



大 学 英 语 阅 读 教 材

大学英语分级阅读

Book One

谷兆明 主 编

· 第一册 ·



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大学英语分级阅读

(第一册)

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内 容 提 要

本书是《大学英语分级阅读》系列的第一本，所选文章难度相当于大学英语一级水平。全书共分 12 个单元，每一单元针对同一话题分别安排了 3 篇课文——1 篇精读课文，1 篇快读课文，1 篇泛读课文。精读课文要求学生通篇掌握，快读课文要求学生在限时限字的条件下了解大意，泛读课文的目的是扩大词汇量和知识面，训练阅读技巧。在词汇表中标出 4 级、6 级词汇标识，方便学生自主学习。

书中文章选材丰富，内容涉及现代通信与生活、中国与西方的教育、动物文化、广告、计算机与因特网、运动、环境与技术、自然界、婚姻问题、名人与运动、司机与驾驶及一些科学家的轶闻等方面。贴近生活，时代感强。

学生通过该书的使用，在提高了阅读技能的同时，也掌握了一定的应试技巧，为能顺利通过大学英语四级考试打下一定基础。

前 言

《大学英语分级阅读》(1—4 册)是按照教育部最新颁布的《大学英语教学大纲》(修订本)的要求而编写的一套阅读教材。该教材以 4 个学期来安排 1—4 级的阅读课程,并根据我国高等教育多样化的特点,将学习者定位于绝大多数普通高等院校的学生。该教材可以作为独立的阅读教材使用,也可以配合大学英语主干教材使用,从而丰富语言表达方式,提高阅读能力。该教材的作者来自直接授课的大学英语教师,他们教学经验丰富,熟悉教学大纲,了解学生的现实基础和教学中的实际环境。根据教学实践活动的反映,帮助学生答疑解惑,提高英语阅读能力,进而完成大学英语阅读课程的任务。同时,为体现教学中的循序渐进原则和多样化形式的结合,各册的编排形式和体例基本统一,又根据学期和进度,各有特点。

该教材的选材特点是注重题材的新颖性与信息性,所选课文大多来自近期出版的英美书籍、报刊,贴近生活、时代感强。为配合教学需要,对选材的部分内容进行适当的简化和删改,选材内容丰富,涉及教育、体育、文化、通信、广告、科技等社会生活的方方面面。每一单元三个部分的阅读文章围绕同一个话题选材,这样有利于语言点的重现;同时,这三篇文章又注意涉及该话题的不同侧面,照顾到了该主题的广度。

该教材的结构特点是每个单元的总标题给出了该单元的话题,每个单元三个部分题材相近,但目的和要求不尽相同。基础精读课文,要求学生反复阅读,深刻理解。课文前均有 Pre-reading Questions,既可作为导读,又可鼓励学生形成思考性的积极阅读习惯。第一遍阅读目的在于了解文章大意,抓住主题,培养学生见“树”亦见“林”的能力;第二遍阅读目的在于了解细节信息;第三遍阅读要求学生深入理解并掌握相关词汇和表达方式的使用。快速阅读课文,主要目的在于培养学生快速阅读的能力。扩展阅读课文,旨在扩大学生的知识面,培养阅读兴趣。三篇课文长度根据不同学期的不同要求而不同,快速阅读为了计时方便,文章稍短,字数约为 300~400 字,扩展阅读文章较长,600 字以上,而基础精读文章适中,约为 400~500 字不等。具体如下。

第 1 册为大学英语 1 级阅读,共 12 个单元。每个单元对同一话题安排 3 篇课文——精读课文、快读课文、泛读课文。精读课文属于基础阅读课文,要求学生通篇

基本掌握。快读课文属于快速阅读的范畴,要求学生在限时限字的条件下了解大意。泛读课文属于拓展阅读之类,目的是扩大词汇量和知识面,训练阅读技巧。

第2册为大学英语2级阅读,共13个单元。每个单元对同一话题安排3篇课文——精读课文、快读课文、泛读课文。精读课文通过初读和复读,来了解要点和信息,再完成课后习题。快读课文主要是训练阅读速度与方法。泛读课文有一定的阅读深度,目的是通过扩大词汇量和阅读量,输入更多的信息。另外,安排了几个单元“写”的内容。这是出于读与写有着密切联系的原因,必须由浅入深地进行“写”的基本训练。

第3册为大学英语3级阅读,共12个单元。每个单元安排了1篇精读课文、2篇泛读课文。精读课文注重通篇课文的理解,安排了句子分析的内容,并有适量的练习。2篇泛读课文各有不同重点。本册还增加了同义词的分析、辨别和使用讲解,以举例和类比的形式加强训练,有利于学生在已有基础上理解常用同义词的区别。

第4册为大学英语4级阅读,共12个单元。每个单元安排了1篇精读课文、2篇泛读课文。精读课文有注释和难句讲解。2篇泛读课文属于深入阅读课文,但程度不一,有一定层次要求。另外,安排了几个单元“写”的内容,特别介绍了四级考试对写作的要求和评分标准,以及进行必要的作文训练。

由于3篇课文考查角度、层次各异,选材篇幅、体裁多样,练习方式、难度不同,可以激发学生学习兴趣,也使学习过程富于变化,生动活泼。另外,编排形式注重以学生为主体,充分考虑学生的自主学习实际,词汇表标出4级、6级、6级后词汇标识,采用同行侧表注释(快读汉语释义,泛读双语释义)等。总之,通过该系列教材的学习,满足大学英语1—4级阅读教学要求,使学生们顺利通过大学英语四级考试。

该教材经过各位主编、编者和策划编辑对框架结构的讨论而确定,在编写过程中得到有关院系领导、老师们以及出版社领导、英语编辑的支持,在此表示谢意;不足之处恳请广大读者和同仁指教。

编 者

2003年7月

CONTENTS

UNIT 1 Modern Communication and Life.....(1)

Intensive Reading For Conversation, Press 1.....(1)

Fast Reading Dial 911?(6)

Extensive Reading The Web Lifestyle(9)

UNIT 2 Education in China and the West.....(14)

Intensive Reading The Differences Between Children's Education in
Different Countries.....(14)

Fast Reading Learn Business Skills at School(19)

Extensive Reading ETS Takes Action Against Copying.....(22)

UNIT 3 Animal Culture.....(28)

Intensive Reading Animal Education.....(28)

Fast Reading Do Animals Think?(33)

Extensive Reading Animal Language.....(36)

UNIT 4 Advertising.....(40)

Intensive Reading Global Challenges.....(40)

Fast Reading Advertisements.....(44)

Extensive Reading Should Doctors Be Allowed to Advertise?(48)

UNIT 5 Computer and Internet.....(53)

Intensive Reading The Essential Problem in a Computerized Age.....(53)

Fast Reading The Uses and the Development of the Computer.....(58)

Extensive Reading You've Got Face.....(61)

UNIT 6 Sports.....(65)

Intensive Reading Sports Violence(65)

Fast Reading The Olympic Games Going Astray(70)

Extensive Reading The Future of the Football(73)

UNIT 7 Technology and Environment.....(79)

Intensive Reading High-Tech's Problem.....(79)

Fast Reading Silent Spring — a Warning to Mankind(84)

Extensive Reading Industry and the Environment(87)

UNIT 8 Nature.....(92)

Intensive Reading Kartchner Caverns Opens.....(92)

Fast Reading San Diego Conservation Program(96)

Extensive Reading Mushrooms.....(99)

UNIT 9 Marriage(103)

Intensive Reading Two-Career Marriage(103)

Fast Reading The Young People's Marriage Attitude(108)

Extensive Reading To Win at Marriage, Learn to Lose(111)

UNIT 10 People and Sports.....(115)

Intensive Reading History of the Basketball Game(115)

Fast Reading King of F1: Michael Schumacher.....(121)

Extensive Reading The Chinese Soccer Star Sun Wen: Got Father's
Encouragement(124)

