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刘翊 编著

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西南财经大学出版社

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序 言

《网络英语新闻》是依照教育部制定并颁布实施的大学英语课程教学要求而编写的一套英语新闻阅读听说教材。本书适合英语专业本科生或非英语专业的研究生作为听力教材、泛读或相关选修课教材使用,也可供具有一定基础的学习者用以训练听力、拓宽知识。

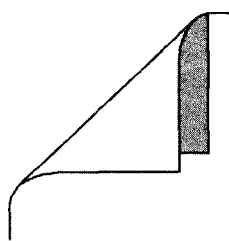
网络英语新闻素材选自美国之音英语新闻报道,共有7个主题单元,涉及科技、经济、教育、医疗保健、农业以及社会发展和文化,内容丰富多彩。其中每篇新闻报道都反映了人类在这些领域发展的最新状况和成果。书中编有详尽的词汇和多样的练习,以及必要的背景介绍,可作听力训练参考,也可作为阅读和复述教材。本书注重内容的实效性,富有知识性、新闻性和趣味性,所收录的文章题材广泛,篇幅适中;在适用于教学的同时,有利于学习者提高兴趣,开阔视野,增长见识。书中匹配的相关练习以及在线的视听一体的即时英语新闻资讯和学习支持,为学习者构建了一个英语作为国际共通语的真实环境。

本书配有相应的音频资源,学习者可以在西南财经大学出版社的网站(www.bookcj.com)上下载到本书的音频资料,从而及时了解国内国外热点新闻,置身于真实的语言环境中。由于编者水平有限,编写时间仓促,书中难免有疏漏和错误之处,敬请广大同仁和英语学习者批评指正。

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Development Report

Passage 1 Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology uses matter at the level of molecules and atoms. Researchers are finding different uses for particles with a length of one nanometer, or one-billionth of a meter. These include things like beauty products and dirt-resistant clothing. But one area where many experts believe nanotechnology holds great promise is medicine.

Last week, speakers at a program in Washington discussed using nanotechnology to improve health care in developing countries. The program took place at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Peter Singer at the University of Toronto says a nanotechnology called quantum dots could be used to confirm cases of malaria. He says it could offer a better way than the traditional process of looking at a person's blood under a microscope. In poor countries, this process is often not followed. As a result, sick people may get treated for malaria even if they do not have it. Such misuse of medicines can lead to drug resistance.

Quantum dots are particles that give off light when activated. Researchers are studying ways to program them to identify diseases by lighting up in the presence of a targeted molecule.

Experts say nanotechnology shows promise not just for diagnosing diseases, but also for treating them. Piotr Grodzinski of the National Institutes of Health talked about how nanotechnology could make drugs more effective. He talked about cancer drugs already developed with nanotechnology. He says if a drug can target a cancer locally in the body, then much less of it might be needed, and that means lower side effects.

Andrew Maynard is chief scientist for the Project on Emerging Nanotechnologies at the Woodrow Wilson Center. He noted that Brazil, India, China and South Africa are currently

doing nanotechnology research that could help poor countries.

But he also noted that there is some risk in using nano-materials. He says nanometer-sized particles behave differently in the body and the environment compared to larger particles. Experts say more investment in research is needed to better understand these risks.

Vocabulary Preparation

particle ['pɑ: tɪkl] *n.* a tiny piece of anything 粒子, 点, 极小量

quantum ['kwɒntəm] *n.* a discrete amount of something that is analogous to the quantum in quantum theory 量子, 微粒

malaria [mə 'lɛəriə] *n.* an infective disease caused by sporozoan parasites that are transmitted through the bite of an infected Anopheles mosquito; marked by paroxysms of chills and fever 疟疾, 瘴气

misuse [,mɪs'ju:z] *n. & v.* apply to a wrong thing or person; apply badly or incorrectly 误用, 错用, 滥用, 虐待

emerge [i 'mɜ: dʒ] *v.* come out into view, as from concealment; become known or apparent 显现, 浮现, 暴露, 形成, (由某种状态) 脱出, (事实) 显现出来

Background and Notes

Nanotechnology: Nanotechnology refers to a field of applied science whose theme is the control of matter on an atomic and molecular scale. Generally nanotechnology is approximately 100 nanometers or smaller and involves developing materials or devices within that size.

Woodrow Wilson International Center: Established by an act of Congress in 1968, the Wilson Center is our nation's official living memorial to President Woodrow Wilson. As both a distinguished scholar—the only American President with a Ph. D.—and a national leader, Wilson felt strongly that the scholar and the policymaker were “engaged in a common enterprise.”

