

Operation Mastermind

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万能脑袋...
侦破记

选注者的话

《万能脑袋侦破记》是一部以科学幻想为内容的历险小说。

一天，一家英国报纸透露两则新闻：名叫“万能脑袋”的魔术师在伦敦某剧院遇刺身死；英国有一千台电子计算机停止了工作。这两件事有无内在联系呢？谁在暗中捣鬼呢？如何使电子计算机恢复正常运算呢？查清或解决这些问题，确要有个万能脑袋才行！

本书文字浅显，句子结构简单。它不仅有较多的对话和生活用语，而且常用词汇和句型的复现率较高。据粗略统计，书中的基本语法知识和 600 多个基本词汇均属于《一九七九年全国高等学校招生复习大纲》范围之内。为了帮助读者学习和适当扩大词汇量，我们对于超过《大纲》的词汇作了注释。从第四章起酌量编了些练习。

《万能脑袋侦破记》，内容通俗，并附有插图，可作高中或大专非英语专业学生的补充读物，也可作为英语听力材料使用。

熊家榘

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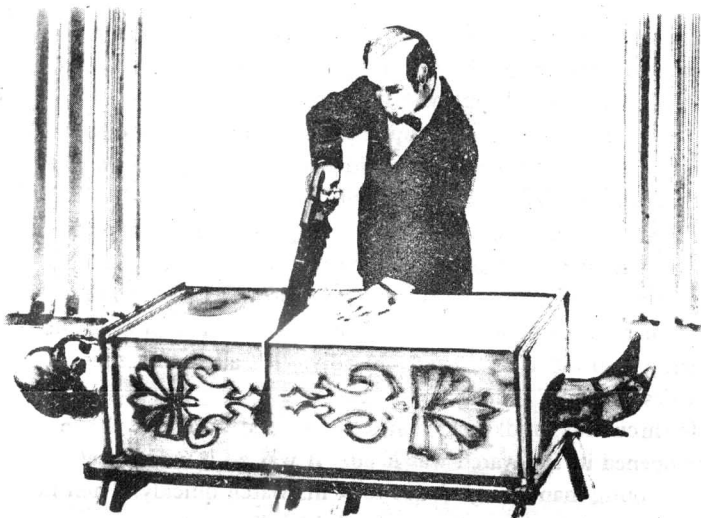
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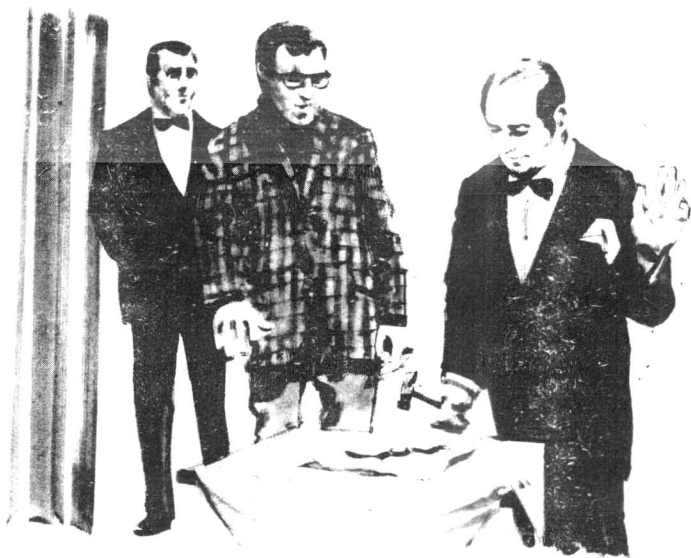
Chapter I Professor Mastermind

"And now,¹ ladies and gentlemen,²" the compère³ said, "Professor Mastermind,⁴ the Master of Magic,⁵ will do another difficult trick. He will cut a young lady in half!"⁶

Professor Mastermind and a young lady came on to the stage.⁷ "Professor Mastermind, the Master of Magic!" the compère cried,⁸ and he left the stage. The audience clapped⁹ loudly. Professor Mastermind smiled. Then he pointed at a big box on a table. He opened it and showed it to the audience. "The box is empty, ladies and gentlemen," he said. "This lady will lie inside it." The lady smiled and climbed into the box. Professor Mastermind shut it. The audience could see the lady's head and her feet. Then the Professor cut the box in two with a saw.¹⁰ He pulled away the two parts of the box. The audience could see the lady's head in one half and her feet in the other!¹¹ The Professor put the two halves together again and the lady climbed out. She was quite all right!¹² She was smiling. The audience clapped while the lady left the stage.



