

英语课本

第五册

中国人民解放军洛阳外国语学院

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Lesson One

The Moon

H. C. King

The moon is our nearest natural neighbour in space. It is also the earth's only natural satellite, for the word 'satellite' means 'companion' or 'follower'. As the earth journeys through space, so the moon constantly travels around it. It has been doing so, we think, for thousands of millions of years and will probably continue to do so for many thousands of millions of years to come. It is therefore already a very old moon, although every time it visits our skies it seems to grow and die within a month.

We marvel when an artificial earth-satellite a few feet across is sent up a few hundred miles and made to go round the earth. But this is really a trivial thing compared with what Nature has done. Nature's earth-satellite, which we call the moon, is 2,160 miles across. Its average distance is 238,900 miles, but since its path is

slightly oval this can increase to 252,700 miles and decrease to 221,500 miles from the earth.

You can get a good idea of the sizes of the earth and moon and the distance between them by making a simple model. Choose a tennis-ball for the earth, an ordinary marble for the moon, and place them six feet apart. The six feet represents the moon's distance of about a quarter of a million miles—a distance so great that, if an express train could travel to the moon, it would take nearly six months on the journey.

When we look at the moon in the ordinary way, we see that it has dark and bright patches on its face. A telescope shows the dark patches as great plains and the bright patches as mountains and valleys. These things are always clearly seen when our own sky is clear, for the moon has no clouds or mists of its own. In fact, it seems to have hardly any atmosphere at all. It has no seas, lakes or rivers, or water in any form. There are no forests, prairies or green fields and certainly no towns or cities. In fact, it is a dead world—dead, silent and barren.

Let us suppose we are standing on the moon's surface. We stand in the emptiness of space. Above us the

sky is quite black except for a covering of thousands of stars and the brilliant white ball of the sun. We dare not even glance at the sun for otherwise we should be blinded. So great is its heat that at the moon's equator at midday the ground beneath our feet has the temperature of boiling water. If to escape the heat we move far into the night side of the moon, we find that the temperature can go down to about 180 degrees of frost. We are on a world of extremes of temperature, for there is hardly any atmosphere to shield the surface by day and to keep in the heat by night. Day and night, moreover, each last nearly fourteen days, for the moon rotates only once on itself as it makes one $29\frac{1}{2}$ -day journey round the earth.

Just think of it—daytime on the moon lasts nearly fourteen of our days! For nearly fourteen days the surface is baked in the merciless heat of the sun. This explains the desolation which lies all around us. We are in a wilderness far worse than the Sahara Desert. We hear no sound, for there is not enough air to carry the sound. We see no signs of life, for life as we know it cannot live where there is practically no atmosphere and where there are such great changes of temperature. We find

no water nor even traces of water, for the moon appears never to have had water on its surface. We look at the earth, which hangs high in the lunar sky and appears much larger than the sun. We notice too that the earth, like the moon seen from the earth, appears to go through phases. This reminds us yet again how much the earth depends upon the sun for its light and heat.

One way of escaping the great heat of day and the cold of night would be to tunnel underground. But the ground may be less solid than it looks. Some astronomers think that the moon is covered with dust which may be compact and firm in some places but quite loose in others. Before you travel to the moon it is important to be sure about this. After all, you may land on what appears to be solid ground only to find, when it is too late, that you and your space-ship are buried in dust.

Of all the many different objects on the moon the ringed mountains or craters are the most striking. Many of them are just a few miles across but several are 60 or 70 miles in diameter. Sometimes, when the sun is low in the lunar sky, these and other giant craters look like deep pits. This is only because their mountains cast long shadows which stretch right across the crater floor. They

are really saucer-like hollows and are therefore not deep at all. The ring of mountains often encloses a great plain, and sometimes we see a group of high mountains in the middle. In this respect the moon's craters are quite different from the craters of the volcanoes on earth.

The moon still has many secrets. We do not know how the craters were formed. They may be the result of a bombardment from outer space which took place long ago. Perhaps great numbers of meteorites from interplanetary space once rained down on the moon to strike its surface with explosive violence. On the other hand the craters may have been formed by great forces pushing outwards from inside the moon. We do not know what the bright streaks are that we can see so clearly about the time of full moon. Long, narrow, and jagged, they go over mountains, valleys and plains alike. Nor do we know how the moon was formed in the first place. Did it break off from the earth at some very distant time in the past to become the child of the earth? Or has it grown up in space on its own and always been separate from the earth? Now that man has landed on the moon, these and other questions will probably be answered by a direct study of its rocks, mountains and craters by and

by.

