

高中英文背誦文選
THE SENIOR DECLAIMER

陸貞明編注

上海競文書局印行

To
MR C. H. KVEI,
MY MOST INTIMATE FRIEND,
THIS BOOK
Is
DEDICATED

中華民國
二十五年
五月十八日

EDITOR'S PREFACE

This volume is something more than a book of selections for use by students of English. Each of the selections has been included not only because it is well written and worth study but also because it is short enough to be easily memorized.

The notes clearly show the pains that have been taken in preparing them. Many common usages and idioms are illustrated by a short sentence.

The compiler is to be congratulated on his work, and I take a pride in thinking that I had the opportunity of reading through the manuscript before it was put into the compositor's hands.

HERTZ C. K. KÊ

July, 1940

PREFACE

Time and again I have been asked "Is there any royal road to the mastery of English?" Well, there are no more royal roads to English than to success. It is none too easy for those to whom English is not the mother tongue to master the language, especially if they study it without a proper method. It is wrong to think that all who have a perfect knowledge of English grammar will have nothing to fear and care about as regards the use of correct English, which, if you please, requires something more than a mere knowledge of grammar or rhetoric. Can you tell the reason why one says "It is time I *told* you so" and "It is strange that he *should* wear a pink coat?" It is not always possible to account for such idiomatic expressions. Idiom requires us to say certain things in certain ways, and idiom is everything.

What, then, is the best way to learn English idiom? By re it a t i o n, I should say. You cannot acquire the power of expression otherwise than by the re it a t i o n habit. Once this habit is cultivated, many an idiomatic expression will present itself without your knowing it.

Last summer, when my journey as a war refugee came to an end, Mr C. H. Kwei, the proprietor of the Ching Wen Book Company, was kind enough to suggest to me the compilation of the present book. Soon I put my hand to the plough, devoting many hours

to ransacking books, magazines, and even newspapers for materials. I aimed at brevity as well as style. The scantiness of materials of a suitable kind prevented me from completing my work sooner. It took me more than a year to compile this book, beginning it last summer, when the thermometer was hovering about one hundred degrees, and completing it towards the end of 1939, when my fingers were benumbed with cold.

This book contains forty admirable pieces of writing, most of which are unabridged and modern, and some of which are from magazines and newspapers and are therefore not to be found in ordinary textbooks of English. Each piece is furnished with copious notes and illustrative sentences, the latter showing at a glance how the idiomatic expressions are used. On the other minor points I need not dwell; it is better to leave them to be discovered by the readers themselves. It is hoped that those who learn each piece by heart will profit by "making it a part of themselves".

Grateful acknowledgements are made to some of my friends for their valuable assistance in providing some of the materials used in this book.

MIEN LOWRIE

February, 1940

CONTENTS

1.	Pens	1
2.	Umbrellas.....	5
3.	A Night in the Graveyard— <i>Petronius</i>	8
4.	The Wisdom of Ages— <i>Anatole France</i>	11
5.	A Munchausen Adventure— <i>Rispe</i>	15
6.	Farewell Address at Springfield— <i>Abraham Lincoln</i>	17
7.	Man's Threescore and Ten Years	18
8.	Work	22
9.	A Wet Sunday in a Country Inn— <i>Irving</i> ...	25
10.	A Vision of War— <i>Robert G. Ingersoll</i>	27
11.	Facing South— <i>Chambers's Journal</i>	31
12.	My Father's Friend	34
13.	On Getting up in the Morning	36
14.	On a Steamer	40
15.	Washington's Address to His Troops	42
16.	When Bull Snake and Rattler Meet—From <i>Youth's Companion</i>	45
17.	Cups	49
18.	The Value of Time	52
19.	The High Aim— <i>Arthur Mee</i>	57
20.	The Prehistoric Man— <i>Henrik Van Loon</i>	60
21.	A Look at the Shops	65
22.	A Libation to the Gods— <i>Somerset Maugham</i> ...	67
23.	Irish Patriots— <i>Henry Labouchère</i>	69
24.	A Letter of Counsel— <i>George Washington</i>	72
25.	News papers	77

