

干部继续教育系列教材

4 气象科技英语 听说教程

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序 言

现代社会的一大特点是教育观的根本转变,受教育不再只是青少年的事了。青年人要接受教育,中年人要接受教育,甚至老年人也要接受教育,接受教育已成为现代社会里每个人的终身义务。二次世界大战后成人教育在全世界蓬勃发展,成人教育的发展不仅提高了整个社会的文明程度,也使每个人能更好地适应现代社会的高速发展和高节奏的生活。

现代社会被人们称之为信息社会、知识爆炸的社会,“知识”正以前所未有的速度在更新、更替。已经接受过教育、甚至高等教育的人如果不重新回到课堂去学习,就会落伍,就会跟不上时代发展的步伐,也就难以为社会的进步做出更大的贡献,难以在自己的社会贡献中实现自己的价值。继续教育的任务就是要那些已经接受过高等教育的人再次接受教育,重新学习和掌握已经更新和发展了的知识。

国家教委最近公布的《中国教育改革和发展纲要》中指出:成人教育是传统学校教育向终身教育发展的一种新型教育制度,对不断提高全民族素质、促进经济和社会发展具有重要作用。要把大力开展岗位培训和继续教育作为重点,重视从业人员的知识更新。

气象继续教育的功能还有着更为特殊而重要的内涵。它不仅是一般性地充实从业人员的知识,提高他们的基本素质,它还直接关系到气象现代化的进程,关系到气象现代化建设所创造的社会效益和经济效益。

1984年1月国家气象局在北京召开了全国气象工作会议,一致通过了《建国以来气象工作基本经验总结》和《气象现代化建设和发展纲要》,气象事业重新走上了健康发展的轨道,气象现代化建设从此大踏步地前进了,取得了举世瞩目的成绩。今年中国气象局

又召开了具有深远意义的全国气象工作会议,总结经验,规划未来,气象事业又将登上一个新的台阶。

面对着这样一个令人兴奋的局面,我们还有着一重忧虑,那就是人才的匮乏。因为任何现代化工程项目的建设不仅仅是一个资金问题,建成后能否充分发挥建设效益的关键性制约因素,是管理水平和技术人员素质的高低。在“气象卫星综合应用业务系统”、“大气监测自动化系统”等六大骨干工程正在加紧建设的今天,“十年树木,百年树人”,管理人员和技术人员的超前培训已经迫在眉睫。

有鉴于此,为适应这种形势,国家气象局 1990 年在成都召开了全国气象教育工作会议,对三所直属高等院校的任务和分工做了调整,明确指出,今后北京气象学院要把成人教育、特别是高层次继续教育作为工作的重点。这是具有重大战略意义的决策,充分体现了国家气象局领导在发展气象现代化的进程中所具有的远见卓识。

经过近三年的努力,北京气象学院已初步建成了继续教育体系,对一批中高层次的管理人员和技术人员进行了短期培训,并且编写出了一部分具有一定水平的教材。我们决定陆续出版,希望最终能形成一个完整的教材体系,对推进继续教育的发展作出一份微薄的贡献。

我院继续教育尚处起步阶段,由于种种条件的制约,当前面临的困难甚多,师资队伍与高层次继续教育不相适应,在这种条件下编写的教材一定很不成熟。其中的缺陷、不足和错误,欢迎读者批评指正。

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前言

本书是继《大气科学热门论题英文文选》(气象出版社 1995 年 3 月第一版)之后编写的一本适于中高级英语水平的气象科技人员使用的听说教材。如果说《大气科学热门论题英文文选》专业性较强、长难句较多、适于作阅读教材的话,那么本书则是一本易听易懂且不失专业性的气象科技听说教材。本书共 73 课,包括学生用书和教师用书及练习标准答案,并配有录音磁带。

本书的编写目的在于训练学生掌握气象科技英语的听说技能,适应气象科技战线继续教育的需要,培养大批具有国际交流合作能力的科技人才。其编写原则为:深入浅出,循序渐进,科学性与科普性相结合,知识性与趣味性相结合。此教材有以下几个特点:

一、选题新颖,题材广泛,知识性与趣味性强。本书所选内容不仅仅局限于大气物理、气象和气候等专业,还涉及计算机、天文、水文、沙漠化、卫星气象、火山与地震等领域,虽然专业性较强,却又不失其可读性和趣味性。

二、专业性和科普性有机地结合在一起,尽管每篇课文都与相应专业有关,但内容通俗易懂,课文读起来琅琅上口,体现出听说教材的特点。

三、由易及难,深入浅出。考虑到不少科技工作者的听说能力远不如阅读能力这一特点,我们在编写时突出了循序渐进的学习规律,不少深奥的科学论点使用简明和地道的英语阐述得清清楚楚。

四、听说结合,练习多样化。“听”与“说”是学习英语中不可分割的两种基本技能,把“听”与“说”有效地结合起来,要比单纯地进行听力技能训练更能达到掌握语言的目的。本书配有多篇填图练习及口语讨论题,使所学材料更加形象化,更有利于记忆。本书练

