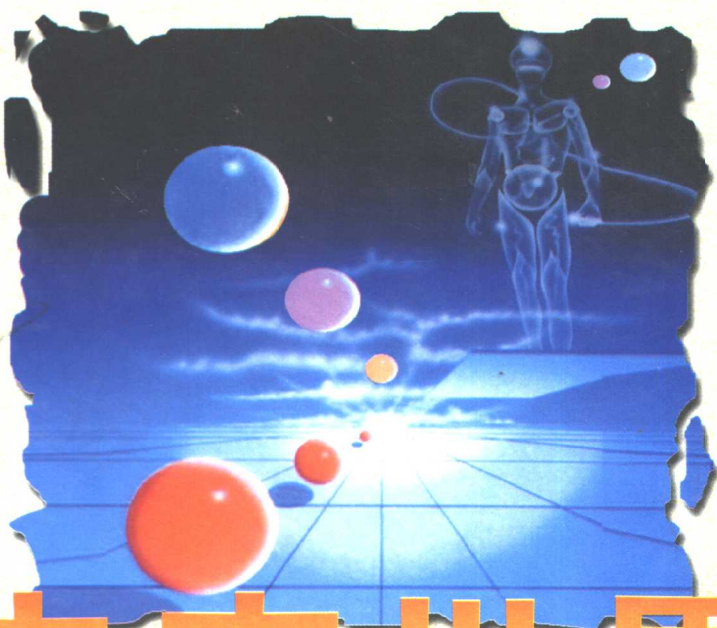




★ 黄成洲 主编



未来世界

★ 西北工业大学出版社

大学英语时文阅读

未 来 世 界

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【内容简介】 本书对试管婴儿、会说话的激光、智能计算机、机器人、太空时代、未来社会等不同层次、不同类型的问题进行了介绍,旨在让读者通过英语学习,了解世界的科技发展动态,以适应千变万化的未来生活,创造日新月异的未来世界,同时巩固读者在基础阶段所学的语言知识和阅读技能,进一步深化和拓宽知识面,扩大词汇量,增强英语学习的兴趣,提高英语水平。

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前 言



根据《大学英语教学大纲》，大学生在校期间应该课内、课外相结合，进行大量阅读，以提高英语阅读能力。但是，事实上，同学们在市面上很难找到合适的、具有现实性、知识性和趣味性的课外英语阅读材料。本套丛书的编写正是为了解决这一问题，给广大读者提供一片阅读的天地。

本套丛书具有以下显著的特点：

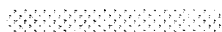
1. 内容新颖，涉及面宽，具有知识性和趣味性。
2. 语言规范、纯正，题材均选自原版英文材料。
3. 重在巩固基础语言知识及阅读技能，深化、拓宽知识面，扩大词汇量，使读者得到人文素质的陶冶。
4. 既可作为大学阶段课堂使用教材，又可作为课后自学材料。为了方便读者，书中对生词、难词加注音标；对独特习俗、语法难点、抽象术语加以注解；每篇文章后编写了练习题，并附有练习答案，可供参考。

本册《未来世界》对试管婴儿、会说话的激光、智能计算机、机器人、太空时代、未来社会等不同层次、不同类型的问题进行了介绍，旨在让读者通过英语学习，了解世界的科技发展动态，以适应千变万化的未来生活，创造日新月异的未来世界，同时巩固读者在基础阶段所学的语言知识和阅读技能，进一步深化和拓宽知识面，扩大词汇量，增强英语学习的兴趣，提高英语水平。

编 者

2000 年 4 月

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World of the Future

未 来 世 界

人们对未来世界充满着无尽的好奇。未来世界究竟会怎样？这一问题总是萦绕在人们的脑海……

At the docks you step into a shiny metal submarine* that is shaped like a shark. The door is closed behind you, and the powerful engine purrs to life¹. Down slides the submarine — like a shark diving. Deeper and deeper under the water.

Soon all sunlight is gone. The headlights of the diving ship are turned on. Then, six miles below, you come to the sea bottom. From the diving submarine, you change to a tiny jet boat and ride along close to the bottom of the ocean, almost as you would skim over the land in an airplane. As you travel, you have fun looking out the window at the sights on the bottom of the ocean. You see strange fish and underwater mountains, cliffs,

and valleys. But more than that — hotels and mining camps and farms and factories!

Scientists think that wonderful things may come true in the future. Future means a time that is not yet here. It can be a short time from now or a long time from now. Some of the underwater wonders are almost ready to come true now. Others won't come true, we think, until a long time from now.

Some, of course, may never come true — but who knows for sure? They may. What are some of the wonders that may come true in the future?

Let's go back to dry land and take a future journey the other way — up instead of down.

Huge rocket liners² take you into space to visit the Moon Camp. You walk around on the moon in a special moon suit. You visit an observatory where a giant telescope looks far into space — farther than anyone has ever been able to see from Earth. You go deep down into one of the moon mines.³

After you have visited the moon, you visit the Mars Colony⁴ and the Venus Exploration Outpost.

Let's go back to Earth.

In the far, far future, girls — and boys, too — may be playing with dolls that look like the people of the planets visited by our spacemen.

To control or run all kinds of toys, boys and girls may learn to use special computers — machines that answer questions and do arithmetic faster than you can blink.

Bicycles and perhaps skates may be run by jet power, and a new thing to ride may be a small flying saucer. Imagine a race

between them!

There may be telepathy* helmets that send thought waves from your brain to that of your friend miles away.⁵ You just think a thought and your friend knows it! You can have secrets with each other that nobody else can tune in on!⁶

There will be other surprises in the future. How would you like to have a robot playmate?⁷

Having robot playmates may not be so much fun as it seems. But maybe a boy with a wrench* and a screwdriver* can fix the robot so that it won't be too perfect!⁸

What about the food of the future? Scientists think that much of it will be artificial — made in factories from such surprising things as coal, limestone, air, and water.

You don't think that ice-cream or cake or candy or even bread and potatoes made out of these things will taste very good? You may be wrong. These artificial things will be blended so skillfully by food chemists that the food of the future probably will be delicious. It probably will also be healthful* because all the things that you need to live a long and healthy life will be put into it.

Scientists of the future will almost certainly find other ways to make life last longer. They probably will find cures* for most diseases. Hospitals will probably have "body banks" that can give you almost any new part you need to keep on living.⁹ People of the future may live to be a lot older than 100 years.

Are you wondering whether there'll be television in the future? There'll almost certainly be wonderful programs. Television screens probably will be large and flat, hanging on

the wall or going across the four walls of a room. People on the screen will look as real as if they were right in the room with you.¹⁰

What about highways of the future? Well, a very small child probably will be able to drive a car. Nobody will need to steer. Electric signals will hold each car on the right road to get wherever the “driver” wants to go. And it probably will be impossible for cars to smash together. Controls that won’t even have to be touched will make all speeding cars miss each other or will put on the brakes. Driving by car will be as safe as being at home.

But maybe the most wonderful surprise in the future will be weather control. Cities may have giant plastic domes* over them to keep out snow, rain, or storms.

When you plan a picnic in a park, you won’t have to worry about rain. It will rain only when the “weatherman” thinks it is needed to freshen the air inside the city. All other days will be fair and warm.

The future should be a wonderful time in which to live. But the time you are living in now was also “a wonderful future” to the people who lived 100 years ago.

New Words

1. submarine [ˈsʌbməri:n] *n.* 潜水艇
2. telepathy [tiˈlepəθi] *n.* 心灵感应, 传心术
3. wrench [rentʃ] *n.* [美]扳钳, 扳手
4. screwdriver [skruːˈdraɪvə] *n.* 螺丝起子, 螺丝刀
5. healthful [ˈhelθfʊl] *a.* 有益于健康的

6. cure [kjuə] *n.* 治愈疾病的药方或办法
7. steer [stiə] *n.* 操纵方向盘
8. dome [dəʊm] *n.* 圆屋顶, 圆盖

Notes

1. to purr to life 噗噗地发动起来
2. rocket liner 火箭飞机
3. You go deep down into one of the moon mines. 你走进月球上的一个矿井的深处。
4. Mars Colony 火星移居区
5. There may be telepathy helmets that send thought waves from your brain to that of your friend miles away. 也许会有有一种心灵感应帽。戴上它,你大脑里的思想电波就会传到几英里外你的朋友那儿。
6. nobody else can tune in on 没有人能够窃听
7. robot playmate 机器人游戏伙伴
8. But maybe a boy with a wrench and a screwdriver can fix the robot so that it won't be too perfect! 机器人通常太高明,玩起来就没意思了。孩子可以用扳手、螺丝刀,把机器人改装得不那么精明。
9. Hospitals will probably have "body banks" that can give you almost any new part you need to keep on living. 将来的医院可能有“身体银行”,在那里你几乎可以买到你所需要的用来存活的任何身体器官。
10. People on the screen will look as real as if they were right in the room with you. 电视屏幕里的人好似真人一般,就好像他们正与你同处一室。

Exercises

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Is the wonderful picture depicted in the first two paragraphs account real or unreal? How do you know it?
2. What does future mean? Will all wonders come true someday?
3. How fast will a special computer do when used to control children's toys, can it answer questions and do arithmetic?
4. How long will average people of the future lead their lives?
5. The author says "the time you are living in now is also known as a wonderful future." How do you know understand it?

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. In the article, the author shows us _____ surprises which will probably realize in the future.
A. 9 B. 10 C. 12 D. 13
2. As you sit in a tiny boat and visit the bottom of the ocean, you'll have a good look at some things except _____.
A. strange fish, mountains, valleys, hotels
B. sharks, cliffs, mountains, factories
C. cliffs, hotels, mining camps, farms
D. strange fish, mining camps, factories, hotels
3. The food of the future made out of such chemical things

- as coal, limestone, air and water is _____.
- A. healthful and tastes delicious
 - B. healthful but tastes awful
 - C. harmful but tastes delicious
 - D. harmful and tastes awful
4. It will most unlikely be possible for cars to knock against each other _____.
- A. because cars run too fast to meet together
 - B. because automatic controls will help drivers
 - C. because there will be many more kinds of vehicles used by people, few of them drive a car any more.
 - D. both A and B
5. In the author's opinion _____ is the most wonderful phenomenon in the future.
- A. robot playmate
 - B. body bank
 - C. weather control
 - D. artificial food

2

Future Shop

未来商店

科学技术的发展将影响我们各行各业的发展,未来的商店会发生什么样的变化呢?我们的生活又会受到什么样的影响呢?

The big UK grocery retailer* TESCO is testing a database which knows when you like to shop, what's on the list and how much you are likely to spend.

It also knows that three-quarters of a store's total profits comes from its top 10 per cent of customers.

Data mining¹— the intensive analysis of statistics — is being combined with micro-marketing — the targeting of small groups of consumers — to cause big changes in the way we spend.

In another development, the giant US retailer Wal-Mart now mails out to customers personalised weekly shopping lists² with prices, together with a list of little temptations for their

tastes, budget and stage in life.³

These developments may have profound effects on the way we bank* as well as on the way we shop.

Professor Phillip Treleaven, head of computer studies at University College, London, says that in perhaps six months a customer will be able to arrive at a supermarket, pick up a bar code reader⁴ and wander about the shop clicking on to whatever he or she wants to buy that week.

"A member of staff will take the bar code reader, use it to deliver the goods from the warehouse, while the customer goes off for a coffee or to have their hair done," Mr Treleaven says.

Supermarket chains are set to shake up⁵ the delivery of all services, with particular impact on the banks.

Mr Treleaven's most impressive news was on the subject of scanners. At his computing department at University College, London, he is experimenting with a prototype of a 3D body scanner⁶.

A customer who stands partially clothed in a small room for about 10 seconds, can have his physical stature mapped to an accuracy of 1 millimetre. The idea might be disconcerting*, but no more so than a visit to a doctor.

The real impact will be seen within a few years, when we are sitting at home armed with a television remote control device, flicking through the latest catalogue of offerings from a retailer.

Fancy that outfit for yourself?⁷ A click of the button, and there you are, on the television screen, wearing it. Like to see it in another colour? Click. Just got to have it? Another click to

call up the Internet banking connection, and you have bought and paid for it, and a courier* will deliver tomorrow.

The revolution does not stop there. Mr Treleaven, and expert in artificial intelligence and so-called neural networks, can tie together your current preferences, sprinkle* with a little knowledge of how you are likely to age and predict your spending patterns for the rest of your life.

Is it too intrusive — an invasion of privacy?

Not at all, says Mr Treleaven.

“In fact just the opposite. People welcome the chance to be given valuable assistance in some of the humdrum* chores of our time, and avoid being targetted by the irritations of intrusive advertising. The store owner will become the friend who gives valuable information to you.”

The greatest impact is likely to be felt by providers of financial services — the banks, insurance offices and investment houses, which traditionally handle money. Friendly neighborhood retailers may very well cut them out of a job⁸.

First, credit agencies, will no longer be able to sell retailers information about a customer's credit worthiness, because the retailers will already have it, and probably more accurately. Banks may know that a certain percentage of customers are crooks*, but retailers only care whether a customer will still spend \$ 150 a week on groceries, beer and cigarettes.

The march of technology may make bankers a little nervous, but there are pluses* coming for them. They will not need to bear the costs of building bricks and mortar branches across the country.⁹ They will simply concentrate on the key industry