

АКАДЕМИЯ НАУК СССР

СБОРНИК
ТЕМАТИЧЕСКИХ
ТЕКСТОВ

ДЛЯ ИЗУЧАЮЩИХ
РАЗГОВОРНУЮ РЕЧЬ

АНГЛИЙСКИЙ ЯЗЫК

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ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО АКАДЕМИИ НАУК СССР

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ПРЕДИСЛОВИЕ

В наши дни изучение иностранных языков приобрело особенно важное значение. В настоящее время для представителей советской науки важно не только читать литературу по специальности в подлиннике, но и уметь вести разговор на родном языке прибывшего ученого или понимать речь той страны, куда едет советский ученый. В связи с этим возникла необходимость развития навыков устной речи научных работников Академии наук СССР и создания соответствующего учебного пособия. Поэтому группа преподавателей английской секции Кафедры иностранных языков Академии наук СССР сочла целесообразным и своевременным составить данное учебное пособие, состоящее из тематических текстов (отрывков из литературных произведений, диалогов и т. д.), снабженных лексическими упражнениями, которые могут быть использованы для развития навыков устной речи.

Устная речь тесно связана с приобретением навыка восприятия на слух и умения высказать мысль на иностранном языке.

Развитие навыков устной речи у взрослых в сжатые сроки связано с большими трудностями. Поэтому как объемом изучаемого языкового материала, так и степень быстроты и легкости его понимания и восприятия ограничены.

Обучение устной речи слушателей разговорных групп, вниманию которых предлагается данное пособие, проводится на основе курса кандидатского минимума по иностранному языку.

Учитывая, в основном, пассивную языковую подготовку слушателей, прежде всего необходимо активизировать ограниченный словарь, состоящий (для начала) из essential words и включающий определенные темы в определенном объеме. Таким образом усвоенный активно материал и явится основой для дальнейшего усовершенствования знания иностранного языка. При составлении данного пособия авторы стремились ограничиться только полезной и интересной для слушателей Академии наук СССР тематикой.

Поскольку данное пособие не является учебником, то материал его может быть использован по усмотрению преподавателя, так же как и порядок прохождения тем.

Совершенно не является обязательным использование всех текстов каждой темы, здесь также выбор предоставляется преподавателю в зависимости от подготовленности слушателей, от бюджета времени и от характера занятий.

Итак, авторы, составляя пособие, в основном придерживались следующих принципов:

1. Тексты представлены тематически, т. е. с учетом проработки определенных тем и лексики.

2. Пассивный словарь текста может быть довольно широким, но активизируется только лексика, связанная с прорабатываемой темой.

3. Все тексты снабжены упражнениями, предусматривающими активизацию необходимого словаря, при этом составители стремились несколько разнообразить характер упражнений в зависимости от темы.

4. К каждой теме дается список слов, словосочетаний и выражений (Vocabulary), связанный с данной тематикой, с переводом на русский язык. Vocabulary содержит только те слова, которые желательно активизировать. Слова даются в тех значениях, в которых они встречаются в текстах. Кроме того в Vocabulary добавляется некоторое количество слов и словосочетаний, относящихся к изучаемой теме, но не имеющих в текстах. Преподаватель может использовать этот список по своему усмотрению, в зависимости от подготовленности слушателей группы.

К теме «Биографии» составители сочли нецелесообразным давать список слов и словосочетаний.

5. В пособие включены, в основном, оригинальные тексты, неадаптированные, или тексты, написанные авторами, для которых английский язык является родным языком. Тексты взяты из современных английских и американских учебников, учебных пособий и современной литературы.

Помимо текстов с разработками, почти к каждой теме даны в виде приложения тексты, связанные с темами, для использования их преподавателями в качестве дополнительного материала по усмотрению. Эти тексты не имеют упражнений и списков слов.

В сборнике сохраняется орфография и пунктуация источника, поэтому, наряду с английской орфографией, встречаются американские варианты написания слов.

Е. Дмитриева

TIME AND WEATHER

TIME

There are twenty-four hours in a day and seven days in a week. The days are Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday. The beginning of the day is dawn or daybreak; then comes morning, noon (12 o'clock), afternoon, evening, and night.

