

新概念大学英语阅读系列精品教材

# 4 新概念

(第四册)

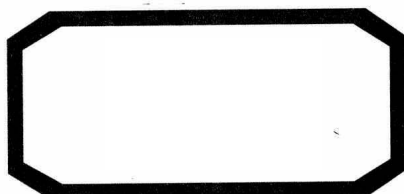
# 大学英语泛读教程

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**A New Concept College English for  
Extensive Reading**

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# 新概念大学英语泛读教程

## 第 4 册

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## 前 言

弗朗西斯·培根曾在他那著名的《论读书》一文中指出：读书使人充实 (reading makes a full man)，中国也有两句古谚：一为：“书读百遍，其义自现”。二为：“熟读唐诗三百首，不会做诗也会吟。”培根强调的是“读书”(阅读)与人生，而后二者强调的是“阅读”与“理解”，与“写作”(创作)的关系。不论怎样三者都突出强调了“读书”(阅读)的功用。“读书”就其本质而论就是“阅读”，而“阅读”又可分为“精读”(intensive reading)、“泛读”(extensive reading)、“跳读”(skipping)、“扫读”(scanning)和“快速阅读”(fast reading)以及“朗读”(reciting)；也就是培根先生所说的 some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested。

学习一门外语，既需要“精读”也需要“泛读”，在某种意义上讲，“泛读”的多少决定了外语学习的成败高低。顾名思义，“泛读”就是泛泛而读，它的目标是通过大量的阅读，拓宽视野，扩大知识面，增加词汇量，从而增强语感——而语感是学习外语最最重要的一个因素。

基于这样的认识，我们特编写了这套《新概念大学英语泛读教程》(1—4册)，供大学英语学习者和爱好者使用。本套教程取名为新概念，主要反映在以下几个编写特点：

阅读材料丰富多样，题材广泛，体裁多样，内容新颖，注重知识性、趣味性与实用性；

突破传统教材课文篇幅太短的限制,阅读量明显加大;

注重培养学生快速、准确、有效地获取信息的能力;

增加了有关中国传统节假日方面知识的阅读与摄取,以增强学生跨文化交际的能力;

为增强实用性,本教程有目的地收录了一些实用类体裁的阅读材料:如广告、信函、合同、协议、招标书以及招聘启事等,以便学生通过阅读和初步接触能了解此类文章的格式及其用词。

《新概念大学英语泛读教程》一套四册。每册有15个单元,每个单元由三部分组成:阅读课文和练习、快速阅读和练习、课外阅读和练习。此外,为方便阅读,我们在阅读课文和课外阅读后面增加了部分必需的注释。每册书后都配有练习参考答案,以便利教师和学生的教与学。

《新概念大学英语泛读教程》(1—4册)由常州工学院外国语学院院长戎林海教授担任总主编,负责全书的策划、选题、编写体例设计、全书书稿的三审和终审。1—4册每册设有两个主编,负责本册的编写与初审。

本套教材在编写与出版过程中得到了学校领导李文虎教授、教务处朱锡芳处长以及东南大学出版社刘坚博士的关心与支持,值此出版之际,谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。刘爱婷、邱晓琳、杨永萍、金政等人也为本套教材的出版做了不少工作,在此深表谢意。由于编者的水平和经验有限,全书错误和缺点在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

戎林海

2012年6月

于常州锦绣花园未厌斋

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# Unit One

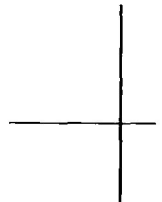
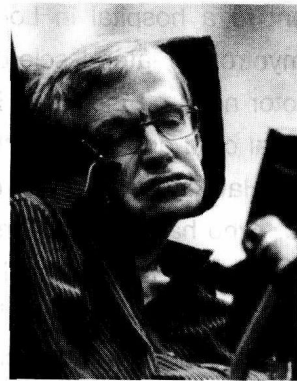
## Part One Text

### Stephen Hawking

**Can** *you imagine a man who was given up for dead when he was only 21 years old could actually make one of the greatest scientists in the world? Do you believe a man can be so strong-willed as to overcome such difficulties as whole-length paralysis and loss of voice? Who is such a man? It is Stephen Hawking who is a wonderful case in point.*

The doctor's diagnosis of the disease was devastating. Stephen Hawking, aged 21, was told he had only two and a half years to live. In despair, he shut himself away, waiting for death. But Hawking conquered his depression, and fought the paralysis. He was a genius for mathematics, and he proceeded to revolutionize cosmology, the study of the universe. Now 51, Hawking—author of the record-breaking bestseller *A Brief History of Time*, has been acclaimed the world's greatest living scientist.

