

新版

实用外语学习丛书

# 实用计算机英语

肖沪 吴楹丽 编著



湖南人民出版社

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肖沪 吴韞丽编著

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## 前 言

随着社会的发展,英语和计算机知识已经成为人才必备的两大基本技能。同时,随着我国加入WTO日期的日益临近,掌握这两项技能尤其显得重要。

现在多数的操作系统和应用软件都是英文版。如果没有一定的英语水平,就不能透彻理解许多计算机的语句和命令;就不能通过计算机网络了解更多的新信息;就不能把计算机的功能和作用充分地利用起来。但是,仅学好普通英语,对学习计算机还是不够的。与计算机联系最多的莫过于计算机英语。计算机英语中包含大量的计算机专业技术英语词汇、缩写词、短语,它成为学习计算机的一道文字障碍。因此编著这本《实用计算机英语》对于帮助读者学好计算机英语是很有必要的。

这本《实用计算机英语》主要是为初级和中级水平的计算机爱好者以及专业人士编写的。它既可作为教师的教学参考用书,也可作为自学读物。本书采用英汉对照的形式,由浅入深地介绍了计算机的基础知识,如计算机软硬件、操作系统、网络、互联网等方面的知识。每节后面都附有生词表。本书的取材新颖、实用,目的就是要使读者能熟悉并逐步掌握计算机英语的基本词汇,能熟练阅读有关文章。

由于编者水平有限,如有不足之处,敬请批评指正。

编 者

2001年5月

# CONTENTS 目录

## Unit One Introduction

### 第一章 引言

|                                         |   |
|-----------------------------------------|---|
| The system components of computers..... | 1 |
|-----------------------------------------|---|

### 计算机部件

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Hardware and software..... | 32 |
|----------------------------|----|

### 硬件和软件

## Unit Two The Knowledge You Must Know and How to Configure Your Computer

### 第二章 计算机常识和如何配置计算机

|                                        |    |
|----------------------------------------|----|
| Choosing your computer components..... | 36 |
|----------------------------------------|----|

### 选择计算机部件

|                                               |    |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|
| The unit of measure in a computer system..... | 60 |
|-----------------------------------------------|----|

### 计算机系统的度量单位

|               |    |
|---------------|----|
| BIOS Q&A..... | 65 |
|---------------|----|

### BIOS问答

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Virus prevention..... | 68 |
|-----------------------|----|

### 病毒防护

## Unit Three OS and Utility

### 第三章 操作系统和应用程序

|                                  |    |
|----------------------------------|----|
| DOS (disk operation system)..... | 83 |
|----------------------------------|----|

### 磁盘操作系统

|                                             |    |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| What are Windows 98 and Windows 98 SE?..... | 86 |
|---------------------------------------------|----|

### 什么是Windows 98和Windows 98 SE?

|                                                                |     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| What is Windows ME?.....                                       | 102 |
| 什么是Windows ME?                                                 |     |
| Office 2000.....                                               | 117 |
| Microsoft Word 2000.....                                       | 123 |
| Windows 2000 for Windows 95 and 98 users.....                  | 130 |
| 帮助Windows 95和98用认识Windows 2000                                 |     |
| Linux OS.....                                                  | 133 |
| Linux操作系统                                                      |     |
| Some popular program and tools.....                            | 139 |
| 流行的程序和工具                                                       |     |
| WINZIP.....                                                    | 147 |
| WINAMP.....                                                    | 152 |
| ACDSEE.....                                                    | 160 |
| ICQ.....                                                       | 161 |
| NORTON2001.....                                                | 166 |
| Do it yourself: How to install software on your computer?..... | 169 |
| 自己动手: 如何安装软件?                                                  |     |

## Unit Four The Feature of Computer-Network

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 第四章 计算机网络的特点                    |     |
| What is Ethernet?.....          | 177 |
| 什么是以太网?                         |     |
| LAN/WAN.....                    | 177 |
| 局域网 / 广域网                       |     |
| What is the Internet?.....      | 179 |
| 什么是因特网?                         |     |
| The basics of the Internet..... | 184 |
| 因特网基础                           |     |
| The DNS system.....             | 192 |
| 域名服务系统                          |     |

|                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| What is the Internet composed of?..... | 201        |
| 因特网是由什么组成的?                            |            |
| Internet connection.....               | 207        |
| 因特网的连接                                 |            |
| What is the World Wide Web?.....       | 217        |
| 什么是万维网?                                |            |
| Some words about Internet.....         | 227        |
| 关于因特网的一些说法                             |            |
| Creating your own simple Web page..... | 233        |
| 建立简单的个人网页                              |            |
| What is E-mail?.....                   | 251        |
| 什么是电子邮件?                               |            |
| Building a home network.....           | 268        |
| 建立家庭网络                                 |            |
| <b>Unit Five The Glossary.....</b>     | <b>278</b> |
| 第五章 词汇表                                |            |

