

美國之音

新聞英語聽力訓練

News in  Learning English

Voice of America/Sheng-chieh Jeff Chang/Jennifer Chen · 著
蘇裕承/陳瑾珮 · 譯 Helen Yeh · 審訂

Culture



Economy



Politics



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前言

想學習英語新聞，又覺得 CNN、BBC 等媒體用的單字太難，語速又過快，總是不得其門而入嗎？想要開始學習新聞英語，你一定不能錯過本書！

美國之音 (Voice of America, VOA) Special English 網站在 2014 年更名為 **Learning English**，涵蓋更豐富多元的英語學習資源，並持續發布「**慢速英語新聞**」，每天內容不斷更新，報導範圍橫跨全球，包含經濟、藝術、科技、健康、教育、社會各種領域，只要點進網站，就能輕鬆遍覽各類主題的新聞。

Learning English 的新聞均依據美國之音所編製的 **1500 核心單字書 (VOA Special English Word Book)** 中所收錄的單字寫成，英文簡單明確；且每篇新聞都有**新聞朗讀音檔**，播報速度比一般新聞媒體慢，非常適合新聞英語的初學者用來**鞏固核心單字**及**訓練聽力技巧**。

本書精選美國之音 VOA Learning English 網站**中級 (Intermediate Level)** 及**高級 (Advanced Level)** 分類中的慢速英語新聞，分為**經濟與財經、人文藝術與媒體娛樂、科學與科技、政治與軍事、醫學與健康、語言與教育、生活休閒與運動、環境與氣候、社會與宗教**等 9 大領域 54 則新聞，主題囊括**最新最夯的時事資訊**以及**歷久不衰的新聞報導**，篇篇深度、知識、趣味兼具，全方位學習最完整的新聞英語。新聞文章旁附有**重要專有名詞的補充解說**，不僅讀懂文意，更能洞悉新聞背景。

另外，本書也精心編寫了豐富的聽力、閱讀、單字練習題，訓練以**聽力為主、閱讀／單字為輔**，分為**4 步驟**循序漸進扎實訓練：

① 單字學習 → ② 暖身測驗 → ③ 正式學習 → ④ 複習

運用這 4 步驟能快速熟悉全文，並能掌握常見的新聞單字以及語句用法。藉著本書打好聽讀新聞英語的基礎，提升聽力閱讀實力，讓你聽讀新聞無障礙，用英語盡知天下事！

Unit 1

Robots Replace Human Workers in Eastern Europe 機器人取代東歐工人

STEP

1 Word Bank

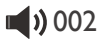


Listen to the vocabulary occurring in the news.

- 1 **production** [prə'dʌkʃən] (n.) 生產 衍生 produce (v.) 生產
- 2 **invest** [ɪn'vest] (v.) 投資；投入
- 3 **machinery** [mə'ɪnəri] (n.) 大型機械（集合名詞，不可數）
衍生 machine (n.) 機器（可數）
- 4 **competitive** [kəm'petətɪv] (a.) 有競爭力的；競爭的 衍生 compete (v.) 競爭
- 5 **manufacturing** [ˌmænjə'fæktʃərɪŋ] (n.) 製造業
衍生 manufacture (v.) 製造
- 6 **eastward(s)** ['ɪstwəd(z)] (adv.) 向東的；朝東的
- 7 **supplier** [sə'plaɪə] (n.) 供應商 衍生 supply (v.) 提供
- 8 **economic** [ɪkə'nɒmɪk] (a.) 經濟上的；經濟學的 衍生 economy (n.) 經濟
- 9 **shortage** ['ʃɔrtɪdʒ] (n.) 缺少；不足 衍生 short (a.) 短缺的；短的
- 10 **labor** ['leɪə] (n.) 勞工；體力勞動
- 11 **replace** [rɪ'pleɪs] (v.) 取代 衍生 replacement (n.) 取代
- 12 **artificial intelligence** [ˌɑ:tə'fɪʃəl ɪn'telədʒəns] (n.) 人工智慧（= AI）
- 13 **investment** [ɪn'vestmənt] (n.) 投資；投資額；投資物
- 14 **year-on-year** ['jɪrɒn,jɪr] (a.) 與前一年同期相比的（= year-over-year）
- 15 **operator** ['ɒpə'retə] (n.) 操作者 衍生 operate (v.) 操作
- 16 **automation** [ˌɔ:tə'meɪʃən] (n.) 自動化（技術） 衍生 automate (v.) 使自動化
- 17 **relatively** ['rɛlətɪvli] (adv.) 相對地 衍生 relative (a.) 相對的
- 18 **await** [ə'wet] (v.) 等待（及物動詞）
- 19 **repetitive** [rɪ'petɪtɪv] (a.) 反覆的 衍生 repeat (v.) 反覆；重複
- 20 **bleak** [blik] (a.) 黯淡的；無希望的

STEP

2 Warm-Up



002

A Listen to the news as many times as you like, and answer the following questions.

_____ 1. Which is the reason why human workers have been replaced by robots in Eastern Europe?

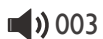
- (A) Wages are rising while robots have become cheaper.
- (B) Human workers can work only for 8 hours while robots can work 24 hours a day.
- (C) Human workers are less and less interested in heavy and repetitive physical work.

_____ 2. Based on the news, which of the following is TRUE about Simon Plastics?

- (A) It is hoping to expand production and has made a large investment in automation recently.
- (B) All of its physical work has been taken on by robots.
- (C) Some of its employees were laid off because robots replaced their work.

3. Circle **T** (True) or **F** (False), based on the news.

- T** **F** Manufacturing in some Eastern European countries has increased since the European Union expanded eastwards.
- T** **F** While robots have replaced most human labor, human operators are still needed.
- T** **F** Josef Stredula said that more than 10 percent of jobs could disappear.



003

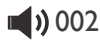
B Listen to the sentences in the news, and fill in the blanks or choose the correct words.

1. More recently strong **1** (**economic** / **economical**) growth has led to rising wages and a **2** _____ of workers.
2. "Big changes are **3** _____ us," Stredula said. He added that automation might make people less responsible for heavy or

STEP

3

Reading



002

Listen while you read the news.

Robots Replace Human Workers in Eastern Europe

- 1 Istman Simon's factory in western Hungary produces more than one million plastic parts every day. But on a busy morning in one of its large **production**¹ areas, there is only the sound of machines.
- 2 Workers have all but disappeared.
- 3 Similar changes are taking place on production lines across Eastern Europe. Rising wages for workers are in conflict with the area's image as a low-cost production base. So factory owners from Hungary to the Czech Republic and Poland find themselves with little choice but to **invest**² in **machinery**³ if they want to remain **competitive**⁴.
- 4 **Manufacturing**⁵ in the area has increased since the **European Union** expanded **eastwards**⁶ in the 2000s. Since then, companies such as carmakers Audi and Daimler have opened local production lines and the number of parts **suppliers**⁷ has grown. But more recently strong **economic**⁸ growth has led to rising wages and a **shortage**⁹ of workers.
- 5 Zoltan Laszlo is a Hungarian **labor**¹⁰ union leader. He told the Reuters news agency that the use of robot labor has risen notably in the automobile, steel, and machinery industries.



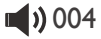
European Union (EU) 歐洲聯盟

簡稱「歐盟」，為歐洲許多國家共同建立的政治經濟聯盟，在英國於 2020 年 2 月 1 日退出之後，共有 27 個成員國。文中提到的匈牙利、捷克及波蘭均於 2004 年加入歐盟。

- 6 “We can see human labor being **replaced**¹¹ with machinery and **artificial intelligence**¹²,” he said. “Such **investments**¹³ can already be seen . . . leading to job losses.”
- 7 Hungary’s economy grew nearly 5 percent last year, and manufacturing investments rose at the fastest rate in three years. Yet the industry lost nearly 23,000 jobs, ending six straight years of employment growth.
- 8 In the Czech Republic, employment numbers showed a **year-on-year**¹⁴ loss of almost a thousand manufacturing jobs between July and September of last year. This suggests employment in manufacturing could have decreased for the first time since 2013 over the full year.
- 9 Peter Simon is chief executive of Simon Plastics, a company his father created 35 years ago. As he watched a line of machines making parts for cars recently, Simon noted there are no human **operators**¹⁵.
- 10 “Wages are going up, the prices of robots are coming down, so this is the way to get returns,” he said. Simon Plastics is hoping to expand production. But pressured by increasing wages and falling prices, all of the company’s recent investment of over \$3 million was spent on **automation**¹⁶.
- 11 The company has not yet cut any of its 400 jobs. Its owners have found other positions for those whose work robots have replaced. But the company plans to automate the rest of its physical work after a 50 percent jump in operator wages over the past three years.
- 12 Josef Stredula is head of the Czech-Moravian Confederation of Trade Unions. He says the movement toward automation has been a **relatively**¹⁷ slow one. But he notes that several estimates have shown up to 10 percent of jobs could disappear.
- 13 “Big changes are **awaiting**¹⁸ us,” Stredula said. He added that automation might make people less responsible for heavy or **repetitive**¹⁹ physical work. However, it was important to ease the change, for example by retraining affected workers.
- 14 “We have to do everything to make the future not so **bleak**²⁰ but relatively easier for everyone,” he said.

STEP

4 Wrap-Up Practice



A Listen to the following excerpts from the news and fill in the blanks.

- Workers have all but disappeared. Similar changes **1** _____
_____ Eastern Europe.
Rising wages for workers are in conflict with the area's image **2** _____
_____. So factory owners from
Hungary to the Czech Republic and Poland find themselves **3** _____
_____ if they want to remain competitive.
- The company has **4** _____.
Its owners have found other positions **5** _____.
_____. But the company plans to automate
the rest of its physical work after a 50 percent jump in operator wages over
the past three years.

B Find out the answer to each question below from the news.

- Zoltan Laszlo said, "Such investments can already be seen . . . leading to job losses." According to him, what did Hungarian industries invest in?

- According to Josef Stredula, what is a possible way to ease the change brought by automation?

- C** Fill in the blanks with the correct words to complete the news summary.

robots economy employment wages manufacturing

Since the Eastern European countries joined the European Union, **1** _____ in the area has increased and the **2** _____ has grown. As a result, **3** _____ have been going up and there have not been enough workers. Instead of hiring more workers, cheaper **4** _____ are being widely used in many industries, leading to low **5** _____ rates.

- D** Match each word with its definition.

- | | |
|------------------------|---|
| 1 labor (n.) | A a company providing a particular product |
| 2 supplier (n.) | B physical work |
| 3 operator (n.) | C a person buying goods from a shop |
| | D a person controlling a machine to make it work |
| | E a person who buys and sells a particular product |

- E** Choose the best answer to each question.

- _____ **1.** In one of the large _____ areas of Istman Simon's factory, there is only the sound of machines. Workers there have all but disappeared.
- A** introduction **B** production **C** reduction
- _____ **2.** Manufacturing in the area has increased since the European Union expanded _____ in the 2000s.
- A** east **B** eastern **C** eastwards
- _____ **3.** The movement toward automation has been a _____ slow one, but several estimates have shown up to 10 percent of jobs could disappear.
- A** relatedly **B** relatively **C** repetitively