



Selected English Readings
for Middle School Students

中学英语选读

3

安徽教育出版社

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前 言

为帮助中学生学好并巩固英语基础知识，扩大视野，提高阅读能力，我们根据教学大纲的要求，配合中学英语教材，编写了这套《中学英语选读》，一共六册。

本套书有童话、趣味小故事、名人轶事和科普小品等。文章均选自国外出版的英语读物，语言地道，文字浅显。每篇文章都附有译文、语言难点的简明注解和练习。练习形式多样，有填空、判断正误句、选择正确答案等。每册书都配有录音磁带，便于读者朗读时模仿，提高其听力。本书录音磁带由北京外国语学院北京外语音像教材出版社出版。

本套书由浅入深，可作为初、高中学生课外辅助读物，也可供初学者自学和中学教师在教学中参考。

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1. Seventeen Camels

New Words

1. camel ['kæml] n. 骆驼
2. puzzle ['pʌzl] vt. 使迷惑
3. share [ʃeə] vt. 分 n. 一份儿
4. disobey ['disə'bei] vt. 不服从, 违背
5. advice [əd'vais] n. 劝告, 忠告
6. honor ['ɒnə] vt. 尊重
7. gratefully ['greɪtfuli] ad. 感激地
8. spare [speə] vt. 剩余
9. gratitude ['græti'tju:d] n. 感激

Text

Once upon a time there was an old man who had three sons. Calling them together, he said, "Sons, my end is near. To my oldest son I give half my camels, to my second one-third, and to my youngest one-ninth." Soon afterwards he died.

Now, the old man had seventeen camels, and the three brothers were puzzled to know how to share them as their father had said. They thought a long time about the problem, and it seemed that they must either kill some of the camels

and cut them into pieces, or disobey their father. At last they went to their father's old friend and asked his advice. As soon as he heard their story, he said, "I will help you. I honored your father. I am old. I have only one camel, but take it—it is yours. "

Gratefully the three sons took the old man's camel, finding that it was now easy to divide the camels as their father had wished. The oldest took half—that was nine camels; the second took one-third, which was six; and the youngest took one-ninth, which was two.

Only when each had received his share of camels did they discover that there was a camel to spare. So, out of gratitude to their father's friend, they returned the camel.

Notes

1. calling them together: 是现在分词短语, 作时间状语。
2. to my second one-third: 这是省略句, 承上省略。完整的句子是: To my second son I give one-third of my camels. 下一句 to my youngest one-ninth 同此。
3. soon afterwards: 说完话后一会儿。
4. were puzzled to know: 不知道……
5. share them: 这里的 them 是指十七头骆驼。
6. and it seemed...father: 这句里的 it 是形式主语, 真正的主语是 that they...father. either...or...是并列连词, 连接两个等立成份, 意即“要么……要么… cut...into pieces: 把……切开”。
7. finding that...wished: 是现在分词短语, 作状语, 表示结

果。在这个短语里，that...wished 是宾语从句。that 是引导词。

8. out of gratitude to their father's friend; 出于对父亲朋友的感激。out of 是“出于”的意思。

译 文

十七头骆驼

从前，有一位老人有三个儿子。他把他们叫到一起，说：“孩子们，我就要死了。我把一半骆驼给大儿子，三分之一骆驼给二儿子，九分之一骆驼给小儿子。”说完不一会儿，他就死了。

再说，这位老人有十七头骆驼。兄弟三人不知道怎么按照父亲所说的话来分这十七头骆驼。他们把这个问题想了很久。看起来，他们必须要么杀掉几头骆驼并把它们切开，要么违背父亲的遗愿。最后，他们去找父亲的老朋友，要他出主意。他一听完他们的话就说：“我来帮助你们，我尊重你们的父亲。我老了。我只有一头骆驼，但你们把它带去好了——它就是你们的了。”

三个儿子感激地把老人的骆驼带走了，结果发现现在按照他父亲的愿望来分骆驼容易了。大儿子得一半——就是九头；二儿子得三分之一，就是六头；小儿子得九分之一，就是两头。

每人拿到自己的一份时他们才发现还剩一头。于是，出于对父亲朋友的感激，他们把那头骆驼还给他了。

Exercises

I. 用下列单词或词组填空:

two to spare, as, about, into, out of, as soon as

1. Don't think _____ the problem any longer.
2. They returned the camel _____ gratitude to their father's friend.
3. We are puzzled to know how to do the exercises _____ the teacher told us.
4. You must cut the apple _____ three pieces.
5. He gave us three and we need only one, so we had _____.
6. I'll get off the train _____ it arrives.

II. 根据课文, 选择正确答案:

1. The old man gave the seventeen camels to his three sons _____.
 - a. two days before he died
 - b. three hours before he died
 - c. a few minutes before he died
 - d. one afternoon
2. The three sons asked advice of _____.
 - a. their uncle
 - b. their mother
 - c. an old friend of theirs
 - d. an old friend of their father
3. How many camels did the old man gave the three brothers?

- a. One.
 - b. Two.
 - c. Three.
 - d. Four.
4. The oldest son got _____ camels.
- a. nine
 - b. five
 - c. six
 - d. eight
5. After dividing the camels, the three brothers_____.
- a. went to town
 - b. gave some presents to the old friend of their father
 - c. returned the camel to their father's friend
 - d. killed all the camels

2. Do the Same for Him

New Words

1. sack [sæk] n. 袋
2. mill [mil] n. 磨坊
3. slip [slip] vi. 滑落
4. lift [lift] vt. 举起
5. presently ['prezəntli] ad. 一会儿, 立刻
6. rider ['raɪdɜ] n. 骑马的人
7. sink [sink] . (过去式是 sank [sænk]) vi. 沉
8. recognize ['rekəɡnaɪz] vt. 认出
9. castle ['kɑ:sl] n. 城堡

Text

Once upon a time a poor farmer taking a sack of wheat to the mill did not know what to do when it slipped from his horse and fell into the road. The sack was too heavy for him to lift, and his only hope was that presently someone would come riding by and lend a hand.

