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MODERN ENGLISH READERS
BOOK V

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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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為主，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變化；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。

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LESSON ONE

WHY WOULD ANYONE EVER STOP LEARNING

This is about education in America. But first I want to tell of an experience I had several years ago when I was visiting a village some twenty miles from *Colombo, Ceylon*. Shortly after I was introduced to the village *elders*, I was seated in a *straight-back* wooden chair and then was *garlanded* by one of the village elders. The *wreath* was remarkably *similar* to the *Hawaiian lei* that has become the *routine* ceremony of *greeting* for visitors to *Honolulu* from the (United States) mainland. One of the elders announced that I brought greetings from the people of the United States and that I had *accepted* his invitation to talk about America.

There was an immediate *burst* of enthusiastic questions. It was clear the people of the village didn't want a speech; they wanted direct information to

Colombo [kə'lambo]	Ceylon [si'lɒn]	elders ['eldəz]
straight-back ['stret,bæk]	garlanded ['garləndɪd]	wreath [riθ]
similar ['sɪmələ]	Hawaiian [hə'waɪən]	lei [le;lei]
routine [ru'tɪn]	greeting ['grɪtɪŋ]	Honolulu [ˌhɒnə'lulu]
accepted [ək'septɪd]	burst [bɜːst]	satisfy ['sætɪs,fai]



*An American newsman is talking with the elders
of a Ceylon village.*

satisfy their excited curiosity about America and Americans. And so I dispensed with my talk and spent almost two hours answering their questions as best I could.

What *impressed* me most about the *incident* was that more than half the questions had to do with education in the United States. Few *aspects* of American life are considered more *revolutionary* by the Asian peoples than the educational opportunities *available* in this nation. Education to most Asians is still a *miracle*. The *illiteracy rate* in the villages of Ceylon is more than eighty-seven per cent.

“Are you sure you are right when you say that even poor people are allowed to send their children to free schools?” I was asked that day in Ceylon, by a man whose age I judged to be about sixty.

I nodded.

“I am an old man,” he continued, “and a very poor one. I have three children who are living, and they have ten children of their own among them. Are children like these allowed to learn to read and

impressed [ɪmˈprest] **incident** [ˈɪnsɪdənt] **aspects** [ˈæspekts]
revolutionary [ˌrevəˈluʃən,əri] **available** [əˈveɪləbəl]
miracle [ˈmɪrəkl̩] **illiteracy** [ɪˈlɪtərəsi] **rate** [reɪt]

write and study things?”

“Not only allowed but required to do so,” I replied, going on to explain how *compulsory* education *operates* in the United States. Then I gave a brief picture of higher education in the U. S., pointing out that the large majority of American students pay very small amounts for their college schooling, and, indeed, that many students who attend the large state universities pay no *tuition* at all.

As I said that, I *observed* the people closely. They looked at one another in *stark wonderment*.

The effect on my listeners was *electric*. It was as though I had just told of seeing the alchemist's dream come to reality. For almost a minute there was the silence of amazement and *incredulity*.

“Well, then,” said the man who had earlier spoken of his children and grandchildren. “Well, then, if this is ture, why would anyone ever stop learning? I would suppose that no one would ever want to do anything else.”

compulsory [kəm'pʌlsəri]

operates ['apə,rets]

tuition [tju'ɪʃən]

observed [əb'zəvd]

stark [stark]

wonderment ['wʌndəmənt]

electric [ɪ'lektrɪk]

incredulity [ɪnkrə'djʊləti]

To him, free education was like gold in the streets; and it seemed a waste of time not to pick up every bit of it so long as one had the physical strength to do so.

When I replied that a large number of adult Americans, but still only a minority, take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them, it became clear that I had said the one thing that *defied* rational explanation. How was it possible that every single person would not snap up the riches that were there for the taking?

I made no attempt to answer that particular question, but I have been thinking about it ever since.

“Until what age is it permitted a person may study?” one asked.

I said there was no age limitation. Any person who is *qualified* to do so and has the *means* to do so can study in a university, regardless of age. I added that many universities have extension divisions in which anyone can *enroll*. It is not necessary to sign up for a full or formal higher education in order to study the particular courses in which one might be

defied [di'faɪd] **qualified** ['kwɒlə'faɪd] **means** [minz]
enroll [ɪn'roʊl]

interested. I told how, only a few years earlier, I had enrolled in an extension-division course so I might learn about the new developments in science that had occurred since I had been an *undergraduate*.

