

新版

第四册

大学英语精读 重难点突破

主编 辛春雷 张维峰
主审 葛维雷



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Unit 1**Big Bucks the Easy Way****I. Background Information****Minimum wage**

Minimum wage is the smallest amount of money per hour that an employer may legally pay a worker. It is fixed by law, agreement, or other means. In the United States, minimum wage laws are made by the federal government and state and municipal government. The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, popularly known as the Federal Wage and Hour Law, established a minimum wage of 25 cents an hour. The minimum wage has since been increased by amendments to Fair Labor Standards Act in 1949, 1955, 1961, 1966, 1974, and 1977. The 1977 amendment raised the minimum wage in stages from \$2.65 an hour in 1978 to \$3.35 an hour by 1981. By 1991, the minimum wage reached \$4.25 an hour. And by Sept. 1997, it had reached \$5.15.

II. Pre-reading Questions

1. What did the ad printed on the bag promise?

2. What did the father tell his college sons to think about? Why did he want them to do so?
3. How did they respond to their father's suggestion at first? Why was he hurt by their response?
4. What job did the company offer the two boys? Why were they overjoyed to take it?
5. What did their mother blame their father for?
6. What measures did the college men take to get the job done on time?
7. Why did the kids stage strike?
8. What did the father say was the right way to make employees exert their utmost? How did he persuade his eldest son to his way of thinking?
9. How did the boy settle their accounts after the job was completed?
10. What happened one Sunday morning?

III. Discourse Analysis

1. Main Idea

Having looked into Father's suggestion, the two sons undertake the delivery of ad inserts and accept it as "piece of cake" to get big bucks. Millions of pages of ad inserts are brought to their home to be hand-delivered to 4 000 houses by 7 Sunday morning with payment of \$ 600 in all. By hiring children to help, they manage to get the work done, with the final profit of \$ 185 each for 91 hours paid off. It turns out that there is no easy way to make lots of money or become successful in the

world. However, they have quickly learned some management as cooperation, efficiency, and business ethics. Then another try of making money by selling their family's library tells us that they should also understand that books are as valuable as, or even more valuable than money.

2. Structure of the Text

Part One (L1—L5): The author suggested to his two college-age sons that they should look into the message and find a way to avoid the indignity of having to ask for money.

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不容易才与长子通上电话后便“咆哮如雷”就能奏效吗?

“In the language of diplomacy, there is movement.” (Lines 57—58)

Investigation revealed that they were offering “for sale or rent” our entire library. (Lines 102—103) 夫妻间交谈,若非存有芥蒂,何以操外交辞令,称“事情有所进展”呢?妻子对丈夫的不满情绪跃然纸上。另外两个小儿子将家中全部藏书“出售或出租”,是经“调查”之后才获悉的,则反映了作者对知识的严肃态度。

2) 语气(tone)、声调(intonation) 渲染气氛

“Super!” she snapped. “Just supper!” (Line15) (She said sharply with anger in her voice.) 表明妻子声色俱厉,没有好气。Her voice was unnaturally high and quavering. (Lines 37—38) (Her voice was rather high and trembling.) 她的声音震耳欲聋,带着几份颤抖,显然是因为激动,怨气很大。

Her voice kept rising, as if working its way out of range of the human ear. (Lines 46—47) (Her voice became louder and louder, as if it was going to destroy the human ear.) 在这里,幽默来自夸张,是妻子夸大了孩子们“吃尽苦头”的事实,却也反映了妻子疼爱孩子们的心理,但同时也衬托出了丈夫希望他们战胜困难,从而“避免伸手要钱有失尊严之事”的愿望。

3) 本文作者在文章开头使用单刀直入的手法向孩子们提出一个维护人的尊严的大课题。在文章结尾处作者又通过两个孩子要出售或出租其父书籍一事,说明作者构思的绝妙与良苦。这种首尾呼应的写作方法虽为常见,但向本文作者运用到如此自然纯熟的程度却不多见。这也是我们应当学习的写作技巧之一。

IV. Language Points

1. indignity: n. injury to one's dignity; insult 有损尊严的言行;
侮辱

Peter felt it an indignity to work under a woman.

彼得觉得在女士领导下工作有失尊严。

They treated the country woman with indignity.

他们侮辱那位村妇。

2. look into

- 1) direct one's eyes into; try to see in something 向……内看;
往……深处看

I look into the room but no one was there.

我向屋子里面看,但里面没有人。

- 2) try to find information in sth.; examine quickly or not
deeply 浏览;查看

He makes it a rule never to look into a newspaper.

他为自己定了一条从不看报纸的规矩。

- 3) examine; try to find the truth about 研究;调查

The police are look into the disappearance of the jewelry.

警察正在调查这起珠宝失踪案。

3. deliver: vt. take (a letter, a parcel, goods) to houses or buyers 送信;送货(注意在表达此意时,不可用 send。send a letter 是通过邮局寄信。)

The postman at last delivered the letter we had been waiting for.

邮递员终于送来了我们一直在盼望的信。

Did you deliver my message to my father?

你把我的便条交给我父亲了吗?

4. live with; accept sth. unpleasant 接受;忍受

You must live with the fact that you are too old to react quickly.

您已上了年纪,不能作出迅速反应,您必须接受这个事实。

We can't live with the noise of planes.

我们忍受不了飞机的噪音。

5. It pains me to find that you both have been panhandling so long that it no longer embarrasses you. — I am terribly sorry to see that you two have been asking for money all these days and you are not even feeling embarrassed. 看到你们两个人伸手要钱要惯了却一点也不感到难为情,使我很痛心。
第一个 it 作形式主语,真正的主语是 find...不定式短语。第一个 that 从句是 find 的宾语,另一个 that 作 so long 的状语。

6. inquire

- 1) v. ask (sth.) to be told 询问

搭配:

inquire (of sb.) wh-to-动词

inquire (of sb.) wh-clause

inquire into (a matter.) 调查(一件事)

inquire for (sb./sth. You want to get) 询问是否有……, 求见

inquire about (sth. You want to learn about) 询问……的情况

He inquired of the librarian whether they had got the book.

他询问图书管理员是否有那本书。

We inquired of him where to go.

我们问他去哪里。

2) cf: inquire, ask, question 都可指“问”,其区别在于:

inquire 后不接“人”作宾语,如不可说 inquire sb. sth., inquire sb. wh- + to inf. /clause。而 ask 和 question 后可接“人”作宾语。

误: I inquired him what he wanted.

正: I inquired of him what he wanted.

ask 常指对不知道的事提出问题以期得到答案。inquire 则较为正式,指为得到确切情况而详细“询问”或“调查了解”。

question 指不断询问,以期了解详细情况,常有“盘问”、“审问”之意。

They all inquired what had happened in that remote village.

他们都询问在那遥远的村庄发生了什么。

I have something to ask you.

我有件事要问你。

Some witnesses on the scene were also questioned by the police.

警察也询问了一些在场的目击者。

7. pull up

1) Lift; raise...by pulling 拉; 拔起(树、草等)

The climbers obtained their supplies by letting down a rope and pulling them up.

登山者放下绳子,吊上他们的用品。

The old tree will have to be pulled up by its roots.

这棵老树必须连根拔起。

2) (cause to) move forward 向前移

Pull up a chair (to the table) and join the conversation.

拉把椅子过来,一起谈。

3) (cause to) come to a stop (使)停下来

The car pulled up in front of the teaching building.

小汽车在教学大楼前停了下来。

The driver pulled the bus up only just in time to avoid hitting the child.

司机及时把车停住,差点把这孩子撞到。

cf: pull into: (列车)到达;开过

The train pulled into the station on time.

列车准时到站。

We pulled into the station on the stroke of eight.

我们8点准时到站。

pull out: (列车)从……开出; (船)从……划出

The train pulled out of the station right on time.

列车正点从车站驶出。

Suddenly the car in front of us pulled out and nearly caused an accident.

我们前面的那辆汽车突然开出来,差点造成一起事故。

8. What I was being blamed for, it turn out, was a newspaper strike which made it necessary to hand-deliver the advertising inserts that normally are included with the Sunday paper. — I was blamed because there was a newspaper strike and thus the advertising inserts had to be delivered by hand, but normally they are included with the Sunday paper. 我之所以受到责备,原来是由于一起报业工人罢工,使通常夹在星期日报纸里的广告插页,必须派人直接送出去。

It turned out 在句中作插入语,意为“原来是”;第二个 it

为 made 的形式宾语,真正的主语是不定式短语。that 引导的从句作 inserts 的定语。

turn out:

- 1) happen to be in the end. 结果是;原来是;证明是

The day turned out (to be) fine.

天气最终转为晴朗。

The person I spoke to turned out to be the president.

和我说话的那个人原来是校长。

- 2) be present in large number at an event 大批出动

The police turned out in force twenty minutes later.

警察二十分钟之后大批出动了。

The fire brigade turned out as soon as they heard the warning signal.

消防队员一听到报警信号就大批出动了。

- 3) make or produce 生产;培养;制造

The factory turns out more than 1 000 cars a month.

该厂每月生产 1 000 多辆小汽车。

The school turns out well-behaved students.

该校培养出来的人彬彬有礼。

9. piece of cake; (informal) sth. very easy to do (非正式) 非常容易的事;小事一桩

Learning English is anything but a piece of cake.

学习英语决非易事。

He thought driving was a piece of cake.

他认为驾驶车是件轻而易举的事。

10. inform; tell; give information to 告诉;通知;告知

常用句型:

inform sb. of/about sth.

inform sb. that-clause

The doctor is supposed to inform the patient about their conditions.

医生应该把病情告知患者。

He informed us that the meeting had been cancelled.

他通知我们,会议已经被取消了。

cf: tell, inform, notify

tell 指以口头或书面形式把事情、情况、消息等“告诉”别人。常可代替 inform。

inform 指把确定的事情、情况等正式“通知”、“传达”、“告诉”给某人。多用于比较庄重和正式的场合,书面语的意味较浓。

notify 则指正式函件、公告通知。试比较:

He told me that I had passed the exam.

他告诉我,我通过了考试。

The department of teaching affairs informed me that I had passed CET-4.

教务处通知我,我通过了大学英语四级考试。

Please notify the matter to the authorities.

请把这件事告诉当局。

11. I had had a marvelous steak, but know better by now than to say so. 我吃的牛排好极了,但是现在还是不说为妙。

know better than to do sth. : be wise or sensible enough not to do sth. 很懂得,明白(而不至于……),不至于蠢到……

She certainly knows better than to go there alone.

她很清楚她是不能一人去的。

You should know better than to play football in the classroom.

你应清楚在教室里不能踢球。

12. make a dent in: (informal) make a first step towards success in (非正式)迈出第一步,略有进展

Jim studied all afternoon and only make a dent in his homework.

吉姆学习了整整一个下午,可他的家庭作业没完成多少。

It's already dark and we have not made a dent in this pile of work.

天已经黑了,可我们的工作还未取得进展。

13. cut into: make less; reduce 使减少;缩减

High wages cut into the profits of the factory.

高工资减少了工厂的利润。

The poor location of the house cuts into its value.

这幢房子地段不好,影响了它的价值。

cf: cut into; cut down

cut into 虽有“reduce”之意,似乎和 cut down 同义,但实际上两者意义上还是有区别的,其差别在于:

- 1) cut into: use part of (sth. such as money, time) unwillingly 不情愿地使用部分(钱或时间)

I shall have to cut into my savings to pay for the holiday.

我将为支付休假费而不得不减少积蓄。

- 2) cut down (on) sth. = cut back (on) sth.: reduce (sth.) esp. to save money 特为省钱而减少……

In these times of rising prices, we must all cut down (on) our spending.

在这物价上涨时期,我们都必须压缩开支。

14. “Dad, you have just worked a profound change in my personality.” The bonus program had worked until someone

demanded to see the color of cash.

- 1) 第一句中的 work 为及物动词,意为 bring about, produce (result or effects)。又如:

The latest treatment has worked wonders on my rheumatism.

新近的治疗对我的风湿病产生了神奇的效果。

Time works many changes.

时间会带来许多变化。

- 2) 第二句中的 work 为不及物动词,意为 be active in a proper way, be effective。又如:

If my scheme works, we'll be rich.

如果我的计划成功,我们会发财的。

Your idea won't work in practice.

你的观点在实践中不会奏效。

15. have no business to do /doing (sth.); have no right or reason to do sth. 没有权利或理由去做某事

The superpower has no business to interfere our internal affairs.

超级大国无权干涉我们的内政。

He had no business saying such things about his friend.

他这样说他的朋友毫无道理。

16. settle for ; accept (sth. That is not completely satisfactory)
勉强同意;勉强接受

We wanted two single rooms at the hotel, but had to settle for a room with two beds instead.

我们需要两个单人房间,但未能如愿,最后也只好同意合住一个双人房间。

Many women refuse to settle for staying home as house-