

高职高专**英语**实训系列教材

● 薛水明 主编

# 实用英语阅读 教程

- 以贴近生活为目标
- 以社会热点为主线
- 以实用有效为方向

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苏州大学出版社

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## 编写说明

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随着全球化和世界经济一体化进程的加快,英语在国际交往中的地位日益突显,各类高等学校英语教学也面临着新的机遇与挑战,高职高专作为培养实用技术性人才的摇篮,其英语教学理应顺应社会发展步伐与时代要求,不断探索创新。为此,在教育部颁发的关于《高职高专教育英语课程教学基本要求》(试行)的精神指导下结合高职高专英语教学的实际情况与需要,我们组织编写了《实用英语阅读教程》。

本教程是按照英语应用能力和大学英语四级考试的要求进行编写的。全书共8个单元,每个单元围绕一个主题进行选材,力求贴近生活,以实用、有用为主线,所映社会热点问题。文章具有一定新颖性和时代性。单元的基本内容是:

1. 主题导入:相关背景知识介绍,激发学生阅读兴趣。
2. 课文部分:每单元有3篇相同或相近主题的文章,文章中设有边问题(Margin questions)便于学生把握文章大意与阅读节奏。
3. 注释部分:对文章中一些重点词汇短语配有中英文解释。
4. 练习部分:每单元配针对课文的阅读理解、词汇、短语等基础性练习,同时设置了一些思考题,旨在帮助学生更好地掌握相关主题内容,并内化成自己的知识结构。

在编写过程中,编者做了大量的教学调研工作。力求使全书在满足一线教师和学生实际需要的同时,充分体现高职高专实用英语教学之特色。融大纲、考试要求和题材于一体以达到学以致用之目的。

全书由硅湖职业技术学院外语系主任薛水明教授担任主编。在编写过程中得到苏州大学出版社的大力支持。在此表示由衷的感谢!

编者

2009年5月于苏州

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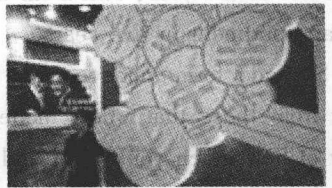
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## Unit 1

# Money Management

俗话说：“你不理财，财不理你。”掌握正确的理财方式可以积聚财富，让你仅有的存款发挥最大作用；同时，一些省钱的妙招也能让你的钱花在刀刃上。



◆ The following three passages are about money management including some useful tips on saving money. Read about them carefully, and then finish the exercises.

## PASSAGE ONE

### Six Steps to Help You Save Money

You have a nice salary, but you still feel short of money. At the end of each month, you often ask yourself, “Where has all my money gone?” To help you better manage your salary, here are some money-saving tips. Following them your daily expenses will be cut off easily, but the quality of your life is still kept.



1. What kind of ambitious goals are listed in the passage as examples?

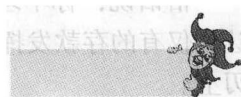


First, you need to set ambitious goals to encourage yourself to save money, for example, to have a formal dress in one year, own a car in two years' time and buy an apartment in five years.

Second, form money-saving habits while staying away from those that waste money. Learn to keep a diary of how much you spend and what it's for. Think twice before using money on expensive skin care products. The best way to keep your skin in good condition is sufficient sleep.

Third, keep down your daily expenses. Change electric equipments into energy efficient ones and leave no more than one light on when you leave home. Buy vegetables from a market, not from a supermarket, where vegetables are less expensive and more fresh. When going to a supermarket, take the notebook with you, in which you have written down what you want to buy, so as to avoid buying unnecessary stuffs. For things like shampoo, soap or washing powder, buy the family pack.

Fourth, for girls who always spend money on clothes, there are some rules helping cut off the



2. *What should you do before using money on expensive skin care products?*





expenses. Keep an eye on discounts information and you're likely to buy good summer dresses in winter at reasonable prices. Shopping malls issue membership cards periodically. Go and get one if it's free, for it may give you special discounts.

Fifth, economize on your social life. Always ask for a doggie bag when you have dinner in a restaurant. When it's your turn to give a dinner, invite your friends to your home and do the cooking yourself. If you are to attend a wedding ceremony and an expensive present is needed, try and share the expense with some friends who will also attend. When parting company with your boyfriend, give the gifts he sent you to your friends instead of throwing them away.

Sixth, while reducing your expenditures, you need broaden your way of earning money. Find yourself an extra part-time job if you are energetic enough, which not only gives you more working experience but also increases your income. If you are not good at making investments, talk to a financial consultant and entrust your savings to him.



