Comprehensive English Course for Vocational College Students

高职英语综合教程

(下册)

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

高职英语综合教程:下册 / 许海兰, 韩芹主编. —郑州: 河南科学技术出版社, 2011.9

"十二五" 高职高专公修课规划教材 ISBN 978-7-5349-5316-3

I. ①高··· Ⅱ. ①许··· ②韩··· Ⅲ. ①英语 - 高等职业教育 - 教材 Ⅳ. ①H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2011) 第 187890 号

出版发行:河南科学技术出版社

地址: 郑州市经五路 66 号 邮编: 450002

电话: (0371) 65737028 65788613

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策划编辑: 范广红

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封面设计:张 伟

版式设计: 栾亚平

责任印制:张 巍

印 刷:郑州文华印务有限公司

经 销:全国新华书店

幅面尺寸: 185 mm × 260 mm 印张: 49.5 字数: 1 200 千字

版 次: 2011年9月第1版 2011年9月第1次印刷

定 价: 80.00元(上下册) 赠光盘

如发现印、装质量问题, 影响阅读, 请与出版社联系。

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Unit 1

Language

Leading in: Introduction to the Topic

Nothing is so necessary for travelers as languages.

If you can speak three languages you're trilingual. If you can speak two languages you're bilingual. If you can speak only one language you're an American.

The term "language" normally refers to human speech, spoken or written. Language forms the basis of communication among all human beings. About 95% of the world's population speak one of the 100 most widely used languages. English and French both have more second-language speakers than native-speakers as a result of the imperial expansion of Britain and France. Partly due to the British and American pop culture, English is fast becoming the universal foreign language. British and American English are varieties of the same language even though they differ to some extent in pronunciation, vocabulary, spelling and grammar.

However, do you really understand the importance of English in this Information Age? Do you want to know more about language? This unit will give you some information about these. Before we begin, try to keep these words or phrases in mind:

universal 普遍的; status 地位; exceed 超过; supplement 增补; prevail 盛行; widespread 分布广的; dominant 占优势的; invade 侵入; transformation 转化; extinct 消亡的; diversity 多样性; expansion 扩大; overtake 超过; native language/mother tongue 母语; second language 第二语言; foreign language 外语; Mandarin Chinese 汉语普通话; dialects 方言; lingua franca 通用语; linguistics 语言学; monolingual 只说一种语言的; bilingual 会说两种语言的; multilingual 会说多种语言的; body language 体态语; phonetic 语音的; pronunciation 发音; alphabet 字母表; variety 种类; expand 扩张; decline 衰退; acquire 取得; basic skill 基本技能

Part One Focus Listening

Step 1 Lead in

I. Directions: Do you know how the word "Hello" became popular? Please read the story and tell it to your friends.

The word "hello", probably is used more often than any other word in the United States. Americans use it again and again. Where did the word come from? There are all kinds of ideas. Some say it came from a French expression, meaning "hold there". This greeting may have arrived in England during the Norman Conquest in the year 1066. The word "hello" was often heard in England in the 1300s, during the days of Poet Geoffrey Chaucer. Two hundred years later, in William Shakespeare's time, "hello" had become halloo, and sailors and hunters used sounds like hallo and halloa.

A Brooklyn college professor, Allen Kongsberg, reported that he had found the true story behind the word "hello". He said American inventor, Thomas Edison, created it. He discovered a letter, written by Thomas Edison in 1877 to a businessman in the city of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In the letter, Edison proposed using the word "hello". He said it was a word that could be heard clearly when beginning to speak on the telephone. By the late 1880s, telephone operators were called "Hello girls". In fact, that expression appeared in Mark Twain's story, A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court.

A man who worked in Thomas Edison's laboratory, Francis Yale, also reported that Edison created the word "hello". One day, Edison lifted the telephone receiver and shouted a most satisfying word "hello". And that word has gone clear around the world.

- II. Directions: Discuss the fo llowing questions in groups.
 - 1. Is it useful to learn some English language stories? What is the use?
 - 2. Do you think that language can tell the speakers' traditions and history? If yes, please give some examples.

