



普通高等教育“十二五”规划教材

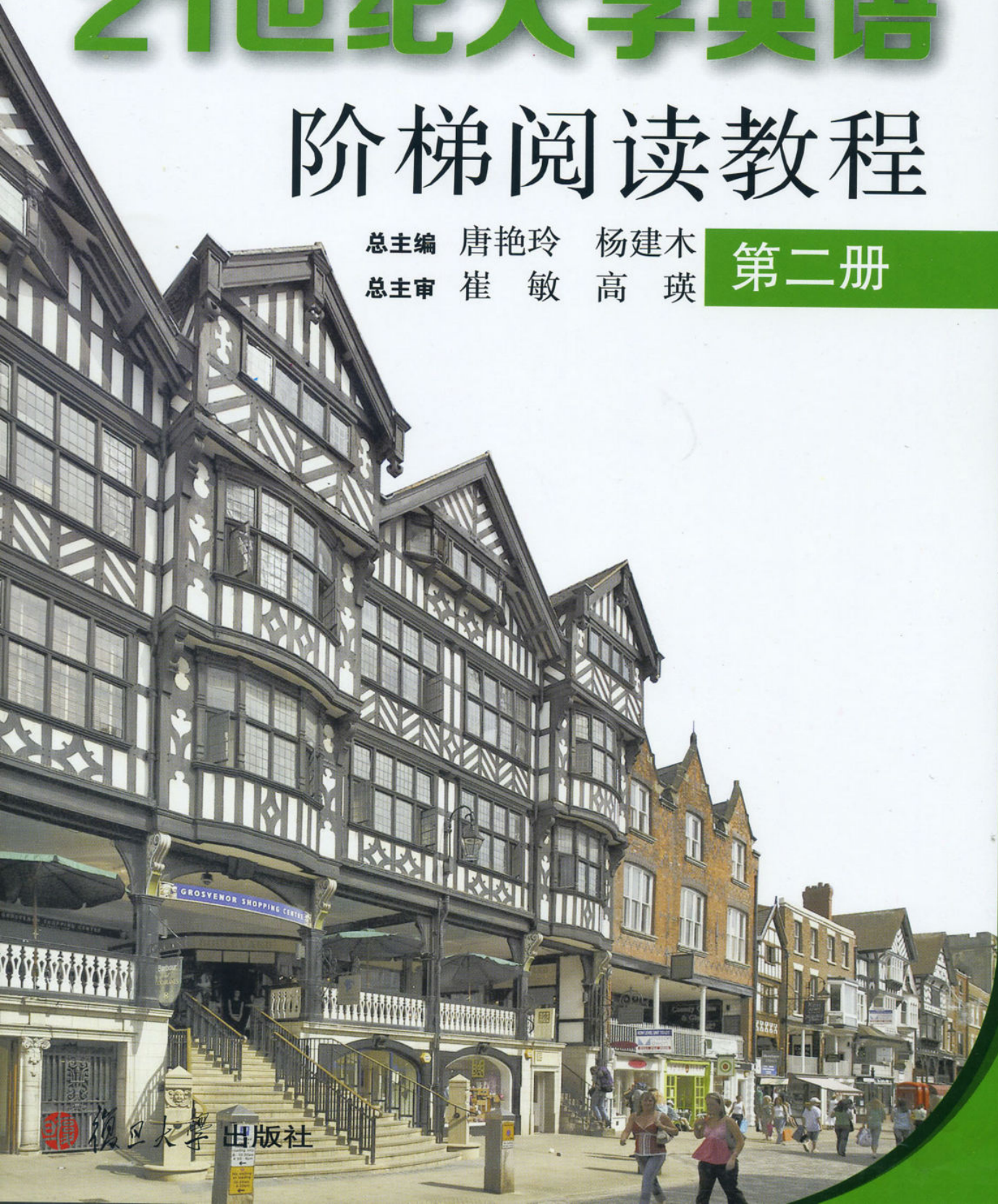
21st Century College English

21世纪大学英语

阶梯阅读教程

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第二册



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前 言

《21 世纪大学英语阶梯阅读教程》共四册,每学期一册,每册由十个单元组成,每个单元包含四篇文章。

《21 世纪大学英语阶梯阅读教程》选文短小精悍,内容生动有趣,语言流畅。每次使用前,先将材料准备好,可放在上课前,作为课程的“开篇”;也可放在课程中间,作为活跃课堂气氛的一种教学手段;更可于某课堂结束前使用,作为这节课结束时的一个“小高潮”。

