

美国之音

特别英语专题节目选编

(一)

章恒珍

余惠芬

许为础 选编译注

英汉对照

附听力练习

SPACE AND MAN

THIS IS AMERICA

THE MAKING OF A NATION

华南理工大学出版社

H31

Z15

1

美国之音 特别英语专题节目选编

A Selection of VOA Special English Feature Programs

(一)

章恒珍
余惠芬

许为础 选编译注

华南理工大学出版社

·广州·

5

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

DW53/17

美国之音特别英语专题节目选编(一)/章恒珍等选编译注. —广州: 华南理工大学出版社, 1998. 10

ISBN 7-5623-1331-8

I. 美…

II. 章…

III. 英语-美国之音-广播教育-学习参考资料

IV. H31

华南理工大学出版社出版发行

(广州五山 邮编 510641)

责任编辑: 张巧巧 张君晓

各地新华书店经销

中山市新华印刷厂印装

*

1998年10月第1版 1998年10月第1次印刷

开本: 850×1168 1/32 印张: 12 字数: 301千

印数: 1—5 000册

定价: 19.50元

内 容 简 介

《美国之音特别英语专题节目选编》是“美国之音”广播电台每天用慢速英语向全世界广播的部分节目内容。

本书由3部分组成。第1部分是“太空与人”，着重报道有关人类探索宇宙的历史、太空飞行及航天技术的新成就；第2部分是“美国概况”，扼要介绍美国各方面的情况、风土人情与生活方式；第3部分是“国家的成长”，主要介绍美国《宪法》的起草与批准。每部分都附有生词表、听力理解练习与答案、参考译文，最后还附有“VOA Special English 的语言特点及其教学意义”。

本书题材广泛，内容丰富，既具新闻性、知识性，也具趣味性。其特点是：相对“正常速度英语”而言为“慢速英语”。“美国之音”正常速度英语广播为每分钟130~140个单词，而特别英语广播为每分钟90~100个单词。本书符合非英语国家一般听众的英语水平。可作为文、理、工大专院校的辅助教材，也可作为科技、管理人员的自学用书。

January 6, 1998

Xu Weichu

Director, Foreign Language Training Center

South China University of Technology

Guangzhou, China 510641

Dear Professor:

Thank you for your interest in VOA's Special English Programs. It is always a pleasure to hear from our listeners.

Enclosed are materials we are able to send at this time. We hope you find them informative, interesting, and useful.

We wish you good luck and good listening!

Cordially,

The VOA Special English Staff

前 言

“美国之音”(VOA)广播电台目前共有 10 个用“特别英语”广播的专题节目(Feature Programs, 详见本书“附录”)。这本《美国之音特别英语专题节目选编》(一)的内容选自下列三个节目:

1. Space and Man(太空与人) 该节目主要报道人类探索宇宙的历史、太空飞行及航天技术的新成就。本集共选 6 篇。

2. This Is America(美国概况) 该节目扼要介绍美国各方面的情况、风土人情、生活方式。本集共选 12 篇。

3. The Making of a Nation(国家的成长) 该节目介绍美国从殖民地发展成为一个现代化工业国的历史过程。本集全面介绍美国宪法的起草和批准过程, 分为 10 篇。

其他专题节目拟选入本书的续集, 今后陆续出版。

本书可供我国高等院校学生、准备赴美留学访问人员, 以及具有一定英语基础的自学者使用。既可用作听力教材, 也可作为泛读或快速阅读教材。本书附录音带 7 盒, 均为 VOA 直接提供的广播原声带, 声音清晰, 音色优美, 发音标准, 读速较慢, 便于模仿, 是学习标准美国英语的理想材料。

为了方便读者自学, 本书每课均配有生词和词组(New Words and Expressions)、听力理解练习(Listening Comprehension Exercises)、音带文字材料(Tapescripts)和参考译文, 书末还附有练习答案。不言而喻, 做听力理解练习时, 不能先看 Tapescripts 和答案。

为了使读者对 VOA Special English 有较全面深入的了解, 建议在使用本书之前, 先阅读附录文章“VOA Special English 的语言特点及其教学意义”。

美国之音特别英语部为本书提供了材料(见来信),我们表示衷心感谢!

