

第一单元 地球上生命吗？

第一部分 课文注释和参考译文

【课文注释（导言第 1 至第 7 行）】

1. Venus：金星，是第二颗距太阳最远的行星，但它同时又是太阳系中距地球最近的行星。金星亮度仅次于太阳和月球，其表面平均温度约为 475°C ，大气层二氧化碳含量约为 95%，氧气十分稀薄。高温、缺氧，因此，我们认为生命在金星上存在的可能性极小。本文作者选择金星作为其幽默小品的背景，既引人注目，又讽刺意味深长。特别是当文章结束，金星上的科学家佐格教授解释探测地球上是否存在生命这个项目的意义时，口出妙语：要是我们金星人能学会在地球的大气层中呼吸了，那我们就可以在任何地方生存了。这就使得该文读者为之捧腹之余，不得不为地球空气污染而认真思考，并尽力为战胜人类生命的威胁之一——污染而献计出力了。

2. 曼哈顿岛，美国纽约的一部分，世界商业、金融和文化中心之一。曼哈顿有许多著名的建筑和旅游胜地，如百老汇、唐人街、帝国大厦、格林威治村、时代广场、联合国总部、华尔街以及许多教堂、大学、摩天大楼、剧院等。纽约市的大部分高楼大厦都耸立在曼哈顿岛上。人们一想到纽约，通常就会想到该市的核心——曼哈顿。

1612 年，荷兰殖民总督彼得·麦纽特(Peter Minute)向印第安人买了曼哈顿岛。他用价值 24 美元的珠子、布匹和一些小玩意买下了这个面积为 31 英里长的地区。

3. manage to; succeed in accomplishing or handling, esp.

with an effort 经过努力，终于成功获得或处理好了某事 例如：

We finally managed to get there in time.

我们终于及时赶到了那里。

In spite of their insults, I managed to keep my temper.

纵然他们侮辱我，我仍能克制住自己的怒气。

4. ever since; from then till now 从那以后 例如：

Dick caught a cold on Monday and has been in bed ever since.

迪克星期一患了感冒，从那以后就一直卧床不起。

5. be named after; be given the same name (of) as 以……命名 例如：

This village is named after Comrade Lei Feng.

这个村子是以雷锋同志的名字命名的。

The teaching building is named after Dr. Yan Fuqing, first president of our university.

那栋教学楼是以我校首任校长颜福庆博士命名的。

6. 20000 light years ago : 光年(a light year) 是指以每秒钟186282 英里的速度运行一年所越过的距离。在非科学技术题材或不是讨论科技问题的文章、语境里,人们使用‘光年’,所要表达的‘很长很长时间’‘长得无法计算’的意思。本文作者寓庄于谐,信手拈来‘光年’二字,貌似‘幽默一默’,旨在加深印象。

【参考译文】

(这是一篇幽默小品,但你读完以后一定会发现,作者写这篇文章是极为严肃的。)

地球上生命吗？

本星期金星上全球振奋，因为金星上的科学家向地球发射卫星获得了首次成功，而且卫星还在不断地发回信号和图片。

卫星对准发射的地区叫曼哈顿，它是以金星上伟大的科学家

曼哈顿教授命名的，因为在两万光年之前该教授用望远镜首次发现了这个地区。

【课文注释(第 8 行至第 41 行)】

7. as to the feasibility of a manned flying saucer landing on Earth

as to: about, concerning 关于, 至于 例如:

I don't know anything as to the others.

至于其他, 我一无所知。

feasibility: the quality of being feasible 可行性

可行性报告 :a report of feasibility 又如:

The plan is so complex that its feasibility is doubtful.

那个计划太错综复杂了, 其可行性有问题。

manned 是过去分词作定语, 表示“载人的”; man 作动词是“配置人员”。

8. come to a / the conclusion: arrive/ at, draw, reach a / the conclusion 得出结论 例如:

I have come to the conclusion that such a teaching approach /method will surely work.

