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〈生活篇〉

VOA  
Life English  
Listening Comprehension Drills

编者：黄耀

精选美国权威广播  
围绕美国生活资讯  
熟练掌握地道美语  
有效提高听力能力

《疯狂英语》编辑部制作  
江西文化音像出版社

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## VOA 慢速英语听力（生活篇）

VOA Life English —— Listening Comprehension Drills

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# 前言

全球一体化的今天，广泛使用美式英语已成大势所趋。要和时代同步、掌握瞬息万变的全球资讯、通晓世界潮流的脉搏、博得先机，就一定要适时应变——掌握地道的美式英语。

想让自己说一口漂亮的、地道的美语？那么首先你应该能够听懂它。听什么？如何听？许多读者学了很多年的英语都还听不懂几句简单的句子，这是什么原因？很明显，因为没有掌握方法。有些人一开始学习英语就想一口吃个胖子，到头来竹篮打水一场空；还有些人成天到晚死抠一些不易听懂的字眼，弄到最后也一无所成。所以说，行之有效的学习方法是英语学习的关键。为此，本书给出了最有效的练习听力的方法，相信在你使用完本书以后，你的听力水平一定会有显著的提高。

本套书收录了美国权威电台“美国之音”（The Voice of America）广播节目，还原现场，再现原声，编排由浅入深，语速由慢至快。读者既可在休闲之余随意收听，轻松自然地熟悉地道美语发音、声调和措辞；也可仔细聆听，借书中的习题来测试自己的听力功夫，深入理解文章的内容，模仿美语的表达形式，提高自己的听力能力。所有选辑题材均是围绕美国的生活资讯，并配以生动的背景知识介绍，帮助读者进一步加深对美语的理解。

本书包含了二十篇文章，每篇文章又含有单词热身、聆听练习（Listening）[包括做笔记（Guided Note-taking）和理解测验（Comprehension Test）两部分]、阅读学习（Reading）（包括录音文本、中文翻译和小常识）三大部分。

◆ 单词热身——挑选了文中难度较大的单词，并给出详细的音标及中文释义；

◆ 做笔记——训练速记能力，帮助记忆重点，方便日后重温；

◆ 理解测验——测试你的理解能力；

◆ 阅读学习——给出了全文、翻译及背景材料，供你对照检查。

外语学习是一个循序渐进的过程，只要有决心和毅力，多听、多说、多读、多写，日积月累，一定会有成效的。

编者

2004.12.1

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# Einstein's Brain

## 爱因斯坦的大脑



### 单词热身

<b>matter</b>	/ˈmætə/	n. 物质
<b>fluid</b>	/ˈfluːɪd/	n. 溶液
<b>identify</b>	/aɪˈdentɪfaɪ/	v. 鉴定, 认明
<b>intelligence</b>	/ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns/	n. 智力, 才智
<b>parietal lobe</b>	/pəˈraɪətəl læub/	(解剖学)(大脑的) 顶叶
<b>spatial</b>	/ˈspeɪʃəl/	adj. 空间的
<b>parietal operculum</b>	/əuˈpə:kjʊləm/	(大脑的) 顶盖
<b>lancet</b>	/ˈlɑːnsɪt/	n. (医外科用) 柳叶刀, 小刀



### Listening

#### I. Guided Note-taking

##### Albert Einstein

Albert Einstein's discoveries changed the way we think about [1]

Albert Einstein died in [2] \_\_\_\_\_ in 1955.



### Examination on Einstein's brain and its purpose

Doctor Harvey [3] \_\_\_\_\_ Einstein's brain and protected it in [4] \_\_\_\_\_ and he also made [5] \_\_\_\_\_ and took [6] \_\_\_\_\_ of the brain. He hoped to discover some [7] \_\_\_\_\_ of what made Albert Einstein [8] \_\_\_\_\_.

### Attitude of Einstein's family towards the matter

Einstein's family did not know this before. But when they learned about Harvey's work, they [9] \_\_\_\_\_. Then they [10] \_\_\_\_\_ Doctor Harvey study the brain.

