

# Readings For Fun

with comprehension practice

英文趣味閱讀測驗

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A Good book is the best of friends, the same today and forever.



M.F. TUPPER\*

1

## Stupid Question



Dan was the doorman of a club in a big city. Every day, thousands of people passed his door, and a lot of them stopped and said to him, "What's the time, please?"

After a few months, Dan said to himself, "I'm not going to answer all those stupid people any more. I'm going to go to a shop and buy a big clock. Then I'm going to put it up on the wall here." He bought a clock and put it up on the wall.

"Now people aren't going to stop and ask me the time," he said happily. But after that, a lot of people stopped every day, looked at the clock and then said to Dan, "Is that clock right?"

\*\* doorman [ 'dɔː, mæn , - mæn ] n. 門房

put up 掛起; 抬起 (= hold up)

## ◆ Comprehension ◆

1. Dan was irritated with people because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) they asked if they could enter the building  
 (B) they asked where the rest room was  
 (C) they asked if they could see the president of the company  
 (D) they asked him the time too often
2. Dan bought a big clock and put it up on the wall because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) he could never remember the time  
 (B) it covered up a crack in the wall  
 (C) he liked the clock  
 (D) he didn't like stupid questions
3. Which is true?
- (A) The doorman continued to have visitors who asked silly questions.  
 (B) The clock Dan had bought and put on the wall was not correct.  
 (C) Most of the visitors were not wise enough to read the clock.  
 (D) Dan was kind enough to tell his visitors the time.

\*\* irritate [ 'ɪrə,tet ] v. 激怒

rest room 洗手間      crack [ kræk ] n. 裂縫

2

## How Do You Know When You've Had Enough?



In England nobody under the age of eighteen is allowed to drink in a public bar.

Mr. Thompson used to go to a bar near his house quite often, but he never took his son, Tom, because he was too young. Then when Tom had his eighteenth birthday, Mr. Thompson took him to his usual bar for the first time. They drank for half an hour, and then Mr. Thompson said to his son, "Now, Tom, I want to teach you a useful lesson. You must always be careful not to drink too much. And how do you know when you've had enough? Well, I'll tell you. Do you see those two lights at the end of the bar? When they seem to have become four,

"But, Dad," said Tom, "I can only see one light at the end of the bar."

◆ Comprehension ◆

8

1. Which one fits in the blank ?
- (A) the owner closes the bar and everyone goes home  
 (B) you should tell the owner of the bar  
 (C) you've had enough and should go home  
 (D) it's a good time to order your next drink
2. Mr. Thompson did not take his son to the bar \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) because he didn't want his son to start drinking  
 (B) until his eighteenth birthday  
 (C) because there were not enough lights  
 (D) until they were out of England
3. Mr. Thompson wanted to teach his son \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) how to know when to stop drinking  
 (B) the dangers of drinking  
 (C) to be a more patient person  
 (D) how to count lights

allow [ə'laʊ] v. 允許      bar [bɑː] n. 酒吧  
 used to 過去經常 (cf. be used to + V-ing)  
 light [laɪt] n. 燈      patient ['peɪʃənt] adj. 有耐心的

3

## I'm Glad



A Sunday-school teacher was telling her pupils the importance of making others glad. "Now, children," said she, "has anyone of you ever made someone else glad?"

"Please, teacher," said a small boy, "I've made someone glad yesterday."

"Well done. \_\_\_\_\_"

"My granny."

"Good boy. Now tell us how you made your grandmother glad."

"Please, teacher, I went to see her yesterday, and stayed with her three hours. Then I said to her, 'Granny, I'm going home,' and she said, 'Well, I'm glad!'"

\*\* Sunday-school 主日學校的 pupil (ˈpjʊl) n. 學生

Well done. 做得好。(=That was well done.)



4

## ◆ Comprehension ◆

1. Which one fits in the blank?

- (A) And how old are you?  
 (B) You must be a very good boy..  
 (C) Who was that?  
 (D) What did you do?

2. The teacher wanted her students \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) to bring pleasure to other people  
 (B) to be more obedient  
 (C) to study harder  
 (D) to be polite to their parents

3. The little boy made his grandmother \_\_\_\_\_ by leaving her alone.

- (A) mad (B) glad  
 (C) sad (D) worried

4. The boy's grandmother got \_\_\_\_\_ of being with her grandson.

- (A) all (B) rid  
 (C) tired (D) away

\*\* granny [ 'græni ] n. 祖母    obedient [ ə'bidjənt ] adj. 聽話的

polite [ pə'laɪt ] adj. 有禮貌的

# 4

## Do You Know My Work?



One night a hotel caught fire, and the people who were staying in it ran out in their night clothes.

Two men stood outside and looked at the fire.

“Before I came out,” said one, “I ran into some of the rooms and found a lot of money. People don’t think of money when they’re afraid. When anyone leaves paper money in a fire, the fire burns it. So I took all the bills that I could find. No one will be poorer because I took them.”

“You don’t know my work,” said the other.

“What is your work?”

“I’m a policeman.”

“Oh!” cried the first man. He thought quickly and said, “And do you know my work?” “No,” said the policeman.

“I’m a writer. I’m always telling stories about things that never happened.”

