insurers a combined 700

million. And two weeks after Andrew, another lethal hurricane, Iniki, smashed into Hawaii, causing 1.4 billion in damages. In all, property and casualty insurers have paid out a record 13 billion in claims so far this year, far surpassing the previous high of 7.6 billion in 1989, the year of Hurricane Hugo and California's Bay Area earthquake. Just as in that year, when those catastrophes were followed by substantial increases in insurance premiums, insurers are already lobbying for rate relief.

[387 words]

1. According to the passage, Allstate Insurance most likely refers to _____.
 A. one of the property and casualty insurers in the U.S.
 B. the only insurance company responsible for the damage claims by Andrew
 C. the insurance industry as a whole
 D. the biggest insurance company in the U.S.
2. As stated in the second paragraph, the result of Hurricane Andrew is likely to _____.
 A. lead to inflation throughout the U.S.
 B. make the largest insurers suffer the most
 C. put the industry in South Florida out of action
 D. cause insurers with insufficient funds to go bankrupt
3. Using context clues, we may infer that "stuck with the tab" (Para. 2) most probably means _____.
 A. caught in the hurricane
 B. exposed to natural disasters
 C. trapped in financial difficulties
 D. extremely vulnerable to further damages
4. The end of the passage implies that, to compensate for their huge loss, the insurers will _____.
 A. resort to a very big increase in insurance premiums
 B. ask for subsidies from the federal government
 C. reduce their insurance coverage thereafter
 D. require a higher interest rate from the bank
5. The main purpose of the passage is to _____.
 A. show the severe damages and heavy losses caused by Hurricane Andrew
 B. suggest that U.S. insurers are virtually unable to cover the damage claims any more
 C. tell about the difficult situation faced by the insurers throughout the U.S.
 D. prove that disasters tend to cause ever worsening devastation as time goes on