

# 高级英语精读系列之一

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## 《新概念英语》第四册精读

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# Lesson 31

## Text

Many people in industry and the Services, who have practical experience of noise, regard any investigation of this question as a waste of time; they are not prepared even to admit the possibility that noise affects people. On the other hand, those who dislike noise will sometimes use most inadequate evidence to support their pleas for a quieter society. This is a pity, because noise abatement really is a good cause, and it is likely to be discredited if it gets to be associated with bad science.

One allegation often made is that noise produces mental illness. A recent article in a weekly newspaper, for instance, was headed with a striking illustration of a lady in a state of considerable distress, with the caption 'She was yet another victim, reduced to a screaming wreck'. On turning eagerly to the text, one learns that the lady was a typist who found the sound of office typewriters worried her more and more until eventually she had to go into a mental hospital. Now the snag in this sort of anecdote is of course that one cannot distinguish cause and effect. Was the noise a cause of the illness, or were the complaints about noise merely a symptom?

Another patient might equally well complain that her neighbours were combining to slander her and persecute her, and yet one might be cautious about believing this statement.

What is needed in the case of noise is a study of large numbers of people living under noisy conditions, to discover whether they are mentally ill more often than other people are. The United States Navy, for instance recently examined a very large number of men working on aircraft carriers; the study was known as Project Anehin. It can be unpleasant to live even several miles from an aerodrome; if you think what it must be like to share the deck of a ship with several squadrons of jet aircraft, you will realize that a modern navy is a good place to study noise. But neither psychiatric interviews nor objective tests were able to show any effects upon these American sailors. This result merely confirms earlier American and British studies; if there is any effect of noise upon mental health it must be so small that present methods of psychiatric diagnosis cannot find it. That does not prove that it does not exist; but it does mean that noise is less dangerous than, say, being brought up in an orphanage—which really is a mental health hazard.

D. E. BROADBENT *Non-auditory Effects of Noise*  
from *Science Survey*

## I . New Words and Expressions

1. the services 海陆空三军; 军种

2. affect *vt.* 影响
3. inadequate *adj.* 不充分的
4. plea *n.* 恳求; 请求
5. abatement *n.* 减少; 减弱; 减轻
6. discredit *v.* 丧失信用; 丧失名誉
7. allegation *n.* 断言; 主张
8. be headed with 在……上加标题
9. striking *adj.* 引人注目的; 显著的
10. illustration *n.* 插图; 实例; 图解
11. distress *n.* 苦恼; 忧伤; 悲痛
12. caption *n.* 标题; 解说词; (电影的) 字幕
13. screaming *adj.* 惊人的; 尖叫的
14. wreck *n.* 健康状况极度受损的人
15. typist *n.* 打字员
16. typewriter *n.* 打字机
17. snag *n.* 欠缺, 缺点; 难处, 困难
18. anecdote *n.* 轶事
19. distinguish *vt.* 区分, 辨别
20. symptom *n.* 症状
21. slander *vt.* 诽谤; 中伤
22. persecute *vt.* 迫害
23. aircraft carrier 航空母舰
24. aerodrome *n.* 飞机场
25. deck *n.* 甲板
26. squadron *n.* 中队
27. psychiatric *adj.* 精神病学的
28. interview *n.* (记者的) 访问; 采访

- 29. confirm *vt.* 证实
- 30. diagnosis *n.* 诊断
- 31. orphanage *n.* 孤儿院
- 32. hazard *n.* 公害; 危险
- 33. auditory 听觉的

## II. Detailed Study of the Text

1. Many people in industry and the services, who have practical experience of noise, regard any investigation of this question as a waste of time; they are not prepared even to admit the possibility that noise affects people.

工业部门和军队中有许多人对噪音都有切身的体会。他们认为对噪音这一问题进行调查是浪费时间; 他们甚至不愿意承认噪音可能会对人有影响。

- 1) the Services; the three fighting forces, the army, navy and air forces; 海陆空三军;

Which of the services were you in?

你在海陆空哪个军种中服过役?

The British navy is called the Senior Service.

英国的海军称为 the Senior Service.

- 2) affect; to act or have an effect on; 影响;

Rain affects the grass.

雨水对青草有影响。

The weather affected her decision.

候情况影响了她的决定。

His heavy drinking is beginning to affect his liver.

他喝酒喝得太多，因此他的肝脏受影响。

2. On the other hand, those who dislike noise will sometimes use most inadequate evidence to support their pleas for a quieter society.

而另一方面，那些讨厌噪音的人，有时使用很不充分的证据来论证他们要求一个宁静的社会是合理的。

- 1) inadequate: not adequate; not sufficient: 不充足的，不充分的：

inadequate salary 工资不够

inadequate supplies 供应不足

Our resources are inadequate for what we have to do.