我已经得出结论, 这种教学路子/方法必然有效。

9. base ... on: build or found ... on ; use ... as a basis of 以……为基础, 基于 例如:

Fluctuating prices usually base on a fickle public's demand.

物价波动往往是因大众需求不稳定而引起的。

His conclusion is based on practical experiences.

他的结论是基于实际经验。

10. for one thing: in the first place 首先 (常用于分述原因, 接着常用 for another) 例如:

I didn't think much of his speech : for one thing, the subject

was uninteresting, for another, his delivery was not so good.

我认为他的演讲并不怎么样。首先，题材枯燥无味，加上他讲得也不太好。

11. be composed of; be made up of 由……构成‘构成’的主动形式可用 constitute of 或 consist of 试比较：

A car is mainly composed of a body . an engine. and four wheels.

小车主要由车身、发动机和四个轮子构成。

Seven days constitute a week.

七天构成一星期。

Cake consists of flour, sugar and some other ingredients.

蛋糕由面粉、糖和一些其他成分制成。

12. as far as ... be concerned : as for; in respect of 就……而论 例如：

As far as they themselves are concerned they are safe and sound.

至于他们自身，则安然无恙

13. hover over; keep float over 在上方飘浮；笼罩 例如：

The helicopter hovered over the spot where the lost man had been last seen.

直升机在最后一次见到那个失踪者的地方的上空盘旋。

14. We shall have to take our own oxygen with us, which means a much heavier flying saucer than we originally planned.

我们将不得不随身携带所需要的氧气，结果是，飞碟就会要比我们原先计划的要重得多。 have to 表示客观形势所迫，不得已而为之。 which引导的是非限制性定语从句，对主句所阐述的内容作进一步说明，翻译时不妨译成结果状语从句。

15. Consolidated Edison Belt :爱迪生联合电气公司带。这是

作者杜撰的一个空气污染带称号，是作者用幽默的笔调寓庄于谐的一种有效手段。这个虚构的污染带把爱迪生联合电气公司与范爱伦辐射带掐头去尾，合二而一。范爱伦辐射带是指环绕地球上空的辐射带，而爱迪生电器公司则是生产和销售电器的公司，由于该公司用煤作燃料发电，导致了严重的空气污染，致使烟雾笼罩该公司上空。作者敬赠的雅号，令熟悉其背景的读者忍俊不禁，拍案叫绝。

16. stick up: project upwards; stand upright or on end 高耸
例如：

What is the building that sticks up in front of the airport?
机场前耸立的那栋大楼是什么楼？

17. give off: send out, emit (light, smell, etc.) 发出，散发
例如：

The gas gives off an unpleasant smell.
煤气散发出一种恶臭。

18. set back: cause to put off or get behind schedule; reverse the progress of 阻碍，逆转 例如：

Bad weather set back the construction of the building by six weeks.

天气太坏了，致使大楼的建设推迟了六个星期。

My watch goes fast. I'll set it back by five minutes.

我的表走快了，我要把它拨慢五分钟。

【参考译文】

由于天气条件极为有利，信号极为清晰，金星科学家们从而获得了有关载人飞碟能否在地球上着陆的宝贵资料，于是在金星理工学院举行了一次记者招待会。

“根据上周发射的卫星所提供的资料”，佐格教授说：“我们已经得出结论：地球上没有生命。”

“这您是怎么知道的呢？”《金星晚报》的科学记者问。

“首先，曼哈顿地区的地球表面均由坚固的混凝土构成，所以，那里什么东西也无法生长；此外，大气层中充满了一氧化碳和其他致命的气体，任何人呼吸了这种空气都不可能幸存。”

“这对我们的飞碟计划来说又意味着什么呢？”

“这意味着我们必须随身携带所需的氧气，这样一来，飞碟就要比我们原先计划的重得多。”

