

Advanced English for Translation

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Introduction

This book is designed for upper-intermediate and more advanced students of all nationalities who need to use English in their work, whether in business, the tourist industry or the professions, or who are preparing for the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency and similar examinations.

Like its less advanced companion volume, *English for translation*, this book provides material which is designed above all to enable translation work to become a positive, effective and enjoyable language-learning activity.

The passages are drawn from a wide variety of sources, and the aim has been to give as representative a range as possible of the styles and registers found in contemporary written English. A number of recent Cambridge Proficiency examination papers are also included.

Each passage is followed by exercises which direct the student's attention to significant points of structure and usage contained in the text and provide practice in those areas of English which are known to cause difficulty to foreign learners. The material may be further exploited at a later stage if the student puts back into English those sentences which he has earlier translated into his own language.

Dennis Chamberlin
Gillian White

1977

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For units 31–6 we are grateful to the University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate for permission to reproduce examination question:

She made her way up the dingy staircase and pressed the bell of his door. The bell seemed to be broken; she heard nothing. There were three bottles of milk on the mantelpiece, litter from the electricity company. She hesitated a moment, then banged on the door. The door opened without a sound of a man.

The spy who came to this deal with John le Carré.

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Unit 1

Then one day about a week later, he didn't come to the library. Miss Crail was delighted; by half-past eleven she had told her mother, and on returning from lunch she stood in front of the archaeology shelves where he had been working since he came. She stared with theatrical concentration at the rows of books, and Liz knew she was pretending to work out whether Leamas had stolen anything.

5

Liz entirely ignored her for the rest of that day, failed to reply when she addressed her and worked with assiduous application. When the evening came, she walked home and cried herself to sleep.

10

The next morning she arrived early at the library. She somehow felt that the sooner she got there, the sooner Leamas might come; but as the morning dragged on, her hopes faded, and she knew he would never come. She had forgotten to make sandwiches for herself that day, so she decided to take a bus to the Bayswater Road and go to the A.B.C. She felt sick and empty, but not hungry. Should she go and find him? She had promised never to follow him, but he had promised to tell her; should she go and find him?

15

20

She hailed a taxi and gave his address.

She made her way up the dingy staircase and pressed the bell of his door. The bell seemed to be broken; she heard nothing. There were three bottles of milk on the mat and a letter from the electricity company. She hesitated a moment, then banged on the door, and she heard the faint groan of a man.

25

From *The spy who came in from the cold* by John Le Carré.

1.1 By – in time expressions

- a) *By half-past eleven she had told her mother.* (lines 2–3)
- b) Fortunately, the secretary had finished typing the report by the time her boss came back.
- c) I thought that job would take me ages, but I had finished it by tea-time.
- d) It snowed heavily during the night, but it didn't settle, and most of it had disappeared by morning.
- e) The fire broke out at about eight o'clock, but by nine the fire brigade had got it under control.
- f) The play was excruciatingly boring, and by the end of the first act I had had enough, so I left.

1.2 Past perfect continuous tense

- a) *She stood in front of the archaeology shelves where he had been working.* (lines 3–5)
- b) He hadn't been feeling well for some time, so he decided to go to the doctor's.
- c) He had been painting for years before his talent was finally recognised.
- d) Her arrival took them by surprise. They hadn't been expecting her for at least another hour.
- e) The party had been travelling all day and were utterly exhausted when they reached their destination.

1.3 Idioms with to /into

- a) *When the evening came, she walked home and cried herself to sleep.* (lines 11–12)
- b) I sat up late watching the horror film on television. It frightened me to death.
- c) He spent the evening in the pub, drinking himself into a stupor.
- d) My essay wasn't brilliant, I know, but there was no need for him to pull it to shreds like that.
- e) She came home to find her favourite vase on the floor – smashed to pieces.
- f) Quite a lot of people found what he had to say very interesting, but personally I was bored to tears.

1.4 Double comparatives

- a) *She somehow felt that the sooner she got there, the sooner Leamas might come.* (lines 13–15)

- b) The more you practise, the better you'll play.
- c) The more carefully you do it, the less likely you are to make mistakes.
- d) The longer you wait, the harder it will be.
- e) The more thoroughly you do the job now, the easier it will be when you have to do it next time.
- f) She hadn't realised that the faster she worked, the more money she would earn.

