

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

# 基础英语

EXPLANATORY NOTES

注 释

( 3 )

清华大学外语教研组

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## 第 三 册

### 第 一 课

p. 1.

1. ...and so now, at our very first lesson, we are all waiting to hear what you have to tell us.

(所以现在,就在这第一课上,我们都等着听你要给我们讲些什么。)

(1) to hear: 不定式做目的状语。

(2) what...us: 是宾语从句做不定式 to hear 的宾语。

2. Well, my first impressions of England are connected with food—

我对英国的最初印象是和食物有联系的一)

..and, strange to say, they are of how an English breakfast beat me.

(说来也奇怪,这些印象是有关英国早点如何把我给治住了。)

(1) strange to say: 插入语:

(2) of: 关于..., 在...方面。

(3) how...beat me: 宾语从句, 做前置词 of 的宾语。

of + how...me: 前置词短语做主句的表语。

4. You **don't** really **expect** us to believe that, **do you**, Hob?

(你不是真的认为我们会相信那事, 是吗, Hob? )

- (1) 这是反意问句，因为主句的谓语是否定形式，所以附加疑问句用肯定。相反的，如果主句是肯定的，则附加疑问句用否定。如：

You are **going** with us, **aren't** you?

- (2) 附加疑问句中的助动词与主句的助动词一致，如果主句的助动词是一般动词则要用助动词 do (及其变形) 来问话。如：

You **will** help me, **won't** you?

They **may** see her, **mayn't** they?

He **is** a worker, **isn't** he?

The students **work** very hard, **don't** they?

5. Of course, it was some time ago and, though I say it myself, I'm a better man now than I was then, but, honestly, I was beaten.

(当然，那是好些日子以前的事了，而且，虽然是我自己这么说，我现在比那时可是个更好的男子汉了，但说真的，我那时是给治住了。)

and, 是连接词，连接两个并列句。在第二个句子中 but 又是连接词，又连接两个并列的句子。of course 和 honestly 是插入语。

p. 2.

1. A taxi-cab, which might have been used by Lot and his family as they left Sodom and Gomorrah, took me and my luggage and struggled bravely through the traffic.  
[一辆出租汽车载着我我们的行李艰难地勇敢地在来往的车辆当中行驶。这辆出租汽车(破旧的程度)很可能就是

Lot 和他的家人。离开 Sodom 和 Gomorrah 时所乘坐的那一辆（当然这是不可能的，因为那时并没有出租汽车）]

(1) Lot 是圣经上在创世纪中的人物之一。他是犹太人的始祖 Abraham 的侄子。是个虔诚的上帝的信徒。他一家住在 Sodom。而 Sodom 和相邻的 Gomorrah 城里的人都是“坏人”（不相信上帝）。所以上帝要毁掉这两座城。在毁城之前上帝派来天使通知 Lot 和他的家人离开 Sodom, 而且叫他们出城后不要回头看。Lot 和他的两个女儿和他的妻子离开了 Sodom, 但他的妻子因为回头看了, 所以变成了一根竖柱。Hob 在这里用 Lot 离开 Sodom 来说明那辆出租汽车年代之老, 及其破旧不堪。

(2) Sodom [圣经] 在今死海边之城名（圣经中说该城居民罪恶深重, 故降天火烧毁它。）

(3) Gomorrah [圣经] 郭沫那城（和它的邻城 Sodom 一样因罪恶深重而被天火烧毁。）

(4) which might have been used... 定语从句, 说明 taxicab。

might have been... 虚拟语气, 表示与过去事实相反的动作。意思是“如果那时有出租汽车的话, 这辆可能就是...”但那时并没有出租汽车, 当然这辆就不可能就是 Lot 乘的那辆。虚拟语气中的条件句意思比较明确, 所以省略了。

(5) as they left... as 意思是“当...”“在...的时候”。

2. And what traffic and what crowds! 好多车辆呀! 好多人哪! 是感叹句。这种句子经常是省略的句子。用 What 引

出的感叹句后面跟着名词。如 What a day! What a lovely day! 用 How 引出的句子后面是形容词或副词。如：How beautiful! How fast he runs!

3. I had never believed my geography teacher when he told us there were more people in London than in the whole of my country.

（当我的地理老师告诉我们伦敦的人口比我的全国的人口还多时，我从来没有相信过他）。

4. However, I got to my little hotel at last, and the first thing that took my eye was the porter, a big fat man with a round pink face like an advertisement for babies' food.

（然而，我终于到达我的旅店，引起我注意的第一样东西是那位门房。他是位肥胖的大个子，他的面圆而带粉红色，好象婴儿食品的广告上的婴儿的脸一样。

5. as if he was washing them, and smiled without stopping, 就象他在洗手似的，而且他不停地笑。
6. What he said I could not understand,

（我不懂他说些什么，）

是个倒装句，What...said 是 understand 的宾语从句。

p. 3.

