


高 等 学 校 教 材

# 现代英语教程

## 精读

总主编 赵国杰  
主 编 郇国兴  
 黄乃圣  
 胡 丹

3



*Modern  
English Course  
Intensive Reading*

江西高校出版社


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现代英语教程 精读(3)

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江西高校出版社

(南昌市洪都北大道 96 号)

邮政编码:330046 电话:(0791)8512093,8504319

华东地质学院印刷厂照排

华东地质学院印刷厂印刷

各地新华书店经销

\*

1998 年 9 月第 2 版 1998 年 9 月第 2 次印刷

787mm×1092mm 1/16 15.125 印张 380 千字

印数:3001~4500 册

定价: 16.00 元

ISBN 7-81033-880-3/H·66

(江西高校版图书凡属印刷、装订错误,请随时向承印厂调换)

# 前 言

《现代英语教程》是根据正在编写的新的大学英语教学大纲及江西省大学英语教学的实际需要而编写的。它是江西省大学外语教学协作组一项重要的科研项目。

教材分精读、泛读、口语和听力四种形式,分四级出版,供各校课堂教学及课外活动使用。

本书的编写得到了江西省教育委员会高教一处的大力支持和帮助;全省的各个外语教学单位积极参加编写,成为本书编写的坚强基础和可靠保证。在江西工作的美国专家 Lisa·J·Peterson、Cindy Stevens、Wes Beasley、Mark King、Pat King、Michelle L. Stabler、Greg A. Entzian 审校全书并为该书录音,在此一并表示衷心地感谢。

《现代英语教程》编写组

1998.8

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# Unit 1

## Text A

### Play It Again, Dad

*Laura Sessions Stepp*

From second grade on, there was one event I dreaded every year: the piano recital. A recital meant I had to practice a boring piece of music and perform in front of strangers who, I was sure, knew the notes much better than I. It also meant wearing a crinkly crinoline dress and enduring the bright lights of a movie camera as I swished across the church stage.

Each year I would ask my father if I could skip the recital “just this once.” And each year he’d say no, muttering something about building self-confidence and working toward a goal.

So it was with great satisfaction that I stood in church one recent Sunday, video camera in hand, and watched my father sweat in his shirt and tie before rising to play the piano in his very first recital.

Eight-year-old Patrick Gurney led off the event, followed by Susannah Thomson, nine. Then came my 68-year-old dad, Robert Sessions, who sat down at the Kawai grand piano and taught me more about courage and persistence than all the words he used those 30-plus years ago.

From the time he was small, my father had longed to play music. His mother, a factory worker, couldn’t afford lessons, so a kindly couple in the small Arkansas town where he lived offered to pay. But he soon stopped after being teased by other boys of his age. “I quit and always regretted it,” he recalls.

He could have gone on regretting it, as too many of us do. But though he was rooted in his past, he wasn’t stuck there. Three years ago, when he retired from the faculty at the University of Richmond, he asked his church music director, Charles Staples, to take him as a student. Staples had the good grace not to laugh. Just before the recital, he told me my dad was playing “the best I’ve ever seen him. I keep waiting for him to reach his peak, but he hasn’t yet.”

For a moment after my father sat down at the keyboard to play he simply stared down at his fingers, and I wondered whether he would even begin. He had tried to keep the event quiet, telling my stepmother she didn’t

need to come. But she had every intention of coming, and also invited my sisters and me as well as my dad's three golfing partners who, much to his dismay, showed up.

As we waited those few seconds, I knew he was worrying that his music would sound, well, juvenile—that we'd expect more from a 68-year-old than an eight-year-old, even someone who had been playing for so short a time. His sense of dignity, a precious commodity at any age, was on the line.

He's forgotten the notes. I worried, remembering those split seconds decades ago when my mind would go blank and my fingers would freeze.

But then the sure, poignant strains of Aram Khachaturian's "Melody" emerged, from the same large fingers that once baited my fishing lines, and I realized he had been doing what music teachers always tell their novitiates to do: focus on the music and pretend the rest of us aren't there.

Also in the audience was my 11-year-old son Jeff. My father has taught his grandson how to play hearts, pitch a tent, cast a fishing rod, swing a golf club and compose music on the computer. He encouraged Jeff to start the piano even when the boy insisted he would never play in a recital; two years ago, Dad was there when Jeff did what he said he would never do.