The sun rises in the east in the morning and sets in the west in the evening. When the sun shines it is light; when the sun has set it is dark, except for the light of the moon and the stars.

In a year there are 365 days, or 366 in a leap year, which comes every four years. Each year has twelve months, viz. January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December.

We remember the number of days in each month by the rhyme:

Thirty days have September,
April, June and November;
All the rest have thirty-one,
Excepting February alone,
Which has but twenty-eight days clear,
And twenty-nine in each leap year.

For the date of the month we use the ordinal numbers, e. g.:

What is the day of the month? What is the date to-day?

It is the first, second, third, fourth... twenty-first... thirtieth of January.

The Time of Day. We can tell the time by means of watches and clocks. A watch is carried in the waistcoat pocket or is worn on the wrist with a strap or ribbon. A clock is too big for the pocket and is placed on the mantelpiece or is hung on the wall. The big clocks that stand on the floor are called grand-father clocks.

The dial of the clocks is marked with figures to indicate the hours. The fingers or hands of the watch or clock point to these figures and so we can tell the time. When the long hand is at twelve and the short hand at three it is three o'clock; after five minutes it is five past three, then ten past three, a quarter past three, twenty past three, twenty-five past three, half-past three, twenty-five to four, twenty to four, a quarter to four, ten to four, five to four, four o'clock.

If my watch goes too fast I say it gains, if it goes too slowly I say it loses. If I forget to wind it up, it stops.

Proverbs About Time

A stitch in time saves nine.

Time and tide wait for no man.

Time is money.

There is a time for everything.

C. Eckersley, "A Modern English Course
for Foreign Students"
in "An Intermediate Book",
London — New York — Toronto, 1952.

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What day is it to-day?
2. When is your birthday?
3. What date is your birthday?
4. When were you born?
5. How old are you?
6. What do you say to a friend on his birthday?
7. What do you say at New Year?
8. What time is it?
9. What's the time?
10. Can you tell me the time, please?
11. What time is your lesson?
12. Is the 3.40 train up to time?
13. What is the meaning of a. m.¹, for example, 7.40 a. m.?
14. Have you got the time?

II. Put questions to the following:

1. The train leaves at 8.30 p. m.¹
2. We can tell the time by means of watches and clocks.
3. My birthday is the twenty

¹ See vocabulary.

third of August. 4. I usually get up at a quarter to eight. 5. The train is five minutes late owing to the fog. 6. Our lesson begins at 8 o'clock.

III. Read the text and tell the teacher everything you know about time and seasons making use of the new vocabulary

IV. Finish up the following sentences:

1. The beginning of the day is 2. The sun rises in ... and sets in 3. Each year has 4. There are 366 days in 5. We can tell the time by means of 6. A clock is placed on ... or hung on 7. The big clocks that stand on the floor are called 8. If my watch goes too fast I say it If it goes too slowly I say it

V. Insert prepositions:

1. There are twenty four hours... a day. 2. The sun rises... the east and sets... the west. 3. When the sun has set it is dark, except... the light... the moon. 4. A wrist watch is worn... the wrist... a strap or ribbon. 5. The dial of the clock is marked... figures. 6. The hands... the watch point... the figures. 7. I get up at a quarter... seven and go... bed... half... twelve.

VI. Translate into English:

1. Наши занятия начинаются в 9.20. 2. Я буду ждать вас в половине второго. 3. Поезд отправляется в 4.50 дня. 4. Мой день рождения 15-го января. 5. Он подарил мне часы ко дню рождения. Я ношу их на кожаном ремешке. 6. Мои часы отстают. Надо их отдать в починку. 7. Она забыла завести часы и они остановились. 8. Зима начинается в декабре. 9. Пятичасовой поезд опаздывает из-за тумана. 10. Ваши часы спешат — сейчас десять минут шестого. 11. Сейчас только два часа. Не так ли? 12. Мы не опоздали на урок? 13. Какой час на ваших часах?

