

[al:新概念英语（三）]

[ar:MP3 同步字幕版（美音）]

[ti:Collecting]

[by:www.tingvoa.com - VOA 英语网]

[00:00.00]如果你喜欢 voa 英语网([www.tingvoa.com](http://www.tingvoa.com)), 请介绍给更多的同学哦

[00:00.33]Lesson 59

[00:02.40]Collecting

[00:08.71]What in particular does a person gain when he or she becomes a serious collector?

[00:17.12]People tend to amass possessions, sometimes without being aware of doing so.

[00:22.96]Indeed they can have a delightful surprise when they find something useful which they did not know they owned.

[00:30.68]Those who never have to move house become indiscriminate collectors of what can only be described as clutter.

[00:38.27]They leave unwanted objects in drawers, cupboards and attics for years, in the belief that they may one day need just those very things.

[00:48.40]As they grow old, people also accumulate belongings for two other reasons,

[00:54.85]lack of physical and mental energy, both of which are essential in turning out and throwing away, and sentiment.

[01:03.55]Things owned for a long time are full of associations with the past,

[01:08.41]perhaps with relatives who are dead, and so they gradually acquire a value beyond their true worth.

[01:16.11]Some things are collected deliberately in the home in an attempt to avoid waste.

[01:21.49]Among these I would list string and brown paper,

[01:24.50]kept by thrifty people when a parcel has been opened, to save buying these two requisites.

[01:31.45]Collecting small items can easily become a mania.

[01:35.57]I know someone who always cuts sketches out from newspapers of model clothes that she would like to buy if she had the money.

[01:43.88]As she is not rich, the chances that she will ever be able to afford such purchases are remote;

[01:51.93]but she is never sufficiently strongminded to be able to stop the practice.

[01:57.24]It is a harmless habit, but it litters up her desk to such an extent that every time she opens it, loose bits of paper fall out in every direction.

[02:09.31]Collecting as a serious hobby is quite different and has many advantages.

[02:15.15]It provides relaxation for leisure hours, as just looking at one's treasures is always a joy.

[02:22.72]One does not have to go outside for amusement, since the collection is housed at home.

[02:28.80]Whatever it consists of, stamps, records, first editions of books, china, glass,

[02:37.08]antique furniture, pictures, model cars, stuffed birds, toy animals, there is always something to do in connection with it,

[02:47.44]from finding the right place for the latest addition, to verifying facts in reference books.

[02:53.67]This hobby educates one not only in the chosen subject, but also in general matters which have some bearing on it.

[03:02.06]There are also other benefits.

[03:04.94]One wants to meet like-minded collectors, to get advice, to compare notes, to exchange articles, to show off the latest find.

[03:14.33]So one's circle of friends grows.

[03:17.07]Soon the hobby leads to travel, perhaps to a meeting in another town,

[03:22.50]possibly a trip abroad in search of a rare specimen, for collectors are not confined to any one country.

[03:30.33]Over the years, one may well become an authority on one's hobby and will very probably be asked to give informal talks to little gatherings  
[03:40.08]and then, if successful, to larger audiences.  
[03:44.84]In this way self-confidence grows, first from mastering a subject, then from being able to talk about it.  
[03:53.93]Collecting, by occupying spare time so constructively, makes a person contented, with no time for boredom.