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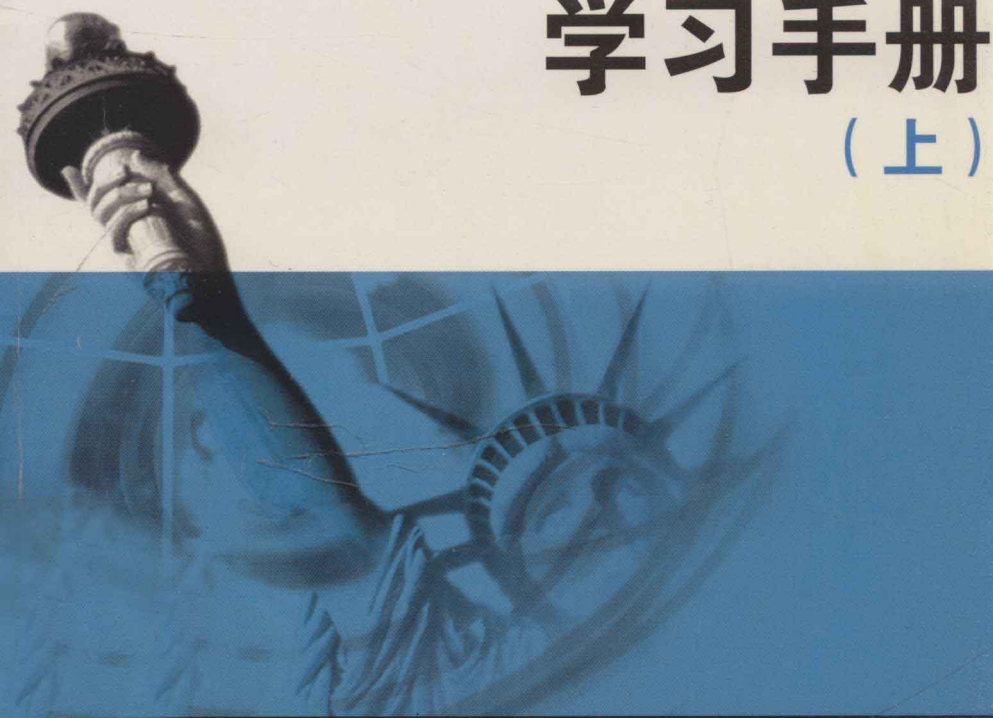


全国通用纯正美语听力教材
唯一VOA正版授权教学节目

美国之音 2006

上半年合集 · 特别英语

学习手册 (上)



VOA 特别英语

2006 上半年合集磁带版

江苏工业学院图书馆
藏书章



前

言

做一个纵观全球大事，了解各类知识的精英，请从美国之音开始。

美国之音 (Voice Of America)，是世界上最大的新闻广播机构之一，24小时连续播报最前沿、最权威的国际新闻。它的英语节目如一部“活的教科书”，帮助全球各地的英语学习者掌握最新、最快的新闻资讯，培养准确连贯的英语语感，提升对英语及各国文化的了解和认知。

美国之音系列产品是目前所有听力素材中最为经典的一批，是英语学习者增长课外知识、提高英语运用能力、学习纯正美语、训练英语听力以及备战各种英语听力考试的最佳学习伴侣。

本专辑囊括了2006上半年度VOA英语新闻中最热点、最精彩的报道，全部内容经过精心选材编制。所用语言均为美国人日常使用的英语，标准语音语速。专辑信息量广，词汇丰富，包含了各类新闻素材：政治军事、商业财经、环境科学、社会文化、体育娱乐……全方位、多角度为您展现世界动态。开放全球视野，锻造强势英语听力！

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Bird Flu: Hoping for the Best, but Preparing for the Worst

禽流感：做最好的希望，最坏的准备

背景介绍：

禽流感是一种主要流行于鸡群中的烈性传染病，这种病也被称作真性鸡瘟或欧洲鸡瘟。一旦爆发，往往会造成家禽的大量死亡。在很长的一段时期内，这种疾病的传染范围只是局限在家禽中。然而近年来情况却悄悄地发生了变化，禽流感的传播已经跨越了原先的范围，开始侵袭人类社会。

I'm Steve Ember with IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English.

