

全国工商企业出国培训备选人员
外语水平考试系列培训教材

英语泛读

BFT

学苑出版社

**BUSINESS FOREIGN LANGUAGE
TRAINING (BFT)**

BFT 系列教材

英 语 泛 读

学 苑 出 版 社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语泛读/陈卞知,柴万里编. —北京:学苑出版社,1996.8

ISBN 7-5077-1079-3

I. 英… II. ①陈… ②柴… III. 英语—阅读教学—教材 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(96)第 09003 号

英语泛读

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出版发行:学苑出版社 邮政编码:100036

社 址:北京市海淀区万寿路西街 11 号

印 刷:三河市新世纪印刷厂

经 销:全国各地新华书店

开 本:787×1092 1/16

印 张:21 字数:350 千字

印 数:10000 册

版 次:1996 年 8 月北京第 1 版第 1 次

ISBN 7-5077-1079-3/G·482

定价:30.00 元

学苑版图书印、装错误可随时退换。

全国工商企业出国培训备选人员外语考试简介

全国工商企业出国培训备选人员外语培训/考试(Business Foreign-Language Training/Test)简称 BFT,是国家外国专家局主办的国家级外语水平考试,分英语、日语、德语和俄语四个语种,中级、高级和特(出国)级三个级别。

BFT 考试是由国务院引进国外智力领导小组办公室为适应引进国外智力、选拔出国培训人员的需要,于一九八五年设立的。至一九九五年一月 BFT 考试已进行过二十次,数以万计的考生参加了考试。随着全国工商企业界人士外语水平的不断提高,合格率逐年上升。现在,国家外国专家局每年选派各类出国培训人员近万人,BFT 考试在促进引进国外智力,推动国际人才交流方面起着十分重要的作用。

BFT 的最高领导机构为 BFT 考试委员会,由相关部委、国家外专局及有关方面的领导组成,下设 BFT 考试办公室。同时为保证和提高 BFT 培训、考试的水平,设立了英、日、德、俄四个专业委员会,并聘请国内知名语言专家组成学术委员会。

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BFT 的英语和日语考试每年举行两次,一般在一月和七月。德语和俄语每年举行一次。一般在七月。

BFT 培训是整个 BFT 的有机组成部分,其特点是高效实用。其目的是通过短期强化培训迅速提高学员的外语应用能力。国家外国专家局培训中心在全国各地设有培训/考试中心。参加上述培训中心组织的外语强化培训是准备 BFT 的考试的最佳途径。参加培训者在通过各培训中心的结业考试后,可获得成绩单和结业证,但欲获得 BFT 合格证书,需报名参加 BFT 考试。

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前 言

本教材为全国工商企业出国培训备选人员外语水平考试(BFT)系列培训教材之一,适用于有一定英语基础的学员强化快速阅读能力,准备参加国家外国专家局举行的 BFT 考试之用。也可作为 WSK、全国职称外语等级考试等考试的应试辅助阅读教材。

本书以“人”为中心,以自然科学和社会科学为媒体,分成:“人与自然”、“人与科学”、“人与社会”、“人与经济”四个部分,展现了多学科文章的文体和词汇。本书对各篇文章的难词采取逐行对照注释的方法,以方便学员学习。为照顾学员有选择地进行阅读,我们对前后课文中重复出现的部分难词进行重复注释。这对于以本书为教材学习的学员也可起到帮助强化记忆单词的作用。另外,书中还介绍了十余种阅读技巧,以帮助学员迅速提高阅读能力和解题能力。

本书的另一个特点是通过每课书后的复习练习突出了扩大词汇量这一宗旨。词汇复习练习的形式简单直观,富于鼓励性,可激起学员“不妨一试”的学习愿望,在轻松之中收到良好的学习效果。

BFT 系列英语教材由 BFT 英语专业委员会总体策划。本教材由陈卞知、柴万里、刘亚平负责编写。邹枚担任“人与经济”的课文的注释与练习编写;尹文娟注释了“人与自然”中的部分课文和部分课文练习编写,何佳协助尹文娟修改注释和练习;郑守志编写了“阅读技巧”这一章。

本书的缺点和不足之处在所难免,请广大教师~~和~~学员批评指正,以便我们今后改正。

编 者

1996 年 4 月

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Part I MAN AND NATURE

1. The Earth in Space

If you go outside on a clear night and look up at the sky, you will see thousands of stars. Some are the stars in our galaxy. With a telescope you will be able to see millions more. As far as light can travel in all directions, there are still more stars. We call this whole collection of stars the universe. The universe is the home of everything that exists.

