

MODERN ENGLISH READERS
BOOK IV

最新高級英文選

主編 梁實秋

編著 滕以魯 繪圖 梁中銘



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黃帝圖書公司印行

編輯大意

- 一、本書分爲六冊，每冊十四課，供高中、高職、專科學生，及社會青年課外自修英語之用。
- 二、本書課文以現代英文爲主，在內容方面包括具有生活意義、文學意味、科學色彩或其他激勵性和趣味性文章。
- 三、本書每課課文後之字彙 (Vocabulary) 及習語和片語 (Idioms and Phrases) 係根據其在課中使用之意義，予以中英文雙解，並酌附例句。釋義 (Paraphrases) 則幫助讀者瞭解課文內容。衍生字 (Derivatives) 則幫助讀者熟悉詞類變化。
- 四、本書自第三冊起口頭練習 (Oral Practice) 分爲 A. B 兩個單元。A 單元爲代換練習或句型練習；B 單元爲單句、複合句、集合句等互相變換，或實用會話。
- 五、本書註音採用美國 Kenyon 與 Knott 二氏所制定之 K. K. 音標。
- 六、本書編者竭誠歡迎提出指正或改進意見。

CONTENTS

<i>Lessons</i>	<i>Page</i>
1. The Medal	1
2. Lost	18
3. A Button in Her Ear	34
4. The Development of Nations	52
5. Promise You'll Never Tell	70
6. The First Supersonic Flight	85
7. The Power of the Press	99
8. Pollution: Our Problem	114
9. Climate	132
10. Growing Thin Is Big Business	145
11. The Bank Detective	160
12. New Year Resolutions	176
13. Adult Education	192
14. Work, Labor and Play	207
Index to Vocabulary	225

LESSON ONE

THE MEDAL

Every evening after work, *Sarah Ida* was tired. But every morning she was ready to go back to Shoeshine Corner. It wasn't that she liked *shining* shoes, but things happened at the shoeshine stand. Every customer was different. Every day she found out something new.

Some things were learned by herself—like how much *polish* to use on a shoe. Some things were told her by *Al Winkler*. “When a customer comes here, he gets more than a *shine*,” he said. “He gets to rest in a chair. When you rub with the cloth, it feels good on his feet. When you tie his *shoelaces* a little tighter, it makes his shoes fit better. My customers go away feeling a little better. Anyway, I hope they do.”

One warm, cloudy afternoon, he said, “We may as well close up.”

“Why?” she asked. “It’s only three o’clock.”

“It’s going to rain. Nobody gets a shine on a rainy day.”

medal	[ˈmɛdɪ]	Sarah Ida	[ˈsɛrəˈaɪdə]	shining	[ˈʃaɪnɪŋ]
polish	[ˈpɒlɪʃ]	Al Winkler	[ˈælˈwɪŋklə]	shine	[ʃaɪn]
shoelaces	[ˈʃuˌlesɪz]				

He began to put away the brushes and shoe polish. She helped him.

"Maybe you can run home before the rain," he said. A few big drops *splashed* on the sidewalk. "No. Too late now."

They sat under the little roof, out of the rain.

"Hear that sound?" he said. "Every time I hear rain on a tin roof, I get to thinking about when I was a boy. We lived in an old truck with a tin roof over the back."

"You lived in a truck?"

"Most of the time. We slept under the tin roof, and when it rained, the sound put me to sleep. We went all over the South in that truck."

"You and your mother and father?"

"My dad and I."

"What were you doing, driving all over the South?"

"My dad sold medicine."

"What kind?"

"Something to make you strong and keep you from getting sick."

"Did you take it?"

splashed [splæʃt]

“No. I guess it wasn’t any good.”

She had never before heard him talk much about himself. She wanted him to go on.

“Was it fun living in a truck?”

“Fun? I wouldn’t say so. Riding along was all right. Sometimes my dad and I stopped close to the woods, and that was all right, too. But I never liked it when we were in town selling medicine. Dad would play the *harp*, and he made me sing. He wanted me to dance too, but I never could.”

She tried to *imagine* Al as a little boy. She couldn’t at all. “Why did he want you to sing and dance?” she asked.

“To draw a crowd. When there was a crowd, he sold medicine. We didn’t stay anywhere very long—except once. We stayed in one place six months. My dad did farm work, and I went to school.”

He told her about the school. It was just outside a town. The teacher was Miss Miller. The schoolhouse had only one room.

“There was a big *stove*,” he said, “and that winter I kept the fire going. Miss Miller never had to carry

harp [harp]

imagine [ɪˈmædʒɪn]

stove [stov]



"That's a medel?" Sarah Ida said to Al Winkler.

