



新基点(New Benchmark) 全国高职高专院校商务英语系列规划教材

NEW BENCHMARK

英美概况

(第二版)

An Outline of the UK and the USA (Second Edition)

主编 刘白玉 刘夏青



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出版说明

“新基点(New Benchmark)全国高职高专院校商务英语系列规划教材”是对外经济贸易大学出版社联合全国重点职业学院的骨干教师推出的一套全新的商务英语系列教材。本套教材适用于全国高职高专院校英语专业商务/应用/外贸英语方向以及财经类专业的学生。

目前高职教育提出了“工学结合、项目为中心、案例驱动教学、边讲边练”为核心理念。本套教材就是贯彻这个理念,着眼于提高学生实际操作能力和就业能力的目的,采取模块化、多案例、互动式、重实训的编写方式,让学生在理论够用的基础上,在实训环节上有所突破。

我国高职高专教育的培养目标是以能力培养和技术应用为本位,其基础理论教学以应用为目的、够用为尺度、就业为导向;教材强调应用性和适用性,符合高职高专教育的特点,既能满足学科教育又能满足职业资格教育的“双证书”(毕业证和技术等级证)教学的需要。本套教材编写始终贯彻商务英语教学的基本思路:将英语听说读写译技能与商务知识有机融合,使学生在提高英语语言技能的同时了解有关商务知识,并练就“两条腿走路”的本领,培养以商务知识为底蕴、语言技能为依托的新时代复合型、实用型人才。

本套教材包括《商务英语综合教程》(1-4册)、《商务英语听说》(1-2册)、《商务英语口语》(1-2册)、《国际商务报刊选读》、《商务英语写作》、《商务英语翻译》、《国际商务函电》、《国际商务谈判》、《国际商务制单》、《国际商务英语模拟实训教程》、《商务礼仪》、《英语应用文》、《跨文化交际》、《英美概况》、《旅游英语》、《酒店英语》、《物流英语》、《财经英语》、《文秘英语》、《会计英语》、《餐饮与服务英语》、《劳动与社会保障英语》等。本套教材不是封闭的,而是随着教学模式、课程设置和课时的变化,不断推陈出新。

本套教材的作者不仅具有丰富的商务英语教学经验,而且具有本专业中级以上职称、企业第一线工作经历、主持或参与过多项应用技术研究。这是本套教材编写质量的重要保证。

此外,本套教材配有教师用书或课件等立体化教学资源,供教师教学参考(见书末赠送课件说明)。

对外经济贸易大学出版社

2014年7月

再版前言

《英美概况》第一版于2010年出版后，因其语言通俗易懂、内容新颖、趣味性强而深受广大师生喜爱，多次重印。但出版至今的四年多来，世界发生了很大变化，尤其是英美两国的政治、经济和军事。为了给广大师生提供最近的成果，有必要对此书进行必要的修订。

新修订的教材体例保持了原版的风貌，只是对部分内容进行了更新，使其更符合英国家现实。譬如，英国现任首相是卡梅伦，2013年英国的GDP为2.522万亿美元，人口是6410万；美国的GDP则为16.8万亿美元，人口是3.161亿。另外，概要、历史、政治、经济、军事、文化与教育、宗教、文学艺术等内容也根据最新成果作了更新。

参加本书修改版的教师分别为：概要（刘雪，部寒）、历史（张军燕，宋艳梅）、政治（王春玲，王莉，王晓琳）、经济（韩小宁，刘白玉）、军事（顿小慧，王建波）、文化与教育（刘夏青，刘璐丝）、宗教（包芳）、文学艺术（包芳，顾征）。“保持乐观”部分由刘白玉编写，“附录”部分由扈珺编写。

