Operation
Mastermind

英汉对照·课外读物

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魔术师·谍报员·活电脑

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译　者　的　话

伦敦某剧场的舞台上,帷幕徐徐升起,一个报幕员走到台前, 接着魔术大师出来表演他的绝招——记忆术。突然之间, 魔术师被一枪打中, 当场饮弹毕命……

伦敦报纸刊登这则新闻的时候, 同时报道了英国一千台电子计算机出了故障,世界各地的计算机也纷纷停止运转。航天计划即将告吹……

是谁开枪打死了魔术师,魔术师之死与英国、美国、苏联各地计算机相继停止工作有何关系?本书作者通过一系列曲折离奇的情节, 触及现代计算机技术发展前景中人们关心的一个问题——人脑和电脑之争。

这是一部科学幻想小说。故事虽属虚构,但也有一定的科学根据。书中设想的全球信息传递中心,即由一台称为 DOT 的计算机控制世界所有计算机,这在目前虽未成为现实,但一个国家或地区范围内的计算机网络却已逐步形成。一些国家通过全国性的计算机网调用各地图书馆的资料、信息等已成事实。象 DOT 那样神通广大的计算机是没有的,但能从事对话、看病、下棋等比较高级的人脑活动的计算机已经纷纷出现。

现代社会中,计算机正在代替人脑的某些功能,这方面有着广阔的前景,但它决不能完全代替人脑。

人脑有 100 亿以上的细胞，计算机不过有几十万个部件。在一段时间内，我们可以有把握地说，人脑至少比计算机复杂一万倍。何况计算机无论多么复杂，它只能在人脑的指挥下，按照人的意志活动，绝不可能成为主宰世界的"首脑"。"人脑"和"电脑"之争，其结论是不言而喻的。

本书作者L.G.阿历山大是英国语言学家，著有《新英语教程》(New Concept English) "Look, Listen and Learn," "Target" "NCE Mainline" 等多种英语教程。本书是他为非英语国家的读者写的英语简易读物，适合高中学生作课外读物用。

书中的常用词汇和基本语法基本上包括在《全日制十年制中学英语教学大纲》之内，属于高考知识范围。为了便于高中学生检查自己对原文理解是否正确和对中学阶段英语基础知识掌握的程度，本书采取英汉对照形式。译文尽量做到紧扣原文，并通顺可读。对某些词汇和句型作了适当脚注，并附词表于书末。

原书插图六十幅，均经上海人民美术出版社杨利禄同志重新绘制，特此致谢。

1980 年 12 月于上海

目　录

Chapter 1 Professor Mastermind

"And *now,*[1] *ladies and gentlemen,*[2]"the *compère*[3] said.

"*Professor Mastermind,*[4] *the Master of Magic,*[5] will do another difficult trick. He will *cut* a young lady *in half!*"[6]

Professor Mastermind and a young lady came on to the stage.

"Professor Mastermind, the Master of Magic !" the compère cried, and he left the stage. The *audience*[7] clapped loudly.

Professor Mastermind smiled. Then he pointed at a big box on a table. He opened it and showed it to the audience.

"The box is empty, ladies and gentlemen,"
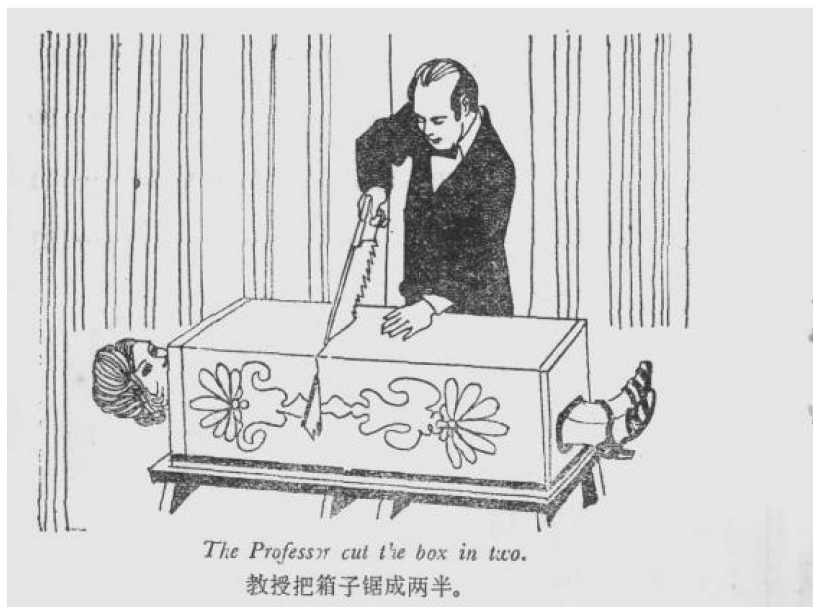
The Professor cut the box in two.
教授把箱子锯成两半。

第一章 马斯特曼教授

"诸位先生和女士!"报幕员说。

"现在请魔术师马斯特曼教授表演另外一个很难的戏法,他要把一位少女锯成两半!"

