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实用大学英语读写系列教材

总主编 夏锡华 崔东



实用大学英语 读写教程

(第四册)

● 张冬贵 夏锡华 主编



华中科技大学出版社

实用大学英语读写教程

第四册

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前 言

《实用大学英语听说教程》——四册和《实用大学英语读写教程》——四册是根据教育部 1999 年公布的《大学英语教学大纲》修订本及 2004 年 3 月网上公布的《大学英语课程要求(试行)》意见编写的,针对地方普通高等院校本科学生在基础阶段使用的一套教材。

本套教材选择的题材和体裁具有多样性,从一般的趣味性文章,到文、史、哲、经等方面的文章,特别注重学生语言基础的训练,从读音、词汇、语法、功能意念等方面对学生进行训练。材料的来源也很广泛,既有从国外原版教材中选择的文章,也有从国内外英文杂志、网络上改编的文章。

大学英语教材建设是大学英语教学改革的重要环节,在全国高等院校中,既有 211 工程大学,也有国家重点大学、省级重点大学,一般普通高等院校,同时,由于地域差异,学生入学时的英语水平参差不齐,针对不同的教学对象,使用不同的教学材料、划分不同的教学级别、提出不同的教学要求,因材施教,是大学英语教学理论的“与时俱进”。不同层次的学校,有针对性地编写出适合自己学校学生学习的教材和辅助教材,以及正在发展的网络教材是大学英语教学改革、大学英语教材建设的发展方向。

在这样的背景下,由华中科技大学出版社组织、策划了针对一般普通高等院校而编写的《实用大学英语听说教程》和《实用大学英语读写教程》系列教材,由江汉大学、中国人民解放军第四军医大学、四川大学、秦皇岛职业技术学院、广西师范学院、湖北经济学院、湖北鄖阳医学院等院校数十位中青年教师参加,经过认真准备,精心修改,集体协作编写而成。编写集体成员中,大多是年富力强的中青年教师,其中大多数教师具有硕士学位或正在攻读硕士学位,他们大多毕业于 20 世纪 90 年代,学习了新的语言学理论,并掌握了较为扎实的语言功底,为教材的成功编写打下了良好的基础。本套教材由江汉大学外国语学院夏锡华、崔东担任总主编。

本套教材的编写方针是:从实际出发,总结经验,借鉴方法,编写适合

一般普通高等院校实用的基础阶段大学英语教材。

以学生为教学中心,以教师为教学的主导是本套教材推荐的教学方式。在信息时代的今天,无论是教师还是学生,都受到了这一时代的强烈冲击。快餐文化、浮躁心理、不平衡感觉、网络游戏沉溺、贫富差距、付出与所得不对等,使我们动辄回忆起过去的美好、传统教学环境下学生的自觉、自愿、目标明确的教学环境难以再现。如何有效地开展好大学英语教学活动,不断提高我国的大学英语教学水平,为国家培养外语合格的人才是摆在大学英语教师面前的一个重大课题,是一个需要方方面面配合方能解决的历史性课题,所幸的是,新一轮的大学英语教学改革已经启动,我们大学英语教师所期盼的不仅仅是教学方式的改变,而是更深层次的改变。

本套教材由江汉大学外国语学院牵头,通过参加单位的通力合作,历时一年多合力编写而成的,邓虹、张冬贵、董春枝、胡德勤、王静、周昕、王相国、李旭等分册主编为此付出了艰辛的劳动。教材建设一向是学校教学改革的重点,本套教材从开始就得到了校领导的高度重视和支持,同时,得到了校教务处及相关部门的支持及具体建议。由于材料来源及学识水平有限,本套书在体例,内容选择,练习取舍,注解完善等方面都存在着这样和那样的缺陷,但第一步必须走出,通过本套书的编写,锻炼了一支队伍,培养了一批骨干,聚集了一群科研人员,打下了一定的研究基础,为今后的工作提供了条件。通过教材的使用,可以为大学英语教学提供教学方法、手段等方面的研究,也可以为研究学生的学习兴趣、注意力等提供素材。

华中科技大学出版社副编审孟筱康为本套书的编写及付梓付出了辛勤的劳动,对以上同志的辛勤劳动表示衷心的感谢!

教学改革之路漫漫其修远兮,大学英语教师当不断上下而求索。

夏锡华

2004年5月1日

使用说明

本书为《实用大学英语读写教程》第四册,供大学非英语专业第四学期使用,也可供同等英语水平的英语学习者或英语爱好者选用。

本书选材广泛,涉及多种领域。既记录人生历程,又传授科普知识;既分析社会问题,又介绍异域文化。

与前三册书一样,本册包括八个单元,每单元包括三篇文章,基本围绕同一主题。每篇文章后根据需要提供了词汇、词组、注释、练习及练习参考答案,方便读者自学。学习者可以根据自己的实际情况进行有选择性的自主阅读。

书中所选文章作者的观点并不代表编者的观点,学习者在培养语言素养的同时,还需学习文章中积极向上的精神,排除消极观点的影响。

书中尚有诸多不足之处,编者愿聆听学习者提出的宝贵意见。

本册主编:张冬贵

2004年5月

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Unit One

Passage 1

My Mother and I^①

By Amy Tan^②

My mother believed you could be anything you wanted to be in America. You could open a restaurant. You could work for the government and get good retirement. You could buy a house with almost no money down. You could become rich. You could become instantly famous.

