

听故事 记单词

— 六级

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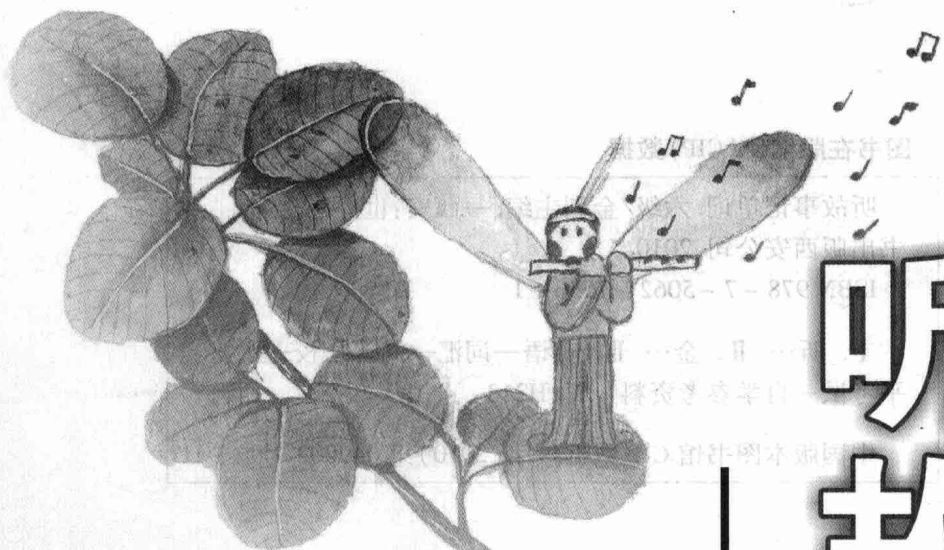
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听故事 记单词

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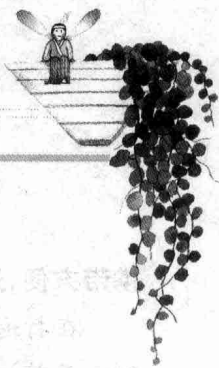
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前 言

你是不是还在疑惑,为什么背过的英文单词用起来却一头雾水,为什么学习英语会因为背单词而变成了一件枯燥而乏味的事情?

众所周知,词汇是学习英语的基础,词汇量的大小以及词汇掌握的熟练程度在一定程度上决定了能否学好英语,顺利通过考试。很多考生试图通过阅读来背单词,但是可供阅读的英文篇章可谓数不胜数,要想找到一些能够囊括考试大纲词汇的篇章,却是难上加难!看着单词书上密密麻麻的单词,考生的眼睛也难免会感到疲劳。不难看出,考生所需要的是一本实用有趣的单词书。鉴于此,我们希望通过听故事记单词这种形式帮助考生找到学习英语的乐趣,提高大家记忆单词的效率。因此我们为大家打造了一本开启记忆之门的单词书——《听故事记单词》。

本书为考生精选了难度适宜的故事,通过这些幽默有趣的小故事,考生可以掌握考试大纲所要求的六级核心词汇,让考生在快乐中轻轻松松攻克词汇难关,顺利通过考试。

解放眼睛,打通耳朵

看书久了眼睛会又疼又涩,这应该是大部分考生在备考阶段都会遇到的问题吧,其实这是眼睛在抗议:“为什么一直使用我,而不去用别的器官呢?”确实如此,视觉疲劳会大大降低考生记忆单词的效率。可是不看书又不行,那要怎样记忆单词呢?有心理学家指出过,人的记忆25%来源于视觉,15%来源于听觉,两者结合则可以达到65%的效果。看来,耳朵是可以帮助眼睛一起记忆单词的,就让我们听听故事,解放一下眼睛,练练耳朵,走到哪里听到哪里,不让时间在等待中白白溜走。记忆单词之余,还可以练习听力,可谓一举两得!

携带方便,边走边记

在打通耳朵之余,你是不是也在为上学路上、公交车上、地铁里的无聊时光而苦恼呢?在互联网日益发达的今天,你还泡在自习室、图书馆里背单词记例句吗?本书搭配的电子书既为你解决了上述的苦恼,也节省了学习时间。在生活的间隙中,看完故事,背完单词,轻轻松松考六级。

故事有趣,难度适宜

本书中所选故事以实用有趣为原则,给读者营造轻松愉快的学习氛围。故事阅读难度适宜,译文权威地道,精确优美,全面涵盖六级大纲核心词汇,让考生在听故事的过程中就将单词轻松拿下,实现了听、读结合,词汇、阅读、听说三位一体,英语各个方面的水平同步提高。

词汇注解,阅读双赢

本书对每一篇选文中的生词、重点词汇进行详尽说明,让考生在阅读和听故事的过程中学习和记忆单词,最终做到一册在手,阅读理解能力和词汇量共同提高。同时,在每篇故事前面都设有一个“短语热身”的环节,列出故事中会出现的一些常见搭配,帮助考生做好预习,也可以在听故事的过程中加深印象,将所讲单词和实用短语全部吸收。

还等什么呢,就让我们一起拿上MP3,听故事,记单词,轻轻松松突破六级词汇大关!

编者

2010年6月



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turn into 变成……

bend over 弯腰

speak up 大声说

The Computer Programmer

A man was crossing a road one day when a frog **called out** to him and said, "If you kiss me, I'll turn into a beautiful princess." He **bent over**, **picked up** the frog, and put it in his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will tell everyone how smart and **brave** you are and how you are my hero." The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and returned it to his pocket.

The frog spoke up again and said, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a beautiful princess, I will be your loving **companion** for an **entire** week." The man took the frog out of his pocket, smiled at it, and **returned** it to his pocket.

The frog then cried out, "If you kiss me and turn me back into a princess, I'll stay with you for a year and do ANYTHING you want." Again the man took the frog out, smiled at it, and put it back into his pocket.

Finally, the frog asked, "What is the matter? I've told you I'm a beautiful princess, that I'll stay with you for a year and do anything you want. Why won't you kiss me?"

The man said, "Look, I'm a computer **programmer**. I don't have time for a girlfriend, but a talking frog is cool."

故事烙印

➤ **programmer** ['prəʊgræmə] *n.* 【美】节目编排者;【自】程序设计者,程序设计器
The famous IT company is advertising for **programmers**. 这家著名的信息技术公司正在登广告招聘程序员。

➤ **call out** 召集;使集中;召唤

The manager **called out** the staff to have a meeting. 经理召集全体员工开会。

➤ **bend** [bend] *vi.* 俯身;弯曲,转弯 *vt.* 使弯曲,使转向 *n.* 弯曲(处);使(注意力、精力等)集中于

bend over backwards 竭尽全力;bend one's effort 尽力

Jill **bent** over to pick up a little stone and threw it into the pool. 吉尔弯腰捡起一块小石头扔进了池子里。

- **pick up** 掘地;捡起,获得;使人恢复精神;加快,加速
David *picked up* a purse on his way home after school. 大卫在放学回家的路上捡到了一个钱包。
- **brave** [breiv] *a.* 勇敢的,无畏的;华丽的
The *brave* policeman was ready to fight against criminals. 那名勇敢的警察准备好了与罪犯作斗争。
- **companion** [kəm'pænjən] *n.* 同伴,伴侣,共事者
The man was not well suitable to be Mary's lifelong *companion*. 那人不是很适合做玛丽的终身伴侣。
- **entire** [in'taiə(r)] *a.* 全部的,整个的
I wasted an *entire* day on mending the broken machine. 我浪费了一整天的时间来修理这台坏机器。
entirely(*ad.* 完全地,一概地)
- **return** [ri'tə:n] *vi.* 返回;回复,恢复 *vt.* 归还,退回;回报;使回复,使恢复 *n.* 返回;偿还,归还;回复,恢复;[常*pl.*]收益,盈利;申报(表),(统计)报表;往返票
a. 往返的,返回的
in return (for) 作为(对……的)报答(或回报、交换)
The sailor's wife waited the whole night for him to *return* home. 那名水手的妻子一整晚都在等他回家。

大纲拾遗

- abandon** [ə'bændən] *v.* 离弃,放弃 *n.* 放任
with abandon 放纵地,放任地;纵情地
- abnormal** [æb'nɔ:məl] *a.* 反常的,异常的
- abolish** [ə'bɒlɪʃ] *v.* 彻底废除,废止
- abrupt** [ə'brʌpt] *a.* 突然的,意外的
- absence** ['æbsəns] *n.* 缺席;缺乏,不存在
- absorb** [əb'sɔ:b; əb'zɔ:b] *v.* 吸收;使全神贯注
be absorbed in 沉浸于……;专注于……
- abstract** ['æbstrækt] *a.* 抽象的,深奥的
- absurd** [əb'sɜ:d] *a.* 荒谬的,荒唐的
- abundance** [ə'bʌndəns] *n.* 大量,丰富,充足
an abundance of 大量的
- abuse** [ə'bju:z] *v.* 滥用 [ə'bju:s] *n.* 滥用
- accelerate** [æk'seləreit] *v.* (使)加快,(使)增速
- acceptance** [ək'septəns] *n.* 接受;承认

电脑程序员

一天一个人过马路的时候被一只青蛙叫住 (call out) 了。青蛙说：“如果你吻我一下，我就能变成美丽的公主了。”于是，这人便弯腰 (bend) 捡起 (pick up) 青蛙，把它放进了口袋。

青蛙又大声说：“如果你吻我一下，把我变回美丽的公主，我会告诉所有人你是多么聪明和勇敢 (brave)，你是我的英雄。”这人从口袋里掏出青蛙，对着它笑了笑，然后又把它放了回去。

青蛙再一次大声说：“如果你吻我一下，把我变回美丽的公主，我就做你一周的好伙伴 (companion)。”这人从口袋里掏出青蛙，对着它笑了笑；然后又把它放回 (return) 去了。

青蛙于是哭着叫道：“如果你吻我一下让我变回美丽的公主，我就陪你一年并且做任何你想做的事。”这人再一次从口袋里掏出青蛙，对着它笑了笑，然后又把它放回去了。

最后，青蛙问：“到底怎么回事？我都告诉你了，我是一位美丽的公主，我可以陪你一年并且做你任何想做的事。可你为什么就是不吻我一下呢？”

这人说：“你看，我是一个电脑程序员 (programmer)。我可没时间陪女朋友，不过，有一只会说话的青蛙倒是不错。”

短语热身

play with 与……玩

a fleet of 一队

stroll into 漫步进……

instead of 代替，而不是

What You Already Have

The American investment banker was at the **pier** of a small **coastal** Mexican village when a small boat with just one fisherman **docked**. Inside the small boat were several large yellow fin tuna. The American complimented the Mexican on the **quality** of his fish and asked how long it took to catch them.

The Mexican replied, “Only a little while.”

The American then asked, “Why didn’t you stay out longer and catch more fish?”

The Mexican said, “With this I have more than enough to support my family’s needs.”

The American then asked, “But what do you do with the rest of your time?”

The Mexican fisherman said, “I sleep late, fish a little, play with my children, take **siesta** with my wife, Maria, stroll into the village each evening where I sip wine and play guitar with my **amigos**, I have a full and busy life.”

The American **scoffed**, “I am a Harvard MBA and could help you. You should spend more time fishing; and with the proceeds, buy a bigger boat. With the

proceeds from the bigger boat you could buy several boats. Eventually you would have a **fleet** of fishing boats. **Instead of** selling your catch to a middleman you would sell directly to the **processor**; eventually opening your own cannery. You would **control** the product, processing and **distribution**. You would need to leave this small coastal fishing village and move to Mexico City, then Los Angeles and eventually New York where you will run your ever-**expanding enterprise**."

The Mexican fisherman asked, "But, how long will this all take?"

To which the American replied, "15 to 20 years."

"But what then?" asked the Mexican.

The American laughed and said that's the best part. "When the time is right you would announce an IPO and sell your company stock to the public and become very rich, you would make millions."

"Millions?...Then what?"

The American said, "Then you would retire. Move to a small coastal fishing village where you would sleep late, fish a little, play with your kids, take siesta with your wife, stroll to the village in the evenings where you could sip wine and play your guitar with your amigos."

故事烙印

➤ **pier** [piə(r)] *n.* (伸入水域的)码头

a fish pier 鱼码头

After supper, the family go for a walk along the **pier** everyday. 这家人每天吃完晚饭后都去码头散步。

➤ **dock** [dɒk] *n.* 码头, 船埠; (法庭的)被告席 *vt.* 使(船)靠码头, 使(船)进港; 扣(工资等), 从(工资)中扣除 *vi.* (船)靠码头, (船)进港

(sb.) be in/on the dock 在受审; (sth.) in/into the dock (船)靠码头; dock one's wages 扣工资; dry dock 干船坞

The manager **docked** part of Henry's wages because he was late from work. 由于亨利上班迟到, 老板扣掉了他的部分工资。

➤ **quality** ['kwɒliti] *n.* 质, 质量; 品德, 品质; 性质, 特性 *a.* 优良的, 优质的

life quality 生活质量; quality control 质量管理

The service **quality** of the hotel has improved greatly. 这家饭店的服务质量已经大大提高了。

qualitative(*a.* 定性的)

➤ **siesta** [si'estə] *n.* 午睡, 午休

Tom used to take a **siesta** after lunch. 汤姆过去有吃完午餐后午休的习惯。

➤ **sip** [sip] *v.* 小口地喝, 抿, 呷 *n.* 小口喝, 一小口的量

sip at 一口一口地抿

The boy was *sipping at* a coffee while watching TV. 男孩正边看电视边小口喝咖啡。

➤ **amigo** [ə'mi:gəu] *n.* 朋友

Amigo and Friends was an educational children's cartoon which was originally made in Mexico in the 1970s. 《笑星和他的朋友们》是一部教育性儿童动画片,最初在墨西哥制作于20世纪70年代。

➤ **scoff** [skɒf] *vi.* 嘲弄,嘲笑,讥笑

It is not polite to *scoff* at those who are less capable than you. 嘲笑那些能力比你差的人是不礼貌的。

➤ **proceed** [prəu'si:d] *vi.* 进行,继续下去;(沿特定路线)行进,(朝特定方向)前进
proceed with one's work 继续工作

Ben's not sure whether he still wants to *proceed with* his work. 本不确定自己是否还想继续工作。

➤ **fleet** [fli:t] *n.* 舰队,船队,车队

The President reviewed the *fleets* on National Day. 该总统在国庆节那天检阅了舰队。

fleeting(*a.* 短暂的,飞逝的)

➤ **instead of** 代替;而不是……

John rode to work *instead of* driving yesterday. 约翰昨天没有开车上班,而是改骑自行车。

➤ **processor** ['prəusesə(r);'prɒsesə(r)] *n.* 处理器

Most of novelists write with the word *processor*. 大多数小说家用文字处理器进行写作。

➤ **control** [kən'trəul] *n.* 控制(能力),支配(能力);自制,抑制;控制装置,操纵装置 *vt.* 控制,支配;克制,抑制

lose control of 失控; beyond control 无法控制; out of control 失去控制; under control 处于控制之下

You should learn to *control* your temper at work. 你应该学会在工作中控制自己的情绪。

controllable(*a.* 可管理的,可控制的)

➤ **distribution** [ˌdistri'bju:ʃən] *n.* 分发,分配;散布,分布
(sth.) have a wide distribution ……分布很广

The map shows the *distribution* of the oil throughout the world. 这张地图显示出石油在全世界的分布。

➤ **expand** [ik'spænd] *vt.* 扩大,扩张,扩展;膨胀
expand one's knowledge 扩大知识面

It is a good way to *expand* your knowledge by reading newspapers. 看报纸是你扩大知识面的一种好方法。

expansion(*n.* 扩张,膨胀); expanse(*n.* 宽广空间)



➤ **enterprise** ['entəpraiz] *n.* (艰巨的)事业,计划;事业心,进取心;企业(或事业)单位,公司

a backbone enterprise 骨干企业;charitable enterprise 慈善事业

It is very difficult to find a young man with **enterprise** and creativity. 要想找到一个既有事业心又有创造力的年轻人很难。

enterpriser(*n.* 企业家)

➤ **coastal** ['kəustəl] *a.* 沿(临)海的;沿岸的

The **coastal** areas of the country were seriously hit by the storm. 该国的沿海各处区域遭到了暴风雨的严重袭击。

大纲拾遗

accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] *v.* 容纳

accomplish [ə'kʌmplɪʃ; ə'kɒmplɪʃ] *v.* 达到(目的),完成

accordance [ə'kɔ:dəns] *n.* 一致,符合

in accordance with 按照,根据,与……一致

accurate ['ækjʊrɪt] *a.* 准确的,正确无误的

accustomed [ə'kʌstəmd] *a.* 惯常的,习惯的

be/get accustomed to 习惯于

achievement [ə'tʃi:vmənt] *n.* 完成,成就

acquaint [ə'kweɪnt] *v.* 使认识,使了解

be/get acquainted with 熟悉

acquaintance [ə'kweɪntəns] *n.* 认识,了解;熟人

have a vivid acquaintance with sth./sb. 对……有清晰的认识

acquire [ə'kwaiə(r)] *v.* 取得,获得

adapt [ə'dæpt] *v.* 使适应,使适合于

addict ['ædɪkt] *n.* 有瘾的人 [ə'dɪkt] *v.* 使成瘾,使入迷

drug addict 吸毒成瘾者;be/become addicted to 沉溺于

参考译文

你已拥有的

一位美国投资银行家站在墨西哥沿海 (coastal) 的一个小村庄的码头 (pier) 旁,一艘小船正在靠岸 (dock), 船里只有一位渔民。小船里有几条黄色长须的大金枪鱼。这位美国人夸墨西哥人说打上来的鱼质量 (quality) 非常好, 并问他捕那些鱼花了多长时间。

墨西哥人回答说:“只花了一会儿的工夫。”

美国人接着问:“你为什么不多坚持一会儿, 多捕些鱼呢?”

墨西哥人说:“我现在捕的这些鱼已经足够我们全家吃了。”

美国人又问:“那你其余的时间都做些什么呢?”

墨西哥渔民说：“我起床起得很晚，去打些鱼，回来与孩子玩一会儿，然后和我的妻子玛丽娅睡会儿午觉 (siesta)，每晚我都会在村子里溜达，喝点 (sip) 酒，和朋友们 (amigo) 弹弹吉他。我的生活充实而又忙碌。”

美国人讥讽地笑了 (scoff)：“我是个哈佛的工商管理硕士，我可以帮你。你应该多花些时间打鱼，用挣来的钱买个更大的渔船。有了 (proceed) 更大的渔船，你就可以挣更多的钱，这样就能买更多的船。最后你就会拥有一队 (fleet) 的渔船。这样的话，你就不用自己卖打上来的鱼了，直接与加工厂 (processor) 打交道，最后，你就可以自己经营一家罐头厂。你会控制 (control) 生产、加工和分配 (distribution) 各个环节。接下来，你就要离开这个小小的以打鱼为生的沿海村庄，搬到墨西哥城去，然后是洛杉矶，最后是纽约——你将在那里经营你那不断扩大的 (expanding) 企业 (enterprise)。”

墨西哥渔民用：“但是，这将用去我多久的时间啊？”

美国人回答说：“15到20年。”

“那么这之后呢？”墨西哥人问。

美国人哈哈大笑，说之后的事情才是最美好的。“当时机成熟了，你就可以公开发行人股票，把你公司的股票卖给公众。这样你就会变得很富有，可以赚到数百万美元。”

“数百万美元？……然后做什么？”

美国人说：“然后你就可以退休了。搬到海滨的一个小渔村，在那里你可以睡得很晚再起床，捕捕鱼，陪你的孩子玩儿，和妻子在午间小憩，到晚上，你就可以散散步，到村子里喝一杯酒，和朋友们弹弹吉他。”

短语热身

once upon a time 曾经
in a hurry 急忙地

take care of 照顾
feel quite helpless 束手无策

A Child's Angel

Once upon a time there was a child ready to be born. So one day he asked God:

“They tell me you are sending me to earth tomorrow but how am I going to live there being so small and **helpless**?”

“Among the many **angels**, I chose one for you. She will be waiting for you and will take care of you.”

“But tell me, here in Heaven, I don't do anything else but sing and smile, that's enough for me to be happy.”

“Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you every day. And you will feel your angel's love and be happy.”

“And how am I going to be able to **understand** when people talk to me, if I don't know the language that man talk?”

“Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear,

and with much **patience** and care, your angel will teach you how to speak.”

“And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?”

“Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to **pray**.”

“I’ve heard that on earth there are bad men. Who will **protect** me?”

“Your angel will **defend** you even if it means risking her life.”

“But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore.”

“Your angel will always talk to you about me and will teach you the way for you to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you.”

At that moment there was much peace in Heaven, but voices from earth could already be heard, and the child in a hurry asked softly, “Oh God, if I am about to leave now, please tell me my angel’s name.”

“Your angel’s name is of no importance, you will call your angel, Mommy.”

故事烙印

☞ **helpless** [ˈhelplɪs] *a.* 无助的, 无保护的, 不能自立的; 无法抗拒的, 不由自主的
feel quite helpless 束手无策

We feel sad because there’s nothing we can do to help the **helpless** child. 我们因为帮不了这个无助的孩子而感到难过。

☞ **angel** [ˈeɪndʒəl] *n.* 天使; 可爱的人

My neighbors’ child is as lovely as an **angel**. 我邻居家的孩子可爱得像个天使。

☞ **understand** [ˌʌndəˈstænd] *vt.* 理解, 懂; 了解, 意识到; 谅解; 获悉, 听说; 认为, 以为 *vi.* 理解, 懂得; 表示同情, 给予谅解; 认为, 猜想

I don’t **understand** what you talked about just now. 我不明白你刚才在说什么。

☞ **patience** [ˈpeɪʃəns] *n.* 忍耐, 耐心

The teacher has run out of **patience** with the little boy. 老师已经对这个小男孩失去了耐心。

☞ **pray** [preɪ] *v.* 祈祷, 祈求; 请求, 恳求

pray to sb. for sth. 向某人祈求……

The old man **prayed to** God for an end to his sufferings. 那位老人祈求上帝结束他的苦难。

☞ **protect** [prəˈtekt] *vt.* 保护, 保卫

The scene of crime has been **protected** by the police. 作案现场已被警方保护了起来。

☞ **defend** [diˈfend] *vt.* 保卫, 保护; 为……辩护, 为(论文等)答辩

defend sb. from harm 保护某人不受伤害

The criminal had a top lawyer to **defend** him. 那个罪犯请了最好的律师替自己辩护。

defence(*n.* 保卫); defensible(*a.* 可保卫的); defensive(*a.* 预防性的); defendant(*n.* 被告)

