

英汉对照

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Essential English

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基本藏书

基础英语

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Essential English

(英汉对照)

第四册

原 著	C. E. 埃克斯利
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练习答案

LESSON 1

Readers of the earlier books of *Essential English* I, II, and III will remember that the lessons are built round a little group of characters, the teacher, Mr. Priestley and his wife, the students, Lucille, Frieda, Olaf, Jan, Pedro and Hob. Book IV completes the story of the students, and when this book closes we shall have seen them all leaving Mr. Priestley and going out into the world. At the end of Book III we saw that Frieda and Jan had fallen in love with each other; so, naturally, Book IV opens with the announcement of their engagement.

Frieda and Jan Break the News

Scene: *MR. PRIESTLEY'S living-room*

Characters—*MR. PRIESTLEY, MRS.
PRIESTLEY, FRIEDA, JAN*

JAN: Mr. Priestley, Mrs. Priestley, there's something I—we—want to tell you. Frieda and I are engaged to be married.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Oh, how nice!

MR. PRIESTLEY: Congratulations and best wishes!

FRIEDA and JAN: Thank you both very much.

FRIEDA: You are the first people we have told—except for my parents.

JAN: Yes, I wrote to Frieda's father a week ago, telling him we wanted to get married and asking for his permission.

FRIEDA: And we had replies this morning, so it's all right and they are very happy about it.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Oh! I'm so glad.

JAN: You don't look very surprised at the news.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: I'm not surprised—I'd expected it for months^①—but I'm very pleased indeed.

MR. PRIESTLEY: I might as well admit that it's a complete surprise to me—I never notice things even when they are right under my nose—but I'm really delighted at the news. I think you are very lucky, Jan, to get such a girl as Frieda.

① 你们也许还记得她在“基础英语”第三册第37课末尾关于这件事对普里斯特利先生讲的话。

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And I think you are very fortunate, Frieda, to get such a fine fellow as Jan. I hope you will be very happy together.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Are you thinking of getting married soon?

FRIEDA: Well, that's one of the things we are not agreed on. As you know, Jan is starting at London University in October to study to become a doctor. He wants us to get married at once. I would rather wait for a year or two—at any rate until Jan has taken his first examination.

JAN: But what's the point of waiting?

FRIEDA: So that you can really work hard.

Don't you think, Mr. Priestley, that he would think about his work more if I wasn't there?

JAN: But don't you see that if we were not married I should be thinking about you all the time and wanting to be with you instead of working. Whereas if we were married——

FRIEDA: Do you hear that? Once we are married he won't think about me any more. That's a fine thing to hear from a

man you have just become engaged to.

JAN: Oh, Frieda, you know I didn't mean that. I only meant——

FRIEDA: But that's not the only thing we don't agree on.

MR. PRIESTLEY (*smiling*): Dear me, this sounds terrible. What is the further cause of disagreement?

FRIEDA: Well, I want to live in a house; Jan thinks we ought to have a flat or rooms in a house.

JAN: A friend told me of a small flat in the centre of London overlooking King's Cross station that will be vacant in October.

FRIEDA: But I don't want to live in a small flat in the centre of London. I'd much rather have a little house in the country looking out on fields, where I can breathe fresh air and see trees and hear birds singing.

JAN: But a flat is so much more convenient. We could get some labour-saving devices that would save you a lot of housework, and there are lots of little restaurants near King's Cross where we could go out for something to eat in the evening so you

wouldn't need to cook meals.

FRIEDA: But I *want* to cook meals. I'm really quite a good cook, and I don't mind doing housework. I like it. Besides, I looked at the flat you are talking about and I didn't like the look of it at all.

JAN: I agree it wasn't very attractive-looking, but the rent was low.

FRIEDA: You know, I don't like the idea of paying rent. My parents have paid rent on our house for thirty years. I wish I had all the money they have paid in rent. They've paid enough to buy the house twice over and yet they don't own a single brick of it.

JAN: Yes, I agree. I should like to buy a house, but we haven't the money, at least not now; in four or five years' time it may be different. You see, Mr. Priestley, it's like this. My grandfather, my mother's father—he was a Scotsman—left me a sum of money in his will, and some useless property, a factory; but the money is in trust until I am twenty-five. I get the income from it, and that has been enough to keep me and pay for my classes; with a bit of a struggle, it will just about keep

us both—at least I hope so. But we've no hope of buying a house—at least not for a time. So if we *must* pay rent, let's pay the least we can and have a flat.

FRIEDA: Oh dear, I do wish I could have a house all to myself, with a garden where I can grow flowers and lettuces and cabbages. I was so looking forward to it. Isn't there any way we could buy one?

MR. PRIESTLEY: I don't want to look as if I was poking my nose into what isn't my business, but—

FRIEDA: Oh, we don't mind, we'd welcome your ideas, wouldn't we, Jan?

JAN: Yes, rather! But don't you agree with me, Mr. Priestley, that it would be much better to be married soon and live in a flat and not wait a year or two as Frieda says.

FRIEDA: Don't you think it would be better to wait until we can get a house and not live in a flat? Isn't that what we ought to do?

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, I'm not going to say what you *ought* to do.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Neither am I.

MR. PRIESTLEY: But I know what you *will*

do.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And so do I.

MR. PRIESTLEY: You'll get married soon and not wait.

JAN: Very good!

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And you'll have a house and not a flat or rooms.

FRIEDA: Hurrah! That's what I say.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, if that's what's going to happen I should like to make a suggestion if I may.

JAN and FRIEDA: Oh yes, please do.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, you know you could buy a house through a Building Society. You look round, choose the house you want to buy and then approach the Building Society. You put down a proportion of the money—say ten per cent—and pay off the rest at so much a month. The monthly payments will not be much more than a rent would be, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing that your payments go towards buying the house.

JAN: Well, there's probably something in that, but——

FRIEDA: Oh, Jan, it would be lovely. As a matter of fact I've been looking round

and I've already seen the house I want.

JAN: What!

FRIEDA: Yes. You know that little cottage, Mrs. Priestley, that you see from the back of your garden?

MR. PRIESTLEY: What, the one in Darvell Lane, "Rose Cottage" I think it is called?

FRIEDA: That's the one. I heard it was for sale so I went round there at once. It has a comfortable little sitting-room, a tiny but very nice dining-room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom. There are roses round the front door and an apple-tree in the garden.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Frieda, it sounds perfect.

FRIEDA: It is. But what's the use of it? Jan would prefer to live in London overlooking King's Cross with millions of people all round us.

JAN: Well, if it would make Frieda happy I don't mind living in a house in the country, and I'm quite willing to dig the garden for her.

FRIEDA: That's the way to talk, darling. I certainly *would* like it. I've saved a bit of money and that would help towards buying the furniture. We shouldn't need very much