### Einstein's brain and new findings

Doctor Harvey cut the brain into [11] \_\_\_\_\_ pieces. A few years ago, one group of researchers reported that Einstein had an [12] \_\_\_\_\_ that support [13] \_\_\_\_\_. Recently, Doctor Harvey offered Canadian researchers [14] \_\_\_\_\_. The researchers say they may have identified something that [15] \_\_\_\_\_. Sandra Witelson and her team compared Einstein's brain with [16] \_\_\_\_\_ who all had [17] \_\_\_\_\_. The researchers found that Einstein's brain was [18] \_\_\_\_\_ to the others in many ways, including [19] \_\_\_\_\_. Einstein's inferior parietal lobe was [20] \_\_\_\_\_ than those in the other people. The researchers say Einstein's brain [21] \_\_\_\_\_ called the parietal operculum and this may have permitted [22] \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Comprehension Test

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

### MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. Einstein's discoveries changed the way we think about \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. science, universe, material and time
  - B. psychology, space, time and science
  - C. space, time, material and the universe
  - D. time, space, matter and the universe
2. Einstein's inferior parietal lobe is \_\_\_\_\_ percent wider than the others.
  - A. 15
  - B. 50
  - C. 76
  - D. 25
3. Doctor Harvey cut Einstein's brain into \_\_\_\_\_ pieces.
  - A. 200
  - B. more than 200
  - C. 1,200
  - D. 22
4. Sandra Witelson and her team compared Einstein's brain with the brains of \_\_\_\_\_ who all had \_\_\_\_\_ intelligence.
  - A. 35 men and 56 women / unusual
  - B. 56 men and 35 women / normal
  - C. 35 men and 56 women / normal
  - D. 56 men and 35 women / unusual
5. The researchers say the lack of parietal operculum may permit \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the flow of information more quickly

- B. more cells to support the operation of brain cells
- C. more brain cells to influence how the mind works
- D. more brain cells to establish more connections and work together more easily.

SHORT QUESTIONS

## SHORT QUESTIONS

6. When and where did Einstein die?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Why should Doctor Harvey keep and study Einstein's brain?

\_\_\_\_\_

8. What was the reaction of Einstein's family to Doctor Harvey's research?

\_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the differences between the brain of Einstein and the others according to the researchers?

\_\_\_\_\_

10. What is believed to be controlled by the inferior parietal lobe?

\_\_\_\_\_



## Reading

# Einstein's Brain

## 爱因斯坦的大脑

---

Albert Einstein was one of the greatest scientists of all time. His discoveries changed the way we think about time, space, matter and the universe. Einstein died in the American state of New Jersey in 1955. He was seventy-six years old. Shortly after his death, Thomas Harvey examined Einstein's body. Doctor Harvey removed the brain for scientific research and protected it in special fluids. He made measurements and took pictures of the brain. He hoped to discover some physical evidence of what made Albert Einstein such a great thinker.

However, Doctor Harvey did not tell Einstein's family that he kept the brain. It was only later that the family learned about his work. At first, family members did not like the idea. After Doctor Harvey explained his idea to them, they agreed to let him study the brain.

艾伯特·爱因斯坦是人类历史上最伟大的科学家之一。他的发现改变了人们对时间、空间、物质及宇宙的看法。爱因斯坦于1955年在美国新泽西州逝世，享年76岁。爱因斯坦去世后不久，托马斯·哈维医生检查了他的遗体。为了科学研究，哈维医生把爱因斯坦的大脑取了出来，并保存在特殊的溶液中。他对大脑进行了测量并拍下照片。他希望发现爱因斯坦生理上的一些证据，以解释他何以能成为伟大的思想家。

可是，哈维医生没有告诉爱因斯坦的家人他保存着爱因斯坦的大脑。爱因斯坦的家人只是在后来才知道他的工作。起初，爱因斯坦的家庭成员并不喜欢他的想法。但在哈维医生向他们解释以后，他们同意让他研究爱因斯坦的大脑。

Doctor Harvey cut the brain into more than 200 pieces for future study by researchers. A few years ago, one group of researchers reported that Einstein had an unusually high number of cells that support the operation of brain cells.

Recently, Doctor Harvey offered Canadian researchers a chance to study Einstein's brain. The researchers carried out a detailed examination of the brain of the world-famous scientist. The researchers say they may have identified something that might explain Einstein's intelligence. They say the findings may provide information about how small differences in the brain can influence how the mind works.

Sandra Witelson of McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario led the researchers. She and her team compared Einstein's brain with the brains of 35 men and 56 women. The other people had offered their brains to science before they died. All the people had normal intelligence.

The researchers found that Einstein's brain was similar to the others in many ways. His brain was similar

哈维医生把爱因斯坦的大脑切成200多块,以供研究人员将来做研究之用。几年前,一组研究人员报告说,爱因斯坦有数量超乎寻常的细胞支持脑细胞的运作。

最近,哈维医生为加拿大研究人员提供了一次研究爱因斯坦大脑的机会。研究人员对这位闻名世界的科学家的大脑进行了详细的检查。他们说,他们也许已经找到了能解释爱因斯坦智慧的某种理由。他们说,这些发现也许能为解释大脑的细小差别可在多大程度上影响大脑提供信息的工作。

安大略省汉密尔顿市麦克马斯特大学的桑德拉·威特尔森领导这些研究人员。她和她的小组把爱因斯坦的大脑跟35个男人与56个女人的大脑做了比较,那些人在去世之前为了科学研究捐献了大脑,所有这些都属智力正常。

研究人员发现爱因斯坦的大脑与其他大脑许多方面相似。他的大脑在重量上与其他

in weight and had many of the same measurements as the other brains.

