
自学英语

社会科学文献出版社

Contents

目 录

Lesson 1: Text A: The Youngest Bank Robber / 1
Text B: A Robbery / 3
Conversation: A Robbery / 5
Grammar: The Past Participle / 6
Exercises (Past participles, perfect infinitives) / 7
辅导材料 / 9

Lesson 2: Text A: Grace Darling / 13
Text B: Florence Nightingale / 16
Conversation: In the Hospital / 18
Grammar: Use of “it” / 19
Exercises (Use of “it”, translation C – E, etc.) / 20
辅导材料 / 21

Lesson 3: Text A: The Letter / 26
Text B: The Story of Adam and Eve / 29
Conversation: American Holidays / 31
Grammar: Phrasal Verbs / 32
Exercises (Phrasal verbs, etc.) / 33
辅导材料 / 34

Lesson 4: Text A: Angel Falls / 38
Text B: Crossing a Continent / 41
Conversation: At the Airport / 43
Grammar: Conditional Sentences (I) / 44
Exercises (Conditional sentences, etc.) / 46
辅导材料 / 48

Lesson 5: Text A: The Man Who Missed the Plane / 52
Text B: A Letter / 55
Conversation: Arriving in a New Country / 57
Grammar: Conditional Sentences (II) / 58
Exercises (Conditional sentences, etc.) / 59
辅导材料 / 60

Lesson 6: Text A: Exploring the Ocean Depth / 65
Text B: The Sea / 68
Conversation: Going to a Conference / 70
Grammar: Passive Infinitive / 71
Exercises (The infinitive, - tion, etc.) / 72
辅导材料 / 74

Lesson 7: Text A: Skyscrapers / 79
Text B: Disneyland / 82
Conversation: Nuclear Power Stations / 84
Grammar: Attributive Use of the Participle / 85
Exercises (Participles, etc.) / 86
辅导材料 / 88

Lesson 8: Text A: Assassination of the Pope / 94
Text B: A Hijacking / 97
Conversation: At the Customs / 99
Grammar: Adverbial Use of the Participle / 100
Exercises (Participles, use of some verbs, etc.) / 101
辅导材料 / 103

Lesson 9: Text A: The Great Pyramid / 106
Text B: The Taj Mahal / 109
Conversation: At the Exhibition / 112
Grammar: Complex Object / 112

Exercises (Complex object, word study, etc.) / 113

辅导材料 / 116

Lesson 10: Text A: Leonardo da Vinci / 120

Text B: Beethoven / 123

Conversation: An Art Exhibition / 125

Grammar: Elliptical Sentences / 126

Exercises (Ellipsis, word study, etc.) / 127

辅导材料 / 129

Lesson 11: Text A: The French Revolution / 133

Text B: Napoleon Bonaparte / 136

Conversation: An Evening Together / 138

Grammar: Continuous Forms of the Infinitive / 139

Exercises (The infinitive, word study, etc.) / 140

辅导材料 / 142

Lesson 12: Text A: The Ancient City of Athens / 147

Text B: Alexander the Great / 150

Conversation: Going to Study Abroad / 153

Grammar: Appositive Clauses / 154

Exercises (Appositive clauses, have or get something done,
word study, etc.) / 154

