



大学英语泛读教程

EXTENSIVE READING

主 编

孙慧贞

王治学

大学英语泛读教程

主 编	孙慧贞	王治学
副主编	莫卫生	曹发根
	杨超美	李小平
编 委	徐如乾	冯士彬
	孟宪钦	
审 校	来安方	

河南人民出版社

大学英语泛读教程

主 编 孙慧贞 王治学
审 校 朱安方
责任编辑 朱崇平

河南人民出版社出版发行

开封市教育印刷厂印刷

787×1092毫米 32开本 7.625印张 161千字

1991年8月第一版 1991年8月第一次印刷

印数1—5,000

ISBN7-215-01698-6 / G.230

定价：3.20元

前 言

本书是供大学英语一年级学生使用的泛读教材，由河南大学、河南财经学院和河南农业大学部分英语教师联合编写，旨在完成教学大纲所规定的教学任务并适应大学英语全国四、六级统考的需要。书本所选文章，大都在教学实践中试用过，证明效果良好，因此，本书既是教学实践的总结，又是教学经验是升华。

大学英语四、六级考试阅读理解一项占比重最大，因为阅读理解能力是一个人的语言能力、思维能力和知识量的综合体现。一定的阅读理解水平不但要求具有相应的词汇量、比较全面的语法知识、一定的熟练程度（即速度）和涉及多学科的广阔知识，还要求读者能透过语言的表层结构以理解深层含义，并作出合乎逻辑的推论或归纳，没有大量的阅读理解训练就很难达到这种要求。

提高阅读理解水平应当循序渐进，由易入难，由浅入深。本书所选文章侧重短而精，但体裁多样，内容广泛，知识丰富，引人入胜，具有很强的可教性与可读性。每篇文章后边所附的多项选择问答题，也是参照四、六级考试的模式和要求，旨在引导学生加深对原文的理解并作出正确的结论。

教师讲授本教材时可根据实际情况酌情掌握，有些文章可以细讲，有些则可以粗讲，有些也可留给学生自读自测，但应当告戒学生，在对所给问题作出自己的答案之前，千万

不要参看标准答案。

参加本书编写工作的除主编、副主编和编委外，还有周岑顺、万莉、代树兰、郭明、张惠蕾、陈玉玲、刘伟强等。

美笈教师 Holly 通读了全书並作了必要订正，谨表谢意

因时间仓促，经验不足，书中不恰之处在所难免，还望有关专家和同行不吝赐教，预致谢忱。

编者。91、9月

目 录

1. Tips On Doing Business With The Araba.....	1
2. Paper and Its Use.....	6
3. The Marvels of Colour	10
4. Soccer.....	15
5. Motherhood in a Changing World : Women in Ghana.....	19
6. Why Don't Girls Think Like Boys?	24
7. How to Give a Good Speech.....	27
8. The Olympics.....	33
9. Women in Sports.....	38
10. Linguistics.....	44
11. The Age of Automation.....	50
12. What's In An Indian Name?	55
13. Lasers.....	60
14. Holidays in the U. S. A.	65
15. To the Moon : Astronauts.....	72
16. Oil.....	77
17. Settling Down in England.....	82
18. Disaster in Dayton.....	87
19. The Air and Its Weight.....	92
20. Children Past and Present.....	96
21. Planned Cities.....	100
22. American Speech.....	105

23. What Do Parents Owe Their Children?	111
24. Ben Franklin Achieved his Ambition; He Led a Useful Life	118
25. The Nobel Prize.....	124
26. The Gentleman In White	130
27. Rolf, the Dog Who Finds Things	136
28. Gypsies—a Wandering People	143
29. The Man Who Made Mickey Mouse	151
30. Twenty-five Minutes to Live	159
31. Balser's Dream	166
32. The Mixture Which Is British	173
33. Everything Included	179
34. John Harding	181
35. The First Flying Instrument	186
36. Television	189
37. Thomas Edison	192
38. Computer	195
39. Alfred Nobel	199
40. An Introduction to U. S. Geography	205
41. Pollution Is a Dirty Word	211
42. Why Do We Cry?	216
43. Civilization and History	221
44. Public Holidays	227
45. Time Here and There	231
参考答案	235

1 . Tips On Doing Business With The Arabs

[Business between the Middle East and the West has grown tremendously in the last twenty years. Cultural differences sometimes cause problems in carrying out business transactions. This article gives suggestions to Western businessmen and salesmen who do business in the Arab world. It is intended to help them understand polite customs and practices in the Middle East.]

