

国家教委直属师范大学

研究生英语

Extensive Reading

for

Non-English-Major Graduates

Book Two

滑明达 主编

陕西师范大学出版社

国家教委直属六所师范大学

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(非英语专业硕士生用)

泛 读 (下册)

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前 言

为了适应我国改革开放的形势对高等师范院校研究生英语教学提出的新要求,国家教委直属六所师范大学从事研究生英语教学的教师参照国家教委《研究生外国语学习和考试的规定》试行草案,结合六校研究生的实际情况,通力合作,编写了这套《研究生英语系列教材》。

本系列教材由精读、泛读、听力、快速阅读四种教程组成。《精读》由华东师范大学负责编写,《泛读》由陕西师范大学负责编写,《快速阅读》由东北师范大学负责编写,《听力》由华中师范大学负责编写。在编写、审稿和试用过程中,六校教师自始至终通力协作,密切配合。北京师范大学和西南师范大学给予了有力的支持。《精读》、《快速阅读法》、《听力》和《泛读》下册已试用两年,效果良好。

本系列教材,各教程相互配合,适宜成套使用;但因各课本又自成体系,故也可单独选用。本教材主要供非英语专业硕士研究生和达到《大学英语》四级水平(即 CET—4)的本科生使用。当然,对具有中级以上英语水平的各类进修者,本教材也不失为一套较为实用的系列教材或教学参考书。

本书为该系列教材之一《泛读》下册,供第二学期使用。

本册教材注重实用性,并兼顾了一定的难度和篇幅容量。旨在进一步扩大研究生的阅读范围,使其具有阅读一定难度的论文和文章的能力。全书共选课文 16 篇,每篇约为 1500—4000 个单词,生词量控制在 3% 以内。课文均选自国外书刊,内容涉及政治、经济、文化、历史和自然等学科,题材、体裁广泛。全书以规范笔头英语为主,配以少量口语体文章。教师可根据教学时数和学生专业情况酌情选讲。

注释内容包括作者简况、文化背景、专用术语和语言难点。

课后练习采用正误辨析和多项选择两种形式,帮助并训练学生透过语言表层深入理解文章主旨的能力。

陕西师范大学美籍专家 John W. Nutter 先生对编写稿进行了审阅,陕西师大研究生处对本书编写工作给予了极大地支持和帮助,在此特表感谢。

诚然,本系列教材的问世,与其说这是我们根据新形势和新要求在高等师范院校研究生英语教学方面进行教材建设的结果,毋宁说这是我们在这方面从事改革的新起点。限于编者的水平和经验,若有不妥或疏误之处,谨请专家和读者批评指正,以便再版时修正。

编 者

1991 年元月 20 日

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Unit 1

Organized Sports and Recreation

by Mary Ann Kearny

The form and type of play and sports life which evolve in any group or nation mirror the development in other segments of the culture.

American Academy of Physical Education

A Korean student in an American university was telling one of his teachers about the arrival of new students from Korea. "There are many things I have to tell them," he said, "I have to explain to them about girls wearing shorts. They will be very confused because in Korea if a girl goes out on the street wearing shorts, she can be arrested by the police." The American teacher laughed. "I can imagine that it will be quite a shock for them," she said, "when they see women in shorts out jogging." The Korean student agreed. "Jogging is popular in Korea now, but women do not jog. In the United States everybody jogs— young people, old people—everybody. I can look out of my dorm window any time of day or night and see somebody out jogging."

Sports and American Values

Most social scientists believe that sports that are organized by a society generally reflect the basic values of that society and attempt to

strengthen them in the minds and emotions of its people. Therefore, organized sports have a more serious social purpose than spontaneous, unorganized play by individuals. This is certainly true in the United States, where the three major organized sports are football, basketball, and baseball. Nowhere are the ways and words of democracy better illustrated than in sports.

