

# 最新英语时文精选

王欣红 孟丽萍 宿玉荣 王帆 编著

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对外经济贸易大学出版社

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# 前 言

《最新英语时文精选》主要是针对大学非英语专业学生而编写的教材,旨在使学生以英语为媒介,在研读关于当代经贸、文化、科技、政治等领域的发展状况的文章后,掌握相关词语及表达方法,加深语言领悟力和进一步掌握语法知识,从而达到提高阅读英、美报刊、书籍的能力及实际口头和笔头交际能力的目的。

本书共有 28 篇课文,每篇课文后均配有词汇表、课文注释和练习。课本附有练习的参考答案。前 16 篇课文平均长度为 800 词左右,内容涉及企业文化、教育改革、外语学习、知识产权、能源开发、环境保护、计算机技术、反贪打假等话题。后 12 篇课文平均长度为 1000 词左右,语言难度也适当加大。内容包括信息技术、经济全球化、继续教育、技术创新、人才外流、爱滋病、克隆技术的社会影响等等。

课文主要选自 90 年代末的英、美权威杂志,如 The Economists、Business Week、Time、U. S. News & World Report 及英、美著名社科作家或工商界人士的著作(少数文章略有删节)。文章内容新颖,语言地道实用,时代气息强。

该教材作为大学二年级精读教材在对外经济贸易大学国际经济贸易学院已使用两年。学生们认为课文内容推陈出新,符合“知识经济”的要求,并与他们所学的专业及其他课程相关,因此学习时趣味盎然,收效甚丰。此外,课文后的练习与课文内容相得益彰,有助于学生进一步掌握课文涉及的知识及内容。每篇课文后的注释提供了理解课文所需的背景知识。

这本教材的最大特点是内容贴近当代重大社会问题,语言实用性强,既可作为文科类基础英语阶段的精读教材,也可作为大专院校高年级及成人教育的精读教材。编者相信若非英语专业三、四年级学生、英语专业的学生以及广大的英语爱好者将本书作为泛读教材也必将受益匪浅。

我们四位编者在编写过程中既有分工,又有合作,其中王欣红老师投入的时间和精力最多。为英语教学,为广大学生,我们不分寒暑,勤奋耕耘。现在奉献在读者面前的是我们的一番心血,一片心意。

吴顺昌先生在提供素材、规范体例、润色文字方面做了大量的工作。该教材是对外经济贸易大学交流学院“211 工程”教材建设的重点项目之一,在编写的过程中,我校交流学院领导及诸多同事自始至终给予我们多方面的支持和鼓励,在此一并谨致谢意。

编 者  
于对外经济贸易大学  
2000 年 7 月

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# Lesson 1

## TEXT

### SOS

The environment is everything that surrounds us: plants, animals, buildings, country, air, water — literally everything that can affect us in any way. The environment of a town, with its buildings and traffic and its noise and smells, where everyone is on top of everyone else, is a far cry from that of the countryside, with its fields and crops, its wild and domestic animals and its feeling of spaciousness. And the environment differs in different parts of the world.

Ecology is the science of how living creatures and plants exist together and depend on each other and on the local environment. Where an environment is undisturbed, the ecology of an area is in balance, but if a creature is exterminated or an alien species introduced, then the ecology of the district will be upset — in other words, the balance of nature will be disturbed.

Man is a part of the environment and has done more to upset the ecology during his short span on earth than any other living creature. He has done this by his ignorance, his greed, and his wastefulness.

He has poisoned the atmosphere and polluted both land and water. He has squandered the earth's natural resources with no thought of the future, and he has thought out the most destructive ways of killing his fellow men — and every other sort of life at the same time.

Since man has done so much damage, it is up to man to try to put matters right — if it is not already too late. If there is to be any remedy for our ills, that remedy ultimately lies in the hands of the young, and the sooner they start doing something about it, the better.

