



# 综合英语(二)上册

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# Lesson One

## Text

### Twelve Things I Wish They Taught at School

*Carl Sagan*

俗话说：“活到老，学到老。”人的一生就是不断学习、不断丰富和充实自己的过程。青少年阶段，尤其是中学阶段，无疑是学习的最佳时期。中学教育的重点应放在什么地方？美国著名科学家和科普作家萨根批评中学只抓各个学科具体内容的做法，他认为中学要注重对青少年的宏观教育，使他们建立起唯物的世界观和宇宙观，使他们能够正确对待自己，关心周围的世界——人类生存的环境和自己的地球同胞。

1 I attended junior and senior high school, public institutions in New York and New Jersey, just after the Second World War. It seems a long time ago. The facilities and the skills of the teachers were probably well above average for the United States at that time. Since then, I've learned a great deal. One of the most important things I've learned is how much there is to learn, and how much I don't yet know. Sometimes I think how grateful I would be today if I had learned more back then about what really matters. In some respects that education was terribly narrow; the only thing I ever heard in school about Napoleon was that the United States made the Louisiana Purchase from him. (On a planet where some 95% of the

inhabitants are not Americans, the only history that was thought worth teaching was American history.) In spelling, grammar, the fundamentals of math, and other vital subjects, my teachers did a pretty good job. But there's so much else I wish they'd taught us.

2 Perhaps all the deficiencies have since been rectified. It seems to me there are many things (often more a matter of attitude and perception than the simple memorization of facts) that the schools should teach — things that truly would be useful in later life, useful in making a stronger country and a better world, but useful also in making people happier. Human beings enjoy learning. That's one of the few things that we do better than the other species on our planet. Every student should regularly experience the "Aha!" — when something you never understood, or something you never knew was a mystery, becomes clear.

3 So here's my list:

**Pick a difficult thing and learn it well.**

4 The Greek philosopher Socrates said this was one of the greatest of human joys, and it is. While you learn a little bit about many subjects, make sure you learn a great deal about one or two. It hardly matters what the subject is, as long as it deeply interests you, and you place it in its broader human context. After you teach yourself one subject, you become much more confident about your ability to teach yourself another. You gradually find you've acquired a key skill. The world is changing so rapidly that you must continue to teach yourself throughout your life. But don't get trapped by the first subject that interests you, or the first thing you find yourself good at. The world is full of wonders, and some of them we don't discover until we're all grown up. Most of them, sadly, we never discover.

**Don't be afraid to ask "stupid" questions.**

5 Many apparently naive inquiries like why grass is green, or why the Sun is round, or why we need 55,000 nuclear weapons in the world — are really deep questions. The answers can be a gateway to real insights. It's also important to know, as well as you can, what it is that you don't know, and asking questions is the way. To ask "stupid" questions requires courage on the part of the asker and knowledge and patience on the part of the answerer. And don't confine your learning to schoolwork. Discuss ideas in depth with friends. It's much braver to ask questions even when there's a prospect of ridicule than to suppress your questions and become deadened to the world around you.

**Listen carefully.**

6 Many conversations are a kind of competition that rarely leads to discovery on either side. When people are talking, don't spend the time thinking about what you're going to say next. Instead, try to understand what they're saying, what experience is behind their remarks, what you can learn from or about them. Older people have grown up in a world very different from yours, one you may not know very well. They, and people from other parts of the country and from other nations, have important perspectives that can enrich your life.

**Everybody makes mistakes.**

7 Everybody's understanding is incomplete. Be open to correction, and learn to correct your own mistakes. The only embarrassment is in not learning from your mistakes.

**Know your planet.**

8 It's the only one we have. Learn how it works. We're changing

the atmosphere, the surface, the waters of the Earth, often for some short-term advantage when the long-term implications are unknown. The citizens of any country should have at least something to say about the direction in which we're going. If we don't understand the issues, we abandon the future.