There are more warnings about the need to prepare for the possibility of a worldwide outbreak of bird flu.

VOA's Steve Herman in Tokyo reported Friday on the results of a two-day meeting held by Japan and the World Health Organization. Delegates from more than twenty countries discussed a plan they hope might contain the early spread of any **influenza** pandemic.

W.H.O. Western Pacific director Shigeru Omi says **containment** alone is not enough. He says "all the possible options" must be used. That includes

我是史蒂夫·爱默伯，为大家带来 VOA 特别英语新闻报道。

现在有越来越多的关于禽流感的警告，都是要求为禽流感可能在世界范围内的爆发做准备。

VOA 驻东京记者史蒂夫·赫曼，周五对由日本和世界卫生组织共同承办的为期两天的会议结果进行了报道。来自 20 多个国家的代表讨论出了一个方案，他们希望这个方案可以包含任何流行性疾病的早期传播。

世界卫生组织西太平洋地区主任史格鲁·奥米认为，仅仅隔离是不够的。他说，我们必须用尽“所有可能的办法”。这包括做更多的

单词注释

influenza ['influ'enze] n. 流行性感冒

containment [kən'teinmənt] n. 阻止；遏止

doing more to watch for the risk of person-to-person infection.

Doctor Omi also says some countries need to be more open about reporting infections in animals and people. He did not say which countries.

The W.H.O. says about one and one-half thousand million dollars will be needed over three years to prepare for a pandemic. A meeting next week in Beijing will deal with how to pay for it. The World Bank has just offered five hundred million dollars.

The current outbreak of bird flu began in Southeast Asia in December of two thousand three, leading to about eighty deaths. Health officials say the victims have been mostly young people who had close contact with infected birds or sick people. China and Turkey have reported the most recent human infections.

The W.H.O. says the h-five-n-one virus already has met two of the three conditions for a pandemic. It is new, so there is no natural protection. And it can make people very sick. The third condition is that a virus must change into a form that can pass easily from person to person.

W.H.O. officials say tests on two people who died in Turkey found a small genetic change in the virus. But they say it is too soon to know how this might affect the spread of the virus. They say similar changes appeared in two thousand three in Hong Kong and last year in Vietnam.

Experts continue to learn more about the

工作来警惕人与人之间感染的危险。

奥米博士同时指出，一些国家需要对动物和人传染病的报导更加的公开化。他没有说哪些国家。

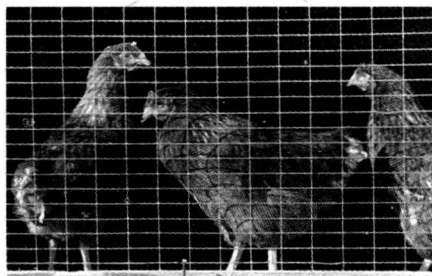
世卫组织透露，为一种传染病做准备需要三年多的时间，花费大约 15 亿美元。下周在北京将召开一个会议，专门解决资金问题。世界银行已经提供了五亿美元。

现爆发的禽流感于 2003 年 12 月开始于东南亚国家，导致了大约 80 人死亡。世卫官员称受害人大部分是年轻人，他们同受感染的鸟类或者是病人有着亲密的接触。中国和土耳其报道了最近的人类感染情况。

世界卫生组织称 H5N1 型病毒已经符合了大规模流行病的三大条件的其中两条。它是新生的，所以没有天然的抗体。而它能够使人们病得非常严重。第三个条件就是这种病毒必须变异成一种形式，这种形式可以很容易在人与人之间进行传播。

世卫官员称，在两名土耳其死者身上发现了这种病毒的小的基因突变。但是他们认为想要知道它如何能影响这次病毒的流行还为时尚早。他们称 2003 年在香港以及去年在越南都有类似的情况发生。

专家们仍然在研究这种病



virus. New research may show it to be more **widespread** but not as deadly as people have thought. This week, the Archives of Internal Medicine published a study by Swedish and Vietnamese scientists. Their findings suggest that sick or dead birds can spread mild avian influenza to humans. They say doctors may be seeing only the most severe cases.

