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大学英语统编系列教材

新编大学英语阅读教程 (1)

Extensive Reading

张晓昆 彭爱和 主 编



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新思维大学英语统编系列教材

新编大学英语阅读教程(1)

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编写说明

《大学英语课程教学要求》(试行)规定的大学英语阅读教学的目标有一般要求和较高要求。一般要求是: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、难度略低材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 100 词;能基本读懂国内英文报刊、掌握中心意思、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;能在阅读中使用有效的阅读方法。较高要求是:能基本读懂英语国家大众性报刊杂志的一般性题材的文章,阅读速度为每分钟 70 词。在快速阅读篇幅较长的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词;能就阅读材料进行略读或寻读;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。根据这一规定,我们组织了一些教学经验丰富的专家、教授编写了这套阅读教程。这套阅读教程也是新思维大学英语统编系列教材的一个重要组成部分。

编写中我们重点突出了如下思想:

1. 体现最新改革动向。最新大学英语教学改革突出了听说能力,同时提出了快速英语阅读和实用英语阅读要求。我们有意安排了报刊英语阅读和工作、生活中常见的应用文阅读。我们挑选的文章涉及人文、历史、地理、经济、科技、医疗、心理等内容。题型有选择题、简短回答题、翻译以及完成句子等。同时,文章内容都是学生们正在关心的和正在思考的现象和问题,而不是老师认为他们该知道和该了解的现象和问题,体现了趣味性和实用性。

2. 遵循循序渐进原则。无论是文章主题的难度和内容的深度,还是阅读理解各题型的难度都很好地体现了这一原则。

大学英语教学改革是一项长远而艰巨的任务,需要社会各种力量的配合和理解。希望我们的探索能够抛砖引玉,激发更优秀思想的产生。欢迎同行和专家批评指正。

新思维阅读教材编委会

2005 年 6 月

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Unit 1 Food Culture

Fast Reading

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Passage One

Eating in Canada

Food likes and dislikes vary from culture to culture. It can also be a source of intense (强烈的) personal prejudice. Canadians are generally considered to be conservative in their food tastes, but because of many different ethnic groups (民族) in Canada, they have also learned to appreciate many different kinds of cuisine (烹调, 烹饪). Actually, the ability to enjoy different kinds of food is highly regarded in Canada. A Canadian family may eat Italian food in one night, Chinese food in the next — then Greek or Japanese food. Eating in Canada will provide

you a good chance to enjoy various cuisines and get in touch with different cultures. Studying the cuisine of different cultures is not only fun, but also a valuable learning experience.

Canadians are often entertained by inviting people to dinner. It's customary to arrive on time at a dinner party and bring along a bottle of wine or a small impersonal gift, such as flowers or candies. Food is not brought unless especially asked for by the host, for example, at a potluck dinner (家常便饭). As a general rule, everybody contributes some food to a potluck.

Some meals may include appetizers, soups or salads before the main course. A typical main course includes meat, fish, potatoes, rice, or one or two vegetables. Dessert is usually served with coffee or tea at the end of the meal. Sometimes a dinner is served as a buffet (自助餐): people then serve themselves from a table that is set up of a variety of foods.

To show that you enjoyed a meal, it is polite to compliment (称赞) the quality of the food. The hostess often feels happy if you are interested in the recipe (烹饪法) of a certain dish. Be sure to accept a second helping if you like the food and are not full; a Canadian host will usually offer it only once. In some other countries, however, it is polite to refuse up to three times before accepting a second helping.

(from New Practical English)

■ | Content Awareness

1. Choose the best answer to each question based on the information from the passage.

- ① Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
- A) Different nations and ethnic groups have their own typical foods.
 - B) There is one food which is accepted by all the nations.
 - C) Food can also be a source of extense personal prejudice.
 - D) Canadians have a low opinion of people who have the ability to enjoy different kinds of foods.
- ② It's _____ for a guest to arrive on time at a dinner party and to bring along some small gift.
- A) polite
 - B) impolite
 - C) surprising
 - D) rude
- ③ Which of the following statements is NOT true according to the passage?
- A) It's possible for a Canadian family to enjoy food from different countries.
 - B) Eating in Canada will provide you a good chance to enjoy various cuisines and get in touch with different cultures.
 - C) Canadians prefer Italian food to Japanese food.
 - D) Studying the cuisine of different cultures is not only fun, but also a valuable learning experience.
- ④ Canadians have learned to appreciate many different kinds of cuisine because _____.
- A) they are generally considered to be conservative in their food tastes.
 - B) there are many different ethnic groups in Canada.
 - C) they do not like their traditional food.
 - D) they are often entertained by inviting people to dinner.
- ⑤ Which of the following sentences about potluck is true?

