

新编 大学英语

阅读教程

New College English
Extensive Reading

English

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新编大学英语 阅读教程

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新编大学英语阅读教程/马宁,罗仁家主编. —重庆:
重庆出版社,2008.7
ISBN 978-7-5366-9808-6

I. 新… II. ①马… ②罗… III. 英语—阅读教学—高等
学校—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 079633 号

新编大学英语阅读教程

New College English Extensive Reading

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 重庆出版集团 出版
重庆出版社

重庆市长江二路205号 邮政编码:400016 <http://www.cqph.com>

重庆升光电力印务有限公司印刷

重庆市天下图书有限责任公司发行

重庆市渝中区双钢路3号科协大厦14楼

邮政编码:400013 电话:(023)63659849

全国新华书店经销

开本:787mm×1092mm 1/16 印张:20.5 字数:451千

版次:2008年7月第1版 印次:2008年7月第1次印刷

书号:ISBN 978-7-5366-9808-6

定价:30.00元

如有印装质量问题,请向重庆市天下图书有限责任公司调换:023-63658950

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自上世纪 80 年代以来,随着我国改革开放和对外交流的发展,我国学生的英语水平有了很大的提高。学生们的词汇量增加,听说能力得到了加强,阅读能力有了很大的进步。然而,英语专业学生在基础阶段的阅读能力的提高,首要的任务仍然是进一步掌握好语言基本技能、增加词汇量、扩大阅读面、提高阅读理解能力。传统的大学英语阅读教材都很注重学生对篇章阅读能力的培养,但实际上还有很多学生达不到应有的阅读水平,还需要老师在分析阅读文章的同时花大力气讲解有关的字、词、句、段,而这种零散的讲解也不利于学生综合能力的提高。因此,我们在对学生进行大量的阅读材料训练的同时,也有必要按照一定的规律对学生进行字、词、句、段的强化,这也为篇章理解打下坚实的基础。

基于以上考虑,编者结合多年的教学实践和研究编写了这本教材《新编大学英语阅读教程》,旨在为英语专业二年级学生提供一本有时代特色的、形式多样的、题材广泛的阅读教材,以帮助学生在一年的专业学习后进一步提高阅读和欣赏英语文章、并通过英语思维来讨论有关话题的能力。同时也为英语专业二年级学生备战专业四级统考做准备。该书一共分 14 单元,知识体系分横向和纵向两种,横向看每个单元都是平行的结构形式,都包括四大活动:词汇精通/word proficiency,句段巩固/syntagmas consolidation,实用文赏析/practical writings appreciation,篇章能力/passages competence。为了体现阅读内容的灵活性和强调学生的参与性,每个单元都是以活动/activity 的形式展开,各个活动下的练习题又都用任务/task 做安排,任务中的“词汇精通”多采用猜词的方式让学生学会生词,“句段巩固”多用重组和推理/restatement or inference 锻炼学生的逻辑思维能力和语言组织能力,“实用文赏析”重在拓宽学生知识面,多以问答题和判断题的方式训练学生的应变能力,“篇章能力”是综合题,题型接近专业四级考试,提高学生的综合能力并为专

业四级考试打下坚实的基础。每个单元都从词、句、段到篇章逐步训练学生的阅读理解能力。每个单元开始是单元综述,简要概述了本单元的主要活动和学习任务,前面两个部分都是以**3L**(Lead-in introduction, live demonstration, learn to use)模式展开,阅读理解部分以**PTT**形式展开(pre-reading discussion, text reading, tasks after reading)。纵向看14单元,首先是由浅入深、由易到难的排列顺序,而且横向中每个单元的四大板块又形成各自的知识体系:如,**词汇板块**一共介绍了两大类(细分为11种):猜词的技巧(分为关系技巧:语法关系/grammatical clues, 逻辑关系/logical relations, 对比关系/contrast relations, 从属关系/subordinate relations, 上下位关系/hyponymy 等和表象技巧:标点线索/punctuation clues, 下定义/definition, 举例说明/example, 常识/general knowledge, 相关细节/relevant details, 构词/word-formation 等);**句子板块**总结了本阶段出现的8大句子特征(复杂句/complex sentence, 复合复杂句/compound-complex sentence, 分隔结构/splitter structure, 替代关系句/substitution, 非正常语序句/changing order, 否定句/negation, 省略句/ellipsis, 综合复杂句/combination of all the mentioned devices);**段落板块**分为客观内容(又细分为以下特征:有中心句/topic sentence, 无中心句/implied main idea, 比较对比并列型/parallel, compare and contrast, 假设真实型/transition sentence, 线型描述型/narrations or expositions)和主观意向(细分为:作者的目的/author's goal, 作者思想和意图/author's intent, 作者的态度/author's attitude, 读者的思考/reader's think; context reasoning);实用文包括:hotel menu, skimming & scanning, dictionary use, advertisement, schedule, questionnaire, instruction, economics & trade information, news information, charts & graphs, prediction, cartoon, poetry。最后一个部分是**阅读理解**,每个单元有4—6篇相当难度的阅读材料,旨在对前三部分阅读技巧的综合运用,着重强调学生篇章阅读能力的提高,文章的难度由易到难,主要以专业四级考试的论说文和说明文为主,辅之以少量的记叙文。

