



新一代大学英语
English

提高篇

视听说教程 1



A journey of discovery

UNIT

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Explore 1:

Listening and speaking

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Host: Mr. Wheeler, thank you for joining us.

Mr. Wheeler: Thank you for having me.

Host: So how did you found Lonely Planet in the first place?

Mr. Wheeler: It was actually started with an accident. It was around the 1970s when Maureen and I intended to go around the world in a year. But something happened on our way and we ended up spending three years away. We drove from London to Afghanistan in an old minivan and then made our way through Asia to Australia.

Host: How did you turn this trip into a company afterward?

Mr. Wheeler: While we were living in Sydney, we met so many people who kept asking about our experience about the trip. So we thought maybe we should write something for them.

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Host: So this is the very first Lonely Planet book.

Mr. Wheeler: Yes, it was called *Across Asia on the Cheap*. Back then we both had fulltime jobs in Australia and we could only work on it during the evenings and weekends. When we finally finished, we had to go to bookshops one by one to ask if they wanted to buy some copies. So it was actually very hard at first.

Host: But you succeeded in the end.

Mr. Wheeler: Yes! People liked it. We had to reprint it twice. When we wrote the second one, *Southeast Asia on a Shoestring*, two years later, that had even more of an immediate reaction. Since then, we managed to grow the business bit by bit.

Host: Wonderful!





Explore 1: Listening and speaking

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On a grey Saturday morning, I arrived at Manchester airport, heading on a holiday with no idea where I'd be going. At a total loss, my first "surprise" journey was ahead of me.

It all started two weeks ago, when I saw that a Dutch company was launching its "surprise" holiday concept in the UK. The idea is that you choose a type of holiday, for example, city break or backpacking trip, the dates and budget, and then they will pick the destination and book flights and hotels. All you get before you leave is a weather forecast and what time to be at the airport.

I was immediately interested.

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Explore 1: Listening and speaking

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So two weeks later, I was in the airport, waiting for my flight to ... Porto, Portugal – a place I knew nothing about. I was a little worried, of course, about setting out for the unknown and, once there, using a card to reveal my destination. But it turned out it was very good indeed. Porto has more than its share of must-see attractions.

And now here I am, coming back from my “surprise” holiday completely refreshed. I have spoken to a lot of different people, visited many out-of-the-way and interesting places, and seen so many unplanned and unexpected treats. Most importantly, I didn’t follow the crowd and, by placing trust in myself and others, I’ve come back with more confidence for the next “surprise” journey.





Explore 1: Listening and speaking

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Because walking across a glass-bottomed suspension bridge just isn't frightening enough, China is finding new ways to bring the fear.

The country's latest – also considered as the world's longest – opened at the end of 2017 in Hebei Province's Hongyagu area. And just in case the 488-meter-long bridge over the 218-meter-high valley still couldn't make its visitors' knees shake, there's an added sway to make the experience even more exciting and frightening.

The three-year construction project has given birth to several record-breaking claims. These include the longest and the most transparent bridge of its kind.

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Explore 1: Listening and speaking

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The bridge is four meters wide and made of 1,077 glass panels that are four centimeters thick.

Opened to the public on December 24, 2017, the bridge can support up to 2,000 people, but only 500 to 600 visitors will be allowed to walk on it at the same time.





Explore 1:

Listening and speaking

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With travelers planning vacations for next year, Airbnb analyzed their guest booking data for the first half of the past year and this Wednesday published a report revealing the soon-to-be biggest travel destinations and adventures.

According to Airbnb, big cities like Paris, New York and London continue to top the list of most-booked cities. Popular vacation spots like Lisbon, Portugal and the Miami, Florida area are also on the rise of the most-booked global cities for Airbnb travelers.

When it comes to accommodation, beyond the standard urban apartment, non-traditional homes are seeing the largest increases over last year. Nature lodges and traditional Japanese rooms have the most growth in bookings, showing that travelers are increasingly drawn to homes that are natural and unique.

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Explore 1: Listening and speaking

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Food and drink remains the most popular Experiences category, accounting for 29 percent of total Experiences bookings. Local cooking classes, special food and wine tastings, and home-cooked dinners are the biggest draw for Experiences guests. Nature and music are also driving some of the popular Experiences by bookings. Airbnb predicts that demand for both outdoor adventures and live concerts will grow next year.






WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

-  villain *n.* 坏人; 罪犯
-  terror *n.* 恐惧
-  antidote *n.* 解毒剂; 缓解之物
-  tense *n.* (动词的) 时态
-  invigorating *a.* 使精力充沛的
-  enlightening *a.* 有启迪作用的

PROPER NAMES

-  Eiffel Tower 埃菲尔铁塔 (法国)





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What is your one travel dream more than all other travel dreams, the place that you dream of and hope to go to in your lifetime? Real travel is when you take to the open road and you accept everything that comes your way, be it thrilling, joyful, difficult or depressing. This is what the original explorers did. This sense of wonder is crucial.

Unfortunately, efficiency and technology is killing our sense of wonder, which is the very thing that made us want to travel in the first place. Today, travel is almost entirely predictable. We can look at the Eiffel Tower on our Internet and we can see 500,000 pictures of the Eiffel Tower so that when we finally go to Paris and see the Eiffel Tower for ourselves, we aren't experiencing the Eiffel

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Tower. We're comparing it to everything that technology has told us about this. This means that we have lost something – we have lost something from the experience of travel.

Just because we can fly doesn't mean we always have to fly. Sometimes in life we should take the bus and go slowly and enjoy and embrace every discovery as it comes to us. Taking a bus, taking public transportation halfway around the world taught me to trust total strangers. I was at the mercy of strangers all the time.

Now there are villains out in the world. There are evil people who do evil things to one another, but they are the minority. Thank goodness, most people are wonderful and trustworthy and travel teaches us this constantly.

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The opposite to wonder is terror. And unfortunately we live in a day and age that is defined by terror. It defines the way we travel. Right now, we are being taught to be afraid of everything. In fact, I think we are more afraid now.

The only antidote to terror is trust and the way that we gain trust is through travel. Travel is one of the greatest human freedoms ever. I'll say it again. Travel is one of the greatest human freedoms ever. All of us are writing our lives in the present tense right now. We want to control the story, but if you do that too much, not only do we delete the sense of wonder that we have about our lives, but maybe we cancel out another possibility, another discovery that is far more invigorating and enlightening and perfect for us individually.

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My message is very simple – we need to plan for less (plan less).
Don't be a tourist in your life, taking pictures as it happens. Instead,
we need to travel.



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When traveling, which side of the plane do you prefer? A new study has just found that travelers are more likely to choose to sit on the right-hand side of a plane rather than the left.

The study was led by a Queen Margaret University professor and carried out at The University of Edinburgh. Thirty-two people, aged between 21 and 31 years, took part in the study. There were 21 women and 11 men – all right-handed.

The participants were asked to choose a seat for their traveling on the plane. They did this for 32 separate flights between fictional locations. The result clearly showed that the direction of the plane made no difference to the preference, with most participants still making an active choice to sit on the right of the plane.

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“The research shows that people’s preference as to which side they sit on in an airplane is determined by our mind’s rightward bias in representing the real world,” said Dr. Stephen Darling, a psychology lecturer at Queen Margaret University.



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After over 70 years of tourism, climbers will not be allowed to climb Uluru from next year, local authorities have just confirmed.

The famous Australian tourist site, formerly known as Ayers Rock, is a sacred site for the local people, who have been asking visitors to stop climbing it for many years. A huge sign at the base of the climb reads: “Uluru is sacred in our culture, a place of great knowledge. Under our traditional law, climbing is not permitted.” However, every year, some 60,000 people ignored this sign and climbed anyway. To solve this problem, the board of the national park has decided to put a stop to this widely criticized practice.

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“It is an extremely important place for the local people,” said Board Chairman Sammy Wilson. “If I travel to another country and there is a sacred site, an area of restricted access, I won’t enter or climb it. I will respect it.”

Safety has also been a concern, with the climb claiming more than 35 lives since tourism began in the 1940s. Just last year three Australian tourists had to be saved after falling into a cave.



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Interviewer: Mary, as far as I know, although you are just a sophomore, you are actually already an experienced traveler. Where have you traveled to before?

Mary: Many places: the US, Mexico, Spain, Italy, France, China, and so on. All my experiences in these have been shared on my blog.

Interviewer: What is the best part about traveling for you?

Mary: The best part about traveling for me would be the people. It's funny how many amazing people you can meet while on the road. You can travel for a few days with someone you just met and it could feel like you've known each other for years!

Interviewer: Do you prefer traveling to one destination and staying

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for a long time or traveling to multiple destinations and staying for a shorter period of time in each location? Why?

Mary: As a student, I think it's best to look for opportunities to travel long term in one place and then do mini trips from there. I'd prefer to stay, relax, and experience the day-to-day life of the city along with the touristy parts.

Interviewer: As a college student, it could be hard for you to find time to travel. Do you have any tips for other students on this part?

Mary: Study-abroad exchanges, work programs, and volunteer programs are all excellent opportunities for us to travel. Some travel programs will even help you get credits for the work you do with them abroad.



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Who knows what they want to be at 18? I definitely didn't. I felt I should be doing something useful, but I had no idea what it was gonna be.

My father already had a very precise idea about my future: tax consultant in London. But from very early on, I knew what I was doing wasn't making me very happy. So I took off to Mexico to travel, to get out and feel freedom.

Mexico City was just alive and exciting. It was a very novel feeling for me seeing so much culture, color, noise and excitement. I spent my whole time going off, eating my way through the city – really colorful dishes, ingredients I didn't recognize, flavors I'd never tasted before. And I just wanted to eat everything that I could see.

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Those first few days in Mexico City opened my eyes to a whole new cuisine that I didn't know anything about. I traveled much more, I cooked with chefs, and I went to the supermarket. I just learned as much as I could. I spent eight years trying to find something to do. It took me quite a long time to discover I wanted to cook for a living.

After I came back from Mexico, I was living my life. Probably somewhere in the back of my mind, I kept thinking this would be brilliant and this food would be amazing in London.

So now, I'm running my own restaurant.



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The Great Barrier Reef is more than worthy of its name. Coral of all shapes, sizes and colors cover more than 130,000 square meters off the coast of Australia, making it the world's largest reef system and supporting an astounding variety of marine life. But today the Great Barrier Reef is dying. The temporary warming effect of a major El Niño event — combined with ongoing climate change — has heated the waters around the reef to nearly unprecedented levels. That warming has in turn driven a mass bleaching that has sucked the color — and the life — out of the coral. And the Great Barrier Reef isn't alone. "This is the longest bleaching event ever recorded," says David



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Kline, a Scripps Institution of Oceanography scientist. “It’s truly global, and it looks very severe.” Bleaching occurs when ocean disruptions — warm water, pollution, algae overgrowth — drive away the symbiotic organisms that live on the coral and give it color. Within weeks, the reef could die, leaving behind a forest of lifeless, bone-white coral. Scientists believe the bleaching now under way may kill more than 15% of the world’s coral. It’s not just a matter of aquatic aesthetics. Reefs act as natural barriers that protect coastal communities from storms and flooding. Marine life depends on coral reefs as habitats, while coastal towns depend on them as tourist draws.



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M: I have been studying too much and need a change. So I've just made plans to go away during Thanksgiving Day.

W: Really? Where are you going?

M: I'm planning to visit New Mexico.

W: My sister and I vacationed there last year and we had a great time.

M: Did you get into Albuquerque?

W: Sure. Whenever we were skiing.

M: Is it far from the mountains?

W: Not at all. Albuquerque is on a high flat plateau. There are even higher mountains near it. Just half an hour away from the city, there are snow-covered slopes.



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M: Well. As the mountains are just 30 minutes away, I guess I should take my ice skates and my skis.

W: Definitely.

M: I heard that the weather there is great.

W: It is. No humidity, moderate temperatures, but you need to be careful about the high altitude.

M: What should I do about that?

W: Oh, just take it easy for a few days. Don't go hiking up the mountains or exercise too much. Just do everything gradually.

M: I'm sure I will be fine. And I will let you know all about my trip when I come back.



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More than 100 people gather on a cold evening, talking excitedly as they stand in the dark on a hillside. There isn't a single light around them. These people have traveled to the countryside more than an hour from the city to get away from the glow of city lights. That's because they are attending a star gazing party.

Star gazing parties are gatherings where professional astronomers set up their telescopes and invite star-watching beginners to come and learn about the night sky. Getting away from lights from buildings in the city helps the star gazers see objects in the sky much clearer.



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At the star gazing party, Dr. Brown from the city museum starts off by asking the beginners to simply look up and take in all they can see. He points out for them plenty of things that can be seen without special equipment. "Stars and satellites can be found if you know where to look," Dr. Brown tells them. After Dr. Brown's guided tour, several dozen professional astronomers offer closer views. Each has focused their telescope on a different part of the sky. As the beginners take a look through the telescope, the astronomers give them a mini-lesson about the stars.



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Dr. Brown tells the beginners that they can have their own star gazing party at home and learn a lot just by paying attention to what's happening up above. "Watch the sky as the seasons pass, and you will see that it changes," he says. "Or start with the moon. Notice when and where you are seeing it – maybe even in the early morning while you wait for the bus."

