

AROUND THE WORLD IN ENGLISH

AN INTRODUCTION TO MODERN CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

现代英语口语入门

用英语环游世界

by LEGER BROSNAHAN



Volume Three

*EURASIA : IRELAND, THE UNITED KINGDOM,
AND EASTWARD HOME*

北京语言学院出版社

现代英语口语入门

用英语环游世界

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101. This's like the English decimal coinage, isn't it?



Ming: This's like the English decimal coinage, isn't it?

Banker : Yes, it is. Shall I explain it to you?

M: Please do! We'll need to know.

B : The pound's the basic unit.

M: That's easy.

B : And there're a hundred pence to the pound.

M: How many coins're there?

B : Just five: the half-penny, the penny, five pence, ten pence, and fifty pence.

M: Are there five- and ten-pound notes?

B : Yes, there are.

M: But there's no longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence"?

B : I'm afraid not. But we've still a "lucky penny" !

Notes

decimal 十进制的

coinage 货币; 货币制度

pence penny 的复数形式

to the pound 一英镑等于 (to 表示对应关系)

note=banknote 纸币

"**jolly, jolly sixpence**" 一首古老的流行歌曲

"**luck penny**" 吉祥便士 (你如果在地上发现一枚便士这会给你带来好运)

Background Information (101)

Huilan and Ming have arrived at Shannon Airport in Western Ireland near the town of Limerick. Ming has changed some traveler's checks at the airport bank, and the banker is explaining Irish currency and coinage to him. Ming notices that the Irish money resembles what he has heard about English money and mentions it to the banker. The banker says that Irish denominations are the same as English and explains the system. The pound is the basic unit and contains 100 pence. There are just five coins: the half-penny, the penny, a five-pence coin, a ten-pence coin, and a fifty-pence coin. There are also five and ten-pound notes.

Ming asks if there is any longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence", which was an old English coin and the refrain of an old popular song. The banker answers that there is no longer a six-pence coin but there is still a lucky penny, referring to the old English superstition that, if you find a penny on the ground, it will bring you luck.

The sixpence was part of the very complicated old, predecimal coinage of England and Ireland. The old coinage was based on twelve and twenty, with 240 pence to the pound or 20 shillings to the pound, a shilling being worth twelve pence or two six-pences. Larger coins included the florin, worth two shillings, and the half

crown, worth two shillings and six-pence. This traditional coinage was abandoned in 1971 for the decimal system mentioned above.

EXERCISES

A. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Explain! | Explain! |
| 2. it | Explain it. |
| 3. let's | Let's explain it. |
| 4. me | Let me explain it. |
| 5. ? | Shall I explain it? |
| 6. to you | Shall I explain it to you? |

B. Substitution, Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. I need to know. | I need to know. |
| 2. we | We need to know. |
| 3. will | We'll need to know. |
| 4. ? | Will we need to know? |
| 5. What | What will we need to know? |

C. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Just five. | Just five. |
| 2. there're | There're just five. |
| 3. coins | There're just five coins. |
| 4. now | There're just five coins. |
| 5. ? | Are there just five coins now? |
| 6. How many | How many coins're there now? |

D. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. There're notes. | There're notes. |
| 2. ten-pound | There're ten-pound notes. |
| 3. five- and | There're five- and ten-pound notes. |
| 4. ? | Are there five- and ten-pound notes? |
| 5. What kind of notes | What kind of notes are there? |

E. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. Have a "lucky penny" ! | Have a "lucky penny" ! |
| 2. we | we've a "lucky penny. " |
| 3. still | We've still a "lucky penny. " |
| 4. ? | Do we still have a " lucky penny" ? |
| 5. Why | Why do we still have a " lucky penny" ? |

F. Question and Answer

This's like the English decimal coinage. The banker wants to explain it to Ming. They'll need to know. The pound's the basic unit. There're a hundred pence to the pound. There're just five coins. There're five- and ten-pound notes. There's no longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence." They've still a "lucky penny."

