

武学锋 马 静 编

英语科普文选(I)

LISTENING SELECTIONS

——听力——

石油大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书选自美国之音特别英语的科学报告节目(VOA Special English Science Report)。内容涉及医学常识、农田开发、海洋探索、世界环境、科技发明以及人口控制等各方面。材料新颖,富有时代感。录音磁带清晰(由石油大学外语系提供),语速正好适用于大学英语四级水平。本书可作为理工科大学生的听力训练材料,也可供广大科技工作者作为提高听力、了解科技信息的参考材料。

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序

理工科大学英语教学大纲要求大学毕业生在毕业时“具有较强的阅读能力,一定的听和译的能力以及初步的写和说的能力,使学生能以英语为工具,获取专业所需要的信息”。由此可见,目前对我国大学生来说,首先要掌握的是读和听以及译的能力。读和听都是输入性能力,接受性能力。依靠这两种能力,基本上就能达到“获取专业所需要的信息”。因此,培养听的能力是大学英语教学中一项重要任务。

外语学习主要是一种技能性学习,就象学游泳或打球一样,掌握了基本理论知识以后,主要是语言技能培养。大家知道,在课堂上决不可能培养出一名优秀的旅游运动员或球员。外语学习除了课堂教学以外,也需要在课外进行大量的练习以提高语言熟巧程度。就象篮球运动员投篮,射击运动打靶,每个动作需要几百次,甚至几千次的练习,才能达到“百发百中”。同样,要熟悉、记住、运用一种外国语言的语音、词汇和语法规则,不经过几百次甚至几千次的艰难困苦的练习是难以达到“脱口而出”,“运用自如”地熟练掌握。古人说:“读书破万卷,下笔如有神”。这里的“破”和“万”两个词都表达了阅读的深度和广度。只有达到了这种“量”才能有质的飞跃,到了“神”的地步。听力的提高也是如此。

英语科普文选(听力)是一本很适用于目前我国理工科大学生的泛听材料。一是它涉及科技界方方面面,既有知识性,又有趣味性;二是语言规范、易懂;三是语速和词汇适合于大学一、二年级学生使用。这本书不仅有助于提高听力,而且也

有利于提高阅读能力和扩大词汇量。如果读者能反复听本书录音,是能大大提高听的能力,并为今后听正常语速的录音材料打下良好的基础。

吴 铭 方

一九九一年十一月

前 言

听力是英语学习的一门综合能力,对于已掌握一定量单词而又具有一定阅读能力的英语爱好者来说,要想提高听力水平,应是多听多练。本书练习部分采用读者喜欢的多项选择形式,练习题前附有单词注释。这样读者可以以听前迅速浏览单词,针对这些单词和本课的题目进行推测和联想,判断出将要听的内容。然后进行听力训练,听时大脑应积极理解、记录,听后对问题作出正确选择。

本书附有全部录音材料及答案,读者可以据此自测掌握程度,也可在弄懂内容后进行反复听,加深印象。

本套书共分四册,第一册由武学锋、马静选编,由石油大学外语系美籍教师 Todd Frederick 及 Dwayne Smith 校对。

由于编者水平所限,书中错误或不足之处在所难免。热情希望广大读者批评指正。

编 者

1991 年 9 月

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Unit 1 Biological Age

I . Vocabulary:

1. biological [baɪə'lɒdʒɪkl] a. 生物学的
2. calendar ['kælɪndə] n. 日历, 历法
3. lung [lʌŋ] n. 肺
4. muscle ['mʌsl] n. 肌肉

II. Before you listen to this report, figure out what will be the main idea according to this title and the vocabulary given above, then listen to it and do the multiple choice exercise below according to each question you hear after the report.

