

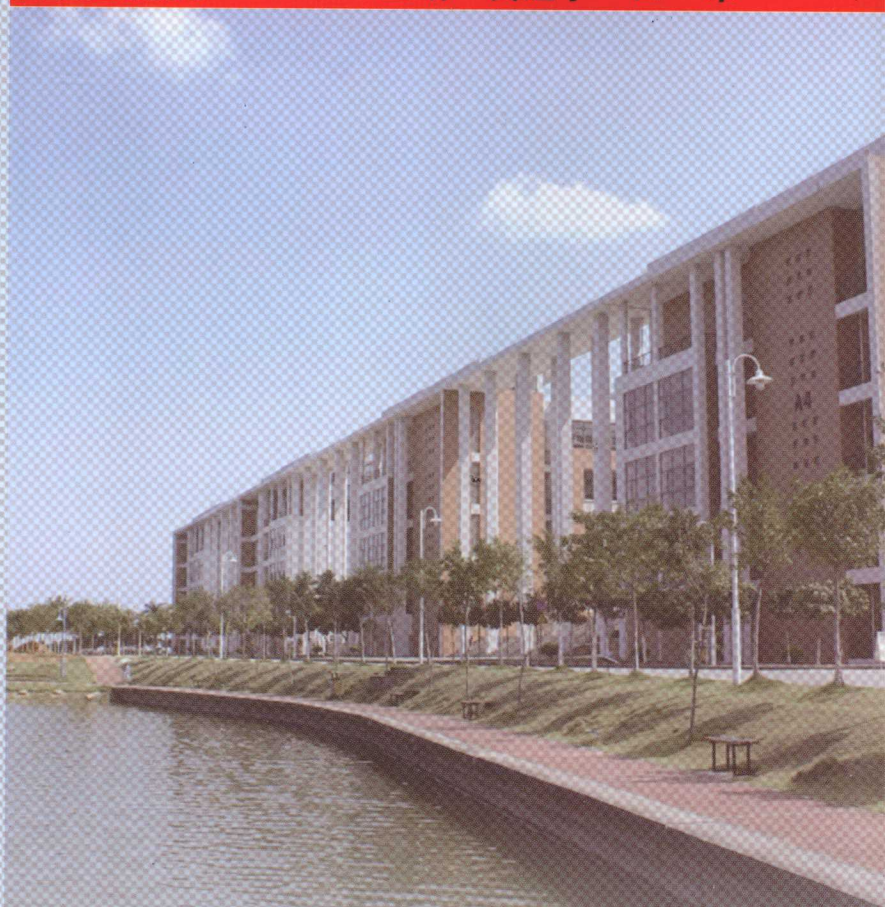
新视角

大学英语

阅读文选 4

ENGLISH

主编 黄运亭 田 禾



华南理工大学出版社

新视角

大学英语

阅读文选 ④

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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为突破口，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 TREND AND FASHION

1 Overload: More Time Is Less Time

1 So you think you have some of the good things in life. You've got a *video* tape recorder and a *device* that answers the phone for you. And there's a *gadget* that turns off the lights when you're out. How about the electric knife, the coffee *maker* and the ice maker?

2 Feel good about having all that *stuff*? Or do you wonder whether the gadgets are running you instead of you running them?

3 Americans *apparently* feel more hurried than ever these days. Part of the reason is trying to keep up with the demands on their time to purchase, store, service, repair, replace, and protect all those "time saving" machines. These add to them the problems of the extra car and the bigger house. There's the *RV* parked on the side lawn. "Americans are eating up their leisure time by *overloading* themselves with all kinds of gadget ..." So says one expert in marketing.

4 The *downfall* of lots of homes is trying to keep up with all the things that go wrong. There's the time spent to call repair people. Next we must wait for them to *show up*. Then there are the high hourly rates. These may force many people into poor do-it-yourself *hobs*. And *costly* tools often save little time because of the small scale of home repairs.

