

NEW ORIENTAL ENGLISH LISTENING

# VOA Special English



美国大不同

- » 纯正美语
- » 精彩新闻
- » 原声CD

策 划：吴 强

编辑制作：《新东方电影英语》编辑部

责任编辑：唐树珍

监 制：魏建生

公司网页：<http://www.softabc.com>

电子信箱：[service@softabc.com](mailto:service@softabc.com)

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## 前言

欢迎您走进新东方英语世界——《美国大不同》！

本书所有素材全部精选自美国之音慢速英语 (VOA Special English)，能让你在原汁原味的美语环境中，将听力理解与文化背景知识相联系，获得听力水平的提高，打好语言基本功；让你轻轻松松侃文化，让你轻轻松松学英语，给你提供一套不可多得的学习材料！

本书融英语听力学习和文化知识背景于一炉，旨在为学习者诠释美国的文化背景知识，培养美语思维能力，从而达到语言和文化学习的完美结合。从外语学习的角度来讲，高效率的听力理解必然要求学习者将听力材料与文化背景知识相联系。我们无法想象没有文化背景的语言，同样也无法认同一个对英语文化背景一无所知的学习者。对于任何一个学习者来讲，此方面的缺乏，都会让你在应试、阅读原版书或日常生活交流中陷入尴尬境地，感到提高英语水平举步维艰。通过本书的学习，能让你彻底走出上述迷境，熟悉文化背景，拓宽知识面，提高听力能力。

本书内容和版面格局极具特色，真正做到从学习者的角度出发进行设计。全书选材难易适当，集知识性和趣味性于一体，27课经典素材全都分为听力理解 (Listening Comprehension)、文章原文 (Script)、文章译文 (Translation)、词汇注解 (Notes) 和重点学习 (Focus in) 五个部分，并在书的最后附有练习答案。每课学习材料的开始部分是由新东方专业老师精心设计的听力理解题目，学习者通过听配套CD先进行此项训练可以从整体上把握文章的大意和结构，考察听力能力，暴露听力问题；然后根据自己的掌握情况，通过中英文对照学习和词汇注解全面深入地学习听力资料全文，排除听力练习中发现的问题，掌握文中细节，然后再利用配套CD反复细致地听清文中全部内容，更可进行跟写与跟读练习，稳扎稳打，全面提升自己的听力水平。同时，在每一课最后的重点学习 (Focus in) 部分中，我们还精选了文中的常用词汇、短语或句型给出细致的解释并配有例句，使学习者能够掌握这些重点词句的用法，从而进一步提升英语应用水平。

我们衷心地希望此书的学习能让您的英语水平与以往大有不同，百尺竿头，更进一步！



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## LESSON

## 1

## 愚人节从何而来?

## How April Fool's Day Begins?

## [听力理解]



1. Which of the following statement about April Fool's Day is true?
  - a. April Fool's Day is the first Saturday of April.
  - b. It is an official holiday.
  - c. Historians don't know exactly when the holiday got started.
  - d. Some believe the holiday started in Ancient Greece.
2. King \_\_\_\_\_ changed the yearly calendar in 1564.
  - a. Charles IV
  - b. Charles V
  - c. Charles VI
  - d. Charles VII
3. Why are some people being called "April Fools"?
  - a. Because they do not know the change of New Year's Day.
  - b. Because they refuse to recognize the new New Year's Day.
  - c. Because they are very foolish.
  - d. Because they continue to celebrate New Year on Apr. 1st.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ brought the April Fool's Day to America.
  - a. Early settlers from Scotland
  - b. Early settlers from England
  - c. Early settlers from France
  - d. Early settlers from Germany

## [原文]

Saturday, April 1, is April Fool's Day in the United States. It is not a real holiday like the **Fourth of July**<sup>1</sup> or **Labor Day**<sup>2</sup>. It is not observed by the schools or the government. It is just a day when people **traditionally**<sup>3</sup> **play tricks on**\* each other.

History experts say people have been celebrating April Fool's day for a long time. The custom began so long ago, It is difficult to know how it got started. Some people believe the tradition came from the **ancient**<sup>4</sup> Romans more than 2,000 years ago.

Other history experts say the day for **fooling**<sup>5</sup> began in France in 1564, when King Charles IV changed the **yearly calendar**<sup>6</sup>. He moved New Year's Day from April 1 to January 1.

