

许国璋英语课本

# 教 参

# TEACHERS MANUAL

Book I

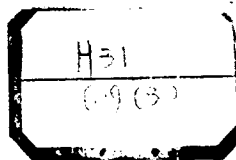
西南师范学院外语系编

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第 三 册

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**教 参**  
第 三 册  
四川省蓬溪县印刷厂印  
1982年7月

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## Lesson One

### A Sweet Potato Plot

#### INTRODUCTION

This story took place in those days of the Second Revolutionary Civil War in the Huang Kang district of Hupeh, when the Red Army men bravely fought against the KMT's campaign of encirclement and annihilation. At that time the Red Army men were in very difficult condition, but they strictly observed the Three Main Rules of Discipline and the Eight Points for attention laid down by Chairman Mao. So the unity between and masses was very close.

The story "A Sweet Potato Plot" tells us how well the people's army carried out the rules of discipline.

Once thirty Red Army men were surrounded on a mountain by KMT troops. The enemy dared not come up to fight the brave soldiers and planned to starve them out. The Red Army men kept themselves alive by eating wild fruit. On the fourth day they found a sweet potato plot. After much discussion they decided to eat the sweet potatoes and fight their way out. Before they went away, they left five silver dollars and a note of thanks in the plot for its owner. Three months later, when the Red Army men were back to the place again they were met by an old man, who, with great love and warmth, invited them to pass the night in his house. That old man turned out to be the owner of the sweet potato plot.

## WORDS TO THE TEXT

1. plot n. a piece of ground (usu. small) , as a potato plot; at plot of vegetables
2. top n. (usu. sing. ) the highest part or point; the summit; the upper part, side; the highest rank or degree  
e.g. There is a tea house at the top.  
Wood in water floats at the top.  
The title of the painting is inscribed by the artist at the top.  
At the top of a hill; at the top of the page;  
at the top of one's voice; at the top of the table; at the top of one's speed; at the top of the list; at the top of the class.
3. battalion n. a unit of an infantry regiment, composed of several companies; a large number of soldiers
4. surround v.t. enclose on all sides; shut in on all sides (See W.S. )
5. tight adj. 1) fastened firmly; not loose  
e.g. I can't get the cork out of the bottle — it's too tight.  
The drawer is so tight that I can't open it.  
These shoes are so tight that they hurt.  
2) put together in a small space; closely or firmly put together  
e.g. water-tight compartments;  
air-tight bottle; in a tight ring
6. ring n. a circular line or mark or formation  
e.g. The men were standing in a ring.

The children danced in a ring.

An ear-ring; a nose-ring;

an engagement-ring; a wedding-ring;  
ring-finger (third of the left hand)

7. dare v. be brave enough to; be impudent

A. anom. fin. \_\_\_\_\_ used chiefly in interr., neg.  
and conditional sentences, and in sentences that  
indicate doubt (with an inf. without to) dare-  
daren't

e.g. Dare you jump from the top of that high wall?  
I don't know whether he dare try.

"Dare he do that?"

"Good heavens, yes! There's nothing he  
daren't do" .

If he had known what was going to happen to  
him, he wouldn't have dared to go there.

How dare you say such a thing!

B. non-anom. fin.

Sub. + verb. to inf. (with or without to) dare  
—dares, dared, daring

e.g. He did not dare (to) go.

I have neve dared (to) go to ask him.

I wonder now he dared (to) say that.

My younger son usually dares to do anything.

He seems to have no fear at all.

8. starve v. suffer or die from hunger; be starved;  
be cold or hungry

9. wild adj. not tamed or cultivated

as wild animal (e.g lions, tigers, wolves);  
wild flowers and plants (growing naturally,  
not in gardens)

10. search v. examine; look carefully in order to find

sth. or sb. (See W. S. )

11. berry n. a small, juicy fruit with many small seeds

12. apricot n. round, orange-yellow or orange-red fruit with soft flesh and a hard stone-like seed

13. Hey interj. used to call attention or to express joy, surprise, wonder or interrogation

14. rush v.i. go or come forward with violence, move with force and speed

e.g. The soldier rushed forward.

They rushed out of the room.

Don't rush to conclusion (from them hastily).

Don't rush into print (publish sth. without proper care or consideration etc.).

Don't rush through your work.

An idea rushed into my mind.

15. commissar n. official of the Communist Party in charge of the enforcement of party loyalty as political commissar

16. ashamed adj. feeling unhappy or trouble because one has done sth. wrong or foolish to be ashamed of; to be ashamed to do sth.;  
to be ashamed + that clause

e.g. You should be ashamed of yourself (what you have done).

I am heartily ashamed of it.

I am utterly ashamed of your conduct.

What is there to be ashamed of in confessing one's errors?

He felt (was) ashamed to ask for help.

She was ashamed to confess it.

I am ashamed to find from your letter that I

have not yet replied to your previous one.

I feel ashamed that I have done (ashamed of having done) so little for the people.

I am ashamed that you should think me stupid.

17. discipline n. training of the mind and character; the exercise,

development and control of the mind and character, intended to produce obedience and orderly behaviour, so school discipline; military discipline; to enforce discipline.

18. heated adj. vehement, impassioned, or angry

19. argue v.i. give reason in support of one's opinions and against another person's

e.g. They argued with each other about the best way of studying English (the quickest way of fulfilling the task).

C. Columbus argued that he could reach the East by sailing west across the Ocean.

Argument n. arguing; talking among persons who have different opinions

20. scout n. a soldier sent in front of the main body of soldiers to get information about the enemy

21. situation n. condition; a state of affairs

e.g. The situation at the front has not changed recently.

The present situation at home is favourable.

22. favourable adj. in favour of; suitable; helpful; showing approval; giving support  
to be favourable to  
to be favourable to for

e.g. Circumstances were entirely favourable to us.

He is favourable to our scheme.

The weather is favourable to potatoes.

The weather is favourable for a start.

A rich, warm, mellow soil is most favourable for the growth of cabbage.

Conditions are favourable for him to carry out the plan.

23. breakthrough n. getting through by force

24. bolt v. t. (also n.) fasten with a bolt

25. insist v. refer to sth. repeatedly, for a long time, or with emphasis, urge or command in a forcible or emphatic manner (See W. S.)

26. kindness n. goodness, gentleness, kind nature or treatment

27. puzzle v. t. cause a person to think hard before finding a solution

e.g. This letter puzzled me.

He puzzled his brains to find the answer.

He was puzzled how to analyse the present situation correctly.

28. queer adj. strange, odd

29. troops n. (pl.) military forces, soldiers

30. hillside n. the side or slope of a hill

31. curse vt. use bad language against

32. luck n. chance; fortune (good or bad)

e.g. Good luck to you.

May you have better luck next time!

Diligence is the mother of good luck.

I'm in ill luck today.

The Charm is supposed to bring good luck and prosperity to the owner.

33. wrap vt. (or with up) roll fold round; cover in  
 34. silver n. a white shining precious metal, used for making coins, dishes, ornaments, etc.  
 35. folk n. (without pl. ending but with pl. verb)

1) people in general; the public

e.g. Some folk are never satisfied.

Is there more honesty among country folk than among town folk?

folk-dance; folk-song; folk-tale

2) (colloq. with pl. ending) relatives as old folks at home

36. accept vt. agree to take what is offered or given, as to accept a gift, an honour, a position, an invitation etc.

37. burst v. do sth. violently or suddenly

e.g. The sun burst through the clouds and shone over the earth.

The entire hall burst into thunderous cheers.

The poor girl burst into tears when she heard the sad news.

They all burst out laughing when they heard his words.

The cherry blossoms burst forth in all their beauty.

38. grasp v.t. seize firmly with the hand, as to grasp the hand, rope, arm, etc.

(fig.) understand, I can't quite grasp your meaning.

39. proudly adv. with pride; in a proud manner

40. gaze v.i. look long and steadily (at, on, upon)

e.g. He is gazing out at the golden rice in the distance.

Sometimes I go out into the garden and gaze up at the stars.

41. lieutenant-general n. an army officer ranking below a general and above a major general

### LANGUAGE POINTS

1. At the foot of the mountain was a whole.....  
 The sentence is in the inverted order.  
 at the foot of; at the bottom of; at the lowest part of  
 e.g. You will certainly find her at the south foot of the mountain. She is looking after the sheep there.  
 Then, actors stood at the foot of the social ladder.  
 He took his place at the foot (head) of the table.  
 See explanatory notes at the foot of this page.  
 The poor match girl slept at the foot of the wall.
2. We had given the enemy a hard time.  
 the word "enemy" is a collective noun here. Generally we say the enemy or the enemy troops, not enemies.  
 a hard time; a difficult time; a lot of trouble
3. It was clear that they meant to starve us out.  
 a) The enemy wanted to starve all of us (make all of us die of hunger). That was quite clear.  
 ("It" stands for that-clause).  
 b) "out", an adverb, expresses completion
4. We lived on the little wild fruit...  
 a) live on; have as food or diet; depend on for support

e.g. We live on rice.

She has the habit of living on plain food.

The sight of food had made him sick, and he had lived on tea and soup.

The old worker lives on his retiring allowance.

At that time his whole family had to live on a small income.

They live on the earnings of their father.

b) "little", here means not much, a small quantity of, modifying the uncountable noun "fruit".

5. Before we could stop him, he had rushed on to a potato plot...

(as Little Tsai rushed so quickly to the potato plot that we couldn't stop him...)

Ask the students to translate the sentence into Chinese.

e.g. Before we could stop him, he had jumped into the river.

Before Ying Huang could inform Lao Yang, he had been arrested by the enemy.

6. We'll ask the political commissar what he thinks about it. (We'll ask him whether he thinks we should dig up and eat the sweet potatoes.)

7. Little Tsai jumped up, looking a little ashamed of himself, ...

Little Tsai realized his mistake all of a sudden, so he jumped up (sprang up).

It was against the discipline to touch other people's things and now he saw his mistake, so he felt ashamed himself.

8. ...others thought not

This is an elliptical sentence. It means others

thought we should not eat the potatoes.

e.g. Shall we go to the library first?—

I think not.

Do you think we ought to go?—I think not.

9. We decided to fight our way out that night.

We made up our minds to break through the enemy line and get away by fighting.

to fight one's way out: to progress, advance or get through by fighting, as to make (push, feel, squeeze, elbow, etc.) one's way out (through, into, home, back, forward, etc.)

e.g. As soon as he saw us, Henry made his way through the crowd to greet us personally.

(he went forward with difficulty through the crowd.)

It was so dark we had to feel our way home.

There was a crowd of people at the entrance, we saw him elbow his way into the theatre.

10. ...we found ourselves back in a village...

(They had come to the place without their knowing to find oneself somewhere; denoting that sb. reaches somewhere (without intention) unintentionally and suddenly

e.g. We talked as we walked along. Soon we found ourselves in front of our college gate.

When she opened her eyes she found herself lying in a soft bed in a hospital.

11. We were just preparing to pass the night in the open when an old man came up to us, and insisted that we should stay in his home.

a) in the open (air); out of doors

They had a get-together with the peasants in the

open. (had an open-air get-together...)

They lost their way in the forest so that they had to pass the night in the open.

The soldiers decided to pass the night in the open so as not to trouble the masses.

b) Pay attention to the position of the conjunction "when". It means "and just at that time."

c.g. I was dressing myself when I heard a knock at the door.

He was just preparing to sit down when one of his classmates took the chair away.

He was just going to take a walk when it began to rain.

c) Pay attention to the difference between "live" and "stay".

live: make one's home (in, at, etc); reside

stay: remain (at a place, in a position or condition) for a time

c.g. He lives in Chongqing.

She lives with her mother.

Those who have lived long in city are eager to go to the country.

She is staying with her aunt.

I shall stay at the hotel for a few days.

The teacher advised me to stay at college.

12. We were a little surprised, for this was a newly-liberated area, ...

(They hadn't expected such kindness, for the KMT reactionaries had perhaps spread all kinds of rumour about the Red Army. The village had just been liberated and the villagers didn't know the Red Army quite well. They didn't trust them. That

was why the soldiers were very surprised at the old man's invitation since they saw all the other villagers had closed their doors on them)

newly adv. recently, as a newly-built house, newly-married couple, newly-cultivated fields, newly-planted trees

13. We were feeling more puzzled than ever...  
The continuous tense is used here to express the short and quick moment of action.

14. Little Tsai couldn't keep quiet any longer and burst out;

(Little Tsai could no longer control himself and cried out suddenly;)

burst out; to begin speaking suddenly and violently

15. They're right here listening to you.

We are the ones that ate your sweet potatoes and left the money)

"Right" is used here for emphasis.

e.g. right in the middle; right into the room;  
right down the road; right after supper;  
right opposite; right here and now

16. ...one after another; first (at) one, then (at) another

e.g. One after another stood up and went out.

He visited all the villagers one after another.

## WORD STUDY

### 1. search

a) vt. examine; look carefully at, through or into; go into every part of

e.g. His hand searched his pocket for match.

They are searching the dictionary for a word.