辅导材料 / 157

Lesson 13: Text A: The Roman Empire / 161

Text B: Pompeii / 163

Conversation: At a Restaurant / 166

Grammar: Passive and Perfect Gerund / 166

Exercises (The gerund, word study, etc.) / 168

辅导材料 / 170

Lesson 14: Text A: Christianity / 174

Text B: Gautama, the Buddha / 177

Conversation: At the Post Office / 180

Grammar: Use of Modal Verbs in Polite Speech / 180

Exercises (Modal verbs, -ness, -ment, etc.) / 181

辅导材料 / 183

Lesson 15: Text A: The Olympic Games in Ancient Greece / 188

Text B: The Olympic Games / 190

Conversation: Sports / 193

Grammar: Use of the Gerund as Subject and Predicative / 194

Exercises (The gerund, word study, etc.) / 195

辅导材料 / 197

Lesson 16: Text A: William Shakespeare / 201

Text B: Benjamin Franklin / 204

Conversation: Studying Abroad / 207

Grammar: Inverted Word Order / 207

Exercises (Inversion, **so**, **neither**, **nor**, word study, etc.) / 208

辅导材料 / 211

Lesson 17: Text A: Australia / 215

Text B: Brazil / 218

Conversation: Japan and France / 221

Grammar: Subject Clauses / 222

Exercises (Subject clauses, word study, etc.) / 223

辅导材料 / 225

Lesson 18: Text A: The Birth of a Volcano / 229

Text B: Terrible Earthquakes / 232

Conversation: A Job Interview / 235

Grammar: Object Clauses / 235

Exercises (Object clauses, indirect speech, word – building, etc.) / 236

辅导材料 / 238

Lesson 19: Text A: Our Food / 242

Text B: Vitamins / 245

Conversation: Seeing a Doctor / 248

Grammar: Punctuation (I) / 248

Exercises (Punctuation, word – building, etc.) / 250

辅导材料 / 252

Lesson 20: Text A: Radio / 256

Text B: The Television Industry / 259

Conversation: Watching Television / 262

Grammar: Punctuation (II) / 262

Exercises (Punctuation, – ly, word study, etc.) / 264

辅导材料 / 267

Lesson 21: Text A: Computers in Use / 271

Text B: Robots / 274

Conversation: Telecommunication / 277

Grammar: Prefixes / 277

Exercises (Word – building, word study, etc.) / 279

辅导材料 / 281

Lesson 22: Text A: Murder / 285

Text B: Robbery / 288

Conversation: Newspaper / 291

Grammar: Suffixes / 291

Exercises (Word – building, word study, etc.) / 293

辅导材料 / 295

Lesson 23: Text A: Corruption / 299

Text B: Protest Demonstration / 302
Conversation: Birth Control / 304
Grammar: Capitalization / 305
Exercises (Capitalization, phrasal verbs, word study, etc.) / 306
辅导材料 / 309

Lesson 24: Text A: A Business Letter / 314
Text B: Reply to the Letter / 315
Text C: A Letter from a United Commercial Agency / 316
Text D: Memorandum / 318
Conversation: At an Exhibition / 319
Grammar: Abbreviations / 319
Exercises (Punctuation, abbreviation, word study, etc.) / 324
辅导材料 / 327

Appendixes:

1. Conversations / 331
 2. Material for Reproduction / 339
 3. Supplementary Reading: / 343
 - 1) Poems / 343
 - 2) Biographical Sketches / 347
 - 3) Brief Histories of Some Countries / 349
 - 4) Popular Science: The Moon / 352
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Vocabulary (总词汇表) / 354

前 言

1992 年应社会科学文献出版社和中央电视台社教部的邀请，编写出版了《电视英语》，在全国播放了三年（两轮）。至今已快十年了。数以百万计的英语学习者借助这套书熟练地掌握了英语这一现代生活必备的语言工具，给自己的升学和就业插上了翅膀。近十个年头过去了，一批又一批的英语学习者对这套书的钟爱并未减退。而在这十年中，国内英语学习及教材等方面有了许多新的变化，日益加快甚至赶上世界英语学习的步伐。我虽离开英语教学第一线但仍关心国内的英语教学。这些年来经常来往于美国和深圳两地，继续从事英语方面的研究，积累了大批最新资料和研究心得。正因如此，当社会科学文献出版社决定在原《电视英语》基础上编写面向广大英语自学者的教材时，我欣然接受并在较短时间内编写了这套定名为《自学英语》的教材。这套教材循序渐进，按不同学习水平和深度分为四册。

第一册：包含 1200 多词汇和最基本的语法，学完后可说打好语言的初步基础。

第二册：也包含 1200 多词汇和主要的语法项目，学完后可以看多种简写读物。此时英语已接近中学毕业水平。

第三册：也包含 1200 多新词，主要语法项目都已学到，学完可以看浅易原著，相当于大学公共英语一年级水平。

第四册：积累词汇约为 5000，加上读物中出现的词，可能有 6000 词汇，接近公英二年级水平，能看多种知识性阅读材料，经过一段熟悉过程，可以看所学专业材料。

这套书有下面主要特点：

1. 课文短小精悍：一般一二十行，生词约为十一、二个。文字尽量口语化。要尽量做到大部分都能背下来。只有把课文背熟，生词才能记住，语法也才能巩固。要反复背，定期复习，课文背得愈熟，基础打得愈好。

2. 内容反映现代生活，包括常用的现代词汇，学了就能用，所学词汇可表述现代生活的方方面面，强调语言材料的实用性。

3. 注意口语练习：每课除有对话练习、句型练习、问答等之外，还有附录

中的口语练习。练习除了起复习巩固的作用外，还可打好初步口语基础，必要时可干一些初级的口语工作。

4. 配有录音及录象资料，便利学员自学，同时保证发展正确的语音、语调，为发展全面的语言能力打好基础。录音要反复地跟，务使自己有正确的语音语调。

5. 每课有详细的辅导材料，包括课文译文，课文注释，语法讲解，语音说明，练习答案，以利自学。

6. 有丰富的附录，主要包括练习及复习材料，各类读物（包括儿歌，小诗，故事等）来发展阅读能力，并巩固所学内容。本书可说是精泛并举。

这套教材是为英语自学者设计的，对职称考试、就业应聘及其他英语学习者也有很强的普适性、针对性，同时对在校大中小学生及教师的英语学习或教学也具有参考价值。至于学习这套书要用多少时间可以因人而异。如果是中学毕业生、在家待业，时间比较充裕，一年学完四本也是可能的。（学完四本后考大学，英文可望获得高分，如考英语专业，口语也可能通过。）如中学英语没基础，这四本书可细水长流地学，学三、四年也可以。问题是真正学透，若按要求学，学完后可申请干与英语有关的工作。

