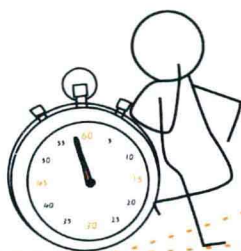


大学英语

ESP快速阅读教程 (中级)

ESP FAST READING OF
COLLEGE ENGLISH
(INTERMEDIATE)



总主编 贾爱武

主 编 张艺宁

审 订 [美]Chuck Wheeler



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前 言

为了适应我国高等教育发展的新形势,深化教学改革,提高教学质量,满足新时期国家和社会对人才培养的需要,教育部于 2007 年颁布了《大学英语课程教学要求》(以下简称为《课程要求》)。新颁布的《课程要求》将大学阶段的英语教学要求分为三个层次,即一般要求、较高要求与更高要求。每个层次都对学生的英语快速阅读能力提出了具体标准。如在较高要求中,《课程要求》规定:“在快速阅读篇幅较长、难度适中的材料时,阅读速度达到每分钟 120 词。能阅读所学专业的综述性文献,并能正确理解中心大意,抓住主要事实和有关细节”。

依据《课程要求》的具体指标,原《大学英语快速阅读》丛书编写组重新组织了一批具有丰富的教学与教材编写经验的一线教师,在原系列教材和省级精品课程建设的基础上,突出创新,强化特色,重新编写了《大学英语 ESP 快速阅读教程》全套教材。力求帮助学生有的放矢地开展快速阅读训练,提高学生对有关专业文献及一般题材的阅读水平与英语交际能力。

本套丛书分为初级、中级、高级,达到《课程要求》规定的较高要求层次。本套丛书选材为国外主流报刊、杂志、网站的最新文章及学术著作、论文。材料来源权威,题材广泛,特别增加了热门专业的英语专业文献及用语,体现了教学及教材专业性、知识性、新颖性、趣味性 & 科学性相结合的特点。教程中的练习均为参编教师自主编写,练习形式与大学英语四、六级考试完全一致,难度适中,具有很强的针对性。本套教程还参考了大学英语一般、较高、更高要求三个层次的词汇表,运用 Antconc 语料检索工具进行了筛选、统计和修改,使选材更具科学性。

本套教材在编写过程中,借鉴了 *BBC News*, *The New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Economist*, *Reader's Digest*, *YouBeauty*, www.livescience.com, en.wikipedia.org, www.latimes.com, www.htrends.com, www.associatedcontent.com 等国外主流媒体的文章;所选文章的作者如下: Ayanna G., David Cameron, Doug Kennedy, Elissa Gootman, Jessica P. Ogilvie, Jim Nicolai, M. D Jim Yardley, Kay S. Hymowitz, Louis Uchitelle, Matt McGrath, Melissa Healy, Simon Jack, Stephanie Pappas, Quentin Hardy 等,在此一并表示感谢。

本册为《大学英语 ESP 快速阅读教程(中级)》,共有 15 单元,遵循由浅到深、由易到难的编排原则,供大学英语四级学生以及程度相当的英语爱好者和自学者使用。阅读速度从每分钟 90 词过渡到 100 词。每篇文章后面都有专门针对快速阅读的 Skimming and Scanning 练习。课文阅读和快速阅读练习设定了建议完成时间和实际完成时间,便于课堂操作和学生自学。每篇文章后还附有词汇拓展练习,旨在帮助学生巩固所学词汇。

本册书由浙江工商大学外国语学院组织编写。Unit 1 由项茂英编写,Unit 2 由周迈编写,Unit 3 由李玲编写,Unit 4 由邬易平编写,Unit 5 由余美编写,Unit 6 由李丹编写,Unit

7 由丁仁仑编写,Unit 8 由于静波编写,Unit 9、12 由张艺宁编写,Unit 10 由李雪编写,Unit 11 由郭虹宇编写,Unit 13 由周颖编写,Unit 14 由江丹编写,Unit 15 由汪露秋编写。本册由张艺宁老师统稿,美籍专家 Chuck Wheeler 审校,贾爱武教授确定了全套丛书的编写原则并主审了全书稿。

本书的编辑出版得到了浙江工商大学出版社和教务处等有关部门与领导的大力支持和帮助,谨此一并表示感谢! 囿于编者水平与经验,教材编写难免留有不足之处,希望广大读者批评指正。

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Unit One

Passage One

Women Are Now Equal as Victims of Poor Economy

Women are retreating

Across the country, women in their prime earning years, struggling with an unfriendly economy, are retreating from the work force, either permanently or for long stretches.

