

Your Guides to a Bright Future

通向明媚未来的指引

The 真相 Truth

Awah Alfred F.

Expand Your Perspectives, Begin Your Search for Wisdom



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Abstract

This book aims at sharing my teaching and life experiences in China with the readers, especially the foreign languages learners. Being a decade long teacher, I have spent almost nine years in China by now, which has greatly inspired me much, and has also given me a very good opportunity to see some of the loopholes involved in the teaching and learning processes of foreign languages in China. From observation, most of the foreign languages learners I often come across in China, including the thousands of students that I have personally taught, all face quite similar problems during the course of learning foreign languages. The most urgent problems for those foreign languages learners is how to learn, master and be able to speak the foreign languages that they learn fluently, especially the English language. After getting numerous complains and questions from the foreign languages learners, I think it's kind of my obligation to make some contributions with the hope that their situations would be improved someday in the future. So knowledge about foreign languages learning and methods with which learners can deal with their problems are the main concern of this book.

As a foreigner who has been living and working in China for close to nine years, I have gotten much valuable life experience which I would also like to share with my readers. Issues about love, ambition, happiness, motivation, etc. are also included in this book.

摘要

本书旨在与读者，尤其是外语学习者，分享我在中国的教学经验和生活经验。我十年的教育历程中，有九年在中国度过。在中国的教育经历给了我很大的启迪，也让我认识到了中国的外语教学中存在的一些漏洞。经过观察，我接触到的大多数中国外语学习者，包括我本人教过的数以千计的学生，在外语学习过程中会遇到颇为类似的问题。对于这些外语学习者来说，最棘手的问题是应该如何学习、掌握以及流利地说出他们所学的外语，尤其是英语。了解到来自外语学习者无数的抱怨和问题之后，我认为我有义务做些贡献，希望将来的某一天他们的情况会有所改善。所以，有关外语学习的相关知识以及如何帮助外语学习者解决他们在学习外语的过程中遇到的问题方法是本书的主要内容。

作为一个在中国生活将近九年的外国人，我积累了丰富的生活经验，我也希望能与我的读者分享这些经验。因此，有关爱情、抱负、幸福、动机等等的话题也将在本书中有所体现。

Acknowledgement

Without mentioning any names here, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely express my thanks and gratitude to all those who supported me in one way or another in the realization of this piece of work. Just as the saying goes “little drops of water makes a mighty ocean”, meaning that, it’s due to all the little supports that I received from you that have helped me to finally realize this project. Much thanks to Tongji University Press for accepting to publish this book. Thanks a ton.

Awah Alfred F
2011.12

感谢

我想借此机会表达我诚挚的谢意。感谢在我完成此项作品过程中给予我帮助的每一个人,在此不一一列举。正如古语所言“积水成渊”;正是你们给了我点点滴滴的帮助,也同时感谢同济大学出版社对本书的出版给予的大力支持,我才得以最终实现我人生中的此项目标。

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Contents

Abstract

Acknowledgement

Chapter 1

- 1 Happiness
- 11 Kinds of Happiness
- 15 Poem
- 16 Happiness versus Pleasure
- 21 Why Personal Happiness Is So Important to Us?
- 27 A Little Inspiration
- 29 Our Society versus Happiness
- 34 Foot for Thought: Making a Choice between Optimism and Pessimism
- 36 A Happy Person
- 45 Quotation

Chapter 2

- 46 You Never Learn Much from Your Past Successes
- 52 Never Stop Learning
- 59 Why Do We Need Change?

Chapter 3

- 68 Examination
- 71 Are Examinations an Essential Part of an Education Process?

- 79 Examination—The Only Globally Acceptable Yardstick for People’s Knowledge, Intelligence and Ability
- 83 Fourteen Common Misconceptions Most People Have about the Examination as a Standard Tool for Evaluating People’s Knowledge and Ability
- 105 Why Students Fail in Their Examinations?
- 111 Thirteen Possible Reasons Why Learners Sometimes Fail to Pass Their Examinations
- 156 Which Other Methods of Evaluation Could Be Substitutes or Additional Methods to the Already Existing Examination System as a Measurement of People’s Knowledge?

