

Reading and Understanding Book 2

**Johnny Ong
Kenneth Hoo
Loon Foong Hing**

Reading and Understanding Book 2

**Johnny Ong
Kenneth Hoo
Loon Foong Hing**

**General Editor
Cheong Yuen Lin**



PAN PACIFIC BOOK DISTRIBUTORS (S) PTE LTD
in association with
MANHATTAN PRESS (S) PTE LTD

PAN PACIFIC BOOK DISTRIBUTORS (S) PTE LTD
597, Havelock Road, Singapore 0316
in association with
MANHATTAN PRESS (S) PTE LTD

© *Pan Pacific Book Distributors 1976*

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval, or transmitted, in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Publishers.

First Published 1976

Reprinted 1976

Reprinted 1977

Reprinted 1979

Reprinted 1981

ISBN 9971-63-361-2

PREFACE

Reading and Understanding is a series of four books. The series aims to bring to students a considerable body of good and interesting reading passages. The additional study materials in the form of vocabulary exercises, questions for discussion, and oral and written exercises are designed to foster the student's growth in language skills.

Book Two consists of 20 Units. Each unit is made up of (i) an interesting passage adapted from magazines, newspapers and books; (ii) exercises in comprehension; (iii) vocabulary exercises; (iv) language practice and (v) pronunciation drills.

The need for oral comprehension to develop reading skills and responses is greatly emphasized, but the approach to reading is left to the discretion of the teachers to suit the levels of their own students.

If, finally, students could be made to feel that reading, with all its difficulties, could be interesting and rewarding, the aim of this series would have been achieved.

Johnny Ong
Kenneth Hoo
Loon Foong Hing

BOOKS BY JOHNNY ONG

Malayan Rendezvous (Poetry)

Malaya This, Our Native Land (Poetry)

Sugar & Salt (Novel)

Run Tiger Run (Novel)

The Long White Sands (Novel)

English Practice for L.C.E.

A Complete Testbook in English

Objective Tests in English Language for S.R.P.

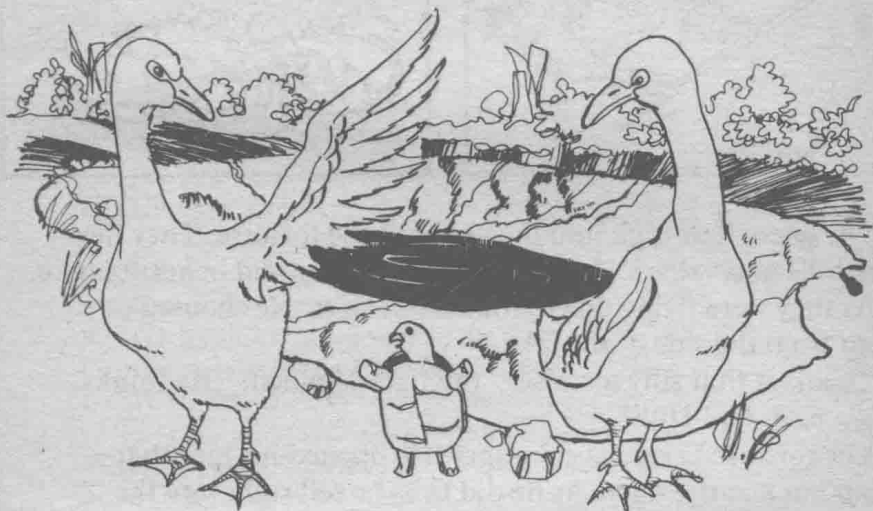
Creative Composition

Multiple Choice Comprehension, Structure & Usage

CONTENTS

	Page
UNIT 1 The Geese and the Tortoise Use of 'is', 'isn't', 'are' and 'aren't' The sound /u/	1
UNIT 2 An Accident at Night Use of 'was', 'wasn't', 'were' and 'weren't' The sound /u:/	7
UNIT 3 To Catch Some Thieves (Part 1) The Present and Past Continuous Tenses The sound /dʒ/	12
UNIT 4 To Catch Some Thieves (Part 2) The Past Perfect Tense The sound /tʃ/	17
UNIT 5 Siamese Cats Questions starting with 'do', 'does', 'did', 'doesn't', 'don't' and 'didn't' The sound /j/	23
UNIT 6 The Magic Silk (Part 1) Singular and Plural The sound /i/	29
UNIT 7 The Magic Silk (Part 2) Singular and Plural The sound /i:/	35
UNIT 8 The King and the Beggar 'So that' Clauses The sound /ɑ:/	41
UNIT 9 Chu-Mong the Archer (Part 1) Punctuation The sound /ə/	47
UNIT 10 Chu-Mong the Archer (Part 2) Punctuation The sound /ə:/	52

UNIT 11	The Monkey King (Part 1) Adjectives The sound /ʒ/	57
UNIT 12	The Monkey King (Part 2) Comparative Adjectives The sound /ʌ/	61
UNIT 13	The City of Nine Dragons Superlative Adjectives The sound /e/	66
UNIT 14	Disney on Parade Infinitives of Purpose The sound /æ/	70
UNIT 15	Three Strange Creatures 'Either. . . or' and 'neither. . . nor' The sound /ei/	74
UNIT 16	A Day as a Tourist Guide Concord The sound /ai/	78
UNIT 17	Making Friends Concord The sound /ou/	82
UNIT 18	Kim Chai's Money-Making Hobby Defining Relative Clauses The sound /au/	86
UNIT 19	An Exciting Film Adverbs The sound /ɔi/	90
UNIT 20	Silk Comparative Form of Adverbs The sound /iə/	94
	WORD LIST	99



Two geese and a tortoise lived in a small lake. They were very good friends. Every day after swimming and playing in the water, they would sit under the trees to rest. Here they would talk about the weather.

One day the lake began to dry up. It had not rained for weeks. The tortoise and the geese were afraid. What were they going to do without the lake?

The geese said to the tortoise, "Why don't we find ourselves a new home? There is a big and beautiful lake on the other side of the hills. It is so big that it will never dry up!"

The tortoise was excited. "Is this really true?" he asked.

"Of course, it's true!" the geese answered. "Our cousins visited the lake last month. They said that the water in the lake was as clear as glass."

"But I can't fly," said the tortoise sadly.

"It's all right," said the geese. "We will put a bamboo pole in our mouths. All you have to do is to bite the pole and to hang on, and not to open your mouth."



The geese flew high into the sky with the tortoise. They flew over hills and valleys. At last they saw the big and beautiful lake.

As they were flying down, they saw a tiger. He shouted at them from the side of the lake.

"Look at that silly tortoise!" the tiger laughed. "He thinks he's a bird. Ha! Ha!"

The tortoise became very angry. He opened his mouth to shout back at the tiger. As he did this, he fell right into the tiger's trap. The geese flew on and landed in the lake. They were very sad. They had lost a very old friend.

Comprehension

A Choose the correct answer.

- 1 The tortoise was sad because he _____.
 A could not fly
 B could not walk fast
 C could not see the lake
 D could not swim very far
 ()
- 2 What did the geese tell the tortoise to do?
 A They told the tortoise to hang on to the bamboo pole in their mouths.
 B They told the tortoise to bite the bamboo pole in their mouths and to hang on.
 C They told the tortoise to bite their tails.
 D They told the tortoise to keep very quiet.
 ()

3 When the geese were flying down they saw _____.

- A an elephant
- B another tortoise
- C a tiger
- D a bird

()

4 What did the tiger do?

- A The tiger chased the geese and the tortoise away.
- B The tiger was excited and shouted at them.
- C The tiger laughed and shouted at them.
- D The tiger jumped up and down and waved at them.

()

5 What did the tortoise do?

- A The tortoise looked at the tiger quietly.
- B The tortoise shouted back at the tiger.
- C The tortoise laughed and said nothing.
- D The tortoise flew on towards the lake.

()

6 What happened when the tortoise opened his mouth?

- A The tortoise fell into the lake.
- B The tortoise fell and lost his shell.
- C The tortoise fell down and was caught by the tiger.
- D The tortoise fell down and ran away.

()

B Complete the answers to the following questions:

1 Where did the geese and the tortoise live?

The geese and the tortoise lived _____.

2 What did they do together in the lake?

They _____ in the lake.

3 What did they talk about under the trees?

They talked about _____.

4 Why did the lake dry up?

The lake dried up because _____.

5 Why were the geese and the tortoise afraid?

The geese and the tortoise were afraid because _____.

C Answer these questions in complete sentences:

1 What did the geese say to the tortoise when the lake began to dry up?

2 How did the geese know there was a beautiful lake on the other side of the hills?

3 How clear was the water in the other lake?

4 The tortoise could not fly. What did the geese ask the tortoise to do?

Vocabulary

- A Choose the correct meaning for each of the words or phrases as used in the passage.
- 1 Two geese and a tortoise lived in a small *lake*. This means they lived in a small _____.
- A pool of water
 - B hut
 - C field
 - D hill
- ()
- 2 "Of course, it's true!" the geese answered. *Answered* means _____.
- A asked
 - B questioned
 - C sang
 - D replied
- ()
- 3 All you have to do is to bite the pole and to hang on. *Hang on* means _____.
- A go on
 - B hold on to the pole
 - C let go of the pole
 - D break the pole
- ()
- 4 *The tortoise was excited*. This means he was _____.
- A very angry
 - B very unhappy
 - C very thrilled
 - D very hungry
- ()
- 5 *The lake began to dry up*. This means that there was _____ in the lake.
- A a lot of water
 - B not much water
 - C no water
 - D too much water
- ()
- 6 After swimming and playing in the water, the geese and the tortoise would sit under the trees to rest. The word *rest* means _____.
- A sing
 - B read
 - C do nothing
 - D work
- ()

B Fill in the blanks in the sentences with these words:

excited rest answer hang on dry up lake

- 1 The teacher called out Kim Seng's name but he did not _____.
- 2 They were swimming in the _____.
- 3 The geese told the tortoise not to open his mouth. Whatever happened, he must _____.
- 4 It had not rained for a long time. The river began to _____.
- 5 Most people _____ on Sundays. They do not go to work.
- 6 Lay Choo was _____. She was going to Hong Kong for a holiday.

Language Practice

SENTENCE TABLE 1

He		my neighbour.
She		a Chinese.
Mary	is	a student.
It	is	a cat

SENTENCE TABLE 2

They		good
We		children.
You	are	friends.
Ali and Mary		students.

Fill in the blanks in these sentences with either *is* or *are*.

- 1 His father _____ a teacher.
- 2 My friends _____ very clever.
- 3 Mary and Ta Lian _____ good students.
- 4 My school _____ very big.
- 5 There _____ many students in the field.

SENTENCE TABLE 3

He		a student.
She	isn't	a teacher.
The man		a thief.
It	isn't	a snake.

SENTENCE TABLE 4

They		Singaporeans.
The boys	aren't	policemen.
We		teachers.

First change *is not* and *are not* in the following sentences into *isn't* and *aren't*. Then fill in the blanks in these sentences with either *is* or *are*:

- 1 His father is not a teacher. He _____ a policeman.
- 2 They are not students. They _____ teachers.

- 3 Their school is not very big. It _____ very small.
 4 Ali is not a Chinese boy. He _____ a Malay boy.
 5 Ta Lian and Kum Leng are not Malays. They _____ Chinese.

Pronunciation Practice

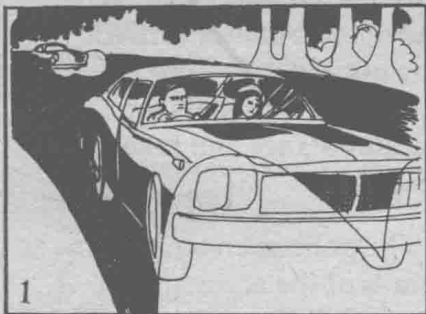
u

A	to	hook
	do	book
	shook	full
	foot	fuller
	look	push
	cook	put

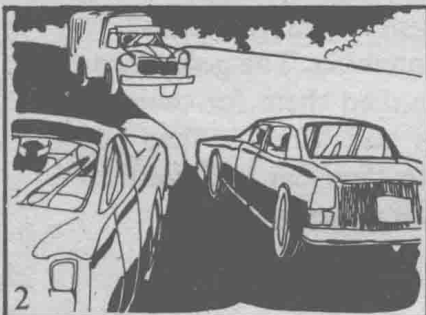
I want to read this book.
 The cook prepares the food.
 They look for something to do.
 Push it away with your foot.

- B The following words are pronounced quite differently from the way they are spelt. Can you read them correctly?

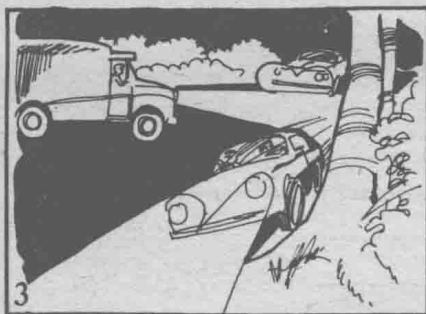
quay	buffet
champagne	rendezvous
draught	choir
chauffeur	queue



One night Mr Lee was driving his wife home from work. She was a staff nurse in a hospital. It was almost midnight and she was quite tired out. She soon fell asleep. Mr Lee looked at her and smiled.



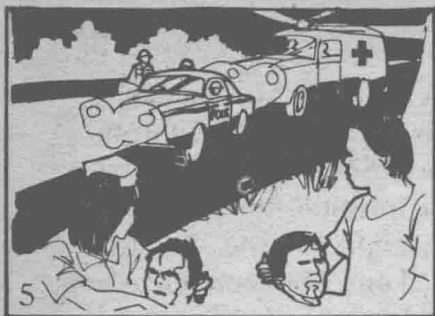
Mr Lee was a cautious and experienced driver. He knew it was safer to drive slowly on a dark night. After some time he noticed a car following him. It was travelling very fast. Suddenly it overtook his car.



The driver of the car was in a hurry. He did not see the approaching lorry. To avoid hitting it, he swerved his car. It skidded off the road and hit a big tree. The driver and his passenger were injured. They were badly cut by glass splinters from the broken windscreen.



Mr Lee quickly stopped his car by the side of the road. His wife got out of the car to help the injured men. The lorry driver also stopped to lend a helping hand. Mr Lee immediately drove off to telephone the police.



About twenty-five minutes later, a police car and an ambulance arrived. The injured men were carried on stretchers into the ambulance and taken to hospital.



The policemen took down details of the accident. Mr Lee and the lorry driver told them all that they could remember. The policemen thanked them for their help. Mr and Mrs Lee then got into their car and continued their journey home.

Comprehension

A Choose the correct answer.

1 Mrs Lee was a _____.

- A teacher
- B salesgirl
- C doctor
- D nurse

()

2 Mr Lee was taking his wife _____.

- A to work
- B to market
- C home
- D to hospital

()

3 Mrs Lee fell asleep in the car because _____.

- A she was very tired
- B it was very dark
- C her husband was driving very slowly
- D she was not well

()

- 4 Mr Lee drove slowly because _____ .
 A his wife was asleep
 B he was very tired
 C the road was very dark
 D the road was very quiet ()
- 5 The car following him was travelling _____ .
 A very slowly
 B very fast
 C on the wrong side of the road
 D without lights ()
- 6 The car overtook Mr Lee's car because the driver _____ .
 A was in a hurry
 B was angry
 C knew there was no approaching car
 D thought his car was faster than Mr Lee's ()

B Complete the answers to the following questions:

- 1 What did the driver do to avoid hitting the lorry?
 To avoid hitting the lorry, the driver _____

- 2 What happened to the car when it skidded off the road?
 The car _____
- 3 What happened to the driver and his passenger?
 They were _____
- 4 What did Mr Lee do?
 Mr Lee _____ and

- 5 What did the lorry driver do?
 The lorry driver _____

C Answer these questions in complete sentences:

- 1 Why did Mrs Lee get out of the car?
 2 Who went to get help?
 3 How were the injured men carried into the ambulance?
 4 What did Mr Lee and the lorry driver tell the policemen?

Vocabulary

Choose the correct meaning for each of the words or phrases as used in the passage.

- 1 He *noticed* another car following him. This means Mr Lee _____ another car following him.
A smelt
B saw
C felt
D imagined ()
- 2 To avoid hitting it, he swerved his car. *To avoid* means _____.
A to attempt
B to try
C to prevent
D to save from ()
- 3 To avoid ~~hitting~~ it, the driver swerved his car. *Swerved* means _____.
A stopped suddenly
B turned to one side
C drove faster
D turned around ()
- 4 The policemen took down *details* of the accident. This means they wrote down some _____.
A important points
B windscreens
C splinters
D stretchers ()

Language Practice

SENTENCE TABLE 1

I He She Mr Lee	was	ill yesterday. a good swimmer. a careful driver.
It	was	bought by a rich man.