- A) It refers to people who are lucky enough to have a certain potluck.
- B) It refers to the way that people sit around to eat food from one potluck.
- C) A potluck dinner means that you don't have to bring food to dinner.
- D) It's a party-like dinner that everyone can bring food and share different food together.

2. Complete the following sentences.

- ① It's _____ to give people gifts on their birthday.
- ② Although Asian countries are generally more _____ in social customs than Western countries, there have been several notable examples of women leaders in both China and India.
- ③ David _____ Mary on her new job.
- ④ In the _____, it says that I must use two eggs.
- ⑤ Features such as height, weight, and skin color _____ from individual to individual and from face to face.

Careful Reading

■ Passage Two

What does Coffee Means to the French

As a French proverb goes, "un jour sans fromage, c'est comme un jour sans soleil." This literally means that for a Frenchman, a day without cheese is a day without sunshine. In my view, however, life would be far worse if some day French people would have dispensed with (免除, 省却) coffee. For them, coffee is not merely a beverage; it carries abundant cultural implications. Look at the coffee houses scattered across France, and you will see this is perfectly true.

Imagining yourself visiting the country as a tourist. You are perhaps walking down the

glamorous(富有魅力的,迷人的), crowded Champs-Elysees Avenue(爱丽舍大街) or on the beach of the blue Mediterranean Sea, or you may wander along a quiet and secluded(隐蔽的) road in a provincial town. Then you will find cafes everywhere — cafes which look imposing, or refined, or even a bit "crude". Why not dive into one of them and sit for a moment there? You would love the atmosphere of warmth surrounding you. Once a local agency surveyed a number of foreign tourists. When asked what in Paris they found most impressive, many of the tourists did not mention such famous places as the Louvre Palace or the Eiffel Tower. Instead, they expressed their admiration for the cafes dotting the city's streets and lanes¹. Someone aptly(适当地, 适宜地) compared cafes to a buttressing (支撑) system of France, saying that if those were demolished, the entire country would fall to pieces. "If cafes were gone, Paris would become too boring", observed Xu Zhimo, a prominent modern Chinese writer, after traveling to that country.

During my stay in France, I was fully occupied with my studies². To pay my education fees, I took on several odd jobs and struggled under the constant pressure of time. The single precious moment I could ever look forward to was when, on a sunny day after lunch, I sauntered(闲逛, 漫步) to an open-air roadside café on the pedestrian street. I would allow myself to sit down, order a steaming cup of coffee, and at the same time glance toward the sunlight-flooded street casually. While savoring the rich flavor of coffee, I would watch people come and go in a leisurely and carefree manner. Words can never describe what I then felt deep within.

The French have the exuberance(生气勃勃) of the Latin people in their blood. They are eloquent(雄辩的, 有口才的) and self-asserting(专断的). Throughout the medieval times, the royal palace remained the center of the country's political and cultural life. Salons, although initiated by the polite society, played a leading role in shaping the life of ordinary people and popular fashion. If the royal family and other noblemen endorsed(支持, 认可) elegant style and romantic love, the whole nation would gladly follow suit. For ordinary citizens, especially educated intellectuals, cafés carried out the communicative function of a salon.

French people do not go to a café only to drink. They go there primarily for relaxation. Everybody in the country loves socializing. Whenever there is a feast or a party, they just show

up and join in the fun. No wonder in any café, the waiter would seat the early-arrived customers at a table by the window, and light a candle for them. Soon after nightfall some passers-by, lured by the human figures framed in the flickering (闪烁摇曳的) candlelight³, may dive in as well to share the nice soothing (宽慰的) air inside the room.

