



普通高等教育“十五”国家级规划教材

SECOND EDITION [第二版]

NEW COLLEGE ENGLISH

新编大学英语

教师用书

浙江大学 编著



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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★ 教育部大学外语推荐教材

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④

教师用书

浙江大学 编著

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外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编大学英语(第二版)教师用书 4 / 浙江大学编著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2005.12

ISBN 7-5600-5281-9

I. 新… II. 浙… III. 英语—高等学校—教学参考资料 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2005) 第 144183 号

出 版 人: 李朋义

项目负责: 张锦平

责任编辑: 朱云奇 高淑芬

封面设计: 王 琳 韩晓梦

版式设计: 牛茜茜

插图设计: 周小舟

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京京科印刷有限公司

开 本: 787×1092 1/16

印 张: 13.25

版 次: 2005 年 12 月第 1 版 2005 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-5600-5281-9

定 价: 17.90 元

* * *

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前言

《新编大学英语》自1999年春天出版以来，一直得到同行、专家以及广大师生的支持和爱护。可以说，没有大家的支持，就没有今天《新编大学英语》的第二版。几年来我们继续我们的研究工作，还在全国各地进行了问卷调查，最大规模的一次涉及近3,000名学生和300多位教师。根据调查研究获得的数据和信息，同时考虑到新的社会需求、学校的教学设备和条件，我们修订了《新编大学英语》。

● 第二版的《新编大学英语》由三部分组成：

- 1) 《新编大学英语》学生用书（配有录音带和光盘），教师用书；
- 2) 《新编大学英语》视听说教程学生用书（配有录音带和光盘），教师用书（配有教师用录音带）；
- 3) 《新编大学英语》网络课件（NCE Online, <http://www.enbar.com.cn/nce>）。

● 第二版的《新编大学英语》对难度、梯度都进行了调整。将原来的基础教程和一至六册的各单元重新排列，删除和替换了部分材料，归并了部分话题，更新或替换了部分练习和活动，使新版本更具趣味性、可思性，更注重语言应用能力的培养和提高，尤其加强了听说能力的培养。《新编大学英语》及其视听说教程内容密切配合、互相补充，对应单元里的材料和活动均围绕同一个话题，在注重语言实践和培养语言综合能力上，相互结合，相互促进，从不同侧面展开语言实践活动。

● 第二版《新编大学英语》继续采用“以学生为中心的主题教学模式”。

在了解学生学习英语的信念、条件、兴趣和策略的基础上，关注他们在学习过程中的困难和需求，为他们提高语言综合能力提供支持和帮助。在此前提下，突出培养听说能力以加强学生的薄弱环节。为此，课堂教学做到尽可能地接近真实世界，培养学生的交际能力。

语言既是文化的一部分，又是传播文化最有效的媒介，而且思想文化的交流是双向的。因此，在让学生了解英语国家文化的同时，还要培养他们表达、传播本国文化的能力。大规模的调查与研究分析表明，提高语言交际能

力的核心是大量消化和吸收语言输入、提高表达思想的能力。根据学生的反映,学会日常的常规性的口头表达方式并不难,难在如何组织语言表达自己的思想。写作能力也同样难在表达思想。第二版《新编大学英语》体现了上述思想,着重引导学生创造性地使用语言。

● 本书为第二版《新编大学英语》教师用书第四册。共分10个单元。教师用书中除了客观题的全部答案外,所有主观题,包括作文和课堂活动,均提供了内容丰富、观点不同的实例,便于教师开阔学生思路、展开课堂活动。每单元的话题均有相关的文化背景和参考信息,并有补充的语言、语法点。此外,书中还为教师提供了额外的课堂活动,为不同的教学对象留有选择余地。课内阅读和两篇课外阅读均有参考译文。教师用书还附有作文评分原则和方法。书中每单元需6课时:Preparation 1课时,Reading-Centered Activities 2课时,Further Development 2课时,Writing and Translation 1课时。教师也可以根据自己班级的情况和不同的单元适当调整,灵活掌握。

