



财务会计专业英语

主编 王倩玉 张宇
主审 董丽萍

English in Financial Accounting

哈尔滨工业大学出版社

21 世纪专业英语系列丛书

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English in Financial Accounting

主 编 王倩玉 张 宇
副主编 贾轶群 刘秀杰
主 审 董丽萍

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内 容 提 要

为提高读者对经济事件的理解力,培养理解和解释现实企业财务报表的能力,强化财务会计这一会计分支领域的英文文献的阅读和写作,紧跟财务会计学科发展前沿,给读者提供全面、系统的学习研究财务会计的信息平台,我们编写了本书。本书包括专业阅读、专业学术信息、专业词汇三大部分。第一部分是主干部分,精选会计专业新版教材、近期学术期刊中的有效内容,进行融合整理,取其精华。第二部分提供会计专业的国内外相关学术信息。第三部分为专业词汇。

本书可以作为会计学、财务管理的本科学生和经济管理专业的研究生及MBA学生教材,也可作为各类企业管理人员的培训教材。

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前 言

财务会计是经济管理类专业最为核心的课程之一,在现代经济管理中起着举足轻重的作用。本书旨在介绍财务会计基本理论,提高读者对经济事件的理解力,培养理解和解释现实企业财务报表的能力,强化财务会计这一会计分支领域的英文文献的阅读和写作,紧跟财务会计学科发展前沿。同时,力求给读者提供全面、系统的学习研究财务会计的信息平台。

本书的第一部分是全书的主干内容,它以现代会计理论的最新研究成果和国际会计准则为指导,以西方财务会计体系为基础,内容包括会计介绍,会计基础知识,资产、负债、所有者权益、收入、费用、利润六个会计要素的确认、计量和报告等。在编写过程中,注意将公认会计准则渗透到每一个要素内容中,并从会计专业的角度,系统地阐述了会计核算的基本经济业务、基本方法、基本程序,概括介绍了财务报表分析的方法及运用,并对会计的最新发展动态、最新方法、最新技术做了比较详细的介绍。主要目的在于为读者提供丰富的会计英语资料,帮助他们提高阅读英语会计文献和使用英语处理会计工作的能力,并从中理解原创的精髓。

本书的第二部分为专业学术信息,主要介绍了科学引文索引、国际期刊、国内学术期刊、专业学术会议、会计类专业学会与组织、世界各地会计师公会及会员名衔等,可使读者在以后的学习应用中直接掌控当代会计专业的学术脉络,为有专业信息需求和专业探讨的人员提供信息平台 and 沟通渠道。本书的专业词汇部分,最

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大限度地解释了财务会计涉及的专业词汇以及部分疑难词汇。

本书第一部分内容摘取于不同国度的原创作品,既具有浓重的国际会计风格,又从属于不同会计框架。虽然我国的会计已与国际趋同,但仍存在很多的中国特色的专业认知。因此,全书体系的风格与中国会计有些迥异,站在中国会计人的角度阅读,需要一定的转换衔接。

本书以会计学、财务管理的本科学生和经济管理专业的研究生及 MBA 学生为对象,也可作为各类企业管理人员的培训教材。

本书由王倩玉、张宇任主编,贾铁群、刘秀杰任副主编,董丽萍(法定姓名董莉平)任主审。

任何一本教材的架构编写不仅源于作者的知识积累和创造,更来自于前人的研究成果和贡献。本书在编写过程中,参阅了国内外许多财务专家、学者的最新研究成果,他们的思想和观点对本书的完成极为重要。在此一并表示谢意。

限于水平和时间,书中难免有许多疏漏和不当之处,恳请各位读者不吝赐教。

编 者

2008 年 3 月

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PART ONE
ACADEMIC READING

第一部分 专业阅读

Accounting: the Language of Business

会计:商务语言

【本章导读】 本章是全书的引言部分,阐述会计是一种商务语言。第一节通过星巴克公司的介绍,阐述会计是通用的商务语言和会计的本质。第二节介绍道德与会计的关系,通过列举安然、美国世通公司的财务丑闻来揭示会计信息的重要性。第三节介绍运用对象化会计进行长期决策,通过具体的案例和计算分析,向读者说明会计是如何来帮助有关各方进行决策的,进而阐明会计的重要性。

1.1 Accounting is the Language of Business

会计是商务语言

Accounting is the method companies use to communicate financial information to their employees and to the public. Information is important for many decisions. You have probably bought a latte in, or at least walked by, one of Starbucks' 7 000 coffee stores throughout the world. Did you know that you could also buy a share of Starbucks stock, making you a part owner of Starbucks? To buy a latte, you want to know how it tastes. To buy a share of stock, you want to know about the financial condition and prospects of Starbucks Corporation. You would want to own part of Starbucks only if you think it will continue to be successful. To

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learn this, you need to know accounting. By the time you finish reading this book, you will be comfortable reading the financial reports of Starbucks and other companies. You will be able to use those reports to assess the financial health of these companies.

Starbucks first issued shares of stock to the public in 1992. If you had bought shares at that time, today your investment would be worth \$ 20 for every \$ 1 you invested. Will Starbucks continue to be a good investment? No one can predict with certainty the financial prospects of Starbucks. However, the financial statements can give you clues. A search of the Internet can provide more information. Yet, only if you understand accounting will you be able to make sense of this financial information.