3. Why does the writer suggest buying vegetables from a market rather than from a supermarket?

4. When it's your turn to give a dinner, what does the writer suggest?



## New Words & Expressions

ambitious	[ æm'biʃəs ]	a.	有野心的;有雄心的,有抱负的
sufficient	[ sə'fɪʃnt ]	a.	足够的,充分的
economize	[ i'kɒnəmaɪz ]	v.	节约,节省;充分利用
doggie bag		n.	食物袋



expenditure	[ɪk'spendɪtʃə]	<i>n.</i>	(时间、劳动力、金钱等的) 支出,使用,消耗
leftover	['left,əʊvə]	<i>n.</i>	剩余物;残羹剩菜
energetic	[,enə'dʒetɪk]	<i>a.</i>	精力旺盛的
consultant	[kən'sʌltənt]	<i>n.</i>	顾问
entrust	[ɪn'trʌst]	<i>vt.</i>	信赖,托付,交托



### Language Points

- You need to set ambitious goals to encourage you to save money.**

**ambitious:** have a strong desire for success, power, wealth, etc. 有野心的;有雄心的,有抱负的

He is more **ambitious** than others.  
他比其他人更有雄心壮志。

They are **ambitious** although they are poor.  
他们虽穷却很有志气。
- The best ways to keep your skin in good condition is sufficient sleep.**

**sufficient:** enough; as much as is needed for a purpose 足够的,充分的

The pension is not sufficient for living expenses.  
退休金不够应付生活费用。

There is **sufficient** food for everybody.  
有足够的食物供大家吃。
- Package the leftovers for next day when you have dinner in a restaurant.**

**leftover:** food remaining uneaten after a meal 剩余物;残羹剩菜

She threw the **leftovers** in the garbage.  
她把剩饭菜倒进了垃圾桶。

We often heat **leftovers** with the microwave.  
我们常用微波炉热剩饭菜。
- Find yourself a part-time job if you are energetic enough, which gives you more working experience.**



**energetic**: full of energy, very active 精力旺盛的, 充满活力的

His son is an **energetic** child.

他的儿子是个精力旺盛的孩子。

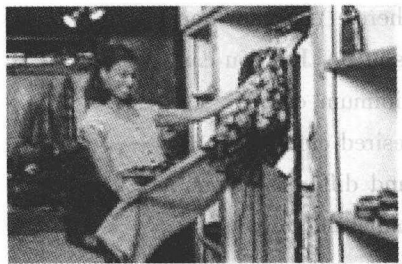
Look, how **energetic** he is!

看他多有精神!

## PASSAGE TWO

### Saving Guide on Clothing

Clothes can be really costly, especially when all the fads and trends come and go as the seasons. It is very possible to save money when buying your clothes. You just need to have the strategies and tactics on how you can save your money.



Here are some tips on how to save when buying your clothes:

- Don't buy in season clothes—different lines of clothes come every season. And they normally release new clothes at very high prices, but the prices go down after a few months. The key is just the patience to wait.

For example, when winter comes, coats and sweaters are released and their prices are very high, however, after a month, normal or bargain prices will be tagged on these clothes. If you were smart enough to



1. Is it cheaper to buy clothes in season? Why/Why not?

2. How will you have variety for clothes on sale?



wait, you could still wear these clothes during the remaining days of the winter and the coming fall at reasonable cost.

- Wait for factory sales—when factories launch their sale season, the prices of their clothes will be cut by 40% - 90% off their original. Imagine how big this saving is! Also shopping at the manufacturer's store is a helpful tip on getting a good deal on clothes.
- However, it is important to remember and avoid buying clothes just because their prices are really low, for you might not even wear those clothes. Such a purchase is a waste of money instead of saving it.
- Bargain—always visit your favorite stores and befriend the sales people there. You can then ask about the possible dates of SALE. You can bargain there and get a minimum of 20% off the original price of your desired clothes.
- Buy two of different sizes and different colors. If you have kids, it is very advisable to actually get two sizes, since children grow up really fast. If the clothes are already at their reduced rates, buy two colors to have variety.
- Shop online—nowadays, there are many clothing stores online. And, most of the clothing lines have their own websites where you can shop online.

Like the regular stores, the online shops have their season for SALE and you can bargain as well. Just make a habit of checking regularly your favorite clothing lines to wait for these awaited bargains.



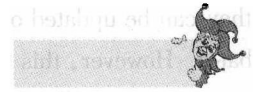
- Sign up for your favorite boutique’s mailing list—be sure to sign up for your favorite clothing stores’ mailing lists, newsletters and catalogs. In this way, you will be updated and be the first one to know of the upcoming On Sale Items and the new releases of the trendy clothes as well.
- Coupon codes and coupon cards—if shopping online is your thing, there are many coupon codes that can be found online and could give you a cut-off of the original price at your favorite online store. Some of the coupon code sites are the [www. couponcabin. com](http://www.couponcabin.com) and [www. keycode. com](http://www.keycode.com).

All that you have to do is to look for the “apparel” category code and you will be given your choices of retailers. You can also put the “online coupon” or “coupon code” in your favorite search engines such as Google and you will be given a list of sites of the retailers that could provide you with the best deals.

- In-store credit cards—many boutiques nowadays offer in-store credit cards. All that you need to do is to apply for a credit card of your own, especially if you have a favorite store where you frequently buy your clothes. Normally, the credit card will give you good discounts on clothes being sold in that particular boutique.

Also, the card holders normally get special coupons, birthday discounts and other relative discounts every festival, and therefore they can get a minimum of 5% up to 15% discounts.

Another benefit of card holders is free delivery and



3. *Where can you find the websites to buy cheaper clothes?*



they can be updated of the new arrival of clothes and rebates. However, this tactic is only beneficial if you plan to pay your credit card bill a day after you have purchased the product. This is because credit card companies charge an awful lot of finance fees and interests. It may not even counterbalance the savings that you intentionally wanted in applying for the credit card.

- Get a part-time job at your favorite store—a lot of shoppers apply for and get part-time jobs in their favorite boutiques. This will give them extra money for their jobs and employees' discounts on the clothes being sold in that particular store.



4. Why is getting a part-time job in your favorite store helpful?



## ***New Words & Expressions***

costly	[ 'kɒstli ]	a.	昂贵的
fad	[ fæd ]	n.	流行的时尚、爱好、狂热等
strategy	[ 'strætədʒɪ ]	n.	战略, 策略, 手段
tactic	[ 'tæktɪk ]	n.	(常用复数) 战略, 策略
line	[ laɪn ]	n.	(产品的) 类型, 种类; 行业
release	[ rɪ'li:s ]	vt.	向公众提供某事物
bargain	[ 'bɑ:ɡɪn ]	n. & vi.	便宜货, 廉价货 议价, 讨价还价
variety	[ və'raɪəti ]	n.	多样(化), 种类
boutique	[ bu:'ti:k ]	n.	精品店(经销时装及时髦用品的小商店)
upcoming	[ 'ʌpkʌmɪŋ ]	a.	即将来临的
coupon	[ 'ku:pɒn ]	n.	折价券
apparel	[ ə'pærəl ]	n.	衣服, 服装
category	[ 'kætəɡəri ]	n.	种类, 类别



retailer	[ˈriːteɪlə]	n.	零售商人
rebate	[ˈriːbeɪt]	n.	折扣
beneficial	[ˌbenɪˈfɪʃl]	a.	有益的, 有利的
awful	[ˈɔːfl]	a.	糟糕的, 可怕的, 惊人的
counterbalance	[ˈkauntəbæləns]	vt.	抵消



## Language Points

### 1. Don't buy in season clothes.

**in season**: easily available and ready to eat because it is the right time of year for them 当令, 应时

Rate **in high season** is 30% higher than **in low season**.

旺季价格比淡季价格高 30%。

### 2. Sign up for your favorite boutique's mailing list.

**sign up for**: to arrange to do a course of study by adding your name to the list of people doing it 报名参加

Where do I **sign up for** that tour?

我到哪里去报名参加那个旅行呢?

### 3. However, this tactic is only beneficial if you plan to pay your credit card bill a day after you have purchased the product.

**only** 在这里起强调作用

I'll tell you, but **only if** you promise not to tell anyone else.

如果你保证不告诉任何人, 我就告诉你。

**if only** 但愿, 真希望

**If only** I had a car, I could get out of this place.

要是我有辆车, 我就能离开这个地方了。

### 4. A lot of shoppers apply for and get part-time jobs in their favorite boutiques.

**apply for**: to make a formal request, usually in writing, for sth such as a



job, at college, university, etc. 申请, 请求

Why don't you **apply for** some consulting company?

你为什么不去申请一家咨询公司呢?

## PASSAGE THREE

### Money Management for Teens Who Have Jobs

Let's face it, some teens make more money than we do. This can be good, if they save. They can end



up with a good start at supporting themselves. They also will be learning responsibility, which is always good. But, there are some "not so good" points to teens working too much, such as smoking, having enough money to buy drugs, and exhaustion.

Balance, in anything with a teen, is the key. Setting up the rules beforehand and adjusting them as you go along will introduce this balance to your teen, and make your life easier.

Here're some rules that work :

The first thing that they should pay attention to is to track where their money goes. How many times have



1. *Who are the target readers of this passage?*





they asked, “Where did I spend all that money?” If they have ever asked that, then tracking their money can give them great insight into managing their budget better.

They get a bank account, and one parent can check on it if needed.

They save half of everything that they make for their future, either for college, or for a car if they are going to start working after high school.

They save 80% of the other half for something that they want now, something big, i. e. TV, CD player. It is great if it's something that they can use when they are on their own. If you have a daughter, introduce the concept of a hope chest. They can purchase things that they want for their home. Girls really get into this, and it makes for fun mother-daughter's shopping trips! If the other 20% is 25 yuan or under, let them blow it.

They keep a record of everything in a folder: one column is how much they made, the next column is how much is half that is saved, and the next column is the amount that is over half that is saved. This folder is put somewhere in the house where it is accessible to parents. If your teen is upset because he feels this should be a private matter, between him and his bank account, let him know he can have as much privacy as he wants when he moves out. Say this humorously, but mean it in this area.

This folder has an added benefit. Even if they have not saved so much money as they are required, you can praise them for keeping it up.

Money management is very important for teens



*2. What are the disadvantages of teens' making money?*