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Big Bucks the Easy Way

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一、课文背景知识

- 1)本文选自美国杂志《读者文摘》(1982年6月)
- 2)美国是一个崇尚自立的国家,与世界许多其它国家相比,家庭背景和个人 影响的重要性很小,正因为如此,自立的青年视依赖家庭和父母为一种耻 辱,而父母也鼓励他们的孩子自立自强。他们鼓励子女上大学,甚至念中 学时就去打零工,这样不仅可以利用打零工来挣钱,而且可以在此过程中 学到许多课本上学不到的知识,对个人性格的形成和发展起到一定的影 响。正是基于这样的背景之下才会出现本文所描绘的故事的发生。
- 3)蒙哥马利——沃德百货公司

它是美国的一家企业,主要从事零售和邮购业务,现已成为世界上第 二大从事邮购业务的企业,该公司于1872年开设第一家零售店.现已有 五百多家零售店和七百多家连锁店遍布全美国。

4) 西尔斯——罗伯克百货公司

该公司为世界第一大从事采购业务的企业,1886年创立于美国明尼 苏达州的北端瑞伍德。

5)最低工资

最低工资是指在美国通过法律、协议或其它方式予以确定的雇主按 照法律必须支付给工人的每小时最低薪金。1938年确定的每小时25美 分的最低工资随着时间的推移不断提高,到1978年最低工资为每小时2. 65 美元.1981 年升至每小时 3.35 美元,1991 年又升至每小时 4.25 美元。 到了1997年9月,最低工资已高达每小时5.15美元。





二、课文(单词、词组、句子)疑难详解

1. You ought to look into this:

You ought to look at this carefully. 你把这个东西好好看一下。

look into

- 1) look at the depths of... 往深处看
 - 例:a. She looked into his eyes and found them stony. 她窥视他的眼睛,发现他的目光冷酷无情。
 - b. Alice looked into the hole and jumped back with fright. 爱丽丝往洞里看, 吓得往后跳了回来。
- 2) dip into or consult a book in a rapid or cursory manner 浏览,快速地看或查阅
 - 例:a. They are looking into some magazines. 他们正在浏览一些杂志。
 - b. I have just looked into the article. 我刚才查阅过那篇文章。
- 3) examine or in vestigate 调查
 - 例: a. He has promised to look into the matter. 他已答应对这个问题进行调查。b. It's important to look into the population problem. 对人口问题进行调查是很重要的。

2. ask for

- 1) make a request for 请求得到
- 例:a. We ask for the cooperation of all concerned. 我们请求得到一切有关方面给予合作。
 - b. Everything you have asked for is ready. 你要的东西都已准备好了。
- 2) ask to see or require 请求见到;需要
 - 例:a. Jusk now somebody asked for you outside the gate. 刚才大门外有人要找你。
 - b. This matter asks for immediate attention. 这件事需要马上处理。

3. offered leisurely, lucrative work:

present work that brings in a lot of money and can be done with ease 提供既轻松 又赚钱的工作

- 1) leisurely: adj. without haste or hurry 不匆忙地;从容地
 - 例:He made a leisurely inspection of the doors and the windows before leaving. 离开前,他从容地检查了门窗。
- 2) lucrative: profitable; bring in money 可获利的;赚钱的。

例:This is a lucrative investment. 这是一项有利可图的投资。

4. live with:

accept or tolerate 接受,忍受



例:a. You must live with the fact that you are no longer as strong as you were. 你 必须承认,你已经不象过去那样健壮了。

b. I can't live with the noise of airplanes. 我忍受不了那些飞机的噪音。 比较:When we worked in the countryside, we ate and *lived with* the farmers. 当我们住在农村时,我们与农民同吃同住。

5. "But it pains me," I said, "to find that you both have been panhandling so long that it no longer embarrasses you."

