

COMMUNICATION PRACTICE IN WRITTEN ENGLISH

Frank Chaplen

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Part 1

Reading Passages and Exercises

Unit 1

The Chinese Medical System

When the Chinese began to develop their public health services in 1949, they decided that their main aim would be to prevent disease occurring. One part of their public health programme was to teach the people simple health rules such as the importance of drinking pure water and of getting rid of household rubbish. Chairman Mao's war on flies, mosquitoes and rats may have been regarded by the rest of the world as a joke, but the fact is that it is difficult to find a housefly in China these days. As a result, it is now possible to control the spread of some of the diseases which, twenty-five years ago, they carried from house to house and from village to village.

Unlike the rest of the world, China now seems to have enough doctors. Neither the city nor the village hospitals seem to be overcrowded. The explanation is that most medical care in China is provided by the 'barefoot doctors'. Consequently, only the difficult cases find their way to the local hospitals, and even fewer are passed on to the specialist hospitals for treatment.

The barefoot doctors seem to have caught the imagination of people in the West. But they are not doctors, nor do they generally go barefoot; they are simply health workers at the lowest level of the medical organization. Most of them are young country girls who have been given a short course of basic medical training. Each is responsible for about fifty families, their main work being to prevent disease rather than to cure it. For example, they make sure that children are protected against killer diseases such as diphtheria by giving them injections.

Although their main job is the prevention of disease, the barefoot doctors also treat the common illnesses, supply medicines, and give medical help if there has been an accident. In addition, they are sometimes trained to carry out tests for a particular disease that is a local problem. In the Shanghai valley, for



example, they test the rice farmers for bilharzia, while further south they are trained to look for early signs of nose cancer.

35 Recent medical visitors to China have all agreed that her health standards are good : few children die of diseases that can be cured, and many of the killer diseases are well under control. It is not surprising, therefore, that China is eager to show her medical system to the rest of the world. Nor is it surprising that the Chinese believe that the 'thoughts of Chairman Mao' on the
40 subject of public health have proved their value in the years since 1949.

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Section A Reading Comprehension

1 Comprehension Check

In the following questions you have to decide whether A is correct or whether B is.

Lines 1–11

- 1 The main public health programme of the Chinese Government was to
A remove the causes of disease.
B provide pure drinking water.
- 2 According to the passage, the important point about the health rules which the Government tried to teach the people is that
A it was easy to see their purpose, but difficult to carry them out.
B it was easy both to see their purpose and to carry them out.
- 3 It seems clear from lines 3–8 that understanding the new Government health policy
A was largely a matter of common sense.
B required a lot of education.
- 4 The word 'they' in line 10 refers to
A diseases.
B houseflies.

Lines 12–26

- 5 The writer says that China now *seems* to have enough doctors (1.12) because
A he does not really believe that they do.
B he believes that they do, but he cannot be certain.
- 6 What is a 'difficult case' (1.16)?
A A person whose illness cannot be treated by a barefoot doctor.
B A person who refuses to be treated by a barefoot doctor.
- 7 An example of a 'specialist hospital' (l. 17) is one in which
A only people with heart trouble are treated.
B people with common illnesses are treated.
- 8 If your imagination is caught by something (see l. 18) you
A think that it does not really exist.
B become deeply interested in it.

- 9 The people 'in the West' (l. 19) live in
A the west of China.
B countries in the western world.
- 10 To train a barefoot doctor probably takes
A several weeks.
B several years.
- 11 The word 'their' in line 23 refers to
A the barefoot doctors.
B the fifty families.

Lines 27-41

- 12 A particular disease that is a local problem (l. 30) is
A diphtheria.
B bilharzia.
- 13 Cancer (l. 33) is
A an extremely painful disease.
B an injury.
- 14 Medical visitors to China these days are made to feel very
A unwelcome.
B welcome.

2 Questions on the Passage

Each of the following questions has four suggested answers. Write down the letter of the one that you think best answers the question.

