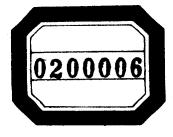
科技英语阅读文选

郭杰克编



广西人人人以及社



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郭杰克 编



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编者的话

本书选材于美国科普丛书 The How and Why Wonder Book of Science (奇妙的科学),深入浅出地介绍了光学、电磁学、天文学、海洋学等一般自然科学常识,以及宇宙航行的最新科技成就。

本书的文章短小精悍,文字通俗易懂,英语惯用语和句型较丰富,有利于读者掌握更多的英语科技词汇和一些基本的常用句型。书中对一些句子结构和习惯用语作了注释,并配有参考译文,书末附有总词汇表以便查阅。

本书可供理工科院校学生和具有同等水平的英语自学者阅读。

在编注过程中,蓝俊翔同志曾提出宝贵意见,谨此表示感谢。由于编者的水平所限,不妥之处,恳切希望读者批评指正。

1983.5 于华南工学院

Contents

	1.	Light ·····	(1)
		(光)	
	2.	How does light travel?	(11)
		(光是怎样传播的?)	
	3.	What materials scatter light?	(14)
		(哪些材料能使光散射?)	
	4.	Why are there shadows?	(17)
		(为什么会有影子?)	
	5.	Why do shadows vary in size?	(21)
		(为什么影子的大小会有变化?)	
	6.	Why do lights look dimmer far away?	(24)
		(为什么远处的灯光会显得较为暗淡?)	
	7.	Magnetism	(28)
		(磁力)	
	8.	What are magnets and magnetism?	(32)
		(什么是磁铁和磁力?)	
• .	9.	What are magnetic materials?	(35)
		(什么是磁性材料?)	
	10.	What is a non-magnetic watch?	(39)
		(什么是防磁手表?)	

2	
	(我们能把物质转换为能量吗?)
23.	Can we change matter into energy?(89)
ZZ.	Do we burn up energy?(86) (我们能使能量烧尽吗?)
90	(我们能"创造"能量吗?)
21.	Can we "make" energy?(83)
	(我们是怎样量度能量的?)
20.	How do we measure energy?(81)
	(什么是能量?)
19.	What is energy?(79)
	(物质和能量)
18.	Matter and energy(74)
	(磁铁在收音机和电视机里起什么作用?)
	television?(69)
17.	What part do magnets play in radio and
	(电话机是怎样工作的?)
16.	How does a telephone work? (64)
. ∪.	(电动机是怎样利用磁铁的?)
15.	How does an electric motor use magnets? (57)
r.I.	(什么是发电机?)
1./	(门铃是怎样工作的?) What is a dynamo?(54)
LJ.	How does a doorbell work? (50)
10	(电磁铁和电磁)
12.	Electromagnets and electromagnetism (46)
- ^	(什么是最小的磁铁?)
11.	What is the smallest magnet? (42)

	24. Einstein and his famous statement $E = mc^2 \cdots (94)$	
	(爱因斯坦和他的著名的论点E=mc²)	
	25. Does E = mc ² work for all kinds of matter?	
	(98)	
	(E=mc ² 这一公式对所有物质都适用吗?)	
	26. Oceanography(101)	
	(海洋学)	
	27. How is modern oceanographic research conducted?	
	(106)	
	(现代化的海洋学研究是怎样进行的?)	
	28. How do oceanographers go below the surface for	
	observation?(110)	
	(海洋学家是怎样潜入水下进行观察的?)	
	29. The world ocean(119)	
	(世界海洋)	
	30. The origin of the ocean(124)	
	(海洋的起源)	
	31. Why is the ocean salty?(127)	
	(海水为什么是咸的?)	
	32. The atmospheric heat engine(131)	
	(大气热机)	
	33. What food do we get from the sea?(136)	
-	(我们从大海里得到哪些食物?)	
	34. Can fresh water be obtained from the sea?(139)	
	(可以从大海制取淡水吗?)	
	35. How will mining in the sea be done?(142)	
	(怎样在大海里采矿?)	
	2	