参加本书编写的老师有(按拼音顺序排列):毕伟、富敏、龙艳霞、罗仁家、马宁、谭琦、王隽、杨立、杨双霜、杨艳丽。

本书是编者在长期的教学实践中感到确有所需而编写的,得到了西南政法大学李奉栖老师、重庆通信学院胥全文老师以及重庆出版集团教材中心编辑杨晓亮的大力支持,他们提出了很多宝贵的意见,几经修改后得以出版。由于各方面的原因,书中难免会有错误和不当之处,希望使用本书的教师及学生不吝赐教,以便再版时修正!

编者

2008年5月20日

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Unit One

Preview

In order to practise and improve learners' reading ability, this unit provides materials including four activities: Activity 1 mainly helps them to master a skill to guess out the meaning of the underlined words by analyzing the grammatical clues in a sentence; Activity 2 is syntagmas consolidation which encourages students to learn about complex sentence patterns and one paragraph feature—the top sentence or main idea of a short paragraph which is very easy to be kicked out; Activity 3 introduces one type of practical writings—hotel menu; and the last part Activity 4 comes to passages reading comprehension.

Activity 1: Words Proficiency

Skill: Grammatical Clues

Lead-in introduction

Efficient reading requires the use of various problem-solving skills. The following exercises are designed to help you improve your ability to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words by using context clues. This part will focus on the grammar by which we can guess the meaning of the new words.

Live demonstration

The purpose of the campaign was to catch “ringers”, students who take tests for other students.

Explanation: The underlined word “ringers” is unfamiliar to us. According to the grammatical clues, we know the “students who take tests for other students” is the appositive, so the word “ringers” means the students who take tests for other students.

Learn to use

Task 1: Guess the meaning of the underlined words according to the grammatical clues.

1. The explorers decided that this was a fossil of an extinct animal that once lived but does not exist now.
2. The researchers made great progress in the early 1970s, when they discovered that oncogenes, which are cancer-causing genes, are inactive in normal cells.
3. Suddenly finding yourself in a strange country can be rather frightening. You lose all of the props that generally support you, all of the familiar cues that provide information about what to do. Without familiar props and cues to orient you in a new setting, everything can seem different. You don't even know how much to tip a cab driver or a waiter in a restaurant. In this situation, you can lose a sense of logic, developing fear of the local people.
4. Strawberries, along with many other soft fruits, suffer from gray mold, a troublesome rotting disease. Although the fungus mainly damages the fruit, infections actually start in the flowers. One effective treatment is to spray mold in the flowers with another fungus called Trichoderma. This organism eliminates the gray mold in the flowers before the fruit berries form, but cause no harm to the fruit itself.
5. It is always dangerous to generalize; however, it seems obvious that, on the whole, men hold a higher position than women. Because of this status, men enjoy more power than women.

Activity 2: Syntagmas Consolidation

Section A: Sentence Feature (I)

Complex Sentence

Lead-in introduction

Reading is an important language skill and reading comprehension may be affected by several factors, one of which lies in difficult sentences. Owing to the demands of communicative effects or the different modes of thinking, some typical sentences often result in great barriers in reading comprehension. The first type is complex sentence.

A complex sentence combines simple sentences (often called an independent clause) with subordinate clauses. To understand a complex sentence, you just need to grasp the stem of the sentence.

Live demonstration

Actually, it isn't, because it assumes that there is an agreed account of human rights, which is something the world does not have.

