

● 大学英语一日一练丛书

大学 英语

(上册)

ENGLISH

一日一
读

陈文光 俞 玲 王吉民 主编

浙江大學出版社

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序

俗话说:拳不离手,曲不离口。英语学习也一样。学习者贵在持之以恒,切忌一阵子热情,虎头蛇尾,或三天打鱼,两天晒网。

为了配合大学生读者们进行有计划的英语学习与训练,我们组织了一批教学经验丰富,对学生英语学习状况有较全面了解,并曾多次参与大学英语四级考试阅卷的老师编写了这套“大学英语一日一练”丛书。

该丛书分以下几册:

- 大学英语一日一读
- 大学英语一日一听
- 大学英语一日十词
- 大学英语一日一说
- 大学英语一周一写

以上各册均由有教学经验的老师针对英语学习的重点和难点,从大量的素材中经精心搜集、挑选,按照循序渐进的原则编就,内容涉及各个方面的知识点,练习题型和练习难度与大学英语四级水平一致。

我们希望读者坚持不懈地每日完成书中的一个练习,如此,日积月累,最终让你巩固所学知识,并拾遗补缺,牢固地掌握英语知识,提高自己在听、说、读、写各方面的能力。届时,顺利通过大学英语四级考试自是水到渠成之事,并必然为日后进一步加强英语实际应用能力打下坚实基础。

陈文光
2003年6月

前 言

《大学英语教学大纲》指出：“大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力，一定的听的能力和译的能力，以及初步的写和说的能力，使学生能以英语为工具，获取专业所需的信息，并为进一步提高英语水平打下较好的基础。”虽说读、写、听、说不可偏废，但对许多英语学习者来说，阅读能力可能是最实用、因此也是最需要提高的一项能力。在大学英语四级考试以及各层次的英语考试中，阅读理解题所占的比重也较大，题量也比较多。那么，如何提高英语阅读能力呢？捷径是没有的，只能依靠不间断的大量阅读。我们编写的《大学英语一日一读》即为你提供大量的循序渐进的阅读素材。

本书分上下两册，其难度分别相当于大学英语三级与四级水平，分别适合于大学一年级与二年级同学学习。每册编入 200 篇小短文，每四篇归为一个单元，每单元的习题分别有三份选择题与一份简答题。所选内容涉及科技、人物、历史、地理、艺术、体育、社会、政治等众多领域，并分别以叙述文、说明文、新闻报道、评论、小说摘段等多种文体出现。文章均选自英语国家的正规读物（包括报纸、杂志、书刊等），用词严谨，语法规范。有的能让人学习常识，增长知识，有的幽默、诙谐，读后让你不禁莞尔或开怀；有的哲理深邃、意味深长，发人深思或令人鼓舞。

在各层次的英语考试中，阅读理解部分主要测试考生下述能力：

- a. 掌握所读材料的主旨和大意；
- b. 了解、说明主旨和大意的事实与细节；
- c. 既理解字面的意思，也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论；
- d. 既理解个别句子的意义，也理解上下文的逻辑关系。

阅读理解部分的目的是测试学生通过阅读获取信息的能力，既要求准确，也要求有一定的速度（视难易程度而定，要求每分钟阅读 70~100 词）。

因此，在本书的编写过程中，我们力图使读者通过阅读和练习测试提高阅读能力。

“功到自然成”。我们希望读者在学习完本书后，能有丰硕的收获！

编 者

2003 年 6 月

目 录

Unit 1	1
Unit 2	5
Unit 3	9
Unit 4	13
Unit 5	17
Unit 6	21
Unit 7	25
Unit 8	29
Unit 9	33
Unit 10	37
Unit 11	42
Unit 12	46
Unit 13	50
Unit 14	54
Unit 15	58
Unit 16	62
Unit 17	66
Unit 18	70
Unit 19	74
Unit 20	78
Unit 21	82
Unit 22	86
Unit 23	90
Unit 24	94
Unit 25	98
Unit 26	102
Unit 27	106
Unit 28	110
Unit 29	115
Unit 30	119
Unit 31	123
Unit 32	127
Unit 33	131
Unit 34	135
Unit 35	139