1. a. It only shows how healthy a person is.
b. It only shows how strong a person is.
c. It only shows how long a person will live.
d. It only shows how many years a person has lived.
2. a. It is a sign of your general health.
b. It shows the general condition of your body.
c. It shows how many years you have lived.
d. It tells you how well your heart, lung and other major organs work.
3. a. It may cause him to feel older than their calendar age.
b. It may cause him to feel younger than their calendar age.
c. It may cause him to feel not older and not younger than his calendar age.
d. It is just a person's calendar age.

4. a. exercise programs

c. a and b

b. proper eating

d. nothing

Biological Age

An American company says it has developed a machine that can show a person's true biological age. Doctors say (that) a person's biological age is more important than calendar age. Your calendar age just shows how many years you have lived. Biological age is a sign of your general health, the general condition of your body. How well does your heart work? Your lungs? Other major organs?

Doctors know that some persons get older more quickly than others. One person who is 55 may not feel any older than 40. Another person who is only 40 may feel older than 55. Doctors say a person's general health usually causes them to feel older or younger than their calendar years. The new machine measures 12 different areas, such things as lung power, memory, reaction time, muscle strength. The machine measures the effects of aging in each of the 12 areas. It tells how healthy you are for your calendar age. Doctors say exercise programs and proper eating often can help people who test older than their years. The company said it believes the machine will be used by research institutions, hospitals, medical testing centers and health clubs.

Questions 1 to 4 are based on the passage you just heard.

1. Which of the following is true about a person's calendar age

according to this report?

2. About a person' s biological age, which of the following is not true?
3. About a person' s biological age, which of the following is true?
4. What can help people who test older than their calender years?

Unit 2 Snow Area in the World

I. Vocabulary:

1. satellite ['sætəlaɪt] n. 人造卫星
2. Rutgers University ['rutɡəs] 拉特格斯大学
3. Nebraska [ni'bræskə] n. 内布拉斯加(美中部一州)

II. Exercise: Before you listen to this report, figure out what will be the main idea according to this title and the vocabulary given above, then listen to it and do the multiple choice exercise below according to each question you hear after the report.

1. a. 5 b. 18 c. 20 d. 50
2. a. 26 million b. 36 million
 c. 56 million d. 100 million
3. a. 5% b. 7% c. 10% d. 20%
4. a. Scientists said the winter snow season seemed to start a little sooner and ending a little later.
 b. Scientists said the winter snow season seemed to start a little later and ending a little sooner.
 c. Scientists said the winter snow season seemed to start a little later and ending a little later.
 d. Scientists said the winter snow season seemed to start a little sooner and ending a little sooner.
5. a. The temperature in northern part of the world decreased during the past 10 years.

- b. The temperature in northern part of the world increased during the past 10 years.
- c. The temperature in southern part of the world decreased during the past 10 years.
- d. The temperature in southern part of the world increased during the past 10 years.

Snow Area In The World

Scientists say the part of north America, Europe and Asia covered by snow has become smaller during the past three years. They say the size of the snow area is the smallest since scientists began making satellite studies 18 years ago. Scientists said they do not know if this is a natural change or if it is a part of general warming of earth's atmosphere. In the past, the yearly size of the snow area in the northern part of the world was about 26 million square kilometers. But researchers found the snow cover in 1988 and 1989 was reduced about 10%. Scientist David Robinson of Rutgers University and Kenneth Deway of the University of Nebraska made the study. They used weekly snow maps produced by American government weather experts. Dr. Robinson said the changes seem to mean the winter snow season has been starting a little later and ending a little sooner. He also noted that temperatures in the northern part of the world increased during the past ten years. He said their findings could give important signs about future temperature changes. But he said it is too soon to know if the changes are caused by a general warming of earth's atmosphere.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the passage you just heard.

1. How many years ago did scientists begin making satellite studies of the snow area?
2. How many square kilometers was the yearly size of snow

area in the northern part of the world in the past?

3. About what percent of the snow area was reduced in 1988 and 1989?
4. According to this report, which of the following is true?
5. According to this report, which of the following is true?