

《大学英语·精读》(修订版)辅导丛书

DAXUE

总主编 罗冬爱 主编 罗冬爱 副主编 王勇

YINGYU XUEXI ZHINAN

大学英语 学习指南

2

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HBCSCBS

湖北辞书出版社

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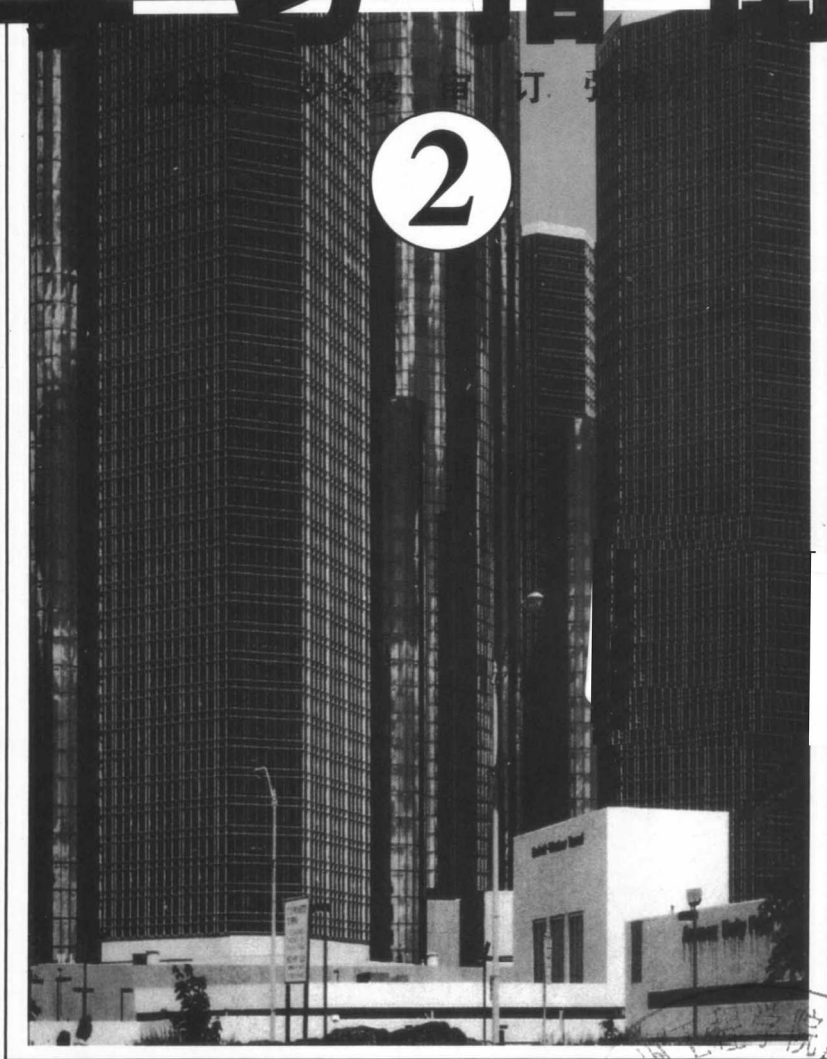
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前言

《大学英语·精读》(复旦大学英语教学组编写)被全国文、理、工、农、医院校采用,受到普遍好评,其修订版本也已问世。为了帮助广大在校专科生、本科生、备考研究生及所有该教材的使用者了解重点、明确难点、抓住要点,掌握好该书所要求的内容,提高语言应用能力,同时也为广大大学英语教师提供参考,我们编写了这套丛书。

根据《大学英语·精读》(修订版)的特点和我们多年使用原教材的经验,经过全面的研究,我们在本丛书设立下述若干部分:

1. 主题思想(Main Idea)(英文)
2. 背景知识(汉语)
3. 重点词和易混词语辨析
4. 疑难详解及语篇赏析
5. 课文练习答案
6. 课文参考译文
7. 补充练习
8. 补充练习答案