新颁布的修订版《大学英语课程教学基本要求》、《英语四、六级考试大纲》及近两年的大学英语四、六级考试,都对大学生的英语快速阅读能力提出了进一步的明确要求。所以,根据形势有必要编写一套着眼于强化快速阅读的教材,努力提高学生阅读速度及切实增强学生快速获取信息的能力。

本教程每篇选文均配有多项选择题和填词题,测试学生对课文的理解能力。快速阅读主要着眼于培养学生的阅读速度,强调在单位时间内快速获取所需信息的能力,因此,每篇材料均略浅于相应的综合英语教程的课文。建议每次使用两篇文章,在规定时间内阅读完毕,否则视为不合格。

本教程旨在培养学生正确的阅读习惯,提高学生的阅读能力和速度。为保证语言文字的规范化,课文全部选自英美原著,但有少量删改。选材力求多样性、知识性和趣味性。

《21 世纪大学英语阶梯阅读教程》第二册由长春大学旅游学院张琦任第一主编,编写第一到第二单元,马春娜编写第三到第四单元,程良编写第五到第六单元,孙光宇编写第七到第八单元。长春工程学院顾晓禹任第二主编,编写第九到第十单元,编写前言、目录和答案部分。本册第一主编,副主编各编写 2 万字,第二主编编写 10 万字。

在本书的编写过程中,我们参考了有关书籍,得到多方支持,在此一并表示感谢。由于时间有限,在编写过程中难免有疏漏之处,恳请读者批评指教。

编 者

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Passage 1

Gift of Heaven

快速阅读自查表

词数：189	难度系数：0.4	阅读和练习建议时间：3分钟
实际用时：		
正确答题数记录：		

There are warm tropical regions all over the globe but only the Indians of the South American rain forests have formed the habit of sleeping in the open air. Long before they made painful acquaintance with Europeans, they had invented something that was unique on earth: the hammock.

Nobody really knows who first had the bright idea of making sleeping in the air the symbol of untroubled rest. The Indians see the hammock as a “gift of heaven”, something given to them a very long time ago.

In it the Indians pass away hot noon hours, napping or chatting. Swinging it to and fro creates a cooling breath of air and keeps away insects. They work and play in hammocks, are born and die there.

Hung like a suspension bridge between heaven and earth, a hammock is dry while the soil is damp and is safe from most wild animals.

Hammocks have the advantage over beds in that they are easy to transport and take up very little space when they have been rolled up. Indians never go on a journey without their hammocks, not even to their plantations.

**Directions:**

Choose the most appropriate answers for each of the following questions.

1. The underlined word “hammock” in the first paragraph means _____
 - A. a suspension cage which can be swung to and fro in the air
 - B. a seat hanging by two ropes from the branch of a tree
 - C. a suspension bridge in the South American rain forests
 - D. a net hung between two supports and used as a bed

2. When was the hammock invented and by whom?
 - A. The Indians had invented the hammock long before they came to South America.
 - B. The Indians had invented the hammock long before the European came to South America.
 - C. The Europeans invented the hammock after they acquaintance with the Indians.
 - D. The Europeans had invented the hammock before went to South America.

3. Indians swing the hammock to _____.
 - A. pray to heaven for a gift
 - B. keep away flies, mosquitoes and other insects
 - C. keep away wild animals
 - D. fall asleep quickly

4. According to the passage, hammocks _____.
 - A. cannot be rolled up
 - B. are difficult to transport
 - C. are never brought to the plantations
 - D. can be kept dry while the ground is wet

5. The passage is about _____.

- A. the Indians way of living
 - B. tropical regions
 - C. Indians' gift for the Europeans
 - D. a portable bed
-



Passage 2

Hamburgers

快速阅读自查表

词数：190	难度系数：0.4	阅读和练习建议时间：3分钟
实际用时：		
正确答题数记录：		

It is known to us that English is not as old as Chinese, but it is widely used by most people all over the world. English speakers enjoy creating new words. In fact, a majority of words are traceable and each of them may have an interesting story.

However, no one will really care where a word comes from because it makes little difference in using them in our daily life. Did you ever feel confused about why hamburgers are called hamburgers, especially when they are not made with ham?

