



普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材

CONTEMPORARY

COLLEGE ENGLISH

现代大学英语

● 总主编：杨立民

● 副主编：徐克容

● **精读 基础教程**

● 编 者：张 莲 张 峰
 李朝晖 邱 枫
 刘 波

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS



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北京市高等教育精品教材立项项目

Contemporary College English

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编者说明

《现代大学英语》系列精读教材全套原为六册，从出版至今，得到不少兄弟院校的厚爱，为他们所采用。但由于各个学校的情况不同，使用这套系列教材的部分院校反映已有的这六册书偏难，希望有一本难度略低的精读教材供其使用，以便能更好地过渡到《现代大学英语》系列教材第一册。在编写队伍的努力下，我们有了现在这本预备级教材《现代大学英语精读基础教程》。

作为编者，在编写这本书的过程中遇到的最大挑战仍然是：如何妥善地解决学习者的成人思维能力和求知欲望与薄弱的英语基础之间的矛盾。教材起点过高，难度不适，定会挫伤学习者的积极性，也极易造成学习者眼高手低，消化不良，从而使基本功训练目标落空。但反过来，也不能因为要适当降低语言难度，而造成教材内容单薄、平淡、幼稚和空洞，从而从另外一个方面挫伤学习者的积极性，妨碍他们对知识的追求和对其思维能力的培养。本书在编写过程中努力避免上述两种偏向的发生，力求在难度和内容之间取得最佳的平衡。

首先，编者将学生已有的词汇量定位为1,500个左右，比使用《现代大学英语》系列教材第一册需要的单词量少600个左右。使用本教材一个学期后，学生们将能补上这个差额。而在语法部分，本教程则强调一些基本内容的整理、复习、巩固和提高。

经验告诉我们，学生从中学到大学，在学习上、生活上和心理上都将经历深刻的变化，他们急切需要适应这个充满变化的过程。从英语教学的角度来说，他们必须完成三个转变：一是由被动依赖教师向自主学习转变，二是由为了应试而学习向为了使用语言交流思想而学习转变，三是由单纯学语言向结合语言学习文化、提高人文素质转变。因此，这本精读基础教程特别强调培养学生独立学习的能力，强调帮助学生学会阅读、理解和欣赏；强调帮助学生学会分析语言特点，归纳整理各种语言现象；强调培养学生既见树又见林、抓住文章的中心内容和结构的能力；强调帮助学生自主地围绕课文进行语言使用能力的操练。

在练习的设计中，我们尤其注重对学生提问能力的培养。这样的设计主要是因为问答能力是日常生活对话的基础。但更为重要的是，作为大学生，学生们需要具备批判性的思维能力。我们在每课的练习中还设计了结合课文内容的对话，供学生模仿。这样做的目的同样是在帮助学生提高口语能力的同时，提高他们对课文内容进行分析批判的能力。还需要特别说明的是，本书每课的练习总量都控制在十个之内，而且不再分词汇和语法两部分，表示这两者同等重要，以避免引起误解。每课后还设计了是非题和填充题，要求学生课下完成，目的是让学生养成精读的习惯和一丝不苟的作风，而不是一目十行，粗心大意，随便翻翻，过目就忘。

作为《现代大学英语》系列教材的一个部分，本教程总的编写原则没有改变，每课的结构和题材基本与全系列其他精读教材一致。我们希望这些课文能引起学生对独立思考、批判思维、人际关系、种族歧视、人与自然、生活方式、价值观念等问题的兴趣，尽量做到课文的语言和内容并重，不偏不废。

最后，还要说句老话，敬请使用我们教材的教师和同学一如既往地教材中的缺点和错误提出批评与指正。我们在此预先表示诚挚的谢意。

编者

2008年7月

Acknowledgments

We are deeply grateful to the authors and publishers of all the stories and articles we use as readings for this textbook. We apologize for the insufficient information in some cases due to our lack of resources. We intend to show every respect for intellectual property rights, and hope our pleading for the permission to use the related stories and articles for teaching purposes will receive kind and generous consideration.

