

英語學習

ENGLISH
LANGUAGE
LEARNING

外語教學與研究出版社

英 语 学 习

(一九八五年合订本)

外语教学与研究出版社

英 语 学 习
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外语教学与研究出版社出版
(北京外国语学院23号信箱)

怀柔县燕东印刷厂
新华书店北京发行所发行
全国各地新华书店经售

开本787×1092 1/32 24.875 印张 960 千字
1986年5月第1版 1986年5月北京第一次印刷
印数 1—15000 册

书号: 9215·324 定价: 3.80 元

Real English for Serious Learners

— OUR MOTTO

英語學習

1985年第1期

总第157期

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新年絮语

在送走欣欣向荣的一九八四年、迎来百业兴旺的一九八五年之际，我们谨向一直关心并支持本刊的广大读者和作者表示谢意，并致以节日的祝贺。

在新的一年里，我们拟对本刊部分栏目进行调整，重点加强学习指导，增设“考试指导”一栏，请有经验的同志评介高考、研究生等试题，着眼于培养考生实际解题能力。新辟的“书刊评介”将对常用英语工具书、参考书和各种教材作一些分析比较，使读者能根据自己的情况选择自己需要的材料。以上两栏欢迎读者多提建议。我们新辟“汉译英入门”一栏，比较系统地介绍这方面的基本知识和有关技巧。“为您服务”也是新增的栏目，其目的在于提供各种有用的信息，帮助读者解决学习中的困难和问题。此外，根据读者的建议，新的一年将恢复“文章段落讲解”和“Language and Culture”两个栏目（隔期刊出）。从下期起 China Through Foreign Eyes 一栏将刊登“外国人看中国”的各类来稿。

今年刊物栏目的另一重大调整是打算在上半年和下半年各出一期专刊，比如“读物”或“语法、词汇”专刊。专刊虽有重点，但仍将保留问答栏、英语连环画和英语歌曲等一般栏目。同时，恢复长篇小说选载，一年内选登一两部长篇小说。

英国专家 Pat Adler 今年将写一系列短文，介绍 New Zealand 的地理情况。美国朋友 Betty Parker 的 Translation Do's and Don'ts 对读者很有帮助，将继续下去。

深受广大读者欢迎的“漫画说明征文比赛”今年将继续举行。其他如“阅读与欣赏”、“初学园地”、Xiao Wang's Diary 等栏目，一向受读者欢迎，我们也将充实其内容，力争办得更好。

这些计划的最后实现，还有赖于广大作者和读者支持。我们希望在新的年里我们的工作不断改进，本刊内容有所更新，以满足读者的需要。

祝同志们在新的一年里学习进步，工作顺利。

本刊编辑部

BACK IN TOWN¹

by Frederick Nebel

Harry Barr's insides began to tighten² as the bus neared the town. He knew where it would make its regular stop — in front of Sully's Drugstore.³ He could see the long green bench under the awning. People he had known all his life would be sitting on the bench, and he'd get off there, his eyelids narrowed, his eyes seeing at once nothing and everything. He'd walk up Main Street past the stores, past the people hanging out⁴ in front of them. He'd see old MacDonald⁵ sitting in front of the haberdashery.⁶ But he wouldn't look at MacDonald, or speak to him.

Already knowing the town was so near, beyond the next turn, Harry's heart began to pound. He rose and said, "Let me off at the turn, will you?"

He stood in the summer dust of the road's shoulder⁷ and watched the bus disappear round the turn. Fifty feet up the road he found the path and entered the woods. It was the long way — two miles longer, but he wouldn't have to run the gauntlet⁸ of the town's people.

When he reached the edge of the woods that bordered his folks' place, he wished he had ridden into the town, walked up Main Street. He knew with burning clarity⁹ that something fine and resolute had been almost within his grasp and he had let it go.

His father stood in the chicken-house doorway. Harry stopped and nodded toward the garden.

"Sure looks nice, Pa."