Notes

1. This passage is taken from *Worlds in Space*, a book written by an H.C. King. It can also be found in *Discovering English, Book 3*.
2. The moon: the body which revolves around the earth monthly at a mean distance of 238,857 miles, accompanying the earth in its annual revolution about the sun. It is about the same age as the earth — 4,600,000,000 years old.
3. In fact it seems to have no atmosphere at all: There is no atmosphere on the moon. Many kinds of rays travel through space. They are called radiation. The heat and light of the sun are forms of radiation. Life on the earth depends on them. But there are other kinds of radiation that are a danger to life. Our earth's atmosphere filters out most dangerous radiation before it reaches us. But the moon has no atmosphere like ours and is therefore exposed to radiation of all kinds.
4. the phases of the moon: (1) When the side of the moon facing us gets no light from the sun, we cannot see the moon. This phase is New Moon. (2) After a few days we see just the slight edge of the moon. This is Crescent

Moon. (3) Then we see about half of the lighted side. This phase is First Quarter. (4) The Gibbous Phase (when the moon is more than half full). (5) Full Moon. (6) The Gibbous Phase. (7) Last Quarter. (8) Crescent. (9) Finally we are back to New Moon, a little more than $29\frac{1}{2}$ days after the previous New Moon.

Exercises

1. What is implied in saying that the moon is "the earth's only natural satellite"?
2. The writer says that the moon is 'a very old moon', but at the same time he says that it grows and dies every month. Explain this apparent contradiction.
3. Discuss some of the ways in which our atmosphere makes the earth a suitable place for us to live, and contrast them with the conditions of the moon.
4. State briefly the chief features that make the moon such an unsuitable place for human beings.
5. What means are adopted by mankind for reaching the moon? How successful have they been so far?
6. Should man make so great an effort to reach so barren a place?
7. Paraphrase the following:
 - (1) But this is really a trivial thing compared with what

Nature has done.

- (2) We are on a world of extremes of temperature, for there is hardly any atmosphere to shield the surface by day and to keep in the heat by night.
- (3) After all, you may land on what appears to be solid ground only to find, when it is too late, that you and your space-ship are buried in dust.
- (4) Nor do we know how the moon was formed in the first place.

8. Fill in each blank with a word from the list given below:
travel, trip, journey, voyage, slight, little, small, empty,
hollow, beneath, under

- (1) He cannot come today because he has got a
headache.
- (2) A knowledge is a dangerous thing.
- (3) My shoes pinch, they are too.
- (4) Thirty minutes after the performance the theatre was
., the only one left being an old stage hand.
- (5) His words sound as as a drum. I am
afraid he is being insincere.
- (6) His mother told him not to put his shoes
the bed.
- (7) The fossils were found the rocks.
- (8) I don't know what lies the sheet of paper,
you may see for yourself.

- (9) I was sea-sick on my home.
- (10) I make a(n) to the suburbs every weekend with my brother.
- (11) Having reached our 's end, we checked in at a hotel.
- (12) Many birds north in June.
9. If you wish to emphasize an idea, you will find that three statements are stronger than two or merely one. There are many ways in which three statements can be expressed. The following sentences from the text serve to show some of these ways:
- Here are three adjectives used for emphasis:
In fact, it is a dead world — dead, silent and barren.
 - Here are three adjectives and three nouns in the same sentence:
Long, narrow, and jagged, they go over mountains, valleys and plains alike.
 - Here are three main clauses of the same structure:
We hear no sound, . . . We see no signs of life. . . We find no water nor even traces of water. . .
- In order to practise this form of emphasis, write sentences on the following subjects or any subjects you like:
- a noisy place
 - a crowded street

- c. a very cold morning
- d. what you do every morning
- e. a little baby

10. Give five words with 'inter-' as prefix and five with '-ness' as suffix.

11. Make sentences using the following as your models:

- (1) As the earth journeys through space, so the moon constantly travels around it.

Example: As fish cannot live without water, so man cannot do without air.

- (2) But this is really a trivial thing compared with what Nature has done.

Example: The captain's wound was slight compared with that of the G.I.

- (3) We dare not even glance at the sun for otherwise we should be blinded.

Example: We should be ever on the alert, for otherwise we should be taken by surprise.

- (4) ...you may land on what appears to be solid ground only to find...that you and your spaceship are buried in dust.

