# 大学英语







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# Preface

## 前言

学习英语,阅读历来就是一条必不可少的重要途径。这既是提高英语学习者语言综合能力的手段,也是学习语言的重要目标之一。新一轮的阅读英语教学改革特别强调培养学生实际使用英语的能力,尤其是通过多种阅读渠道获取知识和信息的能力。教育部颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求》将大学的改英语教学分为三个层次:一般要求、较高要求和更高要求。每个层次都学生的阅读能力提出了具体而明确的要求。其中对阅读理解能力的一般要求、维度的成为是他们,阅读速度达到每分钟70词,在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度略低的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟100词,能基生透过的英文报刊,掌握中心意思,理解主要事实和有关细节。能读懂日常位起,大学英语四、六级考试还增设了"快速阅读"考试题型。因此,为适后拓展,大学英语四、六级考试还增设了"快速阅读"考试题型。因此,为适后还是成为大学英语四、六级考试还增设了"快速阅读"考试题型。因此,为适后任知阅读和快速阅读的这些新要求,我们组织有关老师编写了《大学英语拓展阅读和快速阅读的这些新要求,我们组织有关老师编写了《大学英语和阅读系列教材,一方面积极应对大学英语教学改革的要求,倡导大学英语个性、自主性学习等学习理念;另一方面帮助广大学生扩大阅读范围,增加词汇量,提高阅读速度,培养独立阅读习惯和提高阅读能力。

《大学英语拓展阅读》第1册至第4册的编写遵循这样的原则:内容新颖,时代感强,选材既有历史、传统的内容,又注重社会、科技发展的最新信息;体裁和题材多样化,考虑到知识的多样性,文、理、工、医等内容兼顾;内容富有知识性和趣味性,既注重对国外社会、文化的介绍,也增加中国传统文化及风俗的描述,以便增长学习者的多元知识;练习题型多样化,既有四、六级考试快速阅读题型"是非判断"和"句子填空",又设置"多项选择"、"简短问答"和"英汉翻译"。本套教材共4册,每册及单元之间由浅入深、由易到难、循序渐进。每

单元以一个主要话题为线索,选取内容相近、体裁不同的阅读材料 4 篇,其中前两篇为快速阅读材料,后两篇为仔细阅读材料。为了便于学习者及时检验自己的阅读情况,教材后面附有参考答案。本教材每单元的内容,一部分可以作为课堂强化训练,一部分可以作为学习者的课后自主练习。

在编写这套教材过程中,我们还得到了外国语学院孙庆文副院长的热心指导和支持。在此表示衷心感谢!

由于编者水平有限,如有不当之处,衷心希望广大教师同仁和同学提出宝贵的批评意见和建议,以便今后改进和完善。

编 者 2009年7月

# 大学英语 拓展阅读 <sup>第2册</sup>





Unit 1	Culture and Customs
Text A-1 Text A-2 Text B-1 Text B-2	
Unit 2	Language
Text A-1 Text A-2 Text B-1 Text B-2	
Unit 3	Sports
Text A-1 Text A-2 Text B-1 Text B-2	
Unit 4	Ways to Live a Healthy Life
Text A-1 Text A-2 Text B-1 Text B-2	
Unit 5	Environment
Text A-1 Text A-2 Text B-1 Text B-2	(54) (58) (62)

Unit 6	Exploration
Text A-1	(68)
Text A-2	(72)
Text B-1	(75)
Text B-2	(78)
Unit 7	Disasters and Rescues
Text A-1	(82)
Text A-2	(87)
Text B-1	(92)
Text B-2	(94)
Unit 8	Entertainment and Technology
Text A-1	(97)
Text A-2	(102)
Text B-1	(106)
Text B-2	(109)
参考答案	(113)

# 大学英语 拓展阅读 <sup>第2册</sup>







# Unit 1 Culture and Customs

### **Fast Reading**



**Directions:** In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go through the passage quickly and answer the 10 questions. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

#### Queen Elizabeth II

Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926 in London. Her birthday is officially celebrated in Britain on the 3rd Saturday of June each year.