"But it hurts me," I said, "to see you both have been asking for money so long that it no longer causes you to feel ashamed.""看到你们哥俩老是伸手要钱而又不感到害羞,我真痛心,"我说。

句中 it 是形式主语,不定式短语 to find that…是真正主语, find 后的 that 从句作其宾语,其中 so…that…为结果状语从句。

have been panhandling: 是现在完成进行时,表示从过去某一时刻起一直进行到现在的动作。

1) pain n. ① 痛苦,疼痛 ② (pl.) 努力,劳苦

例:If you'd like to succeed in the work, you must take great pains about it. 如果你想在这件工作上取得成功,你就得花大力气苦干。

2) embarrass:vt. (常用被动语态)

①cause to feel ashamed or socially uncomfortable 使窘迫

例: She was embarrassed when they asked her age . 他们问起她的年龄时,她感到十分窘迫。

②make (a person) feel awkward 使困惑,使为难

例:He often feels embarrassed when speaking in public. 在大庭广众之下讲话, 他经常感到局促不安。

6. By midnight, I was comfortably settled in a hotel room far from home:

By midnight, I was placed to rest comfortably in a hotel room far away from home. 午夜时分,我已在一个离家很远的旅馆里舒舒服服地住了下来。

settle in:

1) place (sb. or oneself) in a position of rest or comfort 安顿

例:a. He settled his mother in a corner of the waiting room. 他把母亲安顿在候车室的一个角落里。

b. The cat settled himself in the chair for a nap. 猫趴在椅子上打盹。

2) go and live(in a particular place)定居

例:a. On retiring, he settled in a small village. 退休以后,他在一个小村里定居下来。

b. They have settled in America, where there are many settlers. 他们已经在美国定居,那儿有很多移居者。

7. "Great!" I enthused. "How was your day?"

"很好!"我兴奋地说,"你呢?"

1) enthuse: show enthusiasm 热心

例:Mary has been enthusing over the girl next door recently. 玛丽近来对邻居的 女孩非常热心。





比较:

2) **enthusiasm**: n. a strong feeling of admiration or interest 热心,热情,积极性

例:His enthusiasm for travelling makes him go abroad every year. 他酷爱旅行, 这使他每年都出国。

3) enthusiastic: adj. full of enthusiasm 热心的,热情的

例:He is quite enthusiastic about it. 他对此事非常热心。

4) enthusiastically: adv. 热情地

8. Another truck just pulled up out front:

门口刚刚又停下了一辆卡车。

pull up: bring or come to a stop (使)停下

例:a. A car pulled up beside me. 一辆汽车在我身边停下。

b. We had not gone many miles when our car was pulled up by the police. 我们还没有开出多远就给警察叫住了。

9. since you are resposible:

since you are the cause of... 由于这原因是你造成的

be resposible for: be the cause of...对…负责

例:a. Who is resposible for breaking the window? 谁要为打破的窗户负责?

b. The driver was responsible for the accident. 司机要为这场事故负责。

c. The bad weather is responsible for the small attendance. 出席的人很少应归因于这恶劣的天气。

10. "Piece of cake!" our older college son had shouted.

"太容易了!"大上学的大儿子大声说道。

(a) piece of cake:(colloq.)sth. very easy or pleasant(口)极容易或使人愉快的事情

例:a. The physics test yesterday was a piece of cake, so all of us passed it . 昨天的物理测验很容易,所以我们大家都及格了。

b. He thinks skiing is a piece of cake. 他认为滑雪是件轻而易举的事。

11. my wife informed me:

my wife told me

inform: tell or give information to 通知,告诉

例:a. He informed me that I must start at 12. 他通知我必须十二点开始。

b. Did he inform you of the date of the meeting? 他通知你开会的日期了吗?

c. Can you inform me as to what I am to do? 你能告诉我应该怎么做吗?

