



高等学校教材

COLLEGE ENGLISH

大学英语

快速阅读

FAST
READING



SHANGHAI FOREIGN
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大学英语

快速阅读

(预备二级)

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前 言

本教材是按照国家教委批准的《大学英语教学大纲(理工科本科用)》和《大学英语教学大纲(文理科本科用)》所规定的对预备级的要求而编写的。供大学英语预备级学生使用。

本教材旨在培养学生的阅读能力和速度,使他们尽快掌握快速阅读的基本技巧,为进入一级的学习打好阅读基础。

本教材的文章均选自英、美原著。有些文章略经删改,以适合预备级学生的实际水平。文章语言规范,题材和体裁多样,知识性和趣味性并重。

本教材共两册(预备一级和预备二级),每册各包括 30 篇文章,共 60 篇。每篇文章配有 5 至 10 个多项选择练习。篇幅跨度为 70 至 250 词左右,新词控制在 2%—3% 之内。篇幅长度、文章难易和练习数量均按循序渐进的原则编排,并力求与一级《快速阅读》教材相衔接,这样的编排为教师提供了较为充分的选择余地。教师可以根据学生实际水平和教学进度,使用全部或部分文章。

快速阅读的教学活动应在课内进行,每次使用一至二篇。

使用本教材时,请注意以下几点:

1. 为便于教学,本教材印成活页,由教师保管,使用前分发,不要求学生预习。
2. 学生阅读时,不可查阅词典。阅读后即做练习。阅读

和做练习的时间约十分钟。

3. 教师收回练习,予以批改并记录成绩。

本书为快速阅读预备二级(CEST-II),本教材由北京师范大学大学英语部李光荣,吕玉明同志编写。陆维藩副教授审阅。

由于编者的水平和经验有限,我们热诚欢迎广大读者对本教材提出批评和建议。

编者

1990.3.

SUB-BAND II

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FAST READING CESB II

1. Cherry Trees in Japan

At the southern part of Japan, cherry trees burst into bloom at the end of March. Later they begin to bloom in other parts of the country — first on the southern and then on the northern islands.

Most cherry trees in Japan are of the “Somei-Yoshino” type, known for its brief blooming period. The pink blossoms last ten days at the most. They cover the whole tree with their beauty. But even a soft light wind will shake them from the branches. At times, cherry trees are struck by storms. Then the blooms fall quickly to the ground to form a wet carpet of flowers.

The people of Japan, who have a great feeling for beauty, love the cherry blossoms. It is with a sense of sadness that they watch them fall.

137 words

FAST READING CESB II

1. Cherry Trees in Japan

Comprehension exercise

1. The first paragraph suggests that _____.
 - a. Japan's cherry trees grow on hills
 - b. Japan's cherry trees bloom every year
 - c. Japan is made up of several islands
 - d. both b and c

2. Northern Japanese cherry trees bloom _____.
 - a. during February
 - b. during March
 - c. at the end of March
 - d. after the end of March

3. In Japan most cherry trees are _____.
 - a. of the same type
 - b. planted by the young people
 - c. on the northern islands
 - d. for the use of the emperor

4. The blossoms last for _____.
 - a. three days
 - b. five days
 - c. longer than a week

- d. longer than a month
5. According to the article, many of the blossoms fall because of _____.
a. rain
b. wind
c. birds
d. sunlight
6. The main idea of the second paragraph is that Japanese cherry blossoms _____.
a. are the favorite flower of Japan
b. have a short lifetime
c. cover the whole cherry tree
d. may be destroyed by rain
7. When the blossoms fall, the Japanese feel sorry because they _____.
a. hate to see such beauty end
b. know there will be no cherries
c. feel this is a sign of bad luck
d. know winter is near

2. Taking Pictures

Taking pictures is fun. And taking good ones is easy if you follow a few simple rules. Before you take a picture, think about it. Be sure you are close enough to your subject. A pretty face against a plain background, for instance, makes a good picture. But a distant figure lost among trees and clouds has no interest. In a landscape scene, try to keep at least two-thirds of the picture below the line where the ground meets the sky. For a sky scene, keep at least two-thirds of the picture above that line.

Study pictures in newspapers and books. Try to see why some are better than others. Use what you learn to improve your own pictures.

122 words

FAST READING CESB II

2. Taking Pictures

Comprehension exercise

1. This article gives some _____.
 - a. reasons for taking pictures
 - b. differences between still and moving pictures
 - c. ideas for interesting hobbies
 - d. suggestions for taking pictures

2. The writer talks mostly about pictures taken _____.
 - a. outdoors
 - b. by moonlight
 - c. in color
 - d. for newspapers

3. In the first example, the subject was probably a _____.
 - a. car
 - b. girl
 - c. tree
 - d. cloud

4. The subject of a picture should usually look _____.
 - a. close
 - b. small
 - c. pretty

- d. shiny
5. In a landscape scene two-thirds of the picture should be _____.
- a. sky
 - b. clouds
 - c. land
 - d. sea
6. You can improve your pictures by _____.
- a. thinking about them before you take them
 - b. studying pictures in newspapers and books
 - c. taking them as quickly as you can
 - d. both a and b
7. The writer does NOT say anything about _____.
- a. following rules
 - b. getting close to your subject
 - c. caring for your camera
 - d. taking pictures of sky scenes

3. The Rain Dance

The land was dry. The Indians looked at the sky. There were no clouds. "We must have rain," the Indians said. So they danced a rain dance. They thought this would bring rain. They danced with snakes. Then they let the snakes go. "Go back into the ground," they said to the snakes. "Tell the gods to make the rain come."

Can men make rain fall? Sometimes. But a rain dance will not bring rain. Today, to make rain, a man goes up in his airplane. He takes some dry ice with him. He spreads the dry ice on the clouds. This is called seeding the clouds. Drops of water in the clouds become ice. The ice melts and makes big rain drops.

Seeding clouds does not always make the rain fall. Rain falls only if the clouds are big and full of water.

144 words

FAST READING CESB II

3. The Rain Dance

Comprehension exercise

1. The Indians thought they could get rain by _____.
 - a. seeding the clouds
 - b. melting ice
 - c. looking at the sky
 - d. dancing with snakes

2. Will a rain dance really bring rain?
 - a. Yes, it will.
 - b. No, never.
 - c. Sometimes it will.
 - d. Perhaps it will.

3. The word "melts" in the passage means _____.
 - a. becomes heavy
 - b. becomes solid
 - c. becomes liquid
 - d. becomes gaseous

4. According to the passage "seeding the clouds" means _____.
 - a. spreading seeds on the clouds
 - b. spreading dry ice on the clouds