

全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会组编

Coursebook for PETS Level 4

全国公共英语等级考试教程

第四级

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编写说明

经过有关人员多年的共同努力,全国公共英语等级考试(Public English Test System, 简称PETS)终于面世了。全国公共英语等级考试是面向社会的、含有五个等级的英语考试体系。建立它的目的是更好地为国家的改革开放服务,并为在适当时机进一步改革我国现行的社会性英语教育考试奠定良好的基础。

PETS测试的重点是英语交际能力。它根据国际外语教学界通行的交际语言活动模式,对语言运用能力进行分类和定义。在试卷结构上,根据不同层次的需要,设置了考查听、说、读、写各种技能的题型,确保各级别都能全面考查考生的交际能力。

全国公共英语等级考试第四级为五个级别中的中上级,其标准相当于我国学生普通高中毕业后在大学至少又学习了3~4年的公共英语或自学了同等程度英语课程的水平。通过该级考试的考生,其英语水平基本满足攻读高等院校硕士研究生非英语专业的需要,基本符合一般专业技术人员或研究人员、现代企业经理等工作对英语的基本要求。全国高等教育自学考试指导委员会根据该级别考试的要求组织编写了本教程。

编写原则

- 1 以考试大纲为依据,面向我国具有中上级英语水平的学习者(相当于大学英语六级),便于考生自学和教学。
- 2 适应中国人在中国学英语、主要在国内用英语与外国人交往的需要,以选取国内典型的情景素材为主,辅以具有典型的英语国家文化特色的情景素材。
- 3 听、说、读、写、译全面发展。

- 4 以考试大纲中规定的语法为主, 需要时只允许少量超出。
- 5 以考试大纲中规定的词汇为主, 需要时只允许少量超出。本教程的语言素材为一般交际英语, 在日常交际中涉及经济、文化、环境、地理、科技等考试大纲词表以外的词汇, 由学习者自行决定掌握。
- 6 既教授语言, 又适当介绍文化; 既严谨务实, 又生动活泼。

编写体例

本教程共有12课, 每课有一个交际话题, 其首页有一段话, 简要介绍该课内容考生主要练习的内容和情景。每课包括:

- 1 会话 依据各交际话题所涉及的交际情景, 提供两段会话材料。会话力求构思真实、精练、巧妙, 语言地道、得体, 主要用来训练学习者的听说能力。每段会话前有一、两句话, 既是引子, 又点明情景。
- 2 课文 课文的长度在500词左右, 是该课交际话题的相应阅读材料。为帮助学习者加深对课文的理解, 并联系本人所熟悉的信息进行口头练习, 每篇课文附有若干个问题。
- 3 单词和短语 单词和短语是各课会话和课文中新出现的单词和短语, 不包括第一、二、三级教程中已出现过的。该部分还给出了单词的国际音标、词性、中文释义和短语的中文释义。
- 4 注释 注释是针对会话和课文的, 包括三方面的内容: 一是从语法、词汇等方面点拨会话和课文中的疑点、难点; 二是补充交际中与该课内容有关的其他日常用语, 以扩大学习者的知识面; 三是介绍相关的文化背景知识, 加深学习者对会话和课文的理解。
- 5 练习 练习是针对各课的重点内容而设计的, 题型与考试大纲基本一致, 以便于学习者备考。
- 6 补充读物 为增加学习者对相关交际话题的接触, 并激发他们学习英语的兴趣, 在每课的最后附有一篇补充读物。

本教程最后有附录，包括：1) 功能意念表；2) 语言技能表；3) 听力练习录音稿；4) 练习答案；5) 单词和短语总表。

另外，本教程听力练习部分配有由英美人士朗读的盒式录音带。

本教程由东北大学外国语学院李思国和金启军教授主编。李甬、杨默荻、于开颜、金敬红、刘卓、张艳清参加编写。

由于时间及编者水平所限，错讹之处在所难免。欢迎广大专家、教师和学习者提出宝贵意见，以便再版时修订。

编 者
2000 年 8 月

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第一课

COMPUTER AND INFORMATION 计算机与信息

在本课内，考生应该能：

- 利用所学知识就计算机和信息技术等内容用英语与外国人进行交流；
- 正确理解涉及计算机和信息技术的科普文章；
- 运用相关知识进行写作。

Conversations

College student Zhang is asking an American student Janet how to use the computer in the computer room.

Zhang: Excuse me, Janet, can you help me to use this computer? I have never used it before.

Janet: Sure. You'd better start at the beginning then... Well, first you need to switch it on.

Zhang: How do I do that?

Janet: Well, there are two switches. One of them is on the monitor, the TV screen, the other switch is on the main unit. OK, now we've just got to wait for a minute or so while the computer checks itself out. All right, you see this colored thing—the menu.

Zhang: What does that mean exactly?

Janet: The menu is just the list of programs, which are on the computer so you can choose the one that you want.

Zhang: Well, I just want to do some typing, type my essay, so what do I want actually?

Janet: You want the word processor, you can see it there. Just keep pressing the down arrow until the black line appears on the word processor. Now press "Enter" to select. There we are, blank screen, you could just start

typing now, as if it's a typewriter.

Zhang: Thank you very much for your help. I wonder if you can help me when I get stuck.

Janet: Sure. I will be here for the next couple of hours. Let me know at any time.



Zhang has got stuck and Janet is offering help to him again.

Zhang: I have made some spelling mistakes. How can I correct them?

Janet: Well, you can use the arrow keys to move the cursor under your mistake and press "Delete." Then you type in whatever you want to correct it to. Very important is saving your document, that is, putting it in the computer's memory, so that you can go away and come back to it. You see just above the button called F10, there's a word "Save." So to save your document, press that F10. OK, now you can see it asks you for a name, so now you need to type in a name you want to call your document.

Zhang: Are there any rules about that? How many letters can it have?

Janet: Um, I think it's up to 8 letters.

Zhang: So if I call it by my name, Zhang Tao?

Janet: Right, and press "Enter" again, and there you can see it's saving for you. Next time you do that, you're half way through a document, just press F10. And it will do.

Zhang: OK, it seems quite easy actually, but now the thing that I have no idea about how to do is print it out.

Janet: First make sure that the printer is connected. Switch it on. Then you move the cursor to where you can see it written on the list, print. Now you can see it says on the screen "Print document?", press "Enter."

Zhang: All right, press "Enter."

Janet: And there's paper feeding permanently into the printer, so it will print for you. The other thing you need to know is how to finish, er, how to exit. I'll go and get on with my work and let me know when you've finished, and I'll come and help you exit.

Zhang: Oh, thank you very much, you've been very helpful and kind.

The Future of the Net Economy

As we cross the threshold into the next century, human society is beginning its move from the industrial economy into the knowledge-based economy. In more specific terms, the application of information to the economy is best exemplified in the networking of communication, or the so-called Net economy. This net refers to the computer network of satellites, optic fibers, cables and telephone lines that connect the whole world. With the click of a mouse, information from the other end of the globe will be transported to your computer screen at the dizzying speed of seven-and-half times around the earth per second. Generally, there are two aspects of the Net. One is the networking between businesses and their customers. The other is the networking between individual businesses, or the regional and even global networking between industrial production and scientific research. Internet shopping belongs to the first aspect.

From a long-term perspective, Internet shopping is but a low-level aspect of the Net, and it is not likely to become the most important trend. After all, most merchandise is unsuitable for Internet shopping. Besides, if everyone shops on the Net, what will happen to the hundreds and thousands of shopping malls? Therefore, the second aspect of the Net will be more important. Its significance goes beyond that of connecting businesses. There have been reports of simultaneous consultation of doctors from all over the world on the Internet. These are early examples of high-level networking.

It is estimated that the new synergy between computers and Net technology will have significant influence on the industry of the future. The sheer power of electronic commerce (e-commerce) will change the face of trade dramatically. Sporting goods company Puma was on the verge of bankruptcy back in 1992. From 1993, Puma began to diffuse its production, logistics and marketing divisions to 80 Net en-

terprises worldwide, and the results were spectacular. Puma was transformed from a sickly feline into a magnificent beast. The reason for this transformation is that intra and inter-business electronic links greatly increase the efficiency of production, planning, the collecting of information and data exchange. As the business is rapidly being rationalized, production figures go up while costs come down.

The development of e-commerce may well bring the world into a brand-new era of "electronic currency." With the emergence of a phantom electronic currency, everyone of us would be affected. At the moment, developed areas in Europe, the United States and Asia have already started studying the possibility of an electronic currency. Electronic currency is not only about currency. It refers to an entire finance

system on the Net. It includes a virtual numeric currency, an electronic system of withdrawals, transfers and loans, and Intelligence Cards of all shapes and sizes. The appearance of an electronic currency system implies the emergence of "virtual banks" and "virtual enterprises." Actually, the rudimentary beginnings of a virtual bank appeared in the US in 1995 as the Security First Network Bank. Although it is a small and insignificant bank, it represents the trend of the future. In time to come, we may even have to forsake the familiar paper currency.

