教育部推荐教材 大学专业英语系列教材

## 经济学专业 英语教程(第二版·LE)

主编 宋利芳 高宏存 张勇先



( 中国人民大学出版社

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# で使用説明。

本书是"大学专业英语系列教材"中的经济类上册(共上、下两册)。按照 新教学大纲的要求,本书适合于目前在校的大学二至三年级学生,是较为理想的 英语加专业知识的"大学英语"教材。

本书兼顾英语语言的学习应用和经济学专业知识两个方面。学生在锻炼英语 应用能力的同时,又可学到经济学方面的知识。

本书对学生的要求: 达到或超过四级英语水平; 不必事先具有经济学方面的知识。

本书对教师的要求: 具有一定经济学知识的英语教师, 或英语水平较高的经济类专业教师。

上册共有14个单元,每一单元包括主课文和副课文,系统介绍了经济学方面的基础知识和基本理论,具有较强的系统性和完整性,涵盖了微观经济学和宏观经济学的主要内容。各单元的主课文内容分别为:第一单元:什么是经济学;第二单元:需求与供给;第三单元:需求与供给的价格弹性;第四单元:生产成本;第五单元:垄断;第六单元:寡头垄断;第七单元:国内生产总值;第八单元:经济增长;第九单元:通货膨胀;第十单元:货币与银行;第十一单元:外汇与汇率;第十二单元:国际收支;第十三单元:财政政策与货币政策;第十四单元:政府在经济中的作用。

上册主课文的语言难度比较适中,各单元之间没有大的跳跃,前后较一致。本书是经济学专业的浅显入门教材。

课文注释包括两个方面: 英语语言点和经济学术语。

各单元生词的释义基本采用英、汉双解形式。生词起点以教育部公布的《大学英语教学大纲通用词汇表》中的四级以上词汇为准。

各单元的练习设计和编排旨在培养和提高学生应用英语的能力,帮助学生掌握经济学基本概念和基本理论以及专业术语。教师在要求学生掌握基本经济学知



识的同时,还应强调学生的口头交流能力和笔头表达能力,尽可能在课上多给学生一些语言实践的机会,注意口头练习和笔头练习相结合,个人发言和小组讨论相结合。

根据学生的专业情况和英语水平、教师可对课文和练习内容进行灵活处理。

本书由中国人民大学经济学院宋利芳副教授和外国语学院张勇先教授担任主编、中国人民大学外国语学院和经济学院的资深教师学者们合作编写。

本书结构严谨,内容权威,知识通俗,是经济学专业本科生的参考教材、非 经济学专业本科生的通识课教材。

本书在编写过程中,参阅和引用了国内外已有的相关文献,谨向有关作者表示感谢。由于编者编写时间和水平有限,书中难免有不当或错误之处,欢迎广大读者提出宝贵意见,以便再版时修订。

本书的出版得到中国人民大学出版社的大力帮助和支持,特致以衷心的谢意。

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2007年12月于中国人民大学

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WHATE

There is no single adequate a shrittion of what coordinated the first and the old joke that "economics is that the conomists do" is had a seconomist of the past. Afred Marshall (1842—1924), said,

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Economics has also been defined as the study of decision-making; decisions which involve choosing between alternatives in the related activities of carning, spending, producing and consuming, all with the object of achieving material well-being.

In short, economics is, like sociology, law and politics, a study of one aspect of human behavior. It is important and relevant to all of us because it is concerned with such everyday activities as buying things, getting a job, using a bank and paying tax. Economics is concerned with people's water to purcular their material wants, and how they can be constituted.

Text: What Is Economics?

Additional Text: The Economic Problem

what is going on in our society and what the issues are, As consumers we are





### Text

### WHAT IS ECONOMICS?

There is no single adequate definition of what economics actually is, and the old joke that "economics is what economists do" is hardly helpful. A famous economist of the past, Alfred Marshall (1842—1924), said:

Economics is the study of mankind in the ordinary business of life; it examines that part of individual and social action which is most closely connected with the attainment and with the use of the material requisites of well-being.

Economics has also been defined as the study of decision-making; decisions which involve choosing between alternatives in the related activities of earning, spending, producing and consuming, all with the object of achieving material well-being.

In short, economics is, like sociology, law and politics, a study of one aspect of human behavior. It is important and relevant to all of us because it is concerned with such everyday activities as buying things, getting a job, using a bank and paying tax. Economics is concerned with people's wants, in particular their material wants, and how they can be satisfied.

Economics is often thought of as a science. However, it is a very inexact science because it is a social science, and is affected by the many influences that lead to incessant change. Human behavior cannot be examined with the same precision with which a natural scientist can examine laboratory specimens. The social sciences, which include economics, psychology, sociology and political behavior, can never be exact sciences since human behavior is extremely difficult to test or measure. Much economic behavior is based on what is known as a value judgment, which means it is based on the personal values of individuals and so cannot be verified in a factual way. Economics is a living subject, which is constantly developing and it affects us all.