“主题思想”旨在培养学生的宏观理解能力,每学完一课能抓住中心思想,避免那种见树不见林的弊病。用英文写主题思想为的是给学生提供一篇课文小结范文,也为教师提供参考。“背景知识”提供和课文相关的知识,以扩大学生的视野,提高他们的阅读理解效果。“重点词和易混词语辨析”根据修订本 Words to Drill 方框中的词,提供英汉释义,配以例句,同时还对这些词的用法作相应的扩充说明,提供派生词,并对同义词或近义词进行比较,以扩大词汇量,提高词语运用能力。“疑难详解”着重句法和词语的理解,包括有关文化知识的介绍,其中亦有词语的讲练,但重在词语的习惯搭配和惯用法;“语篇赏析”对课文的体裁和句法结构以及修辞手段进行简要分析,以便逐步学习语篇知识。提供“课文练习答案”主要是方便自学和自测。“课文参考译文”也是为适应理工科学生学英语的特点所设,因为翻译能加深理解,同时通过对比阅读,能学到一些翻译技巧。“补充练习”围绕扩充的词语用法、词语比较、惯用法所设,以巩固本课所学的内容。

本丛书共四分册,与教材同步,由华中师范大学公共外语系经验丰富的教师承担。整套丛书由罗冬爱策划主编;第一册由严小玉、张莹编写;第二册由罗冬爱、王勇编写;第三册由游巧荣、盛萍编写;第四册由鲍琳虹、张一鸣编写。华中师范大学英语系张维友教授对本丛书进行了审订。湖北辞书出版社及潘熙祥社长对该书的付梓给予了大力支持,在此表示衷心感谢。

由于时间仓促,加之编者水平所限,疏漏之处在所难免,请各位读者批评指正。

编者

1998年12月

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UNIT ONE

IS THERE LIFE ON EARTH?

地球上生命有吗？

Main Idea

This is a humorous and satirical essay written by Art Buchwald from the point of view of imaginary Venusians who are exploring the possibility of life on Earth because of highly polluted condition. Venusian scientists have come to the conclusion, based on information received by their satellite, that there is no life on Earth. The author's goal is to call our attention to the fact that modern man has polluted his environment to such an extent that he might destroy himself without environmental protection.

背景知识

1. Venus 金星

金星是太阳系中距地球最近的行星，其亮度仅次于太阳和月亮。日出时金星出现在东方，称之为“启明星”(the morning sun)。日落时出现在西方，称为“黄昏星”(the evening sun)。金星表面的平均温度约为 475 摄氏度，它的大气成分 95% 为二氧化碳，氧气非常稀少。就我们所知，高温和几乎无氧使金星上不可能存在生命。有趣的是作者阿特·布奇沃德讽刺性地选择金星作为故事的背景 (setting)。他借金星科学家之口谈到，如果金星人能学会在地球大气层 (earth atmosphere) 呼吸的话，那么他们就可以在任何地方生存时，读者便深深体会到文中针对地球现实问题的讽刺意义。

2. Manhattan 曼哈顿 (岛)

曼哈顿长 20 公里，宽 4 公里，位于哈得逊河和伊斯特以及哈莱姆之间，是纽约市的一个区。有着众多的名胜，包括华尔街商业中心 (the Wall Street Business Center)，百老汇 (Broadway)，唐人街，帝国大厦 (the Empire State Building)，格林威治村 (Greenwich Village)，时代广场 (Time Square)，世界贸易大厦 (the World Trade Building)，联合国总部 (the United Nations Headquarters)，以及许多的教堂、大专院校和影剧院。纽约市大多数市政建筑群都位于岛上。

曼哈顿于 1626 年由荷兰殖民总督彼得·梅立特 (Peter Minute) 从印第安人处购得，他只用价值 24 美元的珠子、布匹和小饰物就换到这块面积达 80 平方公里的土地。

重点词和易混词语辨析

1. land

1) *vt. & vi.* bring to land; set on sth solid; come to land 使着陆；登陆；着陆

The Venusian scientists landed a satellite on the planet Earth.

金星上的科学家把一颗卫星送上了地球。

The passengers were landed at Wuhan. 乘客们在武汉登岸。

The ship landed safely at Bombay. 船在孟买靠岸。

2) *n.* 陆地, 土地, 国土, 国家 (该词含有感情色彩, country 强调土地)

△ go by land 从陆地上去 my native land 我的祖国

【派生】**landing** *n.* act of coming or bringing to land 登陆; 着陆

The landing of first man-made satellite on the moon was successful.