# Unit One Introduction

## The system components of computers

### CPU (Processor)

There are two major types of processors being used in home computers today. Macintosh computers are based on a family of CPUs created by Motorola. IBM compatibles are based on a family of CPUs made by Intel(also by AMD). These different CPU flavors have completely different sets of instructions that they read at the simplest level. A program written to run on a computer based on the Motorola CPU will not run on a computer that uses an Intel chip. Each of these families of processors has a number of models available. The latest processor is almost always much faster than its predecessors, and more expensive. In the Intel world, for example, we have had the 8086, the 80286, the 80386, the 80486, and the 80586(Pentium), the Pentium II, the Pentium III and the Pentium 4.

Each of these processors has been roughly twice the speed of its immediate predecessor.

### Speed

A CPU also has a speed rating based on millions of cycles a second. One cycles in a second is referred to as a megahertz. Megahertz is usually abbreviated Mhz. In general, the larger the megahertz rating, the faster the processor will be. A 1000 Mhz Pentium III will be faster than a 850 Mhz Pentium III. This rating system is only accurate



when you are comparing computers with the same type and generation of CPU. A 233 Mhz Pentium II is faster than a 266 Mhz Pentium.

### Words and Expressions

processor n. 处理器

Macintosh Apple 公司于 1984 年起推出的一种系列微机, 麦金托什机(Mac)

CPU n. [计] 中央处理器

MOTOROLA 摩托罗拉公司

IBM 美国国际商用机器公司

Intel 美国英特尔公司, 以生产 CPU 芯片著称

AMD 美国 AMD 公司, 主要生产计算机的 CPU 芯片

flavor n. 情味, 风味

chip n. 芯片, 小(晶)片

predecessor n. 前任, (被取代的)原有事物

Pentium Intel 公司生产的 CPU 芯片, 中文译名为“奔腾”

roughly adv. 概略地, 粗糙地

rating n. 等级, 级别

cycle n. 周期

refer to 提到, 谈到

megahertz n. [物] 兆赫 (Mhz)

accurate adj. 正确的, 精确的

compare v. 比较, 相比

### 参考译文

#### 中央处理器(处理器)

现在家用计算机使用的处理器主要有两种。麦金托什机(苹果公司 Mac 机)使用的主要是摩托罗拉公司生产的 CPU。IBM

兼容机使用的是英特尔公司（还有 AMD 公司）生产的 CPU。这些不同类型的 CPU 在最简单的层次上都有着截然不同的读写指令。为摩托罗拉公司 CPU 芯片编写的程序在英特尔公司 CPU 的芯片上就不能运行。每种类型的处理器都有若干种型号。最新的处理器速度几乎总是要比上一代的快，但也更贵。以英特尔公司为例，它曾经生产过如下型号的产品：8086, 80286, 80386, 80486, 80586（奔腾），奔腾 II，奔腾 III，奔腾 4。

在这些处理器当中，每个处理器的速度几乎都是它上一代的速度两倍。

### 速度

CPU 的速度是以百万次/每秒为单位表示的。每秒运行一百即一兆赫。Megahertz（兆赫）通常缩写为 Mhz。一般来讲，兆赫的值越大，处理器的速度越快。1000Mhz 的奔腾 III 处理器比 850Mhz 的奔腾 III 处理器快。这一速度测定系统只有在比较同一代同一型号的 CPU 时是精确的。233Mhz 的奔腾 II 处理器要比 266Mhz 的奔腾处理器快。

## Memory

### Introduction

RAM is perhaps the most important input/output devices. When we talk about computer memory, we are mainly talking about RAM. The term Random Access is pretty unfortunate. There is nothing random about how memory is accessed. The program running will determine what is in memory. (Of course, the program itself is in memory too!) RAM can be read from the CPU. This means that the CPU can “look” at any address in RAM and get the contents of that address. It can also be written to by the CPU, meaning that the CPU can change the value of memory cells on the fly.

## An Example

A good example of RAM is when the CPU loads an application program—such as a word processing or page layout program—into memory, thereby allowing the application program to work as quickly



and efficiently as possible. In practical terms, having the program loaded into memory means that you can get work done more quickly with less time spent waiting for the computer to perform tasks. The process begins when you enter a command from your keyboard. CPU interprets the command and instructs the hard drive to load the command or program into memory. Once the data is loaded into memory, the CPU is able to access it much more quickly than if it had to retrieve it from the hard drive.

