



云南省普通高等学校“十二五”规划教材

English Listening Comprehension,
Speaking, Translation, and
Intercultural Communication

王玲◎编著

英语听说译与 跨文化交际

ENGLISH



经济管理出版社

ECONOMY & MANAGEMENT PUBLISHING HOUSE



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2012 年度云南省普通高等学校“十二五”规划教材建设项目“英语视听说”成果

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本书受到云南大学“青年英才培育计划”资助。

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本书编著者获得“美国之音”公告关系部（VOA Public Relations）的授权，使用 16 篇广播英语学习节目报道资料编制部分文本内容和配套英语听力录音光盘出版。

本书受到香港文化投资基金、深圳“非遗”投资联盟、南京国际关系学院李战子教授、经济管理出版社帮助和支持出版，谨此致谢！

序

从友人处得知云南大学外国语学院王玲教授编著的英语教材《英语听说译与跨文化交际》即将出版,很为该书的标题所吸引。虽然我与王老师不曾谋面,但却不由得为她在英语教学和改革方面的成绩而喝彩,因此就为她撰写一篇小序。

新编英语教材《英语听说译与跨文化交际》是基于编著者王玲教授曾经主持并已结项的2008年度云南大学教学改革研究项目“英语视听说多元互动教学新途径探索”的研究成果作为理念而编写,这部教材还是她主持的2012年度云南省普通高等学校“十二五”规划教材《英语视听说》建设项目的研究成果。2008年12月,王玲教授独立编制的相关多媒体课件《英语视听说》荣获2008年度云南省优秀多媒体教育软件评审二等奖。

这部教材内容丰富,其整合型教学模式和内容包含了英语“视”、“听”、“说”、“读”、“写”、“译”、“跨文化交际”共七个部分,由音频材料、视频材料、练习和补充材料四个部分组成。第一大部分的第一小部分为广播英语视听材料的相关背景文字和图像介绍。第二小部分为近期“美国之音”英语新闻节目各类报道(新闻报道、经济报道、美国现状报道、教育报道、健康报道、美国万象、科学新闻、探索先锋、发展报道)的录音材料。第三小部分为相关英语听力理解练习、口语练习和翻译练习,练习题型包括填空题、判断题、选择题、问答题、听写和英译汉练习题。第四小部分补充相关词汇、英美文化背景知识拓展。第二大部分为英语跨文化交际的概念、理论、知识点的介绍及相关练习,练习题型含有填空题、讨论题和英译汉练习题。

据王玲教授介绍,这部教材的讲义和多媒体课件已经在编著者任教的云南大学外国语学院英语语言文学专业、翻译(英语笔译)专业、人文学院对外汉语专业或汉语国际教育专业、数学与统计学院应用统计专业本科生和硕士生的“英语视听”、“专业英语口语”、“跨文化交际”、“学位英语”等相关课程的教学使用了8年,经过不断修改、补充、更新和完善。英语语言文学专业、翻译(英语笔译)专业、汉语国际教育专业及其他专业跨学院选课的学生普遍认为,创新的整合型与多元互动的英语教学模式和内容提高了他们学习英语的兴趣,新教材和新教法为他们创设和提供了一个真实有效的英语语言学习情境,非常有助于提高他们的英语听、说、译、跨文化交际能力及其



他各方面的英语实际应用能力。教材编著者所教过的云南大学外国语学院英语专业历届本科生在全国英语专业四级统考和八级统考中的平均通过率和总分平均成绩均明显高于全国综合性大学英语专业平均通过率和总分平均成绩，尤其是在听力部分和口语测试中取得了较好成绩。

值得一提的是，王玲教授是英语语言文学硕士、中国少数民族艺术博士、艺术学博士后，英国诺丁汉大学访问学者，云南省中青年学术带头人后备人才、云南省翻译工作者协会理事。从她的跨学科学术经历和多元化学术成就来看，她编著这样一部具有创新意识的英语教材的创意和思路绝非一日之功。