1. I said to myself, "Perhaps he doesn't speak it very well—some English people don't."

（我对自己说，“也许他英语讲得不很好——有些英国人英语讲得并不好。”

这里表示 Hob 把自己听不懂英国人讲英语说成是英国人

说得不好，而不是自己没学好。

2. ...told one of the little boys with brass buttons to show me up to my room.

（命令一个衣服上带有铜扣子的小男孩把我带到我的房间去。）

with brass buttons: 在旅馆里工作的服务员，门房等，穿的制服上都有铜扣子。

3. Ten minutes later I was lying in a hot bath washing off the last dusty reminders of the Continent;...

[十分钟以后，我躺在热水浴盆里，洗去剩下的最后一点大陆（指欧洲）的灰尘。]

4. fast asleep: 熟睡；

5. I felt hungrier than I had ever felt in my life before;

（我有生以来没有这么饿过。）

6. I seemed to have a hole instead of a stomach.

（我好象不是有肚子（胃）而是有一个洞）意思是吃多少都装不满。

7. ...but you were better fed there than in any other hotel in London;—

（但在那里的饭食比在伦敦任何旅馆的都好。）

8. I had looked three times in my dictionary to make sure that “breakfast” really meant “breakfast.”

（我查了三遍字典来证实 “breakfast” 的意思真的是 “早点”。）

(1) time 作为时间讲是不可数名词，不能有多数的形式。

如 What time is it?

Time and tide waits for no man.

(时间不等人。)

但 time 还可以做次数, 倍数讲。

如 I saw the film many times.

(这电影我看过许多次了。)

This room is three times as big as that.

(这房间是那房间的三倍)

(2) to make sure 弄确实。

9. The waiter asked me something I could not understand, but I spoke only my one prepared word, "BREAKFAST".  
侍者问我一些什么, 可我听不懂, 但只说我准备好的那一个字 "BREAKFAST"。)

(1) I could not understand 是定语从句, 说明 something;  
连接词 that 省略了。

(2) prepared 过去分词做定语。

10. Still he did not understand.

(他还是听不懂。)

Still 副词, 放在句首有强调的意思。如果不强调, 此句应写为: He still did not understand.

11. It was unbelievable that English people didn't understand their own language.

(英国人不懂得他们自己的语言是不能让人相信的。)

p. 4.

1. ...but looked as helpless as the waiter, so I took out a pencil and wrote on the table napkin, "Breakfast."

(...但他(指经理)看上去和侍者一样无能为力, 所以, 我拿出铅笔在餐巾上写 "Breakfast" 这个字。)

(1) as helpless as 意思是“和…一样无能为力”。help 是名词，在有些名词后加上“less”表示“无…的”“未…的”“不能…的”，如 hopeless. (没有希望的)，useless (无用的)，painless (不痛的)等；在这样的名词后加‘ful’则是“有…的”如 helpful (有帮助的) hopeful (有希望的)，painful (痛的)等。

(2) so, 这里是连接词，承上启下，意思是“那么”，“所以”。

2. I have never seen such surprised faces in my life—so perhaps I did not pronounce it correctly after all.

(我一生中从来没有见过这样惊奇的面孔—所以，也许我还是没有正确地读这个音。)

after all: 意思是：“虽然…还是”，“终究”，“毕竟”。

3. —enough to feed a small army—

(—足够供养一支小军队的一)

4. But I was hungry and I left nothing;

[但是，我当时很饿，所以什么也没有剩下。(即把所有的东西都吃光了。)]

left 是 leave 的过去时，在这里是作“剩下”讲。

5. I am sure I drank at least two pints of tea, ate almost a loaf of toasted bread and large quantities of butter and marmalade with it.

(我相信，我喝了至少两品脱茶，吃了大约一整条烤面包和大量的黄油和果酱。)

(1) am sure 后面跟着是省略了 that 的副句：象 sure, glad, happy, certain 这一类的形容词后面可以跟一个由 that (经常省略) 引出的副句，也可以跟不定式短



语如 He is sure to come. (他一定来。)

(2) at least 至少

(3) a loaf of 数量词。bread 是不可数名词，所以不可说 a bread，也不可用复数，但要表示数量时可以加上数量的词，如 a loaf of bread, a glass of water, a piece of paper 等。

(4) large quantities of 大量的，或 a large quantity of 也是数量词，后面可以用可数名词，也可以用不可数名词，如：a large quantity of water (bread, meat, 等) 也可以说 a large quantity of apples (pears, peanuts 等)。但与可数名词同用时只能与可量的东西，如苹果，豆子等，而一般不与不可量的东西的名词一起用，如人，桌子、椅子，等。这些名词应与 a number of 一起用。

6. ...I thought his face showed a little surprise, but you can never tell what a waiter's face really shows.

