

新视角

大学英语阅读【上】

总主编：沈金华

主 编：颜靖平 刘胜兵



中南大学出版社
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New
Approach College
English
Reading



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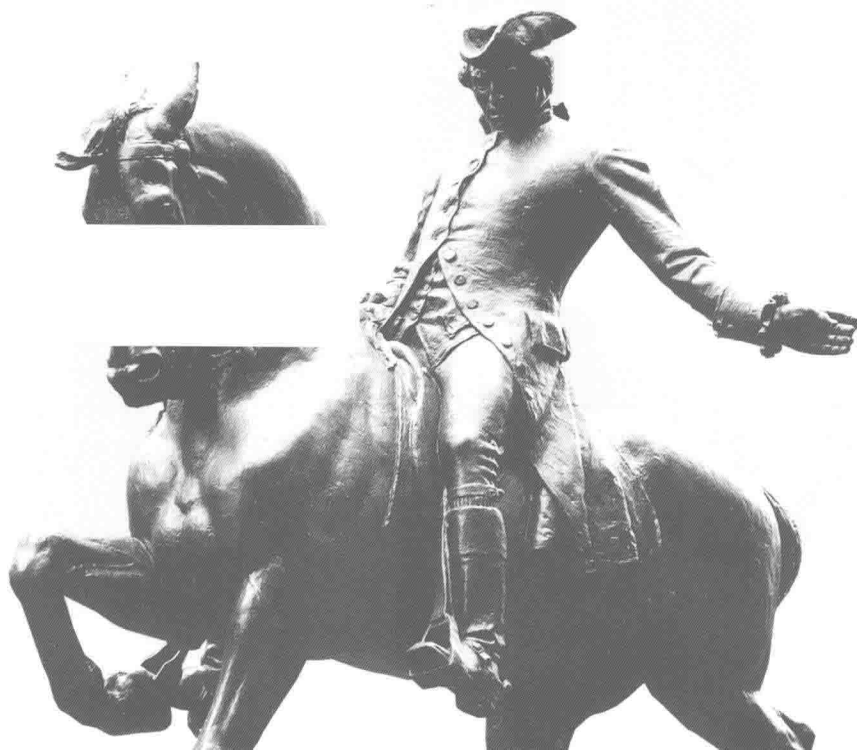
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编写说明

在英语学习中,阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道之一,是提高英语应用能力(听、说、读、写、译综合能力)的重要手段。培养学生综合阅读,快速反应和思辨性的理解能力,使学生在今后的学习、工作和社会交往中能用英语进行有效的交流正是编写本书的目的。

新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》,对阅读理解能力的要求为:能基本读懂一般性题材的英文文章,阅读速度达到每分钟 70 词。在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词(对快速阅读的较高要求为每分钟 120 词),能基本读懂国内英文报刊,掌握其中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节,能读懂工作、生活中常见的应用文体的材料并能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。调查显示,阅读能力是大部分非英语专业的学生今后使用英语的主要技能。为了适应这一要求,在改革后的大学英语四、六级考试中,阅读理解部分的测试内容、题型和分值比例仍占很高,为 35% 到 40%。本书作者以敏锐的眼光捕捉到这一变化,因此在编写时,始终坚持把阅读能力的培养放在首位,以大量的阅读材料来体现“精讲多练”的原则,旨在使学生能按“课程教学要求”,掌握阅读技巧,高效、快速阅读中等水平和较高水平的一般性题材的英语文章,进行一定的分析、推理和判断,促进应用能力的提高。

本教材共分上、下两册,每一册为 12 个单元,每个单元由同一主题的 5 篇文章组成。每篇文章配有生词注释、英文介绍、有关文化背景介绍和阅读理解练习。练习形式多样,有判断题、选择题、词汇题、翻译题,还有具有总结归纳作用的填空题、查找细节的表格补充信息题和理解匹配题。为了方便学生课外自学,书后附有所有练习的参考答案和翻译译文。

