



大学士英语专业教材系列辅导

A GUIDE TO CONTEMPORARY COLLEGE ENGLISH

现代大学英语 标准同步辅导

✿ 总主编 徐 珺

精 读

6

✿ 主 编 金贞实

大连海事大学出版社

A Guide to Contemporary College English

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前言

《现代大学英语(精读)》(外语教学与研究出版社出版)是由北京外国语大学英语系编写的一套供大学英语专业学生使用的精读教材。在使用过程中,广大师生普遍反映起点高、难度大。为了帮助广大师生及英语自学者更好地学习和理解这套教材,我们组织多所高校具有丰富教学经验的教师精心编写了这套《现代大学英语标准同步辅导》(精读 1-6 册)。

本套书的编写是在透彻理解和准确把握教育部最新颁布的《高校英语专业教学大纲》和《高校英语专业四、六级考试大纲》精神的基础上进行的,全套书力求全方位、多角度、大容量地诠释《现代大学英语》教材的词汇、句型、课文、练习等内容。本套书讲解细致、透彻、准确,设计科学、合理,使用方便,助考得力。

本套书与教材同步,每课包括以下五部分:

一、课文导读

(一) 内容梗概:从全局的角度简洁概述课文大意,剖析作者的观点和写作目的,以帮助学生学习和理解课文。

(二) 背景知识:介绍与课文相关的典型背景知识,帮助学生透过语言材料了解与课文有关的人物、事件、地理、文化、政治、社会等知识,拓展知识面。

二、词汇与短语

(一) 词汇:注有音标、词性、英汉释义、重要词语的同义词、反义词、派生词,以帮助学生更好地理解词义。对于重要词汇列出其常用的词义,并在每个义项后配以例句及译文。

(二) 短语:对课文中出现的重要短语给以英汉释义及例句,以帮助学生加深对短语要点的理解。

三、课文注释

对课文中出现的语言要点加以英汉解释;对典型语言点加以归纳总结;对语言理论加以简洁、实效地介绍;对难句加以结构分析,解决对语言背景、修辞手段、写作意图、写作风格等理解的问题。

四、课文译文

给出课文的参考译文,便于学生理解课文,认清结构,明确主题,从中学到语言知识,提高理解与运用的能力。

五、练习答案及详解

对阅读理解、词汇、语法等进行准确地详解、总结及示例,帮助学生准确掌握知识,突破难点。

我们相信,本套书对学生准确把握教材内容,提高自身英语素养并顺利通过英语专业四、八级考试会大有裨益,希望本套书能成为广大师生的良师益友,也希望广大读者提出宝贵的意见和建议。

编者
2009. 6

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Lesson One

How to Get the Poor off Our Conscience

一、课文导读

(一) 内容梗概

约翰·肯尼思·高伯瑞是美国著名的经济学家、多产的畅销作家。他以犀利、睿智的眼光洞悉美国政坛的瑕疵,有预见性地警示经济运作中潜在的危机,以其独特的方式把复杂、枯燥的经济领域问题介绍给普通的读者。1958年发表的《富庶的社会》是他最著名的作品之一。

本文《怎样不为穷人的存在感到内疚》发表于1985年 *Harper's* 杂志。文章看似作者试图与哲学家和经济学家们共同为“我们”——上层社会的富人,寻找一种既不用帮助穷人又不感到内疚的良方,但作者的真实意图是以批驳的方式,提出本文的论点,即唯一的良方是“使穷人满意”,而这也符合富人的根本利益,符合保守者保持社会稳定的愿望。

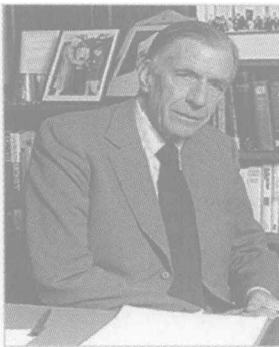
作者在文中首先批判性地回顾了历史上5种如何不为穷人的存在而内疚的方案,简要地对罗斯福以及其后的总统采取的福利政策给予充分的肯定,然后过渡到里根执政时期。作者对当时的5种最新方案逐一进行了驳斥,指出其实质与历史上的方案一脉相承,鲜明地表明了对里根经济政策,即降低税收、削减福利开支、增加军备投入等所持的否定态度。