Step 2 Statements and Conversations

I. Directions: You will hear five short statements. Each will be read just once. Listen carefully and choose the one which is the exact

	word used	i in each statement you have	nearu.
	1. A. thing	B. season	C. nothing
	2. A. fine	B. fun	C. fan
	3. A. live	B. law	C. love
٠,	4. A. speak	B. speech	C. speed
	5. A. gains	B. games	C. pains
Π.	Directions: You will h	near five short conversations	s between two speakers.
	Listen to	them twice and choose th	ne best answer to each
	question y	ou have heard. Pay more a	ttention to the change of
	intonation	and stress.	
	1. A. Good.	B. Very good.	C. Poor.
	2. A. Yes.	B. No.	C. Not mentioned.
	3. A. Fashion.	B. Fashion, art and wine.	C. Art and wine.
	4. A. Yes.	B. No.	C. Not mentioned.
	5. A. Yes.	B. No.	C. Sometimes.
Ш.	Directions: You are g	going to hear some statemen	its about language facts.
	Supply the	e missing information.	
	1. There are more than	2,700 languages in the world	l. In, there are
	more than 7,000	A dialect is a regiona	l variety of a language that
	has a different pronu	nciation,, or mean	ing.
	2. The language in wh	ich a government conducts b	ousiness is the
	language of that cou	ntry.	
	3. One billion people sp	peak English. That's 20 percen	nt of the world's
	4. Four hundred million	n people speak English as the	irlanguage. For
	the other 600 million	it's either a second language	or alanguage.
	5. There are more than	500,000 words in the Oxford	Eighty
	of all English vocabu	ılary comes from other languag	ges.
		in the world's comp	
	7. Somalia is the only A	African country in which the $_$	population speaks
	the same language,	Somali.	
	8. More than 1,000 dif	ferent languages are spoken or	n the of Africa.
		spaceship Voyage began its	
	a gold disc. On the	disc, there were in	55 languages. Before all of
	them, there was a m	essage from the Secretary	of the United Nations
	in English.		

Step 3 Dialogues and Passages

Dialogue 1

Directions: You will hear a short dialogue between Lisa and Rose. The following list includes all the sentences in it. Rearrange them by finding out what sentences are spoken by Lisa and what by Rose following the order of the dialogue.

- 1. I wouldn't say that! Many people might drop the class and then there will be some opening. You never know.
- 2. Rose, you look so worried. What happened?
- 3. Come on, cheer up. Don't worry so much. Everything will work out just fine.
- 4. I hope so.
- 5. Well, I want to get into that class, but I just found out that there are so many people on the waiting list. I guess chances are probably slim.

Dialogue 2

Directions: Listen to the dialogue and decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F).

1.	The woman learnt three foreign languages: French, Russian and Jap	anese.	
		()
2.	The man speaks Japanese at home, and is learning Chinese in school.	()
3.	The man thinks learning a language on the Internet is difficult	becau	ıse
	sometimes the connection isn't too good.	()
4.	The man thinks that the Chinese characters are easy to write for him	becau	ıse
	they are similar to those in Japanese.	()
5.,	The woman thinks she needs to practice listening to native spe	akers	in
	learning Spanish.	()

Dialogue 3

Directions: Listen to the dialogue and then answer the following questions.

- 1. What does the article about language suggest?
- 2. What language does the article suggest as the global language?

- 3. How many arguments does the article give to support its idea? What are they?
- 4. Does the article say anything about other languages? How can they survive if English continues to be the dominant language?
- 5. Do you agree with the article? Why?