One of the main causes of the earth's troubles is that the world is overpopulated and that this overpopulation is growing at an ever-increasing rate. At the same time we are using up our natural resources — fuels and mineral ores — at an ever-increasing rate with no hope of replacing them.

For many years the earth has been unable to provide enough food for these rapidly expanding populations, and the position is steadily deteriorating since the fertility of some of

our richest soils has been lost and vast areas that were once fertile lands have turned into deserts. And the trouble with deserts is that they tend to creep outwards on to the fertile soils. What is now the northern Sahara Desert fed much of the civilized world 2,500 years ago.

Even at this moment many of the earth's natural treasures are being destroyed, many valuable animals and plants are being killed off, and it is becoming increasingly difficult to grow enough food to preserve much of the earth's population from starvation. The situation is getting out of hand. Time is running out. But with your help, we may be able to reverse the trends which threaten our very existence.

## New Words

<b>literally</b>	[ˈlɪərəli]	ad.	简直;确实地
<b>ecology</b>	[iːˈkɒlədʒi]	n.	生态学;生态
<b>exterminate</b>	[ɪkˈstəːmineɪt]	vt.	灭绝;根除
<b>alien</b>	[ˈeɪljən]	a.	外来的;外国的 n. 外国人;外星人
<b>squander</b>	[ˈskwɒndə(r)]	vt.	浪费;挥霍(时间、金钱)
<b>remedy</b>	[ˈremɪdi]	n.	补救(办法);纠正(办法)
<b>ultimately</b>	[ˈʌltɪmətli]	ad.	最后;最终
<b>ore</b>	[ɔː(r)]	n.	矿;矿石
<b>deteriorate</b>	[diˈtɪəriəreɪt]	vi.	恶化;变坏
<b>starvation</b>	[stɑːˈveɪʃən]	n.	饥饿;挨饿

## Notes

1. SOS — the Morse code signal used by shipping, etc., in distress to summon immediate aid; hence any urgent appeal for help. The letters, in Morse a convenient combination, have been popularly held to stand for *save our souls or save our ship*.
2. environment — in ecology, the sum of conditions affecting a particular organism, including physical surroundings, climate, and influences of other living organisms
3. ecology — study of the relationship among organisms and the environments and nonliving components. The term was coined by the German biologist Ernst Haeckel (1834 — 1919) in 1866.
4. overpopulation — In the years from 1000 to 1750, the annual population growth rate averaged only about one-tenth of 1 percent. From 1750 onward population growth accelerated. The world population

reached 5,000,000,000 before 1990. The most rapid growth in the 19th century occurred in Europe and North America. Beginning in the 1930s, mortality went into decline in much of Asia and Latin America, and accelerating rapidly after World War II. The rapidity of this growth is described as the "population explosion". The annual growth rate has now fallen to about 1.7 percent. But because it applies to a larger population base, it means that the number of people added each year is about 80,000,000.

5. Sahara Desert — The name "Sahara" derives from the Arabic noun "sahra", meaning "desert". It is the largest desert in the world, occupying 5,500,000 square kilometers/2,123,000 square miles of North Africa from the Atlantic to the Nile. The area of the Sahara expanded by 650,000 square kilometers/251,000 square miles during 1940 – 1990, although reforestation is being attempted in certain areas.

## EXERCISES

### I. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the main idea of the text?
2. What does SOS mean?
3. What is environment?
4. What is ecology?
5. How are human beings destroying the earth?
6. What is the relationship between overpopulation and desertification?
7. What did the northern Sahara look like 2,500 years ago?
8. What shall we do to protect the earth — so far the only home for human beings?
9. Define the following terms in your own words with the help of reference books.  
environmental protection  
deforestation  
desertification

### II. Fill in each blank with the appropriate form of the word in parentheses:

1. There are wide differences in living standards between the OECD countries and the underdeveloped African countries. (differ)
2. The old woman's superstitious attitude to life comes from her woeful ignorance of science. (ignore)
3. The decision to reduce the emissions of some dangerous pollutants greatly helped improve the environment of the city. (pollute)
4. The kidnappers sent in a/an ultimatum to his family, threatening to kill him if their requirements could not be met. (ultimately)
5. The Capital Airport is undergoing expansion to accommodate more planes and passengers.