video / 'vidiəu / *a.* 录像的

recorder / ri'kɔ:də / *n.* 录音机

device / di'vais / *n.* 器械, 装置

gadget / 'gædʒɪt / *n.* 小工具, 小机械

stuff / stʌf / *n.* 材料

apparently / ə'pærəntli / *ad.* 明显地

RV abbr. (美) Recreational Vehicle, 娱乐车

overload / 'əuvə'ləud / *v.* (使) 超载; 超过负荷

downfall / 'daunfɔ:l / *n.* 衰败 (的原因)

show up 出现

hob / hɒb / *n.* 滚刀, 铁架

costly / 'kɒstli / *a.* 昂贵的; 价值高的

5 Likewise, "labor-saving" appliances may lighten the house-work. But they save little time. Looking for the right electric knife or other new gadget and getting it ready for use often can *take* more time than doing the job by hand. Studies show we spend even more time on *laundry* than our grandparents did. That's because we have more clothes and wash them more often. *Vacuum* cleaners have raised standards of *cleanliness*. But they *tempt* people to spend more time than with a broom or *dust rag*.

6 Cars are another *gobbler*. One expert says that *tires* and *batteries* last longer than they used to. But U. S. cars are more *prone* to break down than they were. Plus, there are more gadgets on them to go wrong. The growing *complexity* of the car means most owners can no longer play with a *screwdriver* and *wrench* under the *hood* to fix things themselves.

7 Another problem we face more and more is dealing with computers *in place of* people. *Impersonal*, cold, and *error-prone* machines are replacing clerks. So to fix errors in bills and other problems with a product or service often is a slow and *maddening* process.

8 The number of video games and other free time objects grows. And the *pressure* of choice joins in, just to choose a free time activity from all the *options* *taxes* many people. And as people crowd their lives with things that eat up too much of their time, they come to feel that time is short. They feel they are in danger of wasting it.

9 In the end, then, the possessions we *consume* end up consuming us.

likewise / 'laikwaiz / *ad.* 同样地; 也, 又
labor-saving / 'leibə,seivɪŋ / *a.* 节省劳力的; 减轻劳动强度的
appliance / ə'plaɪəns / *n.* 用具, 器具, 器械
lighten / 'laɪtən / *v.* 减轻
laundry / 'ləʊndri / *n.* 洗衣; 洗衣店
vacuum / 'vækjuəm / *a.* 真空的
cleanliness / 'kliːnlɪnis / *n.* 清洁
tempt / tempt / *v.* 诱惑, 引诱, 吸引
dust / dʌst / *n.* 灰尘
rag / ræg / *n.* 抹布

gobbler / 'gɒblə / *n.* 狼吞虎咽的人, 并吞者
tire / 'taɪə / *n.* 轮胎
battery / 'bætəri / *n.* 电瓶, 电池
prone / prəʊn / *a.* 易于...的
complexity / kəm'pleksɪti / *n.* 复杂 (性)
screwdriver / 'skruːdraɪvə / *n.* 螺丝起子
wrench / rentʃ / *n.* 扳钳, 扳手
hood / hud / *n.* 汽车发动机罩

in place of 代替
impersonal / ɪm'pəːsənəl / *a.* 非人的
error-prone / 'erə-prəʊn / *a.* 容易犯错误的
madden / 'mædən / *v.* 使发狂, 激怒

pressure / 'preʃə / *n.* 压力
option / 'ɒpʃən / *n.* 选择
tax / tæks / *v.* 耗费, 使负重担

consume / kən'sjuːm / *v.* 消费, 消耗

COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

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

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
 - A) Americans could not function well without their modern labor-saving machines.
 - B) Doing repairs on modern appliances takes too long.
 - C) Despite all their modern conveniences, Americans feel less relaxed than ever.
 - D) Technology has brought many useful gadgets to contemporary living.
2. Our grandparents spent on laundry _____.
 - A) more time than we do
 - B) less time than we do
 - C) as much time as we do
 - D) as little time as we do
3. According to the passage, computers _____.
 - A) are always faster and easier to deal with the problems than people
 - B) are more economical than people
 - C) also cause troubles
 - D) make fewer mistakes than people
4. According to the article, technical progress is bringing people _____.
 - A) an enjoyable life
 - B) an easy life
 - C) a more difficult time
 - D) a rich life
5. What can you infer from the author?
 - A) The more appliances we own, the more free time we have.
 - B) The more appliances we own, the busier they keep us.
 - C) The more appliances we own, the less money we spend.
 - D) The more appliances we own, the more money we pay.