Queen Elizabeth II is a "constitutional monarch". This means that although she is officially Head of the State, the country is actually run by the government, led by the Prime Minister.

The Queen lives at Buckingham Palace.

#### Interesting Fact:

There has not been a Queen of England since 1603. Elizabeth I was the last ever King or Queen of England. From 1603, the monarch, although living in England, has been known as either the Monarch of Great Britain (as Queen Anne was) or of the United Kingdom (as Queen Victoria was).

When Elizabeth  $\,\mathrm{I}\,$  died, King James  $\,\mathrm{VI}\,$  of Scotland became king of England as well as Scotland, thus uniting the kingdoms of England and Scotland for the first time.

#### The Official Title of the Queen

Her Majesty the Queen's title in the United Kingdom is:

Elizabeth the Second, by the Grace of God of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

#### When Did Queen Elizabeth II Come to the Throne?

Queen Elizabeth II ascended the throne on February 6, 1952 upon the death of her father, King George VI. Her Coronation, at Westminster Abbey, followed on June 2, 1953.

(A new king or queen begins to rule as soon as their succession to the throne has been announced. But the coronation—when the crown is placed on the monarch's head—may not happen until months later.)

The gueen celebrated her golden jubilee (50 years since her accession) in 2002.

#### **Head of State**

Queen Elizabeth II is the United Kingdom's Head of State. She is queen of 16 former British colonies, including Australia, Canada and New Zealand; and Head of the Commonwealth, a multinational body created after the dissolution of the British Empire.

#### Who Is the Queen Married to?

The Queen has married to the HRH(His Royal Highness) Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, the son of Prince and Princess Andrew of Greece and Denmark. They married on November 20, 1947.

The Duke is Queen Elizabeth's third cousin; they share Queen Victoria as a great-great-grandmother.

#### Why Is Queen Elizabeth II's Husband a Prince rather than a King?

In the British monarchy, the husband of a female monarch does not have any recognized special status, rank, or privileges.

Prince Philip was a prince from birth. He is the son of Prince Andrew of Greece and was born Prince of Greece and Denmark. Upon his marriage to then-Princess Elizabeth in 1947, Philip was given the title "Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merion, and Baron Greenwich", and was made a Knight of the Garter. (He became a British citizen around this time and renounced his Greek and Danish titles.) Elizabeth II was coronated in 1953, and in 1957, she granted Philip the title "Prince of the United Kingdom".

#### Interesting Fact:

The wife of a male monarch (e.g. the Queen Mother was the wife of King George VI) takes on her husband's rank and style upon marrying, becoming Queen. She is known as the Queen consort (wife and consort of a reigning king). (A consort is a spouse, usually of royalty.)

#### What Is Queen Elizabeth II's Surname?

The Queen does not normally use a surname (She doesn't need a passport or a driving license, for example), but on the few occasions where it has been necessary, i.e. when serving with the ATS during World War II, she has used the surname "Windsor".

The British royal family changed their last name from Saxe-Coburg-Gotha to Windsor in 1917. Why? World War I broke out in 1914 and anti-German sentiment was its height in 1917. In protest, King George V renounced all the German titles belonging to him and his family and adopted the name of his castle, Windsor.

From February 8, 1960, all the Queen's descendants who do not bear the "style, title or attribute of HRH, and the titular dignity of Prince or Princess" have the name of Mountbatten-Windsor(Mountbatten is Prince Philip's surname).

#### **Royal Homes**

Among the official royal residences are Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle, St. James Palace, Balmoral Castle, Frogmore House, the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Sandringham House and Kensington Palace.

#### Interesting Fact:

The only time when there was no King or Queen in Britain was when the country was a republic between 1649 and 1660. (In 1649 King Charles I was executed and Britain became a republic for eleven years. The monarchy was restored in 1660.)

#### The Queen's Role

Although the Queen is no longer responsible for governing the country, she carries out a great many important tasks on behalf of the nation.

#### **Head of State**

As Head of State, the Queen goes on official state visits abroad. She also invites other world leaders to come to the United Kingdom. During their visit, Heads of State usually stay at Buckingham Palace, or sometimes at Windsor Castle or Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh.