Unit 36	144
Unit 37	149
Unit 38	153
Unit 39	157
Unit 40	161
Unit 41	166
Unit 42	171
Unit 43	176
Unit 44	181
Unit 45	185
Unit 46	189
Unit 47	193
Unit 48	197
Unit 49	201
Unit 50	206
Keys(Book I)	210

Unit 1

(1)

September is the ninth month of the year. However, the word September comes from the Latin word septem, which means "seven". This is because long ago a different calendar was used in which September was indeed the seventh month. When Julius Caesar, leader of Rome, redid the calendar, he made September the ninth month.

September in the northern hemisphere is a time of change. With fall and winter approaching, temperatures usually begin to drop somewhat. It is also the productive time of the year since it is when farmers harvest some of their vegetables and fruit, especially apples, which have finished their growing season.

September has thirty days. In English, the word is often abbreviated to just the first four letters. The major U.S. holiday in September is Labor Day. This holiday, which comes on the first Monday of the month, is in honor of all people who work. September 7th is Brazil's Independence Day and Chile's is 18th. Also, Balboa discovered the Pacific Ocean on September 25, 1513.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The best title for this passage should be _____.
A) An Important Month of the Year B) The Month of September
C) A Simple History of September D) Some Holidays in September
2. From this passage you may infer that before Julius Caesar, October might be the _____.
A) eighth month of the year B) ninth month of the year
C) tenth month of the year D) eleventh month of the year
3. September is important because _____.
A) it has a very interesting history B) there are many important holidays in this month
C) temperatures begin to fall during this time D) it is the harvest time for farmers
4. We may come to the conclusion that _____.
A) Brazil became independent before Chile B) Chile became independent before Brazil
C) They became independent almost at the same time D) None of the above is true
5. September is sometimes written in English _____.
A) Sptr. B) Sptm. C) Sept. D) Sptb.

Notes

1. calendar *n.* 日历
2. hemisphere *n.* 半球
3. abbreviate *v.* 缩写

(2)

Thomas Alva Edison was awarded more patents on inventions than any other American. When he died in 1931, Americans wondered how they would best show their respect for him.

One suggestion was that the nation observe two minutes of total blackout. All electric power would be shut off in homes, streets, and factories.

Perhaps this suggested plan made Americans aware what electricity meant to them. Electric power was too important to the country. Shutting it off for even a short time would have led to complete confusion. A blackout was out of the question.

On the day of Edison's funeral, many people silently dimmed their lights. In this way they honored the man who had done more than anyone else to put the great force of electricity at his countrymen's fingertips.

Multiple Choice Questions

- The passage says that Thomas Edison _____.
A) was the only important American inventor
B) liked the first American inventor
C) received more patents than any other American
D) was the first American inventor
- People decided to honor Edison when _____.
A) he made the first electric inventor
B) electric power was 100 years old
C) the country realized electricity's importance
D) he died in 1931
- The suggested plan was to _____.
A) turn off the lights in factories and schools
B) observe a few minutes of total silence
C) dim all electric lights
D) shut off all electricity for a short time
- The plan was never carried out because _____.
A) not everyone wanted to honor Edison
B) it was too difficult
C) electric power was too important to the country
D) it honored only one of Edison's inventions
- The passage was probably written to _____.
A) tell about Edison's inventions
B) explain how important electricity was to America
C) say that Americans did not know how to honor Edison
D) show what respect the Americans had for Edison

Notes

- patent *n.* 专利
- observe *v.* 遵守, 奉行(规章、法律、习俗等)
- blackout *n.* 灯火管制, 断电, 停电

(3)

The mighty Romans of ancient times **trembled** when they heard his name. For three years (73 – 71 B. C.) he led an uprising of 100,000 slaves against them. He defeated army after army sent by Rome to beat him. His name was Spartacus.

