



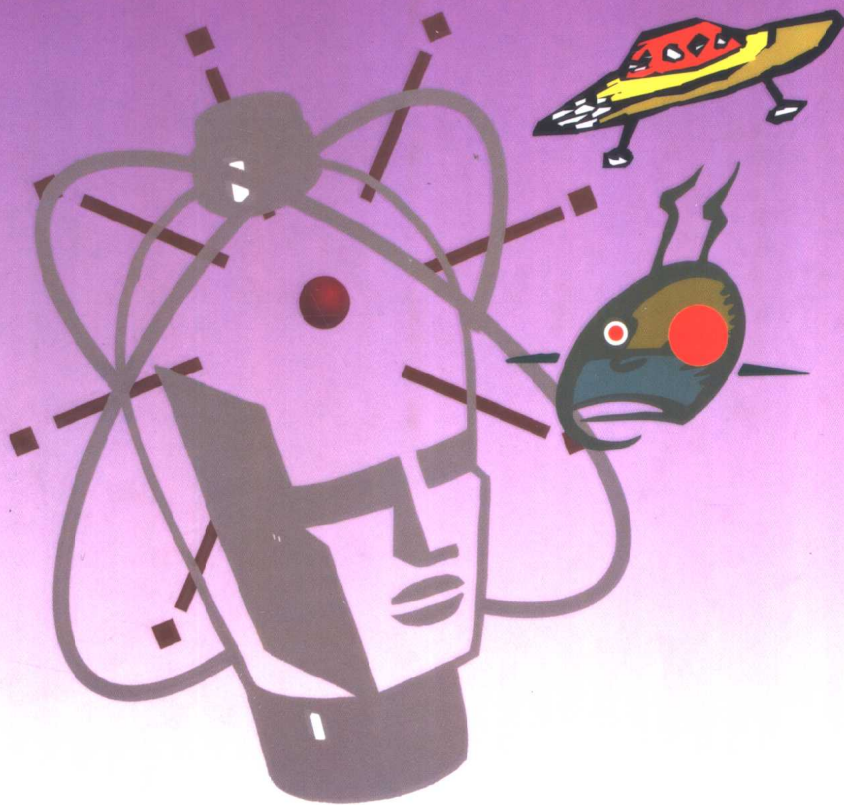
Relaxing English Gas Station

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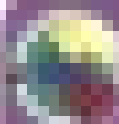
Selected Readings in
Popular Science

杨宝珍 编著

科普世界新知



广东教育出版社



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编 者 的 话

浓厚的兴趣和广泛的知识是学习英语的重要条件，盖惟此才有开卷之欲，惟此才能触类旁通。《轻松英语加油站》英语系列读物集趣味性和知识性于一体，旨在激发英语学习者的学习兴趣，拓展英语爱好者的知识面，进而达到轻轻松松学习、地地道道使用英语之目的。

该系列读物选材新颖，内容涉及文化、教育、科技等各个方面，如文化习俗（《西方节日习俗》）、幽默故事（《走进幽默天地》）、逻辑推理（《侦探故事乐园》）、科技知识（《科普世界新知》）、文化教育（《世界名城名校》）、名人轶事（《名人趣闻轶事》）等。

书中所选各篇相对独立，且大多短小精悍，便于随时翻阅。文中较难较重要的词语均附有读音注解，以扩充读者的词汇量；篇末还配有练习题及参考答案，以加深读者对文章的理解。尤其值得一提的是，书中不少篇章颇适于朗诵复述，而用英语向同学、朋友讲述一个幽默故事，或介绍一个节日习俗，于己于人往往会收到意想不到的奇效！总之，该系列读物力图使英语阅读既生动有趣，回味无穷，



又学以致用，益学益智。

本系列读物适合一切英语学习爱好者，尤其是中学生和大学低年级学生使用。

由于时间仓促，加之编者水平有限，书中错漏在所难免，恳请广大读者指正。

编 者

2002年7月



目 录

1. Man Plans to Live Year Online	(1)
2. Cerf on the Web	(5)
3. Fragrant Talking Computers	(11)
4. A Virtual Newscaster	(17)
5. A Frog-Friendly Model to Dissections	(21)
6. NASA Saying Goodbye to Universe Eye	(27)
7. NASA Finds Water Evidence on Mars	(33)
8. An Unlimited Sky	(38)
9. An ATM with News and Movies	(42)
10. Future Reading	(48)
11. Diary of an Online Reader	(52)
12. News Screens Coming to Elevators	(58)
13. Clone	(63)
14. Human Cloning	(69)
15. Pet DNA Stored for Future Cloning	(80)
16. 3-D You and Me	(85)
17. 360-Degree Movie to Debut on Net	(90)
18. New Hope for Hearts	(94)
19. Web Becomes Real Farmers' Market	(100)
20. Future Soldiers	(105)



