

计算机英语教程

(修订本)

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内 容 简 介

本书旨在切实提高读者实际使用英语的能力,立足实用,软、硬件并重,同时兼顾发展热点。

本书在体例上以课为单位,课由以下几部分组成:课文、单词、词组、难句讲解、语法、习题、技能训练、阅读材料,书的最后附有习题答案。书中的课文及阅读材料几乎全部来自实际。因此,读者学完本书后,再阅读其他资料时,会感到它们好像是本书中的一段。

本书既可作为大、中专学生的专业英语教程,也可供使用计算机的人员自学。

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第 1 课

课文

Computer Hardware Basics

Your AAA computer is made up of many parts called hardware. Hardware refers to the parts of the computer that you can see and touch.

1. *The Computer*

Your AAA computer contains a microprocessor, memory, disk drives, and other electronic components. The microprocessor and memory of your computer are located inside the computer. The microprocessor, also called a processor, is the "brain" of your computer. This is where your computer interprets and processes information.

The electronic components inside your computer are organized in the most logical and efficient way possible, much like the plumbing system in a building. If you have to locate a part inside your computer, you can frequently find the switches (jumpers), upgrade sockets, and related components in the same section of the system board. This same principle applies to your power supply, the unit that channels electrical power into your computer. You can always find the cooling fan, voltage-selection switch, and power connector in the same location on the back of your computer.

2. *Memory*

Your computer comes with factory-installed permanent memory called ROM (read only memory). The basic operating instructions are stored in ROM and are not erased when the computer is turned off. In the past, it has been impossible to change the instructions stored in ROM without changing the ROM modules, or the system board in the computer. Your computer has a module, called the flash EEPROM (electrically erasable programmable read-only memory), that can be updated. The BIOS (basic input/output system) instructions and the Configuration Utility program are stored in the flash EEPROM in your computer.

In addition to permanent memory, your computer also has a temporary type of memory. You might have heard computer memory referred to as RAM for random-access memory. The instructions that your computer gets and the information your computer processes remain in RAM during your work sessions.

Computer memory is measured in kilobytes or megabytes of information. (A byte is the amount of storage needed to hold one character, such as a letter or a numeric digit.) One kilobyte (KB) equals approximately 1024 bytes, and one megabyte (MB) is about 1 million bytes. Software requires the correct amount of RAM to work properly. If you want to add new software to your computer, you can usually find the exact memory requirements on the software packaging.

RAM is not a permanent storage place for information. When you turn your computer off, the information you entered during the work session does not remain in memory. Since RAM is only active when the computer is on, your computer uses disk drives to store information even when the computer is off.

3. Displays

The display screen is the most common output device used to show you what the computer is doing. The display screen shows messages from the POST (power-on self-test) , the Configuration Utility program, your operating system, and your application programs. The display screen also echoes (copies) the characters as you type them on the keyboard.

Displays come in many sizes and types. Your computer's SVGA video controller supports a wide range of monochrome and color displays.

4. Disk Drives

The AAA computer comes with a diskette drive that uses 3.5-inch diskettes. Your AAA computer also supports a second diskette drive that uses 5.25-inch diskettes, or 3.5-inch diskettes, depending upon the type of drive installed.

There are two common types of disk drives: a hard disk drive (sometimes called a fixed disk drive) and a diskette drive (sometimes called a floppy disk drive). The hard disk drive is built into your computer. (Some models might not have a hard disk drive.) With a hard disk, your computer can store large amounts of information (called files) in one convenient place. Using a hard disk, your computer can save and retrieve information much faster than with a diskette drive. A diskette drive uses a removable diskette, which has less storage space than a hard disk.

Each disk drive has a letter assigned to it, so you can tell your computer where to find information. For example, if your computer has two diskette drives, one is called drive A, the other is called drive B. If you have a hard disk drive, it is called drive C.

5. Keyboards

If you are familiar with a typewriter, you'll find the layout of the computer keyboard very similar. You can use your keyboard for many purposes:

- . Typing information
- . Entering numbers with the numeric keypad
- . Requesting specific functions
- . Performing system functions with key combinations
- . Moving around the computer screen

The keyboard has letter keys, punctuation keys, and a spacebar. It also has function, numeric, and arrow keys. How you use the keys depends on the software installed on your computer. The documentation that comes with your software has information about specific key functions.

You will probably notice a difference between the touch (response) on a computer keyboard and the response of a typewriter. A computer keyboard is so responsive that you can type using a light touch. When you hold down a character key, the character continues to type. This is called the typematic effect of a computer keyboard.

6. Adding Hardware

Ports (sometimes called connectors) are sockets on the back of the computer. When you set up your computer, you connected the display, keyboard, and mouse into ports. Your computer also has ports for adding hardware such as a printer or an external modem. Adding an external modem to your computer requires a serial port; adding a printer typically requires a parallel port.

