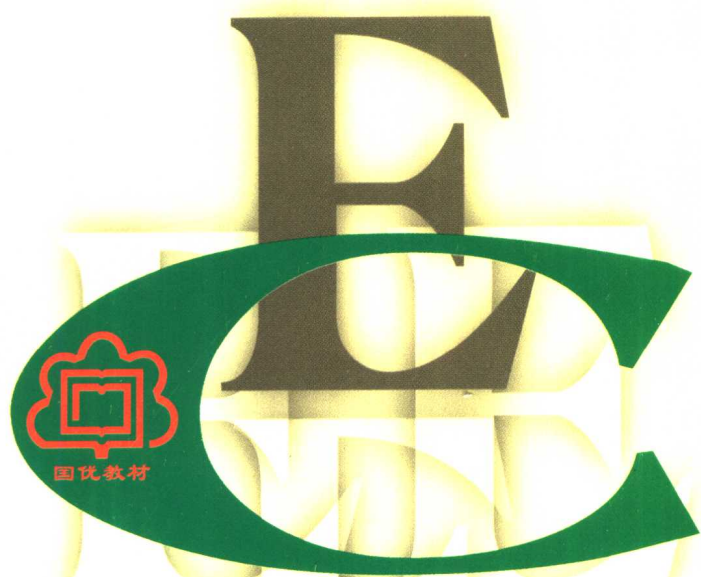


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修订本

大学英语

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修 订 本 前 言

《大学英语》是根据国家教育委员会审定批准的《大学英语教学大纲（文理科本科用）》编写的一套系列教材，分精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读、语法与练习五种教程，于1986年出版试用本，1992年出版正式本。

本教材的精读、泛读、快速阅读和听力教程各按分级教学的要求编写六册，每级一册，供1—6级使用；语法与练习编写四册，供1—4级使用。精读与听力教程均配有教师用书和录音磁带；泛读教程1—6级也配有教师用书。对低于大纲规定入学要求的学生，另编预备级精读、泛读教程各两册。全套教材由复旦大学、北京大学、华东师范大学、中国人民大学、武汉大学和南京大学分工编写，复旦大学董亚芬担任总主编。前大学外语教材编审委员会综合大学英语编审组的全体成员对这套教材的设计与编写自始至终给予关注。

这次修订是在广泛听取全国各地使用本系列教材的教师们的意见并通过问卷形式对数以万计的师生征求意见的基础上进行的。大学外语教学指导委员会综合大学英语组对本教材的修订提供了多方面的指导与帮助。修订的宗旨是“面向21世纪，将大学英语教学推上一个新台阶”。修订本根据各教程的具体情况，对课文作适当调整，提高大纲词汇的覆盖率和常用词汇的重现率，进一步完善练习，突出重点词语的操练；同时加强各教程间的横向联系，做到既自成体系又相互补充，形成整体。修订本更加注意文、理、工、农、医等各科的通用性，力求给学生打好“宽、厚、牢”的语言基础。

《大学英语》快速阅读教程由中国人民大学外语系负责编写。谌馨荪担任主编、许孟雄担任主审，参加本册编写的有余申燕和李守京等。

在编写过程中，本教程还承英国专家 Anthony J. Ward 审阅，谨此致谢。

本书为快速阅读教程修订本第六册，供大学英语六级学生使用，由谌馨荪负责修订。上海外语教育出版社的编辑同志在付梓前仔细编审，精心设计，给予我们很大帮助和促进，谨此一并致谢。

由于编者水平与经验有限，教材中难免还有不足之处，希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1998年3月

使用说明

本教程旨在培养学生的正确阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读能力和速度。为保证语言文字的规范化,课文全部选自英、美原著,但有少量删改。选文力求题材多样,知识性和趣味性兼顾。

