

天景图书

高职高专服务外包实训教程

实用英语

阅读与翻译

薛水明 编著

Reading and Translation of Practical English



天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

实用英语阅读与翻译/薛水明编著. —天津: 天津大学出版社, 2010.7

高职高专服务外包实训教程

ISBN 978-7-5618-3525-8

I. ①实… II. ①薛… III. ①英语—阅读教学—高等学校: 技术学校—教材
②英语—翻译—高等学校: 技术学校—教材 IV. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 118238 号

出版发行 天津大学出版社

出版人 杨欢

地 址 天津市卫津路 92 号天津大学内 (邮编: 300072)

电 话 发行部: 022-27403647 邮购部: 022-27402742

网 址 www.tjup.com

印 刷 天津市泰宇印务有限公司

经 销 全国各地新华书店

开 本 169mm×239mm

印 张 12

字 数 286 千

版 次 2010 年 7 月第 1 版

印 次 2010 年 7 月第 1 次

定 价 24.00 元

凡购本书, 如有缺页、倒页、脱页等质量问题, 请向我社发行部联系调换

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编写说明

《实用英语阅读与翻译》是应高职学生就业之需而编写的一本融实用语言阅读、商务知识和翻译技巧为一体的简易实训教程。本教程将语言、商务、翻译整合为一体，其内容涉及银行业务、外汇、国际贸易、货币、外商投资、保险业务以及翻译实践等方面的知识。本教程选材起点低，强调模块知识，突出项目过程，易学易懂，有助于增加学生的商务知识和提高翻译技能。

本书共有十四个项目，每个项目都有一个独立的工作内容和独立的技能模块并附有配套的翻译练习以及教学参考资料，其中教学参考资料包括练习答案、参考译文等。每个项目中都包括三篇文章，其难度循序渐进，充分体现了本教程的层次性、系统性和实用性。此外，书中编写的翻译实践内容重点突出翻译技巧和容易引起误解、误译的翻译案例。

本书要求教师掌握必要的阅读技巧、翻译技能以及常用的商务知识，这样教师才能有效地将书中的信息转换为适合学生所需的知识。

本书由中国服务外包人才（昆山）培训中心硅湖服务外包学院薛水明教授编著，在编写过程中得到了本院相关老师的大力支持，在此一并表示感谢。同时，由于编者水平所限，错误之处在所难免，敬请广大师生批评指正。

编 者

2010年5月于苏州

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Item One Money



Task 1

The History of Money

Today anyone will accept money in exchange for goods and services. People use money for food, furniture, books, bikes and hundreds of other necessary things.

Most of the money today is made of metal or paper. But, in the past people used almost all kinds of things as money. One of the first kinds of money was shells. Of course, shells were not the only things as money. In China, people used cloth and knives. Some natives in the Philippine Islands used rice as money for a long time and some Africans used elephant tusks, monkey tails and salt as money. People also used some animals as money and cattle were one of the earliest kinds of money.

The first metal coins were made in China. The coins were round and had a square hole in the center. People strung them together and carried them from place to place.

Different countries used different metals and designs for their money. England made the first coins of tin. Sweden and Russia made their coins of copper. Later, countries began to make coins of gold and silver.

But even gold and silver were not convenient. So the Chinese invented the first kind of paper money. The first paper money looked more like a note from one person to another than the modern paper money.

Money has had an interesting history from the days of shell money until today.



Task 2

Money's Functions

One of the functions of money is a medium of exchange. It makes the exchange of the fruits of our productive efforts and services easy. For example, a fisherman will barter for clothes with a basket of fish. But the clothes company isn't interested in fish. Then the fisherman is in for a hard time. Now, with a money system he can sell his fish and buy the necessary goods.

Besides, money also acts as a standard of value. We measure the value of things in terms of money. We can say the oil well is worth 400 carloads of rice or 300 pounds of gold. Then, the rice and the gold act as the standard of value.

In addition to the above two functions, money can act as a standard of deferred payments. If you buy something today but wish to pay for it next month, money then performs the function of a standard of deferred payments.