Repeat the following questions and answer them, first with a short answer and then with a long answer :

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Is this like the English decimal coinage? | Yes, it is. (Yes, it's like the English decimal coinage.) |
| 2. Does the banker want to explain it to Ming? | Yes, he does. (Yes, he wants to explain it to Ming.) |
| 3. Will they need to know? | Yes, they will. (Yes, they'll need to know.) |
| 4. Is the pound still the basic unit? | Yes, it is. (Yes, it's still the basic unit.) |
| 5. Are there a hundred pence to the pound? | Yes, there are. (Yes, there're a hundred pence to the pound.) |
| 6. How many coins're there? | Just five. (There're just five coins.) |
| 7. Are there five- and ten-pound notes? | Yes, there are. (Yes, there're five- and ten-pound notes.) |
| 8. Is there no longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence"? | No, there isn't. (No, there's no longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence. ") |
| 9. Do they still have a "lucky penny"? | Yes, they have. (Yes, they've still a "lucky penny. ") |

G. Reading

This is like the English decimal coinage. The banker wants to explain it to Ming. They will need to know. The pound is the basic unit. There are a hundred pence to the pound. There are just five coins. There are five- and ten-pound notes. There is no longer a "jolly, jolly sixpence." They still have a "lucky penny."

Read passages F and G and compare them. Mark passage F into

the grammatical phrases you used to read it. Sentences three, four, six, and nine need only two phrases. The others probably need three phrases. If you used more than these phrases, reduce your phrases and practice reading the passage in the fewest possible phrases.

Mark passage G with three vertical lines, down the middle of the passage and down the middle of each half, and practice reading the passage in just three eye-fixations per line at the intersection of the vertical lines and the lines of type. Always read too fast to pronounce. Try to break through the sound barrier.

There are five major divisions of reading: 1) Scanning, 2) Skimming, 3) Reading, 4) Studying, and 5) Analyzing. We have discussed only 3) Reading so far. In the next five lessons, while continuing our practice of reading by grammatical phrases or arbitrary phrases, we will discuss each of these five types of reading and suggest some exercises for practicing them in addition to our concentration on 3) Reading.

For additional reading practice, read the entire lesson, past reading passages or whole lessons, and your revisions of passage G in the next section, glancing only once quickly at each third of a line or each complete sentence.

H. Writing

Copy passage F silently and exactly, glancing only once at each phrase. Copy passage G silently and exactly, glancing only once at each intersection of the lines. Copy the entire lesson glancing only once at each third of a line or each complete sentence.

Rewrite passage G combining as many sentences as possible with

and, but, or, so, because, when, where, who, which, that and *if*. Sentence two adds information to sentence one and sentence three is the cause of sentence two. What are the right conjunctions to join sentences one, two, and three? Sentence five adds information to sentence four, and sentences six and seven repeat the *There are* of sentence five. Try deleting the *There are*'s of sentences six and seven and joining them to sentence five with commas and a conjunction. Sentence nine presents an opposition to sentence eight. What is the right conjunction?

There are three major stages of learning writing: 1) Copying, 2) Guided Composition, and 3) Free Composition. We have discussed only the first two so far. In the next few lessons, while continuing our practice of writing by copying and sentence combining and rewriting, we will discuss each of these types of writing and suggest some exercises for practicing them in addition to our usual concentration on the first two.

Draw three lines, down the middle and down the middle of each half of your revision of passage G, and practice reading it in just three eye-fixations per line.

For additional writing practice, turn all the statements of passage G into questions.

102. It may rain before we get to Limerick.



Conductor: Have you just arrived at Shannon Airport?

Huilan: Yes. We've just come from Washington.

C: You don't say! I've a cousin in Washington.

H: We were just tourists there for a few days.

C: And will you be spending a day or two in Limerick?

H: We'll stay here just tonight and then go to Dublin.

C: It's a shame you won't be staying longer.

H: It is a shame because it's so nice and green here.

C: You know Ireland's called "the Emerald Isle," don't you?

H: Yes. And it's well named!