(expand)

6. Foreign direct investments are encouraged to fertilize the country's economy. (fertile)
7. Earthquakes are generally more \_\_\_\_\_ of life than volcanic eruptions. (destroy)
8. Physical \_\_\_\_\_ is a symbol of aging. (deteriorate)
9. Many biologists are interested in the sudden \_\_\_\_\_ of dinosaurs. (exterminate)
10. After retirement, the old man bought a small house in the countryside, and led a/an \_\_\_\_\_ life which he had never dreamed of before. (disturb)

### III. Translate the following paragraphs into Chinese:

There exist several precedents for environmental initiatives that start off condemned in all quarters and end up successful. A decade ago, the Environmental Protection Agency asked petrochemical firms to reduce emissions of the 17 most dangerous toxic pollutants. Environmentalists called the program too little, too late; conservatives predicted financial disaster for the chemical industry. Instead, from 1985 to 1988, dangerous toxic emissions by U.S. companies declined 56%, even as petrochemical manufacturers hit record domestic production and enjoyed record profits.

And a decade ago, international negotiators meeting in Montreal voted to phase out chlorofluorocarbons (氯氟烃), the compounds linked to ozone-layer (臭氧层) depletion. Again environmentalists called the timetables too timid, while business advocates predicted catastrophe. Instead, world CFC emissions declined so rapidly that ozone-layer replenishment is now expected for the early 21st century. Manufacturers of air conditioners, refrigerators, and other formerly CFC-dependent products have adjusted so skillfully that most consumers are unaware the phaseout even happened.

### IV. Translate the following sentences into Chinese:

1. 别总想依赖父母, 你的命运掌握在你自己手中。
2. 过去人们发展工业根本不考虑保护环境。
3. 现在人们已经认识到环保的重要性, 并努力纠正过去的错误。
4. 世界人口正以不断加快的速度增长。
5. 由于大城市空气质量恶化, 很多人不愿住在那儿。

### V. Translate the following paragraphs into English:

自从世界进入工业化时代以来, 动物的种类和数量越来越少, 有的正濒临灭绝。例如, 过去在密林中曾有很多孟加拉虎, 现在仅有两千多头。据估计到 2025 年, 这种虎可能在地球上消失。这种灾难性的结果是人类为了满足自己的需要而造成的。

世界上许多国家已经开始采取各种措施来保护动物。有的国家把大片土地划为动物保护区, 门票收入用作维护保护区的经费。同时国际组织还向一些国家提供财政援助来保护珍稀动物。为防止动物灭绝, 在世界范围内还禁止使用濒危动物制造产品。这些措施虽然有效, 但并不能阻止人们继续猎杀野生动物。

## **VI. Writing:**

**Directions:** Talk about the environment in Beijing with your friends and pool your ideas together. Then write a composition of at least 120 words on the topic "Environment in Beijing — SOS". In your composition, you should include:

1. the current environmental problems that you have observed/ experienced in Beijing;
2. causes of such problems;
3. your suggestions on solving these problems

## Lesson 2

### TEXT

#### The Greenhouse Effect

What is the greenhouse effect? Let's give a familiar example. You know what happens if you park your car in the parking lot on a hot summer day without opening the windows. When you get back inside your car, it is hot as an oven. This rapid warm-up is due to a greenhouse effect: The sun's radiant energy easily passes through the car's windows, and some of this energy is then converted into heat or infrared radiation. Since this radiation cannot readily escape back through the windows, it is trapped inside, and the car warms up.

Molecules of greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide, behave very much like the glass in car windows or in a greenhouse. In a sense, the greenhouse gases form a "glass window" over the earth. They trap heat that otherwise would escape from the earth's surface into outer space.