“你们在研究中有发现其他什么危险呢？”

“请看这张照片，诸位看到在地球表面上方飘浮的这片深黑色的云层吧？我们把它叫爱迪生联合电气公司带。虽然我们还不知道它含有什么成分，但它很可能会给我们带来许多麻烦，我们还必须做更多的试验，然后才能把金星人送往地球。”

“这边诸位可以看到像是一条河似的东西，不过卫星探测的结果表明它已被污染，河水不适于饮用。这意味着我们必须自己带水，也就会要给飞碟增加更多的重量了。”

“先生，照片上那些小小的黑点是什么？”

“我们也不清楚，它们好像是一些沿着某些轨道运动的金属微粒。它们排放气体，发出噪声，而且不断地相互碰撞。那儿有许多这样的轨道，很多这样的金属微粒；要使飞碟在那儿着陆而不被某一颗微粒撞毁很难办到。”

“那些笔直竖立的石笋状凸出物是什么东西？”

“它们是某种夜间会发光的花岗岩结构，格洛姆教授把它们叫作摩天大厦，因为它们好像已经摸到了天。”

“如果您说的都是事实，那飞碟计划也就要推迟好几年吗？”

【课文注释(第 42 行至文末)】

19. ... but we shall proceed as soon as the Grubstart gives us the added funds.

但是，只要格拉布贷款基金会把追加的经费拨给我们，我们就

会马上继续这个计划。Grubstart 是本文作者杜撰的词。美语中有一个词叫“grubstake”，是指一种以分享探矿者成果为条件而提供资助的机构。作者改 grubstake 为 Grubstart，指的是一种虚构的金星上的政府机构，该机构负责为金星上的科研单位、探险计划提供经费。proceed 多指继续做某事 (go forward, go on), proceed with sth, 则可指开始 (start)。也可指继续 continue with it, 而 proceed from sth. 表示的是来到 (come from) 或发生 (arise from)。试比较以下三个例句：

(1) Let's proceed to the next item.

我们继续议程上的下一个项目吧。

(2) Please proceed with your explanation.

请继续解释。

(3) People suffered much from the famine, plague and other evils that proceeded from the war.

人们大大地忍受了战争带来的饥饿、瘟疫和各种弊病之苦。

20... why are we spending billions and billions of zilches to land a flying saucer on Earth when there is no life there?

既然地球上没有生命，那我们为什么还要花费亿万个零元向那儿发射飞碟呢？这个句子中有三点宜细加体会。第一，spend (money, efforts, time) 多用 on sth. 或 (in) doing sth., 但近几十年来，英语中也出现了 to do sth. 的用法，且这个用法已渐为人们所接受、所运用。第二，zilch，是俚语词，其意义为零 (zero) 或什么也没有 (nothing)，句子谈的是科研经费问题，故增译为“零元”。读者读到“亿万个零元”时，不难领会作者幽默的笔触。第三，when 引导的状语从句并不修饰时间，而是表示推理条件 (now that)。在学习大学英语过程中，我们会发现越来越多的“定语从句”，并不受传统语法的起修饰作用的局限，而是隐含着诸如因果、条件、前提、结果、转折等逻辑关系。我们在课文注释和参考

译文、英译汉参考译文和译法指导中也已多次加以强调。

【参考译文】

“是呀，但是，只要格拉布贷款基金会把追加的经费拨给我们，我们就会马上继续这个计划。”

“佐格教授，既然地球上没有生命，那我们为什么还要花费亿万个零元向那儿发射飞碟呢？”

“因为如果我们金星人能学会在地球大气层中呼吸的话，那我们就可以在任何地方生存了。”

第二部分 习题详解

I. Ⅲ略。

【阅读理解】

II.

1. c 2. b 3. a 4. d 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c

【词汇】

IV.

1. extremely 2. hazard 3. pollute 4. originally
5. indicate 6. survive 7. atmosphere 8. conclusion
9. proceed 10. conference

V.

1. If you had paid attention to what he said, you could have avoided repeating such a bad mistake.

你要是那时注意他所说的话，就可能避免重犯这样的一个错误了。(事实是你因为没有注意，重犯了错误。)

2. Mr. White didn't know I was in his office. He was too busy to notice me.

怀特先生那时并不知道我在他的办公室。他太忙，没有注意

到我。

3. On their way home from the party Nancy asked her mother if she had noticed anything strange in the way their hostess behaved.

宴会散了，在回家的路上，南希问她母亲是否注意到了女主人的行为举止有什么异常之处。

4. "Pay attention to what you are doing," the teacher said. "You should not let your thoughts wander."

“注意你们在学习什么啊”，老师说。“莫让思想开小差！”

(句中动词 do, 替代了 study)

5. Mrs. Wolfe noticed a great change in her husband when he returned home from a business trip to Europe.

沃尔夫太太注意到了她丈夫从欧洲出差回家后变了一个样。

6. Obviously too much attention has been paid to the details. 显然，过于注意细节了。

VI.

1. *The new English-Chinese dictionary* I lent her cost me almost ten yuan.

我借给他的那本《新英汉词典》值将近十元钱。

2. When very young Joe often wondered why his mother wouldn't spend a penny on herself.

乔年轻时，常常不知道母亲为什么不为她自己花一分钱。

3. Does it cost much to have the recorder repaired?

把录音机修好，要花很多钱吗？

4. Peter's aunt is used to a simple way of living. No wonder she doesn't want to spend so much money on food or clothing.

彼得的婶婶素来生活简朴。难怪她不想在吃或穿上面花太多的钱。

5. Jane paid less than twelve pounds for her shoes.

珍妮买那双鞋花了不到十二英镑。

6. The thief was about to leave the store when he was stopped and asked if the articles under his arm had been paid for.

那个小偷正要走出店门就被人拦住了，问他夹在腋下的东西是不是付了款。

7. It goes without saying that everyone has to pay to get into the cinema.

要看电影，就得花钱买票，这是不言而喻的。

8. Dick's uncle has to pay for his education as his father has come down in the world.

由于迪克的父亲中道败落了，他叔叔就不得不为他支付教育费用了。

9. Electricity will probably cost more than it did last year.

电费可能会比去年高些。

10. In the past few years the factory has spent a lot of money improving its working conditions.

过去几年里，这家工厂花了很多钱改善工作条件。

(注意 in the past few years, 是指“含糊的过去”，如 before, long ago, in the past 等，可以使用现在完成时)

VII.

1. Industrial cities such as Chicago and Detroit have severely polluted the waters of the Great Lakes.

像芝加哥和底特律这样的工业区城市严重地污染了大湖区的水域。

2. The doctor's report indicated that her death was due to heart disease.

诊断书表明：她死于心脏病。

(due to 是表语性短语形容词)

3. Medical researchers reached the conclusion long ago that smoking is a serious hazard to health.

医学研究人员很早以前就得出了结论：吸烟严重危害健康。

4. George Washington, the first President of the United States, is known as the Father of His Country.

美国的首任总统乔治·华盛顿被称为美国的国父。

5. The fire that broke out in the plant during the night was still seen giving off a lot of smoke the next morning.

那家工厂那天夜里爆发的那场火，次日早晨仍然可看到还在冒烟。

(试把本句改为主动语态)

6. They have invented a new type of washing machine.

他们发明了一种新型的洗衣机。

7. The movie we are going to see is said to be based on the life story of an American general.

据说，我们将要看的这部影片是以一位美国将军的生平事迹为素材的。

8. The fence along the middle of the road is intended to protect vehicles from crashing into each other.

马路中央的那些栏杆，是想要防止车辆相互碰撞。

9. Supporters of gun control have worked for many years to ban the sale of deadly handguns in America.

为了禁止在美国销售致命的手枪，控制武器的支持者们多年来已经作出了努力。

10. My native town, which was originally rather small, has now been built into one of the biggest cities in the province.

我的故乡原来相当小，可现在已经建成我省最大的城市之一。

11. The twin towers of the World Trade Center stick up over Manhattan Island in New York City.

世界贸易中心的双塔，高高地耸立在纽约市曼哈顿岛之上。

12. The speaker said something about the actors first and then proceeded to talk about the film.

发言人首先谈了关于演员阵营的问题，接着又谈到了那部影片。

13. We had a long debate as to whether we should spend so much money on space technology.

关于我们是否应该在太空技术方面花那么多的钱，我们那时进行了长时间的辩论。

14. A plate dropped from her fingers and smashed / got smashed / was smashed into pieces on the kitchen floor.

一只碟子脱手而落，在厨房地板上摔得粉碎。

VIII.

1. The earth's surface is mostly composed of water.

地球表面大部分由水构成。

2. Ice and snow on the roads both create a hazard to driving during the Christmas season.

圣诞期间，道路上冰雪交汇，导致了开车的危险。

3. All the other family members died . only the youngest child survived (from) the earthquake. / The youngest child survived the earthquake, but the rest of the family died.

家里其他人都在地震中丧生，只有最小的那个小孩得以幸存。

4. Crime has made some streets in America unfit to live.

犯罪使得美国的某些街道不宜居住。

5. Several cars crashed into each other on the highway due to the fog.

由于浓雾，一些小车在公路上互相碰撞。

6. The rider of the motorbike make a signal with his arm for a left turn.

那个骑机器脚踏车的人伸了伸胳膊，打了一个左拐的手势。

【构词法】

IX.

Verb	Noun	Verb	Noun
accept	acceptance	guide	guidance
appear	appearance	perform	performance
arrive	arrival	propose	proposal
depend	dependence	refuse	refusal
differ	difference	remove	removal
disturb	disturbance	sign	signature
exist	existence	survive	survival
confer	disturbance	insist	insistence

X.

1. A dressmaker is a person whose job is making women's dress and other clothing.

2. A troublemaker is a person who often makes trouble for others.

3. A weedkiller is a person who often makes trouble for others.

4. A recordholder is one who holds the record for some achievement.

5. A timekeeper is a person or thing that keeps time.

6. A landowner is a person who owns the land.

7. A bookseller is a person who sells books.

8. A shipbuilder is a person whose work is building ships.

9. A taximan is a person whose job is to drive a taxicab.

10. A can opener is an instrument for opening cans.

【结构】

XI.

1. Henry couldn't take part in the sport meet because of his broken leg.

2. We were sorry to hear that Mr. Davidson had to retire at the age of fifty because of his poor health.

3. They didn't go to the concert because of the heavy snow.

4. It was because of the noise that I couldn't fall asleep.

XII.

1. It is rather difficult to pronounce.

2. It is easy to explain as far as I know.

3. It is as difficult to manage as Henry's.

4. It will be fit to wear if you shorten the sleeves.

5. To tell the truth, it is impossible to answer.

6. It is not possible to see in advance.

XIII.

1. ____ as far as I am concerned.

2. ____ as far as we students are concerned.

3. As far as the method is concerned, ____.

4. As far as ability is concerned, ____.

5. ____ as far as the acting and music are concerned.

6. As far as the structure is concerned, ____.

【完形填空】

(A)

Scientists on Venus are discussing the feasibility of landing a

manned flying saucer on Earth, based on information received from a satellite. Their conclusions are that the planet Earth is unfit for habitation because of its highly polluted condition. For one thing, deadly gases in the atmosphere make it extremely dangerous to breathe. For another, the water, also polluted, has become undrinkable. For these reasons, it would be difficult for anyone to survive on Earth. Undoubtedly the flying saucer program will be set back under these conditions, but the Venusian scientists are determined to proceed with their exploration of the planet Earth.