我觉得他的脸上带有点惊讶的表情，但是人们是从来看不出侍者脸上真正的表情的。)

在西方国家，服务行业的人是不能暴露出自己内心对顾客或事物的看法的，所以脸上不能有任何真实的表情。

7. In another minute he brought another tray with a huge portion of bacon and eggs.

(过了一分钟，他拿来另外一个茶盘，上面有一份很大量的咸肉和鸡蛋。)

a huge portion of 量很大的一份

8. He must have misunderstood me, but I thought it was no use explaining to people who don't understand their own

language, so I just set to work on the bacon and eggs and ate on steadily, wondering all the time whether I could possibly clear that plate.

(他肯定是误会我了,但我认为对不懂他自己的语言的人做解释是没有用的,所以我只有着手应付腊肉和鸡蛋,不停止吃起来,同时心里一直不知道我是否有可能把那盘里的东西吃完。)

(1) must have misunderstood 意思是 准是,一定,肯定误会我了。

must + 完成不定式表示对过去的事情的猜测。

(2) it was no use explaining...

it 是形式主语,实际主语是后面的动名词短语 explaining... 以 it 作形式主语而表语是: no use, no good, useless, worth-while 等时,后面一般用动名词做主语。

(3) set to 意思是“着手做什么事...” to 后面跟名词或动名词,如:

He has set to learning English.

(4) wondering... 现在分词表示伴随的情况。

(5) possibly 有强调的作用。

9. ...and was just trying to get up out of the chair when here was the waiter with another tray.

(...我正企图站起来离开椅子的时候,侍者又拿着另一个盘来了。)

just...when 意思是“正要...的时候, ...”

10. Surely this must be a joke, I thought;

(无疑地这一定是开玩笑,我想;)

Surely 意思是“当然，必然；一定”。通常放在主语前或句末，常用以表示信心或不轻信。）

11. There was nothing for it but to face that fish with what little courage I had left,...

（对这事没有别的办法只能以我剩下的那一点点勇气来面对它。…）

nothing...but to face 意思是“没有别的办法只能…”，这里的意思是“除了”。

what = the...that

p. 5.

1. I had brought my grammar book with me in case of need,...

[我带着我的语法书出来以防万一（需要用它。）]

in case of 意思是“若；如果；万一”。

2. ...but have you noticed how all these grammar books give you sentences like this;

（…但你注意到了吗？所有的这些语法书只给你象这样的句子：）

how...this: 宾语从句，做 noticed 的宾语。

3. —but not the essential English about breakfasts big enough to feed an army?

（但没有关于足够用来供养一支军队的早点的基础英语。）

这是省略句，相当于 but do not give...)

4. But at last I had made up two sentences in my mind—avoiding verbs as much as possible, because I was never sure which were irregular.

(但我终于在心里造了两个句子, 尽量避免用动词因为我从来不敢肯定哪些是不规则动词。)

5. ...only a man who was dying of hunger could eat such a breakfast.

(...只有饿得要死的人才能吃这样一顿早餐。)

6. This was too much. 意思是“这不是我能力所及的”“这太难了”。“这太过分了。”

7. I gave up the struggle. (我放弃了斗争。)

8. I got up and made my way slowly and heavily to my room—at least five pounds heavier.

(我站了起来, 缓慢地, 沉重地走回我的房间——至少体重增加了五磅。)

9. I never believed until then that any meal could defeat me, but on that day I met my Waterloo.

(直至那时我从来不相信任何一餐饭食能把我治住, 但是, 那天我被征服了。)

Waterloo: 华特卢, 比利时中部的一小镇。1815 年在那里拿破仑一世被英国将军 Wellington 和普鲁士元帅 Blücher 战败。这是一次彻底的失败。英语用 “to meet one's Waterloo” 来表示 “彻底的失败。”

## 第 二 课

p. 9.

1. How much longer are you staying in England, Olaf?  
(Olaf, 你还要在英国呆多长时间?)

在一个人已经在一地方呆了一段时间, 而要问他还要呆多久时这样问。但如果这人刚到一地方, 则要问。 “How long are you staying in England” ?

2. I don't quite know, but I shall be here for another year at any rate, probably two years.

(我不太知道, 但我至少还要呆一年, 可能两年。)  
at any rate 意思是“至少”, “无论如何”。

3. I want to go to Cambridge.

我要上剑桥大学。

4. Then he wanted me to spend two or three years with Mr. Priestley and try for an English degree at Cambridge.

(然后, 他要我跟 Mr. Priestley 学两年或三年, 然后到剑桥大学考英语的学位。

try for: 试图得到, 争取 (尤指职位)

如 try for a degree, scholarship, a job, etc.

