

新干线

2006年第1辑 每月1辑

初中版

英语新干线

NEW ENGLISH EXPRESS

学海航标

初中英语学习策略目标

故事连载

The Ugly Duckling (Part Two)

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山东友谊出版社

潍坊外国语学校



潍坊外国语学校创建于2001年9月，是经潍坊市和潍城区人民政府审批、省教育厅备案而创建的一所全新的国有民办学校，是潍城区“十五”规划重点建设项目。学校占地面积60亩，环境优美，是一所温馨幽雅的花园式学校，有教学楼7座、公寓楼5座、外教楼1座、餐厅2座，教学设施先进齐全，有塑胶跑道、音乐厅、体育馆、理化生实验室等高档设施和1300台计算机，每个教室都可以进行多媒体教学。

学校拥有潍坊市最优秀的中小学教师队伍，教师平均年龄31.5岁，其中全国优秀教师5人、齐鲁名师1人、省级教学能手2人、潍坊市特级教师1人、市级教学能手50人、区级教学能手70人，并常年聘用8名资深外籍教师进行英语口语、听力教学，学生常年与外教直接对话。建校五年来学校健康发展，形成了小学、初中一条龙培养体系，现有53个教学班（小学38个班，初中15个班），2200名学生（其中韩国留学生40余人）。

与世纪同行，与国际接轨，潍坊外国语学校坚持“特色立校、质量强校、管理赢校、服务荣校”的办学思想，形成了“定位高、理念新、体制活、设施硬、师资精、特色明、管理严、人际和、成绩优”的办学特点。外国语学校营造了全面发展的育人氛围，更取得了斐然的教育教学成绩。历年潍坊市小学数学竞赛总分、平均分均获潍城区第一名；全国小学英语奥赛四个级部每年均以绝对优势获潍城区第一名；历次潍城区抽考语文、数学、英语三科优生率、及格率、平均分均列全区第一名；全国中学生英语奥赛连续两年进入山东省总决赛十佳行列，成为山东省唯一获得双十佳的学校；全国初中数学联合竞赛，一名同学以满分的成绩在全省名列第一名；第五届中央电视台希望之星英语风采大赛囊括潍坊赛区初中组前五名；参加中央电视台希望之星全国师生英语擂台赛获全国亚军；全国青少年信息学联赛初中综合成绩位居全省第三，被评为全国优秀参赛学校；全国中学生生物奥赛以绝对优势获潍坊市第一名；全国中学生物理奥赛两名同学获全国一等奖；2004、2005年连续两年中考上线率获潍城区第一名。

建校五年来学校教育教学质量稳步提高，管理规范，办学效果显著，先后获得“社会公认特色育人成功学校”、“国家基础教育外语研究中心外语实验学校”、“国家教育资源库建设研究项目合作研究学校”、全国教育科学“十五”规划教育部重点课题基础教育阶段双语教育研究实验基地、“省级规范化学校”、“山东省初中教学示范学校”、“山东省双语研究实验学校”、“潍坊市特色学校”、“潍坊市基础教育课程改革示范学校”、“潍坊市中小学信息技术教学先进单位”等称号，综合荣誉达40多项，被潍城区教育局授予“教学特别贡献奖”。

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“英语故事”征稿通知

为了调动同学们英语阅读的积极性,增强本书与同学们之间的互动,《英语新干线》编辑部决定在2006年上半年开展以“英语故事(Stories in English)”为题的英语作文竞赛活动。现将有关事宜通知如下:

1.从现在起,至2006年4月15日止(以发来电子邮件的日期或邮寄稿件的邮戳为准),征集“英语故事”作文竞赛稿件。来稿过期者,不能参评。

2.稿件必须用英文撰写,题目自定。字数在400~500之间,明显少于或多于规定字数要求的稿件,不能参评。请投稿者在稿件的右上方注明“英语故事”字样。

3.真实故事和非真实故事均可;要求故事结构完整,情节合理;内容充实、动人;语言准确、得体,表达流畅。

4.投稿最好以电子邮件的方式发送,投稿邮箱为 shiguotian@sohu.com 或 englishexpress2@163.com。如果没有条件发送电子邮件,也可将稿件邮寄到:山东省济南市胜利大街39号山东友谊出版社《英语新干线》编辑部。

