

卫生部英语培训系列教材

英语阅读

第三册

总主编 陈慕竹
邵循道
陈维益

ENGLISH READING

BOOK THREE

人 民 卫 生 出 版 社

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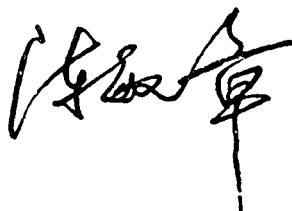
序

为适应改革开放深入发展的需要，进一步扩大对外合作与交流，学习外语、提高外语水平日益成为医务工作者、管理干部和各类人材的迫切要求。外语不仅是出国进修、学习和交往的必备工具，在国内进行外事接待、学术交流、医疗服务、科研教学中也是不可或缺的助手。英语在国际交流与交往中被视为主要的公用语言，因此，广泛开展英语培训、提高各类人材的英语水平是非常重要的。

现在国内各种类型、各种级别的英语培训班办的比较多，但适应卫生系统专业需要的英语教材还不够充实和完善，为此部科技司交流处与国家医学考试中心考务部于1992年4月开始，共同组织了我国卫生系统在英语教学方面颇有造诣、教学经验丰富、从事考试工作多年的国内权威人士以及编写过多种教材、在国内外享有声誉的专家、学者、教授，参加编写了这套《英语培训系列教材》。

该套教材是在参考国外大量资料基础上，根据WHO/笹川医学奖学金考试的要求及成人学习英语特点，重新加工整理、设计编写并加进了考试模拟样题，较全面地体现了卫生行业的特色，将海内外培训融为一体，相信会受到广大医务工作人员和其他人员的欢迎。

经全体编辑委员会成员的艰苦努力，全套教材将在不到两年时间内陆续出版、发行。我对为编写、出版本套教材，付出辛勤劳动的各位教授、同志们表示感谢并希望这套教材在实际应用中不断完善和进一步提高。



一九九三年四月

前 言

随着世界医学科学的迅速发展和国际交往日益频繁,外语已成为医务工作者、管理干部和各类人材的“必需”,不但是出国学习和交往的需要,也是在国内进行国际学术交流、外事接待、科研医疗服务以及职称晋升的需要。因此进行英语培训,提高各类人材的英语水平,与促进四个现代化紧密相关。目前,从国家级、省级到其他很多单位,都在进行各类型的英语培训,以提高人材的外语素质,但苦于没有一套合适的教材。为此,卫生部组织了“英语培训系列教材”编委会,由部属的湖南医科大学、西安医科大学与上海医科大学三个英语培训中心承担编写工作。由陈慕竹、邵循道、陈维益三位教授担任全套书的总主编。

本套教材编写目的是适应各级英语培训的需要,全面提高学习者的英语听、说、读、写能力,在打好英语基础的前提下,培养应试技巧,为参加 WHO/笹川、EPT、TOEFL、MELAB 等各种国内外英语水平考试作准备,同时也是职称晋升考试的重要参考书。

本套教材共分六种十二册。其中有:

英语阅读一、二、三册;

英语听力一、二、三册;

英语口语一、二册;

英语语法要点一册;

英语测试技巧一册,英语测试技巧详解一册;

英语写作一册。

全套书起点相当于大学生三级英语水平,最后可达到出国学习和参加各种国内外英语水平考试的要求。可供初、中、高英语培训班和研究生教学之用。各册书都有注解,书后均附有该书练习答案,听力和口语还配有录音带,也可供自学之用。

经全体编辑委员会成员和编者的艰苦努力,本套教材在不到两年的时间内可全部完成并出版。我们认为这是一套较好的英语教材,该套书取材新颖,练习多样,体现了新的教学方法,很有特色。

限于水平,本书难免错漏,希望读者批评指正。

编辑委员会

1993 年 3 月

使 用 说 明

本书为卫生部英语培训系列教材中的阅读课本第三册（阅读课本共三册），供已具备中级英语水平并准备参加各种高水平国家级及国际性考试，如WHO, EPT, TOEFL和MELAB等考试者使用。

本书旨在于进一步开阔学生的英语阅读范围，从深度和难度上进一步强化训练其阅读能力。本书一方面强调阅读的层次，着重于语篇水平上理解能力培养，另一方面注意扩大基于阅读能力上的其它方面能力的训练（如，词汇练习，写作训练等）。

本书强调学生在阅读过程中的中心地位，鼓励其在阅读过程上发挥自己的联想和逻辑思维能力；并提倡在教学中应用参考书。

本书课文选材于国外最新出版的书刊和杂志，内容新颖且多样化；语言标准并具有丰富的词语及用法知识，内容具有专业性、知识性和可读性，课文练习与一般英语考试题型相同或类似。