Starbucks is a young, fast-growing company. It has established a worldwide reputation in a short time. Recently, it was named one of the Top 5 Global Brands of the Year by Brand channel. com's Readers Choice survey. It has consistently been among Fortune magazine's 100 Best Companies to Work For. *Business Ethics* magazine selected it among its 100 Best Corporate Citizens. The former chief executive officer of Starbucks, Howard Schultz, was selected by Business Week as one of the Top 25 Best Managers in the country. Finally, Fortune named Starbucks the Most Admired Brand in the food services category 2 years in a row and ranked it America's eighth most admired company in 2004. Despite all these awards, it is important to know something about Starbucks' financial prospects. Let's look at a few financial facts. You will learn more about them as you proceed through this book.

In 2003, Starbucks' total revenues—the amount the company received for all the items sold—was \$ 4.1 billion, compared with only \$ 700 million in 1996. The net income—the profit that Starbucks made—was \$ 436 million, up from only \$ 42 million in 1996. Total assets—the value of the items owned by Starbucks—grew from less than

\$ 900 million to more than \$ 2.7 billion from 1996 to 2003. You can see that the amount of business done by Starbucks has grown quickly. However, there is much more to be learned from the details in Starbucks' financial statements. You will learn about revenues, income, assets, and other details of accounting as you read this book.

As we embark on our journey into the world of financial accounting, we explore what it takes for a company such as Starbucks to manage its financial activities and how investors use this accounting information to better understand Starbucks. Keep this in mind: The same basic accounting framework that supported a small coffee company like Starbucks in 1992 supports the larger company today, and indeed it supports businesses big and small, old and new, worldwide^①.

This book is an introduction to financial accounting. Accounting is a process of identifying, recording, and summarizing economic information and reporting it to decision makers. Financial accounting focuses on the specific needs of decision makers external, to the organization, such as stockholders, suppliers, banks, and government agencies. You probably expect to see a bunch of rules and procedures about how to record and report financial information. Well, you are correct. You will see all those. However, our philosophy about financial accounting goes beyond rules and procedures. To use your financial accounting training effectively, you must also understand the underlying business transactions that give rise to the economic information and why the information is helpful in making financial decisions^②.

We hope that you want to know how businesses work. When you understand that Starbucks' financial reports help its management make decisions about what products to produce and sell, as well as help investors to assess the performance and prospects of Starbucks, you will see why being able to read and interpret these reports is important. Both outside investors and internal managers need this information.

Our goal is to help you understand business transactions—to know how they create accounting information and how decision makers both inside the company (managers) and outside the company (investors) use this information in deciding how, when, and what to buy or sell. In the process, you get to learn about some of the world's premier companies. You may wonder about what it costs to open a new Starbucks store. Are these new stores worth that kind of huge investment? How many people visit each Starbucks store every year? Can Starbucks keep track of them all, and are there enough customers to make the stores profitable? If investors consider purchasing Starbucks stock, what do they need to know to decide whether the current price is a good one? We cannot answer every such question you might ask, but we explore some exciting aspects of business and use business examples to illustrate the uses of accounting information.

In pursuing actual business examples, we consider details about many of the 30 companies in the Dow Jones Industrial Average (the Dow), the most commonly reported stock market index in the world. Well-known companies, such as Coca-cola, Microsoft, and McDonald's, are among these 30 companies, along with many other large but less familiar companies, such as International Paper and SBC Communications. Table 1.1 lists the 30 Dow companies, and the Business First box describes the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

Table 1.1 Dow industrials ranked by total 2002 sales (\$ in billions)

Symbol	Company	Total Sales	Symbol	Company	Total Sales
Wal-Mart	WalMart Stores Inc.	\$ 244.5	JPU	Johnson & Johnson	\$ 36.3
GM	General Motors Corp.	186.8	MSFT	Microsoft Corp.	32.2
XOM	Exxon Mobil Corp.	178.9	UTX	United Technologies Corp.	28.8
GE	General Electric Co.	130.7	INTC	Intel Corp.	26.8
C	Citigroup Inc.	92.6	DIS	Walt Disney Co.	25.3
IBM	International Business Machines Corp.	81.2	IP	International Paper Co.	25.0
MO	Altria Group Inc.	80.1	DD	E.I.DuPont de Nemours & Co.	24.0
HD	Home Depot Inc.	58.2	AXP	American Express Co.	23.8
HWP	Hewlett-Packard Co.	56.6	HON	Honeywell International Inc.	22.3
BA	Boeing Co.	54.1	AA	Alcoa Inc.	20.3
MRK	Merck & Co. Inc.	51.8	CAT	Caterpillar Inc.	20.2
JPM	JP Morgan Chase & Co.	43.4	KO	Coca-Cola Co.	19.6
PG	Procter & Gamble Co.	43.4	MMM	3M Company	16.3
SBC	SBC Communications Inc.	43.1	MCD	McDonald's Corp.	15.4
T	AT & T Corp.	37.8	EK	Eastman Kodak Co.	12.8

The Nature of Accounting

Accounting organizes and summarizes economic information so decision makers can use it. Accountants present this information in reports called financial statements. To prepare these statements, accountants analyze, record, quantify, accumulate, summarize, classify, report, and interpret economic events and their financial effects on the organization.

A company's accounting system is the series of steps by which it initially records information and converts it into financial statements. Accountants analyze the information needed by managers and other decision makers and create the accounting system that best meets those needs. Bookkeepers and computers then perform the routine tasks of collecting and compiling economic information. The real value of any accounting system lies in the information it provides.

Consider the accounting system at your school. It collects information about tuition charges and payments and tracks the status of