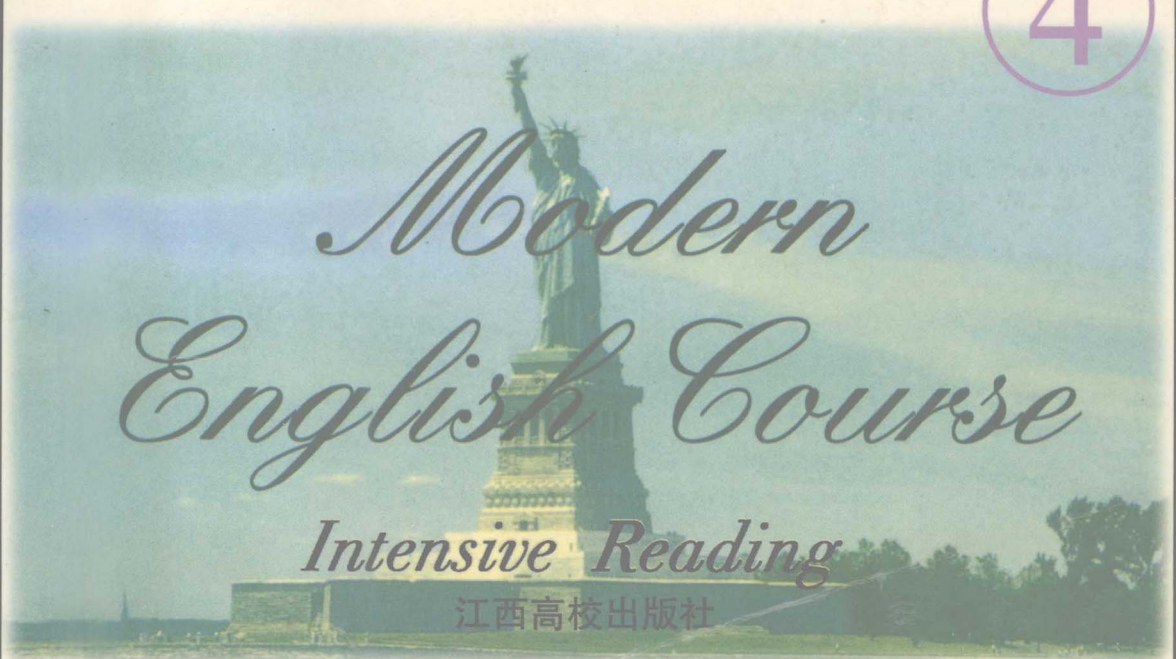


现代英语教程

精读

总主编 赵国杰
主 编 郦国兴
黄乃圣

4



*Modern
English Course*

Intensive Reading

江西高校出版社

现代英语教程

总主编：赵国杰

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④

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前 言

《现代英语教程》是根据正在编写的新的大学英语教学大纲及江西省大学英语教学的实际需要而编写的。它是江西省大学外语教学协作组一项重要的科研项目。

教材分精读、泛读、口语和听力四种形式,分四级出版,供各校课堂教学及课外活动使用。

本书的编写得到了江西省教育委员会高教一处的大力支持和帮助;全省的各个外语教学单位积极参加编写,成为本书编写的坚实基础和可靠保证。在江西工作的美国专家 Lisa·J·Peterson、Cindy Stevens、Wes Beasley、Mark King、Pat King、Michelle L. Stabler、Greg A. Entzian 审校全书并为该书录音,在此一并表示衷心地感谢。

《现代英语教程》编写组

2000.8

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Unit 1

Text A

The Pleasure Of Learning

By Gilbert Highet

As most schools are set up today, learning is compulsory. It is an Ought, even worse, a Must, enforced by regular hours and rigid discipline. And the young sneer at the Oughts and resist the Musts with all their energy. The feeling often lasts through a lifetime. For too many of us, learning appears to be a surrender of our own will to external direction, a sort of enslavement.

This is a mistake. Learning is a natural pleasure, inborn and instinctive, one of the essential pleasures of the human race. Watch a small child, at an age too young to have had any mental habits implanted by training. Some delightful films made by the late Dr. Arnold Gesell of Yale University show little creatures who can barely talk investigating problems with all the zeal and excitement of explorers, making discoveries with the passion and absorption of dedicated scientists. At the end of each successful investigation, there comes over each tiny face an expression of pure heart-felt pleasure.