- 1 The medical programme which the Chinese Government set up in about 1949 was intended to
A increase the number of specialist hospitals.
B increase the number of highly-trained doctors.
C reduce the number of people needing medical treatment.
D teach people how to cure themselves of common illnesses.
- 2 One way in which the Government tried to achieve their main medical programme was by
A educating the people.
B preventing disease occurring.
C building new teaching hospitals.
D making medical treatment free.

- 3 According to the passage, one reason why the main medical programme has been successful is
A cures for some of the killer diseases have been discovered.
B the number of disease-carrying insects has been greatly reduced.
C the hospitals are not overcrowded.
D the barefoot doctors are highly trained.
- 4 The fact that the hospitals are not overcrowded is suggested as a reason for believing that
A most medical care is provided by the barefoot doctors.
B they accept only difficult cases.
C China has sufficient doctors.
D China has different problems from other countries.
- 5 Which of the following do you think is the least important advantage of the barefoot-doctor system?
A It is a very cheap system to run.
B It takes only a short time to train these health workers.
C The highly-trained doctors have more time to treat difficult cases.
D A person who has an accident can obtain treatment within a short time.
- 6 Each barefoot doctor looks after about
A 50 people.
B 600 people.
C 100 people.
D 2000 people.
- 7 One of the responsibilities of the barefoot doctors is to
A give short courses of basic medical training.
B treat the really difficult cases.
C work in the local hospitals.
D treat people who have been injured.
- 8 Some barefoot doctors may also have to check whether their patients have a disease which
A is common in their particular area.
B they themselves cannot treat.
C can only be treated in a hospital.
D can easily spread elsewhere.

- 9 According to the passage, how have the thoughts of Chairman Mao proved their value?
- A China is eager to receive medical visitors.
 - B Many of the killer diseases are now well under control.
 - C It is difficult to find houseflies in China these days.
 - D China seems to have enough doctors.
- 10 The writer clearly thinks that the Chinese medical system
- A could easily be improved.
 - B is not as good as that of most western countries.
 - C is better than that of some western countries.
 - D is working extremely well.

Section B Exercises

Exercise 1

The word 'village' is frequently used as a noun in such sentences as:

This village is pretty.

He lives in a small village.

The army destroyed the village.

In line 13 of the passage, however, it is used as an adjective in the sentence:

Neither the city nor the village hospitals seem to be overcrowded.

Find eight other words used as adjectives in the passage which can also be used as nouns. Write them in your exercise book in the following way:

- 1 village hospital (line 13).
- 2 nose cancer (line 33).

Exercise 2

Finish the incomplete sentences below. Write out the complete sentences in your exercise book.

Example

In China, most of the killer diseases can be prevented
are prevented.

Answer

In China, most of the killer diseases *which* can be prevented
are prevented.

or

In China, most of the killer diseases *that* can be prevented are prevented.

- 1 The man wrote 'The Chinese Medical System' is a doctor himself.
- 2 Water is impure can cause disease.
- 3 Few Chinese children die these days die of incurable diseases.
- 4 One disease is a local problem in the Shanghai valley is bilharzia.
- 5 Only cases are too difficult for a barefoot doctor to treat find their way to a local hospital.
- 6 Most doctors have visited China recently agree that her health standards are good.
- 7 Some of the diseases used to be spread by flies are now under control.

Exercise 3

Finish each sentence B so that it provides the same information as is given in sentence A. Write out the complete sentence in your exercise book.

Example

A A doctor wrote the article we have just been reading.

B The man we have just been reading is a doctor.

Answer

The man *whose article* we have just been reading is a doctor.

- 1 A Millions of people follow the advice of Chairman Mao.
B Chairman Mao is a man is followed by millions of people.
- 2 A You may find the spelling of 'diphtheria' difficult.
B 'Diphtheria' is a word may cause you difficulty.
- 3 A Those doctors who have the job of treating difficult cases work in specialist hospitals.
B Those doctors it is to treat difficult cases work in specialist hospitals.
- 4 A People living in China have a high standard of health.
B China is a country have a high standard of health.*
- 5 A Chinese children do not often die of diseases which have a cure.
B Chinese children do not often die of diseases is possible.

Note: Sentence 4B would more commonly be written: 'China is a country where (or in which) the people have a high standard of health.'