“Of course you can be prodigy, too,” my mother told me when I was nine. “You can be best at anything. What does Auntie Lindo know? Her daughter, she is only best tricky.”

America was where all my mother’s hopes lay. She had come here in 1949 after losing everything in China: her mother and father, her family home, her first husband, and two daughters, twin baby girls. But she never looked back with regret. There were so many ways for things to get better.

We didn’t immediately pick the right kind of prodigy. At first, my mother thought I could be a Chinese Shirley Temple^③. We’d watch Shirley’s old movies on TV as though they were training films. My mother would poke my arm and say, “Ni Kan”—You watch. And I would see Shirley tapping her feet, or singing a sailor song, or pursing her lips into a very round while saying, “Oh my goodness.”

“Ni Kan,” said my mother as Shirley’s eyes flooded with tears. “You already know how. Don’t need talent for crying!”

Soon after my mother got this idea about Shirley Temple, she took me to a beauty training school^④ in the Mission district and put me in the hands of a student who could barely hold the scissors without shaking. Instead of getting big fat curls, I emerged with an uneven mass of crinkly black fuzz. My mother dragged me off to

the bathroom and tried to wet down my hair.

“You look like Negro Chinese,” she lamented, as if I had done this on purpose.

The instructor of the beauty training school had to lop off these soggy clumps to make my hair even again. “Peter Tan[®] is very popular these days,” the instructor assured my mother. I now had hair the length of a boy’s, with straight-across bangs that hung at a slant two inches above my eyebrows. I liked the haircut and it made me actually look forward to my future fame.

In fact, in the beginning, I was just as excited as my mother, maybe even more so, I pictured this prodigy part of me as many different images, trying each on for size. I was a dainty ballerina girl standing by the curtains, waiting to hear the right music that would send me floating on my tiptoes. I was like the Christ child[®] lifted out of the straw manger, crying with holy indignity. I was Cinderella[®] stepping from her pumpkin carriage with sparkling cartoon music filling the air.

In all of my imaginings, I was filled with a sense that I would soon become perfect. My mother and father would adore me. I would be beyond reproach. I would never feel the need to sulk for anything.

But sometimes the prodigy in me became impatient. “If you don’t hurry up and get me out of here, I’m disappearing for good,” it warned. “And then you’ll always be nothing.”

Every night after dinner, my mother and I would sit at the Fornica kitchen table. She would present new tests, taking her examples from stories of amazing children she had read in *Ripley’s Believe It or Not, or Good Housekeeping, Reader’s Digest*[®], and a dozen other magazines she kept in a pile in our bathroom. My mother got these magazines from people whose houses she cleaned. And since she cleaned many houses each week, we had a great assortment. She would look through them all, searching for stories about remarkable children.

The first night she brought out a story about a three-year-old boy who knew the capitals of all the states and even most of the European countries. A teacher was quoted as saying the little boy could also pronounce the names of the foreign cities correctly.

All I knew was the capital of California, because Sacranemto was the name of the street we lived on in Chinatown[®]. “Nairobi[®]!” I guessed, saying the most foreign word I could think of. She checked to see if that was possibly one way to pronounce “Helsinki[®]” before showing me the answer.

The tests got harder — multiplying numbers in my head[®], finding the queen of

hearts in a deck of cards, trying to stand on my head without using my hands, predicting the daily temperatures in Los Angeles, New York, and London.

One night I had to look at a page from the Bible for three minutes and then report everything I could remember. “Now Jehoshaphat[®] had riches and honor in abundance and... that’s all I remember, Ma,” I said. And after seeing my mother’s disappointed face once again, something inside of me began to die. I hated the tests, the raised hopes and failed expectations. Before going to bed that night, I looked in the mirror above the bathroom sink and when I saw only my face staring back — and that it would always be this ordinary face — I began to cry. Such a sad, ugly girl! I made high-pitched noises like a crazed animal, trying to scratch out the face in the mirror.

And then I saw what seemed to be the prodigy side of me—because I had never seen that face before. I looked at my reflection, blinking so I could see more clearly. The girl staring back at me was angry, powerful. This girl and I were the same. I had new thoughts, willful thoughts, or rather thoughts filled with lots of won’ts. I won’t let her change me, I promised myself. I won’t be what I’m not.