If you save your assets in money rather than in cars or furniture, you are using money as a store of value. You save dollars for future use. But, if your cars represents your stored assets, it is difficult to change your cars into money at the necessary moment.

So, money functions are necessary in our economic society. In the absence of an effective monetary mechanism, a modern economy could not exist.



Task 3

Currency and Checks

Money is generally acceptable. By generally acceptable we mean that the members of society are generally willing to accept it in exchange for goods. When people generally refuse to accept something as money, it is not money.

Now, let us ask another question. Is your checking account money? Actually, your checks are generally acceptable. Therefore your checks are money. In the U.S., about 90 percent of all money in exchange for things is check money. Of the total value of all transactions, only about 10 percent are made with cash.

So, we have two important kinds of money in the United States: One is

currency, the other one is check money. Check money is more popular because people can either charge any amount in the check to someone else's account or transfer it into currency at any necessary time.



Task 4

翻译的大忌——望文生义

翻译时常常出现这样的情况：看到几个再熟悉不过的词搭配在一起，将其翻译成汉语时，我们满以为“把握十足”，实则“失之千里”。原来，英语中有些短语和句型结构表面上看可以在汉语中找到完全对应的译词或表达方式，而实际上它们所表达的却是与字面完全不同的意思。下面分几种情况进行说明。

(1) 英语中有些专有名词构成的短语可能有一定的来历或蕴含一些有趣的故事，但现在已失去了其本意，因此，不可照字面意思直译。

例如：

American beauty	季开花的红蔷薇（不是“美国美女”）
British warm	双排纽扣的大衣（不是“英国的温暖”）
China (or Chinese) ink	墨汁（不是“中国墨水”）
China rose	月季花（不是“中国玫瑰”）
China town	外国城市里的中国人居住区（不是“中国城镇”）
Dutch comfort	不会使人感激的安慰（不是“荷兰人的安慰”）
English disease	软骨病（不是“英国病”）
French chalk	滑石粉（不是“法国粉笔”）
German measles	风疹（不是“德国麻疹”）
German shepherd	牧羊犬（不是“德国牧羊人”）
Indian summer	小阳春（不是“印度的夏天”）
Italian hand	暗中干预（不是“意大利人的手”）
Spanish castle	空中楼阁（不是“西班牙城堡”）
Turkish delight	拌砂软糖（不是“土耳其欢乐”）

(2) 有些复合名词的词义与其组合的单词字面意思相去甚远。

例如：

bedclothes	床上用品（不是“睡衣”）
------------	--------------

black coffee	不加牛奶的咖啡 (不是“黑色咖啡”)
black book	失宠 (不是“黑书”)
black sheep	败家子, 害群之马 (不是“黑羊”)
black words	不吉利的话 (不是“黑话”)
black leg	破坏罢工的工贼 (不是“黑腿子”)
blue wool	高级羊毛 (不是“蓝色羊毛”)
busybody	爱管闲事的人 (不是“忙人”)
deadeye	神枪手 (不是“死眼”)
dog-ear	(书页的) 折角 (不是“狗耳朵”)
dry goods	纺织品 (不是“干货”)
hand money	定金, 保证金 (不是“手中之钱”)
honey cooler	讨好女人的男人 (不是“甜冷饮”)
man-of-war	军舰 (不是“军人”)
machine tool	机床 (不是“机械工具”)
night cart	粪车 (不是“夜车”)
red tape	(尤指公共事务中) 繁文缛节的官僚作风, 烦琐手续 (不是“红带子”)
street woman	妓女 (不是“街道妇女”)
white city	游乐场 (不是“白色恐怖下的城市”)
white day	吉日 (不是“白天”)
white feather	懦弱表现 (不是“白色羽毛”)
white slaver	诱迫妇女为娼者 (不是“白人贩子”)
white-headed	得宠的 (不是“白头”)
white-hands	纯洁, 清白 (不是“白手”)
white wine	白葡萄酒 (不是“白酒”)

(3) 英语中的短语极为丰富, 不能照字面直译的短语比比皆是。

例如:

- ① be not in the same street 在能力或品质方面不能相比
(不是“不在同一条街上”)

e.g. His coat is not in the same street as that one you brought last year.

