

大学英语系列教材

新编

大学英语阅读教程

New College English Reading
Book I

—基础篇

总主编 傅勇林

副总主编 唐跃勤 欣 羚

主 编 张 春 王 欢



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第二版

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主编 曹德明
副主编 曹德明 曹 颖
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主 编 张 春 王 欢

副主编 李 真 谭 杰 魏兴才

编 者 高朝阳 惠艳妮 冉明志

孙 琪 钟雪文 钟 焱 陈晓红



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反盗版举报电话：(010)58581897/58581896/58581879

传 真：(010)82086060

E - mail：dd@hep.com.cn

通信地址：北京市西城区德外大街4号

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《新编大学英语阅读教程》是一套以教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》为指导、紧扣大学英语四级机考新题型编写而成的系列阅读教材。全书通过让学生熟悉新题型中的相关语言材料,掌握新题型涉及的词汇,使学生在逐步提高阅读能力及应用能力的同时,适应新题型中的听力测试内容。本套教材适用于各类高校的大学一至四年级学生,适合作为课堂教材或自学材料。

本套教材内容丰富、题材广泛、语言规范、词汇丰富、表达地道并具有启迪意义,力求集可读性、趣味性、实用性、多元性、时代性为一体,帮助学生开阔视野,积累背景知识,提高学习兴趣,从而进一步提升英语阅读能力。

本套教材的编写在总体目标、语言项目、词汇范围和练习方式的编排上按照四级机考新题型要求。全套教材共分四册(基础篇、进阶篇、提高篇和高级篇),通过一至四册的学习,逐步达到大学英语四级考试水平要求。教材每册15个单元,每单元由一篇快速阅读、两篇深度阅读、一篇美文欣赏组成。快速阅读部分旨在培养学生在快速浏览文章的同时,能够迅速准确地抓住文章主要信息,明了作者意图,从而提高学生四级新题型的快速阅读能力。深度阅读部分注重培养学生对文章深层含意的理解,培养学生分析问题和解决问题的能力,提高学生逻辑推理能力。快速阅读和深度阅读均配有与四级考试新题型相关的练习,并附有答案及详解,使学生学练结合,稳固提升英语阅读能力及应用能力。美文欣赏部分则精选适宜学生诵读并且模仿运用的短文名篇,所选篇章语言优美、描述生动、含意深刻、易于背诵,培养学生的语感和对美文的欣赏能力,使学生体会英语文章的精妙所在,提高学生的学习

兴趣。

本教材对各种类型的阅读文章篇幅均有适当控制,如快速阅读基础篇为 500~700 词,进阶篇为 700~900 词,提高篇为 900~1100 词,高级篇为 1100~1200 词;深度阅读基础篇和进阶篇为在 300 词左右,提高篇和高级篇为 400 词左右;美文欣赏基础篇为 100 词左右,进阶篇在 150~260 词左右,提高篇和高级篇在 300 词左右。同时,每篇阅读的生词量控制在 4%~5% 范围内,这既能扩大学生词汇量,又不使学生感到艰深难懂,降低学习兴趣。

参加《新编大学英语阅读教程》编写的单位有:西南交通大学、四川农业大学、四川理工学院和攀枝花学院。本教材的总主编是西南交通大学的傅勇林教授,副总主编是西南交通大学的唐跃勤教授和欣玲副教授。第一册主编是攀枝花学院的张春教授;第二册主编是四川理工学院的夏宏钟教授;第三册主编是四川农业大学的李清源教授;第四册主编是西南交通大学的易红副教授。参加编写人员还有上述大学的多位资深教授和中青年骨干教师,在此谨表示感谢。

由于编者的水平有限,错误和缺点在所难免,衷心欢迎广大读者批评指正。

编者

2009 年 7 月

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Unit One

Part | Skimming and Scanning

Grooming and Personal Hygiene of Americans

Grooming(仪容) and personal hygiene(个人卫生) have been around for ages. It's hard to imagine a time when people weren't concerned with taking care of their appearance and their bodies. Perhaps these practices started when Adam(亚当) first took a bath and combed his hair before going on a date with Eve. Or maybe they began when Eve(夏娃) put on some herbal makeup to make herself more beautiful. No matter where they started, grooming and personal hygiene have become an important part of everyone's daily routine.

You might think that all modern societies would have the same grooming and personal hygiene practices. After all, doesn't everybody take baths? Most people do recognize the need for hygiene, which is the basis for health and a good way to keep one's friends. Grooming practices include all the little things people do to make themselves look their best, such as combing their hair and putting on makeup. However, while most modern people agree that these things are important, people in different cultures take care of themselves in different ways.

There used to be an old joke in America that people should take a bath once a week, whether they need one or not. In fact, though, Americans generally take a

bath—or more commonly, a shower—every day. But in contrast to some cultures, most Americans get their shower in the morning, so they can start the day fresh. And instead of going to a beauty parlor(美容院) for a shampoo(洗头), many Americans prefer to wash and style their own hair. So if Americans have a “bad hair day,” they have no one to blame but themselves. But most people in America do head in the beauty parlor or barber shop(理发厅) occasionally for a haircut, a perm(烫头发) or just some friendly conversation.

Americans are known for having very sensitive noses. In America, “B. O. (body odor)” is socially unacceptable. For that reason, Americans consider the use of deodorant(除味剂) or anti perspirant(止汗剂) a must. Ladies often add a touch of perfume for an extra fresh scent. Men may splash on after-shave lotion or cologne. Another cultural no-no in America is bad breath. Americans don't like to smell what other people ate for lunch — especially onions or garlic. Their solution? Mouthwash, breath mints(薄荷糖) and even brushing their teeth after meals.

Some of the cultural variations in grooming practices result from physical differences between races. Whereas many Asian men have little facial hair, Westerners have a lot. As a result, most American men spend some time each day shaving or grooming their facial hair. Beards and mustaches are common sights in America, although their popularity changes from generation to generation. Most American men who wear facial hair try to keep it nicely trimmed(修剪).

Americans put great value on both grooming and personal hygiene. For some people, taking care of themselves has become almost a religion. As the old saying goes, “Cleanliness is next to godliness.” Whether or not being clean and well-groomed brings one closer to God, it certainly brings one closer to others. Americans look down upon people who don't take care of themselves, or who “let themselves go.” To Americans, even if we don't have much to work with, we have to make the best of what we've got.

(564 words)

Directions: Go over the passage quickly and answer the following questions.

For questions 1 ~ 5, mark

Y for YES, if the statement agrees with the information;

N for NO, if the statement contradicts the information;

NG for NOT GIVEN, if there is no information on this in the text.

1. _____ Everybody has the same grooming and personal hygiene practices.
2. _____ Most Americans get their shower in the evening to release their fatigue.
3. _____ In America, body odor and bad breath are socially unacceptable.
4. _____ It's not common for Americans to keep beards and mustaches.
5. _____ Grooming and personal hygiene make us closer.

Part II Reading in Depth

Directions: There are 2 passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished statements. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C, and D. You should decide on the best choice.

Passage 1

Friendship is one of the basic bonds between human beings. While the characteristics of friendship might vary from one country to another, people from all cultures not only enjoy friends but need them.

Many studies have shown that teenagers who have no friends often suffer from psychological disorders. It has been shown that teenagers, perhaps more than any other age group, need companionship and a sense of belonging. The negative consequences of loneliness have also been observed among the elderly. The death of a spouse often leaves a widow or a widower totally bereft. If, however, they are surrounded by friends and relatives and if they are able to articulate their feelings,

they are more likely to recover from their grief.

“No man is an island.” In other words, we are all parts of society. We all need the love, admiration, respect and moral support of other people. If we are fortunate, our friends will provide us with all of these necessary aspects of life.

As most people observe, there are many levels of friendship. The degree or intensity of friendship varies depending on the personality of the individuals involved and the context of the relationships. Extroverts enjoy being surrounded by many people whereas introverts are perhaps content with fewer but more intense friendships.

Everyone is not equally open with all their friends. The degree of intimacy is determined by many factors. Close friends can be formed at any stage in one's life but they are usually very rare. Not very many people have more than a few really close friends. Irrespective of the level of intimacy, all friendships are based on reciprocity, honesty and a certain amount of love and affection.

1. The second paragraph implies that _____.
 - A. teenagers without friends will suffer from psychological problems
 - B. a widow or a widower will die very soon without companionship
 - C. human beings need companionship and a sense of belonging
 - D. both A and B
2. “No man is an island” (Para. 3) implies that _____.
 - A. everyone is a part of an island
 - B. man cannot be an island
 - C. everyone is just a part of society
 - D. society is an island
3. The degree of intimacy of friendship mainly depends on _____.
 - A. age
 - B. belonging
 - C. personality
 - D. culture
4. The author thinks that close friends _____.

- A. can be easily formed when one is young
 - B. can not be long lasting
 - C. are not rare for everyone
 - D. are rare for most people
5. The word “irrespective” (Last Sentence, Para. 5) means _____.
- A. not respecting
 - B. dishonoring
 - C. regardless
 - D. considering

Passage 2

Telephone, television, radio, and telegraph all help people communicate with each other. Because of these devices, ideas and news of events spread quickly all over the world. For example, within seconds, people can know the results of an election in another country. An international football match comes into the homes of everyone with a television set. News of a disaster such as an earthquake or a flood can bring help from distant countries within hours, help is on the way. Because of modern technology like the satellites that travel around the world, information travels fast.

How has this speed of communication changed the world? To many people, the world has become smaller. Of course this does not mean that the world is actually physically smaller. It means that the world seems smaller. Two hundred years ago, communication between the continents took a long time. All news was carried on ships that took weeks or even months to cross the ocean. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, it took six weeks for news from Europe to reach America. This time difference influenced people’s actions. For example, one battle, or fight, in the War of 1812 between England and the United States could have been avoided. A peace agreement had already been signed. Peace was made in England, but the news of peace took six weeks to reach America. During these six weeks, the large and serious Battle of New Orleans was fought. Many people lost their lives after a peace treaty had been signed. They would not have died if

news had come in time. In the past, communication took much more time than it does now.

There was a good reason why the world seemed so much larger than it does today.

1. News spreads fast because of _____.
 - A. modern transportation
 - B. new technology
 - C. the change of the world
 - D. a peace agreement
2. According to this passage, _____ is very important to people in a disaster area.
 - A. fast communication
 - B. modern technology
 - C. the latest news
 - D. new ideas
3. Which of the following statements is true?
 - A. The world now seems smaller because of faster communication.
 - B. The world is actually smaller today.
 - C. The world is changing its size.
 - D. The distance between England and America has changed since the War of 1812.
4. Two hundred years ago, news between the continents was carried _____.
 - A. by telephone and telegraph
 - B. by land
 - C. by air
 - D. by sea
5. The New Orleans Battle could have been avoided if the peace agreement had been signed _____.
 - A. by both sides
 - B. in time