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Lesson 51 Predicting the future

预测未来 单元复习 虚拟语气

与课文关联的 18 个单词(点击每个单词可查看详细介绍)



notoriously /nəʊ'tɔ:riəsli/

adj. (尤指因坏事) 众所周知地

full-time /,fʊl 'taɪm/ adj. 专职的

technician /tek'nɪʃ(ə)n/ n. 技师

software /'sɒftweə(r)/ n. 软件

IBM /,aɪbi'ɛm/

n. (美国)国际商用机器公司
(International Business Machines)

DOS /dɒs/

n. 磁盘操作系统(Disk Operating System)

Microsoft /'maɪkrəsoft/

n. (美国) 微软公司

user-friendly /ju:zə 'frendli/

adj. 容易操作的, 好用的

mainframe /'meɪnfreɪm/

n. 主机, 中央处理机

multimedia /,mʌlti'mi:diə/

adj. 多媒体的

alternative * /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/

adj. 选择的

diagnose /'daɪəgnəʊz/ v. 诊断

relieve /rɪ'li:v/ v. 减轻

accountant /ə'kaʊntənt/ n. 会计

repetitive /rɪ'petətɪv/ adj. 重复的

clerical /'klerɪkl/

adj. 办公室工作的

Internet /'ɪntənət/ n. 国际交互网

network * /'netwɜ:k/ n. 网络

观点 难度：4 级

※ Predicting the future is notoriously difficult.

『 **notoriously** adv. 众所周知地, 声名狼藉地 』

- Relieving **the problem of overpopulation** is **notoriously difficult**. 众所周知, 缓解人口过剩问题非常困难。

- Giving up a deep-seated bad habit is **notoriously difficult**. 众所周知，改掉一个根深蒂固的坏习惯非常困难。
- The traffic congestion in Beijing is **notoriously serious**. 众所周知，北京的交通拥堵问题非常严重。

❖ 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**?

Who **could have imagined** that computers would become as popular as TV? 句子简化 (虚拟语气)表示将来的情况或变化。

We had not imagined that computers would become popular. 关于过去的想象 (即在某个时间点之前没有预料到)

『 **could have done** used to say that something was a possibility in the past, but did not actually happen 有可能会发生，但是并没有真的发生 (可以单独出现，不用if从句) 』

- I **could have been** killed. 与过去事实相反(本可能发生的，但没有发生)，经常可以单独出现，后面不需要跟if从句
- He **could have escaped**, but he chose to stand and fight.

『 **mid** adj.中央的，中间的，中部的 』

- from **mid** July to **mid** August
- **mid**-morning coffee
- **Mid**-Autumn Festival 中秋节
- a young woman in her **mid**-twenties
- **midsummer** / **midwinter** 仲夏/冬
- on **Midsummer** Eve 仲夏夜

in the early 1970s 早期	Oil production peaked in the early 1980s . 20世纪80年代初期，石油产量达到了最高峰。
in the mid 1970s 中期	It's nothing like what happened in the mid-Seventies . 那根本不像发生在七十年代中期的事情。
in the late 1970s 晚期	The school was built in the late 1970s . 这所学校建于20世纪70年代末。

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? 比方说，有谁能 在 20 世纪 90 年代中期想

象到，仅仅十年之后，手机在中国和手表一样常见？

※ In the 1970s, computers were common enough, but only in big business, government departments and large organizations.

common adj.常见的，普遍的	command n./v.命令，下令
They combined against a common enemy. 他们联手对付共同的敌人。	The child obeyed the command . 孩子服从了命令。

『 **business** [C] 公司 』

- They don't know how to run a **business**.
- The company began as a small family **business**.
- Owners of small **businesses** will be hit hardest by these tax changes.

『 **big business** n. [U] large and powerful companies in general (固定搭配，总称) 大公司 』

- Does big **business** have more control over our everyday lives than our elected governments?
- The party receives most of its financial support from **big business**.

※ These were the so-called mainframe machines.

so-called adj.所谓的	commonly called 所谓的 (通常被称为的)	They've found the flight recorder, the so-called black box.
	incorrectly called 所谓的 (错误地被称为的)	His so-called friends betrayed him.

『 **mainframe** n. 英文解释: 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 (main 主要的 + frame 构架、结构) 』

- The network has a gateway into the hospital **mainframe**. 该网络有一个网关连接医院主机。
- Most have slavishly copied the design of IBM's big **mainframe** machines. 绝大多数公司都一味模仿IBM大型主机的设计。
- I downloaded the whole thing into the hospital **mainframe** before I left work today. 我今天下班前把全部内容下载到了医院的主机上。

※ 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 』

- The building provides about 25,500 sq. ft. of **air-conditioned** offices. 这座建筑提供大约2.55万平方英尺的空调办公室。
- The new buses are **air-conditioned**, comfortable and easy for elderly and disabled passengers to get on and off. 新的公共汽车装有空调, 也很舒适, 方便老人和残疾乘客上下车。
- Cool, **air-conditioned** apartments became furnaces. 凉爽、有空调的公寓变成了火炉。

air conditioner ^{n.}
空调

The **air conditioner** was just what the Brooklyn printer needed. 这种空调设备正好是布鲁克林印刷机所需要的。

『 **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. ^{vt.}
- Most cars **run on unleaded fuel**. ^{vi.}
- They have gathered the best statistics they can find and **run** them through their own computers. 他们已经搜集了他们所能找到的最佳数据并将其在他们自己的电脑里运行。
- Do you want to **run to** Canada? 润~

※ **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. 政变(接管了政府)
- Computers can thus be built to **take over** almost any job where a series of actions are repeated over and over again.
- I'm going to **take over** the company one day. 我总有一天会接管这家公司。

『 **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.
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当时的情况 难度：3 级

※ In 1975, a primitive machine called the Altair, **was launched** in the USA.

『 **primitive** adj. 含义1: of or at an early stage of social development 原始的, 上古的 』

- primitive culture / customs / tribes 原始的...

『 **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.

launch vt.使船下水	Shortly after it was launched , the pie committee went to a local inn to celebrate.
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※ It **can** properly **be described** as the first 'home computer' and it **pointed** the way to the future.

『 **describe ... as ...** 把...描述成 ... 』

- 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 』

- A funny thing happened to us **on the way to the future**. 在我们走向未来的路上发生了有意思的事情。
- Recent medical discoveries are already **pointing the way to** more efficient vaccines.
- **On the way to the future**, everyone is a lone traveler. 在通往未来的路上, 每个人都是孤独的旅行者。

※ This **was followed**, at the end of the 1970s, by a machine called an Apple.

This was followed	, at the end of the 1970s,	by a machine called an Apple.
This 上文的代词	插入语, 次要信息	By 强调重要信息

※ In the early 1980s, the computer giant, IBM **produced** the world's first Personal Computer.

『 **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

※ This **ran on an 'operating system'** called DOS, **produced** by a then small company named Microsoft.

『 **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 』

- Where do I find the instructions to load **DOS** programs from Windows 98? 我在哪里可以找到在视窗98系统下加载磁盘操作系统的说明?
- Apple **DOS** 3.1 disks used 13 sectors of data per disk track. 苹果 DOS 3.1 每个磁盘条使用13个扇区的数据。
- This lesson will teach the disk operating system-**DOS**. 本期为第二讲, 讲授磁盘操作系统——DOS。

※ The IBM Personal Computer **was widely copied**.