UNIT 11 Driving and the Driver.....(128)

Intensive Reading Traffic Laws in the United States.....(128)

Fast Reading Don't Drive Tired(134)

Extensive Reading London Taxi Drivers(137)

UNIT 12 Anecdotes of the Three Scientists	(142)
Intensive Reading Galileo Galilei	(142)
Fast Reading Isaac Newton	(148)
Extensive Reading Albert Einstein	(152)
Keys	(156)

UNIT 1

Modern Communication and Life

Intensive Reading

Pre-reading Questions

1. *What is your attitude towards modern communications, i.e. the frequent use of mobile phones, Internet etc.?*
2. *Do you think it possible for us to give up conventional conversation? Give your reasons.*

For Conversation, Press 1

A funny thing happened on the way to the communications revolution: we stopped talking to one another.

The telephone used to connect you to the absent^①. Now it makes people sitting next to you feel absent. One day I was in a car with three friends. The driver shushed the rest of us because he could not hear the person on the other end of his mobile phone. There we were, four friends zooming down the highway, unable to talk to one another because of a gadget designed to make communication easier.

Why is it that the more connected we get, the more disconnected I feel? Every advance in communications technology is a setback to the intimacy of human interaction. With E-mail and instant messaging over the Internet, we can now communicate without seeing or talking to one another. With voice mail, you can conduct entire conversations without ever reaching anyone.

As almost every conceivable contact between human beings gets automated, the alienation index goes up. You can't even call a person to get the phone number of another person any more. Directory assistance is becoming increasingly automated.^②

Making a deposit at the bank? Why talk to a teller who might live in the neighbourhood when you can just insert your card into the ATM?

Pretty soon you won't have the burden of making eye contact at the grocery shop. Some supermarket chains are using a self-scanner so you can check yourself out, avoiding those check-out people who look at you and ask how you are doing.^③

I am no Luddite^④. I own a mobile phone, an ATM card, a voice mail system, and an E-mail account. Giving them up isn't an option — they're great for what they're intended to do. It's their unintended consequences that make me cringe.^⑤

More and more, I find myself hiding behind E-mail to do a job meant for conversation. Or being relieved that voice mail picked up a call because I didn't have time to talk. The communications industry devoted to helping me keep in touch is making me lonelier — or at least facilitating my antisocial instincts.

So I've put myself on technology restriction:^⑥ no instant messaging with people who live near me, no talking on the mobile in the presence of friends, no letting the voice mail pick up a call when I'm home.

What good is all this gee-whiz^⑦ technology if there's no one in the room to hear you exclaim, "Gee whiz"?

Word Study

shush /ʃʌʃ/ *v.* tell sb. to be silent 叫某人别出声

gadget /'gædʒɪt/ *n.* small tool 小物件

intimacy⁴ /'ɪntɪməsi/ *n.* very close and friendly relationship 亲密

interaction⁴ /'ɪntər'ækʃn/ *n.* the action to communicate with each other (指人)一起合作, 配合

conceivable⁶ /kən'si:vəbl/ *a.* imaginable 想像得到的

alienation⁶ /'eɪliə'neiʃn/ *n.* being unfriendly or indifferent 疏远

ATM *n.* Automatic Teller Machine 自动存取款机

cringe /krɪndʒ/ *v.* move back or lower one's body in fear 畏缩

deposit⁴ /di'pɒzɪt/ *n.* sum of money put to an account at a bank 存款

option⁴ /'ɒpʃn/ *n.* choice 选择

facilitate⁶ /fə'sɪlɪteɪt/ *v.* make sth. easy or less difficult 使某事容易或减少困难

antisocial /'æntɪ'səʊʃl/ *a.* unsociable 不爱交际的, 不合群的

instinct⁴ /'ɪnstɪŋkt/ *n.* natural inborn behavior 本能

Notes

- ① the absent: 不在的人, 缺席的人
- ② You can't even call a person to get the phone number of another person any more. Directory assistance is becoming increasingly automated. 想要知道某人的电话号码, 你甚至再也无法打电话去询问别人。自动化程度日益提高的电话号码查询系统能帮你搞定一切。
- ③ ...and ask how you are doing 对你嘘寒问暖
- ④ Luddite: 卢德分子, 英国历史上 1811 年至 1816 年英国手工业工人中参加捣毁机器的人, 代指反对机械化、自动化的人。
- ⑤ ...they're great for what they're intended to do. It's their unintended consequences that make me cringe. 对于人们本来期望它们做的事, 它们是很了不起的。只是它们带来的那些并非人们期望的结果和影响, 才让我心怀困惑。
- ⑥ So I've put myself on technology restriction. 为此, 我不得不限制自己少用技术。
- ⑦ gee-whiz: 惊人的, 奇妙的

First Reading — Reading for Gist

Read the text and do the following exercises:

I. True or False

- () 1. The author is an expert in Internet.
- () 2. Communications revolution should take the responsibility for the loneliness among people.
- () 3. At the bank or at the grocery shop, you have to help yourself unless you know some of the clerks or assistants.
- () 4. It seems ridiculous that the advanced communications isolate the world.
- () 5. Nowadays electronic voice is preferable to human contact.

II. After-reading Questions

- 1. According to the passage, what is the negative impact of communications industry?
- 2. What are the measures that the author takes to reduce the negative impact?

Second Reading — Reading for Information

Sentence Analysis

- 1. There we were, four friends zooming down the highway, unable to talk to one another because of a gadget designed to make communication easier.

此处的 there 既不表示地点也不表示“某处有某物”，而是用于对情况的解释和说明，相当于汉语“就这样”。从 four friends 开始就是独立结构(absolute construction)，在句中作伴随状语。这种结构中没有谓语动词，只有非谓语形式的动词。句中逻辑主语是 four friends，非谓语动词有 zooming down 和 unable to talk to。

More examples:

- 1) They stood in the water, *their white hair blowing in the cold wind*.
 - 2) *The work done*, he left the workshop.
2. Why is it that the more connected we get, the more disconnected I feel?
- 我们在表达“愈……愈……”这一概念时，往往用“the +比较级, the +比较级”这一句型。前半句为比较状语从句，后半句为主句。有时主句和从句中的主语和谓语动词都省略了。

More examples:

- 1) *The more learned he is, the more modest he is.*
- 2) *The sooner (you are), the better (it is).*
3. As almost every conceivable contact between human beings gets automated, the alienation index goes up.
复合句中 as 引导一个时间状语从句, as 理解为“当……”,“随着……”。go up 意思是“rise”。主句理解为“人们之间的疏远程度也日甚一日”。
4. More and more, I find myself hiding behind E-mail to do a job meant for conversation.
我发觉自己越来越埋头于阅读电子邮件, 去做本应通过与面人面谈而进行的工作。
过去分词短语 meant for conversation 作定语修饰 a job。此处 mean 的意思为“是”“意味”。

Working on Information — Reading for Understanding

I. Choose the word which is approximate in meaning to the italicized one.

1. There we were, four friends *zooming* down the highway.
a. driving slowly b. zigzagging c. moving quickly d. bumping
2. The more connected we get, the more *disconnected* I feel.
a. denied b. isolated c. disappointed d. discouraged
3. Every advance in communications technology is a *setback* to the intimacy of human interaction.
a. advance b. base c. step d. barrier
4. Or being *relieved* that voice mail picked up a call because I didn't have time to talk.
a. interested b. surprised c. relaxed d. frightened
5. The communications industry devoted to helping me keep in touch is making me lonelier — or at least *facilitating* my antisocial instincts.
a. devoting to b. stopping c. reducing d. revealing

II. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. When the driver asked them to keep silence, the author _____.
a. was puzzled b. was used to it c. was absent d. followed it
2. The reason for “Every advance in communications technology is a setback to the intimacy of human interaction” is that _____.
a. some governments or individuals haven't mastered the advanced technology