Spartacus came from Thrace, a country near Greece. He was captured in battle by the Romans and made a slave. Because he was big and strong, the Romans wanted him to be a gladiator. As a gladiator, he would fight other men to the death to amuse the Romans.

But Spartacus and some other gladiators escaped. They ran away to Mount Vesuvius, near Naples. Soon other slaves heard about Spartacus and ran away to him. After defeating the Romans in several battles, Spartacus declared the slaves free. Then he took his army of 100,000 men to the north of Italy. His aim was to lead them out of Italy. Then they could return to their homes as freemen. He defeated two armies sent from Rome to stop him.

Spartacus' men now refused to leave Italy. Instead, they demanded that Spartacus lead them against Rome. Spartacus and his army then marched on Rome. They broke through the first defenders, but were finally

defeated by a Roman general named Crassus. Spartacus himself was killed in battle. More than 6,000 of his men hung on crosses. Although he failed, Spartacus would always be remembered as a heroic fighter for freedom.

Multiple Choice Questions

- The subject of this selection is _____.
 A) the death of Spartacus
 B) a Roman soldier
 C) a slave who fought slavery
 D) the fall of Rome
- Spartacus' men _____.
 A) wanted to march on Rome
 B) were from Greece
 C) defeated Crassus' army
 D) returned to Thrace
- During the last battle, Spartacus _____.
 A) killed himself
 B) was captured by the Romans
 C) was killed by the Romans
 D) fled to Italy
- The uprising failed because _____.
 A) Spartacus was a poor leader
 B) his men were not loyal to him
 C) his men didn't want to fight any more
 D) of the fact that is not mentioned here
- In this selection, "trembled" probably means _____.
 A) laughed
 B) cheered
 C) cried
 D) shook with fear

Notes

1. mighty *adj.* 强大的

2. gladiator *n.* 角斗士

(4)

I don't often lose things and I'm especially careful with money, so I was quite surprised when I reached for my wallet and it wasn't there. At first, I thought it was possible that I could have left it at home. Then I remembered taking it out to pay for the taxi, so I knew I had it with me just before I walked into the restaurant. I wondered if it was possible that it could have slipped out of my pocket while I was eating dinner. Thinking about that possibility, I turned and walked back to the table where I had been sitting. Unfortunately, there were several people sitting at the table at the time, so I called a waiter and explained to him that my wallet had fallen out of my pocket while I was sitting at the table a few minutes earlier. I had the waiter go over to the table to see if my wallet was on the floor. While the waiter was looking for it, the manager of the restaurant came up to me and asked me if anything was wrong. I didn't want to get a lot of people involved in the problem, but I knew I had to get the wallet back. I told the manager what had happened. He had me describe the wallet to him, and then he insisted that I report the missing wallet to the police. I told him that I didn't particularly want to get the police involved in it; besides, I was in a hurry because I had an appointment with my doctor in just a few minutes. I explained to him that my biggest worry at the moment was how I going to pay the check. He told me not to worry about that. He had me write down my name and address, and he said he would send me a bill.

Short Answer Questions

1. When did the writer find he lost his wallet?

2. When did he last see his wallet?

3. Who was involved in the problem besides the waiter?

4. Where would the writer go after he had dinner?

5. Before the writer left the restaurant, he had to give the manager _____.

Note

appointment *n.* 约会

Unit 2

(5)

Do you want a car? Many people want to get rid of their cars, and they are doing just that. Police say that about 110 cars are abandoned every night in New York City.

Why do people leave their car to be **towed** away by the police? Maybe the car just doesn't run any more. It would have to be towed to the junk dealer. Besides the cost of towing, the car owners would have to find a way to get home from the junk yard. This might cost money, too. So the license plates are removed, and the car is abandoned.