### **Science and technology.**

9 You can't know your planet unless you know something about science and technology. School science courses, I remember, concentrated on the unimportant parts of science, leaving the major insights almost untouched. The great discoveries in modern science are also great discoveries of the human spirit. For example, Copernicus showed that — far from being the center of the universe, about which the Sun, the Moon, the planets, and the stars revolved in clockwise homage — the Earth is just one of many small worlds. This is a deflation of our pretensions, to be sure, but it is also the opening up to our view of a vast and awesome universe. Every high school graduate should have some idea of the insights of Copernicus, Newton, Darwin, Freud, and Einstein. (Einstein's special theory of relativity, far from being obscure and exceptionally difficult, can be understood in its basics with no more than first-year algebra, and the notion of a rowboat in a river going upstream and downstream.)

### **Don't spend your life watching TV.**

10 You know what I'm talking about.

### **Culture.**

11 Gain some exposure to the great works of literature, art and music. If such a work is hundreds or thousands of years old and is still admired, there is probably something to it. Like all deep

experiences, it may take a little work on your part to discover what all the fuss is about. But once you make the effort, your life has changed; you've acquired a source of enjoyment and excitement for the rest of your days. In a world as tightly connected as ours is, don't restrict your attention to American or Western culture. Learn how and what people elsewhere think. Learn something of their history, their religion, their viewpoints.

### Compassion.

12 Many people believe that we live in an extraordinarily selfish time. But there is a hollowness, a loneliness that comes from living only for yourself. Humans are capable of great mutual compassion, love, and tenderness. These feelings, however, need encouragement to grow.

13 Look at the delight a one- or two-year-old takes in learning, and you see how powerful is the human will to learn. Our passion to understand the universe and our compassion for others jointly provide the chief hope for the human race.

## Word List

attend /ə'tend/ <i>vt.</i>	上(学)
junior high school	(美)初级中学
senior high school	(美)高级中学
facility /fə'sɪlətɪ/ <i>n.</i>	(常用复数)设备,设施
grateful /'ɡreɪtʃ(ə)l/ <i>adj.</i>	感激的,表示感激的
matter /'mætə(r)/ <i>v.</i>	要紧,有关系
terribly /'terəblɪ/ <i>adv.</i>	(口)非常,很
narrow /'nærəʊ/ <i>adj.</i>	(程度、范围等)有局限的

purchase /'pɜ:tʃɪs/ <i>n.</i>	购买
spelling /'speliŋ/ <i>n.</i>	拼写
fundamental /'fʌndə'menti/ <i>n.</i>	(常用复数)基础;基本原理
pretty /'prɪti/ <i>adv.</i>	相当,很
planet /'plæni:t/ <i>n.</i>	行星
regularly /'regjʊləli/ <i>adv.</i>	经常
experience /'ɪk'spiəriəns/ <i>v.</i>	经历,体验
aha /ɑ:'hɑ:/ <i>int.</i>	啊哈(表示惊奇或得意)
pick /pɪk/ <i>v.</i>	挑选,选择
Greek /gri:k/ <i>adj.</i>	希腊的
philosopher /fr'ɪləsəfə(r)/ <i>n.</i>	哲学家
interest /'ɪntrəst/ <i>v.</i>	使……感兴趣
key /ki:/ <i>adj.</i>	主要的,极重要的
rapidly /'ræpidli/ <i>adv.</i>	快地,迅速地
continue /kən'tɪnju:/ <i>v.</i>	继续(不断)
throughout /θru:'aʊt/ <i>prep.</i>	贯穿;遍及
trap /træp/ <i>v.</i>	使受限制;被圈在
wonder /'wʌndə(r)/ <i>n.</i>	奇迹;奇物;奇事
sadly /'sædli/ <i>adv.</i>	可惜;说来遗憾
stupid /'stju:pɪd/ <i>adj.</i>	愚蠢的,笨的
apparently /ə'pærəntli/ <i>adv.</i>	表面上地;显然地
naive /nɑ:'i:v, nɑ:'-/ <i>adj.</i>	天真的;幼稚的
inquiry /ɪn'kwɪəri/ <i>n.</i>	问题;疑问
deep /di:p/ <i>adj.</i>	深奥的
gateway /'geɪtweɪ/ <i>n.</i>	途径;方法
insight /'ɪnsaɪt/ <i>n.</i>	深刻见解
patience /'peɪjəns/ <i>n.</i>	耐心;耐性
confine /kən'faɪn/ <i>v.</i>	限制,使局限
schoolwork /'sku:lwɜ:k/ <i>n.</i>	学校作业,课堂作业
prospect /'prɒspekt/ <i>n.</i>	将要发生的事

