

Trade and Economy

WTO实用英语会话学习丛书

贸易与经济

冉隆德 王恩科 主编



中国海关出版社

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PREFACE

前 言

中国加入 **WTO** 以及西部大开发战略的实施,对我国西部经贸管理人员、从事经贸工作的业务人员、科学和工程技术人员、国家公务员以及服务行业各类人员的英语素质和技能提出了新的、更高的要求。但不少学过多年英语的人,在涉外业务交流中英语口语表达仍感困惑。这除了英语考试模式上的缺陷外,在英语口语教程和会话读物的编写中,长期以来也未突破生活用语、一般会话的误区。编者认为,结合时代特征和社会需要,亟待强化高校学生、经济科技工程技术人员和涉外人士的英语适应能力和相关口语基础知识的训练。学生英语素质和技能的适应性和基础性知识应涵盖以下两个方面:英语语言体系本身的基础知识;以英语为载体的特别是实用性强、内容新颖和有一定广度和深度的经济、科技、人文、国际交往与合作、跨文化交流等方面的适应性知识。只有将生活用语、适应性知识以及本专业和学科等广博的英语知识结合起来进行综合训练,才可能练就扎实的英语基本功,满足实用水平的口语交际要求。

在重庆市教委高教处的大力支持下,我们经过两年多的努力,精心选材,编写了《**WTO** 实用英语会话学习丛书》。该丛书分为 4 册:《贸易与经济》,《技术与管理》,《金融与投资》,《旅游与文化》。其突出特点是:针对西部英语人才的口语缺陷,大胆尝试了将经济、科技、人文、国际交往和 **WTO** 的基础知识和适应性知识融入英语会话;会话的内容难易梯度较大,旨在更广泛地适应不同层次读者的需求,为西部高校英语教学和各类业务培训弥补不足,努力改

变高校学生和涉外人士在英语口语表达和国际交往中的困惑状态。丛书题材广泛、知识丰富、内容新颖、针对性和实用性强。

《贸易与经济》分册的主要内容有：世贸组织、WTO 协议、反倾销协议、国际贸易、国际商务、服务贸易、跨国公司、国际工程合作、技术转让；WTO 和中国的经济政策、中国经济、知识经济、公司的国际竞争力、国际高新技术展览、经济技术合作、中美公司的商务关系、商务合同、合资企业等。

《技术与管理》分册的主要内容有：信息技术、传统的制造技术、信息技术与制造技术相结合的高新技术、生物技术等，例如，电子商务、多媒体技术、数字技术、智能机器、机器人及其发展、计算机模拟、柔性制造技术、自动化和信息技术应用、美国绿色农业、转基因农作物的发展和前景、克隆等；管理新理念、从公司内部培育创新思想、企业创新、人事政策、海外人员培训与雇用、降低生产成本的途径、市场营销与市场研究、财务管理、公共关系等。

《金融与投资》分册的主要内容有：世界银行、银行管理、美国银行并购的利弊、中国金融支付系统、国际货币基金组织及其对解决将来危机的作用、欧洲单一货币——欧元、现金管理、信用卡以及传统的银行；中国的投资政策、海外投资政策、确立投资项目、外国直接投资、项目融资、在中国西部的投资意向、设备租赁、投资股票等。

《旅游与文化》分册的主要内容有：长城、秦兵马俑、明十三陵、承德避暑山庄、长江三峡、西湖、莫高窟、黄山、泰山、九寨沟、布达拉宫、丽江、美丽的西双版纳、苏州园林、深圳民俗文化村、世界之窗等；中国龙、黄帝、孔子、唐舞、杂技、武术、大学教育、求职面试、交际技能、中国春节在美国、跨文化交流、美国的宗教信仰、大众传媒、中国人的婚恋、在英国看足球、爱滋病等。

作为被重庆市教委高教处推荐的重庆和西部地区相关院校学生的口语实践教材或辅助读物，该丛书可用作大学经济类、管理类、理工类、旅游类、外语院系、翻译学院等专业的研究生和本专科

前 言
PREFACE

生的教学用书,也可作为各类职业技术学院、成人教育学院和各种社会办学的口语实践教材;适用于英语翻译工作者、经贸人士、企业营销管理人员、三资企业和涉外机构从业人员、政府公务员、金融机构职员、涉外律师、高级技师、高级工人等读者学习使用;同时也是自学英语口语人士的良好益友。

针对西部地区各类读者的特点,我们对会话中的难句、短语和生词均做了详细的注释,请读者在学习本书时,先学会话后面的注释,再学会话。

《WTO 实用英语会话学习丛书》编写组
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1. The World Trade Organization (WTO)

S — a student P — a professor

S: Excuse me, Prof. I have a question to ask. Are there any differences between WTO and GATT?

P: Of course. WTO replaced GATT in 1995. Compared to GATT, the WTO is much more powerful because of its institutional foundation and its dispute settlement system. Contracting parties that do not abide by its trade rules are taken to court and can eventually face retaliation.

S: What about the administration of WTO?

P: Well, the WTO is run by its member governments. All major decisions are made by the membership as a whole, either at its biennial ministerial meetings or by officials, who meet regularly in Geneva. Decisions are normally taken by consensus. In this respect, the WTO is not like some other international organizations such as the World Bank and IMF. In the WTO, power is not delegated to a board of directors, and the bureaucracy has no influence over individual member's policies.

S: Under what circumstances do the WTO rules impose disciplines on members' policies?

P: That is the outcome of negotiations among WTO members. The rules are enforced by the members themselves under agreed procedures that they negotiated. Sometimes enforcement includes the threat of trade sanctions. But those sanctions are imposed by members, not by the organization. This is quite different from other agencies which can, for example, withhold credit from a country.

S: It is difficult to reach decisions by consensus among 131 or more members?

P: Sure. However, its main advantage is that decisions made this way are more acceptable to all members. And despite the difficulties, some remarkable agreements have been reached. Nevertheless, proposals for the creation of a smaller executive body — perhaps like a board of directors each representing different groups of members are heard periodically. But for now, the WTO is a member-driven, consensus-based organization.

S: Would you please introduce the Ministerial Conference to me?

P: OK. The WTO belongs to its members. The members make their decisions through various councils and committees, whose membership consists of all WTO members. Topmost is the ministerial conference which has to meet at least once every two years. The ministerial conference can make decisions on all matters under any of the multilateral trade agreements.

S: What are the functions of the General Council of the WTO?

P: Well. Day-to-day work in between the ministerial conferences is handled by three bodies: The General Council, The Dispute Settlement Body and The Trade Policy Review Body. All three are in fact the same. The Agreement establishing the WTO states they are the General Council, although they meet under different terms of reference. Again, all three consist of all WTO members. They report to the Ministerial Conference. The General Council acts on behalf of the ministerial conference in all WTO affairs. It meets as the Dispute Settlement Body between members to analyze members trade policies.

S: Then how about the functions of the Councils of WTO?

P: Three more councils, each handling a different broad area of trade, report to the General council: the Council for Trade in Goods, the Council for Trade in Services and the Council for Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property. As their names indicate, the three are responsible for the workings of the WTO agreements dealing with their respective areas of trade. Again they consist of all WTO members. The three also have subsidiary bodies.

S: Do the 6 other bodies report to the General Council of the WTO?

P: Undoubtedly. The scope of their coverage is smaller, so they are "Committees". They cover issues such as trade and development, the environment, regional trading arrangements and administrative issues. The Singapore Ministerial Conference in Dec. 1996 decided to create new working groups to look at investment and competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation.

S: Has each of the higher level Councils subsidiary bodies?

P: Yes. The Goods Council has 11 committees dealing with specific subjects, such as agriculture, market access, subsidies, anti-dumping measures and so on. Also reporting to the Goods Council is the Textiles Monitoring Body, which consists of a Chairman and 10 members acting in their personal capacities, and

groups dealing with notifications and state trading enterprises.

S: Has the Services Council seen some changes in its subsidiary bodies?