Exercise 4

Finish each sentence B so that it provides the same information as is given in sentence A. Write out the complete sentence in your exercise book.

Example

A Most of the medical care that is provided by the barefoot doctors is intended to prevent disease.

B Most of the medical care the barefoot doctors is intended to prevent disease.

Answer

Most of the medical care *provided* by the barefoot doctors is intended to prevent disease.

1 **A** The article about the Chinese medical system that was written by Dr. Smith was published in *The Times*.

B The article about the Chinese medical system Dr. Smith was published in *The Times*.

2 **A** The Chinese public health system that was introduced in 1950 has been very successful.

B The Chinese public health system in 1950 has been very successful.

3 **A** The patients who are sent to the local hospitals are usually very ill.

B The patients to the local hospitals are usually very ill.

4 **A** The work that is done by the barefoot doctors is very important.

B The work the barefoot doctors is very important.

5 **A** The people who are chosen to become barefoot doctors are usually young country girls.

B The people to become barefoot doctors are usually young country girls.

Exercise 5

Finish each sentence C in such a way that it provides the information given in both A and B. Write out the complete sentence in your exercise book.

Example

A In China, flies used to spread a number of diseases.

B Some of these diseases are now under control.

C In China, some of the diseases are now under control.

Answer

In China, some of the diseases *which flies used to spread* are now under control.

or

In China, some of the diseases *that flies used to spread* are now under control.

or

In China, some of the diseases *flies used to spread* are now under control.

- 1 A The barefoot doctors are given a course of medical training.
B The course lasts only a short time.
C The course of medical training lasts only a short time.
- 2 A I have spoken to several doctors who have visited China recently.
B Most of them agree that her health standards are good.
C Most of the doctors who have visited China recently agree that her health standards are good.
- 3 A Dr. Smith visited some specialist hospitals in China.
B None of them was overcrowded.
C None of the specialist hospitals in China was overcrowded.
- 4 A Dr. Smith met a number of barefoot doctors.
B Most of them were young.
C Most of the barefoot doctors were young.
- 5 A In the Shanghai valley they test for several diseases.
B One of them is bilharzia.
C One of the diseases in the Shanghai valley is bilharzia.
- 6 A You were speaking to that gentleman just now.
B He is the doctor who wrote 'The Chinese Medical System'.
C The gentleman just now is the doctor who wrote 'The Chinese Medical System'.
- 7 A They sent some barefoot doctors to work south of the Shanghai valley.
B They were trained to test people for nose cancer.
C The barefoot doctors to work south of the Shanghai valley were trained to test people for nose cancer.

Exercise 6

Complete sentence C in such a way that it provides the information given in both A and B. Write out the complete sentence in your exercise book.

- 1 A A boy broke the window.
 B He asked me not to tell you his name.
 C The boy the window asked me not to tell you his name.
- 2 A A window was broken last night in the storm.
 B It cannot be mended until tomorrow.
 C The window in last night's storm cannot be mended until tomorrow.
- 3 A I lent her some books last week.
 B They belonged to my brother.
 C The books her last week belonged to my brother.
- 4 A We were given a little dog.
 B Unfortunately, it grew into a big dog.
 C Unfortunately, the little dog grew into a big one.
- 5 A Do you see that man over there?
 B John is going to marry his daughter.
 C That's the man John is going to marry.
- 6 A Three men were injured in that accident.
 B They have been taken to Ormond Street Hospital.
 C The three men in that accident have been taken to Ormond Street Hospital.
- 7 A The Prime Minister made a speech last week.
 B It did not please many people.
 C The speech by the Prime Minister last week did not please many people.
- 8 A Someone has parked his car in the Principal's place.
 B Will he please move it?
 C Will the person his car in the Principal's place please move it?
- 9 A The car has been repaired.
 B Its door was damaged.
 C The car was damaged has been repaired.*
- 10 A Some books were ordered last month.
 B They have not arrived yet.
 C The books last month have not arrived yet.

Note: Sentence 9C would more commonly be written: 'The car with the damaged door has been repaired.'