VII. Write a composition on one of the following topics:

1. My summer holidays last year.
2. My favourite season.

WEATHER

When two English people meet, their first words will be "How do you do?" or "How are you?" And after the reply "Very well, thank you; how are you?" the next remark is almost certain to be about the weather. "It's a lovely morning, isn't it?" or "Isn't it hot to-day?" and the other person will reply, "Yes, it's wonderful weather we are having. I hope it will keep fine; it seems almost too good to last."

Or perhaps the day is dull; it is raining a little, the sky is grey, and everyone is wearing a mackintosh or carrying an umbrella. As the cars and buses go along the street they splash the water and mud on the passers-by.

Gradually it gets darker; a thick fog is spreading over London. The lamps are lit in the streets and in the shops offices; cars and buses put on their lights and can only crawl along. As one friend bumps into another, he says, "Isn't it a beastly day?" "Yes," replies the other, "you can hardly see a yard in front of you".

Then comes winter. There has been a good fall of snow and a hard frost. It is just the day for a good country walk; let us have a tramp down the country lanes. The ground is like iron and rings under our feet, the frost sparkles on the branches, and icicles hang from the houses.

It is still freezing hard and the ponds are frozen over. There are crowds of people on them sliding and skating, and here is a merry group of schoolboys having a fight with snowballs. It is very pleasant while the frost lasts; the unpleasant time comes when the thaw begins.

A few months have passed and it is a beautiful spring day. The rain fell heavily last night, but now the soft white clouds are floating across the blue sky, and the sun is shining brightly. Raindrops and dew-drops shine on every small green leaf and every blade of young grass.

The farmer has ploughed his fields and the new corn is just beginning to appear above the ground. In a few months autumn and harvest time will come. When the corn has turned ripe and golden the farmer will reap it and put it in his barn.

C. Eckersley, "A Modern English Course
for Foreign Students"
in "An Intermediate Book",
London — New York — Toronto, 1952

Some usual Remarks about the Weather

Note 1.

It looks like rain to-day; I think we are going to have some more rain.

It's a bit dull, but I think it will clear up.

It's raining cats and dogs; it's pouring with rain; it's coming down in torrents; I'm wet through; I am wet to the skin.

It's very close to-day, I can hardly breathe.

Has it stopped raining yet?

I think we are going to have a heavy fall of snow; the snow-flakes are very big.

It's freezing as hard as it can; it's bitterly cold. That was a terrible thunder storm; a tree was struck by lightning. I think we are in for a long dry summer.

March winds, April showers.

Bring forth May flowers.

Every cloud has its silver lining

Note 2.

Weather Forecast (samples)

Weather: Bright periods, showers, average temperatures.

Lighting up time: 7.3 p. m.

Weather: Cloudy, with rain or showers; rather cold. Lighting up time 6.56 p. m.

Weather: Cloudy, rain or drizzle; some bright periods; mild.

Lighting up time: 6.9. p. m.¹

EXERCISES

I. Answer the following questions:

1. What are the four seasons of the year? Say a little about each.
2. What do you wear to protect you against the rain?
3. When does water freeze? What is the opposite of "freeze"?
4. What do you do on the ice?

¹ Lighting up time — time to switch on the head-light.

II. Write down the names of three birds and three spring flowers, and make a sentence about each.

III. Fill in the words omitted.

1. There had been a... frost and a good... of snow. 2. The... is like iron and... under our feet. 3. The frost... on the branches and... hang from the houses. 4. It is freezing hard and the ponds are... over. 5. There are crowds of people on them... and... 6. Rain-drops and... drops shine on every leaf and on every... of young grass.

IV. There are several words in English ending in -ough, but they are not pronounced alike. The following are rhymes. Pronounce each one and use it in a sentence:

plough, bough — cow
ough — off
rough, enough — cuff
through — blue
dough, though — go.