习形式较为多样,包括听写、多项选择、判断正误、回答问题和针对某一问题发表看法及展开讨论等。

本书的编写体例采用已被教学实践证明是行之有效的三阶段听力练习法:I. 简介(Introduction),包括对生词的解释(Vocabulary)。这一阶段是做好听前的思想准备,扫清可能的障碍。教师通过三言两语点出所听内容的主题,引起学生的兴趣。II. 精听并做练习(Micro-Listening and Exercises)。这一阶段的练习采用学生比较熟悉的、各类英语测试中经常使用的一些练习形式,侧重于学生对全文内容的理解,鼓励学生积极思考、猜测、总结和归纳,而后作出自己的判断。做练习时可根据学生的具体情况,要求只听一遍或两遍就做练习。讨论和漫谈(Discussion and talk)是听力理解的深化阶段,通过讨论使学生更为系统、完整地掌握听过的内容。可将学生分成若干小组开展口语讨论,或请某个学生对所学内容用自己的话进行复述。III. 泛听(Macro-Listening)。这一部分的听力内容以短小精悍、生动活泼的小故事为主,辅以一些带有专业内容的科普短文,使学生在紧张的精听之余能放松一下,以便掌握更多的知识。俗话说:“一张一弛,文武之道”,这就是我们安排这一阶段听力练习的教学目的。

本书的部分素材已在北京气象学院高级英语培训班经过了几届的试用,深受学员们的欢迎,现经编者精选和修改正式出版。本教材在编写过程中得到了北京气象学院领导的大力支持及中国气象局国际合作部的热情帮助,受聘在北京气象学院工作的美籍语言专家 Mr. Robert Angles 对本书进行了审稿,在此我们谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。

编者

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STUDENT'S BOOK

1. A Weather Report

I. Introduction

This weather report has been slightly simplified and shortened as most weather reports in the United States are longer than the one heard here.

Vocabulary

high/n. 最高温度

McDonald's Hamburgers/麦当劳

low/n. 最低温度

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises

1. Choose the best answer to each question:

1) What time is this weather report?

- a. 5 a.m. b. 5 p.m. c. 9 a.m. d. 9 p.m.

2) What radio station is this?

- a. WRSB. b. RSWB. c. WBRB. d. BWRB.

3) What is the maximum temperature (°F) for this afternoon?

- a. 85. b. 62. c. 86. d. 60. °

4) What is the morning's weather?

- a. Rainy. b. Sunny all day.
c. Cold and windy. d. Cloudy.

5) When is tomorrow's weather report?

- a. This afternoon. b. At noon. c. Next. d. Tomorrow.

6) By whom is this weather broadcast being brought to you?

- a. McDonald's. b. Burger King.
c. Pizza Hut. d. Kentucky Fried Chicken.

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Is this weather report broadcast in the morning or in the afternoon?
- 2) Where is this radio station located?
- 3) It is not cloudy this morning, is it?

- 4) What is the high temperature for tomorrow?
- 5) Is tomorrow a good day for swimming? Why?
- 6) Why is McDonald's mentioned in the weather report time and again?

3. Discussion and talk:

Suppose you were the weatherman, and reproduce the weather report in your own words.

III. Macro-Listening (tape)

2. An Introduction to the U. S. Climate

I. Introduction

- 1) Do you know anything about the U. S. climate?
- 2) Why does the United States have different types of climate?
- 3) What is the difference in climate between Alaska and Hawaii?

Vocabulary

marine/a. 海洋性的
continental/a. 大陆性的
subtropical/a. 亚热带的

humid/a. 潮湿的
altitude/n. 高度
New England/新英格兰

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises

1. Decide whether the following statements are true or false:

- 1) () Californian climate is characterized by being warm and sunny most of the year.
- 2) () Florida has a tropical climate.
- 3) () The central part of the U. S. has a continental climate, but this is not always so.
- 4) () The climate of Alaska is continental, including its coastal area.
- 5) () New England and the New York area have a continental climate.
- 6) () Hawaii's climate is subtropical, which is the same as that of South Florida.

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Why is the U. S. climate varied in types?
 - 2) What is the climate like on the Northern Pacific Coast?
 - 3) Are summer and winter temperatures the same or different in the New York area?
 - 4) What is the difference between summer and winter on the East Coast and the West Coast?
 - 5) Which part of the U. S. has a highland climate?
 - 6) What part of the United States is called New England? What is its climate like there?
- 3. Discussion and talk:**

Give a brief introduction to the climate in the U. S.

III. Macro-Listening (tape)

3. The Surf Report

I. Introduction

Vancouver is famous for its beautiful scenery and good climate. The English Bay, near downtown Vancouver, has a wide beach and it is a favourite surfing area.

In this broadcast, the English Cafeteria has paid the radio station to have its name mentioned three times during the day's weather and surf report.