Chapter 4

- 167 Good and Bad Emotions: Finding a Perfect Mix
- 173 A Positive Thinker
- 180 Life versus Death

Chapter 5

- 186 The Concept of a Language
- 190 When Do People Learn New Languages?
- 195 Problems in Learning Other People’s Languages
- 204 Do People Necessarily Learn Languages Only in Schools?
- 217 Infants Learn New Languages Faster than Adults Do
- 224 “Xi Xi” (Feng Xiao Xi, 冯晓茜) and Her Foreign Uncle
- 229 The History of Some Languages over the Past Centuries
- 236 Why Could Some People Master Other People’s Languages Easily?
- 242 English Language Learning in China
- 246 Why are Chinese Students Required to Learn Foreign Languages and Especially the English Language?
- 258 The 100 Most Often “Misspelled” Misspelled Words in English Language
- 273 Spelling Rules in English Language

275	The Changes that Have Taken Place over the Years in the History of English Language Teaching and Learning
283	Why the Number of English Language Learners Greatly Surpasses the Number of Speakers?
287	Reasons Leading to the Imbalances between English Language Learners and the Actual Speakers
307	Some Suggested Remedies
333	The Implications for English Language Planning, Teaching and Learning
336	Implications for Parents

Chapter 6

338	Motivation Is the Most Important Factor in Language Learning
345	Simple Techniques that Can Motivate Your Interest to Learn English Language Easily
361	How to Begin a Conversation on a Boring Topic that You Really Hate?

Chapter 7

363	Love
367	The Basic Components of Love
372	Is Love Painful?
376	Self-acceptance
381	Common Problems Involved in Most Love Relationships
387	An Inspiration—Reacons, Seasons and a Lifetime
390	Is What I Am Feeling Love or Infatuation?
401	Love Is Life's Sweet Mystery
402	Is Honesty Necessary in a Love Relationship?
408	An Apology
409	Some Myths about Egocentricity
412	To Love Is to Be Happy?

Chapter 8

- 419 English Language
- 420 The History of English Language
- 428 The Different Varieties of English Languages Spoken over the Past Years
- 433 The Changes English Language Has Gone Through over the Past Years

Chapter 9

- 439 General Suggestions to All Foreign Language(s) Learners
- 456 The 100 Most Frequently Used Words in English Language

Chapter 10

- 458 Dreams
- 466 Creating the "Future You"

Chapter 11

- 471 How You Can Hear and Learn English Language Everywhere You Go?
- 478 Ways to Improve Your Reading Comprehension Skills

Chapter 12

- 483 You Don't Have to Conform to Your Past Successes
- 489 Throwing a Lifeline to Your Future

Chapter 13

- 494 The Philosophy of Education

Chapter 14

- 506 A Degree Does Not Entitle You to a Job
- 516 Survive and Thrive in a Hated Job
- 525 Myths of the Workplace

Chapter 15

- 529 Taking Risks

Chapter 16

- 536 Value Judgment
- 542 A Happy Introvert

Chapter 17

- 547 A Creative Genius
- 556 Intelligence Type

Chapter 18

- 562 The Philosophy of Life

Chapter 19

- 572 How to Get Out of Bed on Time When You Really Don't Feel Like It?
- 578 Habits that We Must Quit

Chapter 20

- 588 Conquer Your Fear of Public Speaking
- 597 Fighting Stress
- 602 Building Self-confidence

Chapter 21

- 616 Motivation
- 618 Types of Motivations
- 628 Which Do You Think You Need More, Intrinsic or Extrinsic Motivation?
- 634 Are You a Motivated Person?
- 636 Positive and Negative Motivations
- 638 What Is "a Loss of Motivation"?
- 641 Consequences that Arise Because of a Loss in Motivation
- 646 Factors That Can Cause a Loss of Motivation in Someone
- 650 How Can You Strengthen Your Motivation on Studies?
- 655 What Can You Do to Intensify Your Motivation on Your Studies?
- 663 How to Become an Enthusiastic Person?
- 667 Ways to Prevent Your Interest from Waning Away from Your Studies
- 672 The Importance of Finding out What Motivates You
- 674 Developing Motivation in Your Daily Life
- 678 Ways to Constantly Motivate Yourself

Chapter 22

- 683 Be Strong in Your Youth
- 689 Facing Challenges in Our Lives
- 693 Quotation: Turning Difficulties into an Opportunities

Chapter 23

- 695 Teaching's Philosophy

Chapter 24

706	Learning How to Learn
715	Success

Chapter 25

721	How to Study Well?
729	Business Letters in English Language
731	Learning English is not Learning Phonetic

Chapter 26

744	Ambition
753	Some Critical Examples of True and False Ambitions
760	How Is Ambition and Motivation Intrinsically Interlinked?

Note

Answers

Happiness

What is happiness?

