

大学英语系列教材

# 新编 大学英语阅读教程

New College English Reading  
Book IV

—高级篇

总主编 傅勇林

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主 编 易 红



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大学英语课程系列教材

新编

# 大学英语阅读教程

Advanced English Reading Course

Book IV

— 高级篇 —

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New College English Reading  
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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。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 ~ 1 100 词,高级篇为 1 100 ~ 1 200 词;深度阅读基础篇和进阶篇为 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羚副教授。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 I Skimming and Scanning

### How to Survive a Devastating Earthquake?

Perhaps you're just waking up to a new day. You feel half-asleep, half-dead really, but the sun is creeping in from outside and you know the sky is filled with that blueness and contentment that offers nothing but possibility.

You can feel it in the air. It will be a good day. Then it begins.

The bed shakes a bit at first. An item or two falls over on your bookcase. And then things start to rumble (发出隆隆声). Everything around you that had always been for your pleasure — your TV, your bookcase, everything that can be moved — is now your enemy. You are experiencing an earthquake.

There are very few disasters as unpredictable as a quake. The good news is that if you're well-prepared, you and those you care for can usually come out unhurt. Secrets of survival reveal how to ready yourself if and when the earth begins to rumble beneath your feet.

During an earthquake, you should only have to head for the doorway if you live in an old, un-reinforced adobe (黏土砖) house. In modern homes, doorways are probably no stronger than any other parts of the house, and could have doors that will swing and injure you during a quake. You are probably safer practicing the “drop, cover and hold” method under a sturdy (结实的) piece of furniture.

The American Red Cross came up with the *drop, cover and hold* method. Drop under a sturdy desk or table, protect your eyes by pressing your face against your arm and hold on. Teach children the method as well, and practice with your family at least twice a year. If, however, you feel safer under the doorway, it's still certainly a good option.

### **Can animals predict earthquakes?**

Changes in animal behavior before earthquakes have been observed and documented in different parts of the world, most recently in the northern California earthquake of October 17, 1989. It has been recorded that a fish in a high school biology lab in California would flip (快速转动) on its side before some earthquakes. Dogs, cats, snakes, and horses have also been known to behave strangely before earthquakes.

But it's possible that the changes in animal behavior may be caused by other events. Also, the behavior is not consistent; sometimes earthquakes occur with no previous behavioral changes.

### **Can some people sense that an earthquake is about to happen?**

There is currently no scientific explanation for the symptoms some people claim to have preceding an earthquake. However, often there is no recorded earthquake following the apparent symptoms of these individuals.

### **Protection against the unseen**

Perhaps an earthquake's greatest danger lies in the fact that it can occur almost at once. If you live in a location that's prone to (很可能) earthquakes, preparation before the event is certainly key.

To paraphrase the American Red Cross: "It's not the shaking that hurts. It's the stuff that falls on your head". Collapsing walls, flying glass and falling objects cause most quake-related injuries and deaths.

Look around your house for things that could fall or move. Ask yourself what may happen if your cupboard doors fly open during a quake, allowing dishes or God-knows-what to fall across the floor. Is the TV and stereo fastened down and are shelves fastened to walls? Do you have hanging plants or light fixtures that might fall? Is there a heavy picture or mirror on the wall over your bed?

Know the danger spots. Secure all tall and heavy furniture that could topple (倒塌) over, such as bookcases, china cabinets or wall units. Hang heavy pictures and mirrors away from beds, couches, and anywhere people sit. Keep breakables or heavy objects on bottom shelves.

Stay clear of windows, fireplaces, or appliances if a quake hits; stay out of the kitchen — it's a dangerous place. In short, stay away from anything that could conceivably fall on you. Don't run downstairs or rush outside while the building is shaking, or while there is a danger of falling or being hit by falling glass or debris (残骸).

Secure a water heater by strapping (捆绑) it to wall studs and bolting it to the floor.

Before and after a quake, repair any deep cracks in ceilings, chimneys, or foundations. Get expert advice if there are signs of structural defects. Unnoticed damage could cause a fire — or worse.

Repair defective electrical wiring and leaky gas connections. These are potential fire risks.

Make sure you have a properly installed and working smoke detector in your home/apartment.

Store weed killers, pesticides, and flammable (易燃的) products securely in closed cabinets with latches (插销) and on bottom shelves.

Keep food and water supplies on hand. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and loved ones for a period of 72 hours. This is how long it is estimated for help to arrive, as they have to deal with the same predicaments (困境) as you.

Create a family disaster plan. Discuss with your family the types of disasters that could occur. Explain to your kids how to prepare and respond to each type of disaster. Print the plan for everyone.

Post emergency telephone numbers by every phone. Teach children how and when to call police, fire department, and which radio station to tune to for emergency information.

Learn first aid. Contact your local Red Cross chapter for information and

training.

Teach all family members how and when to turn off gas, electricity, and water.

Learn how to help kids cope with disaster.

Define your Safety Zone: against inside walls, under sturdy tables or desks, in stout doorways.

Practice earthquake drills, putting yourself in the Safety Zone. This is especially important for children to know and do.

Have two places where everyone can meet. One will be your home, but you should have a second in case there's a problem. It should be a safe distance from your house in case of a home fire, and a place outside your neighborhood in case you can't immediately return.

Choose an out-of-state friend as a check-in contact for everyone to call.

Discuss where to go and what to bring if advised to evacuate (疏散). Practice what you have discussed.

Find out about earthquake plans developed by your children's school or day-care center. Remember, transportation may be disrupted.

Keep some emergency supplies — food, liquids, and comfortable shoes, for example — at work.