They had piled into jobs in growing numbers since the 1960s. But that stopped happening this decade, and as the nearly seven-year-old economic recovery gives way to hard times, the retreat is likely to accelerate.

Indeed, for the first time since the women's movement came to life, an economic recovery has come and gone, and the percentage of women at work has fallen, not risen, the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports. Each of the seven previous recoveries since 1960 ended with a greater percentage of women at work than when it began.

When economists first started noticing this trend two or three years ago, many suggested that the pullback from paid employment was a matter of the women themselves deciding to stay home — to raise children or because their husbands were doing well or because, more than men, they felt committed to running their households.

But now, a different explanation is turning up in government data, in the research of a few economists and in a Congressional study, to be released Tuesday, that follows the women's story through the end of 2007.

After moving into virtually every occupation, women are being afflicted on a large scale by the same problem as men: downturns, layoffs, stagnant wages or the discouraging prospect of a direct pay cut. And they are responding, as men have, by dropping out or disappearing for a while.

"When we saw women starting to drop out in the early part of this decade, we thought it was the motherhood movement, women staying home to raise their kids," Heather Boushey, a senior economist at the Joint Economic Committee of Congress, which did the Congressional study, said in an interview. "We did not think it was the economy, but when we looked into it, we realized that it was."

The Joint Economic Committee study cites the growing statistical evidence that

women are leaving the work force “on *par* (同等) with men”, and the potentially disastrous consequences for families.

The proportion of women holding jobs in their prime working years, 25 to 54, peaked at 74.9 percent in early 2000 as the technology investment bubble was about to burst. Eight years later, in June, it was 72.7 percent, a seemingly small decline, but those 2.2 percentage points erase more than 12 years of gains for women. Four million more in their prime years would be employed today if the old pattern had prevailed through the expansion now ending.

The pattern is roughly similar among the well-educated and the less educated, among the married and the never married, among mothers with teenage children and those with children under 6, and among white women and black.

Women are struggling

The women, in sum, are for the first time withdrawing from work with the same uniformity as men in their prime working years. Ninety-six percent of the men held jobs in 1953, their peak year. That is down to 86.4 percent today. But men are rarely thought of as dropping out to run the household, which is often the assumption when women pull out.

Wage stagnation often discourages them from pursuing new jobs, says Lawrence Katz, a labor economist at Harvard. “While pay was rising solidly in the 1990s, you had women continuing to move into the work force,” Mr. Katz said.

Pay is no longer rising smartly for women in the key 25-to-54 age group. Just the opposite, the median pay — the point where half make more and half less — has fallen in recent years, to \$14.84 an hour in 2007 from \$15.04 in 2004, adjusted for inflation, according to the Economic Policy Institute. (The similar wage for men today is two dollars more.)

Not since the 1970s has that happened to women for so long a stretch — and because this is a new experience for them, “women may be even more reluctant than men to accept declining wages,” said Nancy Folbre, an economist at the University of Massachusetts.

What helped drive up the percentage of women in the work force were the thousands who came off welfare and took jobs in the 1990s, pushed to do so by the welfare-to-work legislation. A strong economy eased the way. So did tax credits and more subsidized child care. Now as the economy weakens and employers shrink their payrolls, many of these women struggle to find work.

Lisa Craig, 42, is among them. Raising three sons in her native Chicago, she had worked only occasionally since high school and started receiving welfare benefits in 1993. For the next seven years she took courses in office skills, was a volunteer in a day care center and served for a while as an unpaid intern for a college vice president.

And then in 2000 she went to work. For most of that year she earned \$10 an hour as a salesclerk at a duty-free shop at O'Hare Airport, selling luxury items, but left the job to

move to Milwaukee with her children to be near her sister.

"I was in a bad marriage," she said, "and I was getting a divorce."

Over the last eight years in Milwaukee she has worked only sporadically although, as she puts it, she has applied for hundreds of jobs, struggling to supplement a \$628-a-month welfare check that goes almost entirely to rent, plus \$500 a month in food vouchers(优惠购货券). The longest *tenure*(职位任期), 11 months, was as a salesclerk earning \$7.75 an hour at a Goodwill Industries clothing store.

She lost that job last November, but is volunteering at the Milwaukee office of 9 to 5, National Association of Working Women, hoping to draw a modest salary soon as a community intern.

(986 words)

阅读及练习 1 建议用时: 15 分 23 秒

实际用时: _____

Exercises

I . Skimming and Scanning

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 given in the passage;*

N (for No) *if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage;*

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.

- _____ 1. Women's retreat from the workforce in this decade will be slowed down.
- _____ 2. Economists finally realized that a lot of women were leaving their jobs in the early part of this decade because of the motherhood movement.
- _____ 3. Women are leaving the work force for the same reason with men.
- _____ 4. In the year 2008, the proportion of women holding jobs in their prime working years has been greatly reduced to 72.7 percent.
- _____ 5. More education does not mean greater chances of being employed.
- _____ 6. In 1950s the proportion of men holding jobs was much higher than that of women.
- _____ 7. The steady pay increase in the 1990s caused women to continue to move into the work force.
8. Because of _____, many women struggle to find work.
9. Lisa is now jobless, living mainly on _____.
10. According to this passage, women are equal with men in that they are both _____.

II. Expanding Vocabulary

Directions: For each of the underlined words or phrases, four choices are given. Choose the one that best explains or defines the underlined word(s).

- Across the country, women in their prime earning years, struggling with an unfriendly economy, are retreating from the work force, either permanently or for long stretches.
A) essential B) notable C) promising D) golden
- But that stopped happening this decade, and as the nearly seven-year-old recovery gives way to hard times, the retreat is likely to accelerate.
A) go ahead B) go up C) slow down D) speed up
- Many suggested that the pullback from paid employment was a matter of the women themselves deciding to stay home.
A) relief B) commitment C) retreat D) prevention
- More than men, women felt committed to running their households.
A) accustomed B) obliged C) compelled D) devoted
- Women are being afflicted on a large scale by the same problem as men.
A) troubled B) manipulated C) puzzled D) influenced
- When we saw women starting to drop out in the early part of this decade, we thought it was the motherhood movement, women staying home to raise their kids.
A) withdraw B) release C) transfer D) transmit
- Women have the same problems with men: downturns, layoffs, outsourcing, stagnant wages or the discouraging prospect of an outright pay cut.
A) decent B) static C) changeable D) low
- Women, in sum, are for the first time withdrawing from work with the same uniformity as men in their prime working years.
A) identification B) likeness C) variation D) consistency
- Four million more in their prime years would be employed today if the old pattern had prevailed through the expansion now ending.
A) substituted B) arisen C) dominated D) maximized
- Over the last eight years in Milwaukee she has worked only sporadically although, as she puts it, she has applied for hundreds of jobs.
A) progressively B) accidentally C) occasionally D) constantly

Passage Two

Campaign Against Restroom Injustice

MUMBAI, India — Men and women here in India's largest city, a congested, humanity-soaked metropolis of roughly 20 million residents, would seem bound by at least one common misery: far too many people sharing far too few toilets.

But there is a difference — unlike men, women often have to pay to urinate. So for months, social advocates like Minu Gandhi have *canvassed* (仔细研究) the city, arguing that this disparity amounts to *blatant* (公然的) discrimination and asking women to start demanding a right most of them had never contemplated: the Right to Pee.

"We all feel this is a basic civic right," Ms. Gandhi said, "a human right."

India has long had a sanitation problem. Recent census data found that more than half of Indian households lacked a toilet, a rate that has actually worsened in the past decade despite India's growing wealth, as slums and other substandard housing have proliferated in growing cities. Yet what is unique about the so-called Right to Pee Campaign — whose catchy title was coined by the Mumbai media and which now appears to be on the verge of achieving some of its goals — is the argument that the bathroom in India is governed by a double standard.

Like men, women in villages often have to urinate outdoors in fields. But unlike them, they sometimes endure taunting and even sexual assault. Many rural women relieve themselves in small groups, before dawn, to protect against harassment.

In Mumbai millions of people depend on public toilets, which are usually in dark and filthy buildings that operate as male-controlled outposts. The municipal government provides 5,993 public toilets for men, compared with only 3,536 for women. Men have an additional 2,466 urinals. (A 2009 study found an even greater imbalance in New Delhi, the national capital, with 1,534 public toilets for men and 132 for women.)

Almost always, a male attendant oversees these toilets, collecting fees. Petty corruption is rampant in India, and public toilets are no exception: Men must pay to use a toilet but can use urinals free (based on the premise that urinals, usually just a wall and a drainage trench, do not need water). But women are regularly charged to urinate, despite regulations saying they should not be.

"Even if you say you are only urinating, they say, 'How do we know?'" said Yagna Parmar, another social activist involved in the campaign. "So they ask for money."

Women must adapt their daily routines: Many visit the bathroom early in the morning to avoid lines and leering. They avoid drinking much water. And they carry change.

On a recent broiling morning, Mohammad Nasibul Ansari sat at the counter in front of a decrepit public toilet, gripping 10 rupee notes in his hand. A salaried attendant, Mr.

Ansari said he did not charge anyone in the neighborhood — only outsiders — yet even as he spoke, a local woman walked up, wordlessly placed a 2 rupee coin on the counter and stepped into the women's side of the small building.

"We're just poor people," Mr. Ansari said. "We have to take care of our families."

Mr. Ansari said the city government provided no money for maintenance and that he collected about 1,200 rupees, or \$22, every day in toilet usage fees, from which he paid for electricity, water and cleaning. Yet inside, there was little evidence of cleaning or water. Cobwebs dangled from the ceiling; dirt and dried spit smeared the walls and floor. The ceramic squat toilets were stained and squalid. The stench was overwhelming.

Separately, a miniscandal erupted in New Delhi last week when it was disclosed that the country's Planning Commission had spent roughly \$54,000 to refurbish its toilets. Reflecting the sensitivity in India over the issue, at least one critic argued that the money could have been better spent on public toilets.

The campaign began last year when a coalition of social advocates gathered from around the State of Maharashtra, which includes Mumbai. Organizers in each city chose different issues, including domestic violence and equal access to water. The Mumbai group considered campaigns on housing, water or sanitation — all big problems in the city — before deciding on the Right to Pee.

"Initially, this was considered a little frivolous," said Mumtaz Sheikh, one of the organizers. "But we told people, 'No, this is an important issue, and we want to work on it.'"

Ms. Sheikh and other advocates saw an opportunity to raise awareness among women. Women now constitute almost half the city's work force, yet many of them work in jobs with no access to a toilet. In various parts of the city, including slums, activists have gone door to door, collecting more than 50,000 signatures supporting their demands that the local government stop charging women to urinate, build more toilets, keep them clean, provide sanitary napkins and a trash can, and hire female attendants.

Dr. Kamaxi Bhati, a physician and a researcher, linked the toilet situation in Mumbai directly to female health problems, especially a high incidence of urinary tract and bladder infections. Dr. Bhati said drinking water was vital to stave off such infections, yet many women tried to reduce water intake to limit how often they had to urinate. Not drinking enough water is doubly dangerous, given that temperatures can reach triple digits in Mumbai.

The toilet fees might be considered nominal, ranging from 2 to 5 rupees (about 4 to 9 cents). Yet in India, the poverty line is so low that the government recently defined the urban poor as those living on less than 29 rupees a day.

Perhaps the months of canvassing and campaigning will pay off. Last week, social advocates met with city officials who told them of new plans to build hundreds of public toilets for women across the city. Some local legislators are now vowing to build toilets for