

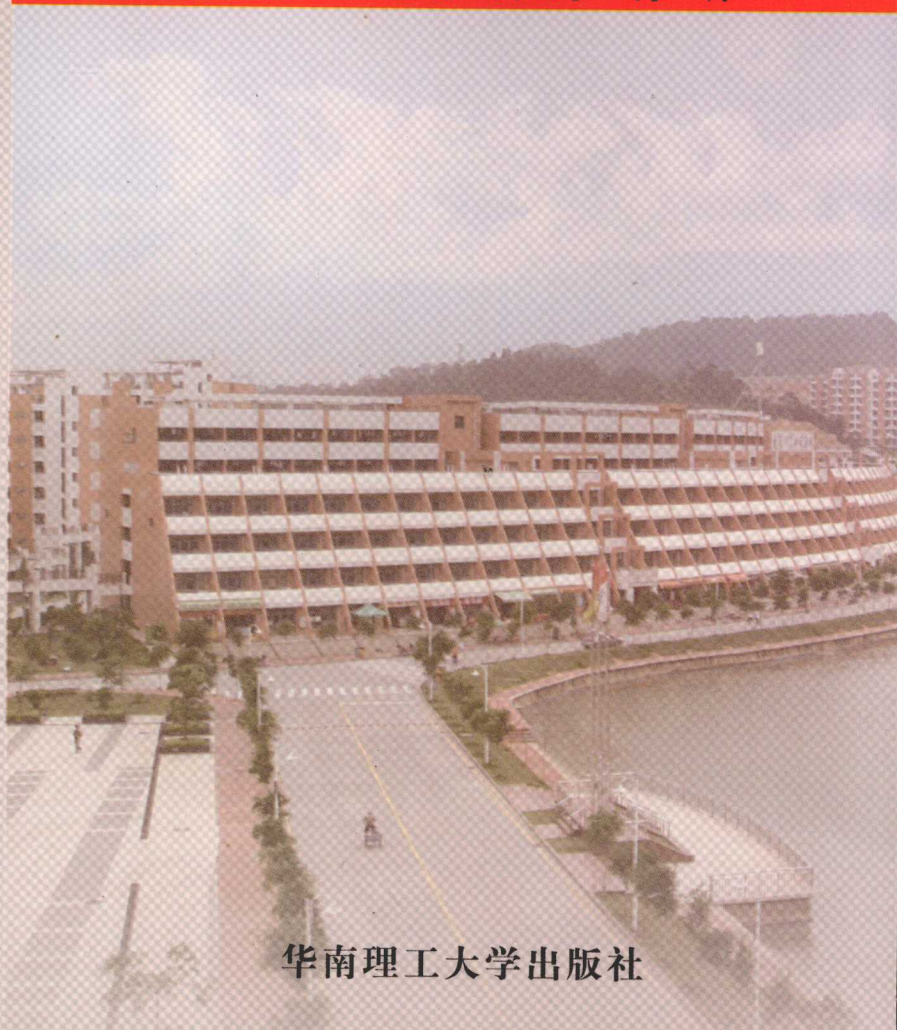
新视角

大学英语

阅读文选 1

ENGLISH

主编 黄运亭 陈一萍



华南理工大学出版社

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内 容 简 介

本教材充分吸取我国在外语教学中长期积累起来且行之有效的经验和方法,同时注意借鉴国外的教学理论和方法,根据独立学院在校学生的学习需要和现有条件,在文章选择和编写方面尽量体现知识性、趣味性和可读性的有机统一,为学生自觉、自主、创造性地学习提供有利的素材。内容包括文选、练习及答案、词语及相关文化背景的注释、译文和词汇表。

本教材作为现行阅读教程的辅助读物,培养学生学习英语的兴趣、信心和成就感,解决好学生从原有英语水平向进入大学英语正常学习的过渡问题。

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前 言

《新视角大学英语阅读文选》是华南理工大学广州汽车学院任课教师根据现有学生的实际水平和需要编写的一套大学英语辅助阅读教材。

本书编写时充分吸取我国在外语教学中长期积累起来且行之有效的经验和方法，同时注意借鉴国外的教学理论和方法，根据独立学院在校学生的学习需要和现有条件，在文章选择和编写方面尽量体现知识性、趣味性和可读性的有机统一，为学生自觉、自主、创造性地学习提供有利的素材。