The Professor cut the box in two.



He broke the watch to pieces.

Professor Mastermind was pleased.³ When I finish these tricks, he said to himself, I can go home. I'm so tired.⁴

It was hot inside the theatre. Professor Mastermind's black suit was very warm. He wasn't a young man and he was rather fat. He was pleased, but he felt very, very tired.

Suddenly, the compère appeared beside him. "And now, ladies and gentlemen," the compère said, "the Master of Magic will do another difficult trick. Who will give him a watch?"

A young man in the audience got up from his seat and went on to the stage. He gave his watch to Professor Mastermind and the compère left the stage. The Professor took a small hammer out of his pocket and broke the watch to pieces.⁵ The young man looked at his watch sadly. "It's all right," the Professor smiled. Then he put the pieces in a handkerchief.⁶ He threw the handkerchief into the air and caught it. When he opened it, the watch was inside. It was all in one piece!⁷ The young man was glad. He took his watch quickly. Then he sat down while the audience clapped loudly.

The compère appeared again. "And now; ladies and gentlemen," he said, "the Master of Magic will do another difficult trick—the great Memory Trick!¹⁸ Who will help Professor Mastermind this time?" He looked at the audience and waited.

A young lady in the audience stood up. "Thank you," the compère cried. "Come on to the stage please."

The lady came on to the stage and the compère gave her a piece of paper and a pencil. "Please write a long number on this piece of paper," he said, "then show it to Professor Mastermind. Write a *very* long number."

The lady wrote a very long number on the piece of paper and showed it to the Professor. He looked at it for a moment and gave it back to her. "Now sit down please," the compère said. "Take the piece of paper with you.¹⁹"

"What was the number, Professor?" the compère asked.

"289643210437298254738456981," the Professor said slowly.

"Is that right?" the compère called.

"Yes," the lady answered and the audience clapped loudly.



"289643210437298254738456981," the Professor said slowly.



Suddenly, he felt afraid.

"We'll do the trick again," the compère said. "Who will help the Professor this time?" A man in the audience stood up. "Thank you, sir," the compère cried. "Come on to the stage. Write a very long number for us please."

The man was short and dark. He was wearing a grey hat, a black coat and dark glasses²⁰. "I don't want any paper and I don't want a pencil," he said to the compère. "I've written a very long number here. Perhaps the Professor can remember it." He took a dirty piece of paper out of his pocket.

The Professor looked at the man, then he looked at the piece of paper. His hands shook²¹. Suddenly, he felt afraid. It's so warm in here²², he thought and he took his handkerchief out of his pocket. The man took the piece of paper out of the Professor's hands and sat down quickly. The audience waited.

"What was the number?" the compère asked.

"The number?" the Professor asked slowly. "Oh²³ yes . . . I . . ."

"Can you repeat the number, Professor?" the compère asked.

"The number is . . . I can't tell you . . ." His voice shook.

"Can you repeat the number, Professor?" the compère called.

"It's . . . It's . . . 4-9-6-7 . . ." he began very slowly.

Suddenly, there was a loud shot²⁴. Professor Mastermind fell on to the stage. The man in dark glasses²⁵ was running out of the theatre. "Quick! Stop him!"²⁶ the compère called. People were shouting and pushing. They were running out of the theatre. "Call the police!"²⁷ the compère shouted. "Is there a doctor in the audience?"

Just then a man jumped on to the stage. "I'm a doctor," he said. "What has happened?" he asked the compère.

