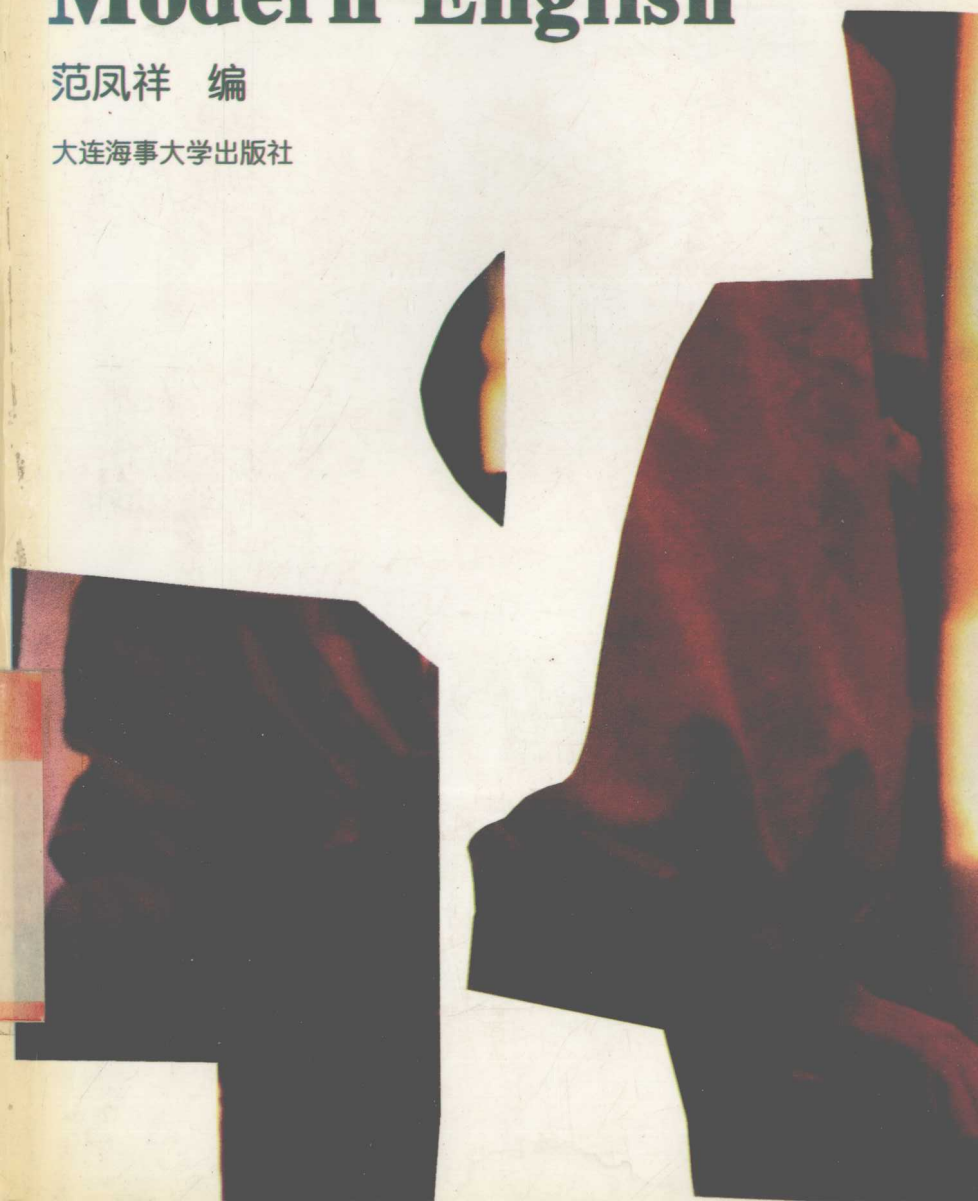


现代英语选读

Modern English

范凤祥 编

大连海事大学出版社



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内 容 提 要

目前国内出版的英语书以考试辅导类型的居多,广大英语学习者缺乏一本全面反映现代英语特点的英语学习书,本书即为满足读者这一需求而编写,内容包括现代普通英语的主要载体——英语国家的书刊、报纸、广播等精心选取的有关政治、时事、经济、金融、科技、生物工程、军事、史实、健康、艺术、时装、电影、音乐、体育、食品、幽默等文章和广播节目;文体包括文学、新闻、报导、政论、传记、纪实、书评、影评等等,覆盖了英语国家当代社会生活的各个方面,提供了现代普通英语(General English)的基本词汇、语言现象和结构,体现了现代普通英语的特点,有极强的知识性、可读性和趣味性。

