

New Knowledge English

杨力 编



新知识英语

安徽科学技术出版社

NEW KNOWLEDGE ENGLISH

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附 难点注释

课文理解

词汇练习

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杨 力 编译

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前 言

当今世界科学技术的发展已深入生活的各个领域，新发现、新观念、新知识层出不穷。通过阅读语言生动的科技趣闻，学习英语，扩充词汇，同时又了解生活里的新知识，拓宽视野，正是事半功倍、一举两得。本书基于这一宗旨，所编课文涉及日常生活中的科技知识，内容新颖、形式活泼、富于趣味，适于初级至中级过渡阶段的英语学习者使用。

书中每篇课文之后附有词汇表 (**New Words and Expressions**)、难点注释 (**Notes**) 和汉语译文。读者可参照学习，掌握英语的表达特点，体会英汉两种语言的异同。练习题分为二项：①课文理解 (**Comprehension**)：课文理解题包括问题和不完整的陈述，每题后有三个可供选择的答案 (**A, B, C**)。读者应在仔细阅读的基础上选择一个最佳答案，回答问题或使陈述完整。这一练习的目的是帮助读者检验自己对课文大意和具体细节的理解。②词汇 (**Vocabulary**)：在词汇练习中，每句各有一个划线的单词或短语，均为各篇课文里出现的词汇。读者在比较划线词语和所给的三个答案后，在保持原句含义的前提下，选出一个意义最贴切的替换词语。这项练习对于读者积累同义词、近义词，区别一词多义，掌握词汇使用的语境，通过上下文理解词汇等均有着积极的意义。练习答案附于书后，以便查核。

为使读者在学习阅读和词汇的同时不断提高英语语音和听力理解的水平，特请美国教育专家为本书的课文和练习做了朗读，并灌制成录音带。希望这有助于广大读者更充分地利用本书。

作 者

1991 年 12 月于中国科学技术大学

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1 A JAPANESE HOME IN THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY

"Father, is our house alive?"

"No, my son," Matsushita replied. Such questions from his six-year-old boy always amused him.

"But it does everything for us. It wakes us in the morning. It has our tea ready by the time we get dressed. It heats up the bathtub without our even asking. Each night it dims the lights. "

The lights became dim as the house responded to the programmed command.

"Lights up," Matsushita said. The room became bright again.

"Listen, my son," he said, taking the boy gently by the shoulders. "The fact that something moves does not make it human. It does not become a person just by listening to our commands. "

"But it knows us," said the boy. "It knows what kind of TV shows I like. It shows you all your favorite movies. It reminds you to call Uncle every week. How can it know this without being alive?"

"That's the difference between a computer and a person," Matsushita replied. "A person has feelings and will. He is not programmed like a computer. A person does something because he wants to. "

Matsushita smiled as he stepped on his front porch to get some fresh air. Before he could react, the door closed and locked behind him. "Open," he said softly. As the door opened, he saw his son listening to his favorite music, his little face brightened up by the colored lights.

New Words and Expressions

amuse [ə'mju:z] v. 使好笑

heat [hi:t] v. 加热

bathtub ['bæθtʌb] n. 浴盆

dim [dim] v. 使变暗 adj. 暗的
 respond [ris'pɒnd] v. 反应
 program ['prəʊgræm] v. 使程序化 n. 程序
 command [kə'mænd] n. 命令
 gently ['dʒentli] adv. 轻轻地
 human ['hju:mən] adj. 人的 n. 人
 will [wil] n. 意志
 porch [pɔ:tʃ] n. 门廊
 react [ri'ækt] v. 反应
 brighten [braɪtən] v. 使变亮
 colored ['kɒləd] adj. 彩色的
 Matsushita [ˌmætsu'ʃitə] n. (人名)松下

21 世纪日本之家

“爸爸，我们家的房子象人一样活着吗？”

“不是的，孩子，”松下回答说。他这个6岁男孩问出这样的问题令他好笑。

“但是，它给我们做好多事。早上它叫醒我们。我们穿上衣服时它又把茶烧好了。不用请，它还烧熟了洗澡水。每天晚上。它把家里的灯拧暗。”