V. Write a short description of a foggy day, or a walk in summer.

VI. Describe the weather in winter, spring, summer, and autumn.

VII. Write a letter to your friend describing weather during your vacation.

VIII. Compare the weather of Moscow and London.

IX. Write a composition using some of the following expressions:

It's a quarter to five. It's four past two. It's ten o'clock. My watch gains two minutes. My watch loses one minute. What is the date to-day? What is the time? It looks like rain to-day; I think we are going to have some more rain. It's a bit dull, but I think it will clear up. It's raining cats and dogs; it's pouring with rain; it's coming down in torrents; I'm wet through; I am wet to the skin. It's very close to-day. I can hardly breathe. Has it stopped raining yet? I think we are going to have a heavy fall of snow. It's freezing as hard as can be; it's bitterly cold. That was a terrible thunder storm; a tree was struck by lightning. I think we are in for a long dry summer.

VOCABULARY

- afternoon *n* — день
 a. m. — ante meridiem — лат. до полудня
 April *n* — апрель
 August *n* — август
 birthday *n* — день рождения
 climate *n* — климат
 clock *n* — часы (стенные, настольные, башенные)
 close *adj* — душный
 cold *adj* — холодный
 cool *adj* — прохладный
 cool down — охлаждаться
 date *n* — число, дата
 day *n* — день, сутки
 daybreak *n* — рассвет
 dawn *n* — заря
 dial *n* — циферблат; *syn.* face
 December *n* — декабрь
 downpour *n* — ливень
 dull *adv* — пасмурно
 evening *n* — вечер
 face *n* — циферблат; лицо; *syn.* dial
 fast *adj* — скорый, быстрый
 fine *adj* — хороший
 fine weather — хорошая погода
 finger *n* — стрелка (часов), *syn.* hand
 fog *n* — туман
 foggy *adj* — туманный
 fortell *v* — предсказывать
 fortell weather — предсказывать погоду
 February *n* — февраль
 Friday *n* — пятница
 frost *n* — мороз
 gain *v* — спешить (о часах)
 grow *v* — расти
 grow green — зеленеть
 hail *n* — град
 hand *n* — стрелка; *syn.* finger
 heat *n* — жара
 hot *adj* — жаркий
 hour *n* — час
 holiday *n* — праздник
 ice *n* — лед
 January *n* — январь
 July *n* — июль
 June *n* — июнь
 lightning *n* — молния
 it lightens — сверкает молния
 lose *v* — отставать (о часах)
 March *n* — март
 May *n* — май
 mean *adj* — средний
 mean temperature — средняя температура
 melt *v* — таять
 minute *n* — минута
 moist *adj* — влажный, сырой
 month *n* — месяц
 morning *n* — утро
 mud *n* — грязь
 night *n* — ночь
 noon *n* — полдень
 November *n* — ноябрь
 October *n* — октябрь
 oppressive *adj* — гнетущий
 oppressive heat — гнетущая жара
 pour *v* — лить(ся), вливать(ся)
 it pours — идет сильный дождь
 p. m. — post meridiem — лат. пополудни
 quarter *n* — четверть
 rain *n* — дождь
 it rains — идет дождь
 ribbon *n* — лента
 Saturday *n* — суббота
 season *n* — время года
 September *n* — сентябрь
 shine *v* — светить, сверкать
 snow *n* — снег
 snow fall — снегопад
 it snows — идет снег
 splash *v* — забрызгивать, брызгаться
 spring *n* — весна
 storm *n* — буря
 strap *n* — ремешок, ремень
 summer *n* — лето
 Sunday *n* — воскресенье
 sun *n* — солнце
 the sun rises — солнце всходит
 the sun sets — солнце заходит
 Tuesday *n* — вторник
 thunder *n* — гром
 it thunders — гремит гром
 Thursday *n* — четверг
 unbearable *adj* — невыносимый
 watch *n* — часы
 warm *adj* — теплый

weak *adj* — слабый

weather *n* — погода

weather forecast — сводка пого-
ды

weather chart — метеорологи-

ческая сводка

Wednesday *n* — среда

wind *n* — ветер

winter *n* — зима

wrist *n* — запястье

SUPPLEMENTARY READING

About the weather

— This, I suppose, is a typical winter's day. The streets are covered with snow. The air is clear and cold. Certainly, we never see anything like this in Sukhumi, where I come from.