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

- She **copies** everything her sister does.
- Are you **imitating/copying** me?
- 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. 含义1. 谦虚的（不浮夸、不吹牛的） 』

- He was a genuinely **humble** man.
- He gave a great performance, but he was very **humble**. 他的表演很精彩，但他却很谦逊。

『 **humble** adj. 含义2. men of humble birth 地位卑微的 』

- a **humble** occupation
- Spyros Latsis started his career as a **humble** fisherman in the Aegean. 斯派罗斯·拉齐斯最初的职业是爱琴海的一名地位低微的渔夫。

『 **humble** adj. 含义3. simple and with only basic equipment or features 简单的，简陋的（用于替换上文中的“primitive”） 』

- They lived in a **humble** two-roomed apartment.
- There are restaurants, both **humble** and expensive, that specialize in noodles. 既有普通的也有昂贵的专营面条的餐馆。

『 **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.

be in common use 广泛使用	From those humble beginnings, we have seen the development of the user-friendly home computers and multimedia machines which are in common use today.
be in general use 广泛使用	So was born the echo-sounding apparatus, now in general use in ships.

结论 难度：3级

※ 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...（非谓语如果属于固定习语搭配时，就不再要求逻辑主语与主句主语统一，所以干脆被看成了介词） 』

- 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 ...	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.
so long as ...	只要...	So long as there's something to identify, we will give people their money back.
provided (that)...		The other banks are going to be very eager to help, provided that they see that he has a specific plan. 如果他有一个具体的计划，其他的银行才会非常渴望提供资助。
on condition (that)		He agreed to speak to reporters on condition that he was not identified. 他同意在不暴露身份的条件下和记者谈话。

※ 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. 含义1. to remove someone from their job 解雇，辞退 (比 fire 文言一些) 』

- The poor girl was **dismissed** instantly.

『 **dismiss** v. 含义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.
- Though **in those days**, traveling was not as easy as it is today, steam boats carried thousands of visitors across the Channel from Europe.
- Though my aunt pursued what was, **in those days**, an enlightened policy, in that she never allowed her domestic staff to work more than eight hours a day, she was extremely difficult to please.
- **In those days** wandering minstrels were welcome everywhere. They were not fighting men, and their harp was their passport.

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, 定语从句1

※ when they **would be** capable of providing information about traffic jams and suggesting alternative routes, 并列定语从句2

※ when they **would be used** in hospitals to help doctors to diagnose illnesses, 并列定语从句3

※ when they **would relieve** office workers and accountants of dull, repetitive clerical work. 并列定语从句4

『 **foresee** vt. (foresaw, foreseen) 预见 ... 』

- The disaster could not have been **foreseen**.
- Few analysts **foresaw** that oil prices would rise so steeply.

<p>foresight n. 远见, 先见之明</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They had the foresight to invest in new technology. • Such undertakings require the precise planning and foresight of military operations.
<p>forethought n. 远虑, 提前的思考</p>	<p>With a little forethought many accidents could be avoided.</p>
<p>forecast n. 预测, 预报</p>	<p>The weather forecast says it will be cloudy today. 天气预报说今天会是阴天。</p>

foretell / predict v. 预言...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precautions of this sort are necessary, for it is impossible to foretell the exact nature of the difficulties which will confront the pot-holer. • The latest opinion polls are predicting a very close contest. 最新的民意测验预言将是一场势均力敌的竞赛。 • Timely snow foretells a bumper harvest.
mark the prelude to sth. 预示...、标志着...的序幕	The telephone rings and this marks the prelude to an unforeseen series of catastrophes.

『 **traffic jams = traffic congestion** 交通堵塞 』

- People are fed up with all these **traffic jams**. 人们厌烦这么多的交通堵塞。
- I got stuck in the mother of all **traffic jams**. 我被困在最严重的一次大塞车之中。
- The plan should ease **traffic congestion** in the town. 这项计划对城里的交通拥挤状况应该有所缓解。
- The problems of **traffic congestion** will not disappear in a hurry. 交通堵塞问题不会很快消失。

『 **diagnose** v. 诊断 』

- The test is used to **diagnose** a variety of diseases. 此项化验可用于诊断多种疾病。
- How did they **diagnose** you? 他们怎么给你的诊断的?
- It could also help doctors **diagnose** illnesses. 它也能协助医生诊断病情。

diagnosis n. 诊断 [U or C] [diagnoses]	Early diagnosis and treatment can prevent serious problems .
diagnose sth. as ... 把...诊断为某种病	The illness was diagnosed as cancer.
diagnose sb. as / with ... 把某人诊断为患有...	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
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『 **clerk** n. 含义1. person employed in an office, a shop, etc to keep records, accounts, etc. 文书; 办事员; 事务员 』