How can the police stop people from filling the streets with abandoned cars? Faced with about 21,000 abandoned cars a year, the Chicago police made a plan. They checked engine registration numbers and were able to find the owners of the cars. Then the owners were charged for the towing. So far, the plan has turned the problem into a profit. The city has collected almost a million dollars from the towing of abandoned cars.

Even if the city police can stop people from abandoning cars, we still must face the problem of cars that wear out. At present, there are about 40 million cars in junk yards across the country, and that number keeps going up.

How can the U. S. get rid of its large and growing car junk yards? A U.S. Senator from Illinois said that the government should use the tax collected on new cars to pay for the "burial" of old cars.

If you are thinking of looking for and fixing up an abandoned car, forget it! You have to have a bill of sale or title from the owner before you can get new license plates.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The author's purpose is _____.
A) to call for a tax on new cars
B) to praise the Chicago police
C) to tell about the problem of abandoned and worn-out cars
D) to tell you how to get a car
2. From the information in the article, you could not say that _____.
A) abandoned cars are nuisance
B) worn-out cars are piling up in junk yards
C) Chicago police found a solution to abandoned cars
D) if you want a car, find one that's been abandoned
3. If one has to drive a car legally, one has to _____.
A) have a license plate
B) pay for the towing of the car
C) get rid of his old car properly
D) pay for the burial of his old car
4. In this selection, the word "tow" probably means _____.
A) sell
B) gain
C) drag
D) collect
5. The Chicago police's plan _____.
A) has proved to be a failure
B) has helped the police make illegal money
C) has worked successfully
D) has made the problem worse

Notes

1. abandon v. 丢弃
2. junk dealer 废料经营商
3. registration number 注册号

(6)

People all over the world today are beginning to hear and learn more and more about the problem of pollution. Pollution is caused either by man's release of completely new and artificial substances into the environment, or releasing greatly increased amounts of a natural substance, such as oil from oil tanks into the sea.

The whole industrial process which makes many of the goods and machines we need and use in our daily lives, is bound to create a number of waste products which upset the environmental balance, or the ecological balance as it is also known. Any of these waste products can be prevented or disposed of sensibly, but clearly while more and more new and complex goods are produced there will be new, dangerous wastes to be disposed of, for example, the waste products from nuclear power stations. Many people, therefore, see pollution as only part of a larger and more complex problem, that is, the whole process of industrial production and consumption of goods. Others again see the problem mainly in connection with agriculture, where new methods are helping farmers grow more and more on their land to feed our ever-increasing populations. However, the land itself is gradually becoming worn out as it is being used, in some cases, too heavily, and artificial fertilizers cannot balance.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The main cause of pollution is _____.
 - A) the release of artificial or natural substances into the environment
 - B) the production of new industrial goods
 - C) increased amounts of a natural substance
 - D) our ever-increasing population
2. What do you think will upset the environmental balance?
 - A) Waste products.
 - B) The whole industrial process.
 - C) Some kinds of disposable goods.
 - D) Some machines we need and use in our daily life.
3. In the writer's view, the more new goods, _____.
 - A) the less pollution
 - B) the harder pollution can be prevented
 - C) the more pollution there will be
 - D) the more easily pollution can be controlled
4. Many people see pollution as only part of _____.
 - A) our daily life
 - B) the environmental balance
 - C) the consumption of goods by man
 - D) the whole process of industrial production and consumption of goods
5. From the passage we can learn _____.
 - A) the more the land is used, the more population can be fed
 - B) the more the land is used, the more worn out it will be
 - C) the more fertilizers are used, the better balance will be reached
 - D) the more methods are used, the more the farmer can grow

Notes

1. ecological balance 生态平衡
2. dispose v. 处理

3. artificial fertilizer 人造肥料

(7)

Have you ever suddenly felt that someone you knew was in trouble — and he was? Have you ever dreamed something that came true later? Maybe you have ESP.

ESP stands for Extrasensory Perception. It may be called a sixth sense. It seems to let people know about events before they happen, or events that are happening some distance away.

