

Issue 1

Edge English

前沿英语

FASHION
FORECAST
FOR
2000



KENNEDY
— a star falls

AT THE EDGE
with the future
generation



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To OUR READERS

Hi!

When you bury your heads in your English class textbooks, do you feel you are somehow missing out on "real English"?

Do you want to read "real English" right now? English that is in tune, on the go, part of the daily speaking and writing world of millions of English and American people? English that is changing even as the textbooks are being printed?

Are you missing out on "English on the edge"..?

Don't worry. Surf on into ... Edge English.

Edge English, is the up-to-the-minute booklet that means you no longer have to miss out.

Edge English will provide you with

- the latest English
- up-to-date information on everything from rock music to relationships
- fun, fun, fun.

We want our readers...

- ...to be on the cutting edge
- ...to walk the edge, and sometimes
- ...to be on the wild edge, and very occasionally
- ...to go over the edge.

We want you

...to have a competitive edge, a proven edge over your colleagues. We want you to be working the edge in everyday English and so to have a clear edge over the others

Welcome to **Edge English**

10 things for you to think about

In ten years' time:

1. Where would you like to be living?

2. What kind of social and natural environment would you like to be living in?

3. How will your job be changed by new technology?

4. What goals will you have achieved in your career?

5. How will you be making money and how will you be spending it?

6. What kind of food will you be eating?

7. What will you be doing to look after your health?

8. How will your relationship with your family and others around you change?

9. What will be the most precious thing to you?

10. What contribution will you have made to society?

e-commerce

First there was e-mail. Now there is e-commerce. E-commerce (i.e. 'electronic commerce') means buying (and selling) via the Internet. E-commerce is an electronically based industry that just a few years ago did not exist. Now many companies have been set up to do e-trade (e-business). A very good example is the online bookstore Amazon. You can buy almost any book you want from this company over the Internet. The world's biggest auction business, eBay, is also an Internet trader.

E-commerce is still in its early stages, as problems

such as how to deal with credit card fraud on the Internet still have to be worked out. But the future of e-commerce looks rosy.

Did you know?



The electronic bookstore Amazon (is online at <http://www.amazon.com> on the Internet) boasts that you can find the titles of a million books in English when you browse and search through its Website.

Note:

Watch out for the growing use of the letter "e" as a prefix, indicating a connection with the Internet (from the word "electronic"). For example e-zine, or electronic magazine on the Internet

WELCOME to the NEW MILLENNIUM

MANY PEOPLE are planning to celebrate when the sun breaks over the horizon at the dawn of January 1, 2000. But is it the start of the 21st century and the new millennium*? What do the experts say?

WHEN IS THE NEW
CENTURY?

● LEADING
CHINESE scientists say

that new millennium kicks off on Jan. 1, 2001, according to the newspaper The China Daily. Chinese scientists based their conclusion on the **Gregorian*** calendar, which marks the beginning of the first century at Year 1.

"If the start of the 21st century and the third millennium were set in 2000, it would mean that there would have been only 99 years during one of the last centuries," researcher Xie Baocheng of the Chinese



— or is it?

Academy of Social Sciences said. The year 2000, when the **millennium bug*** may threaten computers, should not be confused with 2001, when the 21st century really begins, Xie said.

FAMOUS SCIENTIST and author Arthur C Clarke is one of many people who believe the new millennium does not begin until January 1, 2001. Because the Western calendar starts with the Year 1 and not the Year 0. Clarke says, the 21st century and the new millennium do not

begin until January 1, 2001.

But Clarke, who is the celebrated author of the book on which the famous film 2001: a Space Odyssey was based, agrees the popular move is to treat the year 2000 as the

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Y2K BUG

Y2K bug – no, it's not an insect, but a possible computer malfunction. How does the Y2K bug get its name? Y stands for Year, and K stands for "thousand", from the Greek prefix "kilo" which is used in the metric system.

Therefore, Y2K = Year 2000. Other uses of the prefix "kilo" which mean "1000" include "kilometre" and "kilogram".

ALL THOSE 9s

Here is another millennium year worry. Computers react to seeing a string involving the number 9. The string of 9s means information is invalid or missing. When a computer registers the date on the 9th day of the 9th month of 1999, the string is 9/9/99. Wow!

