

基础英语读本

英汉对照

4

Essential English



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LESSON 1

Readers of the earlier books of *Essential English* I, II, and III will remember that the lessons are built round a little group of characters, the teacher, Mr. Priestley and his wife, the students, Lucille, Frieda, Olaf, Jan, Pedro and Hob. Book IV completes the story of the students, and when this book closes we shall have seen them all leaving Mr. Priestley and going out into the world. At the end of Book III we saw that Frieda and Jan had fallen in love with each other, so, naturally, Book IV opens with the announcement of their engagement.

Frieda and Jan Break the News

SCENE: MR. PRIESTLEY'S *living-room*

Characters—MR. PRIESTLEY, MRS. PRIESTLEY,
FRIEDA, JAN

JAN, Mr. Priestley, Mrs. Priestley, there's something I—we—want to tell you. Frieda and I are engaged to be married.

MRS. PRIESTLEY, Oh, how nice!

MR. PRIESTLEY, Congratulations and best wishes!

FRIEDA and JAN, Thank you both very much.

FRIEDA: You are the first people we have told—
except for my parents.

JAN: Yes, I wrote to Frieda's father a week ago,
telling him we wanted to get married and asking
for his permission.

FRIEDA: And we had replies this morning; it's all
right and they are very happy about it.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Oh! I'm so glad.

JAN: You don't look very surprised at the news.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: I'm not surprised—I'd expected
it for months—but I'm very pleased indeed.

MR. PRIESTLEY: I might as well admit that it's
a complete surprise to me—I never notice things
even when they are right under my nose—but I'm
really delighted at the news. I think you are
very lucky, Jan, to get such a girl as Frieda.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And I think you are very
fortunate, Frieda, to get such a fine fellow as
Jan. I hope you will be very happy together.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Are you thinking of getting
married soon?

FRIEDA: Well, that's one of the things we are not
agreed on. As you know, Jan is starting at London
University in October to study to become a doctor.

① 你们也许还记得她在“基础英语”第三册第37课末尾关于
这件事对普里斯特利先生讲的话。

He wants us to get married at once. I would rather wait for a year or two—at any rate until Jan has taken his first examination.

JAN, But what's the point of waiting?

FRIEDA, So that you can really work hard. Don't you think, Mr. Priestley, that he would think about his work more if I wasn't there?

JAN, But don't you see that if we were not married I should be thinking about you all the time and wanting to be with you instead of working. Whereas if we were married—

FRIEDA, Do you hear that? Once we are married he won't think about me any more. That's a fine thing to hear from a man you have just become engaged to.

JAN, Oh, Frieda, you know I didn't mean that. I only meant—

FRIEDA, But that's not the only thing we don't agree on.

MR. PRIESTLEY(*smiling*), Dear me, this sounds terrible. What is the further cause of disagreement?

FRIEDA, Well, I want to live in a house; Jan thinks we ought to have a flat or rooms in a house.

JAN, A friend told me of a small flat in the centre of London overlooking King's Cross station that will be vacant in October.

FRIEDA: But I don't want to live in a small flat in the centre of London. I'd much rather have a little house in the country looking out on fields, where I can breathe fresh air and see trees and hear birds singing.

JAN: But a flat is so much more convenient. We could get some labour-saving devices that would save you a lot of housework, and there are lots of little restaurants near King's Cross where we could go out for something to eat in the evening so you wouldn't need to cook meals.

FRIEDA: But I *want* to cook meals. I'm really quite a good cook, and I don't mind doing housework. I like it. Besides, I looked at the flat you are talking about and I didn't like the look of it at all.

JAN: I agree it wasn't very attractive-looking, but the rent was low.

FRIEDA: You know, I don't like the idea of paying rent. My parents have paid rent on our house for thirty years. I wish I had all the money they have paid in rent. They've paid enough to buy the house twice over and yet they don't own a single brick of it.

JAN: Yes, I agree. I should like to buy a house, but we haven't the money, at least not now; in four

or five years' time it may be different. You see, Mr. Priestley, it's like this. My grandfather, my mother's father—he was a Scotsman—left me a sum of money in his will, and some useless property, a factory; but the money is in trust until I am twenty-five. I get the income from it, and that has been enough to keep me and pay for my classes; with a bit of a struggle, it will just about keep us both—at least I hope so. But we've no hope of buying a house—at least not for a time. So if we *must* pay rent, let's pay the least we can and have a flat.

FRIEDA: Oh dear, I do wish I could have a house all to myself, with a garden where I can grow flowers and lettuces and cabbages. I was so looking forward to it. Isn't there any way we could buy one?

MR. PRIESTLEY: I don't want to look as if I was poking my nose into what isn't my business, but —

FRIEDA: Oh, we don't mind; we'd welcome your ideas, wouldn't we, Jan?

JAN: Yes, rather! But don't you agree with me, Mr. Priestley, that it would be much better to be married soon and live in a flat and not wait a year or two as Frieda says.

FRIEDA: Don't you think it would be better to wait until we can get a house and not live in a flat? Isn't that what we ought to do?

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, I'm not going to say what you *ought* to do.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: Neither am I.

MR. PRIESTLEY: But I know what you *will* do.

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And so do I.

MR. PRIESTLEY: You'll get married soon and not wait.

JAN: Very good!

MRS. PRIESTLEY: And you'll have a house and not a flat or rooms.

FRIEDA: Hurrah! That's what I say.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, if that's what's going to happen I should like to make a suggestion if I may.

JAN and FRIEDA: Oh yes, please do.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Well, you know you could buy a house through a Building Society. You look round, choose the house you want to buy and then approach the Building Society. You put down a proportion of the money—say ten per cent—and pay off the rest at so much a month. The monthly payments will not be much more than a rent would be, and you will have the satisfaction of knowing

that your payments go towards buying the house.
JAN, Well, there's probably something in that,
but——

FRIEDA, Oh, Jan, it would be lovely. As a matter
of fact I've been looking round and I've already
seen the house I want.

JAN, What!

FRIEDA, Yes. You know that little cottage, Mrs.
Priestley, that you see from the back of your
garden?

MR. PRIESTLEY, What, the one in Darvell Lane,
"Rose Cottage" I think it is called?

FRIEDA, That's the one. I heard it was for sale so
I went round there at once. It has a comfortable
little sitting-room, a tiny but very nice dining-
room, a kitchen, three bedrooms and a bathroom.
There are roses round the front door and an
apple-tree in the garden.

MRS. PRIESTLEY, Frieda, it sounds perfect.

FRIEDA, It is. But what's the use of it? Jan
would prefer to live in London overlooking King's
Cross with millions of people all round us.

JAN, Well, if it would make Frieda happy I don't
mind living in a house in the country, and I'm
quite willing to dig the garden for her.

FRIEDA, That's the way to talk, darling. I certainly,

would like it. I've saved a bit of money and that would help towards buying the furniture. We shouldn't need very much for a start. I don't mind how simply we live. I would do all my own work and clean the house and cook the meals. Oh, it would be lovely!

JAN: Yes, it certainly sounds very nice when you put it like that, but all the money I have in the world will only just keep us and pay for my studies at the University. How much do they want for this house of yours?

FRIEDA: They are asking £3,800, but we might get it for £3,600 or £3,650. We would have to put down about £360 to £370.

JAN: Sorry, Frieda. I wish I could do it but it just can't be done.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Look here, Jan, as I said, I don't want to poke my nose into your affairs but I have a bit of capital, £300 or £400 in the bank doing nothing, and I'd much rather lend it to you if that would help you than have it there doing nothing.

JAN: Oh, Mr. Priestley, that's very kind of you, but I couldn't accept that from you.

MR. PRIESTLEY: Nonsense. You can pay me back easily when you become a successful doctor--as I

am sure you will. So that's settled. We'll say no more about it now, but come to my study afterwards and we'll talk it over together Bless my soul, Frieda! What are you crying for?

FRIEDA: I'm—'m—not crying. I'm just happy, that's all.

* * * *

VERB STUDY(1): look

In this book we shall consider a number of verbs each of which can have a variety of meanings. This is particularly the case when the verb is used with a preposition or an adverb, e.g. *go on* working, *give up* smoking, *burst out* crying, *keep on* trying, etc. Verbs like this are sometimes called "phrasal verbs". One of the aims of Lesson I was to illustrate the uses of *look*. ① You will find these examples there:

I *looked at* the flat. I was *looking forward* to having a house. I don't want to *look as if* I was poking my nose into what isn't my business. *Look* here, Jan. A house *looking out on* fields. I don't want to live in the centre of London and *look over* King's Cross. A part of London *overlooking* King's Cross. It has a small but *pleasant-looking* dining-room. You *look round* and choose the house you want.

“基础英语”前三册的读者都记得，本书的课文是围绕几个人物来写的，他们是：教师普里斯特利先生和他的夫人、学生露西尔、弗丽达、奥莱夫、简、佩卓和霍布。第四册写完了学生们的事。而且，这本书结束时，我们将看到他们离开普里斯特利先生，走上社会。在第三册的末尾，我们看到弗丽达和简已经相爱；因此，第四册自然要以宣布他们的婚约开始。

弗丽达和简披露新闻

地点：普里斯特利先生的起居室

人物：普里斯特利先生，普里斯特利夫人，弗丽达，简。

简：普里斯特利先生，普里斯特利夫人，有件事我——我们要告诉你们。弗丽达和我已经订婚了。

普里斯特利夫人：哦，那太好了！

普里斯特利先生：向你们祝贺，并致以最美好的祝愿！

弗丽达和简：多谢你们二位。

弗丽达：除了我的双亲，你们是我们最先告知这项消息的人。

简：是的，一个星期以前，我写信给弗丽达的父亲，告诉他我们要结婚，并请求他同意。

弗丽达：今天早上我们收到回信；一切如愿，他们对此感到很高兴。

普里斯特利夫人：呀！我太高兴了。