. 1

36.	The atmosphere(146)	
	(大气层)	
37.	The sun(150)	
	(太阳)	
38.	The solar system(155)	
	(太阳系)	
39.	How did the solar system begin?(159)	
	(太阳系是怎样形成的?)	
40.	Do air and water exist on the moon?(162)	
	(月球上有空气和水吗?)	
41.	Can man live on the moon?(165)	
	(人能在月球上生活吗?)	
42.	Can a rocket fly in outer space?(168)	
	(火箭能在外太空飞行吗?)	
43.	What fuel does a rocket use?(171)	
	(火箭使用什么样的燃料?)	
44.	Why is re-entry a problem?(174)	
	(为什么返回地球是一个难题?)	
45.	How does a space suit help a pilot?(177)	
	(宇航服是怎样帮助飞行员的?)	4
Voc	abulary(181)	
(总	词汇表)	_

u. , , ,

1. Light

Many many years ago, if we looked in a dictionary, we would find that light was described as the opposite of darkness. Today, scientists tell us that light is a form of energy that radiates or gives off rays just as a pebble creates waves if we dropped it into a pond of water. These rays, or light waves, as they are sometimes called, can travel through space and certain kinds of materials.

Light waves that reach and enter our eyes produce a sensation that we call sight. Light is our guide to the world around us. Because of light we can see our way around our homes, we can see to walk through streets; we can see the sky and we can even read this book. If you closed your eyes, you would not see this page because your eyelids would prevent the light rays from entering your eyes. ⁵

Thus, we have established one fact about light: unless the light from an object enters our eyes, we cannot see the object. Some objects, like the sun, stars and the electric bulb give off their own light. They radiate light because they are very hot, or as scientists call them, red-hot and white-hot bodies. The light waves they radiate are known as *incandescent light*. Most of the light we receive is from the largest source of incandescent light—the sun.

Another source of light is produced by electric sparks in tubes containing special gases; that is known as fluorescent or cold light.¹⁰

The light we see directly from the source of light, such as the sun, an electric bulb or a fluorescent lamp, is known as direct light. If this light is reflected or bounced off a surface in the same manner as a ball thrown against a wall, the light is known as indirect or reflected light. The light we see from the moon or the planets is an example of this type of light. It is light from the sun that has been reflected by the surface of the moon or that of the planets before it reaches our eyes. If

Light is also a messenger of the universe. The light we see either directly from the sun and stars or indirectly from the moon and planets, tells us not only that they exist, but also enables us to determine their location. ¹⁵

Scientists have told us that light is a form of energy because it produces chemical changes in objects. The light that green plants receive helps the plants to make their food from water and carbon dioxide. 16 We can see that

without light, they would not grow and there would be no food.¹⁷ Another example of chemical change produced by light¹⁸ takes place within every camera. The light striking the specially prepared chemical coating on the film¹⁹ produces an image or picture on that film. Like wise, the light that strikes the special chemical coating of a photoelectric tube or cell combines with that chemical to produce an electric current.

Furthermore, without the sun's light warming the earth's surface, it would be so terribly cold that life could not exist.20 Without light, there would be no winds or rain. The winds are created by the sun's heating of the surface of the earth. Some areas of the earth become hotter than others; for example, the sunlight can warm desert sands more than it can the ocean, or warm the fields and city streets more than the icy regions at either the North or South Pole. 21 The difference in temperature between any two heated areas of the earth will cause the air to flow²² and thus create winds. As the winds move over the earth, they pick up dust and other small particles and these combine with water that has evaporated when the sunlight heated the lakes, ponds, rivers and oceans.23 The small particles of water and dust form clouds that ride with the winds. Under certain temperature conditions, the water in these clouds is released, and it comes back to earth as rain or snow.

3

短 语

- (be) described as 被说成是 because of 由于
- (to) prevent…from 阻止…, 使…不
- (to) give off 释放出,发(散)出
- (be) known as 称为,叫做 such as 例如
- (to) bounce off 弹起, 弹回 either…or 或者…或者, 不是…就是 not only…but also 不仅…而且
- (to) take place 发生
- (to) combine with 与…结合,与…化合 for example 例如

(to) pick up 拾起

注释

- 1. Many many years ago ... of darkness. 这是一个主从复合句, 其中 Many many years ago 里的 Many many 意思是"许多 许多",类似于汉语的叠词,用来加强语气, 使语言比较生动、 形象。从属连接词 if 引导的从句是一个表示与现在的事实 相 反 的假设,所以从句、主句的谓语动词均用虚拟语气,即 looked 和 would find。
- 2. Today, scientists...a pond of water. 这是一个主从复合句。 scientists tell us 为主句,that light is a form of energy 是一个由从属连接词 that 引导的从句, 作动词 tell 的宾语, 所以叫宾语从句。that radiates or gives off rays 是一个由关系代词 that 引导的定语从句,that 指前面的energy, 在从句中做主

