

《新概念英语》（第三册）课文讲解

技能培养

廖綵胜

DEVELOPING SKILLS

福建人民出版社

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前 言

英国朗曼出版公司出版的《新概念英语》(*New Concept English*, 作者L. G. Alexander) 是一套供成年人学英语用的教材, 全书共分四册, 编法新颖, 题材多样, 内容丰富, 语言简练、口语化, 体现了现代英语的特点和发展趋势, 富有知识性和趣味性, 很受读者欢迎。目前, 这套教材在我国也已被广泛采用。

全套教材由浅入深, 第一、二册是初级读物, 第三册《技能培养》(*Developing Skills*), 着重训练语言技巧, 在全套教材中居于关键位置。只要对它的难点进行适当讲解, 帮助学生掌握它的语言重点, 它可以作为一本中级读物, 独立成书, 供具有一定英语基础的学生使用, 逐步提高。基于这个目的, 笔者在教学实践的基础上编写这本书, 着重分析和讲解第三册的语言重点和难点, 包括课文难句的理解, 词和词组的用法, 以及一些句子结构的分析等。为使能举一反三, 在讲解语言现象时都举例说明; 部分例句选自十九世纪至二十世纪七十年代英美著名作家作品, 以及当代美国有影响的刊物, 并在句末的括号内注明出处。这些作家和刊物有:

英国作家:

狄更斯 (Charles Dickens)

哈代 (Thomas Hardy)

史蒂文生 (Robert Louis Stevenson)

王尔德 (Oscar Wilde)
高尔斯华绥 (John Galsworthy)
肖伯纳 (Bernard Shaw)
毛姆 (William Somerset Maugham)
奥威尔 (George Orwell)
格林 (Graham Greene)
德拉布尔 (Margaret Drabble)

美国作家:

马克·吐温 (Mark Twain)
奥·亨利 (O·Henry)
沃克 (Herman Wouk)
梅勒 (Norman Mailer)

美国杂志:

《时代周刊》 (Time)
《新闻周刊》 (Newsweek)
《大西洋月刊》 (The Atlantic)

笔者在编写过程中得到福建师范大学外语系许崇信教授的支持、鼓励和指导;稿成后又蒙福建师范大学外语系谢德贞教授提出宝贵意见,特此表示衷心的感谢。

由于笔者水平有限,书中不妥之处请读者指正。

廖綵胜

一九八三年二月

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1 A Puma at Large

Pumas are large, cat-like animals which are found in America. When reports came into London Zoo that a wild puma had been spotted forty-five miles south of London, they were not taken seriously. However, as the evidence began to accumulate, experts from the Zoo felt obliged to investigate, for the descriptions given by people who claimed to have seen the puma were extraordinarily similar.

The hunt for the puma began in a small village where a woman picking blackberries saw 'a large cat' only five yards away from her. It immediately ran away when she saw it, and experts confirmed that a puma will not attack a human being unless it is cornered. The search proved difficult, for the puma was often observed at one place in the morning and at another place twenty miles away in the evening. Wherever it went, it left behind it a trail of dead deer and small animals like rabbits. Paw prints were seen in a number of places and puma fur was found clinging to bushes. Several people complained of 'cat-like noises' at night and a businessman on a fishing trip saw the puma up a tree. The ex-

perts were now fully convinced that the animal was a puma, but where had it come from? As no pumas had been reported missing from any zoo in the country, this one must have been in the possession of a private collector and somehow managed to escape. The hunt went on for several weeks, but the puma was not caught. It is disturbing to think that a dangerous wild animal is still at large in the quiet countryside.

讲解

1. A Puma at Large

一头逍遥自在的美洲狮

At large: (指危险的人或动物) 未被捕; 未受控制; 在逃地; 逍遥自在。如:

Cattle and sheep roamed *at large* on the big ranch. 牛羊自由自在地在大牧场漫步。

2. Pumas are large cat-like animals which are found in America.

美洲狮是巨大的猫科动物, 产于美洲。

Cat-like animals 是指属于猫科的动物, 狮、虎、豹等野兽都属猫科动物。在 “which are found in America” 中, *find* 并无 “发现” 之意, 而是表示 “见到……的存在”, 相当于 “there is/are” 结构, 如:

Pine trees are *found* in most European countries. (相当于 There are pine trees in most European

countries.) 大部分欧洲国家都有松树。(不是* “大部分欧洲国家都发现了松树。”)

You won't find many people learning Latin now.
现在没有多少人学拉丁语了。(不是* “你不会发现许多人学拉丁语了。”)

3. ... *they* were not taken seriously.

……这些报告并未引起重视。

这里的 *they* 是指上文提到的 *reports*. *to take something seriously* 意为“对……引起重视”、“认真对待”，如：

We'd better take it as a joke, instead of taking it seriously. 我们还是把这当成是开玩笑，不要那么认真吧。

4. *felt obliged to investigate*

觉得有必要进行调查

To feel obliged to do sth. 意为“觉得有必要做某事”(to feel it is necessary to do sth.), 如：

I feel obliged to say I don't believe him. 我不得不说我是不相信他的话的。

5. ... a puma will not attack a human being unless it is cornered.

……除非是被逼得无路可逃，否则美洲狮是不会伤害人的。

Corner 在这里是动词，意为“把……逼到一个角落”，

即“把……逼得走投无路”。如：

The escaped prisoner was *cornered* at last. 逃犯最后被逼得无路可逃。

Unless 意为“if not”, “except when”(“要是不”, “除非是”), 它所引导的从句, 将来时间用一般时态表示, 不用将来时态。如:

Unless it rains, I shall go on Monday. 要是下雨, 我星期一会去。

Come next week *unless* I write to the contrary. 下星期来吧, 除非我写信要你别来。

6. ... it left behind it *a trail of dead deer and small animals like rabbits.*

这里“*a trail of dead deer*”是动词 *left* 的宾语, *behind it* 是状语。这个句子的正常结构是: it left a trail of ... behind it. 但因宾语太长, 故把较短的状语 *behind it* 提前, 以保持全句结构的平衡。*Deer* 一词单复数同形, 在这里是复数。

7. The experts were now fully *convinced* that...

这时专家们已经十分肯定……

Convince 后接 *that* 引导的从句或 *of* 引导的介词短语, 表示“感到肯定或确信”的事物:

{ I'm *convinced* that he is honest. }
{ I'm *convinced* of his honesty. }

我确信他是诚实的。

注意 *convinced* 和 *convincing* 用法和含义上的区别。

两者都可与动词 *be* 连用，但用 *convinced* 时，主语是具有“确信”或“肯定”这种感觉的人（如上例），而用 *convincing* 时，句子的主语则是使人产生“确信”或“肯定”感觉的事物。如：

Their argument is not very convincing. 他们的论据并不是很有说服力的。

Convinced 和 *convincing* 用法和含义上的区别，相当于 *excited* 和 *exciting*, *interested* 和 *interesting* 等词之间的区别。

8. ... this one must have been in the possession of a private collector and somehow managed to escape.

……这头美洲狮一定是私人养家的，不知怎么地给跑了出来。

In the possession of sb. / in sb's possession 意思是“某人所拥有的”，如：

The vase is now in the possession of Mr Smith.
花瓶现在为史密斯先生所有。

The information in my possession is strictly confidential. 我所掌握的材料是绝密的。

注意 “*in the possession of*”（有定冠词）和 “*in possession of*”（没有冠词）两个词组的区别：*in the possession of sb.* 指“为某人所有”，*in possession of sth.* 指“占有某物”。试比较下列两组句子：

{ *The vase is now in the possession of Mr Smith.*
 Mr Smith is now in possession of the vase.

This puma must have been in the possession of
a private collector.
A private collector must have been in possession of this puma.

9. *It is disturbing to think that a dangerous wild animal is still at large in the quiet countryside.*

一头危险的野兽还在僻静的乡间到处乱跑，想到这种情景就使人感到不安。

Disturb 一词这里的意思是 “to worry”, “to make uneasy or anxious” (使人担心，使人感到不安)。本句真正的主语是 *to think that a dangerous wild animal is still at large*。句首的 “It” 是形式上的主语。

2 Thirteen Equals One

Our vicar is always raising money for one cause or another, but he has never managed to get enough money to have the church clock repaired. The big clock which used to strike the hours day and night was damaged during the war and has been silent ever since.

One night, however, our vicar woke up with a start, the clock was striking the hours! Looking at his watch, he saw that it was one o'clock, but the bell struck thirteen times before it stopped. Armed with a torch, the vicar went up into the clock tower to see what was going on. In the torchlight, he caught sight of a figure whom he immediately recognized as Bill Wilkins, our local grocer.

'Whatever are you doing up here Bill?' asked the vicar in surprise.

'I'm trying to repair the bell,' answered Bill. 'I've been coming up here night after night for weeks now. You see, I was hoping to give you a surprise.'

'You certainly did give me a surprise!' said the vicar. 'You've probably woken up everyone in the village as well. Still, I'm glad the bell is

working again. '

'That's the trouble, vicar, ' answered Bill.

'It's working all right, but I'm afraid that at one o'clock it will strike thirteen times and there's nothing I can do about it. '

'We'll get used to that Bill, ' said the vicar.

'Thirteen is not as good as one, but it's better than nothing. Now let's go downstairs and have a cup of tea. '

讲解

1. The big clock which used to *strike the hours* day and night...

Strike the hours: 报时。Strike 表示这个意义时, 可有下面几种用法:

The clock has just *struck*. 时钟刚敲过。

The clock has just *struck* four. 时钟刚敲过四点。

One clock has *struck*. 时钟敲一点。

The clock on the mantelpiece *strikes* twelve.

(Bernard Shaw) 壁炉台上的钟敲十二点。

It was remarked that the clock began to *strike*, and I began to cry, simultaneously. (Charles Dickens) 据说, 钟开始敲, 我也开始哭, 两者同时。

2. ... and has been *silent* ever since.

(钟) 从此就一直不响了。

3. ... the bell struck thirteen times *before* it stopped.

……钟敲了十三下才停住。

注意 *before* 在这里的用法。这句话，汉语不说成“钟停下来以前敲了十三下”。下面各句中的 *before*，汉语都不是用“以前”来表达：

It will be five years *before* we meet again. 我们要过五年才会再见面。

Nearly a week passed *before* the girl explained what had happened. 过了差不多一星期，那姑娘才讲述了事情发生的经过。

Evening came *before* we realized it. 不知不觉已是黄昏。

I'll do it now *before* I forget. 我现在就做，免得忘记了。

4. *Armed with a torch*, the vicar went up into the clock tower to see what was going on.

牧师带了一支手电筒，上钟楼去看看是怎么一回事。

Torch 这里不是“火把”，而是“手电筒”（electric torch）；这是英国用法，美国人叫“flashlight”。在下面一句中，*torch* 才是“火把”：

The Statue of Liberty is a bronze figure of a woman holding up a *torch*. “自由神”是一个手持火把的妇女的铜象。

在本句中，*arm* 是动词，与介词 *with* 连用，意为“装备以……”，*arm* 当名词时是“武器”、“兵器”之意，当动