由于编著者水平有限,时间仓促,书中不足之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

编 者
1998 年 6 月

Contents

Space and Man

(太空与人)

1. Nicolaus Copernicus	1
尼古拉·哥白尼	
2. Galileo	12
伽利略	
3. Isaac Newton	24
艾萨克·牛顿	
4. Albert Einstein	36
阿尔伯特·爱因斯坦	
5. The Wright Brothers	48
赖特兄弟	
6. Charles Lindbergh	61
查尔斯·林德伯格	

This Is America

(美国概况)

7. Summer Camps	74
夏令营	
8. Physical Fitness	86
身体健康	
9. Gardening in America	99

美国园艺

10. Savannah, Georgia	112
乔治亚州的塞万那城	
11. Yellowstone National Park	125
黄石国家公园	
12. Supreme Court	137
最高法院	
13. Unusual American Laws	150
美国法律趣谈	
14. Talk Radio	163
空中论坛	
15. Women Business Owners	176
女企业主	
16. Fathers and Farther's Day	189
父亲和父亲节	
17. Housing in America	202
美国的住房	
18. Skyscrapers	214
(美国的)摩天大楼	

The Making of a Nation

(国家的成长)

19~28. Writing and Ratifying the U. S. Constitution	226
美国宪法的起草与批准	
19. Part One	226
第一讲	
20. Part Two	239
第二讲	

21. Part Three	252
第三讲	
22. Part Four	265
第四讲	
23. Part Five	278
第五讲	
24. Part Six	291
第六讲	
25. Part Seven	304
第七讲	
26. Part Eight	317
第八讲	
27. Part Nine	330
第九讲	
28. Part Ten	343
第十讲	

Key to Listening Comprehension Exercises

(听力理解练习答案)

Appendix(附录)

VOA Special English 的语言特点及其教学意义

1. Nicolaus Copernicus

SPACE AND MAN — a program in Special English by the Voice of America;

In the year 1492, Christopher Columbus began a voyage from Spain and discovered a new world. In that same year, a young man began studies at the University of Krakow in Poland and would discover the secrets of the solar system. The young man's name was Nicolaus Copernicus.

I'm Harry Monroe. Today, Kay Gallant and I will tell about the life and work of this great scientist.

Astronomy — the study of the stars — is one of the oldest sciences. Ancient Greek scientists studied the heavens two-thousand four-hundred years ago. Using only their eyes and their minds, they created some important ideas about the universe.

A Greek named Eudoxus taught two-thousand four-hundred years ago that the Earth was the center of the universe. Eudoxus said the sun and stars all moved in circles around the Earth. Two-hundred years later another Greek, Aristarchus, offered the opposite idea. He said movements of the stars showed that the Earth moved around the sun.

Few people, however, accepted this idea. When they looked up

they saw the stars, sun, and moon moving. They did not feel the Earth move.

Almost everyone agreed that the Earth was the center of the universe. But no one could find a way to prove it. The planets did not seem to move around the Earth in perfect circles as they should. The planets would move slowly toward the east. But at times, some planets would seem to stop moving or move in the opposite direction for a while. Then they would begin their travels east again.

Some scientists said this could be explained if a planet was moving in a small circle at the same time it was moving in a much larger circle around the Earth. Another explanation said the Earth might not be at the exact center of a planet's circular path.

About eighteen-hundred years ago a Greek scientist in Egypt, Claudius Ptolemy, used these ideas to develop a system that seemed to work.

Ptolemy used his system to say where in the sky the sun, moon, and planets would be later in the year. And he was almost always correct. The planets always were somewhere near the place that Ptolemy's system said they would be.

So, people accepted Ptolemy's explanation as scientific proof. And Ptolemy's system was accepted as true by the Roman Catholic Church. The church would condemn any who disputed that the Earth was the center of the universe. For thirteen centuries, no one publicly questioned Ptolemy's explanation of how the universe worked.

A few people, however, believed that Ptolemy was wrong. Nicolaus Copernicus was one.

Nicolaus Copernicus was a quiet person who did not seem likely

to rebel against tradition. Copernicus was born in the year 1473. He was born in Torun, a Baltic port town in what now is Poland. His father was a successful businessman. His mother was a sister of the Roman Catholic bishop of the area.

Copernicus had a great hunger for learning. He became interested in astronomy and mathematics while studying medicine at the University of Krakow. He asked his uncle, the bishop, for permission to study in Italy.

At the University of Bologna he studied law, mathematics, and astronomy. He also learned the Greek language so he could read the works of the old Greek astronomers and mathematicians.

While in Italy, Copernicus studied with a famous professor of astronomy, Domenico Maria di Novara.

Novara had been taught by a professor who questioned Ptolemy's system. Novara's professor liked the ideas of another ancient Greek, Aristarchus of Samos, who lived four-hundred years before Ptolemy. Aristarchus had believed that the sun was the center of the universe and that the Earth moved around it in a great circle. Novara and Copernicus discussed these ideas of Aristarchus.

Copernicus taught astronomy at the University of Rome for a few years. Then he returned home to Poland.

His uncle, the Bishop of Ermland, got him a position as a church official — a financial advisor at the cathedral of Frauenburg. It was not a religious position, so he did not have to become a priest. He was well paid and did not have to worry about money for the rest of his life.

Copernicus was busy with his job. But he found time to watch the stars and work on his ideas about the universe. And he continued

to read the works of earlier astronomers.