Explanation: This is a complex sentence. The stem sentence is very simple, but the reason clause introduced by "because" with a "that" object clause is more difficult. And in this clause, the subject "an agreed account of human rights" is served by the "which" attribute clause, meanwhile in this attribute clause there is another restrict attribute clause "the world does not have" serving for "something". Grasping the stem can help make clear the meaning of this sentence. In Chinese: 事实并非如此, 因为这种问法是以人们对人的权利有共同的认识为基础的, 而这种共同认识并不存在。

Learn to use

Task 2: Choose the best answer to the given question behind each sentence. (inference)

1. In the past five years the movement has grown from unorganized groups of poorly armed individuals to an army that is comparatively well-armed, well-trained and of anywhere from 10,000 to 16,000 members.

What is the present condition of this movement?

- A. The members are poorly armed.
- B. There are only a few poor individuals.
- C. There are over 16,000 members.
- D. The members are organized and well armed.

2. Many successful men declare that they owe much of their prosperity to the formation of certain habits in early life, such as punctuality, early rising, honesty and thoroughness.

What is this sentence mainly about?

- A. Punctuality, early rising, honesty are good habits in early life.
- B. To form certain habits is useful on the way to success.
- C. Many successful men own some prosperity to someone else, such as punctuality, early rising, honesty and thoroughness.
- D. Successful men all have certain habits.

3. While we may be interested in the possibilities of social harmony and individual fulfillment to be achieved through nontraditional education, one cannot help being cautious about accepting any sort of one-side educational program as a cure for the world's ills.

How does the author feel about nontraditional education?

- A. He believes that it has no possibility of success.
- B. He doubts that it can cure the world's ills.
- C. He feels that it is a cure for the world's ills.
- D. He believes it will bring social harmony.



4. The complexity of the human situation and the injustice of the social order demand far more fundamental changes in the basic structure of society itself than some politicians are willing to admit in their speeches.

What is necessary to correct the problems of society?

- A. Basic changes in its structure. B. Fewer political speeches.
C. Honest politicians. D. Basic changes in political methods.
5. Bacon's idea contained in the quotation is that the only factor by which a "full man" can be made is reading, or, in other words, any one who aspires to be a "full man" must keep on reading.

What is Bacon's idea?

- A. The quotation. B. To be a "full man".
C. Only a "full man" needs reading. D. Only reading can make a "full man".

Task 3: Choose one of the four choices to best express the main idea of the given sentence. (restatement)

1. By looking for signals in these specific regions, scientists can avoid any confusion that might be caused by receiving a natural radio signal rather than one sent by intelligent life.
- A. Scientists are confused by natural radio signal and one from intelligent life.
B. Natural signals are interfered by intelligent life, and scientists want to avoid that.
C. Scientists look for signals in these specific regions for intelligent life.
D. Scientists look for signals in these specific regions for solving the problem of signal interference.
2. Of those who work, thirty-two percent have attended college, compared with twenty percent of those women who do not have jobs.
- A. There is 32% of women have jobs, and 20% have no jobs.
B. To those women who work, 32% have attended college, and 20% have not attended college.
C. 32% of those who work have attended college, and 20% of those women who do not work have attended college.
D. Those women who have attended college are easier to find a job than those women who have not attended college.
3. Immunization is preventing disease by giving you injections or chemicals to swallow, so that when you are exposed to diseases you won't get them.
- A. Immunization is preventing disease.
B. Immunization is to give you injections or chemicals to swallow.
C. Immunization will protect you from disease with special medical means.
D. Immunization is a special way of injection or chemicals to swallow to prevent disease.

4. Whether to decrease further or even eliminate immigration into the country is an extremely difficult and controversial question.
- A. The question of whether to further decrease or possibly discontinue immigration into the country is controversial and difficult to answer.
 - B. It is both difficult and controversial to decrease or eliminate immigration into the country.
 - C. It's not decided yet whether to decrease or eliminate immigration into the country.
 - D. Everyone agrees that it is difficult to decrease or eliminate immigration into the country.
5. Students should rely upon their own efforts and try to be active seekers of knowledge if they expect to enter upon a successful career.
- A. If students expect to enter on a successful career, they should make efforts.
 - B. If students want to have a successful career, they should rely on their own efforts and try to be active seekers of knowledge.
 - C. Because students make efforts and are active seekers of knowledge, they would enter on a successful career.
 - D. Students rely on their own efforts and are active in knowledge seeking in order to be successful.

Section B: Paragraph Understanding

Objective Content (I)

Topic Sentence/Main Idea

Lead-in introduction

A paragraph consists of many sentences, and there must be some relations among those sentences. So, paragraph reading is the developing process of sentence reading, and another element of passage reading. How to read and understand a paragraph? The main task is to find and know the main idea of the paragraph. Sometimes there is a topic sentence or key sentence in a paragraph; sometimes there is no such a sentence in it, that is, the main idea is implied.

In this unit, first we will learn to find the key sentence in a paragraph. Such sentences appear in the beginning of a paragraph, in the middle, or in the end.

Live demonstration

The underlined sentence is the topic sentence which best expresses the main idea of each paragraph.



In any archaeological study that includes a dig, the procedures are basically the same. 1) selecting a site 2) hiring local workers 3) surveying the site and dividing it into sections 4) digging trenches to locate levels and places to excavate 5) mapping architectural features 6) developing a coding system that show the exact spot where an object is found 7) and recording, tagging, cleaning and storing excavated materials. Neilson C. Debevoise, writing on an expedition to Iraq in the early 1930's, described the typical "route" of excavated pottery. Workers reported an object to staff members before removing it from the ground. The date, level, location and other important information were written on a piece of paper and placed with the object. An noon the objects were given a preliminary cleaning. Registry numbers were written with waterproof India ink on a portion of the object previously painted with shellac. The shellac prevented the ink from soaking into object, furnished a good writing surface, and made it possible to remove the number in a moment. From the registry room objects were sent to the drafting department. If a clay pot, for example, was of a new type, a scale drawing was made on graph paper. Measurements of the top, greatest diameter, base, height, color of the glaze, if any, the quality and texture of the body and the quality of the workmanship were recorded on paper with the drawing. When the drafting department had completed its work the materials were placed on the storage shelves, grouped according to type for division with the Iraq government and eventually shipped to museums. Today, the steps of a dig remain basically the same, although specific techniques vary.

Select the statement that best expresses the main idea of the paragraph:

- A. For a number of years, archaeologists have used basically the same procedure when conducting a dig.
- B. Neilson C. Debevoise developed the commonly accepted procedure for organizing a dig.
- C. Archaeologists take great care to assure that all excavated objects are properly.
- D. A great deal of important historical and archaeological information can be provided by a dig.

The correct answer is A.

The first sentence comes straight to the point. From the second sentence to the second to the last sentence are details: steps, data, and some other concrete proofs. And the last sentence is the summary of the whole paragraph, of course it is also the corresponding to the first sentence, the main idea.

From this example, we may find that the key sentences are the first sentence and last sentence of this paragraph, and other sentences are details for the main idea. No matter where the topic sentence is, the first sentence, last sentence, or sentence in the middle, it is the soul of a paragraph. When we read a paragraph, we should recognize this kind of sentence.

Learn to use**Task 4: Please find out topic sentence of each paragraph.****1**

(1)The world's oldest known bound book is a prayer book. (2)The book is over 1, 600 years old. (3)It was discovered in a child's grave in 1984. (4)The book's nearly 500 hand-written pages were stuck together. (5)Experts had to separate each page. (6)The book is now on display in the Coptic Museum in Cairo, Egypt.

The topic sentence is _____.

2

(1)Albert Einstein was one. (2) So was artist Pablo Picasso. (3)American writer and humorist Mark Twain was one, as well. (4)Others include Babe Ruth, General Norman Schwartzkopf, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Joan of Arc. (5)What do all of these famous people have in common? (6)All of these people are left-handed.

The topic sentence is _____.

3

(1) Black ice is an invisible coating of ice that forms on an asphalt road surface. (2) Black ice is very dangerous. (3) It is caused by drizzle falling on the frozen pavement. (4) Drivers don't know the roadway is icy. (5) When their cars hit the ice, they skid out of control. (6) Sometimes cars bounce off of each other like characters in a video game. (7) Sometimes they skid off the roadway into ditches. (8) Incidences of black ice have caused numerous collisions and deaths in the colder regions of the country.

The topic sentence is _____.

4

(1) A low fat diet may prevent major illnesses, including cancer and heart disease. (2) Because of this, doctors and nutritionists have suggested many ways for people to lower the fat in their diets. (3) They recommend using non-fat milk instead of whole milk. (4) Also, they suggest that people eat little or no meat. (5) For people who eat meat, poultry is recommended. (6) It has less fat than beef or pork. (7) People should also cut down on the number of eggs they eat. (8) Additionally, eating non-fat yogurt for dessert instead of ice cream is also recommended.