C: It's all because we've ninety inches of rain a year!

H: But today the sun's shining.

C: True. But it may rain before we get to Limerick!

Notes

You don't say! = You don't say (座城市)
you've just come from **Dublin** 都柏林 (爱尔兰共和国的首都)
Washington. = I'm surprised.
Limerick 利默里克 (爱尔兰共和国一

Background Information (102)

Huilan and Ming are in the airport bus on their way from Shannon Airport into the town of Limerick, which has given its name to a popular and frequently obscene Irish verse form. The conductor has just punched their tickets and is returning them to Huilan. As in China, you should hold on to your tickets until you leave the bus.

The conductor mentions he has a cousin in Washington, where Huilan and Ming have just visited as tourists. So many Irish have emigrated to England and the United States that an Irishman is likely to have some relative almost anywhere in either country. It is a shame they will only be staying overnight in Limerick because the country is so beautiful and green. Ireland is called the Emerald Isle because it has ninety inches of rain a year. This means that it is raining almost all the time, and the ground and stones and trees look very black and the grass very green and washed, giving the landscape a very dramatic and colorful appearance.

Huilan mentions that the sun is shining as they leave the airport,

but the conductor warns her that it may rain before they get to Limerick even though Limerick is only thirty minutes away. The weather in Ireland is, in fact, extremely changeable, and it rains, for at least a little while, practically every day. Rain and the mud that goes with it are simply the condition of life in Ireland, and most people outside the cities wear rubber boots all year round. In the cities almost everyone carries an umbrella, and Ireland is famous for the umbrellas it manufactures.

EXERCISES

A. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Arrive at Shannon Airport! | Arrive at Shannon Airport! |
| 2. you | You arrive at Shannon Airport. |
| 3. (<i>past</i>) | You arrived at Shannon Airport. |
| 4. have | You've arrived at Shannon Airport. |
| 5. ? | Have you arrived at Shannon Airport? |
| 6. just | Have you just arrived at Shannon Airport? |
| 7. Where | Where've you just arrived? |

B. Expansion and Conversion

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Come from Washington! | Come from Washington! |
| 2. we | We come from Washington. |
| 3. (<i>past</i>) | We came from Washington. |

4. have

We've come from Washington.

5. just

We've just come from Washington.

6. ?

Have we just come from Washington.

7. Who

Who's just come from Washington?

C. Expansion and Conversion

1. Spend a day or two!

Spend a day or two!

2. you

You spend a day or two.

3. spending

You're spending a day or two.

4. will be

You'll be spending a day or two.

5. ?

Will you be spending a day or two?

6. How many days

How many days'll you be spending?

D. Expansion and Conversion

1. Stay longer!

Stay longer!

2. you

You stay longer.

3. staying

You're staying longer.

4. will be

You'll be staying longer.

5. not

You won't be staying longer.

6. It's a shame

It's a shame you won't be staying longer.

E. Question and Answer

Huilan and Ming've just arrived at Shannon Airport. They've just come from Washington. The conductor has a cousin in Washington. They were just tourists there for a few days. They'll be staying in Limerick just tonight. It's a shame they won't be staying longer. Ireland's well-named the Emerald Isle. It's because they've ninety inches of rain a year. The sun's shining today. But it may rain before they get to Limerick.

Repeat the following questions and answer them, first with a short answer and then with a long answer:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Have they just arrived at Shannon Airport? | Yes, they have. (Yes, they've just arrived at Shannon Airport.) |
| 2. Have they just come from Washington? | Yes, they have. (Yes, they've just come from Washington.) |
| 3. Where've they just come from? | (From) Washington. (They've just come from Washington.) |
| 4. Does the conductor have a cousin in Washington? | Yes, he does. (Yes, he has a cousin in Washington.) |
| 5. Were they just tourists there for a few days? | Yes, they were. (Yes, they were just tourists there for a few days.) |
| 6. Will they be staying in Limerick just tonight? | Yes, they will. (Yes, they'll be staying in Limerick just tonight.) |