As the Net pushes the economy ahead rapidly, the economy is also bringing the Net market forward, resulting in the Internet itself becoming the world's largest emerging market. Of course, this is just the beginning. Although there are many companies which made huge profits investing in the Internet market, they tend to be small companies, like Yahoo. To date, most companies are making losses. The Net and e-commerce will foster a large number of freelancers, and this will affect social structure in a big way. The competition for technological superiority in the

Questions:

1. What are the two aspects of the Net economy?
2. How did Puma company extricate itself from the predicament?
3. What is electronic currency? How is it conducted through the Net?
4. How does the Net economy affect the global economy?
5. What is the Net economy like in the future?

era of the knowledge-based economy will also be more intense. This will definitely promote greater and more efficient cooperation to maintain competitiveness. The highly efficient research and development work conducted on the worldwide Net are best suited for small and medium enterprises to band together and break the monopolies of the “giants.”

Words and Expressions

threshold / 'θreʃhəʊld / *n.* 门槛; 开端; 界限

exemplify / ɪg'zemplɪfaɪ / *v.* 例示, 是...例证

optic / 'ɒptɪk / *adj.* 光学的

mouse / maʊs / *n.* [计] 鼠标, 定位器

dizzying / 'diziɪŋ / *adj.* 极快的, 极高的

perspective / pə(:)'spektɪv / *n.* 观点(的); 远景(的);
透视(的)

merchandise / 'mɜ:tʃəndaɪz / *n.* [总称] 商品,
货物

simultaneous / ,sɪməl'teɪnjəs / *adj.* 同时进行的

consultation / ,kɒnsəl'teɪʃən / *n.* [医] 会诊; 磋商

synergy / 'sɪnədʒi / *n.* 增效作用, 协同作用

bankruptcy / 'bæŋkrəptsi / *n.* 破产; 无偿付能力

diffuse / dɪ'fju:z / *v.* 使分散

logistics / ləʊ'dʒɪstɪks / *n.* 后勤; 后勤学

spectacular / spekt'ækjʊlə / *adj.* 壮观的; 惊人的

feline / 'fi:lain / *n.* 猫; 猫科动物

rationalize / 'ræʃənəlaɪz / *v.* 使合理化; 合理化改革

foster / 'fɒstə / *v.* 促进; 养育

freelancer / 'fri:lɑ:nsə / *n.* 自由职业者

superiority / sju:ˌpiəri'ɔ:riti / *n.* 优越, 优越性

monopoly / mə'nɒpəli / *n.* 垄断; 专利

Notes

1

This net refers to computer network ... the whole world. 该网络是指通过卫星、光纤、电缆和电话线路将整个世界连接在一起的电脑网络。

2

Internet shopping 网上购物。通过国际互联网进行购物。

3

electronic commerce (e-commerce) 电子商务。电脑和网络技术结合的产物。

4

Yahoo 雅虎。国际互联网上的一条简捷热线, 是浏览万维网最有效的方法之一。雅虎的访问路径为: <http://www.yahoo.com/>。

Exercises

Section I Listening Comprehension

part A

You will hear a monologue. Listen and complete the sentences in questions 1—5 with the information you’ve heard. Write **not more than 3 words** in each numbered box. You will hear the recording twice.

The primary purpose of the talk is to explain to the students		1
Usually, there is heavy usage of computers especially during		2
Computer labs of the larger departments give priority to		3
The most important rule in the computer lab is		4
While using the computers, the students need to display		5

part B

You will hear a monologue. Answer questions 6—10 while you listen. Use **not more than 5 words** for each answer. You will hear the recording twice.

How does Bill Gates describe the importance of this conference?		6
What is central to the success of Windows according to Bill Gates?		7
What kind of equipment does PC industry provide with?		8
How many PCs are sold each year?		9
Why is the performance of computer servers increasing?		10

You will hear three dialogues or monologues. Before listening to each one, read the questions related to it. While listening, answer each question by choosing A, B, C or D. You will hear each piece **once only**.



11. Which of the following is inappropriate to describe “robot” according to Simon?

- [A] Obedient.
- [B] Complaining.
- [C] Efficient.
- [D] Capable.

12. What does Simon mean by saying “work wonders”?

- [A] Robot can do everything for human being.
- [B] Robot can make the impossible possible.
- [C] Robot can ultimately replace human brains.
- [D] Robot can do many things we may not imagine possible.

13. All of the following statements are true EXCEPT _____.

- [A] robots are the most creative and powerful creatures on earth
- [B] machines can do the kind of work that is physically unbearable to humans
- [C] Feng Yi is fairly emotional when talking about robot
- [D] they both believe that robot will free humans from boring work



14. When will the information highway come true to some people?

- [A] It is difficult to predict.
- [B] People won't attain the goal within a century.
- [C] In the next ten years.
- [D] It depends on the future development.

15. How would the information technology (IT) affect our social life?

- [A] The information access would play an important role in one's socialization.
- [B] People are able to get information about the things going on in town by