To understand the society in which we live, we must be informed about what is going on in our society and what the issues are. As consumers we are interested in the goods and services which we buy and how much they cost us, and we are interested in the incomes we can earn. We spend a great deal of time thinking about the money we earn and the money we need. Workers are concerned with the availability of jobs, wages and working conditions. Business people are interested in the sale of their goods and the costs involved in the production of them. Everyone is affected by depression, inflation, unemployment and government policies.

A knowledge of economics will allow us to analyze and assess the values of policies and decisions made by politicians. And it will help us to become more aware of the current and future problems of our society and therefore better able to cope with them. We are all consumers and most of us read the newspapers, so it is up to us to understand what is going on. Even our own personal decisions are often affected by the state of the economy, so we could make better choices if we understood the way the economy operates. An economy is often affected by factors such as the use of technology, the actions of the government, industrial relations, and overseas trade. All of these influences result in constant change. Prices seem to rise constantly. Some jobs are no longer available, while new types of jobs appear. Changes in employment and prices affect almost everyone.

Employment and the types of jobs available are all part of the economic pattern. Some jobs may involve extreme specialization, such as making just a small part of something; others demand professional skills. All of these activities enable us to have a variety of goods and services. But while economic activities satisfy our wants, there are also economic problems to be faced. The economic system is made up of human beings and so human behavior is crucial to the system. The principles and motives from which people act are not necessarily economic in origin, and are often based on non-economic values. Differing values and social forces have led to countries developing different economic systems, but all countries face the same economic problems—such as whether they are producing the right things and by the best methods, how wants are to be satisfied, and whose wants are to be satisfied.

Economics is a study of living and working in society; but not all societies behave in the same way.

In order to produce the things people want there must be some kind of organization. An economic system is made up of the collection of relationships, customs, institutions, laws and arrangements that are combined to satisfy the economic wants of the community—to determine what and how production takes place, and who receives the output. Naturally it depends on the





participation of the members of the community. An economic system is not just an abstraction; it is the real world.

In one sense the economic system of a society does grow or, rather, develop, because the type of system a country has depended on its historical background and its political forces. A nation's history and political tradition are important in shaping its economic goals and methods, and its basic economic institutions. The values and beliefs held by the members of the society are also influential.

The job of an economic system is to form a framework of organization which enables choices and decisions to be made on how to satisfy the wants of the community. The way it does this depends largely on the type of society. In the USA there is still a belief in the value of free enterprise and the ability of individuals to succeed if they work hard enough. In some countries, such as England and possibly Sweden, there is a belief in the welfare state, that it is up to the government to look after the citizens from the cradle to the grave, although there have been criticisms of this approach because of cost. Countries like Australia seem to represent a mixture of both these attitudes.

National characteristics and belief systems have led to many differences between economic systems. It cannot be said that just because two countries have the same political governments, they will run their economies in the same way. It is not easy to compare one economy with another and say that one is better or worse—there is too much diversity, and adequate measurement is impossible. One can, however, say that the standard of living is better in one economy than in another. Or one can compare such things as the level of unemployment or the stability of prices. But these single measures cannot show a true or complete picture of an economy.

### New Words

abstraction /æb'strækʃən/ n. 抽象概念; 抽象化
assess /ə'ses/ n. 评定,确定,估价
crucial /'kru:ʃəl/ adj. 至关重要的,决定性的
diversity /dai'və:siti/ n. 多种多样; 多样性
factual /'fæktʃuəl/ adj. 事实的,真实的
framework /'freimwə:k/ n. 框架; 结构
incessant /in'sesnt/ adj. 连续的,持续不断的
inexact /inig'zækt/ adj. 不准确的,不精确的
inflation /in'fleiʃən/ n. 通货膨胀

precision /pri'siʒən/ m. 准确 (性), 精确 (性) de manarquana akir labasana arequisite /'rekwizit/ m. 必需的事物, 必需的物品 unand vd odw rakar kan azən aspecialization /speʃəlai'zeifən/ m. 专业化 are mod filong a əkan or vinumoqqo specimen /'spesimin/ n. 样品, 标本 (复数加s) stability /stə'biliti/ n. 稳定性 Sweden /'swi:dən/ n. 瑞典 (国家名)

