

# 新编大学英语

NEW COLLEGE ENGLISH

## 全英文课堂



中国英语教学网授课教材

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全英文授课，不仅倍增英文信息获取量，而且引导你用英文思考  
全英文授课，是提高英语学习效率的最佳途径，也是英语教学的趋势与必然

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早一天适应全英文教学环境  
早一日进入英语学习的自由王国

丛书主编 万之

西北大学出版社

A TRUE  
ENGLISH CLASSROOM

3

丛书主编 万之  
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前

言

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2002. 8

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# Unit 1

## Myths and Legends

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### I . Learning Target

#### 1. Key Words and Expressions

1. **Words:** cunning, detectable, deliver, eloquent, failing, faithfully, famine, feast, invitation, mischievous, preparation, rattle, shell, thoughtful, appreciative, conceited, departure, grief-stricken, horrible, jealous, magnificent, monster, spoil, swift, tremble, ungrateful, wicked, accord, certainty, condemn, conform, delete, despair, fulfill, grant, virtue, obtain, peak, refrain, region, register, transform, confront, traditional, spit, wander

2. **Expressions:** escape one's notice, jump to one's feet, rest assured, be consumed by (with), for the sake of, in place of, put an end to something, at will, be granted with (by), behave oneself, conform to, of one's accord, with certainty, come up, pass down... to, put out, rest with

## II . Preparation

### I. An Argument About the Sun

#### Sample answers

- 1) Both the children are wrong. The sun gives out almost the same amount of heat at any time of the year. We feel sometimes it is hotter, and sometimes it is cooler only because the angle between the sunlight and the surface of the earth , varies constantly.

That the sun seems bigger at daybreak is an optical illusion. When it appears on the horizon , only a small part of the sky is bright enough to be seen against it. This makes the sun seem bigger. But when it's high up in the sky , it seems smaller with the huge bright sky against it.

That it is cooler in the morning than at midday is not because of the change of the distance between the sun and the earth. It is because of the change of the angle between the sunlight and the surface of the earth We don't feel very hot in the morning because less sunlight is received per unit of area when the angle is smaller. But as time passes , more and more sunlight per unit of area penetrates the atmosphere and reaches us , so we feel hotter at midday.

- 2) Confucius was knowledgeable , but not a genius. We can't expect him to know everything. Everyone has his or her limitations . Another reason is that at that time science was not developed and people did not have advanced equipment to do research on the sun and the earth. So it was difficult to understand or explain many natural phenomena.
- 3) A. I think Confucius was honest. He didn't pretend to know the answer.  
B. No one is perfect. One may be an expert in one field , but a layman in other fields.  
C. The children were very curious , a good quality of theirs. But they only saw one side of the phenomenon and then jumped to conclusions. One should consider different aspects before drawing any conclusions .

### 2. Bedtime Stories

#### Sample

Long, long ago there lived in Greece a king whose name was Midas. He was a greedy man and loved gold better than anything else in the world.

One day he asked the gods to give him still more gold. The gods decided to punish him and said: "Very well; in the morning everything that you touch will become gold. "

Midas was overjoyed when he heard this. "I shall be the richest man in the world," he said to himself.

He got up early next morning. When he touched his bed, it turned to gold. He began to dress, and his clothes became gold. Midas was delighted.

Midas loved flowers and kept a beautiful garden. He went into the garden to look at his flowers. The day was fine, the sun was bright and the roses were lovely. The king picked one of them, but it turned to gold in his hand. He picked another, and the same thing happened. He was sorry that the flowers changed as soon as he touched them, for he loved their rich colours.

The king went to have his breakfast. He took a cup of milk, but it immediately turned to gold. Then he took a piece of bread, and that also changed into gold. Midas now began to feel unhappy. It was good to be the richest man in the world, but he was hungry, and he could not eat or drink gold.

Midas went out into the garden again. His little daughter was there. When she saw her father, she ran up to him. King Midas was very fond of his daughter and he kissed her tenderly. Then and there she turned into a golden statue.

Midas was now very unhappy. He went into his palace. His eyes filled with tears, and he begged the gods to take away the Golden Touch.

"I was very foolish to love gold so much," he said. "Take all my gold and give me back my daughter."

"Go," said the gods, "and wash your hands in the river near your garden, and the water will take away the Golden Touch."

Midas went to the river and washed his hands. Then he ran quickly to the golden statue of his little girl. He kissed her again and she changed back into his pretty little daughter.

Midas never forgot this lesson. He knew now that gold did not bring happiness.

### 3. Chinese Fables

#### Three at Dusk and Four at Dawn

In the state of Song there was a man who was very fond of monkeys and kept a large number of them. He could understand the monkeys and they could understand him. In order to satisfy the monkeys' demands, he reduced the food consumption of his family.

After a while his family did not have enough to eat, so he wanted to limit the food for his monkeys. But he was afraid the monkeys would not submit to him. So he played a trick on them.

"If I give you three chestnuts in the morning and four in the evening, would that be enough?" he asked the monkeys.