全书共十八个单元，每个单元包括：预读（Pre-reading Activities）、阅读（While-reading Activities）、读后（Post-reading Activities）和泛读（Extensive Reading Activities）等四个部分。

预读活动包括词汇学习，集体讨论题和课文内容预猜三个练习。其活动旨在于鼓励学生自己预先了解阅读的主题和解决阅读中可能出现的词语难点。这些练习要求学生在课外独立或集体进行，教师可在课堂组织短时间的讨论或检查。

阅读活动包括由一篇长文章分割成的三至四个阅读部分（Sections），每个部分配有三至四个阅读理解练习和一个连接各部分的预猜练习。课文中的知识难点和复杂句子结构均用脚注加以解释。

读后活动包括课文理解练习、词汇练习、综合练习（Fast-reading 或 Cloze）及写作练习，可供选作课堂训练或课余练习使用。

泛读活动包括有一篇与课文内容相关的文章和一组练习题，供学生作扩大阅读范围的练习使用。

每一单元可供6-8学时教学，教师可根据其实际教学方式和学生的实际情况灵活掌握运用。

由于编者水平有限，对书中错误和不妥之处，敬请专家和使用本书的同志多提批评意见。

编 者

1995年5月

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Unit 1

COMPUTER

PRE-READING ACTIVITIES

I. Word Study

Study the following words and phrases in your dictionary for their meanings or definitions.

computer
mechanism
storage
think
calculation
input
software
sanctuary
transiently
syncytium
fluctuation
polling
governance
botch up

brain
function
memorization
logical processor
communication
output
hardware
intricately
harangue
modulate
secrecy
millennium
fallibility
aggregation

II. Topics for discussion

1. How much do you know about computers and their applications in the fields that you are involved in or interested in?
2. Do you know the mechanism of computers? Can you compare it with the mechanism of our brain?
3. Do you agree that computers will replace human brain some day? Why or why not?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of computers?

III. Prediction

Computer is a common topic of this series of reading passages. Now think about the preview activities and try to predict what the text will discuss.

WHILE-READING ACTIVITIES

Computers
Lewis Thomas

READ THE FIRST SECTION OF THE TEXT CAREFULLY AND THEN DO THE EXERCISES THAT FOLLOW

You can make computers that are almost human. In some respects they are superhuman; they can beat most of us at chess, memorize whole telephone books at a glance, compose music of a certain kind and write obscure poetry¹, diagnose heart ailments, send personal invitations to vast parties, even go transiently crazy. No one has yet programmed a computer to be of two minds about a hard problem, or to burst out laughing, but that may come. Sooner or later, there will be real human hardware, great whirring, clicking cabinets intelligent enough to read magazines and vote, able to think rings around² the rest of us.

Well, maybe, but not for a while anyway. Before we begin organizing sanctuaries and reservations for our software selves, lest we vanish like the whales, here is a thought to relax with.

Even when technology succeeds in manufacturing a machine as big as Texas to do everything we recognize as human, it will still be, at best, a single individual. This amounts to nothing, practically speaking. To match what we can do, there would have to be 3 billion of them with more coming down the assembly line, and I doubt that anyone will put the money, much less make room³. And even so, they would all have to be wired together, intricately and delicately, as we are, communicating with each other, talking incessantly, listening. If they weren't *at* each other⁴ this way, all their waking hours, they wouldn't be anything like human, after all. I think we're safe, for a long time ahead.

NOW STOP HERE AND DO THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES

- I. Choose the best answers or complements for the following questions or incomplete statements.
1. According to the passage, the computers today can do all the things except _____.
 - a. beating most of us in playing chess
 - b. writing obscure poetry
 - c. recognizing a hand note
 - d. composing music of a certain kind

¹obscure poetry: a kind of poetry style. obscure: hard to understand, not clear

²to think rings round: to think so fast that other can not catch up; to do things better than.

³much less make room: It is not possible to provide enough room for a machine as big as Texas.

⁴to be at each other: indicating the above situation: "to be wired together, intricately and delicately, as we are communicating with each other, talking incessantly, listening."

2. What is true about future computers?
 - a. They may laugh and read magazines.
 - b. They can have two minds about a hard problem.
 - c. They can memorize whole telephone books at a glance.
 - d. They can vote and write articles themselves.
3. The author says we are safe for a long time ahead because _____.
 - a. computers will not be as big as Texas
 - b. it is not easy to manufacture computers which can match our minds
 - c. nobody will pay a large sum of money to buy computers
 - d. 3 billion of computers will be manufactured

II. Prediction

Computers can not match human beings because of the complexity and the creativity of our brain. Now can you tell how our brain functions?