第一颗人造卫星成功登上月球。

The pilot made an emergency landing. 驾驶员作紧急着陆。

2. **signal** *n.* a sound or action intended to warn, command, or give a message 信号, 暗号

The commander gave the signal for an attack. 指挥官发出进攻信号。

A red light is usually a signal of danger. 红灯通常是危险的信号。

【比较】**signal, sign**

用作名词时, signal 与 sign 是同义词, 均为“符号”, “信号”。但 signal 指用声音或灯光、烟、举动等示警、命令或发出信息, 是动态的, 具有指向性。sign 用作名词, 指的是用语言、文字、符号等表示某物, 是静态的, 也可是动态的, 尤指手或头等的示意动作。例如:

American Indians had two ways to talk without sound. One way was by sign language; the other was by signals.

美国印第安人有两种方式进行无声交谈, 一种是用手势语, 另一种则是用信号。

△ traffic sign 交通标志 sign language 手势语

3. **direct** *vt.*

1) turn (sth) straight to or at 把……对准某目标或方向

My remarks were not directed to all of you. 我的话不是针对你们所有的人的。

The soldiers directed a gun against the fort. 士兵们将大炮对准要塞。

2) tell or show sb how to do sth 指点

Can you direct me to the railway station? 你能告诉我去火车站的路吗?

3) manage 管理

Who is directing the workers? 谁在指挥这些工人?

【派生】**direction** *n.* 说明, 指引 **director** *n.* 董事, 导演

4. **extremely** *adv.* very 非常, 极其

He is an extremely interesting man. 他是一个极其有趣的人。

Last week, Tom received an extremely strange letter.

上周, 汤姆收到一封极为奇怪的信。

5. **feasibility** *n.* possibility of being carried out or done 可行性

They are discussing the feasibility of setting up a military government.

他们正在讨论建立一个军事政府的可行性。

6. **compose** *vt.* make up, form 组成, 构成

England, Scotland and Wales compose the island of Great Britain.

英格兰、苏格兰和威尔士构成大不列颠岛。

All substances are composed of a great many particles called atoms.

一切物质都是由称为原子的大量粒子构成的。

【比较】**compose, form, consist of, be made up of**

这几个词和词组都可表示“组成, 构成”的意思。**form** 和 **compose** 强调数个物体构成一个整体; **form** 常用主动语态, 而 **compose** 则常用被动语态, **compose** 与介词 **of** 构成 **be composed of** 短语; **consist of** 强调一个整体由数个个体组成, 不用被动语态; **be made up of** 在文体上没有 **be composed of** 正式。例如:

Our team is composed of teachers, students and scientists.

我们队是由教师、学生和科学家组成。

The contents of the house will form the basis of a major exhibition.

房内的物品将构成一次大型展览会的基础。

Concrete consists of cement, sand and gravel mixed with water.

混凝土是由水泥、砂子、碎石加水构成。

The audience was made up of very young children. 观众是由很小的儿童组成的。

7. **atmosphere** *n.*

1) 空气

Mountain atmosphere is usually dry and cool. 山上的空气一般都干燥凉爽。

2) 大气层, 大气

The space-ship entered the earth's atmosphere. 太空船进入了地球大气层。

3) 气氛, 环境 (可与 **a** 或 **an** 连用)

We all love the cheerful atmosphere of Christmas. 我们都喜欢圣诞节的欢乐气氛。

We should create an atmosphere of peace. 我们应创造一个和平的环境。

【派生】**atmospheric** *adj.* 大气的, 空气的

8. **deadly** *adj.* causing death; likely to cause death 致命的, 致死的

【比较】**deadly, dead**

deadly 通常指可能致命的、非常的、如死一般的; **dead** 则指已经死亡的, 无生命的。

例如:

The atmosphere is filled with deadly gases. 大气中充满了有毒气体。

Peter completed the work in deadly haste. 彼得很快地完成了任务。

These are deadly weapons/diseases. 这些是致命的武器 (疾病)。

The man has been dead for three years. 那个人已死三年了。

Sweep the dead leaves from the walk. 把人行道上的枯叶清扫掉。

9. **survive**

1) *vi.* continue to live or exist 活下来, 幸存

She is the only person who survived after the explosion.

爆炸事故发生后，他是唯一的幸存者。

2) *vt.* remain alive after 从……中逃出，从（困境中）挺过来，幸免于

Only 760 people out of over 2 200 passengers survived the shipwreck of the Titanic.