"I don't know," the compère said. "That man in the dark glasses shot him. Didn't you hear the shot?"

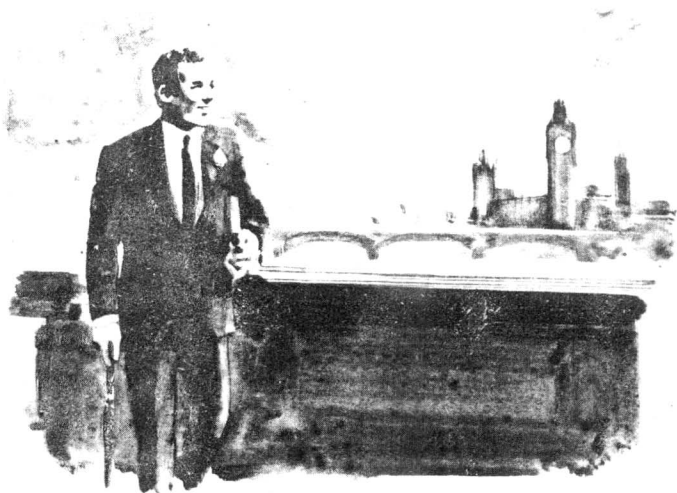
"Of course I did, but why?"²⁸ the man said. "Now I must have a look at the Professor. Perhaps I can help him."²⁹ The doctor put his hand on the Professor's head. Then he looked into his eyes³⁰ carefully.

"Well?"³¹ the compère asked. "Is he all right?"

"I'm afraid that"³² he's dead," the doctor said.



"I'm afraid that he's dead," the doctor said.



It was all so familiar.

Chapter 2 John Carstairs, Secret Agent

Secret Agent¹, John Carstairs², walked slowly down the street. Then he stopped for the twentieth time and looked up at³ the sky. The sky was blue above the grey buildings and the sun was shining. Carstairs smiled to himself. After six years overseas⁴, he was glad to be in London⁵ again. He looked at the people in the streets, at the big red buses⁶, and at the shop windows. London was still the same, but Carstairs felt like a stranger⁷.

Carstairs walked over Waterloo Bridge⁸ and looked at the river. It was shining in the morning sun. He could see boats below and familiar⁹ buildings on the other side: Big Ben¹⁰ and the Houses of Parliament¹¹. It was all so familiar and at the same time, so strange.

He was on his way to Headquarters¹². The Director of Operations¹³ was expecting him at 11 o'clock. It was only 9 o'clock. I'll sit in a public square and read a paper¹⁴, he thought. That's the best thing to do on a morning like this¹⁵.

On the other side of the river, Carstairs saw a newspaper seller. "Theatre Murder! Read all about¹⁶ it!" the man was shouting. "Paper! Paper!¹⁷"

"Paper, sir?¹⁸" the newspaper seller asked when Carstairs stopped near him.

"Yes please," Carstairs said and he gave the man a coin.¹⁹

"Thank you, sir," the man said. "Paper! Theatre Murder!"

Carstairs didn't look at the paper, but put it under his arm and walked towards Leicester Square.²⁰ Leicester Square is usually quiet, Carstairs thought. I can sit there for an hour and read the paper. Then I'll walk to H.Q. and see the D.O.

Just as²¹ Carstairs expected, Leicester Square was very quiet. An old lady was feeding²² some birds and two old men were sitting on a seat. They were talking quietly. There weren't any other people in the square. Carstairs watched the old lady for a moment, then he opened up his newspaper. He saw the words THEATRE MURDER in big black letters across the top of the front page.²³ Carstairs began to read the story.



"Paper, sir?"



"There was a terrible murder . . ."

"There was a terrible murder in a London theatre last night. A man shot and killed Professor Mastermind, the Master of Magic. Professor Mastermind was doing his difficult Memory Trick when a stranger came on to the stage. He gave the Professor a piece of paper with a long number on it and then sat down. The first four figures in the number were: 4967. When Professor Mastermind tried to remember the number on the piece of paper, the stranger shot him. Then the man ran out of the theatre. He was wearing a grey hat, a black coat and dark glasses. The police are looking for him. They haven't found him yet. They think that the man is still in London.