由于教材的篇幅所限和英语音像资料版权归属或使用许可受到限制等因素，编著者介绍美国文化的报道较多，未能更多地使用多元文化背景下跨文化交际中有关其他一些英语国家文化的音像资料 and 多媒体资源链接。希望任课教师将来使用这部教材时能灵活补充，如可设计一些培养学生在跨文化交际中思辨能力的练习。期待这部教材再版时编著者能继续丰富和完善其内容。

祝愿和期待王玲教授在英语教学和研究领域呈现给我们更多的创新和精彩！

李战子

2014年12月于南京国际关系学院

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Unit One

Tax Time in America

&

Understanding Another Culture

Part One Tax Time in America

Vocabulary:

federal income tax 联邦所得税

Internal Revenue Service 美国国内税局

individual income tax 个人所得税

progressive tax 累进税

social security 社会保障, 社会保险

deduct v. 扣除, 减去

tax deduction 课税减免

business income tax 工商所得税

deficit n. 赤字, 不足额

budget deficit 预算赤字

Language Points:

have sth. done 使某事被他人予以处理

e. g.: Why don't you have your hair cut?

你为什么不理发?



Background Knowledge:

American Tax System: A Mixture of Efficiency and Complexity

The United States of America has built the principle of competition also into its tax system. The state governments and local governments compete with each other through their right to impose supplementary personal and corporate (公司的, 社团的, 法人的) income taxes. This efficient system has its price: it complicates tax law with the taxpayers, who may have to file (提出申请等, 呈请) tax returns for all three levels of government. The tax burden in the U. S. A. is relatively low for individuals, but for companies it is surprisingly high.

The fiscal system of the U. S. A. bears the stamp of competitive federalism. Tax sovereignty is divided among the federal government, the state governments and the local governments. Personal income tax, for instance, is levied (征收) by both the federal government and the state governments, and even to some extent by the local communities. The tax burden, therefore, often differs considerably from region to region, both for individuals and for companies.

The main source of revenue for the federal government is personal income tax, which generates roughly five times as much as corporate income tax.

The states obtain their funding from both personal income tax and consumption taxes, while the local governments mainly tax (vt.) real property (不动产) and personal property (动产). Most states and local communities impose a sales tax (from 0 to 9.8%, designed as a single-phase tax), whereas the federal government does not. The tax-to-GDP ratio in the U. S. A. (21.8%) is almost exactly the same as that in Germany (21.7%), but the government spending ratio is much lower in the U. S. A. (34.2%) than in Germany (48.6%). The high government spending ratio in Germany is, therefore, financed to a considerable extent through high social contributions.

Tax policy is guided by the ability-to-pay principle, which—as in Germany—is (or is supposed to be) put into practice in the form of a progressive income tax scale flanked (位于……的侧面, 侧面有) by numerous exemptions. While in Germany the highest tax rate already kicks in ([美俚] 缴付自己应付的一份, 捐款) from an income of EUR (=Euro, 欧元) 52,000, the highest rate in the U. S. A. only applies from USD 312,000 upwards. No distinction is made in the U. S. A. between different kinds of income—apart from capital gains, on which individuals pay tax at a special, definitive (确定的, 限定的, 明确的) rate of 15%. Life insurance policies are taxed on their earnings.

Until 2003 dividends (红利, 股息) were subject to double taxation: the company was liable (应付税的) for corporate income tax on its profits, and if they were distributed, the shareholder had to pay personal income tax without being able to claim a tax credit (税收抵免, 免税额度). Since 2003 such dividends on which tax has already been paid (so-called qualified dividends) are taxable (可征税的, 应纳税的) at a rate of only 15% for the shareholder.

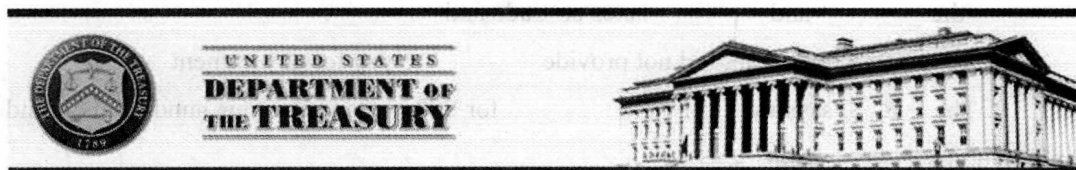
Corporate income tax is also levied by the federal government and the state governments, and in some cases also by the local communities. The profits of companies that operate in more than one state are taxed in the state in which they were generated.

