

《高中英语》（上外版）

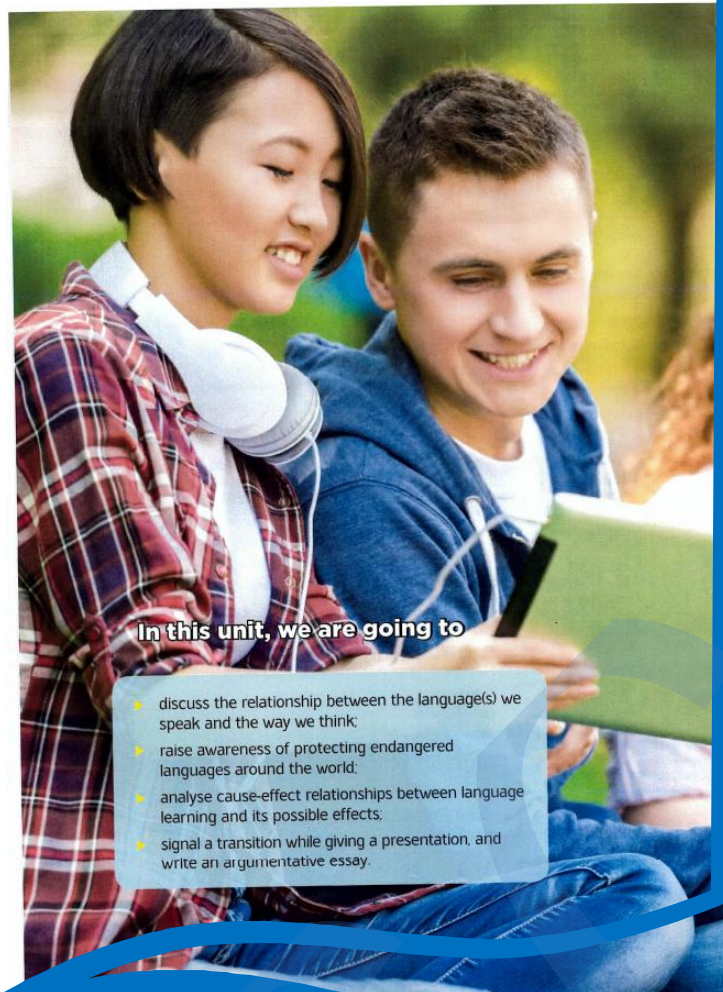
选择性必修第二册第二单元第1课时

Language and Mind

授课教师：上海市曹杨中学 文锦谊

《高中英语》（上外版）

选择性必修第二册第二单元



课时	授课内容
1	Getting Started/ Reading A
2	Reading A/ Vocabulary Focus
3	Reading A/ Grammar in Use
4	Listening and Viewing
5	Reading B
6	Critical Thinking and Speaking
7	Writing
8	Further Exploration and Self-assessment

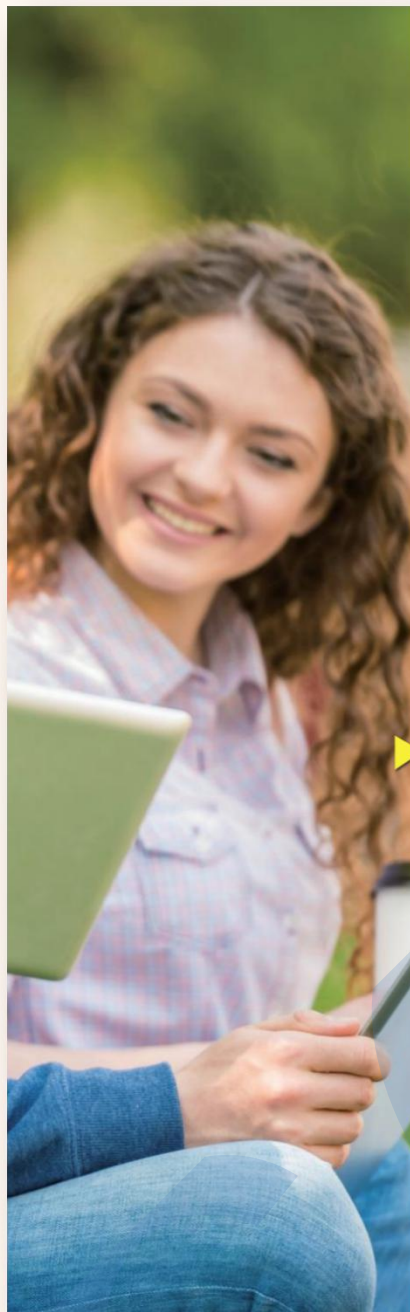
学习目标 Learning Objectives:

At the end of the lesson, you will be able to ...

1.能依据议论文的文体特征，分析语篇内容，包括论点、论据和论证方法等；
analyze the content of an argumentative essay according to the stylistic features,
including arguments, evidence and argumentation methods;

2.能依据语篇中的例证，归纳和总结作者的观点和态度；
summarize the author's views and attitudes based on the examples in the
text;

3.能深入理解语言与思维的关系，并基于个人体验和经历分享外语学习对个人的影响。
deeply understand the relationship between language and mind,
and share the impact of foreign language learning on individuals
based on personal experiences.



Unit 2

Language and Mind

The limits of my language are the limits of my universe.

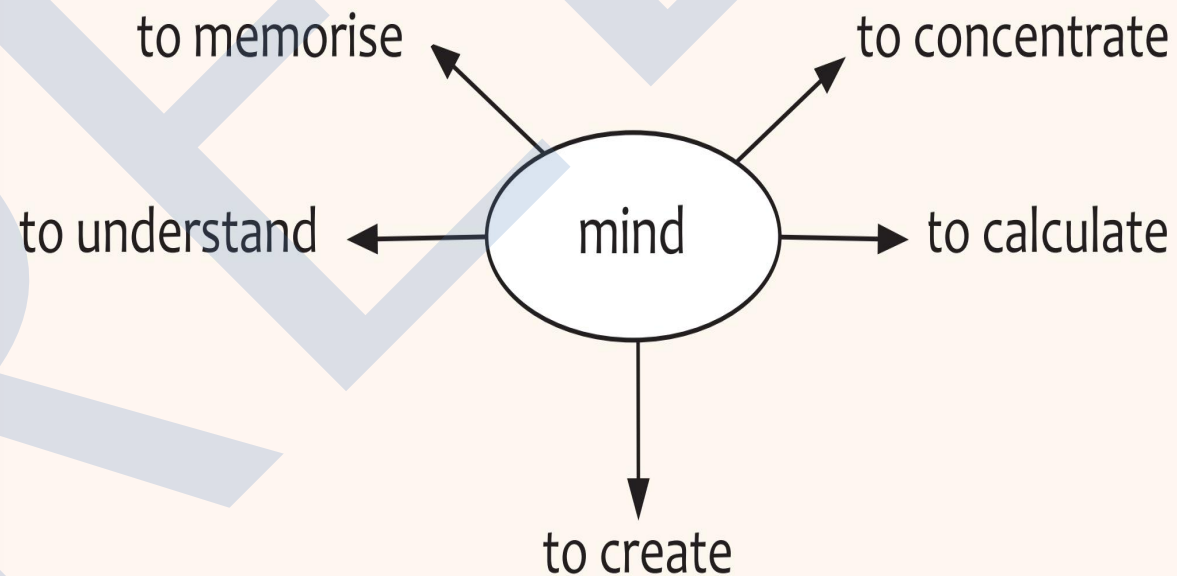
— Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Getting Started

Below are some benefits of learning a new language. Based on your experience of learning English, which of them do you find to be true? Explain why.

1. improving your memory
2. improving your concentration
3. building your willpower
4. improving your learning ability

Brainstorming



Getting started

Below are some benefits of learning a new language. Based on your experience of learning English, which of them do you find to be true? Explain why.

1. improving your memory
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Skimming

READING A

? There are about 7,000 languages spoken around the world — and they all have different sounds, words and structures. But do they shape the way we think? Lera Boroditsky suggests an answer.



**HOW LANGUAGE SHAPES
THE WAY WE THINK**

Scanning

READING A

? There are about 7,000 languages spoken around the world — and they all have different sounds, words and structures. But do they shape the way we think? Lera Boroditsky suggests an answer.



About 7,000 languages are spoken around the world. And all the languages differ from one another in all kinds of ways. That begs this ancient question: does the language we speak shape the way we think? Charlemagne, Holy Roman emperor, said, "To have a second language is to have a second soul." — a strong statement that suggests that language affects reality. On the other hand, Shakespeare's Juliet says, "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." — this suggests that language does not shape reality. Whether language shapes reality has been debatable for thousands of years.

Here are some of my favourite examples. I'll start with one from an Aboriginal community in Australia, the earliest people who lived in the country. The Kuuk Thaayorre people don't use words like "left" and "right." Instead, they use: north, south, east, and west. Thus, they would say something like, "Oh, there's an ant on your southwest leg." Or, "Move your cup to the north-northeast a little bit." In fact, people who speak languages like this are more aware of where they are in the world.

Languages differ in how they express colours. Some languages have lots of words for colours, while

some have only a couple of words — "light" and "dark." For example, in English, there is a word for blue, but in Russian, there isn't just one word.

Instead, Russian speakers have to tell the difference between light blue, "goluboy," and dark blue, "siniy." When we test people's ability to recognise the differences between these colours, we find that Russian speakers are faster.

Languages also differ in how they describe accidents. In English, it's fine to say, "He broke the vase." In a language like Spanish, you might be more likely to say, "The vase broke," or, "The vase broke itself." If it is an accident, you wouldn't say that "someone" did it. So, people who speak different languages will pay attention to different things, depending on what their language usually requires them to do.

I've given you a few examples of how language can significantly shape the way we think. Language can have big effects, as we saw with space. Language can also have really early effects, as we saw in the case of colour. They have an impact on our simple, basic decisions. And finally, we saw

how language can shape things that have personal significance for us — ideas like blame and punishment.

There is such a beautiful variety of language and it reveals just how brilliant and flexible the human mind is. I want to leave you with this final thought. I've told you about how speakers of different languages think differently. But, it's not about how people elsewhere think. It's about how you think. And that gives you the opportunity to ask, "Why do I think the way that I do?"

Note

This text was selected and adapted from a talk given by Lera Boroditsky in 2017.



Digging in

“To have a second language is to have a second soul.”

— Charlemagne (Holy Roman emperor)

Language affects reality.

VS.



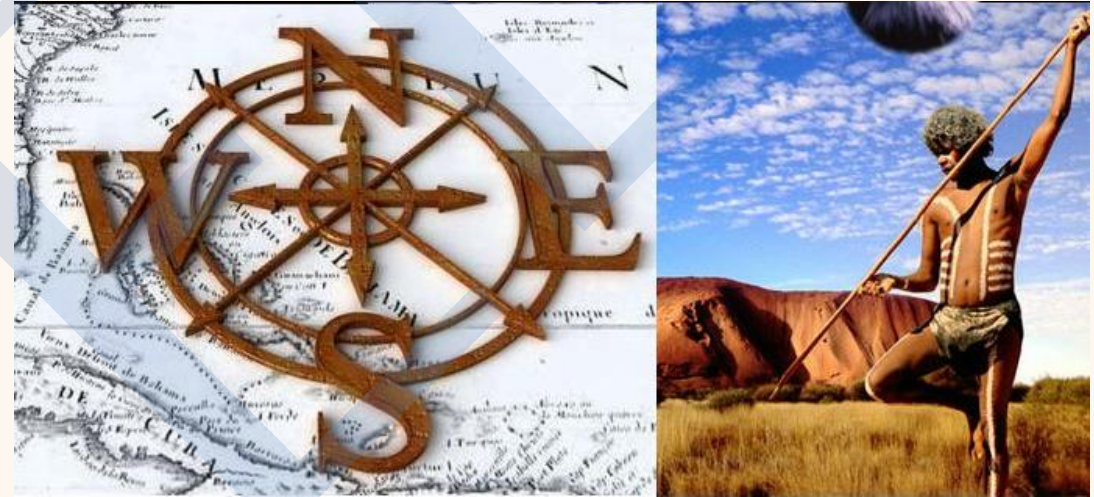
“What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

— William Shakespeare

Language doesn't affect reality.

Digging in

- Here are some of my favourite examples. I'll start with one from an Aboriginal community in Australia, the earliest people who lived in the country. The Kuuk Thaayorre people don't use words like "left" and "right."
- Instead, they use: north, south, east, and west. Thus, they would say something like, "Oh, there's an ant on your southwest leg." Or, "Move your cup to the north-northeast a little bit."
- In fact, people who speak languages like this are more aware of where they are in the world.



Claim

Language can influence the way we think about space.

Example

The Kuuk Thaayorre people have a good sense of direction because of the language they speak.

Digging in

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Digging in

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Digging in

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Language can influence the way we express colours.	<i>Influenced by the language they speak, Russian people are faster when recognising the difference between dark blue and light blue.</i>

Digging in

Language can influence the way we describe accidents.



He broke the vase. — English

The vase broke.

The vase broke itself.

} Spanish

Digging in

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Discussing

III. The speaker used two quotes in support of the opposing statements regarding the relationship between language and mind. Read the quotes below and put them into the corresponding category. Add a quote to support the statement you agree with.

Statement 1: Language shapes the way we think.	Statement 2: Language doesn't shape the way we think.
A	B

A. *To have a second language is to have a second soul.* — Charlemagne

B. *What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.*

— William Shakespeare

C. *Knowledge of languages is the doorway to wisdom.* — Roger Bacon

D. *Words are the clothes thoughts wear.* — Samuel Beckett

E. *The ability to think for one's self depends upon one's mastery of the language.*

— Joan Didion

F. One more quote: _____.

Discussing

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More quotes

Language is the dress of thought.

— Samuel Johnson

Language shapes the way we think, and determines what we can think about.

— Benjamin Lee Whorf

You live a new life for every new language you speak. If you know only one language, you live only once.

— Czech proverb

A different language is a different vision of life.

— Federico Fellini

Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things, but learning another way to think about things.

— Flora Lewis

Change your language and you change your thoughts.

— Karl Albrecht

If we spoke a different language, we would perceive a somewhat different world.

— Ludwig Wittgenstein

how language can shape things that have personal significance for us — ideas like blame and punishment.

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Personal touch

How long have you been learning English? Has learning or using English changed the way you see the world? Can you give us some examples?



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Personal touch

I have been learning English for more than 9 years. Yes, learning and using English has changed the way I see the world. For example, Chinese idioms containing the word “dog” often have negative implications since dogs often beg others for a favour. People would use the expressions such as “like a dog threatening people on the strength of its master’s power” and “crow like a cock and snatch like a dog” to convey their disrespect for those who they despise. In western culture, however, dogs symbolize loyalty and they are called “men’s four-legged friends.” People would use, for instance, “I am a lucky dog” and “Love me, love my dog” to express their love for dogs. Using these English idioms reminds me of the good qualities of dogs.



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my universe.**

–Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Assignments

1. Read the excerpt from the lecture to explore more of language's influences on the way people think and complete the table on the worksheet.
2. Watch the whole lecture and finish the exercises on the worksheet.
(Optional)

Thank you!