Carbon dioxide is continuously removed from the atmosphere by green plants during photosynthesis. On the other hand, carbon dioxide is gradually released back into the air when plants and animals respire, when organic matter decays, when forests, grasslands, or any other organic material is burned, and when water evaporates. For thousands of years these processes were in balance, the amount of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere equaling the amount entering it. Since 1860, however, atmospheric levels of carbon dioxide have risen substantially. By itself, fossil-fuel consumption is responsible for the annual release of 5 billion tons of carbon into the air — roughly one ton for each person on earth! The rate of carbon release from such combustion has increased 53 times since 1860. The clearing and burning of tropical rain forests to make room for cattle ranches and farms releases an additional 1.6 billion tons into the air annually.

Scientists have used several different techniques to determine the atmospheric carbon dioxide levels of past centuries. For example, they have analyzed air bubbles trapped in ice and have examined wood from century-old trees. Since 1958, carbon dioxide levels have been continuously monitored with sensitive instruments atop Mauna Loa, a 13,677-foot vol-

canic mountain on the island of Hawaii. Another current monitoring site is located at the South Pole station of the U.S. Antarctic Program. Both sites are far removed from industrial areas where carbon dioxide levels would be abnormally high. The carbon dioxide levels recorded at Mauna Loa and the South Pole are virtually identical.

On the basis of such techniques, climatologists have determined that levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide rose from 275 parts per million (ppm) in 1860 to 346 ppm in 1986 — an increase of 26%. At current rates of increase, the carbon dioxide concentration will reach 550 ppm by the year 2050 and will raise the global “thermostat” about 4 degrees centigrade.

恒温器

## New Words

<b>radiation</b>	[ˌreɪdiˈeɪʃən]	n.	辐射
<b>evaporate</b>	[iˈvæpəreɪt]	vt. vi.	蒸发, 挥发
<b>atop</b>	[əˈtɒp]	prep.	在……的顶上
<b><u>climatologist</u></b>	[ˌklaɪməˈtɒlədʒɪst]	n.	气象学家

唐朝大海, 春暖花开!

## Notes

1. greenhouse — a house, the roof and sides of which consist largely of glass, for the purpose of cultivating delicate or out-of-season plants, the temperature being kept up by means of artificial heat
2. photosynthesis — the process by which carbon dioxide is converted into organic matter in the presence of the chlorophyll of plants under the influence of light, which in all plants involves the production of oxygen from water
3. molecule — one of the extremely minute discrete particles of which material substances are conceived to consist. In modern chemistry the molecules of any element or compound are assumed to be of uniform size and mass, representing the smallest portions into which the substance can be divided without losing its chemical identity
4. infrared — designating or of those invisible rays just beyond the red of the visible spectrum; their waves are longer than those of the spectrum colors but shorter than radio waves, and have a penetrating heating effect
5. organic matter — substance of, relating to, or derived from living organisms

6. tropical rain forests — a tropical woodland that has an annual rainfall of at least 100 inches and often much more, is typical of but not wholly restricted to certain lowland areas, is characterized by lofty broad-leaved evergreen trees forming a continuous canopy, lianas, and herbaceous and woody epiphytes and by nearly complete absence of low-growing or understory ground-rooted plants — also called “rain forest”
7. thermostat — an apparatus for regulating temperature, especially one that automatically controls a heating unit

## EXERCISES

### I. Answer the following questions:

1. What is the greenhouse effect?
2. What are the possible consequences of the greenhouse effect?
3. Where does CO<sub>2</sub> come from, and how is it absorbed?
4. How was the balance of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere broken?
5. What has increased the atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> level?
6. How do scientists determine the levels of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> of the past centuries?
7. Describe what the global environment would be like by 2050, based on the statistics in the text.
8. Have you heard of El Niño? Try to explain the phenomenon and cite some examples to illustrate its destructiveness.

### II. Fill in the blanks with the words given below and make any changes if necessary:

absorb	proportion	rise	upset	which	radiation
come	as	strong	constitute	in	reach
level	melt	fall	way	balance	heat

1. Carbon dioxide only \_\_\_\_\_ a small part of the atmosphere. But it has an important function in maintaining the \_\_\_\_\_ between radiation from the sun entering the atmosphere and radiation leaving the Earth. Some of the radiation is \_\_\_\_\_ by the Earth and some is radiated back into the atmosphere. The carbon dioxide in the atmosphere prevents some of the \_\_\_\_\_ from leaving the atmosphere. Thus the \_\_\_\_\_ remains in the atmosphere and carbon dioxide helps to prevent the temperature of the Earth from \_\_\_\_\_.

If the \_\_\_\_\_ of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increased \_\_\_\_\_ a result of air pollution, the temperature of the atmosphere may \_\_\_\_\_. This might eventually cause the ice \_\_\_\_\_ the north and the south poles to \_\_\_\_\_. If this happened, the sea \_\_\_\_\_ would rise and parts of the Earth would be flooded. The likelihood of this happening is remote but the possibility exists.

There is also a fairly \_\_\_\_\_ possibility that the dust level in the atmosphere will rise as a

result of industrial pollution. This dust pollution will reflect sunlight back into space. If this happens, sunlight \_\_\_\_\_ the Earth and the temperature will fall.

Another danger \_\_\_\_\_ from the destruction of the earth's vegetation, such as the forests of Brazil, \_\_\_\_\_ are being cleared to make \_\_\_\_\_ for farmland and cities. Trees use carbon dioxide and their destruction may \_\_\_\_\_ the balance of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

pessimistic	afflict	optimistic	terms	temperature
cultural	model	growth	emission	split

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ divide makes clearheaded discussion about global warming difficult. Most executives and economists are \_\_\_\_\_ about the future and believe in the concept of progress, while most environmentalists are \_\_\_\_\_ about the future and want to restore the past. The first group views growth as the solution to problems \_\_\_\_\_ society, while the second sees \_\_\_\_\_ as a problem in itself. The \_\_\_\_\_ in the Clinton Administration over global-warming policy is symptomatic of this long-running debate.

But there is middle ground. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Earth has risen about 1°C in the past century (much of it before 1960), and computer climate \_\_\_\_\_ predict the warming will continue. What we don't know is how much rising greenhouse gas \_\_\_\_\_, especially carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels, contributes to the warming trend. We have little idea how much it will cost in \_\_\_\_\_ of economic growth to cut the emission of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Cost-benefit computer modeling is still in the garbage-in, garbage-out stage.

### III. Translate the following sentences into English:

1. 他提醒了我,要不然我就会把这件事给忘了。
2. 我的书实际上已经写完了,我只需再做一些改动。
3. 心理学家也意识到,语言和学习在某种意义上说都是社会现象。
4. 花园里的那棵树孤零零地站立着。
5. 经验很容易给这个问题提供答案。

### IV. Translate the following English sayings into Chinese:

1. It is a wise father that knows his own child.
2. It is an ill wind that blows nobody good.
3. It is a good workman that never blunders.
4. It is a good horse that never stumbles.
5. It is a long lane that has no turning.

### V. Translate the following paragraph into English:

据世界银行和世界卫生组织近年来的调查表明,北京是全世界污染最严重的城市之一。北京的居民抱怨空气太糟。很多人得了呼吸系统的疾病。有的人不得不戴上口罩来

保护自己。北京市政府正积极采取措施来解决空气污染这个大問題。例如已经禁止使用含铅汽油,正在关闭污染严重的工厂,用天然气和清洁煤来取代含硫煤,鼓励人们举报违反规定者。过去的十年中北京市在环保项目上花费了 12 亿美元来控制污染等级。据有关资料表明,自 1986 年以来,北京市空气中的二氧化硫,一氧化碳和悬浮颗粒含量几乎没有增加。当然北京的空气质量还远远不能令人满意。这些措施虽然不能马上使北京变得干净起来,但是为建设一个更清洁、更美丽的北京铺平了道路。

## **VI. Writing :**

Directions: Talk with your classmates to find out possible ways to alleviate the greenhouse effect, then write a composition of at least 120 words on the topic “ Possible Solutions to the Problems Caused by the Greenhouse Effect”. In your composition, you should discuss:

1. the consequences, or seriousness, of the greenhouse effect;
2. the possible measures that can alleviate the problem;
3. your conclusion

# Lesson 3

## TEXT

### Atomic Cars

Every motorist dreams of a car of the future that does not have to be refueled every few hundred miles, a car that will cost little to run because you don't need to pay for petrol.

"Of course," you may hear it said by a motorist, "the answer is the atom." Use atomic power in a car, and you'll have no more worries about petrol. The thing will run for years without a refill.

And, in theory, he is right. The answer is the atom. If atomic power could be used in a car, one small piece of uranium would keep the engine running for twenty or more years. Of course, this would cut the cost of running a car by quite a few hundred pounds, depending upon how much you spend on petrol.

But is this science-fiction-like picture of the atom exploding peacefully in the engine of a car possible? Perhaps it is, since already the atom has been used to drive submarines, and an atomic engine is already in existence. But, say the experts, there are many problems still to be conquered before such an engine can in fact be fixed into a car.

Now what exactly are these problems that stand between you and a car that you will never have to refuel? Frankly, most of them can be summed up in one word — radiation. An atomic reactor, the kind of engine that would produce energy by atom-splitting, throws off radiation, extremely dangerous radiation. These rays are just as dangerous as when they are released from an atomic bomb. This radiation penetrates anything except the thickest concrete and lead, with fatal results for anybody in its path. Thus, at the moment, any car carrying an atomic engine would also have to carry many tons of lead in order to prevent the radiation from escaping.

Since a car made up of tons of lead is rather impracticable, the only answer at the moment seems to be the discovery or invention of a metal that will be strong enough to hold in the rays, but at the same time light enough for a car to carry. Probably this metal would have to be synthetic, since no natural metal except lead has yet proved fit for the job. When this light metal is invented, the motoring world will be well on the way to an atomic car.



However, even after the invention of a protective but light metal, two other problems still remain, those of economics and safety.

It is extremely doubtful whether at the beginning a really economic engine could be made, one cheap enough to make it worth putting in a car. But it seems safe to say that as techniques and mass production come in atomic engines, the price will finally go down. This is basic economics, and manufacturers should be able to produce something that will at least be cheaper than having to pay for petrol during the lifetime of the car.

But then the third problem still remains, that of safety. Suppose that there is a road accident involving one, or two, atomic cars, and that the atomic reactor or its protective covering was damaged. Any explosion would be equal to that of a very small atomic bomb. The effect of such an explosion would be felt for several miles around. As will be realized, this is perhaps the biggest problem of all to overcome. Is it possible to make an atomic engine that will really be safe in every circumstance?

## New Words

<b>refuel</b>	[ˌri:ˈfjuəl]	vt.	加油
<b>reactor</b>	[riˈæktə(r)]	n.	反应堆
<b>penetrate</b>	[ˈpenitreit]	vt.	渗透
<b>impracticable</b>	[imˈpræktikəbl]	a.	不能实行的
<b><u>synthetic</u></b>	[sinˈθetik]	a.	合成的

## Notes

1. atom — a. the smallest component of an element having the chemical properties of the element, consisting of a positively charged nucleus of neutrons and protons that exerts an electrical attraction on one or more electrons in motion around it. b. this component used as the source of nuclear energy
2. radiation — a. the process in which energy is emitted as particles or waves. b. something that is radiated

## EXERCISES

### I. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the major problems facing scientists in developing atomic engines?
2. What are the advantages and disadvantages of atomic engines?
3. If atomic engines took the place of petrol engines, what might be the disastrous consequences of car