6.1 The Serial Port

The serial port is a connector on the back of the computer. You can use it to add hardware to your computer, such as a plotter, serial printer, or external modem. You have two serial ports in your computer, Serial B and Serial A.

6.2 The Parallel Port

The parallel port on the back of the AAA computer lets you connect a printer to your computer.

6.3 The Mouse

The mouse is a pointing device for selecting items on a computer screen. You can use it instead of the keyboard to do many tasks on your AAA computer. In many cases, a mouse makes your program easier to use. With the mouse, you control the pointer that selects items on the screen.

6.4 Printers

Printers vary not only in quality, speed, and graphics capability, but also in the type of fonts (type styles) supported.

6.5 The Modem

A modem is used to communicate with another computer over telephone lines. Some modems are installed inside the computer; others attached to the outside using a serial port. Modems send and receive information at different speeds (baud rates).

单词

[1] computer	计算机, 电脑
[2] hardware	硬件
[3] basic	基础
[4] touch	触摸
[5] contain	包括, 包含
[6] microprocessor	微处理器
[7] memory	内存, 存储器
[8] disk	磁盘
[9] drive	驱动器
[10] electronic	电子的
[11] component	部件, 元件
[12] locate	定位
[13] processor	处理器
[14] process	处理
[15] interpret	解释, 翻译
[16] information	信息
[17] organize	组织
[18] logical	逻辑的
[19] efficient	效率高的
[20] plumbing	(建筑物内的)水管装置
[21] frequently	常常, 时常
[22] jumper	跳线插头
[23] upgrade	升级, 更新
[24] socket	插座
[25] related	相关的
[26] system	系统
[27] principle	原理
[28] channel	引导
[29] voltage	电压

[30] connector	连接器
[31] permanent	永久的
[32] instruction	指令
[33] store	存储, 储存
[34] erase	删除, 擦除
[35] module	模块
[36] program	程序
[37] flash	快速的
[38] temporary	暂时的
[39] kilobyte	千字节(缩写为 KB)
[40] megabyte	兆字节(缩写为 MB)
[41] digit	数字
[42] approximately	大约
[43] software	软件
[44] active	活动的, 有效的
[45] display	显示; 显示器
[46] echo	回显, 回声
[47] keyboard	键盘
[48] size	大小, 尺寸
[49] monochrome	单色
[50] file	文件
[51] save	保存
[52] removable	可移动的, 可换的, 可取下的
[53] typewriter	打字机
[54] layout	布局
[55] function	功能, 函数
[56] screen	屏幕
[57] spacebar	空格键
[58] documentation	文件汇编
[59] port	接口
[60] mouse	鼠标
[61] printer	打印机
[62] modem	调制解调器
[63] external	外部的
[64] serial	串行的
[65] parallel	并行的
[66] plotter	绘图机
[67] pointer	指针
[68] font	字体

词组

[1]be made up of	由... 组成
[2]refer to	涉及,关于;指的是;参考
[3]disk drive	磁盘驱动器
[4]electronic component	电子部件,电子元件
[5]be located	位于
[6]system board	系统板,主板
[7]power supply	电源
[8]cooling fan	冷却风扇
[9]voltage selection switch	电压选择开关
[10]power connector	电源插座
[11]ROM(read only memory)	只读存储器
[12]turn off	关闭
[13]turn on	打开
[14]EEPROM(electronically erasable programmable read-only memory)	电擦除可编程只读存储器
[15]BIOS(basic input/output system)	基本输入/输出系统
[16]Cofiguration Utility	配置应用(程序)
[17]in addition to	除... 以外
[18]be referred to as	称为,被称为
[19]RAM(random-access memory)	随机存储器
[20]work session	工作对话(期)
[21]be measured in	以... 测量,以... 计量
[22]software packaging	软件包
[23]output device	输出设备
[24]input device	输入设备
[25]POST(power-on self-test)	加电自检
[26]operating system(缩写为 OS)	操作系统
[27]video controller	视频控制器
[28]depend on	依靠,依赖,取决
[29]hard disk drive	硬盘驱动器
[30]fixed disk drive	固定盘驱动器
[31]floppy disk drive	软盘驱动器
[32]be familiar with	熟悉
[33]numeric keypad	数字小键盘
[34]move around	绕... 移动
[35]letter key	字母键

[36]punctuation key	标点符号键
[37]numeric key	数字键
[38]arrow key	箭头键
[39]function key	功能键
[40]set up	建立
[41]serial port	串口
[42]parallel port	并口
[43]pointing device	定位设备
[44]instead of	代替
[45]not only ... but also	不但 ... 而且, 不仅 ... 而且
[46]communicate with	与 ... 通信
[47]baud rate	波特率