"Professor Mastermind's real name was Tom Smith. He lived alone in Hampstead²⁴ in North London. His compère in the theatre was Mr Fred Hayes. 'This is a very sad business,' Mr Hayes said. 'Tom and I were very good friends. Tom didn't have an enemy in the world²⁵. He lived quietly. We worked together for two years. He really had a wonderful memory. I shall miss him²⁶ very much . . .'"

Not an enemy in the world, Carstairs thought. I wish that I could say that.²⁷ He turned to another page. Ah, this is better, he thought. Here is some really serious²⁸ news.

"1000 COMPUTERS OUT OF ORDER"²⁹

"One thousand computers are now out of order in Great Britain.³⁰ Computers are stopping³¹ all over the world and scientists can't understand why. The computers don't break down,³² the scientists say. There is nothing wrong with them, but they don't work.³³ Scientists can't explain it.

"Ten thousand computers are now out of order in the U.S.A.³⁴ and about eight thousand are out of order in the Soviet Union.³⁵ The number of computers out of order in the world is now about³⁶ 25,000.

"This is a terribly serious problem,' says the Director of NASA.³⁷ * 'If it continues, our space programme will stop.³⁸ The space programme in the Soviet Union will stop, too. We can't work without computers. Computer-makers must find an answer to this problem—they must find an answer soon!"

*National Aeronautics and Space Administration





"Come in," a voice called.

Very very strange, Carstairs thought. Then he looked at his watch. It was 10.35. Carstairs left the square and began to walk to Headquarters. The old lady in the square watched him as she fed the birds.

Carstairs walked for about twenty minutes. Then he arrived at a tall grey building in the centre of London. He rang the bell and waited. An old man with grey hair opened the heavy door. "Oh, it's you, sir," the man said. "Director of Operations is expecting you. He's upstairs. He's in his room, sir. You can go straight up."

"Thanks, Harry," Carstairs said and he went upstairs. What does the D.O. want this time? he thought. *I want to stay in England. I don't want to go overseas again. I want a nice long holiday in Devon³⁹. A **quiet** hotel, the sea . . .*

Carstairs looked at the numbers on the doors: 204⁴⁰, 205, 206. Then he came to a door without a number. The letters "D.O." were on the door. He knocked at the door lightly.

"Come in," a voice called and Carstairs went inside.

Chapter 3 Operation Mastermind

The D.O. didn't look up when Carstairs went into the room. He looked at his watch and said, "Just on time, John. Just on time. It's 11 o'clock. I was expecting you."

"May¹ I sit down, D.O.?" Carstairs asked.

"If you want to," the D.O. answered. "How's life with you?"

"Wonderful, D.O.," Carstairs answered. "Really wonderful. I'm glad to be in England again. After six years overseas I want a nice long holiday. I think that I shall spend a few weeks in London and then perhaps I shall go to the country. I'm thinking of Devon. A quiet hotel in Devon will be nice."

"Are you leaving the Service² then?" the D.O. asked.

"Leaving the Service, D.O.? I don't understand."

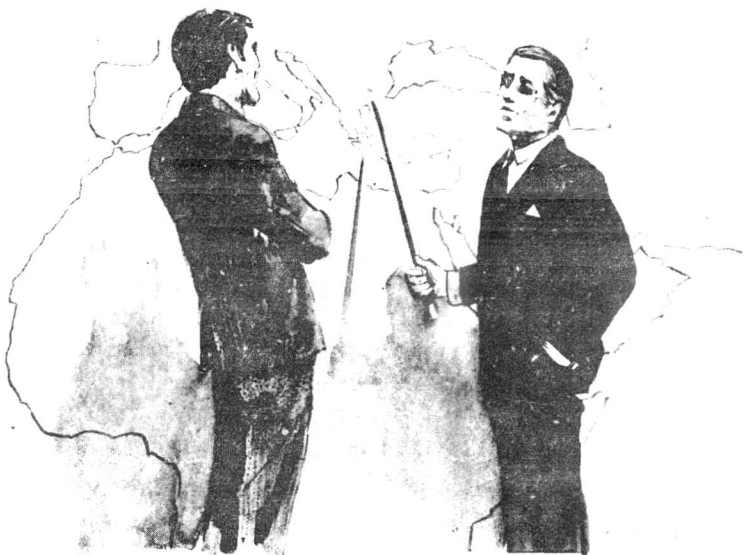
"Well, perhaps a young man like you wants to live quietly, marry a nice girl, have a family³ . . ." the D.O. said.

