**B3U4 Text A Language Focus**

1. **not … in the least:** not at all 毫不，一点也不

*e.*g. I *don’t* care *in the least* what you do with your time.

我毫不在乎你怎么打发时间。

He was *not in the least* worried about the exams.

他对考试一点都不担心。

1. **observe:** *vt.* watch carefully, esp. with attention to details 观察，注意

*e.*g. The role of scientists is to *observe* and describe the world, not to try to control it.

科学家的职责是观察和描述世界，而不是掌控世界。

He sat in a corner, *observing* how the guests at the party interacted.

他坐在角落里，观察客人在派对上如何互动交流。

1. **phenomenon:** (*pl.* **phenomena** or **phenomenons**) *n.* sth. that is observed to happen or exist 现象

*e.*g. Gravity is a natural *phenomenon*.

重力是一种自然现象。

Urbanization is a global social *phenomenon* accompanying industrialization.

城市化是一个伴随工业化而来的全球性社会现象。

1. **initial:** *a.* of or at the beginning, first 开始的，最初的

*e.*g. The *initial* talks were the basis of the later agreement.

最初的会谈是日后协议的基础。

My *initial* surprise at hearing the news was soon replaced by delight.

我听到这消息最初是吃惊，后来变得高兴。

1. **insert:** *vt.* put or thrust in 插入，嵌入

*e.*g. You need to *insert* a comma between these two words.

你要在这两个词之间加一个逗号。

To begin your transaction, *insert* your ATM card into the slot.

作为交易的第一步，你要把你的ATM银行卡插到这个槽里。

1. **await:** *vt*. wait for; be in store for 等待

*e.*g. We must *await* further developments before deciding what to do.

我们必须等事态进一步发展，然后再决定做什么。

Who knows what dangers may *await* us?

谁知道等待我们的是什么样的危险呢？

1. **on occasion:** now and then 有时，间或

*e.*g. *On occasion*, Mary would walk her dog through the park.

有时候，玛丽会遛着狗穿过公园。

She doesn’t like crowds, but will attend a party *on occasion*.

她不喜欢扎堆，但有时候会参加派对。

1. **frown:** *v*. draw one’s eyebrows together because of annoyance, disapproval or worry皱眉

*e.*g. He *frowned* as he read the instructions, as if puzzled.

他念指令时皱着眉头，像是不太明白。

Tom’s parents always *frown* on late nights out.

汤姆的父母对深夜外出的活动总是不太赞同。

The teacher *frowned* the child down when he kept repeating his request.

孩子一遍又一遍提要求时，老师皱起眉头使他不敢再出声了。

1. **relevant:** *a.*having significant bearing on the matter at hand 有关的，切题的，有意义的

*e.*g. We turned over the *relevant* documents to the investigating team.

我们把相关的文件交给了调查组。

I went to the meeting armed with the *relevant* facts and figures.

我带着相关的事实和数据，胸有成竹地去参加会议。

1. **assign:** *vt.* appoint as a duty or give as a task 分派，指派

*e.*g. Department managers must be able to establish priorities and *assign* duties.

部门经理都必须明确任务的轻重缓急并分派到个人。

It is difficult to *assign* blame to a particular person. We are all responsible for the failure.

很难将失败归咎到某个人，我们每个人都有责任。

1. **investigate:** *v.* try to find out information about 调查；探究

*e.*g. The government set up a commission to *investigate* allegations of police violence.

政府建立了调查组，对警察使用暴力的指控进行调查。

The police were baffled, and Sherlock Holmes was called in to *investigate*.

警察一头雾水，便请了福尔摩斯参与调查。

1. **proceed:** *vi.* continue after a pause or interruption 继续进行

*e.*g. His lawyers have decided not to *proceed* with the case.

他的律师决定不再继续跟这案子了。

The doctor let the patient decide on his own whether he should *proceed* with the treatment.

