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ion 高等学校英语拓展系列教程



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总序

随着我国对外科技交流的发展,科技英语作为交流的工具越来越受到人们的重视。为了帮助大学生提高科技英语阅读、写作和翻译能力,为他们在科技领域运用英语进行学习、研究和交流架起一座桥梁,我们编写了这套"科技英语系列教材"。

"科技英语系列教材"归属于"高等学校英语拓展系列教程"中的"专业英语类",专为高等学校科技英语专业或理工科专业本科高年级学生及研究生专业英语课而设计,也可作为科研院所培养工程硕士、博士的培训教材,同时还可供广大科技工作者自学与参考之用。

本系列教材共有 5 本:《科技英语语法》(配教师用书)、《科技英语写作》(配教师用书)、《科技英语翻译》(配教师手册)、《科技英语阅读》及《科技英语综合教程》。其内容涵盖通信、电子、计算机、环境、能源、生物技术与农业、遗传工程与医学、宇宙、纳米技术等多个热门科技专题,充分体现了当今科学技术的最新发展,反映了科学研究的探索与创新精神。本系列教材旨在提高学生阅读、翻译、写作相关专业论文或学术作品的能力。

本系列的5本教材是有机关联的一个整体:

《科技英语语法》是核心,总结了科技英语的特殊语法现象,剖析了科技英语学习中的重点、难点及容易忽视的语言点。为科技英语阅读、翻译和写作打下语言基础。

《科技英语翻译》融专业知识学习与翻译技能训练于一体。讲练结合,注重实践,帮助学生在掌握翻译技巧的基础上通过练习融会贯通。

《科技英语写作》分为单句写作、论文写作应用文写作三大部分:单句写作

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■部分深入剖析了科技英语的词法、句法特征,并归纳总结出科技英语写作中的常用句型及表达方式,精辟实用。论文写作部分论述了科技论文的语篇及结构特征。应用文写作部分结合各类实用范文,介绍了英文书信、个人简历、资历证书等的写法。

《科技英语阅读》以阅读为载体,旨在帮助学生提高科技英语阅读、翻译和写作的综合运用能力。课文精选自最新英美期刊、专著及科普读物,语言地道、内容实用。

《科技英语综合教程》综合体现科技英语的特点,是连接大学英语基础阶段 学习和科技类专业英语学习的桥梁。

希望本系列教材成为您全面提升科技英语水平的良师益友,不当之处诚请指正。

秦荻辉 2006年2月 于西安电子科技大学科技英语研究中心

前言

在科学技术飞速发展的今天,英语已成为全世界范围内科技人员进行科学研究和学术交流的工具。查询科技资料,撰写科研论文,参加国际学术会议,都离不开英语这一国际性语言。随着我国对外科技交流的发展,科技英语作为交流的工具也越来越受到人们的重视。

科技英语是现代英语的一种功能变体,应用于科技专业领域,因此相对于一般社交英语来说,科技英语在词汇、常用句型、表达方法和语言风格等方面都具有许多不同的特点,只有通过学习才能掌握。《科技英语阅读》旨在满足学习者的实际需要,帮助他们通过阅读训练系统掌握科技英语知识,提高运用科技英语的能力。

本教材具有以下特点:

1. 针对性强

本教材针对我国大学生的需要编写,突出科技英语的特点和专业性,语言现象丰富,具有一定的深度。本教材以阅读训练为主,配合词汇、翻译等方面的练习,力求综合技能的提高,以使学生通过本教材的学习适应未来实际工作多方面的需要。

2. 选材新颖

本教材的课文均精心选编自近期英美科技期刊、专栏、专著与科普读物,充分体现科学技术的最新发展,反映科学研究的探索与创新精神。为了使读者能够读到原汁原味的英文,领略科技英语的特点,编者有意保留了原文的语言风格,并对每篇课文提供了详细的注释和词汇表。

3. 题材广泛

本教材共15个单元,每单元由两篇内容相关的课文组成,包括不同题材的科技文章,涉及环境、能源、景观美化与家居、计算机、生物技术与农业、遗传工程与医学、宇宙、健康、纳米技术、数字技术等15个科技专题。内容丰富,趣味性强。

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4. 练习全面, 实用性强

本教材的练习与课文密切相关、形式多样,既有主观题型,也有客观题型。练习内容包括阅读理解、科技词汇的使用、英汉、汉英翻译等,不仅是科技英语学习所必需的,而且对参加各种英语测试也很有帮助。

教材提供全部练习的答案,作为学习参考。

5. 提供学习指南, 指导性强

为了拓展学生对科技英语的了解,丰富科技英语知识,提高科技英语的实际运用能力,本教材还在每个单元专门开辟了科技英语学习指南栏目,系统介绍科技英语的语言特点、表达方法、科技英语文体及实例等,并配有相应的练习,以巩固学习成果。

6. 具有时代精神

本教材内容贴近现实、贴近生活,突出当今高科技对人类做出的贡献以及带来的实际问题,培养学生关心科技进步、保护自然、造福人类的意识。

本教材不仅适合非英语专业本科生使用,还可作为英语专业科技英语类课程的教材,或研究生、大专生、科技工作者以及英语爱好者学习和进修的教材。

希望本教材能够成为您提高科技英语水平的良师益友,不当之处诚请指正。

编者 2006年4月

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Text A

Earth's Health in Sharp Decline, Massive Study Finds 大规模研究发现:地球的"健康"每况愈下

The report card has arrived from the largest ever scientific Earth analysis, and many of the planet's ecosystems are simply not making the grade.¹

The UN-backed *Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report*² found that nearly two-thirds of Earth's life-supporting ecosystems, including clean water, pure air, and stable climate, are being **degraded** by **unsustainable** use.

