



全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

大学英语快速阅读教程

第三册

College English Fast Reading Course Book

Volume Three

秦 军 主编

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中 国 农 业 出 版 社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

大学英语快速阅读教程. 第3册/秦军主编. —北京:
中国农业出版社, 2009. 8

全国高等农林院校“十一五”规划教材

ISBN 978-7-109-14084-4

I. 大… II. 秦… III. 英语-阅读教学-高等学校-教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 129440 号

中国农业出版社出版

(北京市朝阳区农展馆北路 2 号)

(邮政编码 100125)

责任编辑 何晓燕

中国农业出版社印刷厂印刷 新华书店北京发行所发行

2009 年 8 月第 1 版 2009 年 8 月北京第 1 次印刷

开本: 720mm×960mm 1/16 印张: 12.75

字数: 220 千字

定价: 19.00 元

(凡本版图书出现印刷、装订错误, 请向出版社发行部调换)

前言

《大学英语快速阅读教程》以教育部新颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》为指南，在选材和编写的过程中，充分体现“能基本读懂一般性题材英文文章”的一般要求，同时兼顾“能基本读懂英语国家大众性报刊上一般性题材文章”的较高要求和“能阅读国外英语报刊上文章”的更高要求。

阅读能力的培养是大学英语教学的一个重要目标。快速、准确地从阅读材料中获得所需信息更是每一个英语学习者所追求的最重要的外语技能之一。《大学英语课程教学要求》对阅读理解能力要求分了三个层次：

一般要求：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、难度略低的材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词。能借助词典阅读本专业的英语教材和题材熟悉的英文报刊的文章，掌握中心大意，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。掌握基本的阅读技能，如略读、查读等。

较高要求：能基本读懂英语国家大众性报纸杂志上一般性题材的文章，阅读速度为每分钟 70~90 词。在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度适中的材料时，阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词。能阅读所学专业的综述性文献，并能正确理解中心大意，抓住主要事实和有关细节。

更高要求：能读懂有一定难度的文章，理解其主旨大意及细节。能读懂国外英语报纸杂志的文章。能比较顺利地阅读所学专业的英语文献和资料。

为适应这些新的要求，大学英语四、六级考试也从2006年开始增设了“快速阅读”的考试项目。快速阅读主要培养学生运用略读和查读技能从篇章中获取信息的能力。略读（skimming）主要通过快速浏览文章获取文章主旨大意或中心思想。查读（scanning）主要利用各种提示，如数字、专用术语、大写单词、段首或句首词等，快速查找特定信息。为此，我们编写了《大学英语快速阅读教程》，旨在帮助广大学生扩大阅读范围、增加词汇数量、培养阅读技巧、提高阅读速度、丰富语言知识、增强英语语感、培养独立阅读和广泛阅读的能力，重点培养略读和查读两项技能的运用。

《大学英语快速阅读教程》所选用的文章选自于英文原版书籍、期刊和报纸，其中大部分选自于2009年7月以前的英美网络报刊资源、名人博客和某些知名门户网站资源。选材注重文章内容的知识性、趣味性、真实性和时代感，同时注意文章由短到长，由易到难的循序渐进性。文章的内容涉及政治、经济、文化、科技、军事、地理、教育、农业、生活、社会热点、校园生活和趣闻轶事等。在此基础上，编者根据《大学英语课程教学要求》和多年从事大学英语快速阅读的教学经验，以及我国大学英语四、六级考试的要求和提高大学生自主学习能力的的需求编写而成。练习形式包括大学英语四、六级快速阅读考试中所涉及的是非判断、选择和信息填充三类问题，以确保本教材的使用者在提高快速阅读技能和阅读国外英语报刊能力的同时，提高其英语应试水平和考试成绩。

《大学英语快速阅读教程》分为四册，每册十个单元，每单元由

A、B、C、D 四篇文章构成。第一册由河北农业大学马红军主编，每篇文章大致控制在 700~800 字左右；第二册由河北农业大学卢春雁主编，每篇文章大致控制在 800~900 字左右；第三册由华中农业大学秦军主编，每篇文章大致控制在 900~1 000 字左右；第四册由华中农业大学朱汉昌主编，每篇文章大致控制在 1 000~1 200 字左右。在编写的过程中，对某些文章的内容有所删减，并且词汇量逐步扩大，以体现《大学英语课程教学要求》的一般要求。为了便于学生自学，所有练习答案通过附录形式放在每册书后，并且第四册附有思路解析。

第一册考虑到中学英语教学的词汇和大学英语教学词汇的衔接应该适应大学一年级新生进校时普遍英语水平，同时培养学生在遇到生词时不用字典继续浏览查询所需信息的能力，文章中的重点生词直接用中文注解，并且所选的文章和阅读理解问题的设计相对比较简单。此外，在每篇文章的后面列出了少量的背景知识、生词、词组、难句解释，以解决学生在语言、文化方面的困惑。阅读理解练习的形式以是非判断和选择为主，信息填充为辅，其中 D 篇的练习形式完全按照现行的大学英语四级快速阅读考试题型编写（7 题多项选择和 3 题信息填充）。

第二册编排体系与第一册相同，只是文章的长度和词汇量有明显的增加，同时加大了背景知识和常用词组的注解；所选文章注重中西方文化、地理、政治、军事和时事新闻等一般性题材方面的内容。阅读理解练习的形式与第一册设置完全相同。

第三册以英美网络资源为主，内容编排上有所改变。为了培养学生在浏览和查询信息过程中利用上下文猜测词义的能力以及少用或不用字典的阅读习惯，文章中的生词没有直接用中文注释，只是

用黑体标出，词义和音标作为注解编排在练习之后，供学生完成阅读练习后参考使用。本册的阅读练习形式以信息填充为主（占练习的 50%），是非判断和多项选择为辅（各占练习的 25%）。

第四册全部内容选自于英美网络资源，编排基本同第三册相同。但是为了便于自学，在提供参考练习答案的基础上，配有理解思路这一项，对练习答案和难点进行解析。为了融合《大学英语课程教学要求》中“阅读国外英语报刊”的更高要求，第 10 单元中的文章保持了原汁原味。此外，文章中四级以外的词汇、部分背景知识和难点作为注解编排在练习之后，供学生完成阅读练习后参考。本册的阅读练习形式以现行的四、六级快速阅读考试题型多项选择和信息填充为主，使学生在提高快速阅读技能的同时，提高大学英语四、六级考试技能和成绩。

《大学英语快速阅读教程》除作为大学英语快速阅读教材之外，可以作为研究生和准备托福、雅思等考试的学生提高阅读速度的读物，也可以作为独立阅读英语报刊前的辅助读物。

此书在编写的过程中，得到了中国农业出版社的大力支持。华中农业大学外国语学院和河北农业大学外国语学院的领导对本书的编辑工作给予了大力支持。在此谨向他们一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于时间仓促，编者水平有限，本教材的缺点和疏漏在所难免，敬请使用本教材的教师和读者批评指正。

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2009 年 8 月

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Unit One

Passage A

South Korean Culture

By Poushali Ganguly

South Korea is a beautiful country and as an Asian, I know it has to be rooted in the ancient tradition of Korea that might at times come across as primitive. It can be dated back to somewhere around five thousand years. There are **grottos**, temples and **pagodas** that are still there and are for the young generation to see and understand their roots and origin. The architecture, as a matter all the physical manifestations of culture can be understood if the culture in the minds of the people can be comprehended. Here we will attempt something like that.



South Korean Culture: Mythological Past of Korea

Earlier Koreans believed that the nation of Korea was formed when a God called Hwanung came from heaven and transformed a bear into a woman and then marries her. They had a son out of the marriage who was named Tangun. Tangun was the one who established the capital of Korea and called it Joseon or the Land of Morning Calm. So this is how the Korean Nation was established. The ancient culture of South Korea was the same as of North Korea but then after the two were divided, now the contemporary cultures of the two are different. The Korean culture was not influenced by the western culture as the Silla Mountain worked as a barrier. Therefore, Korea developed a distinct culture of its own though there are elements of the Chinese and Japanese culture that influenced Korea a number of times.

Music, Dance and Painting in the South Korean Culture

Korean music reached its peak of excellence somewhere around 15th century when the Yi kings of the Joseon dynasty ruled but then the invasion from Japan totally washed away Korean music for somewhere around forty years. Korean music saw the light once again after 1945 but as was destined to be, Korea was split in 1951, which led to the split in cultures as well. South Korea took much of the western instruments and culture as the U. S. troops were stationed there for a quite a while. Traditionally, Korea had folk and classical music that was mostly played in courts. There were various genres of music that were present like the Sanjo, Pansori and the Nongak.

The court music of Korea was called the “jeongak” and was basically made for the sophisticated and literate upper class with an intellectual strain in them. It is slow music that consists of single beats and which are as long as three seconds. It is soft and calm and soothes the mind as it uses instruments that do not use metallic sounds. Most of the instruments are either made of bamboo or silk, so they create a **muffled** sound.

Pansori takes as long as eight hours for one performance and it is a performance that includes a singer and a drummer. “Pan” means “a place where many people gather” and “sori” means sound. Pansori performers took up ideas from popular love stories and satires. Then there is Pungmul, which is Korea’s folk music and has complete expression of all emotions. Unlike court music it is more about common people and their lives.

Dance of South Korea is equally interesting since there are two types of dance as well, one for the court and the other for the common people to enjoy and participate. The traditional dance of Korea had its origin in the shamanistic rituals. As in case of music, the Japanese invasions lead most of the dance forms to a slow death. There are many dance forms that are lost.

Painting of South Korea are petroglyphic that is paintings on rock. The themes of the paintings took a turn when Buddhism arrived in China since people began drawing Buddha and his disciples. The techniques used in painting also changed though the originally Korean techniques did exist.

Home and Dress in South Korean Culture

Koreans believe in ying and yang which are the positive and negative forces and which have to be balanced to establish a harmonious living. South Koreans believe that a home should be built in such a position so that it can

receive as much sunlight as possible. The traditional Korean home had an outer wing and an inner wing, the former was used by **aristocrats** to entertain guests and the poor people used it to keep cattle whereas the latter was used by the family members by all the social classes.

The traditional dress of Korea is known as the hanbok, which consisted of a shirt and pants. The dress was incomplete without the “gwanmo” or the traditional hat. In Korea dresses were visible markers of the social difference that prevailed. Common people of Korea wore clothes that were not dyed.

South Korean Cuisine

For Koreans their staple food is rice, pickled fish and pickled vegetables. **Fermented** recipes are popular part of their cuisine. They also eat noodles, which has become a delicacy all over the world now. South Korean food is rich in spices and is cooked in sesame oil, doenjang, soy sauce and gochujang (red chili paste). Koreans use a lot of garlic; in fact it is the largest consumer of garlic. Koreans also consume soups and probably that is the reason they come up with varieties of soup recipes.

South Korean people are friendly and welcome foreigners with lot of excitement. They are open-minded and are ready to accept elements from other cultures but keep their culture intact and unaffected. Take a trip to Korea and you will certainly observe even more of their interesting culture. (957 words)

Comprehension Check

Directions: For questions 1-5, mark

Y (for **YES**) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;

N (for **NO**) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;

NG (for **NOT GIVEN**) if the information is not given in the passage.
For questions 6-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

1. Earlier Koreans believed that the nation of Korea was founded by Hwanung, the son of Tangun.
2. Thanks to the barrier of the Silla Mountain, Korea developed a distinct culture of its own without being influenced by any other cultures.

3. The slow and calm “jeongak” was basically made for the upper class in Korea.
4. The Most of the dance forms are lost gradually because of the Japanese invasions.
5. Koreans soup recipes have become very popular all over the world now.
6. Around 15th century, Korean music _____, then the Japanese invasion washed it away for about forty years.
7. After Korea was split in 1951, South Korea absorbed much of _____ as the U. S. troops were stationed there for a quite a while.
8. When Buddhism arrived in China, people began painting _____ though the originally Korean techniques did exist.
9. The outer wing of the traditional Korean home was used to entertain guests or _____ by different social classes respectively.
10. In Korea, the traditional dresses were _____ that prevailed.

Notes

grotto ['grɒtəʊ] *n.* (pl. grottoes, grottos) 岩穴, 人造洞窟 (其中多凿有雕像等)

pagodas [pə'gəʊdə] *n.* (东方国家的) 塔, 宝塔式建筑物

muffled 低沉的, 听不清楚的 (声音)

aristocrat ['æristəkræt] *n.* 贵族, 有贵族派头的人

ferment ['fɜ:mənt] *n.* 发酵, 酵母, 酵素

Passage B

Wedding Reception Checklist

By Priya Johnson

Planning a wedding reception and making it a success may have been an overwhelming experience for many. However, wedding reception checklists help systematize things, resulting in a well-organized reception.

A wedding is believed to be one of the most important occasions in a person's life. In fact, if organized properly, a wedding becomes memorable not only for the wedding couple, but also to all who attend it. However, to do so, one has to take care of many tiny details. Every wedding is unique and

different, with the reception being the **highlight** of any wedding, which needs to be carefully handled. There are no definite rules and steps to conduct a reception. It's a time when people can use their creativity and make the event extra special. However, besides creativity, maintaining a certain order will ensure the smooth conduction of the event. Wedding reception checklists are wonderful tools to help keep things organized during a reception.



Wedding Reception Checklist

1. Rough Guest List Preparation: Once the couple has been engaged to get married and the wedding date has been finalized, a guest list is to be prepared. The guest list will set the outline for the rest of the reception arrangements. The reception site or budget cannot be created unless the approximate number of guests attending the reception is clear.

2. Budget Creation: According to the guest list data, the wedding budget is to be prepared.

3. Reception Venue Selection: Selection of the reception venue is the highlight of the wedding reception checklist. The venue must be such that it is close to the place where the wedding has been conducted. This makes it easier for the guests, who then don't have to travel far for the reception. If the venue does not offer chairs, tables and other furniture, then make arrangements for those as well. Make a floor layout for the tables and seating area at the reception site.

4. Theme and Color Scheme: Weddings and receptions following themes and color schemes add beauty and style to the entire event.

5. Decor Decision: The color scheme and theme will define the decor at the reception venue. An event designer can help with the decor.

6. Second Outfit Decision: Several brides prefer to wear a second dress at their reception, to have two looks on their **auspicious** day. Moreover, if the bridal gown is too grand and uncomfortable to dance in, then changing to a

more comfortable outfit would help. If one does not want to go in for a second outfit, then the designer can design a two or three piece bridal gown. These bridal gowns **comprise** two or three parts, which when worn together appear like a one-piece gown, and when separated form a wedding dress. So a grand bridal gown can be turned into a short dancing dress within minutes.

7. Entertainment Planning: The reception party will need a band or DJ. Arrangements regarding the booking of a band will need to be made. A song list comprising favorite songs must be given to the band or DJ. Many couples love their wedding receptions to be interactive, and choose to have games. The games responsibility can be given to a friend or relative who could take care of the game management.

8. Caterer Selection: If the chosen reception venue does not provide catering facility, then arrange for a caterer. Do a food tasting and choose the menu for the reception dinner. One will have to decide if the meal is a buffet or a sit-down meal.

9. Out-of-Town Guest Arrangements: For the out-of-town guests, hotel arrangements need to be made. Make sure the hotel is close to the wedding and reception area, so that they don't have to travel far. Transport of the guests from the hotel to the wedding ceremonial site and to the reception venue needs to be kept in mind. The travel arrangements must be made, and a travel agency should be contacted for this purpose.

10. Wedding Cake: Take advice from relatives or friends regarding the availability of the best wedding cake in your region. Researching on the Internet will also help.

11. Final Guest List: Changes can be made to the rough guest list, and the final guest list can be prepared. The guests must be mailed the wedding invitations.

12. Dance Lessons: If one wishes to have a more professional first dance, then dancing lessons is a good option.

13. Photographers: If one wishes to have professional video **footage** and photographs taken, then a photographer will have to be booked.

14. Flowers: The flowers for decorating the wedding site, reception venue, wedding car and bridal bouquet must be done. A **florist** needs to be booked. The reception flowers must be selected in accordance to the theme and