The term “happiness” may mean many different things to different people. Different people have different perspectives on what they think is happiness. Therefore, the meaning of the term “happiness” will certainly differ from one person to the next. It is an undeniable fact that, all the living creatures on this planet want happiness and are afraid of pain and grief. The main purpose of our lives is to be happy people, and to live happy lives too. Whatever country or society people live in; they all have the same deep desire, which is to become happy people. However, a few ideas still seem very difficult for some people to grasp such as those of happiness. In our daily lives, we constantly experience happiness and unhappiness, but most of us are quite ignorant as to what happiness really is. Therefore, what is it that people call happiness? The desire for happiness has no meaning without understanding the real nature of happiness. Finding happiness else where outside ourselves is like finding oneself. You do not find happiness, but you make happiness a priority, and you choose happiness to be a part of your life. Self-actualization is a process of discovering who you are, who you want to become, and paving the way to happiness by doing the things that bring you the most meaning and contentment into your life as time goes by.

The experience of happiness is one of those terms which most people use to express how they feel good emotionally. People use different terms to describe what feels good for them and what makes them feel happy. Some people consider happiness being an excitement, a passion, exhilaration, a

fulfillment, freedom, feeling fully alive with inspiration and joy. For some people, happiness might be to have the feeling of being more peaceful, content, capable, hopeful, satisfied, and a comfortable feeling. For others, happiness means having abundant sum of money in their bank accounts. Some people have the belief that, if they have much money, they will be able to do everything that they wish to do with money freely without any obstacles and that will make them happy people. When students are asked, as to what can make them happy, the most common heard answers from most of the students are that, "If they are able to write and pass all their examinations and with high grades, then they will be the happiest people on earth. In addition, if they can find good jobs after they graduate from school, they will be able to make much money in order to support their family members, then they will be very happy people". Some people do believe that, if they are able to hold good post of responsibility, power, fame, or they are able to have good and well-paid jobs, they will be able to make a good and comfortable living, and that will make them happy people. Some people also hold the belief that, if they are healthy and there are no serious problems within their families, even though they might not be rich enough like others, they will still be happy all the same. For some people, they do believe that, happiness means having more than enough of everything in all aspects of their lives. Some believe that, if they have more than enough good relationships with other people, more than enough physical, mental, and emotional resources, then they will be happy people. Some do believe that, finding a lover is a necessity in their lives and if they are able to find a lover, then that will make them happy people. Some people see happiness as a matter of becoming financially secured or getting married. However, if we turn to look at some of the people around us who are already married and some who are also wealthy enough, we turn to realize that, marriage and money do not necessarily guarantee happiness for them. Every one of us must have heard stories about couples who have been passionately in love, and who are now suffering from discord soon after their weddings. We could also see women who married men with money, or status, but who quarrel or even fight constantly with their husbands all the time. According

to these people, the search for happiness means, “searching for pleasures of the senses”. The question “What is happiness”, does not arise in their hearts, because in their hearts, they treat the life, which is full of sensory joys as a happy life. Therefore, for such people, happiness is an account of those things that, whenever they think of happiness and welfare, it is considered desirable to lead a life of attachments, work hard, grow more food, develop industries, and science. Countries will prosper by all these things, and all will be happy. Ideals are talked of, and it is said that, a day will come when everyone will have nutritious food to eat, and clothes to put on according to the varied seasons of a year. Further more, modern residence with all scientific facilities will be build, and then all will be happy. However, the purpose is not to challenge such beliefs, nor is there any one who wants to discuss whether such conditions will prevail or not. The most important question is, “If after having all these comforts, will life be happy for these people?” If yes, then people who are already having all these comforts should be happy even now. Most countries that are already touching the limitations of all these comforts must then have all happy and quiet people. We however, find that, all people on this planet are impatient, disturbed, unhappy, afraid, and worried. It is, therefore necessary to consider seriously, what happiness really is, and how we can pursue real happiness in our lives. We can not make any true efforts in this direction and achieve happiness without once and for all deciding, what really happiness is.

Happiness and unhappiness are two opposite sides of a judgment about your situation. If you judge your situation as bad for you, then that is unhappiness, and if you judge your situation as good for you, then that is happiness. Some thinkers even go ahead and say, “Happiness does not lie in objects of enjoyment, but happiness or unhappiness lies in imagination”. To prove their belief, they go ahead to give examples like the ones following: A man has a BMW car, his neighbor on the right is having a Limousine, and his neighbor on the left is having a motorbike. When he sees his neighbor on the right, he feels unhappy and when he sees his neighbor on the left, he feels happy. As such, happiness does not lie in the possession of objects, but in their imagination. They advise people to look towards those who