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# 前 言

根据高等学校外语专业教学指导委员会所编制的最新教学大纲,大学英语专业一年级学生和大学非英语专业学生必须把听懂VOA作为一项基本听力要求。具体要求是:听懂VOA慢速新闻广播和文化节目,抓住主要内容,能在15分钟内听写根据已学知识编写而成或选用的录音材料(词数150个左右,念四遍,语速为每分钟100个单词,错误率不超过10%)。

本书听力材料为标准美国英语,语音标准、清晰、优美,速度适中,而且不带任何美国地方口音,所以它既是上乘的听力材料,又是喜爱美语口音者的最佳模仿材料。

本书包含八个栏目,分别是:“美国百图”(American Mosaic),这是一个内容比较丰富的栏目,包括美国经济、社会、文化及美国人熟知的成语故事、历史故事、人文景观等等,语汇丰富;“社会发展”(Development Report),报道美国及世界各国在科学、人文、经济、产业等各个方面取得的进步,报道人们正在形成的最新观念;“环境保护”(Environment Report),这是当今的热门话题,也是各国科学家的科研重点,涵盖TOEFL、GRE、中国的大学四、六级英语考试的词汇,对学生扩大词汇以及增强对这些词汇的听力理解、语篇理解有很大帮助;“异域探索”(Exploration),讲述一些尖端领域的新发现,例如医学、生物学、天文学等新发现,拓宽人们的视野,使人们重新认识世界;“风云人物”(People in America),讲述美国现代和历史上为国家作出独特贡献的人物故事,使您对这些人物有感性的了解;“科学报道”(Science Report),报道科技领域新成果,一些词典上还未出现的新词会在这里出现;“世界报道”(World Report),这些新闻特写报道世界各地的发展进步,也曝光世界的黑暗面,涉及生活、文化方面的词汇较多;“美国

历史 ( American History ) , 以浅显、生动的语言 , 讲述发生在美国历史上的重大事件 , 听来如闻其声 , 如见其人 , 帮助您了解美国的过去。

本书根据材料编出数种题型 , 有选择题、填空题、简答题、是非判断题、表格填空题等等 , 各种题型都是针对初级听力中的难点设计的 , 如数字、常见地名、人名理解等。本书针对听力要素 , 即 “ What , Who , Why , How , Where , When ” , 培养系统科学的听力理解习惯 , 有助于听者达到中级听力程度。中学高年级、大学低年级学生可以把它当作听力辅助教材。本书也适用于自学听力人士。

作为同等难度的听力材料 , 本书无听力难易之差 , 各篇之间的差别在于篇幅略有不同 , 词汇涉及面各有偏重。本书帮助您尽快听懂美国之音的特别英语节目 , 它的词汇全部在这个节目的词汇范围中。

全书分为文字部分和录音部分。文字部分就在本书中 , 书的前半部分是生词和练习题 , 后半部分是录音的文字材料和练习答案。您在使用中可先熟悉词汇 , 再根据词汇猜测将会听到的内容 , 然后听录音。各人的学习方法不同 , 最普遍的做法是听一遍 , 然后做习题 , 再听一遍 , 修正补充已做的习题 , 至多听两至三遍 , 做完全部习题 , 个别填空题可以反复听。本书配有录音磁带 , 预计听完全书需半个学期。

在本书的编辑和录音带的制作过程中 , 编者得到了苏州大学外国语学院电教室主任、高级工程师石以人老师在网络和软件等技术方面给予的大力支持 , 在此表示衷心的感谢。

编者

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# 1. American Mosaic

- 1) Leap Year
- 2) Erin Brockovich
- 3) Computer Virus
- 4) Memorial Day ( A )
- 5) Memorial Day ( B )
- 6) National Guard
- 7) Parachuting ( A )
- 8) Parachuting ( B )
- 9) Senate
- 10) Winterthur
- 11) Easter Holiday ( A )
- 12) Easter Holiday ( B )

## 1) Leap Year

### Vocabulary :

leap year

闰年

calendar / 'kælɪndə(r) / n .

年历

priest / pri:st / n .	祭司
exception / ɪk'sepʃən / n .	例外
pope / pəʊp / n .	主教
Julian / 'dʒu:ljən /	(人名)
Julius Caesar / 'dʒu:ljəs 'si:zə /	恺撒(古罗马统帅)
Gregory / 'gregəri /	(人名)
Easter / 'i:stə(r) /	复活节

### Exercises :

I. Tell if the following statements are true or false. Write " T " for " true " and " F " for " false " :

- ( ) The last day of the past February was twenty-eighth.
- ( ) " Leap Day " is added to some years to make the year of 365 days.
- ( ) Julia Caesar was the first man to develop a solar calendar.
- ( ) There is one leap day every four hundred years.
- ( ) Julia Caesar made a great mistake while writing the calendar.
- ( ) Gregorian Calendar was invented by a Pope.
- ( ) Today we are using Julian calendar.