II. In this part, you will judge the following statements according to the passage.

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. Americans clearly feel more hurried than ever these days. [Y] [N] [NG]

2. The extra car and the bigger house add the problems to them. [Y] [N] [NG]
3. Costly tools can often save time because of the small scale of home repairs. [Y] [N] [NG]
4. Studies show we spend even more time on washing the dishes than our grandparents did. [Y] [N] [NG]
5. One expert says that tires and batteries can last longer than they used to. So U. S. cars are more difficult to break down than they used to be. [Y] [N] [NG]
6. Many people who choose a free time activity from all the options should pay taxes. [Y] [N] [NG]
7. If we consume our possessions, we will be surely consumed by them. [Y] [N] [NG]
8. Americans are wasting their leisure time by _____.
9. Vacuum cleaners tempt people to spend more time than _____.
10. The growing complexity of the car means most owners can no longer _____ under the hood to fix things themselves.

2 Small Potatoes

1 We finally became victims of a crime. Someone tried to steal our seven-year-old Toyota Camry, and, in the process, *smashed* the passenger-side door handle. By the standards of the current *mayhem* in New Orleans, it was barely worth mentioning. I'd like to say that we didn't call the police because we *figured*, well, they have enough to do. But reporting the crime never even occurred to us.

2 That's particularly embarrassing because the night when it happened, I spent several hours riding around with a *grizzled* New Orleans^[1] police sergeant, a friend of someone I'm writing about in my book. In the course of the night, he responded to one *rape*; the rest of the time we spent driving through his *blighted* district's nearly deserted streets, puzzling over poorly written *patrolmen's* reports in the *trailer* that served as his station house, and eating fried things with Coke at the Beach Corner Lounge, in fellowship with some Louisiana National Guardsmen.

3 This sergeant was as *frustrated* with the crime in New Orleans as anybody else — he said he'd never seen police *morale* so low — and, in the manner of cops everywhere, he grew positively *operatic* about the need for *civic* involvement in reducing crime. The number of people actually committing violence in New Orleans is tiny, maybe fewer than a thousand really bad guys, he said, *hunching* over the wheel and staring into the darkness — which is from where, for all I knew, he was pulling his *statistics*. “Those *knuckleheads* won't stop until the rest of the hundred and ninety-nine thousand people in this city say they're tired of being held *hostage*, and start helping the police,” which

smash / smæʃ / v. 打碎, 粉碎

mayhem / 'meihem / n. 伤害罪之一种, 故意伤害罪

figure / 'figə / v. 考虑; 认为

grizzle / 'grizl / vi. 变成灰色

rape / reip / n. 抢劫; 强奸

blight / blait / vt. 破坏

patrolman / 'pætrəlmən / n. 巡逻者 (尤指警官)

trailer / 'treilə / n. 追踪者; 拖车

frustrate / 'frʌstreit / v. 使感到灰心

morale / mə'reɪl / n. 士气

operatic / ɒpə'reɪtɪk / a. 歌剧的; 夸张的

civic / 'sɪvɪk / a. 市民的, 公民的

hunch / hʌntʃ / vi. 隆起

statistics / stə'tæstɪks / n. 统计学, 统计表

knucklehead / 'nʌkl,hed / n. [美] 蠢人, 傻瓜

hostage / 'hɒstɪdʒ / n. 人质, 抵押品

N. O. P. D. abbr. New Orleans Police Department, 新奥尔良警察局

rot / rɒt / v. 腐烂, 腐败

burglar / 'bɜ:glə / n. 窃贼, 夜盗

attorney / ə'tɔ:ni / n. [美] 律师

prosecute / 'prɒsɪkjut / vt. 起诉

isn't likely to happen any time soon. Relations between the people and the N. O. P. D. are so *rotten* that, when a *burglar* took a shot at the sergeant, some years later, the district *attorney* was unable to *prosecute*. There was too great a chance that the jury would side with the burglar.

4 The door handle of the Camry must have been *shattered* some time between 5 a. m., when I returned home, and daybreak. Margaret and I *shrugged*, called the Toyota dealer to order the part, and *went about* our day. Our landlord was furious when we told him about that. Petty crime has *whittled* away his *porch* furniture, his bicycle, even a couple of *cement planters* he used to keep in front of the house. Major crime put a bullet in his back a few years ago. (It's still in his body; the Charity Hospital emergency-room doctors wanted to send him home the same night, until they found out he was a lawyer.) "Call the police!" he said. "They have to know this happened. They do nothing, and when we complain, they say, nobody ever reports it to us. Well, nobody ever reports it because they do nothing." He *scowled* at the broken door handle, then turned toward the house. "Wait here," he said.