— Perhaps such a scene is typical for some sections of the USSR but not for Leningrad. The streets won't stay this way for very long. As always in Leningrad, the temperature will probably change within a few hours, the snow will melt and then the streets will be covered instead with mud and slush — not a very pretty sight. Usually they are all light snowfalls of an inch or two. Sometimes the snow barely covers the ground, and often during a snowstorm the snow will change to rain and wash away by itself in a few hours.

— But I have read various times in the newspapers about heavy snowfalls in Leningrad. There are photographs of certain parts of the city completely covered with snow.

— Perhaps once in every four or five years we have a heavy snowstorm or blizzard, but such storms are the exception rather than the rule. Temperature in Leningrad during the real winter months of January and February range between 15 and 20 degrees.

— The changes of season and weather are very interesting. In the USSR one can find every type of climate and weather. In Sukhumi, of course, the weather changes very little. We have only two seasons, summer and winter, with a difference in temperature of only 15 or 20 degrees.

— One doesn't have to go out of Leningrad to find examples of every type of climate. The changes that occur in the weather here are often as sudden as they are unpleasant. A sudden change of temperature within a single day is not uncommon.

— But you have said that winter temperatures do not go very low in Leningrad.

— Normally winter temperatures here range between 15

and 20 degrees, but that does not mean that they do not go lower. Thus there are times during a snowstorm when the temperature will suddenly drop and the snow will change to sleet and hail. Again the snow may begin to melt normally but the temperature drops, and before the streets can be cleaned, the water has all changed to ice. Then it is almost impossible to drive or walk. Cars are sliding all over the streets. People slip and fall everywhere on the sidewalks.

— That sounds like a lot of fun.

— It's not very funny when you slip and fall on the ice. You go down suddenly and there is no way of catching yourself.

— I want to take some photographs of myself standing in the snow in Letni Šad. I want to send them home to my friends in Sukhumi. Most of them have never seen snow.

— In Leningrad one enjoys or suffers all kinds of climate. In the spring it rains frequently, and there is a great deal of wind. In summer the heat becomes sometimes almost unbearable.

It is a heavy humid heat that is almost suffocating. Leningrad is quite humid. This same humidity also makes many winter days unpleasant because the air, instead of being dry and brisk, is damp and penetrating. The cold seems to go right into one's bones.

Fog

The fog comes
On little cat feet
It sits looking
Over harbour and city
On silent haunches
And then moves on.

Carl Sandberg

Smoke + fog = smog

Fog! The poetry and the misfortunes of London, its pride and its curse; the bleak fog overloaded with dark gloom, bitter cold and hidden danger.

Fog, fog everywhere — down the river where it spreads among the ships, in the streets, creeping into the houses, lingering before the door; for in the eyes and throats of chance passers-by, its thick veil all around them. Cars move along

at snail's pace but still street accidents are frequent in the fog. People cannot see each other at their arm's length, they, too, collide in the streets, they creep along the houses touching them with their hands for fear of losing their way or for fear of being run over by a car.

An old anecdote comes to my mind: in a fog a young man wanted to cross the street, but he was afraid of being run over. At that moment he saw quite near the figure of a man walking with a firm step. Our young man eagerly ran up to him caught his hand and they crossed the street together.

"How do you manage to find your way in the fog so well?" — asked the young man.

"My dear sir, fog or no fog, it makes me no difference. I am blind", was the answer.

The fog begins with a transparent veil through which you can clearly see the sharp outlines of the Parliament, Big Ben, the Tower; then it becomes thicker and thicker, sometimes coloured yellow by the smoke of innumerable chimneys: a thick yellow suffocating fog of this kind is called "smog" (a combination of the words "smoke" and "fog") or a "pea-soup" or a "London particular".

This is a real disaster, especially for people with weak lungs. But smog does not happen so very often.

If you walk along London streets in the evening, you cannot help noticing that the lamplight in different streets is of different colour; blue, milk-white, yellow, purple or orange, and it is no whim: the Londoners experiment which of the lights is better seen through the fog.