本文充分体现了高伯瑞一贯的写作风格,独具洞察力和说服力。他运用反讽技巧娴熟,既有幽默的讽刺,又有辛辣的挖苦,值得我们学习和借鉴。

(二) 背景知识

1. John Kenneth Galbraith (1908-2006)

John Kenneth Galbraith was born on Oct. 15, 1908 in Ontario. His first degree was earned in his home province, and then, turning to the United States to continue with his studies, he was to eventually receive a Ph.D. in 1934 from the University of California. Galbraith was to teach at both California and Princeton before joining the faculty at Harvard in 1948. During WWII he was in charge of wartime price control. During the Kennedy years he was an ambassador to India. In 2000, he received the Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton. He was among the world's most widely



read economists.

Galbraith's major works include *The Great Crash* (1955), *The Affluent Society* (1958), *The New Industrial State* (1967), *The Good Society* (1996), *The Economics of Innocent Fraud* (2004).

2. Ronald Reagan (1911-2004)

Ronald Wilson Reagan was the fortieth President of the United States (1981-1989) and the thirty-third Governor of California (1967-1975). Born in Illinois, Reagan moved to Los Angeles, California in the 1930s, where he was an actor, (appearing in 53 films in the next two decades) president of the Screen Actors Guild (SAG), and a spokesman for General Electric (GE). Originally a member of the Democratic Party, he switched to the Republican Party in 1962, at the age of 51. In 1966 he was elected Governor of California and was re-elected in 1970. He was defeated in his run for the Republican presidential nomination in 1968 as well as 1976, but won both the nomination and election in 1980. He was reelected in a landslide in 1984, winning 49 of 50 states. To date, Reagan is the oldest man elected to the office of the presidency.

Reagan left office in 1989. In 1994 the former president disclosed that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease earlier in the year and died ten years later at the age of ninety-three. He ranks highly among former U.S. presidents in terms of approval rating.

3. Supply-side Economics

The economist Arthur Laffer argued that cutting taxes for the businesses and wealthier quarter of American citizens would encourage spending and put more money into the economy as a whole. The money in turn would then eventually "trickle down" or find its way into the middle and poorer classes of Americans making everyone better off. Laffer's theory was generally referred to as supply-side economic theory or, more colloquially, Reaganomics, because Reagan promoted the policies. Many economists doubted that tax cuts for the wealthy would ever generate spending let alone a trickle-down effect.

Reagan's economic policies were based on Laffer's theory. Some of Reagan's fundamental principles are: lower taxes to stimulate the economy, less government interference in peoples' lives, states' rights, and a strong national defense. Reagan cut funding from many social welfare programs and reduced tax rates. During his two terms he increased defense spending 35 percent.