译文

金星上的科学家们在根据从卫星上获得的信息，讨论载人飞碟在地球着陆的可行性问题。他们的结论是：由于地球上严重污染的情况，地球这颗行星不宜人类居住。首先，地球大气层中致命的多种气体使得呼吸非常危险。其次，水也被污染了，不宜饮用。正因为这些原因，任何人要在地球上生存都会十分困难。毫无疑问，在这样一些条件下，飞碟计划将会要推迟，但金星上的科学家们决心把探索地球这颗行星继续下去。

(B)

Some scientists think that man may not find life pleasant in the world of the future. Others think that he may not be able to live in it at all. Everyone must know that the world is in danger. Here is one example of the problem. At one time there were 1300 different plants, trees and flowers in Holland, but now only 866 remain. The others have been destroyed by modern man. We are changing the earth, the air and water, and everything that grows and lives. If we continue like this we shall destroy ourselves.

What will happen in the future? Perhaps it is more important to ask "What must we do now?" The people who will be living in the world of tomorrow are the young of today. A lot of them know that it is necessary to take care of their environment. Many are helping to save our world.

There are 15 million young people in many countries who study man and the country around him. They take steps to prevent pollution in the air, on land and at sea. They plant trees and help to protect wild birds and animals.

But everyone, not only young people, must work to save our world.

注释

(1)代词用法 it 代的是 the world, he 和 him 是 man 的代词的主格和宾格形式。

(2) plant 不宜理解为“植物”,因为 trees and flowers 也是植物,应为狭义的“草木”;它接受数字 1300 和形容词 different 的修饰,表示的是多少种不同的种类,词义同于 herb。同样, country 宜理解为国土(与 the earth 照应); wild birds and animals 宜理解为野生鸟类和其他野生动物。

译文

有的科学家认为:人类可能会发现未来世界的生活并不会令人愉快,也有的科学家认为:人类可能根本不能在未来世界生活下去。大家都应该认识到,世界正处于危险之中。下面是这种危险的一个例证。荷兰曾经有 1300 种不同的草木、树和花,而现在却只剩下 866 种,其余的则被现代人类破坏掉了。我们在改变着大地、大气和水,以及一切生长着和生活着的动植物。如果我们还像这样继续下去的话,我们终将毁灭我们自己。

未来将会发生些什么事情?也许,问一问“我们必须做些什么

事情”倒更为重要些。将要生活在明日世界里的人是今日世界里的青年人。他们中有许多人懂得保护好他们的环境十分必要。他们中有许多人在为拯救人类世界而作出努力。

在众多的国家中,有 1500 万青年人在从事人类及其周围国家的研究工作。他们采取措施防止大气污染、陆地污染和海洋污染。他们植树,并且为保护野生鸟类和其他野生动物而作出努力。

但是,不应该只是青年人,而是我们大家都应该为拯救我们的世界而努力。

【汉译英】

1. Gases such as carbon monoxide, emitted by factories and automobiles, have seriously polluted the atmosphere.

2. The industrial engineer's letter indicates that he doubts the feasibility of the plan.

3. Many parents in the United States set aside a fund for their children's education before they are born.

4. I have made sure that her conclusion is based on facts.

5. The medical team, composed of three doctors and two nurses, set off for the mountain(ous) area a few days ago.

6. The village is named after the high mountain that stands in front of it.

7. He was ill for about a week, which has really set him back in his studies.

8. The war that broke out between the North and South in 1861 is known in history as the American Civil War.

【英译汉】

1. 烟雾, 尽管曾经是洛杉矶最具诱惑力的特产, 现在, 从蒙大拿州的比尤到纽约市, 已经是无处不有, 遍布全国了。而且, 人们越来越习惯于呼吸污染了的空气, 要他们再去呼吸别的什么空气