● 《新编大学英语》网络课件(NCE Online),不仅为使用《新编大学英语》及其视听说教程提供了最大方便,同时还配有English for Fun、Online Community、Reference、《新编大学英语》语法书、词典等。其中的Word Games为学生掌握词汇提供了六种不同形式的游戏,覆盖了《新编大学英语》的全部词汇。学生可以按不同的学习风格、不同的喜好选择不同的词汇范围及不同的游戏。在浙江大学的使用过程中,Word Games深受学生欢迎。网络课件还配有严谨的评估系统,有:1)《新编大学英语》教程单元测试(Quizzes),2)视听说教程单元测试(Quizzes),3)阶段测试(Level Tests)。每册教材的阶段测试题量大,可以随机生成许多套试卷。学完第6单元后,学生可以利用阶段测试进行自我评估。

第二版《新编大学英语》系列教程由应惠兰任总主编。本册教材主编:应惠兰。编者:熊海虹、傅政、何莲珍、周星、顾晔、李敏、王元春、周颂波、徐莹。审稿:邵永真、Maxine Huffman博士和Don Huffman博士。参加本册编写工作的还有:邵永真、庞继贤、蒋景阳、张兴奎、马以容、徐慧芳、徐明、黄小杨、张筱菲、袁靖、傅莹、杨敏、徐丽萍、郑猛、应惠兰、Maxine Huffman博士和Don Huffman博士。

● 前 言

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1

Leisure Activities

Useful Information

There are some people in society who either have to or want to work all the time. Most people, however, seek ways to socialize, to relax or to have fun during their leisure hours. Obviously people's tastes vary depending on their income and their age. But in recent years, the home entertainment industry has grown all over the world. Instead of going out to see a movie or taking a walk in a park, people of all ages prefer to turn on the television and stay at home. More and more families have tape recorders, CD players, VCRs, VCDs, DVDs and computer games to add to the variety of leisure activities in the home. In some countries, young people spend hours sitting in front of their computers, surfing on the Internet or playing computer games.

Despite the rise in home entertainment, there are still many people who enjoy spending some of their leisure time attending sports events or participating in competitive sports or other physical activities such as dancing and *tai chi* (shadow boxing). Exercise not only contributes to good health but also takes the mind away from worries and troubles.

Concerts, plays and other performances constitute another source of entertainment outside the home. While some people prefer to be entertained, others prefer to be the entertainers. They derive great satisfaction from giving others pleasure by making them laugh or by enabling them to lose themselves in the imaginary world of a play or the relaxing sounds of music.

Part One

PREPARATION

1 Our Leisure Activities

● STEP ONE

Age Group	Leisure Activities
College students	playing tennis, playing table tennis, playing football, playing basketball, going swimming, going skating, going to Karaoke bars, playing cards, going to movies, watching VCDs, playing computer games, dancing, playing musical instruments, collecting stamps, collecting coins, going to the pub, travelling, listening to music, reading novels, watching a sports match, going to a concert, going to theatres and museums, going shopping
Our parents	watching TV, going shopping, travelling, bowling, dancing, going to Karaoke, listening to music, reading novels, playing mahjong, watching a sports match, going to a concert, going to the library, playing go/chess, visiting or entertaining friends, drinking tea at a tea bar/house

● STEP TWO

Most Active Activities	sports activities, dancing
Most Passive Activities	watching TV, listening to music, reading novels, going to the pub, playing cards, chess and mahjong, going to the tea bar
Most Popular Activities	(open)

2 Laughter

Sample:

Cross-talk is very popular in China. You can listen to it everywhere, on the CD, on the radio, on TV, etc. I think its popularity mainly lies in its humorous language, the performers' quick wits, their funny gestures and their presentation skills. Another reason is that the subject of cross-talk is close to real life so that it resonates with the audience. It uses either bitter irony or funny teasing to amuse people. The most important thing is that cross-talk can make one laugh and think at the

same time.

3 My Favorite Film

Sample:

My favorite film is “Gone with the Wind”. I love the film because the story is very touching and the topic thought-provoking. Vivian Leigh and Clark Gable acted as Scarlett and Rhett Butler. Both are very famous and both acted very well.

The story happened during the American Civil War. It was about love and war. I was deeply touched by Scarlett’s love for Ashley and Rhett’s love for Scarlett. In both cases the love was unrequited and hopeless. This was, I think, the most attractive part of the movie. When I watched the movie I hoped that Scarlett could realize how deeply Rhett loved her and repay his love. I cried when at the end of the movie their daughter, Bonnie, died and Rhett left Scarlett even though Scarlett had realized how she had loved him without knowing it all the time. The most tragic thing is that no one can really understand what love is. That is also the case with Scarlett. She loved Rhett, but she didn’t know that. She thought she still loved Ashley, so did Rhett. Ashley stood in the way of their marriage, like a shadow that couldn’t be waved away. I also admire Scarlett because she is a brave, independent, courageous, and intelligent woman, though she is selfish and willful.

