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大学英语泛读教程

APPROACHING READING EFFICIENCY 4

(第四册) (Book Four)

 复旦大学出版社

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Approaching Reading Efficiency (Book Four)

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前言

阅读是语言输入的一个重要途径,尤其是对非英语专业的学习者来讲更是如此。阅读的量积累到一定的程度,语言输出就会有一个质的飞跃。《大学英语泛读教程》是依据教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》编写的一套供大学英语基础阶段1-4级学习的阅读教材,它与《大学英语精读》、《大学英语听力》等教材配合使用,主要是在阅读的量上提供一个语言输入的源泉。我们在编写过程中力图使教程突出以下特点:

一、注重培养学生快速、准确、有效地获取信息的能力,把握文章中心思想,重点训练学生见“树”也见“林”的能力。学生通过阅读实践,扩大英语词汇量,提高阅读速度和理解能力。

二、在选材时注重了题材的多样性、内容的启迪性、语言的纯正性等。题材方面既有贴近大学生生活的主题,如西方文化、爱情与友谊等,也涵盖了教育、科技、体育与健康、环境保护、计算机与网络等领域。选文的主题积极,有一定的教育意义,能够帮助学生理解和发现生活中的真、善、美。选材多样,体裁和风格各有不同,语言表达方式丰富多彩。

三、结构上采用了头脑风暴、课文正文、词汇解释、难点注释、阅读理解练习和翻译训练等内容。在阅读词汇方面,本教程将教学大纲规定的四级重点词汇列在了每篇文章的后面,以供学习者预习及重点掌握。六级和超纲词汇在词汇解释里有特殊标识,★代表六级词汇,▲代表超纲词汇。

本教程共计四册,每册16个单元。每单元分为两个部分。第一部分由课文(Text A)、词汇表及相应的练习组成,其中Text A作为精

读使用。第二部分由课文(Text B)、词汇表及相应的练习组成,其中 Text B 作为快速阅读使用,其目的是培养学生在有限的时间内快速准确地获取主要信息的能力。每册书后附有该册全部练习答案,供教师和学生参考。

《大学英语泛读教程》采取集体研讨,分工负责的原则编写。编委会多次就编写体例、选材等问题集体研讨。主编及参编人员均为长期工作在大学英语教学一线的专家和学者。《大学英语泛读教程》(第四册)主编为李田新,副主编为陈扬、刘洋、赵欣、尚菲菲。

本教程在编写过程中,听取了同行专家的意见和建议。外籍专家 James S. Reynolds 和 Kane Kevin 审阅了全部书稿,并提出了许多建设性的意见。编者衷心希望该教程能对学习者加强语言输入、提高阅读水平助一臂之力。由于编者的水平有限,教材中难免有不足与疏漏之处,恳切广大读者予以指正。

编 者

2011-4-18

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Unit 1

College



Part I Brainstorming

Answer the following questions.

1. How do you feel about your college life? Has it met your previous expectations?
2. What have you done to make your college life rich and colorful?
3. What is your plan for the future after you graduate from college? What will you do to fulfill that plan?



Part II Reading

Text A

A Letter from Kai-fu Lee to His Daughter (Excerpt)

Kai-fu Lee

Dear Daughter:

College will be the most important years in your life. It is in college that you will truly discover what learning is about. You often question, “What good is this course?” I encourage you to be inquisitive (好问的), but I also want to tell you, “Education is what you have left after all that is taught is forgotten.” What I mean by that is the materials taught aren’t as important as you gaining the ability to learn a new subject, and the ability to analyze a new problem. That is really what learning in college is about — this will be the period when you go from teacher-taught to master-inspired, after which you must become a self-learner. So do take each subject seriously, and even if what you learn isn’t critical for your life, the skills of learning will be something you cherish forever.

- 2 Do not fall into the trap of dogma. There is no single simple answer to any question. Remember during your high school debate class, I always asked you to take on the side that you didn't believe in? I did that for a reason — things rarely are “black or white”, and there are always many ways to look at a problem. You will become a better problem solver if you recognize that. This is called “critical thinking”, and it is the most important thinking skill you need for your life. This also means you need to become tolerant and supportive of others. I always remember when I went to my Ph.D. advisor and proposed a new thesis topic, he said, “I don't agree with you, but I'll support you.” After years, I learned it isn't just tolerance, it is encouragement of critical thinking, and an empowering (令人奋发的) style of leadership, and it has become a part of me. I hope it will become a part of you too.
- 3 Follow your passion in college. Take courses you think you will enjoy. Don't be trapped in what others think or say. Steve Jobs once said, “When you are in college, your passion will create many dots, and later in your life you will connect them.” In his inspiring speech given at Stanford commencement, he gave the great example where he studied calligraphy (美术字), and a decade later, it became the basis of the beautiful Macintosh fonts (字体), which later ignited desktop publishing, and brought wonderful tools like Microsoft Word to our lives. His expedition into calligraphy was a dot, and the Macintosh became the connecting line. So don't worry too much about what job you will have, and don't be too utilitarian (功利的), and if you like Japanese or Korean, go for it, even if your dad thinks it's not useful. Enjoy picking your dots, and be assured one day you will find your calling, and connect a beautiful curve through the dots.
- 4 Do your best in classes, but don't let pressure get to you. Your mother and I have no expectations for your grades. If you graduate and learn something in your four years, we would feel happy. Your Columbia degree will take you far, even if you don't graduate with honors. So please don't give yourself pressure. During your last few months in high school, you were so happy because there was little pressure and college applications were finished. But in the past few weeks, we saw you were beginning to worry. (Do you know you bite your nails when you are nervous?) Please don't be worried. The only thing that matters is that you learned. The only metric you should use is that you tried. Grades are just silly letters that give the vain people something to brag (自夸), and the lazy people something to fear. You are too good to be either.
- 5 Most importantly, make friends and be happy. College friends are often the best in life, because during college you are closer to them physically than to your family. Also, going through independence and adulthood is a natural bonding experience. Pick a few friends and become really close to them — pick the ones who are genuine and sincere to you. Don't worry about their hobbies, grades, looks, or even personalities. Be forgiving and don't stereotype. People are not perfect, so as long as they are genuine and sincere.

Trust them and be good to them. They will give back. This is my secret of success — that I am genuine with people and trust them (unless they do something to lose my trust). Some people tell me that occasionally I would be taken advantage of. They are right, but I can tell you that that loss is nothing compared to what I gained. In my last 18 years leading people, I have realized that only one thing matters — to gain the trust and respect of others, you need to trust and respect others first. Whether it is for management, work, or friendship, this is something you should ponder.

- 6 Whether it is summer planning, or coursework planning, or picking a major, or managing your time, you should take control of your life. I will always remember the exhilarating (令人兴奋的) feeling in my life — that I got to decide to skip kindergarten, that I got to decide to change my major to computer science, that I got to decide to leave academia (学术界) for Apple, that I got to decide to go to China, that I got to decide to go to Google, and most recently, that I got to decide to start my own business. Being able to decide means you get to live the life that you want to. Life is too short to live the life others want you to live. Being in control feels great. Try it, and you'll love it!

- 7 College is the four years where you have:
the greatest amount of free time,
the first chance to be independent,
the most flexibility to change,
the lowest price for making mistakes.

- 8 So please treasure your college years — make the best of your free time, become an independent thinker in control of your destiny, evolve yourself into a bi-cultural talent, be bold to experiment, learn and grow through your successes and challenges.

Love,

Dad (& Mom)

(1,023 words)

New Words and Expressions

inspire *v.* 赋予某人灵感; 启迪

take ... seriously 认真对待

critical *adj.* 决定性的; 批判的

★ dogma *n.* 教义, 教条; 信条

★ cherish *v.* 珍爱, 珍视, 钟爱

★ tolerant *adj.* 容忍的, 忍受的

★ supportive *adj.* 支持的, 拥护的

▲ commencement *n.* 毕业典礼, 学位授予典礼

★ ignite *v.* 点燃; 引发

★ expedition *n.* 远征; 探险; 考察

go for 想得到……, 争取

curve *n.* 曲线, 弧线

metric *n.* 衡量标准

vain *adj.* 自负的; 爱慕虚荣的

bonding *n.* 结合, 连接

genuine *adj.* 真诚的, 真心的

sincere adj. (指人)诚实的;直率的

personality n. 人格,个性

stereotype v. 把……模式化,使成陈规

occasionally adv. 偶尔地

take advantage of 利用;欺骗

compare ... to 与……相比

★ponder v. 考虑;深思熟虑

flexibility n. 灵活性;适应性;弹性

make the best of 充分利用

evolve v. 演变,发展

bold adj. 大胆的,勇敢的

Notes

1. Kai-fu Lee 李开复,曾先后在苹果、SGI、微软、谷歌等公司担任要职,现任创新工场董事长兼首席执行官。本文节选自其在送女儿就读哥伦比亚大学时写的一封信。
2. Steve Jobs 苹果公司现任董事长兼首席执行官及创办人之一。
3. Macintosh 简称 Mac,苹果机,苹果公司一系列的个人电脑。

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions according to the information from the text.

1. According to the author, what is learning in college?
2. What does the expression “critical thinking” (Paragraph 2) mean?
3. What does the example of Steve Jobs imply?
4. How important is it to make college friends?
5. Why does the author provide the example of his making a decision in his life?

Language Focus

Fill in the gaps with words chosen from the box. Change the form where necessary.

inspire	cherish	tolerant	supportive	empowering	vain
bonding	genuine	personality	ponder	flexibility	expedition

1. Southey was deeply impressed by both Shelley's _____ and talents.
2. We should always be _____ of the views of others, even if we disagree with them.
3. Mothers who are depressed sometimes fail to establish _____ with their children.
4. They are _____ whether the money could be better used elsewhere.
5. The musician's best music was _____ by the memory of his mother.
6. A(n) _____ person is one who has too high an opinion of himself.
7. Computers offer a much greater degree of _____ in the way work is organized.
8. Lisa was very _____ during my father's illness.
9. The audience applauded the performers with _____ enthusiasm.
10. The bride and the groom promised to _____ each other through sickness and health.

Cloze

Below are 10 blanks in the following passage. For each blank there are four choices. You should choose the ONE that best fits into the passage.

Many young people go to universities without a clear idea of what they are going to do. If one considers the various courses 1, it is not hard to see how 2 it is for a student to select the course most suited to him. If a student goes to a university to 3 a broader perspective of life, he will 4 benefit. Most students would profit by the exploration of different academic studies, 5 the “all rounder” with no particular interest. They should have a 6 time to decide in what subject they want to take their degrees, so that in later life, they do not look back and 7.

There is another side to the question of how to make the best use of one's time at university. Some students, who are good at a 8 branch of learning, may spend three or four years becoming a specialist but with 9 knowledge of what the rest of the world is all about. Therefore there will have to be much more 10 information in all fields.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. A. referred | B. offered | C. preferred | D. offended |
| 2. A. easy | B. clear | C. difficult | D. useful |
| 3. A. acquire | B. require | C. inquire | D. accept |
| 4. A. unlikely | B. unexpectedly | C. unfortunately | D. undoubtedly |
| 5. A. especially | B. occasionally | C. specially | D. equally |
| 6. A. easier | B. shorter | C. longer | D. happier |
| 7. A. recall | B. regret | C. memorize | D. refresh |
| 8. A. spectacular | B. special | C. peculiar | D. particular |
| 9. A. little | B. much | C. a little | D. few |
| 10. A. special | B. interesting | C. detailed | D. efficient |

Text B

The Graduates

Louis Menand

1 On your first sleepover (在外面留宿), your best friend's mother asks if you would like a tuna-fish-salad sandwich. Your own mother gives you tuna-fish-salad sandwiches all the time, so you say, “Sure.” When you bite into the sandwich, though, you realize, too late, that your best friend's mother's tuna-fish salad tastes nothing like the tuna-fish salad your mother makes. You never dreamed that it was possible for there to be more than one way to prepare tuna-fish salad. And what's with the bread? It's brown, and appears to have tiny seeds in it. What is more unnerving (令人不安的) is the fact that your best friend obviously

considers his mother's tuna-fish salad to be perfectly normal and has been eating it with enjoyment all his life. Later on, you discover that the pillows in your best friend's house are filled with some kind of foam-rubber stuff instead of feathers. The toilet paper is pink. What kind of human beings are these? At two o'clock in the morning, you throw up, and your mother comes and takes you home.

2 College, from which some 1.5 million people will graduate this year, is, basically, a sleepover with grades. In college, it is not so cool to throw up or for your mother to come and take you home. But plenty of students do throw up, and undergo other forms of mental and bodily distress. And plenty take time off from school or drop out. Almost half the people who go to college never graduate. Except in the case of a few highfliers (有可能取得重大成绩的人) and a somewhat larger number of inveterate (顽固的) slackers, college is a stressful experience.

3 American colleges notoriously inflate grades, but they can never inflate them enough, because education in the United States has become hypercompetitive (竞争极度激烈的) and every little difference matters. In 1960, Harvard College had around five thousand applicants and accepted roughly thirty percent; this year, it had almost twenty-three thousand applicants and accepted nine percent. And the narrower the funnel, the finer applicants grind themselves in order to squeeze through it. Perversely (有悖常理地), though, the competitiveness is a sign that the system is doing what Americans want it to be doing. Americans want education to be two things, universal and meritocratic (精英领导的). They want everyone to have a slot who wants one, and they want the slots to be awarded according to merit. The system is not perfect; children from higher-income families enjoy an advantage in competing for the top slots. But there are lots of slots. There are more than four thousand institutions of higher education in the United States, enrolling more than seventeen million students. Can you name fifty colleges? Even if you could name a thousand, there would be three thousand you hadn't heard of. Most of these schools accept virtually all qualified applicants.