So now on nights when my mother presented her tests, I performed listlessly, my head propped on one arm. I presented to be bored. And I was. I got so bored that I started counting the bellows of the foghorns out on the bay while my mother drilled me in other areas. The sound was comforting and reminded me of the cow jumping over the moon. And next day, I played a game with myself, seeing if my mother would give up on me before eight bellows. After a while I usually counted only one, maybe two bellows at most. At last she was beginning to give up hope.

(1074 words)

New Words

retirement [ri'taiəmənt] *n.* condition of being retired from work 退休(或退役)的状况

e. g. He lives in retirement in Washington.

prodigy [ˈprɒdɪdʒi] *n.* person with unusual or remarkable qualities or abilities (在素质和能力上)了不起的人,奇才,天才

e. g. His son is a prodigy child in music.

tricky [ˈtri:kɪ] *a.* (-ier, -iest) (of person or their actions) crafty, deceptive (指人及其行为)诡计多端的,欺骗的

e. g. He’s a tricky fellow to do business with. 他诡计多端,难以共事。

poke [pəʊk] *v.* push sb. / sth. sharply (with a stick, one's finger, etc.) (用棍棒、手指等)捅(拨或戳)某人/某物: ~ sb. / sth. (with sth.)

e. g. Granny poked the fire with the poker. 老奶奶用拨火棍拨火。

purse [pɜ:s] *v.* draw together or pucker (one's lips) in wrinkles esp. as a sign of disapproval or displeasure 缩拢或撅起(嘴唇)(尤指表示反对或不悦): ~ sth. (up)

e. g. My younger sister pursed up her lips with tears in eyes.

mission [ˈmɪʃ(ə)n] *n.* building or settlement where the work of a religious teacher's is done, esp. among poor people 布道的处所(尤指贫民居住区的)

e. g. I have a friend working at a mission station/school/ hospital. 布道所/教会学校/教会医院

barely [ˈbeəli] *ad.* only just, scarcely 仅仅,几乎没有

e. g. He can barely read or write. 他勉强识字。

uneven [ˌʌni:v(ə)n] *a.* not level or smooth or regular 不平坦的,不平滑的,不规则的

e. g. The pavement along the street is uneven.

crinkly [ˈkrɪŋkli] *a.* (-ier, -iest) (of hair) having tight curls (指毛发)卷曲得厉害的

e. g. She is a much pretty girl with crinkly brown hair.

fuzz [fʌz] *n.* soft fine hair that sticks up 竖起来的细短的头

lament [ləmənt] *v.* feel or express great sorrow or regret for (sb. /sth.) 为(某人/某物)感到悲哀,痛惜,哀悼

e. g. He lamented (over) his misfortunes.

soggy [ˈsɒgi] *a.* (-ier, -iest) (usu. derog.) moist and unpleasantly heavy (通常贬义)潮湿而沉重的

e. g. My clothes are soggy after the heavy rain.

clump [klʌmp] *n.* group or cluster (esp. of trees, shrubs or plants) (尤指花、草、树木的)丛

e. g. There was a lovely clump of wild roses.

bang [bæŋ] *n.* (usu. pl.) (US) fringe, front hair cut so that it hangs over the forehead (通常复数)垂在额前的短发,刘海

e. g. She has black long hair with soft bangs.

slant [slɑ:nt] *n.* slope 斜线,斜面,斜坡

on a / the slant 倾斜着,歪着

dainty [ˈdeɪnti] *a.* (of people) neat and delicate in build or movement (指人)(体形

或举止)娇美的,秀丽的,优美的

ballerina [ˌbæləˈrɪ:nə] *n.* female ballet dancer, esp. one who takes leading parts 芭蕾舞女演员(尤指扮演主角的)

sparkly [ˈspɑ:kli] *a.* full of life and energy 充满生机和活力的

indignity [ɪnˈdɪgnɪti] *n.* [U] rude or unworthy treatment causing shame or loss of respect 侮辱,轻蔑

e. g. Once, he was subjected to indignity and humiliation at his mother-in-law's.

adore [əˈdɔː] *v.* love deeply and respect (sb.) highly 热爱,爱慕,敬爱

e. g. He adores his wife and children. 他深爱妻儿。

reproach [rɪˈprəʊtʃ] *v.* criticize sb. /oneself, esp. for failing to do sth. 责备(尤指因未做成某事)

e. g. She reproached him for forgetting their anniversary.

sulk [sʌlk] *v.* (derog.) be silent or unsociable as a result of bad temper or resentment (因发脾气)不答理人;生闷气

e. g. She's been sulking for days about / over being left at home.

assortment [əˈsɔ:tmənt] *n.* collection of different things or of different types of the same thing; mixture 各种各样;混合物

e. g. The small shop can provide the customers with a wide assortment of gifts to choose from.