One very important aspect of RAM is that it requires power. RAM can only hold values while power is going through it. If the power is interrupted, the RAM will lose all the values in it. This is why it is so important to save your work frequently when working on a computer. RAM is volatile. When the room you are working in has a power cut and the power goes out of your computer, you lose everything that was in RAM. This could be bad. The answer is to make copies of RAM, and place these copies on other kinds of media. That's what disk drives are for.

The amount of RAM in your computer is obviously a pretty important factor. The more memory you have, the more “room” there is in your computer for information and programs. Modern programs

have gotten huge, and the kinds of information you can work with have gotten much larger. Some early home computers had 4 or 16 K of RAM. The original IBM PC had 640 K of RAM. In its day, this was thought of as an extravagant amount of memory that would never be fully used. Modern computers with less than 64 megabytes (64,000 K) are considered a bit lame. Older computers can be quite happy with much less RAM, but they will not be able to run the newer programs.

If you are buying or upgrading a computer, you should seriously consider as much RAM as you can afford. There is probably no more cost-effective upgrade than RAM.

If you find that you need more memory, it is relatively cheap and easy to do a memory upgrade. Note that not all types of RAM are interchangeable. Look in the book that came with your computer for specifically which type of RAM you need when you are ready to upgrade.

### **The Difference Between Memory and Storage**

People often confuse the terms memory and storage, especially when describing the amount they have of each. The term memory refers to the amount of RAM installed in the computer, whereas the term storage refers to the capacity of the computer's hard disk. To clarify this common mix-up, it helps to compare your computer to an office that contains a desk and a file cabinet. The file cabinet represents the computer's hard disk, which provides storage for all the files and information you need in your office. When you come into work, you take out the files you need from storage and put them on your desk for easy access while you work on them. The desk is like memory in the computer: it holds the information and data you need

to have handy access while you're working.

Consider the desk-and-file-cabinet metaphor for a moment. Imagine what it would be like if every time you wanted to look at a document or folder you had to retrieve it from the file drawer. It would slow you down tremendously, not to mention drive you crazy. With adequate desk space—our metaphor for memory—you can lay out the documents in use and retrieve information from them immediately, often with just a glance.

Here's another important difference between memory and storage: the information stored on a hard disk remains intact even when the computer is turned off. However, any data held in memory is lost when the computer is turned off. In our desk space metaphor, it's as though any files left on the desk at closing time will be thrown away.

It's been proven that adding more memory to a computer system increases its performance. If there isn't enough room in memory for all the information the CPU needs, the computer has to set up what's known as a virtual memory file. In so doing, the CPU reserves space on the hard disk to simulate additional RAM. This process, referred to as "swapping", slows the system down. In an average computer, it takes the CPU approximately 200ns (nanoseconds) to access RAM compared to 12,000,000ns to access the hard drive. To put this into perspective, this is equivalent to what's normally a 3.5-minute task taking 4 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> months to complete!

### **Words and Expressions**

|        |                     |
|--------|---------------------|
| RAM    | n.[计] 随机存取内存, 随机存储器 |
| input  | n.输入 v.输入           |
| output | n. 输出               |

memory n. 存储器, 内存  
random access [计] 随机存取  
access n. 访问 vt. 存取  
determine v. 决定, 确定  
cell n. 单元  
on the fly 在飞行中, 匆忙地  
load v. 装载  
application n. 应用程序, 应用软件  
word processing [计] 字处理  
page layout [计] 页面  
command n. 命令  
keyboard n. [计] 键盘  
interpret v. 解释, 说明  
hard drive 硬盘驱动器  
retrieve v. 重新得到 n. 找回  
aspect n. (问题等的) 方面  
volatile adj. 可变的, 不稳定的  
power cut 停电, 供电中断  
obviously adv. 明显地  
factor n. 因素, 要素  
extravagant adj. 奢侈的, 浪费的  
lame adj. 不完全的, (辩解、论据等) 无说服力的  
upgrade vt. 使升级  
confuse vt. 混淆; 混乱  
storage n. 贮藏(量), 存储  
install vt. 安装  
whereas conj. 然而, 但是  
clarify v. 澄清, 阐明

metaphor    n. 暗喻, 比喻  
folder      n. 文件夹  
tremendously    adv. 可怕地, 非常地  
intact      adj. 完整无缺的  
virtual memory    虚拟内存  
reserve      vt. 保留 (存)  
simulate      vt. 模拟, 模仿  
in perspective    比例正确  
be equivalent to    相当于

## 参考译文

## 存储器

### 简介

随机存储器可能是输入/输出设备中最重要的设备。当我们谈论计算机的内存时, 实际上主要是在谈论随机存储器。“随机存储”远没有字面上表达的那样“随意”。存储器不能随便访问。运行的程序决定存储器的内容(当然程序本身也在存储器中)。CPU 可以读取内存的信息, 它通过“查看”内存的地址取得该地址上的内容。CPU 也可以将信息写入内存, 也就是说 CPU 可以随时改变内存单元的值。

### 举例

举一个关于内存的例子: 当 CPU 将应用程序——如字处理或版面设计程序——装入内存以后, 这些应用程序就能够更快更有效地工作。在实际操作中, 将程序装入内存就意味着你可以更快地完成工作, 用不着再花很多时间等待计算机执行任务。当你从键盘键入命令时这一过程就开始了。CPU 对命令进行翻译并指令硬盘驱动器把命令或程序装入内存。一旦数据被装入内存, CPU 就能很快地访问这些数据, 与从硬盘上导入数据相比, 快了

很多。

内存有一个极为重要的特点就是它需要电能。只有在通电的情况下内存才能保存其中的信息。如果掉电的话，内存中的所有信息都会丢失。因此，在计算机上工作时经常存盘是十分重要的。内存不能永久地保存信息。当你工作的房间停电时，计算机的电力供应将被中断，你也会失去计算机内存中的所有的东西。这很糟糕。解决的办法就是复制内存信息并将这些信息存放在其他（能永久保存数据的）媒介上。磁盘驱动器（也叫外存）的用途也就在于此。

计算机内存的大小是一个极为重要的因素。内存越大，计算机中就会有越多的空间来存储信息和程序。现在的程序很大，你能够处理的信息量也更多。一些早期的家用计算机有 4 或 16K 的内存。最早的 IBM 个人计算机有 640 K 的内存，那个时候这么大的内存竟然被人们看作过于奢侈浪费，并且认为它永远也不会被充分利用。然而在现代的计算机中，少于 64 兆的内存被认为是系统的瓶颈。较老的计算机内存少，但也能工作得很好，只是它们无法运行较新的（需要更多内存的）程序。

如果你要购买或升级计算机，应该认真地考虑购买尽可能大的内存。没有比内存升级更划算的了。如果你发现自己需要更多内存，内存升级相对来说还是比较便宜和简单的。注意不是所有类型的内存都能够互换。在升级内存之前要仔细阅读随计算机附送的使用手册，看看应该购买哪种类型的内存。

### 内存和存储器的区别

人们经常将内存和存储器混淆，尤其是在描述它们的大小的时候。内存大小是指计算机中安装的随机存储器的容量，而存储器大小是指计算机硬盘的容量。为了进一步说明，我们将你的计算机比做摆了一张桌子和一个文件柜的办公室。

文件柜相当于计算机的硬盘，用来存放办公需要的文件和信

息。当进入办公室工作时，你把所有需要的文件从文件柜中取出来放在桌子上，需要的时候随手就可以拿到。书桌就相当于计算机的内存：它保存着你需要的信息和数据，方便你工作时使用。

仔细考虑一下书桌和文件柜的比喻。设想一下，如果每次在你想看一个文档或文件夹时，都必须把它从装文件的抽屉中翻出来，那将是什么样子。它将极大地降低工作速度，甚至让你为之发狂。桌面上有足够的空间——我们将它比作内存——你就可以将使用中的文件摊开，通常只需扫一眼，就能立即找到需要的信息。

内存和存储器还有另外一个重要的区别：即使在计算机关闭的情况下，硬盘中的信息也会完好无损。然而当计算机关闭时，内存中的所有数据都会丢失。在我们的桌面空间的比喻中，就相当于在下班时，留在桌面上的所有文件都会被扔掉一样。

人们已经证实增加内存可以提高计算机的性能。如果内存没有足够的空间来存储 CPU 所需要的信息，计算机就必须建立虚拟内存文件。建立该文件时，CPU 在硬盘上保留了一些空间来充当辅助内存。这一过程被称为“交换（技术）”，它降低了系统速度。在普通的计算机中，CPU 访问存储器大概需要 200ns（一纳秒等于十亿分之一秒），而访问硬盘驱动器大概需要 12,000,000ns。按比例来讲，这也就相当于正常情况下只需 3 分半钟就能完成的任务却用了 4 个半月的时间。

## **Input/Output device**

### **Disk Drives**

Disk drives are special devices that allow us to make copies of parts of RAM and store them magnetically. If RAM memory is electronic, think of disk drives as a special kind of magnetic memory. When you save something to a disk, the electronic impulses in RAM