

# 英语教程初探

下 册

杉 友 编著

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## 写在前面

本书是根据许国璋主编的高等学校教材《英语》第二、三、四册（1979年重印本）而编写的一套教学参考书。共分上、中、下三册，分别与《英语》二、三、四册相对应。

本书是以作者多年教学的教案为基础，并参阅了某些兄弟院校的有关资料，按册逐课编的。

《初探》的特点是实践性强。为便于教师精讲多练，使学生通过大量的语言实践掌握教材的重点和难点，《初探》在各课除简要介绍作者和背景知识外，还针对语言要点，逐段讲解课文，补充了大量例句，并通过问答、对话、翻译、听写等多种形式提高学生运用语言的能力。每课补充的练习，均在各课后附有参考答案。为使学生在语法方面打下坚实基础，《初探》在上册各课对基本语法点均配有专项练习，并附有答案。其它两册考虑到教材中的语法部分主要是通过综合练习加以巩固，因此不专门列出语法练习。原教材各册上的全部各项练习，除针对课文的问答题外，其余均在每课之后附上参考答案。

本书在编写过程中，北京师范大学外语系郑儒铖教授生前曾给予了热情帮助和支持。

由于水平所限，本书定有不少不妥和欠缺之处，希望广大读者指正，特别希望使用这套课本的教师提出宝贵意见。

1982.5.10.

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## Lesson 1

### Mother

#### Introductory remarks

Maxim Gorky (1868—1936), the pseudonym of Alexei Maximovich Peshkov, is a well-known Russian writer and revolutionary. Lenin spoke very highly of him, saying that he was the most outstanding representative of the proletarian literature.

Gorky was born in a carpenter's family, in Nizhni Novgorod in central Russia (now Gorky). At the age of four, he lost his father and had to live with his maternal grandparents. At nine he was sent as an apprentice in a boat-shop and toiled for his daily bread. When he was ten his grandfather went bankrupt and he was completely thrown into society and lived as a vagabond. He was then found in a variety of trades; he had been an errand boy, a kitchen boy, an apple peddler, a gardener, an apprentice in a bakery and a railway watchman, etc.

In spite of his hard life he was keen on reading.

Whenever he had time he devoured books of all sorts and finally taught himself to become a writer. His first short story was published in 1892, the year when he was employed in a railway work-shop. In 1913, he began publishing his autobiographical works, *My Childhood*, *My Apprenticeship*, and *My Universities*. With the publication of his great novel *Mother* (1907), he was hailed as the founder of socialist literature. In his works he combined realism with romanticism and made great contribution to proletarian literature.

Gorky's *Mother* describes life in Russia on the eve of the Revolution of 1905. It has the most influence on Soviet literature. It is the first portrayal in world literature of the workers as a growing force destined to break down the capitalist order.

In the novel the heroine Mother had been a most timid, submissive, ordinary woman. She believed in God and accepted all the hardships and misery of her life without complaint or resistance. During the first days of her son Pavel's revolutionary activities, she prayed day and night for his safety. But under her son's influence, she gradually realized that he was working for a just cause, and she too came to see that the old order of things not only must be changed but could be changed. This gave her courage and strength, and her life took on new meaning. She then helped

him running messages, distributing leaflets and doing other odd jobs and in time became a staunch revolutionary herself.

## Explanation of the text

### 1. Pavel was arrested.

Pavel is the hero of the novel *«Mother»*. He was arrested by the gendarmes because of exposing the schemes of the capitalist who was trying to exploit the workers. The owner of the factory wanted to drain a large swamp lying beyond his factory in order to extract the peat and make large profit from the land. On the pretext of doing this for the sake of improving the living conditions of the workers, he gave an order to deduct one *kopek* from each *ruble* paid in wages for draining of the swamp. (1 ruble/'ru:bl/' = 100 kopeks) Pavel explained to the workers the injustice of the deduction and the obvious profit the draining would bring to the factory. Therefore he was arrested by the gendarmes early in the morning.

### 2. That day Mother did not light the stove.

Mother is the heroine of the novel *Mother*. When Pavel was arrested, Mother felt very worried. 'That day' refers to the day on which Pavel was



arrested. That day mother did not make a fire for cooking and warming. She did not have dinner, did not even drink tea. She felt that life had never been so empty and lonely when Pavel was gone.

to light the stove, to make a fire for cooking and warming

3. Then another.

= Then there was another knock at the window.

4. Mother was used to such knocks, but this time she gave a little start of joy.

= Mother was accustomed to such knocks, but this time she was surprised at the knocks but was glad to meet the coming person.

to be used to sth. (doing sth.), to be accustomed  
to sth. (doing  
sth., to do sth.)

I am used to winter in Beijing now.

She is used to doing farm work now.

Our teachers are used to staying up late.

I am not used to taking notes while reading.

5. A man came in, his face hidden by an upturned coat collar and a cap pulled low over his brow.

= A man, named Yegor Ivanovich, came in. He

was one of the revolutionary leaders of the underground work.

Why was his coat collar turned up and his cap pulled down?

In order not to expose himself, he had to turn up his coat collar and pull his cap low over his brow.

6. He sends you his love and says you musn't worry.

=He gives his regards to you./He asks to be remembered to you. He says that you should by no means worry about him.

7. He wants you to know that anyone who chooses the path he has chosen is sure to have periodic holidays in jail.

To be in jail is nothing to a true revolutionary. He may get arrested very often. Anyone who takes the path of revolution is likely to get arrested and put in prison. But a true revolutionary is always optimistic and thinks nothing of his prison terms. Pavel was a true revolutionary. He was brave, devoted and optimistic. Therefore to be put in prison from time to time is to him just like having a holiday.