#### **Head of the Armed Forces**

The Queen is also Head of the Armed Forces. She is the only person who can declare when the country is at war and when war is over, although she must take advice from her government first.

#### Head of the Church of England

The Queen is Head of the Church of England—a position that all British monarchs have held since it was founded by Henry VIII in the 1530s.

The Queen appoints archbishops and bishops on the advice of the Prime Minister.

The spiritual leader of the Church of England is the Archbishop of Canterbury.

#### **Government Duties**

Every day "red boxes" are delivered to the Queen's desk full of documents and reports from the government ministers and Commonwealth officials. They must all be read and, if necessary, signed by the Queen.

#### Represents the Nation

The Queen represents the nation at times of great celebration or sorrow. One example of this is Remembrance Day ceremony at the Cenotaph monument in Whitehall. The Queen lays a wreath there each year to honor the members of the armed forces who have died fighting for their country.

#### **Royal Garden Parties**

A. special status

At least three Royal Garden Parties are held at Buckingham Palace each year and about 8,000 guests attend each one.

#### **Visits**

Alongside her other duties, the Queen spends a huge amount of time travelling around the country visiting hospitals, schools, factories and other places and organizations.

http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/guestions/theQueen.htm

1.	What doesn't "constitutional ma	onarch" (Para.2) imply?			
	A. The Queen or King is official	y Head of the State.			
	B. The country is run by the government.				
	C. The country is run by the Prime Minister.				
	D. The Head of the State doesn't run the country.				
2.	The Kingdoms of England and	Scotland were united for the first time sin	ce		
	who came to the throne?				
	A. Queen Anne.	B. King James $orall I$ .			
	C. Elizabeth I.	D. Queen Victoria.			
3. Queen Elizabeth ${ m I\hspace{1em}I}$ celebrated her Golden jubilee for					
	A. 50 years since her marriage				
	B. 50-year-old birthday				
C. 50 years since she came to the throne D. 50 years of the Kingdom					
					4. Which one is <b>NOT TRUE</b> for Queen Elizabeth <b>[</b> ]?  A. She is the United Kingdom's Head of State.
	ritish colonies.				
	C. She is Head of the Commonwealth.				
	D. She is Head of the British er	npire.			
5.	When did Queen Elizabeth $I\!I$ m	arry?			
	A. In 1953. B. In 1947.	C. In 1952. D. In 1960.			
ŝ.	In the British monarchy, the hus	sband of a female monarch has .			

B. special rank

C. special privileges

- D. not any recognized special rights
- 7. Which title belongs to Philip after 1947?
  - A. Prince of Greece.
  - B. Duke of Denmark.
  - C. Duke of the UK.
  - D. Duke of Edinburgh, Earl of Merion, and Baron Greenwich.
- 8. The British royal family's surname originally was \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9. There was no King or Queen in Britain between 1649 and 1660, but that situation was ended in 1660 since the of the monarchy.
- 10. The Queen represents the nation at times of \_\_\_\_\_.



- $\it Directions:$  In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go through the passage quickly and answer the 10 questions. For questions 1–7, mark
- $\mathbf{Y}$  (for YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage;
- ${\bf N}$  (for NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage:
- ${f NG}$  (for NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

#### Eating Etiquette in England

#### What Should I Do or Not Do when I Am Eating in Britain?

The British generally pay a lot of attention to good table manners. Even young children are expected to eat properly with a knife and fork.

They eat most of our food with <u>cutlery</u>. The foods we don't eat with a knife, fork or spoon include sandwiches, crisps, corn on the cob, and fruit.

#### Things You Should Do:

If you cannot eat a certain type of food or have some special needs, tell your host several days before the dinner party.

If you are a guest, it is polite to wait until your host starts eating or indicates you should do so. It shows consideration.

Always chew and swallow all the food in your mouth before taking more or taking a drink.

You may eat chicken and pizza with your fingers if you are at a barbecue, finger buffet or a very informal setting. Otherwise always use a knife and fork.

Always say thank you when served something. It shows appreciation.

When eating rolls, break off a piece of bread before buttering. Eating it whole looks tacky(发黏的).

