

许 国 璋 英 语 课 本

# 教 参

## TEACHERS MANUAL

Book IV

西南师范学院外语系编

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**教 参**

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## Lesson One

### Mother

#### INTRODUCTION TO GORKY AND HIS "MOTHER"

Maxim Gorky (1868-1936), great proletarian writer and devoted friend of Lenin and Stalin, was founder of the Soviet socialist literature. Lenin spoke highly of him, saying he was the most outstanding representative of proletarian literature.

Gorky, pseudonym of Aleksey Maximovich Pyeshkov, was born in a carpenter's family, in Nizhni Novgorod (now Gorky) in central Russia on March 26, 1868. He lost his father at the age of four and had to live with his maternal grandparents. At 9 he was sent to assist in a boat-shop and toiled for his daily bread. When he was ten as a result of the bankruptcy of his grandfather, he was completely thrown into society and lived as a vagabond. He was then found in a variety of trades: being an errand boy, a kitchen boy on a steamer, an apple peddler, a gardener, an apprentice in a bakery, railway watchman, etc. During this period he devoured books of all sorts greedily whenever they fell into his hands. As a writer he was entirely self-taught. He began to write in 1892. In 1913, Gorky began publishing autobiographical works: "My Childhood" (1913-1914) "In the World" (1915-1916), "My Universities" (1923). He combined realism with romanticism and made great contribution to proletarian literature. Among his best

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works are "Song of the Petrel"(1901), "Mother"(1907).

Hard life taught Gorky much and enabled him to bear deep sympathy for the poor and strong hatred for the ruling classes. He threw himself into the struggles of the people.

Gorky was several times arrested and sent into exile by the Tsar. However, this by no means scared him. He took an active part in the Revolution of 1905 and met Lenin in December of that year for the first time. Under the guidance of Lenin Gorky became a great socialist. After the Revolution failed Gorky went abroad. He returned in 1913 and continued to work for the setting-up of a new society. Gorky died on June 18, 1936. At a treason trial in 1938, it was charged that he was poisoned by the Trotskyist-Bukharinites. But the facts of his death not been finally determined.

Of Gorky's works "Mother" has the most influence on Soviet literature. It was the first portrayal in world literature of the workers as a nascent force destined to break down the capitalist order. Describing the awakening of the revolutionary feelings in an ill-treated woman, "Mother" became the prototype of the revolutionary novel. A number of brilliant revolutionaries are portrayed, among them are Pavel Vlassov and his mother Nilovna. Nilovna (Mother), a workman's wife who was suffering under the triple authorities — political, religious and masculine, was a meek, timid and overcautious woman, influenced by her son (a staunch communist) and his comrades, Nilovna became politically awakened. She joined in the revolution and became a brave revolu-

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tionary fighter. Lenin set a high value on the novel, saying that it was a very timely book, helpful to those spontaneous revolutionary workers.

Our text is the part that shows how Nilovna, an ignorant housewife, became a politically conscious fighter for communism.

### WORDS TO The TEXT

**start** n. (C.) sudden movement of surprise, joy, fear, etc.

Hearing his failure in the examination, we could not help giving a great start.

His refusal gave us no start at all.

At the roaring of a tiger, Wu Song jumped to his feet with a start.

cf. start v.i. make a sudden movement (from surprise, pain, fear, joy, etc.)

The pickpocket started at the sight of a policeman.

**path** ([pɑːθ] US [pæθ]) n. (pl.) paths [pɑːðz] US [pæðz]

footway, esp. one made by people walking; line along which sb. or sth. moves.

Take the path which runs by the lake when you get to the crossroads.

The discussion helped to clear the path for technical revolution.

break path; a path-breaker

**jail** [dʒeɪl] or goal n. (usu. jail in US)

public prison; confinement in prison

Soapy was put in jail when he made up his mind to reform.

Unable to pay off his debts, Smith's father was sent to jail.

cf. jailer; goaler

v.t. put in jail, as: Pavel is jailed."

distribute v.t. give out or send out VP distribute sth. among (to)

The political instructor distributed the documents to the soldiers.

The teacher brought some reading materials and distributed them among the children.

cf. distribution n.

alarm n. (U.) fear and excitement caused by the expectation of danger.

Did you take alarm at the bursting of the bank?  
The news you brought gave us no alarm.

There is no ground for alarm.

a shout of alarm; with (out) alarm

pedlar, or pedler, peddler

dismiss v.t. put out of mind; stop thinking or talking about.

It was long before he dismissed the wrong idea.

You'd better dismiss all doubts from your mind.

cf. 1. allow to go

This afternoon the teacher dismissed his pupils as early as at four.

After the discussion the class was dismissed.

2. send away (from one's employment, from service, etc.)

The capitalist decided to dismiss all old and sick workers.

The school had to dismiss the student who refused to mend his ways.

**inspiration** n. (C.) (colloq.) sudden happy idea that comes to the mind.

With sudden inspiration, the man jumped into a bus and got rid of the KMT secret agent.

The boy had a sudden inspiration and went to his grandfather for help.

**password** n. secret word or phrase used to distinguish a friend from an enemy.

The guard's shouts for password reached his ears from time to time.

No one could pass the bridge unless he gave the password.

**peep** v.i. look through a narrow opening (*at, into*); look slyly or cautiously.

The guard discovered someone peeping at the workshop from behind the wood.

Peeping through the Keyhole, he found the room empty.

cf. **peep** n.

**boss** n. 1. owner of, eg. a factory, etc; master.

2. person who controls or gives orders to workmen; person in authority.

**revelation** n. knowledge revealed, or disclosed esp. that which causes surprise

He knows French. It is a revelation to me.

**reveal** v.t. display or show; make known or disclose

Before long, the whole truth of the accident was revealed in the newspapers.

Three months' practical translation revealed his weak points in idioms.

## IDIOMS AND EXPRESSIONS

to be used to: to be accustomed to (For more details, see Section IV.)

to get down to business: start serious discussion about sth.; start handling sth. seriously.

I hope you will not mind if we get down to business straight away.

It's time for work. Let's get down to business. After exchanging warm greetings, the heads of the two governments got down to business.

cf. to get down to: take steps to manage or settle; get started on;

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

Don't you think it was clever of him to use the loopholes (or carelessness) against the enemy?

See to it that the other party can't use what you say against you.

to burst out: exclaim, speak or declare suddenly. We were all absorbed in our lessons when somebody burst out in alarm.

The boy joyfully burst out, "I've got it!"

a packet of: bundle of

a packet of cigarettes (medicine)

It has got round that: It has got circulated that; The news has spread that

It has quickly got round that a huge power station will be put up here on the river.

It got round in a little while that we'd be given a talk on Gorky.

to look upon as: to regard as; consider

Can you master the language when you look upon it as a mere burden on your mind?  
You can certainly do a good job if you look upon the work as your sacred duty.

## NOTES TO THE TEXT

### 1. Pavel was arrested.

Pavel, hero of the novel "Mother", was arrested one morning by the gendarmes for exposing the scheme 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 peat and make large profit from the land. On the pretext of doing this for the sake of improving living conditions for the workers, he gave an order to deduct one kopek from each rouble paid in wages for the draining of the swamp. 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.

- 1) that day: the day on which Pavel was arrested
- 2) Mother: heroine of the novel "Mother"
- 3) light the stove: make a fire for cooking and warming
- 4) This sentence gave some idea of the back-ground of the story. When Pavel was arrested, Mother was much worried. That day she did not light the stove, did not get dinner, did not even drink tea. Late in the evening she ate a piece of bread and went to bed, feeling that life had

never been so empty and lonely when Pavel was gone.

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

1) use v.t. accustom

*to be used to noun (pron.): to be accustomed to (used, predicative)*

He is used to taking notes while reading.

The Chinese people are used to hardships, so they are not afraid of difficulties.

Comrade Wang was used to enduring hardships and overcoming them with a strong will.

C.F.: *used to + verb*: did again and again in the past: was (were) in the habit of doing sth. (*used*, pt of v.i. use)

"Used" here is the past tense of *use*.

(v.i.) It is always in the past tense and never in the present tense and is always followed by *to + inf.* The word *to* is not a preposition but the sign of the infinitive.

This usage of *used to + inf.* shows a habitual action or state in the past, which is not continued in the present. If we want to say a habitual state or action in the present, we use adverbs such as *usually*, etc., as, He usually comes on foot.

NEGATIVE: *used not; use(d)n't; (collq.) didn't use*

INTERROGATIVE: *Used he to come on foot? Did he use to...?*

E.G. : He used to swim in the river when he was a boy.

He used to sleep with the window open.

2) she gave a little start of joy: she started with joy.

She was pleasantly surprised. She was both surprised and glad.

She was surprised at the knocks but was glad to meet the coming person.

4. A man came in, his face hidden by an upturned coat collar and a cap pulled low over his brow. (See Note 2.)

Yegor was one of the revolutionary leaders of underground work. In order not to expose himself, he had to turn up his coat collar and pull his cap over his brow.