abundance [əˈbʌndəns] *n.* [U, sing] quantity that is more than enough; plenty 丰富,充裕

e. g. There was good food in abundance at the banquet.

sink [sɪŋk] *n.* (US) wash-basin 洗脸盆

pitch [pɪtʃ] *n.* [U] degree of highness or lowness of a musical note or a voice (音符或嗓音的)高度,音高

v. (in music) set in a certain pitch (音乐)定调

e. g. The song is pitched too low for me.

crazed [kreɪzd] (also half-crazed) *a.* wildly excited; insane 狂热的,疯狂的

e. g. She watched the football with a crazed look.

reflection [rɪˈflekʃ(ə)n] *n.* a visible image which is made by a mirror or water (指镜子或水面)映出的影像

e. g. The reflection of the trees in the lake is very clear.

blink [blɪŋk] *v.* shut and open the eyes quickly 眨眼

e. g. How long can you stare without blinking (your eyes)?

willful [ˈwɪlful] *a.* (of a person) determined to do as one wishes; headstrong,

obstinate (指人)任性的,倔强的,固执的

e. g. He is a willful child.

prop [prɒp] *v.* (pp) support (sth.) or keep (sth.) in position with a prop 支住(某物),用支撑物固定(某物)

e. g. The patient lay in the bed propped on the pillows.

bellows [ˈbeləʊz] *n.* [pl.] apparatus for driving air into or through sth. ,

e. g. through the pipes of a church organ 风箱

foghorn [ˈfɒghɔːn] *n.* the fog alarm, which is a kind of horn and loud noise (向雾中的船只发警告的)雾角; 响而尖的声音

Phrases and Expressions

the mission district 教区

lop off remove (branches, twigs, etc.) from a tree, etc. by cutting 从(树上等)剪

除,砍掉(树枝等)

e. g. He had his arm lopped off in the operation.

for good (and all) for ever 永远地,永久地

e. g. She said she would leave New York for good.

a deck of cards (esp. US) a pack or a suit of playing-cards 一副纸牌

or rather to be more accurate or correct 更确切地说

e. g. We stayed at my friend's house, or rather at my friend's parents' house.

give up on sb. (informal) no longer believe that sb. is going to be successful; lose hope in sb. (口)不再相信某人会成功,对某人失望

Notes

- ① **My Mother and I** is extracted from Chapter 2, *The Joy Luck Club*, which was written by the famous Chinese American woman writer, Amy Tan. The title of the text is given by the compiler.
- ② **Amy Tan** (1952—) a Chinese American writer, born in Oakland, California. Her parents were both the emigrants from China. In 1987, she wrote the novel *The Joy Luck Club*, which established her fame as a writer and won many honors for her. 艾米·谭,美国华裔女作家。
- ③ **Shirley Temple** when she was young, she was a famous American child actress. 秀兰·邓波儿(美国著名童星)
- ④ **a beauty training school** refers to the school which aims at training and

cultivating young girls and making them become beauties

- ⑤ **Peter Tan** a name for any naughty boy in the children's books 彼得·谭(以其名字命名的儿童故事书中的调皮男孩)
- ⑥ **the Christ child** refers to Jesus Christ when he was born in the manger. In the USA, at Christmas Eve, people like acting out the stories in the Bible, especially the one about the birth of Jesus Christ, in order to celebrate the holiday.
- ⑦ **Cinderella** one that unexpectedly achieves recognition or success after a period of obscurity and neglect 灰姑娘
- ⑧ **Reader's Digest** the well-known American magazine for the readers
- ⑨ **Chinatown** a neighborhood or section of a city that is inhabited chiefly by Chinese people 唐人街
- ⑩ **Nairobi** the capital and largest city of Kenya, in the south-central part of the country 内罗毕(肯尼亚首都)
- ⑪ **Helsinki** the capital and largest city of Finland, in the southern part of the country on the Gulf of Finland 赫尔辛基(芬兰首都)
- ⑫ **The tests got harder-multiplying numbers in my head...** This sentence means that the tests demanded me to do more difficult mathematic problems of multiplication in my mind.
- ⑬ **Jehoshaphat** king of Judah who formed an alliance with the kingdom of Israel 约沙王,与以色列王国建立联盟的犹大国国王

Exercises

I. According to your understanding of the passage, choose the best answers to the following questions. Each question may have multi-answers.

- This article is mainly about that _____.
 - my mother wanted me to be a prodigy and she succeeded finally
 - I didn't want to be a prodigy at all
 - I realized that I was just a common girl and refused to be what I was not
 - it is difficult to accept the reality of one's talent and ability
- My mother believed that _____.
 - not everyone could realize his or her dream in America
 - I could be a Chinese Shirley Temple
 - if she trained me properly, I could be a prodigy of some kind
 - I liked the training very much
- The hairdresser of the beauty training school _____.