本教材的特点如下:

(1)本教材从选材到编写、审校全部由具有丰富教学经验的教师分工合作,集中了集体智慧编写而成,具有很强的专业性和针对性。

(2)本教材在编写的过程中充分吸收了我国在外语教学方面长期积累起来的行之有效的经验和方法,取各家之长,兼容并蓄,能适应大学本科几个不同年级的英语教学课内外的要求。

(3)本教材旨在通过把教师课内的“精讲”和学生课外的“多练”结合起来,从而达到提高学生阅读的主动性、积极性和创造性的目的。

(4)本教材选用当代英语常见语体或文体的典型样本作为素材,内容新颖。文章选材主要来自近年来英美国家出版的报纸、杂志和网络,涵盖教育、科技、政治、经济、文化、社会生活等各个方面,具有时代性、可读性、文化教育性和娱乐欣赏性。

(5)本教材将阅读教学中的“精读”、“泛读”和“快速阅读”的特点较好结合。对所选

文章的生词量和文章篇幅作了较好的控制。这样既有利于学生扩大生词量和阅读量，又有利于学生提高阅读速度。

(6)本教材在每篇文章的开头用简短的语言对文章内容作了介绍，既能让学生在阅读开始就能了解文章主要内容，也给学生总结归纳文章重点作了示范。

(7)本教材课后练习题型均按照最新的大学英语四、六级考试标准和难度设计。题型多样，题量适中，既能较好地帮助学生提高阅读理解能力和写作能力，也能帮助学生逐步熟悉考试形式。

(8)本教程每一单元都列有与主题相关的词汇，便于学生写作和专题对话之用。

本教材由沈金华教授担任总主编，从整体上设计了“编写提纲”和“编写要求”，萧立明教授对全书进行了严格审查，并提出了宝贵的意见。在本教程的策划、编写和出版过程中，得到了很多兄弟院校的教授专家的支持和帮助，在此一并表示衷心的感谢！

在本书的编写过程中，尽管编者十分认真，但难免书中仍有不足或错误之处，敬请读者不吝赐教。

编 者
2014 年 8 月

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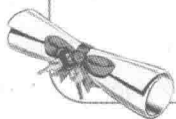
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Unit 1 Family

Text A

New Words and Expressions

adoption *n.* 采用, 收养

ceremony *n.* 典礼, 仪式; 礼节

consensus *n.* 一致同意, 多数人的意见

constitute *v.* 制定(法律); 组成; 任命

define *v.* 定义, 详细说明

distinguish *v.* 区别, 辨别

kinship *n.* 亲属关系, 血缘关系

lay out *n.* 有计划地布置; 约定

legitimate *adj.* 合法的, 合理的

procreation *n.* 生产, 生殖

rear *v.* 培养, 饲养

ritual *n.* 典礼, (宗教)仪式, 礼节

What Is a Family?

Introduction

In this essay, the author tells us the meaning of the family in more than one sense, and then explains what the nuclear family is and what the extended family is. In the end, the relationship between the family and the marriage is offered.

Text

The concept of the family is difficult to define. Part of the difficulty is that in everyday language, the term family is used to describe a number of relationships. These range from the biological, nuclear family of mother, father, and brothers or sisters, to the more extended family which includes several generations of blood relatives or relatives through marriage, to close and intimate friends, even to humankind.

The wide difference in everyday usage is less obvious in formal definitions, but even here there is a lack of consensus. Formal definitions do not always fit informal definitions. The U. S. Bureau of the Census*, which collects information used by social scientists, defines family as a group of two or more persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption and living together in a household. A household is made up of all persons who occupy a housing unit, that is, a house, an apartment, or other group of rooms, or a single room that constitutes separate living places. This definition considers the family in terms of only its structure and legal status, not the qualities of the relationship or its functions or activities. The Census Bureau thus would accept as a family two legally related people who hated each other and were just living together for their mutual economic advantage.

