

21ST  
CENTURY  
COLLEGE  
ENGLISH

# 21世纪 大学英语 泛读 3

*Extensive Reading 3*

● 冯 奇 主编  
毛忠明 主审



高等教育出版社  
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## 21世纪大学英语泛读系列教材

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21世纪大学英语泛读

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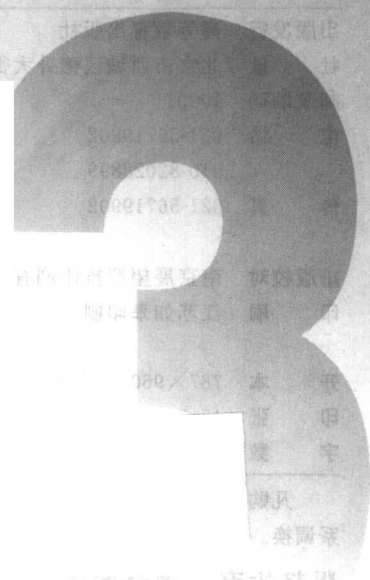
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## 内容提要

《21世纪大学英语泛读》是对现行主修教材阅读量的拓展和补充,旨在帮助学生扩大阅读面,提高阅读理解水平,巩固所学过的知识和加强语言综合能力的培养。文章均选自因特网和最近几年出版的英美书报、杂志。本教材分1至4册,每册含10个单元,共30篇文章。

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冯奇教授领衔编写的《21世纪大学英语泛读》系列教材即将问世,这是一件可喜可贺的事。它向英语学习者们提供了一条学好英语的有效途径:泛读。“泛”者,广泛之谓也。学好英语非多读、泛读不可。现在,我们十分强调学习外语旨在培养跨文化交际的能力。人们对交际能力的模式有不同的解释,但语言能力则是任何一种交际能力模式中最为基本的范畴,它包括由语法、词汇和语音组成的语言知识以及由听、说、读、写组成的语言技能。其中,读的技能尤为重要,而这种技能只有通过大量阅读才能获得;再则,多读与培养写的技能密不可分,这一点自不待言;即便听、说,也与读不无内在联系。试问哪一位善于用英语作为外语进行听、说交流的人没有读过大量的英语文章和书籍呢?

每一篇文章、每一部书籍都是地道的英语老师,是不出国门就业已创造好的英语环境。诚然,阅读是一个复杂的心理过程,是认知和言语交际的过程,是篇章意义“构思”的过程,它是通过并用自下而上(bottom-up)和自上而下(top-down)的方法得以实现的。这种心理学上的论断可以留给学者们去研究,但阅读给学习者带来的收获确实是显而易见的。通过阅读,可以全面提高英语技能,增加英语民族文化背景知识,以达到准确理解和运用英语的目的;可以学会篇章分析的方法,了解各种衔接手段,进而提高阅读的质量和写作的能力;可以学会运用语用知识,凭借语境(context)弄清文字的言外之意,明了作者思路的来龙去脉;可以学会区分不同的文体,保证语言使用的适切性。此外,大量阅读也是巩固和扩大词汇量的好方法。词汇是语言的基

本素材,掌握词汇是听、说、读、写的前提,是基础。在某种意义上,词汇量的大小决定着语言能力和交际能力的高低。通过阅读,可以根据上下文认识新的词语,对自己言语库中的语汇不断温故知新,取得提高记忆的效果。

凡此种种无非是在说明阅读,尤其是大量阅读的重要性,也是在说明《21世纪大学英语泛读》值得称道的原因。它给学习者们提供了大量名篇佳作,语言纯正,题材鲜活,富有时代气息,可读性强。倘若再能多兼顾一些体裁,除了选用说明文之外,再收进一些散文、小说、戏剧,乃至诗歌,读起来或许会更有兴味。

徐 钟

2003年8月

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# Unit One



## TEXT A

## A

### Task A-1

Look at the title of the text and try to answer the following questions.

1. How can tomatoes transform a person?
2. What kind of person would the writer be?
3. Why does the writer tell us her story?