'Periodic' means occurring again and again at (regular) intervals, as 'periodic crises', 'periodic motion of a heavenly body', etc.

'The path' is used figuratively here, meaning 'the path of revolution'.

8. And now I'll get down to business, Mother.  
to get down to business;

to come to the point directly,  
to start handling sth. seriously,  
to start a serious discussion about sth.

9. Why——was anyone——besides Pavel?

This is an illiptical interrogative sentence.

= Why, was there anyone else arrested besides Pavel?

10. And here's the point.

这就是要害。(道理就在这儿)

point; chief idea of something said, done or planned

11. We musn't stop distributing leaflets at the factory. If we do, the gendarmes will use it against Pavel and the comrades in jail.

Pavel and his comrades were arrested because

the gendarmes took them in as the men distributing leaflets at the factory. If they stop distributing them the gendarmes will be sure that it must be Pavel and his comrades who did the job. Now if more papers and leaflets continue to appear every day, although Pavel and his comrades are jailed, the gendarmes will lose their heads. So the distribution of the leaflets musn't stop.

to use sth. against sb.; to make use of sth. to attack sb.

12. "What do you mean?" cried Mother in alarm.

Yegor told Mother that Pavel and many other workers were arrested because the gendarmes suspected that they had distributed the leaflets at the factory. So the distribution of the leaflets musn't stop. Otherwise the gendarmes may use this against Pavel and his comrades. But obviously Mother was unable to follow Yegor's reasoning. In the next paragraph he was to explain his point.

13. Sometimes even gendarmes use their heads.

= Sometimes even gendarmes rack their brains for something. Though the gendarmes are stupid, sometimes they do think and not get fooled easily.

14. Pavel was free—there were papers and leaflets; Pavel is jailed—there are no more papers or leaflets. Therefore Pavel must have been the man.

Sometimes even gendarmes may rack their brains. They may come to the conclusion that when Pavel was free, there were papers and leaflets. When Pavel was arrested there were no more papers or leaflets. Then the gendarmes would be sure it must be Pavel who distributed papers and leaflets. So if the work of distributing leaflets could be carried on, it would show the gendarmes that Pavel and the other workers in jail had nothing to do with those leaflets.

15. Pavel must have been the man.

= Pavel was surely the man who had distributed the leaflets.

**must have done** shows the speaker's inference to an action in the past; a conclusion that is drawn from reasoning regarding a matter of state in the past.

More examples;

The students started to work very early in the morning. They must have finished the work by now.

Let's hurry up. The film must have begun already.

Soapy was the only man standing near the restaurant. He must have been the man who had broken the

window.

16. But what can we do about it?

= What is to be done?

More examples;

There is nothing we can do about it.

This is all you can do about it.

We can do nothing about it.

There is much(little) we can do about it.

Shall I do something about it?

Is there anything you can do about it?

17. ..., but how to get them into the factory remains a problem.

= This was a problem and is still a problem.

'Remain' is used as a linking verb.

How to improve our English study remains a problem.

How to improve our teaching method remains a problem.

18. Could anything be done?

= Can we do something about it?

'Could' is a modal verb here. It is of present time. It is the same as 'can', but it suggests politeness.

19. Let's have a talk with the pedlar.

What is a pedlar?

A pedlar is a person who goes from place to place trying to sell small articles./A pedlar is a person who travels about selling things he carries in a pack or a basket.

American spelling, peddler

20. She's a gossip!

A gossip is a person who likes telling about the improper details of other people's private lives./A gossip is a person who talks a great deal about trifles without saying anything important./A gossip is a person who is fond of talking about other people's affairs.

21. Give them to me! I'll do it. I'll take dinners to sell at the factory. I'll manage.

Mother offered to do the job. She thought she could manage to smuggle the leaflets into the factory by pretending to take dinners to sell there.

22. Two guards passed their hands roughly over everyone who entered the yard.

'Roughly' means carelessly, not thoroughly as

well as violently. On the one hand the guards were inattentive about the job, yet on the other hand they were cruel, fierce towards the workers. Hence there is a pun here.

23. ..., "You devils ought to search our heads and not our pockets."

Note the irony of the sentence. It implies that it's no use searching our pockets. It is in our heads that we keep our revolutionary thinking. But you can't take it away./It is in our heads that what you fear and want to get is kept.

24. "You might let me through," said Mother.  
= You really ought to let me enter the gate. How can you suspect an old woman like me?

25. Can't you see my back is about to break under the load?

= Can't you see that my back is just going to break under the heavy weight of the two baskets?/  
Can't you see that my back is on the point of breaking under the heavy weight of the two baskets?

to be about to do sth., to be just going to do sth./to be on the point of doing sth.



We are about to start our dinner when he comes in.

26. Once inside the factory yard, Mother set her baskets down, wiped the sweat off her face and looked round.

‘Once’ is a conjunction, meaning ‘as soon as’, ‘from the moment that’.

Once we get there, we'll know everything.

27. Got any porridge?

=Have you got any porridge?

28. This was the password!

‘Password’ is a secret word or phrase which one has to know in order to be allowed to enter a building, camp, etc. Here it means a secret word or phrase used to distinguish a comrade from an enemy.

29. The workman's face lit up.

=The worker's face brightened up. His face shone with happiness when he heard the password.

30. Every time a packet left her hands, the hateful yellow face of the officer who had taken her son away flared up in her mind.