It was not long before a rider appeared, but the farmer's heart sank when he recognized him, for it was the learned man who lived in a castle near by. The farmer would have asked another farmer to help, or any villagers who

might have come along the road, but he could not beg a favor of so learned a man.

However, as soon as the learned man came up, he got off his horse, saying, "I see you've had bad luck, friend. How good it is that I'm here just at the right time." Then he took one end of the sack, the farmer the other, and between them they lifted it on the horse.

"Sir," asked the farmer, "how can I pay you?"

"Easily enough," the learned man replied. "Whenever you see anyone else in trouble, do the same for him."

Notes

1. taking a sack of wheat to the mill: 是现在分词短语, 作定语, 修饰 farmer.
2. too...to...: 太……以致不……
3. would come riding by: would come 是过去将来时, 是“骑马经过”的意思。riding by 是现在分词短语, 作状语, 修饰 come, 表示方式。
4. lend a hand: 帮一下忙
5. near by: 附近
6. would have asked: 是虚拟语气结构
7. beg a favor of...: 请……帮忙
8. got off his horse: 下马
9. bad luck: 倒霉
10. the farmer the other: farmer 后省略了 took, other 后省略了 end of the sack. between them: 两人共同努力
11. in trouble: 遇到困难。

“也这样为他做好了”

从前,有一个农夫带一袋小麦到磨坊去,那袋小麦从马背上滑落到路上,他不知怎么办才好。那袋小麦太重了,他搬不起来。他只希望立刻有人骑马从那里路过,帮他一下就好了。

不一会儿,有一个人骑着马来了。农夫认出他时,心凉了半截。因为他是住在附近城堡里的学者。农夫是会请另一个农夫,或者请任何从那儿路过的村民帮忙的,但他不愿请这么一个有学问的人帮忙。

然而,学者一走近,便下了马,说,“瞧你倒霉,朋友。正巧我来了,这多好啊。”于是,他抓起袋的一端,农夫抓起另一端,两人使劲把那袋麦抬到马背上去了。

“先生,”农夫问,“我怎么酬谢你呢?”

“容易得很,”学者回答说,“任何时候看到任何人遇到困难时,也这样为他做好了。”

Exercises

I. 根据课文,在对的句子前写上“T”,在不对的句子前写上“F”:

- ___ 1. One day, a farmer took a sack of wheat to the mill.
- ___ 2. The sack was too heavy, the farmer could lift it.
- ___ 3. The rider was a scholar.
- ___ 4. The farmer asked the scholar for help.
- ___ 5. The scholar helped the farmer lift the sack of wheat on the horse with a stick.

II. 根据课文, 选择正确答案:

1. What happened to the sack of wheat?
 - a. It slipped from the horse and fell into the ditch.
 - b. It slipped from the horse and fell into the road.
 - c. It was eaten by the horse.
 - d. It was burned by the farmer.
2. The farmer needed help because the sack of wheat was _____.
 - a. too laog
 - b. too wet
 - c. too dry
 - d. too heavy
3. The learned man lived in _____.
 - a. a town near by
 - b. a castle near by
 - c. a village near by
 - d. a village far away
4. The farmer paid the learned man _____.
 - a. some wheat
 - b. some money
 - c. a bag of apples
 - d. nothing
5. The learned man told the farmer _____.
 - a. to go on to the mill
 - b. to go back home
 - c. to help others whenever they are in trouble
 - d. to sell the sack of wheat

3. An Interesting Bill

New Words

1. manager ['mænidʒə] n. 经理
2. company ['kʌmpəni] n. 公司
3. bill [bil] n. 发票
4. mice [maɪs] (复) (mouse [maʊs] 单) n. 鼠
5. wiring ['waɪərɪŋ] n. (电) 配线, 接线
6. wire [waɪə] n. 电线
7. pipe [paɪp] n. 管道
8. bend [bend] n. 弯曲处
9. male [meɪl] a. 雄的
10. female ['fi:meɪl] a. 雌的
11. thread [θred] n. 线
12. squeak [skwi:k] vi. 发出短促的尖声
13. rush [rʌʃ] vi. 冲

Text

The manager of a small building company was very surprised to get a bill for two white mice which one of his workman had bought. He sent for the workman and asked him why he had had the bill sent to the company.

"Well," the workman answered, "you remember the house

we were repairing in Newbridge last week, don't you? One of the things we had to do there was to put in some new electric wiring. Well, in one place we had to pass some wires through a pipe thirty feet long and about an inch across, which was built into solid stone and had four big bends in it. None of us could think how to do this until I had a good idea. I went to a shop and bought two white mice, one of them male and the other female. Then I tied a thread to the body of the male mouse and put him into the pipe at one end, while Bill held the female mouse at the other end and pressed her gently to make her squeak. When the male mouse heard the female mouse's squeaks, he rushed along the pipe to help her. I suppose he was a gentleman even though he was only a mouse. Anyway, as he ran through the pipe, he pulled the thread behind him. It was then quite easy for us to tie one end of the thread to the electric wires and pull them through the pipe."

The manager paid the bill for the white mice.

Notes

1. to get a bill...bought: 是动词不定式短语, 作原因状语。
2. send for: 派人去叫
3. we had to do there: 是定语从句, 修饰 things。
4. one of them male and the other female: them 和 male 之间, the other 和 female 之间都省略了 is。
5. thirty feet long and about an inch across: 是定语, 修饰 pipe。across 表示管子的直径。