争取学位, 奖金、工作等。

5. Have you enjoyed your stay in England?

(你在英国住的期间过得很高兴吗?)

enjoy 意思是“享受”“乐于”“享乐”“过得快乐”。但在句中如何翻译比较困难。要根据上下文来译。如 Did you enjoy your trip? (你旅行玩得高兴吗?)

He enjoyed the dinner very much.

(他那顿饭吃得很好。)

6. I knew it would be pleasant but I didn't think I should meet such interesting people.

(我知道我在英国会过得很愉快,但我没有想到我会遇到那么有趣的人。)

such 和 so 一样意思是“那么,多么;这样”但 such 是形容词,后面跟名词;而 so 是副词,后面要跟形容词或副词。

如 ...I should meet so many interesting people.

(我会遇到那么多有趣的人。)

I didn't know he could run so fast.

(我不知道他能跑得那么快。)

比较 I didn't know he was such a fast runner. (我不知道他跑得那么快。)

7. I am going into my father's business,...

(我打算进入我父亲的企业, ...)

p. 10.

1. At first I didn't think it would...

[开始时,我不认为它(搞我父亲的企业)有趣。]

全句应是: I didn't think it would be interesting...

2. I thought life in an office was very dull.

(我认为坐办公室的生活是很枯燥的。)

3. I said that nothing would ever make me go into an office.

(我说没有任何东西能使我去做办公室的工作。)  
ever 有强调的作用。

4. ...I shall earn fame and fortune by my pictures.

(我要用我的画来挣得我的名与利)

5. Of course I was only fifteen or sixteen and hadn't much sense.

(当然那时我才十五、六岁，没有多少见识。)  
sense: 理性，见识，常识。

6. He said that my picture would hang in the British Museum long after Rubens and Rembrandt were forgotten.

(他说我的画在 Rubens and Rembrandt 被遗忘很久以后还会挂在英国博物馆里。)

(1) Rubens, Peter Paul (1577—1640) 是佛兰德 (Flanders) 名画家，佛兰德是欧洲中世纪伯爵领地，包括现在比利时的东佛兰德省和西佛兰德省以及法国北部部分地区。

(2) Rembrandt, Van Rejis, Paul (1606—1669)

是世界上最著名的画家之一，出生在 Leiden，在西荷兰。

7. But he added, "But not until they are forgotten."

[但他加了一句“但是不会在它们被遗忘之前” (挂到英国博物馆里。)]

8. Macasso thought the old man would make a good subject for a picture,...

(Macasso 认为这位老人是绘画的好题材...)

9. ...“but I am wondering how I shall get the paint off afterwards.”

(但我不知道过后我如何把漆洗掉。)

画家 Macasso 想用老渔夫做他绘画的题材但英语 paint 可以当绘画讲，也可以做油漆讲。老渔夫误认为 Macasso 要往他身上涂漆。

p. 11.

1. To come back to your story,...

(言归正传，) 这是不定式表示的插入语，表示说话人的态度，语气转折等，如

To tell you the truth...

(说老实话)

To be frank... (老实说)

2. He was very good about it.

关于这事他很通情达理。

3. Stockholm 斯德哥尔摩，瑞典首都。

4. ...it was a waste of time for him to go on teaching me.

(他继续教我是浪费时间)。

(1) it 是形式主语，实际主语是后面 for him to go on teaching me.

(2) for him to go on teaching me 是不定式短语，for him 是不定式 to go on 的逻辑主语。

(3) go on 后跟 teaching 是动名词。

5. “You will never be a painter,” he said, “not if you live to be a hundred....”

(他说：“你永远成不了画家。即使你活到一百岁也成不



了。)

6. ...that was honest enough, but rather hard on you.

(话说得够坦率的, 但使你相当难堪。)

to be hard on(a person)对(某人)过分严厉。

7. Oh, I didn't mind. (哦, 我不在乎。)

8. ...to get a good knowledge of the organisation of the business.

(去学好企业的组织, 体制。)

9. We do a lot of business with England.

(我们和英国作许多营业。)

10. ...., he would arrange for me to go into an English firm to learn English business methods.

(他会安排让我到一个英国的商行去学习英国营业方法。)

11. So I suppose that some day you will be managing a ship-ping business in Stockholm.

(那么, 我想(将来)总有一天你将在斯德哥尔摩经营海运行业了。)

some day 意思是“(将来)总有一天。”

12. ...I should be able to run the business.

(我应该能管理这行业了。)

run 在这里作“管理、经营”讲, 它的本意是“跑”, 其他还能作“开动(机器)”讲, 如 to run a machine.

13. That sounds fine. 听起来很不错。

sound 可作名词, 意思是“声音”。

也可作动词, 常作系词用。意思是“听起来”“听上去”, 等如:

How does the plan sound to you?