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beginning of the new millennium. As the change takes place from the year 1999 to 2000, "everyone will start celebrating at midnight December 31, 1999," he says. The effect of three zeroes in the year is too powerful to ignore, the scientist says.

WORRIED ABOUT THE COMPUTER BUG

AS MILLIONS of people are preparing to have a party to welcome the start of 2000, others are more worried about the dreaded computer bug which might strike at that time.

THE FEAR that aircraft will be affected when computers change from 1999 to the year 2000 is the biggest worry for some people. Computers control many functions of aircraft in flight. People worry that when a computer's date setting changes to "00" at the end of the year, aircraft systems will react as if it is the year "1900", and will cease to fly. Computers traditionally record the date with only two numerals, such as "84" or "99".

To ensure that any aircraft computer problems with this **Y2K*** bug are fixed in advance by the men in charge, British and Chinese airlines are suggesting that their managers and chief officials should fly on their planes on the crucial day.

✿ **SOME AMERICAN**

airlines have their own solutions. Because the first day of 2000 begins in the Pacific, some US airlines will be in contact with the airlines in New Zealand and Australia as soon as the new day begins. "We'll call them because they hit the millennium 14 hours ahead of America," says Scott Nason, chief information officer of American Airlines in Fort Worth.

Questions that the US airlines will ask the Pacific airlines Air New Zealand and Qantas:

- 1** Are your aircraft still in the air?
- 2** If aircraft are flying, are all the services, navigation aids and engine controls still effective?
- 3** Are the reservations and the ticket **data bases*** still working?
- 4** Has your baggage-handling system stopped?

Tests have proved positive to date, but no-one is going to be sure everything is working fine until the actual date.

BRITISH HOUSEHOLDS have been told to stock up with two week's supply of emergency food for the turn of the century, in case the Y2K millennium bug causes essential services to stop at the New Year and the beginning of the year 2000.

**EXTRA CASH
IN HAND, JUST
IN CASE.**

DEUTSCHE BANK'S chief American economist will not be trusting a

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IS THIS SENSIBLE?

One odd idea to avoid possible problems with the Y2K bug is to tell your computer it is the year 1972. In 1972, there was the same order of dates on days of the week as the year 2000. Experts say this would give computer technicians another 28 years to cope with any problems arising from the Y2K bug.

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hi-tech answer to any computer problems at the turn of the Year 2000. The economist Ed Yardeni works in New York. But on the changeover to the first day of the new millennium, he says he will be at home in the suburbs "with extra cash on hand in case the bank machines are not working, and surrounded by some extra water, spaghetti and emergency flashlights."

RUSSIA COULD have a

major potential problem with its nuclear missiles at the turn of this century.

Scientists are warning that obsolete computer chips in the Russian systems and their software, likely to interpret dates ending in 00 as the year 1900, could trigger massive faults. The Russian Defence Department has technologies that are now 20 years old, and they would not be **Y2K**

compliant*, says Alexander Krupnov, head of the State Committee for



Did you know ... ?

THE WORD "bug" used in the phrase "computer bug" is said to refer to the time a moth invaded a Harvard Mark II computer at a naval centre in Virginia in the United States in 1945. The moth jammed one of the computer relays. When the moth was found, it was taped to a book listing problems with the computer, and described as "the bug" which had affected the computer.

Since then, "bug" has become a common part of computer language. Some language experts say the word "bug" had

Communications and Information in Moscow. Finding the billions of dollars needed to investigate the old-fashioned computer chips is a real problem for Russia, he says. Ballistic missiles, early warning defence systems and nuclear power stations in Russia could all be affected.

been used for decades before to describe an error or a defect in a mechanical system. Whatever you believe, the real bug in the computer makes a nice story.

Key

millennium

- 1000 years

Gregorian

- from Pope Gregory the 13th. He devised the Gregorian calendar in 1582.

millennium bug

- computer problem caused by the change of date to 2000

Y2K

- Year 2000

data bases

- computer files listing information in well-organised categories or fields which can be searched

Y2K compliant

- computer programs which have passed tests for reactions to the Year 2000, and will not be affected by the so-called Y2K millennium bug

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New Trends in your

Over the next ten years, advances in the laboratory combined with different consumer attitudes and demands will see new trends in beauty care.

Attitude, attitude

The major difference in beauty care in the future will definitely be your attitude. Beauty care will no longer be just skin deep. It will no longer just be about what expensive cream you should buy to put on your face.