全书共分6册,每册10单元20课。每篇选文均配有多项选择练习,以测试学生对课文的理解能力。快速阅读主要着眼于培养阅读速度,强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息,因此每篇材料均略浅于相应的精、泛读课文。篇幅跨度为250—600词左右,生词量力求控制在3%左右。快速阅读的全部教学活动都要求在课内进行。每单元进行一次,每次使用一至两篇,阅读后即做练习。为帮助学生培养良好的阅读习惯,控制和检验阅读速度,每篇课文规定阅读时间(含做题时间),超过规定未完成阅读者为不合格。

使用本教程时,应注意下列各点:

1. 为便于教学,本教程印成活页,由教师保管,使用时临时分发。学生不得预习。
2. 阅读时不能查阅词典,如有生词,可根据上下文进行猜测以确定词义。
3. 培养边阅读、边理解、边记忆的良好习惯。读完课文即做练习,做练习时,不再翻阅已读过的课文。
4. 严格按照规定时间阅读和做题,时间一到,应立即停止阅读。

编者

1998年3月

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1. A Case of Mistaken Identity

One of the qualities that most people admire in others is the willingness to admit one's mistakes. It is extremely hard sometimes to say a simple thing like "I was wrong about that," and it is even harder to say, "I was wrong, and you were right about that." Perhaps the reason we admire this quality so much in others is that we all know first-hand how difficult it can be. Some people find it so difficult that it takes years to get to the point where they are able to admit a mistaken judgment.

I had an experience recently with someone admitting to me that he had made a mistake fifteen years ago. It came as a complete surprise to me, and I had no idea what he was talking about. He told me he had been manager of a certain grocery store in the neighborhood where I grew up, and he asked me if I remembered the egg cartons. Then he related an incident that took place in the store years ago. As he talked, I began to remember vaguely the incident he was describing.

I was about eight years old at the time, and I had gone into the store with my mother to do the weekly grocery shopping. When we made those weekly expeditions, I usually started out by pushing the grocery cart for my mother, but after a short while, I would get bored and wander off on my own to explore the store. On that particular day, I must have wandered off as usual and found my way to the dairy food department where the incident took place.

There must have been a special sale on eggs that day because there was an impressive display of eggs in dozen and half-dozen cartons. The cartons were stacked three or four feet high. I must have stopped in front of the display to admire the stacks and, probably, to wonder what it would be like if all those cartons of eggs came tumbling down. Just then a woman came by pushing her grocery cart. She must have steered too close because, all of a sudden, the bottom rows of cartons popped out and the stacks collapsed to the floor. For some reason, I decided it was up to me to put the display back together, so I went to work.

The noise of the cartons falling had attracted the attention of the manager, and he came rushing over to see what had happened. When he appeared, I was on my knees inspecting some of the cartons to see if any of the eggs were broken, but

to him it looked as though I was the culprit. Conveniently, there was no one else near the area. He severely reprimanded me and said I was going to have to pay for any broken eggs. I protested my innocence and tried to explain about the woman with the cart, but it was no good. Even though I quickly forgot all about the incident, apparently, the manager did not.

5 $\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

507 words

1. A Case of Mistaken Identity

Comprehension Exercise

- In this passage, the writer wants to give readers an example _____.
 - of a person's admitting an error
 - of wrongdoing
 - of a person's making a mistake
 - of a mistaken identification
- The manager _____ an incident that happened in the store years ago.
 - saw
 - thought of
 - recounted
 - referred to
- When the stacks of egg cartons collapsed, the writer thought _____.
 - it was his duty to put the display back together
 - he had done something wrong
 - the woman should be blamed
 - he should call the manager
- According to the writer, the manager _____.
 - regarded him as the guilty person
 - thought he was a naughty boy
 - felt very angry
 - all of the above
- Which of the following is Not correct?
 - The writer agrees that it's indeed difficult for people to confess their wrongdoings.
 - It is said in the passage that admitting mistakes makes people nervous.
 - Since the incident took place quite a long time ago, the writer could not remember it clearly.
 - Although the writer protested his innocence, the manager would not believe him.