二、词汇与短语

(一) 词汇

① aberration /,æbə'reɪʃən/ *n.*

something that is not normal or not what you would usually expect 反常; 异常; 偏离

—a genetic/mental aberration 基因畸变/精神失常



—He dismissed the defeat as a temporary aberration. 他把这次失败看做是暂时的失常,不再去想它。

- ② **admirable** /'ædmərəbəl/ *adj.*
deserving to be admired or respected; excellent 令人钦佩的;极好的
—an admirable objective 令人钦佩的目标
—He came up with an admirable idea. 他想出了一个绝妙的主意。
- ③ **adverse** /'ædvɜ:s/ *adj.*
negative, unpleasant, or harmful 不利的;有害的
—adverse reactions to drug 药物不良反应
—adverse wind/fortune/weather conditions 逆风/厄运/不利的天气条件
- ④ **affluence** /'æfluəns/ *n.*
the state of having a lot of money or a high standard of living 富裕
【同义】wealth; prosperity
—America is a country of great affluence. 美国是富裕的国家。
- ⑤ **ailment** /'eɪlmənt/ *n.*
a slight but often persistent illness 小病;微恙
—economic ailment 经济失调
—trifling ailments 轻症;微症
- ⑥ **allegation** /,æli'geɪʃən/ *n.*
(often plural) a statement that someone has done something wrong or illegal even though this has not been proved (常用复数)(有待证实的)指责;指控
—deny allegations 否认指控
—make allegations against/about sb. 对...提出指控
—There were allegations that the film encouraged violence. 有人指责这部电影怂恿暴力。
- ⑦ **amelioration** /ə'mi:lɪə'reɪʃən/ *n.*
improvement 改善;改进
【反义】deterioration
—a demand for amelioration of conditions 改善条件的要求
- ⑧ **augment** /ɔ:g'mənt/ *v.*
to make or become greater in number, amount, strength, etc. 增加;增大
【同义】increase; enlarge
—to augment one's income by hard working 靠努力工作增加收入
- ⑨ **bureaucracy** /bjʊə'rɒkrəsi/ *n.*
1) a system of government through departments managed by State officials, not by elected representatives 官僚制度;官僚体制
2) a country having such a system 实行官僚制度的国家
3) officials appointed to manage such a system, as a group 官僚(总称)
- ⑩ **case** /keɪs/ *n.*
1) a set of arguments supporting a particular action, cause, etc. 事实;根据
—There is a strong case for government intervention. 政府干预有充足的理由。
2) an instance or example of something 事例;实例
—a typical case 典型事例
—a bad case of food poisoning 严重的食物中毒病例



3) a legal matter that will be decided in a court; lawsuit (诉讼)案件;官司

—He was confident that the case against him would be dropped. 他深信对他的起诉最终会被撤回。

11 compassion /kəm'pæʃən/ *n.*

a feeling of sympathy and caring for someone who is in a bad situation 同情;怜悯

【同义】mercy; sympathy 【反义】cruelty

—They had acted out of compassion. 他们这是出于怜悯而为。

12 conscience /'kɒnʃəns/ *n.*

the sense of right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions 良心;是非感

—have a clear/good conscience 问心无愧

—have a bad/guilty conscience 感到内疚

—examine one's conscience 扪心自问

—follow one's conscience 凭良心办事

13 condemnation /,kɒndem'neɪʃn/ *n.*

a public statement in which someone criticizes someone or something severely 谴责;指责

—social condemnation 社会谴责

—Our condemnation of him was a bit previous; a premature judgment. 我们对他的指责有点过早;草率的判断。

14 diminish /dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ *v.*

1) to make or become smaller, fewer, or less 减少;缩减

【同义】lessen; decrease

—The delay may well have diminished the impact of their campaign. 这一拖延完全可能削弱他们宣传活动的影响力。

2) to make (sb./sth.) seem less important than it really is; to devalue 减低(某人/某物)的重要性;贬低

—The opposition are trying to diminish our achievements. 反对党企图贬低我们的成就。

15 discrimination /dɪs,krɪmɪ'neɪʃən/ *n.*

1) unfair treatment of a person, racial group, minority, etc.; action based on prejudice 歧视;偏袒

—discrimination against women 对女性的歧视

2) the ability to judge whether or not something is good or suitable 辨别力

—Try to exercise discrimination when making your choice. 选择时尽量发挥你的辨别能力。

16 elimination /ɪ,lɪmɪ'neɪʃən/ *n.*

the process of getting rid of something that is not wanted 消除;剔除

—the elimination of all nuclear weapons 销毁所有的核武器

17 enterprise /'entəpraɪz/ *n.*

1) a business company or organization 企业;公司;事业单位

—Euro Disney is a much smaller enterprise than its American counterparts. 比起美国迪斯尼,欧洲迪斯尼是家小得多的公司。

2) the ability to think of new ideas and make them succeed 事业心;进取心;开拓精神

—He is a man of great enterprise. 他是个事业心很强的人。

3) a large or important project, esp. one that is new or different (尤指全新或不同的)事业;计划

【同义】business; adventure

—They are involved in an exciting scientific enterprise. 他们正在从事一项激动人心的科研计划。



【派生】enterprising *adj.* 有事业心的;有创业精神的

18 envy /'envi/ *v.*

to have the unhappy feeling of wanting to be like someone else or have what they have 羡慕;忌妒

—I envy people who are always confident. 我羡慕那些总是很自信的人。

—They envy him his good fortune. 他们羡慕他的好运气。

19 feckless /'feklis/ *adj.*

feeble; weak; irresponsible; inefficient 软弱的;不负责的;无能力的

【同义】futile

—two years of feckless negotiations 拖了两年毫无结果的谈判

20 fecundity /fe'kʌndəti/ *n.*

fertility; productiveness; intellectual fruitfulness 生殖力;富饶;多产

—The boy's fecundity of imagination amazed his teacher. 男孩想象力的丰富使老师感到惊讶。

21 formula /'fɔ:mju:lə/ *n.*

a plan or method for dealing with a problem or achieving a result 方案;方法

—The company's winning formula includes excellent service and quality products. 该公司获胜的法宝是优质的服务和产品。

—There is no sure formula for success. 成功并无一定之规。

22 grievous /'gri:(-)vəs/ *adj.*

extremely serious or severe 极严重的;剧烈的

—He has made a grievous error. 他犯了个大错误。

23 handicap /'hændikæp/ *n.*

1) a disadvantage that prevents you from doing something well 障碍;不利条件

—They told me that my lack of experience was a handicap. 他们告诉我,缺乏经验对我很不利。

2) (*old-fashioned*) a physical or mental disability (The word is now considered offensive and it is more polite to say that someone has a disability.) (身体或智力上的)缺陷;残疾

—mental/physical/visual handicap 智力的/生理的/视力的缺陷

—Deafness can be a serious handicap. 耳聋算是严重的缺陷。

24 impoverish /ɪm'pɒvəriʃ/ *v.*

to make a person or country very poor 使贫困;使赤贫

—The incompetent military leadership had impoverished a once prosperous country. 无能的军事领导层使一个曾经繁荣昌盛的国家变得一贫如洗。

【派生】impoverishment *n.* 贫困 impoverished *adj.* 贫困的;赤贫的

25 inherent /ɪn'herənt ɪn'hɪərənt/ *adj.*

existing as an inseparable part; intrinsic 本质的;内在的;基本的

—inherent contradictions/laws/regulations 内在矛盾/内在规律/自动调节

—The design of the building had inherent weaknesses. 这栋房屋的设计有内在的缺陷。

26 inherit /ɪn'herrɪt/ *v.*

1) to receive (property, a title, etc.) by succession or under a will 继承(财产、头衔等)

—She inherited a house from her father. 她从父亲那儿继承了一所房子。

2) to derive (qualities, etc.) from an ancestor 因遗传而得(特性等)

—She inherited all her mother's beauty. 她遗传了她母亲的全部美貌。

27 overriding /,əʊvə'raɪdɪŋ/ *adj.*



more important than anything else; prevailing 压倒一切的;首要的

—an overriding concern for fairness 对公平的极大关注

28) perilous /'periləs/ *adj.*

involving risk; very dangerous 冒险的;危险的

—a perilous journey 危机四伏的旅行

29) preoccupation /pri(:),ɒkjʊ'peɪʃən/ *n.*

1) a state in which you think about something so much that you do not think about other things
专注;全神贯注

【同义】obsession

—She noticed his look of preoccupation. 她注意到了他全神贯注的表情。

2) something that you think about and want to do because it is important 关心;关注

【同义】concern

—The safety of their children is a constant preoccupation of most parents. 儿女们的安全始终是大多数家长的牵挂。

30) procurement /prə'kjʊəmənt/ *n.*

1) the process of buying supplies or equipment for a government department or company (政府
部门或公司的)采购;物资(或设备)补给

—defence procurement 防卫采购

2) (*formal*) the process of obtaining something, esp. with effort or difficulty (尤指通过努力或克服
困难后的)获得;取得

—procurement of visas for his family 为他的家人争取签证

【词根】procure *v.* 获得;获取

31) subsidize /'sʌbsɪdaɪz/ *v.*

to pay some of the cost of goods or services so that they can be sold to other people at a lower
price 给...津贴(或补贴)