ridicule /'rɪdɪkjʊ:l/ <i>n.</i>	嘲笑, 嘲弄
suppress /sə'pres/ <i>v.</i>	禁止披露; 隐瞒
deadened /'dedənd/ <i>adj.</i>	变得死一般的; 麻木的, 漠不关心的
remark /rɪ'mɑ:k/ <i>n.</i>	话语; 谈论
perspective /pə'spektɪv/ <i>n.</i>	(观察问题的) 视角; 观点
enrich /ɪn'ri:tʃ/ <i>v.</i>	充实; 使丰富
incomplete /ɪnkəm'pli:t/ <i>adj.</i>	不完全的, 不完整的
correction /kə'rekʃən/ <i>n.</i>	改正; 纠正
embarrassment /ɪm'bærəsmənt/ <i>n.</i>	使人为难的事; 障碍
atmosphere /'ætməsfɪə(r)/ <i>n.</i>	(包围地球的) 大气层
implication /ɪm'pli'keɪʃən/ <i>n.</i>	含意; 暗示
abandon /ə'bændən/ <i>v.</i>	放弃; 抛弃
concentrate /'kɒnsəntreɪt/ <i>v.</i>	集中; 全神贯注
untouched /ʌn'tʌtʃt/ <i>adj.</i>	未被论及的; 未提及的
homage /'hɒmɪdʒ/ <i>n.</i>	尊敬, 敬意
graduate /'grædʒʊət, -dʒu-/ <i>n.</i>	(美) 毕业生
relativity /,relə'tɪvɪtɪ/ <i>n.</i>	相关性; 相对论
enjoyment /ɪn'dʒɔɪmənt/ <i>n.</i>	愉快, 乐趣
connect /kə'nekt/ <i>v.</i>	联系; 连接
restrict /rɪ'strɪkt/ <i>v.</i>	限定; 限制
western /'westən/ <i>adj.</i>	西方国家的; 欧美国家的
compassion /kəm'pæʃən/ <i>n.</i>	同情; 怜悯
extraordinarily /ɪk'strɔ:dənəri/ <i>adv.</i>	特别地; 不平常地
selfish /'selfɪʃ/ <i>adj.</i>	自私的
hollowness /'hɒləʊnɪs/ <i>n.</i>	空洞; 无趣, 寂寞
loneliness /'ləʊnlɪnɪs/ <i>n.</i>	孤独; 寂寞
mutual /'mju:tʃʊəl/ <i>adj.</i>	相互的, 彼此的



tenderness /'tendənɪs/ <i>n.</i>	温情;慈爱
encouragement /ɪn'kʌrɪdʒmənt/ <i>n.</i>	鼓励
grow /grəʊ/ <i>v.</i>	增长
jointly /'dʒɔɪntli/ <i>adv.</i>	联合地,共同地

## Proper Names

Carl Sagan /'kɑ:l 'sɑ:gən/	卡尔·萨根
Socrates /'sɒkrətɪz/	苏格拉底
Copernicus /kə(ʊ)'pɜ:nɪkəs/	哥白尼
New Jersey /nju: 'dʒɜ:zi/	新泽西州
Newton /'nju:tn/	牛顿
Darwin /'dɑ:wɪn/	达尔文
Freud /frɔɪd/	弗洛伊德
Einstein /'aɪnstam/	爱因斯坦

## Useful Expressions

in some respects	在某些方面
(not) matter what/how, etc.	……(没)有关系
get trapped	被困,陷于
lead to	导致
leave... untouched	没有提及过;没有动过
far from	并非,并不是
be restricted to	仅限于
be capable of	有能力
take delight in	乐于,嗜好

provide...for...

为……提供……

## Word Study

**learn** *vt. & vi.*

1. 学习,学会

V; V + N; V + to do sth.; V + (how) to do sth.

He is teaching his little daughter to swim, and she *is learning* fast.

The Princess told Andersen to *learn a useful trade* like shoe-making.

I stayed there at that job for a few weeks and I *learned* from him *a way* to study.

David took a course somewhere down south where he could *learn to drive* a stock-car.

2. 得知,获悉

V + N; V + wh- clause; V + that clause

We finally *learned the truth* about the whole matter.

We *learned* for the first time how Tracy Bill had died.

From a worn letter found in his pocket, a nurse *learned that* his son was a Marine stationed in North Carolina.

3. 熟记,记住,背诵

V + N

The actors and actresses are busy *learning the lines* of the play.

4. Phrases:

learn about / of 得知,获悉

learn...by heart 熟记,背诵

learn one's lesson 吸取教训

learn from 向……学习

**ask** *vt. & vi.*

1. 询问, 打听

1) V(+ N) + about + N; V + N + N

She never *asks about* my family.

She never *asks anybody about* anything.

She *asked a question about* computer science.

The teacher *asked the new students their names*.

2) V(+ N) + wh- to do sth. ; V(+ N) + wh- clause

He *asked the professor what to do* next.

The policeman *was asking how* the fight broke out.

Agent X *asked the old man who* played the fiddle in the village.

I *asked him whether* he had received an invitation to Xiao Li's wedding.

2. 请求, 要求, 叫

V + to do sth. ; V + N + to do sth.

She *asked to join* the volleyball team.

Henry *asked his brother Colin to read out* his will.

3. 邀请

V + N + to / for + N; V + N + to do sth.

Tom *has asked his classmates to* his birthday party.

We've *asked a few friends in for* dinner.

They often *ask their colleagues to come* to tea.

4. Phrases:

ask sb. for sth. / ask sth. of sb. 向某人要求某物

ask after 问候

ask for 请求, 要求

ask a favour of sb. 请某人帮忙

**teach** *vt. & vi.*

1. 教, 讲授; 教书, 当教师

V; V (+ N) + N

Fourteen years later, I *am still teaching*.

She *teaches* at a technical school.

He's *teaching American Literature* this semester.

The tall boy looked at me as if to say: "All right, *teach me something*."

2. 教某人做

V + N + N; V + N + (how) to do sth.

The girl *taught the tourists a Tibetan dance*.

The man *taught his three-year-old daughter to ride* a horse.

3. 教导, 教育; 使认识

V (+ N) + N; V + N + to do sth.; V + N + that clause

He *taught his son the importance* of tolerance.

Professor Sagan *teaches young people not to be afraid* to ask "stupid" questions.

The old man *taught young people that* the human race was sure to move forward.

4. Phrases:

teach oneself sth. 自学

teach sb. a lesson 给某人一个教训

## Notes on the Text

1. **About the author:** 卡尔·萨根(1934—), 美国天文学家, 科奈尔大学教授, 国家航空航天局(NASA)计划顾问, 知名科普作家, 研究地球生命起源、行星大气、行星表面等, 尤以探索地球外生

命现象闻名。他积极推动普及科学知识;1980年,在美国非商业性的公共电视台,他编导并亲自主持了大型科学电视系列节目《宇宙》(*Cosmos*)。该节目被译成十多种语言,在六十多个国家播放,观众多达5亿。与之配套的同名科普图书成为《纽约时报》连续70周的最佳畅销书,在八十多个国家发行了五百多万册。1977年,他因《伊甸园的飞龙》(*The Dragons of Eden*)而获得普利策奖。他对知识的热爱及对新事物、新问题的热忱探索给他的读者和观众极大的启发,开阔了不少人的视野。1997年7月4日,“火星探路者号”在火星平安着陆,该探测器被重新命名为“卡尔·萨根纪念站”——他对宇航事业的贡献以及他在人们心目中的崇高地位由此可见一斑。