It doesn't matter whether you are a learned scholar, a distraught (发狂的) man of letters (学者, 作家), an unrecognized artist, or a student freshly dismissed from school - just ask for a cup of coffee or some other drink, and you have a perfect space to relax yourself in. Should you want to discuss the schoolwork with your classmates or to exchange news and ideas with a few colleagues or friends, that's equally fine. Sometimes the café is like an asylum (庇护, 收容所), offering solace (安慰) to the lonely souls with nothing but big whole bunches of time to kill⁴. It is here that the notions of liberty, equality and fraternity (友爱, 互助) most vividly themselves. (786 words)

Words and Expressions

- ① **imposing**: 使人难忘的, 壮丽的
- ② **refined**: 精制的, 优雅的
- ③ **survey**: 调查
- ④ **crude**: 简陋的, 粗糙的
- ⑤ **scattered**: 分散的

Notes

- ① the cafés dotting the city's streets and lanes. 星罗棋布在街头巷尾的咖啡店。
- ② be fully occupied with one's studies. 一直忙于学业。
- ③ the human figures framed in the flickering candlelight. 闪烁的烛光中映现的人影。
- ④ the lonely souls with nothing but big whole bunches of time to kill. 除了大把的时间外再无其他可挥霍的孤独的心灵。

Reading Comprehension

3. Choose the best answer to each question based on the information from the passage.

① Which of the following facts about coffee is NOT true according to the passage?

- A) Coffee is not a mere beverage to the French.
- B) It carries plenty of cultural implications to the French.
- C) Few French people regard it as one of necessities of life.
- D) They like to dive into the warm atmosphere with coffee flavor.

② What is the most impressive thing for foreign tourists in Paris?

- A) The Louvre Palace.
- B) Cafes.
- C) The Eiffel Tower.
- D) The Champs-Elysees Avenue.

③ What plays a leading role in shaping the life of ordinary people and popular fashion according to the author?

- A) Salons.
- B) Royal palace.
- C) Champs-Elysees Avenue.
- D) Asylum.

④ What people mentioned in the passage enjoy the atmosphere of cafes?

- A) Learned scholars.
- B) Distraught men of letters.
- C) Unrecognized artists.
- D) All of the above.

⑤ Xu Zhimo once said, "If _____ were gone, Paris would become too boring."

- A) fashion
- B) beauties

- C) cafes
- D) magazines

4. Answer the following questions according to the passage.

- ① What does the French proverb "un jour sans fromage, c'est comme un jour sans soleil" mean?

- ② Why did someone say that if cafes were demolished, the entire country would fall into pieces?

- ③ The author was very busy when in Paris, how did he spend his limited spare time?

- ④ Are salons important or not in French people's life, why?

- ⑤ Through the description of cafes what can we learn from French culture?

■ Language Focus

5. Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Make changes where necessary.

literally dot dismiss relaxation reveal figure
abundant flavor offer lure salon description

- ① Please translate the Greek passage _____.
- ② He is _____ a child, so don't ask for too much.
- ③ Behind the forest there is a region _____ in wildlife.
- ④ Campfires, like red, peculiar blossoms, _____ the night.

- ⑤ The principle _____ the student after punishing him.
- ⑥ Industry often seeks to _____ scientists from universities by offering them huge salaries.
- ⑦ I hate people who _____ the end of a film that you haven't seen before.
- ⑧ I saw _____ dashing down the street.

6. Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Make changes where necessary.

.....

dive into compare to occupy with show up

in one's view prefer to play a role

.....

- ① As soon as he went to school, he _____ the hard working atmosphere.
- ② He _____ himself _____ sculpting.
- ③ Scientists sometimes _____ the human brain _____ a computer .
- ④ He waited outside the cinema for an hour, but his girlfriend didn't _____ .
- ⑤ _____, aid to the rebels should be suspended.

■ | Passage Three

A Foreigner Encounters Chinese Food Culture

I first began to learn Chinese ten years ago from a cheerful middle-aged visiting scholar from Sichuan, who was living at the time in my apartment building in Boston. He was a great talker, and often our lessons would turn into lengthy digressions on various aspects of Chinese culture. The very first two Chinese characters he taught me to write were the characters in the word for "population", *renkou*. I vividly remember that he pointed to the characters on the page and said, "You see, people-mouths. Since China has a billion people to feed, this word naturally picks out the mouth as the most important part. And this can give you an important clue to the Chinese personality: Food is never far from our minds."