本教材只是现行阅读教程的辅助读物，不取代任何阅读教程。其切入点是解决好学生从原有英语水平向进入大学英语正常学习的过渡问题，因此，充分调动学生阅读英语的积极性，培养他们学习英语的兴趣、信心和成就感是本教材的主要任务。

本教材的主要特点是：

1. 从选文开始，严把质量关，所有参编人员全力以赴认真选材，力争选用融知识性、科学性、趣味性和实用性为一体，且适合低起点学生阅读的英语文章。

2. 本教材在编写上要求高标准，精雕细刻，杜绝低级错误，以激发和调动学生阅读的积极性和突破口，让学生愿意读，读得懂，记得住，用得上。

3. 本教材的练习设计，一切从有利于学生打好语言基础和提高语言应用能力为出发点，针对独立学院在校学生的薄弱环节和实际需要，做到有的放矢。练习形式基本上和大学英语四、六级考试的题型保持一致，以便帮助学生逐步熟悉四、六级中与阅读相关的考试形式，为参加四、六级考试做好准备。

4. 本教材除给出习题答案，对生词、短语和相关文化背景知识进行注释外，还把全文翻译成汉语，并把各册课文中出现的生词汇成词汇表（Glossary），按照字母顺序进行排列，以便让学生在复习和记忆生词时使用。

本教材的编写得到了华南理工大学广州汽车学院领导和华南理工大学出版社的大力支持，在此我们表示衷心的感谢！

由于编者的水平和经验有限，不足之处在所难免，恳请广大师生和读者不吝赐教，以便我们进一步修订和完善。

编 者

2009 年 6 月 20 日

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UNIT ONE FAMILY LIFE

1 *Desperate Housewives*

1 *Desperate Housewives* is one of the famous situation comedies at present. One of my friends lent me a whole set of DVDs. I took the chance to see it through during the winter break. It is not anything educational. The story begins with the death of Mary Alice Young. She is the narrator of the story as kind of *omniscient* spirit after death. The plot is around the four women who live in the same street and different stories happened to them, and all headaches they are facing. As a Chinese idiom goes that "Every family has its own headaches." A family well on the surface might corrupt from inside, although most of us don't want to admit it.

2 Lynette, is one of the four women who seems to have a big happy family. Unfortunately, her three naughty boys and a baby in *cradle* drive her *at the verge* of craze. In order to look after her sons, she quitted her job and became a full-time housewife. Her sons are the most headaches for her and bring her lots of troubles. She is at despair to make them *obedient*. When others ask her how she feels about being a full-time mother, she always replies that it's the best work she'd ever done. Actually she doesn't like it at all and it gives her a feeling of failure. Susan, a divorced woman, tries to draw attention of a single man who just moved to her street. Bad luck always follows her. And the real identity of Mike, the one she loves, is doubtful. Gabrielle, a beauty

omniscient / ɒm'nisənt / *a.* 无所不知的, 全知的

cradle / 'kreɪdl / *n.* 摇篮

verge / vɜ:dʒ / *n.* 边缘

obedient / ə'bi:diənt / *a.* 顺从的, 听话

married to a rich and successful merchant, finds her husband too busy with his work and not have enough time with her. She finds a young lover to relieve her stress inside. At the same time, her husband wonders why she is so unhappy after he has given her everything he can buy for her. He doesn't know that to a woman, a single rose and a few words of praise will solve all the problems. Bree is a perfect woman who always puts on airs. Seen from the outside, she is perfect in every aspect. She is good at everything, cooking, cleaning, repairing... but her husband and her children don't like her. It's hard for them to know her real feelings because she hides herself so deep, as to keep her perfect manners.