So somehow it was fitting to hear Jeff offer my father some advice about performing. "Just remember, if you make a mistake, it's not the end of the world," my son told him. "Probably no one will notice it anyway."

My dad made it through "Melody" and sailed through Burgmuller's "Arabesque." What he lacked in precision, he more than made up for in feeling. He then rose, turned to his audience and curtsied, making us laugh with relief and affection.

"So what did you think about your granddad?" I asked Jeff later.

"He was great." Jeff replied. "I'm glad he did it. And I bet he is too."

"I'm proud of him for starting something new at his age," I said.

"Yeah, and doing it so well," Jeff added. "It would be like Dr. Spock taking up baseball at 90. I guess he could do it, but it would be hard."

T. Berry Brazelton, the pediatrician and author, says grandparents show grandchildren the mountain tops while parents teach the drudgery of how to get there. My father may not have reached his peak musically, but as far as his grandson is concerned, he's at the top of the mountain

(Condensed from *WASHINGTON POST*)

## New Words

dread [dred] <i>vt.</i>	fear greatly 畏惧
recital [ri'sai:tl] <i>n.</i>	performance of music by one person 音乐演奏会; 独奏会
note [nəut] <i>n.</i>	音调; 曲调
crinkly ['kriŋkli] <i>adj.</i>	having many smaller, narrow folds 有纹的; 起皱的
crinoline ['krinəlin] <i>n.</i>	(从前妇女用以)支撑裙子的衬架
swish [swiʃ] <i>v.</i>	(衣裙等)瑟瑟作响
skip [skip] <i>vt.</i>	miss; deliberately do not do sth. 有意不(做某事)
mutter ['mʌtə] <i>v.</i>	speak (sth.) in a low voice; mumble 轻声低语
video ['vidiəu] <i>n.</i>	(U.S.A) television
persistence [pə'sistəns] <i>n.</i>	insistence 坚持; 固执; 持续
tease [ti:z] <i>v.</i>	make fun of (sb.) 取笑, 嘲弄
quit [kwit] <i>v.</i>	give up, leave 离开, 离去
faculty ['fækəlti] <i>n.</i>	(大学里的)系, 学院; [美](任何学校的)全体教员
stepmother ['stepmʌðə] <i>n.</i>	one's father's later wife 继母
dismay [dis'mei] <i>n.</i>	feeling of fear and discouragement 灰心; 沮丧
juvenile ['dʒu:vinaɪl] <i>n.</i>	childish; immature and rather silly 幼稚的
commodity [kə'mɒditi] <i>n.</i>	useful thing, personal advantage 有用的东西
poignant ['pɔɪnənt] <i>adj.</i>	distressful; deeply moving 伤心的, 痛心的; 深刻的, 深深打动人的
strains [streɪns] <i>n.</i>	(pl.) a passage of music 曲调, 旋律
bait [beɪt] <i>v.</i>	put food on a hook to catch fish or in a trap to catch animals 装饵于……
novitiate [nəu'vi:ʃi:t] <i>n.</i>	beginner 新手; 生手
club [klʌb] <i>n.</i>	高尔夫球棒; 曲棍球棒
pitch [pitʃ] <i>vt.</i>	set up, erect 支起
fitting ['fitɪŋ] <i>adj.</i>	right for a particular situation or occasion; appropriate 合适的
curtsey ['kɜ:tsi] <i>vi.</i>	(与 to 连用) 行屈膝礼
pediatrician [ˌpi:diə'tri:ʃn] <i>n.</i>	a doctor who specializes in treating children's illness 小儿科医生
drudgery ['drʌdʒəri] <i>n.</i>	hard, unpleasant, boring work 辛苦, 单调乏味的工作



## Phrases and Expressions

lead off	begin; start 率先
have the good grace	have the decency 有(做某事的)雅量
show up	appear at a place; turn up 出现
split second	a brief moment 刹那,一瞬间
focus on	concentrate on 集中
on the line	at risk; at hazard 处于危险状态;暴露在外
go blank	(of one's mind) suddenly cannot think of anything appropriate 记不起来(茫然,空白)
make it	be successful in doing sth. 成功做到
sail through	get through without difficulty 顺利完成
take up	become interested in a particular activity or subject and spend time doing it 喜欢,从事