## [译文]

这个星期六，四月一日，是美国的愚人节。与美国独立日或劳动节不同的是，它并非真正的节日。学校或政府也不庆祝这一节日。这一天，人们只是按照惯例互相开开玩笑。

历史学家称，人们庆祝愚人节的历史很悠久。这一风俗起源太早，所以人们很难知道它最初是怎样开始的。有些人认为它源自2000多年前的古罗马人。

另有历史学家称，愚人节始于1564年的法国，当时的国王查理四世修改了年历。他把“元旦”从四月一日移到了元月一日。

1. Fourth of July

7月4日独立日，即美国的国庆节

2. Labor Day

劳动节

3. traditionally

adv. 传统上

4. ancient

adj. 远古的

5. fooling

n. 开玩笑的言行；后面的 fool 作名词表示愚人，蠢人；作动词表示愚弄、开玩笑。

6. yearly calendar

年历；另外，lunar calendar 是中国的农历，Western calendar 是西历，西洋历



## [原文]

Many people did not know about the change because it was difficult to **communicate**\* in those days. Others knew but **refused**\* to accept it. For **what-ever**\* reason, some people continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1. Other people called them April Fools. And they **played jokes on**<sup>7</sup> them.

People in Britain and Scotland recognize April 1 as a day of fooling.

A famous joke in Scotland was to send someone to a house to **deliver**\* a letter. The letter told the **receiver**<sup>8</sup> it was a joke. The receiver would say the letter was for the person who lived **down the road**\*. After traveling many miles this way, the tired Scot would return home to find friends laughing at the joke.

## [译文]

由于当时通讯不便,很多人并不知道这一变更。另外一些人虽然知道但也拒不接受。种种原因使得一些人继续在四月一日庆祝元旦。其他人就称他们为“四月愚人”,并且拿这些人开玩笑。

英格兰和苏格兰的人们将四月一日这天作为愚弄人的日子。

苏格兰一个家喻户晓的笑话是派人去送信。信中告诉收信人这是个玩笑。收信人看完信后会告诉送信人信送错了,真正的收信人住在路的另一头。像这样不停奔波后,精疲力竭的送信人回到家里时却发现朋友们正在为这个恶作剧哈哈大笑。

7. play jokes on sb.      和某人开玩笑, 等同于 play tricks on sb.

8. receiver      n. 收信人

## [原文]

Early settlers<sup>9</sup> from England brought April fooling to the American colonies<sup>10</sup>. And Americans today still play tricks on each other on April Fool's Day.

Children put signs on the backs of their friends that read: kick me, or hit me. They may tell their friends that school has been canceled. Or they ring the doorbells on homes, run away, then yell\* "April Fool!" as the homeowner answers the door.

Adults also play tricks. One year in Hawaii<sup>11</sup>, a radio announcer<sup>12</sup> told listeners the government would return everyone's taxes. As you can imagine\*, this April Fool's joke caused a great deal of trouble at the local tax office<sup>13</sup>!

## [译文]

早期的英国殖民者把“四月愚人”的风俗带到了美洲殖民地。如今，美国人仍在愚人节这天相互开玩笑。

孩子们在伙伴的背上贴上写着“踢我！”或“揍我！”的纸条。他们也可能告诉朋友学校不上课。或者，他们按了别人家门铃后躲到一边，等房子主人开门时就大叫“四月愚人！”。

大人们也不例外。有一年（愚人节），夏威夷某广播电台的一位播音员告诉听众，政府将向所有人返还税款。你不难想象，这个愚人节玩笑给当地税务局惹了多大麻烦。

- |                |    |            |
|----------------|----|------------|
| 9. settler     | n. | 殖民者        |
| 10. colony     | n. | 殖民地        |
| 11. Hawaii     | n. | 夏威夷 (美国州名) |
| 12. announcer  | n. | 播音员        |
| 13. tax office |    | 税务局 (所)    |

