

英语新读大学泛编

杨重鑫 主 编

(上册)

复旦大学出版社

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主 编 杨重鑫

副主编 丁 棣 叶建平

编 者 (按姓氏笔划排列)

丁 棣 马莉萍 王向东

叶建平 李培培 陈庆生

杨重鑫 曹 超 钱纪芳

复 旦 大 学 出 版 社

(沪)新登字 202 号

《大学英语泛读新编》

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杨重鑫等编

责任编辑 宓鼎梁

复旦大学出版社出版

(上海国权路 570 号)

新华书店上海发行所发行 浙江大学印刷厂印刷

开本 787×1092 1/32 印张 10.375 字数 241,000

1995 年 6 月第 1 版 1995 年 6 月第 1 次印刷

印数 1—10,000

ISBN7—309—01550—9/H·257

定价: 10.00 元

内 容 提 要

本书为《大学英语泛读新编》上册,选材以《大学英语教学大纲》词汇表为依据,全书 100 篇文章均选自英美等国原版书刊,涉及文学、科普、人文、政经、社会以及日常生活各个领域。选材注重知识性、趣味性、科学性和实用性。文章编排合理,深入浅出,每篇文章后均配有阅读理解题,并附有参考答案。

本书特点:题材新颖,内容生动,文字规范,风格不一。因而是一本既能增长西方文化知识,又能提高阅读理解能力的实用读物。

前 言

英语阅读是学习和掌握英语的重要途径。广泛大量的阅读可以开阔视野,丰富知识,扩大词汇量,提高运用语言的能力。《大学英语教学大纲》规定,非英语专业的大学生通过大学学习必须“具有较强的阅读能力”。本书的编写力求在这方面做出一定的贡献。

本书也同样适用于志在提高英语阅读水平的科技人员、成人教育等各方面的读者。

本书编写具有以下几个特点:

1、选材新颖,题材广泛。本书各篇文章均选自原文,选材注意了知识性、科学性、实用性和趣味性。文章内容丰富,题材多样,风格不一。所选的 200 篇文章,涉及文学、科普、人文、政经、社会、日常生活等各个方面,词汇量大,接触面宽,语言文字规范,有助于提高读者阅读理解能力,增进对西方文化的了解。

2、编排合理,实用性强。本书配合《大学英语精读》课教学,分上、下两册。文章由易到难,使阅读训练从大量的接触开始,达到质的提高,最后与四级等测试接轨。每篇文章后均配有阅读理解题,书末附有练习题答案,帮助读者自我测试。

3、难易适中,使用方便。本书选材,以《大学英语教学大纲》词汇表为依据,所选文章一般均浅于精读教材,对其中较难的词汇附以汉译,读者不需查阅词典,便可顺利阅读。

本书承 William D. Aho, Merrilie J. Aho, Zina Bowey, Judith Sutterlin 等外籍教师审阅了全部书稿,谨致衷心感谢。

限于编者水平,不妥之处,尚祈不吝指正。

编 者

1994 年 10 月

于杭州

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Band I

Passage 1

Originally, family names in China came from a sacred poem that has 438 different words. This means that there could be only 438 different family names for millions of Chinese people. Each Chinese family also had a poem of its own with twenty or thirty characters in it, and from these words came a person's middle name. Everyone also had a given name called a *milk* name. In most cases, the family name was written first, then the second name, then the milk name. So a famous Chinese leader called Sun Yat Sen was Mr. Sun.

Common people in England often got their names from the work they did: Baker, Powdermaker, Cooper (someone who makes barrels). People also took names from the places where they lived or from some feature of the landscape nearby—such as, Westfield, Shore, Hill.

For thousands of years, people who followed the Jewish faith had no regular family names. A boy named Isaac might be called Isaac ben Jacob, but that only meant he was the son of Jacob. Then, about 150 years ago, the Christian governments of countries in eastern Europe made laws requiring Jews to choose family names. But in many places, Jews were not allowed to take any names that Christians were already using, and so they had to make up new ones. Often, they put together words that suggested things of beauty: flower mountain (Blumberg), rose valley (Rosenthal), gold stone (Goldstein).

In Austria, government officials began to charge a fee for suggesting a name. The more attractive it was, the higher the fee.