5. He sends you his love and says you mustn't worry.

1) He sends you his love. — He gives his regards to you. He asks to be remembered to you.

2) says you mustn't worry — says that you should by no means worry.

6. He wants you to know ... to have period holidays in jail.

Anyone who has taken the path of revolution is liable to get arrested and put in prison which would prevent him from doing active revolutionary work. But he could read a lot and enrich his mind with knowledge in prison.

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

7. And now I'll get down to business. — And now I'll come to the point directly.

8. "Why — was anyone — besides Pavel?"

A. elliptical interrogative sentence, meaning

"Why, was there anyone arrested besides Pavel?"

9. And here's the point.

point n. (C.) chief idea of sth. said, done or planned

After the introduction the speaker came to the point.

Oh, I see the point of it.

Didn't he wander away from the point?

10. It's simple enough. — It's very simple.

enough adverb of degree following the adj. "simple", as

a) The room is large enough to hold 20 men.

b) You could do it well enough if you choose.

c) Sure enough (certainly), we must be red and expert intellectuals.

11. Sometimes even gendarmes use their heads. — Sometimes even gendarmes rack their brains for sth.

12. Pavel was free—there were papers and leaflets;  
when Pavel was free there were papers and leaflets;  
Pavel was free and there were papers and leaflets; ...

13. Therefore Pavel must have been the man.  
—Therefore Pavel was surely the man (who had distributed the leaflets).

must aux. v. expressing strong probability, meaning  
surely or *probably*.

positive: must (only)

negative: cannot

You must be joking.

The news cannot be true.

*must have done (been):*

- 1) surely did (was, were)

He must have been the man who cleaned the room.

You must have met him yesterday.

Soapy must have been the man who had broken the window.

They must have arrived there by the end of last month.

- 2) surely have done (been)

They must have finished it by now.

He must have been to Beijing.

- 3) (in unreal conditions) would necessarily have done (been)

He must have finished it if he had worked hard.

- 4) necessarily have done (been)—Here, *must* means *be obliged to*.

Whoever wants to sign up for the examination must have worked five years.

In the text, "must+perf. inf." shows the speaker's reference to a state in the past, a conclusion that is drawn from reasoning regarding a matter or state in the past.

14. "Could anything be done?"

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

15. gossip n. person who talks a great deal (about trifles) without saying anything important (syn. chatterbox, gasbag, windbag)

16. "To burst out" here means to cry out.

17. "... I'll meanage."

Mother thought she would be able to smuggle the leaflets into the factory by pretending to take dinners to sell there.

18. The guards passed their hands roughly over..."

"Roughly" means carelessly 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. (CF. The workmen cursed them... The guards stopped her and searched her thoroughly.)

19. "The yard" here means the compound inside the factory.
20. You devils ought to search our heads and not our pockets.

Note the irony of the sentence.

21. You might let me through. (You really ought to let me through. See Note 8.)  
might aux. v.

- 1) ought to (expressing requests)

You might tell me about your opinion.

(=I request you to tell...)

You might give me some hint.

- 2) ought to, yet do not (implying a tone of reproach)

You might come a little earlier.

You might make a little less noise.

22. 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? (or is on the point of breaking...)

- 1) be about to — be just going to + inf; be on the point of + gerund; "About" is a preposition here.

- 2) "About to break under the load" is predicative of the object clause, the linking verb being "is".

23. Once inside the factory yard, Mother set her baskets down, wiped the sweat off her face and looked round.— As soon as she got inside the factory yard, Mother put down her baskets.
- 1) “Once” is a conjunction, meaning, *as soon as; from the moment that*.  
Once you get there, you’ll know everything.  
Once outside the house, he took to his heels.
- 2) “Down, off, round, about, etc.” are adverbial particles differing in many ways from other adverbs. “By, in, on, over, through, up, etc.” are also adverbial particles. In most cases these adverbs are also used as prepositions. As regards to the important points of the use and the position of these adverbial particles, in sentences, please see syntax notes of Adverbial Particles on p. vi. in Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary of Current English, by A.S. Hornby, etc.
24. Got any porridge? — Have you got any porridge?
25. “Password” means a word or phrase that allows a person to pass a guard or sentry, or (here) a secret word or phrase used to distinguish a friend from an enemy.
26. The workman’s face lit up. —The workman’s face shone with happiness when he heard the password.
27. 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.—Every time Mother gave away a packet of leaflets, the malignant