5 He returned with a copy of the *Times-Picayune*. On the *editorial* page was a letter from a man named Robert Stickney who said that his fifteen-year-old son had been *assaulted* the day before by four teen-agers who took his money and his bicycle. The kid called 911, and eighteen hours later was still waiting for a police officer to show up to take the report.

6 We hated to lift the phone. Brenda Marie Osbey, the poet *laureate* of Louisiana, was scheduled to begin reading at the Gold Mine Saloon in the French Quarter in half an hour. Good citizenship, however, has its price. We

shatter / 'ʃætə / vt. 打碎, 破坏

shrug / ʃrʌɡ / v. 耸肩

go about 着手做, 从事

furious / 'fjuəriəs / a. 狂怒的, 狂暴的

whittle / 'witl / v. 削减, 损害

porch / pɔ:tʃ / n. 门廊, 走廊

cement planter / si'ment-'plɑ:ntə / n. 水泥花盆

scowl / skaʊl / vi. 皱眉头

Times-Picayune 《时代-小钱币》(报纸名)

editorial / edi'tɔ:riəl / a. 编辑上的, 主笔的, 社论的

assault / ə'sɔ:lt / v. 袭击, 攻击

laureate / 'lɔ:ri:t / n. 戴桂冠的人

shrimp / ʃrɪmp / n. 虾肉

crabmeat / 'kræb.mi:t / n. 蟹肉

stuff / stʌf / v. 装满

called our local police station and started the clock. Our evening ruined, we put in the oven a *shrimp-and-crabmeat-stuffed* bell pepper we'd bought in *Cajun*^[2] country and debated whether we should risk a charge of *misdemeanor* possession of a steamed green vegetable by putting some *broccoli* on the stove. Fifty-one minutes later, we heard a knock and a smiling, *immaculately groomed* police officer stood at the door.

7 I'm not going to identify the officer. I want to, but the officer refused to give me permission. Ask an N. O. P. D. officer, while wearing a press card, if he thinks it might rain, and most likely he'll direct your inquiry to a spokesman in the *superintendent's* office — and calls to that number usually disappear down the voice-mail hole. It's a pity. Years of *high-profile brutality* and *corruption*, the actions of a few officers during the storm, and the recent wave of killings have *alienated* the department from the people it serves. But most N. O. P. D. officers are committed public servants. A positive story about an N. O. P. D. officer might do the department good.

8 Before leaving our house that evening, the officer handed us a slip of paper neatly printed with our case number, some advice about discouraging further crime, and, in a very New Orleans touch, a hug. Now Margaret and I can look forward to getting a taste of what it really means to live here nowadays. We will begin fighting our insurance company.

shrimp-and-crabmeat-stuffed a. 装满了虾肉和蟹肉的

misdemeanor / 'misdi'mi:nə / n. 不良行为

broccoli / 'brɒkəli / n. 椰菜

immaculately / i'mækjuleitli / ad. 无瑕地；极其清洁地

groom / gru:m / v. 打扮；使清洁而整齐

superintendent / 'sju:pə,in'tendənt / n. 负责人，管理者

high-profile / 'hai-'prəfail / n. 鲜明的姿态

brutality / bru'tælitɪ / n. 残忍，野蛮的行为

corruption / kə'rʌpfən / n. 腐败，贪污，堕落

alienate / 'eiliəneɪt / v. 疏远

Notes

1. New Orleans: 新奥尔良是美国第一大港，路易斯安那州的最大城市。位于州东南部，密西西比河畔，北临庞恰特雷恩湖，距河口 170 多公里。其中水面积占 45.3%；人口 49.7 万（1990），约一半为黑人，大市区包括奥尔良、杰斐逊等 4 县，面积 7661 平方公里，人口约占全州人口的 30%。流经市区的密西西比河呈新月形弯曲，故有“新月城”的别名。新奥尔良地处密西西比河三角洲，水道纵横，地势低洼；平均

海拔仅 1.5 米, 不少地方低于海平面。沿河筑有 209 公里长的防洪堤坝, 由 112 个泵站组成的排水系统, 通过泄水道分水引入庞恰特雷恩湖, 亚热带湿润气候, 7 月平均气温 27.7℃, 1 月 11.6℃, 年降水量 1440 毫米, 夏季多暴雨。城市邻近地区石油、天然气、硫磺、盐矿丰富, 盛产木材、棉花、甘蔗和稻米等。