这时，随着房屋对程序化的指令做出反应，屋里的灯光暗淡下来。

“灯光开亮，”松下说。屋里重现光明。

“听着，孩子，”他一边说，一边轻轻地接着孩子的肩膀。“一个东西会动并不就是人。它能听我们的指令，但不会因此就象人一样。”

“可是它认识我们，”男孩说，“它知道我想看什么电视节目。它放映你最喜欢的电影。它提醒你每星期给伯伯打电话。如果它不是活着，怎么会知道这些事情呢？”

“这就是计算机和人的区别，”松下答道，“人有感情、有意志，不象计算机那样程序化。人做事是因为他想去。”

松下微笑着步入前廊，呼吸新鲜空气。他还没来得及反应，身后的门已关好并被锁上。于是他轻声说，“开门。”随着房门打开，他看到儿子已听起了心爱的乐曲，那张小脸在彩灯下熠熠生辉。

Notes

1. It has our tea ready: has 意为 cause...to be, 即:使……处于某种状态。

2. get dressed; 给自己穿上衣服。 get 类似于助动词 be, 与动词过去分词构成被动语态。
3. Lights up; 这是表示命令的省略句, 等同于 Turn the lights up. 请比较: Hats off, 脱帽。(Take your hats off.) Hands up, 举手。(Put your hands up.)

EXERCISES

I. Comprehension:

Choose the one answer (A, B, or C) which you think is the best in each of the following. (选择最佳答案, 回答下列问题。)

1. What time did the conversation between Matsushita and his son happen?
A. In the morning.
B. In the evening.
C. It is not clear.
2. What seems to control Matsushita's house?
A. A computer system.
B. A programmed command.
C. A person that receives commands.
3. According to the passage, which of the following does the computer not do in Matsushita's house?
A. Housework.
B. Music playing.
C. The education of the child.

II. Vocabulary:

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) to replace the underlined word or phrase in each of the following sentences while keeping the meaning of the sentence. (用最佳答案替换下列句中划线的词或短语, 并保持原句含义。)

1. The questions in the final test were not difficult at all.
A. problems B. numbers C. languages
2. The girl was very happy when she got a quick reply from the newspaper.

- A. record B. gift C. answer
3. Many people often go to the island to see the birds there.
A. watch B. find C. look for
4. My grandparents are still alive.
A. healthy B. living C. well
5. In this city, there are no TV shows on Monday.
A. plays B. news C. programs
6. Tom asks you to call him when school is over.
A. phone B. visit C. speak to
7. The Japanese movie was so interesting that all the boys and girls wanted to see it again.
A. show B. film C. story
8. The man saw a police car as he was walking down the street.
A. just B. like C. while
9. A computer works according to the commands it receives.
A. instructions B. words C. responses.
10. The room became bright when the music began.
A. turned on B. lighted C. brightened up
11. Dogs react to kindness.
A. respond B. return C. refuse
12. Sandwiches are the kind of food that these students often eat for lunch.
A. name B. part C. type
13. A person is different from a machine.
A. people B. human C. woman
14. The soldier stepped forward as soon as he saw the signal.
A. moved B. fell C. ran
15. London is my favorite among the English towns.
A. the town I like best
B. the town I visit most often
C. the town I know most about

2 FAST MUSIC IS BETTER

To play music or not to play music, that is the question. Managers of offices, shops, and warehouses have asked that question for years. Now new research from Florida State University says that even though employees do not like the background music, it may still make them work better.

The research shows that people buy more goods in the supermarket when the music there is slow and people eat faster in the restaurant when the music is fast. Two teachers of the university found that, when they played fast music, their students studied better. When they had fast background music, the students correctly did 33 percent more mathematics problems than when they had slow music. In fact, silence was better than slow music—151 correct answers for slow music and 180 correct answers for no music.

In the teachers' opinion, slow music has a relaxing effect. People feel calm and less hurried when they hear slow music. Sometimes they even become sleepy. But fast music is stimulating and it hurries people up. It helps people concentrate on what they are doing. "Some say that rock and roll will die," one of the teachers says. "Don't believe them. It will never die because it makes people work faster and better."

New Words and Expressions

- manager ['mænidʒə] n. 经理
- warehouse ['weəhaus] n. 仓库
- research [ri'sə:tʃ] n., v. 研究
- employee ['emplɔɪ'i:] n. 雇员
- background ['bækgraʊnd] n. 背景
- opinion [ə'pinjən] n. 见解

relaxing [ri'læksɪŋ] adj. 松驰的
effect [i'fekt] n. 效果
hurried ['hʌrɪd] adj. 匆促的
stimulating ['stimjʊ:leɪtɪŋ] adj. 刺激的
concentrate ['kɒnsentreɪt] v. 集中
rock and roll 摇滚音乐
Florida ['flɒrɪdə] n. (地名)佛罗里达

快速音乐好

播放音乐,还是不播放音乐,这是一个重要问题。多年来。办公室、商店、仓库的经理人员一直在问这个问题。现在,佛罗里达州立大学新的研究表明:尽管雇员不喜欢背景音乐,然而音乐仍会使他们工作得更好。

这项研究表明,当超级市场里播送慢速音乐时,购物者会购买较多的商品;当饭店里的音乐是快速音乐时,人们进餐的速度就会加快。该大学的两位教员发现,当他们播放快速音乐时,学生学习效果较好。学生们听快速背景音乐时做数学题的答案正确率比听慢速乐曲时高 33%。事实上,安静的环境比慢速乐曲更好——慢速音乐下的正确答案为 151,而无音乐时正确答案则是 180。

这两位教员认为,慢速音乐具有松驰作用。人们听慢速乐曲时感到镇静,不匆忙,有时甚至会起睡意。而快速乐曲则有刺激性,它使人们紧张起来。快速音乐有助于人们集中精力做正在做的事情。“有些人说摇滚音乐将要消亡,”一位教员说。“不要相信他们的话。摇滚乐不会消亡,因为它使人们工作得更快更好。”

Notes

1. To play music...question: 本句套用了莎士比亚的名句:To be or not to be, that is the question. (生存还是毁灭,这就是问题之所在。)
2. It helps people concentrate; help 后接(宾语及)不定式时,to 常可省略。
3. In the teachers' opinion; in one's opinion 与 in one's view 相似,可视为习语。
4. rock and roll: 摇滚乐的另二种说法是:rock'n' roll 和 rock。

EXERCISES

I. Comprehension:

Choose the one answer (A, B, or C) which you think is the best in each

of the following.

1. According to the passage, music is played at many places of work because
 - A. it makes people answer questions correctly.
 - B. most managers love music.
 - C. it improves the employees' work.
2. According to the research of Florida State University, which is better when students do math problems?
 - A. To play fast music in the classroom.
 - B. To play slow music in the classroom.
 - C. To keep the classroom silent.
3. Which of the following is not mentioned in the passage?
 - A. People respond differently to different kinds of music.
 - B. The same type of music usually produces the same effect on people.
 - C. Different people react differently to the same music.

I . Vocabulary :

Choose the best answer (A, B, or C) to replace the underlined word or phrase in each of the following sentences while keeping the meaning of the sentence.

1. The population of this African country is increasing very fast.
 - A. at a high speed
 - B. frequently
 - C. in a hurry
2. This shop sells the same goods but at lower prices.
 - A. market
 - B. department
 - C. store
3. At the news conference, reporters asked many questions about the team's new leader.
 - A. repeated
 - B. raised
 - C. invited
4. 10 percent of the people in this state have had a university education.
 - A. high school
 - B. college
 - C. graduate
5. The professor makes his students write a paper every week.
 - A. has
 - B. gets
 - C. tells
6. The restaurant on the corner of the street serves French food.
 - A. eating place
 - B. hotel
 - C. dining room
7. Carl's teaching work leaves him little time.

- A. plan B. job C. research
8. Even though the teacher loves her students, she sometimes finds them to be a headache.
- A. learners B. readers C. pupils
9. Studying a foreign language is an interesting pastime.
- A. Examining B. Learning C. Doing
10. Those who hope to win the prize must find correct answers to all the questions within 30 minutes.
- A. nice B. better C. right
11. In my opinion, smoking is harmful to your health.
- A. view B. idea C. habit
12. It will become hot as soon as the sun begins to shine.
- A. feel B. grow C. change
13. Scientists believe that the moon is younger than the earth.
- A. find B. think C. say
14. What I would like is a digital watch.
- A. Something B. Which C. The thing that
15. There are some famous art museums in the old town.
- A. several B. any C. quite a few

3 TRUE OR FALSE?

Does our future lie in the palms of our hands? Can palm readers really predict how long we will live when they see the length of our lifeline? The opinion of most scientists has always been no. But a doctor in England has made a study. His finding suggests that there might be some truth in the claims of palm readers.