Here's an example: A woman was ironing clothes. Suddenly she screamed, "My father is dead! I saw him sitting in the chair!" Just then, a telegram came. The woman's father had died of a heart attack. He had died sitting in a chair.

There are thousands of stories like this one on record. Scientists are studying them to find out what's behind these strange mental messages. Here's another example — one of hundreds of dreams that have come true.

A man dreamed he was walking along a road when a horse and carriage came by. The driver said, "There's room for one more." The man felt the driver was death, so he ran away. The next day, the man was getting on a crowded bus. The bus driver said, "There's room for one more." Then the man saw that the driver's face was the same face he had seen in the dream. He wouldn't get on the bus. As the bus drove off, it crashed and burst into flames. Everyone was killed.

Some people saw stories like these as lies or **coincidences**. Others, including some scientists, say that ESP is real. From studies of ESP, we may someday learn more about the human mind.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The best title for this selection is _____.
 - A) The Human Mind
 - B) A Horrible Dream
 - C) A Big Lie
 - D) A Sixth Sense
2. ESP lets people know _____.
 - A) about their dreams
 - B) about events after they happen
 - C) about events before they happen
 - D) about heart attacks
3. The studies of ESP could be an important way to _____.
 - A) understand the human mind
 - B) predict death
 - C) understand the five senses
 - D) avoid accidents
4. The example of the man shows an ability to _____.
 - A) judge the good and evil of a person
 - B) avoid traffic accidents
 - C) know about events that are happening some distance away
 - D) sense a danger that will actually happen later on
5. In this selection, "coincidences" probably means _____.
 - A) things which do not happen
 - B) things which happen by accident
 - C) things which happen only in dreams
 - D) things dreamed of only by the sixth people

Notes

1. telegram n. 电报

2. burst into flame 突然起火

(8)

Dear Doctor,

My husband and I got married in 1965 and for the first ten years of our marriage I was very happy to stay home and raise our three children. Then four years ago, our youngest child went to school and I thought I might go back to work.

My husband was very supportive and helped me to make my decision. He emphasized all of the things I can do around the house, and said he thought I could be a great success in business.

After several weeks of job-hunting. I found my present job, which is working for a small public relations firm. At first, my husband was very proud of me and would tell his friends: "My clever little wife can run that company she's working for."

But as his joking remark approached reality, my husband stopped talking to me about my job. I have received several promotions and pay increases, and I am now making more money than he is. I can buy my own clothes and a new car. Because of our combined incomes, my husband and I can do many things that we had always dreamed of doing, but we don't do these things because he is very unhappy.

We fight about little things and my husband is very critical of me in front of our friends. For the first time in our marriage, I think there is a possibility that our marriage may come to an end.

I love my husband very much, and I don't want him to feel inferior, but I also love my job. I think I can be a good wife and a working woman, but I don't know how. Can you give me some advice? Will I have to choose one or the other or can I keep both my husband and my new career?

Please help.

"DISTRESSED"

Short Answer Questions

1. Why do you think the letter was written?

2. How did her husband feel when the writer first found her present job?

3. How did her husband feel when she was promoted and paid more?

4. What do you think the woman love best, her husband or her job?

5. The term "job-hunting" means _____.

Notes

1. approach *v.* 接近, 靠近

2. critical *adj.* 严肃的, 严峻的

Unit 3

(9)

Mr. Smith was a wealthy industrialist, but he was not satisfied with life. He did not sleep well and his food did not agree with him. This situation lasted for some time. Finally, after several sleepless nights, he decided to ask his doctor. The doctor advised a change of the place where he lives. "Go abroad," he said. "But I'm not good at foreign language," said Mr. Smith. "It doesn't matter," said the doctor. "It won't hurt you to talk a little less. Go on a voyage. Take plenty of exercise. Try to become thinner. Avoid rich food."