- ② face the music 承担困难, 承担后果 (不是“面对音乐”)

e.g. There is no need for you to worry. If anything goes wrong, it is I who will have to face the music.

- ③ have words with sb. 同某人吵架（不是“同某人谈话”）
e.g. He had words with her.
- ④ have sth. in hand 在做某事（不是“手里拿着某物”）
e.g. I have a long letter in my hand.
- ⑤ lend a hand 帮忙（不是“借出一只手”）
e.g. If we all lend a hand, it would not take us long to get the job home.
- ⑥ take one's time 不慌不忙、从容地做某事（不是“花费时间”）
e.g. I can not enjoy a hurried breakfast. I'd like to take my time over it.

(4) 固定结构。

too 与 can 的否定式连用，在句中构成一种特殊结构，表示“怎么也不过分”，而不是“不能……”。

例如：

- ① You can't come too early.
你来得越早越好。
- ② We cannot pay too high a price for our national security.
为了国家的安全花再大的代价也值得。

since 引导的状语从句通常只用非持续性动词的一般过去时。如用持续性动词，则表示动作的完成，计时的起点应是动作或状态的结束之时，因而其含义恰好与动词的词义相反，具有否定意义。

例如：

- ① It is eight months since she taught English.
她不教英语已有八个月的时间了。
- ② It is two years since I smoked.
我戒烟已有两年了。
- ③ I haven't written to her since she lived in Beijing.

自从她离开北京以来，我一直没有给她写信。

在例③中，...since she lived in Beijing 表示：她过去住在北京，现在不住了。试与 since 从句中短暂动词的过去时相比较：She hasn't written to me since I came to Shanghai.（自我来到上海，她还没有给我写过信）。

另外，还有一些固定搭配需要注意。

例如：

- ① It is a wise man that never makes mistakes.
再聪明的人也会犯错误。（不是“永不犯错误的人才是聪明的。”）

- ② All his letter were not received.

他的信并没有全收到。(不是“他所有的信都没有收到。”))

- ③ Everything doesn't cause cancer.

并非所有的东西都致癌。(不是“任何东西都不致癌。”))

- ④ I am too glad to visit your country.

我十分高兴访问你们的国家。(不是“我太高兴了, 不能访问你们的国家。”))



Task 5

Exercise

一、根据课文内容用 T 和 F 判断下列各句, T 表示正确, F 表示错误。

1. People can use money for almost anything. ()
2. The money today is all made of paper. ()
3. In the past, shells were the only things as money. ()
4. Some Africans used rice as money for a long time. ()
5. The first paper money was, in fact, a note from one person to another. ()

二、将下列短语译成汉语。

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. the functions of money | 2. a medium of exchange | 3. be interested in |
| 4. be in for | 5. act as | 6. a standard of value |
| 7. in terms of | | |
| 8. in addition to | 9. deferred payment | 10. a store of value |

三、将下列短语译成英语。

- | | | |
|------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1. 交换 | 2. 由金属制成 | 3. 菲律宾群岛 |
| 4. 把……串在一起 | 5. 最早的一种货币 | 6. 纸币 |
| 7. 有趣的历史 | 8. 把它们从一个地方带到另一个地方 | |

四、将下列句子译成英语。

1. 中国有多少家银行?
2. 如果服装公司对鱼不感兴趣, 那么渔夫就无法用鱼换取服装。
3. 除了以上的作用外, 货币还能当作延期支付的标准。
4. 我们通常用货币来衡量物品的价值。

Item Two Exchange



Task 1

One Basket of Fish for One Basket of Breadfruit

The chief of the eastside islanders is walking in the island and meets the chief of the westside islanders. They sit down and have a talk. The eastside chief brags about the good fishing. The westside chief responds with the stories about the fabulous breadfruit harvest. Then they work out an agreement. They will trade one for one — one basket of fish for one basket of breadfruit.