Arabs consider it extremely bad manners to start talking business immediately. Even the busiest government official or executive always takes extra time to be polite and offer refreshments. No matter how busy you are, you should make time for this hospitality.

The "conference visit" is a way of doing business throughout the Arab world. Frequently, you will have to discuss your business in the presence of strangers, who may or may not have anything to do with your business. Do not be surprised if your meeting is interrupted several times by people who come into

the room unannounced, whisper, or speak softly to the person with whom you are talking, and leave. Act as though you do not hear, and never show displeasure at being interrupted.

Making decisions quickly is not an Arab custom. There is a vagueness in doing business in the Middle East which will puzzle a newcomer. Give yourself lots of time and ask lots of questions.

Patience is an important quality. You may have to wait two or three days to see high-level government officials as they are very busy. Give yourself enough time.

Personal relationships are very important. They are the key to doing business in Arab countries. Try to identify the decision-maker regarding your product or service immediately and get to know him on a friendly basis. Do your homework. Be prepared to discuss details of your product or proposal. Be ready to answer technical questions.

Familiarize yourself with the Moslem and national holidays. Avoid a visit during Ramadan, the Moslem month of fasting. Most Arab countries have a six-day workweek from Saturday through Thursday. When matched with the Monday to Friday practice in most Western countries, it leaves only three and a half workdays shared. Remember this in planning your

appointments. Moslems do not eat pork. Some are strict about the religion's prohibition against alcoholic beverages. If you are not sure, wait for your host to suggest the proper thing to drink.

When an Arab says yes, he may mean "maybe". When he says maybe, he probably means "no." You will seldom get a direct "no" from an Arab because it is considered impolite. Also, he does not want to close his options. Instead of "no," he will say "inshallah," which means, "if God is willing." On the other hand, "yes" does not necessarily mean "yes." A smile and a slow nod might seem like an agreement, but in fact, your host is being polite. An Arab considers it impolite to disagree with a guest.

Comprehension Exercises:

1. In paragraph 2 "conference visit" means _____.
 - a. an important meeting with your host
 - b. a meeting where strangers who have nothing to do with your business are in the room
 - c. a discussion with your host all alone
 - d. a meeting with strangers
2. In paragraph 4, "give yourself enough time" refers to _____.
 - a. having many things to do
 - b. being a busy official

- c. waiting for the official
 - d. having patience
3. What is Ramadan according to paragraph 6 ?
- a. The favorite drink.
 - b. The Moslem month of fasting.
 - c. A working month.
 - d. The six-day workweek.
4. Paragraph 7 explains in general _____.
- a. why "yes" may mean "maybe"
 - b. why "maybe" may mean "no"
 - c. an Arab may give you a vague answer
 - d. what the religion's prohibition is
5. According to the article, which of the following would be considered polite?
- a. You leave angrily because of interruptions.
 - b. You demand an immediate decision.
 - c. You start to discuss details of your products right away.
 - d. You look out the window while a stranger comes in to speak with your host.
6. According to paragraph 6, what workdays are shared?
- a. Monday-Tuesday-Wednesday-Thursday
 - b. Tuesday-Sunday-Monday-Friday
 - c. Saturday-Sunday-Monday-Friday
 - d. Friday-Sunday-Thursday-Wednesday