Mr. Smith went to Switzerland. He did not know French or German, and had to communicate through **gestures**. He attended a physical training course. The teacher made him bend his knees, wave his arms, and shake his head rapidly. He had to lie on the ground and raise his right and left legs one after another. After a time his muscles grew hard and firm. He forgot the problems in his business and the importance of raising the level of production. He even began to notice small trees and small birds.

Finally he returned home. But unfortunately his improvement was only **temporary**. Soon he was a business man again, worried about his money, his work, his savings, his raising of level in a technological society, and things in general.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. Mr. Smith went to see his doctor because he _____.
A) had little to eat
B) was seriously ill
C) was afraid of sleeping at night
D) didn't feel well
2. The doctor advises Mr. Smith to do all the following except _____.
A) talk less
B) change the surroundings
C) eat food of good quality
D) take plenty of exercise
3. The word "gestures" can be replaced by _____.
A) body movements
B) simple words
C) pens or pencils
D) handshakes
4. When he traveled abroad, Mr. Smith _____.
A) learned boxing
B) raised the level of production
C) forgot all about his business
D) shook his head all the time
5. In the last paragraph, the word "temporary" means _____.
A) lasting for a short time
B) not deep
C) unimportant
D) developing very slowly

(10)

Watching some children trying to catch butterflies one hot August afternoon, I was reminded of an incident in my own childhood. When I was a boy of 12 in South Carolina, something happened to me that cured me forever of wanting to put any wild creature in a cage.

We lived on the edge of a wood, and every evening at dusk the mockingbirds would come and rest in the trees and sing. There isn't a musical instrument made by man that can produce a more beautiful sound than the song of the mockingbird.

I decided that I would catch a young bird and keep it in a cage and that way I would have my own private musician.

I finally succeeded in catching one and put it in a cage. At first, in its fright at being captured, the bird fluttered about the cage, but eventually it settled down in its new home. I felt very pleased with myself and looked forward to some beautiful singing from my tiny musician.

I had left the cage out on our back porch, and on the second day of the bird's captivity my new pet's mother flew to the cage with food in her mouth. The baby bird ate everything she brought to it. I was pleased to see this. Certainly the mother knew better than I how to feed her baby.

The following morning when I went to see how my captive was doing, I discovered it on the floor of the cage, dead. I was shocked. What had happened? I had taken excellent care of my little bird, or so I thought.

Arthur Wayne, the famous ornithologist, happened to be visiting my father at the time, and hearing me crying over the death of my bird, explained what had occurred. "A mother mockingbird, finding her young in a cage, will sometimes bring it poison berries. She thinks it better for her young to die than to live in captivity."

Never since then have I caught any living creature and put it in a cage. All living creatures have a right to live free.

Multiple Choice Questions

1. The boy caught a mockingbird because _____.
A) he wanted a pet for a companion
B) he liked its beautiful feature
C) he wanted it to sing for him
D) he had just got a cage
2. The boy's family lived _____.
A) on chopping wood
B) by a small forest
C) on farming
D) close to a big tree
3. The mockingbird died because _____.
A) it ate some poisonous food the boy gave it by mistake
B) it ate poisonous food its mother gave it
C) it was frightened to death
D) it refused to eat anything
4. The ornithologist probably means _____.
A) a religious person
B) a kind and sympathetic person
C) a schoolmaster
D) an expert in birds
5. The most important lesson the boy learned from the incident is that _____.
A) birds put in a cage won't live longer
B) you have to be very careful about the food you give to your birds
C) when you capture a young mockingbird, you should keep it away from its mother
D) freedom is valuable to all living creatures

Notes

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. mockingbird <i>n.</i> 模仿鸟 | 4. ornithologist <i>n.</i> 鸟类学家 |
| 2. flutter <i>v.</i> 乱飞 | 5. poison berries 毒草莓 |
| 3. captivity <i>n.</i> 囚禁 | |

(11)

Parrots are becoming one of the most popular pets in America — and for good reason. The parrot is an un-