verify /'verifai/ u 证实,核对



- 1. Alfred Marshall Alfred Marshall (1842—1924) was a British economist. He gave the name economics to the science formerly known as political economy (政治经济学). Mars-hall examined the law of supply and demand and stated that when the price of a product went up, the demand for it went down. When the price of the product went down, the demand for the product rose. This rule applied to certain non-essential products. Marshall called this theory the theory of the elasticity of demand (需求弹性理论). Marshall was educated at Cambridge University and was professor of economics there from 1885 to 1908. His most important works are *Principles of Economics* (《经济学原理》,1890), *Industry and Trade* (《工业与贸易》,1919),and *Money*,*Credit and Commerce* (《货币、信贷与商业》,1923).
- 2. economics economics 一词在清末传入我国。 当时曾有多种译名,如:"富国策"、"富国养民策"、"生计学"、"理财学"。但孙中山先生认为以上译名"皆不足以赅其义,惟'经济'二字,似稍近之"。从此, economics 取"经世济民"之意,被译为"经济学"并一直沿用至今。
  - 3. needs and wants needs 指的是需要,而 wants 指的是欲望。
- 4. value judgment 价值判断。judgement 和 judgment 两种拼写都可以用。它的意思是: estimate of moral, artistic worth based on personal assessment rather than objective fact, 即:对道德、艺术等价值所做的主观评价。
- 5. goods 商品、货物。常指 the products of primary and secondary industries such as vegetables and machinery。
- 6. enterprise 在本文中, enterprise 指的是"企业单位"、"公司"或"商行"。 Enterprise 还可指"事业心"或"进取心",如 a person of great enterprise (一个事业心很强的人)。此外,entrepreneur /ontrəprə'nə:/可译为"企业家",指的是:a person who starts or organizes a commercial enterprise which involves



financial risks. entrepreneur 的 9 一个定义是: An entrepreneur is a business risk-taker who, by bringing together land, labor and capital, sees the opportunity to make a profit from a new product or process. 该定义强调"获取利润"和"冒经济风险"。

### **Practice**

/ユッチ+n +ト+





### Form a phrase.

经价件系		经价机构	
economic	S	economic	i
经济目标		经济布局	
economic	<b>g</b>	economic	p
经济活动		经济命脉	
economic	a	economic	1
经济增长		经济结构	
economic	<b>g</b>	economic	<b>S</b>
经济萧条		经济合同	
economic	d	economic	c
经济理论		经济危机	
economic	th	economic	c
经济收益		经济效益	
economic	b	economic	p
经济效益		经济效益	
economic	<b>f</b>	economic	e
经济环境		经济奇迹	
economic	e	economic	m
经济政策		经济实体	
economic	<b>p</b>	economic	e
经济欲望		经济制裁	
economic	<b>W</b>	economic	<b>S</b>
经济模式		经济基础	
economic	m	economic	b
经济杠杆		经济复苏	
economic	1	economic	<u>r</u>



#### Translate the following into English.

- 1. 决策
- 2. 价值观
- 3. 自然科学
- 4. 生活水平
- 5. 20世纪30年代的经济大萧条在许多国家造成了社会不稳定。
- 6. 建设有中国特色的社会主义。
- 7. 我们可以将两个国家的失业率和物价的稳定程度进行比较。
- 8. 所有企业家都追求最大的利润和最小的成本。
- 9. 交纳个人所得税是每个公民的义务。



### Discussion questions.

- 1. What is the definition of economics?
- 2. What are the main concerns of economists?
- 3. Why should we learn the basic economic theory?
- 4. What are economic goods and services?
- 5. What influences the type of economic system in a country?
- 6. What type of economic system operates in China?



### Writing task (150 words).

Write a letter to your friend and tell him/her that you like (or do not like) learning economics. You should give reasons for your decision in your letter.



Nobody ever has everything he or she wants and the basic economic problem is said to be scarcity<sup>1</sup>. This is because human wants are greater than the resources available to satisfy them. Choices have to be made on which

<sup>1</sup> scarcity 稀缺,不足



wants are to be satisfied first, and on how resources are to be allocated<sup>1</sup> and combined to satisfy the wants of the community.

Economic resources are generally divided into three main categories<sup>2</sup>: land, labor, and capital.

The term land includes natural resources such as water sources and minerals, even climate. Land cannot be increased, so as a resource its extent is fixed, although sometimes it can be improved in quality by irrigation<sup>3</sup> or fertilization<sup>4</sup>.

The labor resource depends on size and quality of the workforce<sup>5</sup>. The size of the workforce depends on the size of the population, the ages at which people enter and leave the workforce, and the extent to which women participate in employment. The quality of the workforce depends on the skills and education of the workers. Business enterprise<sup>6</sup> and skill is sometimes classified as separate resource, but for simplicity it is here included under the general heading of labor. Labor as a resource includes all types of human effort, mental and physical, which is put into the process of production of goods and services.

By capital we mean the stock of capital goods<sup>7</sup> that a country possesses. Capital goods can be defined as plant and machinery, tools, factory buildings, communication systems, roads and transport systems. Capital goods are those goods which are manufactured and are used to produce other goods. They are manufactured resources. In everyday use, the word "capital" often means stocks of money or other items of wealth. These could be called financial capital<sup>8</sup>. When economists talk about "capital" they usually mean manufactured resources which are used in the process of production.