—Meals in the cafeteria are subsidized by the company. 食堂的伙食由公司给予补助。

32) substantial /səb'stænʃəl/ *adj.*

1) large in amount or degree; considerable 数目大的;可观的;大量的

—The schools have a substantial measure of local autonomy. 这些学校有相当大的自主权。

—substantial increase/reduction/income 大幅度增长/减少/可观的收入

2) worthwhile; important 有价值的;重要的

—a substantial reform 一项重大改革

33) succor (succour) /'sʌkə/ *v. & n.*

1) *v. (literary)* to help someone 救济;援助;帮助

【同义】aid; assist

—We should succor him, though he is not our team member. 我们应该帮助他, 尽管他不是我们的队员。

2) *n.* help given in time of need 及时的援助;需要时的救助

—He always gives her succor, no matter how busy he is. 无论多忙,他都会给她及时的援助。

34) suspend /sə'spend/ *v.*

1) to officially stop something for a short time (正式)中止;暂停

—to suspend diplomatic relations/payment/talks 中止外交关系/暂停付款/中止谈判



2) (*formal*) to hang something from something else 悬挂;吊起

—A huge chandelier was suspended above the table. 一盏巨大的枝形吊灯悬挂在桌子上方。

35 undertake /ˌʌndə'teɪk/ v.

1) to agree to be responsible for a job or project and do it 承担;着手做

—The court will undertake a serious examination of the case. 法院将负责对案子作严肃调查。

2) (*formal*) to promise to do something 许诺;答应

—The government has undertaken to tackle unemployment as a priority. 政府已许诺要优先解决失业问题。

36 undue /'ʌn'dju:/ adj.

more than is right or proper; excessive 不当的;过分的;过度的

—He showed undue concern over her. 他对她表现出过分的关心。

(二) 短语

1 to take on

1) to assume; to put on (a quality, appearance) 呈现;具有(某种性质,外表)

—Our website is taking on a new look. 我们的网站正呈现出一幅新面貌。

2) to undertake; to accept some work or responsibility 从事;承担

—I can't take on any more work at the moment. 我眼下承担不了更多的工作。

3) to start to employ someone 开始雇用

—He's spoken to a publishing firm. They're going to take him on. 他已经与一家出版社谈过了。他们准备雇用他。

2 to interfere with

to prevent something from happening or developing in the correct way 妨碍;扰乱

—He tries not to let (his) business interfere with his home life. 他尽量不让日常工作妨碍他的家庭生活。

3 to give way to

to be replaced by something, esp. something newer or better 被(尤指更新、更好的事物)代替

—Over the next few years, our current computer network will give way to even more sophisticated technology. 在未来几年,我们目前的计算机网络将被更尖端的技术所代替。

4 to proceed from

to have a particular cause or origin 源于;发自;出自

—Miserable sobs were heard to proceed from the next room. 从隔壁房间里传出悲恸的呜咽声。

5 on behalf of sb./on sb.'s behalf

instead of someone, or as a representative of someone 代替某人;代表某人

—He agreed to testify on behalf of the accused man. 他同意为被告作证。

—on behalf of my colleagues and myself 代表我的同事和我本人

6 as regards

(*formal*) used for introducing a subject you will be discussing; regarding 关于;至于

—I have little information as regards his past. 我对他过去的情况不太了解。

7 to be replete with

(*very formal*) full of something 充满的



—a mind replete with knowledge 博学之士

—For him, the city was replete with memories. 对他而言,这个城市充满了回忆。

⑧ relieve sb. of sth.

to take a responsibility or obligation from someone so that they do not have to do it 将某人(从责任或义务中)解脱出来

—I've been relieved of the responsibility of choosing a successor. 我已经解脱了,不用再负责挑选接班人了。

⑨ to idle away

to spend time relaxing and doing nothing 消磨(时间);虚度(光阴)

—It's foolish to idle away one's precious time. 把大好时光浪费掉是愚蠢的。

⑩ consist of

to be made of particular parts or things 由…组成

—His breakfast consists of dry bread and a cup of tea. 他的早餐由不涂黄油的面包和一杯茶组成。

⑪ to resort to

to do something extreme or unpleasant in order to solve a problem 采取;诉诸;求助于

—I think we can solve this problem without resorting to legal action. 我认为我们可以不用诉诸法律就能解决这个问题。

⑫ to compare with

to be compared with; to bear comparison with 与…比较;与…相提并论

—compare the copy with the original 把副本与原件比较一下

⑬ to be consistent with

to be in agreement with 与…一致;符合

—What you say is not consistent with what you do. 你言行不一。

三、课文注释

① I would like to reflect on one of the oldest of human exercises... (Para. 1)

I want to think seriously about one of the oldest practices of human beings...

to reflect on/upon: to think about something carefully and seriously 仔细思考

② ...we have undertaken to get the poor off our conscience. (Para. 1)

...we have been engaged in the process of trying not to feel guilty about the existence of the poor people; to justify the existence of poverty in the presence of affluence.

③ Rich and poor have lived together, always uncomfortably and sometimes perilously, since the beginning of time. (Para. 2)

The coexistence of the rich and poor has always been embarrassing, and sometimes it has become very dangerous... The sentence means that there has always been conflict between the rich and poor, and sometimes the conflict became so intense that the poor rose up against the rich, thus "perilously".

④ Plutarch was led to say: "An imbalance between the rich and poor is the oldest and most fatal ailment of republics." (Para. 2)

...The most aged and most destructive problem of republics is the gap between the rich and



poor.

- ⑤ And the problems that arise from the continuing coexistence of affluence and poverty—and particularly the process by which good fortune is justified in the presence of the ill fortune of others—have been an intellectual preoccupation for centuries. (Para. 2)

For centuries those with high intellect have been obsessed with the problems caused by the coexistence of the rich and poor, and have been searching for explanations to rationalize this state of affairs.

intellectual: appealing to the intellect 智力的;需要思考的

intellectual preoccupation: 有思想有学问的人孜孜不倦地思考探索的问题

- ⑥ ...the poor suffer in this world but are wonderfully rewarded in the next. (Para. 3)
...the poor suffer the poverty in this world but they will live a wonderful life in the next.
in the next: after they die; when they go to the next world

- ⑦ If they are poor and also meek, they eventually will inherit the earth. (Para. 3)

Though suffering poverty now, if they are patient and mild, the poor will finally become the owner of the earth, that is, they will lead a rich life in the next.

The word “meek” is used ironically here, meaning “submissive”, while in the Bible it means “patient and mild” without any negative implication.

- ⑧ This is, in some ways, an admirable solution. (Para. 3)

The word “admirable” is used ironically. Because in this way, the rich can enjoy their present life without feeling guilty, knowing the poor will have their good days. On the other hand, the poor will not feel dissatisfied with their present life because their happy time is yet to come.

The solution is “admirable” because the rich can now get the poor off their conscience and the poor can feel contented because of future fortune.

- ⑨ “By the principle of utility,” Bentham said in 1789, “is meant the principle which approves or disapproves of every action whatsoever according to the tendency which it appears to have to augment or diminish the happiness of the party whose interest is in question.” (Para. 4)

The principle of utility means that an action is judged good or bad depending on whether it will increase or decrease the benefits of those who are affected by the action. The principle is in essence self-centered and selfish.

in question: under discussion, at issue

- ⑩ Virtue is, indeed must be, self-centered. (Para. 4)

By right action, we mean it must help promote personal interest.

- ⑪ ...influential in no slight degree to this day... (Para. 5)

(Its) influence has not diminished so far./It is quite influential till now.

- ⑫ This is associated with the names of David Ricardo, a stockbroker, and Thomas Robert Malthus, a divine. (Para. 5)

These two people proposed a new formula.

Pay attention to the irony here. The irony lies in the fact that the two people with such different backgrounds—a stockbroker and a divine—came up with such similarity of thinking; one who is so much concerned about money, and the other who is supposed to be least concerned about it, but more about something spiritual.

stockbroker: a person who buys and sells shares in companies for customers on a commission