Along some central streets and thoroughfares glaring bits of glass are inserted into the asphalt; we call them "cats' eyes"; you have most probably seen such "eyes" in our country, too, on road signs: "beware! an engine" or "turn to the right". They flash as soon as light illuminates them.

In Britain they are invaluable in foggy weather.

Fog is often the gloomy background against which the action develops in many English novels or films. Perhaps you can remember some of them? Dickens often used it, and Galsworthy too.

The fog is one of the most typical features of London and the Londoners cannot imagine their capital without it, no more than we can picture to ourselves winter in Moscow without snow.

FAMILY

CHILDHOOD

Holding Mama's hand, I came out of the dark railway station and went into the bright street of the strange town. I was inclined to trust Mama, whom, until today, I had never seen before, and whose worn troubled face with faded blue eyes bore no resemblance to my mother's face. In spite of the chocolate which she had bought to me I had no warm feeling for her so far. During the slow journey from Winton seated opposite me, she had gazed out of the window from time to time touching the corner of her eye with her handkerchief. But now that we were out of the train she made an effort to put away her mood, she smiled at me and pressed my hand.

"You are a good man not to cry any more. Do you think you can walk to the house?"

Anxious to please, I replied that I could walk, so we set off down the High Street. Mama attempted to interest me in the points of importance which we passed.

"There are the Levenford Municipal Offices, Robert. Mr. Leckie... Papa... works there".

"Papa," I thought. This is Mama's husband... I was much more tired than I had thought; and rather frightened.

Presently, however, we left the noise behind and entered a quiet suburb. We stopped at last before a tall house with yellow lace window-curtains and the name Lomond View.

"Here we are, then, Robert". Mrs. Leckie addressed me, "Wipe your eyes, and come in". I followed obediently. The words of our Dublin neighbour, Mrs. Chapman, as she kissed me good-buy that morning, rang in my ears: "What'll happen to you next, poor boy?" Then we passed to the kitchen. Having told me to sit down and rest, Mama began to move to

and fro, giving me encouraging looks. I sat scarcely breathing on the edge of a chair.

"We are having our dinner in the evening. When Papa comes in, try not let him see you are crying. Kate, my daughter, will be in a minute, too. She's a teacher. May be your mother told you. There is Adam, my oldest son, he does not stay with us. Then there's Papa's mother. She is away now. And there is my father who lives here always—he's your great grandpa Gow. You can just call him 'Grandpa'. When I have his tray ready you can take it upstairs to him. Say how do you do and help me at the same time". She laid the table for five and prepared a tray, setting upon it a cup of tea, a plate of jam, cheese and three slices of bread. She lifted the tray and held it out to me.

"Be careful and not fall". I climbed the stairs and entered a room. My great Grandpa was sunk in an armchair by the fireplace. He was a tall man about seventy with a mane of red hair. His beard and moustache were of the same tinge; his eyes were blue. But the most remarkable feature was his nose. It was a large nose, large and red. I had never seen such a nose, never. By this time he had ceased to write and turned slowly to regard me. We stared at each other. I put the tray. He began to eat. Then he lit a pipe. "So you are Robert Shannon?"—"Yes, Grandpa."—"Did you have a good journey?" "I think so, Grandpa".—"I understand you are going to stay?"—"Yes, Grandpa. Mr. Chapman says there was no place else for me to go." Suddenly I had a wild craving for his sympathy. Did he know that my father had died of consumption, the dreadful family malady which carried off his two sisters and destroyed my mother. But grandpa had already turned the subject.

"You're eight, arn't you? It's an age when a boy should stand up for himself". He paused. "I'm glad you have my hair. Your mother had it too, poor girl." I burst into tears since my mother's funeral the week before the mention of her name produced this reflex and always brought me everybody's sympathy. Yet this time I received no sympathy. I tried to stop, choked and began to cough.

"Robert, you must pull yourself together. In my life I've had many difficulties. Do you think I'd have won through if I'd laid down under them?" As he resumed his writing, I took up the empty tray and crept towards the door.

A. I. Cronin, *"The Green Years"*, Boston, 1946.
Abridged.