5.来稿必须署参赛者的真实地址和姓名。不论电子邮件还是书信邮寄,请务必在稿件末尾注明“详细通讯地址”、“邮政编码”和“联系电话”,以方便联系(如: *省*市*学校*人)。

6.参评稿件必须为参赛者个人所作。凡发现为抄袭之作,不能参评。

7.2006年5月份评出一、二、三等奖,颁发获奖证书并给予一定物质奖励。

8.2006年6月(即2006年第6辑)刊登获奖者名单,并在该辑及以后各辑陆续刊登部分获奖作文。

《英语新干线(初中版)》编辑部

特别声明:本书从其他报刊和因特网上精选了一些文章和图片,由于作者地址不详,无法直接向原作者支付使用稿酬。在此,我们深表歉意。敬请原作者到中国著作权使用报酬收转中心山东分中心联系领取。

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I'm a teacher of English. I'm retired. Time has passed quickly and everyone, old or young, is always getting older and older. Now, at the beginning of a new year, I'd like to say a few words to you.

I began to learn English in the 1950's when I was in my junior middle school. It is nearly fifty years. What I want to say to you today is how to learn English efficiently, which is the question almost every English learner in China has raised all the time.

In accordance with my own English learning experience, there are three things a Chinese English learner must remember, that is, being interested in English; working hard at it; and learning in as many ways as possible.

The first, the interest of learning, is the most important thing. As we all know, if a person isn't interested in what he is doing, he can't do it well. Just as the saying goes, "Interest is the best teacher." If you are interested in English, you will find that there is a lot of fun and even that there are not any difficulties. But if you are not so interested in it, you will find that it is difficult and may think that you can't even learn it well at all. In that case, you should try your best to cultivate your interests with the help of your teachers and classmates.

The second is hard work. English is the language that derives from the western countries and there is much difference between English and Chinese. To us, of course, such a language is difficult to learn. It is clear that there is no language environment while we are learning it, because there are no people who can speak it and use it around us. In such conditions, we must work very hard. We must learn the pronunciation of the words well, know the grammar rules and, what is more, to use them correctly, and have a good command on the use of words. We must do a lot of listening, speaking, reading and writing practice. And the most important is to try to use English in class and out of class. All of this is hard work.

The third is trying to learn English in as many ways as you can. We know that if we want to do anything well, we must use the best methods. So it is with learning English. What are the best methods? There are a lot of them. For example, you should always listen to the teacher in class attentively, do your homework in the correct way, that is, doing it mechanically, meaningfully and communicatively. Memorizing the words may be the most difficult job for Chinese students. Try to do it in a creative way, i.e., using all the methods that you think are useful. Remember this: practice, practice and practice all the time. That is what you have to remember in learning.

I can't tell you everything, because working creatively is the very key to learning English well.

A Veteran Teacher's Advice on How to Learn English

韩高安



老师
的话

初中英语

学习策略目标



田式国

学习策略指学习者为了有效地学习和发展而采取的各种行动和步骤。在英语学习中,学习者有效地使用学习策略,不仅有利于把握学习的方向,采用科学的途径,提高学习效率,而且还有助于形成自主学习的能力,为终身学习奠定基础。英语学习的策略包括认知策略、调控策略、交际策略和资源策略等。认知策略是指学生为了完成具体学习任务而采取的步骤和方法;调控策略是指学生对学习进行计划、实施、反思、评价和调整的策略;交际策略是学生为了争取更多的交际机会、维持交际以及提高交际效果而采取的各种策略;资源策略是学生合理并有效利用多种媒体进行学习和运用英语的策略。同学们应在老师的帮助下,逐步形成自己的学习策略和调整学习策略的能力。学习策略是灵活多样的,策略的使用也因人、因时、因事而异。因此,每个同学应当努力形成适合自己的学习策略。