我们的资源不能满足我们的需要。

- 2) plea; an urgent request: 恳求；请愿；请求：  
The hospital sent out a plea for blood-donors.  
医院征求输血者。

3. This is a pity, because noise abatement really is a good cause, and it is likely to be discredited if it gets to be associated with bad science.

这种做法很遗憾，因为减少噪音本来是件好事，但是如果它与无知联系在一起，往往使人不可信。

- 1) abatement: (formal) making or becoming less: 减少，减弱：

the abatement of the storm 暴风雨减弱

These prices admit no abatement.

这些价格不容许削减。



There is no abatement in his temperature.

他的烧没有退。

2) science; knowledge; 知识

bad science = poor knowledge

4. One allegation often made is that noise produces mental illness.

常常有人断言噪音会引起精神病。

1) allegation; (formal) a statement or act of stating, without giving proof that a person has done something wrong, etc.: 断言; 辩解;

His allegations about her behaviour are untrue.

他对她的所作所为的看法不真实。

He submitted his allegation to the police in writing.

他向警察呈交了书面辩词。

2) often made = which is often made

5. A recent article in a weekly newspaper, for instance, was headed with a striking illustration of a lady in a state of considerable distress, with the caption 'She was yet another victim, reduced to a screaming wreck'.

例如,最近在一家周报上刊登了一篇文章,篇首还配了一幅引人注目的插图,图中是一位痛苦万状的妇女,图的说明是:“她又是一个受害者,成了一个极度的精神病患者”。

1) to head; to put or write (something) at the beginning of a chapter, top of a letter etc.: (在章节、信的顶部等)加上标题:

His report was headed "Ways of Preventing Industrial

Accidents” .

他的报导的标题为 “Ways of Preventing Industrial Accidents” 。

- 2) striking: noticeable or impressive; 引人注目的, 显著的:

She's a striking woman.

她是一位引人注目的妇女。

She always wears striking clothes.

她总是穿引人注目的衣服。

- 3) yet: (with another or more) used for emphasis to indicate the latest in a series; 又, 再:

He's made yet another mistake/yet more mistakes.

他又犯了一个错误/又犯了一些错误。

- 4) reduce to: to change (a person, thing, etc.) into another and usually worse state, form condition, etc.:  
使变成更糟的状态、形式等:

The bombs reduced the city to ruins.

炸弹把城市变成了一堆废墟。

She was so angry, she was almost reduced to tears  
(=she almost cried).

她气得快要哭了。

The officer was reduced to the ranks (=he was demoted and became an ordinary soldier).

那位军官削职为兵。

- 5) wreck: a person who is in a very poor (mental or physical) state: (精神或身体上) 健康极差的人  
6) screaming: startling: 融目惊心的, 惊人的:

a screaming headline 耸人听闻的标题

6. On turning eagerly to the text, one learns that the lady was a typist who found the sound of office typewriters worried her more and more until eventually she had to go into a mental hospital.

读者急切地一看文章的内容，才知道那位女士是个打字员，她对办公室打字机的声音觉得越来越烦，最后不得不进了一家精神病院。

- 1) on: when (something is or has been done): 一……(才); 一……(就);

On inquiring, I found that the plane had already left.

我一询问才知道飞机已经离开了。

On investigation, there proved to be no need to panic.

经调查才证实没有必要惊慌。

- 2) who found the sound of office typewriters worried her more and more until eventually she had to go into a mental hospital 是定语从句，修饰 typist。until eventually she ... hospital 是时间状语从句，修饰定语从句的谓语动词 found。

7. Now the snag in this sort of anecdote is of course that one cannot distinguish cause and effect.

这类新闻的缺点在于人们无法区分因果关系。

- 1) snag: a difficulty or drawback: 难处; 缺点, 欠缺。此处作“缺点”解:

We did not realize at first how many snags there

were in our plan.

起初我们并没有认识到我们的计划有多少意想不到的困难。

- 2) anecdote: (formal) a short, interesting or amusing story, especially a true one; 轶事:

He told us slanderous anecdotes about politicians that he knew.

他告诉了我们他所知道的那些政治家们的种种诽谤性奇闻趣事。

- 3) distinguish: (formal, often with from) to mark as different; 区分, 区别:

What distinguish this hotel from all the others?

这家旅馆与所有别的旅馆有什么不同?

- 8 Was the noise a cause of the illness, or were the complaints about noise merely a symptom?

究竟是噪音是病因呢, 还是厌烦噪音只是一种症状?

9. Another patient might equally well complain that her neighbours were combining to slander her and persecute her, and yet one might be cautious about believing this statement.

另外一个病人完全有可能指责她的邻居们在合伙诽谤她, 迫害她, 然而人们对这种说法可能就不那么轻易相信了。

- 1) well; with good reason; with justice; 有理由; 合理地:

I couldn't very well say no.

我没有理由说不行。

You may well be surprised.

你很可能会吓一跳。

I couldn't very well refuse to help him.

