

大学英语伴读系列

二 级 阅 读

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内容提要

本书是根据大学英语教学大纲对阅读的要求编写,是大学英语现行教材的辅助阅读教材,其难易度与《核心英语》、《新英语教程》等教材保持同步。

本书由 45 篇精选短文组成,内容丰富,题材多样。每篇短文后均标明单词数,读者可进行计时阅读;每篇文章中的文化背景、语言难点及超纲生词均加以注释;同时还配有阅读理解与词汇练习各 10 题。书末还附有参考答案、本书在《大学英语教学大纲》范围内的重点词汇和词组表以及速读查询表。

本书适合大学英语二级非英语专业学生作课外读物,也适合作课内速读强化训练教材。

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前 言

“大学英语伴读系列”是西安交通大学面向 21 世纪教学内容和课程体系改革研究项目资助课题之一,是对大学英语阅读教学内容的补充。

为了提高学生的阅读效率,扩大阅读量,我们编写了这套“大学英语伴读系列”,这一方面对现行教材特别是速读教材进行了补充,另一方面可以帮助学生掌握教材中的词汇并提高阅读能力。我们曾将本“系列”的读物引入教学环节,进行对比实验,经过 10 周的计时阅读训练之后,绝大部分学生的阅读速度及对文章理解的准确性都有显著提高。

“大学英语伴读系列”是根据现行教材《核心英语》和《新英语教程》的内容要求和难易程度选编的,共分三册。每册选编短文 45 篇,大多选自近几年国内外报刊、百科全书和其它阅读书籍。每篇文章均标出计时提示,并编写了相应的注释、阅读理解练习和重点词汇练习,旨在把提高阅读能力、拓宽知识面、巩固词汇量,与增强等级考试能力有机地结合在一起。本“系列”特点如下:

1. 快速提高学生的阅读能力。力求“准确”与“流利”相结合。在加强准确阅读的同时,注意提高阅读速度。本“系列”对此做了有益的尝试。其一,每篇阅读课文后设有 10 个阅读理解题,题型是按照《大学英语教学大纲》对阅读技巧提出的要求编写的,包括事实记忆、主旨与细节的区分,中心思想的归纳,引伸含义的推测,上下文猜词等。读者可根据书后的有关附表,掌握自己阅读理解准确率的情况。其二,每篇阅读材料之后都有“First Reading _____ (WPM)”与“Second Reading _____ (WPM)”,以提示读者阅读计时。首次阅读要求读者迅速读完全文,掌握文章大意;

反复阅读时 ,需要搞清文章中的每个难点。每篇文章阅读的速度及每分钟阅读的词数均可通过查阅“速读查询表”做出记录。

2. 突出篇章重点词汇 ,注重通过上下文记忆和掌握词汇。通过阅读来掌握词汇被公认为是一种好的方法。本“系列”词汇练习正是本着这一科学方法而编写的。读者在学习词汇时 ,可将注意力集中于文中的斜体重点词部分 ,通过阅读上下文来掌握重点词汇的确切意义。

3. 选材丰富 ,内容多样。书中收录有神话传说、名人轶事、科学知识、历史事件、异域风情等。这不仅有助于拓宽读者的视野 ,也有助于提高读者学习英语的兴趣。

本“系列”在编写过程中 ,得到美籍教师 Judy Jadron 女士的热情帮助。我们还参阅了大量有关书籍和报刊 ,对有关作者 ,在此一并致以诚挚的谢意。

马晓梅老师策划、主编了本“系列” ,参与全书编写工作的还有温玉娟、陈丽、张丽娟、徐亚丽、李奇、何惠勤老师。

由于我们经验不足 ,水平有限 ,书中难免有诸多不当之处 ,望广大读者和同仁不吝指正。

编者

1999.6.20

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1. Why the Parrot Repeats Man 's Words(I)

为何鹦鹉学舌 ?(1)

Time Started _____

In *ancient* times it was the lorikeet that was kept in the house by man and taught to speak¹. This small bird was very *intelligent* and needed very little teaching. He could repeat a word he heard very easily. He also often spoke his own thoughts instead of merely *imitating* the sounds he heard.