## Focus in: .....

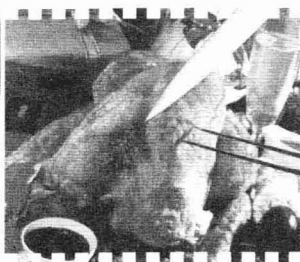
- play tricks on 开玩笑 (trick 指骗局, 恶作剧)  
As a child, Dina liked to **play tricks on** her younger brother.  
小时候, 迪娜喜欢捉弄弟弟。
- communicate v. 联络, 通信, 交流  
Bees can **communicate** with each other.  
蜜蜂能够相互交流。
- refuse v. 拒绝  
Mary's application to school was **refused**.  
玛丽的入学申请遭到拒绝。
- whatever adj. 无论什么样的  
For **whatever** reason, Mr. Stevens was unable to come.  
由于种种原因, 史蒂文先生不能来了。
- deliver v. 递送  
Allen had the goods he ordered **delivered** to the door.  
艾伦要人把他订的货送到门口。
- down the road 在路的另一头  
Her house was just **down the road** from here.  
她家就在路的另一头。
- yell v. 大喊 (叫)  
The coach **yelled** "Don't dog it!" to his players.  
教练冲着他的队员大喊: "别松劲儿!"
- imagine v. 想象; 设想  
Helen had never been to Europe, but often **imagined** what it was like.  
海伦从没去过欧洲, 但她常常想象欧洲的样子。

## LESSON

## 2

## 纯粹的美国节日—感恩节

## Purely American Festival--Thanksgiving



## [听力理解]

1. All the following statements about Thanksgiving are true EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. thanksgiving is a purely American holiday.
  - b. thanksgiving is a religious holiday.
  - c. thanksgiving is a time for family reunion.
  - d. a large dinner is a main part of Thanksgiving celebration.
2. Why are people worried about flying on a plane now?
  - a. Because there are several airplane accidents recently.
  - b. Because the airplane travel is too busy around this time of year.
  - c. Because of the 9.11 terrorist attack.
  - d. Because travel by air is becoming more expensive.
3. Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a traditional Thanksgiving food?
  - a. Turkey
  - b. Potatoes
  - c. Cranberries
  - d. Pumpkin pie
4. Americans have added new traditions to their Thanksgiving celebration, such as \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. travel abroad
  - b. dinner at luxurious restaurants
  - c. Thanksgiving concerts
  - d. football games

## [原文]

This Thursday is Thanksgiving Day. The writer O. Henry called it the one day that is **purely**\* American. Thanksgiving is not a religious holiday. But it has **spiritual**<sup>1</sup> meaning. Some Americans **attend**<sup>2</sup> religious services on the day before Thanksgiving or on Thanksgiving morning. Others travel long distances to be with their families. They have a large dinner, which is the main part of the **celebration**<sup>3</sup>.

For many Americans, Thanksgiving is the only time when all members of a family gather. The holiday is a time of family **reunion**<sup>4</sup>. Thanksgiving week is **generally**\* one of the busiest travel times of the year.

However, experts say this year probably will be different.

On September 11, thousands of people died when **terrorists**<sup>5</sup> **hijacked**\* airplanes that struck buildings in Washington, D.C. and New York City. Many people now say they are worried about flying on a plane. Travel experts say almost 6 percent fewer people will make long trips this Thanksgiving **compared with**\* last year.

## [译文]

本周四是感恩节。作家欧·亨利把感恩节称为“纯美国式”的节日。感恩节不是一个宗教节日，但它有宗教方面的含义。一些美国人在感恩节前一天或感恩节的早上参加宗教仪式。还有一些人不远千里赶回家来与亲人团聚。他们一起吃一顿大餐——这是他们主要的庆祝方式。

对许多美国人而言，感恩节是一年当中唯一一个举家团圆的日子。感恩节这一周通常是美国人全年出行最多的时段之一。

但据专家说，今年的情况将有所不同。

九月十一日，恐怖分子劫持飞机撞击了华盛顿特区和纽约市的建筑物，几千人因此丧生。现在，很多美国人说，他们担心乘飞机不安全。旅游专家预计今年感恩节期间准备做长途旅行的人要比往年减少近6%。

1. spiritual

adj. 宗教的

2. attend

v. 参加，出席

3. celebration

n. 庆祝（活动）

4. reunion

n. 团聚，团圆

5. terrorist

n. 恐怖主义分子

# Thanksgiving

## [原文]

Many Americans who usually visit family and friends by plane are driving shorter distances instead this week. Some mental-health\* experts say the attacks<sup>6</sup> have frightened<sup>7</sup> people. They say people feel safer and happier close to<sup>8</sup> home.

More than any other holiday, Thanksgiving is a celebration of family and home. Many people say that this year they are especially thankful<sup>9</sup> for their families and friends and the good things in their lives. On Thanksgiving, people enjoy a long day of cooking, eating and talking. The traditional meal almost always includes a turkey<sup>10</sup> with a bread mixture<sup>11</sup> cooked inside.

## [译文]

这一周，许多经常坐飞机走亲访友美国人将自己驾车做短途旅行。一些心理健康专家认为恐怖袭击事件让人们心有余悸。他们说，人们在离家较近的地方会觉得更安全、更快乐。

与其它节日不同，感恩节是一个家庭节日。许多人说，今年，他们尤其感激他们的亲人和朋友以及生活中一切美好的东西。在感恩节，人们长时间地享受着烹饪、美食和交谈所带来的快乐。传统的感恩节大餐都有一只火鸡，火鸡内填满了面包。

- |                        |              |
|------------------------|--------------|
| 6. attack              | n. 进攻；攻击     |
| 7. frighten            | n. 使惊恐，使惊吓   |
| 8. close to some place | 离某地近，在…附近    |
| 9. thankful            | adj. 感激的；感谢的 |
| 10. turkey             | n. 火鸡        |
| 11. mixture            | n. 混合物       |



## [原文]

Other traditional Thanksgiving foods served with turkey are **sweet potatoes**<sup>12</sup>, **cranberries**<sup>13</sup> and pumpkin pie. Stores are said to sell more food at Thanksgiving than at any other time of year. And many people eat more food at Thanksgiving than at any other time of year.

Over the years, Americans have **added**\* new traditions to their Thanksgiving celebration. For example, a number of **professional**\* and university **football**<sup>14</sup> games are played on Thanksgiving Day. Some of the games are **broadcast**\* on national television.

## [译文]

和火鸡一起享用的还有其它一些感恩节传统美味，如：红薯，越橘和南瓜派。据说，一年中，商店的食物在感恩节前后卖得最火。当然，一年中，许多人也就在感恩节时吃得最多。

近年来，美国人给感恩节增添了新的庆祝方式。例如，感恩节这天会举行职业橄榄球赛和大学生橄榄球赛。其中有些比赛在国家电视台播放。VOA

12. sweet potato 红薯

13. cranberry n. 越橘，一种红色的酸果，可用于做果酱、果冻和饮料。

14. football n. (美国)橄榄球，通常指足球

# Focus in: .....

- purely adv. 完全地，纯粹地  
His neighbors help him **purely** out of friendship.  
邻居们帮助他完全是出于友谊。
- attend v. 参加，出席  
Mark must **attend** a meeting this afternoon.  
马克今天下午必须出席一个会议。
- generally adv. 一般地  
**Generally** speaking, Robert woke up very early.  
一般说来，罗伯特起得很早。
- hijack v. 抢劫，劫持  
The bus was **hijacked** by a man.  
一名男子劫持了这辆公共汽车。
- compare with 与……相比  
Self study can't **compare with** a college education.  
自学不能和大学教育相提并论。
- mental-health 心理健康 (mental 指“精神上的，心理的”)  
Working so hard was not good for his **mental-health**.  
他这样努力工作不益于心理健康。
- add v. 增加，增添  
The editor **added** the news to the report.  
编辑在报道中加入了这条新闻。
- professional adj. 职业的；专业的；内行的  
As far as I know, the **professional** basketball players had their first Olympic performance in 1936.  
就我所知，职业篮球运动员第一次参加奥运会是在 1936 年。
- broadcast v. 播放，广播  
The program will be **broadcast** live next week.  
下周将现场直播这一节目。



## LESSON

## 3

## 情人节物语

## Stories of Valentine's Day



## [听力理解]

1. Valentine's Day got its day from \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. a Christian
  - b. a young couple
  - c. a church
  - d. a religious reading
  
2. A holiday for lovers is first celebrated by Romans \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. 1,400 years ago
  - b. 1,700 years ago
  - c. 2,000 years ago
  - d. 2,200 years ago
  
3. The Americans usually DO NOT express their love by \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. sending cards through the mail system
  - b. sending email messages
  - c. having it printed in a newspaper
  - d. making telephone calls