除此之外，还欢迎各地培训班利用此书作教材，想必能取得良好的效果。大学公英教师也欢迎你们利用部分材料来充实教学，特别是在语言实验室中使用，可能对发展学生的语言能力起一些积极作用。

张道真

2001 年 12 月于深圳

LESSON TWENTY – ONE

Section A

Words and Expressions

chaos [ˈkeɪɒs]	混乱	identify [aɪˈdentɪfaɪ]	辨明
widespread	广泛(使用)	device [dɪˈvaɪs]	装置
terminal [ˈtɜːmɪnəl]	终端	stock	存货
link up to	和……连上	count out	数出, 点清
instant [ˈɪnstənt]	立即	present	付给(某人)
bar codes	竖线暗码	impatient [ɪmˈpeɪjənt]	不耐烦

Text A

Computers in Use

If a sudden fault made all the computers in the world go wrong, there would be immediate chaos in banks and airlines. Some hospital patients would die. Offices and factories would close down, and millions of people would lose their jobs.

If you walk down a main street, you can see how widespread computers have become. You might notice someone using a terminal which links up to a computer some distance away. Travel agents, for example, are often linked to the airlines' computers so that they can get instant information.

Many shop goods already carry bar codes. The spacing between the bars carries a code which identifies the product and its price. Some supermarkets use a special device that can “read” this code and automatically produce a receipt,

and can store the information so that the shop-keeper can tell when his stock gets low.

Most banks hold their records on a central computer. Through a special cash card, customers can draw out money from a bank any time. A card owner puts his card into a machine, which first checks that he has given the right number. If the number is correct, the machine then makes sure that he has enough money in his bank account, before counting out the cash and presenting it to him.

Computer are widely used in classrooms too. They never get impatient, which is one reason why they are good at helping people to learn. Sitting at a terminal, each pupil is able to work at the speed that is best for him or her. Computers can be programmed to deal with almost any subject.

—adapted from **Computer World**

Questions and Answers

- 1) What would happen if a sudden fault made all the computers in the world go wrong ?
(There would be immediate chaos in banks and airlines.)
- 2) What would happen to some hospital patients ?
(They might die.)
- 3) What would happen to some offices and factories ?
(Many would have to close down and millions of people would lose their jobs.)
- 4) What does all this show ?
(It shows computers are playing an important part in our daily life.)
- 5) What can you see if you walk down a main street ?
(You can see how widespread computers have become.)
- 6) What may you notice ?
(We may notice someone using a terminal which links up to a computer some distance away.)
- 7) Can you give an example ?
(Yes. Travel agents, for example, are often linked to the airlines' computers so that they can get instant information.)
- 8) Did you ever notice some shop goods already carry bar codes ?
(Yes. I did.)
- 9) What's the use of these bar codes, do you know ?
(They can help to identify the product and its price.)

- 10) What do many supermarkets do ?
(They use a special device that can “read” the codes and automatically produce a receipt. It can also store information so that the shop keeper can tell when his stock gets low.)
- 11) Do many banks have computers ?
(Now nearly all banks do.)
- 12) What do they use computers for ?
(They hold their records on a central computer.)
- 13) What else can computers do ?
(They can help customers to draw out money from a bank any time.)
- 14) How do they do that ?
(A customer has a special cash card. He can put the card into a machine. The machine first checks if he has given the right number. Then it makes sure that he has enough money in his bank account.)
- 15) How does the customer get the money he wants to draw out ?
(The machine does the job. It counts out the money and presents it to him.)
- 16) Can computers be used in classrooms ?
(Yes, they can. In some countries computers are widely used in classrooms.)
- 17) How does one learn with the help of computers ?
(One can sit at a terminal and learn the subject he chooses.)
- 18) What’s the advantage of learning things with the help of a computer ?
(A computer never gets impatient and can work at a speed that is best for you.)
- 19) Can computers deal with many subjects ?
(Yes, they can deal with almost any subject. It depends on how you programme it.)
- 20) Can computers help us in learning a foreign language ?
(Yes, of course. Even in China a good number of colleges are teaching English with the help of computers.)
- 21) What can we do on computers, for example ?
(We can do grammar exercises and take examinations. We can even do translation on a computer.)
- 22) Do you think computers will become widely used in Chinese schools and colleges ?
(In time they will, but not in the near future because computers are expensive.)

Section B

Words and Expressions

robot ['rəʊbɒt]	机器人	spray 喷洒
feature ['fi:tʃə]	特点	bear [beə] 忍受
brain 脑子, 头脑		ray 光线, 射线
instructions [in'strʌkʃənz]	指令	complex ['kɒmpleks] 复杂的
assembly [ə'sembli]	line 装配线	costly 费钱的, 昂贵的
weld 焊接		task [tɑ:sk] 任务, 工作

Text B

Robots

We are now living in a world in which robots are taking over much of the work. Robots make our cars, fly our planes, work out wages and prepare our bills.

But these robots are not mechanical men and women. They do not look like us. They are machines specially built to do some of the things that human beings can. And they are given whatever shape is most suitable.

Although they may not look like us, robots need some human features in order to be able to do human work. First of all they need some kind of brain. Their “brain” is a computer, which has a memory to remember instructions and the ability to control other equipment. Another essential feature of many robots is an arm that can do the kind of things that human beings can with their arms. One-armed robots are now coming into widespread use in industry. They are being used, for example, on car assembly lines. There they are used for welding car bodies and for paint spraying.

The great advantage of robots over human workers is that they can work non-stop for long periods. They never get tired, and always work with the same accuracy. They can also work in conditions that humans could not bear, where

it is very hot, very noisy, or where there are dangerous rays. Last but not least, as more robots are built, their cost will come down.

Although robots are rapidly taking over many jobs in industry, they seem a long way from taking over in the home. The problem is that it would take a very complex and costly robot to perform half the tasks involved in housework.

—adapted from **Children's First Encyclopedia**

Questions and Answers

- 1) Robots are playing an important part in our world, aren't they ?
(Yes, they are.)
- 2) What can they do, for example ?
(They can make cars, fly planes, work out wages and prepare bills.)
- 3) Are robots mechanical men and women ?
(No, they aren't. They don't look like us.)
- 4) What are they exactly ?
(They're machines specially built to do some of the things that human beings can.)
- 5) What's their shape ?
(They are given whatever shape is most suitable.)
- 6) Do they have any human features ?
(Yes, they do.)
- 7) What human features, for example, do they have ?
(They have a "brain" and an "arm".)
- 8) Why do they need a "brain" ?
(Because they need it to remember instructions and to control other equipment.)
- 9) What is it exactly ?
(It's actually a computer.)
- 10) Why does the robot need an "arm" ?
(The robot needs the arm to do the kind of things human beings can with their arms.)
- 11) What kind of robots are coming into widespread use in industry ?
(One-armed robots are.)
- 12) Where are they being used, for example ?
(They are, for example, used on car assembly lines. There they are used for welding car bodies and paint spraying.)
- 13) What's the advantage of robots over human workers ?
(Their advantage is that they can work non-stop for long periods. They never get tired and always work with the same accuracy.)
- 14) What other advantage do they have ?
(They can work in conditions that humans could not bear.)

- 15) Can you give some examples?
(Yes. They can work where it is very hot, or where there are dangerous rays.)
- 16) But robots are very costly, aren't they?
(Yes, they are, but as more robots are built, their cost will come down.)
- 17) So robots are taking over many jobs in industry, aren't they?
(Yes, they are. More and more jobs are being taken over by robots.)
- 18) Can they take over many jobs at home?
(Yes, they can, but at the moment few people could afford such machines.)
- 19) Why?
(Because it would take a very complex and costly robot to perform even half the tasks involved in housework.)
- 20) Do you think they will eventually be used at home?
(Maybe they will, but not in the near future.)
- 21) Do you think China needs to use robots in her industry?
(No, not for some time yet.)
- 22) Why do you think so?
(For one thing, robots are very costly. For another widespread use of robots will make many people lose their jobs.)

Section C

Words and Expressions

telecommunications	kilocycle 千周
[ˈtelɪkəˌmjuːniˈkeɪʃənz] 电信(学)	ultra 超(级)
telephone exchange [ɪksˈtʃeɪndʒ]	range from...to 范围从……到
电话交换台, 电话局	microwave [ˈmaɪkrəweɪv] 微波
handle 处理	simultaneously [sɪ(ə)ɪməlˈteɪniəsli]
static [ˈstætɪk] 静电干扰, 天电	同时
干扰	stationary 静止的
frequency [ˈfriːkwənsi] 频率	relay [riˈlei] 转送, 转播