

大学英语应用提高阶段专业英语系列教材

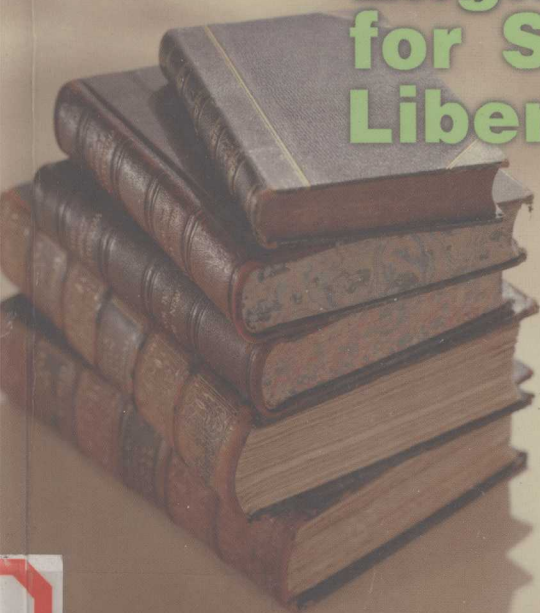
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新世纪 文科英语教程

第一分册

学生用书

New Century
English Course
for Students of
Liberal Arts



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新世纪

文科英语教程

第一分册 学生用书

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前 言

根据 1999 年修订的《大学英语教学大纲》，学生在完成基础阶段的学业并达到四级或六级后，都必须修读专业英语。为此，我们编写了这套《新世纪文科英语教程》，供大专院校非英语专业的文科学生使用。

本书分第一、二两分册，每册十个单元。每单元包括一篇听力材料，三篇阅读课文。第一分册中十个单元的内容分别为：未来学、人类学、语言学、文学、历史学、哲学、法学、社会学、教育学和心理学。第二分册中十个单元的内容分别为：语言学、文学、历史学、哲学、法学、社会学、艺术学、新闻学、政治学、宗教学。使用者可以根据自己的实际情况，选用其中的一册，或两册全用。两册的生词表互不相干，分别以大学英语四级词表为基准。考虑到使用者的不同情况，听力材料的生词表也分别单列。部分单词虽然被大学英语四级词表收入，但其在本书课文中的词义较为少见，因而仍然作为生词处理。本书对英语新词词性及释义的处理主要依据上海外语教育出版社 2001 年版《新牛津英语词典》。

本书的课文绝大多数都是 20 世纪 90 年代中期以后出版的各有关学科专业人士为普通读者撰写的文章，既有丰富的专业内涵，又能为一般读者所接受。各单元所涉及的内容对扩大文科学生，甚至理科学生的知识面是很有益处的。本书的第一和第二分册并无难易之分，其中都包含了语言学、文学、历史学、哲学、法学、社会学等学科，主要是因为修读这些学科的学生人数相对较多，而有些学校开设专业英语课程的时间又较长，单独一册课本难以满足师生们的需求。本书另有配套的教师用书。

除了听力之外，本书每个单元均包含三篇课文，教师可以根据实际情况在课堂上处理 Text A 和/或 Text B，Text C 可作为学生课外阅读之用。

本书的练习主要包括以下几项：

- Pre-reading Activities —— 为每单元的听力材料设计的各种练习，旨在让学生对将要学习的课文内容有一个大概的了解。
- Responding to the Text —— 围绕课文设计的阅读理解练习，旨在引导学生深入理解作者的观点和所涉及的背景，并让学生对有关专业文章的结构与特色或写作方法等有所了解。
- Vocabulary —— 形式各异的词语练习，旨在帮助学生理解并掌握课文中出现的有用词语。
- Writing —— 主要是针对课文的缩写练习。通过将 2 000 词左右的课文缩写成 250 - 350 词左右的文章，学生不仅可以藉此加深对课文主要内容的理解，还可以训练

自己的写作能力。

- Translation —— 包含针对整个单元三篇课文中的句子和短语的英汉互译练习。

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Unit One

Futurology

Pre-reading Activities

First Listening

You are about to hear a short talk about futures studies. Before you listen, take a look at the words below. Then, listen carefully and try to get the main idea of the short talk.

complexity / kəmpleksiti /	<i>n.</i>	复杂性
futurist / 'fju:tʃərist /	<i>n.</i>	未来学家
systemic / sistematik /	<i>a.</i>	全局的,影响全局的
transformational / trənsfə'meɪʃənl /	<i>a.</i>	转变性的,转化性的
incremental / ,ɪnkri'mentl /	<i>a.</i>	增长的,增值的
qualitative / 'kwɒlɪtətɪv /	<i>a.</i>	质的,定性的
quantitative / 'kwɒntɪtətɪv /	<i>a.</i>	量的,定量的
methodology / ,meθədələdʒi /	<i>n.</i>	方法
scenario / sɪ'nɑ:riəu /	<i>n.</i>	方案
vision / 'vɪʒən /	<i>vt.</i>	想象

Second Listening

Now listen again and complete the following statements by filling in the blanks with proper words or expressions according to the short talk.

1. The field of futures studies as a new professional discipline arose in the _____.
2. Futurists are typically studying the world _____ years from now in contrast to economists and market researchers who look forward 1 to 3 years.
3. Owing to the fact that we cannot be certain about any long-term change, futurists describe alternative, possible and preferable futures rather than _____.
4. Futurists use both _____ and _____ methodologies where traditional forecasting tends to rely more on purely quantitative tools.
5. Futurists describe change in terms of _____ trend analysis or scenarios.

Text A

Thinking about the Future^①

Frederik Pohl

When the World Future Society^② began a few decades ago, I have to admit that I regarded it with a certain amount of professional jealousy.

You see, I'm a science-fiction writer. I do sometimes write other things, anywhere from encyclopedia essays on ancient history to mainstream novels, even the occasional poem. But when I sit down at my word processor, it is usually science fiction that comes out. When WFS was born, I felt I had a certain amount of seniority in the business of thinking about the future. After all, I had been busy at the job of anatomizing events that hadn't actually happened — not yet, anyway — for close to 30 years.

Then, without warning, along came all these new guys — scientists and academics, people from the think tanks of government and industry — who were invading a turf that a few score of us pioneering future historians had long since marked out as our own. As it turned out, the relationship between science fiction and futurology turned out to be a pretty amiable symbiosis. All the same, it was quite a shock at the time.

Science Fiction and the Future

Of course, there are considerable differences between science fiction and formal futurology. Very few people base their decisions for planning a new factory or building a municipal water supply on a science-fiction story. (Though it might be argued that, now and then, they might be just as well off if they did.) That isn't what science fiction is for. Whatever merits it may possess, it isn't meant to predict the future.

Not every science-fiction writer has understood this. Hugo Gernsback^③, for instance, had just the opposite opinion. Gernsback was as close to a founding father as American science fiction ever had. Among other things, he started the world's first science-fiction magazine, *Amazing Stories*, in 1926. In his own fiction, notably the novel *Ralph 124C41* +, Gernsback spent most of his effort in attempting to describe what

① This text is taken from *The Futurist*, Sept. 1, 1996.

② the World Future Society: It is an association of people interested in how social and technological developments are shaping the future. The Society was founded in the US in 1966.

③ Hugo Gernsback (1884—1967): an immigrant from Luxembourg to the USA in 1904, described as "The Father of Magazine Science Fiction" in a special award given to him in 1960

the next century's inventions would look like. On the contents page of every issue of *Amazing Stories*, he ran the slogan, "Extravagant Fiction Today — Cold Fact Tomorrow."

It hasn't worked out that way. Those early issues of *Amazing Stories* were full of stories about high-tech Martian warriors invading Earth or tough American adventurers exploring the swampy jungles of the planet Venus. Those things didn't happen, and it seems pretty clear now that they never will. Even the predictions in Gernsback's own novel missed their mark. Though he took it for granted that things like radar and television would become commonplace, he had the technological details remarkably wrong. His television sets were basically photophones; apparently the idea of broadcast television never occurred to him.

Gernsback wasn't the worst. If you want to know just how wrong science fiction can be, let me tell you about an ancient movie called *Just Imagine*. It starred the Swedish dialect comedian El Brendel^① and the lovely young Maureen O'Sullivan^②, in what I think was her first appearance on an American screen. I saw it in 1930, when I was 10 years old, and marveled at the picture it gave of the wonderful, far-off future world of 1980.

In 1980, people no longer had names but serial numbers. Meals came in the form of pills, with no necessity for cutting steaks or spooning up a bowl of soup. The skyscraper city of New York suffered from heavily congested traffic, but of autogyros, not cars. And when a young couple desired a baby, they simply put a coin in a vending machine and the infant popped out. On the way home from the movie, I said to my mother, "Gee, I wish I could see that." She startled me by saying, "Listen, son, there's a pretty good chance that you will."

Well, I did. Sort of. That is, 1980 has come and gone, but I still have to cut my steaks, and all of my children and grandchildren have arrived in the time-tested way.

Of course, *Just Imagine* was a comedy. It wasn't meant to be taken as trustworthy truth. But the crystal ball has been just as clouded for others who deserve to be taken more seriously. Take my esteemed friend and colleague, Arthur C. Clarke^③ for example. Among other things in his film and novel, *2001*, there is a section describing

① El Brendel (1890–1964); American comedian who often used a fractured-Swedish accent in his movie or comedy roles

② Maureen Paul O'Sullivan (1911–1998); Irish-born actress of the 1930s and 1940s in the US

③ Arthur C. Clarke (1917–); British-born author of science fiction and related nonfiction

regular Pan Am flights to a space station and then to the moon, proving once again that it's always a mistake for a science-fiction writer to put a date on his imaginings. Now we're getting close enough to that year that we're pretty sure this sort of all-frills lunar commuting just isn't going to happen — not to mention that there isn't even a Pan Am anymore^①.

Trying to Predict Breakthroughs

Of course, very important people aren't going to trust science-fiction writers to tell them about the future anyway. They're going to want heavyweight scientists for the job.

In his 1995 presidential address to the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Martin Rees spoke of one early effort. In 1937, the Great Depression^② was stubbornly refusing to end, causing much pain to U. S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt^③ and his New Deal^④. What Roosevelt was hoping for was some new technologies that would spawn great new industries, in the way that radio and automobiles had done. Accordingly, he asked the National Academy of Sciences to predict forthcoming scientific breakthroughs.

They did their best. They quite correctly anticipated such things as synthetic rubber and gasoline, as well as significant changes in agriculture. But, as Rees reminds us, the really big new technologies and industries — nuclear energy, antibiotics, jet aircraft, and even computers—they missed entirely.

Of course, that was more than half a century ago and there have been some improvements since then, particularly in highly specialized areas of prediction. Weather forecasting, for example, is a lot better than it was in the World War II days when I was a weatherman for the U. S. Air Force in Italy. If you happen to be pregnant, your friendly local obstetrician can reliably tell you whether the child will be male or female. And if you're considering the purchase of a new home, but don't want it shaken down around your ears, seismologists can tell you where earthquakes are likely to occur.

But even predictions of these sorts have their limitations. The weather service is

① In 1991, Pan Am, the airline that had long dominated global skies, was forced to shut down.

② the Great Depression : a worldwide business slump of the 1930's

③ Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882 — 1945): 32nd president of the US (1933 — 1945), the only American president that served for more than 12 years

④ New Deal; Franklin D. Roosevelt's program to pull the United States out of the Great Depression in the 1930's

good at identifying tropical disturbances that are likely to turn into hurricanes, but predicting whether any one of them will take the roof off your house — or somebody else's 30 or 40 miles down the coast — is beyond their skills. Predicting a child's gender is routine, but there's a reason for that. That is because it isn't a real prediction at all. What the amniocentesis reveals is not what a baby will be, but what it already is — the fetus has already made the male-female decision, but you just can't detect the evidence from outside. And earthquake prediction is an example of the kind of fuzzy future forecast that Charles Galton Darwin^① was talking about many years ago when he wrote a book called *The Next Million Years*.

My copy of that volume has long since disappeared, but there was one disclaimer at the beginning that has stuck in my mind ever since. Darwin conceded that he had no idea what devastating natural disasters would happen in the next year or even 10 years in the future. But he added that no one else did either.

On the other hand, Darwin was confident that he knew what sorts of things would happen over the longer term, because in the course of a million years, all the infrequent things that could happen no doubt would happen. There might or might not be catastrophic earthquakes, droughts, famines, or pestilences happening next year, but over the next 10,000 centuries there was no question that, statistically speaking, sooner or later they would definitely happen.

Of course — as all Southern Californians and Japanese have learned^② — there isn't much immediate value in knowing that something will sooner or later happen, but not knowing exactly when it will.

What we would like to do is to pin down actual dates. More than that, we would like to be able to forecast all sorts of other things, such as the future demand for utilities, the price of commodities, up or down movement in the stock market, or the results of political elections. Another big one could be whether employment opportunities will be better for chemists or anthropologists 10 years from now. That one we would like to know well in advance, in time for our children to make a decision about what they will major in as they get ready to enter college. All of these things would be useful to individuals, and governments and industries might want to know even more.

① Charles Galton Darwin (1887–1962): British mathematical physicist and grandson of the evolutionary biologist, Charles Robert Darwin

② Southern California of the US and Japan are places where earthquakes occur frequently.