难句讲解

- [1] The microprocessor, also called a processor, is the "brain" of your computer.
 also called a processor 是现在分词短语, 作非限定性定语, 对 microprocessor 进行补充说明。
 本句意为:
 微处理器, 也叫处理器, 是计算机的“大脑”。
- [2] This is where your computer interprets and processes information.
 where your computer interprets and processes information 是一表语从句, 它和 is 一起构成句子的谓语。
 This 指上句中提到的 microprocessor。
 本句意为:
 这就是计算机解释和处理信息的地方。
- [3] In the past, it has been impossible to change the instructions stored in ROM without changing the ROM modules, or the system board in the computer.
 句中, it 是形式主语, has been impossible 是谓语, 真正的主语是动词不定式短语 to change the instructions stored in ROM。该短语中, stored in ROM 是一过去分词短语作, 定语, 修饰 the instructions。
 without changing the ROM modules, or the system board in the computer 是一介词短语作状语。
 本句意为:
 过去, 不换 ROM 模块或不换计算机系统板就不能改变存在 ROM 中的指令。
- [4] You might have heard computer memory referred to as RAM for random-access memory.
 might have done sth. 表示对过去的推测和判断。
 情态动词 + have done sth. 表示对过去的推测和判断。其中 must 的语气最强, 表示

“一定...”的否定句和一般疑问句要用 can。might 的语气最弱。请看下例：

He must have finished his work.

他一定完成了他的工作。

Can he have gone to the office?

他可能去办公室了吗？

- He can't have finish the work in such a short time.

他不可能在这么短的时间内完成他的工作。

He might have gone to sleep.

他也许去睡觉了。

本句中, referred to as RAM for random-access memory 是一过去分词短语, 作定语, 修饰 computer memory。在此短语中, 介词短语 for random-access memory 作 RAM 的定语。for 的意思是“代表”。

本句意为：

你也许听说过被称为 RAM 的计算机内存, RAM 代表随机存储器。

- [5] The instructions that your computer gets and the information your computer processes remain in RAM during your work sessions.

主语是 The instructions and the information, 谓语是 remain in RAM。that your computer gets 和 your computer processes 两个定语从句分别作 instructions 和 information 的定语。

本句意为：

工作对话期间, 计算机所得到的指令和计算机所处理的信息都保存在 RAM 之中。

语法

定语从句

在复合句中, 修饰某一名词或代词的从句叫作定语从句。定语从句所修饰的词叫作先行词。定语从句放在先行词的后面。请看下例：

【例】 Do you know the man who will give us a talk on computer science tomorrow?

你认识明天要给我们作关于计算机科学的报告的那个人吗？

句中, who will give us a talk on computer science tomorrow 是定语从句, the man 是先行词。

【例】 This is the software that I would like to buy.

这就是我想买的那个软件。

that I would like to buy 是定语从句, the software 是先行词。

【例】 He will never forget the day when he bought his own computer.

他永远都不会忘记买到自己计算机的那一天。

when he bought his own computer 是定语从句, the day 是先行词。

通常, 定语从句都由关系代词 that、which、who、whom、whose 和关系副词 when、where、why、how 引导。关系代词和关系副词往往放在先行词和定语从句之间, 起联系作用, 同时又作定语从句的一个成份。

定语从句可分为限定性定语从句和非限定性定语从句两类, 以下分述之:

1. 限定性定语从句

限定性定语从句使修饰的词代表一个(些)或一类特定的人或物。如果修饰人, 一般用关系代词 who, 有时也用 that。若关系代词在句子中作主语, 则 who 用得较多, 且不可省略。请看下例:

【例】 Those who agree with me please put up your hands.

同意我的观点的人请举手。

who agree with me 是定语从句, 修饰 Those。who 既是引导词, 又在句中作主语, who 不能省略。

【例】 Who is the man that is checking the printer over there?

在那边检查打印机的那个人是谁?

that is checking the printer over there 是定语从句, 修饰 the man。that 既是引导词, 又在句中作主语, that 不能省略。

若关系代词在句子中作宾语, 就应当使用宾格 whom 或 that, 但在大多数情况下都可省略。若表示所属, 就应用 whose。请看下例:

【例】 He is the professor (whom) you've been looking for.

他就是你一直在寻找的教授。

whom you've been looking for 是定语从句, 修饰 the professor。whom 在从句中作 looking for 的宾语, 故可省略。

【例】 He is a man (that) you can depend on.

他是一个可以信赖的人。

that you can depend on 是定语从句, 修饰 a man。that 在从句中作 depend on 的宾语, 故可省略。

【例】 PCTOOLS are tools whose functions are very advanced.

PCOOLS 是功能很先进的工具。

因为 functions 和 tools 之间是所属关系, 故用所有格 whose。

限定性定语从句如果修饰物, 用 that 较多, 也可用 which。它们可在句中作主语, 也可作宾语。若作宾语, 则大多可省略。请看下例: