

What is the main idea of the following passage?

College English

What will happen with our friends? The word, "friend", covers a wide range of meanings. It can be a nodding acquaintance, a comrade, a co-worker, a business partner, a playmate, an intimate friend. Everyone needs friendship. We cannot live single-handed. We need help from others. In our life, friendship is becoming more and more important. A man of charisma has many friends. His power lies in his ability to give. As life is full of surprises, we need friends to support and help us out of difficulties.

全新

大学英语 阅读教程

3

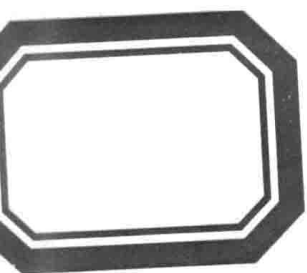
主编◎王勇

副主编◎李辉 纪小凌

With friends, we can live more harmonious. Without friends, life is sad. I have friends in high positions and friends in the street and field. Some are rich and some are poor. I will never forget my old friends, and I'll keep making new friends. I will not be cold and indifferent to my poor friends, and I will show concern for them even if it is only a comforting word.



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常州大学图书馆
藏书章



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内 容 提 要

本书共 10 个单元,每单元由两部分组成:第一部分 Text 为主体部分,全部课文选用原版语料,旨在为学习者提供题材广泛、流畅自然的“活英语”。通过本套教程的学习,学习者既能学到相关的语言技能,又能在阅读过程中体验到目的语的社会文化。第二部分 Exercise 包含仔细阅读和快速阅读两个题型,题目设置及命题思路均与大学英语四、六级考试保持一致。既考查对篇章的中心思想和段落大意的掌握,也考查对主要事实和相关细节的理解。

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前言

教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》中对于大学生的英语阅读能力作了如下规定：“能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章和工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料。能对阅读材料进行略读和寻读。能借助词典阅读本专业的英语教材和题材熟悉的英文报刊文章，掌握中心大意，理解主要事实和有关细节。”本教程旨在通过语言的强化输入，加快培养学生的英语阅读能力，同时增强其自主学习能力和分析问题的能力，提高综合文化素养，以适应我国社会发展和国际交流的需要。

1. 编写理念

本教程编写理念着眼于顺应大学英语教学改革的新趋势，密切结合《大学英语课程教学要求》的内涵和英语课堂教学的实践，为英语学习者营造语言阅读环境，力求体现交际法语言教学(CLT)的要求。通过大量真实而实用的语言输入(input)，使学生真正成为教学活动的主体，使教师的角色由阅读材料的讲授者转化为阅读学习过程中的辅助者和促进者。

2. 教材特色

为体现交际法语言教学(CLT)的要求，对提高语言学习者的阅读理解能力和阅读速度起到积极的促进作用，编著者力求使本教程具有如下特点：

(1)选材的广泛性。文章题材涉及日常生活、社会习俗、体育、教育、文化、艺术、经济、科技等方方面面。通过本套教程的学习，学习者能够有充分的机会接触到大量体裁广泛的阅读材料，在提高英语阅读能力的同时，了解西方的社会和文化。

(2)语料的真实性(authenticity)。选文多选自近年来出版的英美报刊书籍，内容丰富。编著者编选过程中，为确保语料的“真实性”，对原文不作随意改动，以期学习者在学习时能体验到材料的“原汁原味”。这些语料有利于学习者了解英语国家的风土人情、生活习俗和社会文化等各方面的知识，提高他们英语学习的兴趣和跨文化交际的能力。

(3)本教程的学习内容与目前国家大学英语四、六级考试有关的阅读题型和大学英语四、六级考试紧密结合。为适应大学英语测试改革的需要，该教程每单元的练习题型、测试难度均与大学英语四、六级考试阅读题型保持一致，以帮助学生进行针对性训练，提高英语学习成绩，同时为参加考试做好充分的准备。

(4)注重发挥语言测试的反拨作用(backwash effect)。大学英语四、六级考委会主任金艳教授曾指出：“由于大学英语四、六级考试是大学英语教学的一种检测手段，同时也是大学英语教学的一个环节，因此改进其对教学的后效，即考试的反拨作用，是考试改革的重点”。本教程既是一套英语课堂教学的阅读教程，也是一套有积极效果的 CET 辅导用书，我们期待其能成为引发 CET 测试具有积极后效的载体，以实现促进阅读教学的根本目的。

(5)本教程学习者适用面广，它主要是供非英语专业大学生使用，但也适合非英语专业研究生、英语专业低年级学生、英语自考生以及其他各类英语自学者使用。

3. 框架结构与使用说明

全套教材共分四册，每册 10 个单元，每单元由两部分组成：第一部分 Text 为主体部分，全部课文选用原版语料，旨在为学习者提供题材广泛、流畅自然的“活英语”。通过本套教程的学习，学习者既能学到相关的语言技能，又能在阅读过程中体验到目的语的社会文化，真正做到侧重意义的传达。第二部分 Exercise 包含仔细阅读和快速阅读两个题

型,题目设置及命题思路均与大学英语四、六级考试保持一致,既考查对篇章的中心思想和段落大意的掌握,也考查对主要事实和相关细节的理解。

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莘莘学子,负笈苦读,不舍昼夜。编者虽诚惶诚恐,竭尽所能,然囿于水平,必有遗漏与不周之处,敬请使用者不吝赐教。

编著者
2014 年 6 月

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Unit 1

The American Way: Marriage



The American Way: Marriage

“I do.” To Americans those two words carry great meaning. They can even change your life. Especially if you say them at your own wedding. Making wedding vows (誓约) is like signing a contract. Now Americans don’t really think marriage is a business deal. But marriage is serious business.

It all begins with engagement. Traditionally, a young man asks the father of his sweetheart for permission to marry her. If the father agrees, the man later proposes to her. Often he tries to surprise her by “popping the question” in a romantic way. Sometimes the couple just decides together that the time is right to get married. The man usually gives his fiancée a diamond ring as a symbol of their engagement. They may be engaged for weeks, months or even years. As the big day approaches, bridal showers and bachelor’s parties provide many useful gifts. Today many couples also receive counseling during engagement. This prepares them for the challenges of married life.

At last it’s time for the wedding. Although most weddings follow long-held traditions, there’s still room for American individualism. For example, the usual place for a wedding is in a church. But some people get married outdoors in a scenic spot. A few even have the ceremony while sky-diving or riding on horseback! The couple may invite hundreds of people or just a few close friends. They choose their own style of colors, decorations and music during the ceremony. But some things rarely change. The bride usually wears a beautiful, long white wedding dress. She traditionally wears “something old, something new, something borrowed and something blue”. The groom wears a formal suit or tuxedo (无尾晚礼服). Several close friends participate in the ceremony as attendants, including the best man and the maid of honor.

As the ceremony begins, the groom and his attendants stand with the minister, facing the audience. Music signals the entrance of the bride’s attendants, followed by

the beautiful bride. Nervously, the young couple repeats their vows. Traditionally, they promise to love each other "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health". But sometimes the couple has composed their own vows. They give each other a gold ring to symbolize their marriage commitment. Finally the minister announces the big moment: "I now pronounce you man and wife. You may kiss your bride!"

At the wedding reception, the bride and groom greet their guests. Then they cut the wedding cake and feed each other a bite. Guests mingle (混合) while enjoying cake, punch and other treats. Later the bride throws her bouquet (花束) of flowers to a group of single girls. Tradition says that the one who catches the bouquet will be the next to marry. During the reception, playful friends "decorate" the couple's car with tissue paper, tin cans and a "Just Married" sign. When the reception is over, the newlyweds run to their "decorated" car and speed off. Many couples take a honeymoon, a one-to-two-week vacation trip, to celebrate their new marriage.

Almost every culture has rituals to signal a change in one's life. Marriage is one of the most basic life changes for people of all cultures. So it's no surprise to find many traditions about getting married... even in America. Yet each couple follows the traditions in a way that is uniquely their own.

Language Points

1. engage v.

① 使从事,使忙于

Politicians should not engage in business affairs that might affect their political judgment.

政治家不应该参与那些可能会影响其政治判断力的商业事务。

② 订婚

Jack and Anne are engaged.

杰克和安妮订婚了。

* engagement n. 诺言, 婚约

Their engagement was announced in the papers.

他们订婚的消息登报了。

2. permit v. 允许, 许可

I'll come after the meeting if time permits.

如果时间许可的话,我开完会就来。

You are not permitted to smoke here.

此处不许吸烟。

* **permission** *n.* 同意, 许可, 允许

I resent having to get his permission for everything I do.

我讨厌做每件事都要得到他的许可。

3. **propose** *v.*

① 建议, 提出

I wish to propose a toast to our friendship.

我提议为我们的友谊干杯。

He proposed that a change should be made.

他建议做一些改变。

② 求(婚)

Did he propose to you?

他向你求婚了吗?

4. **romantic** *adj.* 浪漫的

She has romantic notions about becoming a famous actress.

她心里充满幻想, 总希望有一天会成为著名演员。

It is said that Frenchmen are among the most romantic people in the world.

据说法国人是世界上最浪漫的民族之一。

5. **symbol** *n.* 符号, 标志, 象征

The chemical symbol for copper is "Cu".

铜的化学符号是 Cu.

The dove is the symbol of peace.

鸽子是和平的象征。

* **symbolize** *v.* 象征, 用记号表现

The poet has symbolized his lover with a flower.

那诗人用花象征他的爱人。

6. **bachelor** *n.*

① 单身汉

You have the alternative of marrying or remaining a bachelor.

你可以结婚也可以仍做单身汉, 任你选择。

② 学士

I have a bachelor degree.

我有学士学位。

7. **individual**

adj. 个别的

A teacher can't give individual attention to each pupil if his class is large.

如果班上的人数多, 老师就不能给予个别辅导了。

She has her own individual way of walking.

她有自己独特的走路姿势。

n. 个人, 个体

She is acting as a private individual in this matter.

她在这个问题上只代表她个人意见。

* **individualism** *n.* 个人主义

Their individualism finds expression in pleasure-seeking.

他们的个人主义表现为享乐思想。

8. **ceremony** *n.* 典礼, 仪式, 礼仪

They hold a mystic religious ceremony.

他们举行了一个神秘的宗教仪式。

The queen was crowned with proper ceremony.

女王以传统仪式举行了加冕礼。

9. **decorate** *v.* 装饰, 装修

We decorated the house for Christmas.

我们装饰房屋过圣诞节。

We often decorate doors and windows with paper cuts.

我们经常用剪纸来装饰门窗。

* **decoration** *n.* 装饰, 装饰品

She put some decorations on the Christmas tree.

她在圣诞树上放了一些装饰品。

10. **participate** *v.* 参加, 分享

I don't want to participate in the English party.

我不想参加英语晚会。

Everyone in the class is expected to participate in the discussion.

希望全班同学参加讨论。

11. **attend** *v.*

① 参加

I shall be attending the meeting.

我会参加会议。

Danger attended everything he did.

他所做的每一件事都有危险。

② 照料

He was so ill that two nurses attended on him.

他病得那样重, 有两个护士照顾他。

They attended to our affairs during our absence.

我们不在时, 他们会料理好我们的事情。

* **attendant** *n.* 服务员

If you need anything, just ring for the attendant.

如果您要什么, 就按铃叫服务员。

The president gave the Prince and his attendants a farewell banquet.
总统为王子和他的随员举行了告别宴会。

12. **compose** *v.* 组成, 写作, 作曲

He was composing at the piano at the age of seven.

他 7 岁时就会用钢琴作曲。

Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen.

水由氢和氧组成。

13. **commit** *v.*

① 犯(罪等);干(坏事等)

The poet attempted to commit suicide in his study.

那个诗人企图在他的书房自杀。

I committed an error in handling the business.

我在处理这一业务时犯了一个错误。

② 使承担义务,使作保证

He would not commit himself in any way.

他不愿做出任何承诺。

She committed herself to philanthropy.

她专心从事慈善事业。

* **commitment** *n.* 承诺; 奉献

His political commitment is only skin-deep.

他政治上的承诺只是表面文章。

14. **reception** *n.* 接待, 招待会, 欢迎

A reception was held in honor of the new director.

举行酒会来欢迎新主任。

The book met with a favorable reception.

此书受到好评。

15. **tissue** *n.*

① (动、植物的)组织

Human tissue is made up of cells.

人体的组织是由细胞构成的。

The tissues have been destroyed and a scar has formed.

那些组织受到破坏,形成一道疤痕。

② 薄纸, 棉纸

She gave us a box of tissues.

她递给我们一盒纸巾。

The Christmas presents were wrapped (up) in tissue paper.

圣诞礼物都用薄纸裹起来了。

16. ritual *n.* 仪式, 典礼

Today that ritual is just a fond memory.

到今天,那种仪式已成为美好的回忆了。

Wives make a ritual of their household duties.

家庭主妇每天都是一成不变地操持家务。

Exercises

Section A

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

A typical candidate for a prenuptial agreement (婚前协议) is a man who has accumulated considerable wealth, has already been stung (被刺痛) once, and wants to ____ 1 ____ his exposure to future problems. They want to ____ 2 ____ their own arrangements, rather than let a ____ 3 ____ decide.

Protecting children from a previous marriage is a strong ____ 4 ____ for prenuptial contracts. Someone may have an estate of \$ 1 billion and he may not want a second ____ 5 ____ to get a payment of half a billion. He may want more for his children. The ____ 6 ____ to shield (保卫、保护) assets to be passed on to children and grandchildren is making prenuptial agreements more ____ 7 ____ among retired people in their 60s and 70s who are ____ 8 ____ after a spouse has died.

Another situation that ____ 9 ____ for prenuptial agreements occurs when a potential spouse has, or is in line for (即将得到), great inherited wealth or a family ____ 10 ____, especially if the future partner has little or nothing at all.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| A) reason | I) remarrying |
| B) business | J) reduce |
| C) effort | K) spouse |
| D) member | L) asks |
| E) common | M) make |
| F) get | N) calls |
| G) lack | O) result |
| H) court | |

Section B

Directions: *In this section, you are going to read a passage with ten statements attached to it. Each statement contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by marking the corresponding letter.*

A Painful Decision

- A) Betty Schimmel's family had fled Czechoslovakia in 1938 just ahead of Hitler's invasion of Budapest, where she met Richie Kovacs. As the two children became teenagers, their friendship turned to love. Even after the Nazis stormed into Hungary in the spring of 1944, the young couple held on to (保持) their dreams of a future together. "We planned our wedding," Betty said. "We always said we would have the reception at the Hotel Royal in Budapest where, before the Nazis came, Richie used to play drums in a dance band." Then, in the late fall of 1944, the Nazis rounded up Betty, her mother, sister and brother, and herded (把……赶在一起) them along with 5,000 other Hungarian Jews into a muddy brick factory. They sat there for days in the cold and the rain, many of them dying or going mad, before they were forced to march across Hungary in the snow of winter.
- B) After six brutal weeks the survivors of the march—500 out of the original 5,000—found themselves in Mauthausen, a concentration camp high on a hill overlooking a quaint (古雅的) Austrian town. The camp smelled of death and suffering. For the first couple of months Betty was delirious (神志昏乱), struggling to survive the typhoid fever (伤寒) that was damaging her weakened body. The Americans saved her when they liberated the camp in May of 1945.
- C) For the next year, as she was transferred from camp to camp, she looked for him. The only thing she found was a list that said he was dead. Her mother, who worried for her future, encouraged Betty to go out and meet other people. Eventually a young man that her mother admired and respected, Otto Schimmel, fell in love with Betty. But Betty rebuffed him several times. Otto, who had lost his entire family at Auschwitz, loved her and wanted her anyway. Finally, she agreed to marry him, although she still loved Richie, and told Otto so. In his devotion, Otto promised to let her go if Richie ever appeared.

- D) They came to America, where Otto worked first as a busboy, and then as a waiter. He found menial jobs manufacturing leather goods, the trade he had learned in Hungary, gradually improving his skills and his English. Betty bore him three children, two boys and a girl. As Otto rose in his profession, eventually running a factory, the family moved to Pennsylvania and then Arizona. Betty found herself in her dream house, with what should have been her dream husband and family. But Otto's responsibilities often took him on the road, and Betty was still carrying the emotional losses of the war years. She had a nervous breakdown. "Because still I wasn't happy," Betty said, "I felt that I had left my heart behind in Europe."
- E) Time went by and in 1975, Betty's mother was longing to see Hungary again. She asked Betty to take her and they began to make plans. But then tragically her mother died. Mourning her loss, Betty decided to carry out her mother's wish and go.
- F) The first week in Budapest she could barely bring herself to leave her hotel; the memories were so strong. Friends persuaded her to go out to dinner and by chance took her to the Hotel Royal — the very place where she and Richie had once planned to marry. Toward the end of dinner, she happened to glance across the room. "I knew from the back of his head, it was Richie. I walked up to him and touched his arm. I think we know each other," I said. He turned around, and when he saw me he jumped up and embraced me, tears streaming down his face. When he hugged me, it was as if time stood still. "But it was my last night in Budapest. It was his first night there. He had become a scientist and was speaking at a conference, which he could not leave, in a matter of hours, we had to catch up on our past and decide our future."
- G) Richie told her his story. He'd been captured by the Nazis and sent to a forced labor camp in Hungary. When he was liberated, he began searching for her across Europe in Germany, Austria, and France. Eventually, he and his mother immigrated to Canada, where he continued to search for her. In fact, he had found her. Years before, Richie told her, he had traced her to New York and come to her apartment. She and Otto had just had their first child. It was Otto who met him at the door. Otto, who had once promised to step aside, turned him away and had never told her.

H) Now Richie — living in the United States and married with three children of his own — begged Betty to leave her family and stay with him. It was raining that night in Budapest, as Betty walked with Richie. "I looked up into his beautiful blue eyes, and I saw reflected there our boat trips on the Danube and all the love we'd shared. I told Richie I would give him my answer the next morning, at our favorite meeting spot."

I) And then Betty called Otto and confronted him with his deception. "He cried and begged my forgiveness," She said, "I was so hurt and angry. I hung up on him." "But I also heard my mother's voice reminding me of the importance of family. And I saw Otto working 18 hours a day, out of love for us." Pacing in her hotel room, Betty finally made her choice, "I left Richie a note that was good-bye. I cried all the way to Paris." "In Paris, Otto was waiting for me. He looked so lost and awful. I told him I was coming home with him, and for the first time, I allowed myself to love him for himself."

J) "After celebrating 54 years of marriage and enjoying all our children and grandchildren, I know I made the right decision. I had once a young love that lasted from the age of nine to the age of fifteen, and that was my love for Richie. Then I was fortunate enough to have a mature love, and that was my love for Otto."

1. Richie Kovacs became a scientist.
2. Betty went back to Hungary, as her mother had wished to do that.
3. Betty and Otto celebrated 54 years of marriage.
4. Betty suffered a nervous breakdown despite having a dream home and three children.
5. In the concentration camp in Austria Betty suffered terribly but eventually pulled through.
6. Richie begged Betty to start a new life with him.
7. Betty and her family were forced by Nazi to leave their home in the bitter cold winter.

8. Richie traced Betty to her New York home, but was turned away by Otto.
9. Although Betty felt hurt by Otto, she finally chose to return to Otto and their family.
10. In America, Otto took various jobs to support the family, and eventually ran a company.

Section C

Directions: *There are 2 passages in this section. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A), B), C) and D). You should decide on the best choice.*

Passage One

I remember the way the light touched her hair. She turned her head, and our eyes met, a momentary awareness in that noisy fifth grade classroom. I felt as though I'd been struck a blow under the heart. Thus began my first love affair. Her name was Rachel, and I mooned my way through the grade and high school, stricken at the mere sight of her, tongue-tied in her presence. Does anyone, anymore, stay in the shadows of evening, drawn by the pale light of a window like some unlucky summer insect? That excited swooning (晕倒), asexual (无性的) but urgent and obsessive, that made me awkward and my voice crack, is like some impossible dream now. I would catch sight of her, walking down an aisle of trees to or from school, and I'd become paralyzed.

She always seemed calm and self-possessed. At home, I'd relive each encounter, distressing at the thought of my inadequacies. We eventually got acquainted and socialized as we entered our adolescence (青春期), she knew I had a case on her, and I sensed her affectionate tolerance for me. "Going steady" implied a maturity we still lacked. Her conventional Jewish upbringing and my Catholic hesitancy imposed a nervous grace that made even kissing a distant prospect, however strongly desired. I managed to hold her once at a dance. Our embrace made her giggle, a sound so trusting that I hated myself for what I'd been thinking. At any rate, my love for Rachel remained unrewarded. We graduated from high school, she went on to college, and I joined the Army.

When World War II covered us, I was sent overseas. For a time we corresponded, and her letters were the highlight of those grinding endless years. Once