

新

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英语外台听力教程

美国之音

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总 序

“美国之音(The Voice of America, VOA)”始建于1942年,最初是战争情报办公室(the Office of War Information)属下的一个新闻机构,1953年起隶属新建的美国情报署(the United States Information Agency,又称“美国国际交流署”),是美国从事对外宣传的最主要的官方广播业务单位。它以介绍美国的价值观和生活方式、反映美国政府的观点和政策为己任。因此,它的报道有很强的选择性,而且时常夹有攻击中国政府内外政策的内容。尽管如此,从英语学习的角度来看,它不失为一个极具价值的工具。它因播音时间较长、播放频道较多、语音质量较好、内容比较丰富而成为中国英语学习者熟悉、学习外台英语的重要途径。实践证明,美国之音的英语新闻不仅有利于巩固与提高学生的听力能力和语言基本功,而且有助于了解时事,丰富有关国家的政治、经济、科技、文化等方面的知识。美国之音英语新闻的教学价值得到了广泛的认同,成为很多院校英语听力课程重要的组成部分,同时也是国家教育管理部门指定的训练内容和能力指标的重要组成部分。1988年,原国家教委在其颁发的高等学校英语专业基础阶段和高年级阶段的教学大纲中,明确地把能够基本听懂“美国之音”和“英国广播

公司(BBC)”的新闻节目当作英语听力技能的一个主要指标。

美国之音的英语新闻分特别英语(Special English)和标准英语(Standard English)两种。特别英语在语言难度上受到人为控制,语速慢(每分钟约 90 个词),词汇量小(1500 词左右)。句子结构简单,内容简略;易为母语为非英语的听众所接受。标准英语则是美国人日常使用的正式文体英语,语速每分钟 140 个词,常用词汇量约 6000 词。句子长而且结构复杂,内容详尽而难词多。另外,它还包括大量的现场记者报道(correspondent report)。这些报道必须首先通过电话线路传输到播音室,所以信号有所衰减,背景杂音较大,在用词、语速、甚至语音等方面也因人而异,这无疑增加了理解的难度。特别英语和标准英语的新闻虽然相差很大,但两者在内容、语音(尤其是关键词)和篇章结构上有一定的相通之处。因此,特别英语不仅有自身的新闻和语言价值,而且是通向理解标准英语的一个必要的基础和有效的捷径。

《VOA 英语新闻系列》旨在帮助广大的英语爱好者和学习者熟悉并掌握美国之音的新闻广播。它由特别英语和标准英语两套分册组成,定期陆续出版。

本书的编者都是专业的英语听力教师,在英语听力、尤其是外台英语训练方面深有心得。作为一个整体,我们在外台英语训练方面处于国内的领先地位,在长期实践的基础上,我们对如何提高外台英语的理解水平有以

下几点体会：

一、必须贯彻由浅入深、由易及难、循序渐进的步骤。具体地说，就是特别英语在前，标准英语在后；重大事件、热点问题、主要国家的报道在前，次要事件、偶发事件、非热点地区的报道在后。

二、最好采用分类新闻的训练方法。研究表明，同类新闻中除人物、地点、时间有变动外，在基本语言格式上往往大同小异。而美国之音在播发新闻时一般按重要性排列，每条新闻之间往往没有内在的联系。分类新闻能使学习者集中听取相互关联的报道，有助于尽快掌握各类新闻的基本格式和有关用语，尽早总结出规律，并加深印象。

三、练习和书面新闻稿本有助于理解水平的提高。设计良好的练习可以帮助学习者了解自己对新闻整体的把握和对细节的理解是否正确，书面新闻稿则有助于更精确的理解。当然，对练习和书面新闻稿的使用应该有一定的限制。比较合理的步骤是：先听，总结出新闻的大意并书面记录一些细节信息，之后开始阅读并完成练习题，在此之后，再反复收听几遍，然后才可参阅书面新闻稿。另外，学习者还应逐步减少乃至最终摆脱对文字的依赖，把重点真正落实到听力能力的提高上。无论如何，不能低估练习和书面新闻稿的作用，只要使用得当，它们对提高听力水平的价值还是很明显的。

本书就是在上述思想的指导下编写而成的。我们从

大量的素材中精选了较为典型的新闻,按政治、外交、经济、军事、科技等专题加以分类,并在每个专题开始前进行简单提示;每条新闻设有注释(包括词汇、专有名词和背景知识简介等)和理解性的检查练习,书后附有练习答案和书面新闻稿。它不但可供在校学生进行外台听力课教学使用,而且可供自学者进行自学。我们希望并相信,本书有益于提高理解外台英语的水平。