语。just as a pebble creates waves 是一个由从属连接词 just as 引导的方式状语从句,just as 意思是"正如"。在英译汉的过程中一些长句有时不好处理,必须采用长句分译法,即把长句拆开,分成几句翻译,才能译得比较通顺。如本句的翻译采用的就是这种方法,即把关系代词 that 引出的定语从句作为一个独立的句子来翻译,并重复关系代词 that 在主句中所代替的名词energy(见参考译文)。

- 3. ...as they are sometimes called, 这是一个由 as 引导的句子做插入语。
- 4. Light is our guide to the world around us 在本句中介词 to 与 guide 搭配。
- 5. If you closed wentering your eyes. 本句是一个主从复合句。由于从属连接词 if 引导的从句表示与现在的事实相反的假设,故从句和主句的谓语动词用虚拟语气。 because your eyelids would prevent the light rays from entering your eyes 是一个由从属连接词 because 引导的原因状语从句,其中介词 from 与 prevent 搭配,意思是"阻止…"。
- 6. … unless the light from an object enters our eyes … the object. 这是一个由从属连接词 unless 引导的条件 状语 从句, unless 的意思是"除非"。
- 7. They radiate ... white-hot bodies. 这是一个主从复合句, 其中 as scientists call them 为一个插入句。
- 8. …they radiate…. 这是一个省略了关系代词的定语从句, 修饰 前面的 light waves。关系代词 that 或 which 在定语从句中作 宾语用时, 经常省略。
- 9. ···we receive···。 此句是一个省略了关系代词的定语从句,修饰前面的 light。
- 10. Another source of light...cold light. 在此句中 containing special gases 是一个现在分词短语作定语用,修饰前面的 tubes; 指示代词 that 指前一分句中的主语 Another source of light。

在英语里有些词,如代词,是为了避免重复而使用的,但译成汉语时往往需要重复原词或词组才能符合汉语习惯。这种方法在翻译中称为重复法。如本句中第二个分句里的指示代词 that,要改换成其所代替的那一部分,即 source of light,如"…,这种光源称为荧光或冷光。"

- 11. The light…as direct light. 在此句中, we see directly from the source of light 是一个省略了关系代词的定语从句,修饰前面的 light。such as 的意思是"例如",对前面的名词起到列举作用。所列举的名词从内容上说,是前面名词的部分内容,故称为部分同位语。
- 12. If this light...or reflected light.从属连接词if 引导一个有可能实现的条件状语从句,所以从句和主句的谓语用陈述 语气。as a ball thrown against a wall 为一个省略的定语从句,修饰前面的 in the same manner。此句中的 as=in which,可以看成是关系副词,在定语从句中作状语用,并通常与 same 呼应。由 as 引导的这类定语从句常省略与前面句子中相同的成分。例如上句的完整形式应为 as a ball thrown against a wall (is bounced off the wall)。thrown against a wall 是一个过去分词短语作定语,修饰前面的 ball。
- 13. …we see from the moon or the planets 此从句是一个省略了 关系代词的定语从句, 修饰前面的 light。
- 14. It is light…reaches our eyes.本句是强调句型。其句型是 It is (are) +被强调成分+ that…。本句强调了主语 light from the sun。并列连接词 or 连接两个介词短语: by the surface of the moon 和 (by) that of the planets, 第二个介词短语中的 that 是代词,代替前面的名词 surface, 以免重复。本句中的从属连接词 before 的意思是 "在…之前",引导一个时间状语从句。
- 15. The light we see...their location. 其中 we see either directly from the sun and stars or indirectly from the moon

and planets 为一个省略了关系代词的定语从句,修饰前面的light,并列连接词 either...or 在定语从句中连接两个状语。主句中的并列连接词 not only...but also 连接两个谓语 tells 和enables, 动词 enable 要求跟宾语和宾语补足语,不定式动词短语 to determine their location 是宾语 us 的补足语。

- 16. ...helps the plants to make their food from water and carbon dioxide. 本句的动词 help 后面也跟宾语和宾语补足语,plants 是宾语,不定式动词短语 to make... carbon dioxide 是宾语补足语。作宾语补足语的不定式动词所表示的动作,是由作宾语的名词或代词执行的。因此,宾语和作宾语补足语用的不定式动词之间的关系,从逻辑上来说,相当于主语和谓语的关系。
- 17. … that without light, they would not grow and there would be no food. 这是一个由 从属连词 that 引导的宾语从句。介词短语 without light 表示与事实相反的条件, 所以谓语 动词均用虚拟语气。
- 18. ...produced by light 这是一个过去分词短语作定语,修饰前面的 chemical change。
- 19. …striking the specially prepared chemical coating on the film 这是一个现在分词短语作定语,修饰前面的 light。
- 20. Furthermore, ...could not exist. 此句中的 without the sun's light warming the earth's surface 为 without(或 with)+ 名词(代词)+分词的独立结构作状语。在本句中,此结构表示与事实相反的条件,所以主句的谓语动词用虚拟语气。 so...that 引导一个表示结果的状语从句,意思是"如此…以致"。
- 21. …for example, the sunlight … or South Pole. 在此句中有两个从属连接词 than 引导的省略的比较状语从句, 比较状语从句中省略的部分通常是与主句中相同的部分。 第一个比较从句中的完整形式为 than it can (warm) the ocean; 第二个比较状语从句中的完整形式为 than (it can warm) the icy regions at either the North or South Pole。

- 22. ... to flow. 这是一个不定式动词短语作宾语 air 的补足语。
- 23. As the winds ... and oceans. 这是一个并列主从复合句。 As the winds move over the earth 是一个由从属连接词 as 引导的时间状语从句, as 所引导的时间状语从句和主句的动作是同时发生的,表示"当…的时候"。 关系代词 that 引导一个定语从句,修饰 water, when 引导一个时间状语从句。

参考译文

光

许多、许多年以前,如果我们去查阅当时的词典,就会发现光被说成是黑暗的对立面。现在,科学家告诉我们,光是能量的一种形式。这种能量能辐射或发射出光线,就象我们把卵石扔进池塘时激起水波一样。这些光线(有时人们亦称之为光波)能通过空间和某些材料传播。

射到并映入我们眼帘的光波,产生一种我们称之为视力的感觉。光是我们通往周围世界的向导。因为有了光,我们可以在家里四处走动,在街上行走,我们可以看到天空,还能读这本书。如果你闭上眼睛,你就不会看到这一页纸,因为你的眼睑会阻止光线射入你的眼帘。

由此,关于光,我们证实了这样一个事实:如果一个物体所反射的光不能映入我们的眼睛,我们就不能看到这一物体。有些物体,如太阳、星星和电灯泡,能自身发光。这些

物体发光是因为它们的温度非常高,或者象科学家称呼的那样,它们是赤热体和白热体。它们所发出的光波被称为白炽光。我们在地球上所接受的大部分光来自太阳——白炽光的最大光源。

电火花在装有一些特殊气体的玻璃管里能产生另一种光源,这种光源称为荧光或冷光。我们从一些光源,如太阳、灯泡或荧光灯,所看到的光称为直射光。若此光象投掷在墙壁上的皮球一样,从物体的表面上弹回或反射,则此光便称为间接光或反射光。我们所看到的来自月亮或行星的光便是这种光的一个例子。这种光是来自太阳并经月亮或行星的表面反射后,才射到我们的眼睛。

光又是宇宙的一名通讯员。我们所看到的、直接来自太 阳和星星或间接来自月亮和行星的光,不仅告诉我们它们的 存在,而且还使我们能够确定它们的位置。

科学家告诉我们,光是能量的一种形式,因为它能在物体中引起化学变化。绿色的植物所吸收的光帮助植物从水和二氧化碳中制造它所需要的养分。由此可见,如果没有阳光,这些植物不会生长,也就没有粮食。在每一台照相机里所发生的、由光产生的化学变化是另一个例子。射在具有特制的化学涂层的软片上的光,在软片上产生一个图象。同样,射在光电管或光电池上的特制化学涂层上的光,与该涂层产生化学反应并产生电流。

此外,如果没有阳光来加热地球的表面,则地球将会是非常寒冷,使生命无法生存。没有阳光就不会有风或雨。风是由太阳加热地球表面所产生的。地球上的某些地区比另一些地区热。例如,阳光能使沙漠的温度比海洋的温度高,或者使田野和城市街道比北极或南极的冰天雪地暖和。在地球