马斯特曼教授和一位女郎走到台前。

"这位就是魔术师马斯特曼教授!"报幕员说罢离开台前。观众热烈鼓掌。

马斯特曼教授笑容可掬。他指了指搁在桌上的一只大箱子。他把箱子打开给观众看。

"诸位先生和女士,箱子是空的,"他说,"这位

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1. now 是表示说话者提醒对方注意的呼语,并非表示时间。位于首句的 And 用来承上启下。
2. 演说时的用语,英国人习惯上先称呼女士。
3. compère ['kɔmpɛə] 是法语,演出时的指挥,这里指报幕员。
4. Professor Mastermind [prə'fesə 'mɑːstə'maind] 马斯特曼教授。Professor 指职称时常不用冠词。
5. the Master of Magic 作 Professor Mastermind 的同位语,Master 指具体的人,前面用冠词 the。
6. cut...in half (对开成两半),锯成两半,对开。
7. the audience (观众)表示某类人的总称前多加定冠词。

he said. "This lady will lie inside it." The lady smiled and climbed into the box. Professor Mastermind shut it. The audience could see the lady's head and her feet. Then the Professor cut the box in two with a saw. He pulled away the two parts of the box. The audience could see the lady's *head in one half and her feet in the other !*[1] The Professor put the two halves together again and the lady climbed out. She was quite all right ! She was smiling. The audience clapped while the lady left the stage.

Professor Mastermind was pleased. When I finish these tricks, he said to himself, I can go home. I'm so tired.

It was hot inside the theatre. Professor Mastermind's black suit was very warm. He wasn't a young man and he was rather fat. He was pleased, but he felt very, very tired.

Suddenly, the compère appeared beside him. "And now, ladies and gentlemen," the compère said, "the Master of Magic will do another difficult trick. Who will give him a watch ?"

A young man in the audience got up from his seat and went on to the stage. He gave his watch to Professor Mastermind and the compère left the stage. The Professor took a small hammer out of his pocket and broke the watch to pieces. The young man looked at his watch sadly. "It's all right," the Professor smiled. Then he put the pieces in a handkerchief. He threw the handkerchief into the air and caught it. When he opened it, the watch was inside.

小姐就要躺到里面去。"那女郎嫣然一笑，便往箱子里钻了进去。魔术师随即把箱子盖了起来。女郎的头部和双脚露在外面，观众看得一清二楚。接着那教授拿起一把大锯，把箱子锯成两半。然后把箱子的两部分拖开，观众看到那女郎的头部在这半个箱子里，双脚在另外半个箱子里！教授把锯开的箱子又合在一起，那女郎从箱子里爬了出来，她若无其事，还在笑哩！她退出舞台时，观众掌声不绝。

马斯特曼教授洋洋得意。他对自己说，变完这几个戏法，我就可以回家了，我太累了。

剧场里很闷热，马斯特曼教授穿着那套黑礼服，感到全身发热。他已不是青年，有点发胖了。他尽管兴致勃勃，毕竟感到很累很累了。

这时报幕员又出现在他身边。"诸位先生和女士，"报幕员说，"现在魔术大师还要变一个难度大的戏法，哪位观众给他一块表？"

观众中一位青年起身离座，走上台前。他把自己的一块表递给教授。报幕员离开台前。教授从口袋里掏出一把小铁锤，把表砸成碎块。那青年见状，脸色大变。教授笑着说，"别急！"然后他用一块手帕把碎块包起来，往空中一扔，又一把抓住。


1．half 后省去了 of the box, in the other 后省去了 half of the box.

It was *all*[1] in one piece! The young man was glad. He took his watch quickly. Then he sat down while the audience clapped loudly.