II. Fill in the blanks with the missing words you hear on the tape :

\_\_\_\_\_ calendar continued to have leap days \_\_\_\_\_, with an \_\_\_\_\_. Years \_\_\_\_\_ were leap years only if they could be \_\_\_\_\_. So this year is a leap year, but \_\_\_\_\_ was not. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ will be the first leap day in a century year since

the year \_\_\_\_\_. The next leap day to fall at the beginning of a century will be \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2) Erin Brockovich

### Vocabulary :

accuse / ə'kju:z /	v.	指控
chromium / 'krəʊmjəm /	n.	铬
uterine / 'ju:təraɪn /	a.	子宫的
asthma / 'æzmə /	n.	哮喘
hexavalent / ,heksə'veɪlənt /	a.	六价的
microgram / 'maɪkrəʊgræm /	n.	毫克
Erin Brockovich / 'erɪn 'brɒkəvɪtʃ /		(人名)
Shep O'Neal / 'ʃep əʊ'ni:l /		(人名)
Hinckley / 'hɪŋkli /		(地名)
Hodgkin's Disease		(病名)

### Exercises :

Choose the best answer to complete each of the following statements :

1. There was a movie \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a) telling a story about Erin Brockovich who won a prize
  - b) winning the highest box office so far in the United States
  - c) telling a story about a woman who helped people with gaining money from an energy company
  - d) telling about people in a town accusing a company of violating the smuggling law
2. The company's name was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a ) Pacific Gas and Electric                      b ) Chromium VI  
 c ) Hinckley                                              d ) Shep O'Neal
3. The chromium victims suffered from many diseases , except \_\_\_\_\_.
- a ) breast cancer                                              b ) uterine cancer  
 c ) Hodgkin's Disease                                              d ) diabetes
4. The energy company paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- a ) 300 ,000                                              b ) 300 000 000  
 c ) 303 000                                              d ) 303 000 000
5. Scientists thought that \_\_\_\_\_.
- a ) it was impossible that hexavalent chromium leak caused people's diseases of all kinds  
 b ) it was possible that hexavalent chromium leak caused people's diseases  
 c ) hexavalent chromium was responsible for asthma  
 d ) hexavalent chromium in groundwater causes many health problems
6. Officials at the United States Environmental Protection Agency do not permit chromium six to be present in amounts larger than \_\_\_\_\_ micrograms.
- a ) 100                      b ) 200                      c ) 300                      d ) 400
7. Studies show no evidence that chromium six brings damage to \_\_\_\_\_.
- a ) liver                      b ) muscles                      c ) kidneys                      d ) nerves

### 3) Computer Virus

#### Vocabulary :

virus / 'vaɪrəs / n .

病毒

**Exercises :**

I. Choose the best answer to complete each of the following statements :

1. There is a computer virus that is called " \_\_\_\_\_ ".
  - a ) I Love You
  - b ) May Fourth
  - c ) Memory
  - d ) the Philippines
2. The virus caused as much as \$ \_\_\_\_\_ in destroyed information and lost computer work time.
  - a ) 10 000 000
  - b ) 10 000 000 000
  - c ) 100 000 000
  - d ) 1 000
3. Experts hold that \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a ) this virus inventor may live in the United States
  - b ) there are no laws against computer virus making in the Philippines
  - c ) there are laws against computer virus making in the Philippines
  - d ) as many as 50 000 computers have been attacked by the virus

II. The following phrases show how the computer virus worked , put them in the right order :

1. mailing copies of itself
2. destroying electronic pictures
3. finding the address book
4. searching and stealing secret words

**4) Memorial Day ( A )****Vocabulary :**

taps / tæps / n .

丧葬号音

funeral / 'fju:nərəl / n.	葬礼
cemetery / 'semɪtəri / n.	墓地
burial place / 'berɪəl 'pleɪs / n.	墓穴
observance / əb'zɜ:vəns / n.	仪式
rolling / 'rəʊlɪŋ / a.	起伏的
grave / greɪv / n.	墓地
cabinet / 'kæbɪnɪt / n.	内阁
supreme court n.	高等法院
monument / 'mɒnjumənt / n.	纪念碑
Memorial Day	阵亡将士纪念日
Decoration Day	纪念日
Arlington / 'ɑ:lɪŋtən /	阿灵顿(美国城市)
Virginia / və'dʒɪniə /	弗吉尼亚州
Potomac River	(美国东部河流)
William Howard Taft / 'wɪliəm 'həʊəd 'tæft /	塔夫脱(美国前总统)
John Kennedy / 'dʒɒn 'kenɪdi /	肯尼迪(美国前总统)
Vietnam Veteran / ,viət'næm 'vetərən /	越战退伍军人
Jan Scruggs / 'dʒæn 'skrʌgz /	(人名)
Maya Lin / 'maɪjɑ: 'lɪn /	(人名)
Yale University / 'jeɪl ju:nɪ'vɜ:səti /	耶鲁大学

## Exercises :

### I. Multiple choice :

- The beginning music was called “\_\_\_\_\_”.  
a) taps      b) caps      c) maps      d) maps
- The music is to honor \_\_\_\_\_.  
a) dead people      b) wars





c) 1950... 1954

d) 1950... 1953

5. The Korean War Veterans Memorial was created by \_\_\_\_\_.

a) Frank Gaylord

b) Maya Lin

c) Michael Manfredi

d) Marion Gail Weiss

6. Cut into the wall above the round Pool of Remembrance was "\_\_\_\_\_".

a) THE WOMEN IN MILITARY SERVICE FOR AMERICA MEMORIAL

b) V

c) THE LAST FOOT SOLDIER'S WAR

d) FREEDOM IS NOT FREE

7. \_\_\_\_\_ American Women were part of the country's military forces.

a) 100 800 000

b) 108 000 000

c) 10 800 000

d) 1 800 000

8. \_\_\_\_\_ was chosen to build the Women's Memorial.

a) Wilma Vaught

b) Michael Manfredi

c) Marion Gail Weiss

d) Arlington

## 6) The National Guard

### Vocabulary :

militia / mɪ'lɪʃə / n.

民兵

active duty

现役

pilot / 'paɪlət / n.

飞行员

emergency / ɪ'mɜ:dʒənsɪ / n.

紧急情况

riot / 'raɪət / n.

骚乱

conflict / 'kɒnflɪkt / n.

冲突