The new consumer approach to beauty care will be an holistic approach, (an overall and integrated approach). Not only must you look good but you must

Beauty care in the future will emphasise care of your mind and care of your general health as well as care of your skin.

Beauty Care

also feel good. So, in the future, when you visit your beauty consultant, expect an examination of your mental state as well as an examination of your diet, your environment and of course, your skin.

Look for:

☐ **More customised makeup and skin-care products.**

Cosmetic consultants will be able to use computers to carry out instant tests on your skin to work out the best product for you and you alone

☐ **More high-tech products.**

All those 'bad' things, grey hair, hair loss and wrinkles are going to be counteracted much better by high-tech products.

☐ **More use of natural**

therapies: acupuncture and Chinese herbal medicine or its Western equivalent, naturopathic medicine aimed at cleansing and balancing your body

Nutritional consultants to check out any deficiencies in your diet.

Aromatherapy, to enhance your moods, so you feel good about yourself. Fragrances for the skin will contain aromas that are therapy for your mind as well as smelling good to people you are with.

☐ **More awareness about environmental damage** from sun rays and from air pollution. The skin-care industry will come up with

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even more effective skin creams to protect your skin from aging and keep it looking younger, longer. Already, you should be wearing foundation creams that moisturise (soften) at the same time as protecting you from the sun.

(Remember, your cream should have an SPF rating of at least 15 and protect you from both UVA and UVB rays - look for products that list either titanium dioxide, zinc oxide or avobenzone in their ingredients list.)

So, to keep your skin looking young well into your forties, think holistically. Look after your mental health and physical health as well as protecting your skin from environmental stress.

Beauty tip:

☐ **READ** the ingredients label on that skin-care product.
☐ **Never ever**, no matter how good the advertising claims are, no matter how expensive the product is, never ever put any product on your skin that is going to irritate it. Only ever put the gentlest, most mild product you can find.

Hint:

☐ Stay away from any products that contain SD alcohol 10-40 or acetone.
☐ Watch out for so-called 'natural' plant extracts that
★ may also irritate your skin.

Key

holistic, think holistically

– To believe that the "whole" is more than the sum of each separate part. It is no use to treat individual health and beauty problems without considering the overall health of the person

customised

– Made according to individual requirements

naturopathic medicine

– Medicine that tries to help the body recover from illnesses naturally. Similar to Chinese herbal medicine
aromatherapy

– The use of different smells (aromas) to help change people's moods. For example, some oils give off fragrances (smells) when heated that make people feel less anxious and more calm.

TRENDY WORDS FOR TODAY

Closure

People used to simply end, finish or close things. Now, things are given '**closure**'. This new word seems to make people feel that matters are finished in a more full and complete way than if they were simply 'closed'.

Example

The majority of American people would like a speedy **closure** to the political controversy over President Clinton's relationship with the White House worker Monica Lewinsky.

In America, there is a company that sells cards

specially for people who are looking for '**relationship closure**' (saying goodbye to their boyfriend/girlfriend or '**significant other***'). The cards contain a message saying that the relationship is over.

Perhaps President Clinton could have sent this card:

Although Our Lives Have
Only Crossed Each Other's
Paths For A Short Time, I
Can Already Tell You This.
It's Been Long Enough. See
You!

★

Key

WORDS

significant other

— important partner in life, such as a spouse, boyfriend or girlfriend, or constant companion



UNDERSTANDING of COFFEE

One of the most interesting developments in social life in the West is the spread of the "café culture".

Everyone seems to have discovered how enjoyable it is to sit at a small table, drinking good coffee. You can be reading the morning newspaper, gossiping with friends about life, or simply watching people go past, as they do in Paris. From large cities to small towns, cafés are everywhere.

There is no better place than a café to sip a cup of strongly brewed espresso coffee and enjoy the aroma of roasted coffee beans as

freshly brewed coffee is served. France and Italy have taken pleasure in the modern methods of treating and serving the simple coffee bean over a long period. Why did it take so long for other Western countries to do the same?

Perhaps the answer lies in the preparation of coffee. Like a good cup of tea in China, a cup of coffee is not a simple thing to prepare. Great skill is needed to grow a good coffee plant, to harvest the coffee beans, to blend the different varieties of beans. Many different blends of coffee can be created.

The beans are then roasted to obtain the necessary tastes,