But something happened to change this.

It is said that one day , a farmer saw his neighbor 's buffalo² *wandering* in his rice field. The farmer took the buffalo , killed it , *cut up* the meat , cooked some and ate it and then hid the remainder in the rice bin³.

The next day the neighbor came to the farmer to ask if he had seen his buffalo. The farmer replied , " No , I have not seen any buffalo ".

Just then the farmer 's lorikeet *spoke up* , " My master killed it. He ate some and hid some. Part he hid in his rice bin. "

The neighbor looked where the bird *mentioned* and there he found the buffalo meat.

But the farmer said , " Yes , this is where I always keep meal. But I did not see your buffalo. This is the meat of another animal. "

The lorikeet called again “ He killed it. Part of it he hid in the rice bin. ”

The neighbor was perplexed⁴. He did not know whom to believe , the man or the bird. So he took the matter to court⁵. The trial⁶ was set for the following day.

That night the farmer *carried out* his plan. He took the bird from its cage and placed it in a large pot⁷. He covered the pot with a cloth so it was dark inside. Outside there was a full moon⁸ so the night was clear and bright. But inside the pot , the lorikeet could not see anything. Then the man began to beat on the pot , slowly at first , then more loudly until it sounded like thunder. He took a dipper of water⁹ , dripping¹⁰ a little of it on the cloth so that it sounded like rain. All night long he *pounded* on the pot and dripped water. He stopped only *when dawn came* . Then he took the lorikeet and put it back in its cage.

Total Words 372

Time Finished _____

First Reading _____ WPM

Second Reading _____ WPM

Notes :

1. It was ... that... 强调句型 ,句中的 lorikeet 意为吸蜜鹦鹉
2. buffalo['bʌfələu] n. 水牛
3. ...and then hid the remainder in the rice bin... 然后他把剩下的肉放到了米箱里
4. perplex[pə'pleks]vt. 使困惑
5. court[kɔ:t]n. 法庭
6. trial['traɪəl]n. 审讯
7. a large pot 大水缸

8. a full moon 满月
9. a dipper of water 一勺水
10. drip[drip]v. 滴水

A. Reading Comprehension

Decide whether the statements are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage .

1. Long long ago man used to tame lorikeet in the house.
2. A lorikeet was not so smart as a parrot because the former was taught to speak.
3. One day a farmer killed his neighbor 's buffalo because the buffalo walked round in his rice field.
4. The farmer ate some buffalo meat and sold the rest in the market.
5. When the neighbor came for his buffalo , the farmer felt shameful.
6. The lorikeet told the neighbor the truth.
7. The bird saw the buffalo killed by his master but he didn 't know how his master dealt with the meat.
8. Although the neighbor learned about the fact , he forgave the farmer.
9. The neighbor had to turn to court , for he had no idea whom to believe , the man or the bird.
10. The farmer was afraid to go to court so he tried to kill the bird.

Comprehension _____ %

B. Vocabulary

Interpretation of the words and phrases underlined : Choose the best answer .

1. In ancient times it was the lorikeet that was kept in the house by man and taught to speak.
 - a. modern
 - b. present
 - c. old
 - d. future
2. The small bird was very intelligent and needed very little teaching.
 - a. lazy
 - b. diligent
 - c. excellent
 - d. smart
3. He also often spoke his own thoughts instead of merely imitating the sound he heard.
 - a. copying
 - b. learning
 - c. sending
 - d. receiving
4. It 's said that one day , a farmer saw his neighbor 's buffalo wandering in his rice field.
 - a. wondering
 - b. moving about
 - c. running
 - d. setting about
5. The farmer took the buffalo , killed it , cut up the meat , cooked some and ate it.
 - a. run out of
 - b. cut into pieces
 - c. set aside
 - d. put to use
6. Just then the farmer 's lorikeet spoke up , " my master killed it. "
 - a. spoke loudly
 - b. turned up
 - c. whistled
 - d. said hesitantly
7. The neighbor looked where the bird mentioned and there he found the buffalo meat.
 - a. reminded of
 - b. remembered
 - c. referred to
 - d. settled
8. That night the farmer carried out his plan.
 - a. designed
 - b. deserted