But if the pleasure of learning is universal, why are there so many dull, incurious people in the world? It is because they were made dull, by bad teaching, by isolation, by surrender to routine, sometimes, too, by the pressure of hard work and poverty, or by the toxin of riches, with all their ephemeral and trivial delights. With luck, resolution and guidance, however, the human mind can survive not only poverty but even wealth.

This pleasure is not confined to learning from textbooks, which are too often tedious. But it does include learning from books. Sometimes, when I stand in a big library like the Library of Congress, or Butler Library at Columbia, and gaze round me at the millions of books, I feel a sober, earnest delight hard to convey except by a metaphor. These are not lumps of lifeless paper, but minds alive in the shelves. From each of them goes out

its own voice, as inaudible as the streams of sound conveyed by electric waves beyond the range of our hearing, and just as the touch of a button on our stereo will fill the room with music, so by opening one of these volumes, one can call into range a voice far distant in time and space, and hear it speaking, mind to mind, heart to heart.

But far beyond books, learning means keeping the mind open and active to receive all kinds of experience. One of the best-informed men I ever knew was a cowboy who rarely read a newspaper and never a book, but who had ridden many thousands of miles through one of the western states. He knew his state as thoroughly as a surgeon knows the human body. He loved it, and understood it. Not a mountain, not a canyon which had not much to tell him, not a change in the weather that he could not interpret. And so, among the pleasures of learning, we should include travel, travel with an open mind, an alert eye and a wish to understand other peoples, other places, rather than looking in them for a mirror image of oneself. If I were a young man today, I should resolve to see—no, to learn—all the 50 states before I was 35.

Learning also means learning to practise, or at least to appreciate an art. Every new art you learn appears like a new window on the universe; it is like acquiring a new sense. Because I was born and brought up in Glasgow, Scotland, a hideous 19th-century industrial city, I did not understand the slightest thing about architecture until I was in my 20s. Since then, I have learned a little about the art, and it has been a constant delight.

Crafts, too, are well worth exploring. A friend of mine took up book-binding because his doctor ordered him to do something that would give him relaxation and activity without tension. It was a difficult challenge at first, but he gradually learned to square off the paper and the boards, sew the pages, fasten on the backstrip, and maintain precision and neatness throughout.

Within a few years, this initially rather dull hobby had led him into fresh fields of enjoyment. He began to collect fine books from the past five centuries, he developed an interest in printing; eventually, he started a private press and had the joy of producing his own elegant books. Many other crafts there are, and most of them contain one essential pleasure, the pleasure of making something that will last.

As for reading books, this contains two different delights. One is the pleasure of apprehending the unexpected, such as when one meets a new author who has a new vision of the world. The other pleasure is of deepening one's knowledge of a special field. One might enjoy reading about the Civil War, and then be drawn to a particularly moving part of it—the underground railway, say, which carried escaping slaves northward to freedom. One would then be impelled to visit the chief way stations along the route, reconstructing the lives of those resolute organizers and thankful fugitives.

Tradition says that Ptolemy, the great astronomer of the Greek and Roman world, worked peacefully in his observatory under the clear skies of northern Egypt for 40 years. Many and great were his explorations of the starry universe. For instance, he described astronomical refraction in a way that was not improved for over 1,000 years. Ptolemy wrote just one poem, but it expressed his whole life:

*Mortal I know I am, short-lived: and yet,
whenever I watch the multitude of swirling stars,
then I no longer tread this earth,
but rise to feast with God,
and enjoy the food of the immortals.*

Learning extends our lives (as Ptolemy said) into new dimensions. It is cumulative. Instead of diminishing in time, like health and strength, its returns go on increasing, provided...

Provided that you aim, throughout your life, as you continue learning, to integrate your thought, to make it harmonious. If you happen to be an engineer and also enjoy singing in a glee club, connect these two activities. They unite in you; they are not in conflict, both choral singing and engineering are examples of the architectonic ability of man: of his power to make a large plan and to convey it clearly to others. Both are aesthetic and depend much on symmetry. Think about them not as though they were dissociated, but as though each were one aspect of a single unity. You will do them better, and be happier.

Much unhappiness has been suffered by those people who have never recognized that it is as necessary to make themselves into whole and harmonious personalities as to keep themselves clean, healthy and financially solvent. Wholeness of the mind and spirit is not a quality conferred by nature,

or by God. It is like health, virtue and knowledge. Man has the capacity to attain it; but to achieve it depends on his own efforts. It needs a long, deliberate effort of the mind and the emotions, and even the body.

During our earthy life, the body gradually dies; even the emotions become duller. But the mind in most of us continues to live, and even grows more lively and active, enjoys itself more, works and plays with more expansion and delight. Many people have played themselves to death, or eaten and drunk themselves to death. Nobody has ever thought himself to death. The chief danger confronting us is not age. It is laziness, sloth, routine, stupidity—forcing their way in like wind through the shutters, seeping into the cellar like swamp water. Many who avoid learning, or abandon it, find that life is drained dry. They spend 30 years in a chair looking glumly out at the sand and the ocean; on a porch swing waiting for somebody to drive down the road. But that is not how to live.

No learner has ever run short of subjects to explore. The pleasures of learning are indeed pleasures. In fact, the word should be changed. The true name is happiness. You can live longest and best and most rewardingly by attaining and preserving the happiness of learning.

New Words

compulsory [kəm'pʌlsəri] *adj.*
rigid ['ridʒid] *adj.*

surrender [sə'rendə] *n.*
enslavement [ins'leivmənt] *n.*
inborn [in'bɔ:n] *adj.*

instinctive [in'stɪŋktɪv] *adj.*
absorption [əb'sɔ:pʃən] *n.*

zeal [zi:l] *n.*
dedicated ['dedikeɪtɪd] *adj.*
toxin ['tɒksɪn] *n.*

ephemeral [ɪ'femerəl] *adj.*

obligatory 强迫的,强制性的

very strict and difficult to change 刻板的;坚硬的

放弃,投降

奴役

an inborn quality or ability is one that you have had naturally since birth 与生俱来的

based on instinct 本能的

the fact of being very interested in something 专心致志

eagerness to do something 热情

devoted 献身的

a poisonous substance, especially one that is produced by bacteria and causes a particular disease 毒素,毒质

popular or important for only a short time 暂时的,瞬间的;朝生暮死的

trivial ['trɪviəl] *adj.*
confine [kən'fain] *v.*
tedious ['ti:dʒəs] *adj.*
sober ['səʊbə] *adj.*

metaphor ['metəfə] *n.*
inaudible [in'ɔ:dɪbl] *adj.*
canyon ['kænjən] *n.*

interpret [ɪntə'prɪt] *v.*
hideous ['hɪdiəs] *adj.*

explore [ɪk'splɔ:] *vt.*

square [skweə] *v.*

initially [ɪ'nɪʃli] *adv.*
elegant ['elɪɡənt] *adj.*
apprehend [æ'pri'hend] *v.*
impel [ɪm'pel] *v.*
resolute ['rezəlu:t] *adj.*

fugitive ['fju:dʒɪtɪv] *n.*
observatory [əb'zə:vətɪ] *n.*
refraction [rɪ'frækʃn] *n.*
mortal [mɔ:təl] *adj.*

multitude ['mʌltɪtju:d] *n.*
swirl [swɜ:l] *v.*

tread [tred] *v.*
feast [fi:st] *n.*
dimension [daɪ'menʃən] *n.*

cumulative ['kju:mjʊlətɪv] *adj.*

integrate ['ɪntɪɡreɪt] *v.*

unimportant 琐碎的, 无价值的

restrict 限制

boring, tiring 乏味的

having a serious attitude to life 严肃的, 庄严的

暗喻

too quiet to be heard 听不见的

a deep valley with very steep sides of rock that usually has a river running through it 峡谷

explain the meaning of something 解释

extremely unpleasant or ugly 骇人听闻的, 可怕的; 丑陋的

examine or discuss something carefully in order to find out more about it 探险, 钻研

make something square with straight edges (使) 成方形

at the beginning 开始地, 起初

very beautiful and graceful 精美的

understand 领悟, 理解

force 强迫

doing something in a very determined way because you have very strong beliefs 决心的

runaway 逃亡者

天文台

[物] 折射

not living for ever 命该死的, 不能免于一死的

large number 众多

turn around quickly in a twisting circular movement 旋转; 弯曲

put your foot on or in something 踏, 踩

a large meal for a lot of people 宴会

[pl.] the side of something, especially when this is given as its length, height, and width 尺寸, 大小; 规模, 范围

increasing gradually as more of something is added or happens 积累的

join in the life and customs of the group or society that you live in so that you are accepted by

| | |
|--|---|
| harmonious [hɑ:'məuniəs] <i>adj.</i> | them 融合, 结合 |
| glee [gli:] <i>n.</i> | friendly and helpful to one another 和睦的 |
| symmetry ['simitri] <i>n.</i> | 高兴, 欢乐 |
| <u>solvent</u> ['sɒlvənt] <i>adj.</i> | 对称; 匀称; 谐调 |
| | having enough money to pay your debts 有偿还能力的 |
| <u>confer</u> [kən'fə:] <i>v.</i> | give as a reward 授予 |
| <u>sloth</u> [sləʊθ] <i>n.</i> | laziness 懒惰, 懒散 |
| <u>shutter</u> ['ʃʌtə] <i>n.</i> | [pl.] one of a pair of wooden or metal covers on the outside of a window that can be closed to keep light out or prevent thieves from coming in 百叶窗 |
| <u>seep</u> [si:p] <i>vi.</i> | leak 渗出, 渗漏 |
| <u>cellar</u> ['selə] <i>n.</i> | 地下室 |
| <u>glumly</u> ['glʌmli] <i>adv.</i> | 沮丧地 |
| <u>porch</u> [pɔ:tʃ] <i>n.</i> | an entrance covered by a roof outside the front door of a house 门廊 |
| rewardingly [ˈriːwɔ:diŋli] <i>adv.</i> | 有报酬地, 有价值地, 有益地 |

Phrases and Expressions

| | |
|----------------|---|
| sneer at | laugh at 嘲笑 |
| be confined to | be limited to 限制 |
| take up | begin, begin to take an interest in 开始, 开始感兴趣 |
| square off | divide (an area) into squares, make something square 使成方形 |
| as for | about 对于, 关于 |
| in time | after a certain period of time, especially after a gradual process of change and development 最后 |

Proper Names

| | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| Arnold Gesell [ˈɑ:nəʊld'gesel] | 阿诺德·格塞尔 |
| Yale University | 耶鲁大学 |
| The Library of Congress | 美国国家图书馆 |
| Butler Library at Columbia | 美国哥伦比亚大学图书馆 |

Notes

1. ..., learning appears to be a surrender of our own will to external direction, a

sort of enslavement: 学习似乎使我们放弃自己的意愿,屈服于外界的影响,这是一种奴役。

2. **The underground railway:** 在战前的美国,为营救南方奴隶脱离奴隶主控制,运送他们逃往北方及加拿大的秘密通道。

Exercises

I. Comprehension of the Text

Choose the best answer for each of the following questions according to the text.

1. The delightful films are intended to show that _____.
 - A. Dr. Arnold Gesell was familiar with training
 - B. dedicated scientists are interested in everything
 - C. learning is a natural pleasure
 - D. mental habits should be implanted from childhood
2. Through Paragraph 3, the author wants to tell readers _____.
 - A. why there are so many dull, incurious people
 - B. how hard work and poverty influence learning
 - C. bad teaching should be criticized
 - D. human mind can survive poverty and wealth
3. According to the text, the pleasure brought by learning from books is to be sensed by _____.
 - A. persuasion
 - B. determination
 - C. suggestion
 - D. imagination
4. The cowboy's knowledge comes from _____.
 - A. a wish to understand other people
 - B. traveling with an open mind
 - C. keeping an alert eye while traveling
 - D. all of the above
5. The pleasure of making something that will last is brought to light by _____.
 - A. the author's experience
 - B. the author's observation
 - C. the author's description
 - D. the author's friends
6. What does the author mean by saying "Both are aesthetic and depend much on symmetry"?
 - A. They are elegant and indispensable.
 - B. They are alike and balanced.
 - C. They are beautiful and not repelled.
 - D. They are in conflict and contradictory.
7. In exploring a new art, we can _____.

- A. have a chance to know more about the universe
 - B. accumulate a lot of wealth
 - C. find a good way to relax ourselves
 - D. make a living
8. At the end of the text, the author seems to say that _____ .
- A. pleasure is, in fact, happiness
 - B. learning is a way to obtain one's happiness
 - C. laziness should be thrown away
 - D. the pleasure of learning will be together with you

II. Question Answering

Answer the following questions based on the text.

1. How compulsory is learning today?
2. How do the young respond to learning?
3. What is learning according to the author?
4. What do the films made by Dr. Arnold Gesell show?
5. Why are there so many dull, incurious people in the world?
6. What sense do you have, according to the text, when you are standing in a big library?
7. Why did the cowboy know his state as thoroughly as a surgeon knows the human body?
8. What kind of pleasure did the author get from developing an interest in printing?
9. What are the two different delights contained by reading books?
10. What does the author want to tell us through the story of the great astronomer of the Greek?
11. In what case can learning's returns go on increasing?
12. How can man achieve the wholeness of mind and spirit according to the author?
13. What kind of life attitude should a person take to attain and preserve the happiness of learning?

III. Question Discussion

Discuss the following questions in groups or write your answers in your exercise books.

1. What does the author mean by saying the pleasure of learning is universal?
2. What kind of attitude should a person take to reading books?

IV. Vocabulary Learning

1. Fill in the blanks with the words or expressions given below and change the form where necessary.

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|
| ephemeral | deliberate | integrate | solvent | explore | confer |
| compulsory | cumulative | rewarding | external | rigid | drain |
| appreciate | harmonious | impel | | | |

- 1) Some things are _____ by law, such as wearing seat belts in cars.
 - 2) Even the strict rules of the navy seemed preferable to the _____ iron rule of his own country.
 - 3) In her poems she states clearly that life is _____ and it what happens after death that is important.
 - 4) Learning English well will depend on the individual to _____ and develop a way which best suits him.
 - 5) Financial pressures _____ the firm to cut back on spending.
 - 6) The soil had got too hard over the summer and it wouldn't _____ properly.
 - 7) Daydreaming can be a constructive way of providing relief from everyday (and often unpleasant) reality, as well as a means of reducing internal tension and _____ aggression.
 - 8) Toy makers in China should regard the adult market as a potentially _____ sales areas.
 - 9) Excessive compliments on a person's appearance, particularly that of a woman, are inappropriate and not _____.
 - 10) It is not that an advertisement for a single product corrupts us, it is rather that the _____ effect of seeing great quantities of advertisements corrupts us.
 - 11) Reflection usually implies careful and _____ thinking about actions, events and experiences.
 - 12) All career decisions require us to learn both about ourselves and about work, and to _____ these two kinds of knowledge.
 - 13) The university has already _____ honorary degrees on several prime ministers.
 - 14) Many of the insurance companies are under pressure to increase premiums to stay _____.
 - 15) The meeting was surprisingly _____—for once everyone agreed with each other.
2. Replace the underlined parts in the following sentences with words or expressions from the text.
- 1) It is obligatory for children to receive quality education.
 - 2) Students at the school said the discipline was as tough as the army.
 - 3) They are not willing to agree to any giving up of sovereignty.
 - 4) All the names in the book have been changed to keep up the victims' anonymity.

- 5) At the beginning, most people approved of the new scheme.
 - 6) The arrival of the South African team has brought a new aspect to the competition.
 - 7) We believe it to be a task of considerable difficulty from the technical side alone.
 - 8) The city has a large number of problems, from AIDS to drugs and murder.
 - 9) Are you sure you entirely understand the importance of completing these forms as accurately as possible?
 - 10) The second half of the concert was not virtually heard because of the fireworks.
 - 11) Many people are explaining the minister's statement as meaning that she intends to resign.
 - 12) Caring for old people has its rewards, but most of the time it's boring.
3. Complete each of the following sentences with the correct form of the given word on the left of each sentence.