The Wilson Center is a nonpartisan institute for advanced study and a neutral forum for open, serious, and informed dialogue. It brings pre-eminent thinkers to Washington for extended periods of time to interact with policymakers through a large number of programs and projects. The Center seeks to separate the important from the inconsequential and to take a historical and broad perspective on the issues

National Institutes of Health: The National Institutes of Health (NIH), a part of the

U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the primary Federal agency for conducting and supporting medical research. Helping to lead the way toward important medical discoveries that improve people's health and save lives, NIH scientists investigate ways to prevent disease as well as the causes, treatments, and even cures for common and rare diseases.

Exercises

1. Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

(1) According to the passage, nanotechnology can be used in the following field except _____.

- A. producing medicine
- B. making beauty products
- C. reducing pollution
- D. producing dirt-resistant clothing

(2) Comparing the traditional means, what is the advantage of the nanotechnology in medicine? _____

- A. It can look at a person's blood under a microscope.
- B. It can lead to drug resistance.
- C. It can reduce the remedy fee.
- D. It can help to reduce side effect.

(3) As to nanotechnology, which of the following statements is true? _____

- A. It is quite safe now.
- B. Research is made mainly to improve medicine system in the developed country.
- C. More money is needed to reduce the relative risks.
- D. Its behavior in the body and the environment is the same.

(4) What is the disadvantage of the traditional way in medicine, especially in poor countries? _____

- A. It cannot identify the diseases.
- B. It cannot treat the diseases.
- C. It may lead misdiagnosis.
- D. None of the above is correct.

(5) According to the passage, the following countries are doing nanotechnology research that could help poor countries except _____.

- A. Brazil

- B. India
- C. China
- D. Britain

2. **Write a T in front of a statement if it is true according to the text and write an F if it is false.**

- () (1) Compared with the traditional way, in diagnosing disease, the use of nano-technology can be more accurate.
- () (2) The nanotechnology is by now used only in identifying the disease.
- () (3) Investment in nanotechnology is not enough at present.
- () (4) Nano can be used in different uses.
- () (5) In tradition, the doctors use microscope to look at the person's blood.

3. **Questions for discussion**

- (1) How should we see the two sides of the high-technology?
- (2) What are the advantages and disadvantages of nanotechnology?
- (3) Find the specific examples of how the nanotechnology applies to everyday life.

Passage 2 Pollution

Every day, millions of people around the world drink water from wells that are polluted with high levels of arsenic(砷). Arsenic is an element that can be released into groundwater by soil and rocks. Over a long period of time, water from poisoned wells may lead to deadly cancers.

Chemist Abul Hussam has developed a home treatment system for drinking water in his native Bangladesh. Almost all arsenic is removed as water passes through two containers. They hold river sand, pieces of iron and wood Charcoal.

The Sono filter system is manufactured in his hometown of Kushtia, where he also did much of his research. He tells us that his first task was to develop instruments to measure the exact amounts of arsenic in the water. Early tests on two wells at home where he lived as a child found arsenic levels three to four times higher than normal. As a chemist, he felt that if he could not solve what he called the "home problem," then his education would not be very useful.

His ten-year effort to find the right mix of active materials for the Sono filter system has just earned him a one-million-dollar prize. Abul Hussam is the top winner of the two thousand seven Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability. The prize is administered by the

National Academy of Engineering in the United States.

Abul Hussam is a chemistry professor at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. He says he will give five percent of the money to the university. And he plans to use twenty-five percent of the award to develop smaller filters. Currently the system weighs almost sixty kilograms.

But Professor Hussam says he will use the remaining money to increase production of the filters in Kushtia. One hundred workers currently produce about two hundred filters a week.

About thirty thousand homes in Bangladesh are using the system. It costs families thirty-five dollars. But Professor Hussam says the filters are extremely cost-effective compared to the price of bottled water. He says each system is guaranteed to clean about one million liters of drinking water over five years. In theory, though, he says they should last around thirty-five years. He is now seeking international patent rights for the active materials in the system — and he hopes to increase their power. Abul Hussam says he also hopes that someday the Sono arsenic removal system will be available around the world.

Correction: Abul Hussam is seeking patent protection for the combination of active materials in the system, not the materials themselves.

Vocabulary Preparation

charcoal [ˈtʃɑ:kəʊl] *n.* a carbonaceous material obtained by heating wood or other organic matter in the absence of air 木炭

manufacture [mænjuˈfæktʃə] *v. & n.* put together out of components or parts 制造

administer [ədˈmɪnɪstə] *v.* work in an administrative capacity; supervise 管理, 治理, 执行

guarantee [gærənˈti:] *v.* make certain of 担保, 保证

Background and Notes

Grainger Challenge Prize for Sustainability: A scientific competition to find an economical way to remove arsenic from arsenic-contaminated groundwater. This competition is being funded by the United States National Academy of Engineering and the Grainger Foundation and is meant to help provide safe drinking water to developing countries such as Bangladesh.

