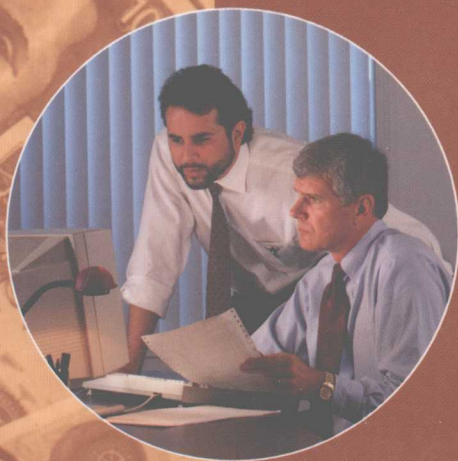


SPOKEN ENGLISH FOR BUSINESS

主编 李荣轩 杨 柳

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序

改革开放、科教兴国，决策英明果敢，全国上下一致拥护，给我国的形势带来了全新的局面。国内各行各业生气勃勃，蒸蒸日上。对外交往和交流十分活跃，且多样化、多层次化。我国已经彻底告别了闭关锁国的时代，开始与国际接轨，融入国际大家庭之中，了解世界，向他人他国学习，补己之不足，同时也宣传自己，让世界了解中国。

为此，学习、掌握和使用外语，特别是国际上通用的英语，是十分重要和必要的。这一点已经成为我们大家的共识。

必须指出，在现代社会中，由于生活节奏快，事物瞬息万变，为了争取快速有效地处理和解决问题，人们总是尽可能运用口语进行交际和交流。因而口语是我们学习语言的一项首要内容，也是学习语言的一个首要手段。学习一门语言，只能阅读而无听说能力，是很不全面的。这会大大限制我们对该语言的使用。

英语口语能力对各种类、各层次学校的学生均是一项非常重要的基本功，是大学英语专业学生必修的一门基本课程。经验告诉我们，学好英语，必须告别“哑巴”英语和“聋子”英语，强化口语，带动读、写、译等基本功的培养，推动英语学习的全面发展。

口语课的主要目的是指导和帮助学生训练和提高口头表达能力，帮助他们掌握各种交际技能，使他们在不同的情景和语境中能流利自如地表达和交流思想。

在课堂里学好英语口语，除了要有经过良好训练、技巧娴熟的教师外，还应有好的课本。从目前的情况看来，优秀的英语口语课本，应有计划、有步骤、有目的地安排课题，包含系统的有用知识和

最新信息,使学生愿意学,并能容易、快捷地学到手。

湖南财经学院外语系编著(李荣轩教授、杨柳副教授任主编)的《财经英语口语》是编者根据财经英语口语的特点和目前国内外形势的变化结合自己的丰富教学经验著成的。我在仔细阅读了该套课本与类似口语课本对比后,认为该书有以下几个明显的特点,值得评介:

1. 内容针对性强,设置情景生动逼真

本书名为《财经英语口语》,专业性强。顾名思义,本书的侧重点是财经这一主题,涉及国际贸易、国际金融、保险、企业管理、会计、经济法、计算机等课题,并探讨世界经济发展概况、经济发展战略、经济热点等问题。内容所设情景场合真实生动,使读者有身临其境之感,学生学后对今后的工作和事业具有排练和排演的作用。

2. 题材广泛,丰富多彩

全书分上、中、下三册,包括15个单元,共75课。一、二两册中的每课课文以简短对话为中心,围绕主题,辅以其他项目。第三册给学习者提供了大量有关国际财经等方面的材料辅以科学合理的大量口语练习,帮助学习者在学习了一二两册后在层次上得到新的提高。本书虽专业性较强,但也包括有社会生活、文娱体育、参观旅游、衣食住行等日常生活的各类题材。

3. 布局精巧,循序渐进

本书从学生的学习实际出发,精心组织和安排材料,由浅入深,由易到难,循序渐进,密切联系学生表达、交流思想的实际需要,诱发学生学习的兴趣。

4. 练习设计新颖多样,注重实用

要学好英语口语,关键是要多练习、勤实践。本书的每一课后均附有多种多样的练习,配合和帮助对课文的复习巩固。其中有口译、对话、填空、问答、口头作文、正误选择、讨论、辩论等许多项目。内容的难度和分量均较适度。

鉴于以上几个优点,本书定将成为学习者的得力助手。赏读之后,欣然作此小小序言,敬向广大读者推荐。

廖世翘

2000年1月8日

编者的话

我国经济体制改革的深入和对外开放的扩大以及市场经济的日益成熟和完善向我们提出了培养既有很强的英语语言能力又具备专业知识的跨世纪复合型人才的要求。因此培养和提高财经类院校学生的财经英语的口头表达能力更显得尤为重要。为了适应这一需要,我们编写了《财经英语口语》一书,与上海外语教育出版社出版的《财经英语》配套使用,使其形成一个教材系列。本教程既可以做财经类院校学生的口语教材,亦可为从事经贸工作的同志提高口语表达能力之用。

本教程按照语言学习的规律,根据口语训练不同层次要求和口语能力培养的方向,分为三册。第1册围绕商务交际的各个方面进行基本口语训练,课文以简短对话为主,辅以重点回顾功能练习和文化提示。第2册涉及国际贸易、国际金融、保险、企业管理、会计、经济法、计算机等财经专业的主干知识,课文以对话的形式介绍上述各个领域的专业知识并附有背景知识介绍。第3册从宏观层面探讨世界经济发展概况、经济发展战略、经济热点等问题,介绍世界经济组织的相关情况,引导学生就上述问题进行即席发言、自由辩论、限时演讲等口语方面的训练。

《财经英语口语》三册自成体系,又相互关联,循序渐进,各册之间,各单元之间形成横向扩展和纵向延伸的格局。各篇文章独立成篇而又服务于共同主题,便于读者融会贯通和进行操练。本教程围绕培养学生的英语口语表达能力这个中心精心设计了新颖多样、形式各异、内容适用、针对性强、易于操作的口语实践活动,诸如回答问题、分组讨论、自由辩论、限时演讲、角色表演等。通过开展这些形式多样、轻松有趣的口语实践训练,学生既拓展了用英

语思维的能力,又强化了英语口语表达能力。此外,为了激发学生的想像力和开阔思路,我们还分别在辩论题和演讲题的后面附有正反双方的多条论据的提示。

承蒙廖世翘教授在百忙中仔细审阅本书并为之作序,特此向他表示由衷的感谢。

由于时间仓促,编者水平与经验有限,教材中不妥之处在所难免,希望广大读者批评指正。

编者

2000年元月

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UNIT **1**

**THE BACKGROUND OF
THE WORLD ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

世界经济发展概况

LESSON ONE

Starting Modern Economic Growth

启动现代经济增长

I. Text

The Key Characteristics of Economic Growth

The era of modern economic growth is only two centuries old. Before the late eighteenth century there were individuals and families who had become rich, but nations as a whole and most of the people in them were poor. An economy was seen as a pie of fixed size¹. One could cut oneself a bigger piece of the pie, and only took away a portion that originally belonged to someone else. However, few saw the possibility of increasing the size of the pie so that all could have larger slices.

But the essence of modern economic growth is that, on the average, the per capita income of all people in a nation rises, not just the income of a select few. And as per capita income rises, other fundamental changes occur that affect the way people live. The households as production units decline and are replaced by larger enterprises that find it economical to locate near each other. The result is that more people live in cities and work in factories rather than on farms. As incomes rise and ur-

banization takes place, behavior within the households also changes. Families no longer want large numbers of children and so the birth rate begins to fall. Modern economic growth, therefore, involves fundamental structural changes in the way both production and society are organized.

In the late eighteenth century England began to transform its economy, a process that would later be called the Industrial Revolution. By the middle of the nineteenth century, other nations in Europe and North America had begun similar transformations, and toward the end of the century the first non-European population, the Japanese, had begun to industrialize. Two world wars and the Great Depression² interrupted industrialization in the already advanced nations and slowed the spread of economic advance to other parts of the globe. The Second World War, however, also undermined the strength of European colonialism and set the stage for a widespread effort to industrialize large numbers of newly independent nations.

One of the key characteristics of modern economic growth, therefore, is that it did not begin everywhere in the world at the same time. Instead it spread slowly across Europe and North America, but did not occur in areas dominated by European culture until the 1950s and 1970s³. In parts of the world the process has yet to begin.

Between those parts of the world that have achieved sustained growth and those that have not, a gap in the standard of living has inevitably opened up. The average European, American, or Japanese enjoys a material way of life that is many times richer than that experienced by even large parts of the elites of India or Africa. But there is nothing inevitable or permanent about this gap. In the nineteenth century England was

far ahead of the rest of the world, whereas today England is not even in the top ten of the richest nations in terms of⁴ per capita income. In the early 1950s Japan was poorer than such centers of European poverty as Spain and Greece, but by the mid 1980s Japanese per capita income was comparable to that of richer Western European nations such as France. The world today is undergoing a vast historical change. Since the end of World War II, many underdeveloped countries in the Third World have taken charge of their own destinies, and have touched off a profound transformation of our world⁵. More than 100 nations of Africa, Asia, and Latin America have embarked on an intensive, often passionate pursuit of the economic development that will improve the living standards of their peoples.

Words and expressions

1. slice / slaɪs / *n.* 片, 薄片, 部分
2. decline / di'klaɪn / *vt.* 减低, 下跌, 衰落
3. urbanization / ə:'bʌnəɪ'zeɪʃən / *n.* 市政化, 城市化
4. inevitable / ɪn'eɪvɪtəbl / *a.* 不可避免的, 必然的
5. permanent / 'pɜ:mənənt / *a.* 永久的, 长期的
6. undergo / ʌndə'gəʊ / *vt.* 经历, 忍受
7. embark / ɪm'bɑ:k / *vt.* 着手, 从事
8. passionate / 'pæʃənɪt / *a.* 热情的, 深刻的
9. undermine / ʌndə'maɪn / *vt.* 削弱, 损毁

Notes

1. An economy was seen as a pie of fixed size. 经济被视为一块大小固定的馅饼。
2. the Great Depression 1929 年开始的世界经济大萧条, 它对美

国的经济冲击特别巨大。

3. Instead it spread slowly across Europe and North America, but did not occur in areas dominated by European culture until the 1950s and 1970s. 相反,它慢慢地传遍欧洲和北美洲,但直到 50 年代和 70 年代才在受欧洲文化影响的地区发生(日本除外)。it 在这里指 modern economic growth 这一经济发展过程。
4. in term of 根据,就……而言。
5. ... and have touched off a profound transformation of our world. ……激起我们这个世界深层的变化。

II. Supplementary reading

1. World Economic Growth in 1990s

In 1990s the world economy continued a downward adjustment to more modest rates of growth, a process which began in 1989. GNP growth fell from 3.1 per cent in 1989 to 1.7 per cent in 1990 while the rate of increase in the volume of world trade declined from 7.3 per cent to 5.7 per cent. In addition to the Gulf crisis, slow growth in Canada, the United Kingdom and the United States, and continued poor performance in Latin America, Eastern Europe and Russia were largely responsible for the decline.

It appeared in the early part of 1990 that the world economy was heading for a smooth transitional correction of the rate of expansion, caused by a cyclical downturn in the industrialized economies. As the year unfolded, however, the Gulf crisis and fundamental political adjustments in Eastern Europe and Russia altered expectations dramatically. The oil price increases