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沈金荣 贾晓慧 陈 湾 ◎编書

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前 言

编写这套《阶梯英语》,旨在为有一定英语基础的学习者创造一种轻松愉快的英语学习环境,探索一种能促进学习者坚持学习、学有成效的方法。本书具有以下几个特点:

体裁广泛 有幽默笑话,有历史地理故事,还有许多生活类的趣文,涉及到政治、经济、历史、文化、生活、科学等各个方面。

循序渐进 内容由浅入深,每篇文章出现的生词量一般不超过 15 个。只要坚持熟读每篇短文就能顺利学完本书。

注重应用 本书紧扣所学内容,每个单元都配有多样化的练习题,包括语法、词汇选择题、词组填空题、易混词辨析题、阅读理解以及中译英等,以提高学习者的应用能力。

便于自学 每篇短文不仅附有生词表,而且为了方便记忆、加深印象,还列举了单词的基本用法和搭配。此外,每篇短文后面都有详细的注释,可以帮助学习者更好地理解原文。

本书的参编人员还有陆海峰、潘建平、李仲芬。

在本教材编写和试用过程中,我们还得到许多教师和专家的支持和帮助,在此一并表示感谢。书中凡有疏漏、不当之处,敬请广大读者指正。

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Unit One

Passage A

"It hurts me more than you", and "That is for your own good". These are the **statements** my mother used to make years ago when I had to learn Latin, clean my room, stay home and do homework.

That was before we entered the **permissive** period in education in which we decided it was all right not to push our children to **achieve** their best in school. The schools and the **educators** made it easy on us. They taught us that it was all right to be parents who take a let-alone policy. We stopped making our children do homework. We gave them **calculators**, turned on the television, left the teaching to the teachers and went on vacation.

Now teachers, faced with children who have been developing at their own pace for the past 15 years, are realizing we've made a terrible mistake. One such teacher is Sharon Klompus who says of her students — "so passive" — and wonders what happened. Nothing was **demanded** of them, she believes. Television, says Klompus, **contributes** to children's **passivity**. "We're not training kids to work any more, "says Klompus. "We're talking about a **generation** of kids who've never been hurt or hungry. They have learned somebody will always do it for them. Instead of saying 'go and look it up', you tell them the answer. It takes greater energy to say no to a kid."

Yes, it does. It takes energy and it takes work. It's time for parents to end their vacation and come back to work. It's time to take the car away, to turn the TV off, to tell them it hurts you more than them but it's for their own good. It's time to start telling them no again.

New Words

statement /'steitmənt/ n. 声明; 陈述, 综述 prepare/read out/issue/deny a statement 准备/宣读/发表/否认一项声明

The president made a statement of his aims. 总统提出了他的目标。

permissive /per'misiv/ a. 纵容的,放任的 permissive parents 纵容子女的父母 the permissive society 放任的社会

achieve /ə'tfirv/ v. 完成,实现; 达到, 获得 The university has achieved all its goals this year.这 个大学今年已经实现了所有的奋斗目标。 achieve recognition 受到赏识

achieve success/one's ambition 获得成功/实现抱负

educator / edju:keitə/ n. 教育家; 教育工作者

calculator / kælkjuleitə/ n. 计算器;计算者 a pocket calculator 袖珍计算器
Bank clerks are usually rapid calculators. 银行职员通常是计算很迅速的人。

pace / peis/ n. (一)步; 速度,节奏
increase/quicken one's pace 加快步伐
slow down the pace of new product development 放
慢开发新产品的速度

the pace of life in Shanghai 上海的生活节奏 keep pace (with) (与……)并驾齐驱

demand /di'ma:nd/ n. & v. 要求, 需要 demand sth. of/from sb. 向某人要某物 satisfy growing demands from people 满足人们越 来越多的要求