2. Standing Room Only

Look at your watch for just one minute. During that time the population of the world increased by eighty-five people. Perhaps you think that isn't much. In the next hour, more than 5,000 additional people will be living on this planet. So it goes, hour after hour. In one day, there are about 120,000 additional mouths to feed. Multiply this by 365. What will happen in 100 years?

This population explosion may be the greatest challenge of the present time. Within the next forty years, the world population may double. Can the new frontiers of science meet the needs of the crowded world of tomorrow?

If the present rate of population increase continues for the next 600 or 700 years, there will be standing room only. Each person will have between 3 to 10 square feet of space in which to live. This includes the mountaintops, deserts, and the ice and snow fields of the polar regions. Of course, no one expects such a thing to happen. War, plague, famine, or some other catastrophe can be expected to occur long before the population reaches this point. Actually, the danger is not in an overcrowded world where people are huddled together so that they cannot move arms and legs, but in an upset balance between population and resources.

Since 600 years is so far away, take a look at the years directly ahead. How can the hungry people be fed? About half the babies born this year will not have enough to eat. Is the world running out of water? Will there be enough fuel? What will supply the energy needed to run the machines of tomorrow's world? Certainly, man must look to the future and find new ways of providing for his needs.

People around the world are becoming more and more concerned about the population explosion. Some are hoping that there can be some control of number of people that are born; but population control is a subject with touches on the moral and religious beliefs of many people. Even if many families have fewer children, the speed of the population explosion will only be reduced — not halted. There will still be problems of food supply, water, and power.

The earth would not be so crowded if it were not for the great strides made by modern medicine. The average life span has doubled in the last 500 years. If you

were living in the days of Columbus, you could expect to live only thirty-five years. Today, a person in America can expect to live until he is almost seventy. The increase in life span around the world has been a major factor in increasing the population.

People are being born faster than they are dying or they are dying at a slower rate than they are being born. Longer life span is a fine achievement, but it does add to the number of people who live on the earth.

Perhaps you do not think of the earth as a crowded planet. Perhaps you live in a part of the world where there are vast stretches of fields and forests; where farms are dotted here and there on the rolling countryside. Your nearest neighbour may be miles away. Such is not the case in all parts of the world.

$5\frac{1}{2}$ minutes

549 words

2. Standing Room Only

Comprehension Exercise

1. The writer thinks that in a hundred years' time _____.
 - a. there will be $120 \times 365 \times 100$ more people on this planet
 - b. science will be sufficiently developed to cope with all the problems of a vastly increased population
 - c. there will be standing room only
 - d. there will be terrible problems arising from the population explosion unless something is done about it
2. From the long-term point of view the writer is _____.
 - a. optimistic because she thinks the population increase will be controllable
 - b. pessimistic because she thinks that the speed of the population explosion will be reduced only, not halted
 - c. pessimistic because she thinks that ultimately the only solution is some natural or man-made disaster
 - d. optimistic because she thinks that one day people will be able to emigrate to other planets
3. According to the writer, mankind can solve the problem of the population explosion to some extent by _____.
 - a. developing new techniques to deal with problems of food, water and power supply
 - b. spending more on medical care
 - c. controlling the number of people born
 - d. moving people from the over-populated areas of the world to those areas that are less crowded
4. The writer thinks that the greatly improved modern medicine _____.
 - a. is not a praiseworthy achievement
 - b. has solved the population problem to some extent
 - c. is a fine achievement, but have made the population problem worse
 - d. is the main cause of the problem of the world population explosion

5. Which of the following is mentioned in the passage?
- The rapid progress of modern medicine has doubled the average life span in the last 500 years.
 - We can easily solve the problem of population explosion by having fewer children.
 - Population explosion is undoubtedly the biggest problem in the world today.
 - The real danger of mankind does not lie in population explosion but in war and plague.
6. Which of the following is Not correct?
- Judging from the information in the passage, Asia is the most crowded area in the world.
 - The writer said that if we do nothing to control the population growth, there will be standing room only in 600 or 700 years.
 - A short-term solution to population explosion lies not so much in population control as in improving the supplies of food, water and power.
 - According to the author some people may not agree with population control because the part of the world they live in has vast stretches of fields and forests.