This is the inspiring biography of the extraordinary Cambridge professor, whose fundamental breakthroughs in theoretical cosmology, pushing forward our understanding of the origin of the universe, the laws which govern its existence and the eventual fate of everybody and everything, have made Hawking the greatest physicist of our time. He has been proclaimed “the finest mind alive” and “the greatest genius of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century”; even “Einstein's Heir”.



How did all this happen? How has a man who is almost completely paralyzed and weighs less than 90 pounds overcome every obstacle and achieved far more than most able-bodied people ever dream of accomplishing?

Stephen William Hawking was born in London on January 8, 1942. In October 1962, after sitting his finals at Oxford, he arrived at Cambridge as a postgraduate student. Hawking's work problem was to find a research assignment for his PH. D. course. He was also aware of a personal crisis. He had difficulty in tying his shoelaces. He kept bumping into things. Without warning, his legs would give away. He tried to ignore it and get on with his life, but when he went home for Christmas, his parents soon noticed that something was wrong. Just after the New Year, at his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party, Hawking tried to pour a glass of wine and most of it went on the tablecloth. The family became seriously worried. He was sent to a hospital in London for tests. The hospital doctors diagnosed amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or ALS, in Britain more commonly called motor neurone disease. Rare and incurable, it affects the nerves of the spinal cord and parts of the brain.

Hawking was given only two and a half years to live. The 21-year-old, who had seen a normal life stretching ahead of him, fell into a deep depression. If Hawking had been an experimental physicist, his career would have been over, but ALS leaves the higher brain functions, like thought, memory untouched. Theoretical physics happens to be one of the very few jobs for which the mind is the only real tool needed. Hawking dragged himself out of his depression and went back to work. His recovery owed much to a girl Jane Wilde, whom he had met at a friend's party.

In July 1965 Hawking and Jane were married. A rented house became their home. A friend visiting the Hawkings one evening watched in shock when Stephen took 15 minutes to haul himself up the narrow staircase to the bedroom. Hawking never let himself be helped on these occasions. John Boslough, author of *Beyond the Black Hole: Stephen Hawking's Universe*, described Hawking as "the bravest man I have ever met".

The next turning point in Hawking's life was the birth of their first

child, Robert, in 1967. His career was on a rise; he had won the prestigious Adams Prize for an essay *Singularities and the Geometry of Space-time*. Already his reputation as a successor to Einstein was beginning to follow him around. Then in 1969 Hawking and Roger Penrose, professor of Applied Mathematics at Birkbeck College published important theories proving mathematically that there really had been a big bang. The universe must have been born out of a singularity some 15 billion years ago.

In 1970, the year his second child, Lucy, was born. Hawking could use neither paper and pen nor a typewriter, he was forced to work out the longest calculation without writing it down, says one of his collaborators, “just as amazing as Mozart composing and carrying an entire symphony in his head before committing it to paper.” Hawking amazed an institute secretary by recalling, 24 hours later, a mistake he had made while dictating, from memory, 40 pages of equations.

By 1973 Hawking became one of the leaders of black hole research. It was believed that nothing can escape from a black hole, not even light, and Einstein's General Theory of Relativity said that a hole's surface area could not shrink. Yet Hawking came up with extraordinary results. He found that a black hole cannot only shrink; it can also throw off energetic particles. The hole will get hotter and hotter—just as the air in a bicycle pump gets hot when it is compressed—until finally it bursts apart, the singularity inside the hole exploding in a fireball of high-energy radiation: a big bang.

The particles emitted by certain black holes were from then on known as Hawking Radiation. Stephen received one of the greatest honors in any scientist's career: at 32, he became a Fellow of the Royal Society, one of the youngest in modern times. Most important of all, by partially uniting Einstein's General Theory of Relativity and quantum physics he had made the first step toward the modern physics—the Theory of Everything.

From 1977, more and more honors and awards were given to him. In 1978, at a gala event in Washington, Hawking received the prestigious Albert Einstein Award. In 1979, Cambridge University appointed him Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, the Chair once occupied by Isaac

Newton.

In July 1985, after a lecture tour of the world, Hawking went to a European organization for nuclear research in Geneva, to follow up some theories and work on his book. One morning at 3 A. M. , following a long day of rewrites, he felt difficult to breathe. His face violet, he was rushed to hospital. Hawking was in intensive care when Jane arrived at the hospital. The doctors told her that he had little chance of survival without an operation. The major problem he would never be able to make any vocal sounds again. Jane had to decide whether he had the operation. It was her decision for him to have an operation.

Hawking, home again in Cambridge and recovering from his latest struggle with death, received from a computer expert in California a program to use on his office computer. He could select word from a menu of almost 3,000. When a sentence was built up, a voice machine spoke it.

Hawking resumed work on his manuscript. His editor, Peter, suggested *A Brief History of Time* as a title. The book was published in New York in the spring of 1988. Within 13 weeks it was on the top of the bestseller list. He is known to millions, far and wide, for the science book. Aimed at the ordinary readers, it is a complete success. An instant bestseller in Britain and America, it has earned a place in *The Guinness Book of Records* for spending 184 weeks in *London's Sunday Times* "Top-ten" lists, and has sold more than five million copies worldwide.

On June 11, 1989, Hawking was presented with one of the nation's top awards. The queen made him a Companion of Honour. The following Thursday Cambridge University made him an honorary Doctor of Science, and Prince Philip presented this very rare award to him at a special ceremony. Besides, there was a concert performed in Cambridge for Hawking. When Stephen wheeled up to the stage and thanked the audience through his voice synthesizer, he received great applause. *The Cambridge Evening News* noted, "There were tears rolling down the cheeks of men and women for his courage, as well as the exceptional brain which has continued to advance knowledge of time and space in spite of a crippling disease."

Today's great new revival of popular interest in science is very largely

due to Stephen Hawking and his talent for expressing complex theories in simple words. Hawking's discoveries, and his success in awakening the public to the beauty of science, are remarkable achievements. Even more remarkable is the strength of his spirit in accomplishing the human triumph of his very survival.

### Notes to the Text

1. Stephen Hawking: 斯蒂芬·霍金(1942—), 英国理论物理学家, 提出爆炸黑洞的理论, 还研究过时空的奇异性, 著有《初始的宇宙》、《时间简史: 从大爆炸到黑洞》等。
2. paralysis: 麻痹, 瘫痪。
3. amyotrophic lateral sclerosis: 肌萎缩性(脊髓)侧索硬化。
4. motor neurone: 运动神经元。
5. spinal cord: 脊髓。
6. singularity: 奇点。
7. black hole: 黑洞。
8. a Fellow of the Royal Society: (英国)皇家学会会员。
9. quantum physics: 量子物理学。
10. Lucasian Chair of Mathematics: 卢卡斯数学教授席位, 是英国剑桥大学的一个荣誉职位, 授予对象为数理相关的研究者, 同一时间只授予一人, 此教席的拥有者被称为卢卡斯教授(Lucasian Professor)。
11. The Guinness Book of Records: 《吉尼斯世界记录大全》。
12. Prince Philip: 菲利普亲王(1921—), 生于希腊, 英国女王伊丽莎白二世的丈夫。

### ◆ Comprehension Exercises

#### I. Multiple Choice

1. The passage is mainly about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. how Stephen Hawking has become a world famous physicist through hard work and great determination
  - B. how Stephen Hawking has aroused the popular interest in science among people all over the world
  - C. the painful but meaningful life story of the great physicist Stephen Hawking and his contributions to the study of modern cosmology
  - D. the reasons why the study of "black hole" has attracted Stephen

Hawking in spite of his incurable disease

2. Stephen Hawking is acclaimed to be the world's greatest living scientist chiefly because of the fact that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. he got motor neurone disease but he has made a great contribution to modern cosmology during the last two and a half years of his life
  - B. he has written a book entitled *A Brief History of Time* which was a record-breaking bestseller all over the world
  - C. he has modified Einstein's theory and combined General Theory of Relativity with quantum theory excellently
  - D. despite his devastating disease, he has improved our understanding of the origin and the laws governing the existence of the universe
3. Concerning Stephen Hawking's disease, which of the following statements is true?
  - A. Stephen Hawking first became aware of his own disease when he was pouring a glass of wine at his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday party.
  - B. Stephen Hawking himself didn't know that he had a fatal disease until after he graduated from Cambridge University.
  - C. According to the doctor, Stephen Hawking would only be able to survive the incurable disease two and a half years.
  - D. The disease called ALS was curable if Stephen Hawking accepted the medical treatment.
4. Which of the following can best describe the reaction of Stephen Hawking to the diagnosis of his disease?
  - A. He took an optimistic attitude towards his disease and thought that he would survive much longer than two and a half years.
  - B. On hearing the diagnosis, he fell into despair but later he conquered the depression and went back to his research work.
  - C. Despite the devastating news, he went directly back to work.
  - D. When he knew the diagnosis, he felt hopeless and gave up his studies.
5. The word "bang" in Para. 7 possibly means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. blow
  - B. success
  - C. loud noise
  - D. hitting
6. It is implied in Para. 8 that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. Stephen Hawking resembles Mozart in that both of them have amazing memory

- B. Stephen Hawking has such a good memory as to recall a small mistake made a day ago when dictating complicated equations
- C. it was the birth of his second child that made him unable to use either paper or a typewriter
- D. the disease granted Stephen Hawking a memory which is amazing to common people
7. Which of the following is the best figure of speech about Hawking's scientific achievements?
- A. Like God in Christianity, he is born to suffer and do his best to save human kind.
- B. Like a superman, he is fearless and capable of doing anything without the help of others.
- C. Like a weather-beaten mountaineer, he finally succeeded in mounting the peak of the huge mountain.
- D. Like a giant, he has limitless power and can achieve so much as Einstein and Newton without others' assistance.
8. We can infer from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Stephen Hawking's talent for expressing complex theories in simple words has aroused the people's interests in science
- B. Stephen Hawking's numerous discoveries about the universe has ridded people of their superstitious beliefs
- C. Stephen Hawking's greatest achievement is to make contributions to man's understanding of the universe
- D. Stephen Hawking's greatness lies both in his spiritual strength to face and conquer death and in his scientific research

**II. Read the Following Statements and Tell Which One of Them Is True or False According to the Text**

1. The diagnosis of Stephen Hawking's disease caused great shock to him. T  F
2. His achievements were so great that he was proclaimed "Einstein's Heir". T  F
3. Stephen Hawking was an experimental physicist and his memory was unequalled. T  F
4. Stephen Hawking's findings about the universe agree with Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. T  F



5. The bestseller *A Brief History of Time* was published successfully in Washington in the spring of 1988. T  F
6. Prince Philip presented a rare award to Stephen Hawking at Cambridge University. He was acknowledged as an Honorary Doctor of Science. T  F

### III. Topics for Discussion

1. Retell the life story of Stephen Hawking in your own words.
2. It's partly because of the disease that Stephen Hawking has become one of the leading scientists in the world. Do you think so? Why or why not?
3. How does Hawking apply and modify Einstein's General Theory of Relativity and set up the new theory about the universe?

## Part Two Fast Reading

### Robert Owen

8

**Owen**, the social prophet and learning reformer of the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, was a man with ideas far ahead of his time. He devised schemes to remedy evils which other people accepted as inevitable—poverty, overcrowding, drunkenness, long working hours in bad conditions, the exploitation of children, and the absence of schools. He became, by his own efforts, a successful and rich factory owner, so he could put some of his theories into practice, and consequently greatly influenced public opinion.

Owen, the son of a small tradesman in Newtown, Mont-gomeshire, had a brief schooling till he was nine, an early start at work, and a period of hardship and struggle. He went to Manchester at a time when the cotton industry was developing; and when the young man became manager of a spinning-mill employing 500 workers, he greatly increased his employer's profits, in spite of his opinion that his employer paid more attention to his "dead" manager of a group of Manchester mills. He fell in love with the daughter of a millionaire at New Lanark, near Glasglow, so