P: Naturally. The completion of the basic telecommunications negotiations in Feb. 1997 meant the end of the negotiating group, at least until the new services negotiating round started in 2000. The same could happen to the financial services negotiating group later in 1997. In theory, the negotiating group on maritime services still existed, but with the talks suspended until 2000, so the group was unlikely to be active. Other subsidiaries deal with professional services, GATS rules and specific commitment.

S: At the General Council level, has the Dispute Settlement Body any more subsidiaries?

P: Also, there are two: the dispute settlement “panels” of experts appointed to adjudicate on unresolved disputes, and the Appellate Body that deals with appeals.

Notes

1. institutional foundation and its dispute settlement system 机构的基础和解决争端的制度
2. face retaliation 遭到报复
3. at its biennial ministerial meetings 两年一次的部长级会议
4. the bureaucracy 官僚主义
5. in the regular trade policy reviews 在定期的贸易政策评论中
6. impose disciplines 强制实施惩罚
7. the threat of trade sanctions 贸易制裁的威胁
8. withhold credit from a country 扣留一个国家的贷款, 拒绝从一个国家贷款
9. a member-driven, consensus-based organization 成员国推动、在一致同意的基础上的组织
10. topmost 最高级别的会议
11. the General Council 总理事会
12. under different terms of reference 根据不同的仲裁条款
13. the working of the WTO agreements dealing with their respective areas of trade 处理他们各自领域贸易的 WTO 协议的运作

14. the scope of their coverage 他们管理的范围
15. to look at 检查
16. transparency in government procurement 政府采购的透明度
17. trade facilitation 贸易便利
18. anti-dumping measures 反倾销措施
19. groups dealing with notifications 处理通知(报告)的小组
20. state trading enterprises 国营贸易企业
21. but with the talks suspended until 2000 但由于洽谈一直暂停到2000年
22. professional services 专业服务
23. specific commitment 特殊的承诺
24. the dispute settlement "panels" of experts appointed to adjudicate on unresolved disputes 委派专家小组裁决未解决的争端
25. the Appellate Body that deals with appeals 处理上诉的上诉受理机构

2. General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

S — a student P — a professor

S: Would you please give us a brief introduction to GATT?

P: Well, in 1947, a group of 23 nations met in Geneva to mutually reduce tariff barriers to trade. Their accord, called GATT, lowered tariffs on 45,000 separate products. Today, some 110 industrial and developing GATT members, known as contracting parties, account for almost 90% of world trade. GATT's basic aim is to reduce trade barriers; the fact that the growth of world trade has exceeded economic output by 50% during the 1980s attests to GATT's success in doing so. GATT has grown into a major international organization, headquartered in Geneva, that provides a framework within which international negotiations are conducted toward creating global trade rules and a consultative mechanism for resolving difference and settling disputes under those rules. It also provides technical assistance to developing members in the form of seminars and training courses on trade policy issues.

S: What about the origins of GATT?

P: In Dec. 1945, the USA submitted a proposal which provided for the establishment of an International Trade Organization (ITO). A preparatory

committee was appointed which through discussions worked on a draft charter for the ITO. Meanwhile, bilateral negotiations took place among most of the members represented on the committee. The reciprocal tariff concessions which resulted from these negotiations were embodied in the GATT, signed on 30 Oct. 1947, containing a provisional codification on trade-relations among the signatory members.

S: How about its development or expanding?

P: This is a good question. A significant number of members sought membership of GATT. In April, 1949, negotiations were opened among the 23 members which were already GATT members and 10 other countries. In 1950 the validity of the tariff concession lists was extended for 3 years. Initially, GATT was proposed as a specific internal trade agreement under the ITO, so the Agreement consisted of only 3 parts. In Part 1 the basic obligations which are to be fulfilled by the contracting parties are laid down - the most-favored nation clause and the schedule of tariff concessions. Part 2 constitutes a code of fair trade and contains the essential trading rules of the Havana Charter; Part 3 deals with the application, membership and withdrawal, amendments to the Agreement and its relation to the Havana Charter. In the years followed, the text of the General Agreement was revised, numerous amendments were reached relating mainly to the expansion of exports of less-developed countries and a new part, Part 4 was added.