Vocabulary

surf/n. 海浪

bay/n. 海湾

surfing/n. 冲浪运动

cafeteria/n. [美]顾客自取饭菜的餐馆

downtown/a. 闹市区的

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises

- 1. Complete the following paragraphs with what you hear:**

This is Radio Station _____ in Vancouver, British Columbia. It's time for the _____ weather and _____ report, brought to you _____ by the English Cafeteria at English Bay near downtown Vancouver, open _____ hours a day with the best _____ in Vancouver.

Next, the surf _____. The water temperature at English Bay Beach is _____ degrees, with good, _____ to _____-foot surf.

2. Answer the following questions:

- 1) When is this surf report announced?
- 2) Where is the wind from? What is its velocity?
- 3) Where is English Bay?
- 4) What are the business hours of English Cafeteria?
- 5) Could people only drink coffee at a cafeteria?
- 6) Why is the name "English Cafeteria" mentioned in the weather forecast?

3. Discussion and talk:

Talk about this surf report in your own words.

III. Macro-Listening (tape)

4. Major Cities and States in the U. S.

I. Introduction

To many people, New York is the United States. However, its capital is Washington D. C. Some students might confuse the state of Washington with Washington D. C. when they hear "Here's the news from Washington". Actually, whether Washington refers to a state or the capital, depends on the context. In addition to New York and Washington, there are many other big cities in the United States, such as Chicago, Detroit, San Francisco and Los Angeles.

Vocabulary

museum/n. 博物馆
monument/n. 纪念碑

aircraft/n. 飞机
refine/vt. 炼(油)

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises

1. Fill in the blanks;

The largest state in the U. S. is _____; the smallest state in the U. S. is _____; the most populous state is _____; the oldest state in America is _____; the newest states are _____ and _____.

2. What are the following cities famous for?

Column A

Seattle
Detroit
Miami
Washington D.C.
New York
Houston

Column B

Museums and monuments
Oil industry
Automobile
Tourism
Aircraft manufacturing
Commercial, financial and cultural centre

3. Answer the following questions:

- 1) What's the capital of the United States?
- 2) What is New York to many people?
- 3) Which city in the U. S. is the second largest?
- 4) What is Houston a centre for? What state is it in?
- 5) What are the most important cities on the Pacific coast?
- 6) What is Atlanta?
- 7) What are the two most important cities in the Great Lakes region?
- 8) Can you name some other important cities on the northeastern seaboard besides Washington and New York?

4. Discussion and talk:

- 1) Do you know any other U. S. cities? Describe them in your own words.
- 2) Give a brief account of any one of the major Chinese cities.

III. Macro-Listening (tape)

5. Weather—A Favourite Topic for Westerners

I. Introduction

Weather is the condition of the air above a particular place on earth at a particular time. It varies from place to place and from time to time. Climate is the weather pattern at a particular place over a long period of time. If it rains tomorrow, that affects the weather, but not the climate. The sunlight heats the earth, the weather wets the earth, and the air moves the heat and water around.

Vocabulary

contradict/vt. 反驳; 顶嘴
remark/vi. 说; 论及
nasty/a. 讨厌的

spell/n. 连续不断的一段时间
vice versa/反之亦然

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises

1. Complete the following paragraphs with what you hear:

- 1) It happened on many _____ that nice, warm weather _____
_____ but rain and snow _____.

Sometimes it was just the other way round. You may _____ four seasons in the course of _____ in England.

- 2) The more surprising thing is: not only _____ the English get several different _____ in one day, but also they may very well get _____ of winter in summer and _____.

2. Complete the following two mini-dialogues in your own words:

(1)

A: It looks like it's going to be sunny.

B:

A: They say we're going to get some rain later.

B:

(2)

A: I think it's going to be a nice day.

B:

A: But it's supposed to get cloudy and windy again this afternoon.

B:

3. Answer the following questions:

- 1) Why do Western people choose the weather as a topic of conversation?
- 2) What is the important rule to remember when discussing the weather?
- 3) If somebody complains to you about bad weather, what should you reply?
- 4) What's the weather often like in England?
- 5) What happens to the weather in England on many occasions?
- 6) Are the English likely to get a cold spell in summer or a warm period in winter?
- 7) Why is the weather in England so changeable?
- 8) Make comments on the sentence: "Other countries have a climate but in England we have weather."

4. Discussion questions:

- 1) Comment on the common rule when Westerners discuss the weather.
- 2) Talk about the changeable weather in Britain.

III. Macro-Listening (tape)

6. Four Time Zones in the U. S.

I. Introduction

Do you happen to know anything about time zones? Do you know how many time zones there are in the mainland United States? In terms of time difference, do you know what time it will be in Beijing when it is 12:00 noon in New York City? Well, here is a passage for you to answer.

Vocabulary

longitude/n. 经度

prime meridian/n. 本子午线

imaginery/n. 想象的

jetlag/n. 高速时滞反应

II. Micro-Listening (tape) & Exercises