本教材在再版的过程中继续得到对外经济贸易大学出版社和资深编辑李丽老师的鼎力支持，再次表示衷心感谢。同时也特别感谢包芳和韩小宁两位老师认真细致的校对。

水平所限，书中错误肯定在所难免，切望读者继续赐教。

刘白玉

2014年7月于烟台黄海之滨

第一版前言

随着经济的发展,我国对外交往活动日益增多,越来越多的国内机构和企业与国外相关行业开展了交流与合作,在这样一个全球化的背景下,商务英语人才不仅要懂得基本的专业知识,更要深入了解国外的文化,《英美概况》正是基于上述前提应运而生。

本教材根据《高职高专教育英语课程教学基本要求》编写,在编写过程中力图符合英语教师及学生的实际需要和实际水平,做到语言通俗易懂、内容新颖、趣味性强。

本教材分为两大部分:英国部分和美国部分。每部分各分为八章,介绍了英、美两国的历史、政治、经济、教育、宗教及文学艺术等方面的基本知识,有助于学习者了解英美的价值观念及生活方式,加深对语言和文化的理解,增强对文化差异的敏感性,达到扩大知识面、巩固和提高英语水平的目的。

英语语言规范是英语教材的基础,为保证学生学到原汁原味的英语,我们的资料全部选自英美书籍、报刊、杂志和网站。大学不仅要教书,而且要育人,我们在每章中穿插了:名人名言——名人的力量是无穷的;欢乐时刻——幽默是金;保持乐观——永远保持积极向上的人生观。使我们的大学生在具备“高智商”的同时也具备“高情商”。其中,“保持乐观”由刘白玉编写。

参加本书编写的其他教师及其分工如下(按照每部分中八章的内容分):概要(刘雪),历史(张军燕),政治(英国部分王晓琳、王春玲,美国部分王莉),经济(韩小宁、顿小慧),军事(韩小宁、顿小慧),文化与教育(刘夏青),宗教(包芳),文学艺术(包芳)。附录部分由扈珺编写。

本教材既可供高职高专英语专业的学生使用,也可作为全校选修课供非英语专业的学生使用,同时也可供英语本科专业学生及其他英语爱好者参考使用。

本教材另配PPT课件和5套试题,并提供全部练习答案,使用者可查看书后的“课件赠送说明”,以便获取。

本教材在编写过程中得到了对外经济贸易大学出版社及其编辑李丽老师的大力支持,对此表示深深的谢意。同时也特别感谢刘夏青、韩小宁两位老师,她们不辞辛劳,参与了教材的定稿校正。

由于时间仓促,再加上编者水平有限,书中难免有缺点和错漏之处,恳请专家和读者批评指正。

刘白玉

2010年3月于烟台黄海之滨

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Part One

The United Kingdom



Chapter 1

Brief Introduction to the United Kingdom

Histories make men wise; poems witty; the mathematics subtle; natural philosophy deep; moral grave; logic and rhetoric able to contend.

—Francis Bacon, British philosopher

1. Brief Introduction

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (commonly known as the United Kingdom, the UK, or Britain) is a **sovereign** state located off the northwestern coast of the continental Europe. It is an island country, spanning a group of islands including Great Britain, the northeastern part of Ireland, and many small islands. Northern Ireland is the only part of the UK with a land border, sharing it with the Republic of Ireland. Apart from this land border, the UK is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean, the North Sea, the English Channel and the Irish Sea. The largest island, Great Britain, is linked to France by the Channel Tunnel^[1].

Countries of the United Kingdom are a term used to describe England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales: these four together form the sovereign state of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. While “countries” is the term commonly used to describe them, because of a lack of a formal British constitution, and owing to a **complicated** history of the formation of the United Kingdom, no official name exists and various terms are used. England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales however are not formal **subdivisions** of the United Kingdom.

The Parliament of the United Kingdom and Her Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom deal with all reserved matters for Northern Ireland and Scotland and all non-transferred matters for Wales, but not in general with matters that have been devolved to the Northern Ireland Assembly, the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Assembly. England remains the full responsibility of the Parliament of the United Kingdom, which is centralized in London. As a sovereign state, the United Kingdom as a whole is the **entity** which is used in intergovernmental organizations, and as the representative member state within the European Union and the United Nations, as well as under international law; England, Northern Ireland,

Scotland and Wales are not themselves listed on the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) list of countries.

The Channel Islands and the Isle of Man^[2] are British islands, but are not under the **jurisdiction** of the United Kingdom. Ireland is a separate republic; although part of the geographical British Isles, it is not a part of the UK. English, Northern Irish, Scottish and Welsh nationals are all British citizens without **distinction**. (Irish nationality laws entitle those born in Northern Ireland also to citizenship of the Republic.)

2. Location and Area

2.1 Location

The United Kingdom, consisting of Great Britain (England, Wales, and Scotland) and Northern Ireland, is twice the size of America's New York State. England, in the southeast part of the British Isles, is separated from Scotland on the north by the granite Cheviot Hills^[3]; from them the Pennine chain of uplands extends south through the center of England, reaching its highest point in the Lake District in the northwest. To the west along the border of Wales—a land of steep hills and valleys—are the Cambrian Mountains^[4], while the Cotswolds^[5], a range of hills in Gloucestershire^[6], extend into the surrounding shires.

Important rivers flowing into the North Sea are the Thames, Humber, Tees, and Tyne. In the west are the Severn^[7] and Wye^[8], which empty into the Bristol Channel^[9] and are **navigable**, as are the Mersey^[10] and Ribble^[11].

2.2 Area

The total area of the United Kingdom is approximately 245,000 square kilometers (94,600 sq mi) comprising of the island of Great Britain, the northeastern one-sixth of the island of Ireland (Northern Ireland) and other smaller islands. It lies between the North Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea, coming within 35 kilometers (22 mi) of the northwest coast of France, from which it is separated by the English Channel. Great Britain lies between latitudes 49° and 59°N (the Shetland Islands reach to nearly 61°N), and longitudes 8°W to 2°E.

3. Climate

The United Kingdom has a **temperate** climate, with plentiful rainfall all year round. The temperature varies with the seasons but seldom drops below 10°C or rises above 35°C. The prevailing wind is from the southwest, bearing frequent spells of mild and wet weather from the Atlantic Ocean. Eastern parts are most **sheltered** from this wind and are therefore the driest. Atlantic currents, warmed by the Gulf Stream, bring mild winters, especially in the west, where winters are wet, especially over high ground. Summers are warmest in the southeast of England, being closest to the European mainland, and coolest in the north. Snowfall can occur in winter and early spring, though it rarely settles to great depth away from high ground.

The climate of the United Kingdom is classified as a mid-latitude oceanic climate, with

warm summers, cool winters and plentiful precipitation throughout the year. However, a **plausible** argument can be made that some parts of South-East England (for example, Essex) actually have a **semi-arid** climate by virtue of having less than 500 mm average annual rainfall. The principal factors that influence the country's climate include its northerly latitude (which ranges from 50° to 60° N), the close **proximity** to the Atlantic Ocean, and the warming of the surrounding waters by the Gulf Stream. The weather can be **notoriously** changeable from one day to the next but temperature variations throughout the year are relatively small.

The boundary of **convergence** between the warm tropical air and the cold polar air lies over the United Kingdom. In this area, the large temperature variation creates instability and this is a major factor that influences the often unsettled weather the country experiences, where many types of weather can be experienced in a single day.

Regional climates in the United Kingdom are influenced by the Atlantic Ocean and **latitude**. Northern Ireland, Wales and western parts of England and Scotland, being closest to the Atlantic, are generally the mildest, wettest and windiest regions of the UK, and temperature ranges here are seldom extreme. Eastern areas are drier, cooler, and less windy and also experience the greatest daily and seasonal temperature variations. Northern areas are generally cooler and wetter and have a smaller temperature range than southern areas. Though the UK is mostly under the influence of the maritime tropical air mass from the southwest, different regions are more **susceptible** than others when different air masses affect the country: Northern Ireland and the west of Scotland are the most exposed to the maritime polar air mass which brings cool moist air; the east of Scotland and northeast England are more exposed to the continental polar air mass which brings cold dry air; the south and southeast of England are more exposed to the continental tropical air mass which brings warm dry air; Wales and the southwest of England are most exposed to the **maritime tropical air mass** which brings warm moist air.