《英语课程标准》提出了不同级别的英语学习策略目标,其中的五级(即初中)学习策略目标是:

认知策略: 1、根据需要进行预习; 2、在学习中集中注意力; 3、在学习中积极思考; 4、在学习中善于记要点; 5、在学习中善于利用图画等非语言信息理解主题; 6、借助联想学习和记忆词语; 7、对所学习内容能主动复习并加以整理和归纳; 8、注意发现语言的规律并能运用规律举一反三; 9、在使用英语时,能意识到错误并进行适当的纠正; 10、必要时,有效地借助母语知识理解英语; 11、尝试阅读英语故事及其他英语课外读物。

调控策略: 1、明确自己学习英语的目标; 2、明确自己的学习需要; 3、制定简单的英语学习计划; 4、把握学习的主要内容; 5、注意了解和反思自己学习英语中的进步与不足; 6、积极探索适合自己的英语学习方法; 7、经常与教师和同学交流学习体会; 8、积极参与课内外英语学习活动。

交际策略: 1、在课内外学习活动中能够用英语与他人交流; 2、善于抓住用英语交际的机会; 3、在交际中,把注意力集中在意思的表达上; 4、在交际中,必要时借助手势、表情等进行交流; 5、交际中遇到困难时,有效地寻求帮助; 6、在交际中注意中外交际习俗的差异。

资源策略: 1、注意通过音像资料丰富自己的学习; 2、使用简单工具书查找信息; 3、注意生活中和媒体上所使用的英语; 4、能初步利用图书馆或网络上的学习资源。

同学们若能在自己的学习中,有意识地、不断地运用以上策略,必将会提高学习效率,也会取得优异的学习成绩。

Treasured Snow Tiger Born in NE China

A treasured (珍品) snow tiger was born on October 1 in a zoo in Harbin. He is the first snow tiger to be born in China since 1999.

The snow tiger's parents are a variation (变种) of the Bengal tiger (孟加拉虎) — white tigers. In the world there are only 200 white tigers and a few snow tigers. Its skin is pure white, only on its forehead, chest and tail there are faint (淡的) brown strips.



中国东北成功繁殖雪虎

10月1日,一只珍贵的雪虎幼崽在哈尔滨市一家动物园出生。这是1999年后在我国出生的第一只雪虎。

雪虎的父母是孟加拉虎的变种白虎,世界上仅有200只左右的白虎,而雪虎只有几只。它的名字来源于浑身雪白的皮毛,仅在额头,前胸和尾部有淡淡的褐色条纹。

4th Beijing Music Festival Opened

The 4th Beijing Music Festival opened on October 17 in the Great Hall of the People(人民大会堂). Russian St. Petersburg Philharmonic (圣彼得堡交响乐团) held a wonderful concert. Founded in 1882, it is one of the best Philharmonic in the world.



The music festival will end on November 8. About 1,500 artists from China and other 14 countries will attend the festival. Besides concerts, operas and Chinese folk music, there is a Children's Concert for young audiences.

第四届北京音乐节开幕

伴随着俄国圣彼得堡交响乐团的演奏,第四届北京音乐节在人民大会堂拉开帷幕。成立于1882年的圣彼得堡交响乐团是世界最好的交响乐团之一。

本届音乐节将于11月8日结束,大约有1,500名中外艺术家参与演出。除了举行音乐会、歌剧和中国民族音乐会外,还专为小听众举办一场儿童音乐会。

(常聚文 供稿)





The Ugly Duckling (Part Two)

by Hans Christian Andersen

At last he came to a miserable little shack (小屋) that seemed to remain standing only because it didn't know which way to tumble (仓惶地行动) down.

The door hung open crookedly (弯曲地), and the duckling slipped in out of the rain.

Inside he found a woman with a pet cat named Sonnie and a pet hen who, because of her little legs, was called Chickabiddy (鸡宝宝) — Shortshanks. The ugly duckling fell asleep at once and no one noticed him. But in the morning the cat purred (咕咕叫) and the hen clucked (咯咯叫) and the woman said "what's the matter?" Her eyesight wasn't very good and she thought, "Maybe this is a rare prize duck who will lay eggs for me."

"Can you lay eggs?" the hen asked. "No," replied the duckling. "Can you purr and arch (弯成弓形) your back?" asked the cat.

"No."

"Then what can you do?" they wanted to know.

"I can swim," exclaimed the ugly duckling. "It's delightful to dive into the water and feel it all around you."

"You must be crazy," said the cat and the hen. And the duckling went. He swam and dived and ran and flew but everyone gave him the cold shoulder because he was so ugly.

At last summer was over and autumn came with leaves turning brown and whirling (旋转) in the chilly (寒冷的) wind. The duckling was miserable indeed all alone in the cold cruel world.

But one evening, just as the sun was setting, he saw coming out of the bushes a flock of handsome white swans (天鹅) with long graceful necks. They spread their wings and, with a strange cry, rose higher and higher as they flew to warmer regions (区域).

The ugly duckling thought he had never seen such beautiful creatures before. How he admired them! He would have been happy indeed if they had

so much as noticed him.

But they did not. They flew south, not even seeing the ugly duckling in the freezing lake. And soon it was winter and the lake froze over holding the duckling fast. What a terrible night that was for the poor creature (动物)! He almost froze to death.

But early the next morning a farmer passing-by broke the ice, lifted the duckling out, and took him home.

The duckling soon came to himself again as the farmer's children played with him. But he was so frightened at these strange surroundings that he fluttered (鼓翼) into the milk-pan, spilling milk all over the place. The farmer's wife was annoyed by this and the duckling, frightened out of its wits, flew first into the butter tub (浴盆) and then into the flour-barrel. What a sight he was! The woman struck out at him with the fire-tongs (钳子) while the children laughed and screamed and tumbled (翻倒) all over each other trying to catch him.



Luckily for him the door was open and he was able to slip out. He lay behind a bush in the snow and stayed there until the winter was over. But at last it grew warm and sunny. Birds sang and buds (芽) swelled. It was spring!

All at once the duckling found he could flap (拍打) his wings, and one day he found himself in a beautiful garden where sweet-scented blossoming trees bent down to the water. Suddenly three glorious white swans appeared ruffling (滋扰) their feathers as they swam lightly across the water. The ugly duckling dazing (使茫然) at the beautiful birds, thought to himself, "If I dare go near them, they will kill me because I am so ugly. But I don't care. Better to be killed by these beautiful creatures than to be bitten by ducks and hens, or kicked by the poultry-girl, or starve in the winter."

So he dived into the water and swam out to the swans. "Kill me!" cried the poor creature, bending his head down to the water.

But what was this he saw reflected in the clear water? It was his own image! For the first time he saw himself as he really was. And, to his utter amazement, he saw that he was not an ugly duckling — or a duckling at all — but a swan — a beautiful white swan!

You see, a bird who comes from a swan's egg is a swan even if the egg happens to be hatched by a duck, and ducks think that no one is pretty except a duck. They think anyone who doesn't look like a duck is ugly, even the most beautiful swan.

But now the “ugly duckling” knew why he had felt so much love for the beautiful swans, and he knew he was as beautiful himself as they were.

The swans recognized him too, as one of them, and they swam around him stroking him with their beaks.

By and by some children came down to the lake to throw breadcrumbs (面包屑) to the swans. “Look!” cried the youngest. “There's a beautiful new white swan!” And the other children shouted happily, “Yes, he is the most beautiful one of all!”