As I came to know more about China and Chinese people over the next few years, I found that his observation was indeed accurate; Chinese people not only think a lot of food, but they are also virtually obsessed(迷住, 困扰)with it. The result is that Chinese culture is often characterized as a *shi wenhua*, "food culture". Chinese people do not kid around when it comes to food.

My first direct exposure to this aspect of China came when I attended a Chinese banquet during a trip to Beijing in 1988. In the United States I had eaten Chinese food often, but I could not have imagined how fabulous and extravagant(奢侈的, 过分的)a real Chinese banquet could be.

The first six or seven dishes seemed to fill the table to overflowing, with plates precariously(不稳定的)wedged one on top of another. With my American-bred expectations¹, I assumed this vast first wave of food was surely the total number of dishes to be served, and I dug in greedily, dazzled by the variety and sheer quantity. The Chinese guests around me, however, had a different reaction. They seemed merely to take a bite or two of each dish and then put their chopsticks down, continuing to chat. "They must not be very hungry," I thought with a shrug, and continued my feast.

To my surprise, more dishes soon were piled on top of the already mountainous stack. Plus two or three soups, side dishes(正菜外的附加菜), desserts, and delicacies(佳肴)of various kinds, all seemingly enough to feed the entire People's Liberation Army. No wonder my fellow guests had merely sampled a few bites of each dish; they knew very well that these first few items were just the tip of a titanic culinary iceberg². I, however, was so stuffed after the first fifteen minutes that I could only watch in a bloated(发胀的) stupor(昏迷) as the remainder of the banquet took its course.

Years later, I still am not accustomed to this aspect of dining out in China, and it also seems from my American perspective that Chinese people have an implicit(固有的)rule of ordering at least one dish too many. "Enough" is never "enough". The wastefulness of this practice has been criticized in China recently, and some advocate ordering more sensible quantities, or at least taking the leftovers home in a "doggie bag", but there remains a deeply-ingrained(根深蒂固的)tendency on the part of a host to provide much more than the guests could possibly eat.

This is not the case in America, of course, and the difference can be very striking. I was interested to read a Chinese newspaper article several years ago about a Chinese delegation that attended an official State dinner hosted by the White House. The complete menu for the dinner was included in the newspaper article for the amusement of readers — it was a typical White House banquet menu, featuring only one main meat dish, a couple of haute cuisine (高级烹饪) vegetable dishes, a fancy dessert and coffee. The paper's editors clearly viewed such an offering as rather laughable, almost a ridiculous joke. This official dinner, hosted at the very seat of the American government, would have been considered an insult in the Chinese context, where such a minuscule meal would be perceived as the equivalent of a midnight snack!³

While there was no indication that this particular event led to anything but mild amusement on part of the Chinese delegation, this difference in attitudes towards food can occasionally lead to more serious cultural misunderstandings. During the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta, the Chinese Olympic team felt that the food they were being served was so abysmal (极糟的) that it must have been a deliberate attempt on the part of the Americans to sabotage (破坏, 妨害) the Chinese team's chances of winning. Their suspicion must have seemed reasonable to them. After all, isn't America one of the richest nations on earth? Surely the food must be at least as plentiful and palatable as it is in China. How could the food given to the athletes at such an important sports event be so (by their standards) awful? Many Americans, on the other hand, were genuinely puzzled by the complaints of the PRC athletes. Some even considered the Chinese team to be merely childish whiners (啜泣者). After all, Americans eat American food all the time and seem to do perfectly well: Could the food really be so bad as that? Of course, the Chinese, accustomed to being routinely fed in the splendiferous Chinese manner, were so disappointed and even dis—gusted with the routine American food — or the American version of Chinese food — that they even threatened not to participate in the games.

(982 words)

Words and Expressions

- ① *complaint*: 诉苦, 抱怨
- ② *pick out*: 挑选
- ③ *virtually*: 事实上, 实质上
- ④ *fabulous*: 惊人的, 难以置信的
- ⑤ *equivalent*: 等价物; 相当的