GO ON TO READ THE SECOND SECTION OF THE TEXT

It is our collective behavior that we are most mysterious. We won't be able to construct machines like ourselves until we've understood this, and we're not even close. All we know is the phenomenon: we spend our time sending messages to each other, talking and trying to listen at the same time, exchanging information. This seems to be our most urgent biological function; it is what we do with our lives. By the time we reach the end, each of us has taken in a staggering store, enough to exhaust any computer, much of it incomprehensible, and we generally manage to put out even more than we take in. Information is our source of energy; we are driven by it. It has become a tremendous enterprise, a kind of energy system on its own. All 3 billion of us are being connected by telephones, radios, television sets, airplanes satellites, harangues on public address systems newspapers magazines, leaflets dropped from great heights, words got in edgewise. We are becoming a grid, a circuitry around the earth. If we keep at it, we will become a computer to end all computers, capable of fusing all the thoughts of the world into a syncytium.

Already, there are no closed, two-way conversations. Any word you speak this afternoon will radiate out in all directions, around town before tomorrow, out and around the world before Tuesday, accelerating to the speed of light, modulating as it goes, shaping new and unexpected messages, emerging at the end as an enormously funny Hungarian joke, a fluctuation in the money market, a poem, or simply a long pause in someone's conversation in Brazil.

We do a lot of collective thinking, probably more than any other social species, although it goes on in something like secrecy. We don't acknowledge the

gift publicly, and we are not as celebrated as the insects, but we do it. Effortlessly, without giving it a moment's thought, we are capable of changing our language, music, manners, morals, entertainment, even the way we dress, all the earth in a year's turning. We seem to do this by general agreement, without voting or even polling. We simply think our way along, pass information around, exchange codes disguised as art, change our minds, transform ourselves.

STOP HERE AND DO THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES

III. Choose the best answers or complements for the following questions or incomplete statements.

1. Which word describes human beings as compared with computers?
 - a. Collective
 - b. Intelligent
 - c. Changeable
 - d. Quick
2. According to the passage, as a result of mass communication _____.
 - a. computers will gain benefit
 - b. people will know more about computers
 - c. what you said will be soon spread
 - d. people can't talk secretly
3. What we don't acknowledge but really do is _____.
 - a. changing our language
 - b. collective thinking
 - c. having more secrecy
 - d. transforming ourselves

IV. Prediction

Computers can not match human beings' brains but they help us in our daily life. What role do they play in this process? Can you predict the content of the next section?

GO ON TO READ THE THIRD SECTION OF THE TEXT

Computers cannot deal with such levels of improbability, and it is just as well. Otherwise, we might be tempted to take over the control of ourselves in order to make long-range plans, and that would surely be the end of us. It would mean that some group or other, marvelously intelligent and superbly informed, undoubtedly guided by a computer, would begin deciding what human society ought to be like,

say over¹ the next five hundred years or so, and the rest of us would be persuaded, one way or another, to go along. The process of social evolution would then grind to a standstill, and we'd be stuck in today's rut² for a millennium.

Much better we work our way out of it on our own without governance. The future is too interesting and dangerous to be entrusted to any predictable, reliable agency. We need all the fallibility we can get. Most of all, we need to preserve the absolute unpredictability and total improbability of our connected minds. That way we can keep open all the opinions, as we have in the past.

It would be nice to have better ways of monitoring what we're up to so that we could recognize change while it is occurring, instead of waking up as we do now to the astonished realization that the whole century just past wasn't what we thought it was, at all. Maybe computers can be used to help in this, although I rather doubt it. You can make simulation models of cities, but what you learn is that they seem to be beyond the reach of intelligent analysis; if you try to use common sense to make predictions, things get more botched up than ever. This is interesting, since a city is the most concentrated aggregation of humans, all exerting whatever influence they can bring to bear. The city seems to have a life of its own. If we cannot understand how this works, we are not likely to get very far with human society at large.

Still, you'd think there would be some way in. Joined together, the great mass of human minds around the earth seems to behave like a coherent, living system. The trouble is that the flow of information is mostly one-way. We are all obsessed by the need to feed information in, as fast as we can, but we lack sensing mechanisms for getting anything much back. I will confess that I have no more sense of an ant. Come to think of it, this might be a good place to start.

NOW STOP READING AND DO THE FOLLOWING EXERCISES

V. Choose the best answers or complements for the following questions or incomplete statements.

1. This section mainly concerns that _____.
 - a. human society should develop naturally
 - b. no other group, however clever, can change our society
 - c. computers can help the human beings a lot
 - d. the future will be governed by computers
2. If we let other intelligent groups decide our future, social evolution will _____.

