Comprehensive English for Graduates

1st semester, 2024-2025

# Lecture 3

## Unit 3 Text A

### Additional information

1. Congress of the United States

The [legislature](https://www.britannica.com/topic/legislature) of the [United States of America](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States), established under the Constitution of 1789 and separated structurally from the executive and judicial branches of government. It consists of [two houses](https://www.britannica.com/topic/bicameral-system): the [Senate](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Senate-United-States-government), in which each state, regardless of its size, is represented by two senators, and the House of Representatives (see [Representatives, House of](https://www.britannica.com/topic/House-of-Representatives-United-States-government)), to which members are elected on the basis of population. Among the express powers of Congress as defined in the [Constitution](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Constitution-of-the-United-States-of-America) are the power to lay and collect taxes, borrow money on the credit of the United States, regulate commerce, coin money, declare war, raise and support armies, and make all laws necessary for the execution of its powers.

1. United States Senate

One of the two houses of the [legislature](https://www.britannica.com/topic/legislature) ([Congress](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Congress-of-the-United-States)) of the [United States](https://www.britannica.com/place/United-States), established in 1789 under the [Constitution](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Constitution-of-the-United-States-of-America). Each state elects two senators for six-year terms. The terms of about one-third of the Senate membership expire every two years, earning the chamber the nickname “the house that never dies.”

1. House of Representatives

One of the two houses of the [bicameral](https://www.britannica.com/topic/bicameral-system) [United States Congress](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Congress-of-the-United-States), established in 1789 by the [Constitution of the United States](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Constitution-of-the-United-States-of-America).The House of Representatives shares equal responsibility for lawmaking with the U.S. [Senate](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Senate-United-States-government). As conceived by the framers of the Constitution, the House was to represent the popular will, and its members were to be directly elected by the people. In contrast, members of the Senate were appointed by the states until the ratification of the [Seventeenth Amendment](https://www.britannica.com/topic/Seventeenth-Amendment) (1913), which [mandated](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/mandated) the direct election of senators.

1. Nicotine

Nicotine is a substance found in small amounts in the leaves, roots, and seeds of the tobacco plant. It can also be made synthetically. Chemists classify nicotine as an alkaloid. Pure nicotine is extremely poisonous. A small amount can cause rapid but weak pulse, vomiting, extreme weakness, or even collapse or death.

Smoking tobaccos generally contain between 1 percent and 2 percent nicotine. A smoker takes in about 0.05 milligram to 2 milligrams of nicotine per cigarette. The nicotine is quickly absorbed into the blood and reaches the brain within eight seconds after inhalation.

#### Top brands of cigarette

1. Camel
2. Winston
3. Lucky Strike
4. Marlboro
5. Hilton
6. Kent
7. American Spirit

#### Topic for speaking

Travel

1. Talk about the benefits of traveling in general.
2. Talk in details about one of the places you have been to.

#### Understanding of the contents with the Chinese translation

1. ..a matter of public record---a focus of public concern. 公众关注的焦点。
2. There appeared....There be...出现在听证会上。
3. ...that he did not believe tobacco was a health risk, and that his company had taken no steps to manipulate the level of nicotine in its cigarettes. 自己不相信烟草会给健康带来风险，而且自己的公司从未采取措施来操纵香烟中尼古丁的含量。
4. ...the tobacco executives, it seemed, were among the few who believed otherwise. 如今看来，烟草业的总裁们属于不相信该报告的极少数人的行列。
5. S1/P5 但事实并非始终如此。......对烟草危害的认识源于持续了大半个20世纪的一个智力（认知）过程。
6. ... a cultural icon of sophistication, glamour and sexual allure---a highly prized commodity,,,在文化上象征着成熟练达、魅力四射和性感诱人---大为追捧的商品。
7. S1/P8 ...opposition to cigarettes took a moral rather

than a health-conscious tone. 对香烟的抵制带着道德的口吻，而不是对健康的关注。

1. As a result, the scientific studies of the era often failed to find clear evidence of serious pathology and had the perverse effect of exonerating the cigarette. 因此，这一时期的科学研究无法从严肃的病理学上找到清晰的证据，竟起到了为香烟开脱的反效果。
2. P13 ...amply demonstrates that 用足够的证据证明
3. He also described the concerted disinformation campaigns......rather than a corporate one. 他还描述了这些公司在半个多世纪以来，一直合谋炮制假消息，同时混淆科学证据，散布这些论调：既然大家多知道香烟在一定程度上有危害，抽烟与否从根本上是个人的选择和责任问题，责任不在烟草公司。

## Text B

### Understanding the text

1. Paragraph 1

the theme of the whole article

taste buds 味蕾

1. Paragraph 2

drive-through

the resulting real-time images indicate 1...2...3..

扫描产生的实时图像表明

We can use brain imaging to gain insight into......in a way that is......我们使用大脑扫描方式来了解人们作出决策的机制，这种机制以询问别人或观察其行为的方式很难被发现。

3）Paragraph 3

old vs new research

decider in chief 决策主脑

4）Paragraph 4

Tools

Findings

Claim

functional magnetic resonance imaging machine 功能性磁共振成像仪

After tasting each drink......品尝了两种饮料后，所有志愿者脑部与愉悦和满意情绪相联系的奖励区域显示出较强的激活。在对两种品牌喜好的选择中，志愿者人数几乎对半。

In other words, all those......换句话说，广告片里那些喝着可口可乐，看起来快乐活泼、生机勃勃、魅力四射的人们完成了交给他们的任务：渗透观众的大脑中，激发强烈的联想，甚至盖过对百事可乐味道的偏好。

Research findings/results

5）Paragraph 5

Research by a Stanford scientist

and he believes that......他相信甚至在大脑的认知区域

介入选项的分析前，这些更接近直觉，更感性的区域已

经为决策过程作好准备，并能够预测到结果。

6）Paragraph 6

Another test by the same researcher

technical terms:

nucleus accumbens 伏隔核

anticipating pleasant outcome 预感愉悦结果

7）Paragraph 7

Research findings by Montague

Already, according to......根据蒙塔古的研究，这些图像已

经揭示了许多令人吃惊的事实，说明了大脑如何消减决

策过程，建立快捷，提高决策分析的效率。

1. Paragraph 8

Research contribution and potential research focus.