4 Recognizing Puns

1. The word “plane” has the same pronunciation as “plain”. If you say something is plain, you mean it is simple in style. Normally you don’t have very nice food on planes.
2. The word “terminal” may mean illness or disease that causes death, often slowly, and cannot be cured. It also means a place where vehicles, passengers, or goods begin or end a journey. An airport terminal is where you get on a flight or get off a flight.
3. The word “pointless” means having no sense or purpose, and a broken pencil has no point.
4. Math teachers may have a lot of problems for their students. They also may have problems themselves.
5. The word “short” may mean short in height, it also means not having as much as you want or need. So here it may mean the boy doesn’t have enough money to pay for the lunch. It may also mean that the boy is too short to reach the counter.
6. When you buy something from a vending machine, if you insert more than enough money, the machine will return the change, in the form of coins. What the nurse means is that they haven’t managed to get the coin out of the boy yet. So the boy’s condition hasn’t changed.
7. The word “driving” also means powerful.
8. The word “bored” has the same pronunciation as “board”. So here it may also mean the mother is a member of the private school board.

◆ Extra Activity for Teachers' Choice:

VCDs and Movies

	Watching VCDs	Going to the Movies
Advantages	1) It's more convenient, you don't have to buy tickets, and be dressed formally. 2) You can watch a VCD whenever you like. 3) You can watch it over and over again if you like. 4) It's much cheaper than watching a movie.	1) Movies are better in quality than VCDs. 2) You can watch undisturbed. 3) You have a relaxed holiday feeling.
Disadvantages	1) The quality is not as good as that of a movie, because many of the VCDs are pirated. 2) You are always disturbed by telephone calls or other things while watching.	1) The cinemas are sometimes too noisy, and too dirty. 2) In summer there are many mosquitoes in cinemas.

Part Two

READING-CENTERED ACTIVITIES

In-Class Reading

Pre-Reading

- 1) I enjoy jokes because I think jokes can always make one laugh. It's well-known that laughter is the best medicine. Besides jokes often have wisdom in them. When I have time I usually read some jokes in the newspaper or in books. There are many jokes which cater to different age groups. I also like reading cartoons and comic strips.
- 2) I think humor is a very important quality for a person or for getting along with others. I like to be with humorous people. They are like sunshine and therefore very popular with others. They can make me laugh when I am unhappy. They can change an awkward situation and help people

get rid of embarrassment by making everybody laugh. With such people, life becomes more interesting and enjoyable. However, it doesn't mean everybody can understand the humor in a particular situation. Humorous people require understanding from their listeners. When they laugh, communication is successful.

Passage Reading

● Words, Phrases and Grammatical Points

1. note (l. 74)

Some phrases with "note":

- 1) **make a note of something:** write something down so that you can look at it later

e.g. I made a note of her address and phone number.

II) Make a note on the calendar that he's coming on Tuesday.

III) She took out her diary and made a note of the time of the meeting.

- 2) **take/make notes:** write notes

e.g. I read the first chapter and took notes.

II) She sat quietly in the corner making careful notes.

III) I noticed he was making notes about the deals as I was describing them to the board.

- 3) **take note:** pay close attention to something

e.g. I Take note of the weather conditions.

II) People were beginning to take note of her talents as a writer.

III) I realized that I had forgotten to take note of any landmarks en route.

2. blame (l. 102)

Some phrases with "blame":

- 1) **blame somebody for something**

e.g. I) You can hardly blame Peter for being angry with her.

II) It's not fair to blame me—it's not my

fault that we lost.

- 2) **be to blame**

e.g. I) You are not to blame for what happened.

II) The hot weather is partly to blame for the water shortage.

- 3) **only have yourself to blame:** used to say that someone's problems are their own fault

e.g. I) If he fails his exams, he'll only have himself to blame.

II) He's only got himself to blame if no one will talk to him.

3. alive (l. 102)

adj. (not before noun)

- 1) still living and not dead

e.g. I) Doctors fought to keep her alive.