Organized sports are seen by Americans as an inspiring example of equality of opportunity in action. In sports, people of different races and economic backgrounds get an equal chance to excel. For this reason, notes sociologist Harry Edwards, Americans view organized sports "as a laboratory in which young men, regardless of social class, can learn the advantages and rewards of a competitive system."

The idea of competition is at the very heart of organized sports in the United States. Learning how to win in sports is believed to develop the habits necessary to compete successfully in later life. This training, in turn, strengthens American society as a whole. "It is commonly held," says one sports writer, "that the competitive ethic taught in sports must be learned and ingrained in youth for the future success of American business and military efforts."

The competitive ethic in organized sports contains some elements of hard work—often called "hustle," persistence, or "never quitting"—and of physical courage—being "tough" or having "guts." Slogans are sometimes used to drive home the competitive virtues for the young participants; "Hustle—you can't survive without it." "A quitter never wins; a winner never quits." "It's easy to be ordinary, but it takes guts to excel."

Whereas amateur athletics, associated with the schools and colleges, are valued for teaching young people basic American values, profes-

sional sports, in addition to their profit and entertainment purposes, are seen as providing an example to inspire the young to take part in organized sports. In the process of serving as an inspiration for basic American values, organized sports have become part of what was referred to as "the national religion," a mixture of patriotism and national pride on the one hand with religious ideas and symbols on the other.

The bringing together of sports, religion, and national values can be illustrated by the 1971 Rose Bowl game. The Rose Bowl is the most prestigious of several special football games played every New Year's Day among the nation's best college football teams. Billy Graham, a famous American Protestant religious leader, was made the leading figure in the 1971 Rose Bowl parade. In that role he spoke out in favor of the moral value of sports in American society. "The Bible says leisure and lying around are morally dangerous...sports keep us busy.... There are probably more really committed Christians in sports, both collegiate and professional, than in any other occupation in America."

Criticism of American Values

Although sports in the United States are glorified by many, there are others who are especially critical of the power of sports to corrupt when certain things are carried to excess. An excessive desire to win in sports, for example, can corrupt rather than strengthen American values.

Critics have pointed out that too many coaches and players have done just this. Vince Lombardi, a famous professional football coach of the 1960s, was often criticized for stating that winning is the "only thing" that matters in sports. Critics believe that such statements by coaches weaken the idea that other things, such as fair play, following the rules

of the game, and behaving with dignity when one is defeated, are also important. Unfortunately, many coaches share Lombardi's "winning is the only thing" philosophy. Woody Hayes, another of the most famous football coaches in the United States, once said: "Anyone who tells me, 'Don't worry that you lost; you played a good game anyway,' I just hate."

Despite the view expressed by such coaches as Lombardi and Hayes, there is a tradition of honorable defeat in American sports. Sociologist Harry Edwards, for example, has pointed out that "The all-important significance of winning is known, but likewise, there is the consoling 'reward' of the 'honorable defeat.' Indeed, the 'sweetness' of winning is derived...from the knowledge of having defeated a courageous opponent who performed honorably."

When the idea of winning in sports is carried to excess, honorable competition can turn into disorder and violence. In one game the players of two professional baseball teams became so angry at each other that the game turned into a large-scale fight between the two teams. The coach of one of the teams was happy about the fight because, in the games that followed, his team consistently won. He thought that the fight had helped to bring the men on his team closer together. Similarly, a professional football coach stated: "If we didn't go out there and fight, I'd be worried. You go out there and protect your teammates. The guys who sit on the bench, they're the losers." Both coaches seemed to share the view that if occasional fights with opposing teams helped to increase the winning spirit of their players, so much the better.

Violence in American sports has been increasingly criticized in recent years by those who approve of sports generally and who believe that vi-

olence is corrupting it. Most of the criticism has been directed toward football, perhaps American's favorite popular sport. Such respected publications as Reader's Digest, the most widely read popular magazine in the United States, and Sports Illustrated, the nation's leading sports magazine, have both criticized the number of injuries that have resulted from the extreme roughness of the game, increased by a burning desire to defeat one's opponent.

