YOUR ENGLISH

A. J. GLOVER



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INCREASE YOUR ENGLISH

Exercises designed to extend a student's vocabulary in a variety of ways

A. J. GLOVER

M. A. (Cantab.)

Author of 'Enrich Your English,' 'Build Up Your English,' etc.

J. M. DENT & SONS LTD BEDFORD STREET · LONDON · WC2

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Made in Great Britain

at the

Aldine Press · Letchworth · Herts

for

J. M. DENT & SONS LTD

Aldine House · Bedford Street · London

First published in this edition 1954

Last reprinted 1965

INCREASE YOUR ENGLISH

BY THE SAME AUTHOR

ENGLISH THROUGH ADVENTURE 216 pages

BUILD UP YOUR ENGLISH 176 pages

ENRICH YOUR ENGLISH 112 pages

A FIRST APPROACH TO ENGLISH LITERATURE 128 pages

PREFACE

This is the third—and last—of a series of books of exercises designed to strengthen vocabulary in different ways. The second of the series, *Build Up Your English*, published at the end of 1952, has met with such a gratifying reception in so many different parts of the world that I have felt encouraged to complete the trio.

This book, Increase Your English, is the easiest of the three and should be used in classes one below those using Build Up Your English, or for 'B' streams that are not quite able to cope with that book. Foreign schools in which English is taught as second language will find this book useful, I hope, for classes that have done about four years' steady work in the language. As in the previous books, the exercises have been tried out in appropriate classes.

The passages chosen, and the vocabulary as a whole, are appreciably easier than in the earlier book. In a very few instances I have slightly simplified the text in the B extracts but only where I felt that the original words would cause real difficulty. The majority of the passages are untouched.

There are twenty Sections in this book, each divided into two parts, A and B. Part A has eight questions, Part B six (or seven). There are, therefore, nearly 300 exercises in the whole book; plenty for a good year's work.

PART A. This part includes exercises such as:

- (a) Idiomatic expressions.
- (b) Spelling and pronunciation.
- (c) Punctuation.
- (d) Sentence construction.
- (e) Description of common objects and creatures.

(f) Choice of words.

(g) Letter-writing.

(h) Short compositions and continuation of stories.

PART B. The extracts are from a wide range of well-known writers, several of this century. In order to be able to give a whole 'incident' so as to capture the interest of the pupils, I have continued a passage in two or three Sections where necessary.

The questions following the extracts are:

(a) Vocabulary.

(b) Expressions.

(c) Questions on the subject-matter.

(d) Questions arising out of the text.

These Part B passages can also be used for:

Reading practice, dictations (particularly in foreign schools),

translation, and for summaries.

As in Enrich Your English and in Build Up Your English, I have added a page of alternative composition subjects, and a list of titles and authors of works from which the Part B extracts were taken.

My grateful thanks are due to the following for permission

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The Executors and Messrs J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd for the passage from Anthony Hope's The Prisoner of Zenda.

The Executors and Messrs Hodder & Stoughton Ltd for the passages from A. E. W. Mason's Fire over England.

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SECTION I

A

- I. Change the noun in brackets to the plural:
 - (a) He had only six coins in his pocket and they were all (penny).
 - (b) She peeled eight (potato) and put them in a saucepan to boil.
 - (c) The old gentleman sat near the window, smoking his pipe and watching the (passer-by).
 - (d) The poor young beggar had three (loaf) of bread given to him.
 - (e) They shot four (deer) during that week, as well as two (wolf).
 - (f) The (child) enjoyed the film, 'Snow White and the seven (dwarf).'
 - (g) The meal would cost him ten (penny) in the canteen but over three shillings in the restaurant.
- 2. Make quite sure of the spelling and pronunciation of these words and then use them in sentences:
 - crumb, deny, escape, cycle, holiday, daily, approve, steady, buried, enough.
- 3. Test your knowledge of the joints of the body by completing these sentences:
 - (a) The joint between the foot and the leg is called the . . .
 - (b) The thigh and lower leg meet at the . . .
 - (c) The joint made by the body and the thigh is the . . .
 - (d) The watch worn on the arm is called a ...-watch

because that is the name of the joint between the hand and arm.

- (e) The name given to the joint half-way up the arm is the . . .
- (f) The meeting-place of the arm and body is the . . .
- (g) The several joints of the fingers are called . . .
- 4. In one sentence, say what are the following:
 a skull, the spine, a skeleton, a rib, a knee-cap, a scalp.
- 5. Add the correct form of the verb to the following sentences:
 - (a) (To sit) down, and keep (to sit) down until I tell you to stand.
 - (b) He (to buy) some jewels but they were (to steal) from him as he was walking home.
 - (c) I have (to take) my book back. You (to take) yours vesterday, didn't you?
 - (d) He (to catch) a cold by going out in the rain without a coat.
 - (e) It is (to forbid) to pick flowers from these gardens.
 - (f) His vest had (to shrink) so much in the wash that he couldn't (to wear) it again.
 - (g) He (to choose) the book on painting because the time before he had (to choose) one on drawing.