II) It was really a bad accident—they're lucky to be alive.

- 2) active and happy

e.g. I) With the wind rushing through her hair she felt intensely alive.

II) It was the kind of morning when you wake up and feel really alive.

- 3) continuing to exist

e.g. I) Ancient traditions are still very much alive in rural areas.

II) The big factories are trying to stay alive by cutting costs.

课内阅读参考译文

享受幽默——什么东西令人开怀?

1 听了一个有趣的故事会发笑、很开心,古今中外都一样。这一现象或许同语言本身一样悠久。那么,到底是什么东西会使一个故事或笑话让人感到滑稽可笑的呢?

2 我是第一次辨识出幽默便喜欢上它的人,因此我曾试图跟学生议论和探讨幽默。这些学生文化差异很大,有来自拉丁美洲的,也有来自中国的。我还认真地思考过一些滑稽有趣的故事。这么做完全是出于自己的喜好。

3 为什么听我讲完一个笑话后,班上有些学生会笑得前仰后合,而其他学生看上去就像刚听我读了天气预报一样呢?显然,有些人对幽默比别人更敏感。而且,我们也发现有的人很善于讲笑话,而有的人要想说一点有趣的事却要费好大的劲。我们都听人说过这样的话:“我喜欢笑话,但我讲不好,也总是记不住。”有些人比别人更有幽默感,就像有些人更具有音乐、数学之类的才能一样。一个真正风趣的人在任何场合都有笑话可讲,而且讲了一个笑话,就会从他记忆里引出一连串的笑话。一个缺乏幽默感的人不可能成为一群中最受欢迎的。一个真正有幽默感的人不仅受人喜爱,而且在任何聚会上也往往是人们注意的焦点。这么说是有道理的。

4 甚至有些动物也具有幽默感。我岳母从前经常来我们家,并能住上很长一段时间。通常她不喜欢狗,但却很喜欢布利茨恩——我们养过的一条拉布拉多母猎犬。而且,她们的这种好感是相互的。布利茨恩在很小的时候就常常戏弄外祖母。当外祖母坐在起居室里她最喜欢的那张舒适的椅子上时,布利茨恩就故意把她卧室里的一只拖鞋叼到起居室,并在外祖母刚好够不到的地方蹦来跳去,一直逗得外祖母忍不住站起来去拿那只拖鞋。外祖母从椅子上一起来,布利茨恩就迅速跳上那椅子,从它那闪亮的棕色眼睛里掠过一丝拉布拉多式的微笑,无疑是在说:“啊哈,你又上了我的当。”

5 典型的笑话或幽默故事由明显的三部分构成。第一部分是铺垫(即背景),接下来是主干部分(即故事情节),随后便是妙语(即一个出人意料或令人惊讶的结尾)。如果这个妙语含有一定的幽默成分,这个笑话便会很有趣。通常笑话都包含这三部分,而且每部分都必须交代清楚。如果讲故事或说笑话的人使用听众都熟悉的手势和语言,则有助于增强效果。

6 我们可以对幽默这种娱乐形式进行分析,从而发现究竟是什么使一个有趣的故事或笑话令人发笑。举例来说,最常见的幽默有以下几种,包括了从最显而易见的幽默到比较微妙含蓄的幽默。

7 “滑稽剧”是最明显的幽默。它语言简单、直截了当,常常以取笑他人为乐。说笑打闹这种形式过去是、现在仍然是滑稽说笑演员和小丑的惯用技巧。它为不同年龄、不同文化背景的人们所喜爱。几乎本世纪的每个讲英语的滑稽说笑演员都曾以这样或那样的方式说过下面这则笑话。一位男士问另一位男士:“昨晚我看到的那位和你在一起的夫人是谁?”那位男士回答道:“那可不是什么夫人,那是我老婆。”这个笑话的幽默之处在于第二位男士说他的妻子不是一位夫人,也就是说她不是一个高雅的女人。这个笑话并没有因为经常讲而变得不再那么好笑。由于这是一个经典笑话,观众都知道要说什么,而且因

为大家对这个笑话很熟悉而更加珍爱它。

8 中国的相声是一种特殊的滑稽剧。相声中两名中国喜剧演员幽默地谈论诸如官僚主义者、家庭问题或其他一些有关个人的话题。相声随处都能听到，无论是在乡村的小舞台上，还是在北京最大的剧院里，抑或在广播、电视上。它显然是中国家喻户晓的一种传统的幽默形式。

9 “文字游戏”不像滑稽剧那样浅显，它是因语言的误用或误解而引人发笑。我特别喜欢的一个例子是三位年长的绅士在英国乘火车旅行的故事。当火车慢慢停下来时，第一位绅士问道：“这是Wembley（温布利）吗？”“不，”第二位绅士说：“是Thursday（星期四）。”“我也是，”第三位说道，“让我们下车喝杯啤酒吧。”我们知道上了年纪的人往往耳背，因此会把Wembley（温布利）听成了Wednesday（星期三），把Thursday（星期四）听成了thirsty（渴了），这样一来就为第三位老人的妙语做好了铺垫。

10 著名的中国漫画家和幽默家丁聪便是一位文字游戏大师。在他的一幅幽默漫画中，一位老师说：“你为什么一字不改地抄别人的作业？”那位年轻的学生回答道：“我没有一字不改地抄。我把作业上的名字改成自己的了。”在丁聪的另一幅经典漫画里，一位生气的父亲问道：“告诉我，1加2等于几？”儿子说：“我不知道。”这位不耐烦的父亲接着说道：“比方说，你、你妈妈和我，我们加起来一共是几个，傻瓜？”儿子得意地回答道：“是三个傻瓜。”这些故事无论是漫画还是笑话，是由演滑稽剧的喜剧演员说还是由搭档的相声演员讲，都为各地人们所喜爱。人们喜爱这些有趣的故事，因为它们贴近现实生活，而且里面那些出人意料的妙语十分有趣。

11 双关语是一种更微妙的文字游戏。它使用的技巧是利用发音相似的词或同一个词的不同意思。有些批评家认为双关语是最低级的幽默，但我不同意这种观点。双关语与其他形式的幽默相比需要更细微、更巧妙的语言技巧；然而，简单的双关语甚至很小的孩子也能利用。例如，谜语或脑筋急转弯问题常使用双关语做铺垫、制造故事情节，而且更多地是用在妙语部分。双关语是我最早懂得的幽默。记得大约在五岁时我听到了下面这个谜语。一个人问：“什么东西整个儿是黑的、白的和红的？”另外一个人通常猜不出来，于是问道：“我不猜了。是什么呀？”出谜语的人回答：“是报纸。”如果你知道在英语中“red（红色）”和“read（读）”的读音一样但意思完全不同，答案就很明显了。

12 DOUBLE ENTENDRES（法语中的“一语双关”）是双关语的特殊形式，其中的词或短语有双重意思。两个意思往往很不相同，一个比较恰当，另一个往往比较粗俗——但并不总是这样。我喜欢那个关于一位中学教师和校长因看见学生在校操场上接吻而感到担心的故事。故事并不过火。那位教师对学生们说：“我和校长已经决定停止在校操场上接吻。”听到笑声，她意识到她没有把意思表达清楚，于是补充说：“我的意思是不能再在我们的鼻子底下发生接吻这样的事了。”当然，这个解释并没有纠正她的第一句话，反而使这个笑话的双重含义变得更加好笑。

13 一些专业的幽默家认为如今的幽默大多缺乏智慧，不够巧妙。他们不喜欢在幽默中过多使用有色情意味或粗俗的语言，而且觉得大多数幽默家缺乏创造性。的确，现在有些幽默令人震惊，但我认为这不是幽默的过错。幽默本身是活泼健康的，它还会继续生存下去，只因为每天都有有趣的事情发生。一些有幽默感的人会看到、听到这些有趣的事情，并把它们编成妙趣横生、令人开心的笑话和故事。

Post-Reading

● Reading Comprehension

1. Understanding the Organization of the Text

Para. 1-3	Humor is <u>universal</u> , but people's sense of humor <u>varies</u> .
Para. 4.	Even <u>animals</u> have a sense of humor. The author's <u>dog</u> is a good example.
Para. 5	The typical three parts of a joke: 1) <u>setup</u> , 2) <u>body</u> , 3) <u>punch line</u> .
Para. 6-12	Different forms of humor: 1) <u>slap-stick</u> , 2) <u>Chinese cross-talk</u> , 3) <u>a play on words</u> , 4) <u>puns</u> and double entendres.
Para. 13	Humor will <u>persist</u> even though some professional humorists think today's humor is not very <u>intelligent</u> or <u>sophisticated</u> .