Passage 1

Directions: Listen to the passage and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

				-		
	1.	What are everyday A	merican expres	sions based on?	1.0	
		A. Color.	B. Things.	C. Sto	ories.	
. 2	2.	When we say "they a	re red hot", it	means	1	
		A. they are strong	В	. they are hot	W.	
		C. they are very angu	ry about someth	ning		
	3.	When was the expres	sion "Somebod	y is in pink" first used	in America?	
		A. 20th century.	. В	. At the beginning of 2	Oth century.	
		C. In the middle of 2	20th century.			
4	4.	Blue is a cool color.	In the United	l States, which music	is opposite to	the
		traditional blues musi	ic?			
		A. Hot music.	B. Red music	c. C. Re	ed hot music.	
;	5.	Is green a natural col	or for humans?	, ^		
		A. Yes.	B. No.	C. No	t mentioned.	
			Passa	ge 2		
Dire	cti	ons: Listen to the p	assage and de	ecide whether the follo	owing stateme	ents
		are true (T) o	or false (F).	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	• .	
	1.	Many of the Dutch e	xpressions hear	rd in American English	were first used	d in
		England in the 17th	century.		, ()
	2.	The British use Dutch	h as a word for	something bad or false	or mistaken.	
					()
	3.	"Dutch courage" wa	s the false cou	rage produced by the	effects of drinl	king
		alcohol.			()
	4.	"Dutch treat" means	that when frie	nds go out to have fun,	each person p	pays
		his own share.			()
-	5.	Some of the Dutch ex	opressions hear	d in American English	have nothing to	o do
		with the Dutch peopl	e at all.		. ()

Passage 3

Directions: Listen to the passage and fill in the blanks.
It seems more and more Americans want schools to teach foreign languages to
children than five years old. The most popular way to teach these young
children another language is the called immersion (浸入).
Children in immersion hear only the new language in the classroom.
The children play, sing songs and talk to one another in the new language.
Some experts say immersion programs are the most way for young children
to learn a language.
But there can be a problem when children in the United States begin to learn
another language at such an age. Not many elementary schools continue the
as the children get older.
Only seven of the states require schools to teach a foreign language to
students between the ages of six and twelve. Language say it is easier for
younger children to learn a language. Still, American schools generally do not begin
to teach foreign languages until school. By then, students are about

Part Two Oral Practice

Task 1 Individual Work

Directions: Prepare a three-minute oral report on one of the following topics or any other topic related to what you've learned in this unit. You will be asked to present in the class.

- 1. The importance of English in modern world
- 2. Why I learn English

thirteen years old.

3. World important languages

Task 2 Pair Work

Directions: Ask each other questions and fill in the blanks in the following questionnaire, answering questions about your own language learning experiences, successes and failures, expectations and results, in addition to learning styles and methods. Be prepared to

report to the class.

2.	What was your proudest moment of using English?
3.	What was the most embarrassing mistake you've ever made using English?
<u> </u>	How will you use English after your graduation?
<u> </u>	How have you used English outside of class?
6.	What is the best way to learn new words? improve pronunciation?
	study for a listening test?

Group Work Task 3

Directions: Discuss the following in groups and present your idea to the class.

With the fast development of computer and Internet, people from different countries communicate more and more with each other. Do you think it necessary to name a global language which all people should learn to use besides their mother tongue? If so, which language will it be: English, Chinese, French or ...?

Part Three Read and Explore

English as a Universal Language

English is becoming the world's first truly universal language. It is the native language of some 400 million people in twelve countries. That is a lot fewer than the 800 million people or so who speak Mandarin Chinese. But another 400 million speak English as a second language. And several hundred million more have some knowledge of English, which has official or semiofficial status in some sixty countries. Although there may be as many people speaking the various dialects of Chinese as there are English speakers, English is certainly more widespread geographically.

Today there are about 1 billion English speakers in the world. By the year 2000, the figure is likely to exceed 1.5 billion.

As the world's most taught language, English is not taking the place of other languages; it is supplementing them.

English prevails in transportation and the media.

The travel and communication language of the international airwaves is English. Pilots and air traffic controllers speak English at all international airports. Maritime traffic uses flag and light signals, but if vessels need to communicate verbally, they would find a common language, which would probably be English.

Five of the largest broadcasters — CBS, NBC, ABC, the BBC, and the CBC — reach a potential audience of about 300 million people through English broadcast. It is also the language of satellite TV.

The language of the information age is English.

Computers talk to each other mostly in English. More than 80 percent of all the information stored in the more than 100 million computers around the world is in English.

Eighty-five percent of international telephone conversations are conducted in English, as are three-fourths of the world's mail, telexes, and cables. Computer program instructions and the software itself are often supplied only in English.