Many social scientists often distinguish between the family of origin and the family of procreation. Most of us are members of two families: the family of origin, into which we are born and of which we are always considered a member, even if we leave it, and the family of procreation, which we join as adults for the purpose of procreation and rearing children. Some social scientists also distinguish marriage from family and see the two as independent of one another. They argue that the family can exist regardless of whether the couple is married. They see marriage as a public ceremony which joins together two kinship groups and in so doing lays out some important rights over children, domestic authority, and usual matters. Marriage is also the ritual through which children are made legitimate in the eyes of the parents and the society. Marriage therefore is a social ceremony, whereas family need not be.

(371 words)

Note:

the U. S. Bureau of the Census: 美国人口调查局。它是商业部的一个局,负责人口调查工作。

Exercises

A. Decide which is the best choice to answer or complete the sentence according to the passage.

2

1. This essay mainly deals with _____.

A. the definition of the concept of family

- B. the difference between family and marriage
C. the difference between the nuclear family and the extended family
D. the difference between the family of origin and the family of procreation
2. An extended family _____.
A. is made up of several nuclear families
B. does not include people with no blood relationship
C. includes close and intimate friends
D. is usually larger than a nuclear family
3. The Census Bureau's definition of the family includes all the following relations except _____.
A. blood relation B. marriage
C. adoption D. friendship
4. Which of the following statements about the family of origin is NOT true?
A. It is the family we are born into.
B. It is the family of which we are always considered a member.
C. It is the family we join as adults for rearing children.
D. It is the family we may leave some day.
5. From the last paragraph, we can conclude that _____.
A. marriage is not necessary to form a family
B. a family cannot be separated from marriage
C. the family needs to be a social ceremony
D. marriage is only a public ceremony
- B. Make the best choice to complete the sentence and to substitute the underlined words or phrase in the sentence.**
1. They are quite different _____ their attitudes toward life.
A. because of B. in terms of
C. except for D. in spite of
2. _____ experience, the undergraduates have great difficulties in finding desirable jobs.
A. On account of B. Because of
C. For lack of D. As a result of
3. This disease is _____ to drug abuse.
A. connected B. related
C. joined D. associated
4. Mary and Helen had been intimate friends for some time.

- A. close
B. kind
C. friendly
D. regular
5. Self-reliance is the main value of child rearing in middle-class Americans.
A. looking after
B. supporting
C. caring for
D. bringing up
6. Twelve months constitute a year.
A. make up
B. consist of
C. are made up of
D. are composed of

Text B

New Words and Expressions

annoy *vt.* 使苦恼, 骚扰

appreciation *n.* 感谢, 感激; 正确评价, 欣赏

blurt *v.* 未加思索地冲口说出, 突然说出

longstanding *adj.* (已持续)长时间的, 为时甚久的

lurk *v.* 潜藏, 潜伏, 埋伏

remedy *n.* 药物, 治疗法; 补救, 赔偿

rough *adj.* 粗糙的, 粗略的, 大致的

scrape *v.* 刮, 擦, 擦伤, 挖成

soothe *v.* 安慰, 使(痛苦, 疼痛)缓和或减轻

tuck *v.* 卷起, 挤进, 塞

tuck *sb. in* 给某人盖好被子

Mother's Hands

Introduction

As children, we were well-protected by a pair of gentle and fair hands which brought to us mother's unselfish love. But as time goes by, mother's hands are no longer gentle, but some rough. However, what they bring us is still warmth. Treasured in the deepest depths of our souls are mother's hands.

Text

Night after night, she came to tuck me in, even long after my childhood

years. Following her longstanding custom, she'd lean over and push my long hair out of the way, then kiss my forehead.

I don't remember when it first started annoying me—her hands pushing my hair that way. But it did annoy me, for they felt rough against my young skin. Finally, one night, I shouted out at her, “Don't do that anymore—your hands are too rough!” She didn't say anything in reply. But never again did my mother close out my day with that familiar expression of her love.

Time after time, with the passing years, my thoughts returned to that night. By then I missed my mother's hands, missed her goodnight kiss on my forehead. Sometimes the incident seemed very close, sometimes far away. But always it lurked, in the back of my mind.

Well, the years have passed, and I'm not a little girl anymore. Mom is in her mid-seventies, and those hands I once thought to be so rough are still doing things for me and my family. She's been our doctor, reaching into a medicine box for the remedy to calm a young girl's stomach or soothe the boy's scraped knee. She cooks the best fried chicken in the world... gets stains out of blue jeans like I never could.

Now, my own children are grown and gone, Mom no longer has Dad. On special occasions, I find myself drawn next door to spend the night with her. So it was late on Thanksgiving Eve, as I slept in the bedroom of my youth, a familiar hand hesitantly ran across my face to brush the hair from my forehead. Then a kiss, ever so gently, touched my brow.

In my memory, for the thousandth time, I recalled the night my young voice complained, “Don't do that anymore—your hands are too rough!” Catching Mom's hand in hand, I blurted out how sorry I was for that night. I thought she'd remember, as I did. But Mom didn't know what I was talking about. She had forgotten and forgiven long ago.

That night, I fell asleep with a new appreciation for my gentle mother and her caring hands. And the guilt that I had carried around for so long was nowhere to be found.

Exercise

Fill in the chart below with the information according to the passage.

Stage	What Mom does	
In my childhood	1.	Mom 1) _____ me in, 2) _____ down and _____ my hair out of the way, 3) _____ my brow.
At present	2.	1) She has been _____. 2) She _____ the best dishes. 3) She gets _____ out of the blue jeans while I couldn't.
On Thanksgiving Eve	3.	1) A hand _____ my face. 2) And _____ the hair from my forehead. 3) A kiss _____ my brow.

Text C

New Words and Expressions

amateur *n.* 业余爱好者; *adj.* 业余的
budding *adj.* 萌芽的
craftsman *n.* 工匠, 手艺精巧的人
economical *adj.* 节约的, 经济的
financial *adj.* 财政的, 金融的
handyman *n.* 受雇做杂事的人, 做零活的人

means *n.* 手段, 方法; 金钱, 财富
modest *adj.* 谦虚的, 适度的
professional *adj.* 专业的, 职业的
n. 专业人员
refer to... as... 把……当作……; 把……称为……

Englishman's Home

Introduction

Nowadays, more and more Englishmen begin to do for himself some of the household repairs and decorating. This is because, on the one hand, the average Englishman is keen on working with his hands; on the other hand, the cost of labor has reached a level which is beyond many Englishmen of modest means. But doing it

oneself is not that easy!

Text

Some people would say that Englishman's home is no longer his castle, and that it has become his workshop. This is because the average Englishman is keen on working with his hands and because he feels that he must do for himself many household jobs for which, some years ago, he would have hired professional help. The main reason for this is a financial one: the cost of labor has reached a level which is beyond many Englishmen of modest means. So, if they wish to keep their houses looking bright and smart, they have to do some of the repairs and decorating themselves. As a result, there has grown up in the postwar years what is sometimes referred to as the "Do-It-Yourself-Movement".

The DIY movement began with home decorating but has since spread into a much wider field. Nowadays, there seem to be very few things that cannot be made by the DIY method. A number of magazines and handbooks exist to show hopeful handymen just how easy it is to build things by oneself from a coffee table to a fifteen-foot sailing boat. All you need, it seems, is a hammer and a few nails. You follow the simple instructions step by step and, before you know where you are¹, the finished article stands before you, complete in every detail.