S: What are the major objectives of GATT?

P: The purpose of the General Agreement are set forth in the preamble. A distinction has to be made between the general aims, which are also pursued by many other international economic organizations and the specific tasks. The general aims are the improvement of standards of living, full employment, a large and steadily growing volume of real income and effective demand, the full use of the world's resources and the expansion of production and international trade.

S: Is it the specific task of GATT to contribute to the attainment of these objectives through arrangements directed to the substantial reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers and to the elimination of discrimination?

P: In Part 4, the contracting parties agree that the attainment of the general aims is particularly urgent where less-developed countries are concerned. In the interest of the less-developed countries, endeavors must also be made to ensure the

stabilization of commodity prices, better access to the markets of the developed countries for processed and manufactured products of the less-developed countries, and the diminution of the burdens which these countries assume in the interest of their economic development.

S: What about the organization of GATT?

P: The entry of a new member country requires a two-thirds majority vote by the contracting parties. In a certain sense, this is inconsistent with the character of the Agreement; as the trade benefits are granted to all GATT members, a state should only be accepted by unanimous vote. However, it was desired to obviate a situation in which the acceptance of an important country might be impeded by member states which supply comparatively little to that country and compete against it on the markets of the other contracting parties. Moreover membership does not necessarily involve a uniform tariff system with respect to all participating members. A country with a considerable production and export potential usually has to make substantial concessions in exchanges for acceptance as a member state. The majority of members agree to its accession only if they are certain that increased exports to the new member state will offset a fall in exports to the other GATT members.

S: How about the administration of GATT?

P: Well, unlike other international agencies, GATT is not an organization in the strict legal sense, though the members do act as a body and make collective decisions and judgments which are an important part of the GATT mechanism. This body is referred to in the text of the General Agreement as the "contracting parties". The contracting parties' main activity is the holding of tariff and trade negotiations, at which the members grant each other concession in the field of trade, and of meetings and consultations to resolve trade problems. At the sessions of the contracting parties each country has one vote and, except in a few specific cases, decisions are taken by a simple majority of the votes cast. In practice, GATT decisions are generally arrived at by consensus and not by vote.

S: At which round of multilateral trade negotiation did GATT make the historical significant decision to establish a permanent organization, World Trade Organization?

P: This is an important question. In addition to annual meetings of the contracting parties, a number of tariff negotiating conferences were held under

the auspices of GATT during the course of the years GATT had been functioning. Altogether 8 rounds of multilateral trade negotiations were held since GATT entered into force in 1947 till the end of 1993 when the last round, the Uruguay Round finally concluded. The big decision made then was to establish a permanent organization, WTO, to take the place of GATT.

S: Was China an original member of GATT, which was withdrawn from GATT by the government in Taipei for historical and political reasons in 1950?

P: That's true. But over the past 14 years or so by Dec. 11, 2001, China had been seeking to resume its contracting party status. China hoped to become a member of the WTO before the body starts a new round of negotiations late 2001. Premier Zhu Rongji paid a 9-day visit to USA April 6, 1999. He is the first Chinese Premier to visit the United States in 15 years. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji and US President Clinton agreed to have talks on China's entry into the WTO with a new round of negotiations in Beijing by the end of April of that year. It is well-known that China has formally joined the WTO on Dec. 11, 2001.

(注:该会话改编自*General Agreement on Tariff and Trade and the World Trade Organization*,《经贸知识英语》,王学文主编,中国人民大学出版社,1998.9)

Notes

1. accord 协议
2. contracting parties 缔约方,签约方
3. account for almost 90% of world trade 几乎占世界贸易的90%
4. attests to 证明,表明
5. a consultative mechanism for resolving difference and settling disputes 解决差别和争端的咨询机制
6. seminars 研讨会,学习班
7. a draft charter 章程草案
8. the reciprocal tariff concessions 互惠的关税减让(优惠)
9. a provisional codification 法律集,条例集
10. sought membership of GATT 极力想获得GATT的会员资格
11. the validity of the tariff concession lists 关税减让表的有效期