## Proper Names

Laura Sessions Stepp [lə:rə'seʃənsstep]	劳拉·塞辛斯·斯迪普
Patrick Gurney ['pætrɪk'gɜ:ni]	帕特瑞克·戈尔尼
Susannah Thomson [su:zænə'tɒmsn]	苏珊娜·汤姆逊
Robert Sessions [rɒbətseʃəns]	罗伯特·塞辛斯
Arkansas [ɑ:kənsɔ:]	阿肯色(美国州名)
The University of Richmond	里士满大学
Charles Staples [tʃɑ:lz'stæplz]	查理·斯特波斯
Aram Khachaturian [æ'rəmhɑ:tʃaturɪən]	阿拉姆·哈恰图良
Jeff [dʒef]	杰夫
Burgmuller ['bɜ:gmju:lə]	伯格穆勒
Dr. Spock [spɒk]	斯博克博士
T. Berry Brazelton ['beri'bræzəltn]	T·贝里·巴拉扎尔顿

## Notes

1. This text is taken from *Reader's Digest*, Vol. 147, 1995.
2. *Arabesque*: 阿拉伯花式乐曲(一种依附于主题的装饰短曲,尤指钢琴曲)
3. *Melody* 是由阿拉姆·哈恰图良创作的主旋律
4. *Aram Khachaturian* (1903—1978) 前苏联作曲家,前苏联作曲家协会理事会书记。亚美尼亚共和国国歌的作曲者,作品具有俄罗斯的东方传统。曾二次获斯大林奖,其代表作有《钢琴协奏曲》等。
5. *play hearts*: 玩红心牌戏(玩者须避免吃进有红心的墩)
6. *But though he was rooted in his past, he wasn't stuck there*: But though he was unable to forget his past, he was not trapped in that unpleasant situation. He wanted

to learn it again.

## Exercises

### I. Comprehension of the text

Choose the best answer for each of the following according to the text.

1. According to the author, every year the piano recital was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. exciting    B. boring    C. dreadful    D. painful
2. Each year the author wanted to skip the piano recital, \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. and her father would encourage her to be brave  
B. just because she was unfamiliar with the music  
C. so that she could take photos with video camera in hand  
D. because she could watch her father sweat before playing the piano
3. Her father quit the music lessons because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. his family was too poor to afford them  
B. his church music director laughed at him  
C. he could not stand being annoyed by other boys' mocking  
D. he felt he had no talent for music and lost self-confidence
4. How did her father feel when his three golfing partners came to the recital?  
A. Happy    B. Angry    C. Surprised    D. Upset
5. Why didn't her father start to play the piano at once?  
A. He had forgotten the notes.  
B. His fingers had frozen up.  
C. He was worried that his dignity would be lost.  
D. He was too nervous in front of strangers.
6. From the passage we can infer that her father gave his piano recital because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. he wanted to show himself off  
B. he was a well-known pianist  
C. he wanted to realize his long old dream  
D. it was a very important chance for him
7. As far as his grandson was concerned, the grandfather \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. set a good example for him    B. reached the top of the mountain  
C. could take up baseball at 90    D. should pay no attention to the audience
8. Which of the following statements is NOT true?  
A. Her father played two piano pieces at his very first concert.  
B. The grandson offered his grandfather some valuable advice before the recital.  
C. The music her father played sounded juvenile and he always regretted it.  
D. Her father was courageous enough to play his first piano recital at the age of 68.

9. The text mainly tells us that \_\_\_\_\_ .
- actions speak louder than words
  - how you should be parents
  - everything must have a beginning
  - it is never too late to start something new

## II. Question Answering

Answer the following questions based on the text.

- What did the author dread every year as a child ?
- What did a recital mean to her ?
- What did her father say to her when she wanted to skip the recital ?
- What did she think when she watched her father play the piano at his first recital ?
- At what age did her father play his first piano recital ?
- Why did her father quit the music lessons ?
- Who took her father as a music student after he retired ?
- Did Charles Staples laugh at him ? What did he say just before the recital ?
- Who was Jeff ? What advice did he give to his grandfather ?
- Was her father's first piano recital successful ? How do you know ?
- What did Jeff think of his grandfather ?

## III. Question Discussion

Discuss the following questions in groups or write down your answers in your exercise books.