The compère appeared again. "And now; ladies and gentlemen," he said. "the Master of Magic will do another difficult trick — *the great Memory Trick.*[2] Who will help Professor Mastermind this time?" He looked at the audience and waited.
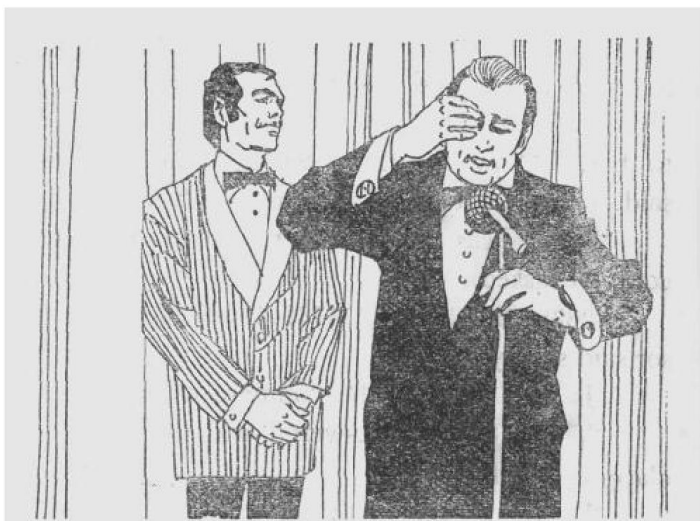
A young lady in the audience stood up. "Thank you," the compère cried. "Come on to the stage please."

The lady came on to the stage and the compère gave her a piece of paper and a pencil. "Please write a long number on this piece of paper," he said, "then show it to Professor Mastermind. Write a *very* long number."
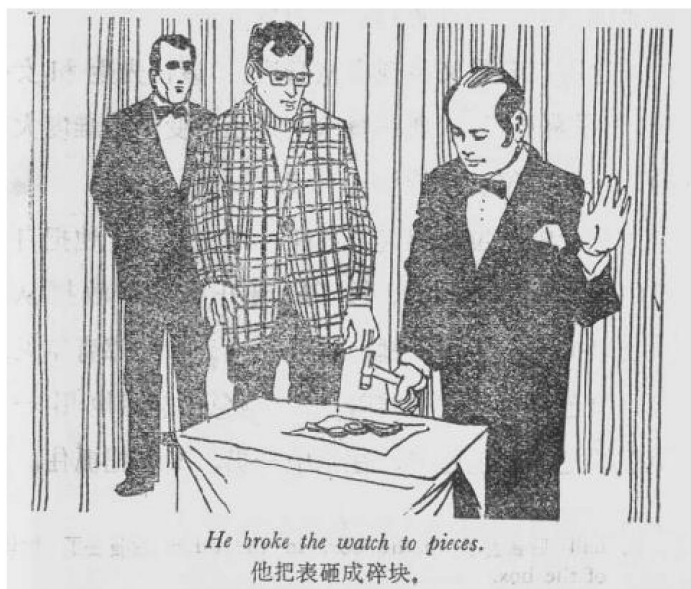
He broke the watch to pieces.
他把表砸成碎块。

"289643210437298254738456981," *the Professor said slowly.*

"二八九六四三二一零四三七二九八二五四七三八四五六九八
一，"教授从容不迫地说。

当他展开手帕，那块表就在里边，它完整无损！青
年大喜，立刻接过手表。当他返回原座，观众掌声
雷动。

报幕员又出场了。"诸位先生和女士，"他说，
"魔术大师要表演另外一出难变的戏法——惊人的
记忆术！这回谁给马斯特曼教授帮个忙?"他望着观
众，静待着。

观众中一位年轻女子站了起来。"谢谢，"报幕
员说，"请到台上来。"

那女子来到台前，报幕员给她一张纸条和一支
铅笔。"请您在这张纸条上写一长串数目字，"他说，
"写好后给马斯特曼教授看一看。要写一个很长的
数据。"

1．It was *all* in one piece! 它是一整块! all 是不定代词，在
这里是为了加强语气，没有词汇意义。

2．great 在这里相当于 wonderful (惊人的)。

The lady wrote a very long number on the piece of paper and showed it to the Professor. He looked at it for a moment and gave it back to her. "Now sit down please," the compère said. "Take the piece of paper with you."

"What was the number, Professor?" the compère asked.

"2896432104372982547384566981," the Professor said slowly.

"Is that right?" the compère called.

"Yes," the lady answered and the audience clapped loudly.

"We'll do the trick again," the compère said. "Who will help the Professor this time?" A man in the audience stood up. "Thank you, sir," the compère cried. "Come on to the stage. Write a very long number for us please."

The man was short and dark. He was wearing a grey hat, a black coat and dark glasses. "I don't want any paper and I don't want a pencil," he said to the compère. "I've written a very long number here. Perhaps the Professor can remember it." He took a dirty piece of paper out of his pocket.

The Professor looked at the man, then he looked at the piece of paper. His hands shook. Suddenly, he felt afraid. It's so warm in *here*, he thought and he took his handkerchief out of his pocket. The man took the piece of paper out of the Professor's hands and sat down quickly. The audience waited.