2. Cajun: 阿卡迪亚人, 美国路易斯安那州南部的几个民族之一, 是 18 世纪从阿卡迪亚放逐的法国殖民者的后裔。

COMPREHENSION EXERCISES

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

1. From the first paragraph, why didn't the author and his wife call the police?
 - A) Because they have enough things to do.
 - B) Because they think the police have enough things to do.
 - C) Because they don't know any police.
 - D) Because they don't know how to call the police.
2. According to the second paragraph, the author did everything except _____.
 - A) spending several hours riding around with a grizzled New Orleans police sergeant
 - B) puzzling over poorly written patrolmen's reports in the trailer
 - C) eating fried things with Coke at the Beach Corner Lounge with some Louisiana National Guardsmen
 - D) responding to one rape in the course of the night
3. According to the third paragraph, which statement about the crime that night is not true?
 - A) The sergeant was as discouraged by the crime in New Orleans as anybody else.
 - B) The sergeant was operatic about the need for civic involvement in reducing crime.
 - C) The sergeant thought the number of people actually committing violence in New Orleans is tiny.
 - D) The district attorney declined to prosecute the sergeant.
4. Which of the following statements is not true about the author and his wife?
 - A) The author and his wife didn't want to call the police.
 - B) The author thought good citizenship has its price.
 - C) The author and his wife ruined their evening.
 - D) The author and his wife called their local police station.
5. Eventually, the author is _____.
 - A) positive about their case
 - B) vague about their case
 - C) eager to influence the case
 - D) to fight their insurance company

II. In this part, you will judge the following statements according to the passage.*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. By the standards of the current mayhem in New Orleans, what happened to the author and his wife was scarcely worth calling the police. [Y] [N] [NG]
2. The author spent several hours riding around with a grizzled New Orleans police sergeant whom he is writing about in his book. [Y] [N] [NG]
3. Relations between the people and the N. O. P. D. are so rotten that, when a burglar took a shot at the sergeant, some years back, even the district attorney didn't refuse to prosecute. [Y] [N] [NG]
4. The landlord of the author and his wife thought it would be helpful to call the police. [Y] [N] [NG]
5. In order to be good citizens, the author and his wife called their local police station and started to wait. [Y] [N] [NG]
6. Most N. O. P. D. officers are committed public servants. [Y] [N] [NG]
7. The author and his wife are very happy to understand what it really means to live here nowadays. [Y] [N] [NG]
8. According to the author, the sergeant was as frustrated with the crime in New Orleans as anybody else — he said _____
9. To the author's landlord, petty crime had whittled away _____ he used to keep in front of the house.
10. The author thinks that _____ might do the department good.

3 *Blue Jeans Have Come a Long Way*

1 What does *denim* mean to you? Most people might think of its sexy and fashionable feel, ignoring its *rugged*, hard-wearing nature. But, denim jeans have completely changed from being a work garment to a major style statement. Still, not all denim brands are following that trend.

2 Levi's^[1] was the original denim brand. In 1873, Jacob Davis and Levi Strauss created a special pair of trousers strong enough to hold in a man's big stomach. The denim industry has come a long way since then.

3 In 1978, Calvin Klein^[2] introduced designer denim. But it wasn't until the late 90s, with the emergence of Earl jeans^[3] from California, that the denim craze truly took hold. No longer were jeans a kind of *chunky* workman's wear, but a sexy item showing off the wearer's figure.

4 "A woman needs a different pair for every occasion, just like shoes. Some days you want a sexy pair, other days you want them more relaxed and *slouchy*," says Suzanne Pendlebury, women swear buyer for Harvey Nichols, a famous UK store.

5 In fact, the denim industry has gone beyond anyone's expectations. UK sales of jeans have increased 40 percent in the past five years, according to research by consumer analysts Mintel.

6 But the emphasis here is on "new" and "trendy". Classic brands, like Levi's, Lee and Wrangler, have to struggle in today's marketplace. Between 2004 and 2006,

denim / 'denim / n. 粗斜纹棉布

rugged / 'rʌɡɪd / a. 粗糙的, 有皱纹的

chunky / 'tʃʌŋki / a. 厚实的

slouchy / 'slautʃi / a. 懒散散的