4 What makes for the stress is meritocracy. Meritocratic systems are democratic (since, in theory, everyone gets a place at the starting line) and efficient (since resources are not wasted on the unqualified), but they are huge engines of anxiety. The more purely meritocratic the system — the more open, the more efficient, the fairer — the more anxiety it produces, because there is no haven (避难所) from competition. Your mother can't come over and help you out — that would be cheating! You're on your own. Everything you do in a meritocratic society is some kind of test, and there is never a final exam. There is only another test. People seem to pick up on this earlier and earlier in their lives, and at some point it starts to get in the way of their becoming educated. You can't learn when you're afraid of being wrong.

5 The biggest undergraduate major by far in the United States today is business. Twenty-two percent of bachelor's degrees are awarded in that field. Eight percent are awarded in education, five percent in the health professions. By contrast, fewer than four percent of college graduates major in English, and only two percent major in history. There are more bachelor's degrees awarded every year in Parks, Recreation, Leisure, and Fitness Studies than in all foreign languages and literatures combined. The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, which classifies institutions of higher education, no longer uses the concept "liberal arts" in making its distinctions. This makes the obsession of some critics of American higher education with things like whether Shakespeare is being required of English majors beside the point. The question isn't what the English majors aren't taking; the question is what everyone else isn't taking.

6 More than fifty percent of Americans spend some time in college, and American higher education is the most expensive in the world. The average annual tuition at a four-year private college is more than twenty-two thousand dollars. What do we want from college, though? It is hard to imagine that there could be one answer that was right for each of the 1.5 million or so people graduating this year. Any prescription that had to spread itself across that many institutions would not be very deep. One thing that might be hoped for, though, is that, somewhere along the way, every student had a moment of vertigo (眩晕) (without unpleasant side effects). In commencement speeches and the like, people say that education is all about opportunity and expanding your horizons. But some part of it is about shrinking people, about teaching them that they are not the measure of everything. College should give them the intellectual equivalent of their childhood sleepover experience. We want to give graduates confidence to face the world, but we also want to protect the world a little from their confidence. Humility (谦逊) is good. There is not enough of it these days.

(945 words)

New Words and Expressions

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| stuff <i>n.</i> 材料; 东西 | stressful <i>adj.</i> 有压力的 |
| throw up 呕吐 | *notoriously <i>adv.</i> 众所周知地 |
| undergo <i>v.</i> 经历; 承受 | ▲inflate <i>v.</i> 使膨胀, 使变大 |
| distress <i>n.</i> 悲痛, 痛苦 | applicant <i>n.</i> 申请人, 求职者 |
| drop out 退学 | funnel <i>n.</i> 漏斗 |
| in the case of 就……而言, 对……而言 | grind <i>v.</i> 压迫; 折磨 |
| *slacker <i>n.</i> 逃避工作的人; 偷懒的人 | squeeze <i>v.</i> 挤, 捏 |

competitiveness *n.* 竞争

universal *adj.* 全体的; 广泛的, 普遍的

*slot *n.* 位置, 职位, 空位

merit *n.* 功勋, 功劳; 价值

institution *n.* 机构

enroll *v.* 登记, 招收

virtually *adv.* 事实上, 实际上

qualified *adj.* 有资格的, 适合的, 胜任的

make for 致使

democratic *adj.* 民主的, 有民主精神的

efficient *adj.* 有能力的, 效率高的

anxiety *n.* 焦虑, 担心, 不安

pick up on 意识到

bachelor *n.* 学士; 学士学位

contrast *n.* 对比, 对照

recreation *n.* 娱乐(方式); 消遣(方式)

classify *v.* 分类; 归类

▲obsession *n.* 困扰; 着迷

critic *n.* 批评家, 评论家

beside the point 偏离话题; 无关紧要

annual *adj.* 每年的, 一年一次的

tuition *n.* 学费

*prescription *n.* 药, 治疗方法

opportunity *n.* 机会, 时机

expand *v.* 使……变大, 扩大

horizon *n.* 范围, 界限, 眼界

shrink *v.* 退缩; 畏缩

equivalent *adj.* 相等的, 相当的

Notes

1. tuna-fish salad 金枪鱼色拉
2. foam-rubber 泡沫橡胶
3. the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching 卡内基教学促进基金会
4. liberal arts 文科

Fast Reading

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 text.

1. On your first sleepover, you may discover that things in your best friend's house are weird EXCEPT the _____.
A. tuna-fish salad
B. feather-filled pillow
C. pink toilet paper
D. brown bread
2. According to the passage, going to college means _____.
A. taking time off school
B. a sleepover with friends
C. a sleepover with grades
D. graduation
3. The inflation of grades in American colleges leads to _____.
A. meritocracy
B. democracy
C. efficiency
D. hyper competition