# 新科技英语选读

## NEW SCIENCE ENGLISH READINGS

浙江科学技术出版社

### 新科技英语选读

(英汉对照)

陈章国 编译

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#### 内 容 提 要

本书可供广大科技人员、在校学生及英语爱好者阅读欣赏。

新科技英语选读, 英汉对照) 陈章国《编译

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#### 前 言

近年来,世界各国正面临着一场以电子计算机、生物工程、海洋工程、激光技术、新材料、新能源和空间技术等先进科学技术为主要标志的新的技术革命。我国对它极为关注,正在各个领域中,抓紧传播新的技术知识,推广应用新的科技成果。为此,我们从国外近年来所出版的书刊中选编19篇有关新技术革命的科技作品,帮助广大学习英语的读者了解新技术革命的渊源和概貌,扩大知识面,同时也有助于提高外语水平,领略现代英语的用词特点和变化发展情况。

所选作品除"Reproduction (生殖)"一篇系由英国人 Ian Pearson 所撰外,其他诸篇均出自美国科技人员的手笔。 我们之所以这样做,是由于美国在科学技术进展方面有一定的 代表性;美国英语已被公认比英国英语更能反映出现代英语的 特点。

本书在内容上力求精选精编,在文字上力求 通 俗 易 懂。 各篇原文后面除附有参考译文外,对疑难之处作了 必 要 的 注 释,并结合原文对翻译方法作了某些探讨,冀望对读者有所裨 益。

由于水平所限,错误与不当之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

编译者 1984年7月

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#### 1. Ultrasonic Waves in Liquids

#### 液体中的超声波

Today, ultrasonic waves are being put<sup>®</sup> to work in laboratories and factories. If an ultrasound generator is placed in a liquid, the waves move the liquid back and forth hundreds of thousands of times each second. This causes materials to mix quickly or to dissolve in liquids. Paint manufacturers use ultrasound to do a better job of<sup>®</sup> blending<sup>®</sup> colors. The companies that make film for your camera find that mixing chemicals by the use of sound waves will produce a more sensitive film.

目前,超声波正在实验室和工厂中获得应用。如果将一台超声发生器置于液体中,那么声波就会使液体每秒钟来回运动数十万次,从而使材料迅速搅拌或溶解于液体。油漆制造商利用超声能更充分地调和颜料。生产照相机胶卷的各公司,则发现利用声波来搅拌化学剂能生产出感光性更好的胶卷。

① put. 把……用于。此处系现在进行词的被动形式。 ② do

a better job of. 把……做得更好。 ③ blend. 此处意为 mix thoroughly (彻底地混和)。

The new lightweight type of washing machine uses ultrasonic waves to get clothes clean. Its special ultrasound generator<sup>®</sup> is put into a pail of soapy water containing the soiled clothes. The sound waves drive the soapy water back and forth through the cloth so fast that everything is soon clean. There is also a new kind of dishwasher that works in much the same way<sup>®</sup>.

新式的轻型洗衣机利用超声波将衣服洗净。将特制的超声 发生器安装在专放脏衣服的肥皂水桶内。声波疾速地来回搅动 肥皂水,使之穿过布料,于是一切都很快洗净。还有一种新式 的洗碟机,其工作方式亦大致相同。

① ultrasound generator: 超声发生器, 亦写做 ultrasonic generator。 ② in much the same way: 以大致相同的方式,此处的much 等于about。

Ultrasonic waves can shake a liquid so fast that tiny holes form all through it. The liquid is actually torn apart by this action. Almost as soon as these holes are made, they

fall together again. The result is a powerful pounding action. In the dairy industry<sup>®</sup> this is used for the double purpose of making homogenized milk and sterilizing it at the same time. If you look at some raw milk with a microscope, you find that it is made up of little drops of butter fat floating around in a watery liquid<sup>®</sup>, In order to make milk easier to digest, these fat droplets may be broken up by forcing the milk through very small openings. The result is called homogenized milk. When the ultrasonic method is used, the sound waves not only break up the droplets but also kill the germs in the milk by pounding them to pieces.

超声波能极快地搅动液体,使之全部产生细小的空腔,这样,液体实际上是被打散了。这些空腔几乎一经形成,就又结合在一起。结果则产生了猛烈的撞击作用。在乳制品业中,这一方法用于生产均脂牛奶,同时又对其进行消毒这样一个双重目的。假若您用显微镜观察一下一些未经加工的牛奶,就会发现它是由漂浮在水样液体中的乳脂小滴所组成。为了使牛奶易于消化,可将牛奶强行挤过非常细小的空隙,使这些乳脂微滴分解,这样产生出来的便称之为均脂牛奶。采用超声方法时,声波不仅分解了乳脂微滴,而且也将细菌撞得粉碎,杀死了奶中

#### 的细菌。

①dairy industry: 生产牛奶、黄油及乳酪的行业。 ②floating around in a watery liquid 系现在分词短语, 作为 little drops of butter fat 的定语。

• A •

#### 2. Uses of Ultrasounds

#### 超声的用途

In a machine shop ultrasound can be used for cutting and drilling hard materials. The tool is a shaped piece of metal attached directly to an ultrasonic generator. The part to be cut is covered with a coarse paste, and the tip of the vibrating tool is then touched to the paste at the spot where the cutting is to be done. The powerful ultrasonic waves that are set up in the paste will then rub it back and forth to wear away the material at that place. The tool itself never touches the work, and very little<sup>®</sup> heat is produced. Holes of almost any shape can be cut in this way. Even the quartz-crystal slices used in the ultrasonic generator itself can be made by the same method.

