

新世纪大学英语系列丛书

大学英语阅读教材 (1-2级)

English Reading (Band I ~ Band II)

刘丽华 任军 李晖 编著
方云军 唐树成
肖澜 审校



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电话：028-85461729

传真：028-85225679

邮政编码：610065

网址：www.scupress.com.cn

E-mail：scupress@vip.163.com

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前 言

2000年修订的《大学英语教学大纲》明确规定“培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听、说、写、译能力”，把培养阅读技能定为大学英语教学的重点，并提出了较高的要求。这是基于英语专业的学生在毕业之后的实际工作需要而定的。他们在今后的工作中更多的是要通过准确阅读来直接获取最新信息，吸取世界各国的先进经验和先进技术。全国大学英语四级统考大纲也把阅读技能的考查放在重要位置，并占40%的分数。已推出的新题型英译汉与简答题更是要求学生具备精确阅读的能力，也是为了促使教师和学生都要更加重视阅读技能。因此，抓好阅读教学，培养学生分析、推断、综合的阅读理解能力是十分重要的。

要抓好阅读，就需要有不同层次、不同题材、内容丰富、生动有趣的阅读教材。为此我们根据多年的教学经验和目前学生的现状编写了这套《大学英语阅读教材》(1-4级)，供非英语专业一、二年级本科生以及大专生和准备参加大学英语四级统考的各类考生使用。

本书共两个分册(1-2级)与(3-4级)。每个分册各有40个单元，两个分册共计80个单元，使用四个学期。每单元由课文、阅读理解题(10个)、英译汉翻译题(5个)、生词表、短语表及注释几个部分组成。书后附有参考译文及答案，便于学生自我检测。

本书所选课文题材广泛，涉及社会、历史、地理、经济、科普、人物、故事、体育及乡土人情等方方面面。语言生动有趣，可读性强。

本书由四川大学外语部几位长期从事大学英语教学的教师编写。肖澜教授担任主审并对全书提出了很多宝贵的意见，对此，我们表示衷心的感谢！

编 者

2001年6月

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Band I

Unit 1

Early Bird

1. An “early bird” used to be a person who was awake early and began his (or her) day’s work before other people. The people who said it were thinking of an old saying: “It is the early bird that catches the worm.” But since 1965 the Early Bird has had a different meaning. The modern Early Bird is a communications satellite in orbit round the earth.

2. The use of wires to carry telephone communications and for other purposes of the same kind does not satisfy modern needs. We had to use radio. But the radio waves that we use for these purposes—microwaves—travel in straight lines. They do not follow the curves of the earth’s surface. We can send them from one radio station to another—a relay station—there we amplify them and send them on to a third station. If there is no relay station within about 50 kilometers to receive the microwaves, they will continue into space. At a certain height, some of them are sent back to earth. A powerful station several hundred kilometers from their starting-point can receive them. But these are not good ways of sending the thousands of telephone, radio and television signals across the oceans.

3. Scientists were thinking about communications satellites. They wanted to produce satellites big enough to separate a large number of different signals, amplify them and then relay them powerfully. And they wanted to put each of these satellites into an orbit which would keep it over one point on the surface of the turning world. With four satellites of this kind—two over the Atlantic, one over the Pacific, and one over the Indian Ocean—we could send radio, television, and telephone signals from any one place to any other place on the surface of the earth.

4. Early Bird was the first of these new communications satellites. It went into orbit in a “fixed” position over the Atlantic Ocean on 2 May 1965.

5. Just over two years later, the second and third satellites went into positions over the Pacific Ocean. This made it possible for people in a large number of countries to see the same television pictures at the same time.

6. On 25 June 1967, very large number of people in very many countries saw and heard the same television program “live”. The program was called “Our World”. It dealt with man’s problems and difficulties. It also dealt with man’s successes and his hopes for the future. The pictures and sound were relayed by the Atlantic and Pacific satellites; they came from Africa, America, Canada, Mexico, Australia, Japan, and Europe. And they were received in all those parts of the world—received “loud and clear”, as the radio men say.

