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| 新概念 3 册 |
| Lesson51 |

Lesson 51 Predicting the future



**notoriously [nəʊ'tɔ:rɪəslɪ] adv. 臭名昭著地，**

**（坏事）众所周知地**

notorious = infamous adj. famous or well-known for something bad 臭名昭著的，（坏事）众所周知的

a notorious criminal / area / bend in the road be notorious for …

The city is notorious for its bumper-to-bumper traffic. Predicting the future is notoriously difficult.

The local bus service is notoriously unreliable. gain / achieve notoriety for / as …

She achieved notoriety for her affair with the senator. He gained a certain notoriety as a gambler.

well-known famous noted notable eminent celebrated renowned unknown little-known obscure

technician [tek'nɪʃn]

**n. 技术员，技师**

technician n. someone whose job is to check equipment or machines and make sure that they are working properly 技术员，技师

a laboratory technician a hospital technician

“-ian” = specialist

librarian historian musician

electrician mathematician physician pediatrician

user-friendly ['ju:zə'frendli:]

**adj. 易用的，易理解的，易操作的**

user-friendly adj. easy to use, understand, or operate 易用的，易理解的，易操作的

a user-friendly interface / printer

Computer programs have become more user-friendly.

-friendly 1. suitable for particular people to use 易用的

a user-friendly computer program a family-friendly restaurant

a customer-friendly shopping mall customer-friendly banking facilities

-friendly 2. not harmful 无害的environment-friendly products ozone-friendly fridges **alternative [ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv]**

adj. 另外的，其他的，别的

alternative adj. （只作定语）different from something else and able to be used instead of it 另外的，其他的，别的

an alternative plan / route / way alternative approaches to learning Have you any alternative suggestions? alternative n. 其他的选择

Is there a viable alternative *to* the present system?

If payment is not received within five days, legal action will be our only alternative. I had no alternative but to report him to the police.

alternate adj. 1.（常作定语）(of two things) happening or following one after the other 交替的，轮流的

alternate blue and red stripes alternate triumph and despair

Private cars are banned from the city on alternate days.

alternate adj. 2. = alternative （只作定语）其他的，另外的，别的

We can't get home tonight, because there are no alternate flights.

I suggest you have an alternate plan in case you are sick on that day.

relieve [rɪ'li:v]

**v. 减轻，缓解或解除（痛苦，问题等）**

Drugs helped to relieve the pain.

Reading helped to relieve the boredom while he was ill.

The project is designed to relieve traffic congestion on the main routes into the city.

relieve sb. of sth. to help sb. by taking sth. heavy or difficult from them 替某人做某事，使某人免于……

Let me relieve you of some of your bags.

The new secretary will relieve us of some of the paperwork.

…, when they(computers) would relieve office workers and accountants of dull, repetitive clerical work.

relief n. 宽慰，痛苦的缓解或解脱

find a temporary relief permanent relief

to my great relief

give immediate relief from pain

What a relief it was when the boulders suddenly disappeared, giving way to a stretch of plain

where the only obstacles were clumps of bushes.

造句：众所周知，缓解 (relieve) 人口过剩问题非常困难。

Relieving the problem of overpopulation is notoriously difficult.

造句：众所周知，改掉 (give up) 一个根深蒂固的 (deep-seated) 坏习惯非常困难。

Giving up a deep-seated bad habit is notoriously difficult. 造句：众所周知，北京的交通拥堵问题非常严重。The traffic congestion in Beijing is notoriously serious.

Who could have imagined, *in the mid 1970s*, *for example*, that by the end of the 20th century, computers would be as common in people's homes as TV sets?

could have done: used to say that something was a possibility in the past, but did not actually happen

I could have been killed.

He could have escaped, but he chose to stand and fight. from mid July to mid August

mid-morning coffee Mid-Autumn Festival

a young woman in her mid-twenties midsummer / midwinter

on Midsummer Eve in the early 1970s in the mid 1970s

in the late 1970s

造句：比方说，有谁能在 20 世纪 90 年代中期想象到，仅仅十年 (a mere decade) 之后，手机在中国和手表一样常见？

Who could have imagined, in the mid 1990s, for example, that after a mere decade, mobile phones would be as common in China as watches?

They don't know how to run *a* business .

The company began as *a* small family business.

Owners of small business*es* will be hit hardest by these tax changes. big business n. [U] large and powerful companies in general

Does big business have more control over our everyday lives than our elected governments? so-called adj. 1. commonly called 所谓的（通常被称为的）

They've found the flight recorder, the so-called black box.

so-called adj. 2. incorrectly called 所谓的（错误地被称为的）

His so-called friends betrayed him.

mainframe n. a large powerful computer that can work very fast and that a lot of people can use at the same time 主机，大型机

Mainframe computers were very large indeed, *often occupying whole air-conditioned rooms, employing full-time technicians and run on specially-written software*.

indeed adv. used with ‘very’ and an adjective or adverb to emphasize a statement or description

的确，确实

Most of the essays were *very good* indeed. Thank you *very much* indeed.

air-conditioned adj. 装空调的

air conditioner n. 空调

run v. if you run a machine or engine, you make it operate 操作，使机器运转

I often run the washing machine more than once a day.

Though these large machines still exist, many of their functions have been taken over by small powerful personal computers, *commonly known as PCs*.

take over sth. 接管……，代替……

Military leaders took over the government.

Computers can thus be built to take over almost any job where a series of actions are repeated over and over again.

be known as … 被称为……

He soon made a name for himself and came to be known to the Italians as Giovanni Acuto. be commonly known as … 常被称为……

The disease is commonly known as Mad Cow Disease.

primitive adj. of or at an early stage of social development 原始的，上古的

primitive culture / customs / tribes

primitive adj. simple and not modern 简单的，简陋的

The local hospital care is primitive and unreliable.

launch v. to make a new product, book etc available for sale for the first time 推出新产品，新书等

The company hopes to launch the new drug by next October. The new model will be launched in July.

He is going to launch his latest novel.

Shortly after it was launched, the pie committee went to a local inn to celebrate. describe … as …

He described it as 'a very agreeable situation located within two small hills in the midst of which flowed a great river.'

The old lady thought he was a fussy creature, but since the porter agreed with him, she rang up her daughter and asked for her help in what she described as a little spot of bother.

point the way (to …) v. to show how something could change or develop successfully 指明了（…… 的）方向

It can properly be described as the first 'home computer' and it pointed the way to the future. Recent medical discoveries are already pointing the way to more efficient vaccines.

giant n. a very large and powerful organization 特大机构，大公司，巨头

the multinational oil giants Japanese electronics giant Sony

DOS Disk Operating System: the basic software in a computer that makes it work and allows you to use a program. It is usually used only in older computers. 磁盘操作系统

copy = imitate v. to behave or do sth. in the same way as sb. else 模仿

She copies everything her sister does.

Their tactics have been copied by other terrorists.

*From those humble beginnings*, we have seen the development of the user-friendly home computers and multimedia machines which are in common use today.

humble adj. 1. 谦虚的

He was a genuinely humble man. humble adj. 2. 地 位 卑 微 的 men of humble birth

a humble occupation

humble adj. 3. simple and with only basic equipment or features 简单的，简陋的

They lived in a humble two-roomed apartment.

be in use: a machine, place etc. that is in use is being used（机器，场所等）在使用，得到使用Electric vehicles built in 1920 were still in use in the 1950s.

I'll be glad to see the building in use again.

From those humble beginnings, we have seen the development of the user-friendly home computers and multimedia machines which are in common use today.

So was born the echo-sounding apparatus, now in general use in ships.

Considering how recent these developments are, it is even more remarkable that as long ago as the 1960s, an Englishman, *Leon Bagrit*, was able to predict some of the uses of computers *which we know today*.

considering prep. & conj. in view of (the fact that); taking into consideration 考虑到……，鉴于…… Considering the amount she paid, he was dear in more ways than one!

Considering (that) he's only just started, he knows quite a lot about it.

as long ago as … = as early as …早在……就……

As long ago as the fourteenth century, an Englishman, Sir John Hawkwood, made the remarkable discovery that people would rather pay large sums of money than have their life work destroyed by gangsters.

as long as … 1. 长达……

It can take as long as eight days to rig up rope ladders and to establish supply bases before a descent can be made into a very deep cave.

as long as … 2. 只要 = so long as = provided = on condition (that)

Anthropology was by definition impossible, as long as these distinctions between ourselves and the primitive, ourselves and the barbarian, ourselves and the pagan, held sway over people's minds.

So long as there's something to identify, we will give people their money back.

Bagrit dismissed the idea that computers would learn to 'think' for themselves and would "rule the world", *which people liked to believe in those days*.

dismiss v. 1. to remove someone from their job 解雇，辞退

The poor girl was dismissed instantly.

dismiss v. 2. to refuse to consider sb’s idea, opinion etc, because you think it is not serious, true, or important 对……不予理会，对……不屑一顾

The government has dismissed criticisms that the country's health policy is a mess. do sth. for oneself 亲自……，独立……

The following example of 'sick humour' will enable you to judge for yourself.

So great is our passion for doing things for ourselves, that we are becoming increasingly less dependent on specialized labour.

in those days 在当年，在当初

In those days, boxers fought with bare fists for Prize money. these days 当今，现如今

These days, people who do manual work often receive far more money than clerks who work in offices.

Bagrit foresaw a time when computers would be small enough to hold in the hand, when they would be capable of *providing information about traffic jams* and *suggesting alternative routes*, when they would be used in hospitals *to help doctors to diagnose illnesses*, when they would *relieve* office workers and accountants *of* dull, repetitive clerical work.

foresee vt. (foresaw, foreseen) 预 见 …… The disaster could not have been foreseen.

Few analysts foresaw that oil prices would rise so steeply.

The telephone rings and this marks the prelude to an unforeseen series of catastrophes. foresight n. 远见，先见之明

They had the foresight to invest in new technology.

Such undertakings require the precise planning and foresight of military operations. forethought n. 远虑，提前的思考

With a little forethought many accidents could be avoided. forecast n. 预测，预报

weather forecast

foretell / predict v. 预言……

Precautions of this sort are necessary, for it is impossible to foretell the exact nature of the difficulties which will confront the pot-holer.

Considering how recent these developments are, it is even more remarkable that as long ago as the 1960s, an Englishman, Leon Bagrit, was able to predict some of the uses of computers which we know today.

Timely snow foretells a bumper harvest. mark the prelude to sth. 预示……

The telephone rings and this marks the prelude to an unforeseen series of catastrophes. traffic jams

traffic congestion diagnose v. 诊断

The test is used to diagnose a variety of diseases. diagnose sth. as …

The illness was diagnosed as cancer. diagnose sb. as / with …

She was diagnosed as / with having diabetes.

relieve sb. of sth. to help sb. by taking sth. heavy or difficult from them 替某人做某事，使某人免于……

Let me relieve you of some of your bags.

The new secretary will relieve us of some of the paperwork.

repetitive adj. done many times in the same way, and boring 重复性的

repetitive work / tasks / jobs

clerk n. 1. person employed in an office, a shop, etc to keep records, accounts, etc. 文书；办事员；

事务员

clerk n. 2. (AmE) assistant in a shop 店员，售货员

clerical adj. of, for or made by a clerk or clerks 文书或办事员的

routine clerical work administrative and clerical staff

commonplace adj. happening or existing in many places, and therefore not special or unusual

寻常的，司空见惯的，不足为奇的

Car thefts are commonplace in this part of town. Computers are now commonplace in primary classrooms. become commonplace

Foreign vacations have become commonplace. regard sth. as commonplace

Such actions were regarded as commonplace during the war.

Of course, Leon Bagrit could not possibly have foreseen the development of the Internet, *the worldwide system that enables us to communicate instantly with anyone in any part of the world by using computers linked to telephone networks*.

can’t / couldn’t possibly … used to emphasize that you cannot do sth., or that sth. cannot or could not happen or be done（强调）不能或不可能……

I can't possibly allow you to go home in this weather. She couldn't possibly have heard what was said.

possibly 经常与 can / could 连用以表示“尽全力”的意思，后跟动词时常用can / could possibly + 动词，后省略动词时常用 possibly can / could。

No matter what the conditions were, he believed that a car should be driven as fast as it could possibly *go*.

She's done everything she could possibly *think of* to help.

We shall be contributing as much as we possibly can to the campaign. Doctors did everything they possibly could to save his life.

instant communication 即时交流沟通

IM (instant messaging): a type of service available on the Internet that allows you to quickly exchange written messages with people that you know 即时通讯

Nor *could* he have foreseen how we could use the Internet *to obtain information on every known subject*, so we *can* read it on a screen in our homes and even print it as well *if we want to*.

Nor *is* the city without its moments of beauty. smaller and smaller

cheaper and cheaper more and more powerful increasingly powerful ever more powerful

This is what makes Leon Bagrit's predictions particularly remarkable.

If he, or someone like him, *were* alive today, he *might* be able to tell us *what to expect in the next 50 years*.

“疑问词 + to do”可以视为名词性从句的缩略形式

1、相当于宾语从句

They will hardly know which facts to select from …

 They will hardly know which facts they should select from …

…, he might be able to tell us what to expect in the next 50 years.

 …, he might be able to tell us what we should expect in the next 50 years. 2、相当于主语从句

Who to turn to is what she wants to know.

 Who she should turn to is what she wants to know. 3、相当于表语从句

The problem she faces is which way to take.

The problem she faces is which way she should take. 4、相当于同位语从句

The problem which course to take worried Lucy for hours.

The problem which course she should take worried Lucy for hours.