A few critics believe that sports should be completely replaced by noncompetitive kinds of recreation. These critics tend to be strongly opposed to the basic American value of competition as well. They view the emphasis on competition in American life as having corrupted the entire culture. As a first step in eliminating this corruption, they want to abolish organized sports.

Americans generally are not sympathetic to this harsh criticism of organized sports. Competition, they believe, strengthens the national character rather than corrupting it. They believe that eliminating competition in sports and in society as a whole would lead to laziness and vice rather than hard work and accomplishment. One high school principal, for example, described the harsh criticism of competitive sports as "the revolutionaries' attempt to break down the basic foundations upon which the society is founded." Comments of this sort illustrate how strong the idea of competition is in the United States and how important organized sports are as a means of maintaining this value in the larger society.

Male and Female Roles

The strong tie between organized sports and the competitive ethic has given greater importance to men's sports than to women's, since man's

s role in the United States is viewed as more competitive and aggressive than woman's. As one high school teacher stated more than two decades ago, "Our culture does not require girls to compete against each other in physical activity to achieve the acceptable female image. Our culture does require boys to do so. "

During the last fifteen years, however, this has been changing, and a stronger emphasis on equality for women has emerged in all facets of American life, including organized sports. High schools and colleges have been urged to give more emphasis to women's sports and to spend more money on them. In fact, laws governing equality have required many schools to do so.

It is still true, however, that most Americans believe men's organized sports are more important than women's. In high school, and to a lesser extent in college, males earn popularity and recognition through competing in organized sports, while females often earn these same things by being cheerleaders. The cheerleader does not compete. Rather, she is part of a group of pretty girls who lead the people watching football or basketball games in cheering for the school team, which is composed of competitive young men.

The difference in roles between the males and females at major sports events reflects differences in traditional roles later in life, when men are expected to compete for economic success and the women are supposed to give men emotional support as wives and homemakers. Although these roles also are changing in American society, the basic expectation that men should be more competitive than women still endures. Organized sports both reflect and strengthen this expectation.

Recreation: A Time for Self-Improvement

Unlike organized sports, what is generally called recreation in the United States is not expected to encourage competition. For this reason, it is much more spontaneous and serves the individual's needs beyond the competitive world of work. Nevertheless, much can be learned about the values of Americans from an examination of the kinds of recreation in which they engage.

Many Americans running, tennis, and snow skiing. It would seem that

Americans carry over their belief in hard work into their world of play and recreation. The we me a popu-

lar pastime for 30 million participants of all ages. Joggers seem to thrive on the physical activity as they try to run longer and longer distances in shorter and shorter time periods. In 1976 a 57-year-old man gained national recognition by running 164 miles in less than 38 hours in a long-distance race called a marathon. In October 1981, 16,000 runners competed in the 26-mile New York City Marathon. Sports writers noted that only a few of the runners had any hope of winning the marathon. For the vast majority of them, the challenge was to have the physical endurance to finish the 26-mile race.

The high level of physical activity enjoyed by many Americans at play has led to the observation that Americans have difficulty relaxing, even in their leisure time. Yet the people who enjoy these physical activities often say that they find them very relaxing mentally because the activity is so different from the kind of activity they must do in the world of work, often indoor office work involving mind rather than

body.

The interest that Americans have in self-improvement, traceable in large measure to the nation's protestant heritage, is also carried over into their recreation habits. It is evident in the jogger who is determined to improve the distance he can run and the time in which he can run it. The self-improvement motive, however, can also be seen in many other popular forms of recreation which involve little or no physical activity.

Interest and participation in cultural activities, which improve one's mind or one's skills, have been growing rapidly in recent years. According to a report in U. S. News and World Report magazine, in one year 78 million Americans visited museums, 62 million attended at least one live theater performance, and 78 million participated in some form of artistic activity; painting, performing music, handicrafts, and the like. Interest in handicrafts seems to be thriving in the United States. About 40 percent of all Americans are engaged in handicrafts such as candle making, weaving, and wood carving. Handicraft enthusiasts seem to be "imitating through hobbies what they view as...the more wholesome pursuits of bygone days."

The recreational interests of Americans also show a continuing respect for the self-reliance, and sometimes the adventure and danger, of frontier life. Handicraft enthusiasts, for example, take pride in being able to begin and finish a complete product, as once was done on the frontier, without dependence on today's big business or big government. In recent years the number of Americans who maintain their own vegetable gardens has also risen. According to one government official in the Department of Agriculture, Americans do not do this primarily to save money; rather, their greatest satisfaction is in growing

some of their own food (self-reliance) and in tasting its home-grown flavor.

Some Americans are drawn to hobbies that give them a feeling not only of self-reliance but of adventure and risk as well. An official at Big Bend National Park in Texas reports that about 20,000 people come to the wilderness and mountain areas of the park each year. Many of them like to come in the middle of winter when the hardships are greater. Following the death of two persons in a mountain-climbing accident in the park, campers and climbers came in even greater numbers to the same area where the accidents occurred. "It is as if they are looking for hardship," stated the park official. "They seem to enjoy the danger and the physical challenge."

Americans, like people everywhere, enjoy forms of recreation in which little but rest and relaxation is sought. Watching television, going on picnics, or visiting friends are simply enjoyable ways to pass the time. However, as we have seen, millions of Americans seek new challenges involving new forms of effort even in their leisure time. "Their reward," states U. S. News and World Report, "is a renewed sense of vitality," a sense of a goal conquered and confidence regained in dealing with life's ups and downs.

Glossary

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 1. jog; * | to go at a slow, leisurely pace |
| 2. ingrain; * | (=engrain)thoroughly worked in |
| 3. hustle; | to play a game or sports in an alert aggressive manner |
| 4. guts; | courage; determination |

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 5. console; * | comfort |
| 6. recreation; * | a means of refreshment |
| 7. facet; | phase |
| 8. marathon; | 马拉松 |
| 9. Protestant; * | 新教徒的 |
| 10. handicraft; * | the articles fashioned by hands |
| 11. whole-some; * | promoting health or well-being of mind
or spirit |
| 12. bygone; * | past, outmoded |
| 13. vitality; * | capacity to live and develop |
| 14. ups and downs; | alternating rise and fall |

Notes

1. This article is taken from the book entitled "The American Way" written by Edward N. Keary.
2. Sports Illustrated; (美)"体育画报"
3. U. S. News and World Report; (美)"美国新闻与世界报道"杂志
4. Big Bend National Park; 美得克萨斯州一家公园

Exercises

I. True or False Statements

1. Democracy can be better exemplified and understood in sports than in other social institutions.
2. Racial discrimination exists everywhere in the United states, in-

cluding sports.

3. The competitive ethic in organized sports encourages people to go on striving for success.
4. Critics believe that fair play, behaving with dignity when one is defeated, are much more important than winning.
5. Because coaches and players consider winning the "only thing" in sports, there is no such feeling as honorable defeat in American sports.
6. Both audience and players, coaches hate disorder and violence in a game.
7. The main reason why some critics hope that sports should be replaced by recreation is their belief that the American value of competition has been corrupting the culture.
8. During the last fifteen years, women have been gaining recognition as equals of men in sports.
9. The activities in recreation also encourage competition.
10. The high level of physical activity enjoyed by many Americans indicates that Americans have difficulty relaxing both at work and in their leisure time.

I. Multiple Choices

1. Organized sports in a society are _____.
 - a. a poor reflection of the values of that society
 - b. a good reflection of the values of that society
 - c. leisure activities and games which tell us very little about the social values of a society
 - d. professional games which do not reflect the social values of that