"Marry? Me?" Carstairs laughed. "I'm not in a hurry⁴, D.O."

"Good," the D.O. said. Then he looked up at Carstairs and smiled. "I want you to go overseas tomorrow."



"I want you to go overseas tomorrow."



"Here, look at this map."

For a moment, Carstairs was silent. Then he said. "All right, D.O. I shall be ready to leave tomorrow⁵."

"Good," the D.O. answered. "I'm glad you like⁶ the idea."

"I didn't say that," Carstairs answered. "A few weeks in London . . . a quiet hotel in Devon . . . it was a nice idea!"

"Forget it," the D.O. said. "We haven't any time to lose⁷."
I'll tell you our plans. Here, look at this map. You will travel by plane from London Airport at 8 o'clock tomorrow. You will fly to Corfu⁸. You will arrive there at 11.15. A car will meet you at Corfu Airport. Our people are expecting you. From Corfu you will travel by submarine⁹ to this small island in the Aegean Sea¹⁰. The name of the island is 'Doriphorós¹¹'. The submarine will arrive near the island at midnight. You'll wear a frogman's suit¹² and swim about a mile to the island."

"Me? Swim in a frogman's suit?" Carstairs asked.

"That's the plan, John. Here's a passport¹³ with your new name on it: Alan Simpson. It says on your passport that you are a teacher," the D.O. said. "And here's some money."

"What do I ¹⁴have to do on the island?" Carstairs asked.

"I don't really know, John," the D.O. said. "Something¹⁵ very strange is happening on this island. You must find out¹⁶ about it. Do you know anything about this island?"

"Well, yes," Carstairs said. "I know that the Americans have bought it and built the biggest computer in the world there."

"You know enough, John," the D.O. said. "The Americans built this computer two years ago. They call it 'DOT'. The letters 'D.O.T.' stand for 'Data Overseas Transmission'¹⁷."

"'Data Overseas Transmission'? I don't understand."

"I don't either, John, but I think that this big computer sends information¹⁸ to other computers all over the world. It *transmits data overseas*, so they call it DOT. It's different from all other computers. It doesn't need a special computer programme¹⁹. It can send information in English. All the computers in the world need special programmes. This one doesn't. It works by itself²⁰. The name of the American in charge²¹ on Doriphoros is Rudolph P. Hardbaker²²."



"Do you know anything about this island?"



"Have you seen this story about Professor Mastermind?"

"Have you seen this, D.O.?" Carstairs asked and he showed the D.O. his newspaper. "'1000 Computers Out of Order'."

"Yes, I have," the D.O. said. "About 25,000 computers in the world are out of order. This is a terribly serious problem. If it continues, NASA's space programme will stop."

"And do you think that DOT has anything to do with it?"²³

"I don't know, John. I want you to find out."

"Is DOT out of order?"

"We have asked the Americans and they say that DOT is working very well. They won't allow²⁴ anyone on the island."

"And Hardbaker? What do you know about him?"

"Nothing, I'm afraid,²⁵ John. It'll be a difficult operation."²⁶

Carstairs was silent. He looked at his newspaper again.

"Have you seen this story about Professor Mastermind? A man murdered him in a London theatre last night."

"I have seen the story, John. I know about this man. His name was Tom Smith, not 'Mastermind'. He came to our office two days ago. He gave us this."