It may seem a harsh<sup>9</sup> judgement on human behavior to say that wants are limitless, but just consider the behavior of most people. Obviously those whose income is low will want more of the goods which make life more pleasant, but even as people get richer they develop new wants—for better cars, overseas trips, larger and more luxurious<sup>10</sup> homes. With a few exceptions, people always seem to want more material goods or pleasures than they are able to obtain,

I allocate 分配、分派、配给

<sup>2</sup> category 种类, 部属, 类目

<sup>3</sup> irrigation 灌溉, 水利

<sup>4</sup> fertilization 施肥

<sup>5</sup> workforce 劳动大军,劳动力;现有工作人员总数,劳动人口

<sup>6</sup> enterprise 事业心, 进取心, 冒险精神

<sup>7</sup> capital goods 资本品

<sup>8</sup> financial capital 金融资本

<sup>9</sup> harsh 严厉的,苛刻的

<sup>10</sup> luxurious 奢侈的,非常豪华的

and this is at the root of the economic problem.

What we can get is limited by our own resources and efforts. These resources may be the working time needed to earn enough to buy what we want, and even then there is the problem of choice. We have to decide which of our wants should be satisfied first, and then how much of our time or income should be devoted to these priorities before looking at the satisfaction of others. These decisions are personal ones but they demonstrate the basic economic problem of decision-making and choice. If we have one thing, we have to go without another, or settle for a smaller proportion of each, simply because our resources are limited and cannot satisfy all our wants at the same time.

It is an old saying that you can't eat your cake and have it too3. You can't t produce two separate things at the same time from the same resources unless less of each is produced. For example, if a farmer has a piece of land and intends to grow apples on it, then the land cannot be used to produce wheat, unless it is possible to divide the land up and the climate is suitable for both crops. A person with a large garden may decide to cultivate flowers, or dig up the ground to make a tennis court and swimming pool. Land, as we have seen, is one of the economic resources which are limited in quantity and for which a choice has to be made—on the wants to be satisfied and on the extent of that satisfaction.

Time is not classified as an economic resource, but it is an individual resource, and is limited. The individual has to choose the best way in which to use leisure time. You cannot play tennis and look at TV at the same time, although you could play tennis for a short while and then look at the television for the remainder of the time; but something has to be given up. In economic terms this is called opportunity cost. This expression means that the want which was given up was the real cost of the want which was satisfied.

Just as individual people have to make choices and examine the limits on their choices imposed by the resources available to them, so must such decisions be made for an entire community. All societies face the same problem—scarce resources and limitless wants—and the need for decisionmaking. The way the problem is approached depends on the type of economic system in operation. In one type of system people are perfectly free to buy as much of the available goods as they wish, so long as they can pay for them. In another type of system the government decides how much shall be

<sup>1</sup> priority 优先考虑的事;优先权

go without 忍受没有……之苦;在缺少……情况下勉强对付过去;没有也行

<sup>3</sup> you can't eat your cake and have it too 二者不可兼得

approach 探讨, 处理



made and how it shall be shared out. The available resources must be allocated in some way to produce a desired result. Not all societies have the same aims and not all societies go about the allocation of resources in the same way.

The kind of choices that are made in a community about the most desirable objectives to pursue rests on value judgements and opinions. Decisions on what is to be given priority depend on the particular society and its political and cultural framework. The actions of people in an economic system reflect their personal values and interests. They come into contact with each other and agree, disagree, co-operate and compete. This interaction<sup>1</sup> and interdependence<sup>2</sup> develops into a pattern of organization which is characteristic of the system. An economic system concerns people, their needs and wants, and is not a mere abstraction. The individuals and groups in society, such as households, businesses, governments, trade unions and financial institutions, are all part of the system.

It is important to understand that when economists talk about scarcity, this term is being used in a special way. Limited supplies are not necessarily the same as scarcity in the economic sense. Something has to be in demand and to have alternative uses to be scarce in the economic sense. Even if there is only one example of an item, it is not scarce if nobody wants it. Nor is it scarce if it cannot be used for some purpose or other. In the economic sense, scarcity means that a resource which can be used for more than one purpose is in demand, and therefore a choice must be made on how to allocate the resource among the competing purposes.

The kind of choices which must be made in an economic system stems from three main questions:

- What is to be produced?
- ♦ How is it to be produced?
- ★) For whom is it to be produced?

And how these questions are answered depends on:

- He resources available, and
- He type of economic and social system in operation.

Society is a system of human relationships. People enter into various kinds of relationships, political, social and economic. We could define political relationships as those which arise from an authority or power structure. Power and position are acquired by certain people or groups in a society and they

<sup>1</sup> interaction 相互作用, 相互影响

<sup>2</sup> interdependence 互相依赖, 互相依存