泰坦尼克号葬身海底，2 200 多名乘客中，仅 710 人幸免于难。

Only a few soldiers survived the battle. 只有少数几个士兵从战场上活着回来。

3) *vt.* live or exist longer than 比……活得长

Statistics show that most wives survive their husbands.

统计数据表明，大多妻子都比丈夫寿命长。

【派生】**survival** *n.* 生存；幸存 **survivor** *n.* 幸存者；残存物

10. **program(me)** *n.*

1) plan of what is to be done 计划，预定表，大纲，规则（与 plan 同义）

We are drawing up a teaching programme. 我们正在制定教学大纲。

This is our program for tomorrow. 这是我们明天的计划。

2) lists of items, events 节目单，程序表

What's your favorite television program? 你最喜欢的电视节目是什么？

He is preparing a computer program. 他正在编制计算机程序。

11. **originally** *adv.* 最初地，原先地

The factory was originally very small. 这个工厂最初很小。

You did much better than we had originally expected.

你们干得比我们原先期望的要好得多。

12. **hazard**

1) *n.* 危险；冒险（与 danger 同义）

Icy roads are a hazard to drivers. 冰冻的道路对司机来说是很危险的。

Smoking cigarettes is a real health hazard. 抽烟是真正拿健康冒险。

2) *vt.* 冒险；拼命（与 risk 同义）

He hazarded all his money in the attempt to save the business.

他冒着损失他的所有钱财的风险企图挽救该企业。

【派生】**hazardous** *adj.* 冒险性的；危险的

13. **indicate** *vt.* 表明，显示（与 show 同义）

A sign-post indicated the right road for us to follow. 路标是给我们指路的。

The black clouds indicate that it will rain. 乌云预示天要下雨。

【派生】**indication** *n.* 表示；指示；迹象 **indicative** *adj.* 指示的

indicator *n.* 指示器

14. **pollute** *vt.* make (air, water, soil, etc.) dirty with man made waste 弄脏；污染

The lake has been polluted by all kinds of industrial waste.

这个湖已被各种工业废物污染。

The air is polluted with fumes from factories. 空气受到工厂废气的污染。

【派生】**pollution** *n.* 污染 **pollutant** *n.* 污染物 **polluter** *n.* 污染者

15. **emit** *vt.* give or send out 发出；发射

A volcano emits smoke and ashes. 火山喷发出烟和尘埃。

【派生】**emission** *n.* 散发，发射；发射物

16. **unfit** *adj.* not good enough; not suitable 不适合的，不胜任的（是 **fit** 的反义词）

He is physically unfit to be an airman. 他的身体不适合当飞行员。

The road is unfit for heavy traffic. 这条路不适宜车辆过多。

【比较】**fit, suit**

fit 指衣服尺寸大小合适，而 **suit** 指衣服色彩、式样合适。例如：

This suit fits you well. 这套衣服你穿着很合身。

The color of the dress doesn't suit her.

那种颜色不适合她。（暗示颜色与肤色不配）

17. **crash** *v.*

1) fall or strike suddenly, violently and noisily 坠落；坠毁；发出撞击声，发出爆裂声

The vase crashed to the floor. 花瓶掉到地上摔破了。

The aeroplane crashed into the sea. 那架飞机坠入大海。

The door crashed open. 门砰的一声给撞开了。

【比较】**crash, smash**

当表示猛烈的撞击、闯进之意时，两个词同义。但 **crash** 有“坠落”、“坠毁”之意，而 **smash** 则没有。另外，**crash** 强调砸碎东西所发出的猛烈声音，**smash** 则强调动作的结果，即东西成为碎片。

The car crashed/smashed into a tree. 汽车猛撞到一棵树上。

The drunken man smashed up all the dishes on the table.

醉汉砸碎了桌上所有的盘碟。

Don't smash the door open; I have a key. 不要砸开门，我有钥匙。

The airplane crashed down five minutes after it took off.

