

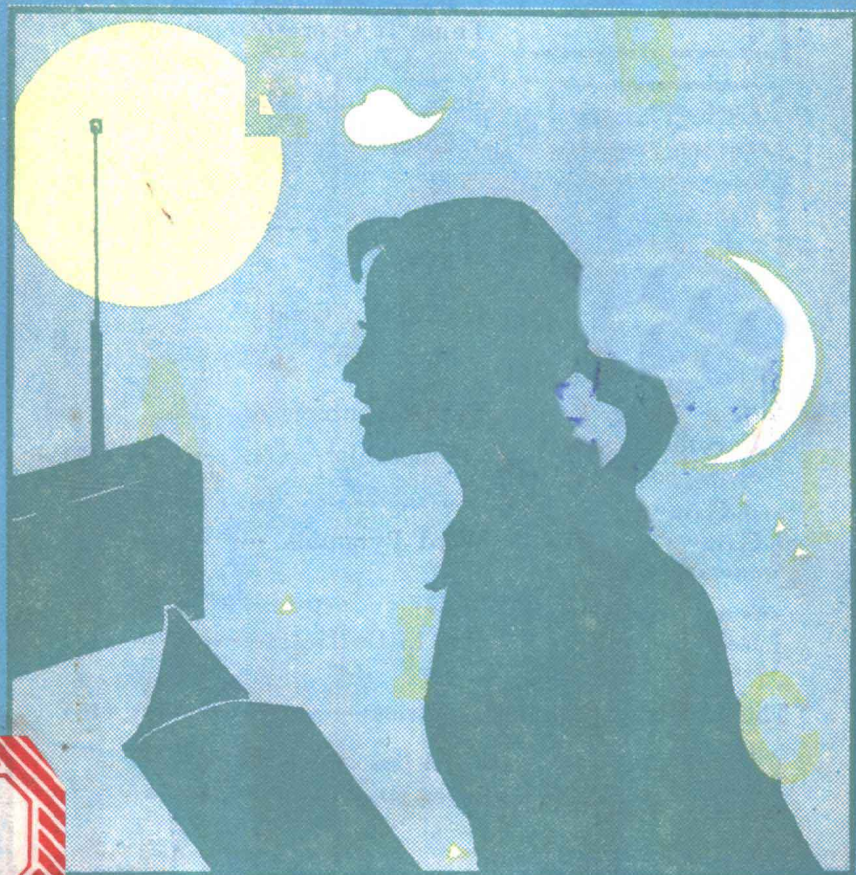
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青少年英语

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ENGLISH FOR YOUNGSTERS



Reading With Notes

Early Days of the Mail..... (1)

See How Well You

Understood (4)

Progress through Practice

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Songs

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EARLY DAYS of the MAIL



In the old days the route from England to India was around the southern end of Africa, the Cape of Good Hope^①. The journey was stormy and dangerous. It would take six long months. Sailors often wished to send letters home, but they seldom met ships going back to England. So at the Cape of Good Hope they would go ashore to a large stone. On the stone were the words "Look here for letters." They would put their letters under the stone, knowing that the returning ships would stop and pick them up.

There was another post office^② like this at the southern end of South America, Cape Horn^③. Here a box was nailed to a post^④. Ships coming from the east coast would send a small boat to this post office. They picked up letters in the box. At the same time they left letters in it for ships sailing east to pick up.

In Washington State^⑤ of the United States stands the stump^⑥ of a big tree. It, too, was once a post office. Settlers^⑦ needed a place for the mail carriers to

①好望角；②邮局；③合恩角；④墩；⑦当时开拓边疆的人。

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leave the letters. Their houses were so widely scattered that mail carriers could not reach all of them. So, the settlers found a tree that stood where several small roads crossed. They cut off the tree ten feet from the ground and covered it with a roof. Inside, they nailed many wooden boxes. Each box was marked with a family's name. The postman could leave letters there for everyone who lived for miles around.

For the first few years after the English colonists came to America, there was no regular postal service. People gave their letters to any traveler who happened to be going in the right direction. When the traveler reached the town where the letter was going, he might stop at an inn. He would then leave the letters there.

In the south, there were few inns. When people wished to send letters, they would leave them at one of the large plantations. The owner of the plantation would then send the letters on to a neighbor and the neighbor would do the same. It was a slow mail system.

After many years, there were regular postmen on horseback^①. They went from one big town to another. They traveled only by day. Often the postman left all the letters for a whole town at a crossroads store. It still took many weeks for a letter to reach the person

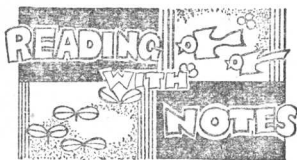
①骑马的邮递员。

it was addressed to.

Finally about two hundred years ago, Benjamin Franklin was made postmaster^① for all the colonies^②. His first act was to make a long journey to find the best routes for carrying mail. Then he set up a line of postal stations between the northern and southern colonies. He ordered his postmen to travel by night as well as by day.

Franklin's postriders carried more letters in a shorter time from one colony to another. The better service helped the young American colonies learn more about each other. They learned that they were all interested in the same things. This gave them the feeling of unity that later helped them achieve their independence.

Today an airmail letter can travel across the world in much less time than before. A modern post office handles more letters in a day than the colonial postmen did in a whole year. You know that the letter you send will go where you want it to, and arrive when you want it to.



① 邮政总监；② 殖民地（美国独立前是英国殖民地）。

SEE HOW WELL YOU UNDERSTOOD

(选择正确答案)

1. The words 'Look here for letters' was a notice for
sailors going
a. to England b. to India
c. to Africa d. to America
2. Cape Horn is located at the tip of
a. Africa b. England
c. South Africa d. South America
3. The post office at Cape Horn was
a. a box nailed to a post b. a tree stump
c. a postman on horseback d. a plantation
4. Benjamin Franklin made his postmen ride
a. at night b. by day only
c. night and day d. bravely
5. Settlers in Washington needed a place for carriers
to leave mail because
a. they used no other post office.
b. the carrier could not learn each family's name.
c. their houses were so widely scattered.
d. the settlers did not know each other.
6. A modern post office handles more letters in a day
than ____ did in a whole year.
a. people from England b. colonial postmen
c. American postmen d. sailors to Africa

(答案见本页)

key 1.a 2.d 3.a 4.c 5.c 6.b

'Mustn't' or 'Needn't'

Fill in the blanks with either 'mustn't' or 'needn't' to see their differences in meaning.

Doctor: You're over-tired. You work so hard.

Patient: Should I stop smoking?

D, No, you _____ stop completely, but you _____ smoke as heavily as you do now.

P: And what about alcohol? (烈酒)

D: Well, you _____ give that up completely either, but you _____ spend every evening in the pub, (酒店) and you _____ drink too much at meals.

P: Are you going to give me any medicine?

D: No, you _____ take any medicine. Just get lots of rest. You _____ do any work for a while, that is very important. And you _____ stay up late at night.

P. Shall I come to see you again?

D. No, you _____ come back,
unless you feel worse.
Goodbye.



(答案见本页)

Key; must't, needn't, mustn't, needn't, mustn't, needn't, mustn't, needn't

Think It Over

Read the following carefully, think a bit, and you will get the answers.

1. Mary and David are brother and sister. David has four brothers, one of them is married. David is an orphan.

(1) How many brothers has Mary?

(2) Is Mary an orphan?

(3) Does Mary have any sister-in-law?

2. Tom's birthday is the 13th of May, which is exactly one week before Jane's. Tom and Jane were born in the same year. Jane goes to a school for girls only.

(1) When is Jane's birthday?

(2) Who is older, Jane or Tom?

(3) Are Tom and Jane in the same school?

3. John and James are both twelve years old. James and Eric are short. Joe and Eddy are tall. Eddy and John wear spectacles. James and Joe like swimming. Eric and Joe enjoy fishing.

(1) How many boys are there?

(2) Who is twelve years old and short?

(3) Who is tall and likes swimming?

(4) Who is short and enjoys fishing?

(5) Who is tall and wears spectacles?

(6) Who is short and likes swimming?

(7) Who is twelve years old and wears spectacles?

(答案见下册第15页)

Once a Thief, Always a Thief?

Characters: Johnny, Mr. Smith, Bob, Jack, Paul, Bob's wife.

Scene: A workshop with a desk in a corner.

(Enter Johnny and Mr. Smith)

Johnny: Good morning, sir.

Mr. Smith: Good morning, Johnny. You are always the earliest. I like early birds.

Johnny: Thank you, sir. I made a promise the day you took me in. I was just out of prison. I wanted so much to start a new life.

Mr. Smith: I knew you meant what you said, so I let you stay. I'm glad that I did that.

Johnny: I feel so happy now that I'm an honest man. I want to work very hard to prove myself worthy of your kindness.

Mr. Smith: Well, Johnny, all your fellow-workers here like you. They all say that you're doing two men's work. I think I am going to give you a raise.

(Enter Bob, Jack and Paul.)

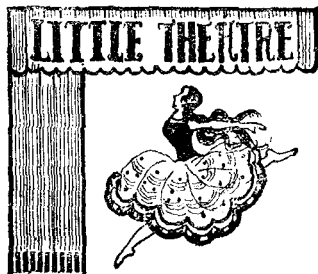
Bob: *(to Jack and Paul, aside)*

I was shocked when I found out that Johnny had been in prison for theft.

Jack: No, it must have been someone else.

Paul: Johnny? No, I don't believe it.

Bob: I didn't believe it myself, but it's true.



Jack: I refuse to believe it unless he admits it.
Paul: Why not ask him?
Bob: Good morning, sir. Good morning, Johnny.
Mr. Smith, Johnny: Good morning.
Paul: Johnny, please come over here.
Johnny: Yes?
Bob: Johnny, we have to ask you an unpleasant question. But we won't be at peace until we know the truth.
Johnny: Well, what is it?
Jack: Have you ever been in jail?
Johnny: Well, bad as it is, I can't deny it. But I have begun a new life. I have worked hard to make up for my bad deeds.
Bob: Sorry, but I can't be friends with a thief.
Jack: I consider it a disgrace to share the same workshop with a thief.
Paul: I'm sure my wife will divorce me if she finds out I once took a thief as a friend.



Johnny: I've never done any stealing again and I never will. Why can't you forget about my past?

Bob: Sorry, but I just can't.

Jack: Neither can I.

Paul: I won't risk my happiness for a thief!

Johnny: Can't a man have a chance to be good again?

Jack: Well, Mr. Smith, Johnny has admitted he was a thief and a jail-bird.

Paul: Mr. Smith, please dismiss him, to save the reputation of us all.

Mr. Smith: Johnny told me his story the very first day he came. I gave him a chance. He has proved himself honest and worthy. I don't think I'll sack him without any reason.

Bob: All right. Then I won't speak to him any more.

Jack, Paul: I won't either.

Bob: My goodness, where is my wallet? I'm sure I had it a moment ago.

Jack: With a thief in the workshop, mine will be lost tomorrow.

Paul: Mr. Smith, we can't keep a thief in the workshop. If you want to keep him, then I'm afraid I'll have to leave, much as I like it here.

Bob: Mr. Smith, it's now time to make your choice.

Mr. Smith: Well, Johnny, I really don't know what to do now. I believe you didn't take Bob's wallet. But I can't afford to lose three mechanics in one morning. So I'm afraid I'll have to let you go. I'm very sorry.

Johnny: Once a thief, always a thief? I'll go.

(Enter Bob's wife with a wallet in her hand.)

Bob's wife: Bob! Bob! Your wallet!

Bob: What? My wallet?

Bob's wife: I found it on the floor at home. I thought you might need it, so I rushed over here with it.

Bob: Forgive me, Johnny.

Mr. Smith: Well, Johnny, let's forget all about it. I'll take back my words. Do stay with us!

Johnny: Thank you, Mr. Smith. I know whatever may happen, nothing will make me steal again. Once a thief, not always a thief!

(The End)

Answers to page 16

No. 1: Canada, A, Ottawa, Norman Bethune

No. 2: USA, B, Washington, Mississippi

No. 3: Australia, E, Cauberra, kangaroos, koala bears

No. 4: Britain (UK), C, London, Thames

No. 5: New Zealand, D, Wellington, sheep



AESOP

When we talk about fables, we always think of Aesop, a wise man and a great story-teller, was born into a slave's family about 2,600 years ago (about 620 B. C.) in Greece. His wisdom and kindheartedness won him the freedom of a citizen. Later he even became the minister of a mighty king who was so fond of him that he gave Aesop great power and honor.