2. Understanding Specific Information

1) B 2) D 3) C 4) A 5) C 6) A 7) A 8) D 9) B 10) B

3. Explaining the Difference

I think there are several factors that lead to the different responses, such as one's personality, knowledge of the world, cultural backgrounds, etc. Some people are more sensitive to humor. They like to laugh, and they enjoy jokes. They are more imaginative. After hearing a joke, they will use their imagination to make the joke more laughable. Some people, because of their limited cultural backgrounds, can't understand the joke well. Or, they don't think it amusing because they don't have the right knowledge. It's not because they are not sensitive to humor, but because they don't understand very well. Another barrier, I think, is the language. Sometimes when a foreign teacher tells a joke, the students cannot understand it because of some difficult words.

4. Analyzing Jokes

JOKE ONE:

[One day a visitor from the city came to a small rural area to drive around on the country roads, see how the farms looked, and perhaps to see how farmers earned a living. (SETUP)] [The city man saw a farmer in his yard, holding a pig up in his hands, and lifting it so that the pig could eat apples from an apple tree. The city man said to the farmer, "I see that your pig likes apples, but isn't that quite a waste of time?"(BODY)] [The farmer replied, "What's time to a pig?" (PUNCH LINE)]

JOKE TWO:

[One absent-minded professor approached the edge of a wide river, and far across on the other side he saw another absent-minded professor. (SETUP)] [The first man called out loudly, "Hello! How do I get to the other side of the river?" (BODY)] [The second man on the far side of the river shouted back, "Hello! You are already on the other side of the river." (PUNCH LINE)]

5. Making Your Comments

Samples:

- I agree with it, because people enjoy laughter. Humorous people know that laughter is the best medicine. They don't mind insults if you can make them laugh. In fact, this kind of insult is not insult in its real sense because when people are trying to make others laugh the focus is on the fun they can enjoy, not on insulting them. People need self-mockery to survive, to let out anger, and to get out of difficult or embarrassing situations. I don't mind being joked about. Life should be filled with laughter. How boring the world would be if everybody was serious and humorless.
- I don't agree with it. Dignity is the most important thing. I wouldn't allow anyone to insult me even if they made me laugh. As a matter of fact, they wouldn't be able to make me laugh if they are insulting me. When people are getting together, friendliness and harmony are the priorities. How can people stay together if they are likely to be insulted or laughed at? I enjoy jokes, but I think some jokes go too far and they hurt people.

● Vocabulary

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. 1) A. entertaining | B. entertainment | C. entertained | D. entertainer |
| 2) A. recognizable | B. recognized | C. recognition | |
| 3) A. tempting | B. temptation | C. tempt | |
| 4) A. reasoned | B. reasoning | C. reasonable | D. reason |
| 5) A. analyzed | B. analytical | C. analyst | D. analysis |
| 6) A. valuable | B. valuation | C. valued/values | D. values |
| 7) A. humorist | B. humor | C. humorous | D. humorless |
| 8) A. understandable | B. understanding | C. understand | D. misunderstood |
-
- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2. 1) a sense of responsibility | 2) a sense of safety/security | 3) a sense of inferiority |
| 4) a sense of superiority | 5) a sense of rhythm | 6) a sense of justice |
| 7) a sense of shame | 8) a sense of helplessness | 9) a sense of direction |
| 10) a sense of urgency | | |
-
3. 1) Lively behavior is normal

- 2) Fast cars appeal to
- 3) diverse arguments
- 4) I asked my boss for clarification
- 5) sensitive to light
- 6) Mutual encouragement
- 7) made fun of him
- 8) persists in his opinion/viewpoint
- 9) to be the focus/center of attention
- 10) we buy our tickets in advance

4. 1) certain/sure 2) involved 3) end 4) behavior 5) disciplining
6) agreed 7) individually 8) first 9) response 10) question
11) attempt 12) voice 13) directly 14) followed 15) trouble

After-Class Reading

课外阅读参考译文

PASSAGE I

致命诱惑

1 英国离奇谋杀案小说的女皇，毫无疑问是阿加莎·克里斯蒂。虽然作者本人在20多年前就去世了，但她创作的78部侦探小说还是非常畅销。它们已经被译成了100多种语言，销量超过了20亿册。