本书共分18单元,每单元由一篇或内容相近的数篇文章组成,阅读量较大,每单元都有文章内容和背景的介绍,以帮助理解;有本单元的计算机语言统计数据,包括难度系数、总单词数、词汇量等;还有详尽的语言点和语言结构的解释。书后有生词表,包括有目前字典尚查不到的英语最新普通词汇(如yahoo等)。本书文章的难度系数分布比较合理,从4.8(相当美国5年教育水平)到14(相当美国14年教育水平),目前国内还没有此种类型的英语学习书。本书适于具有相当普通工科和文理科大学英语水平的各类读者,通过本书的学习读者可以全面提高自己的英语水平。欲参加各种考试(如大学英语四、六级、TOEFL、EPT、BFT等)的读者,可以大大提高应试能力。

前 言

如何进一步提高自己的英语水平,这是广大英语学习者们十分关心的问题。在词汇量已达 4000 并学完基础语法后仍只通过教科书或做一册又一册的试题效果并不理想,因前者语言现象不丰富,后者主要增强应试能力。如果一个学习汉语的外国人通过大量汉语试题来学习汉语,他的汉语能达到什么水平可想而知。

经验表明,在国内的条件下,阅读英文小说报刊、收听英语广播对英语已达到一定程度的人是一个非常有效的方法,因为上述媒介是现代普通英语(General English)的主要载体,语言现象丰富,文体多样,内容涉及到现代社会的各个方面。但是,要读者在短时间内阅读数百种原版英文报刊中大量各种类型的文章和几十部英语长篇小说不太可能,也不容易读懂。对不少读者来说此类书刊也不容易得到。英语国家的英语电台在我国的收听效果很好,但也不容易听懂,其中的一个重要原因是不熟悉广播语体和常用词汇。为此,笔者从近千份英美报刊和数十本现代英语小说中选取了具有代表性的文章编写成此书。书中还选编了世界著名的英国 BBC 电台的几个重要节目。本书全面反映了现代英语的基本特点,内容包括政治、时事、经济、金融、科技、生物工程、军事、史实、健康、艺术、时装、电影、音乐、体育、食品、幽默等诸方面;文体包括小说(长篇、短篇)、广播新闻、报导、政论、传记、纪实、书评、影评等等,文章有很强的知识性和趣味性。

本书共分 18 单元,每单元由一篇或内容相近的数篇文章组成,阅读量较大。每单元的 INTRODUCTION 介绍本单元的内容,以便帮助读者理解。INTRODUCTION 中还有本单元的计算机语言数据统计,如 READABILITY INDEX: 12. Readers need a 12th

grade level of education 是指阅读难度系数为 12, 读者需要有相当于美国 12 年的教育程度(相当于高中毕业)才能阅读, 此数越大难度越大。计算机是根据文章的词汇、句子长度等语言要素来计算难度系数的。大量使用常用词汇且句子语法结构较简单的单元或文章的难度系数就小。但如果使用了象征或隐喻等修辞手法, 它并不一定比难度系数大的文章易读, 这点请读者注意。Number of Words in Document 是指单元或文章的总单词数, Number of Unique Words in Document 是指单元或文章中的词汇量, 凡是拼写不一样的单词计算机都当做不同的词汇, 如 work 和 works, 这点也请读者加以注意。Number of Sentences 和 Average Number of Words/Sentence 则分别为文章的句数和句子的平均长度。

在每个单元的结尾有本单元的注释。文章中带有 * 号的人名或地名是根据发音拼成, 可能不准确。本书的结尾是词汇表, 共有 1898 个单词, 不少是普通教科书不常见但在英语国家中使用频率很高的词汇。标有 a, ad, v, n, conj, int, prep 字母的词分别为形容词、副词、动词、名词、连词、感叹词和介词。col 为口语用词, sl 是俚语, (日)、(德)等为日语和德语, (arc)为古英语。

本书中的文章主要选自严肃出版物(quality publications), 但也从一个英国大众小报(tabloid) the Daily Mirror 中选了兩篇文章。各单元的文章作者可以确定的都在 INTRODUCTION 中加以说明。标题的大小写均按原文的方式。单词的拼写除 BBC 的节目和选自 Daily Mirror 的文章外, 主要是美式拼写。