Multiple Choices

1. According to this passage , “ early birds ” used to refer to _____.
A) a person who woke up early
B) a person who began to work before others
C) the bird that catches the worm early
D) both A and B
2. What’s the function of a communication satellite ?
A) It is used to carry telephone communications only.
B) It is used as a power station .
C) It separates , amplifies and relays signals powerfully.
D) It broadcasts live program around the world.
3. How many communication satellites are necessary to send radio , television and telephone signals from any one place to any other place in the world ?
A) One B) Two C) Three D) Four
4. “ And they wanted to put each of these satellites into an orbit which would keep it over one point on the surface of the turning world. ” (Par. 3) Here “ it ” refers to _____.
A) the satellite B) an orbit C) a signal D) the world
5. When did the second and the third satellites go into positions over the Pacific Ocean ?
A) 1965 – 1966 B) 1966 – 1967 C) 1967 – 1968 D) 1968 – 1969
6. The reason to produce communication satellites is that _____.
A) many people in the world hoped to see the same television pictures
B) there were not other good ways of sending lots communication signals across the oceans
C) the use of wires to carry signals costs too much
D) relay stations were inadequate
7. “ It went into orbit in a ‘ fix ’ position. ” (Par. 4) What does this sentence mean ?
A) Its orbit keeps it always over the same place on the earth’s surface.
B) It is fixed by its orbit and can’t move around the earth.
C) It is usually over one of the oceans of the world.
D) It only relays certain TV signals.
8. “ ... people in very many countries saw and heard the same television program ‘ live ’ ”.
(Par. 6) This sentence means “ _____ ”.
A) people in very many countries could watch the exciting TV program
B) what people in very many countries saw and heard was true
C) people all over the world watched TV program with bright colors
D) people in many parts of the world could watch the television program at the same time as it actually happens
9. The program “ Our World ” is about _____.
A) man’s birth and death B) man’s achievements and his hopes

C) man's love and marriage

D) man's struggle and failure

10. What's the main idea of this passage?

A) The meaning of the "Early bird" has changed a lot.

B) Why was the first communication satellite named "Early Bird"?

C) The functions of "Early Bird".

D) How did the first communication satellite come into being?

Translation

1. The people who said it were thinking of an old saying: "It is the early bird that catches the worm." (Par. 1, Lines 2-3)

2. The use of wires to carry telephone communications and for other purposes of the same kind does not satisfy modern needs. (Par. 2, Lines 1-2)

3. A powerful station several hundred kilometers from their starting-point can receive them. (Par. 2, Lines 7-8)

4. They wanted to produce a satellite big enough to separate a large number of different signals, amplify them and then relay them powerfully. (Par. 3, Lines 1-3)

5. This made it possible for people in a large number of countries to see the same television pictures at the same time. (Par. 5, Lines 2-3)

New Words

curve [kɜ:v] *n.* 曲线

amplify [ˈæmplɪfaɪ] *vt.* 放大 增强

microwave [ˈmaɪkrəweɪv] *n.* 微波

live [laɪv] *adv.* 实况(转播)

orbit [ˈɔ:bɪt] *n.* 轨道

relay [ˈri:lɪ] *vt.* 转播

Phrases and Expressions

1. think of 考虑, 记得

2. think about 考虑, 回想

3. deal with 对付, 处理

Notes

1. communications satellite 通讯卫星

Unit 2

Suntan and Society

1. Heredity is not the only thing that influences our color. Where we live and how we live after we are born are important too. For instance ,our genes influence how fat or thin we are. But our weight depends mainly on how much we eat and how much exercise we get. In the same way , our skin color depends to a large extent on how much sunshine we get.

2. During the cold winter months , people keep themselves covered. A group of light colored people will all seem to be pretty much the same color in these months. But when summer arrives and they go to the beaches , some will tan darkly , some will tan lightly and a few will not tan at all. Each one has inherited a different ability to tan ,but the differences do not appear until the conditions are right. An outdoors man will soon become pale if he changes to an indoor job , while a desk clerk will take on a tan after a short vacation in the sun.

3. Sometimes people decide that being tanned is better than being pale. Sometimes they decide the opposite.

4. Centuries ago ,most of the people in Europe were peasants and had to work in the fields all day. Noblemen , on the other hand ,did not have to work. They stayed indoors and remained pale. You could always tell a nobleman from a peasant because the peasant had a tan. As a result ,noblewomen did their best to keep their skins as light as possible. A skin so pale that the veins showed was considered a mark of great beauty.

5. During the Industrial Revolution things changed. Farmers left their fields and went to work in factories , mines and mills. Working for long hours in dimly lit factories and mines made their skins pale. Wealthy people , however , could afford to travel to sunny countries. They had the leisure to lie around on the beaches and get a tan. Having a tan became a sign of wealth. In Western Europe and North America pale skin is no longer desirable. Instead of bleaching themselves with lemon juice , many women spend their time under a sunlamp. The desire for a quick tan has led to the invention of pills and lotions that darken the skin artificially without exposure to sunlight.

6. This has brought about another change. These pills and lotions can be bought by anyone at any drugstore. A rich man can spend hundreds of dollars on a vacation in the sunny West Indies and get his suntan there. But his lowest paid clerk can have what looks like the same tan out of a bottle for a few cents.

7. So there are three answers to the question“ Where does our color come from ?” It comes from the genes we inherit. It comes from the conditions in which we live. And it can come from a bottle that we buy at the drugstore on the corner.

Multiple Choices

1. According to the text ,which of the following statements is true ?
A) Nowadays women do their best to keep their skin as light as possible.
B) Nowadays only rich people can have a tan.
C) Before the Industrial Revolution most working people had an outdoor job.
D) Everybody will get the same tan if the conditions are right.
2. When summer comes and the light colored people go to the beaches , _____.
A) all of them will tan darkly B) few of them will tan darkly
C) many of them will not tan at all D) some of them will not tan at all
3. According to the text ,which of the followings may not have an influence on our color ?
A) Sunshine. B) Heredity. C) Exercise. D) Lemon juice.
4. Genes are responsible for similarity between parents and children in _____.
A) physical characteristics B) social status
C) money D) profession
5. Working for long hours in dimly lit factories and mines made _____.
A) some workers put on their weight B) some people become thin
C) a light colored person even lighter D) the workers' skins pale
6. " Instead of bleaching themselves with lemon juice. . . "(Par. 5) Here the word " bleach " probably means " _____ ".
A) sharpen B) whiten C) beautify D) brighten
7. A clerk works _____.
A) in a factory B) in the fields C) on a beach D) in an office
8. " You could always tell a nobleman from a peasant. "(Par. 4) Here " tell " means " _____ ".
A) say B) compare C) mistake D) distinguish
9. Usually a rich man gets his suntan _____.
A) by travelling to sunny countries B) from a bottle of lotion
C) by doing outdoor work D) in the fields
10. According to the author , our color doesn't come from _____.
A) the genes we inherit B) the food we eat
C) the condition in which we live D) the lotions we buy at the drugstore

Translation

1. In the same way , our skin color depends to a large extent on how much sunshine we get. (Par. 1 , Lines 3 - 4)
2. An outdoors man will soon become pale if he changes to an indoor job , while a desk clerk will take on a tan after a short vacation in the sun. (Par. 2 , Lines 5 - 6)
3. You could always tell a nobleman from a peasant because the peasant had a tan. (Par. 4 , Line 3)

4. A skin so pale that the veins showed was considered a mark of great beauty. (Par. 4 , Line 4)

5. Wealthy people , however , could afford to travel to sunny countries. (Par. 5 , Line 3)

New Words

suntan ['sʌntæn] *n.* 日光浴 晒黑

heredity [hə'redətɪ] *n.* 遗传 继承

gene [dʒi:n] *n.* (遗传)基因

light [laɪt] *adj.* 浅色的

tan [tæn] *n.* 晒黑 黝黑色

inherit [in'herɪt] *v.* 继承

opposite ['ɒpəzɪt] *adj.* 相反的

vein [veɪn] *n.* 脉管

mill [mɪl] *n.* (纺织、面粉)工厂

dimly [dɪmli] *adj.* 暗淡地

leisure ['leɪʒə] *n.* 闲暇

bleach ['bli:tʃ] *v.* 漂白

lemon ['lemən] *n.* 柠檬

juice [dʒu:s] *n.* (水果、蔬菜等的)汁 液

desirable [dɪ'zʌərəbəl] *adj.* 理想的 想要的

pill [pɪl] *n.* 药片

lotion ['ləʊʃən] *n.* 护肤液

artificially [ɑ:t 1/2 'fɪʃəl:] *adv.* 人工地

Phrases and Expressions

1. to a large extent 从很大程度上说

2. take on 呈现

3. on the other hand 另一方面

4. tell... from... 将...与...区别开

5. on the corner 转角处

Notes

1. the West Indies 西印度群岛

Unit 3

Settling down in England

1. My husband and I are Danish. As a matter of fact , many of my ancestors were English. I was born in England and was originally of British nationality. My parents were killed in a car crash when I was a baby , so I was brought up in Denmark by my grandmother and educated in Danish schools so that Danish is really my native language.

2. We arrived in England last February at five o'clock on a Wednesday morning after an shocking rough crossing. Waves which seemed as high as mountains rocked the boat from side to side. We were both sick on the journey and a fine drizzle met us as we disembarked. To make matters worse , Klaus , my husband , left his camera on the ship ; I lost a gold bracelet ,(which has never been found to this day) and we nearly forgot to tip the taxi driver , a surly individual , who grumbled about our luggage and seemed to be in a thoroughly bad temper. Few visitors can have experienced such an unfortunate beginning to their stay , and we certainly felt like going home again.

3. We stayed for a week in a hotel , and were then lucky enough to find a furnished house in the suburbs of London. It is not so convenient as our flat in Copenhagen , Klaus is studying at the local Technical College and , in addition , he often attends public lectures at the University of London on as many subjects as possible , chiefly to improve his English. He is a qualified engineer who has been employed for several years in a factory. Our two children have joined us , and they are being educated in an English private school. I am working as a part time nurse in a hospital , and I have so much to do that I have almost no leisure time.

4. Most of the neighbors are kindly , but not so sociable as people at home. They tend to ask dull questions , such as : " What is the weather like in Denmark ? " or " What kind of games do you play ? " We are occasionally paid some odd compliments. I remember the time when a well meaning old lady told us , " You have such delightful manners. I always think of you both as quite English. " I think she meant this as the height of flattery.

5. We have made a few close friends , who often invite us to their homes. One of them , who is a widower living on the other side of London , even fetches us in his car on Sunday mornings and brings us back in the evenings. Little Kristina , our small daughter , calls him Uncle Sunday. He speaks Swedish and has an elderly Swedish housekeeper , who has been looking after him for more than twenty years , so we chat for hours in a language that is in some ways similar to our own.

6. Our children can already speak English more fluently than we can. They obviously feel superior to us , and are always making fun of our mistakes , but spelling causes all of us many headaches.

Multiple Choices

- The writer speaks Danish as her native language because _____.
 - she is Danish by birth
 - her grandmother was Danish
 - Danish was the first language she learned
 - she went to school in Denmark
- Which of these ideas is NOT suggested about their arrival in England?
 - Neither of them was really well.
 - The weather was unpleasant.
 - It was bitterly cold.
 - It was early in the morning.
- All of the things made matters worse except that _____.
 - they nearly forgot to pay the taxi driver
 - some jewelry was lost
 - the driver was disagreeable
 - something was left behind
- They were lucky in finding a house, but which of these statements is NOT true?
 - They found it fairly quickly.
 - It was not very convenient.
 - It was reasonably inexpensive.
 - It was not too far from the center.
- What does the sentence "We are occasionally paid some odd compliments." (Par. 4) suggest?
 - We are sometimes given some gifts.
 - We are occasionally praised by people.
 - Occasionally people scolded us in a cold way.
 - Sometimes, people flatter us in strange way.
- Which of the following statements about the neighbors is true?
 - They spend too much time gossiping (闲谈).
 - They always pay others odd compliment.
 - They are not unpleasant.
 - They are more sociable than others.
- The neighbors' questions are described as "dull" because _____.
 - sports and weather are very dull subjects
 - these are very obvious questions showing little real interest
 - they are the only two questions they ask
 - the Danish couple have no interest in sports or weather
- Why did the well-meaning lady think of her remark as the height of flattery?
 - She believed it was only English people who had good manners.
 - She was trying to be polite to the young people.
 - She considered that good manners were very important.
 - She thought it was the kindest thing she could say.
- What is the chief reason they enjoy their visits to their widower friend?
 - They have the chance to see another part of London.