"That little old piece of tin?"

coal when I was there.”

“Did you like her?” asked Sarah Ida. “Was she a good teacher?”

“Best teacher I ever had. Of course, she was just about the only one. I hadn’t been to school much, but she took time to show me things. Do teachers still give medals in school?”

“Sometimes. Not very often.”

“Miss Miller gave medals. They were all alike. Every one had a star on it. At the end of school you got one if you were the best in reading or spelling or writing or whatever it was. Everybody wanted a medal, but I knew I’d never get one because I wasn’t the best in anything. And at the end of school, you know what happened?”

“What?”

“She called my name. The others all thought it was a joke. But she wasn’t laughing. She said, ‘Al wins a medal for building the best fires.’”

“And it wasn’t a joke?” asked Sarah Ida.

“No. She gave me a medal. One of the big boys said, ‘You better keep that, Al, because it’s the only one you’ll ever get.’”

“And did you keep it?” He held up his watch

chain. Something was hanging from it—something that looked like a worn, old coin.

“That’s what you won?” asked Sarah Ida.

He nodded.

“That’s a medal?” she said. “That little old piece of tin?”

She shouldn’t have said it. As soon as the words were out, she was sorry.

Al sat very *still*. He looked into the street. A moment before, he had been a friend. Now he was a stranger.

He said, “Rain’s stopped—for a while anyway.”

He *slid* out of his chair. She got up, too. “I—” she began.

He dragged the folding door across the stand and locked it up.

“Run,” he said. “Maybe you can get home before the rain starts again.”

She stood there. “I didn’t mean what you think I did,” she said. “That medal—it doesn’t matter if it’s tin or silver or gold. It doesn’t matter what it’s made of, if it’s something you like. I said the wrong thing,

still [stɪl]

slid [slɪd]

but it wasn't what I meant. I—" He had his back to her. She didn't think he was listening. She said, "Listen to me!"

He turned around. "You like ice cream?"

"Yes," she said.

"Come on. I'll buy you a *cone*."

She went with him, around the corner to Pearl's Ice Cream *Shack*.

"What kind?" he asked.

"Chocolate," she said.

They sat on a bench inside the Shack and ate their chocolate cones.

"It's raining again," he said.

"Yes," she said.

Then they were quiet, while they listened to the rain. And she was happy because the stranger was gone and Al was back.

Adapted from *The Shoeshine Girl*

I. VOCABULARY:

1. **medal** ['mɛdɪ]

n. (c) a small, distinct piece of metal with a design on it, used to honor or reward 勳章；獎章；獎牌。

The professor was given a *medal* for his discovery.

cone [kɒn]

Shack [ʃæk]

2. **Sarah Ida** [ˈsærəˈaɪdə]

the name of a girl in Clyde Robert Bulla's *The Shoe-shine Girl* 女孩名。

3. **polish** [ˈpɒlɪʃ]

n. ①(u) substance used to give smoothness or shine 擦亮劑；上光劑；鞋油 (= shoe polish).

② (a-) the act of polishing 擦亮 (可與 a 連用)。

He gave the shoes a good *polish*.

4. **Al Winkler** [ˈælˈwɪŋklə]

the name of a shoemaker in Clyde Robert Bulla's *The Shoeshine Girl* 擦鞋匠之姓名。

5. **shine** [ʃaɪn]

v.t. (pt. & pp. shined) to make bright; to polish 使發亮；擦亮。

He *shined* my shoes.

n. (singular only) polish; brightness (僅用單數) 擦亮；光澤。

He gave his shoes a *shine*.

6. **shoelace** [ˈʃuˌles]

n. (c) a string or lace for tying up certain types of shoes 鞋帶。

7. **splash** [splæʃ]

v.i. (of liquid) to fly about; to scatter in drops 濺出；飛濺。

The rain *splashed* against the window.

8. **harp** [hɑrp]

n. (c) a stringed musical instrument played with the fingers 豎琴。

9. **imagine** [ɪ'mædʒɪn]

v.t. to form a picture of (something) in the mind; to form an idea of 想像；幻想。

I *imagine* King John as a tall, strong man.

10. **stove** [stov]

n. (c) an apparatus in which fuel is burned to provide heat for warming rooms or cooking 火爐。

11. **still** [stil]

adv. even to this or that time 仍然；還是。

He is *still* asleep.

adj. without motion 靜止的；不動的。

Please stand *still* while I take the photograph.