2. **About the text:** 节选自作者1985年发表的《学校要是教给我们这12种本领就好了》(“Twelve Things I Wish They Taught at School”)。作为科学家和作家,萨根的文风严谨,思路清晰,内涵丰富,值得玩味。

3. **The facilities and the skills of the teachers were probably well above average for the United States at that time:** 学校的设施、教师的水平在当时的美国大大高于一般水准。

above / below average: 高于或低于一般标准或水平。

well *adv.*: 相当地,大大地,可观地,又如:

He is no longer young. He is *well* over fifty.

他已经过了年轻时代,都五十好几了。

It's *well* past midnight. I think it's time you went home.

早过了午夜,你该回家了。

4. **One of the most important things I've learned is how much there is to learn, and how much I don't yet know:** 我所学到的最重要的一点,就是要学的东西实在是太多,而我还没有学到的东西也太多。

注意 *is* 后面排比的用法,两个并列的表语从句均以 *how much* 开头。在 *how much there is to learn* 中 *to learn* 是定语,修饰主

语 how much; 在 how much I don't yet know 中, how much 是 don't know 的宾语。

5. **Sometimes I think how grateful I would be today if I had learned more back then about what really matters:** 有时候,我想那时要是能多学点真正重要的东西,今天我会多么地心存感激。

这里 if 引出的是一个虚拟条件句。

back then: 以往的那个时期(指作者的中学时代)。

what really matters: what is really important。注意 matter 作为动词的用法:

We don't expect you to make no mistakes. What *matters* is whether you learn from them.

我们不指望你什么错误都不犯,重要的是你是否从中吸取教训。

6. **the only thing I ever heard in school about Napoleon was that the United States made the Louisiana Purchase from him:** 关于拿破仑,在学校里我所学到的仅仅是美国从他手里买下了路易斯安那。

the Louisiana Purchase: 路易斯安那购置。1803 年美国以 1,500 万美元从法国购得东起密西西比河、西至落基山脉、南起墨西哥湾、北至加拿大的 214.45 万平方公里的土地,使美国的领土一下子增加了一倍。当时法国由拿破仑一世统治。

作者在这里强调的是,美国学校的历史课忽视世界历史,只强调美国历史。拿破仑是历史上的重要人物,而作者当时只知道拿破仑与美国历史有关的一件事。

7. **On a planet where some 95% of the inhabitants are not Americans, the only history that was thought worth teaching was American history:** 在一个约 95% 的居民不是美国人的星球上,学校当局认为只有美国历史才值得讲授。(这里作者委婉地批评了美国教育部门的狭隘与偏见。)

where some 95 % of the inhabitants are not Americans: 是定语从句, 修饰 a planet。

that was thought worth teaching: 也是定语从句, 修饰 the only history, 其主动语态的形式为 that school authorities thought worth teaching; 关系代词 that 是 thought 的宾语, worth teaching 是宾语的补语。这里动词 think 的句型是: V + 宾语 + 宾补。

some *adv.*: (与数字连用) 大约, 约有, 又如:

Some 80 students have taken the course.

约有八十名学生选了这门课。

During the championship, the Chinese women's football team flew back and forth from the east coast to the west coast, covering *some* 30,000 kilometres.

在整个锦标赛期间, 中国女足从东海岸到西海岸飞来飞去, 行程约有三万公里。

**8. Perhaps all the deficiencies have since been rectified:** 或许该教而没教的缺陷自那以后已经得以纠正。

deficiencies *n.*: the absence of things needed or required 缺乏, 缺少, 不足, 又如:

This disease is caused by Vitamin D *deficiency*.