◆ Comprehension ◆

1. The first man \_\_\_\_\_.

(A) works as a fireman  
 (B) was injured in the fire  
 (C) is a hotel employee  
 (D) has done something illegal

2. Although he doesn't realize it, the first man is telling his story to \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) a writer  
 (B) a fireman  
 (C) a policeman  
 (D) his neighbor

3. When people are afraid of a fire, they \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) steal from others  
 (B) don't think about their money  
 (C) will be poorer  
 (D) will not be burned

\*\* *catch fire* 着火      *fireman* [ 'faɪrmən ] *n.* 消防隊員

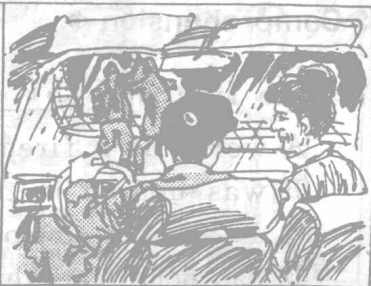
*employee* [ ɪm'plɔɪ·i , ɛmplɔɪ'i ] *n.* 職員

*illegal* [ ɪ'liɡl ] , *adj.* 違法的

*realize* [ 'ri:əlaɪz ] *v.* 察覺

## 5

## The Winner



A tall man and a short man are waiting for a taxi on the same corner. An old lady joins them on the corner because she also wants to catch a taxi.

It is raining hard, and all the taxis pass without stopping. Finally, a taxi stops, and the tall man rushes ahead of the short man. The short man stops him, and they \_\_\_\_\_. The tall man is in a hurry, but the short man was on the corner first. The short man pushes the tall man, and the tall man then grabs the short man's coat. The old lady calmly closes her umbrella, opens the door, and gets in the taxi. The taxi driver smiles and drives away.

- \*\* rush [rʌʃ] v. 衝      ahead of 在~之前      in a hurry 趕時間  
 grab [græb] v. 抓      calmly ['kɑ:mli] adv. 安靜地  
 argue ['ɑ:ɡju] v. 爭吵

## ◆ Comprehension ◆

6

1. Which one fits in the blank ?
- (A) wait for another taxi  
 (B) start to argue  
 (C) ask the old lady to go first  
 (D) are both very wet
2. The old lady \_\_\_\_\_ the men's fight.
- (A) stopped  
 (B) was surprised at  
 (C) told the driver about  
 (D) caught a taxi because of
3. The real winner of the fight was \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) the tall man  
 (B) the short man  
 (C) the old lady  
 (D) the taxi driver
4. The tall man thought he should go first because \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) it was raining  
 (B) he was there first  
 (C) he was in a hurry  
 (D) he had been waiting

## 6

## The New Baby



Mr. and Mrs. Taylor had a seven-year-old boy named Pat. Now Mrs. Taylor was expecting another child.

Pat had seen babies in other people's houses and had not liked them very much, so he was not delighted about the news that there was soon going to be one in his house too.

One evening Mr. and Mrs. Taylor were making plans for the baby's arrival. "This house won't be big enough for us all when the baby comes," said Mr. Taylor.

Pat came into the room just then and said, "What are you talking about?" "We were saying that we'll have to move to another house now, \_\_\_\_\_," his mother answered.

"It's no use," said Pat hopelessly. "He'll follow us there."

## ◆ Comprehension ◆

7

1. Which one fits in the blank?

- (A) because the new baby's coming  
 (B) if it's okay with you  
 (C) because this one is too old  
 (D) but we don't have enough money

2. Pat           .

- (A) wished to have a baby in his house  
 (B) was very fond of babies  
 (C) disliked to have a baby in his house  
 (D) had the same opinion as his parents

3. Pat thought that his parents planned to move to another house           .

- (A) because their house was too small  
 (B) to keep away from the new baby  
 (C) very far away from their present home  
 (D) even though they didn't have enough money

\*\* expect [ ɪk'spekt ] v. 懷孕      move [ muv ] v. 搬家

hopelessly [ 'həplɪslɪ ] adv. 絕望地

adopt [ ə'dɒpt ] v. 收養

## 7

## A Different Kind of Audience



Al Smith was governor of New York State. He was a famous man. He was born very poor on the East Side of New York City. He had little education. He worked very hard and won great success.

One day, as governor, he was visiting the state prison at Sing Sing. Sing Sing is one of the largest prisons in the United States. The head of the prison asked Mr. Smith to say something to the prisoners. Mr. Smith had never spoken to this kind of audience before. He did not know how to begin.

Finally, he said, "My fellow citizens...." Then he remembered that when a man goes to prison he is no longer a citizen. He began again. "My fellow prisoners...." That did not sound right, so he said: "Well, anyway, I'm glad to see so many of you here today."



## ◆ Comprehension ◆

8

1. In this story \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) the prisoners wanted to sing for the governor  
 (B) Al Smith wanted the prisoners to vote for him  
 (C) the governor was not familiar with prison audience  
 (D) Al Smith was no longer a citizen
2. Which is true?
- (A) Al Smith was happy to see so many people in prison.  
 (B) The prisoners wanted Al Smith to be governor.  
 (C) The governor went to the prison to educate the prisoners.  
 (D) Al Smith didn't know how to address the prisoners.
3. Al Smith succeeded \_\_\_\_\_.
- (A) thanks to his parents' help  
 (B) through his own efforts  
 (C) due to his education  
 (D) because of his intelligence

\*\* audience [ˈɔ:diəns] n. 聽眾      governor [ˈgʌvənə] n. 州長  
 prisoner [ˈprɪznə] n. 囚犯      citizen [ˈsɪtəzn] n. 公民  
 intelligence [ɪnˈtelədʒəns] n. 智力