- She was offered a job as a **clerk** with a travel agency. 她找到了在一家旅行社做文书的工作。

『 **clerk** n. 含义2. (AmE) assistant in a shop 店员, 售货员 』

- Now Thomas was working as a **clerk** in a shop that sold leather goods. 现在托马斯在一家卖皮革品的店里做售货员。

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

- routine **clerical** work 例行的文书工作
- administrative and **clerical** staff

※ All these computer uses **have become** commonplace.

『 **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 变得常见

Foreign vacations have **become commonplace**.

regard sth. as commonplace 把...看做不足为奇的事情

Such actions were **regarded as commonplace** during the war.

※ Of course, Leon Bagrit **couldn't 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.** (前后动词不一致, 不可省略)
- She's **done** everything she could **possibly think** of to help. (前后动词不一致, 不可省略)

- We shall be *contributing* as much as we **possibly** can to the campaign. 后面省略了“contribute”
- Doctors *did* everything they **possibly** could to save his life. 后面省略了“do”

No matter what the conditions were, He believed that a person should contribute as much as he possibly could to society. 无论在任何情况下，他都认为一个人应该尽可能地为社会做出贡献。

No matter what the conditions were, He believed that a person should make as many contributions as he could possibly think of to society. 无论在任何情况下，他都认为一个人应该为社会做出他能想到的尽可能多的贡献。

『 ... to communicate instantly with anyone ... 』

- Instant messaging allows users **to communicate instantly with business** contacts and colleagues. 即时消息传递使用户能够与业务联系人和同事进行即时沟通。
- By means of modern technology we are able **to communicate with** each other instantly. 通过现代技术，我们可以即时通信。

『 instant communication 即时交流沟通 』

- **Instant communication** is accepted by people as a way of communication. 即时通信作为一种通信形式受大众喜爱。
- What do you think of Taobao's **instant communication** software provided? 您对于淘宝网站所提供的联系方式的看法?

『 **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 』

- Are you addicted to **instant messaging**? 您痴迷于即时消息?
- Email, calendaring, and **instant messaging**. 电子邮件、日历和即时消息传递。
- Email and **instant messaging** changed all that. 电邮和即时短信把一切都改变了。
- **Instant messaging** from the mail database. 来自邮件数据库的即时消息。

※ **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. 部分倒装

※ Computers **have become** smaller and smaller, more and more powerful and cheaper and cheaper.

『比较级 表示“越来越”』

两个比较级连用	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • smaller and smaller • cheaper and cheaper
more and more 修饰	more and more powerful
副词修饰	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increasingly powerful • ever more powerful

※ This **is** what **makes** Leon Bagrit's predictions **particularly remarkable**. 主系表

『particularly adv.非常，尤其；特别是；清楚地，明确地』

- Progress has been **particularly** disappointing. 进展一直格外令人失望。
- Keep your office space looking good, **particularly** your desk. 保持你办公的地方整洁美观，特别是办公桌。
- More local employment will be created, **particularly** in service industries. 更多的面向当地的就业将被创造出来，尤其是在服务业。

※ **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』

相当于宾语从句	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They will hardly know which facts to select from ... ⇒ They will hardly know which facts they should select from ... • I don't know what to do. ⇒ I don't know what I should do. • I haven't decided whether to sell it or not. ⇒ I haven't decided whether I should sell it or not. • Have you settled where to go? ⇒ Have you settled where you should go?
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.

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 .
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.



[a flash in the pan](#)

昙花一现

受限于个人水平，笔记若有疏漏之处，恳请发送邮件至 hibenba@gmail.com 批评指正。
同时可通过网址(ncego.com)页面底部“举报”错误 (更新于:2026-03-01)。

一场孤独的修行，需要相信积累的力量。专注当下、珍惜时间、心怀感恩、顶峰相见。