这种疾病是维生素 D 不足而引起的。

**9. often more a matter of attitude and perception than the simple memorization of facts:** (该教的) 主要是态度问题、认识问题, 而不是简单的对事实记忆的问题。(作者认为学校应该教学生如何认识和面对周围所发生的一切, 包括所学的内容; 而在他上中学时, 他们主要是背诵、记熟公式、定律、事实等。)

matter *n.*: (讨论、考虑等的) 问题, 又如:

a *matter* of principle 原则问题

a *matter* of time 时间问题(迟早会发生)

a *matter* of opinion 看法问题

a *matter* of life and death 生死攸关的问题

more + 名词短语 + than + 名词短语: 与其说……不如说……, 又如:

For him, music is *more a way of life than an interest*.

对他来说, 音乐更是一种生活方式, 而不仅是一种爱好。

10. **things that truly would be useful in later life, useful in making a stronger country and a better world, but useful also in making people happier**: 那些在以后的生活中真正有用的东西, 即那些能使国家更强大、世界更美好, 也能使人们更幸福的东西。

注意作者为了强调教学的宏观目的, 连续使用了两个 *useful* 开始的短语。

11. **That's one of the few things that we do better than the other species on our planet**: 这是我们人类比这个地球上其他物种做得好些的为数有限的几件事中的一件。(此句包含作者对人类所作所为的批评, 意思是: 人有种种恶习, 优点不多, 但喜欢学习却是一大优点。)

12. **Every student should regularly experience the "Aha!" — when something you never understood, or something you never knew was a mystery, becomes clear**: 每个学生都应该经常体验一下说出“啊, 原来是这么一回事!”时的感受——也就是你以往不懂的或是不知道自己不懂的事情, 一下子变得豁然开朗时的感受。(作者的意思是, 学生要不断学习新事物, 体验学习的乐趣。)

the “Aha!”: *aha* 通常用于口语中, 表示人们在谈话时发出的一种声音, 表达满意、成功的喜悦或惊讶, 这里作名词。experience the “Aha!” 的意思是: 体验学到新东西, 找到答案时的惊喜的心情。

注意 *when* 引出的状语从句结构: *becomes clear* 是谓语(系表结构), 其余部分是由 *or* 连接的两个并列主语。注意动词 *becomes* 与其最近的主语一致。两个 *something* 后都跟一个定



语从句,第二个 something 后面的定语从句比较复杂,关系代词 which 省略。这个省略了的 which 不是 knew 的宾语,而是 was a mystery 的主语——这是口语体的用法。

13. **The Greek philosopher Socrates said this was one of the greatest of human joys, and it is:** 希腊哲学家苏格拉底曾经说过这是人类最大乐趣之一,确实也是如此。

Socrates: 苏格拉底(大约公元前 470—399), 古希腊最有影响的哲学家之一。

注意 the + 形容词最高级 + of + 名词的用法,又如:

*the greatest of* philosophers in ancient Greece 古希腊最伟大的哲学家

*the best of* my father's friends 我父亲最要好的朋友

*the most intelligent of* his students 他最聪明的学生

and it is: and it is still one of the greatest of human joys today. 今天这仍然是人类最大乐趣之一。(即这是个一般真理。)

14. **It hardly matters what the subject is, as long as it deeply interests you, and you place it in its broader human context:** 只要你对所选的课题感兴趣,只要你的研究不脱离课题本身更为广阔的人文环境,你的课题是什么并不重要。matter 常用于下列句型:it + 否定词 + matter(s) + wh-, 又如:

I think you got the author's name wrong. But it doesn't matter now.

你把作者的名字搞错了,不过现在已经没有关系了。

It doesn't matter how you do the job as long as you do it well. 这项工作怎么做并不重要,但要干好。

It hardly matters how you do it, as long as you do the job well and complete it on time.

只要你们把活干好,按期完成任务,怎么干并不重要。

15. **The world is full of wonders, and some of them we don't discover until we're all grown up. Most of them, sadly, we never**