The eastside chief hurries home very fast. He is quite happy. He knows that breadfruit is five times as valuable as fish. How lucky his people are! At the same time the westside chief thinks the same thing. He knows that fish are five times as valuable as breadfruit. What stupid people those eastsiders are!

Each chief keeps thinking, “What a steal! What a steal!”



Task 2

A Medium of Exchange

I am a fisherman. I caught a boat-load of fish, and I shall exchange all these fish for a new suit. Without an exchange medium, it is very difficult. But with an exchange medium, it's easy.

Now, let's be more realistic. A fisherman really doesn't want to exchange his boat-load of fish just for a suit. He wants groceries, electricity, water, housing and a few glasses of beer. So whatever he accepts in exchange for his fish can not be

something acceptable only to the suit-seller. It must be something acceptable to all those other people, too. Why do all those other people accept it? Only because they all need it.

So, if anyone can accept it as money it becomes generally acceptable. Then only then, it is money.



Task 3

Barter

In the barter system, people trade things for other things directly. Suppose a man had a sheep and wanted clothes. He found someone with an extra suit of clothes who wanted a sheep.

But what if he only wanted a shirt? He might not want to trade his entire sheep for just one shirt. How could he get change for a sheep? Problems like this made bartering difficult. People invented money to make trading easier.

Eventually, people found they could use precious metals such as gold, silver, or copper to help them trade. They were easy to store, lasted a long time, and could easily be divided.

Once people started trading metals as money, coins were soon invented. The first metal coins were made around 600 BC. About the same time, people in China began to use paper money.



Task 4

容易误译的句子

例句: Let's eat. The children are starting to get ants in their pants.

误解: 我们吃吧。孩子们都把蚂蚁放进自己的裤子里了。

正解: 我们吃饭吧, 孩子们都等不及了。

说明: get ants in one's pants 意思是“不耐烦, 坐立不安, 急于行动”。

例句: Tom only left last week and I already miss him like anything.

误解: 汤姆上周才离开, 可我已经像思念任何事情一样想念他了。

正解: 汤姆上周才离开, 可我已经非常想念他了。

说明: like anything 是口语, 意思是“非常, 极其”。

例句: Simon often discusses anything under the sun with Joan.

误解: 西蒙常常和琼在阳光下讨论问题。

正解: 西蒙和琼常常海阔天空, 无所不谈。

说明: anything under the sun 意思是“一切事情”。

例句: People found him a political animal.

误解: 人们发现他是一个政治动物。

正解: 他们发现他是一个善于搞政治的人。

说明: political animal 意思是“善于搞政治的人”。

例句: It was quite another story inside the room.

误解: 房间里面发生了另一个故事。

正解: 房间里面完全是另一回事。

说明: (quite) another story 意思是“(纯属)另一回事, 情况(完全)不同”。

例句: It's British's answer to the Eiffel Tower.

误解: 这是英国人对埃菲尔铁塔的解释。

正解: 这简直是英国的埃菲尔铁塔。

说明: 本句中的 answer 意思是“(与出名的人或物)极为相似的人或物”。

例句: A man answering the police's description was seen entering the building.

误解: 有人看到那个人回答了警察问题后进入了这幢楼。

正解: 有人看到一个和警察描述的相貌特征相吻合的人进了这幢楼。

说明: answer sb.'s description 意思是“与某人描述的相吻合”。

例句: He is full of animal spirits.

误解: 他身上充满动物精神。

正解: 他身上充满活力。

说明: animal spirit 意思是“生气, 活力”。

例句: In the final analysis, profit is the motive.

误解: 在最后的分析中, 利润就是动机。

正解: 归根到底, 利润就是动力。

说明: in the final analysis 是固定短语, 意思是“归根到底”。

例句: He swallowed the anchor when he was 53.

误解: 他在 53 岁时把锚给吞了。

正解: 他在 53 岁时脱离航海生活。

说明: swallow the anchor 意思是“脱离航海生活”。

例句: The photo makes him look ancient.