- c. performed d. changed
9. All night long he pounded on the pot and dripped water.
- a. weighed b. beat
- c. focused d. sat
10. He stopped only when dawn came.
- a. in public b. at night
- c. in private d. at daybreak

Vocabulary _____ %

2. Why the Parrot Repeats Man 's Words (II)

为何鹦鹉学舌 ? (2)

Time Started _____

When it was time for the trial the farmer took his bird and went to court. The neighbor who lost his buffalo told how the lorikeet had *instructed* him to find the stolen meat. The judge then asked the lorikeet to repeat what he had told the neighbor.

The farmer who had stolen the buffalo said , “ The meat in the rice bin is that of another animal. How can you give more weight¹ to the words of this stupid bird than to my words ? He speaks more often with nonsense than with sense². Ask him what kind of night we had last night. ”

So the judge asked the lorikeet who replied “ Last night was dark and stormy. The wind blew , the rain poured down³ , and the thunder *roared*. ”

The farmer said , “ If you remember , last night was clear and the moon shone brightly. Now , can you condemn⁴ me on the testimony⁵ of this bird ? ”

Everybody including the judge was *convinced* and so the farmer was set free⁶. The lorikeet was expelled⁷ and sent back to the forest where he used to live.

One day the lorikeet saw a new bird in the forest , larger than

himself and covered with *brilliant* red and green feathers. The bird introduced himself and said ,“ I am a parrot. I have come to live in this country. ”

The lorikeet answered ; Welcome to the country. As you are a stranger here , I will give you a warning. I too speak the language of man. I lived in his house and spoke not only the words man said but also what *was in my mind* . But when I said what was in my own mind it *displeased man* and he drove me away. So if man takes you to live in his house , say *nothing but* what he teaches you. Repeat his words and nothing more. For man loves to hear only his own thoughts repeated. He is not interested in truth or wisdom from any other source. ”

The parrot listened to the lorikeet and thanked him. As *predicted* he was captured⁸ by man and brought to his house. But ever fearful of saying his own thoughts *lest* man resent⁹ them , the parrot only *echoes* the words that he heard from man 's lips.

Total Words 384

Time Finished _____

First Reading _____ WPM

Second Reading _____ WPM

Notes :

1. give weight to 重视
2. He speaks more often with nonsense than with sense 多数情况下 ,小鸟只是胡言乱语 ,它的话没有什么意义
3. the rain poured down 下着倾盆大雨
4. condemn [kən'dem]vt. 证明(某人)有罪
5. testimony ['testiməni]n. 证词
6. set free 释放

7. expel[iks'pel] vt 驱逐 赶出
8. capture['kæptʃə] vt 捕获
9. resent[ri'zent] v 对...表示忿恨

A. Reading Comprehension

Decide whether the following statements are TRUE or FALSE according to the passage.

1. In the court the lorikeet was forced to tell a lie about the stolen meat.
2. The lorikeet gave a correct account of the weather of that night because it did rain at that time.
3. The judge believed that the farmer was innocent and set him free.
4. The lorikeet was put to prison , for he spoke with nonsense.
5. The lorikeet fled(逃走) to the forest where he used to live.
6. In the forest the lorikeet met with a new bird—parrot.
7. The lorikeet told the parrot about his experience in the farmer 's house and gave the parrot some advice.
8. The lorikeet also warned the parrot not to live in the forest because it was dangerous here.
9. The parrot was seized by man one day.
10. The parrot accepted the lorikeet 's advice , so he only repeated what man had said.

Comprehension _____ %

B. Vocabulary

Interpretation of the words and phrases underlined : Choose the best answer .

1. The neighbor who lost his buffalo told how the lorikeet had in-