希望通过本书的学习, 读者能增加对现代英语的理解能力, 扩大单词量, 从而进一步提高自己的英语水平和应试能力。

编者

1995 年 9 月

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UNIT ONE

INTRODUCTION

本 unit 选自英国广播公司国际部(BBC World Service)1993年的一些节目,分三个部分:新闻(世界新闻、财贸新闻、英国新闻及英国报纸摘要)、美国来信和书评,其中带有星号的人名和地名是根据发音拼成的。一般来说,广播新闻语体严谨客观,在短短的一条新闻里尽可能包括 when, who, where, what, why, how, 即所谓 5W1H 要素;地名、人名和有关政治、经济、军事、灾难等词汇较多。本 unit 的新闻部分的语言统计数据如下:

READABILITY INDEX: 11. 28. Readers need an 11th grade level of education.

Number of Words in Document: 3245

Number of Unique Words in Document: 1334

Number of Sentences: 155

Average Number of Words/Sentence: 20. 094

第二部分为 BBC 驻美国记者 Alistair Cooke 每周一次的美国来信,讲述他在美国的见闻和美国的时事。本 unit 是关于他在 40 多年前当一家报纸的驻美记者的一些经历和对目前美国监狱的看法。这部分的语言统计如下:

READABILITY INDEX: 11. 16. Readers need an 11th grade level of education.

Number of Words in Document: 817

Number of Unique Words in Document: 427

Number of Sentences: 31

Average Number of Words/Sentence: 23.853

第三部分是对法国外交家及历史学家的 *The Collision of Two Civilizations* 一书的评论。该书描述了清王朝代表的中国同西方文明的冲突。本部分难度较大。其语言统计数据如下:

READABILITY INDEX: 14.22. Readers need a 14th grade level of education. The writing is complex and may be difficult to read.

Number of Words in Document: 668

Number of Unique Words in Document: 364

Number of Sentences: 24

Average Number of Words/Sentence: 27.708

TEXT

I

Twenty-three hours Greenwich mean time (1). BBC World Service, the news read by Brian Abraham. More than 5,000 rounds of rifle and machine gun ammunition have been found on a United Nation's aid truck travelling from Sarajevo Airport to a nearby village held by Bosnian government forces. A spokesman for the U. N. protection force said the discovery was made by Serb soldiers during a routine search at a checkpoint in the suburb of Ilidza. The spokesman said 48 boxes of Bosnian made ammunition were found underneath sacks of flour. The spokesman said an immediate, open and thorough investigation was started; after a search of

the airport more ammunition and some explosives were found. U. N. officials expressed shock at the discovery. A BBC correspondent in Bosnia said the Serbs responded with fury. Our correspondent says the arms find (2) is bound to provoke a furious row between the protection force and Serb forces, who frequently accuse UN troops of arming the Bosnian side.

Fourteen United Nations trucks carrying some 15 hundred Muslim refugees from the besieged eastern Bosnian town of Threbenitze have reached the Bosnian stronghold of Tuzla. The refugees, mostly women and children, looked exhausted and cold after a fifty-mile journey packed into the open trucks. Previous attempts to move large numbers of people out of Threbenitze, which has been under siege by Serb forces for nearly a year, has been thwarted by the Muslim authorities in the town. The UN commander in Bosnia General * Felig Marlian tried to go back to Threbenitze with a party of troops, but was forced to turn back after his small convoy was stopped and attacked by Serb civilians in the town of Zvornik. On a previous mission to Threbenitze, the general has premised to save the thousands of people still trapped there, facing a steady Serbian advance.

The United Nations Security Council (3) has renewed the sanctions imposed on Libya a year ago because of its refusal to hand over for trial two men accused of blowing up an American airliner over Lockerbie in Scotland in 1988. The United States has called for tougher action against Libya, but no new sanctions were imposed. Libya is currently subject to (4) military and diplomatic sanctions and the severing of air links. After the UN's decision the American ambassador to the UN * Medlin Albright said the United

States was consulting its allies on additional sanctions, in particular an oil embargo. The BBC United Nations correspondent says there's significant opposition to the idea, as Europe relies heavily on Libyan oil import and other Mediterranean countries fear an oil embargo could destabilize North Africa.

Details of President Clinton's budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning in October has been unveiled in Washington. The 13 hundred-page document fleshes out (5) the economic recovery plan that Mr Clinton presented in the State of the Union Speech (6) to Congress in February. It proposes tax increases and cuts in defense spendings to reduce the United States' huge deficit, but also includes investments aimed at promoting long-term economic growth. Congress has already approved the budget proposals in outline.

The celebrated Algerian musician * Fela Kuti, who's facing charges of conspiracy and murder has been released from prison in Lagos after being granted bail for a second time. * Fela was first given bail in early March but was arrested again shortly after his release. He's due to appear in court next week. * Fela faces charges in connection with the death last January of a man who worked for him.

A military court in Cairo, the Egyptian capital, has sentenced to death seven Muslim activists accused of attacking foreign tourists. Correspondents say the verdict reflects the government's determination to eradicate the militant threat to national stability. The activists greeted their sentences with shouts and defiance. More than twenty others were jailed and seventeen were acquitted. The defendants have been handed over to the military in order to speed up the judicial process. The trial followed a spate of violent

attacks on tourists, which have resulted in Egypt's income from tourism dropping by a third.

The Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato has resigned. His decision follows a national referendum which showed overwhelming support for reform of the Italian political system. The referendum took place amid a widening corruption scandal which had implicated thousands of politicians and businessmen, and has forced the resignation of six ministers in the coalition government. The Office of the Italian President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro that Mr Amato was being asked to carry on for the time being as caretaker prime minister (7). The BBC's South Europe correspondent says the president is anxious to avoid a power vacuum. The Senate Committee has failed to decide on whether to strip the former Italian prime minister Giulio Andreotti of his immunity from prosecution. Mr. Andreotti faces charges of complicity with the Mafia in political assassinations.

At least ten people are known to have died and dozens have been injured in a powerful car bomb explosion in the Colombian capital Bogota. The bomb went off in a car park in a shopping centre, destroying about 40 vehicles and damaging buildings over a wide area. Several people have been taken to hospital, some with serious injuries.

President Clinton told journalists he had ordered an investigation into the FBI operation to force out members of a religious cult from their headquarters in Waco, Texas. It ended in a massive fire, in which more than 80 people, including children, died. Mr. Clinton said the Justice Departments would mount what he called a full and vigorous inquiry into what happened and why. He said he hoped federal agents would learn from the incident and how to bet-

ter handle such operations in the future. However he stressed he had been briefed before the operation and gave his total support to agents involved who had done everything possible to avoid loss of life.

BBC World Service, this is * Rockson Pansaki and * Sara Pannels with the world business report. In this edition, talks between the United States and the European Community aimed at resolving an acrimonious trade dispute remain deadlocked. The world's airlines suffer heavy losses, and Kenia devalues its currency by 20%.

Trade negotiators from the United States and the European community have failed to reach an agreement over awarding contracts for major public sector projects. The American trade representative * Micky Countor and the EC vice president Sir * Leon Briton also discussed progress on the GATT (8) negotiations. They've arranged last-ditch (9) talks on Wednesday to try to avert American sanctions due to come into force on Thursday. The Clinton Administration claims that EC regulations don't allow American firms to compete fairly for European government contracts.

The world's airlines lost more than four and a half thousand million dollars between them last year, the third year running (10) of disastrous losses in the industry. The International Air Transport Association has called for massive government action on taxes, competition laws, infrastructure and environmental regulation to put the airlines back on course. * Ean Gould of Flight International in London told * Roger White that things had got worse for the airline since the collapse of air travel during the Gulf war: "It may well be that a lot of industry and commerce where people were flying busi-

ness (11) or even first class have taken a good hard look at everything; they are not spending the money as they were before. They may still be flying; they're going economy class now and, wonderfully, they discover they get there at the same time as everybody else on the plane." * Ean Gould of Flight International.

The Central Bank of Kenya has devalued the Kenyan shilling by nearly 25%. It was down from 46 shillings against the dollar on Monday to around 60 against the dollar on Tuesday. The move comes before Wednesday's visit to Nairobi of the world Bank's vice president for the Africa region * Edward Jaycocks, who'll be discussing with President Moi the possibility of resumption of aid to Kenya.

Other news now. IBM, the world leading computer maker, lost 285 million dollars in the first quarter of this year, in contrast to a profit of two and a half thousand million dollars for the same period in 1992. Germany's Central Bank, the Bundes Bank, has unexpectedly announced cuts in two key interest rates in a move which the Economics Minister * Gontter Exrot said will help economic recovery in Germany and other members of the European Community. One interest rate, the discount rate (12), was cut by a quarter of one percent to seven and a quarter percent, and the other rate, the Lombard rate, was reduced by half of one percent, to eight and half percent. The move is seen as a response to worrying signs that Germany may be facing its worst recession since World War II, with industrial production sharply down and unemployment rising.

The European car market takes a turn for the worst (13), with Daimler-Benz announcing that thousands more jobs are to go

this year. On the world-wide financial markets the main talking point was Japan, while the Nikkei Share index continue to climb.

Now the commodities. Silver was fixed in London down 2. 225 cents at 395. 25 cents an ounce. The London afternoon platinum fix was 371. 1 dollars an ounce. The London Metal Exchange settlement price (14) for copper was 1172 pounds a ton. In New York May sugar rose nought point 06 to ten point 95 cents a pound. In London May cocoa was down three at 672 pounds a ton, while May cocoa in New York fell one to 882 dollars. In London May coffee was up seven at 885 dollars a ton, while May coffee in New York rose 0. 7 to 53. 5 cents a pound. In Chicago May wheat was 358. 5 cents a bushel, and May soybeans 590. 75.

Back on the currency market. The dollar ended at one Swiss franc 46, five French francs 39. 67 U. S. cents. The three-year U. S. long bond (15) was down 1130 seconds at 104 and 2530 seconds, yielding 6. 76%. The three month Treasury bill rate was 2. 85%.

Sport now. The drug's charges against four Pakistani cricketers on tour in the West Indies have been dropped. Reports from Bulgaria say that two of the country's athletes failed drug's test after last month's World Indoor Championships in Toronto. Initial samples provided by * Nicola Raev, bronze medalist in the triple jump (16) and * Daniel Ivenev, who finished third in the long jump, showed amphetamine. If a second test proves positive, the athletes will risk losing their medals and face a two-year ban.

Now the British news with * Juliam Porter. A big clean-up operation is going on in London's financial district following a huge bomb explosion on Saturday. Efforts are being made to prepare the

area for the thousands of office workers due to arrive there later today. The IRA (17) had said it carried out the bombing which killed one man and injured forty others. Two of the casualties are spending their second night in the hospital. The queen has sent a message of sympathy to the dead man's family. The blast devastated the Bishop Gate area of the city. Insurance experts estimate it will cost hundreds of millions of pounds to repair. One church collapsed, and many other buildings suffered major structural damage, and hundreds of windows were shattered. * Curd Mary has been to the scene:

Officers from Scotland Yard's Anti-terrorist Branch resumed their investigations early on, shifting through the debris for clues that could lead to the bombers. Falling glass and masonry were still a hazard for the emergency services carrying out the huge clean-up operation, while structural engineers like * Collin Snowman were on hand (18) to give advice. A little later I managed to see the full extent of the damage for myself, beyond the police cordon that stretches for over a quarter of a square mile. The damage ahead of me is phenomenally extensive. Although clearing has been going on for much of the day, the area resembles a demolition site (19). Glass is still falling from shattered window panes here, and pile upon pile of it as well as twisted metal and masonry has been swept to the sides of the roads. To my right, the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank is a sorry sight. Church is no more, reduced to a huge pile of rubble. It really is like a scene from the middle of a war. The burglar alarms of many of the shops here still sound out. Church goes pick their way through the police cordon on their way to St. Paul's Cathedral to say prayers for the press photographer who died in the

blast.

New government figures on the economy to be published later today are expected to provide further evidence of recovery. Correspondents say the figures will show a clear rise in gross domestic product (20) during the first three months of this year. A treasury minister * Mike Portilo has underlined the government's cautious optimism about the economy, but the opposition Labour Party says the government must do more if recovery is to be sustained.

A housing pressure group Shelter (21) and the public advisory service Citizens Advice Bureau have criticized the government for failing to meet the housing needs of people on low incomes. In a joint report they highlight what they say the inadequacies in the housing benefit scheme. They say restrictions on the amount of money which can be claimed and delays in payments have aggravated the problem of homelessness. Official figures say around 140 thousand families are homeless in Britain and 8000 people are sleeping rough (22) on the streets.

Here in Britain about seven thousand people have marched passed the electronic factory * Tymax in the Scottish city of Dundee in protest at the sacking of 340 workers. People came from all over Scotland and the North of England to take part in the demonstration. Scuffles broke out as replacement workers were taken in by bus and three people were arrested. The Union representing the workers says they were dismissed because they were too slow to accept a ten percent pay cut. The protest was the biggest since the dispute began eleven weeks ago. The shop steward (23)

* Willie Lesley said the situation had provoked enormous sympathy.