上海外语音像出版社的陈坚林总编和毕梦欣编辑为本书的出版付出了艰巨的劳动。我们学院的领导也给予了大力的支持。单红卫、李黎两位女士每天收录,源源不断地为我们提供素材。在此,对他们一并表示诚挚的感谢。

最后,我们衷心祝愿本书的使用者尽早跨过外台英语广播的门槛,登堂入室,达到轻松悠然听懂英语广播的境界。有什么意见和建议请反馈给我们,以便我们及时改进,使本系列丛书越编越好。

编者

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Part I

Political News

Unit One

Visits and Talks

提示 美国之音特别英语新闻对外交访问和会晤的报道十分重视。报道内容一般包括出访人物、时间、对象(地名或国名)、目的、活动以及会谈准备、会谈进展和会谈结果等,必要时还会提供背景介绍。听此类新闻需要了解国家之间的关系和矛盾,同时也要注意积累有关国名、地名、官衔以及各国领导人姓名方面的知识。能上互联网的听众可以在 <http://www.ask.com> 这个网站中查找各国领导人的基本情况。

Item 1

Words and Expressions

- (1) prime minister ['praɪm'mɪnɪstər] 总理
- (2) appeal [ə'pi:l] v. 呼吁
- (3) technology [tek'nɒlədʒɪ] n. 技术
- (4) failure ['feɪljər] n. 失败
fail v. 失败
- (5) admit [əd'mɪt] v. 接纳

- (6) sale [seɪl] n. 出售
(7) Chicago [ʃɪkəːɡəʊ] 芝加哥
(8) Illinois [ɪləˈnɔɪ] 美国伊利诺斯州
(9) Colorado [ˌkɒləˈrædəʊ] 美国科罗拉多州
(10) World Trade Organization (WTO) 世界贸易组织。世贸是关贸总协定(the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade)的继承组织,于1995年1月1日在日内瓦正式成立。

Exercises

I. Multiple Choices

1. According to the news, Prime Minister Zhu Rongji _____.
 - a. will arrive in Chicago
 - b. has started his visit to Chicago
 - c. will leave the United States after his visit to Chicago
2. Business leaders in Chicago _____.
 - a. are holding talks with Prime Minister Zhu Rongji
 - b. are expecting Prime Minister Zhu Rongji's visit
 - c. oppose China's entry into WTO
3. Which of the following states is not mentioned in the news?
 - a. Illinois.
 - b. Colorado.

- c. Florida.
4. From the news, we can learn that _____.
a. China opposes importation of American high technology products
b. the US government does not encourage exportation of high technology products to China
c. the American companies are unwilling to sell China high technology products

II. True or False

1. Chicago is in the middle western part of Colorado. ()
2. Chicago is the first stop of Zhu Rongji's visit to the United States. ()
3. Mr. Zhu will speak to political and business leaders in Chicago on Monday. ()
4. Mr. Zhu expects the United States to increase its technology sales to China. ()
5. The United States and China failed to reach an agreement to admit China to the WTO. ()

Item 2

Words and Expressions

- (1) violation [ˌvaɪəˈleɪʃən] *n.* 侵犯
violate [ˈvaɪəleɪt] *v.* 侵犯
- (2) ethnic [ˈeθnɪk] *adj.* 种族的

- (3) Guatemala City [ˌgwɑ:tə'mɑ:ləsɪtɪ] 危地马拉城,危地马拉(Guatemala)首都。
Guatemalan *adj.* 危地马拉的
- (4) United Nations [juˈnaɪtɪdˈneɪʃəns] 联合国
- (5) Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) ['sentʃəl ɪnˈtelɪdʒəns 'eɪdʒənsɪ] 美国中央情报局。1966 至 1996 年,危地马拉军人在中央情报局的庇护下杀害了 20 多万人。
- (6) Mayan Indian ['məɪjənˈɪndiən] 玛雅人(中美洲的印地安人一族)。据考古研究,早在公元前 2500 年玛雅人就创造了辉煌的古代文明。公元 10 世纪后玛雅文明神秘地衰落。
- (7) Central America 中美洲
- (8) Belize [bəˈlɪz] 伯利兹(原英属洪都拉斯)
- (9) the Dominican Republic [də'mɪnɪkən rɪˈpʌblɪk] 多米尼加共和国
- (10) Clinton 美国总统克林顿。1992 年 11 月当选总统。

Exercises

I. Multiple Choices

1. According to the news, President Clinton has _____.
 a. not admitted that CIA violated human rights in Guatemala
 b. left the United States for a visit to Guatemala