Text A (Author/Sources)

- Lesson 1 ***The Case of Natty Nat*** by Donald J. Sobol from *Encyclopedia Brown*, Boy Detective by Donald J. Sobol. Copyright © 1998 by Bantam Doubleday Dell Publishing Group.
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- Lesson 7 ***The Invention of Nothing*** by Chris Rose. Text retrieved from <http://www.britishcouncil.org/tw/learnenglish-central-stories-invention-nothing.htm>. 12/08/2008.
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- Lesson 10 ***Too Soon a Woman*** by Dorothy M. Johnson from *Discovering Fiction, Student's Book 2*. Cambridge University Press.
- Lesson 11 ***Becoming a Critical Thinker*** by Dave Ellis from *Becoming a Master Student* by Dave Ellis, 8th edition. Copyright © 1998 by Houghton Mifflin Company.
- Lesson 12 ***A Hero of Our Time*** by Judith Simon Prager from *Chicken Soup for the Soul of America*. Copyright © 2002 by Jack Canfield.

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- Lesson 1 ***The Giving Tree*** by Shel Silverstein. Text retrieved from <http://www.inspirationalstories.com/parental-2.html>. 9/8/2008.
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- Lesson 7 ***Leap of Faith*** by Stephen J. Hopson. Text retrieved from <http://www.inspiring-quotes-and-stories.com/inspirational-stories.html>. 9/12/2007.
- Lesson 8 ***First Night*** by Marsha Arons from *A 6th Bowl of Chicken Soup for the Soul*. Copyright © 1999 by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.
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- Lesson 10 ***Pioneer Women*** by Joanna L. Stratton, published by Simon & Schuster, Inc.
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- Lesson 11 ***Study Habits of Isaac Newton*** by James P. McBride from *Education*, Vol.114,1994.
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- Lesson 12 ***Never Good at Good-Bye*** by Amanda Dodson from *Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul*. Copyright © 2003 by Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen.

Abbreviations

a.	.....	adjective
adv.	.....	adverb
AmE	.....	American English
BrE	.....	British English
conj.	.....	conjunction
e.g.	.....	for example
etc.	.....	et cetera (and so on)
fml	.....	formal
infml	.....	informal
int.	.....	interjection
n.	.....	noun
para.	.....	paragraph
pl.	.....	plural
prep.	.....	preposition
pron.	.....	pronoun
sb.	.....	somebody
sth.	.....	something
sl.	.....	slang
usu.	.....	usually
v.	.....	verb

Pronunciation Table

本书采用第十四版英语国际音标注音，现将音标列表如下：

辅音		元音	
音标	例词	音标	例词
p	pot	i:	bee
b	boot	ɪ	hit
t	tent	e	pet
d	deal	æ	fat
k	black	ɑ:	large
g	gold	ɒ	dog
tʃ	check	ɔ:	door
dʒ	joke	ʊ	pull
f	fox	u:	tool
v	value	ʌ	dust
θ	throw	ɜ:	serve
ð	this	ə	about
s	boss	eɪ	brave
z	zero	əʊ	note
ʃ	foolish	aɪ	fine
ʒ	pleasure	aʊ	how
h	host	ɔɪ	soil
m	moon	ɪə	appear
n	novel	eə	fair
ŋ	sing	ʊə	sure
l	laugh		
r	rose		
j	year		
w	west		

本书采用的第十四版英语国际音标与非十四版英语国际音标对照如下：

/ ɒ / = / ɔ / / ʊ / = / u /
 / ɜ: / = / ə: / / əʊ / = / əu /
 / eɪ / = / ɛi / / aɪ / = / ai /
 / aʊ / = / au / / ɔɪ / = / ɔi /
 / ɪə / = / iə / / eə / = / ɛə /
 / ʊə / = / uə /

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Lesson One

A grayscale photograph of a European town, likely in the Alps, featuring a prominent church spire on the left, a winding road in the foreground, and numerous houses with gabled roofs. The title 'Lesson One' is overlaid in large, bold, black letters with a white drop shadow.