Today more than 80 percent of all scientific papers are published first in English. Over half the world's technical and scientific periodicals are in English, which is also the language of medicine, electronics, and space technology.

International Business

English is the language of international business.

When a Japanese businessman strikes a deal anywhere in Europe, chances are that the negotiations were conducted in English.

Manufactured goods indicate their country of origin in English: "Made in China," not Zhongguo Zhizao. It is the language of choice in multinational corporations. Datsun and Nissan write international memorandums in English. As early as 1985, 80 percent of the Japanese Mitsui and Company's employees could speak, read, and write English. Toyota provides in-service English courses.

Diplomacy

English is replacing the dominant European languages of centuries past. English has taken the place of French as the language of diplomacy; it is the official language

of international aid organizations such as Save the Children as well as UNESCO, NATO, and the UN.

Lingua Franca

English serves as a common tongue in countries where people speak many different languages. In India, nearly 200 different languages are spoken; only 30 percent speak the official language, Hindi. The European Free Trade Association works only in English even though it is a foreign tongue for all six member countries.

Official Language

English is the official or semiofficial language of twenty African countries. including Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, Liberia, and South Africa. Students are instructed in English at many universities there.

English is also the official language of the Olympics and the Miss Universe competition.

Youth Culture

English is the language of international youth culture. Young people worldwide sing the lyric of U2, Michael Jackson, and Madonna songs without fully understanding them. "Break dance," "rap music," "bodybuilding," "windsurfing," and "computer hacking" are invading the slang of German youth. (599 words)

New Words

universal / juːnɪ vɜːsəl/	a. existing everywhere or involving everyone 全体的; 共同的
mandarin / mændərın/	n. the official language of China (中国的) 官话,普通话
status /'stertəs/	n. social or professional position 地位;身份;职位
dialect / darəlekt/	n. a form of a language that is spoken in a particular area - 方言
widespread /'waidspred/	a. extensive and popular 分布(或散布)广的,普遍的
geographically /,d3i:ə'græfikəli/	ad. relating to the place in an area, country etc. where something or someone is 地理上地
exceed /1k'si:d/	v. to be more than; to go beyond 超过,越出
supplement /'sapliment/	v. to add something to make it larger or better 增补

transportation /itrænsp3:'teifən/	n. a system or method for carrying passengers or good from one place to another 运输,运输系统
prevail /prɪ'veɪl/	v. to be common among a group of people or area at a particular time 流(盛)行; to get control or influence 劝说
airwaves /'eaweɪvz/	n. (pl.) the radio and television broadcasts 广播频率
maritime /'mærɪtaɪm/	a. relating to the sea and ships 航海的;海事的
vessel /'vesəl/	n. a ship or large boat 船 (尤指大船); a container for holding liquids 器皿
verbally /'varbali/	ad. in spoken words rather than in writing; orally 口头上
broadcaster /ˈbrɔːdkɑːstə/	n. a company which sends out television or radio program 广播公司; someone who speaks on radio or television program 广播员
conduct /kən'dAkt/ /'kpndAkt/	v. to carry out a particular activity or process, esp. in order to get information or prove facts 管理;指挥;输送n. the way someone behaves 行为;举动;品行
telex /'teleks/	n. system of communication using teleprinters 用户电报
n. telegram (海底) 电报; thick wire covered able /'keɪbəl/ plastic that is used for carrying electricity or electricity signals 电缆	
periodical / prarr pdrkal/	n. a magazine or newspaper, esp. on a serious subject, that is published regularly 期刊
negotiation /nɪˌɡəʊʃɪˈeɪʃən/	n. discussion aimed at reaching an agreement; negotiating 商议; 谈判; 流通
manufacture / mænjuː fæktʃə /	v. to produce goods in large numbers, usually in a factory using machines 制造
origin /'prɪdʒɪn/	n. the place or situation in which something begins to exist 起源,来源
multinational /maltinæfənəl/	a. involving several different countries, or (of a business) producing and selling goods in several different countries 多国的,多国籍的
corporation / kɔːpəˈreɪʃən/	n. a large company or group of companies that is controlled together as a single organization 公司