3 Actually after watching two seasons of DVDs, I feel I lose my confidence towards marriage. It seems that almost everyone has his own problems. I fall into a *trap* that I begin to think about any possible way to help them solve their problems, because I don't want to admit the majority of marriages are unhappy. Maybe I'm too idealistic. If I were them ... If I were Lynette, I would try to go back to my work and I would not stand against those little boys. To be against with someone will consume all of the energy one has. I'll learn how to be a good mother. If I were Susan, I would not be so rush to fall in love with another man, before finding out and solving the problem of the former marriage. If I were Gabrielle, I would talk with my husband and put everything straight. If I were Bree, I just change my perfectionism little by little, and try to keep my husband from complaining. He should learn how to accept the good aspect in my character and be tolerant.

trap / træp / n. 圈套; 困境

4 I can say everything like this, but I'm not them. It's hard to solve a real problem. If so, is it still good to get married? (595 words)

COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

I . Decide on the best choice to answer or complete each of the following.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - A. It's about American marriage.
 - B. It's about Alice's death.
 - C. Every family has its own headaches.
 - D. Not every one enjoys family life.
2. The first paragraph indicates that _____.
 - A. Lynette is the real story-teller in the situation comedies
 - B. Mary Alice Young didn't really die but pretended to be so
 - C. Each family has its own troubles that are unknown to outsiders
 - D. The members of Mary Alice Young easily get cold
3. The phrase "put on airs" (Para. 2) means _____.
 - A. to walk on air
 - B. to be stuck-up
 - C. to be in the air
 - D. to keep up appearance
4. Which of the following description about the four ladies is true? _____.
 - A. Lynette doesn't enjoy being a full-time housewife.
 - B. It was wise for Susan to find a man to marry as soon as possible.
 - C. Bree's family members don't like her for she is too popular in the community.
 - D. Gabrielle falls in love with someone else and leaves her husband.
5. The writer is not sure _____.
 - A. whether it is good to get married at all
 - B. whether it is easy to solve the family problems
 - C. whether she can give useful suggestions to the housewives
 - D. whether she is satisfied with herself as a housewife

II . Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1 – 7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8 – 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. *Desperate Housewives* is a famous instructive situation comedy at present. [Y] [N] [NG]
2. The story is told by the spirit of Mary Alice Young, who seems to know everything. [Y] [N] [NG]
3. Lynette is not content to be a full-time housewife. [Y] [N] [NG]
4. Lynette's husband doesn't think her a qualified mother. [Y] [N] [NG]
5. Susan is not sure whether she loves her new boyfriend or not. [Y] [N] [NG]
6. Gabrielle has a talk with her husband to let him know her true feeling. [Y] [N] [NG]
7. The author gives many helpful suggestions to the housewives in this article. [Y] [N] [NG]
8. The author thinks _____ is a trap.
9. The author suggests Lynette should not _____ her little boys.
10. According to the author, as a wife one should _____ to her husband.

2 Mary Lou

1 It was my first day as a newcomer to the school. My past “newcomer” experiences had been difficult, so I was very anxious to fit in. Being introduced to the class, I bravely put on a smile and took my seat, expecting to be *shunned*.

2 Lunchtime was a pleasant surprise when the girls all crowded around my table. Their *chatter* was friendly, so I began to relax. It wasn't long before the class *nerd* was pointed out to me: Mary Lou. Actually she called herself Mary Louise, a *prim*, *prissy* young girl with dark eyes, brown skin, a *stern visage* and old-fashioned clothing. The girls' whispers and giggles got louder and louder. Mary Lou directly strode past our table, with chin held high and iron determination. She ate alone.

3 After school, the girls invited me to join them in front of the school gate. For what, I didn't yet know. Oh, how I wish I had gone home, but I had a lesson to learn.

4 Then, Mary Lou came down the school steps. The *taunting* began. I paused, and then joined right in. My *momentum* began to pick up as I approached her. *Nasty*, *mean* remarks fell *unabated* from my lips. No one could tell I'd never done this before. The other girls stepped back and became my cheerleaders. Being *emboldened*, I *yanked* the strap of her backpack and then pushed her. The strap broke, Mary Lou fell and I backed off. Everyone was laughing and patting me.