What he saw and what he read made him believe that the Earth was not the unmoving center of the universe. He decided that the Earth was moving around the sun. This would explain the changing positions of the stars and the seasons of the year. He said that the Earth is one of the planets and must move around the sun as all the other planets do.

Copernicus also understood that the Earth spins, and that this produces day and night. And his studies showed that the distance from the Earth to the sun is extremely small in the great size of the universe.

Copernicus used his knowledge of mathematics and astronomy to form his own explanation of the movement of the sun, moon, and planets. Then, as years passed, he tested his system by watching the sky to see if everything moved as he expected. He found that everything did.

Copernicus was not completely correct. His system included some of the mistaken ideas of the past. One was that planets move in perfect circles. Another was that planets move in small circles while completing a much larger circle around the center of the universe.

Much of what Copernicus learned, however, was true. But he understood the difficulty in getting the world to accept his truths.

The old ideas were tied too closely to religion. Opposing religious belief was dangerous. So, Copernicus decided not to publish what he had learned. Instead, he talked with other scientists to try to get their support for his ideas. He succeeded with some, but not all. And religious leaders criticized him. Protestant leader Martin Luther called him a fool. Luther said Copernicus wanted to turn the whole

world of astronomy upside down.

As years passed, news of the ideas of Copernicus spread through universities of Europe. A young professor, Joachim Rheticus, was so excited that he came to visit the old astronomer.

He begged Copernicus to publish his findings in a book to let everyone know of his system of the universe. Copernicus said no.

He told the young professor that he feared he had made mathematical mistakes in proving his ideas. Rheticus said he would examine Copernicus' writings and correct any mistakes he might find. And Rheticus said he would do all the work to get the historic book printed.

Finally Copernicus agreed.

On May 24, 1543, a messenger arrived at Copernicus' home in Frauenburg with the first completed copy of the old man's book. It was called On the Revolutions of the Heavenly Spheres.

But Copernicus had suffered a stroke a few months earlier. He was able only to run his hands over the pages of the book. He said nothing. A few hours later, he died.

Other scientists would continue the work that Nicolaus Copernicus began. We will discuss one of them next week: Galileo Galilei, the first person to explore the heavens with a telescope.

You have been listening to the Special English program, SPACE AND MAN. Your narrators were Harry Monroe and Kay Gallant. Our program was written by Marilyn Christiano.

I. New Words and Expressions

1. voyage

[ˈvɔɪdʒ] n.

航海; 航空

2. astronomy	[æ'strɒnəmi] <i>n.</i>	天文学
3. catholic	['kæθəlik] <i>a.</i>	天主教的
4. condemn	[kən'dem] <i>v.</i>	谴责;宣告(某人)有罪
5. dispute	[dis'pjut] <i>v.</i>	对……提出质疑
6. rebel	[ri'bel] <i>v.</i>	造反;反抗
7. cathedral	[kə'θi:drəl] <i>n.</i>	(一个教区内的)总教堂
8. spin	[spin] <i>v.</i>	旋转
9. protestant	['prɒtɪstənt] <i>n.</i>	新教徒

II. Listening Comprehension Exercises

1. Turn on your recorder and listen until you hear this sentence: "Nicolaus Copernicus was one." Indicate whether each of the following statements is true or false:

- (1) In the year 1492, Copernicus began studies at the University of Krakow in Poland. ()
- (2) Astronomy is the oldest science. ()
- (3) Ancient Greek scientists created some important ideas about the universe with their eyes and minds. ()
- (4) Almost everyone agreed that the sun was the center of the universe. But no one could find a way to prove it. ()
- (5) Ptolemy used his system to say where in the sky the sun, moon, and planets would be many years later. ()
- (6) People accepted Ptolemy's explanation as scientific proof. ()
- (7) Nicolaus Copernicus was one of a few people who believed that Ptolemy was wrong. ()

2. Continue listening and stop the machine until you hear this sentence: "He said that the Earth is one of the planets and must move

around the sun as all the other planets do." Fill in the blanks with the words you hear from the tape:

- (1) Nicolaus Copernicus was a _____ person who did not seem _____ to rebel against _____.
- (2) He also learned the _____ language so he could read the _____ of the old Greek _____ and mathematicians.
- (3) Aristarchus had believed that the _____ was the center of the _____ and that the Earth moved _____ it in a great _____.
- (4) He was well _____ and did not have to _____ about money for the _____ of his life.
- (5) This would _____ the changing _____ of the stars and the _____ of the year.

3. Listen to the rest of the recording. Choose the best completion for each of the following blanks:

- (1) Copernicus also understood that the Earth spins, and that this _____ day and night.

a. increases

b. decreases

c. produces

- (2) Copernicus' system included some of the mistaken ideas of the _____.

a. last

b. past

c. first

- (3) Protestant leader _____ called him a fool.

a. Martin Luther

b. Rhetions