我真难以拒绝帮助他。

You may quite well (with good reason) give illness as an excuse.

你完全可以用有病作借口。

- 2) be cautious; having or showing caution; be careful;  
注意, 小心, 谨慎:

She used to trust everyone but she's more cautious now.

她以前谁都信, 可现在就谨慎多了。

Be very cautious when you're driving today.

今天开车你要小心。

10. What is needed in the case of noise is a study of large numbers of people living under noisy conditions, to discover whether they are mentally ill more often than other people are.

就噪音而言, 我们必须对大批生活在噪音条件下的人们进行研究, 以弄清他们是否比别人更容易得精神病。

- 1) what is needed in the case of noise 是主语从句。  
2) whether they are mentally ill more often than other people are = whether they are more often mentally ill than other people are

11. The United States Navy, for instance, recently examined a very large number of men working on aircraft carriers; the study was known as Project Anehin.

例如美国海军最近对大批工作在航空母舰上的工作人员作了调查，这次调查被称作 Anchin 工程。

12. It can be unpleasant to live even several miles from an aerodrome;

即使生活在离机场几英里远也是很难受的；

13. if you think what it must be like to share the deck of a ship with several squadrons of jet aircraft, you will realize that a modern navy is a good place to study noise.

如果你想到与几个中队的喷气式飞机同处在一个甲板上该是什么样子，你就会认识到现代海军是研究噪音的很好的地方。

14. But neither psychiatric interviews nor objective tests were able to show any effects upon these American sailors.

然而无论是精神病学方面的调查，还是客观的测试，都无法说明噪音对美国海员有任何影响。

interview: a meeting between a reporter and a person whose activities, views, etc. are to be the subject of a published article: 记者的采访

15. This result merely confirms earlier American and British studies; if there is any effect of noise upon mental health it must be so small that present methods of psychiatric diagnosis cannot find it.

这一研究结果只是证实了美国和英国在以前所作的研究，即如果说噪音对人的精神健康有影响的话，这种影响一定是很小的，因而目前精神病学诊断法还发现不了。

16. That does not prove that it does not exist; but it does

mean that noise is less dangerous than, say, being brought up in an orphanage — which really is a mental health hazard.

这并不说明这种影响不存在；但这却充分说明了噪音的危害性，不如，比方说，在孤儿院里成长那样大；而孤儿院才是精神健康的一个大害。

- 1) say: to suppose; assume: 比方说；假定：

Say your plan fails, then what do we do?

假如你的计划失败了，那末我们该怎么办？

- 2) bring up: to rear or educate: 扶养，成长；受教育：

Your children have been well brought up.

你的孩子们受到了很好的教养。

My aunt brought up four children.

我婶婶扶养了四个孩子。

- 3) orphanage: a home for orphans: 孤儿院：

He was brought up in an orphanage.

他是在孤儿院里扶养长大的。

## Lesson 32

### Text

It is animals and plants which lived in or near water whose remains are most likely to be preserved, for one of the necessary conditions of preservation is quick burial, and it is only in the seas and rivers, and sometimes lakes, where mud and silt have been continuously deposited, that bodies and the like can be rapidly covered over and preserved.

But even in the most favourable circumstances only a small fraction of the creatures that die are preserved in this way before decay sets in or, even more likely, before scavengers eat them. After all, all living creatures live by feeding on something else, whether it be plant or animal, dead or alive, and it is only by chance that such a fate is avoided. The remains of plants and animals that lived on land are much more rarely preserved, for there is seldom anything to cover them over. When you think of the innumerable birds that one sees flying about, not to mention the equally numerous small animals like field mice and voles which you do not see, it is very rarely that one comes across a dead body, except, of course, on the roads. They decompose and are quickly destroyed by the weather or eaten by some other creature.



It is almost always due to some very special circumstances: the traces of land animals survive, as by falling into inaccessible caves, or into an ice crevasse, like the Siberian mammoths, when the whole animal is sometimes preserved, as in a refrigerator. This is what happened to the famous Beresovka mammoth which was found preserved and in good condition. In his mouth were the remains of fir trees—the last meal that he had before fell into the crevasse and broke his back. The mammoth has now been restored in the Palaeontological Museum in Leningrad. Other animals were trapped in tar pits, like the elephants, sabretoothed cats, and numerous other creatures that are found at Rancho la Brea, which is now just a suburb of Los Angeles. Apparently what happened was that water collected on these tar pits, and the bigger animals like the elephants ventured out on to the apparently firm surface to drink, and were promptly bogged in the tar. And then, when they were dead, the carnivores, like the sabre-toothed cats and the giant wolves, came out to feed and suffered exactly the same fate. There are also endless numbers of birds in the tar as well.

ERROL WHITE *The Past Life of the Earth from Discovery*

## I . New Words and Expressions

1. remains *n.* 残存物; 尸体
2. burial *n.* 埋葬, 葬; 埋藏
3. silt *n.* 淤泥