However, one part of Einstein's brain, the inferior parietal lobe, was clearly different. The researchers found Einstein's inferior parietal lobe was fifteen percent wider than those in the other people. This area of the brain is believed to control mathematical thought, spatial relationships and other kinds of thinking.

The researchers say this part of Einstein's brain was different in another way. It lacked a structure called the parietal operculum. The researchers say the lack of this structure may have permitted more brain cells to establish more connections and work together more easily.

The new findings about Einstein's brain are reported in the British medical publication, *Lancet*.

的大脑相似,许多测量数据也是跟别的大脑一样。

但是,爱因斯坦大脑的一部分,即大脑顶叶的脑回,与其他大脑有着明显的不同。研究人员发现,爱因斯坦的大脑顶叶的脑回比其他的宽15%。大脑的这个部分被认为是控制数学思维、空间关系以及其他类型思维的区域。

研究人员说,爱因斯坦大脑的这一部分在另一方面也不相同,它缺少顶盖。研究人员说,缺少这个结构可以使更多的脑细胞相互之间建立更多的联系,以便于相互协作。

关于爱因斯坦大脑的新发现在英国医学刊物《Lancet》上作了报道。

### Small Nous

### 小常识

艾伯特·爱因斯坦(1879-1955),20世纪最伟大的自然科学家和物理学家。他先后提出了光量子论、分子论,改变了人们对时空、物质及宇宙的观念,对当代物理学有着很深远的影响。爱因斯坦本是德国人,因他有犹太血统,故在第二次世界大战时遭到希特勒统治下的纳粹德国的驱逐,后接受美国斯坦福大学的邀请,前往美国任教,后于美国逝世。

# African Dust Storms

## 非洲尘暴

### WORDS

### 单词热身

dust storm			尘暴, 沙暴
dust cloud			尘云
settle	/ˈsetl/	v.	沉积
micro-organism	/ˈmaɪkrəʊ ˈɔːgənɪzəm/	n.	微生物
survive	/səˈvaɪv/	v.	幸免于, 幸存
ultraviolet	/ˈʌltrəˈvaɪələɪt/	adj.	紫外线的
radiation	/ˌreɪdɪˈeɪʃən/	n.	辐射
block	/blɒk/	v.	妨碍, 阻塞
virus	/ˈvaɪərəs/	n.	病毒
bacteria	/bækˈtɪəriə/	n.	细菌
fungi	/ˈfʌndʒi/	n.	真菌
asthma	/ˈæsmə/	n.	哮喘
allergy	/ˈælədʒi/	n.	敏感症
coral reef			珊瑚礁
particle	/ˈpɑːtɪkl/	n.	微粒
satellite	/ˈsætələɪt/	n.	卫星



## Listening

### I. Guided Note-taking

Dust clouds from African deserts may be a threat to [1] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

The dust may contain [2] \_\_\_\_\_ that [3]  
\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **The dust storms:**

##### *Formation*

Huge dust storms form in [4] \_\_\_\_\_.

The movement of dust across the ocean has been increasing because of [5] \_\_\_\_\_.

##### *Journey*

[6] \_\_\_\_\_ carry the dust across [7] \_\_\_\_\_.

Dust clouds travel [8] \_\_\_\_\_  
above sea level.

The dust takes [9] \_\_\_\_\_ to cross  
the Atlantic Ocean.

##### *Settlements*

From February to April, the dust settles in [10] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

From June to October, the winds change and transport the dust to  
[11] \_\_\_\_\_.

Researchers used to think that few micro-organisms could [12]



\_\_\_\_\_.  
Researchers now believe that [13] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

**Problems caused by the dust:**

About [14] \_\_\_\_\_ that survive the trip can  
cause [15] \_\_\_\_\_.

For many years, it has caused the skies in Florida [16] \_\_\_\_\_.  
It causes higher rates of asthma, allergies and [17] \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ in Florida .

It is linked to a large increase in [18] \_\_\_\_\_ in at  
least one Caribbean nation.

It causes coral reef damage in the Caribbean because [19]  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
Scientists used [20] \_\_\_\_\_ to carry out  
their work.

**II. Comprehension Test**

**MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS**

MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. The dust storms form in \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. central Africa  
B. northern Africa  
C. the Atlantic Ocean  
D. South America
2. Which of the following statements about the dust is NOT true?  
A. The dust may contain small dangerous organisms.  
B. The dust is carried by winds across the Atlantic Ocean.  
C. The dust clouds travel several thousand meters above sea