The topic sentence is _____.

5

(1) Do you know what to do if you are stung by a bee or a hornet? (2)There are a number of steps to take if this happens to you. (3)The first thing to do is remove the stinger. (4) A stinger contains venom. (5) It will continue to release venom as long as it is contact with skin. (6) When the stinger is removed, put ice on the wound. (7)This

will reduce the swelling. (8) Then, apply a small amount of baking soda. (9) It contains enzymes that will weaken the venom. (10) Finally, look for signs of an allergic reaction such as difficulty in breathing. (11) People have died from strong allergic reactions to stings. (12) When such a reaction occurs, the victim should be taken to the hospital for treatment.

The topic sentence is _____.

Task 5: Choose the best answer to the given question behind each short paragraph.

1

Not everything has changed. Formal photos still hang in uneasy coexistence with informal ones, in women's offices and in men's. Sociologist Arlie Hochschild noted that it was the lower-ranking women who peppered their desks with intimate family snapshots. For these women, she posits, the photos sent a message: I may not be powerful here, but there's a place, home, where I am. The more high-up the woman, the less she indulged in these snapshots, as if they might call her commitment into question. Instead, executive women resorted to the traditional framed trophy photo. I don't entirely buy this distinction—in my workplace, women at all levels do the montage thing, as do men—but I do remember being in the office of a busy lawyer and seeing a framed photo of her and her kids on the beach, and it was facing me, not her, and I wondered, a little, if it was saying: I don't work as much as it seems!

Select the statement that best expresses the main idea of the paragraph.

- A. Women hang photos in office instead of men.
- B. The more high-up the woman, the less she put snapshots in her workplace.
- C. Formal and informal photos both exist in women and men's workplace.
- D. Dislike women, men do not hang photos in office.

2

At the University of Kansas art museum, investigators tested the effects of different colored walls on two groups of visitors to an exhibit of paintings. For the first group the room was painted white; for the second, dark brown. Movement of each group was followed by an electrical system under the carpet. The experiment revealed that those who entered the dark brown stimulated more activity, but the activity ended sooner. Not only the choice of colors but also the general appearance of a room communicates and influences those inside. Another experiment presented subjects with photographs of faces that were to be rated in terms of energy and well-being. Three groups of subjects were used; each was shown the same photos, but each group was in a different kind of room. One group was in an "ugly" room that resembled a messy storeroom. Another group was in an average room—a

nice office. The third group was in a tastefully designed living room with carpeting and grapes. Results showed that the subjects in the beautiful room tended to give higher rating to the faces than did those in the ugly room. Other studies suggest that students do better on tests taken in comfortable, attractive rooms than in ordinary-looking or ugly rooms.

Select the statement that best expresses the main idea of the paragraph.

- A. People in beautiful rooms tend to give higher ratings to photographs of faces than people in ugly rooms.
- B. The color and general appearance of a room influence the behavior and attitude of the people in it.
- C. The University of Kansas has studied the effects of the color of a room on people's behavior.
- D. Beautifully decorated, light-colored rooms make people more comfortable than ugly, dark rooms.

3

Two centuries later, Americans and Europeans have traded places—and perspective. Partly this is because in those 200 years, but especially in recent decades, the power equation has shifted dramatically: When the United States was weak, it practiced the strategies of indirection, the strategies of weakness; now that the United States is powerful, it behaves as powerful nations do. When the European great powers were strong, they believed in strength and martial glory. Now, they see the world through the eyes of weaker powers. These very different points of view, weak versus strong, have naturally produced differing strategic judgments, differing assessments of threats and of the proper means of addressing threats, and even differing calculations of interest.

Select the statement that best expresses the main idea of the paragraph.

- A. Differing strategic perspectives are largely determined by types of threats.
- B. Differing strategic perspectives are largely determined by cultural values.
- C. Differing strategic perspectives are largely determined by strategic interests.
- D. Differing strategic perspectives are largely determined by power.

4

Though they were not trained naturalists, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark in their explorations of North America in the early nineteenth century came across enough unfamiliar birds, mammals, and reptiles to fill a zoo. In keeping with president Jefferson's orders, they took careful note of 122 species and subspecies that were unknown to science and in many cases native only to the West. Clark made sketches of any particularly intriguing creature. He and Lewis also collected animal hides and horns and skins with such care that a few of them were still intact nearly two centuries later. While Lewis and Clark