Exercises

1. Choose the best answer for each of the following questions.

(1) About Abul Hussam's "home treatment system", which of the following statements is not true? _____

- A. It is used to cleanse the drinking water.
- B. It is useful to remove arsenic from the drinking water.
- C. It is a filter system.
- D. It hasn't brought any economic benefits by now.

(2) Abul Hussam used the prize to the following ways except _____ .

- A. giving to the George Mason University
- B. promoting the selling of "home treatment system"
- C. developing the smaller filters
- D. increasing production of the filters in Kushtia

(3) Abul Hussam produced the first filter system in _____.

- A. Kushtia
- B. United States
- C. Virginia
- D. Fairfax

(4) What is the first step in Hussam's research? _____

- A. Manufacturing the Sono filter system.
- B. Measuring the exact amounts of arsenic in the water.
- C. Finding the right mix of active materials for the Sono filter system.
- D. Using his prize money in the research.

(5) In theory, how many years will this Sono filter system last? _____

- A. About thirty-five years.
- B. About thirty years.
- C. About forty years.
- D. It is not mentioned in the text.

2. Write a T in front of a statement if it is true according to the text and write an F if it is false.

- () (1) Water from poisoned wells may lead to deadly cancers because of arsenic.
- () (2) The "home treatment system" is proved to last around thirty- five years.
- () (3) Our drinking water is under the pollution of arsenic.

() (4) In Hussam's opinion, the "home problem" is that his education is not useful.

() (5) When Hussam was a child, the water in his hometown was highly polluted.

3. Questions for discussion

(1) The economic development will bring about pollution. How can we deal with this matter?

(2) Do you have any good suggestion about how to reduce pollution?

(3) What's your opinion about GWP (global warming potential)?

Passage 3 Honors for Women

Seven women were honored last week in Washington for their efforts to expand democracy and women's rights in their countries. The seven from China, Guatemala (危地马拉), India and Sudan received awards from Vital Voices, a nonprofit group.

Among them was Chinese AIDS activist Gao Yaojie, an eighty-year-old retired doctor. During the late nineteen nineties, Doctor Gao discovered a public health crisis, in Henan province. Thousands of local farmers were being infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. They were selling their blood at collection centers that were using dirty needles and recycled blood.

Doctor Gao was almost not able to travel to the United States to receive the Vital Voices award. Local officials in Henan placed her under house arrest. But they let her travel after her situation received international attention.

Vital Voices also honored three other Chinese women. Guo Jianmei has led efforts to provide Chinese women with legal aid. Wang Xingjuan has created a telephone hotline for women seeking advice about their rights and ways to improve their economic situations. And Xie Lihua started Rural Women Knowing All magazine. She is also secretary general of the Cultural Development Center for Rural Women.

Vital Voices also recognized Margaret Alva from India. She has been a government minister and parliament member. She helped start a so-called "silent revolution" in an effort to guarantee that women's voices are heard in Indian politics.

Award winner Maria Pacheco is from Guatemala. She has worked to help local women start small businesses and connect with world markets.

The seventh women is Awut Deng Acuil, a leader in conflict resolution in southern Sudan. She tells us that working for peace requires self-sacrifice. Becoming a victim does not

give you hope, she says; what does is turning that experience into change for good. Among those attending the ceremony was Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, a Vital Voices board member.

Until now, Vital Voices has only honored women. But this year it gave an award to Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh(孟加拉国[亚洲]). He won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for starting the Grameen Bank, a leader in micro-lending, giving small loans as a way to fight poverty. The bank directs most of its services to women.

Vocabulary Preparation

- honor [ˈɒnə] *v.* bestow honor or rewards upon 尊敬, 授予荣誉
- activist [ˈæktivist] *n.* a militant reformer 活动分子, 积极分子
- rural [ˈrʊər(ə)l] *adj.* living in or characteristic of farming or country life; relating to rural areas 农村的
- parliament [ˈpɑ:ləmənt] *n.* a legislative assembly in certain countries 议会, 国会
- conflict [ˈkɒnflikt] *n.* an open clash between two opposing groups (or individuals) 冲突, 矛盾, 争执

Background and Notes

AIDS: AIDS, short for acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, is a disease caused by a virus. The virus that causes AIDS is called HIV, short for human immunodeficiency virus. HIV can affect your brain and destroy your body's ability to fight off illnesses. AIDS is not the thing that kills people. It is other infections that the body cannot fight off.

Secretary General: A person who is a chief administrator (as of the United Nations); The Secretary-General is appointed by the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Security Council.

Exercises

1. **Write a T in front of a statement if it is true according to the text and write an F if it is false.**
- () (1) Doctor Gao didn't travel to United States to receive the Vital Voices.
- () (2) Vital Voices honored three Chinese women this time.
- () (3) Vital Voices has only honored women this time.
- () (4) Four persons received awards from Vital Voice in this passage.
- () (5) Margaret Alva tried to let the women in India had a say in the political

matter.

2. *Paraphrase*

(1) Wang Xingjuan has created a telephone hotline for women seeking advice about their rights and ways to improve their economic situations.

(2) She helped start a so-called “silent revolution” in an effort to guarantee that women’s voices are heard in Indian politics.

(3) He won the Nobel Peace Prize last year for starting the Grameen Bank, a leader in micro-lending, giving small loans as a way to fight poverty.

3. *Questions for discussion*

(1) Do you want to become or marry a strong women?

(2) Should women be completely equal to men?

(3) What’s the difference between women and men psychologically and physically?

Passage 4 Voxiva

Recently we talked about Voxiva, a provider of information technology systems for health workers in poor countries. This Washington-based company has been working for three years with the government of Rwanda(卢旺达). Voxiva created a system that uses mobile phones and other devices for health workers to report and share information on HIV/AIDS.

That same technology will now be used in a wider effort to fight the deadly virus in other African countries. A campaign launched by a partnership of public and private organizations aims to use cell phones to improve HIV/AIDS care.

The ten-million-dollar campaign is called “Phones for Health”. Health workers will use mobile phones loaded with special software to enter information into a central computer system. The workers will also be able to use the Motorola handsets to receive treatment guidelines, order medicines and get training materials.

Phones for Health was announced in February at the GSM World Congress in Barcelona, Spain. GSM is the global system for mobile communications, a cellular technology used for voice and data services.

In addition to Voxiva, other partners include the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, started by President Bush, and the GSM Association. This is a trade group that represents more than seven hundred mobile phone operators in two hundred eighteen countries. MTN, the leading operator in Africa, is another partner in the effort, as are Motorola

and the Accenture company

The chairman of Voxiva, Paul Meyer, says the program will start in Rwanda and Nigeria. It will then spread to eight other countries over the next several years. The campaign is currently working to identify which African countries will be included, he says.

The campaign will work closely with health ministries, international health groups and others. In the future, the Phones for Health program could be expanded further in Africa and to parts of Asia.

Paul Meyer says the technology offers a way for countries to bring together separate information systems for diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS. As a result, he says, limited health resources could be used more effectively.

Vocabulary Preparation

launch [lɔ:ntʃ] *v.* begin with vigor 开始

guideline ['gaidlain] *n.* a rule or principle that provides guidance to appropriate behavior 指导方针

emergency [i'mə:dʒənsi] *n.* a sudden unforeseen crisis (usually involving danger) that requires immediate action 紧急情况, 突发事件

currently [ˈkʌrəntli] *adv.* at this time or period; now 现在, 一般

resource [ri'zɔ:s] *n.* (pl.) available source of wealth; a new or reserve supply that can be drawn upon when needed 资源

Background and Notes

GSM: Global System for Mobile communication. It is a digital mobile telephone system that is widely used in Europe and other parts of the world. GSM uses a variation of Time Division Multiple Access (TDMA) and is the most widely used of the three digital wireless telephone technologies (TDMA, GSM, and CDMA). GSM digitizes and compresses data, then sends it down a channel with two other streams of user data, each in its own time slot. It operates at either the 900 MHz or 1,800 MHz frequency band.

Exercises

1. Write a *T* in front of a statement if it is true according to the text and write an *F* if it is false.

() (1) Voxiva is a government department.

() (2) More African countries would be involved in this program.

- () (3) Voxiva aims to that the African countries can share information about diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and AIDS.
- () (4) “Phone for Health” tries to share the medical information among health workers in poor countries.
- () (5) Voxia will cooperate with health ministries and international health groups.

2. Paraphrase

(1) This Washington-based company has been working for three years with the government of Rwanda. Voxiva created a system that uses mobile phones and other devices for health workers to report and share information on HIV/AIDS.

(2) A campaign launched by a partnership of public and private organizations aims to use cell phones to improve HIV/AIDS care.

(3) Health workers will use mobile phones loaded with special software to enter information into a central computer system.

3. Questions for discussion

- (1) What should we do in order to better adapt to the information age?
- (2) What are brought about by the development of technology?
- (3) Find some examples of information sharing.

Passage 5 The Mo Ibrahim Prize

Sudanese billionaire Mo Ibrahim believes there is nothing more important for Africa than good leadership. Mister Ibrahim has created the world's richest prize, worth five million dollars over ten years. The winner will also receive two hundred thousand dollars every year for life. An additional two hundred thousand dollars a year will be made available for good causes supported by the winner.

The Mo Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership will be awarded for the first time in October. Former heads of state and government from African countries south of the Sahara Desert will be considered. Candidates must have left office in the past three years and have shown good political leadership.

Former United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan will lead the committee that will choose the winner. The committee will examine research from a special rating system. The Ibrahim Index for African Governance will measure national progress in several areas. They include economic and social development, peace and security, human rights, democracy