This work makes many demands on my time. 这工

作要花费我很多时间。

contribute / kən'tribju:t/ v. (常与 to 连用)捐献; 贡献; 投稿

contribute food and clothing for the relief of the poor 捐助食品和衣物救济贫民

He didn't contribute one idea to the discussion. 他在讨论中连一项意见也没提出。

contribute articles to newspapers 给报纸撰稿

passivity /pæ'siviti/ n. 被动(性); 顺从 generation /ˌdʒenə'reiʃən/ n. 一代, 一代人; 产 生, 发生

generation gap 代沟

the postwar generation 战后的一代人

a waterfall used for the generation of electricity 用以 发电的瀑布

Phrases & Expressions

achieve one's best

尽最大努力

be faced with

面临着,面对着

contribute to

起作用;(对……)有好处

say no to

不同意;否认;拒绝

say of

说到;谈及

at one's owe pace

以轻松自在的速度

demand sb. of sth.

对某人提出某种要求,向某人索取某物

Explanatory Notes

1. It hurts me more than you. 你难受,我更不好受。 hurt 在此作"伤……的感情,使痛心,使伤心"解。例如:

I was rather hurt by what they said about me. 他们对我的批评使我相当伤心。

It hurts me when you talk like that. 你这样说话使我很难受。

Pardon me. I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. 原谅我,我本无意伤你的感情。

- 2. ...entered the permissive period in education. ……进入了教育上放任自流的时期。
- 3. The schools and educators made it easy on us. 学校和教育者们让我们做家长的省事了。 句中 it 指代上一句的内容。意即"与过去相比, 做家长的现在可以对孩子采取放任自流的做法, 那着实让人轻松了。"
- 4. take a let-alone policy 采取放任自流的政策

let/leave sth./sb. alone 意思是 not take, touch or interfere with (干涉) sb./sth.; not try to influence (影响) or change sb./sth. "不干涉某人或某事,不左右或改变某人或某事"。例如: She has asked to be let alone. 她要求不要打扰她。

Let the poor cat alone. 别去惹那可怜的小猫。

5. One such teacher is Sharon Klompus who says of her students — "so passive..."沙伦·克伦普斯就是这样一位老师,她常说起她的学生是"那样被动"…… such 在句中用作形容词,意为"这样的,如此的"。例如:

Many such cases are reported every day. 每天都有许多类似的报道。

- 6. Nothing was demanded of them, she believes. 她认为,人们对他们没有任何要求。demand sth. of / from sb. 作"向某人要求某物"解。例如:
 We demand an apology from him. 我们要求他道歉。
- 7. Television, says Klompus, contributes to children's passivity. 克伦普斯说,电视使学生变得被动。

contribute to sth. 意思是 help to cause sth. "有助于促成某事物"。例如:

Does smoking contribute to lung cancer? 吸烟会导致肺癌吗? Good health contributed to his success. 健康促成他的成功。

8. It takes greater energy to say no to a kid. 对孩子说"不"更费劲了。

say no to sb./sth. 意为"否定,反对;拒绝,谢绝"。例如:

If you don't invest these shares, you are saying no to a fortune. 你要是不买这种股票,就是放 弃发财机会。

They said a sharp no to our proposals. 他们断然拒绝我们的建议。

Reading Comprehension

1.	Children are becoming more inactive in study	because
	A. they watch TV too often	B. they have done too much homework
	C. they have to fulfill too many duties	D. teachers are too strict with them
2.	To such children as described in the passage	•
	A. it is easier to say no than to say yes	B. neither is easy—to say yes or to say no
	C. it is easier to say yes than to say no	D. neither is difficult—to say yes or to say no
3.	We learn from the passage that the author's n	nother used to lay emphasis on
	A. learning Latin	B. natural development
	C. discipline	D. education at school
4.	By "permissive period in education" the author	or means a time
	A. when children are allowed to do what they	wish to
	B. when everything can be taught at school	
	C. when every child can be educated	
	D. when children are permitted to receive edu	ıcation
5.	The main idea of the passage is that	_:
	A. parents should leave their children alone	
	B. kids should have more activities at school	
	C. it's time to be more strict with our kids	
	D. parents should always set a good example	to their kids
	, <u> </u>	

Passage B

Most people cannot choose their careers. They simply have their jobs forced upon them. This may be because they lack the training necessary for any other work, or because of economic circumstances, or because they live in a place where there is a **limited** choice of **occupations**, or because their fathers and grandfathers have always followed a certain profession. The Indian born of peasant parents in a country village has, for example, few opportunities of becoming anything but a peasant.