21. Life on the Road	(110)
22. E-Phones Connect	(114)
23. I Am Cyborg	(122)
24. Industrial Pollution Cause of Climate Instability	(132)
25. The World Is Threatened by Massive Change	(140)
26. The Big Melt	(152)
27. What Is an El Niño?	(159)
28. Ozone Hole	(165)
29. Planetary Alignment Comes and Goes Quietly	(172)
30. Images of Early Universe Revealed	(177)
31. Genetic Map of a Plant Completed	(184)
32. Forty Years of Weather Satellites	(190)
33. Hubble's First Decade	(195)
34. Electric Power for Spaceship	(203)
35. Tech for Your Toolbox	(208)
36. The Tech Museum of Innovation	(212)
37. Is Mummification the Next Fashion?	(216)
38. Building a Better Baby	(222)
39. Border Guard	(229)
Key	(233)



1. Man Plans to Live Year Online^①

In an effort to prove how **wired**^② the world has become, a 26-year-old former computer systems manager named Maddox walks into an empty house recently with a **laptop**^③ computer and says he doesn't plan to leave until next year.

His plan is to live completely online, including ordering food, furniture and clothes and making a 24-hour live video of his daily life.

His idea is that new online shoppers will go to his site to learn how to use **e-commerce**^④. Maddox **legally**^⑤ changes his name to **DotComGuy**^⑥ and sets up a company, DotComGuy Inc, for the **stunt**^⑦.

After locking himself inside the rented house, he adds, "I'm going to come out being a lazy man."

① online [ˌɒnˈlaɪn] *adj. & adv.* 联机的(地); 联线的(地)

② wired [ˈwaɪəd] *adj.* 接有电线的

③ laptop [ˈlæptɒp] *n.* 膝上型(电脑)

④ e-commerce [ˈiːkɒməs] *n.* 网上商业

⑤ legally [ˈliːɡəli] *adv.* 法律上; 合法地

⑥ DotComGuy 网上小子

⑦ stunt [stʌnt] *n.* 惊人表演



The “live” part of the DotComGuy stunt involves 24-hour video from dozens of *digital*^① cameras set up throughout the house. One camera points at the kitchen, several face the living room, and one even sits on a bathroom shelf — fortunately, turned away from the toilet and bathtub.

The DotComGuy project, which sounds like a cross between the *environ-colonization*^② experiment *Biosphere*^③ and the film *EdTV*, has a few basic rules. Maddox can have visitors, but he simply can't go farther than the backyard.

“We certainly don't encourage people to lock themselves away from the world, but we will prove that it can be done.” A friend of Maddox's and president of DotComGuy Inc. expresses their purpose.

Maddox's first monthly payment from the company will be \$ 24, but it will double every month as an encouragement to stay in the house.

His friend helps organize *sponsors*^④ to help Maddox through the year, including a company which donates the laptop, and another which agrees to keep the house *stocked with*^⑤

① digital ['dɪɡɪtəl] *adj.* 数码的

② environ-colonization [in'veiərən ,kələnaɪ'zeɪʃən] *n.* 环境殖民化

③ biosphere ['baɪəsfiə] *n.* 生物圈

④ sponsor ['sponsə] *n.* 赞助人; 赞助公司; 广告客户

⑤ stocked (with) 常备的



food in packets and general household requirements. The sponsors are listed on the project's Web site.

The company believes that they will benefit from the little live, online exposure. They are going to have someone say, “Hey, DotComGuy, how should I install a **brand-new**^① **modem**^②?” or “How do I get this or that Web site?” And when he uses their site, that's how people will learn about them.

One weekend afternoon, the Web site video shows Maddox sitting on the floor of an empty room chatting online with visitors. Maybe you are interested in the first things Maddox buys online as soon as he begins to live in the house. Among them are **shampoo**^③, toilet paper, cleaning supplies and take-away food.

In fact, similar experiments have been done before — “Good Morning America” once housed two New Yorkers in an “e-cave” for a week with a refrigerator, a \$ 500 daily income, a computer and Internet access — but Maddox has said to **live off**^④ e-commerce longer than anyone else has so far.

① brand-new 崭新的

② modem [ˈməʊdəm] n. 调制解调器

③ shampoo [ʃæmˈpuː] n. 洗发香波

④ live off 依靠



Exercises

A. Read the following statements and judge whether they are True (T) or False (F):

1. The man wants to live online for a year in order to make a lot of money.
2. The man cannot step out of his room.
3. Maddox changes his name to DotComGuy because that sounds like having close relationship with the Internet.
4. The cameras can catch every detail of his actions.
5. He is the first man to live only on computers.

B. Match the following words and explanations:

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 6. legally | A. plan |
| 7. project | B. an action which gains attention, as in advertising |
| 8. stunt | C. do good to |
| 9. cross | D. mixture of two different things |
| 10. benefit | E. connected with the law or required by the law |



2. Cerf on the Web

The web has brought *unparalleled*^① access to information, created “dot com” millionaires, and made e-mail a necessity of life. So, what’s ahead for the Internet? Ask the man who was there at the beginning. That man is Vinton Cerf, and he believes the best is yet to come.

In the early 1970s, Cerf and his colleague led the team at Stanford that developed Internet Protocol, which first linked computer networks. Today, the well-known “father of the Internet” is senior vice president for Internet *architecture*^② and technology at a big company.