Locate your nearest fire and police stations and emergency medical facilities.

Talk to your neighbors — how could they help you, or you them after an earthquake.

Also, be prepared for aftershocks. They are strong enough to topple more buildings, sever (切断) utility lines and hurt you hours, days, weeks — even months after the main quake. If your house is in solid shape, stay indoors if an aftershock hits.

The greatest precaution? Develop the habit of thinking: "If an earthquake happened right now, what would I do?" This will prepare you to react and not be surprised when it happens. And it will aid your preparations.

(1,175 words)

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

*For questions 1 ~ 7, 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.*

*For questions 8 ~ 10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A little knowledge and a few precautionary measures can enormously increase your chances of surviving an earthquake.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ If you are indoors during a quake, move quickly to a safe location in the room such as doorways or under a desk.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The keys are you are well-educated by the Red Cross about how to survive the earthquake.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Changes in animal behavior are the apparent symptom of the earthquake.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The greatest danger of an earthquake is that it comes all of a sudden.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ If your building is badly damaged you should leave it until it has been inspected by a safety professional.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Weed killers, pesticides, and flammable products should be kept safely in closed cabinets.
8. Besides home, another place where everyone can meet after the quake is one which should be \_\_\_\_\_ in case there will be a home fire.
9. In case of an aftershock, one should \_\_\_\_\_ if his/her house is in solid shape.
10. According to the author, \_\_\_\_\_ will prepare you to react and not be surprised when an earthquake happens.

## 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 and mark the corresponding letter with a single line through the center.

### Passage 1

There is a saying that cats have nine lives, because cats so often appear to escape serious injuries or death. A recent study examined why. Scientists in New York carried out a study of cats which had fallen out of windows of apartment blocks. Nine out of ten survived a fall of two stories or more. One cat fell from a flat on the thirty-second floor and only chipped a tooth. Interestingly, the cats were most at risk from injury or death if they fell from the seventh floor. Falling from either a lesser or greater height gave them a better chance of survival.

Damage to body depends on how fast it hits the ground, which in turn depends on how far it has fallen. But it's not quite that simple, because as an object falls through the air, the air pushes up against it and slows the object down. After a while this stops the object accelerating (加速) and it continues at a fixed speed. This is the terminal (终点) speed. Bulky (体积大的) things have a lower terminal speed because there is a large area for the air to push up on. Heavy things have a higher speed because they push down harder against the air. Cats have a lower terminal speed than falling people, for example, because they are quite bulky and not very heavy so they hit the ground more slowly and are less likely to be hurt.

What is the significance of the seventh floor? This is the distance cats take to reach their terminal speed. After the seventh floor, it may be that they relax and spread out their legs like a flying squirrel. This would slow them down and allow their muscles to absorb more of the force of impact, which would reduce the

damage.

Cats also have a very well-developed sense of balance. They can adjust themselves while falling so that they land on their feet. This has the advantage of spreading the impact with the ground over four limbs and so does less damage to each limb.

1. The New York scientists observed that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the farther a cat falls, the more likely it would be injured
  - B. the farther a cat falls, the less likely it would be injured
  - C. a cat is more likely to escape from injury or death if it falls from the seventh floor
  - D. a cat is less likely to escape from injury or death if it falls from the seventh floor
2. Which of the following sentences best summarizes the main idea of the second paragraph?
  - A. Damage to a falling object depends on how fast it hits the ground.
  - B. As an object falls through the air, the air pushes up against it and reduces its falling speed.
  - C. Cats are big and light, so they hit the ground more slowly and are less likely to be hurt.
  - D. Bulky things have a lower terminal speed because there is a large area for the air to push up on.
3. A cat falling from the seventh floor has the least chance of survival because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. there is not enough time for the cat to relax and spread out its legs
  - B. this is the distance the cat takes to arrive at its highest falling speed
  - C. falling from this height gives the cat the maximum speed of falling
  - D. the cat cannot land on four limbs if falling at this height
4. Falling people are less likely to escape injuries or death because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. they are too heavy
  - B. they are too bulky



- C. they cannot spread the impact with the ground over four limbs
- D. they have a less well-developed sense of balance
- 5. The best title for this passage is \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. A Study on the Falling of Cats
  - B. Why Do Cats Have Nine Lives
  - C. Speed of Falling Objects
  - D. Cats' Sense of Balance

## Passage 2

Robin Hood is a familiar figure to most of us. The outlaw who robbed the rich to give to the poor and dwelt with his band of merry followers in Sherwood Forest has long been celebrated in both prose and poetry. On stage and screen, he has fascinated countless generations. Yet behind that popular character lurks a mystery: Who, exactly, was Robin Hood? Did he exist at all?

The evidence for a real, living, breathing Robin Hood is rather weak. Records show that in thirteenth-century England there were a number of people who answered to his name or to something close to it. Yorkshire birth records note the arrival of a Robin Hood who apparently died in infancy. Also of Yorkshire was Robyn Hode, a servant to King Edward II. The man known as Robert Hude is remembered only through a now almost illegible name on a gravestone. In Sussex, there was also Gilbert Robynhod, a man whose name appears often in the local sheriff's records for nonpayment of debts.

Despite careful searches of local records by historians, there is little connecting any of these men to the legendary Robin Hood. Still, there just may be a grain of truth in the legend of Robin and his merry band.

In the thirteenth century, England certainly had its share of outlaws. Perhaps the most famous was Hereward the Wake, the last Anglo-Saxon chief to resist the Norman Conquest of 1066. Hereward and countless others rebelled against Norman rule and fled into the thick forests that carpeted the English