在金工车间里,超声可用来切削和钻绞硬质材料。该刀具

• 5 1

系一同超声发生器直接连接的金属型片,待切削的部分涂上一种粗制的糊剂,然后,正在振动的刀具之尖端,即在须切割的部位,同糊剂相接触,这样,糊剂中所形成的强大的超声波就会将它来回摩擦,从而磨去该处的材料。刀具本身一点也未接触工件,因而并未产生多少热量。几乎对任何形状的孔洞均可采用这样的方法切割,甚至连超声发生器本身所使用的石英晶片也能用同样的方法制成。

① machine shop: 金工车间。 ② little: 少,不多的,表示否定语气; a little则表示肯定语气,故此处译为"没有……"、"并未……"。

٦

A new kind of dentist's<sup>®</sup> drill works in just this way. Because there is scarcely any pressure or heat developed, the drill<sup>®</sup> is practically painless.

一种新式牙钻也正是以这一方式工作的。由于几乎没有产生什么压力和热量,因此钻牙简直毫无疼痛。

①dentist: 牙科医师。 ②此处的 drill 并非指"钻头",而指钻牙的动作,故亦可意译为"钻牙时"。

A kind of sonar can be used to find hidden cracks deep inside metal machine parts. A beam of ultrasonic waves sent into a piece

of metal will be reflected from the far side, and also from any flaw or crack in the metal<sup>®</sup>. The machine measures how long it takes the waves to go in and bounce back from the far side<sup>®</sup>, this tells how far the waves have gone. If, at a certain place, the distance turns out to be<sup>®</sup> smaller, the engineers know that a crack is there. They can even tell exactly how far it is below the surface. The sound-wave method takes the place of<sup>®</sup> the X-ray method; it is safer and easier to use.

Further uses of ultrasound are being discovered all the time.

有一种声纳可用来检测金属机件内深处暗裂缝。将一束超声波送入一片金属内部,它就会从远侧反射回来,同时也会从金属的裂隙或裂缝反射回来。探测机测量出声波进入金属及从远侧反弹回来所花的时间,便可确定出声波所走过的距离。假如某处的距离发现短了一些,工程师便知道裂缝就在那里,他们甚至还能确切地讲出裂缝在表面之下多深的地方。用声波探测法取代X光探测法,使用更为安全方便。

超声更广泛的用途正在不断地为人们所发现呢。

①此句采用主语分译。 ② how long it takes……the far

side: 系动词谓语 measure 的宾语从句。直译为: 声波 进入(金属)以及从远侧反弹回来要花多长时间。 ③ turn out to be (adj),原来是…,结果是…,最后发现是…。 ④ take the place of:代替,取代。

#### 3. The Science of Space

#### 空间科学

The "science of space" is not a new science at all<sup>®</sup>. Astronomers, physicists, chemists, and even biologists and geologists have been interested in space problems for centuries. The whole science of astronomy is one part of the science of space.

"空间科学"绝非一门新的科学。数世纪以来天文学家、物理学家、化学家,甚至生物学家及地质学家,一直对空间问题抱有兴趣,而天文学整个学科就是空间科学的一个部分。

① at all: 这个短语常用于否定句或条件从句,用以加强语气。此处用一个"绝"字表示,意为"根本"。在下例中,也可用"一点"来表示: He doesn't seem at all interested in my plan. (他对我的计划似乎一点不感兴趣。)有时也可采用其他修辞手段,而不必将at all 直接译出。例: Do it well if you do it at all. (要做就要做得好。)

Physicists have long been interested<sup>®</sup> in space problems: the source of energy of the

sun and the stars (now a problem in nuclear physics); the magnetic fields of the earth, the sun, and other heavenly bodies; cosmic rays; the kinds and amounts of elements and chemical compounds in the stars; and the mechanics by which all the chemical elements have been formed in the universe which once apparently consisted only of hydrogen (and still is mostly hydrogen). We have already seen how modern physics really got its start from the work of Newton on the motion of planets—a space problem.

物理学家长久以来一直很关注空间问题:太阳和恒星的能源(如今已成为核物理学中的一个问题);地球、太阳和其他天体的磁场;宇宙射线;恒星中元素及化合物的种类和数量;以及一度似乎仅由氢(而目前大部分仍由氢)所构成的宇宙中,形成所有化学元素的途径等等。我们也已了解到,现代物理学实际上是在牛顿关于星球运动所作的工作上发展起来的,而星球运动就是一个空间问题。

① be interested in…. 对……感兴趣。这个短语使用 率 很高,但在不同的上下文中,它的汉译也应有变化,不宜一律直译,尤其是在 be interested in +动名词(或动词不 定式)中。例: We are very interested in working with you.(我们很愿意同您一起工作。)

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Newton pointed out that, in principle<sup>(1)</sup>, an artificial satellite could be put into an orbit around the earth. He even determined the velocity which such an object would require to circle the earth indefinitely: 18,000 miles per hour for an object fairly near the earth and proportionately less<sup>(2)</sup> if the object is lifted to greater distances from the center of the earth.

牛顿曾经指出,人造卫星在原则上是可以放入地球的轨道上的。他甚至还确定了该种物体围绕地球作无限期运转所需的速度: 离地球较近的物体为每小时18,000英里; 如该物体被送到离地球中心较远的地方, 其速度就要按比例递减。

① in principle: 大体上,原则上。 ② less: little 的比较级,这是与后面 greater 一词相比较而言的,也即"距离愈大,则速度愈小"之意。

For many years, the thing that stood in the way of an artificial satellite was the problem of how to lift a body above the earth's atmosphere and give it the enormous speed required to place it in orbit. The answer came through the work of engineers who, urged by military necessity, developed rockets powerful enough to do the job.