26.	The Song— <i>C. Hilton-Turvey</i>	80
27.	“Oh, the Little More—” —The Editor of <i>Answers</i>	83
28.	A Pair of Socks— <i>W. L. Phelps</i>	88
29.	The Convent Free from Care— <i>Basschere</i>	91
30.	Sorrows of the Millionaire — <i>George Bernard Shaw</i>	95
31.	George, Don't Be Silly— <i>Ben Blunt</i>	100
32.	Holidays and How to Spend Them	105
✓ 33.	Sources of Happiness.....	109
34.	Dragon's Eyes	112
✓ 35.	If I Were a Boy Again	114
36.	Adventure with a Lion— <i>David Livingstone</i>	118
37.	Two Overinquisitive Cordeliers— <i>Marguerite, Queen of Navarre</i>	120
✓ 38.	The School for Sympathy— <i>E. V. Lucas</i>	125
39.	The Little Match Girl — <i>Hans Christian Andersen</i>	132
40.	The Story of a Fire— <i>Jacob A. Riis</i>	137

THE SENIOR DECLAIMER

1. PENS

Small as it is,° the pen has changed the course of history,° shaped the destiny of nations,° facilitated° the commerce of peoples, imprisoned the elusive thoughts of men,° recorded° events, carried news, and done more work for mankind than all other tools or weapons.°

Progress without it° would have been almost impossible. The invention of the wheel and screw,° the introduction° of steam-power, the use of electricity, all these have changed the lives of millions;° but the pen has done more. It has removed mountains. It has prepared the way for all advancement.° Whatever plans have been drawn up,° whatever laws formulated,° have come from the pen.

Today the pen is more highly esteemed than ever.° The type-writers clicking in every continent° are the drudges,° the pen is the aristocrat,° governing all and giving the final flourish.° In the past the pen did all the work, for all writing intended to last for any length of time° was valid only if written with pen and ink. The lawyers took up their pens and wrote the law of the land from the days° when papyrus° was first used to the day Magna Carta° was compiled, and for 500 years after. The most famous letters in the world were written with

a pen; and it was with a pen that the greatest thinkers of all time wrote down their thoughts.

The Law° and the Prophets,° the four Gospels,° the letters of St Paul,° how should we have had these today had they not been preserved° for us by the pen? To the pen we owe° *The Pilgrim's Progress*,° *Paradise Lost*,° *The Canterbury Tales*;° and it was with his pen that Shakespeare° shook the world.°

The servant of the greatest,° the pen is the slave of the humblest.° The serving maid and schoolboy may drive it as they will.°

Behind all° we do today is the pen. We cannot sign a cheque or write a letter or buy a house or complete a business transaction° without our pen. The editor stirs the world with it, the student would fail to° pass his examination without it, a deed is worthless till° our name is written with pen and ink, though once the signature is there it becomes irrevocable.° For the stroke of a pen is legally binding,° and few things are more thrilling or mysterious.°

With a stroke of the pen Bradshaw° sent Charles Stuart° to the block.° Queen Elizabeth° took up her pen and signed a document which hurried Mary Queen of Scots° to her tragic end.

Queen Victoria° saved a life with her pen, for, when the Iron Duke° gave her a death-warrant° to sign she wrote Pardon, so giving a bad soldier° a chance to make good.° When the Declaration of American Independence° was signed John Hancock° was the first to write his name. "There, (said he)

I guess° King George° will be able to read that.”

Our coming into the world° is recorded with pen and ink. Before we have been at school a day our name is enrolled with a pen. We cannot be married till we have signed the register.° A pen records our death.

The next time we take up our pen to write let us remember that we hold in our hand the most powerful instrument° mankind possesses.

NOTES

Small as it is = Although it is small. (“as” 作「雖然」解時應把動詞後的形容詞或名詞放在句首，如爲名詞且不可放 article. 例：Poor as he is, he is honest. Hero as he was, he shuddered at the sight.)

course of history, 歷史的過程。
shaped the destiny of nations, 決定各國的命運。

facilitated (fə'siliteitid), 使…便利。

imprisoned (im'priznd) the elusive (i'lju'siv) thoughts of men, 捉住(指記下)人的難於捉摸的思慮。

recorded (ri'kɔ:did), 記載。

weapons ('wepənz), 武器。

it, 指“pen”。

screw (skru:), 螺絲釘。

introduction (ˌintre'dakʃən), 採用。

millions = millions of people.

advancement (əd'vɑ:nsmənt), 進步。

drawn up, 起草, 草擬。

formulated ('fɔ:lmjuleitid) = have been formulated, 曾被訂立。

ever = ever before.

in every continent, 在各大陸; 在世界各處。

drudges ('drʌdʒiz), 作苦工者。

aristocrat ('æristəkræt), 統治者。

final flourish ('fla:riʃ), 最後的用筆一揮。

all writing ... of time, 一切要保存好久的文書。

days, 時代。

papyrus (pe'paiərəs), 古埃及 (Egypt) 人用的一種草紙。

Magna Carta ('mægne'kɑ:tə), 大憲章 (一二一五年英國人民強迫英王約翰 (John) 所頒布的憲章)。

The Law, 舊約聖經中的開首五書。

the Prophets, 舊約聖經中的各先知書。

Gospels ('gɔspəlz), 福音。

St Paul (snt po:l), 聖保羅 (是耶穌的使徒)。

had they not been preserved = if they had not been preserved.

To the pen we owe... = We owe...
to the pen, 我們之有...應歸功於
筆。

The Pilgrim's Progress, 英國文學
家 John Bunyan (生在一六二八
年,死在一六八八年)所做的長篇寓
言書。

Paradise (*'pærədəis*) *Lost*, 英國
詩人 John Milton (生在一六零
八年,死在一六七四年)所著的長篇
敘事詩。

The Canterbury (*'kæntəbəri*) *Tales*,
英國詩人 Geoffrey Chaucer (約
生在一三四零年,死在一四零零年)
所著的詩體故事集。

Shakespeare (*'ʃeikspie*), 指 Wil-
liam Shakespeare, 英國大文學家,
生在一五六四年,死在一六一六年。

shook the world, 震驚全世界。

the greatest = the greatest peo-
ple.

the humblest = the humblest peo-
ple.

drive it as they will = drive it as
they will drive it, 隨意驅使它。

all, 後面省去 relative pronoun
“that”。

business (*'biznis*) transaction
(*træn'zækʃən*), 商業交易。

fail to..., 不能... (例: He *failed*
to give you any advice.)

a deed is worthless till..., 直到...
契約纔有價值。

irrevocable (*i'revəkəbl*), 不能挽
回的。

legally binding, 在法律上有約束
力的。

mysterious (*mis'tiəriəs*), 神祕的。

Bradshaw (*'Brædʃoʊ*), 即 John
Bradshaw, 英國法官, 生在一六零
二年,死在一六五九年, 在一六四九
年把英王 Charles I 處死刑。

Charles (*tʃɑ:dlz*) Stuart (*stjuət*),
即 Charles I, 生在一六零零年,死
在一六四九年。

the block, 斷頭台; 斬首。

Elizabeth (*i'lizəbeθ*), 英國女王, 生
在一五三三年,死在一六零三年, 在
一五八七年把 Mary Queen of
Scots 處死刑。

Mary Queen of Scots, 生在一五四
二年,死在一五八七年。

Victoria (*vik'tɔ:riə*), 英國女王, 生
在一八一九年,死在一九零一年。

Iron Duke, 指 Duke of Wellin-
ton, 生在一七六九年,死在一八五
二年。

death-warrant (*'deəwərənt*), 執
行死刑的命令。

soldier, 軍人。

to make good, 改過自新。

Declaration (*\deklə'reiʃən*) of
American Independence (*\in-
di'pendəns*), 一七七六年的美國獨
立宣言。

John Hancock (*'hænkək*), 美國政
治家, 生在一七三七年,死在一七九
三年。

I guess = I think (美國語)。

King George, 指英王 George III,
生在一七三八年,死在一八二零年。

coming into the world, 入世; 產生。

register (*'redzistə*), 登記冊。

instrument (*'instrəmənt*), 工具(後
面省去 relative pronoun “that”
或 “which”)。

2. UMBRELLAS°

Perhaps nothing is borrowed so often, and perhaps nothing is more rarely returned than an umbrella.

In Victorian times° no gentleman was ever seen in the street without an umbrella, and Robert Louis Stevenson° declared: It is the habitual carriage of the umbrella that is the stamp of respectability.°

Although something very much like an umbrella was known in Saxon England° the word was not used before Shakespeare's day,° and umbrellas were not common in this country till the 18th century.° Even then they were only carried by women.

The first man to carry an umbrella in London was Jonas Hanway,° and a brave man he was to do it.° London was horrified. People said Jonas was ridiculously° girlish. They said man° had no right to keep off° God's rain. They threw water over poor Jonas, pelted him with rotten fruit,° jeered him, and ran after° him; but he went on carrying° his big umbrella. "Soon everybody will carry one°" he said. .

But he was wrong. Even thirty years after Jonas Hanway had folded his umbrella for the last time,° in 1786, umbrellas were not commonly used. Inns and coffee-houses kept one, letting it out by the hour like a cab,° but few people boasted° one of their own.

Curiously enough, the driest countries had umbrellas hundreds of years before English folk° used them. In Burma° the umbrella has long been quite

common, the white umbrella being reserved for the king and the sacred white elephant.° The Mahratta princes of India° have been known as the Lords of the Umbrella time out of mind.° So old, indeed, is the umbrella° that in the East it has been the symbol of royalty° from the earliest times, and in ancient Egypt° and Nineveh° sculptures° have been brought to light° showing that the umbrella was well known thousands of years ago.

In the British Museum is an impressive carving° of 26 centuries ago showing a king of Assyria carrying an umbrella as he leads his army into battle; and it was recently discovered that Tutankhamen° took his umbrella with him when he went on his last journey, the solemn procession° to his wondrous° tomb. After lying in the dark for 3000 years his umbrella has been put up° in our own day.°

It was Dickens° who gave us the word “gamp” for a clumsy umbrella,° his Sarah° Gamp, being a character in Martin Chuzzlewit° who always carried one; and we never think of Robinson Crusoe° without picturing him carrying his home-made° umbrella. One of the most familiar and striking figures° in America last century was Abraham Lincoln° riding about the country with nothing more than° what he could carry in his saddle-bags—and his cotton umbrella.

NOTES

umbrellas (am'brelez), 傘.
In Victorian (vik'tōriən) times,

英國女王 Victoria (生在一八一九年, 死在一九零一年) 時代, 自一八

三七年到一九零一年。

Robert ('rɒbət) Louis ('lu:ɪ)is Stevenson ('sti:vnsn), 蘇格蘭小說家兼詩人, 生在一八五零年, 死在一八九四年。

It is...respectability (ris,pektə'biliti), 常帶一柄傘就是體面的標記。

Saxon ('sæksn) England, 指第五六世紀時英國被一種條頓民族 (Teutons) 克服的時代。

Shakespeare's ('ʃeikspiəz) day, 英國大戲劇家莎士比亞 (生在一五六四年, 死在一六一六年) 的時代。

umbrellas were...18th century, 直到第十八世紀傘方始在本國 (指英國) 普遍。 ("not... till..." 作「直至... 方...」解; 例: He did not come back till evening.)

Jonas ('dʒəʊnes) Hanway ('hænwei), 英國遊歷家, 生在一七一二年, 死在一七八六年。

a brave man he was to do it ("to do it" 指攜帶傘一事)。

ridiculously (ri'dikjələsli), 可笑地。

man, 人類。

keep off, 防禦。(例: We use umbrellas to keep off the rain.)

poisoned him with rotten fruit, 用腐爛的水菓投擲他。

ran after, 追。

went on ...ing, 繼續...

one = an umbrella.

had folded his umbrella for the last time, 最後一次摺好了他的傘 (指 Jonas 的死)。

letting it (指 umbrella) out by the hour like a cab, 如馬車般以鐘點計出租它。

boasted, 誇有。(例: I boast a store of good books.)

folk (fouk), 人民。

Burma ('bɜ:lmə), 印度最大省名。

the white... white elephant, 把白色的傘留給國王, 和神聖的白象。(白象是一種在 Burma 等地被看作神聖的象, 很少見的, 全句是一 absolute participial phrase. ("reserve... for..." 作「把... 留給...」解; 例: I reserved my food for him.)

The Mahratta (mə'rətə) princes of India, 印度 Mahratta 王子 (Mahratta 是十八世紀時反抗英國「東印度公司」之民族)。

have been known as...time out of mind, 自從太古以來一向以傘的君主著名。 ("known as" 作「以聞名」解; 例: Columbus is known as the discoverer of America.)

So old, indeed, is the umbrella = The umbrella, indeed, is so old. the symbol ('sɪmbəl) of royalty ('rɔ:əlti), 王權的象徵。

ancient Egypt ('i:ldʒɪpt), 古埃及國。

Nineveh ('nɪnɪvi), 亞洲古帝國 Assyria 的首都。

sculptures ('skʌlptʃəz), 雕刻。

brought to light, 發現。(例: The archæologist has brought to light many monuments of ancient China.)

impressive carving ('kaɪvɪŋ), 動人的雕刻。

Tutankhamen ('tu:tənk'hɑ:men), 古埃及國王 (大約在紀元前一三三八年)。

solemn ('səʊləm) procession (pre-

'sefan), 肅靜的儀仗隊。
wondrous ('wʌndrəs), 奇異的。
put up, 張(傘)。
our own day, 現代。
Dickens ('dɪkɪnz), 指 Charles
Dickens 英國小說家, 生在一八一
二年, 死在一八七零年。
gave us...clumsy umbrella, 把
gamp 一字給我們替代一柄笨拙的
傘。
Sarah ('sɛərə), 女子名。
a character ('kærɪktə) in Martin
Chuzzlewit, 在 Martin Chuzzle-

wit ('tʃʌzlɪwɪt) (Dickens 所著
小說名) 裏的一個人物。
Robinson ('rɒbɪnsn) Crusoe
('kru:sou), 英國人 Defoe 所著
小說中人的姓名, 他住在孤島好久。
home-made, 自製的。
striking figures, 特出人物。
Abraham ('eɪbrəhəm) Lincoln
('lɪŋkən), 美國第十六任大總統,
生在一八零九年, 死在一八六五年。
nothing more than, 不過; 祇。(例:
Life is *nothing more than* a
dream.)

3. A NIGHT IN A GRAVEYARD

When I was still in bondage,° we were living
in a narrow street; it was where Gavilla° lives now.
There, as Providence ordained,° I fell in love with°
the wife of Terentius,° landlord of the inn. You
all knew her—Melissa,° the buxom° little beauty°
from Tarentum.° I take my oath there was noth-
ing wrong;° it was really her sweet nature that
took my fancy.° Well, one day my lady's lord and
master met his end° on the farm. Thereupon I risk-
ed my neck° to visit her by hook or by crook.°

By good luck° the boss had gone on some trifling
business° to Capua.° I seized the opportunity to
induce a guest of ours to take a stroll with me as far
as the fifth milestone.° A soldier he was,° and as
brave as Old Nick.° It was about cock-crow° that
we took the road,° and the moon was as bright as
the sun at noon. We came to the place where the
tombs are; my man° begins to stroll among the
headstones;° I sit down humming a tune° and count-

ing the graves. Chancing to° look round at my pal, I saw him stripping° and throwing all his garments along the path. My heart rose in my mouth.° I stood stock-still.° He went on to° make the magic ring° round his clothes, and on a sudden° he was changed into a wolf. Don't you think° I'm joking: I wouldn't tell a lie about it for the wealth of a Croesus.° Well, to go on with° the story! No sooner had he become a wolf than he began to howl and make off to the woods.° At first I didn't know where I stood. Then I moved forward to pick up his clothes: they were turned into stone! Talk of dying of fright°! Nevertheless, I drew my blade° and played havoc° with shadows° all the way to the lady's abode. My sweet Melissa, filled with amazement at finding me abroad° so late, said:

“If you had arrived a minute ago, you would have been some use to us, for a wolf rushed into the yard, set upon° the sheep, and turned the whole place into a shambles.° However, though he got away safely, one of the slaves let him have a spear° right through his neck”.

The moment° I heard this story, my eyes opened wide. As soon as it was dawn, I made for° my lord's house and when I got to° the place where the clothes had been changed into stone there was nothing to see but blood-stains.° At last I reached home, to find my soldier friend lying in his bed, bleeding like a stuck pig,° and the physician mending his neck. Then I realized the fellow was a werewolf.°

You gentlemen must form your own opinions about it; for my own part,° if I'm drawing the long bow,° may the gods take vengeance on me!°

—Petronius°

NOTES

- in bondage (/'bɒndɪdʒ), 在奴役時期內。
- Gavilla (/'gævɪlə), 人名。
- Providence ordained (o:'deɪnd), 上帝派定。
- fell in love with, 和...戀愛。
- Terentius (te'renʃɪəs), 旅館主人名。
- Melissa (mi/'lɪsə), 女子名。
- buxom (/'bʌksəm), 健美的; 豐腴的。
- beauty, 美女子。
- Tarentum (te'rentəm), 意大利 (Italy) 地名。
- I take my oath there was nothing wrong, 我立誓沒有不正當的行爲。
- took my fancy, 中我意。(例: This book takes my fancy.)
- met his end, 死。(例: He met his end in the battle.)
- risked my neck, 冒險。
- by hook or by crook, 無論如何; 用種種手段。(例: I'll manage to do it by hook or by crook.)
- By good luck, 運氣真好。(例: By good luck I met him on the way.)
- on...business, 爲了...的事。(例: I went to Hongkong on some important business.)
- Capua (/'kæpjʊə), 意大利地名。
- as far as the fifth milestone (/'maɪlstəʊn), 遠至第五英里程標。
- A soldier he was = He was a soldier.
- as brave as Old Nick, 勇如魔鬼的; 很勇的。(“Old Nick”作「魔鬼」解, 係 slang.)
- cock-crow, 雞啼的時刻; 破曉。
- took the road, 上道; 起程。
- my man, 指同行的那個兵士。
- headstones, 墓石。
- humming a tune (tju:n), 哼着一個調子。
- Chancing to..., 偶然....
- stripping, 脫衣。
- My heart rose in my mouth, 我嚇極了。
- stock-still, 絕對不動的; 呆若木雞的。
- went on to ..., 進而...; 繼續而....
- make the magic (/'mædʒɪk) ring, 作魔法的圓圈(即兜着圈子施魔法)。
- on a sudden, 突然。(例: On a sudden, the tiger sprang upon the hunter.)
- Don't you think = Don't think.
- for the wealth of a Croesus (/'kri:səs), 即使可以得到(古 Lydia 王) Croesus 的財富; 無論如何。(例: For the wealth of a Croesus he would not be a traitor.)
- go on with, 繼續(講)下去。
- No sooner ... the woods, 一經他變了狼後他就開始嗥着向樹林而去。(“no sooner ... than ... ”作