- 1) preserve We want to _____ friendly relations with all our neighboring countries.
The government is committed to the _____ of law and order.
- 2) aesthetic This chair may be _____ but it's not very comfortable.
One of the central questions in _____ is whether beauty is in the eye of the beholder, or whether there is something within an object itself which makes it beautiful.
I like objects to be both functional and _____ pleasing.
- 3) whole He cooked a meal for the _____ staff of the school.
The _____ of the village was out looking for the children during the storm.
She uses Jungian psychotherapy to try and restore a sense of _____ to her clients.
I wasn't _____ convinced by her explanation.
- 4) absorption Her _____ in her work is so great that she thinks about nothing else.
The book I'm reading at the moment is very _____.
The countryside is increasingly being _____ into the large cities.
You'll need some _____ paper/cloth to clean up that spilt milk.
- 5) harmonious The government is understandably reluctant to do anything which might spoil the _____ relations between the country's ethnic groups.

The plan is to _____ safety standards across all the countries involved.

We must ensure that tourism develops in _____ with the environment.

6) resolute

The Central Government will _____ support all the necessary measures the Macao SAR Government adopts for the maintenance of social stability in Macao.

The United Nations passed a _____ to increase aid to the Third World.

Their _____ opposition to the introduction of new methods was difficult to overcome.

7) interpret

It's difficult to _____ these statistics without knowing how they were obtained.

What _____ would you put on their refusal to attend the meeting.

The book would be more useful if it was _____, but instead it presents a lot of facts and figures without explaining them.

8) integrate

The aim, said the minister, was to _____ Britain both politically and economically into the European Community.

A more _____ transport system would discourage the use of private cars and develop public transport.

A good musical depends on the successful _____ of acting with song and dance.

9) deliberate

I am sure he says these things _____ to annoy me.

We made a _____ decision to live apart for a while.

He's _____ whether or not to accept the new job that he's been offered.

After five days of _____, the jury decided on a verdict of not guilty.

10) explore

Psychotherapists _____ people's pasts in order to help them understand their present feelings and behavior.

In 1492, Columbus set out on the voyage of _____ which led to his discovery of the New World.

We're having an _____ meeting next week to talk about the possibility of merging the two companies.

Magellan was a famous sixteenth-century _____.

4. Use the verb in the bracket to form an appropriate phrasal verb and complete the sentence with it.

1) The President trusted him so much that he _____ him the role of "Principal

Advisor". (confer)

- 2) You are asked to _____ your use of the telephone _____ business calls alone. (confine)
- 3) I finally _____ temptation, and ate the last remaining chocolate. (surrender)
- 4) Some people _____ the sixties generation with their banners of love and peace. (sneer)
- 5) He's managed to _____ some very strange attitudes _____ his children. (implant)
- 6) If you can _____ the parcel _____ somehow, it will be easier to wrap. (square)
- 7) The protection of the law is _____ more kinds of animals. (extend)
- 8) I don't want your advice, I'm _____ them _____ the hard way so that they won't be helpless in later years. (bring)
- 9) It's very difficult to _____ yourself _____ a society whose culture is so different from your own. (integrate)
- 10) The Treasure of the Sierra Madre is a film about three men _____ gold. (explore)
- 11) American companies were quick to _____ to Japanese business methods. (fasten)

V. Structure Learning

Rewrite the following sentences after the models.

Model 1: Because I was born and brought up in Glasgow, Scotland, a hideous 19th-century industrial city, I did not understand anything at all about architecture until I was in my 20s.

Because I was born and brought up in Glasgow, Scotland, a hideous 19th-century industrial city, I did not understand the slightest thing about architecture until I was in my 20s.

- 1) Don't ask me. I know nothing at all about fixing cars.
- 2) I have no idea what you're talking about—can you explain please?
- 3) No one in the States has an idea how beautiful it is here in England.
- 4) The two sides don't seem at all interested in calling an end to the fighting.
- 5) We must go on trying as long as there is any hope of a solution at all.

Model 2: Every mountain and canyon had much to tell him and he could interpret every change in the weather.

Not a mountain, not a canyon which had not much to tell him, not a change in the weather that he could not interpret.

- 1) In the school almost every student knows her for her beauty.