大纲拾遗

addition [ə'dɪʃən] *n.* 加起来; 增加

in addition 另外; in addition to 加上, 除……外

adequate ['ædɪkwɪt] *a.* 足够的, 适当的

be adequate for sth. 足够的, 适当的

adhere [əd'hɪə(r)] *v.* 遵守, 坚持

adhere to 黏附, 附着; 遵守, 坚持

adjust [ə'dʒʌst] *v.* 调整, 调节; 适应

adjust sth./oneself to sth. 使适应……

administer [əd'mɪnɪstə(r)] *v.* 施行, 实施; 给予

be administered to 施行

adopt [ə'dɒpt] *v.* 收养; 采用

adverse ['ædvɜ:s] *a.* 不利的, 有害的

adverse effect 不利影响

advocate ['ædvəkeɪt] *v.* 拥护, 提倡 ['ædvəkɪt] *n.* 拥护者, 提倡者

affection [ə'fekʃən] *n.* 感情; 爱, 爱慕

aggravate ['ægrəveɪt] *v.* 加重, 加剧

alarm [ə'lɑ:m] *n.* 惊恐, 忧虑; 闹铃; 警报 *v.* 使惊恐, 使担心

alarm clock 闹钟; fire alarm 火警

参考译文

孩子的天使

从前有一个孩子即将降生在人间。于是, 前一天, 他去问上帝:

“别人告诉我, 你明天就要把我送到地球上去了, 但是我这么小又这么无助 (helpless), 在那边我该怎么活下去呢?”

“在这么多的天使 (angel) 中, 我选择了一个给你。她会等待着你的到来, 会照顾你的。”

“但是你说, 在天堂中, 我什么都不用做, 每天只是唱歌和微笑, 这就足够让我开心了。”

“你的天使会每天唱歌给你听, 也会对你微笑。你会感受到天使的爱, 并因此而快乐。”

“那如果我不懂地球上人们交谈的语言, 当他们对我说话的时候, 我怎么能够明白 (understand) 他们对我说了什么呢?”

“你的天使会对你说你从未听过的最动听、最甜美的话语, 她还会无比耐心 (patience), 满怀慈爱地教你该怎样开口说话。”

“那假如我想和你说话, 我该怎么做?”

“你的天使会把你的手叠在一起, 教你如何祈祷 (pray)。”

“我还听说地球上有坏人。谁会来保护 (protect) 我呢?”

“你的天使会保护 (defend) 你的, 即使这有可能会牺牲她自己的性命。”

“但是我会因为再也见不到你而时常难过的。”

“你的天使会给你讲我的故事, 还会告诉你回到我身边的办法。话虽这么说, 我会一直都在你身边的。”

这时的天堂一片寂静安详, 然而地球上的声音已经清晰可闻了, 这个孩子急忙柔声问道: “哦, 上帝, 如果我现在就要离开了, 请告诉我我的天使的名字吧。”

“你的天使的名字并不重要, 你会叫她, 妈妈。”

短语热身

lie on 躺在……上

pick up 捡起; 认识到

a porch swing 秋千

walk away 走开

send in 递交, 呈送

be sensitive to 关注

The Vase

One day I was lying on the bed, reading, when my mother came into the room. She held out a vase — a rather ugly vase. She asked, “Would you like to have this vase?”

I replied quickly, “No, I don’t want it.”

As she turned to walk away, I picked up something that said to me, “Wait a minute, there is something here.” So I asked, “Where did you get it?”

She said, “Oh, I got it when I **filled** an order.”

Filled an order? I thought no communication here. So I asked, “What do you mean, filled an order?”

“Well,” she said, “when I was a little girl, the Smith Company mailed **catalogs** to people. I would take the catalog around the neighborhood, and I’d get people to order from it. When I filled an order and sent it in, they gave me a prize. One time, I got a porch swing for my family.”

Now you have to understand that my mother is 81 years old. She is one of six children in a family that her father **deserted** when she was quite young. Money was real hard to come by. My grandmother managed to keep the family together through the years, although I don’t know how. For my mother to win a **luxury** like a **porch swing** was a **significant** accomplishment. Although she no longer had the **swing**, she had the vase—a vase full of meaning—which she offered to me.

Instantly I said, “Mom, I want the vase.” Now it sits in a **prominent** place in my living room.

It **symbolizes** a precious meaning which my mother and I share. Unless you