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COLLEGE ENGLISH  
大学英语教程  
学习指导 4

总主编 吴松江



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# 大学英语教程 学习指导(4)

主 编 魏榕平 周淑瑾  
编 委 王 冰 王淑英 张 莹



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## 前 言

由北京大学、北京师范大学、北京航空航天大学、中国农业大学、美国加利福尼亚大学等国内外英语教学专家学者合作编写的《大学英语教程》，是根据教育部《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》编写的一套立体化网络化系列教材。该套教材基于我国大学英语教学具有的特殊现实，综合运用各种教学理论，以先进的外语教学理念为支持，是新时期大学英语教材不断更新和建设的一次有益尝试，将为促进我国大学英语教学改革、提高教学质量做出新的贡献。为了使该套教材的特色得到充分发挥，方便学生学习，提高课堂效率，更好地培养学生的英语综合能力，我们特组织了教学第一线的骨干编写了这套《大学英语教程学习指导》。

在编写过程中，我们既考虑到学生在使用教材时可能会遇到的难点和问题，又尽可能给学生列举出教材中的精华，力求帮助学生学懂学透每一课，扎扎实实打好语言基本功，切实提高语言应用能力、自主学习能力和综合文化素养，达到《大学英语课程教学要求》的目标。

本套学习参考书语言材料内容丰富，形式多样，重点突出，目标性强。每个单元包括总目标、核心词汇、重要短语、重要习语、录音原文、背景知识、难点解析、课文分析、参考译文、写作技巧、练习参考答案等十几项内容，点面结合，指导学生学习和复习。因此本套学习参考书的确是学生的助手、教师的帮手。

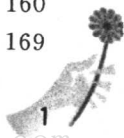
本书许多内容是基于我们的理解，难免有疏漏或不妥甚至错误之处，诚请读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者

2005年5月

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# Can We Know the Universe?

## 学习目标

### 总目标:

By the end of the unit, students will be better able to

1. talk and write about how the human beings can know the universe;
2. use about 40 new words and 4 new phrases and expressions in brief conversations, translation and preliminary writing tasks;
3. use "it is a (n)... fact that..." and "it seems unlikely that...";
4. read material on similar topics and with a similar degree of difficulty;
5. use division and classification to develop paragraphs in writing.

### 核心词汇:

penetrate	intuition	infallible	distort	perceive
accordingly	conventional	pose	approach	intractable
immune	array	alternate	govern	motivate
muddle	jumble	abandon	random	coincidence
arbitrary	provisional	contradict	falsify	modify
partial	inconsistent	endeavor	paradox	rational

dominate      valid      sufficient      justify      yearn

### 重要短语:

find out    make out    make up    turn out    relate to    agree with

### 重要习语:

by no means      correspond to      except for      figure out  
on the other hand    in principle      in terms of      be supposed to  
nothing less than

## PART I LANGUAGE SKILL

### KEY WORDS MADE EASY

#### A. 词汇提示:

1. **penetrate** *v.* make a way into or through 穿透; 看透
2. **intuition** *n.* (power of) the immediate understanding of something without conscious reasoning or study 直觉
3. **distort** *v.* give a false account of 歪曲
4. **dogma** *n.* belief put forward by some authority to be accepted as true without question 教条
5. **dimensional** *adj.* having the quality of spatial extension... 维度的, 空间的
6. **immune** *adj.* free; secure 有免疫力的; 被豁免的, 免除的
7. **predetermined** *adj.* decree beforehand 预先确定的
8. **peril** *n.* serious danger 危险
9. **unreliable** *adj.* that may not be depended upon 不可靠的
10. **static** *adj.* in a state of balance 静态的

#### B. 录音原文:

1. RV: The goal of science is to **penetrate** to the connections of things.

Q: What is the goal of science?

A: The goal of science is to **penetrate** to the connections of





things.

2. RV: Our *intuition* is by no means an infallible guide.

Q: Is our intuition a fallible guide?

A: Yes. Our *intuition* is a fallible guide.

3. RV: Our perceptions may be *distorted* by training and prejudice.

Q: How may our perceptions be distorted?

A: Our perceptions may be *distorted* by training and prejudice.

4. RV: Science is based on a willingness to challenge old *dogma*.

Q: What is science based on?

A: Science is based on a willingness to challenge old *dogma*.

5. RV: If we wish to know a grain of salt, we must know at least the *three-dimensional* positions of each of these atoms.

Q: What should we do if we wish to know a grain of salt?

A: We must know at least the *three-dimensional* positions of each of these atoms.

6. RV: The universe is astonishingly *immune* to any human attempt at full knowledge.

Q: To what is the universe astonishingly immune?

A: The universe is astonishingly *immune* to any human attempt at full knowledge.

7. RV: The position of every sodium and chlorine atom is *predetermined*.

Q: What is predetermined?

A: The position of every sodium and chlorine atom is *predetermined*.

8. RV: Those creatures who find everyday experience a muddled jumble of events are in grave *peril*.

Q: Who are in grave peril?

A: Those creatures who find everyday experience a muddled



jumble of events are in grave **peril**.

9. RV: Common sense and ordinary intuition turn out to be highly **unreliable guides**.

Q: What turn out to be highly unreliable guides?

A: Common sense and ordinary intuition turn out to be highly **unreliable guides**.

10. RV: A universe in which everything is known would be **static** and dull.

Q: What would a universe in which everything is known be like?

A: A universe in which everything is known would be **static** and dull.

## KEY EXPRESSIONS IN USE

### A. 短语提示:

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. <b>correspond to</b>   | be similar in position to 与……相称, 相当 |
| 2. <b>except for</b>      | excluding, not including 除……之外      |
| 3. <b>shrink into</b>     | make or become smaller or less 收缩   |
| 4. <b>be motivated to</b> | be given a motive to 被激发去做某事        |
| 5. <b>figure out</b>      | make out 想出; 理解                     |

### C. 录音原文:

1. RV: Every bit of information in the brain **corresponds** to one of these connections.

Q: What corresponds to one of these connections?

A: Every bit of information in the brain **corresponds** to one of these connections.

2. RV: **Except for** defects, the position of every sodium and chlorine atom in salt is predetermined.

Q: What is predetermined?

A: **Except for** defects, the position of every sodium and



chlorine atom in salt is predetermined.

3. RV: If we could **shrink** ourselves **into** this crystalline world, we would see atoms in an ordered array.

Q: How could we see atoms in an ordered array?

A: If we could **shrink** ourselves **into** this crystalline world, we would see atoms in an ordered array.

4. RV: Human beings are highly **motivated to** find regularities and natural laws.

Q: What are human beings highly motivated to do?

A: They are highly **motivated to** find regularities and natural laws.

5. RV: The universe belongs to those who have **figured it out**.

Q: Who does the universe belong to?

A: The universe belongs to those who have **figured it out**.

## COMMUNICATIVE PRACTICE

### ※ Tuning In

#### Words in Sound

#### 录音原文:

1. They will soon **drag** you off to the insane asylum.
2. The book **claims** that these basic principles can all be found in the *Book of Changes*.
3. Physics is a **tough** field.
4. Both literature and physics try to discover the laws that **govern** these worlds.
5. I guess in that case we're both **doomed**.
6. Thinking about math equations for hours on end isn't the best way to stay **sane**.
7. I've always had a sort of creative **streak** in me.
8. You are starting to get that **glazed** look in your eyes.
9. People trying to find connection between the natural sciences

and the humanities are all *lunatics*.

10. Physics is a practical *discipline*.

### Idioms in Use

**提示:**

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. at best     | 充其量;至多         |
| 2. may as well | 倒不如,还是……的好,不妨  |
| 3. in a way    | 从某种意义上讲;在某种程度上 |
| 4. deal with   | 处理,对付,和……打交道   |
| 5. how come    | 怎么会……,为什么……    |

### ※ Listening Comprehension

#### Dialogue A

**原文:**

Bobby: Hi, Juan. Good to see you again. It's been a while.

Juan: Oh, hi, Bobby. How're you doing? How is everything?

Bobby: To tell you the truth, it's not going so well. I have so much work for my classes.

Juan: What's your major?

Bobby: Physics.

Juan: Wow, that's a tough field. You must be out of your mind to study a subject like that.

Bobby: Well, if I wasn't out of my mind before, I'm certainly going crazy now! Thinking about Hamiltonians and Operators for hours and hours on end isn't the best way to stay sane.

Juan: Yeah, you're definitely starting to get that glazed look in your eyes. I figure you have two weeks at best before they drag you off to the insane asylum.

Bobby: Hey that's not funny!

Juan: Just kidding. Look at it this way; physics is a practical discipline, so at least you'll have a job when you finish. With literature on the other hand, which is what I am



doing, it's a different story. I figure I may as well just turn in my application to Starbucks right now.

Bobby: Actually physics isn't as practical as you think. Hard, yes, but I'm not sure about practical. Basically, with a physics degree, you can either become a professor or go back to get another degree in engineering.

Juan: Wow. Sorry to hear that. I guess in that case we're both doomed.

### Dialogue B

#### 原文:

Juan: You know, Bobby, sometimes I think I should have studied literature rather than physics. I've always had a sort of creative streak in me.

Bobby: That's funny. I used to think that I wanted to be a physicist, but not anymore.

Juan: I guess in a way, the two fields are kind of related. One deals with the physical world and the other, the social world, and both try to discover the laws that govern these worlds.

Bobby: I couldn't disagree with you more. I don't think there's any relationship between literature and science. No offense, but I think people who try to find some kind of connection between the natural sciences and the humanities are all lunatics, ideologists or con-artists.

Juan: Really?

Bobby: Yeah, really. There was a book that came out recently about Taoism and quantum mechanics, for instance.

Juan: What is that book about?

Bobby: The book claims that the basic principles of relativity and quantum mechanics can all be found in the *Book of Changes*, *I Ching*. Something like that.



Juan: What do you think about it?

Bobby: My response is, well in that case, how come the Chinese weren't testing atomic bombs in the 10th century B. C. ? Don't get me wrong, the *I Ching* is a wonderful book, but I wouldn't put it on the reading list for my physics courses.

## PART II LANGUAGE IN CONTEXT

### READING SELECTION: TEXT A

#### 背景知识:

This text is an excerpt from Carl Sagan's *Broca's Brain: Reflections on the Romance of Science* (New York: Random House, 1979).

**Carl Sagan** (卡尔·萨根) (1934 - 1996): Renowned (有名的) both as a scientist and a writer. For his work with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (美国国家航空航天局) Mariner (航海者), Viking (海盗), and Voyager (旅行者) expeditions (宇航探险), he was awarded NASA's Medals for Exceptional Scientific Achievement (特殊科学成就奖) and for Distinguished Public Service (联合国公共服务奖). Sagan produced the *Cosmos* (《宇宙》) television series for public television and received the Peabody Award (皮博迪奖, 美国电视广播最高成就奖) in 1981. For his book, *The Dragons of Eden: Speculation on the Evolution of Human Intelligence* (《伊甸园的飞龙》: 对于人类智力进化的思索) (1977), he received the Pulitzer Prize in literature (普利策文学奖). His other works are The



Cosmic Connection: An Extraterrestrial Perspective (《外星文明的探索》), Broca's Brain: Reflections on the Romance of Science (《布鲁卡的脑: 对科学传奇的反思》) (1979), Comet (《彗星》) (1985), Contact (《接触》) (1985), Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors (《被遗忘的前辈的影子》) (1992), The Pale Blue Dot: A Vision of the human future in space (《暗淡蓝点: 展望人类的太空家园》) (1996), The Demon-Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark (《魔鬼出没的世界: 科学, 照亮黑暗的蜡烛》) (1996), and Billions and Billions: Thoughts on Life and Death at the Brink of the Millennium (《数以十亿: 新千年来临之际关于生命和死亡的思考》) (1997)。

**Aristotle** (亚里士多德) (384B.C. - 322B.C.): a Greek philosopher, a pupil of Plato (柏拉图), the tutor of Alexander of the Great (亚历山大大帝), and the author of works on logic (逻辑学), metaphysics (玄学), ethics (伦理学), natural sciences, politics, and poetics. He profoundly (深远地) influenced Western thought.

More than any other thinker, Aristotle determined the orientation (方向) and the content of Western intellectual history. He was the author of a philosophical and scientific system that through the centuries became the support and vehicle for both medieval (中世纪) Christian and Islamic (伊斯兰教的) scholastic thought (经院哲学); until the end of the 17th century, Western culture was Aristotelian (亚里士多德学派). Even after the intellectual revolutions of centuries to follow, Aristotelian concepts and ideas remained embedded (深入) in Western thinking.

Aristotle's intellectual range was vast, covering



most of the sciences and many of the arts. His greatest achievements were in two unrelated areas: he invented the study of formal logic (形式逻辑), and he pioneered the study of zoology (动物学), both observational and theoretical, in which his work was not surpassed (超越) until the 19th century. Aristotle's historical importance is second to none (首屈一指), and his work remains a powerful component in current philosophical debate.

### 核心词汇:

#### 1. penetrate

**用法** *v.* (1) 透过, 刺入, 渗入: The rain penetrated through to his skin. 雨把他淋得浑身湿透了。

(2) 渗透, 扩散, 弥漫: Western ideas penetrate slowly through the East. 西方观念逐渐传入东方。

(3) 洞察, 了解: Science has penetrated the mysteries of nature. 科学已揭开了大自然的奥秘。

**辨析** penetrate, pierce

这两个词均含有“穿透, 刺入”之意。penetrate 较正式, 且意义广泛, 既可指用任何工具穿透或穿入, 也可指光线、声音等自然地透过物体, 多与 into 或 through 连用。pierce 多指用尖利的东西刺入或刺穿, 如: The needle pierced the material. 这根针刺穿了织物。

**记忆法** penetration *n.* 渗透(力), 洞察力; penetrating *adj.* 渗透的; 有洞察力的。

**引申** (同) pierce 刺入; permeate 弥漫; grasp 掌握

#### 2. intuition

**用法** *n.* (1) 直觉力, 作不可数名词: Imagination and intuition are vital to good science. 想像力和直觉对于成功的科学研究是至关重要的。

(2) 直觉知识, 作可数名词: He had an intuition that





there was trouble brewing. 他凭直觉感到麻烦就要发生。

**典型考题** It's very strange but I had an \_\_\_\_\_ that the plan would crash.

A. inspiration B. intuition

C. imagination D. incentive

答案为 B。译文：很奇怪，我有一种直觉，计划可能会失败。

intuition 直觉；inspiration 灵感；imagination 想像力；incentive 动机。

**记忆法** intuitive *adj.* 凭直觉获知的，有直觉的；intuitively *adv.* 直觉地

**引申** (同)instinct 本能，直觉

### 3. infallible

**用法** *adj.* (1) 永远正确的，从不犯错误的：I'm only human; I'm not infallible. 我只是平常人，不可能不犯错误。

(2) 绝对有效的，肯定能达到预期效果的：He had an infallible cure for arthritis. 他有对付关节炎绝对灵验的良方。

(3) 不可避免的，必然（发生）的：An infallible result of war is death. 战争必然导致死亡。

**记忆法** infallibly *adv.* 绝对无误地；

**引申** (同)reliable 可靠的；right 正确的

### 4. distort

**用法** *v.* (1) 歪曲（事实，陈述，观点等）：The newspaper accounts of international affairs are sometimes distorted. 那家报纸对国际事件的报道有时是歪曲事实的。

(2) 使变形，使失真：Years of pain had distorted his face. 多年的疼痛扭曲了他的脸。

**辨析** distort, twist, deform

这些动词都表示改变或损坏某物的外形或特征。distort 指通过扭转或扭伤使改变形状；该词也可用来指对言语或绘画