2 阿加莎的小说无论是在英国还是在其他国家，都如此受人喜爱并不难理解。她的每本书都构思精巧。她创造的人物一眼就能辨认出，情节的发展非常规范、准确、流畅。但最重要的是，她所有的故事都给读者一个谜团。

3 克里斯蒂的作品几乎都是以谋杀开场，迫使读者提出这样一个问题：“是谁干的？”，而最后总是水落石出。读者的乐趣就在于根据故事里隐含的线索顺藤摸瓜，试图在作者揭开谜底之前找到正确答案。这种模式吸引了人类最强烈的本能——好奇心——而人们对这种模式欢迎的程度没有任何减弱的迹象。

4 很多离奇的案子都是由克里斯蒂笔下某个常常出场的侦探破解，例如那个非常自信的比利时人埃居尔·波洛探长，或者是那个显然没有恶意的小老太太马普尔小姐。她同时也

为她的故事创造了一个特有的背景，这一背景，如同她创作的一些人物一样为人们所熟知。那是处于两次世界大战之间的英国，那儿的小村庄里社区关系紧密，生活安静，或者是城里的阔佬们在乡下的豪宅里度周末。

5 这个世界有着严格的社会等级制度。乡下宅子的主人，很可能是贵族成员，占据着社会的顶层，然后是那些职业阶层：医生、律师和商人。处于底层的则是一般民众，在书中通常作为仆从、厨师和园丁出场。当谋杀案发生时，需要调查的嫌疑人不在少数。

6 阿加莎·克里斯蒂的世界不是一个完全真实的世界，这就是她的作品还没有过时的原因之一。这是一个安定、循规蹈矩的世界，然后谋杀案打乱了人们的正常生活。必须侦破案件，抓住杀人犯，恢复宁静的生活。

7 在阿加莎·克里斯蒂一生的大部分时间里，英国的杀人犯都被处以死刑。因此，她作品中的谋杀案一旦破获，找出了杀人犯，那么他或者她的末日也就到了。不会有未了结的事情，读者于是就可以高枕无忧了。

8 当然，在真实的世界里，事情并非完全如此。罪犯会逍遥法外，法律会伤及无辜，审判不公时有发生。简单地说，真实世界并不是一个安全的地方。正因为如此，才会有这么多的读者喜欢逃避现实，埋头于一本老式的、结局完全可预测的侦探小说。

9 阿加莎·克里斯蒂所著的侦探小说当然可谓风格陈旧。当代描写破案的作家几乎没人再写这样的作品了。现代的侦探小说在道德上和心理上都更趋复杂，经常在“是谁干的？”之外再加上“为什么这样干？”这个问题。现代作家更感兴趣的是了解罪犯的心理和杀人动机。他们所探讨的犯罪世界比阿加莎·克里斯蒂所能想象的要黑暗得多。当代的破案小说不仅不能给读者带来慰藉，反而使他们感到不安。

10 但是对于这种美国人称之为“舒适型”的侦探小说流派，英国人依旧十分喜爱。谋杀故事仍被看作是一种消遣娱乐，而且电视节目表里也充斥着那些以杀人犯肯定被捕而告终的侦探剧。

11 从酒店提供的“周末谋杀奇案”活动也可以看出侦探小说有多么流行。客人们扮演那些经典侦探小说中的嫌疑人，用一个周末的时间来找出他们中的哪一个是“杀人犯”。或者举办“谋杀案侦破晚宴”：一群朋友聚在一起，在餐桌上利用预先准备好的关于人物性格和行踪的线索破解一桩疑案。如果餐桌上的谋杀案提不起你的兴趣，还有各种各样的棋盘游戏和计算机游戏来测试你的侦探能力。

12 但是有些人会沉迷于此无法自拔。（例如，）所有小说里最有名的侦探也许是舍洛克·福尔摩斯，他的住所是“伦敦贝克街221B号”。现在仍有信件寄到那里，要求他帮助解决各种各样的迷案。因为有如此多的信件寄给这位大侦探，现在使用该处的公司雇用了一个人，专门回复这些信件。

13 只要人类还有好奇心，那么毫无疑问，各种各样的侦探小说就会继续发挥它致命的诱惑力。