### Task A-2

The following words can help you understand this text. Are you familiar with them? Match the words with the definitions following them.

spontaneity   inordinate   lure   enticement   dislodge  
cubicle   humdrum   portfolio   beckon   recipe

1. not properly controlled or restrained; excessive \_\_\_\_\_
2. to move sb. or sth. from the place occupied \_\_\_\_\_
3. dull, commonplace \_\_\_\_\_
4. a performance or an occurrence resulting from a sudden inner \_\_\_\_\_

TEXT A

TEXT B

TEXT C

- impulse or inclination without external stimulus \_\_\_\_\_
5. a temptation offering pleasure or advantage \_\_\_\_\_
  6. a flat case for keeping documents, drawings, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
  7. a small division of a larger room for a special purpose \_\_\_\_\_
  8. to attract, tempt \_\_\_\_\_
  9. a direction for preparing a cake, a dish of food, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
  10. to call one's attention by a movement of the hand or arm \_\_\_\_\_

### Task A-3

Read the following text carefully. As you read, think about the writer's different responses to the various views of the tomatoes growing in the garden.

## Transformed by Tomatoes

- 1 Spontaneity has never been my forte. As a 14-year-old, I would refuse to go for walks around the block with my friends if I was the least bit behind in my schoolwork. "You're just no fun," my friend Karen would tell me. Unlike most teenagers, I lived not in my room, but in an unused kitchen upstairs where I sprawled my books and papers on a large round table. I spent an inordinate amount of time there, working continuously for hours, and my mother worried. She would try to lure me away. "Come watch the parade!" she would yell from downstairs. "All our neighbors are out there!" She thought of all kinds of enticements — the swimming pool, ice cream, stray cats and turtles — to dislodge me from my studies, but nothing ever worked.
- 2 Later, in college, the pattern continued. The library and my college dorm replaced the unused kitchen at home. When spring came along, friends would stop by my dorm or peer into my library cubicle to persuade me to play Frisbee on the lawn outside the main building. "No," I would almost always say, "I have too much to do."

- 3 My college study days are gone, but not my need and love for schedules. They keep me focused. Justify my time. My friends and sisters try to pry me away from my plans in much the same way that my mom tried to coax me out of the kitchen, but they are hardly ever successful.
- 4 This summer, though, while house-sitting for my parents, I was persuaded to change my plans in the most unexpected way. The sight of tomatoes growing in my mother's garden lured me out of my tightly scheduled world. They drew me with the power of a lover's gaze.
- 5 Hundreds of them were turning ripe and red by the minute. Large beefsteak tomatoes hung heavily or dropped from their vines. Plum tomatoes, half-green, half-red and cherry tomatoes, too many to count, decorated the garden like ornaments on a Christmas tree. They begged for attention.
- 6 "If I have time, I'll make tomato sauce," I told myself. But my long week in the house by myself was already filled with things to do: writing, building my photography portfolio, and finishing a project that I brought home from the office.
- 7 Making tomato sauce was humdrum domestic work that did not contribute to my goals and, more important, wasn't scheduled.
- 8 But there they hung from their vines, dropping to the ground with muted thumps, beckoning me. I picked them and placed them in the baskets. I arranged them, adding string beans, peas, and purplish red onions that I pulled from the garden. I turned and moved the basket until the light in the sun room hit it just right.
- 9 I ate them for lunch and dinner. I gave them to friends. But they continued to fall to the ground in even greater numbers. "If I have time, I'll make sauce." I told myself one more time. And again I mentally argued about all the things I had planned and needed to do.



- 10 Finally, I gave in.
- 11 I picked up the recipe that I had scribbled down from a friend. “Simmer in a little bit of water with garlic and onions for two hours. Add sugar, oregano, basil, thyme, rosemary”, it read. I rummaged for twenty minutes in the kitchen cabinet and pulled out a huge white enamel pot. I washed the tomatoes, cutting away sections that were spoiled, and sliced and threw them into the pot. I swayed and jiggled the watery mixture as if I were panning for gold.
- 12 I tend to work in silence, but at that moment I said yes, spontaneously decided to turn on the stereo. I sang along with Billy Joel and reviewed a step I’d picked up in my swing-dance class. The tomatoes simmered, their aroma blending with the breeze coming in from the open windows.
- 13 The old voice returned. “You should be reading, doing stuff, ” it told me. So I lowered the volume but, instead of reading *The New York Times Sunday Magazine* as I had planned, I flipped through the furnishings and crafts in *Better Home & Garden*. It was one of those rare occasions when I ignored the crotchety old voice that spoiled my fun.
- 14 Something clicked inside me. I recalled the moment that could have been. I looked back on my college days when students crowded the front lawn. I wondered where I might have gone and what I might have done had I accepted more invitations to be among them. I thought of the conversations that I did not have, the people I never met.
- 15 As I sat in the sofa flipping through the magazine, I smiled that I didn’t listen to the voice that told me I was off schedule.

(807 words)