Unfortunately, it is not always quite as simple as it sounds. Many a budding DIY has found that one cannot learn a skilled craftsman's job overnight. How quickly one realizes, when doing it oneself, that a job which takes the skilled man an hour or so to complete takes the amateur handyman five or six hours at least. And then there is the question of tools. The first thing the amateur learns is that he must have the right tools for the job. But tools cost money. There is also the wear and tear² on the nerves. It is not surprising then that many people have come to the conclusion that the expense of paying professionals to do the work is, in the long run, more economical than "do it yourself"³.

(355 words)

Notes:

1. **before you know where you are:** is a colloquial expression meaning "before you are aware of it, very quickly or suddenly".
2. **the wear and tear:** (正常使用造成的) 损坏, 损耗, 用坏

3. the expense of paying professionals to do the work is, in the long run, more economical than “do it yourself”: the money that is paid to professionals to do the work is, in the long run, less than what is cost while doing it yourself.

Exercises

A. Give brief answers to the questions according to the passage.

- For what reason do people say that Englishman's home has become a workshop?
_____.
- Why do many Englishmen have to do some of the repairs and decorating themselves?
_____.
- Through what way do average Englishmen learn to do things?
_____.
- DIY is not always quite as simple as it sounds because _____.
- Many people have concluded that in the long run, _____.

B. Translate the following paragraph into English.

2012 年颁布的一项新法律要求家庭成员应当关心老年人的精神需求, 不得忽视老年人。前不久, 江苏省无锡市的一位 77 岁的老太太起诉她的女儿忽视她。这是新法律生效后的第一起案件, 当地法院规定她的女儿至少每月探望母亲两次, 并提供经济上的支持。但有些人说这给了那些因为工作、学习或者其他原因离开家乡的人更多的压力。

Text D

New Words and Expressions

allowance *n.* 津贴, 补助; 宽容, 允许

bond *n.* 结合, 联结, 合同, 纽带

chore *n.* 家务杂事

concentrated *adj.* 集中的, 浓缩的

consequence *n.* 结果, [逻辑] 推理, 推论

democracy *n.* 民主政治, 民主主义

dressing *n.* 穿衣, 装饰, 调味品

priority *n.* 先, 前; 优先, 优先权

pursue *v.* 追赶, 追踪; 继续, 从事

solid *n.* 固体, 立体

adj. 固体的, 结实的, 可靠的

symbolize *v.* 象征, 用符号表现;

作为……的象征; 使用符号

unanimous *adj.* 意见一致的, 无异议的

American Family

Introduction

What is the American family like? What does family mean to Americans? Upon reading the title of this passage, you may have these questions in your mind. Read on and you will get the answers.

Text

“Please pass the turkey and dressing.” What does this simple request make you think about? If you are an American, you think about Thanksgiving. A turkey dinner symbolizes Thanksgiving for Americans. What does Thanksgiving 1 Americans of? Their families. Thanksgiving is a family time. On this holiday, people get together and feast on family. Family members enjoy watching parades and football games on TV and just being together. What does “family” mean to Americans?

The traditional American family is a “nuclear family”. A nuclear family refers to a husband and wife and their children. The 2 American family today has two or three children (and maybe a few pets). In some cultures, people live close to their extended family. Several generations may even live together. In America, only in a few 3 does more than one household live under one roof.

For home is a place where you can relax and just be yourself. For most people in America, home should be, above all, comfortable. And many homes are run like a democracy. Each family member can have a say¹. A sense of 4 often exists in American homes. Instead of fearing Mom and Dad, children may think of them as good friends. Husbands and wives often 5 household chores. In many cases, a child can enjoy privacy in his or her own bedroom. From an early age, children gain responsibility in 6 money. They may receive a weekly allowance or even work part-time jobs. Often parents give children freedom to make their own decisions. Preschoolers choose what clothes to wear or which toys to 7 . Young adults generally make their own choices about what career to pursue and whom to marry.

Families in America, like those in every culture, face many problems. Social