Even with an estimated 200 million users and 200,000 networks now online, Cerf believes the Internet’s growth will continue at its extremely high speed for at least the next 4 – 5 years. The reason of his *confidence*^③ is that people are very lightly *penetrated*^④. There are 200 million users out of 6 billion people. His guess is that in

① unparalleled [ʌnˈpærəleld] *adj.* 无比的, 无双的, 空前的

② architecture [ˈɑːkitektʃə] *n.* 建筑学; 建筑物

③ confidence [ˈkɒfɪdəns] *n.* 自信; 确信

④ penetrate [ˈpenitreɪt] *v.* 穿透, 渗透; 洞察; 打动心



five years, at least a billion users will be on the Net, possibly as many as 3 billion. So after 2006 we would expect to see some slowdown in the growth rate.

By that time, Cerf estimates, the Internet will be about the size of the telephone network. It may even become the telephone network if Internet **telephony**^① works as well as hoped. Key among the growth areas, Cerf predicts, is business use. We wouldn't be surprised if at least 15 or 20 percent, maybe 25 percent, of the world's economy is running on the Net by 2006. That's roughly \$ 8 **trillion**^②, with business-to-business transactions making up the majority.

Cerf believes consumers will have not only a wider range of choices but also an increasing amount of intelligent software to aid in making those choices.

The Internet will also **spark**^③ significant changes in how services, particularly education, are delivered. It probably translates into a **restructuring**^④ of the educational **community**^⑤, where distance learning becomes a very real possibility at a very reasonable cost, which means the

① telephony [ti'lefəni] n. 电话; 电话学

② trillion [ˈtrɪljən] num. 万亿(美)

③ spark [spɑ:k] v. 闪烁; 激发

④ restructure [ˌri:ˈstrʌktʃə] vt. 更改结构, 重建结构; 调整, 改组

⑤ community [kə'mju:niti] n. 公社; 团体; 社会



educational world, universities especially, will have to change the way it works at present.

In the future, today's wired consumer will likely be wireless, thanks to **wearable**^① devices. While riding in a taxi into town from the airport, for instance, you'll scan restaurant menus on glasses sending an image to your eyes. You'll make your reservation, receive an address online, and then continue your taxi ride, reading your e-mail or scanning a magazine. People will be always connected. The network will be always on. You'll have **casual**^② interactions with the Net. You won't have to think about **dialing up**^③ and all this.

Cerf sees the price, not **resistance**^④ to technology, as the limiting factor in this futuristic vision. When the network is always accessible, our behavior will change a lot. Just how much it will change depends on how inexpensive Internet access is.

But would low-cost access mean information **overload**^⑤? Surprisingly, according to Cerf, probably not. We've been in an information overload situation for a

① wearable [ˈweərəbl] *adj.* 可穿戴的; 可佩带的; 耐磨的

② casual [ˈkæʒuəl] *adj.* 偶然的; 不经意的; 临时的

③ dialing up 拨号

④ resistance [rɪˈzɪstəns] *n.* 抵抗; 反对

⑤ overload [ˌəʊvəˈləʊd] *n.* 超载, 负荷过重



decade or more. In a sense, having a lot of information online that can be read by computers might even benefit us, because we can get software which will do things for us that we don't have time to do ourselves. Our inability to deal with all the information doesn't necessarily mean that we have to throw them away. It just means that we may need some help in *evaluating*^① it before we actually sit down and read it. Some technical advances would make the Internet even more active. We need the ability to do digital *signatures*^②, so that people can make *contracts*^③ online rather than having to settle the matter by sending a physical piece of paper with a wet signature on it. This might be done, Cerf predicts, with a *smart card*^④, containing a digital signature program, that slips into a reader on your computer.

One of the biggest technological problems facing the Internet, however, has to do with growth. With all *aspects*^⑤ of the Internet getting bigger, how do we make sure it continues to function reliably? This is a major challenge.

But other non-technical problems arise as well. A lot

① evaluate [i'væljueit] v. 评价, 评估

② signature ['signitʃə] n. 签名, 署名; 信号

③ contract ['kɒntrækt] n. 合同, 契约

④ smart card 智能卡

⑤ aspect ['æspekt] n. 样子, 外表; 面貌; 方面



of policy issues that the Internet is facing need attention. In which *jurisdiction*^① do we solve an argument concerning an electronic transaction? There are questions about privacy and *confidentiality*^② questions about the use of code. The list goes on and on. Policy problems that the Internet raises are at least as important, maybe more important, than the hardware problems or the basic technology problems.

How well these policy issues are solved may be the real determining factor in the Internet's future, says its Daddy.



Exercises

A. Find words from the passage to match the following definitions:

1. thousand millions ()
2. look at attentively ()
3. person's name signed by himself ()
4. secrecy; state of being away from others
()
5. the people living in one place, group of persons

① jurisdiction [ˌdʒʊərəs'dɪkʃən] n. 审判的权限; 管辖的区域

② confidentiality [kənfi'denʃi'æliti] n. 机密性