4. Topography

The physical geography of the UK varies greatly. The geography of England consists of lowland terrain, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe line including the Cumbrian Mountains^[12] of the Lake District, the Pennines^[13] and limestone hills of the Peak District^[14], Exmoor^[15] and Dartmoor^[16]. The geography of Scotland is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault^[17]—a geological rock fracture—which traverses the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh^[18] to Stonehaven^[19]. The fault-line separates the two distinctively different regions of the Highlands to the north and west and the lowlands to the south and east. The geography of Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales. The geography of Ireland includes the Mourne Mountains^[20] as well as Lough Neagh^[21], at 388 square kilometers (150 sq mi), the largest body of water in the UK and Ireland.

The overall **geomorphology** of the UK was shaped by the combined forces of **tectonics**

and climate change, in particular **glaciation**.

The exact centre of the island of Great Britain is disputed. Depending upon how it is calculated it can be either Haltwhistle^[22] in Northumberland^[23], or Dunsop Bridge^[24] in Lancashire^[25].

England accounts for just over half of the total area of the UK, covering 130,410 square kilometers (50,350 sq mi). Most of the country consists of lowland terrain, with mountainous terrain north-west of the Tees-Exe^[26] line including the Cumbrian Mountains of the Lake District, the Pennines and limestone hills of the Peak District, Exmoor and Dartmoor. The main rivers and estuaries are the Thames, Severn and the Humber. England's highest mountain is Scafell Pike^[27], which is in the Lake District 978 meters (3,209 ft) high. England has a number of large towns and cities, including six of the top 50 Larger Urban Zones^[28] in the European Union.

Scotland accounts for just under a third of the total area of the UK, covering 78,772 square kilometers (30,410 sq mi), including nearly eight hundred islands, mainly west and north of the mainland, notably the Hebrides^[29], Orkney Islands^[30] and Shetland Islands^[31]. The topography of Scotland is distinguished by the Highland Boundary Fault—a geological rock **fracture**—which **traverses** the Scottish mainland from Helensburgh to Stonehaven. The fault-line separates two distinctively different regions, namely the Highlands to the north and west and the lowlands to the south and east. The more **rugged** Highland region contains the majority of Scotland's mountainous **terrain**, including Ben Nevis^[32], which at 1,343 meters (4,406 ft) is the highest point in the British Isles. Lowland areas, especially the narrow waist of land between the Firth of Clyde^[33] and the Firth of Forth^[34] known as the Central Belt^[35], are flatter and home to most of the population including Glasgow, Scotland's largest city, and Edinburgh, the capital and political centre of the country.

Wales accounts for less than a tenth of the total area of the UK, covering 20,758 square kilometers (8,010 sq mi). Wales is mostly mountainous, though south Wales is less mountainous than north and mid Wales. The main population and industrial areas are in south Wales, consisting of the coastal cities of Cardiff^[36] (the capital and political and economic centre), Swansea^[37] and Newport and the South Wales Valleys to their north. The highest mountains in Wales are in Snowdonia^[38], and include Snowdon, which at 1,085 m (3,560 ft) is the highest peak in Wales. The 14 (or possibly 15) Welsh mountains over 3,000 feet (914 m) high are known collectively as the Welsh 3000s. Wales has over 1,200 km (750 miles) of coastline. There are several islands off the Welsh mainland, the largest of which is Anglesey^[39] in the northwest.

Northern Ireland accounts for just 14,160 square kilometers (5,470 sq mi) and is mostly hilly. It includes Lough Neagh, at 388 square kilometers (150 sq mi), the largest body of water in the UK and Ireland. The highest peak in Northern Ireland is Slieve Donard^[40] at 849 meters (2,785 ft) in the Mourne Mountains.