Give the principal parts of all the verbs in the brackets.

6. Write a letter to a friend whose name is Ralph. You live in Westbourne, in the High Street. The number of your house is 16. Write to Ralph, in reply to a letter from him in which he asks if you will kindly return a book you have borrowed from him. You have mislaid this book. Write to explain all this. Put address, etc., and write about 100 words.

- 7. Imagine that you could become any creature (animal, bird, etc.) you liked for 48 hours. Which would you choose to be and why? What would you do? Write about 20 lines.
- 8. Write a carefully paragraphed composition of about 25 lines on 'How Science is helping us to enjoy Life.'

B

The Selfish Giant, by Oscar Wilde (1856-1900).

The whole of the fairy-tale, 'The Selfish Giant,' is given in the following three Sections. It is one of a number of Oscar Wilde's unusual and delightful stories 'with a lesson' of which 'The Happy Prince' is the best known.

Oscar Wilde wrote these tales for 'the young of all ages'; and

plays, poetry, and longer stories for older people.

Read through this passage carefully and then do the exercises following it:

Every afternoon, as they were coming from school, the children *used to go* and play in the Giant's garden.

It was a large, lovely garden, with soft green grass. Here and there over the grass stood beautiful flowers like stars, and there were twelve peach-trees that in spring-time broke out into delicate blossoms of pink and pearl, and in autumn bore rich fruit. The birds sat on the trees and sang so sweetly that the children used to stop their games in order to listen to them. 'How happy we are here!' they cried to each other.

One day the Giant came back. He had been to visit his friend, the Cornish ogre, and had stayed with him for seven years. After the seven years were over he had said all that he had to say, for his conversation was limited, and he determined to return to his own castle. When he arrived he saw the children playing in the garden.

'What are you doing there?' he cried in a very gruff voice, and the children ran away.

'My own garden is my own garden,' said the Giant, 'any one can understand that, and I will *allow* nobody to play in it but myself.' So he built a high wall all round it, and put up a notice-board:

TRESPASSERS
will be
PROSECUTED

He was a very selfish Giant.

The poor children had now nowhere to play. They tried to play on the road, but the road was very dusty and full of hard stones, and they did not like it. They used to wander round the high wall when their lessons were over, and talk about the beautiful garden inside. 'How happy we were there,' they said to each other.

Then the Spring came, and all over the country there were little blossoms and little birds. Only in the garden of the Selfish Giant it was still winter. The birds did not care to sing in it, as there were no children, and the trees forgot to blossom. Once a beautiful flower put its head out from the grass but when it saw the notice-board it was so sorry for the children that it slipped back into the ground again, and went off to sleep. The only people who were pleased were the Snow and the Frost. 'Spring has forgotten this garden,' they cried, 'so we will live here all the year round.' The Snow covered up the grass with her great white cloak, and the Frost painted all the trees silver. Then they invited the North Wind to stay with them, and he came. He was wrapped in furs and he roared all day about the garden, and blew the chimney-pots down. 'This is a delightful spot,' he said; 'we must ask the Hail on a visit.' So the Hail came. Every day for three hours he rattled on the roof of the castle till he broke most of the slates, and then he ran round and round the garden as fast as he could go. He was dressed in grey, and his breath was like ice.

EXERCISES

- r. Give the meaning of these words, printed in italics in the text, and then use them in other sentences to bring out their meaning clearly:
 - blossoms, pink, bore, gruff, allow, selfish, wander, slipped, cloak, spot.
 - 2. Give the meaning of these expressions from the passage: Used to go; here and there; in order to; all the year round.
- 3. Answer each of the following questions in one sentence, using your own words as far as possible:
 - (a) Why did the children go to play in the Giant's garden?
 - (b) What made the children stop their games?
 - (c) How did the Giant keep the boys and girls out of the garden?
 - (d) Where had the Giant been, and why, for seven years?
 - (e) Why did the Spring not return to the Giant's garden?
- 4. Using one sentence only for each answer, say clearly what are the following:
 - a castle, a wall, furs, chimney-pots, slates?
- 5. Imagine that one of the children goes home and tells his (her) parents about the Giant's return. Write down what he (she) says. 10-12 lines.
- 6. Describe the Giant's garden either as it was when the children played happily in it, or as it was when winter came. About 15–20 lines.
- 7. Which season do you like best in your country, and why? Write about 15 lines.