12. even as:

just at the same time when 恰恰在……的时候,正当

例:The chairman went away even as you came. 恰在你来的时候主席离开了。 The little child fell even as I stretched out my hand to help him. 正当我伸手帮他之时,小孩摔倒了。

13. walk;

v. 步行,散步 || n. ①人行道,散步场所 ②步行,散步





例: He lives within a short walk of his place of employment. 他住的地方离工作地点很近。

14. quaver:

- 1) (of a voice or music) to sing, speak or be played in a shaky way 震颤
- 例:a. The old man's voice quavered. 那老人声音颤抖。
 - b. The eldest villagers quavered out folk song. 年长的村民们以震颤的声音唱民歌。
- 2) shake or temble 颤抖
 - 例:a. Her whold body quavered whe she heard the sad news. 当她听到那个伤心的消息时,她浑身颤抖。
 - b. I quaver when speaking to large audiences. 每当我面对大量听众讲话时就发抖。
 - 15. They are crammed wall-to-wall all through the house in stacks taller than your oldest son:

我们家整个房子从东墙到西墙,从南墙到北墙统统堆满了广告,一堆又一堆,比你大儿子还要高。

cram:vt. make too full; put too much into 填塞;勉强塞人

- 例:a. Tom crammed papers into a drawer. 汤姆把文件塞入抽屉内。
 - b. It is an essay crammed with quotations. 这是一篇充满引用句的文章。
- 16. band:

n. ①条,带 ②群,伙,帮 ③管乐队,军乐队 ‖ vt. ①用带绑扎,缚 ②使聚集成群 ‖ v. 聚集,联合

例:The band played until midnight. 乐队演奏直至深夜。

17. Her voice kept rising, as if working its way out of the range of the human ear:

Her voice kept rising, as if it went beyond the limit the human ear can hear. 她的声音越来越高,好象超过了耳朵的承受能力。

18. Got a lunch date:

I have got an appointment for lunch. 我要赴约去吃午餐了

19. I had had a marvelous steak but knew better by now than to say so:

I had had a wonderful steak but had more sense by now than to speak the truth. 我吃的牛排美味极了,但此时还是不说出来为妙。

know better than; be wise or experienced enough not (to do sth.) 具有充分智慧(经验)(而不去做); 很懂得(而不至于)。

- 例:a. She certainly knows better than to tackle such problems by herself. 她很明白不能独自去解决这类问题。
 - b.•You ought to know better than to go out without an overcoat on such a cold day. 你应该懂得在这样冷的天气出门而不穿大衣是不行的。
 - 20. They have been at it for hours:

They have been engaged in it for hours. 他们已经干了好几个小时了。





at: engaged in 从事于

例:a. What is he at? 他正在干什么?

- b. Mr. Smith is now at table. 史密斯先生正在用餐。
- c. He is always hard at his lesson. 他总是刻苦学习功课。

21. but all this hasn't made a dent, not a dent, in the situation:

可情况一点也没有得到改观

dent: n.

1) a hollow in a hard surface made by a blow or pressure 凹痕;压印

- 例:a. The accident left a dent in his new car. 此次事故后他车上留下一个凹痕。
 - b. The touch of my finger made a dent in my swollen leg. 我手指一按,浮肿的腿上便留下一个压印。
- 2)(fig.) reduce slightly; make a first step toward success 略为减少;取得成功的第一步
 - 例:a. Jack shoveled and shoveled, but he didn't seem to make a dent in the pile of sand. 杰克铲了又铲,可他好象并没有把沙铲走多少。
 - b. Mark studied all afternoon and only made a dent in his homework. 马克学习了一下午,可是他的作业完成得很少。

22. harm:

n. & v. 损害,伤害,危害

例: Drinking too much can harm one's health. 喝酒过量会危及身体健康。

23. Obtaining an audience with son No. 1:

Obtaining a chance to speak to my oldest son 当我好不容易和大儿子接通电话时(audience 在这儿本来是接见、会见的意思,作者这儿用语幽默,说明好不容易才打通电话,能够与大儿子通话了)

audience:

1) interview or meeting 接见

- 例:a. The ambassador requested an audience with the king. 大使请求国王接见。b. The president granted him an audience. 总统答应接见他。
- 2) the people listening to or watching a performance, speech. 观众,听众
 - 例:a. There was a large audience in the hall yesterday evening. 昨天晚上,大厅里有许多观众。
 - b. His speech drew a large audience. 他的演讲吸引了大批听众。

24. But that would cut into our profit:

不过那会减少我们的利润。

cut into: reduce, decrease; hinder 减少;妨碍;干扰

- 例:a. The union made the company pay higher wages, which cut into the profits. 工会要该公司提高工资,这样一来公司的利润就要减少了。
 - b. All this extra homework cut into his weekends. 这么多额外的家庭作业妨碍他过周末。



25. thoughtful:

adj. ①深思的,沉思的 ②体贴的,关心的

例: Hearing this news, he looked thoughtful for a moment and went away. 听到这个消息,他似乎沉思了一会儿就走开了。

26. Dad, you have just worked a profound change in my personality:

Dad, you have just produced a deep change in my character. 爸,你的话使我深受启发,茅寒顿开。

1) work:vt. produce, bring out, cause; perform 产生,造成,完成

例:a. The destruction worked by the fire was appalling. 那场火灾造成的破坏是骇人的。

b. So the frost worked no damage with the crop. 这么说,严霜并没有损害庄稼。

c. He worked his people lasting good. 他为他的人民谋得长远的利益。

27. The bonus program had worked until someone demanded to see the color of cash:

The bonus plan had been effective until someone demanded to be shown money. 奖金计划行之有效,可后来有人对能否兑现表示怀疑,提出把钱拿出来给大家看看。

1) work; vi. (of a plan, method, etc.) have the desired outcome; be successful 指(计划、方法等)获得所希望的结果;有效;成功

例:a. Will these new methods work? 这些新步骤会有效吗?

- b. The appeal worked powerfully upon him. 呼吁对他起了强烈的作用。
- c. An utopian just won't work. 空想的计划是行不通的。

2) the color of cash: money, dollars 钱,美钞

28. Then some activist on the work force claimed that the workers had no business settling for \$5 and a few competitive bonuses, while the bosses collected hundreds of dollars each:

Then, some activist belonging to the workers declared that the workers had no reason to be satisfied with \$5 and some bonus for the fastest worker, while the bosses got hundreds of dollars each. 然后小雇工中又有某个活动分子提出,因为老板们能得到数百美元,工人们没有理由满足于每人五美元外加一点点竞争性的奖金。

1) have no business to do/doing something: have no reason or right to do sth. 没有理由(权利)做某事

例:a. Everything will turn out all right. You have no business to lose hope. 一切都会很顺利,你没有理由失去希望。

b. You have no business saying such things about Mary. 你无权谈论玛丽的长短。

2) settle for; agree to take or accept sth. in place of what is hoped for or demanded; be satisfied with(less) 接受,勉强同意;对……满意,满足于



- 例:a. He demanded a hundred dollars but had to settle for half that amount: 他要求一百元,但只以半数而了结。
 - b. She was not prepared to settle for being an ordinary housewife. 当一个普通家庭妇女,她是不会甘心的。

29. all the workers were entitled to \$5 per hour:

√all the workers were given the right to get \$5 per hour 所有工人都有权得到每小时五美元的工资

entitle to: give the right to 使有资格,使有权做

- 例:a. This ticket entitles you to a free lunch. 凭此券你可免费午餐一次。
 - b. You are not entitled to use our school library. 你无权使用我校的图书馆。
 - c. What she did was entitled to high praise. 她所做的事情值得高度赞扬。

30. In mediation, the parties agreed on \$2 per hour:

Through the act of peace-making of a go-between, both sides came to terms of \$2 per hour. 通过调解,双方一致同意每小时两块美元。

agree on: reach an agreement or understanding 双方一致同意,对……取得一致意见

- 例:a. After discussion they have agreed on the terms of the contract. 经过协商, 他们就合同条款达成一致协议。
 - b. The price for the house has been agreed on. 房屋的价格已达成协议。
 - c. We agreed on leaving there the next day. 我们一致同意第二天离开那里。
- 1)比较:**agree to**: give consent to, accept (an idea, a plan, a suggestion, etc)答应,接受(想法、计划、建议等)
 - 例:a. They agreed to the proposal though they did not actually agree with it. 他们对这个建议虽然并不真正赞同,但还是接受了。
 - b. Do you agree to our going through this room? 你允许我们穿过这房间吗?
 - c. At last the employer agreed to the terms. 最后,雇主终于答应了工人们的条件。
- 2)比较:**agree with**: correspond with, 与……相符,一致 regard with favor 同意赞成

share the same view as sb. 与某人看法相同

- 例:a. What you have heard does not quite agree with the fact. 你所听到的与事实不尽相符。
 - b. I agree with her on that point. 在那个问题上,我同意她的看法。
 - c. I don't agree with postponing the meeting once more. 我不同意把这个会议再次延期。
 - d. I can't agree with you in this matter. 在这件事情上,我不能同意你。
 - e. I agree with what you say. 我同意你讲的话。

31. the huge stacks began to shrink;

【 V the huge stack began to become less 大堆大堆的广告开始变少了shrink: become less or smaller 减少,变小

- 例:a. Modern communication means make the world shrink. 现代化的交通工具使世界变小了。
 - b. Woolen clothes often shrink when they are washed. 毛织品的衣服洗后常会收缩。
 - c. The personnel of this office has shrunk. 这机关的人员已经减少了。



32. settle one's account:

pay what one owes 结帐

例:Before I left the hotel, I settled all my account. 离开宾馆前,我结完了所有的帐目。

The manager settled accounts with that restaurant once a month. 经理与那家餐馆每月结一次帐。

33. and a like amount for gifts:

and an identical amount for gifts:(花了)同样数量的钱买礼品

like: identical or similar 同样的,相似的

例:a. The two brothers have like personalities. 这两兄弟个性一样。

- b. Each employee received a like bonus. 每一个雇员都收到一份相同的奖金。
- c. These two fabrics are of like quality. 这两种织物质量一样。

34. This left them with \$ 185 each:

After settling the accounts, each of them earned \$ 185 结帐之后,他们每人赚了一百八十五美元

leave: cause to remain 留下

例:a. The postman left me with a letter. 邮递员留给我一封信。

b. Did he leave any message for me? 他有话留给我吗?

c. The bullet wound left a scar on his chest. 枪伤在他胸口留下一个疤痕。

35. Still, it was "enough," as one of them put it:

下如一个儿子所说的,那样,这些钱已经够多的了

- 1) as one of them put it: as one of the boys said 正如一个儿子所说
- 2) **put**: express in words; translate 表达,表述;翻译
 - 例:a. You have put the case very clearly. 你已把这事情解释得很清楚。
 - b. What a way you have of putting things! 瞧你这人的那种表达方式!

36. quite a while:

a quite long time 一段相当长的时间

例:It's quite a while since my parents were in Shanghai. 我父母到上海已经有相当长的时间了。

On hearing the news of his brother's sudden death, he cried for quite a while. 听到他弟弟突然死亡的消息,他哭了好一会儿。

37. draw (sb. 's) attention to:

make sb. notice, or be aware of(亦作 draw/attract the attention of sb.) 引起某人的注意

例:The suggestion stirred up hot discussion among the students and drew the attention of the headmaster. 这个建议在学生中激起热烈的讨论,因而引起了校长的注意。

The teacher drew my attention to a point I had overlooked. 老师使我注意我所忽略的一点。