

Chapter 35 Air Transport

I. Objectives

- A. To gain an understanding of air transport
- B. To gain an understanding of its advantages and disadvantages
- C. To learn something about an air waybill
- D. To explore the difference between a marine bill of lading and an air waybill
- E. To learn relevant words, expressions and structures

II. Introduction

Air transport is a modern means of transport. Although it has the disadvantage of high freight, it does have many advantages of its own, a prominent advantage of which is its delivery speed. Recent years with the rapid development of international trade, air transport has become more and more popular.

航空运输是一种现代化的运输方式,它虽然运费昂贵但有许多其他运输方式不可比拟的优点。随着世界贸易的发展航空运输日趋普遍。

III. Main points of the text

- A.
 - 1. Air transport is the most recent form of transportation for the exporter.
 - 2. Air transport has two prominent advantages of speed, and freedom from topographical obstacles.
 - 3. Other features of air transport include its security or smaller risks relatively simple packing.
- B. Outstanding disadvantages of air transport such as high cost of service, and limited carrying capacity.
- C. The most important document in air transport – air waybill

IV. Background and terminology

1) the Wright brothers:



American brothers Wilbur, *left*, and Orville Wright invented the first practical airplane. Creative thinkerers from a young age, they built a printing press and worked on bicycles before turning their attention toward flight. Beginning with kites and then gliders, they achieved the first powered flight in 1903.

- 2) (insurance) premium: the amount paid or payable, often in installments, for an insurance policy 保险费
- 3) customs duty: taxes payable on merchandise imported or exported from one country to another 关税
tariff: tax levied upon goods as they cross national boundaries, usually by the government of the importing country. Usually assessed on imports, tariffs may apply to all

foreign goods or only to goods produced outside the borders of a .关税

- 4) carrying capacity: the maximum number of persons or things that a vehicle can carry 承运能力
- 5) air waybill:
Air Waybill (AWB) or air consignment note or airway refers to a receipt issued by an international courier company for goods which is an evidence of the contract of carriage, but is normally not negotiable. The AWB has a tracking number which can be used to check the status of delivery, and current position of the item. 航空运货单
- 6) cargo agent: 货运代理人
- 7) a straight bill:
a bill of lading merely stating that the carrier is to deliver the goods to a specified person at a specified place 记名提单; 直接提单

V. Language points

- 1) common place: Having no remarkable features, characteristics, or traits 平凡的, 寻常的
Car thefts are commonplace in this part of town.
偷车在这一城区很寻常。
- 2) free from: without being controlled or restricted by anything 不受...限制的
Women are fighting to break free from tradition.
妇女在争取摆脱传统的束缚。
- 3) tied up: (money) all being used for something and not available for anything else 将(金钱)用于投资致使难以动用
Most of his money is tied up on property.
他大部分钱都投资在房地产上无法动用。
All my money is tied up on stocks and shares.
我所有的钱都投放在股票上, 因而不能动用。
- 4) the hours of darkness: a particular period or point of time during night 黑夜
Few people dared to venture out during the hours of darkness.
少有人敢在黑夜里冒险出去。
- 5) feasible: capable of being accomplished or brought about; possible 可行的
It's not feasible to dismiss him.
不可开除他。
It was no longer financially feasible to keep the community centre open.
要继续使社区中心开放, 从财力上说已不再可能。
- 6) alternative: something you can choose to do or use instead of something else 选择

If payment is not received, legal action will be our only alternative.

如果收不到付款，我们的唯一选择就是诉诸法律。

He quickly assessed what alternatives were open to him.

他迅速地盘算着有什么选择可供他挑选。

- 7) associated with: to make a connection in one's mind between one thing or person and another 由.....联想到，把.....联系到一起

In business, people tend to associate personal behavior with the company.

在商业中，人们易于把个人行为与公司联系到一起。

Whisky is usually associated with Scotland.

人们常把威士忌同苏格兰联系起来。

- 8) assess: to make a judgment about a person or situation after thinking carefully about it; to calculate or decide the value or amount of 评估; 估定(财产, 价值等)

A report was being prepared to assess the impact of advertising on children.

正在起草一份报告来评估广告对孩子的影响。

The annual income of school teachers in this place was assessed at \$ 900.

这地方的学校教师的年收入为 900 美元。

- 9) (be) subject to: (one) must obey the rule 服从的

All citizens in this nation are subject to the law.

这个国家的全体公民都必须服从法律

All such gatherings are subject to the laws on political meetings.

所有这样的集会都受有关政治集会法令的管束。

- 10) as a rule: in general; for the most part 通常; 总体上:

As a rule, we take the bus.

通常, 我乘公共汽车

As a general rule most students finish their coursework by the end of June.

大多数学生通常在六月底之前结课。

- 11) authorize: to grant authority or power to 授权

She has authorized her partner to negotiate on her behalf.

她已授权其同伴为她的利益谈判。

The relevant city agency has not authorized the construction project.

有关城市机构还没有批准该工程建设项目。

Difficult sentences

- 1) It is only one hundred years since one of the Wright brothers of North Carolina in USA, managed to stay in the air in a mechanically powered home-made kite for twelve seconds.

It is + 一段时间 + since + 从句 (从句时态用过去时), 这是固定用法: 表示“自从...以来, 已经有.....长时间了。” 例如:

It is ten years since I saw him last.

自从我最后一次见他已经过去 10 年了。

- 2) It has many advantages over other modes of transport: 这里的“over”是介词，意为“compared with”，与……相比。例如：
He has the advantage of speed over his competitors.
他在速度上比他的对手们占优势。
- 3) This is extremely important for smaller exporters who may not be able to afford having their capital tied up for three months while a ship completes its voyage.
结构“have sth done”的意思为“使某事被做”。例如：
They have their car serviced at the garage every half a year.
他们每半年到修车厂维修他们的汽车。
“who may...”是定语从句修饰先行词“exporters”，“while a ship...”是该定语从句中的时间状语从句。

VI. Summary

Air transport, although it has only a short history, is beginning to play an important role in cargo freight in international trade, due to its fast speed, smaller risks, and freedom from natural topographical obstacles. Nevertheless, it also has its drawbacks such as higher cost and limited carrying capacity, among others. In air transportation, the most important document is Air Waybill, which, unlike the marine bill of lading, is a straight bill and is normally not negotiable.

VII. Comprehension questions

1. What are the two chief advantages of air transport?
2. What are the disadvantages of air transport?
3. What does the speed of delivery mean?
4. Please talk about packing of the cargo that is transported by air.
5. What kind of goods are not suitable for air transport?
6. What is Air Waybill? Please explain it fully?