12. **slide** [slaid]

v.i. (slid [slɪd] ; slid *or* (U.S.) slidden ['slɪdn])

to pass along over a surface with a smooth, slipping movement 滑動。

The book *slid* off my knee.

13. **cone** [kon]

n. (c) a solid object with a round base and a point at the top; a hollow or solid object shaped like this 圓錐體；似圓錐體之物。

Many children would rather eat ice cream from *cones* than from dishes.

14. **shack** [ʃæk]

n. (c) a roughly built hut 簡陋的房屋；小木屋。

II. IDIOMS AND PHRASES:

1. **Shoeshine Corner** — a corner in which Al Winkler's shoeshine stand is 擦鞋街角。

2. **shoeshine stand** — a stall or booth in which one shines the shoes for others as one's business 擦鞋攤。

3. **put away** — put in the right place or out of sight 收拾起來。

Put your books away.

He *put away* his tools.

4. **shoe polish** — substance used to shine shoes 鞋油。

5. **the South** — (U. S.) the Southern States(美國)南方各州。

6. **hold up** — lift up 舉起。

7. **lock up** — fasten or secure with a lock or locks 鎖牢。

Will you *lock up* the house, please?

8. **come on** — (informal) Let's get going; don't delay; don't wait (used as a command) (俗)趕快(用於命令式)。

Come on, before it rains!

Come on, or we'll be late.

III. PARAPHRASES:

1. Every evening after work, Sarah Ida was tired.

Sarah Ida was tired after her work was finished in the evening.

2. It wasn't that she liked shining shoes, but things happened at the shoeshine stand.

She did not like shining shoes, but she liked the things that happened at the shoeshine stand.

3. Anyway, I hope they do.

In any case, I hope that my customers go away feeling a little better.

4. We may as well close up.

We have good reason to discontinue our business.

5. No. Too late now.

Don't run home. It is too late now.

6. Hear that sound?

Do you hear that sound?

7. You lived in a truck?

Did you live in a truck?

8. What kind?

What kind of medicine did he sell?

9. To draw a crowd.

He wanted me to sing and dance in order to draw a crowd.

10. Best teacher I ever had.

She was the best teacher I ever had.

11. Of course, she was just about the only one.

Certainly, she was just nearly the only one teacher I ever had.

12. At the end of school you got one if you were the best in....

At the end of the semester you got one medal if you

were best in

13. You better keep that, Al.

Al, you had better keep that medal.

14. That little old piece of tin?

Is that little old piece of tin a medal?

15. You like ice cream?

Do you like ice cream?

16. I'll buy you a cone.

I will buy an ice cream cone for you.

17. And she was happy because the stranger was gone and
Al was back.

And she was happy because Al was no longer a stranger
to her and he was now her friend again.

IV. DERIVATIVES:

1. imagine (*v.*), imagination (*n.*), imaginative (*adj.*),
imaginable (*adj.*)

(*v.*) We can hardly *imagine* life without electricity.

(*n.*) He has strong *imagination*.

(*adj.*) He is an *imaginative* writer.

(*adj.*) We had the greatest difficulty *imaginable*.

2. build (*v.*), builder (*n.*), building (*n.*)

(*v.*) They *built* a house of six bedrooms.

(*n.*) He went into business as a *builder*.

(*n.*) *Building* is his trade. He has built many tall
buildings.

3. rain (*v.*), rain (*n.*), rainy (*adj.*)

(*v.*) It often *rains* here in June.

(*n.*) We've had much *rain* this ~~summer~~.

(*adj.*) Today is *rainy*.

4. happiness (*n.*), happy (*adj.*), happily (*adv.*)

(*n.*) They live in *happiness*.

(*adj.*) They are very *happy*.

(*adv.*) They live *happily*.

5. live (*v.*), life (*n.*), livelihood (*n.*), living (*n.*), living

(*adj.*), alive (*adj.*)

(*v.*) The girl *lives* with her grandmother.

(*v.*) The old man *lived* to the age of 100.

(*n.*) People, animals, and plants have *life*.

(*n.*) She worked hard all her *life*.

(*n.*) He earns his *livelihood* (or *living*) by teaching.

(*adj.*) It is a *living* fish.

(*adj.*) Is the snake *alive* or dead?

V. ORAL PRACTICE:

A. Substitution:

1. It wasn't that she liked *shining shoes*, but things happened at the *shoeshine stand*.

watching exhibits *exhibition site*.

sewing clothes *tailor shop*.

2. Every time I hear *rain on a tin roof*, I get to thinking about when I was *a boy*.

the bells from the village church *a cowboy*.

the whistle from the football field *a footballer*.