SECTION 2

A

- I. Replace the word in italics by one more exact. The first letter and number of letters in the word are given.
 - (a) He put the book in strong brown paper, tied it up, and then took it to the post office. (w... 7 letters.)
 - (b) The meat was so soft that it hardly needed cutting: it simply fell to pieces. (t... 6 letters.)
 - (c) If you come to this country you will have to row your own canoe; no one has the time to help you. (p...6 letters.)
 - (d) Without a moment's hesitation, he *rushed* into the river to save the child. (p...7 letters).
 - (e) He fell down the stairs after catching his foot in the torn carpet. (t...7 letters.)
- 2. Make quite sure of the spelling and pronunciation of these words and then use them in sentences that bring out their meaning clearly.
 - daughter, feeble, stretch, weather, stroll, cough, heard, coming, cheerful, which.
- 3. Form adjectives from the words in A, and adverbs from those in B. Make sentences with the resulting words.
 - A. Skill, beauty, plenty, faith, delight.
 - B. Real, sincere, immediate, careful, noble.
- 4. Write suitable questions to which the following are answers:

- (a) About a quarter of an hour ago.
- (b) Yes, he swallows it without a murmur.
- (c) Not very often.
- (d) Because I wasn't at home.
- (e) He spilt the ink on it.
- 5. Add the necessary punctuation marks, capital letters, and paragraphing to the following:

but mr tallboys said the pursers steward i dont understand this mr easy will first fight mr biggs will he not no replied the gunner this is a duel of three you will fire at mr easy mr easy will fire at mr biggs and mr biggs will fire at you it is all arranged mr easthupp but said mr easthupp i do not understand it why is mr biggs to fire at me i have no quarrel with mr biggs.

- 6. In not more than 25-30 words each, explain clearly the use of:
 - (a) A dictionary.
 - (b) A fountain-pen.
 - (c) An electric-torch.
- 7. Write a letter (80–100 words, plus address, etc.) to a friend, telling him (her) about something you have just bought that you have wanted for a long time.
 - 8. Continue this story for another 15-20 lines:

Something had woken him suddenly. He seemed to have heard a sound outside his window. It was not very dark and he guessed that it was about two o'clock in the morning when no one should be outside in the garden. He got out of bed quietly, tiptoed across the room, carefully moved the curtain from the corner of the window and then looked down into the garden. What he saw made him . . .

(For comment, see Section 1, Part B.)

Read this passage carefully and then do the exercises following it:

'I cannot understand why the Spring is so late in coming,' said the Selfish Giant, as he sat at the window and looked out at the cold, white garden; 'I hope there will be a change in the weather.'

But the Spring never came, nor the Summer. The Autumn gave golden fruit to every garden, but to the Giant's garden she gave none. 'He is too selfish,' she said. So it was always winter there, and the North Wind, and the Hail, and the Frost, and the Snow danced about through the trees.

One morning the Giant was lying awake in bed when he heard some lovely music. It sounded so sweet to his ears that he thought it must be the King's musicians passing by. It was really only a little linnet singing outside his window, but it was so long since he had heard a bird sing in his garden that it seemed to him to be the most beautiful music in the world. Then the Hail stopped dancing over his head, and the North Wind ceased roaring, and a delicious perfume came to him through the open casement. 'I believe the Spring has come at last,' said the Giant; and he jumped out of bed and looked out.

What did he see?

He saw a most wonderful sight. Through a little hole in the wall the children had *crept* in, and they were sitting in the branches of the trees. In every tree that he could see there was a little child. And the trees were so glad to have the children back again that they covered themselves with blossoms, and were *waving* their arms gently above the children's heads. The birds were flying about and twittering *with delight*, and the flowers were looking up through the

green grass and laughing. It was a lovely scene; only in one corner of the garden it was still winter. It was the farthest corner of the garden, and in it was standing a little boy. He was so small that he could not reach up to the branches of the tree, and he was wandering all round it, crying bitterly. The poor tree was still quite covered with frost and snow, and the North Wind was blowing and roaring above it. 'Climb up, little boy,' said the Tree, and it bent its branches as low as it could; but the boy was too tiny.

And the Giant's heart *melted* as he looked out. 'How selfish I have been!' he said; 'now I know why the Spring would not come here. I will put that poor little boy on the top of the tree, and then I will knock down the wall, and my garden shall be the children's playground for ever and ever.' He was really very sorry for what he had done.

So he crept downstairs and opened the front door quite softly, and went out into the garden. But when the children saw him they were so frightened that they all ran away, and the garden became winter again. Only the little boy did not run, for his eyes were so full of tears that he did not see the Giant coming. And the Giant stole up behind him and took him gently in his hand, and put him into the tree. And the tree broke out at once into blossoms, and the birds came and sang on it, and the little boy stretched out his two arms and flung them round the Giant's neck and kissed him. And the other children, when they saw that the Giant was not wicked any longer, came running back, and with them came the Spring.

EXERCISES

I. Give the meaning of these words, printed in italics in the text, and then use them in other sentences to bring out their meaning clearly: