

精读

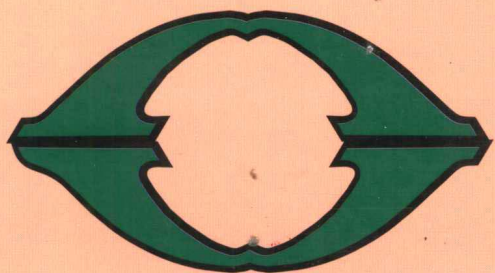
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A TRUE ENGLISH CLASSROOM

全英文课堂

大学英语精读课题研究组
丛书主编 万之



全

英文授课，是提高英语学习效率的最佳途径
也是英语教学的趋势与必然

英文授课，不仅倍增英文信息获取量
而且引导你用英文思考

第一天适应全英文教学环境
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大学英语精读

全英文课堂

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前

言

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——万之

2002.8

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Unit 1

A Brush with the Law

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I. Learning Target

I). Key Words and Expressions:

Words: circumstance; due; obvious; commit; confirm; dismiss; award; respectable; reliable; guilty; complain

Expressions: take sb. to court; save up; take one's time; call on; stand a chance; revolve around; turn against

II). **Grammar:** The use of the phrase "turn out"
The use of "given"

III). Reading Skills:

How to Use a Dictionary

We would advise you to use an all - English dictionary, as it provides you with word definitions often impossible to learn in other ways. You must familiarize yourself with a dictionary and learn how to use it before it begins to work well for you. You should be familiar with various kinds of signs according to the guide to the dictionary.

IV). Text:

This text is a first person narrative writing in style. The author shows his experience in a flashback. He designs the whole structure by using the sentence "It makes a good story now" as the breakthrough, remarking while narrating. The text can be divided into the following three sections:

1. Section one (Para. 1) : An unpleasant experience that makes a good story now.
2. Section two (Para. 2 - 19) : The process of the arbitrary arrest and release.
3. Section three (Para. 20 - 22) : The author's final remarks.

V). Writing Skills:

How to Write a Good Summary According to the Given Materials

1. Read the original material very carefully.
2. Isolate the key phrases from the decorative ones.
3. Start the first draft of continuous prose.

4. Omit all examples, illustrations and quotations in the original text.
5. Strike out all the adjectives and adverbs.
6. Never repeat material.
7. Write in shortish, crisp sentences.
8. Try to use your own words to cover the meanings of the original.
9. Do not pass an opinion of judgment of your own.
10. Read the final summary and make sure that every word counts.

II. Background Information of the Text

1. *Magistrates and the magistrates' court*

A magistrate is a local member of the judiciary having limited jurisdiction, especially in criminal cases. In England, every district has a magistrates' court. It is the lowest court of law. All criminal cases brought to trial in England begin in the magistrates' court. The limit of sentence imposed by a magistrates' court is twelve months imprisonment or a fine not to exceed 400. Appeals from a magistrates' court go to the High Court or the Crown Court.

2. *lawyer, attorney, counselor, counsel, barrister, solicitor*

These nouns denote persons who practice law.

Lawyer refers to one whose profession is to give legal advice and assistance to clients and represent them in court or in other legal matters. Lawyer is the general and most comprehensive term.

Attorney is often used interchangeably with lawyer, but in a narrower sense it denotes a legal agent for a client in the transaction of business.

Counselor and counsel are terms for persons who give legal advice and serve as trial lawyers counsel also applies to a team of lawyers employed in conducting a case.

Barrister refers principally to a British trial lawyer.

In England a solicitor is a lawyer whose practice is devoted largely to serving as a legal agent, representing clients in lower courts, and preparing cases for barristers to try in superior courts; in the United States the term denotes the chief law officer of a city, town, or governmental department.

3. *The Sixties' "Youth Counterculture"*

The Sixties' "Youth Counterculture" refers to a culture, especially of young people, with values or lifestyles in opposition to those of the established culture. The counterculture first arose in the U. S. and soon spread to European countries. The word "counterculture" was coined in the 1960's for the attitude and life style of many young Western people who rejected conventional social values and demanded more personal freedom. Unable to find a more reasonable and constructive way of struggling against the existing state of affairs in their society, they took great pride in wearing long hair and unusual clothes and even indulged themselves in, drugs, alcohol sex, and rock music. The counterculture declined in the late 1970's.

III. Summary of the Text

The author tells us his unpleasant experience of having trouble with the law. The

policemen arrested him simply because they found him wearing long untidy hair and wandering aimlessly in the streets, and they thought he might want to steal milk bottles from doorsteps. In fact, at that time he was walking in the streets, and thinking of finding a temporary job to earn some money for travelling. Finally he was set free without a criminal record because of his "right accent", his respectable, middle-class parents, his reliable witness, and his very good solicitor. All these sound funny, but the real purpose of this story is to expose an unfair phenomenon in his country. It is safe to say that the law in his society is not fair or perfect and that not everybody is equal before the law.

IV. Key Words and Expressions

1. Words:

1. **circumstance** *n.*

(1) [C usually pl.] condition or fact connected with an event or action
e. g. What were the circumstances of/surrounding her death? i. e. Where, when and how did she die?

(2) [pl.] financial position

e. g. He is in easy/poor circumstances, i. e. having much/not enough money

[idiom] (1) in/under the circumstances; this being the case; such being the state of affairs (2) in/under no circumstances; in no case; never

[synonym] circumstances, background, setting, environment, milieu

All these nouns mean the place, time, and circumstances in which something occurs.

(1) *Circumstance* implies a specific detail attending an action or event as part of its setting or background.

e. g. He couldn't recall the exact circumstances.

(2) *Background* often refers to the circumstances or events that precede a phenomenon or development.

e. g. The shocking decision was part of the background of the riots.

(3) *Setting* suggests looking at real-life situations in literary or dramatic terms.

e. g. A militant reformer was born into an unlikely social setting.

(4) *Environment* applies to all the external factors that have a formative influence on one's physical, mental, or moral development.

e. g. The kind of environment produces juvenile delinquents.

(5) *Milieu* applies especially to the physical and social surroundings of a person or group of persons.

e. g. It is an intellectual milieu conducive to artistic experimentation.

[derivative] (1) *circumstantial adj.* (belonging to, consisting in, or dependent on circumstances) (2) *circumstanced adj.* (placed in particular circumstances especially in regard to property or income)

2. **due** 1. *adj.*

(1) [predicative] [~ to sb.] owed as a debt or an obligation; [~ for sth.] owed sth.; deserving sth.

e. g. Have they been paid the money due to them?

She's due for promotion soon.

(2) [predicative] requiring immediate payment

e. g. My rent isn't due till Wednesday.

(3) [predicative] ~ to do sth. : scheduled; arranged; expected

e. g. His book is due to be published in October.

(4) [attributive] suitable; right; proper

e. g. With all due respect, I disagree completely.

(5) [~ to sth./sb. : caused by sb./sth. ; because of sb./sth.]

e. g. The team's success was largely due to her efforts.

[idiom] in due course; at the appropriate time; eventually

e. g. Your request will be dealt with in due course.

[antonym] undue

[derivative] dueness *n.*

2 *n.*

(1) [sing] thing that should be given to sb. by right

e. g. He received a large reward, which was no more than his due, i. e. at least what he deserved.

(2) [pl.] charges or fees, e. g. for membership of a club

e. g. I haven't paid my dues yet.

[idiom] give sb. his due; (formal) be fair to sb.

e. g. She's a slow worker but, to give her her due, she does try very hard.

[synonym] due to, owing to, thanks to

They may all be used as prepositions, which mean because of.

(1) *Due to* is usually used only after the verb to be, i. e. it is usually used to introduce a predicative. *Due to* can be used immediately after a noun.

e. g. His lateness was due to the very heavy traffic on the motorway.

Accidents due to driving at high speed were very common that weekend.

(2) *Owing to*, which is usually used to introduce an adverbial, is generally considered today as a synonym for *due to*.

e. g. He was late owing to/due to the very heavy traffic.

(3) *Thanks to* sb./sth. can be used ironically.

e. g. Thanks to the bad weather, the match had been cancelled.

3. **obvious** *adj.* easily seen, recognized or understood; clear

e. g. It was obvious to everyone that the child had been badly treated.

[synonyms] evident, manifest, distinct, obvious, aparent, plain, clear

They all mean readily perceived or apprehended.

(1) *Evident* implies presence of visible signs that lead one to a definite conclusion.

e. g. It's evident that someone has been here.

(2) *Manifest* implies an external display so evident that little or no inference is required.

e. g. He manifested little interest in her studies.

(3) *Distinct* implies such sharpness of outline or definition that no unusual effort to see or hear or comprehend is required.

e. g. Those two suggestions are quite distinct from each other.

(4) *Obvious* implies such ease in discovering that it often suggests conspicuous-

ness or little need for perspicacity in the observer.

e. g. Indeed, there are many obvious advantages to a five - day week.

- (5) *Apparent* is very close to *EVIDENT* except that it may imply more conscious exercise of inference.

e. g. It was apparent that he knew nothing about how to repair cars.

- (6) *Plain* suggests lack of intricacy, complexity, or elaboration

e. g. Her feelings about him are plain.

- (7) *Clear* implies an absence of anything that confuses the mind or obscures the pattern.

e. g. Please give us a clear explanation.

[derivative] (1) obviously *adv.* (2) obviousness *n.* [U]

4. **commit** (- tt -) *vt.*

- (1) do (sth. illegal, wrong or foolish)

e. g. A robbery was committed last night.

- (2) [~ sb. /sth. to sth.] give or transfer sb. /sth. to (a state or place) for safe keeping, treatment, etc.

e. g. The body was committed to the flames, i. e. was burnt.

- (3) [~ sb. /oneself (to sth. /to doing sth.)] make it impossible for sb. /oneself not to do sth. , or to do sth. else, esp. because of a promise; pledge sb. / oneself

e. g. The company has committed funds to an advertising campaign.

- (4) [~ oneself (on sth.)] give one's opinion openly so that it is difficult to change it

e. g. I asked her what she thought, but she refused to commit herself.

- (5) [~ sb. (for sth.)] send sb. to a higher court to be tried

e. g. The magistrates committed him for trial at the Old Bailey.

[synonym] do, perform

[derivative] (1) committal *n.* [U]; (2) committed *adj.*; (3) commitment *n.*;

- (4) non - committal *adj.*

5. **confirm** *vt.*

- (1) provide evidence for the truth or correctness of (a report, an opinion, etc.) ; establish the truth of

e. g. The rumours of an attack were later confirmed.

- (2) [~ sth. ; ~ sb. (as/in sth.)] ratify (a treaty, appointment, etc) ; make definite or establish more firmly (power, a position, etc.)

e. g. After a six - month probationary period, she was confirmed in her post.

[synonyms] confirm, corroborate, substantiate, verify, authenticate, validate mean to attest to the truth or validity of something.

- (1) *Confirm* implies the removing of doubts by an authoritative statement or indisputable fact.

e. g. He confirmed the reports.

- (2) *Corroborate* suggests the strengthening of what is already partly established.

e. g. Witnesses corroborated his story.

- (3) *Substantiate* implies the offering of evidence that sustains the contention.

e. g. The claims have yet to be substantiated.

(4) *Verify* implies the establishing of correspondence of actual facts or details with those proposed or guessed at.

e. g. All statements of fact in the article have been verified.

(5) *Authenticate* implies establishing genuineness by adducing legal or official documents or expert opinion.

e. g. Handwriting experts authenticated the diaries.

(6) *Validate* implies establishing validity by authoritative affirmation or by factual proof

e. g. They validated the hypothesis by experiments.

[derivative] (1) confirmed *adj.* ; (2) confirmability *n.* ; (3) confirmable *adj.* ; (4) confirmation *n.* ; (5) confirmative *adj.*

6. **dismiss** *vt.*

(1) [~ sb. (from sth.)] remove sb. (esp. an employee) from a position

e. g. The workers have been unfairly dismissed.

(2) [~ sb. /sth. (as sth.)] consider sb. /sth. not worth thinking or talking about

e. g. She was dismissed as a dream.

(3) (law) reject (a case, an appeal, etc.)

e. g. The judge dismissed his appeal.

[synonym] fire

[antonym] employ

[derivative] (1) dismissal = dismissal *n.* ; (2) dismissive *adj.* ; (2) dismissively *adv.*

7. **award**

① *vt.* [~ sth. (to sb.)] make an official decision to give sth. to sb. as a prize, as payment or as a punishment

e. g. She was awarded a medal for bravery.

② *n.* (1) [U] decision to give sth. , made by a judge, etc.

e. g. the award of a scholarship

(2) [C] thing or amount awarded

e. g. She showed us the athletics awards she had won.

[synonym] grant, concede, vouchsafe, accord, award

They all mean to give as a favor or a right.

(1) *Grant* implies giving to a claimant or petitioner something that could be withheld.

e. g. He granted them a new hearing.

(2) *Concede* implies yielding something reluctantly in response to a rightful or compelling claim.

e. g. Even her critics concede she can be charming.

(3) *Vouchsafe* implies granting something as a courtesy or an act of gracious condescension.

e. g. He vouchsafed the secret to only a few chosen disciples.

(4) *Accord* implies giving to another what is due or proper.

e. g. He accorded all the honors befitting a head of state.

(5) *Award* implies giving what is deserved or merited usually after a careful weighing of pertinent factors.

e. g. He awarded prizes to the winners.

[derivative] awardee *n.*

8. **respectable** *adj.*

(1) of acceptable social position; decent and proper in appearance or behaviour

e. g. She looked perfectly respectable in her bathrobe at breakfast.

(2) of a moderately good standard or size, etc.; not bringing disgrace or embarrassment

e. g. There was quite a respectable crowd at the match on Saturday.

[derivative] (1) respect *v./n.*; (2) respectful *adj.* [be ~ to sb.; be ~ of sth.]; (3) respectability *n.* [U]; (4) respectably *adv.*

9. **reliable** *adj.* consistently good in quality or performance, and so deserving trust; dependable

e. g. My memory is not very reliable these days.

[antonym] unreliable

[derivative] (1) rely *v.*; (2) reliance *n.*; (3) reliability *n.* [U]; (4) reliant *adj.*; (5) reliably *adv.*

10. **guilty** *adj.* (-ier, -iest)

(1) [~ (of sth.)] (esp. law) having done wrong; being to blame (for sth.)

e. g. The verdict of the jury was not guilt, i. e. innocent.

(2) [~ (for sth.)] showing or feeling guilt

e. g. I feel guilty about visiting her so rarely.

[antonym] guiltless; innocent

[derivative] (1) guilt *n.*; (2) guiltily *adv.*; (3) guiltiness *n.* [U]

11. **complain** *vi.* [~ (to sb.) (about/at sth.)] (often derogatory) say that one is dissatisfied, unhappy, etc.

e. g. She complained to me about his rudeness.

[phr. v.] complain of (doing) sth. : report (a pain, etc.)

[derivative] (1) complaint *n.*; (2) complainant *n.*; (3) complainingly *adv.*

II. **Expressions:**

1. **take sb. to court**: make a charge against sb., to be settled in court; prosecute sb.

e. g. I took her to court for repayment of the debt.

[compare] charge sb. with sth. : accuse sb. of sth., esp. formally in a court of law

accuse sb. of sth. : say that sb. has done wrong, is guilty (of sth.) or has broken the law

e. g. She charged me with neglecting my duty.

The police accused him of stealing.

2. **save up**: keep (money) for later use; store

e. g. If you save up enough money, you will be able to buy a car soon.

3. **take one's time (over sth. / to do sth. / doing sth.)**: to be leisurely about doing sth.

e. g. Take your time over breakfast, there's no rush.

She took her time to go over her exam paper.

4. **call on/upon sb. (to do sth.)**: formally invite or request sb. (to speak,

etc.); appeal to or urge sb. (to do sth.)

e. g. I now call upon the chairman to address the meeting.

call on sb. ; visit sb.

[compare] visit (with) , go to see , come/go and stay , call on , call in on , drop by
drop in on

(1) We can visit (with) or go to see someone at home or at work.

(2) Come/go and stay is used in informal English for a longer visit at somebody's house.

e. g. Come and stay with us soon. / I'm hoping to go and stay with my cousin Tom over Christmas.

(3) We call on someone for an official purpose.

e. g. A representative of the company will call on you to assess the damage.

(4) We call in on a friend for a short time , often when we are on our way to somewhere else.

e. g. We could call in on Patrick on the way to your mother's.

(5) More informally , we drop by at somebody's (house) , drop in on somebody or (in US English) visit with somebody when we make a casual visit to friends or relations.

e. g. Let's drop in on Nick when we're in Bristol , shall we?

5. **stand a chance (of sth./doing sth.)** : have an opportunity; be likely to do or get sth.

e. g. She stands a good chance of succeeding in the experiment.

6. **revolve around sb./sth.** : sb./sth. have sb./sth. as its chief concern; centre on sb./sth.

e. g. He thinks that everything revolves around him.

7. **turn (sb.) against sb.** : (cause sb. to) become unfriendly or hostile towards sb.

e. g. After the divorce he tried to turn the children against their mother.

V. Difficult Sentences

1. **The whole process of being arrested and taken to court was a rather unpleasant experience at the time , but it makes a good story now.** (L. 1 - 3) --- At that time , being arrested and being taken to court was very unpleasant. However , it provides material for a good story now.

It is a compound sentence. The first subject is "The whole process of being arrested and taken to court" , and "being" before "taken" is omitted. The second subject "it" refers to the whole previous sentence.

2. **What makes it rather disturbing was the arbitrary circumstances both of my arrest and my subsequent fate in court.** (L. 3 - 5) --- The author was arrested arbitrarily and released arbitrarily and it is this arbitrariness of both his arrest and his release from the charge that really disturbs the author.

The subject of this sentence is "what makes it rather disturbing" , here "what" means "the thing that" . The predicative is "the arbitrary circumstances" , which is modified by the attributive "both of my arrest and my subsequent fate in court" .

3. **I had left school a couple of months before that and was not due to go to university until the following October.** (L. 6 - 8) --- I graduated from high school several months before February and was waiting to enter university until the coming October.

1) Here "that" refers to February about twelve years ago.

2) The sentence structure "... not... until..." is used to say that something does not happen before the time or point mentioned but that it does happen then.

e.g. We can't start the job until we have the approval from the authority concerned.

4. **It must have been this obvious aimlessness that led to my downfall.** (L. 13 - 14) --- I'm sure that my arrest was caused by my aimless wanderings in the streets.

1) The emphatic sentence pattern "it be... that..." is used as the structure of the whole sentence. In this sentence, emphasis is placed on the subject "this obvious aimlessness".

e.g. It was on Tuesday that all the snow fell.

2) "Must have done" is used to deduce something from some past event, "ought to have done" and "should have done" have the similar function.

e.g. She must have received the parcel. I sent it by registered post.

He should have known that the police would never allow this sort of thing.

5. **I was just walking out of the local library, having unsuccessfully sought employment there, when I saw a man walking across the road with the obvious intention of talking to me.** (L. 15 - 18) --- I was walking out of the local library without finding a temporary job, and suddenly I found a man walking across the road for the purpose of saying something to me.

1) In this sentence, a past event took place in a past circumstance. The past event is expressed by a simple past verb and the circumstance by a verb in the past progressive. Note the use of the connective "when" in the sentence, it means "at that time, at or during the time that", if "while" is used instead of "when", then the word order changes, for example:

I was queueing for the cinema when I saw a car accident.

I saw a car accident while I was queueing for the cinema.

2) with the intention of doing sth. ; for the purpose of doing sth.

e.g. I began reading with the intention of finishing the book, but I never did.

compare | with intent to do sth. ; for intending to do something bad

e.g. He fired a weapon with intent to kill.

| synonym | intention, intent, purpose, goal, end, aim, object, objective

These nouns refer to what one intends to do or achieve.

(1) Intention simply signifies a course of action that one proposes to follow

e.g. It is not my intention to argue with you.

(2) Intent more strongly implies deliberateness

e.g. The executor tried to comply with the intent of the testator.

(3) Purpose strengthens the idea of resolution or determination

e.g. His purpose was to discover how long these guests intended to stay.

(4) Goal may suggest an idealistic or even a remote purpose

e.g. Black Power is a call for black people to begin to define their own goals.

(5) End suggests a long - range goal

e. g. It has been said that the end justifies the means.

(6) Aim stresses the direction one's efforts take in pursuit of an end

e. g. The aim of every performing artist is to achieve perfection of execution.

(7) An object is an end that one tries to carry out

e. g. the object of the game is to foster childrens ability to observe things carefully.

(8) Objective often implies that the end or goal can be reached

e. g. His objective was to finish by November.

6. ... **I was left in no doubt.** (L21) — I became completely certain of the seriousness of the matter.

The pattern "leave sb./sth. + *prep.* phrase (*adj.*/ *v.* - ing/ *v.* - ed)" means "to cause or allow to be or remain in a specified condition".

e. g. Leave the door open, please.

When I went to school, I left my books at home.

7. **It turned out there had been a lot of petty thefts in the area, particularly that of stealing milk bottles from doorsteps.** (L. 29 - 30) — It proved that there had been many small thefts in that district, especially that of stealing milk bottles from doorsteps. The structure "it turn out that..." is used in this sentence. On the surface, the introductory "It" serves as the formal subject, but in face, that - clause is the postponed subject of this sentence.

"turn out to be sb./sth." or "turn out that..." means "prove to be sb./sth.; came to be known that..."

e. g. She turned out to be a friend of my sister/It turned out that she was a friend of my sister.

The job turned out to be harder than we thought.

8. **I thus appeared to them to be quite familiar with this sort of situation, and it confirmed them in their belief that I was a thoroughly disreputable character.** (L. 35 - 37) — As the result, it seems to them that I was very knowledgeable about the situation in which one is confronted with the police, and it reinforced their belief that I was a very disreputable person.

1) (sb.) be familiar with (sth.) : having a good knowledge of sth.

e. g. I am very familiar with the botanical names.

[compare] (sth.) be familiar to (sb.) : well known (to sb.) ; often seen or heard

e. g. These botanical names are familiar to me.

2) confirm sb. in sth. : make definite or establish more firmly (power, a position, etc.)

e. g. The incident confirmed him in (i. e. established more firmly) his dislike of dogs.

9. **Given the obscure nature of the charge, I feel sure that if I had come from a different background, and had really been unemployed, there is every chance that I would have been found guilty.** (L. 59 - 62) — Considering the unclear nature of the charge, I'm sure that if I had not had respectable middle - class parents or reliable witnesses, if I couldn't have afforded a very good solicitor and if I had really lost my job, it is very likely that the magistrate would have decided that I had broken the law.

1) Here, "Given the obscure nature of the charge" is the adverbial. The word