1. Back In Town: 回到镇上。美国短篇小说作家弗雷德里克·奈贝尔 (1903—1963) 所著。故事发生在新英格兰的一个小镇上。主人公哈利·巴 (Harry Barr) 从他的亲身经历认识到, 作为一个社会成员, 公众的舆论对他来说是多么重要。 2. insides began to tighten: 五脏六腑开始紧缩起来。 3. Sully's Drugstore: 索列的杂货店。 4. hanging out: (俚语) 闲逛。 5. MacDonald [mæk'donəld]: 麦克唐纳 (人名)。 6. haberdashery ['hæbədeʃəri]: 男子服装用品商店。 7. the roads shoulder: 路边。shoulder 是建筑工程用语, 指路的边缘、路肩。 8. to run the gauntlet: 原意是军事上的一种惩罚方式, 受罚者从两行人群中间穿过, 受夹道鞭打。这里指受到镇上人们的指责。 9. He knew with burning clarity: 他痛切地认识到。

His father gazed at the garden for almost a minute. Then he came over to where Harry stood and they both gazed at the garden. His father put his hand on Harry's shoulder.

"Boy," he said slowly. "Boy."

He kept patting Harry's shoulder in a fond, almost absent-minded way. His mouth, under its gray, untidy moustache, was twitching. Then all at once it was still; and his hand, after one long squeeze was still too.

"Go see your ma,¹⁰ Harry. She is on the front porch." The old man peered toward the woods. "She was looking for¹¹ you to come by the street."

As his father turned toward the chicken-house, Harry thought he saw a shadow of concern¹² cross his face. Harry moved along the side of the house to the front porch.

His mother stopped rocking in the old Boston rocker.¹³ She got up with a kind of grave wonder in her face.¹⁴ She took him by the arm and led him inside, into the parlor. She sat down on the sofa and pulled him down beside her. She kept hold of his arm with both hands and he could feel her small, strong fingers digging into his flesh. The tears began to roll down her cheeks.

"There,¹⁵ Ma," he said. "There, now. Gee,¹⁶ look at you, all dressed up and everything.¹⁷ I saw Pa out back. Pa looks fine."

"You're back," his mother said, holding onto his arm. "You're back, Harry."

He was back. For the first time in six months he slept in his own bed and wakened to see white curtains blowing in the morning breeze. He was back — but it wasn't the same. It was the same at home, but beyond his home, in the next street, in the village, was public opinion.

"Mister," the warden had said, "you have paid your debt to society. Believe me, it's my sincerest hope that the society to which you are now returning will realize that. But you, too, will have to do

10. Go see your ma: 这是不规范的英语, 说明哈利的父亲没有受过正规的学校教育。 11. look for: 这里的意思是期待、盼望。 12. a shadow of concern: 一层忧虑的阴影。 13. Boston rocker: 波士顿摇椅。 14. she got up ... in her face: 她站起身来, 脸上带着一种极为惊异的神情。 15. There: 好啦(表示安慰)。

同一行的 there 与此同义。 16. Gee [dʒi:] (俚语) 哎呀(表示惊奇、兴奋等)。

17. all dressed up and everything: 穿得整整齐齐的, 啥也不差。

your part." MacDonald, too, had spoken of his debt to society. "Returning the money," MacDonald had said, "is not enough. The tax money was in his trust.¹⁸ He used that money. As a citizen and taxpayer of this town, I demand that he be tried in a court of law and, if convicted,¹⁹ sentenced to repay, in prison, his debt to society."

There was always, when Harry thought of it, a dreamlike quality about his taking the money. He had intended only to use the three hundred dollars over the long Labour Day²⁰ weekend. As clerk in the tax collector's office, he had had access to the safe; and with the tax collector away at the time, it had been easy. The automobile salesman had driven the sixty miles from Portland,²¹ arriving Friday afternoon.

Short of cash, Harry asked him if he couldn't hold the deal off until Tuesday,²² but the salesman said the car had to be taken that day and a substantial down payment made.²³ Harry had waited so long for a car that, with one at his fingertips,²⁴ he was at his wits' end.²⁵ Then he thought of the money in the safe. He took it, planning to drive to Portland Tuesday morning, cash some government bonds he had in a safe-deposit box there, and be back in town with the money by noon. But on the way to Portland he had skidded and cracked up.²⁶ Taken to a hospital, he had been in a semiconscious state for almost a week and in the meantime the loss of the tax money had been discovered.