Humans have caused much of this damage during the past half century. Soaring demand for food, fresh water, **timber**, **fiber**, and fuel have led to dramatic environmental changes, from **deforestation** to chemical pollution, the report says. The already **grim** situation may worsen dramatically during the first half of the 21st century, the report's authors warn.

Over 1,300 governmental and private-sector contributors from 95 countries collaborated to create the landmark study. For four years they examined the planet's many habitats and species and the systems that bind them together. The United Nations Environment Programme³ compiled the report and released the results yesterday in Beijing, China.

^{1.} 有史以来对地球进行的最大规模的科学分析表明,地球上的许多生态系统都达不到标准。 report card 原意为"学生成绩报告单",在句中用作比喻,意思是"科学分析的结果"。 make the grade 意为"达到要求的或预期的标准,成功"。 not making the grade 与 report card 呼应,含义是"成绩不佳"。

^{2.} Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report:《千年生态系统评估综合报告》。该报告对全球生态系统进行了迄今为止最为全面的分析和评价,全世界95个国家的1,300名科学家参加了这项研究。

^{3.} the United Nations Environment Programme: 联合国环境规划署

"Only by understanding the environment and how it works, can we make the necessary decisions to protect it," UN Secretary General Kofi Annan⁴ said in a press statement accompanying the report's release. "Only by valuing all our precious natural and human resources, can we hope to build a **sustainable** future."

Socioeconomic Impact

The report paints a rather **bleak** picture for biodiversity⁵ throughout much of the natural world. Perhaps 10 to 30 percent of Earth's **mammal**, bird, and **amphibian** species are facing **extinction**.

The massive ecological survey was begun in response to Annan's Millennium Development Goals⁶, a UN **initiative** that aims to dramatically reduce socioeconomic problems, such as hunger and extreme poverty, by 2015.

"The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment gives us, in some ways for the first time, an insight into the economic importance of ecosystem services and some new and additional arguments for respecting and **conserving** the Earth's life-support systems," said Klaus Toepfer, executive director of the **Nairobi**-based UN Environment Programme.

Current human usage patterns of Earth's environment have increased the global food supply, **albeit** too slowly to accomplish the UN goal of **halving** world hunger by 2015.

The negative effects of ecosystem strain also include collapsing fisheries, coastal "dead zones" near sediment-heavy river mouths, shifting water quality, and unpredictable regional climate, the report says.

Deforestation and other radical ecosystem alterations also promote diseases, such as malaria and cholera, as well as new strains of existing contagions.

Changes to water systems may increase the frequency and severity of destructive floods. Over a hundred thousand people were killed in the 1990s by floods, which also caused destruction to the tune of 243 billion dollars (U.S.), according to the report.

^{4.} Kofi Annan: 科菲·安南 (联合国第七任秘书长)

^{5.} biodiversity: 生物多样性。指一个区域内生命形态的丰富程度,包括遗传(基因)多样性、物种多样性和生态系统多样性三个层次。

^{6.} Millennium Development Goals: 千年发展目标

^{7.} coastal "dead zones": 近海 "死亡区" (指由于污染造成海洋生物大量死亡的近海水域)

The regions facing the greatest environmental degradation are also among the world's poorest: sub-Saharan Africa8, Central Asia, and parts of Latin America, and South and Southeast Asia

Call for Radical Change

The report urges drastic policy changes to the ways in which natural resources are used.

From an economic perspective, the study suggests that many intact ecosystems should be regarded as more valuable than those altered for commercial use.

For example, citing wetland wildlife habitat, water pollution filtration, water storage. and recreational value, the report appraised intact Thai mangroves at a thousand U.S. dollars per acre (0.4 hectare). The same mangroves were valued at only U.S. \$200 an acre after they had been cleared for fish and shellfish farming.

"The overriding conclusion of this assessment is that it lies within the power of human societies to ease the strains we are putting on the nature services of the planet, while continuing to use them to bring better living standards to all," the report's 45person board of directors9 said in a statement.

"Achieving this, however, will require radical changes in the way nature is treated at every level of decision-making and new ways of cooperation between government, business and civil society," the statement continued. "The warning signs are there for all of us to see. The future now lies in our hands."

The board of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment Synthesis Report was co-chaired by Robert Watson, chief scientist of the World Bank¹⁰, and A. Hamid Zakri, director of the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies¹¹.