Of course the swan who had been considered an ugly duckling was very happy. But he never became vain (自负的) or conceited (自以为是). He always remembered how it felt to be despised (轻视) and teased (取笑), and he was very sorry for all the creatures who are so treated merely because they are different from the people around them.

But now that he was appreciated (赏识) at last, he rustled (使沙沙响) his wings, lifted his slender neck, and sighed happily, “To think that this joy should come to one who has always been considered an ugly duckling! It's almost too good to be true.” (The end)



(田颖 供稿)

Magellan

the First Person to Travel Round the World

麦哲伦——环球航行第一人



Magellan was born in the spring of 1480 in Portugal. His mother was a noble. But when he was 10 years old, his parents died. He was educated at court (宫廷) and became interested in exploring (探险). At the age of 25, he sailed to India and the Philippines (菲律宾群岛).

Magellan believed that the globe (地球) is round and there is another way to get to the east. Because he was refused by the king of Portugal (葡萄牙), he went to Spain (西班牙) for help. The king gave him 5 ships. After one year's preparation, on September 20, 1519, Magellan and 270 sailors set sail from Spain.

They crossed the Atlantic (大西洋) and got to Brazil (巴西), then sailed south looking for a passage (通道) to another ocean. On October 21, 1520, they found the strait, which was later named the Strait of Magellan, and sailed into a beautiful and peaceful (平静的) ocean. Magellan called it the Pacific Ocean (太平洋).

After 99 days' hard sailing, they reached the island Guam (关岛). Many sailors died of disease and hunger. On March 11, 1521, they got to Philippines. They had sailed all the way around the world!

But when they rested in Philippines, Magellan was killed in a battle between natives (土著人, 当地居民). The rest of his men went on sailing west. On September 6, 1522, only one ship and 18 sailors went back to Spain.

1480 年春天, 麦哲伦出生于葡萄牙的一个贵族家庭。10 岁时, 他的父母相继离开人世。他在皇宫里长大, 接受教育, 对航海产生了浓厚的兴趣。25 岁时, 他随远征军到达印度和菲律宾。

麦哲伦接受了“地球圆球形”的学说, 相信从葡萄牙往西走也能到达东方。但是葡





牙国王拒绝资助他。为了证明自己的观点，他前往西班牙，请求国王的资助。西班牙国王给了他五条船。经过一年的准备，1519年9月20日，麦哲伦带领由270名水手组成的船队从西班牙启航了。

他们横穿大西洋到达巴西，然后沿巴西海岸南下，寻找通往美洲大陆另一边大洋的通道。1520年10月21日，他们终于找到了一条海峡，后来被命名为麦哲伦海峡。穿过海峡之后，船队驶入了一个美丽而平静的海洋，麦哲伦将它命名为“太平洋”。

在太平洋上，他们整整航行了99天，才到达关岛。这期间，许多水手死于疾病与饥饿。1521年3月11日，船队到达菲律宾。他们绕地球正好航行了一圈。

但是，在菲律宾休整时，麦哲伦在一次与土著人的争斗中被杀。其他的人继续向西航行。1522年9月6日，只有一条船和18个船员返回西班牙。

(张庆爱 供稿)



Things I Learned from Movies

1. The Eiffel Tower can be seen from any window of any building in Paris.
2. A man will show no pain while taking the most ferocious beating but will wince when a woman tries to clean his wounds.
3. When paying for a taxi, never look at your wallet as you take out a note—just grab one at random and hand it over. It will always be the exact fare.
4. Mothers routinely cook eggs, bacon and waffles for their family every morning, even though the husband and children never have time to eat them.
5. Cars and trucks that crash will always burst into flames.
6. Any person waking from a nightmare will sit bolt upright and pant.
7. Dogs always know who's bad and will naturally bark at them.
8. All bombs are fitted with electronic timing devices with large red readouts so you know exactly when they're going to go off.

英语专家如是说

郑淑荣



何兆熊

我确实体会到学好英语无捷径。急功近利是当今的一种不良心态。很多人都想在尽可能短的时间里,以最小的代价换取最大的收益和回报。这种心态在不少英语学习者中同样有所反映。为迎合这种心态,社会上便出现了种种商业化的炒作,比如常常可以看到能帮你一天记忆几百个英语单词,上三个月的速成口语班就能让你说一口流利的美式英语,上多少个学时的培训保证你能通过某个考试等等这样的广告。我没有做过具体的调查,因此不能说有多少人真正达到了这些广告上所说的效果,但我想提出一个或许有点俗气的类比。大家都知道要烧出一锅味道鲜美的红烧肉的话,得先把肉放在锅里用火慢慢烧上两三个小时。如果下班回家赶着晚饭要吃,那就只能用压力锅烧了,也许半个小时能烧好。但是这两种方法烧出来的肉味道可就不一样了。对我们的学习是否也有一点启示呢?当然,没有捷径不等于没有见效快的学习方法,学习的确有方法的问题。学得得法,事半功倍;学得不得法,事倍功半。什么方法最有效,则因人而异,因事而异,不能一概而论。譬如记单词,有的人喜欢读着记,有的人喜欢看着记,也有的人喜欢边写边记。具体的学

习方法有不少人做过总结,例如如何提高阅读速度,如何提高口语能力之类,这些大家都可以借鉴。但更重要的是每个人应该在自己的学习过程中不断发现、总结适合于自己的有效的学习方法。

我以“学英语无捷径”为内容是为了提醒大家在学习过程中要注意克服急功近利的心态和浮躁的情绪。现代社会的生活步子快了,工作效率高了,但有些事还是有它本身的规律,不可能一味地加速,学英语便是其中之一。学习英语有不少比喻,常常听到的一个是把它比作造房子,不管造什么房子,最重要的是根基要牢固。这个比喻听上去有点陈旧,但它的真理不可否认。打基础要有时间,要有耐心,要有毅力。基础一旦打好了,以后的路就好走了。一个好的基础够你受用一辈子。因此我提倡一步一个脚印的踏踏实实的学风,当然提脚的速度可以加快,但是一脚踩下去一定要稳。如果走都走不稳就急着想跑,能不摔跤吗?我总的想法是“学好英语无捷径”。我想“学好英语”和“学英语”是有区别的。为应一时之急而学,只能称得上是“学”了,但称不上是“学好”了。真正要学好还是少不了持之以恒的努力和积累。

名师
导学

NEW ENGLISH EXPRESS



Friday and the Thirteenth

星期五和第十三

Friday and the Thirteenth have long been considered very unlucky because it has some bad associations which came from mythology, tale of the Bible, and the customs and habits. According to the Bible, the Lord God created the first man, Adam. Then he took a rib from Adam's body and out of it created the first woman, Eve. It was said that Adam was created on a Friday and it was on Friday that Adam and Eve ate the forbidden fruit, and on a Friday they died.

Friday was also the common day in England for executing criminals, for which it was sometimes known as Hanging Day.

From the old Norse myth people got the idea that 13 people sitting at a table to have a dinner was unlucky. And this superstition was confirmed by the last supper of Christ and his disciples. The Bible tells us that Christ sat down with his 12 disciples, which made up the number 13, at the last supper when Judas, one of the 12 disciples, sold his master for thirty pieces of silver. Christ was killed by nailing on the cross the following day on a Friday.

星期五和第十三历来被认为是非常不吉利的日子，这是从神话、圣经故事和风俗习惯产生的一些不好的联想而来的。据圣经上讲，上帝创造了第一个男人——亚当。然后，上帝从亚当身上取下一根肋骨又造了第一个女人——夏娃。据说，亚当是在星期五被造出来的，他和夏娃吃禁果也在星期五，他俩死的日子也是星期五。

英国从前常常在星期五处死罪犯，因此星期五有时也叫“绞刑日”。

从挪威神话中，人们产生一种想法：十三个人坐在一起聚餐是不吉利的。这种迷信被耶稣和其十二个门徒的最后的晚餐加以证实。圣经上说，在最后的晚餐上，耶稣和他的十二个门徒坐在一起，正好是十三人。他的门徒之一——犹大，为了三十个银币而出卖了自己的老师。第二天，耶稣便被钉死在十字架上，这天碰巧是星期五。

(严建英 供稿)

学英语也要破万卷书

2002 年高考江苏省理科状元 张璇

我学习英语的方法比较特殊。英语应该多读，就是多读课外材料。通过读，可以达到一举多得，就是既背了单词又背了句型，还知道了它们的用法，头脑中也贮存了很多优秀的片段。同时培养了语感，对听力和口语也有帮助。所以我最主要的学习方法就是多读，多看一些课外阅读材料。

培养语感，积累词汇

2002 年高考内蒙古理科状元 徐鸿

要培养语感，就要大量地阅读一些英文的书籍、报纸，最好是读一些英文的原著。语感是相当重要的，阅读和写作文都需要。要下工夫把语法攻下来，还有一个词汇量的问题。碰到生词的时候要尽力把它们的意义记下来，放到自己的词库里。这样，自己的词汇量就会越来越大。我经常看《今日中国》这样的报纸、一些简易英文小说乃至世界名著。这些课外读物直接带来的好处是词汇量的扩大和语感的增强。你在读英文原著时可能会碰到很多很多的生词，将每个生词记下来，哪怕是只记一部分，词汇量的增长就会很快。同时那些原著的气息对培养语感是很好处的。里面有很多优美的句子你可以背下来，用到作文当中。

从词到句，从句到文，层层推进

2002 年高考宁夏文科状元 王春阳

我可能是初中的英语底子比较厚，学起来很轻松。英语是由文章构成，文章是由句子构成，句子是由单词构成。因此首先要将单词学好，每个单词的用法、词性以及该单词所构成的词组都要掌握得非常清楚。学语法时可以先通读几遍课文，在做题的时候哪个语法不清楚，再从语法书中找出来。一定要把基础打好。另外，我还特别爱读英语文章，每天早上都抽出半个小时来读。我也喜欢英语这门课，有时说来说越说越想说。

(田 燕 供稿)

NEW ENGLISH



优生感言

EXPRESS



A Cat

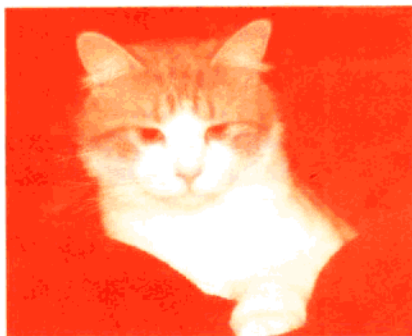
Mrs. Margaret had a young cat, and it was the cat's first winter. One evening the cat was outside when it began to snow heavily. Mrs. Margaret looked everywhere and shouted its name, but she did not find it. So she telephoned the police and said, "I have lost a small black cat. Has anybody found one?"

"No, madam," said the policeman at the other end. "But cats are really very strong animals. They sometimes lie for days in the snow, and when it melts or somebody finds them, they are quite all right."

Mrs. Margaret felt happier when she heard this. "And," she said, "our cat is very clever, she almost talks."

The policeman was getting rather tired.

"Well then," he said, "why don't you put your telephone down? Perhaps she is trying to telephone you now."



A Child's Eye View

Young Tommy, aged seven, spent all his spare time with a pencil and crayons, drawing the world as he saw it.

When his mother took him to a park, he did not want to play with the other children. He did not even want to play on the swings and seesaws. All he wanted to do was drawing.

His father was quite worried. "I don't want Tommy to spend his whole life drawing," he said.

"Why not?" his mother argued. "Some people do. Think about all the famous artists. Rembrandt, Gauguin, Van Gogh. Their main interest in life was their art."