But if one is lucky enough to be able to choose the work one is going to do, how should one make one's choice, and at what age? One's choice clearly depends on what one wants to get out of one's work.

Some people believe that nobody can do a job well if they do not enjoy it. But this is probably true

only of certain types of work. And there are those who have a capacity for turning their job into something that is an enjoyable way of earning their living, but who do not really do their work well. Some doctors, for example, who become rich and eminent men are in fact lacking in the humanity necessary in their career, and may even not be especially skilled at their job. The same applies to some lawyers. Perhaps many of the best doctors, lawyers, and teachers spend their lives working so hard for others that they do not have time to become rich and famous.

Fundamentally one must decide, when choosing a career, whether one wants to do a job for its own sake or for the rewards it offers.

Words New

force /fo:s/ vt. 强制, 强加; (用武力) 夺取; 促 使,推动

force one's opinion on sb. 把自己的观点强加给 某人

force one's way throw the crowd 挤进人群

lack / læk/ wt. 缺乏, 没有;需要 vi. 缺乏, 没有 n.(常与 of 连用)缺乏;需要

He lacks courage. 他缺乏勇气。

Is she lacking in courage? 她缺乏勇气吗?

a lack of money 缺乏金钱

circumstance /'sə:kəmstəns/ n. 情形;情况 (pl.)

经济状况;物质环境

easy circumstances 经济状况优裕

The circumstances forced me to accept. 环境迫使 我不得不同意。

under/ in no circumstances 决不

limited /'limitid/ adj. 有限的;狭窄的; 缺乏创见 的

limited experience 有限的经验

limited company 有限公司

in a limited time 在短时期内

occupation / jokju peifan/ n. 职业; 占有

What is his occupation? 他的职业是什么?

engage in / follow/ pursue an occupation 从事一种

capacity /kə pæsiti/ n. 能力;接受力

a mind of great capacity 理解力极强的头脑 develop/ improve capacity 培养/ 提高能力

eminent / eminant / adj. 杰出的;卓越的

The students are expecting the arrival of an eminent scientist. 同学们正期待一位著名科学家的来 访。

humanity /hju(:) mæniti/ n. 仁慈;人道;博爱; 人类; (pl.) 人文学科

This new discovery will contribute to all humanity. 这个新发现将对全人类做出贡献。

There are eight departments in the humanities. 文 科共有八个系。

fundamentally /fʌndəˈmentəli/ adv. 根本地

She is fundamentally unsuited to office work. 她根 本不适合做办公室工作。

reward /ri word/ n. 报酬, 奖金 vt. 酬劳, 奖赏 It's a reward for virtue. 那是对美德的回报。

How can I reward your kindness? 我如何酬谢你的 好意呢?

来源于;出身于

Phrases & Expressions

be born of

force upon be true of

强加;强迫……接受

符合于,对……适用 be lacking in

缺少,缺乏 apply to

be skilled at/in

善于,擅长,精通

适用:涂敷

for sb.'s/ its own sake

出于某人/某事的考虑

1

Explanatory Notes

1. They simply have their jobs forced upon them. 他们只好有什么工作就做什么工作。 句中 simply 用作副词,意为"完全地,绝对地"。例如:

I simply can't understand it. 我简直不能理解。

The play was simply awful. 这出戏真是糟透了。

force sth. on sb. 意思是"勉强某人接受某事物"。例如:

Don't force your opinion on me! 别把你的观点强加于我!

He forced his attention on her. 他硬要向她献殷勤。

- 2. ... there is a limited choice of occupation, ... ······就业机会有限, ······ chance 意为"机会",但与 opportunity (机会)有差别。chance 指"机遇, 机缘, 可能性"是偶然的或意外的,也可能是坏的,而 opportunity 意为"时机, 良机"着重指好的, 有利的机会。
- 3. The Indian born of peasant parents in a country village has, for example, few opportunities of becoming anything but a peasant. 例如,父母是农民的印第安人,除了当农民几乎没有其他机会。

be born of sb./sth. 意思是"由于某人或某事而得以存在;来源于某人或某事物"。例如: He was born of German parents. 他的父母是德国人。

Confidence is born of knowledge. 有知识才有信心。

but 用作介词,常用于 nobody, none, nowhere 等之后,作"除……以外"解。例如:

Nobody but you could be so selfish. 除了你谁也不会这么自私。

Isn't there anything in Switzerland but mountains? 难道瑞士只有山吗?

He'll do anything but that. 他什么都干,唯独不愿做那件事。

但请注意, anything but 如用作词组, 意为"根本不, 决不, 远非"。例如:

Tom was anything but a good teacher. 汤姆决不是个好老师。

4. One's choice clearly depends on what one wants to get out of one's work. 很显然,一个人的选择取决于他想从工作中获取什么。

depend on sth. 意思是"视某事而定;取决于某事物"。例如:

This will depend on how she answers the question. 这将取决于她怎样回答这个问题。

注意,在这种情况下不能用 rely on 来替代 depend on。

5. But this is probably true only of certain types of work. 但这只是对某些工作来说确实如此。certain 作定语,意思是"某"(不指明的或说不出的)。例如:

For certain reasons, I will be unable to attend the meeting. 由于某种原因,我不能出席这次会议。

6. ...are in fact lacking in the humanity necessary in their career, ... 事实上缺乏其职业所需的人道主义, ……

be lacking in sth. 意思是 not have enough of sth. "不足,不够,缺乏"。例如:

He is lacking in creativity. 他缺乏创造性。

Money was lacking for the plan. 此项计划尚缺钱。

7. The same applies to some lawyers. 某些律师也一样。 apply (to sb./sth.) 在此作"有效,适用"解。例如:

This rule only applies to some students. 这规则只适用于一部分学生。

但要注意,apply...to 可表达不同的意思。例如:

She applied heavy makeup to her face. 她在脸上浓妆艳抹。

Scientific discoveries are often applied to industrial production methods. 科学新发现常用于工业生产方法。

8. Fundamentally one must decide, when choosing a career, whether one wants to do a job for its own sake or for the rewards it offers. 选择职业时一个人首先要认定,是为了工作的自身价值还是为了它能给予的报酬而工作。

for one's own sake 意为"为了自身的利益"。例如:

For my own sake as well as for yours, I will do my best. 为了你也是为了我,我将尽我的全力去做。

Reading Comprehension

1.	"They simply have their jobs forced upon their	m" may mean	
	A. they force themselves to work		
	B. they have to do whatever jobs available		
	C. they have to follow what their fathers used	to do	
	D. their jobs are chosen by others		
2.	Which of the following is NOT the reason that	most people can't choose their careers?	
	A. That they live in the country.	B. That they lack necessary job training.	
	C. That they have to follow family careers.	D. That they are too poor.	
3.	According to the passage, a person's choice of	of work should be decided by	
	A. his economic circumstances	B. his family background	
	C. his aim in taking a job	D. his capacity in doing a job	
4.	The author seems to have a high opinion of th	ose doctors	
	A. who are rich	B. who are famous	
	C. who are skillful	D. who are devoted	
5.	One may infer from the passage that	_•	
	A. lawyers are people who work very hard for othersB. humanity is essential in the making of a good doctorC. a successful person is one who can make his living in an enjoyable way		
	D. an eminent doctor is usually exceptionally skillful at his job		
	•	-	

Passage C

We find that bright children are seldom held back by mixed-ability teaching. On the contrary, both their knowledge and experience are **enriched**. We feel that there are many **disadvantages** in dividing the class of the pupils according to their abilities and **intelligence**. It does not take into consideration the fact that children develop at different rates. It can have a bad effect on both the bright and the not-so-bright child. After all, it can be quite **discouraging** to be at the bottom of the top

Passage C

grade!

Besides, it is rather **unreal** to grade people just according to their intellectual ability. This is only one part of their total personality. We are **concerned** to develop the abilities of all our pupils to the full, not just their study ability. We also value personal qualities and social skills, and we find that mixed-ability teaching helps to bring about all these parts of learning.

In our classroom, we work in **various** ways. The pupils often work in groups: this gives them the chance to learn to work together, to share, and to develop **leadership** skills. They also learn how to deal with personal problems as well as learning how to think, to make decisions, to **examine** and find out the value, and to communicate **effectively**. The pupils learn from each other as well as from the teacher.

Sometimes the pupils work in pairs; sometimes they work alone, and they can do this at their own speed. They also have some formal class teaching when this is suitable. We encourage our pupils to use the library, and we teach them the skills they need in order to do this well. An advanced pupil can do advanced work; it does not matter what age the child is. We expect our pupils to do their best, not their least, and we give them every **encouragement** to achieve this goal.

New Words

enrich /in'rit[/ wt. 使富裕;(使)充实

enrich the power of expression 丰富表达力

Music can certainly enrich your whole life. 音乐肯定会使你的整个生活丰富多彩。

The discovery of gold in the valleys will enrich the poor mountain area. 山谷里发现了黄金将会使这个贫穷的山区富起来。

disadvantage / disəd vantid3/ n. 不利, 不利条件;缺点,劣势

His bad health is a great disadvantage to him. 他身体不好是他的不利之处。

The washing machine has two serious disadvantages. 这台洗衣机有两个严重缺陷。

group /gru:p/ v. 集合; 配合; 使……成群; 把 ……分类(组)

Group the roses together. 将蔷薇按类集合在一起。

The children grouped round their teacher. 孩子围在他们老师的四周。

intelligence / in telidgens/ n. 智力;才智

a boy who shows little intelligence 智力低下的男孩

discouraging /dis karidzin/ adj. 令人气馁的

a discouraging remark 令人泄气的话 unreal /'ʌn'ri(:)əl/ adj. 不真实的; 虚幻的

flowers that look unreal 看上去像假的花 concern /kən'sə:n/ vt. 担心;担忧;挂念

We're rather concerned about father's health. 我们非常担心父亲的健康。

be concerned over/at sth. 为某事忧虑

be concerned in sth. 和某事有牵连

be concerned with 牵涉到,与……有关,参与

various / 'væriæs/ adj. 各种各样的;多方面的;多 样的

There are various colors to choose from. 有各种各样的颜色可供选择。

leadership /'liːdəʃip/ n. 领导能力, 领导阶层 under sb's leadership 在某人的领导之下

There is no leadership in him. 他没有领导才能。

examine /igˈzæmin/ v. 审查;检查

examine a plan 审查计划

examine students 考学生

effectively /i fektivli/ adv. 有效地, 有力地

encouragement / in karidgment / n. 鼓励, 奖励 draw one's encouragement from ··· 从 ····· 中得到 鼓励

Phrases & Expressions

hold back

阻碍,阻止;忍住;隐瞒

on the contrary

相反,恰恰相反

after all

毕竟,终究

to the full

充分地,完全地,尽量地

bring about

导致,引起,产生

in pairs deal with 成双成对地;两两一起地处理,对付;涉及;做交易

in groups at one's own speed 分组地,成群结队地 以轻松自在的速度

take...into consideration

对……加以考虑

Explanatory Notes

1. We find that bright children are seldom held back by mixed-ability teaching. 我们发现混合能力组教学很少会阻碍聪明孩子的进步。

hold sb. back 意思是 prevent the progress or development of sb. "阻止或妨碍某人的进步或发展"。例如:

He felt that he was held back from further promotion. 他感到他不会得到进一步的提升。

Shortage of capital is a factor holding back economic development. 缺乏资金是阻碍经济发展的一个因素。

此外, hold back 还能表达其他一些意思,如:"控制,隐瞒,保留"等。例如:

She couldn't hold back her tears. 她忍不住掉下眼泪。

He was holding something back from me. 他有什么事瞒着我。

They hold back a sum to cover incidental expenses. 他们保留一笔钱以支付杂费。

2. It does not take into consideration the fact that children develop at different rates. 这种做法没有考虑到孩子的(智力)发展速度不是一层不变的这一事实。

take sth. into consideration 意思是"考虑到某事物",等同于"take account of sth."。例如: I always take fuel consumption into consideration when buying a car. 我买汽车时总要把燃油消耗量考虑在内。

"children develop at different rates"是同位语从句,是 fact 的具体内容。同位语从句,一般由 that 引导。同位语从句中的先行词既可以是表示抽象概念的名词也可以是表示具体概念 的名词,如:belief (相信),fact (事实),hope, idea, doubt (怀疑),news, rumor (传闻),conclusion (结论), evidence (证据), answer, decision, discovery (发现), explanation (解释), knowledge (知识),law (法律),opinion (观点),principle (原则)等等。例如:

The rumor that he was arrested was unfounded. 关于他被捕的传闻是没有根据的。

- 3. the not-so-bright child 并不是很聪明的孩子 not-so-bright 是由副词 + 形容词构成的复合形容词。复合形容词有多种合成方式,中间通常用连字符"-"连接,一般做定语,但有时也用作表语或补语,如; ever-green (常绿的), over-busy (太忙的), all-round (全能的)等。
- 4. to develop the ability of all our pupils to the full 充分发展我们所有学生的能力 to the full 是个短语,它的意思是"完全的,充分的,彻底的;非常"。例如:
 Now we can enjoy life to the full. 现在我们可以尽情享受人生的乐趣。
 Use your ability to the full. 充分发挥你的才能吧。

We appreciate to the full the teacher's help. 我们非常感谢老师的帮助。

5. to develop leadership skills 培养领导才能

词缀 -ship,意思是"技能,技巧"。如: musicianship (音乐技巧,音乐才能), scholarship (学问,学识,学术成就)。此外,-ship 也可表示 state of being"状态,身份,地位,职位"等。例如: ownership (所有权,物主身份), friendship (友谊), membership (会员身份)等。

6. We expect our pupils to do their best, not their least. 我们希望学生们尽力而为而不是得过且过。

least 在句中用作名词,作"最少量,最小物"解。例如:

Let me do it. It's the least I can do. 这事让我来做吧,这是我所能做的最起码的事。 The least said the better. 说的最少最好。

Reading Comprehension

In the passage the author	assage the author "mixed-ability teaching".				
A. criticizes	B. questions on	C. appreciates	D. objects to		
By "held back" in Line 1	the author means "	<u>.</u>			
A. made to remain in the	same classes	B. forced to study in the	e lower classes		
C. drawn to their studies		D. prevented from advar	ncing		
The author argues that a	teacher's main conc	em should be the develo	opment of the student'		
A. personal qualities and	social skills	B. total personality			
Which of the following is	NOT mentioned in the	third paragraph?			
A. Group work gives pupils the chance to learn to work together with others.					
B. Pupils also learn to develop their reasoning abilities.					
C. Group work provides pupils with the chance to learn to be good organizers.					
D. Pupils also learn how to take part in teaching activities.					
A. argue for teaching bright and not-so-bright pupils in the same class B. recommend pair work and group work for classroom activities					
					C. offer advice on the proper use of the library
D. put emphasis on the importance of proper formal classroom teaching					
	A. criticizes By "held back" in Line 1 A. made to remain in the C. drawn to their studies The author argues that a A. personal qualities and C. learning ability and co Which of the following is A. Group work gives pupi B. Pupils also learn to de C. Group work provides p D. Pupils also learn how The author wrote the passa A. argue for teaching brig B. recommend pair work a C. offer advice on the pro-	A. criticizes B. questions on By "held back" in Line 1 the author means " A. made to remain in the same classes C. drawn to their studies The author argues that a teacher's main conce A. personal qualities and social skills C. learning ability and communicative skills Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the A. Group work gives pupils the chance to learn to B. Pupils also learn to develop their reasoning at C. Group work provides pupils with the chance to D. Pupils also learn how to take part in teaching The author wrote the passage, because he wanted A. argue for teaching bright and not-so-bright pupils recommend pair work and group work for class C. offer advice on the proper use of the library	By "held back" in Line 1 the author means "". A. made to remain in the same classes B. forced to study in the C. drawn to their studies D. prevented from advantage and social study. A. personal qualities and social skills B. total personality C. learning ability and communicative skills D. intellectual ability. Which of the following is NOT mentioned in the third paragraph? A. Group work gives pupils the chance to learn to work together with othe B. Pupils also learn to develop their reasoning abilities. C. Group work provides pupils with the chance to learn to be good organized. Pupils also learn how to take part in teaching activities. The author wrote the passage, because he wanted to A. argue for teaching bright and not-so-bright pupils in the same class B. recommend pair work and group work for classroom activities. C. offer advice on the proper use of the library		

Passage D

In sixteenth-century France, the start of the new year was observed on April first. It was celebrated in much the same way as it is today with parties and dancing into the late hours of the night. Then in 1562, Pope Gregory introduced a new calendar for the Christian world, and the new year fell on January first. There were some people, however, who hadn't heard or didn't believe the change in the date, so they continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April first. Others played tricks on them and called them "April fools". They sent them on a "fool's errand" or tried to make them believe that

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something false was true. In France today, April first is called "Poisson d'Avril". French children fool their friends by taping a paper fish to their friends' backs. When the "young fool" discovers this trick, the **prankster yells** "Poisson d'Avril!" (April Fish!)

Today Americans play small tricks on friends and strangers alike on the first of April. One common trick on April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, is pointing down to a friend's shoe and saying, "Your **shoelace** is **untied**." Teachers in the nineteenth century used to say to pupils, "Look! A **flock** of **geese**!" and point up. School children might tell a classmate that school has been **canceled**. Whatever the trick, if the innocent victim falls for the joke the prankster yells, "April Fool!"

The "fool's errands" we play on people are practical jokes. Putting salt in the **sugar bowl** for the next person is not a nice trick to play on a stranger. College students set their clocks an hour behind, so their roommates show up to the wrong class — or not at all. Some practical jokes are kept up the whole day before the **victim** realizes what day it is. Most April Fool jokes are in good fun and not meant to **harm** anyone. The most clever April Fool joke is the one where everyone laughs, especially the person upon whom the joke is played.

"The first of April is the day we remember what we are the other 364 days of the year."

-American humorist Mark Twain

New Words

calendar /ˈkælində/ n. 日历;历法

From January 1st to February 1st is one calendar month. 从一月一日到二月一日是一个历月。 calendar watch 星期日历表

Christian / krist ʃən / adj. 基督教的, 信基督教的 n. 基督教徒

the Christian church 基督教会

errand /'erənd/ n. 差事, 差使; 使命

The boy quickly went on an errand with money clasped in his hands. 男孩手里握着钱快速地跑出去买东西。

I've got a few errands to do in town. 我要去城里办几件事。

prankster / 'præŋkstə(r) / n. 顽皮的人, 爱开玩笑的人

yell / jel/ vi. 大叫, 呼喊 vt. 叫着说

He yelled at her to be careful. 他大声叫她注意。

shoelace /'ʃu:leis/ n. 鞋带

untie / 'ʌn'tai/ vt. 解开 vi. 松开, 解开 untie a package / bundle/ parcel 解开包裹

flock /flok/ n. 羊群; (禽、畜等的) 一群 a flock of sheep 一群羊

geese /qi:s/ n. goose(鹅)的复数

cancel /'kænsəl/ vt. 取消;宣称无效;作废

She cancelled her order. 她取消了定货。

a cancelled stamp 用过的邮票

victim / viktim/ n. 受害人, 牺牲者;牺牲品

She was the victim of a road accident. 她是一场交通事故的受害者。

be an easy victim of...被……轻易摆布

sugar /ˈʃugə/ n. 糖,食糖

bowl /baul/ n. 碗

harm /ham/ n. & vt. 伤害, 损害

Did the storm do any harm to the corn? 风暴损害 庄稼了没有?

The child fell over but came to no harm. 小孩跌倒了,可是没伤着。

harm sb's reputation 损害某人的名誉

humorist / hju:mərist/ n. 幽默作家; 谈吐诙谐的人