"What was the number?" the compère

那女子在纸条上写了一长串数目字，给教授看了一看。教授略一过目，马上还给了她。"现在请坐下，"报幕员对那女子说，"把这纸条也拿着。"

"教授，那个数字是多少?"报幕员问。

"二八九六四三二一零四三七二九八二五四七三八四五六九八一，"教授从容不迫地说。

"对不对?"报幕员问。

"对，"那女子回答。台下掌声四起。

"我们把这个绝招再表演一次，"报幕员说，"这次谁愿来给教授帮个忙?"观众中有个男子站起身。"谢谢，先生，"报幕员说，"请上台来，给我们写一个很长的数字吧。"

这男子矮矮的个儿，黑黑的皮肤，头戴一顶灰色便帽，身穿一件黑色外套，还架着一副墨镜。"我既不要纸条，也不要铅笔，"他对报幕员说，"我这里已经写好一长串数字，或许教授记得这个数据。"说着他从口袋里掏出一张很脏的纸条。

教授对这个男子望了望，然后看了看那张纸条，他双手哆嗦起来。突然，他害怕了。他顿时觉得剧场里热得要命，慌忙从口袋里掏出手帕。那男子从教授手里取回纸条，快步回到原座。观众静待着。

"数字多少?"报幕员问。

asked.

"The number?" the Professor asked slowly. "*Oh*[1] yes ... I ..."

"Can you repeat the number, Professor?" the compère asked.

"The number is ... I can't tell you ... " His voice shook.

"Can you repeat the number, Professor?" the compère called.

"It's ... It's ... 4—9—6—7 ..." he began very slowly.

Suddenly, there was a loud shot. Professor Mastermind fell on to the stage. The man in dark glasses was running out of the theatre. "Quick! Stop him!" the compère called. People were shouting and pushing. They were running out of the theatre. "Call the police!" the

Suddenly, he felt afraid.
突然,他害怕了。
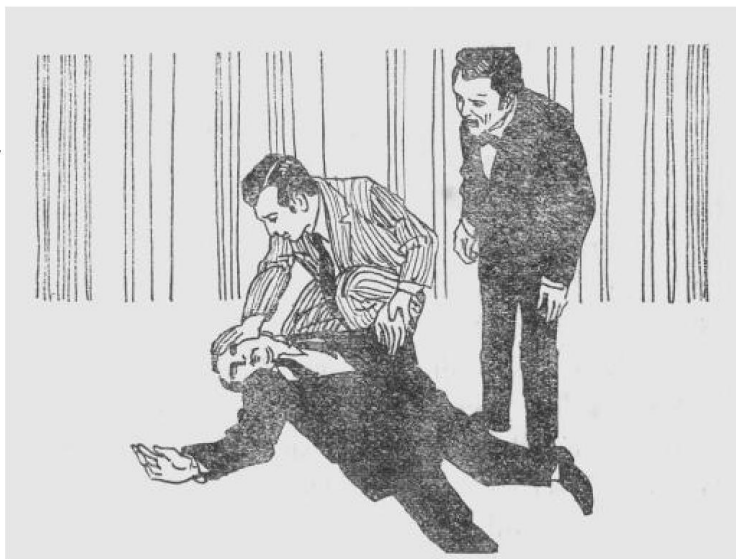
"I'm afraid that he's dead," the doctor said.
"恐怕他已经死了，"那医生说。

"数字？"教授慢慢吞吞地答道，"啊，是的……我……"

"您能复述数字吗，教授？"报幕员问。

"那数字是……我不能告诉你……"他的声音颤抖了。

"你能复述那数字吗，教授？"报幕员催问。

"那数字是……是……四—九—六—七……"他开始慢吞吞地说。

突然，一声枪响，马斯特曼教授应声倒在台上。戴墨镜的那个男子，奔出了剧场。"快！抓住他！"报幕员嚷道。观众大喊大叫，争先恐后，奔出剧场。

1．Oh 是表示惊讶等情绪的感叹词，与句子没有语法联系。

compère shouted. "Is there a doctor in the audience?"

Just then a man jumped on to the stage. "I'm a doctor," he said. "What has happened?" he asked the compère.

"I don't know," the compère said. "That man in the dark glasses shot him. Didn't you hear the shot?"

"Of course I did, but *why*?" the man said. "Now I must have a look at the Professor. Perhaps I can help him." The doctor put his hand on the Professor's head. Then he looked into his eyes carefully.

"*Well?*"[1] the compère asked. "Is he all right?"

"*I'm afraid that*[2] he's dead," the doctor said.