The corporate income tax debt of a company has to be compared with the alternative minimum tax (AMT, 可供选择的最小税收), charged at a rate of 20% on taxable income, which is calculated in a special way. AMT is payable (可支付的, 到期应支付的) if the AMT amount is higher than the computed corporate income tax debt. Exemptions are granted to small companies whose average gross revenues in the last three tax years did not exceed USD 7.5 million, and to companies in the year when they were set up. With its minimum tax on corporations the U. S. A. has an instrument that in Germany has repeatedly been the subject of political debate but is strictly rejected by the business community.

Millions of Americans send the 1,040 income tax form to the I. R. S. every April.

税收是支撑美国提供财政经费来源、维持经济正常运转必不可少的重要组成部分之一, 其在美国国内生产总值中所占比率因美国经济兴衰、战争的爆发、政府的更迭以及立法的修改而波动。经过上百年的不断修改和更新, 美国的税收制度非常完善。

Related Photos:



Exercises

I. Supply the missing words.

1. This year, April seventeenth is the _____ for Americans to pay _____ for 2005.



2. Most _____ have had _____ by their _____ during the year, so they do not _____ any more money.
3. In fact, most Americans get _____ money _____.
4. Last year, the _____ Service _____ at least some money to more than one hundred million Americans _____.
5. The United States has _____ is _____ a _____ tax system.
6. Tax _____ increase as _____ increase.
7. This year, people _____ more than three hundred twenty-six thousand dollars are _____ at the _____.
8. Earnings _____ amount are _____ at thirty-five percent.
9. Earnings _____ that amount are _____ at _____ rates.
10. _____ who earn _____ than seven thousand three hundred dollars pay _____ income tax, but they _____ pay Social Security, _____ and other taxes.
11. There are many _____ for people and _____ to _____ their federal income taxes.
12. Most _____, for example, can _____ their taxes a little by _____ to the I. R. S. the interest they pay on a _____. This is called a tax _____.
13. Companies _____ many costs _____ doing business.
14. And many _____ can _____ costs of research, _____ for _____ and the use of _____ and _____.
15. In 2004, _____ income taxes _____ the government with _____ of its money: thirty-five percent of the _____.
16. Social security and other _____ taxes _____ thirty-two percent.
17. Other _____ of income include business income taxes, money _____ to _____ the _____ and _____ taxes on trade and _____.
18. But income from taxes did not provide _____ to pay for government _____.
19. The I. R. S. says the _____ for 2004 was about four hundred thousand million dollars.
20. _____ tax _____ can be _____.
21. The I. R. S. _____ that _____ need an _____ of about _____ hours to prepare tax _____.
22. And that is just for the _____ tax _____.
23. For businesses, the I. R. S. _____ an _____ tax _____ needs more than

_____ hours.

24. This is _____ a lot of Americans pay _____ tax _____ to _____ their tax _____ for them.

25. Our reports are _____ at voaspecialenglish.com. I'm Steve Ember.

II. Choose the best answer for each of the following statements.

1. This year, _____ is the last day for Americans to pay federal income taxes for 2005.

a. January 17th

b. April 7th

c. October 7th

d. April 17th

2. This year, earnings _____ dollars are taxed at thirty-five percent.

a. more than 7,300

b. above 326,000

c. more than 400,000

d. below 326,000

3. Most homeowners, for example, can reduce their taxes a little by reporting to the

I. R. S. the interest they pay on a _____.

a. home loan

b. research

c. property

d. business

4. In 2004, personal income taxes provided the government with _____ percent of the budget.

a. thirty-two

b. thirteen

c. thirty-five

d. fifty-five

III. Write down the transcript and translate it into Chinese.

Related Knowledge:

Types of Tax in the U. S. A.

Taxes Levied by the Federal Government

Federal Personal Income Tax

Federal Corporate Income Tax

Federal Estate & Gift Taxes

Consumption Taxes



Taxes Levied by the State Governments

Real Property & Personal Property Taxes

Personal Income Tax

Corporate Income Tax

Consumption Taxes

Sales Tax

Taxes Levied by the Local Governments

Local Real Property & Personal Property Taxes

Local Personal & Corporate Income Taxes

Sales Tax

Related Vocabulary:

Individual Income Tax 个人所得税

Income Tax for Enterprises 企业所得税

Stamp Tax 印花税

Tax Returns Filing 退税申报

Taxes Payable 应交税金

The Assessable Period for Tax Payment 纳税期限

Tax Inspection Report 纳税检查报告

Tax Avoidance 避税

Tax Evasion 逃税

Tax Base 税基

Collect and Remit Tax 代收代缴税

Tax Year 纳税年度

Tax Preference 税收优惠

Tax Transparency 税收透明度

Registration Duties 注册税

Subscription Tax 认购税

Pre-tax Deduction 税前扣除

Part Two Understanding Another Culture

Theoretical Introduction

A common metaphor envisions culture as an iceberg, only a small portion of which is seen above the water. Edward T. Hall gave us an insightful remark about this unique feature: "Culture hides more than it reveals, and strangely enough, what it hides most is from those who are in it." Many intercultural misunderstandings are due to the unintentional behavior of a person from one culture being perceived, interpreted, and reacted to by a person from another culture. The best way we can understand the behavior of others, as suggested by cultural relativism, is within its own cultural context. In our attempts to do so, enhanced knowledge about the other culture and improved communication skills and personal attitude will prove to be helpful.

Complicated feelings often arise when one is exposed to an unfamiliar culture, and in trying to cope with the differences, a person will become more aware of the practices of the home culture. The focus will be mainly on the processes of adjusting attitudes toward another culture, increasing one's cultural awareness, seeking a new cultural and personal identity, looking for alternative interpretations, and reaching mutual understanding.

One more possible outcome in the cross-cultural encounters is "biculturality", or put in another way, the ability to accept both the Chinese culture and the American culture. People who are bicultural are able to go about their lives by merging the positive elements of the two cultures together successfully. Such an optimistic picture should be the goal of any cross-cultural communication. A deeper understanding of both cultures and a positive attitude towards both should be the first step toward that goal.

The general tendency is that the Chinese tend to be more communal while the Americans seem to be more individualized. The concept of "privacy", an expression of individual rights, is deeply rooted in American individualism and can be found behind many types of social actions. A strong sense of one's own privacy and a respect for other people's privacy explain much about American social life.

Unique cultural features, interpersonal relationships, social customs and taboos, values and communication styles, all set up barriers to cross-cultural communication if not



properly managed. There is no right or wrong, good or bad, but there are only differences, and differences have made us all diverse human beings.

Exercises

I. Questions for Discussion

1. It is fairly commonly accepted that Americans like humor in various forms, including jokes. Have you ever had any experience that you know every word of a joke told by someone from an English-speaking country, but do not find it funny at all?
2. Why is English widely taught and learned throughout the world?
3. What is globalization?

II. Translation

1. Read the following passage carefully and translate it into Chinese.

Culture is sometimes referred to as our mental programming, our “software of the mind”. However, we can take that computer analogy further and say that culture is the operating environment that enables software programs to run. Culture is like DOS or UNIX or Windows: it is what enables us to process information in various specific applications. The metaphor of windows seems to be very appealing to describe culture: culture is a mental set of windows through which all of life is viewed. It varies from individual to individual within a society, but it shares important characteristics with members of a society.

Culture is like the water in which fish swim—a reality that is taken for granted and rarely examined. It is in the air we breathe and is as necessary to our understanding of who we are as air is to our physical life. Culture is the property of a community of people, not simply a characteristic of individuals. Societies are programmed by culture, and that programming comes from similar life experiences and similar interpretations of what those experiences mean.

If culture is mental programming, it is also a mental map of reality. It tells us from early childhood what matters, what to prefer, what to avoid, and what to do. Culture also tells us what the society ought to be. It gives us assumptions about the ideal beyond what individuals may experience. It helps us in setting priorities. It establishes codes for the behavior and provides justification and legitimization for that behavior.