1.5 Might

- a) *The sooner she got there, the sooner Leamas might come.* (lines 14–15)
 - b) If you hurry, you might just get there in time.
 - c) He said he might be coming, but he wasn't sure.
 - d) I can't find my umbrella. I've a feeling I might have left it on the bus.
 - e) Knock again. They might not have heard the first time.
-
- f) They might have told us they were going to be in England during the summer. We would have liked to see them.
 - g) I know it wasn't your fault, but you might have let me know you were going to be late.
-
- h) Excuse me, do you think I might have something to drink?
 - i) Jane asked her boss if she might have an afternoon off to do her Christmas shopping.
 - j) 'Can you help me? I'm looking for a birthday present for my husband.'
- 'Certainly, madam. Might I suggest one of these new pocket calculators?'

Unit 2

9 Singleton Drive,
Hallam Green,
Surrey.

15 March 1977

Dear Miss Nielsen,

Thank you for your inquiry about the au pair post.

First, let me give you an idea of the kind of work you would have to do.

A woman comes in three mornings a week to clean the house, so you would not have to do very much in the way of housework – perhaps a little tidying up and washing up, particularly at weekends. 5

Your main job would be to look after my two children, Nicholas, aged seven, and James, aged four.

At the moment I'm working out of town and can't meet them when they finish school. My husband takes them every morning, Nicholas to the local primary school, and James to a nursery nearby. You would have to fetch them – James at 12.45, and Nicholas at 3.30 – make their meals and look after them until I get home at about five o'clock. 10 15

James is starting at the same school as Nicholas in a few months, so that will make the situation a lot easier.

You would have the mornings free to attend a language school. We can see about enrolling you when you arrive.

We live in a modern five-bedroomed house, and the room you would have is large and comfortably furnished. There are two bathrooms, a well-equipped kitchen and full central heating. We are not far from the town centre, and there is an excellent bus service – the bus-stop is just a stone's throw away. 20 25

You would have plenty of free time and a generous allowance on top of board and lodging. I feel sure you

would be happy with us, and I hope you will decide to come.

I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

30

Your sincerely,
Louise Jarvis

2.1 Present simple/present continuous

- a) *A woman comes in three mornings a week to clean the house.* (lines 4–5)
- b) She leaves the house at 7.30 every morning and catches the 7.50 train to London.
- c) He used to run a small estate car, but now he drives a Rolls Royce.
- d) Water boils at 100°Centigrade.
- e) 'Johnson passes to Jones, Mackintosh challenges him – and the ball goes out of play.'
- f) *At the moment I'm working out of town.* (line 10)
- g) Joanna is wearing a long evening dress in apricot chiffon.
- h) More people than ever before are going abroad for their holidays this year.
- i) 'Why are you standing here?'
'I'm waiting for some friends.'

2.2 Take/bring/fetch

- a) *My husband takes them every morning.* (lines 11–12)
- b) Would you take these letters to the post, Miss Williams?
- c) Don't forget to take your tennis racket with you tomorrow.
- d) Did you remember to bring your cheque-book?
- e) They sat down in a quiet corner of the restaurant, and a waiter brought them a menu.
- f) *You would have to fetch them.* (line 13)
- g) Sit down by the fire. Would you like me to fetch your slippers?
- h) I'll just go and fetch an ashtray. I think there's one in the other room.

2.3 Present continuous tense expressing future

- a) *James is starting at the same school in a few months.* (lines 16–17)
- b) My son is going to America next year to study at an American university.

- c) John is playing in the school orchestra next week. Will you be able to come?
- d) The President is paying a state visit to this country next month.
- e) We're leaving at about eight o'clock, so you'd better come round at about quarter to.
- f) I think they're moving to Surrey some time in October.

2.4 Phrasal verbs - to see

- a) *We can see about enrolling you when you arrive.* (line 19)
- b) Will you come and see me off at the station?
- c) I'm pleased to have met you, Mr Lawton. My secretary will see you out.
- d) My car has been making a strange noise lately. I shall have to take it to the garage and get it seen to.
- e) He could never hide anything from anybody; you can see right through him.
- f) Now we've started, I suppose we'd better see it through.
- g) A group of us are going to see over the new chocolate factory next week.

2.5 Idiomatic expressions with 's

- a) *The bus-stop is just a stone's throw away.* (lines 24-25)
- b) We certainly got our money's worth last night.
- c) For heaven's sake pull yourself together!
- d) Poor old Fred's at his wits' end. His wife's just gone into hospital, and he's got four children to look after as well as a full-time job to cope with.
- e) I don't like the look of him at all. I should keep him at arm's length if I were you.
- f) Of course I'm busy; but if you really need me, I can leave here at a moment's notice.