飞机起飞五分钟后便坠毁了。

He crashed a bottle against the wall. 他把瓶子砰地摔到墙上。

18. **scrape**

1) *vt.* rob with sth rough or sharp 刮；擦

She used a pair of scissors to scrape scales off a fish. 她用一把剪刀刮去鱼鳞。

I often scrape carrots for dinner. 我经常为晚餐刮胡萝卜。

2) *vi.* pass along, touching or almost touching 擦过；勉强通过

△ scrape through a narrow opening 钻过窄洞

Susan just scraped through the maths examination. 苏珊勉强通过数学考试。

19. **proceed** *vi.* (与 **continue** 和 **go forward** 同义)

The train proceeded at the same speed as before. 火车以原来的速度继续前进。

The discussion proceeded in a friendly atmosphere. 讨论在友好的气氛中继续进行。

疑难详解及语篇赏析

1. **There was great excitement on the planet of Venus this week.**

本周金星上群情激动异常。(注意翻译该句时的句型转换及词类转变)

2. **For the first time Venusian scientists managed to land a satellite on the planet Earth.**

(For the first time Venusian scientists succeeded in landing a satellite on the planet Earth.) 金星上的科学家首次把一颗卫星成功地送上了地球。

manage (to do sth): succeed in accomplishing or handling sth, esp with an effort 设法做到 (某件困难的事)

How did you manage to finish the assignment in one hour?

你是如何设法在一小时完成所分配的工作的?

I can manage the heavy suitcase. 我能对付这个沉重的箱子。

【比较】manage, try, attempt

manage 指设法做成了某事, 暗含历经周折, 克服了障碍, 或总算“将就着”做成了, 强调结果; **try** 指设法做某事, 往往指努力的过程; **attempt** 是指努力去做某事, 常指第一次尝试, 并含有虽经努力, 却往往达不到目的的意味。例如:

We managed to keep out of debt. 我们设法避免了债务。

Try and see whether you can do it by yourself. 试试看, 能否自己做这件事。

The enemy attempted to destroy the factories before they fled.

敌人溃逃前企图毁坏工厂。

3. ... **and it has been sending back signal as well as photographs ever since.**

……此后, 卫星便不断地发回信号和照片。

ever since: from then until now 从那时起, 从……以来 (与 since 和 then 同义), 后跟名词、从句, 或单独作为状语使用。

Ever since we met at school, Jack and I have been good friends.

自我和杰克在学校相识以来一直是好朋友。

She has been teaching English here ever since her graduation.

自她毕业以来一直在这儿教英语。

His father went to Turkey in 1990 and has been living there ever since.

他的父亲 1990 年去了土耳其, 从此一直住在那里。

4. **The satellite was directed into an area known as Manhattan (named after the great Venusian astronomer Prof. Manhattan, who discovered it with his telescope 20 000 light years ago).** (The area the satellite was flying into was called Manhattan. It was given such a name because it was Professor Manhattan who found it a very, very long time ago.) 卫星对准发射的地区叫曼哈顿 (是以金星上伟大的天文学家曼哈顿教授命名的, 在两万光年之前该教授用望远镜首次发现了这个地区)。

1) **be known as**: generally recognized as; called 被认为; 以……知名; 被称为

George Washington, the first president of the United States is known as the Father of America. 乔治·华盛顿, 美国的第一任总统, 被誉为“美国之父”。

Professor Wang is known as an authority on the Dream of Red Chamber.

王教授被认为是研究《红楼梦》的权威。

2) **name ... after**: give the same name as 以……的名字命名

The couple named their first son George after his grandfather.

这对夫妇以孩子的祖父的名字给大儿子起名叫乔治。

The bridge is named after its designer.

这座桥是用他的设计者的名字命名的。

3) 20 000 light years ago: 一光年指光以每秒 300 000 千米的速度在一年所运行的距离。在非科技文献中常用 many light years away (很多光年之遥)。我们不能说 10 千米前, 当然也不能说 20 000 光年前。作者当然有这种常识, 他是故意犯一个常识性的错误, 以取得幽默的效果。该短语的意思是“很久很久以前”。

5. **Because of excellent weather conditions and extremely strong signals, Venusian scientists were able to get saucer landing on Earth.** 由于天气条件极为有利, 信号极为清晰, 金星科学家从而获得了有关载人飞碟能否在地球上着陆的宝贵资料。

1) **because of**: as a result of 因为

Peter couldn't go to play football because of his broken leg (=because his leg was broken). 彼得由于腿摔坏了不能去踢足球。

【比较】**because of, owing to, due to**

because of 和 owing to 是介词短语, 后面通常跟名词或名词性短语。**because of** 只能引导原因状语, 相当于 because 引起的状语从句。**due to** 意为“由于”, 通常在句中作表语, 一般不用来引导状语。**owing to** 既可以引导状语, 也可以引导表语, 但多见于前者。owing to 一般是修饰主句, 可置于句首, 并多用逗号隔开。而 because of 多修饰主句的一部分, 也不必用逗号分开。例如:

The accident was due to/owing to careless driving. 这起车祸是由于粗心驾驶所致。

Owing to the storm, they could not come on time. 由于暴风雨, 他们不能准时来。

They decided to put off the sports meet, owing to the change of weather.