5 I was not proud. Something inside myself hurt. If you've ever picked a wing off a butterfly, you know how I felt.

shun / ʃʌn / v. (故意) 避开 (某人或某物), 躲开

chatter / 'tʃætə / n. 闲聊, 喋喋不休的谈话

nerd / nɜ:d / n. 乏味落伍的人

prim / 'prɪm / a. 拘谨的, 古板

prissy / 'prɪsi / a. 谨小慎微的; 刻板的

stern / stɜ:n / a. 严厉的

visage / 'vɪzɪdʒ / n. 脸, 面容

taunt / tɔ:nt / v. 嘲弄, 奚落

momentum / məu'mentəm / n. 冲力, 动力, 势头

nasty / 'nɑ:sti / a. 不友善的, 刻薄的

mean / mi:n / a. 卑鄙的, 恶毒的

unabated / ʌnə'beɪtɪd / ad. 不减弱地, 不衰退地

embolden / ɪm'bəʊldən / v. 使有胆量, 使(较)勇敢

yank / jæŋk / v. 猛拉, 使劲拉

6 Mary Lou struggled up, gathered her books and — without a tear shed or retort given — off she went. She held her head high as a small trickle of blood ran down from her bruised knee. I watched her *limp* away down the street.

7 I noticed a man standing beside his car. His brown skin, dark hair and handsome features told me this was her father. Respectful of Mary Lou's proud spirit, he remained still and watched the lonely girl walk toward him. Only his eyes—shining with both grief and pride—followed. As I passed, he looked at me in silence with burning tears that spoke to my shame and *scalded* my heart. He didn't speak a word.

8 No scolding from a teacher or *preaching* from a parent could linger as much as that hurt in my heart from the day a father's eyes taught me kindness and strength and dignity. I never again hurt anyone for my own gain. (428 words)

limp / limp / v. (因伤而) 跛行, 一瘸一拐地走

scald / skɔ:ld / v. 烫伤

preach / pri:tʃ / v. 唠叨地训诫

COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

I. Decide on the best choice to answer or complete each of the following.

- The phrase *Fit in* (Para. 1) means _____.
A. to be the right size or shape
B. to be suitable
C. to adapt to
D. to find a place for
- The second paragraph indicates that _____.
A. Mary Lou was the only newcomer to the class
B. all the classmates except I were friendly to Mary Lou
C. Mary Lou didn't feel ashamed to be excluded by other girls
D. I once abused Mary Lou even before she came to our class
- "How I wish I had gone home, but I had a lesson to learn." (Para. 3) means _____.
A. I didn't go home nor did I feel it a mistake for me

- B. I didn't go home and what later happened gave me a hard lesson
 C. I didn't go home because I had a new lesson to learn by heart
 D. I didn't go home because the teacher would give me extra exercises
4. Before I began to abuse Mary Lou, _____.
 A. I felt a tinge of shame to insult her
 B. I felt my desire to insult her strengthened
 C. other girls stepped back and pushed her over
 D. other girls pulled the strap of her backpack
5. When Mary Lou's father saw what had happened, _____.
 A. he just blamed me speechlessly with his burning eyes
 B. he scolded me loudly and fiercely with bitter words
 C. he felt disgraced for her poor little daughter
 D. he felt sorry only for her daughter's bruised knee

II. Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1 – 7, mark

- Y (for YES)* if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;
N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;
NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8 – 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. Both Mary Lou and I were newcomers. [Y] [N] [NG]
 2. My anxiety to fit in the girls prompted me to treat Mary Lou so inhumanly. [Y] [N] [NG]
 3. I didn't expect to be admitted immediately. [Y] [N] [NG]
 4. When I abused Mary Lou, some girls joined me. [Y] [N] [NG]
 5. After I pushed Mary Lou over, I was satisfied with that. [Y] [N] [NG]
 6. Her father's look left a lingering hurt in my heart. [Y] [N] [NG]
 7. My parent spoke to me for my misbehavior. [Y] [N] [NG]
 8. When first introduced to the class, I expected to be _____.
 9. _____ by the cheerleaders, I pulled the strap of Mary Lou's backpack and then pushed her.
 10. Without a tear shed or _____ given — off Mary Lou went.