On formal dining occasions it is good manners to take some butter from the butter dish with your bread knife and put it on your side plate (for the roll). Then butter pieces of the roll using this butter. This prevents the butter in the dish getting full of bread crumbs as it is passed around.

When eating soup, tip the bowl away from you and scoop the soup up with your spoon.

When you have finished eating, let others know that you have, and place your knife and folk together, with the prongs (tines) on the fork facing upwards, on your plate.

In a restaurant, it is normal to pay for your food by putting your money on the plate when the bill comes on.

#### Things You Should Not Do:

Never lick or put your knife in your mouth.

It is impolite to start eating before everyone has been served unless your host says that you don't need to wait.

Never chew with your mouth open. No one wants to see food being chewed or hear it being chomped on.

It is impolite to have your elbows on the table while you are eating.

Don't reach over someone's plate for something, and ask for the item to be passed.

Never talk with food in your mouth.

It is impolite to put too much food in your mouth.

Never use your fingers to push food onto your spoon or fork.

It is impolite to slurp your food or eat noisily.

Never blow your nose on a napkin (serviette). Napkins are for dabbing your lips and only for that.

Never take food from your neighbors' plates.

Never pick food out of your teeth with your fingernails.

#### Things That Are OK to Do:

It is OK to pour your own drink when eating with other people, but it is more polite to offer pouring drinks to the people sitting on either side of you.

It is OK to put milk and sugar in your tea and coffee or to drink them both without either.

#### I Am not Used to Eating with a Knife and Fork. What Do I Need to Know?

We eat in a continental style, with fork in the left hand and the knife in the right (or the other way round if you are left-handed). At the top of your plate there will be a dessert spoon and dessert fork.

If you are eating at a formal dinner party, you will come across many knives and forks. Start with the utensils on the outside and work your way inward with each subsequent course.

#### How to Eat with a Knife and Fork in England:

The fork is held in the left hand and the knife in the right.

If you have a knife in one hand, it is wrong to have a fork in the other with the prongs (tines) pointed up.

Hold your knife with the handle in your palm and your folk in the other hand with the prongs pointing downwards.

When eating in formal situations, rest the fork and knife on the plate between mouthfuls, or for a break for conversation.

If you put your knife down, you can turn your fork over. It's correct to change hands when you do this, too, so if you are right-handed you would switch and eat with the fork in your right hand.

If it is your sole eating instrument, the fork should be held with the handle

between the index finger and the thumb and resting on the side of your middle finger.

#### How to Eat Peas:

To be very polite, peas should be crushed onto the fork—a fork with the prongs pointing down. The best way is to have loaded the fork with something to which they will stick, such as a potato or a soft vegetable that squashes easily onto the fork. It's sometimes easier to put down your knife and then switch your fork to the other hand, so you can shovel the peas against something else on the plate, thus ensuring they end up on your fork.

#### How to Eat Pudding (Desserts):

To eat dessert, break the dessert with the spoon, one bite at a time. Push the food with the fork (optional) into the spoon. Eat from the spoon. (Fork in left hand; spoon in right.)

#### How to Use a Napkin or Serviette:

The golden rule is that a napkin should never be used to blow your nose on. This is a definite no-no. Napkins should be placed across the lap—tucking them into your clothing may be considered "common".

# What Do You Say or Do if You've Accidentally Taken Too Much Food and You Cannot Possibly Eat It All?

Say, "I'm sorry, but it seems that my eyes are bigger than my stomach." Or "I'm sorry. It was so delicious but I am full." The main thing is not to offend your host.

http://www.woodlands-junior.kent.sch.uk/customs/behaviourfood.html

- 1. The underlined word "cutlery" (Para. 2) possibly means "knives, forks and spoons, used for eating and serving food".
- 2. It's proper to tell the host before the dinner party if you have some special needs.
- 3. You should always eat chicken and pizza with a knife and fork.
- 4. You should never start eating before everyone has been served.
- 5. Napkins can only be used for dabbing your lips.
- 6. You should put either milk or sugar to your tea and coffee.
- 7. In an informal dinner party, you may not come across many knives and forks.