Example: I ran to the station only to find that the train had pulled out.

12. Cloze Test:

Man has always dreamed of escape from to

other parts of the universe. In years he has achieved the technological knowledge and the skills necessary to the first steps in this venture. to the moon was achieved with outstanding success on July 20, 1969, men landed on the moon for the time, in the historic Apollo 11 mission. The flight was by many unmanned probes that landed on the moon or orbited the moon, sending back invaluable information radio and television.

. of the most interesting aspects of space exploration is the search for extraterrestrial (地球外的) life. At present it is not known life exists elsewhere in the universe, although it seems that it may. Evidence from the Apollo manned lunar flights virtually rules out the that life exists now or has existed in the on the moon.

13. Rewrite each of the following sentences, changing one sentence in each pair into an adverbial clause. Make any alterations where necessary.

(1) Time

- a. Tom ran out.

We could not stop him in time.

- b. I can't give you a definite answer right now.
I'll let you know when I have made a direct study

of the matter.

- c. He was speaking.

Everyone listened carefully.

- d. We asked him to stop smoking.

Every time we did so he refused.

(2) Place

- a. Traffic accidents often happen (there).

Two main roads meet (there).

- b. You may be assigned anywhere.

You must be prepared to go there.

- c. Flowers grow only in certain places.

There is sunlight in those places.

(3) Cause or reason

- a. We have no choice.

We must do as you say.

- b. He had to stay in hospital for two months.

He was in very poor shape.

- c. Man has explored the moon first.

The moon is our nearest natural neighbor in space.

- d. The moon is thought to be a dead world.

There is no atmosphere on it.

14. Complete the following sentences with adverbial clauses:

- (1) The heat of the sun is so great ... (result)

- (2) ... (condition) we can see great plains, mountains

and valleys on the moon.

- (3) The surface of the earth has always been changing ... (time)
 - (4) Men were filled with wonder. ... (time)
 - (5) We could escape the great heat of day and the cold of night on the moon. ... (condition)
 - (6) Nature is doing marvels everyday. ... (concession)
 - (7) You'll find the text much more difficult. . . (比表面上看起来)
 - (8) I plunged into what appeared to be a hot spring only to find, ... (为时已晚), that I was shivering all over in the ice-cold water.
15. Construct a short paragraph containing a few sentences with object-clauses. You can, if you like, use one of the following as your beginning sentence:
- The space still has many secrets.
 - The sun still has many secrets.
 - The cancer still has many secrets.
16. Insert articles where necessary:

Moon is great round rock circling earth. It is earth's only natural satellite. Statellite is object that travels in path, or orbit, around some larger object.

Moon's orbit is ellipse, shape like slightly flattened circle. Because moon follows this elliptical orbit, its distance from earth changes. When it comes closest, moon

is 221,463 miles from us. At its greatest distance, moon is 252,710 miles away.

Moon moves at average speed of 2,287 miles per hour as it orbits earth. It speeds up bit when it gets nearer to earth. Earth's gravitational pull (引力) on moon is stronger then. At greater distances moon slows down little.

Diameter of moon is 2,160 miles, about one fourth diameter of earth. Our moon is not biggest satellite in solar system, but it is biggest compared with size of planet that it circles. Earth and moon are sometimes called double planetary system. They are more like two planets circling each other than planet with much smaller satellite.

Composition

1. English sentences can be classified according to form: simple, compound, or complex. They can also be classified according to rhetoric:
 - (1) The periodic sentence, which does not complete its main thought until its close.

e.g. The resolution thus being taken, they set out the next day.

Of all the many different objects on the moon

the ringed mountains or craters are ~~the most~~ striking.

Sometimes, when the sun is low in the lunar sky, these and other giant craters look like deep pits.

- (2) The loose sentence, which may be brought to a close in two or more places, and in each case makes a complete thought.

e.g. This is my friend Bob, who has just joined the Navy.

It is also the earth's only natural satellite, for the word 'satellite' means 'companion' or 'follower'.

We look at the earth, which hangs high in the lunar sky and appears much larger than the sun.

2. Sometimes several consecutive sentences are formed alike to iterate or illustrate the same idea. This is called parallel construction. For example, in the 6th paragraph of our text we see three parallel sentences:

- (1) We hear no sound, for there is not enough air to carry the sound.
- (2) We see no signs of life, for life as we know it cannot live where there is practically no atmosphere and where there are such great changes of temperature.
- (3) We find no water nor even traces of water, for the