- c. ordered mass killings by CIA in Guatemala
- 2. According to Mr. Clinton, the world should know the human rights violations so that _____.
 - a. the relatives of the victims can be comforted
 - b. the relatives of the victims can be compensated
 - c. such incidents never happen again
- 3. From the news, we can conclude that _____.
 - a. the US government does not have a clean record in human rights affairs
 - b. human rights can be safeguarded even if a country is in civil war
 - c. human rights have nothing to do with a country's economic development

II . True or False

- 1. President Clinton has promised to let the world know human rights violations in Guatemala. ()
- 2. A United States report says the CIA trained Guatemalan military officers. ()
- 3. Many ethnic Mayan Indians were killed by Guatemalan military officers. ()
- 4. Clinton will meet with leaders from Central America on Tuesday. ()
- 5. The civil war broke out in Guatemala 36 years ago. ()

Item 3

Words and Expressions

- (1) dispute [dis'pju:t] *v. n.* 争论; 争端
- (2) proposal [prə'pəuzəl] *n.* 建议
propose [prə'pəuz] *v.* 建议
- (3) seize [siz] *v.* 占领
- (4) former ['fɔ:mər] *adj.* 以前的
- (5) compromise ['kɒmprəmaɪz] *n.* 妥协
- (6) Moscow ['mɒskəʊ] 俄罗斯首都莫斯科
- (7) the Kuril Islands ['kʊrɪl'aɪləndz] 千岛群岛,
原为日本领土, 1945 年原苏联根据《雅尔塔协定》将此群岛并入版图。
- (8) Keizo Obuchi 小渊惠三, 1998 年当选为日本首相。
- (9) Boris Yeltsin 俄国总统叶利钦。1991 年当选俄罗斯共和国总统。原苏联解体后, 成为俄罗斯联邦共和国总统。1999 年末辞职。

Exercises

I. Multiple Choices

- 1. From the news, we can conclude that _____.
 - a. Russia and Japan always enjoy close relationships with each other
 - b. Mr. Obuchi's visit to Russia will be the longest one by Japanese officials

- c. Russia and Japan have territorial disputes
2. The proposal about the Kuril Islands was _____.
a. made by Mr. Yeltsin
b. made by a former Japanese prime minister
c. made by Mr. Keizo Obuchi
3. Mr. Obuchi's visit is mainly aimed at _____.
a. expanding trade between the two countries
b. putting an end to the World War II disputes between the two countries
c. increasing investments in Russia

II. Blank-filling

1. Japanese prime minister has arrived in Moscow for _____.
2. It has been _____ years since the head of the Japanese government visited Moscow.
3. Mr. Obuchi and Mr. Yeltsin will meet on _____.
4. They will discuss officially _____ between Russia and Japan.
5. Mr. Yeltsin is expected to _____ about the _____ of the Kuril Islands.
6. The Kuril Islands was _____ by the Soviet Union at the _____ of World War II.
7. Japan is willing to _____ about the islands.

Item 4

Words and Expressions

- (1) security [sɪ'kjʊrɪtɪ] *n.* 安全
secure [sɪ'kjʊə] *adj.* 安全的; 安心的; 确定的
- (2) issue ['ɪʃu:] *n.* 问题; 争端
- (3) nuclear ['nuːklɪər] *n.* 核
- (4) terrorism ['terəɪzəm] *n.* 恐怖主义; 恐怖行为
terrorist ['terəɪst] *adj.* 恐怖主义者
- (5) restriction [rɪ'strɪkʃən] *n.* 限制; 制裁
restrict [rɪ'strɪkt] *v.* 限制; 制裁
- (6) to carry out 实施
- (7) Washington ['wɒʃɪŋtən] 美国首都华盛顿
- (8) the White House 白宫
- (9) Pakistan ['pækɪstæn] *n.* 巴基斯坦
Pakistani ['pækɪstæni] *adj.* 巴基斯坦的
- (10) South Asia [saʊθ'eɪʒə] 南亚
- (11) Nawaz Sharif 谢里夫。1990 年首次出任总理, 1993 年被解职, 1997 年再度出任总理, 1999 年因政变下台。

Exercises

I. Multiple Choices

- 1. From the news, we can infer that _____.
 - a. the US government encourages other countries

to do nuclear tests

- b. the US government has ceased to do any nuclear tests
 - c. India and Pakistan are not friendly to each other
2. Which of the following is not discussed in the meeting?
- a. political reform in Pakistan.
 - b. economy.
 - c. terrorism.

II . Blank-filling

1. President Clinton has met at the White House with _____ Nawaz Sharif.
2. They discussed _____ and _____ issues, and the nuclear situation in _____ and also _____.
3. The nuclear situation is a _____ to both _____ and _____.
4. The two countries plan to _____ to find ways to _____.
5. Mr. Clinton announced that _____ on _____ and _____ would be _____.
6. The restrictions were placed after the two nations carried out _____ in _____.