By Norman Cousins

I. VOCABULARY:

1. Colombo [kə'lambo]

n. a seaport in and the capital of Ceylon, on the west coast 可倫坡（錫蘭西海岸一港口，並為錫蘭首都）。

2. Ceylon [si'lan]

n. a country on an island off the southeastern tip of India, member of the Commonwealth, cap. Colombo, now called Sri Lanka 錫蘭（一島國，現名“斯里蘭卡”首都可倫坡）。

3. elder ['eldə]

n. (c) one of the older, influential members, as of a family or community 年長者；長輩。

We should respect our *elders*.

4. straight-back ['stret,bæk]

adj. having a straight back (also straight-backed) 有垂直椅背的。（亦作 straight-backed）

5. garland ['garlənd]

v.t. to hang or decorate with a wreath or wreaths 戴花圈；飾以花圈。

6. wreath [riθ]

undergraduate [ˌAndə'grædʒɪt]

n. (c) a ring of flowers or leaves twisted together 花圈。
They placed a *wreath* on the grave.

7. **similar** ['sɪmələ]

adj. be like something but not the same 類似的；同樣的。
The two men wore *similar* suits.
Gold is *similar* in color to brass.

8. **Hawaiian** [hə'waɪən]

adj. of or belonging to Hawaii or to the whole group of islands around it 夏威夷的；夏威夷群島的。

9. **lei** [le; lei]

n. (c) (esp. in Hawaii) a circular bunch of flowers placed round one's neck as a greeting (尤指在夏威夷) (掛在頸上以示歡迎或送別的) 花圈。

10. **routine** [ru'tin]

adj. fixed; regular 例行的。
The judge asked him a few *routine* questions.

11. **greeting** ['grɪtɪŋ]

n. ①(c,u) the words or the act of one who greets somebody 歡迎辭；歡迎。

②(usu. pl.) friendly wishes or message, esp. from someone absent 祝賀辭；請代問候。

He sent *greetings* on my birthday.

12. **Honolulu** [ˌhɒnə'lulu]

n. the chief city of Oahu and capital of the Hawaiian Islands 火奴魯魯 (火奴魯魯島) (歐胡島主要城市，夏威夷群島之首府)。

13. **accept** [æk'sept]

v.t. to take or receive (something offered) 接受。

She *accepted* a present from her friend.

14. **burst** [bɜ:st]

n. (c) an outbreak; an eruption 爆發；突發。

15. **satisfy** ['sætɪs,faɪ]

v.t. to fulfil (a desire, need, expectation, demand, etc.)

使滿足（慾望，需求等）。

This book *satisfied* his curiosity.

16. **impress** [ɪm'pres]

v.t. to cause to feel deeply; to move deeply 使感動。

His letter *impressed* us all greatly.

17. **incident** ['ɪnsɪdənt]

n. (c) an event 事件。

18. **aspect** ['æspekt]

n. (c) one side or part or view (of a subject) 方面；觀點。

We must consider the plan in its various *aspects*.

19. **revolutionary** [ˌrevə'lʊʃən,eri]

adj. bringing or causing great changes 引起重大改革的；

革命性的。

20. **available** [ə'veləbəl]

adj. at hand; that can be obtained 就近的；可獲得的。

21. **miracle** ['mɪrəkl]

n. (c) something wonderful 令人驚奇的事。

His recovery was a *miracle*.

22. **illiteracy** [ɪ'lɪtərəsi]

n. (u) inability to read or write; lack of education 文盲
未受教育。

23. **rate** [ret]

n. (c) amount measured in relation to something el
比率。

They walk at the *rate* of three miles an hour.

24. **compulsory** [kəm'pʌlsəri]

adj. that must be done; required 必須的；義務的。

Is military service *compulsory* in this country?

25. **operate** ['opə,ret]

v.i. to perform; to work 運轉；起作用。

The machine *operates* night and day.

The tax *operates* to our disadvantage.

26. **tuition** [tju'ɪʃən]

n. (u) money paid for teaching 學費。

27. **observe** [əb'zɜ:v]

v.t. to see; to watch carefully 看；觀察。

I *observed* nothing queer in his behavior.

28. **stark** [stark]

adj. complete; absolute 完全的；絕對的。

It is *stark* madness.

29. **wonderment** ['wʌndəmənt]

n. (u) feeling of surprise 驚異。

The group of tourists stood in *wonderment* amidst the
ancient ruins.

30. **electric** [ɪ'lektrɪk]

adj. (fig.) producing a sudden and striking impression upon the mind (喻) 突然而強烈的。

31. **incredulity** [ˌɪnkrəˈdjuːləti]

n. (u) lack of belief; doubt 不信；懷疑。

32. **defy** [dɪˈfaɪ]

v.t. (of a thing) to defeat; to resist 擊敗；抗拒。

The problem *defies* solution.

33. **qualify** ['kwɒləˌfaɪ]

v.t. to give the necessary qualities to; to make fit 使合格；使勝任。

His skills *qualify* him for the job.

34. **means** [minz]

n. (pl. in use) money, property, or other resources (作複數用) 金錢；財源。

It is very wrong for a man to live beyond his *means*.

35. **enroll** [ɪnˈrɒl]

v.i. to become a member; to have one's name on a list 加入；註冊。

I like the school but I don't want to *enroll*.

36. **undergraduate** [ˌʌndəˈgrædʒuɪt]

n. (c) a student in a university who has not yet received a bachelor's degree 大學肄業生。

I. **IDIOMS AND PHRASES:**

1. **tell of** — speak of; mention 說起；提到。

The old man often *tells of* bygone days.

2. **dispense with** — do without; give up 免除；放棄。

We shall have to *dispense with* the car; we can't afford it.

3. **take advantage of** — profit by 利用。

They *take advantage of* every opportunity to make money.

4. **snap up** — (informal) take or accept eagerly (俗) 欣然接受；迫切地取得。

Eggs were on sale, and the shoppers *snapped up* the bargain.

5. **extension division** — a branch of a university for students who cannot attend the university all the time (大學) 推廣教育部門。

6. **sign up** — promise to do something by signing one's name 簽名參加。

The sailor *signed up* for a voyage to India.

7. **learn about** — become informed of 聞知；獲悉。

III. PARAPHRASES:

1. Shortly after I was introduced to the village elders, I was seated in a straight-back wooden chair and then was garlanded by one of the village elders.

As soon as I was introduced to the village elders, I sat down in a straight-back wooden chair and then one of the village elders placed a wreath round my neck as a greeting.

2. "Not only allowed but required to do so," I replied. ...
"Children like these are not only allowed but required to

learn to read and write and study things," I answered. ...

3. When I replied that a large number of adult Americans, but still only a minority, take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them, it became clear that I had said the one thing that defied rational explanation.

When I answered that many, except still only a small number of, adult Americans take advantage of the educational opportunities available to them, it was clear that the village elders thought what I had said could not be rationally explained.

IV. DERIVATIVES:

1. curiosity (*n.*), curious (*adj.*), curiously (*adv.*)
(*n.*) I bought the cup out of *curiosity*.
(*adj.*) Children are *curious* and ask many questions.
(*adv.*) She *curiously* asked me whether I had seen a tiger in the forest.
2. satisfy (*v.*), satisfaction (*n.*), satisfactory (*adj.*) satisfactorily (*adv.*)
(*v.*) He is *satisfied* with my explanation.
(*n.*) She had the *satisfaction* of passing the examination.
(*n.*) The news was a great *satisfaction* to all of us.
(*adj.*) The result is *satisfactory*.
(*adv.*) The engine works *satisfactorily*.
3. inform (*v.*), information (*n.*), informative (*adj.*)

(*v.*) He *informed* me of Mary's arrival.

(*n.*) Can you give me any *information* about the accident?

(*adj.*) His remarks were always *informative*.

4. avail (*v.*), availability (*n.*), available (*adj.*)

(*v.*) All his efforts *avail* to nothing.

(*v.*) All his efforts *avail* him nothing.

(*n.*) The *availability* of water power helped make this country a manufacturing center.

(*adj.*) They have tried all *available* means to open the door.

5. permit (*v.*), permission (*n.*)

(*v.*) Smoking is not *permitted* here.

(*n.*) He went home without *permission*.

V. ORAL PRACTICE:

A. Pattern Drill:

1. I want to tell of an experience I had several years ago when I was visiting a village in Ceylon.

I want to tell of a movie I saw five years ago when I was studying at a junior high school in Taipei.

I want to tell of a novel I read last week when I was traveling in the countryside.

2. It was clear the people of the village didn't want a speech; they wanted direct information to satisfy their excited curiosity about America and Americans.