医生让病人自己决定是否继续治疗。

1. **in due course:** after a normal passage of time,at the right time 到时候，在适当的时候

*e.*g. You will be notified of the exam results *in due course*.

考试的结果，到时候会通知你的。

What will happen will happen *in due course*.

该来的到时候总要来的。

1. **matter:** *vi*. be of importance 重要，要紧

*e.*g. It doesn’t *matter* in the least what has been said or done. What we do now is of critical importance.

以前说了什么做了什么毫不重要，至关重要的是我们现在怎么做。

Whatever difficulties we had yesterday, it no longer *matters* now, because they have been overcome.

我们有过什么困难现在已不重要，因为已经克服了。

1. **critical:** *a.* very important; very serious or dangerous 至关重要的；危急的

*e.*g. We are at a *critical* time in history.

我们正处于历史的关键时刻。

Both drivers are in a *critical* condition after the 120-mph crash.

两辆汽车以120英里的时速相撞后，两名司机都生命垂危。

1. **principal:** *a*. (rather *fml*) main, chief 主要的，首要的

*e.*g. The three *principal* characters of the novel were the author’s classmates at grade school.

小说的三个主要人物是作者的小学同班同学。

Iraq’s *principal* export is oil.

伊拉克的主要出口商品是石油。

1. **make up for:**repay with sth. good, compensate for 补偿，弥补

*e.*g. This year’s good harvest will *make up for* last year’s bad one.

今年的好收成将补足去年的歉收。

The increase in sales volume will more than *make up for* the loss resulting from the price cuts.

销售量增加将弥补降价造成的损失，而且还有盈余。

1. **on one’s own:** alone or unaided 独自地；独立地

*e.*g. I enjoy travelling *on my own*.

我喜欢独自一人出游。

It is better to struggle *on one’s own* than to rely on others.

与其依靠别人，不如自己奋斗。

1. **performance:** *n.* the process of doing a job; artistic or dramatic presentation 执行；履行；表演，演出

*e.*g. High-*performance* cars (= those that are fast, powerful, and easy to control) are the most expensive.

高性能汽车（=速度快，功率大，易操作）是最昂贵的。

The financial *performance* of the company is expected to improve.

这家公司的财务业绩预计将会改善。

The audience warmly applauded when the *performance* came to the end.

演出结束时观众报以热烈的掌声。

1. **so much so that:** to such an extent that 到这样程度以至于

*e.*g. It was a great novel, *so much so that* it won the Nobel Prize for literature.

这部小说真不错，还得了诺贝尔文学奖。

The twins look alike—*so much so that* even their parents sometimes confuse them.

这对孪生儿长得十分相像，连他们父母有时候都会搞错。

1. **perfect:** *vt.* make perfect

*e.*g. They *perfected* the arrangements for their long-awaited European vacation.

他们对等待已久的旅欧安排做了优化调整。

To be a truly great artist, one has to do more than just *perfecting* one’s skills.

要成为真正的艺术大师，光练就一套娴熟的技巧是不够的。

1. **over time:** with the passage of time 随着时间的推移

*e.*g. *Over time*, driving just becomes automatic.

慢慢地，驾车变得轻松自如。

He spent a good part of his life observing how people’s habits and attitudes change *over time*.

他用大半生时间观察人们的习惯和态度如何随着时间而改变。

1. **summarize:** *vt.* make a short account of the main points of (sth.) 总结，概述

*e.*g. I’ll just *summarize* the main points of the argument in a few words.

我将把争论的要点简要总结一下。

Can you *summarize* what it is that makes you think you would be suitable for this job?

你能否概括一下，什么使你认为你适合干这份工作？

1. **in terms of:** regarding, concerning 在…方面；就…而言

*e.*g. We try to do what is best for our customers *in terms of* product quality.

我们力求在产品质量方面为客户做到最好。

The movie provides cheap entertainment, but it is costly *in terms of* time wasted.

这影片是廉价娱乐，但浪费的时间可真是太昂贵了。

1. **harbor:** *vt*. keep (sth.) secretly in one’s mind 怀有

*e.*g. I don’t *harbor* any illusions about our chances of success.

对于我们成功的几率，我不抱有任何幻想。

Parents too often *harbor* unrealistic expectations of their children.

父母对自己的孩子常常怀有不切实际的预期。

1. **acquire:** *vt.* learn or develop (a skill, habit, etc.) 获得；养成；学到

e.g. What we *acquire* without sweat we give away without regret.

得来不费力气，放弃也无遗憾。

It is harder to conceal ignorance than to *acquire* knowledge.

掩盖无知比获取知识更难。

1. **promote:** *vt.* help to grow or develop 促进，推进

e.g. We need to *promote* an open exchange of ideas and information.

我们需要促进思想和信息的公开交流。

Greenpeace works to *promote* awareness of the dangers that threaten our planet today.

绿色和平组织致力于增强人们对正在威胁我们这颗星球的危险的意识。

1. **exaggerate:** *v.* make (sth.) seem larger, better, etc. than it really is 夸大，夸张

*e.*g. He tends to *exaggerate* the difficulties before undertaking a task.

他每接受一项任务之前，总要夸大其困难。

It is hard to *exaggerate* the importance of developing good study habits.

培养良好的学习习惯，其重要性再强调也不会过分。

The hotel was really filthy and I’m not *exaggerating*.

我不是夸张，这旅店真的很脏。

1. **reliance:** *n.* dependence on or trust (in sb./sth.) 依靠；信赖

*e.*g. The country’s increasing *reliance* on imports has caused some concern among its economists.

这国家越来越依赖进口，已经引起了该国经济学家的忧虑。

Is the pupils’ increasing *reliance* on the Internet a good thing for education?

学生们越来越依赖互联网，这对教育而言是好是坏？

1. **all too:** much too, definitely but regrettably 实在太

*e.*g. The holidays flew by *all too* quickly.

假期过得实在太快了。

She is *all too* ready to accept the job.

这份工作她真是求之不得。

1. **valid:** *a*. based on truth or sound reasoning 有根据的

*e.*g. The judge remarked that ignorance of the relevant law was not a *valid* defence.

法官说，被告称其不知道相关法律，这不是有理的辩护。

My way of thinking might be different from yours, but it’s equally *valid*.

我的思路可能与你不同，但同样有道理。

1. **foster:** *vt.* promote the growth or development of, encourage 培养，促进

*e.*g. Frequent cultural exchanges will certainly help *foster* friendly relations between our two cities.

频繁的文化交流肯定有利于促进我们两市之间的友好关系。

Volunteers and social workers helped *foster* a sense of community in this neighborhood.

志愿者和社会工作者帮助促进这个社区里的集体意识。

1. **extreme:**

1) *n.* either one of two opposite conditions, feelings, positions, etc., that are thought of as being far from what is normal or reasonable 极端

*e.*g. Going to *extremes* in international relations is a bad idea.

国际关系中走极端不理智。

Every day as I get off the bus in downtown Seattle, I’m confronted with the *extremes* of capitalism. In a city that has produced many technological innovations and wealthy individuals, I pass men, women and children sitting or sleeping on cardboard mattresses.

我每天在西雅图市中心一下公共汽车，就直面资本主义的两个极端。在这个产生了许多技术创新和富裕个体的城市里，我路过在纸板上坐卧的成年男女和儿童。

2) *a.* 极端的

*e.*g. His political ideas are rather *extreme*.

他的政治观念相当极端。

She lived on the *extreme* edge of the forest.

她住在森林最远的那边。

1. **superior:** *a.* better than average or than others of the same type 优良的；较好的

*e.*g. The firm’s technology is widely regarded as being *superior* to that of its competitors.

普遍认为，该公司的技术比它的对手们要高出一筹。

The city’s school system was far *superior* when he left to what it was when he was elected mayor.

与他刚当选市长时相比，他离任时该市的学校系统要好得多。