Text A The Case of Natty Nat

Donald J. Sobol

Pre-class Work

1

Read the text carefully with the help of the notes. Prepare at least five questions for class discussion.

- 1 Mr. and Mrs. Brown had one child. They called him Leroy. But everyone else in Idaville called him Encyclopedia.
- 2 An encyclopedia is a book or a set of books that gives information on all branches of knowledge arranged alphabetically.
- 3 Leroy Brown's head was like an encyclopedia. It was filled with facts he had learned from books. He was like a complete library walking around in sneakers.
- 4 But what was more important was that the boy could think. He was full of ideas. No wonder people were always stopping him on the street to ask him questions. But his father asked him more questions than anyone else. Mr. Brown was the chief of police of Idaville.
- 5 The town had four banks, three movie theaters, the usual number of gas stations, churches, schools, stores, and comfortable houses on shady streets. And it had the average number of crimes for a community of its size.
- 6 Idaville, however, only looked like the usual American town. It was, really, most unusual.
- 7 For nearly a whole year, no criminal had escaped arrest or got away with breaking a law. This was partly because the town's policemen were clever and brave. But mostly it was because Chief Brown was Encyclopedia's father. His hardest cases were solved by his 10-year-old son during dinner in their red brick house on Rover Avenue. Of course, nobody knew a boy was the mastermind behind the town's police force, and you wouldn't guess it by looking at Encyclopedia. He looked like almost any fifth-grade boy and acted like one, too—except that he never talked about himself. Mr. Brown never said a word about the advice his son gave him. Who would believe that this fifth-grade boy was his best detective?
- 8 One evening at dinner, Mr. Brown said, "Natty Nat has struck again. He has held up another store—and right here in our town."
- 9 "What store, Dad?" asked Encyclopedia.
- 10 "The Men's Shop, owned by Mr. Dillon and Mr. Jones," answered Mr. Brown.

- 11 "Are you sure the robber was Natty Nat?" asked Encyclopedia.
- 12 "Mr. Dillon himself said it was Natty Nat," replied Mr. Brown. "I wrote down everything he told me about the holdup. I'll read it to you."
- 13 Encyclopedia closed his eyes as he always did when he was getting ready to think hard.
- 14 *I was alone in the store. I did not know anyone had come in. Suddenly a man's voice told me to raise my hands. I looked up then. I was face to face with the man the newspapers call Natty Nat. He had on a gray coat with a belt in the back, just as the newspapers said. He told me to turn and face the wall. Since he had a gun, I did as he said. When I turned around again, he was gone—with all the money.*
- 15 When his father finished, Encyclopedia asked only one question: "Did the newspapers ever print a picture of Natty Nat?"
- 16 "No," answered the father. "He never stands still long enough for a picture to be taken. He's never been caught. In fact, nobody even knows his real name. But every policeman in the state knows he always wears that gray coat with the belt in the back."
- 17 Suddenly Encyclopedia opened his eyes. "The case is solved!"
- 18 "There's nothing to solve," objected his father. "There is no mystery. Mr. Dillon was robbed by the same man who has been robbing other stores in the state."
- 19 "Not quite," said Encyclopedia. "There was no holdup, and Mr. Dillon wasn't robbed. He lied from beginning to end."
- 20 "Why should he lie?" demanded his father.
- 21 "I guess he spent the money, but he didn't want his partner to know the money was missing. So he made up the whole story."
- 22 "Leroy," said his mother, "why are you so sure?"
- 23 "It's simple, Mom," said Encyclopedia. "Mr. Dillon said he knew it was Natty Nat because the man was wearing the gray coat with a belt in the back, just as the newspapers said."
- 24 "That could be true," Chief Brown said.
- 25 "That couldn't be true," said Encyclopedia. "Mr. Dillon never saw the back of the man. He said so himself. Remember?"
- 26 "Why, I believe you are right, son!" cried Chief Brown. "So he stole money from his own store and his partner. And he nearly got away with it!"