^{8.} sub-Saharan Africa: 指撒哈拉沙漠以南之中部非洲地区。

^{9.} board of directors: 原意为 "(公司) 董事会", 此处指主持这项研究的委员会。

^{10.} the World Bank: 世界银行。成立于 1945 年 12 月,是联合国下属的国际金融机构。

^{11.} the United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies: (UNU-IAS) 联合国大学高等研 究所(位于日本横滨)。联合国大学是一个国际学术团体,被视作联合国的智囊团,总部在 日本东京。

4

Words & Expressions

acre	n.	英亩 (1 英亩 = 40.47 公亩或 6.07 亩)
albeit	conj.	尽管,虽然
amphibian	n.	两栖动物(或植物)
appraise	n.	估价,评价,鉴定
bleak	adj.	暗淡的,凄凉的
cholera	n.	霍乱
collaborate	ν.	(尤指在文艺、科学等方面)协作,合作
conserve	ν.	保护,保存,保藏
contagion	<i>n</i> .	传染病
deforestation	n.	滥伐森林
degradation	n.	退化,衰变
degrade	<i>v</i> .	使恶化
ecosystem	<i>n</i> .	生态系统
extinction	n.	灭绝
fiber	n.	纤维 (物质)
filtration	n.	过滤
fishery	n.	渔业,水产业
grim	adj.	严酷的
habitat	n.	(动植物的)生境,栖息地
halve	ν.	减半
hectare	n.	公顷 (= 100 公亩或 2.471 英亩)
initiative	n.	为解决困难而采取的行动
intact	adj.	未受损的,完整的
landmark	n.	〈喻〉里程碑(指具有划时代意义或起转折作用
		的重大事件)
malaria	n.	疟疾
mammal	n.	哺乳动物
mangrove	<i>n</i> .	红树属植物,美洲红树
Nairobi		内罗毕(肯尼亚首都)
perspective	<i>n</i> .	(观察问题的) 视角, 视点, 想法
recreational	adj.	消遣的,娱乐的

sediment	n.	沉积(物),沉淀
shellfish	n.	水生贝壳类动物
socioeconomic	adj.	社会经济(学)的
species	n.	【生物】种,物种
strain	n.	①过度的使用,过劳
		②种;(动植物的)系,类系
sustainable	adj.	可持续的
Thai	adj.	泰国的
timber	n.	木材,原木
to the tune of		共计
unsustainable	adj.	不可持续的

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions on the text.

- 1. What does the author mean by "many of the planet's ecosystems are simply not making the grade"?
- 2. Why was the UN Millennium Ecosystem Assessment initiated?
- 3. What is the overall attitude of the report concerning the future of the Earth?
- 4. What functions do wetlands play in conserving the environment?
- 5. What essential steps should be taken to change the degrading trend of the ecosystem?

II. There are two or three choices in the brackets of each of the following sentences. Choose the correct one according to the text.

- 1. A massive study finds that the Earth's health is in (gradual / sharp / hopeless) decline.
- 2. (Unsustainable / Unlimited / Inexhaustible) use of the natural resources is leaving many precious species on this planet on the verge of extinction:
- 3. Over the years, human beings' demand for food, fresh water, timber, fiber and fuel has been (dropping / faltering / soaring).
- 4. The environment of this planet is already in a (grim / pleasing / moderate) situation.

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- 5. The research findings (indicated / released / demonstrated) yesterday will help us better understand the ecosystems and how they function.
- 6. The Assessment report paints a rather (promising / bleak / blank) picture for biodiversity throughout much of the natural world.
- 7. Millennium Development Goals is a UN (project / timetable / initiative) that aims to reduce socioeconomic problems by 2015.
- 8. The Assessment report offers us some new (insights / perceptions / proposals) into the economic importance of ecosystem services.
- 9. Collapsing fisheries, coastal "dead zones" near sediment-heavy river mouths, shifting water quality, and unpredictable regional climate are all (convincing / negative / supportive) effects of ecosystem strain.
- 10. Deforestation and other radical ecosystem (improvements / alterations) also promote diseases as well as new strains of existing contagions.

III. Choose the word or phrase which is closest in meaning to the underlined part i

n (each sentence.							
1.	The largest ever s	cientific Earth a	nalysis reveals that m	nany of the planet's				
	ecosystems are simply not making the grade.							
	A. doing well enou	ıgh	B. progressing					
	C. functioning		D. moving in the rig	ht direction				
2.	Nearly two-thirds	of Earth's life-sup	porting ecosystems, in	cluding clean water,				
	pure air, and stable	e climate, are beir	ng <u>degraded</u> by unsusta	inable use.				
	A. prevented	B. marked	C. determined	D. made worse				
3.	3. They examined the planet's many habitats and species and the systems that b							
	them together.							
	A. regions		B. dwelling places					
	C. shelters		D. refuges					
4. Only by valuing all our precious natural and human resources, can we hop				ces, can we hope to				
	build a sustainable future.							
	A. prosperous	B. diverse	C. livable	D. lasting				
5.	Perhaps 10 to 30 p	ercent of Earth's	mammal, bird, and an	nphibian species are				
	facing extinction.							
	A. threat	B. emergence	C. urgency	D. dving out				