The W.H.O. is taking no chances. It wants every country to develop a plan.

France, for example, has announced plans to gather enough facemasks and medicines for all its people. European Union countries have until February seventh to propose how they will keep watch for bird flu. E.U. officials this week extended a testing program for **poultry** and wild birds.

In the United States, efforts include new public **guidelines** about how to prepare for a pandemic. The government has a Web site, pandemicflu.gov. More information

毒。新的研究可能表明病毒会流行得更广泛，但是不像人们认为的那样致命。本周，内科医学杂志发表了来自瑞典和越南科学家的一项研究。他们的研究结果表明病的或死的鸟类可以将轻度禽流感传染给人类。他们认为医生们可能看到的只是最严重的病例。

世界卫生组织正在采取所有的手段。它希望所有的国家都能制定一个计划。

例如，法国已经公布了一些计划，要为所有国民搜集足够的口罩和药品。截至二月七日，欧盟国家已经提出了他们将要如何关注禽流感。这周，欧盟的官员们继续启动了家禽及野生鸟类的实验计划。

在美国，关于如何准备这场流行病的新的公众指导方针已经出台。政府还建立了一个网站，

单词注释

widespread ['waɪdspreɪd] adj. 分布广泛的，普遍的

poultry ['pɒltrɪ] n. 家禽

guideline [gaɪd'laɪn] n. 方针

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about avian influenza can also be found at who.int and at voanews.com.

IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English was written by Nancy Steinbach. I'm Steve Ember.

网址是 pandemicflu.gov。更多的关于禽流感的信息还可以在 who.int 网站和 voanews.com 网站上找到。

这里是 VOA 特别英语新闻报道，作者南西·斯坦巴克。我是史蒂夫·爱默伯。

语言点分析

deal with

deal with 有多种意思，可以与人搭配，也可与物搭配。

deal with sb. 对待、对付某人

例句：They try to deal politely with angry customers.

他们尽量对发怒的顾客彬彬有礼。

deal with sth. 处理（问题、任务等）；料理某事

例句：You dealt with an awkward situation.

你很巧妙地处理了一个困难的局面。

keep watch for sb./sth. (为某人、某事) 注视或监视

这是一个常用的短语。

例句：Post a guard to keep watch while the others sleep.

派一个警卫在大家睡觉时放哨。

课外知识

禽流感常用词汇

bird flu / avian influenza / fowl plague 禽流感

outbreak 爆发

suspected cases 疑似疫情

confirmed cases 诊断疫情

test positive 检测为阳性

disinfection 消毒

vaccinate 注射疫苗

influenza pandemic 流感流行

respiratory symptom 呼吸道症状
human-to-human transmission 人与人之间的传染
pneumonia 肺炎
acute respiratory distress 急性的呼吸道疾病
resistant to infection 抗传染
vaccinate 注射疫苗
prototype vaccine 原型疫苗
mutate, virus mutation 病毒突变
gene swapping 基因交换
genetic recombination 基因重组
natural immunity 自然免疫力
high pathogenicity 高致病性
Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza / HPAI 高致病性禽流感

'The United States Will Not Retreat From the World,' Bush Says

布什说“美国不会退出世界舞台”

背景介绍:

美国总统布什 1 月 31 日晚在国会山庄国会参众两院联席会议上发表了长达 52 分钟的年度国情咨文。阐述了白宫在新一年中的内政和外交政策。在外交方面，国情咨文的侧重点放在中东和反恐问题上；在内政方面，布什则强调保持美国的竞争力。和以往几次演讲相比，布什语气自信强硬，但是缺乏新意。

I'm Steve Ember with IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English.

President Bush gave his **State of the Union** speech to both houses of Congress and the American people Tuesday.

This year, one of the major subjects was the nation's dependence on oil. Mister Bush said, in his words, "America is **addicted** to oil, which is often imported from unstable parts of the world." He promised to help reduce the need for foreign oil. He called for twenty-two percent more federal money for research into other kinds of fuel.

The president said his goal is to reduce oil imports from the Middle East by seventy-five percent by two thousand twenty-five. Energy officials say oil from

这里是 VOA 特别英语新闻，我是史蒂夫·爱默伯。

本周二，布什总统向国会两院和全美人民发表了国情咨文演讲。

今年主要的议题之一是国家对石油的依赖。布什的原话是，“美国经济已深深陷入对石油的迷恋之中而不能自拔，而石油多来自世界上不稳定的地区”。他承诺要帮助减少对外国石油的需求。他还要求拿出多于联邦财政支出 20% 的钱用于探索其它形式的燃料。

总统表示他的目标是在 2025 年前把美国从中东进口的石油量减少 75%。能源官员说美国现在使用的石油中有 11% 来自波斯湾。

单词注释

State of the Union (总统致国会的) 国情咨文
addicted [ə'diktɪd] adj. 沉溺于某种嗜好中的

the Persian Gulf is now eleven percent of all the oil used in the United States. The largest suppliers are Mexico and Canada.

Mister Bush also spoke about helping the Gulf Coast recover from the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina. And he again called on Congress to make his tax cuts permanent.

He also called for additional programs to improve public education. One proposal is to train seventy thousand high school teachers to lead advanced-placement courses in math and science. Students can get college **credit** for such classes.

On another subject, Mister Bush called for a commission to study the increasing costs of social and health programs for poor and older Americans. These are Social Security, **Medicare** and **Medicaid**.

And the president spoke again of his goal to spread freedom and **democracy** around the world. He called on the government of Egypt to "open paths of peaceful opposition." He urged Saudi Arabia to press forward with what he described as the first steps of reform.

And he discussed the first Palestinian legislative elections in ten years. On January twenty-fifth, the Islamic movement Hamas defeated the longtime ruling party,

最大的石油供应国是墨西哥和加拿大。

布什总统还谈及要帮助海湾沿岸地区从卡特里娜飓风的阴影中恢复过来。另外，他再次呼吁国会将减税政策永久化。

他还呼吁制定额外的计划来改善公共教育。其中一项提议就是对 7 万名中学教师进行培训，让他们来执教数学和自然科学方面的跳级生的课程。学生通过学习这些课程获得大学学分。

在另一个议题上，布什先生呼吁建立一个委员会来研究美国穷人和老人日益增长的社会和医疗保险计划的成本。它们包括社会保障、医疗保险和医疗补助。

总统还再次谈到要把自由和民主撒遍全球的目标。他呼吁埃及政府“打开和平对抗之路”。他催促沙特阿拉伯奋力推进他所说的改革的第一步。

另外，他还讨论了巴基斯坦十年以来的第一次立法选举。1月25日，伊斯兰激进组织哈马斯击败长期执政党法塔赫，成为执政党。布什先生说，“现在哈马斯领导人必须

单词注释

credit ['kredit] n. 学分

Medicare ['medikə(r)] n. (美国政府办的) 医疗保险制度

Medicaid ['medikeid] n. <美>(由各级政府资助的) 医疗补助(制度)

democracy [di'mɒkrəsi] n. 民主政治, 民主主义

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Fatah. Mister Bush said “now the leaders of Hamas must recognize Israel, **disarm**, reject terrorism and work for lasting peace.”

Also in his speech, the president dismissed calls to withdraw troops from Iraq. And he said the nations of the world must not permit Iran to gain nuclear weapons.

Mister Bush also spoke about support at home for the fight against terror. He told Americans they cannot find security by “retreating within our borders.” He said, “The United States will not retreat from the world, and we will never **surrender** to evil.”

The new governor of Virginia gave the Democratic Party response to this year’s speech. Tim Kaine accused the Bush administration of what he called “poor choices and bad management.”

Governor Kaine said all Americans support the goal of winning the war on terrorism. And that, he said, leads **Democrats** to ask this question: “Are the president’s policies the best way to win this war.”

IN THE NEWS in VOA Special English was written by Nancy Steinbach. Our reports are online at voaspecialenglish.com. I’m Steve Ember.

承认以色列，解除武装，抛弃恐怖主义，努力实现持久和平”。

也是在这个演讲中，总统撤回了从伊拉克撤军的命令。他还说世界各国都不得允许伊朗拥有核武器。

布什还谈到了国内对反恐斗争的支持。他告诉美国人他们不能“退回到国内”来获得安全。他说，“美国不会退出世界舞台，我们也决不会向邪恶屈服”。

弗吉尼亚州新州长代表民主党对今年的演讲做出了回应。提姆·凯恩谴责布什政府，用他的话说“选择失误，管理不善”。

凯恩州长说所有美国人都支持打赢反恐战争这一目标。正是因为如此，他说，才导致民主党人要问这样一个问题：“总统的政策是不是赢得这场战争的最好的方法”。

美国之音特别英语新闻由南西·斯坦巴克撰写。你也可以登录我们的网站 voaspecialenglish.com 看新闻。我是史蒂夫·爱默伯。

单词注释

disarm [dis'a:m] vt. 解除武装，放下武器
surrender [sə'rendə(r)] vi. 投降，自首
Democrat ['deməkræt] n. 美国民主党党员



● 语言点分析 ●

press forward with 坚决 (做某事)

例句: The firm is pressing forward with the modernization plan.

公司竭力实施现代化计划。

accuse sb. (of sth.) 指控某人有罪或犯法

例句: He accuses her of theft.

他控告她偷窃。

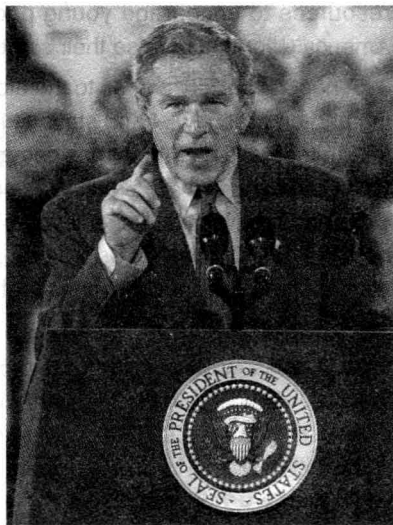
● 课外知识 ●

(布什演讲节选)

A hopeful society depends on courts that deliver equal justice under the law. The Supreme Court now has two superb new members — new members on its bench: Chief Justice John Roberts and Justice Sam Alito. I thank the Senate for confirming both of them. I will continue to nominate men and women who understand that judges must be servants of the law, and not legislate from the bench.

Today marks the official retirement of a very special American. For 24 years of faithful service to our nation, the United States is grateful to Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

A hopeful society has institutions of science and medicine that do not cut ethical corners, and that recognize the matchless value of every life. Tonight I ask you to pass legislation to prohibit the most egregious abuses of medical research: human cloning in all its forms, creating or implanting embryos for experiments, creating human-animal hybrids, and buying, selling, or patenting human embryos. Human life is a gift from our Creator — and that gift should never be discarded, devalued or put up for



sale.

A hopeful society expects elected officials to uphold the public trust. Honorable people in both parties are working on reforms to strengthen the ethical standards of Washington — I support your efforts. Each of us has made a pledge to be worthy of public responsibility — and that is a pledge we must never forget, never dismiss, and never betray.

As we renew the promise of our institutions, let us also show the character of America in our compassion and care for one another.

A hopeful society gives special attention to children who lack direction and love. Through the Helping America's Youth Initiative, we are encouraging caring adults to get involved in the life of a child — and this good work is being led by our First Lady, Laura Bush. This year we will add resources to encourage young people to stay in school, so more of America's youth can raise their sights and achieve their dreams.

A hopeful society comes to the aid of fellow citizens in times of suffering and emergency — and stays at it until they're back on their feet. So far the federal government has committed \$85 billion to the people of the Gulf Coast and New Orleans. We're removing debris and repairing highways and rebuilding stronger levees. We're providing business loans and housing assistance. Yet as we meet these immediate needs, we must also address deeper challenges that existed before the storm arrived.

On the Job, at Minimum Wage

就业与最低工资

背景介绍：

美国颁布的工作条件标准主要对最长工作时间、最低工资两方面作了规定。伴随着经济的发展，美国最低工资标准的覆盖范围逐渐增大，且最低工资的数额随着物价水平的提高也在不断地提高，但仍然有工人干着繁重的工作，却拿着很低的工资。

I'm Faith Lapidus with the VOA Special English Economics Report.

Minimum wage is the lowest hourly pay rate permitted by law. In the United States, the federal minimum wage is five dollars and fifteen cents an hour. It is not changed since nineteen ninety-seven. And it does not include all jobs.

For example, workers who receive extra money in the form of tips can be paid two dollars and thirteen cents an hour. Also, the federal rate may not cover some workers for small companies. State laws often set minimum pay in these cases.

The Department of Labor says about two million workers earn the minimum wage or less. That is about three percent of all workers paid by the hour.

Ohio and Kansas have lower minimum wages for some workers than under federal

我是VOA特别英语经济报道节目的费思·拉普迪思。

最低工资是指法定的最低小时工资。在美国，联邦最低工资是每小时5.15美元，该工资从1997年以来一直没有调整。该工资水平并不涵盖所有工作。

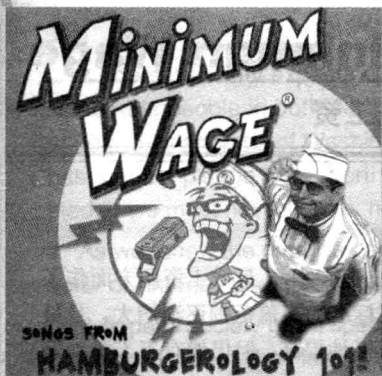
例如，可以给以小费形式赚取外快的工作人员每小时支付2.13美元的工资。还有，联邦政府工资标准可以不包括一些小公司雇员。而州法律通常会就此情况设定最低工资标准。

美国劳工部表示，约有二百万工人在挣最低工资，甚至达不到最低工资标准，约占以小时计工资的工人总数的3%。

俄亥俄州和堪萨斯州某些工人的最低工资标准比联邦政府

单词注释

minimum wage 最低工资



law. But sixteen of the fifty states and the District of Columbia have minimum wages higher than the federal one.

In California, Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has just proposed what he says is a much-needed raise. California's minimum wage would rise one dollar, to seven dollars and sixty-five cents an hour, over the next year and a half.

State lawmakers passed a bill last year to add a dollar to the minimum wage. But Mister Schwarzenegger vetoed it because it would have also required yearly increases for **inflation**.

State governments led the way in the history of the minimum wage in America. Massachusetts passed a law for women and children in nineteen twelve. But in nineteen twenty-three, the Supreme Court found wage requirements for private employers **unconstitutional**. It ruled that states could not interfere with

规定的要低。不过，美国五十个州中有十六州以及哥伦比亚特区的最低工资标准要高于联邦政府。

在加利福尼亚州，共和党人阿诺德·施瓦辛格州长刚刚提议他认为急需的提薪。在未来的一年半中，加州的最低工资将增加1美元，即调整到每小时7.65美元。

去年，州立法者通过一项将最低工资提高1美元的议案。但施瓦辛格否决了该项议案，因为考虑到通货膨胀该议案还要求每年增加一次。

在美国，州政府在最低工资的发展过程中起带头作用。1912年，马萨诸塞州通过一部关于妇女和儿童的法律。而1923年最高法院发现私人雇主的工资标准是违宪的。于是规

单词注释

Inflation [in'fleɪʃən] n. 胀大，夸张，通货膨胀，(物价)暴涨

unconstitutional [ˌʌnkənsti'tju:ʃənəl] adj. 违反宪法的