误解: 这张照片让他看起来像个古代人。

正解: 这张照片上他看起来显得很老。

说明: ancient 在这里意思是“很老的, 年纪大的”。

例句: He believes that Ancient of Days doesn't make any mistake.

误解: 他相信古代人不会犯任何错误。

正解: 他相信上帝不会犯任何错误。

说明: Ancient of Days 意思是“上帝”, 源于《圣经》故事。

例句: I usually have bread and butter for my breakfast.

误解: 我早餐常常吃面包和黄油。

正解: 我早餐常常吃涂黄油的面包。

说明: bread and butter 意思是“涂黄油的面包”。

例句: The boys ran on the beach in the altogether.

误解: 男孩们一起在沙滩上跑。

正解: 男孩们赤身裸体地在沙滩上跑。

说明: in the altogether 是固定短语, 意思是“赤身裸体”。

例句: The hotel adopts American plan.

误解: 这家旅馆采用美国计划。

正解: 这家旅馆采用美国式收费制。

说明: American plan 意思是“(旅店收费除房费外还包括一日三餐在内的)美国收费制”。

例句: He is an American China merchant.

误解: 他是个美籍华裔商人。

正解: 他是一个做对华贸易的美国商人。

说明: China merchant 意思是“做对华贸易的商人”，而不是“华裔商人”，Chinese merchant 才是“中国商人”。

例句: What he said is full of hot air.

误解: 他说话的时候嘴巴里冒着热气。

正解: 他说的是空话。

说明: hot air 的意思是“空话，大话”。

例句: The political party tried to buy more air time.

误解: 这个政党设法买到了更多的航行时间。

正解: 这个政党设法买到了更多的广播时间。

说明: air time 意思是“播放时段，广播时间”。

例句: The lake is alive with fish.

误解: 湖水因为有鱼而变得富有生气。

正解: 这湖里有很多鱼。

说明: alive with 是习语，意思是“充满了；到处都是(人、动物或移动的东西)”。

例句: Instead of working at her lessons, Mary spends her time building castles in the air.

误解: 玛丽不做功课，却花时间在空中造城堡。

正解: 玛丽不做功课，却花时间想入非非。

说明: build castles in the air 是习语，意思是“想入非非，做白日梦”。

例句: You can't quit while you are ahead.

误解: 当你往前走的时候，不能离开。

正解: 你是赢家，现在不能走。

说明: be ahead 是习语, 在本句中意思是“赚钱, 赢钱”。

例句: How can we believe you? What you have said is out of thin air.

误解: 我们怎能相信你? 你所说的可信度不大。

正解: 我们怎能相信你? 你所说的全部是无中生有。

说明: out of thin air 意思是“无中生有, 子虚乌有”。

例句: Mary is always putting on airs.

误解: 玛丽总是穿着航空服。

正解: 玛丽总是摆架子。

说明: airs 通常指“做作的姿态, 架子”; put on airs 意思是“摆架子”。

例句: Afro-Americans have made great contribution to the local economy.

误解: 非洲的美国人为当地的经济作出了很大的贡献。

正解: 美国黑人为当地的经济作出了很大的贡献。

说明: Afro-Americans 意思是“非洲裔美国人, 美国黑人”, 而不是“非洲的美国人”。

例句: We had some fruit for afters.

误解: 我们接下来吃了些水果。

正解: 我们餐桌上的最后一道是水果。

说明: 这里的 afters 是名词, 意思是“作为正餐最后一道的水果(或甜食等)”。

例句: He made advance to the young lady.

误解: 他贷款给这个年轻女士。

正解: 他向这位年轻女士表示爱意。

说明: make advance to...意思是“向……示爱”; make an advance to...意思是“贷款给……”。

例句: She's always advertising herself.

误解: 她总是登广告出卖自己。

正解: 她总是吹嘘自己。

说明: advertise oneself 并非是“登广告出卖自己”, 而是“吹嘘自己, 努力使别人注意自己”。