- b. new technology is bound to bring about new problems
 - c. the advanced technology offers small chance for people to interact in physical conversation
 - d. the more advanced the technology is , the more occupied people will be
3. What does the 6th paragraph imply?
- a. People are afraid of the eye contact at the grocery shop.
 - b. It is the automation that makes people unemployed.
 - c. It is convenient for customers to use the self-scanner.
 - d. Human interaction is simplified to a great extent.
4. The author believes that _____.
- a. people should communicate more often with their mobile phones
 - b. he prefers to pick up the more conventional interaction with others as much as he could
 - c. it is good for him to make full use of his E-mail and voice mail
 - d. it is his loneliness that drives him into E-mail and voice mail
5. "Technology restriction" suggests that the author _____.
- a. would not use advanced devices any more
 - b. would like to change his life style in such a society
 - c. wants to show his respect and politeness to others
 - d. desires to interact with others in a physical world

Fast Reading

Background Information

More and more people in the world take cell phones as necessity in their life like food and sleep. It is not unusual for you to hear the phones ring here and there when you are in a shopping mall , on a bus, on the way or even at home. And you are induced more often than not by the hero (the cell phones) of the advertisement whenever you turn on TV , read newspapers and go to Internet, etc. However, have you ever heard another voice from the scientists while you are lost in the electronic one?

Skimming and Scanning

- 1) Write down the time you start. _____
- 2) Write down the time you finish. _____
- 3) Work out your reading speed. _____
- 4) After you have recorded your speed, please check your answers.

Dial 911?

Just look around at any school or shopping mall and you'll see (and hear) one thing for sure: teens are *head over heels* for cell phones. By 2004, two out of three Americans between the ages of 10 and 19 will be mobile, say experts at the Boston-based research firm the Yankee Group. Yet a troubling question dogs cell phone use: do the phones possibly cause brain cancer?

head over heels: 沉
醉于

Two new studies — one funded by the cell phone industry and the U.S. government, the other by the National Cancer Institute — claim probably not.

The studies compared 1 251 brain cancer patients with 1 221 cancer-free people. All *subjects* were short-term cell phone users who chatted less than three hours per month and owned a cell phone for three years. Neither study proved a conclusive link between using cell phones and brain cancer. "But these studies don't answer the question, 'Is it absolutely impossible for cell phones to cause brain cancer?'" says John Moulder, a cancer specialist at the medical college of Wisconsin.

subject: 受试者

Yet not all scientists agree cell phones are harmless. Previous research has shown a possible link between cell phones and brain cancer in animals, says Louis Slesin,

editor of *Microwave News*. "The issue is far from settled," he says.

- [25] Cell phones emit an invisible type of energy called *radio waves*. When you speak into a digital cell phone, your *vocal vibrations* are converted into digital signals (a series of on-off pulses). The phone's antenna transmits the signals as radio waves, which bounce between radio towers and satellites in orbit above Earth.

vocal vibration: 声音震动

- [30] While both sending and receiving calls, your cell phone emits a tiny amount of energy — less than one watt (energy unit per second) — next to your head. Many experts think radio waves are harmless, even at that close range. Others, like Slesin, think "the jury is still out".

(311 words)

Working on Information — Reading for Understanding

I. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- In the 1st paragraph, "dogs" means _____.
a. barks b. is loyal to c. follows d. threatens
- According to the passage, is the use of cell phones the cause of brain cancer?
a. Absolutely not. b. Probably not.
c. Yes, it is. d. No definite answer.
- According to the passage, which of the following statements is TRUE?
a. 1 221 cancer-free people in the study will suffer from brain cancer.
b. John Moulder knows whether the cell phones would cause brain cancer.
c. Cell phone's antenna depends on radio waves to complete its communication function.
d. If they know the possible danger, the teens will stop using cell phones.
- In the 4th paragraph, "...a possible link between cell phones and brain cancer in animals..." suggests that _____.
a. not all scientists agree that cell phones are harmless