

英语 科普阅读

李庆明 · 陈国新 莫文莉 编

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西安交通大学出版社

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·西安·

内容简介

科学技术迅猛发展,人类已进入高科技时代。在这个时代,逃避或远离科学技术都是不现实的。基于此,我们选编了 55 篇集趣味性、实用性、知识性、思想性于一体和时代感强的现代科普文章,介绍科学技术最新成果,展望科学技术发展未来。文章涉及数十个学科,覆盖面宽泛——星际旅行与太空探索、天文与气象、科技与军事、计算机与网络世界、基因技术与案件侦破、现代通信技术与手段、文物考古、人物传记等。文章题材广泛,风格各异,语言地道纯正,专业术语注解准确规范。可供研究生、本科高年级学生、科技英语专业学生阅读。

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前 言

顾名思义,《英语科普阅读》是汇集科普类题材的系列读本。编写本系列书的目的是通过精心编排的系列阅读材料,帮助读者熟悉科普文章的文体特点、科技英语常用表达法并掌握科技英语常用词汇和专业术语。同时帮助读者掌握正确的阅读方法和技巧,从而为能顺利阅读有关专业原版教科书、参考书及其他参考资料打下良好的基础。

本系列丛书由三册组成。词汇量依次为 4 200,5 000 和 6 000。第一册共有 80 篇文章,为初级读本。内容涉及科学技术领域中的基本概念和常规性知识及其某些技术的应用。第二册共有 70 篇文章,为中级读本。内容涉及科学技术在生活各领域中的运用及一些前沿科技成果的介绍。第三册共有 55 篇文章,为高级读本,内容涉及最新科技成果介绍及对未来科技发展的展望。这三本书可分别供学习大学英语四级、六级的学生以及非英语专业硕士生使用。

本系列书力求做到寓知识性、趣味性和思想性于阅读实践中。全书内容广博,题材广泛,涉及专业面宽,有利于激发读者的学习兴趣,拓宽知识面和开阔视野。书中所用材料经过反复筛选,择优采用。为了保证语言规范,文章均选自英美等国近年出版的书籍和刊物,以反映现代科学技术的最新成果和发展趋势。同时,文章在词汇、拼写和用法等方面保留了英国英语和美国英语的特点,使读者有更多的机会接触英语的这两种主要变体。文章编排力求做到从易到难,由浅入深和循序渐进。每篇文章都配有内容提示和

难点注释,以帮助读者读者拓宽思路,加深对文章的理解,领会作者的观点和态度以及就文章的内容进行预测、分析、推理、判断和综合概括。应该说明的是:某些热门话题(如计算机、网络等)可能三册书中重复出现,但文章难度不一,内容各异。

阅读理解是中国学生学习外语必须掌握的一项重要技能。因此,读者应通过大量阅读实践,善于把握文章的大意、发现和利用文章的冗余信息(指作者传递信息时重复的旧信息)、掌握必要的英美文化背景知识和熟悉英美人独特的表达方式和惯用法等。本系列书对读者提高这方面的能力定有裨益。

由于编者水平有限,错误和疏漏之处在所难免,热诚欢迎读者批评指正。

编 者

2000年6月

内 容 导 读

本系列丛书由三册组成。
词汇量依次为 4200、
5000 和 6000。

①

第一册共有 80 篇文章, 为初级读本。内容涉及科学技术领域中的基本概念和常规性知识及其某些技术的应用。

②

每二册共有 70 篇文章, 为中级读本。内容涉及科学技术在生活各领域中的运用及一些前沿科技成果的介绍。

③

第三册共有 55 篇文章, 为高级读本。内容涉及最新科技成果介绍及对未来科技发展的展望。这三本书可分别供学习大学英语四级、六级的学生以及非英语专业硕士生使用。



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1. Start School with a Click

(点击鼠标开学)

内容提示:

因特网的出现使校园将出现突飞猛进的变化,对中学生的教育产生着深刻的影响。家长通过子女教育网站上网查寻孩子在校中餐菜单、阅读课堂记录、了解家庭作业布置和有关文娱活动安排等情况。网络技术走进校园,不仅便于更多的家长参与学校事务,而且极大地改善了家长与学校的关系。

Getting ready to go back to school in the good old days of, say, 1997 meant a few trips to the mall¹ and the stationery aisle² and a quick check of the bus route. This year, for many parents, there are some new things to remember: the teacher's e-mail address, the school's website³ and which night online homework help chat will be offered. "The 1990~2000 school year will be the one where the majority of parents really feel the Internet's influence on their child's education at the everyday level," says Jonathan Carson, chairman and CEO of the Family Education Co., which offers a parenting website at familyeducation.com⁴ and a framework for local schools to create and maintain their own sites.

This year promises to show a quantum leap⁵ in the spread of school technology: parents in many districts can expect to be able to check the school lunch menu, read class notes, see activity calendars and view nightly homework assignments—all online. "The schools are wired⁶," says Carson. "A majority of parents now have access and the educators are ready to go."

Over the summer, parents of high school German students in Ithaca, N. Y. ⁷ got to be part of a class trip to Europe, through their home computers. The class brought a digital camera and laptop⁸ with them to Germany and documented their visit on their web page⁹. Harry Ash, father of 16-year-old traveler Brian, found it reassuring to see his son's smiling face from half a world away. Before their kids left, parents checked the site for scheduling information, a list of activities and advice on cultural differences.

When it's designed well, a district, school or classroom website can change the relationship between the parent and the school, says Cynthia LaPier, Ithaca's director of information and instructional technology. "The more you can involve parents in school, the better." LaPier says. "The technology gives us another way to reach them, especially parents of secondary school students, who tend to be less involved."

Ithaca high school physics teacher Steve Wirt gets e-mail from parents regularly, some from moms and dads he believes might otherwise not pick up the phone with a concern. Using software called Blackboard CourseInfo¹⁰, Wirt conducts online chats with his students often reviewing for a quiz or discussing homework problems.

The way things are going, by the end of this year, many parents may be fully converted — and in fact dependent upon their schools' technological capabilities. At a recently wired school in Novi, Michigan, the school webmaster¹¹ was just a few hours late posting¹² the lunch-menu calendar on the website. In that time, more than a dozen parents called him by telephone to request the information. "A year ago, it never would have been there," says Carson. And now parents are finding it's tough to get by without

it.

注释:

1. mall 大型综合超市
2. stationery aisle 文具店
3. website 网站
4. familyeducation. com 子女教育网站
5. quantum leap 突然、巨大的进展
6. wired 上网。指计算机与因特网连接
7. N. Y. 纽约
8. laptop 膝上型电脑
9. web page 网页。home page 主页
10. Blackboard Course Info 黑板课程信息
11. webmaster 创建和维护一个互联网网站的技术专业人员
12. post 网上发布信息

2. A Global Challenge for the New Century

新世纪的全球挑战

内容提示:

新世纪在带给人类经济繁荣的同时,也提出了日益严重的环境及生态问题,如全球气候变暖所导致的洪水、干旱和疾病。此文作者美国总统克林顿在新千年第一个地球日来临时,呼吁全球的国家联合起来,为了子孙后代的幸福,创造更加绿意盎然的美好未来。

From the time I was a boy, I had dreamed of seeing elephants, giraffes and lions in the wild. But as I gazed across the lush¹ African plain, what amazed me even more were all the creatures I'd never known existed—the lechwe, the kudu², the lilac-breasted roller. I watched them in wonder.

That morning two years ago in Botswana's stunning Chobe reserve, I wished every child in the world could share these magnificent sights. And I worried that in a few generations' time, they could be lost even to the children of Africa.

As we enter the 21st century, a new global economy draws nations ever closer. But our growing interdependence hinges on much more than technology and trade. For we are linked intrinsically by the physical and biological webs that sustain life on our planet—and, increasingly, by the threat of their unraveling³. Indeed, unless we reach across borders and face this threat together,