The most popular of all Jewish family names has a different history. It comes from a word that means *priest*. The usual way of spelling this name in the English-speaking world is Cohen. But if the family came from Germany, it may be spelled kahn or Kohn.

In Spanish-speaking countries, a woman keeps her own name after she married. Her son may choose either her name or his father's, or he may combine them, putting the letter *y* between the two. *Y* in Spanish means *and*. So Juan Riveray Gonzalez means John, the son of Mr. Rivera and his wife who was born into a family named Gonzalez.

1. How many nationalities are mentioned in this passage?
 - A. Five.
 - B. Six.
 - C. Four.
 - D. Eight.
2. According to the author, most Chinese people's milk name is _____.
 - A. written in the middle
 - B. written first
 - C. written third
 - D. written where it is needed
3. Chinese got their family names originally from _____.
 - A. a sacred poem with 438 different words
 - B. a poem with 20 or 30 characters

- C. poems written by ancient poets
 - D. All of the above.
4. Where do people have to pay a high fee for choosing a name?
- A. Australia.
 - B. Germany.
 - C. The United States.
 - D. Austria.
5. Jews had difficulties in choosing their family names because ____.
- A. for thousands of years, they had no regular names
 - B. they weren't allowed to use Christians' names
 - C. they were required to choose family names by a Christian government in eastern Europe.
 - D. they can make up new names according to their wishes

Passage 2

Ben sees a little Italian restaurant down a couple of steps, and we stop to look at the menu in the window. The special for the day is lasagna, and Ben says, "Boy, that's for me!"

We go inside, while I finger the dollar in my pocket and do some fast mental arithmetic. Lasagna is a dollar, so that's out, but I see spaghetti and meatballs is seventy-five cents, so that will still leave me bus fare home.

A waiter rushes up, wearing a white napkin(餐巾) over his arm like a banner, and takes our order. He returns in a moment with a shiny clean white linen tablecloth and a basket of fresh Italian bread and rolls. On a third trip he brings enough chilled butter for a family and asks if we want coffee with lunch or later. Later, we say.

"Man, this is living!" says Ben as he moves in on the bread.

"He treats us just like people."

Pretty soon the waiter is back with our lasagna and spaghetti, and he swirls around the table as if he were dancing. "Anything else now? Mind the hot plates, very hot! Have a good lunch now. I bring the coffee later."

He swirls away, the napkin over his arm making a little breeze, and circles another table. It's a small room, and there are only four tables eating, but he seems to enjoy acting like he was serving royalty at the Waldorf. When we've just finished eating, he comes back with a pot of steaming coffee and a pitcher of real cream.

I'm dolloping the cream in, and it floats, when a thought

hits me; We got to leave a tip for this waiter.

I whisper to Ben, "Hey, how much money you got?"

He reaches in his pocket and fishes out a buck(元), a dime(一角银币), and a quarter(两角五分钱). We study them. Figure coffees for a dime each, and the total check ought to be \$1.95. We've got \$2.35 between us. We can still squeak through with bus fare if we only leave the waiter a dime, which is pretty cheap.

At that moment he comes back and refills our coffee cups and asks what we will have for dessert.

"Uh, nothing, nothing at all," I say.

"Couldn't eat another thing," says Ben.

So the waiter brings the check and along with it a plate of homemade cookies. He says, "My wife make. On the house."

We both thank him, and I look at Ben and he looks at me. I put down my dollar and he puts down a dollar and a quarter.

"Thank you, gentlemen, thank you. Come again," says the waiter.

We walk into the street, and Ben spins the lone remaining dime in the sun. I say, "Heads or tails?"

"Huh? Heads."

It comes up heads, so Ben keeps his own dime. He says, "We could have hung onto enough for one bus fare, but that's no use."

"No use at all. Specially if it was yours."

We walk, threading(穿过) across Manhattan and downtown. I guess it's thirty or forty blocks, but after a good lunch it

doesn't seem too far.

1. What is especially recommended on the menu that day?
A. Spaghetti. B. Lasagna.
C. Meatballs. D. Fresh bread.
2. The author suddenly has the idea to give the waiter a tip because _____.
A. he is very busy with them after they arrive
B. he swirls around their table all the time
C. he gives them very good service
D. he brings more than they order
3. How much do they pay for lasagna and spaghetti?
A. \$ 1. 95. B. \$ 2. 35.
C. \$ 1. 75. D. \$ 2. 15.
4. Ben has got _____ in his pocket that day.
A. \$ 1. 35 B. \$ 1. 75
C. \$ 1. 00 D. \$ 2. 35
5. After paying the lunch and tip, they have only got a dime, _____.
A. so they still have the bus fare for both
B. so both of them don't have the bus fare
C. so they have to walk home that day because they haven't got enough for both
D. so Ben takes the bus home while the author walks back home

Passage 3

Somewhere out in the ocean, a blue whale is swimming. It is the mightiest animal that ever lived.

It is as large as three railroad cars. It weighs as much as fifty elephants. If its heart were put on a scale, it would weigh 908kg (about a ton). The main artery(动脉) to its heart is so large that a child could crawl through it.

Its mouth is so big that it can hold a small table and chairs. Yet this giant of the deep hasn't any teeth. Its throat is so small that nothing bigger than an orange can get through it. It can swallow only the smallest of ocean animals.

It is lucky that there is plankton in the water. This is the rich, thick "soup" of the sea. It floats near the surface of the water and drifts with the currents. It is made up of the tiniest plants and animals there are. They are so small that thousands of them can float in a water glass. But thousands aren't enough to keep the blue whale alive. It needs billions.

The blue whale doesn't mind being toothless. It gets along very well with the 250 to 300 long, hairlike blades, called whale-bones, that hang down from the roof of its mouth. These blades are longer than a person is tall. They are hard, like fingernails, and have hairy bristles(短而硬的毛) on them. These separate the food from the water that goes into the whale's mouth.

As the blue whale swims about, its mouth is open. Other animals would strangle(窒息而死) when the water rushes into their mouths, but not the giant of the sea. Its nose is on top of its head. It closes when the whale is under the water. It must come

to the top of the water to breathe. The air goes in and out through two blowholes(鼻孔):

After the whale has inhaled(吸入) the air, it dives into the deep. While it is under the water, it holds its breath. Blue whales can stay under the water for ten to fifteen minutes.

When the whale comes up again, it blows out the old air. Because the air has been in the whale's lungs, it is hot and wet. So when it hits the colder outside air, it forms a cloud. This is called a spout(水柱). The whale's breath is shot out with a whistling roar. It looks like a fountain. It can be seen for many kilometers.

Although whales are huge, they move quickly through the water. Their streamlined bodies break the water easily. Their tails move up and down instead of from side to side as do the tails of fishes. These tails beat the water in such a way that their bodies can go up or down quickly and easily. Blue whales are the champion swimmers among whales—they can swim as fast as 40 km (25 miles) an hour.

It seems strange that the earth's mightiest animals should cry. But they do. When whales cry, their oily tears bathe their eyes—the tears protect their eyes from the salt in the ocean.

Blue whales live in oceans all over the world but are very rare. Have you ever seen a blue whale?

1. The blue whale is the largest mammal. Which of the following gives the wrong information about it?

A. It is as large as three railroad cars.

- B. It weighs as much as fifteen elephants.
 - C. Its heart weighs 908kg.
 - D. The main artery to its heart is large enough for a child to crawl through.
2. The reason why this giant of the deep can't swallow big ocean animals is that ____.
- A. it hasn't any teeth
 - B. its throat is too small to let anything bigger than an orange get through
 - C. its mouth is so big while its teeth are weak
 - D. Both B and C.
3. What is "plankton" in Paragraph 4?
- A. Rich and thick "soup" of the sea made up of the tiniest plants and animals.
 - B. Seagrass floating near the surface of the water and drifting with the currents.
 - C. Dead sea animals floating on the water surface.
 - D. All of the above.
4. The blue whale is different from other sea animals because ____.
- A. when swimming, its mouth is open under the water
 - B. its nose is on top of its head which opens when in water
 - C. its mouth is open when coming to the top of the water to breathe
 - D. it uses nose with two blowholes to breathe
5. Blue whales are huge, yet they move very quickly through the water by ____.