"Son," his father had said, "you did wrong."

"I know, Pa."

"Your credit's always been good in town, the way a man has got to be in a small town."

"I know, Pa. I did wrong. But George MacDonald..."

18. The tax money was in his trust: 税款委托他来掌管(或:他受委托掌管税款)。19. if convicted: 如果证实他有罪的话。当条件状语从句中的主语和主句的主语一致时,从句的主语和动词 be 可以省略。20. Labour Day: 指九月的第一个星期一。这天过后,大多数公立学校紧接着就开学了,因此,传统上人们以这一天为暑假结束新学期到来的标志。21. Portland: 波特兰。美国一港市。22. short of cash, Harry asked him ... until Tuesday: 由于缺少现款,哈利问他能否把交易推迟到周二。23. make a down payment: 支付现款。24. at one's fingertips: 在手头。指某件东西随时可供使用。25. at one's wits' end: 不知所措;无计可施。26. But on the way ... cracked up: 可是在去波特兰的路上他开车打了滑,撞坏了车。

"George MacDonald is a hard man but a just one. When you were making only fifteen dollars a week, George MacDonald was the first man to run a charge account²⁷ for you. And anyone who has credit with MacDonald can get credit anywhere else in town. But when you play free²⁸ with tax-players' money, then George MacDonald is your enemy."

For the first time in six months, Harry went downstairs to his mother's breakfast. Here at any rate, he felt safe, secure. His father talked desultorily in his laconic way, about housing and how hard it was to get materials. His father was a carpenter.

"If you get into town today, Harry, get me some razor blades, will you?"

But Harry didn't go into town. He worked in the garden, repaired the fence that surrounded it. When his father asked about the razor blades next day, Harry said he hadn't gone in, and his father gave him a sober sidewise look.²⁹ His mother got them that afternoon.

Harry was not lazy. He put a coat of paint on the barn, looked after the chickens, the pigs, the cow. One day, when he was repairing a screen on the front porch, he saw the mailman, Mr. Dow, up the street. He laid down the screen and went indoors until the mailman had passed by.

"What are you planning, boy?" his father said a couple of weeks later. "No one means to push you ... this is your home ... but ..."

Harry saw it there before him in the Portland paper.

"They're looking for men upcountry, Pa. Cleaning out timber. I was planning to leave tomorrow."

Harry boarded the bus at the northern edge of the township next morning and rode it up into the mountains and through the Canadian border. He signed on for work and nobody asked him any personal questions. He went deep in the woods. The sense of freedom he felt was so wonderful that he suffered the vigor of the work without complaint. His body toughened up.³⁰ His mind, bit by bit, day by day, cleared. He could go on forever in his freedom, moving from job to job.

27. charge account: (客户购货的) 赊购账。 28. play free: 私自使用。 29. and his father ... look: 他父亲严肃地斜了他一眼。 30. His body toughened up: 他的身体健壮起来。

But he couldn't forget his folks. He couldn't forget the bare gray tone of resignation in his father's voice. And always the town was in the back of his thoughts; and at the center of the town, like a hub at the center of countless spokes³¹, was old man MacDonald. By the end of two months he knew that his new-found freedom was an illusion.

He went back. Hard and brown, quiet, watchful, he rode the bus down into the center of the town. He knew now that the gauntlet had to be run. If ever he were to bring any comfort to his folks or a measure of peace to himself, he would have to face the town. The bus was held up by a traffic block in front of MacDonald's haberdashery. Harry, with his heart in his throat, got out and walked straight across the sidewalk. MacDonald was sitting on a chair outside the store.

"Hello, Mr. MacDonald," Harry said politely. ㄣ ㄣ

MacDonald gave him a cool, contemplative appraisal³². He rose unhurriedly and followed Harry into the store.

"I'd like a couple of white shirts," Harry said.

MacDonald said, "Size fifteen, thirty-four sleeve."

Harry kept his hand in his pocket, clenched on a roll of bills — over two hundred dollars. ㄣ

"Some socks," he said, "brown, gray."

"Size eleven."

Harry chose six pairs. He picked out two ties and three sets of underwear, and all the while his hand worked at³³ the money in his pocket. He could hardly wait to take it out.

"I guess that's all for now," he said. "How much?"

There was a thump on the counter. Harry saw old MacDonald open a long thumb-index ledger³⁴ and turn the pages to B. Fascinated, he watched MacDonald enter the items in the ledger under the name Barr, Harry, his own name, in the charge-account ledger.³⁵

31. like a hub at the center of countless spokes: 恰似无数根轮条的中心轴一样。

32. MacDonald gave him ... appraisal: 麦克唐纳冷淡地带着沉思地打量他一下。

33. work at: 从事于, 致力于。这里意思是“用手握着”。 34. thumb-index ledger: 旁边有索引的记载经营账目的大帐本。 35. charge-account ledger: (客户购货的) 赊购帐本。等于 credit account.

"Comes to twenty-two forty," MacDonald said.

Harry hadn't taken the money out of his pocket. Gradually his fingers relaxed. When he withdrew his hand, it was empty, the palm damp with sweat.

MacDonald wrapped everything in one large bundle and slid it across the counter. "Come in, again, Harry," he said, and went to the back of the store to drink a glass of water.

With the bundle under his arm, Harry reached the sidewalk. He gave a small, nervous laugh. His throat was full. He was back in town — really back — for the first time. He wasn't afraid any more.

"Hey!" he called out. "Hey, Mr. Dow, you going my way?"

Mr. Dow, the mailman, braked his car sharply in the middle of the street. "Sure thing, Harry. Come on, hop in."

(董成 选注)

英 谚 集 联

李鲸石 译

Marry in haste, and repent in leisure.

Early wed, early dead.

Sweep before your own door.

Pry not into other people's business.

Silkworms are diligent spinners all their lives.

A candle lights others and consumes itself.

By reading we enrich the mind.

Beware the man of one book.

He that climbs a ladder must begin at the first step.

Those who intend to walk a hundred miles often
stop at ninety.

Truth has a good face, but ill clothes.

Judge not a book by its cover.

Humility often gains more than pride.

Poverty is not a disgrace, but theft is a disgrace.

Make hay while the sun shines.

Strike while the iron is hot.

草率成婚终生悔

夫妻年少易夭折

个人职责无旁贷

别家闲事莫多舌

春蚕未死丝不尽

蜡烛成灰为照人

博览群籍知识广

精读一书受益深

万仞攀登始足下

百里行程半九十

真理貌美衣衫破

封面不佳有好书

满能招损谦受益

贫不足耻盗可羞

晒草要趁阳光好

打铁须在火热时

A STRANGE BATTLE

One day, as Don Quixote¹ and Sancho Panza² were riding along a country road, they saw in the distance, a great cloud of thick dust moving towards them.

At once Don Quixote turned to his squire³ and said, 'Oh, Sancho, this is the day in which I shall perform such deeds that the fame of them will be remembered in ages to come!' Do you see that cloud of dust, Sancho? It is raised by a great army of many nations, who are on the march this way.'

'There must be two armies, then, master,' said Sancho Panza, looking behind him, 'for on this other side there rises another cloud of dust.'

Don Quixote turned and, seeing that it was so, felt highly pleased. He was quite sure that the two clouds were raised by two armies which were coming to fight in the middle of the plain, for he thought of nothing else but battles and gallant deeds.

Now the clouds of dust that he saw were raised by two great flocks of sheep going along the same road from different parts, and the dust hid them from sight until they came near.

Yet Don Quixote said so firmly that they were armies that Sancho began to believe him.

'Sir,' said the squire, 'what must we do?'

'Why,' replied Don Quixote, 'we must go at once to help the weaker side. You must know that the army which marches towards us is commanded by the very great King Alifanfaron. This other, which marches behind us, is that of his enemy, King Pentapolin.'

'But why do these two princes hate one another so?' asked Sancho.

'Because,' answered Don Quixote, 'this Alifanfaron is a furious heathen⁵ who wishes to marry the lovely Christian⁶ daughter of King Pentapolin; but her father will not allow the marriage unless King Alifanfaron becomes a Christian also.'