- Describe her father's inner feeling just before playing his first piano recital.
- What do you think of the proverb "It is never too late to learn ?" Give some examples.

## IV. Vocabulary Learning

- Fill in the blanks with the words or expressions given below. Change the forms where necessary.

split second	focus on	stick	make it	have the grace
lead off	skip	sail through	on the line	fitting
show up	long for	go blank		

- We had only expected twenty people to register for the course, but twice as many \_\_\_\_\_ on the first day of class.
- How do you always manage to \_\_\_\_\_ doing the housework?
- The lightning flash lasted a \_\_\_\_\_, and then disappeared.
- I didn't dare fight and put my job \_\_\_\_\_, so I went along with them.

- 5) At the press conference the spokesman \_\_\_\_\_ by a reporter.
  - 6) He \_\_\_\_\_ to apologize to me for the insulting remark.
  - 7) It has rained for four weeks in succession, so we \_\_\_\_\_ some sunshine.
  - 8) I keep thinking I know all the answers and then \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 9) As we cannot study all resources, I propose to \_\_\_\_\_ our attention one.
  - 10) It was not \_\_\_\_\_ that he remarried so soon after his wife's death.
  - 11) Bob had dreams of being rich and famous, and he became very bitter when he realized that he would never \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 12) Ned, the General Editor, \_\_\_\_\_ with a general survey of the objectives to be aimed at.
  - 13) I'd have a good day, \_\_\_\_\_ my work with unexpected ease.
2. Complete each of the following with the correct form of the given word on the left of each sentence.

1) dread                      I can't but think that the adoption of such a course would be a \_\_\_\_\_ mistake.

In the days of wooden ships and wooden homes, fire was an omnipresent \_\_\_\_\_.

2) satisfaction              This court is \_\_\_\_\_ that all of the defendants were proved innocent.

The bank board chairman expressed his \_\_\_\_\_ with the result of the conference.

3) persist                      The salesman's \_\_\_\_\_ annoyed the old lady, but finally she gave in.

On the tops of very high mountains snow \_\_\_\_\_ throughout the year.

4) regret                      She felt \_\_\_\_\_ that she missed the chance.

Much to my \_\_\_\_\_, I am unable to accept your kind invitation.

5) courage                      We want our children to grow up to be honest, \_\_\_\_\_ and kind.

Submarines in the Mediterranean were a constant \_\_\_\_\_ to naval movements.

6) advice                      It is \_\_\_\_\_ that you should ring up first to make a reservation.

They went from door to door to \_\_\_\_\_ the residents on how to store their vegetables.

7) emerge                      A significant feature of China's table-tennis is the constant \_\_\_\_\_ of promising newcomers.

Large-scale industry \_\_\_\_\_ only gradually as technology e-

- volved.
- 8) expect      Considering the problems he's had there can be little \_\_\_\_\_ of him winning the race.  
The financial performance of the business is fully \_\_\_\_\_ to improve.
- 9) compose      Is this poem of your own \_\_\_\_\_? China is a country with a very large population \_\_\_\_\_ of many nationalities.  
The music was specially \_\_\_\_\_ for the film.  
The manager has made some changes to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the team.
- 10) confidence      Thomas was \_\_\_\_\_ of his ability to get work for himself.  
He had no \_\_\_\_\_ in himself when facing his audience.

3. Use the verb in the bracket to form an appropriate verbal phrase and complete the sentence with it.

- 1) We must redouble our efforts to \_\_\_\_\_ lost time. (make)
- 2) After a large-scale world war, people all over the world \_\_\_\_\_ an everlasting peace. (long)
- 3) We should not \_\_\_\_\_ any proposal before making a careful study of it. (turn)
- 4) People never \_\_\_\_\_ new facts very easily when they're unhappy. (take)
- 5) She \_\_\_\_\_ late that night to write a detailed account of the unforgettable moment. (sit)
- 6) The letters NPC \_\_\_\_\_ the National People's Congress. (stand)
- 7) How about you \_\_\_\_\_ the proceedings with a few words of welcome for the visitors? (lead)
- 8) We heard the man \_\_\_\_\_ something \_\_\_\_\_ his son when he walked away. (mutter)
- 9) Why worry about the difficulties ahead? I know you'll just \_\_\_\_\_! (Sail)
- 10) He finds it hard to \_\_\_\_\_ his thoughts \_\_\_\_\_ one thing for longer than five minutes (focus)
- 11) When did Jim first \_\_\_\_\_ running in competitions? (take)

4. Replace the underlined parts in the following sentences with words or expressions from the text.

- 1) How many people were present at the meeting?
- 2) He gave a colourful description of a night on the town.
- 3) Most people like summer, but as for Bob, he likes winter much better.
- 4) A man's true worth depends not upon his wealth or rank but upon his character.
- 5) Stunned by what had happened, the old man stood fixed to the spot.

- 6) If you concentrate all your energies on the study of English, you will master the language.
- 7) Jack must have been joking when he said that he was going to give up his job.
- 8) Everyone makes fun of George because he speaks with a strong accent.
- 9) Mr Smith is a professor in the Law Department at Stanford University.
- 10) Generally, a man worker in China goes away from his work at the age of 60.
- 11) Last night, we watched the performance quite satisfactorily.
- 12) After failing the exams three times, I realized I'd never succeed in accountancy.

## V. Structure Learning

Rewrite the following sentences after the models.

Model 1: He then rose, turned to his audience and curtsied, which made us laugh with relief and affection.

He then rose, turned to his audience and curtsied, making us laugh with relief and affection.

- 1) He left home never to return, which left her alone with sorrow.
- 2) He died in an accident, which left his wife with four children.
- 3) The sick son rose early and ate a lot, which made his mother relieved.
- 4) My grandfather played at a concert at 90, which made me open my mouth wide in surprise.
- 5) I stood up to answer the question and went blank for a moment, which left me in an embarrassed situation.

Model 2. But he soon stopped after he was teased by other boys his age. But he soon stopped after being teased by other boys his age.

- 1) I made my decision after I talked to my parents.
- 2) Bob went out of the room after he had annoyed everybody.
- 3) He couldn't rise to his feet after he was hit by a bike.
- 4) She has been quite different since she came back from America.
- 5) Come to my office after you have finished your work.

## VI. Translations

1. Translate the following sentences into English.

- 1) 艰苦的劳动常常能弥补经验的缺乏。(make up for)
- 2) 每学期令我担心的一件事就是英语考试。(dread)
- 3) 国有企业工人都渴望企业能在最近二、三年摆脱困境。(long)
- 4) 至于销售,我想最好的办法是先跟销售经理和广告部的人开个会。(as far as ... be concerned)
- 5) 统计数字表明每年都有近一百万大学毕业生走上各种工作岗位。(take

up)

- 6) 一切都在瞬间发生,所以没有一个人知道到底是怎么回事。(split second)
- 7) 当老师问到影片是否有助于理解时,比尔首先回答说他从影片中学到很多东西。(lead off)
- 8) 弗兰克决定冒失去工作的危险对老板说他认为老板错了。(on the line)

2. Translate the following into Chinese.

He could have gone on regretting it , as too many of us do. But though he was rooted in his past, he wasn't stuck there. Three years ago, when he retired from the faculty at the University of Richmond, he asked his church music director, Charles Staples, to take him as a student. Staples had the good grace not to laugh. Just before the recital, he told me my dad was playing " the best I've ever seen him. I keep waiting for him to reach his peak, but he hasn't yet."

### VII. Grammar Review(The Use of "As")

1. Complete each of the following sentences with one of the four choices given below.

- 1) Try \_\_\_\_\_ you will, you won't manage it  
A. as      B. as if      C. as soon as      D. as though
- 2) Mr. John \_\_\_\_\_ went to the door and see her off.  
A. as yet      B. as usual      C. as for      D. as a result
- 3) I live in the same house \_\_\_\_\_ he lives.  
A. as      B. that      C. such      D. which
- 4) Miss Mary is the same \_\_\_\_\_ the one you mention.  
A. as      B. that      C. woman      D. as if
- 5) He was \_\_\_\_\_ kind \_\_\_\_\_ help the old man off the bus.  
A. as ... as to      B. so ... as for      C. such ... as to      D. so ... as to
- 6) Most doctors recognize that medicine is \_\_\_\_\_ .  
A. as art as much as it is a science      B. as an art as much it is a science  
C. as much an art as it is a science      D. much an art as it is a science
- 7) \_\_\_\_\_ she does his work well, I don't mind what time she arrives at the factory.  
A. So far as      B. So long as      C. As well as      D. As far as
- 8) I didn't get \_\_\_\_\_ "As" on the tests as I had expected.  
A. many      B. much      C. as much      D. as many
- 9) The agreement starts \_\_\_\_\_ March 1.  
A. as of      B. as to      C. as for      D. as regards
- 10) That was her final judgement on the story \_\_\_\_\_ whole.  
A. in a      B. as a      C. on a      D. taken a
- 11) Here is \_\_\_\_\_ no man can lift it.

- A. so big a stone that              B. so big stone as  
 C. such a big stone as              D. such big a stone as

12) They have no idea \_\_\_\_\_ what a miserable life we led in those years.

- A. as of      B. as to      C. as a result of      D. as for

2. Each of the following sentences has four parts underlined and marked A, B, C and D. You are to identify the one that needs correction.

1) A fierce fight occurred, as such things often happen at the corner of the city during night.  
 A                      B                      C                      D

2) It is true that the Romans, who continued to build the city of Rome, were as toughly and as fierce as wolves.  
 A                      B                      C                      D

3) Jack, as strong a man as ever who worked for three days running, was exhausted by the journey.  
 A                      B                      C                      D

4) Short as are these moments, we two girls often spoil things for our mother out of our ignorance and lack of consideration.  
 A                      B                      C                      D

5) Your mother, like the physician has informed you, is in a most critical condition.  
 A                      B                      C                      D

3. Complete the following sentences, using "as".

1) He puts the books and magazines where they were often reading them, \_\_\_\_\_ .  
 (他常常是这样做的)

2) \_\_\_\_\_ (正如他所希望的那样), he saw the sunrise.

3) \_\_\_\_\_ (尽管他们很穷), they still managed to send their children to school.

4) \_\_\_\_\_ (由于她感觉不舒服), we all told her to stay at home.

5) \_\_\_\_\_ (就他的成绩而言), he is a good student. But he knows little outside the textbooks.

### VIII. Applied Writing

Mr Zhang Lin, the Export Manager of the Atlantic Food Corporation, received an invitation from Australia. Here is a letter applying for visa. The letter is as follows:

Dear Sirs:

We enclose the completed application form for an entry visa to enable Mr Zhang Lin, the Export Manager this Corporation, to visit Australia.

Mr Zhang will be leaving Nanchang on 4th August for a business tour of Australia, subject to issue of the visa which proposes to arrive in Sidney on 7th August and to stay



for about fourteen days, when he will leave for Shanghai. His address in Sidney will be the Holiday Inn.

The purpose of Mr Zhang's visit to Australia is to gain information about the latest developments in agri-business in order to explore possibilities of increasing trade between our two countries. Our Corporation would guarantee Mr Zhang's financial security during his stay in Australia and payment of all expenses he may incur.

We enclose the following supporting documents:

- (1) Mr Zhang's passport.
- (2) A cheque for the visa fee.
- (3) A registered, stamped, addressed envelop for return of the passport.
- (4) A copy of our Corporation's catalogue for your reference.

Should you require any further information, if you will let me know, I shall be happy to supply it.

Yours sincerely  
(Signature)

Suppose you are the secretary of a company. Your boss is invited to visit Canada. You are asked to write a letter for applying for visa.

## IX. Topic Writing

Write a composition on the topic *Population Problems*. You should write at least 120 words based on the outline given below.

1. Present state of population
2. Some big problems caused by the population explosion
3. How to control the rapid increase of population

## X. Passage Exercise

Fill in the missing words:

Have you \_\_\_\_ asked yourself why children go to school? You will probably say that they go to \_\_\_\_ their own language and other languages, arithmetic, history, science and all the \_\_\_\_ subjects. That is quite true; but why do they learn these things? And are these things \_\_\_\_ that they learn at school?

We \_\_\_\_ our children to school to prepare them for the time \_\_\_\_ they will be big and will have to work \_\_\_\_ themselves. Nearly all they study at school has some use in their life, but is that the only reason \_\_\_\_ they go to school?

There is \_\_\_\_ in education than just learning facts. We go to school \_\_\_\_ all to learn how to learn, so that when we have left \_\_\_\_ we can continue to learn. A man \_\_\_\_ really knows how to learn will always be successful, because whenever he has to do something new which he has never had to do \_\_\_\_, he will rapidly teach himself how to