Whenever Aesop saw something wrong or bad or cruel was going to happen, he would tell a story to warn the doer. The stories he told were mostly about animals which could talk and behave like human beings. In this way, he praised the correct, the good and the virtuous and, at the same time, criticized the wrong, the bad and the cruel.

His fables remained very popular. They were told from generation to generation. Later, some scholars wrote the fables down. Now Aesop's fables have been translated into nearly every language, and are loved by people all over the world.



Is Water a Good Conductor^①?

People are warned not to handle plugs, switches or any electrical appliance with wet hands. This seems to indicate that water conducts^② electricity well; but, in fact, pure water is a poor conductor of both heat and electricity.

Heat and electricity are conducted similarly by the energy passing from one atom to the next. Thus, good conductors of heat are also good conductors of electricity. Now hold some small pieces of ice in place^③ at the bottom of a test tube containing water by pushing in a little steel wool^④ on top of them to keep them from rising. Then heat the water near the top of the tube by means of a candle flame^⑤. Soon the water at the top will start to boil, yet the ice at the bottom will hardly melt. From this we can see that water is a poor conductor,



The reason it is dangerous to handle any electrical equipment with wet hands is that the water that wets our hands is never pure.

Notes: ①良导体; ②(电、热的)传导; ③固定在适当的位置; ④钢丝绒; ⑤用蜡烛的火焰。

Build the Following
Word Pyramid



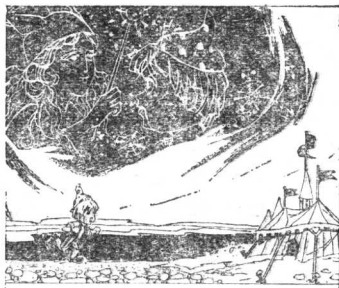
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A A
A A A
A A A A
A A A A A

Suggestive key:
a, at, ate, able, apple, across, achieve

The Adventures of Pinocchio (II)



(9) Pinocchio did not keep his promise (遵守诺言). He kept staying away from school. Then he ran away with a circus (马戏团).



(10) Meanwhile, the fairy princess sent a cricket to watch over him. The cricket said to him, "Pinocchio, I'm your conscience (良心). I will warn you each time you do something wrong."



Our Little Heart

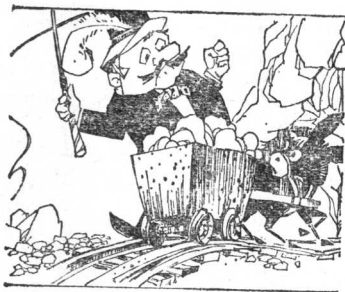
Without your tongue you cannot talk,
 Without your feet you cannot walk,
 Without your eyes you cannot see,
 Without your heart you cannot be!
 It always beats and hops,
 It never sleeps or stops.
 Lifelong we don't part,
 With our little heart.



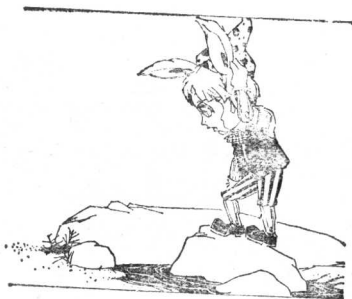
(11) Pinocchio thought it would be fun to be in the circus. The bad circus man wanted Pinocchio to pick up little boys to work for him. Cricket said, "No, Pinocchio, don't do it. He is a bad man." But Pinocchio did not listen. He stayed with the circus man and helped him find more little boys.



(12) Soon they were far away from town and came to a mine where many little donkeys were working. "Watch out (小心), Pinocchio!" said Cricket, "Don't trust (相信) that circus man."



(13) Pinocchio saw the little boys that he had brought to the circus man turn into (变成) donkeys. They were put to work in the mine.



(14) Pinocchio's ears began to feel very funny (不舒服). Soon they were turning into donkey's ears.



(15) Cricket called, "Run, Pinocchio, run and you will break the spell (咒语)." He ran and ran and suddenly became himself again. (恢复原形)

Cricket begged him to go home and he finally agreed.



(16) When he came home he called, "Father, father, where are you?" But there was no reply. The neighbours told him his father, Geppetto, had gone looking for him and was swallowed (吞掉) by a big whale (鲸鱼).