¹say: for example.

²in today's rut: to be in a rut, be fixed and dull way of life, and be unable to do or think anything new

- | | |
|--------------|----------|
| a. be faster | b. pause |
| c. continue | d. stop |
3. Human minds are characteristic of _____.
 a. unpredictability b. intelligence
 c. improbability d. both a and c

POST-READING ACTIVITIES

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT IN DEPTH

- I. Answer the following questions according to the text
1. In what aspects can computers function better than the human beings?
 2. Under what conditions could computers match us in daily practice?
 3. What is the most urgent biological function of human beings?
 4. How do you understand the concept of "collective thinking"?
 5. If we lay too much reliance on computers in the long range plan, what would happen to our society?
 6. What function of our brain may help us in our social activities?
- II. Topics for discussion
1. Why is a computer so much unlike a human being, in Thomas's opinion?
 2. "Biological function" is a term used in the text to denote the capabilities of our mind. Thomas has listed some of the implications. Now please discuss them from your own points of view.
 3. Human intelligence is different from artificial intelligence, and in some aspects artificial intelligence shows superiority to human intelligence. Do you think some day it will replace human intelligence and threaten us? Why or why not?

REINFORCE AND ENRICH YOUR VOCABULARY

- III. Choose the best word or phrase from the given list to replace the underlined part in each of the following sentences.
1. We can not vanish like the whales.
 a. swim b. inhale
 c. disappear d. inhabit
 2. Computers today even go transiently crazy.
 a. for a while b. permanently
 c. at large d. accidentally
 3. All the part wired together, you'll get a radio.

- a. given b. connected
- c. set d. put
4. The staggering information we take in will exhaust any computer.
a. confusing b. shocking
c. large sum of d. useless pieces of
5. The music from the radio modulated and lost its original favor.
a. waved b. changed
c. modified d. crocked
6. The new economic policy caused some fluctuations in the money market.
a. disasters b. failures
c. purchases d. movements
7. Information is accelerating quickly with the development of science.
a. rising b. gathering
c. coming d. spreading
8. He never listens to any advice and stays in a rut.
a. in a fixed way of living
b. in hospital
c. out of information
d. beyond understanding
9. Sometimes if you try to use common sense to make predictions, things will become botched up.
a. better b. spoiled
c. fixed d. simple
10. We are obsessed by his absent-mindedness.
a. disappointed b. shocked
c. hurt d. troubled

COMPREHENSIVE EXERCISE

Read the following passage as quickly as possible and then do the exercises that follow.

Electronics makes possible "memory systems" that can store large amounts of information very quickly. These memory systems are used to an amazing variety of things.

more creative work. Electronic computers are now used to control other kinds of machines, to keep banks and produce inventory information on demand, to determine the probabilities on which insurance rates are based, and to perform many other tasks. This is why computers have been called "thinking machines."

Automation replaces the human workers with a machine that can do his job faster and more accurately. The machine is able to see errors and correct them. The machines become inspectors as well as workers.

The automatic washer is an example of a low degree of automation. It is loaded and turned on. It operates until it turns itself off. Computers show a high degree. They control and receive information from other machines and correct errors.

Automation with electronic controls can be utilized in almost every factory or process. Metal parts can be guided through hundreds of operations without a human touching them. Electronically guided tools can cut, drill, and weld. Automatic controls can adjust temperature, pressure, and oil flow.

The number of ways in which electronic will be put to use in the future appears limitless. For example, electronics may be used one day to make highway automatic. Experiments have already shown that electronic devices can guide and control automobiles and prevent accidents. As scientists experiment in their laboratories, new kinds of electronic instruments are developed. These instruments lead to new discoveries about the laws of nature. These discoveries lead to new kinds of industry that branch out into new, more effective methods of communication, safer and faster travel, less expensive products through automated mass production, speedier ways to solve complex mathematical problems, and better ways to control and prevent hundreds of problems.

You now know a little bit about the science of electronics. The uses to which scientists put electrons are many. The science of electronics is vital to the exploration of outer space, to national defense, to education, to medicine, and to communications. If you choose a career in electronics, you will be working with the most powerful forces of nature -- electricity, magnetism, and the mysterious force that holds together the parts of an atomic nucleus.

Choose the best answers or complements for the following questions or incomplete statements.

1. The title for this passage would best be _____.
 - a. Computers and Automation
 - b. Development of Computers
 - c. Computers, Automation and the Future of Electronics
 - d. Computers in Application
2. According to the passage, which of the following items is not the function