'Upon my word,' said Sancho, 'Pentapolin is in the right and so I will help him with all my power!'

'In so doing you will do your duty, Sancho,' replied his master

He then told his squire to go with him to the top of a hillock^{3a} short way off, so that they might see the two armies advancing.

From the hillock the two flocks of sheep which Don Quixote mistook for armies might easily have been seen, if the clouds of dust which they raised had not blinded the sight.⁹ Don Quixote, however, saw in his fancy the two great armies and began to describe all the warriors¹⁰ to Sancho. He spoke of each one's arms, colours and weapons just as if they had really been there.

Sancho Panza stood without speaking a word, only now and then¹¹ he looked from side to side to see whether he could discover the knights and giants of whom his master spoke. At last he said, 'Sir, not a single man, or giant or knight of all those you have named, appears anywhere; at least, I do not see one.'

'What, Sancho,' replied Don Quixote, 'do you not hear the neighing of the steeds,¹² the sound of the trumpets and the rattling of the drums?'¹³

'I hear nothing,' answered Sancho, 'but the bleating of sheep and lambs.'¹⁴ And so it was for now the two flocks had come very near them.

'You are so much afraid, Sancho,' said his master, 'that you can neither see nor hear properly. Yet since you fear so, stand aside and leave me alone. For I am able, with my single arm, to give the victory to the side which I shall favour with my help.'

As he spoke he set his lance, drove his spurs into his old horse's sides and darted down the hillock like lightning.¹⁵

Sancho cried aloud after him, 'Stop, stop, sir! Oh master, come back at once, come back! They are nothing but lambs and sheep. Oh, woe upon us both!¹⁶ What madness is this? What is it you are doing?'

Don Quixote, however, rushed onward without a look behind him, crying out, 'Ho, knights! You that fight under the banner of the brave King Pentapolin, follow me all and you shall see how easily I will overcome his enemy,¹⁷ Alifanfaron.'

So calling, he rushed into the midst of the sheep and began to attack them with his lance as boldly as if he were indeed fighting his greatest enemies.

The shepherds who were with the flocks called out to him to stop;

then, seeing that he did not heed them,¹⁸ they pulled out their slings¹⁹ and shot a volley of large stones at him.

Don Quixote did not heed the stones but running hither and thither,²⁰ he cried out, 'Where art thou, proud Alifanfaron? Show thyself to me and I will punish thee.'²¹

At that instant a great stone struck him a blow in the side. It was followed at once by another which struck him in the face and knocked out three or four of his teeth. The blows were so heavy that the poor knight was stunned and fell from his horse to the ground.

The shepherds ran to him and seeing him lying there, believed that they had killed him. They hastily gathered their flocks together and marched off without waiting for anything more.

All this time Sancho stood upon the hillock, crying aloud, tearing his beard and wishing with all his heart that he had never met the foolish Don.²² At last, seeing him lying upon the road and the shepherds gone, he ran to him. Don Quixote was much hurt but he had not quite lost the use of his senses.

'Oh, oh, sir!' cried Sancho. 'Did I not call to you to come back, seeing that those you went to attack were a flock of sheep and not an army of men?'

'It is the work of that enchanter,²³ my enemy, of whom I have so often spoken to you,' replied Don Quixote when at last he found his voice. 'He can make things seem what they are not and he was so afraid lest²⁴ I should win this battle that he changed the two armies into flocks of sheep.' Sancho, however, was not at all ready to believe such a story.

Presently Don Quixote arose, and tenderly nursing his hurt face, slowly mounted his horse and followed his squire from the scene of that strange battle.

* 本篇选自 Radiant Reading, Book III, 据 *Don Quixote* 改写。 *Don Quixote* (《堂吉珂德》) 是西班牙伟大作家塞万提斯的著名小说。小说主人公是西班牙的一位绅士, 因阅读骑士小说入迷, 企图仿效古老的游侠骑士生活, 拼凑了一副破盔甲, 改名为堂吉珂德, 骑上一匹瘦马, 多次外出, 闹出了许多笑话。

1. Don Quixote ['donki'heute]: 堂吉珂德。 2. Sancho Panza ['sæntʃə'pænzə]: 桑丘·潘沙(堂吉珂德的仆人)。 3. squire: 骑士的侍从(护卫)。 4. in ages to come: 今后的几个世纪里。 5. heathen ['hi:ðən]: 异教徒。 6. Christian ['kristjən]: 信奉基督教的; 基督教徒。 7. upon my word: 我向您保证确是如此。

8. hillock ['hɪlək]: 小丘。 9. From the hillock ... the sight: 从小丘上本来可以很容易地看到被堂吉珂德当作军队的两群羊, 如果羊群扬起的尘土没有遮住视线的话。这句用了虚拟语气。 10. warrior ['wɒriə]: 武士, 斗士。 11. now and then: 不时地。 12. the neighing ['neɪɪŋ] of the steeds: 战马的嘶鸣声。 13. the rattling of the drums: 战鼓的咚咚声。 14. the bleating of sheep and lambs: 大羊和小羊的咩咩声。 15. As he spoke ... like lightning: 说着, 他挥动长矛, 用马刺催动坐骑, 象闪电般地冲下山丘。 16. Oh, woe upon us both! 哎呀, 这下我们俩要倒霉了! 17. you shall see how ... his enemy: 我让你们瞧瞧我将怎样轻而易举地击败他的敌人。这里 you shall see 的 shall 不是一般将来时的概念, 而是情态动词, 表示允诺。 18. he did not heed them: 他不理会他们; 他把他们的话当作耳旁风。 19. sling: 投石器; 弹弓。 20. hither and thither: 到处; 向各处。 21. thou [ðəu] (古英语) = you(主格)。 thyself = yourself, thee = you(宾格)。 22. wishing ... Don: 打心眼里后悔遇见了堂吉珂德。(即: 他但愿从未遇见堂吉珂德就好了。) 23. enchanter: 巫士; 妖人。 24. lest: 唯恐, 免得。(lest 是连词, 在被连接的状态从句中常用 should 或原形动词。)

(石月楼 选注)

Think it Over

A man wants to carry three things across a river: a fox, a chicken, and a sack of wheat.

'The only trouble is that he cannot at any time leave the chicken with the wheat, or he'll eat it, or the fox with the chicken, or *he'll eat it!* And he can only take one thing with him in his boat at one time. How does he get them across?

(For answer please see p.20.)

Now, imagine there is a large live duck inside a very large bottle. The bottle is made of glass, and has a very narrow neck.

How can you get the duck out of the bottle, without breaking it, or hurting the duck?

(For answer please see p.53.)

On Eggs and Exams

David Crook

I've been acting like an egg striking a rock. What is this egg? It's the campaign against the old-fashioned way of teaching Intensive Reading. And what's the rock? It's the old-fashioned way of setting exams. So long as the old type of I.R. examination remains in force, the campaign against the old method of teaching I.R. can't win. It's like an egg striking a rock.

Many people agree: Yes, this old-fashioned I.R. (OFIR) is certainly intensive; it calls for most intensive work by the students. But it doesn't teach them how to read. The more intensively the students study, the fewer books they read.

And OFIR doesn't teach them language well either. Learning a language means learning to *use* it. OFIR doesn't do that. It teaches mainly *about* the language.

Well, if so many teachers and students agree that OFIR doesn't teach people how to read, why aren't they willing to give it up? Because of that rock — the rock of the old examination system. If that rock is not smashed, the egg is smashed. The campaign against OFIR can't be won.

Many I.R. exams, until now, have actually included reading material studied during the term. Does that examine how well the students have learnt to read? No. It examines how well they have learnt by heart the reading texts and the explanations the teacher has given them. A student might get high marks on such a test without having learnt to read much better than before she took the course. A true test would consist of unseen passages. That would show how well a student could read and how much she had learnt.

Is that so important? Yes. A college student should know how to read and should learn to read much and fast. She should, on graduation, have read hundreds and hundreds of pages, dozens and dozens of books.

How else can our students inherit the knowledge that mankind has gained through the ages? For that is what China must do in or-