The doctor thought it would be fun to show that a popular belief was actually not true. He measured the lifelines of 100 corpses at his hospital. But what he found was not what he had expected. The length of the line indeed correlates with the length of life.

Despite his finding, the doctor is still not convinced that a person's future can be read in his palm. He has an explanation for the data: aging causes a change in the length of the line. In other words, the hands become more wrinkly as we get older. If one is really concerned about the length of his life, he should examine his life-style, not his lifeline.

New Words and Expressions

- palm [pɑ:m] n. 手掌
- predict [pri'dikt] v. 预测
- lifeline ['laɪflaɪn] n. 生命线
- finding ['faɪndɪŋ] n. 发现
- claim [kleɪm] n., v. 断言, 声称
- belief [bi'li:f] n. 信念
- measure ['meʒə] v. 测量
- corpse [kɔ:ps] n. 尸体
- correlate ['kɔ:rileɪt] v. 相关联
- convince [kən'vɪns] v. 使相信
- data ['deɪtə] n. 资料
- age [eɪdʒ] v. 老化

wrinkly ['rɪŋkli] adj. 有皱纹的
concerned [kən'sɜ:nd] adj. 关心的
life-style ['laɪfstail] n. 生活方式
in other words 换言之

是真还是假？

我们的前途寄托在我们的掌心上吗？手相师看了我们手心生命线的长度后，真能预测我们能活多久吗？对此，绝大多数科学家的意见从来就是否定的。但是，一位英国医生做了一项调查，其发现使人想到手相师的断言或许有一些道理。

这位医生原想，证明一种大众信念实际上不正确是件趣事。于是，他在医院里测量了 100 个尸体的手掌生命线。他的发现令他始料未及，每条掌心线的长度确实与各人寿命的长短相对应。

尽管有这项发现，这位医生仍不相信一个人的未来生命可从手掌上看出。他对所得资料另有解释：人的老化造成了掌心线长度的变化。换句话说，随着我们年龄的增长，手也变得皱纹更深。如果一个人真正关心他的寿命，他应该检查的是自己的生活方式，而不是那条生命线。

Notes

1. suggest: 在本文中意为“使人联想到”，应与“建议”和“暗示”两义区别。
2. correlate with: 与……相关、相对应。意思与 be related to 相似。
3. aging: 动名词，意为“老化”，也可拼写成 ageing。

EXERCISES

I. Comprehension;

Choose the one answer (A, B, or C) which you think is the best in each of the following.

1. What kind of person would be more easily convinced by a palm reader?
A. A scientist.
B. A person who works at a hospital.
C. One who agrees with popular beliefs.
2. Why did the doctor measure the lifelines of 100 dead people?
A. He wanted to show there was a relation between the length of the lifeline and

the length of life.

B. He wanted to show there was no relation between the length of the lifeline and the length of life.

C. He wanted to gather some data about his patients.

3. What seems to determine the length of one's life?

A. One's way of life.

B. The size of one's hands.

C. The change caused by aging.

I . Vocabulary :

Choose the best answer (A , B , or C) to replace the underlined word or phrase in each of the following sentences while keeping the meaning of the sentence.

1. True friends are those who know our shortcomings and still love us.

A. Great

B. Best

C. Real

2. No one can really predict what will happen in 20 years.

A. tell

B. inform

C. show

3. This scientist is living a very busy life.

A. leading

B. making

C. getting

4. The manager is concerned about the health of the employees.

A. employers

B. workpeople

C. businesspeople

5. After ten years of research , Mr. Ting finally made an important finding.

A. belief

B. found

C. find

6. Chess is fun to both children and adults.

A. amusing

B. popular

C. stimulating

7. Many persons , in fact , have never made an effort to understand themselves.

A. actually

B. falsely

C. lively

8. The corpse of the man was placed in a coffin made of glass.

A. bones

B. body

C. life

9. Despite the bad weather , the students had a picnic by the lake.

A. Without

B. Out of

C. In spite of

10. It is strange that many scientists are convinced of the existence of God.

A. believe

B. have found

C. explain