About a hundred years ago, some men went to America from Europe, coming from a big city in Germany called Hamburg. They didn't know how to use English properly. Seen them eating round pieces of beef and asked what it was, the Germans didn't understand the questions exactly, they answered: "we come from Hamburg." One of the Americans was an owner of a restaurant and got an idea. He cooked some round pieces of bread with beef and began selling them. Such bread came to be called "hamburgers". Today, hamburgers are welcomed by lots of people coming from different nationalities.

**Directions:**

Choose the most appropriate answers for each of the following questions.

1. According to the text, English is _____.
 - A. older than Chinese
 - B. as old as Chinese
 - C. not so old as Chinese
 - D. very hard to learn

2. Hamburg originally is _____.
 - A. a kind of food
 - B. a round piece of beef
 - C. a city in Germany
 - D. the name of a village

3. Which statement is correct according to the passage?
 - A. At first hamburgers was a kind of bread.
 - B. Few Americans like hamburgers.
 - C. Hamburgers are made of ham.
 - D. Hamburgers were first sold a century ago.

4. _____ begins to sell hamburgers to people.
 - A. Americans
 - B. The author
 - C. Germans
 - D. Europeans

5. After reading this story, we know the word “hamburger” comes from _____.
 - A. China because it has a long history
 - B. English because Germans don't speak English
 - C. English speakers because they love eating it
 - D. America because they give it that name



Passage 3

Lift the Object Correctly

快速阅读自查表

词数: 246	难度系数: 0.5	阅读和练习建议时间: 5分钟
实际用时:		
正确答题数记录:		

Directions:



Complete the following passage by choosing the proper words in the box.

A. slowly	B. might	C. muscles	D. spread	E. extend
F. probably	G. injure	H. waist	I. hurt	J. heavy
K. squat	L. bend	M. lift	N. rise	O. light

Many people hurt their backs when they try to lift heavy things from the floor. It is easy to hurt your back ___ 1 ___ when you try to pick up a heavy thing. However, there is a correct way to ___ 2 ___ things from the floor. If you pick up heavy things correctly, you ___ 3 ___ will not hurt your back.

To lift something from the floor correctly, first ___ 4 ___ your knees and squat (蹲下) down. Keep your back straight. Do not bend over from your waist (腰); keep your back and hips (臀部) and ___ 5 ___

in a line. If you bend over, the muscles in your lower back can be _____ 6 _____ very easily. If you keep your back and hips straight, the muscles are stronger, because they have much more support. The other muscles can then help the lower back muscles.

As you _____ 7 _____ down, try to get as close to the object as possible. For example, if you are going to pick up a _____ 8 _____ box, squat down directly in front of it.

Maybe you will have to _____ 9 _____ your knees and legs. Put one knee on each side of the box. Remember at all times to keep your back straight. Put your hands under the object that is in front of you, between your knees.

To lift the object, you should stand up _____ 10 _____. Use your leg muscles in order to stand up. In other words, lift with your legs, not with your back.



Passage 4

GPS

快速阅读自查表

词数: 798	难度系数: 0.6	阅读和练习建议时间: 8 分钟
实际用时:		
正确答题数记录:		

The Global Positioning System is a space-based triangulation system using satellites and computers to measure positions anywhere on earth. It is first and foremost a defense system developed by the United States Department of Defense, and is referred to as the “Navigation Satellite Timing and Ranging Global Positioning System”. The uniqueness of this navigational system is that it avoids the limitations of other land-based systems such as limited geographic coverage, lack of continuous 24-hour coverage, and the limited accuracies of other related navigational instruments. The high accuracies obtainable with the Global Positioning System also make it a precision survey instrument.

GPS Components: the Space Segment, the Control Segment, and the User Segment.

Space Segment

The Space Segment of the system consists of the GPS satellites. These space vehicles (SVs) send radio signals from space.

The GPS Operational Constellation consists of 24 satellites that orbit the earth in 12 hours. There are often more than 24 operational satellites as new ones are launched to replace older satellites. The orbit altitude is such that the satellites repeat the same track and area over any point approximately each 24 hours (4 minutes earlier each day). There are six orbital planes (with four SVs in each), equally spaced (60 degrees apart), and inclined

at about 55 degrees with respect to the equatorial (赤道的) plane.

Control Segment

The Control Segment consists of a system of tracking stations located around the world.

The Master Control facility is located at Schriever Air Force Base (formerly Falcon AFB) in Colorado. These monitor stations measure signals from the SVs which are incorporated into orbital models for each satellite. The models compute precise orbital and SV clock corrections for each satellite. The Master Control station uploads orbital data and clock data to the SVs.

User Segment

The GPS User Segment consists of the GPS receivers and the user community. GPS receivers change SV signals into position, speed, and time estimates. Four satellites are required to compute the four dimensions of X, Y, Z (position) and time. GPS receivers are used for navigation, positioning, time distribution, and other researches.

Navigation in three dimensions is the primary function of GPS. Navigation receivers are made for aircraft, ships, ground vehicles, and for hand carrying by individuals.

GPS Accuracy

At present the system consists of 24 satellites at an altitude of about 20,000 km having an orbital inclination of 55 degrees. Because the GPS signals are derived from the atomic frequency standards on board each satellite, they are widely used as a reference for time synchronization and frequency adjustment. The real time positioning accuracy of a single receiver is normally up to 100 meters horizontally and 150 meters vertically. However, various methods have been developed which enable much higher accuracy (centimeter level).

GPS Receivers

There are a variety of different types of GPS receivers on the market for commercial and public use. Prices range from \$500 to \$30,000, reflecting the accuracy and capabilities of the instruments. For the general outdoorsman, a good GPS receiver should have 8-satellite tracking capability and be capable of receiving the GPS satellite signals through forest covering in northern Ontario shield area; for the professional user, a minimum 8-satellite tracking capacity, high memory capacity, different GPS capability, and resistance to signal weakening under forest covering is essential.

Navigational Units

Small hand-held units are relatively low cost and allow boaters and hikers to know their position within a few hundred meters. This accuracy is sufficient for recreational use.

Mapping

A hand-held or similar unit at mid-range price is linked to a fixed broadcast base station. These units allow utility companies, municipalities and others to locate various items (telephone poles, waterlines, valves) with a positional tolerance of several meters. This is suitable for some Geographical Information System (GIS) mapping purposes.

GPS and Policing

GPS technology offers numerous benefits to law enforcement agencies of all types. For some agencies, the navigational capabilities offered by GPS enhance efficiency and safety. These navigational applications can be used to support a variety of policing and criminal justice functions.

For example, using computerized maps of their rights given by law, cooperated with GPS, aviation personnel can determine location, speed and time.

The positioning capabilities offered by GPS may also contribute to the success of specialized law enforcement operations such as in controlling vehicles. One such program operated in Minneapolis led to a 60% reduction in auto theft after only one month. The automatic vehicle location systems can not only provide efficiency or response and help ensure officer safety, but also provide officer with accurate information concerning the best response route to an incident. What's more, they can provide officers information that allows the closest patrol officers to be dispatched to a particular incident.



Directions:

In this part, you will have 15 minutes to go over the passage quickly and answer the 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.

1. The components of GPS include _____ .
 - A. the Space Segment, the Control Segment, and the Navigational Units
 - B. the Space Segment, the Control Segment, and the GPS Receivers
 - C. the Space Segment, the Control Segment, and the User Segment
 - D. the Space Segment, the User Segment, and the GPS Receivers

2. GPS satellites send radio signals _____ .
 - A. from space
 - B. to space
 - C. from the earth
 - D. to other satellites

3. What kind of data does Navigation, the primary function of GPS, involve?
 - A. Data of two dimensions.
 - B. Data of three dimensions.
 - C. Data of four dimensions.
 - D. Data of one dimension.

4. The highest positioning accuracy of a receiver can now reach _____ .
 - A. meter-level
 - B. kilometer-level
 - C. centimeter-level
 - D. millimeter-level

5. GIS mapping may be done with a hand-held or similar unit at _____ .
 - A. high-range price
 - B. medium-range price
 - C. low-range price
 - D. unaffordable price

6. With the help of computerized maps and GPS, aviation personnel can find out _____ .
 - A. location, speed and time
 - B. time, speed and height
 - C. location, time and height
 - D. location, time and wind speed

7. Thanks to the GPS system, the auto theft rate in Minneapolis had been reduced by _____ .

- A. fifty percent in a month
 - B. seventy percent in a month
 - C. sixty percent in a month
 - D. forty percent in a month
8. Limited geographic coverage, lack of continuous 24-hour coverage, and the limited accuracies of other related navigational instruments are the disadvantages of _____.
9. The prices of various GPS receivers are determined by _____.
10. The accuracy of a hand held GPS unit at relatively low price is good enough for _____.