银河(星系) 望远镜

宇宙

Stars are not scattered around the universe like grains of sand on a beach. They are grouped together in huge collections called galaxies. Many objects that look like individual stars to the naked eye are really billions of stars in a galaxy far, far away. One of these galaxies is called the Milky Way. On a very clear night, you can see part of it running across the sky like a bright streak of spilled milk(1). So many individual stars in the Milky Way are visible because it is the galaxy you live in. The sun you see is actually a relatively small star near the edge of the Milky Way.

砂粒

星系

肉眼

银河

The Sun

Although the sun is small for a star, compared with the earth, it is larger than can easily be imagined. (2) For instance, the diameter of the earth is about 12,800 kilometer (8,000 miles). But the diameter of the sun is 1,382,400 kilometers (864,000 miles). For a long time people did not realize the sun was a star. After all, the sun looks very different from other stars. It looks different because it is so much closer to the earth. Even though the sun is 148.8 million kilometers (93 million miles) from the earth, the next nearest star (Proxima

直径

比邻星(半人马座)

Centauri) is 48 trillion kilometers (30 trillion miles) from the sun! Actually, every star is more or less like our sun, a vast ball of fiery gases.

万亿

燃烧着的气体

The Solar System

The sun is the most important thing in the solar system. The solar system is what we call the collection of objects moving around the galaxy with our sun. It includes the planets and their moons, together with other solar bodies. All of these objects get most of their energy from the sun. This energy, falling on the earth's surface as sunlight, makes life as we know it possible. (3)

太阳系

行星

The Sun's Energy

Different parts of the world get different amounts of the sun's energy. This causes the earth's many climates and some of the variations in its land surface. The earth's climates, in turn, help account for differences in soils, vegetation, and animal life. The sun's energy is captured by green plants and fuels their growth. Green plants provide food for animals. Plants and animals provide food for humans. Even the energy we get from coal and oil was originally captured by green plants from the sun ages and ages ago.

变化

反过来 导致

供给能源

The sun's energy, therefore, plays a major role in the various life styles of different people around the world. Four factors control the amount of the sun's energy that falls on different parts of the globe. These four factors are the earth's shape, rotation, tilt, and revolution. (4)

The Earth's Shape

Even if the earth were not spinning on its axis, tilted and revolving around the sun, it would be unequally heated by the sun's energy. (5) This is because the earth is a sphere. You can think of the earth's axis as a rod

旋转 轴 倾斜
公转

球体 细长的棒

running through the earth and sticking out at the North and South poles. Therefore, more of the sun's rays fall on the earth's surface on an area near the equator than on an identical area near the poles. (The equator is an imaginary line that runs around the earth and divides it equally into northern and southern hemispheres.) Because the earth is tilted, more of the sun's energy strikes areas near the equator. Consequently, areas near the equator are hotter than areas around the poles.

(棒)戳出
极 光线
赤道
同一的
想象的线
半球
到达
因而,所以

The Earth's Rotation

The sun's rays of energy can only strike a surface if it faces the sun. If the earth did not rotate, or spin, on its axis, only that part of the earth facing the sun would get any heat. That part of the earth facing away from the sun would be far colder than any place on earth today. The earth's rotation makes it possible for all of the earth's surface to be exposed for an equal amount of time to the warming light of day and the cooling dark of night. (6) The earth rotates on its axis every day — once every twenty-four hours creating daylight and night.

暴露

形成

The Changing Length of Day

If the earth's axis pointed straight up and down, every day would be the same. Each day would consist of twelve hours of daylight and twelve hours of night. This would be true all over the globe. But this is not the case. (7) During your summer vacation the days are long and the nights are short. In the winter, however, the days are short and the nights are long. Even though heat and light and cold and dark occur throughout the entire year, more of the sun's energy falls on the earth's surface during certain times of the year than during others. We call these times of greater and lesser heat seasons. Thus differences in the length of daylight cause the seasons. The seasons do not cause the change in the length of day.

挺直的

The Earth's Tilted Axis

There are reasons for the change in the length of day. The earth's axis is tilted. Because of this some places are exposed longer to daylight. They have longer days. Other places have longer nights. They are exposed longer to darkness. During the winter the North Pole never gets any light but at the South Pole the sun is always shining. As you move south from the North Pole, the days get longer and longer and the nights get shorter and shorter. The opposite happens as you move north from the South Pole. Between the two poles lies a point of half day and half night. The tilt in the earth's axis, therefore, explains why some places have shorter days than others.

北极
南极

The Earth's Revolution

In addition to spinning on its axis, the earth revolves around the sun. It revolves around the sun every $365 \frac{1}{4}$ days. This is the earth year. For convenience's sake we treat it as if it were 365 days long. (8) To account for the "quarter day", (9) we add an extra day to February every four years. This is leap year.

为方便起见

When the earth revolves around the sun, it stays tilted in the same direction, always pointing to the North Star. For this reason the North Pole is sometimes tilted away from the sun and in total darkness. But at other times it is tilted toward the sun. Then it is in constant sunlight, and the Northern Hemisphere receives more of the sun's energy. During this time the South Pole is in complete darkness, and the Southern Hemisphere receives less of the sun's energy. At other times the South Pole is in constant sunlight, while the North Pole is in complete darkness.

闰年

北极星

继续不变的

Because of these changes, places on the earth with long days and short nights begin to have long nights and short days (10) at certain times. When the poles are not tilted toward or away from the sun, however, there is

- C) Revolution
 - D) Green plants
2. When is spring equinox?
- A) It is around march 21 in the South Hemisphere.
 - B) It is around June 21 in the North Hemisphere.
 - C) It is around September 21 in the South Hemisphere.
 - D) It is the same day as fall equinox.
3. Which of the following is not true?
- A) Stars you can see with the naked eye are all in the milk way.
 - B) The diameter of the earth is about 108 times smaller than that of the sun.
 - C) The sun in the solar system is the most important and largest star in our galaxy.
 - D) The sun is the nearest star from the earth.

II. Match the Chinese meanings in Column B to the English words or phrases in Column A.

Column A	Column B
a. tilt	1. 自转
b. equator	2. 闰年
c. galaxy	3. 太阳的
d. telescope	4. 燃烧着的
e. circle	5. 轴
f. rotation	6. 旋转
g. leap year	7. 星系
h. axis	8. 公转
i. solar	9. 南极
j. South Pole	10. 兆
k. spin	11. 周期
l. equinox	12. 赤道
m. revolution	13. (春、秋)分
n. fiery	14. 倾斜
o. trillion	15. 望远镜

2. Earthquakes

Cause of Earthquakes

Earthquakes occur without warning; they are a sudden shaking of the earth's surface.

It has been estimated that about a million earthquakes occur each year. Of these, however, only about twenty could be classed as severe. One of the most devastating occurred in Japan in 1923. It took 140 000 lives and caused damage estimated at 3000 million dollars.

Severe earthquakes are confined to definite zones around the world.

Several theories have been suggested to explain why earthquakes happen. One of these theories states that the erosion of-very high mountain ranges is the indirect cause. The earthquake zones tend to follow high mountain ranges. The material removed from the mountain ranges is washed down by the rivers on to the nearby continental shelves. (1) Thus the mountain ranges tend to become lighter and the continental shelves heavier. The shelves therefore tend to sink and the ranges to be pushed up. These two opposing forces may cause huge sections of the earth's crust to give way and slip one over the other.

It is probable that a long time ago the Snowy Mountains were an earthquake zone. These mountains were originally much higher but, having been worn down a great deal, the area has become stable.

The "plate" theory is another theory that explains the occurrence of earthquakes.

It is now generally accepted that the earth's crust is not continuous but divided into six rigid plates somewhat like the pieces of leather in a soccer ball.

Accurate measurements have shown that the plates are moving. Where they are moving apart, magma is welling up from beneath the earth's crust forming new rocks to fill the gap. (2) Where they are pushing

地震

被归为…等级

破球性的 夺去…生命

局限在一定的地带

侵蚀 山脉

倾向于

下沉 被增高

地壳 坍塌 脱落

被消蚀

稳定

“板块”理论

发生(n.)

无间断的 连续的 坚硬的
有点儿象 英式足球

岩浆

往上涌出