3 *Father and Son*

1 A man came home from work late again, tired and *irritated*, to find his 5-year-old son waiting for him at the door. "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

"Yeah, sure, what is it?" replied the man.

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"

"That's none of your business. What makes you ask such a thing?" the man said angrily.

"I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?" *pleaded* the little boy.

"If you must know, I make \$20.00 an hour."

"Oh," the little boy replied, head *bowed*.

Then looking up, he said, "Daddy, may I borrow \$10.00 please?"

2 The father was *furios*. "If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is just so you can borrow some to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you *march* yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you're being so selfish. I work long, hard hours everyday and don't have time for such childish games."

3 The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even madder about the little boy's questioning. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money? After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and began to think he may have been a little too hard on his son. Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$10.00 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

irritate / 'iriteit / v. 激怒, 使恼怒

plead / pli:d / v. 祈求, 央求

bow / bau / v. 低头, 俯首

furios / 'fjuəriəs / a. 狂怒的, 暴怒的

march / mɑ:tf / v. 被命令离开某地

4 “Are you asleep, son?” he asked.

“No, daddy, I’m awake,” replied the boy.

“I’ve been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier,” said the man. “It’s been a long day and I took my *aggravation* out on you. Here’s that \$10.00 you asked for.”

5 The little boy sat straight up, *beaming*, “Oh, thank you daddy,” he *yelled*.

6 Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some more *crumpled* up bills. The man, seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, then looked up at the man. “Why did you want more money if you already had some?” the father *grumbled*.

7 “Because I didn’t have enough, but now I do,” the little boy replied. “Daddy, I have \$20.00 now. Can I buy an hour of your time?” (411 words)

aggravation / ˌæɡrəˈveɪʃən / n. 恼火, 怒火

beam / bi:m / v. 面露喜色; 微笑

yell / jel / v. (尤因恐惧、愤怒或激动而) 叫喊

crumple / ˈkrʌmpl / v. 把…弄皱

grumble / ˈɡrʌmbl / v. 抱怨, 发牢骚

COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

I. Decide on the best choice to answer or complete each of the following.

- The five-year-old son of a man wanted to know _____.
A. how much money his father had earned so far
B. whether his father would get angry if he asked for money
C. whether his father would lend him money
D. if he could “buy” his father some time to play with him
- When the son first asked how much his father made an hour, the father _____.
A. was curious for such an odd question
B. was angry as he valued his privacy
C. was ashamed to answer this question
D. figured out his son’s intention at once
- An hour after the father sent the son to his room, he _____.

- A. began to get even madder for the boy
 - B. still couldn't calm down for what had happened
 - C. began to think if he was too hard on his boy
 - D. began to understand his son.
4. When his father agreed to give him ten dollars, the boy _____.
A. smiled brightly and happily
B. refused to tell him why he borrowed the money
C. yelled cheerfully and went out with the money
D. decided to buy a present for his father
5. What did the father learn from this incident?
A. He shouldn't be so hard on the son who was alone at home all the time.
B. He didn't want to play with his son before he had made big money.
C. He realized at last he should spare his son more time.
D. He didn't love his clever but naughty son very much.

II. Directions: In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the questions.

For questions 1 - 7, mark

Y (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage.

For questions 8 - 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

- 1. The son jumped for joy to see his father back. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 2. The father knew very well what the son meant from the beginning. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 3. Instead of asking his father to play with him, the son beat about the bush at first. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 4. The father got rather impatient on hearing his son's question. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 5. Before answering his son's question, the father asked him why. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 6. The son didn't answer his father's question until he had got the money. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 7. The son wanted to borrow \$10.00 because he wanted buy a present for his father. [Y] [N] [NG]
- 8. When the son asked how much the father earned an hour, the father thought it _____.
- 9. An hour later, the father had _____, and wondering whether he had been too hard on the son.
- 10. The father understood at last the reason his son wanted to borrow money was to buy _____.