由于天气变化, 他们决定将运动会延期。

Mr Wang had to give up his experiment because of his poor health (=because he was in poor health). 由于身体不好, 王先生不得不放弃实验。

2) **as to**: about, concerning, referring to, with regard to 关于, 至于

I have not yet decided as to when we set off. 我还没有决定何时出发。

As to your proposal, I am afraid I cannot accept it. 至于你的建议, 我恐怕不能采纳。

【比较】**as for, as to**

as for 只用于句首, 而 **as to** 既可以放在句首, 也可以放在其他位置。**as to** 放在句首, 以加强语气。如果表示“蔑视”之意, 通常用 **as for**。例如:

As to the dictionary, I assure you, it has real merit.

至于那本词典，我向你保证，确实有价值。

As for you, I never want to see you again. 至于你，我永远也不想再见到你。

6. **For one thing ... for another ...**; in the first place ... in the second place (常用作插入语，表示列举) 首先……其次……; 第一……第二……

Many people want to buy it because, for one thing, the price is low; for another, it's rather durable. 很多人想买它，首先是价格便宜，其次是相当耐用。

We'd better give up the idea of travelling around the world. For one thing there isn't time; for another, we don't have enough money.

我们最好放弃环球旅行的想法：第一，没时间；第二，我们没有足够的钱。

7. **"We have come to the conclusion based on last week's satellite landing," Prof. Zog said, "that there is no life on Earth."** “根据上周发射的卫星所提供的资料，”佐格教授说，“我们已得出结论，地球上没有生命。”

1) **come to a/the conclusion**: reach or draw a/the conclusion 得出结论

Based on the facts, we may come to the conclusion that it is unbelievable.

根据事实，我们可得出结论，这是不可信的。

It is difficult to come to a definite conclusion because the situation is complex.

由于情况复杂，很难得出明确的结论。

同 conclusion 构成的常用短语有: draw/reach/arrive at/come to a conclusion. conclusion 还有结束之意。例如: I find the conclusion of this book very interesting. (我发现这本书的结尾很有趣。)

2) **base ... on/upon**: use ... as a basis for; build or find ... on 以……为根据; 建立在……之上

Mary always bases her opinions on the facts. 玛丽的意见一向是以事实为根据的。

The new agreement is based on the original United Nations proposal.

新的协议是以联合国的最初建议为基础的。

8. **What does this mean as far as our flying saucer program is concerned?**

就我们的飞碟计划而言，这又意味着什么呢？

as/so far as ... be concerned: in respect of, as for 关于，涉及到，就……而言

Jackson is the right person for the job as far as ability is concerned.

就能力而言，杰克逊是这份工作的合适人选。

As far as the style is concerned, I prefer this suit. 就式样而言，我喜欢这一套。

9. **You see this dark black cloud hovering over the surface of Earth?**

诸位看到在地球表面上方飘浮的这片深黑色的云层吗？

1) dark 与 black 都是 cloud 的定语。当一个名词被几个形容词修饰的时候，常涉及到次序的问题。修饰成分的一般顺序是：限定词（冠词、代词、数词）+ 描绘形容词 + 表示大小、长度、形状、新旧的形容词 + 表示年龄的形容词 + 颜色形容词 + 类别形容词 + 名词或动名词。例如：

△ a big round conference table 一个大圆会议桌

△ a big brown woolen bear 一个毛线制作的褐色大熊

2) **hover over**: keep floating over 盘旋; 漂浮; 翱翔

The helicopter hovered over the place where the plane had crashed.

这架直升机在飞机坠毁的地点上空盘旋。

A hawk was hovering over its prey. 一只鹰在它要捕获的猎物上空盘旋着。

注意该词组在下面句子中的意思:

The fear of death has been hovering over him since he was told that he had got a cancer. 自从他得知患了癌症, 死亡的恐惧一直在威胁着他。

The man hovered round the gate, hoping to have a talk with the general manager.

那人在大门口徘徊, 想和总经理谈谈。

The sick man hovered between life and death for a week after his operation.

那病人手术后一周, 仍未脱离危险期。

3) 该句的结构为“动词+宾语+宾补”, 常用于此结构的词和词组有 find, hear, listen to, watch, notice 等。此结构的宾补可用不带 to 的不定式短语, 也可用现在分词, 但意义上有所区别。如果动词后用不定式作宾语补足语, 表示听见、看到一个动作或事件的完成。而用现在分词作宾补则表示听见、看到一个动作或事件正在发生。例如:

As he stood there he saw two men enter the bar.

他站在那儿时看见两个人走进了酒吧。(表示动作的结束)

I saw him working in the garden when I came back.

我回来时看见他正在园子内干活。(表示动作正在进行)

10. ... **which will add ever greater weight to the saucer.**

……这就会给飞碟增加更多的重量。

add ... to: put one thing to another 增加, 添加

We will add two new items to the program.

我们将在这个节目单上增加两个新节目。

This wide reading added greatly to our knowledge.

这种广泛的阅读大大地增长了我们的知识。

11. ... **and keep crashing into each other.** ...而且不断地相互碰撞。

keep doing sth: continue (doing sth), repeat an action 连续, 不断做

My teachers kept encouraging me to study hard. 我的老师不断地激励我努力学习。

News of success keeps pouring in. 捷报频频传来。

【比较】keep on doing sth, keep doing sth

keep on doing sth 与 keep doing sth 意义相同, 但前者更侧重重复不断地做, 强调重复性和不畏难的决心。例如:

He keeps on asking me such questions. 他老是不断地问我这类问题。

Don't give up hope; keep on trying. 不要放弃希望, 要不断地尝试。

12. **Over here you will notice what seems to be a river...**

诸位可以看到像是一条河似的的东西……

notice *vt.* 注意, 留意

Mrs White noticed a great change in her son when he returned from an American business trip. 怀特夫人注意到儿子从美国出差回来变化很大。

【比较】**notice, pay attention to**

notice 指无意识地感觉或注意到、察觉到某人或某物, 强调动作的结果; **pay attention to** 则强调主观上有意识地注意、留意, 强调动作本身。

Economists have noticed the latest developments in China.

经济学家们注意到了中国的最新发展。

Economists are paying close attention to the latest developments in China.

经济学家们正在密切注视着中国的最新发展。

13. **What are those stalagmite projections sticking up?**

那些直立凸出的笋状物是什么东西?

stick up: (cause to) project upwards; stand upright or on end (使) 向上突出, (使) 竖起

The Empire State Building that sticks up on Manhattan is one of the tallest skyscrapers in the world.

耸立在曼哈顿的帝国大厦是世界上最高的摩天大楼之一。

Seeing a snake, the girl's hair stuck up straight with fright.

那女孩看见一条蛇, 吓得头发都竖了起来。

14. **There are so many of those paths and so many metal particles that it is impossible to land a flying saucer without its being smashed by one.** 那里有如此之多通道和金属微粒, 发射飞碟就不可能不与其中一个微粒相撞而弄得粉碎。

1) one (of the many metal particles) 即上文所说照片上的 tiny black spots。它到底是什么? 这似乎是金星人无法猜透的谜, 读者不难从 metal particles, emit gases, make noise, keep crashing into each other 猜出, 谜底是 automobiles (汽车)。耐人寻味的是, 美国汽车事故如此之多, 金星人都不敢领教, 感到可怕。可见作者夸张讽喻的巧妙。

2) impossible 和 without being smashed 是双重否定, 相当于“必然”。

15. **They are some type of granite formations that give off light at night.**

它们是某种夜间会发光的花岗岩结构。

give off: emit, send out (esp. steam, liquid, gas, light, smell) 发出, 放出 (尤指蒸汽、液体、气体、光、气味等)

This milk is giving off a nasty smell. 这牛奶散发出一股难闻的气味。

The chimney gives off a lot of waste gas. 这烟筒排出大量废气。

16. **... set back the flying saucer program several years?**

……那飞碟计划就要推迟好多年吗?

set back: delay the development/advance of, put back 耽搁, 阻碍; 使后退

The fire in the factory set back production by several months.