- 27 He rushed out of the dining room.
- 28 “Leroy,” said Mrs. Brown, “did you get this idea from a TV program?”
- 29 “No,” said Encyclopedia. “I got it from a book I read about a great detective and his methods of observation.”
- 30 “Well,” said his mother proudly, “this proves how important it is to listen carefully and watch closely, to train your memory. Perhaps you will be a detective when you grow up.”
- 31 “Mom,” said Encyclopedia, “can I have another piece of pie?” Mrs. Brown sighed. She had taught English in the Idaville High School before her marriage. “You may have another piece,” she said.

Notes to the Text

1. About the author

Donald J. Sobol is a freelance American writer. The first *Encyclopedia Brown* book appeared in 1963, and in 1976 he received the Edgar Allan Poe Award for the *Encyclopedia Brown* series, which were then read by millions of young readers. A native in New York, he now lives with his wife in Florida.

2. They called him Leroy. (para. 1)

句中 him 是动词 called 的宾语, Leroy 是宾语的补语,说明宾语的情况(状况或身份)。又如:

But everyone else in Idaville called him Encyclopedia.

但是在伊达维勒,别人都叫他“百科全书”。

We elected Wang Ning our monitor.

我们选了王宁当班长。

注意:句型 V + N/Pron. + N (及物动词 + 名词/代词 + 名词) 中的两个名词/代词或名词短语也可能是直接宾语与间接宾语的关系。如:

Grandpa gave me his old computer.

爷爷把他的旧电脑给了我。

He lent me his bike for a day.

他把自行车借给我用一天。

3. But everyone else in Idaville called him Encyclopedia. (para. 1)

Idaville 是文中小镇的名字,可能是作者编造的。“-ville”源自古法语,意思相当于 village,即村庄。Encyclopedia 在这里用来显现男孩知道的东西很多,就像一部百科全书一样。这样的手法在英语中称为 metaphor (比喻)。

4. An encyclopedia is a book or a set of books that gives information on all branches of knowledge arranged alphabetically. (para. 2)

百科全书是一本或一套书,里面按字母排序、提供各类学科的信息资料。

注意此句中几个定语的层次关系。限定性定语从句 that gives information on all

branches of knowledge arranged alphabetically 修饰句子的表语 a book or a set of books。
介词短语 on all branches of knowledge 修饰定语从句中的主语 information, 而过去分
词短语 arranged alphabetically 修饰 information on all branches of knowledge。

5. **He was like a complete library walking around in sneakers. (para. 3)** 他就像是穿着运动鞋走来走去的一座活图书馆。

6. **But what was more important was that the boy could think. (para. 4)**

此句的主语和表语都是名词从句, 分别由 what 和 that 引导。

7. **No wonder people were always stopping him on the street to ask him questions. (para. 4)**

人们经常在大街上拦住他问这问那也就不足为奇了。

此句句首省略了 It was, 并且 wonder 后面省略了 that。It's/It was no/small/little wonder + that 从句用来表示人们对某种现象习以为常, 不觉奇怪。It's/It was 和 that 常常省略。又如:

(It's) no wonder (that) the boy speaks such good English.

这男孩英语说得那么好也就不足为奇了。

It was small wonder that he didn't tell me about it.

他没告诉我这件事, 这没什么奇怪的。

8. **movie theater (para. 5)**

美式英语中的“电影院”, 相当于英式英语中的 cinema。

9. **Idaville, however, only looked like the usual American town. It was, really, most unusual. (para. 6)** 不过, 伊达维勒只是看起来是个普通的美国城镇。实际上, 它可真是不一般。

上文指出伊达维勒所拥有的设施与犯罪率规模相匹配, 这点与美国的一般城镇相似。这两个句子在文中起承上启下的作用。下文指出伊达维勒的与众不同之处, 引出本文中主人公的作用。

10. **For nearly a whole year, no criminal had escaped arrest or got away with breaking a law. (para. 7)** 在近一年的时间里, 没有一个罪犯漏网或是逃脱法律的制裁。

11. **... and you wouldn't guess it by looking at Encyclopedia. (para. 7)** ……你看“百科全书”的外表也绝对猜不出来(他有那么大的能耐)。

上句中的 it 指的是 His hardest cases were solved by his 10-year-old son during dinner (警察局长最棘手的案子都是他十岁的儿子在饭桌上破解的)。情态动词 wouldn't 表示过去不会想到或预料到某件事情会发生。又如:

Who would believe that this fifth-grade boy was his best detective? (para. 7)

谁又会相信, 这个五年级的小学生会是他最好的侦探呢?

12. **He looked like almost any fifth-grade boy and acted like one, too—except that he never talked about himself. (para. 7)** 他看起来几乎和别的五年级男生一样, 举止也没什么不同——唯一一点不同的是, 他从来不谈论自己。

介词 except 后可以跟由 that 引出的名词从句, 又如:

Nanjing is a wonderful city except that it can be very hot in summer.

南京除了夏天有时很热之外真是是个很棒的城市。

13. Natty Nat has struck again. He has held up another store—and right here in our town. (para. 8)

struck 的意思是“突然出击”，是strike的过去式。hold up的意思是“抢劫”（英语中这种动词加上某个介词或副词所构成的固定短语叫“短语动词”。它们十分有用，需要特别加以注意）。right here 的意思是“就在这里”，right 在这里用作副词，起强调语气的作用。注意：英语中很多词都有不止一个意思，在学习时要注意。

14. “The Men’s Shop, owned by Mr. Dillon and Mr. Jones,” answered Mr. Brown. (para. 10)

过去分词短语 owned by Mr. Dillon and Mr. Jones 在句中作定语，修饰 The men’s shop，是定语从句 that is owned by Mr. Jones 的缩略形式。又如：

A book (that was) published last month 上个月出版的书

A man (who is) respected by his people 受其人民尊敬的人

15. ... told me about the holdup. (para. 12)

在英语中，两个或两个以上的词可以组合成一个新词，如上句中的 holdup 就是 hold 和 up 组合而成。这被称为复合词 (compound word)。

16. He had on a gray coat with a belt in the back, just as the newspapers said. (para. 14) 就像报上说的，他身穿一件背后有腰带的灰色外套。

17. Since he had a gun, I did as he said. (para. 14) 他手里有枪，我只好按他说的去做。

此处，连词 as 引出的是状语从句，用来说明主句动词所表示行为的方式。

18. “... But every policeman in the state knows he always wears that gray coat with the belt in the back.” (para. 16)

从上下文看，“state”在这里指美国的州。

19. He never stands still long enough for a picture to be taken. (para. 16) 他从来没有站着不动，让人有足够的时间把他拍下来。

副词短语 long enough for a picture to be taken 在句中作状语，修饰 stand still。for + 名词或代词与动词不定式连用，后面的名词或代词表明动词不定式所表示的行为的施动者。注意下面两个句子的区别：

I’ve brought a book to read on the train.

我带了一本书在火车上读。（我读）

I’ve brought a book for you to read on the train.

我给你带来了一本书在火车上读。（你读）

The poem is difficult to understand.

这首诗难懂。（泛指）

The poem is difficult for a ten-year-old to understand.

这首诗对十岁的孩子来说可不好懂。（对十岁的孩子而言）

The pool isn’t large enough for 20 people to swim in. （对20个人而言）

这个游泳池不够大，20个人在里面没法游。