3. Our Lost Children

Although we Americans in recent decades have grown richer, our children have grown poorer. Many families no longer adequately perform the nurturing and supporting function that children need, emotionally and intellectually.

The evil consequences for children are not in dispute. The rate of suicide among children aged ten to fourteen is twice as high as it was twenty years ago. For children aged fifteen to nineteen, the rate has tripled.

Since 1963, crimes by children have been rising at a faster rate than the juvenile population. About half of such crimes involve the traditional youthful offenses of theft, breaking and entering, and vandalism, but serious, violent crimes, though still involving a relatively small proportion of children, are going up at a startling rate. The rate of armed robbery, rape, and murder by juveniles has doubled in a decade.

The Senate Juvenile Delinquency Subcommittee surveyed 750 school districts and reported the following changes between 1970 and 1973.

Dropouts increased by 11 percent. Drug and alcohol offenses on school property were up 37 percent. Burglaries of school buildings were up 11 percent and assaults on teachers up 77 percent.

Among those who are thought of as "normal" children, lower reading scores and scholastic aptitude scores reveal intellectual impoverishment. Beyond all this loom the apathy and waste of the counterculture. Its existence is no longer news, but its ranks are still swelled each year by thousands of pathetic runaways and dropouts.

What forces are producing the increasingly severe stresses on today's children?

The phenomenon is complex and baffling, but several developments seem to be interacting. Urbanization is a factor. Children who might have made it on a farm or in a village, despite adverse family circumstances such as extreme poverty or a father's desertion, encounter disaster in a big city with its anonymity and diverse temptations.

Births by unwed mothers and divorce, two trends that are both rising steadily,

result in depriving children of the stable, two-parent support that they need in their growing years. One out of every six children under eighteen today is living in a single-parent family. This is almost double the proportion in 1950.

Many divorced or widowed parents obviously succeed with their children, but ideally, rearing a child is a two-person job. When one parent is missing, the risk of failure increases. Indeed, it is best if a child has grandparents or other supportive relatives on the scene as well.

Instead, what has happened is the near disappearance of the extended family and the substitution of television, the hopelessly inadequate electronic baby-sitter. One study, for example, revealed that fifty years ago half of the households in Massachusetts included at least one adult besides the parents. Today the figure is only 4 percent. In a small child's life, "Captain Kangaroo" is no substitute for a devoted grandmother.

5 minutes

464 words

3. Our Lost Children

Comprehension Exercise

1. The damaging effect of the treatment many American children receive today _____.
 - a. has not been taken seriously
 - b. has aroused hot debates
 - c. is beginning to be recognized
 - d. is unquestionable
2. According to the writer, although the Americans are rich, _____.
 - a. their children do not get enough pocket money
 - b. many parents are not kind to their children
 - c. their children are no longer carefully educated
 - d. the emotional and intellectual needs of many children are being neglected
3. The traditional youthful offenses include _____.
 - a. theft and vandalism
 - b. violent crimes
 - c. armed robbery
 - d. all of the above
4. Which of the following is true?
 - a. Fewer children have been involved in violent crimes since 1963.
 - b. Crimes by children have gone up much faster since 1963.
 - c. The severity of the situation has been ignored by Congress.
 - d. Few changes in juvenile delinquency have been detected.
5. “‘Normal’ children” refers to those who _____.
 - a. are dropouts or runaways
 - b. prefer the youth counterculture to the traditional standards
 - c. get high reading scores and scholastic aptitude scores
 - d. do not commit crimes
6. According to this article, children in their growing years _____.
 - a. tend to commit violent crimes