7. When an Arab says yes, he may mean "maybe".
That means _____.
a. he definitely means yes
b. he definitely means no
c. he could mean yes or maybe
d. he definitely means maybe
8. "he does not want to close his options" means
that he does not want to _____.
a. change his topic
b. make decision immediately
c. limit his choices
d. give you a vague answer
9. The author of this article probably _____.
a. has worked in the Arab world
b. has never been to the Arab world
c. has poor experiences in the Arab world
d. has never met any Arabs
10. The main purpose of this article is to explain _____.
a. whether Arabs are polite
b. why it is so difficult to do business with Arabs
c. how to be polite when you visit Arab world
d. why you need extra time when you visit Arab
countries

2. Paper and Its use

How much paper do you use every year? Probably you can't answer that question quickly. In 1900 the world's use of paper was about one kilogram for each person in a year. Now some countries use as much as 50 kilograms of paper for each person in a year. The amount of paper a country uses shows how far advanced the country is, some people say. It is difficult to say whether this is true, different people mean different things by the word 'advanced'. But countries like the United States, England and Sweden certainly use more paper than other countries.

Paper, like many other things that we use today, was first made in China. In Egypt and the West, paper was not very commonly used before the year 1400. The Egyptians wrote on papyrus, Europeans used parchment for many hundreds of years. Parchment was very strong, it was made from the skin of certain young animals. We have learnt some of the most important facts of European history from records that were kept on parchment.

The Chinese first made paper about 2,000 years ago. China still has pieces of paper which were made

as long ago as that. But Chinese paper was not made from the wood of trees. It was made from the hair-like parts of certain plants.

Paper was not made in southern Europe until about the year 1100. Scandinavia -- which now makes a great deal of the world's paper -- did not begin to make it until 1500. It was a German named Schaeffer who found out that one could make the best paper from trees. After that, the forest countries of Canada, Sweden, Norway, Finland, and the United States became the most important in paper making. Today in Finland, which makes the best paper in the world, the paper industry is the biggest in the land. New papermaking machines are very big, and they make paper very fast. The biggest machines can make a piece of paper 300 metres long and six metres wide in one minute.

When we think of paper, we think of newspapers, books, letters, envelopes, and writing paper. But there are many other uses. Only half of the paper that is made is used for books and newspapers, etc.

Paper is very good for keeping you warm. Houses are often insulated with paper. You have perhaps seen homeless men asleep on a large number of newspapers. They are protecting themselves against the cold. In Finland, where in winter it is sometimes -40°

Centigrade, the farmers wear paper boots in the snow. Nothing could be warmer.

Each year, more and more things are made of paper. We have had paper cups, plates, and dishes for a long time. But now we hear that chairs, tables, and even beds can be made of paper. With paper boots and shoes, you can wear paper hats, paper dresses, and paper raincoats. When you have used them once, you throw them away and buy new ones.

The latest in paper seems to be paper houses. These are not small houses for children to play in, but real, big houses for people to live in. You can buy a house with three chief rooms for about \$500. You can put it up yourself in a few hours, and you can use it for about five years.

People have made paper boats, but they have not yet made paper aeroplanes or cars. Just wait -- they probably will.

Comprehension Exercises:

1. From the first paragraph we conclude that _____.
 - a. the use of paper increases with social development
 - b. China is the most advanced country because paper was first made there
 - c. Finland is the most advanced country because it makes the best paper in the world

- d. all people mean the same when they say
“advanced”
2. _____ played a big role in keeping
ancient records of European history.
a. Papyrus b. Trees c. Animals d. Bones
3. When was paper first made in China?
a. Before 1400 A.D. b. As early as 1400 A.D.
c. Decades before Christ d. 2000 B.C.
4. Scandinavians began to make paper _____.
a. before the Chinese did b. around 1500 A.D.
c. 1500 years ago
d. 1500 years after the Chinese invented it
5. Who found out that the best paper could be made
from trees?
a. A Chinese b. An American
c. An Egyptian d. A German
6. The biggest industry in Finland is _____.
a. farming b. paper making
c. newspapers, books, letters, envelopes and
writing paper d. tourism
7. By saying “Nothing could be warmer”, the writer
means _____.
a. everything is cold
b. sleeping on large numbers of newspapers is the
best way to keep you warm in the world
c. paper is the best insulating material