



“十二五”普通高等教育本科国家级规划教材

# New 21st Century College English Longer Text Reading

## 新21世纪 大学英语长篇阅读（下册）

王健芳 总主编



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# 新21世纪

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# 前 言

《新 21 世纪大学英语长篇阅读》是一套以教育部《大学英语课程教学要求》为指导、紧扣大学英语四、六级考试阅读新题型编写而成的阅读教材。该教材结合大学英语教学改革与发展的方向，以外语教学理论为指导，遵循“以人为本”的教学理念，强调大学英语的人文性和工具性。在教材的选材时关注社会热点问题，重视文章内容的时代性、信息性、知识性、趣味性、实用性及可读性。

根据大学英语四、六级阅读试题的要求，长篇阅读不但要求学生能对文章全篇内容有所理解，同时也要求学生能够把握文章的一些细节。新题型对学生的宏观概括总结能力有较为明显的提升要求，要求学生将知识赋予运用转换能力，不仅要读懂，更强调考生在语言实践环境中查询有效信息的能力，还要对他们所掌握的信息积极地进行加工处理。因此，本套教材以阅读技能开篇，重视学生学习方法的训练，强调学生英语综合应用能力的培养，增强阅读信息获取的能力，提高阅读效率。

本套教材分为上下两册，每册由八个单元组成。每个单元有四篇文章，练习形式与大学英语四、六级考试长篇阅读题型紧密结合，每篇文章除了段落匹配题外，还设计有多项选择题和信息填空题。通过对英语语言材料的学习，可以开阔学生们的视野，使其熟

悉掌握阅读技能和新题型的要求,使他们在愉悦的阅读中提高学习兴趣,逐步提升阅读能力及英语语言的应用能力。

本套教材适用于各类高校大学一至四年级学生,可以作为课堂教材或自学材料。

由于编者水平有限,本书中错误疏漏在所难免,敬请读者和同行专家给予批评指正,以便更好地改进与提高。

编 者

# Contents

<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>1</b>
Passage I	What Good Is a College Education Anyway?	3
Passage II	Is Education the Key to Success?	8
Passage III	Small Schools Rising	13
Passage IV	Bring Our Schools Out of the 20th Century	19
<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>THE OLD</b>	<b>25</b>
Passage I	Caring for Old People Is an Awesome Responsibility	27
Passage II	Older Adults Are the Happiest	32
Passage III	The Secrets of Long Life Revealed?	37
Passage IV	Retirement Planning, Decade by Decade	43
<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>FAMILY</b>	<b>49</b>
Passage I	Boomerang Children	51
Passage II	Parents' Homework: Find Perfect Teachers for Kids	56
Passage III	Inspiration for Your Kids	62
Passage IV	Protect Your Nest	69
<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>BUSINESS AND ECONOMY</b>	<b>75</b>
Passage I	The Business of Sport	77

Passage II	Creating Your Wealth-building Plan	83
Passage III	Ethics in Marketing	90
Passage IV	The Lost Art of Listening	97
<b>Unit 5</b>	<b>MEDICAL ADVANCEMENTS</b>	<b>103</b>
Passage I	Using the Mind Against Diseases	105
Passage II	Will Electronic Medical Records Improve Health Care?	111
Passage III	How Can We Prevent Medical Errors?	118
Passage IV	Main Energies for the Body	125
<b>Unit 6</b>	<b>MARRIAGE</b>	<b>133</b>
Passage I	Marriage Looks Different Now	135
Passage II	Having Kids Makes You Happy?	139
Passage III	Marriage by the Numbers	145
Passage IV	The All-or-nothing Marriage	152
<b>Unit 7</b>	<b>CAREER</b>	<b>159</b>
Passage I	Choosing the Ideal Career	161
Passage II	Bosses Gone Wild	166
Passage III	Steps to Reshape Your Job	172
Passage IV	Office Politics	178
<b>Unit 8</b>	<b>SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY</b>	<b>185</b>
Passage I	Car Generation Gap: Five Ways Our Autos Have Changed	187
Passage II	Surviving in Space	193
Passage III	Is the Electric Vehicle Era at Hand?	199
Passage IV	Sounds of the Solar System Are Music to the Ears of Space Scientist	206



# *Unit 1*

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## **EDUCATION**

Passage I What Good Is a College Education  
Anyway?

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Passage II Is Education the Key to Success?

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Passage III Small Schools Rising

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Passage IV Bring Our Schools Out of the  
20th Century

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## Passage I

## What Good Is a College Education Anyway?

A) Questioning whether you should go to college? Here are five ways that a college education will make you a better person.

**It will likely make you more prosperous.**

B) First things first, because I know you're thinking "Show me the money". The lifetime income of families headed by individuals with a bachelor's degree will be about \$1.6 million more than the incomes of families headed by those with a high-school diploma. In a 1997 study, young women who had completed a bachelor's degree or higher earned 91 percent more than young women with no more than a high-school diploma. A college education is a very profitable investment. Every dollar spent on a young man's college education produces \$34.85 in increased lifetime income. You say you can't afford to go to college? College may be expensive, but the only thing more expensive than getting a college education is not getting one.

C) John G. Ramsay, a professor at the Perlman Center for Learning and Teaching, said that the credentials (证书) you gain with a college education are about setting yourself apart. They are about climbing out of the dead-end job market, and achieving one of life's most difficult developmental tasks: independence from one's parents. "Strong credentials trigger (触发) that magical set of



middle class ‘firsts’,” Ramsay said. “The first real-world job, the first non-student apartment, the first new car, and of course, the first loan payments. Weak credentials may result in some misfortunes: poor advice, money problems, bad decisions and wasted time.”

**It will give you a better quality of life.**

D) Next, quality of life. Is there anyone who wouldn't like to live a longer, healthier life? Studies show that, compared to high-school graduated, college graduates have longer life spans; better access to health care; better food and health practices; greater economic security; better employment and greater job satisfaction; greater use of seat belts; more continuing education; greater Internet access; greater participation in leisure and artistic activities; more book purchases; higher voting rates; greater knowledge of government; greater community service and leadership; more volunteer work; more self-confidence and less criminal activity.

**It will give you the power to change the world.**

E) Thirdly, more money and greater quality of life aren't the only reasons for a college education. Children's Defense Fund Director Marian Edelman cautioned that “Once you have that college diploma in hand, never work just for money or power. They won't save your soul or build a decent family or help you sleep at night.” She explains why this advice is so important, “We are the richest nation on earth, yet our imprisonment, drug addiction, and child poverty rates are among the highest in the industrialized world. Don't forgive or tolerate moral corruption, whether it's found in high or low places, whatever its color.”

F) If you doubt that knowledge is power, consider the societies that have denied education to selected parts of the population. The Taliban in Afghanistan keeps women from having any power by outlawing (宣布……为不合法) their education, much as American society before the Civil War

kept slaves from having power by denying them schooling. Institutions of higher learning continue to be among the best places for cultivating social changes.

**It will be something you can pass on to your children.**

G) The fourth point is that a college education is a legacy (遗产) for your children. Your college education will benefit your children — and not just so you can impress them with how well you play *Who Wants to Be a Millionaire*. Research shows that children of college-educated parents are healthier, perform better at school, and are more likely to attend college themselves. Your education builds a foundation for your children — for our nation’s children, and for the children of our global community.

**It makes you a major contributor to the greatest nation on earth.**

H) Education is the foundation of public progress. Education is the essence of the democratic ideals that elevated United States from a backward land to the greatest, most spirited, powerful and successful nation in the world. America leads the world in educational attainment (教育程度) and per-capita income. Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan said recently, “We must ensure that our whole population receives an education that will allow full and continuing participation in this dynamic (有活力的) period of American economic history.” What Greenspan is saying is that, without college, you may be left out. And the relationship between a college education and success will become more and more significant in our information-driven global economy. Higher education will be increasingly important for landing high-paying jobs.

I) Technology and the information age are not the only reasons to be well educated; the trend is toward multiple jobs and even multiple careers, and higher education prepares you to make the transitions to new fields.

(825 words)



## Reading Comprehension

### Section A

**Directions:**

Each of the following eight statements contains information given in one of the paragraphs. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once. Each paragraph is marked with a letter. Answer the questions by choosing the corresponding letter.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. You will have the higher moral sense after receiving a college education. Although in a rich nation, there are still many problems.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. A higher diploma can increase your lifetime income.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Higher education plays a decisive role in prompting a nation's development in the world.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. If you can complete a bachelor's degree, your future will be more flourishing.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. College graduates have better quality of life by accessing to many good resources.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. College-educated parents can take care of their kids much better.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. If you get a strong credential from college education, you can experience a lot of "firsts times" of a middle class.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. The example of forbidding slaves to go to school shows that knowledge is power.

## Section B

**Directions:** Answer the following questions by choosing letter A – E in the box below.

1. What's more expensive than going to college? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Why college graduates can have a longer healthier life? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What example shows us knowledge is power? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What tells us that college education can make you more prosperous? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What's the reason for never working just for money or power? \_\_\_\_\_

- A. The Taliban denies women's right of being educated.
- B. Not getting a college education.
- C. Money or power cannot give you the inner peace which can make you live better.
- D. They have an access to a lot of better resources.
- E. It can trigger magical set of middle class "firsts".

## Passage II Is Education the Key to Success?

### Questions from a young man in Brazil:

A) I understand that you chose not to continue school after age 16, but created your own path to success. Do you think getting a university diploma is necessary to become a successful person? I am a university student and sometimes I wonder whether I would do better without it. What are your thoughts? I believe I have some great and even innovative ideas for new businesses, but face the difficulty of turning an idea into something real. What advice would you give me to overcome this step?

Felipe Herriges, Brazil

### Reply from Richard Branson:

B) Education is a wonderful thing.

I am fortunate that at this stage of my career, I have the opportunity to learn about many new subjects, ranging from the impact of climate change to the possibility of colonizing Mars. I am also lucky in that I meet so many



interesting people and have the opportunity to exchange ideas with them — everyone from former leaders such as Kofi Annan, Nelson Mandela and Mary Robinson to scientist and environmentalist James Lovelock to Burt Rutan, the engineer leading our Virgin Galactic project.

C) Indeed, since Virgin's projects and industries are so varied and our

foundation Virgin Unite challenges us to try to solve some of our generation's biggest problem. And my job provides me with an experience I often compare to an extended university course. I'm enjoying every minute of the journey.

- D) But when I was young, school wasn't easy. I was not a great student, partly because of my dyslexia (诵读障碍)— which was not diagnosed until later — and partly because of my restless nature. I found it hard to concentrate in class and spent much of my time in school dreaming up and setting up new businesses. The first few businesses I created — including one that focused on growing Christmas trees — did not succeed, but those experiences did give me a taste for business.
- E) By the time I was 16, I was ready to leave school, but my father, Edward Branson, was reluctant to approve my decision. One weekend he came to visit my school and tried to persuade me to continue my studies. He hoped I'd become a lawyer like him. I reluctantly agreed; he drove home to explain “our” decision to my mother, Eve. She was not happy! She told him to make the long drive back immediately, to reassure me that it was OK to leave. He did, and I left school that summer. I never once looked back, first setting up *Student* magazine and, a few years later, the Virgin record stores. My father sometimes jokes that the second return trip was the “best drive of his life”.
- F) However, my story is a very personal one; my method will not work for everyone. A diploma can be very useful, since it shows that you have gained the skills and other buildings blocks required to start your career. But getting a diploma is only a first step, and in no way guarantees success. You'll need a great work ethic and determination to make it — both in business and life. You also need your fair share of good luck.

- G) I would advise tackling your studies with a positive attitude — try to enjoy your time at university. Try a few new things while you are there, and maybe even start a business, if this is where your interests lie. In Johannesburg, we have set up a school to train entrepreneurs (企业家). Most of our students are young men and women, determined to study hard and build their businesses. One of the most important things we teach them is the importance of enjoying your work. This is one of the enduring lessons of my career.
- H) I have always tried to have fun in all ventures (企业) and adventures, as I feel this is the best way to go through life. So when you're setting up your first business, make sure both the business and entrepreneurship themselves are things that you enjoy. Don't be afraid to make that first leap. Most entrepreneurs' first ventures fail — I know, because mine did — but the lessons you learn from failure are invaluable and will help you with your next attempts. You have to be very determined and accept that the early stages of any new business are mostly about just surviving.
- I) Turning an idea into reality is a key step that all entrepreneurs have to master. Try to see your ideas through your customers' eyes — it'll help you determine which ideas have a chance of succeeding. Good luck, Felipe! If you complete your education, throw everything into your studies. And remember, whether you're working for a company or setting up your own business, to work hard, persevere and smile, you will be on the road to success.

(823 words)