

# 英語 自修文選


譚 馨 蓀 主編

Kay Waters 校閱

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## 出版說明

《英語自修文選》是為社會上廣大青年學習英語的需要而彙編的讀本，是《英文閱讀精選》的姊妹編。適合有相當英語基礎的讀者使用。

本書編排的目標在提高讀者學習英語的興趣，擴大詞彙量，開闊知識面，培養自學英語的能力，因此有以下幾個特色：

一、選文力求符合語言規範，文字表達準確流暢，題材、體裁多樣，知識性、趣味性並重，以使讀者百讀不厭。

二、選文由淺入深，長度適中，深淺難易適宜，可使讀者在較短的時間內學完一篇課文。

三、為了幫助讀者提高閱讀效率，加強理解能力和檢驗翻譯技巧，本書每課附有注釋和練習，書後附有課文參考譯文和習題答案，以備查閱。

本書由中國人民大學外語系負責編寫，謀馨蓀教授任主編。參加編寫的還有余中燕副教授、王陽先生。許孟雄教授擔任主審。中國報導社楊汝模編審審閱並修改了參考譯文。最後，再由書林公司 Kay Waters 女士，Gary Wilson 先生，王添源先生及鐘文秀小姐仔細校訂，確保品質更臻完善。如果仍有錯漏、不妥之處，敬希廣大讀者批評指正。

書林編輯部

1996 年 5 月

## 代 序

言以簡潔為貴，這本書所收選文最短的僅 367 字，最長的為 435 字。遣詞用字均極為精鍊。

選文均有其各自的主題，如罪惡與處罰，諷諷與幽默，歷史與寓言，創業與成就，虛榮與欺詐，科學與展望，貧困與富裕等等，都是在有限字數下很成功地將各篇的主題清楚表現出來。

以“Best and Pest”一文為例，故事的標題既響亮而又使人感到好奇，容易激起讀者的興趣，尚未閱讀本文，就使讀者產生一種新奇感。文章講的是兩兄弟，一個叫 Best，另一個叫 Pest，生於同一家庭，毫無疑問在衆多方面應是十分相像的。然而，在另一方面，這兩兄弟却截然不同：Pest 是個賊，而 Best 却是慷慨的恩賜者。結果正如俗語所說，「善有善報，惡有惡報」。Pest 作了惡，自然就受到了懲罰。

這本集子裏的每一篇文章讀起來都生動有趣，能引人人勝又發人深思。然而，使用的語彙、詞句却相當簡明、淺近。從總體上來說，收在這本集子裏的文章幾乎無一不是十分優美，而且每篇都有其獨特之處，是一本值得精讀的好書。

節錄自許孟雄作《推薦一本好書》

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## 1. Learning a Language

In schools all over the world<sup>1</sup> boys and girls are learning foreign languages. Everybody knows his own language, but another one<sup>2</sup> is very useful, especially when we travel to foreign countries.

How many languages are there in the world? There are about fifteen hundred. English is one of the most important because so many people use it, not only in England and the U. S. A. , but in other parts of the world.

Which is the best way to learn a language? We should remember that we all learnt our own language well when we were children. If<sup>3</sup> we could learn a second language in the same way, it would not seem so difficult. Think of what a small child does.<sup>4</sup> It<sup>5</sup> listens to what people say, and it tries to imitate what it hears. When it wants something, it has to ask for<sup>6</sup> it. It is using the language, talking in<sup>7</sup> it and thinking in it all the time. If people had to use a second language all the time, they would learn it quickly.

It is important to remember,<sup>8</sup> also, that we learn our

own language by hearing people speak it, not by seeing what they write. We imitate what we hear. At school, although you learn to read and write as well as to hear and speak, it is best to learn all new words through the ear. You can read them, spell them, and write them later.

A man who stuttered once went to a shop where they sold birds. He wanted to buy a parrot, a bird which we can teach to speak. He said to the shopkeeper, "Have you g-g-got a p-p-parrot that can t-t-talk English?"

"Yes, sir," answered the shopkeeper. "Here's a fine green one that will understand everything you say to it."

So the man bought it. But a few days later he took it back to the shop.

"This b-b-bird can't t-t-talk," he complained. "It can only st-t-tutter."

Even a parrot learns to say just what it hears.

## Notes

1. all over the world: 全世界。在本句中形容前面的名詞 schools。
2. another one: one 是指 language, 意思是“另一種語言”。
3. if: 連接詞, 引導出(可實現的或不可實現的)條件子句。
4. Think of what a small child does: 此句為泛指人稱句, think of 的意思是想一想。後面 what... 是名詞子句。作 think of 的受詞。注意本課有不少這樣的句型。

5. it: 指前面的 a small child. 英語中指小孩時, 常用 it 來代替。
6. ask for: 要。
7. in: 以, 用。表示方法、途徑或所用材料。
8. it is ... to ...: 是英語中的一個重要的句型。it 是形式主詞, 實際主詞是後面的 to ...
9. ... Everything **you say to it**: 黑體詞是形容詞子句, 關係代名詞是 that(或 which), 在子句中作受詞時, 常省略不用。

## Comprehension Exercises

### I. Multiple Choice:

1. Which of the following is not true?
  - a. Learning one's own language is easier than learning a foreign language.
  - b. A small child usually learns a language fast and well.
  - c. If you imitate what you hear well, you can learn much better.
  - d. It is better to learn all the new words by eye as well as by ear.
2. According to the author, the best way to learn a foreign language is to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. travel in foreign countries
  - b. use the language as much as possible
  - c. learn many English words without much practice
  - d. learn much grammar
3. The word 'stutter' means \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. to speak with difficulty
  - b. to speak very fast
  - c. to speak slowly
  - d. to imitate what one hears
4. A parrot is a bird that can \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. be taught to imitate what we say
  - b. sing beautiful songs
  - c. speak English
  - d. understand everything
5. The man took the parrot back to the shop because \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. he didn't like it
  - b. it couldn't speak even a word
  - c. it only imitated what he said
  - d. it spoke too slowly

*II. True or False:*

- 1. All the boys and girls in the world are learning foreign languages.
- 2. There are about 1,500 languages in the world but only a few of them are important.
- 3. We can learn a second language well if we use it as often as possible.
- 4. The best way to learn new words is by ear.
- 5. The parrot in the story is a very clever bird.

## 2. A Fable

This story about a monkey is a very old one. Aesop,<sup>1</sup> a Greek writer, first told the story many years ago. This monkey belonged to<sup>2</sup> an old man. The old man was very fond of<sup>3</sup> the monkey. The monkey was very clever. When birds came to the garden, he chased them away.<sup>4</sup> He also helped the old man in many other ways. The old man often fell asleep<sup>5</sup> during the day in his chair. Then the monkey sat at the old man's side and chased the flies from the old man's face. One hot afternoon in the summer the old man was asleep in his chair. A fly came and sat on the end of the old man's nose. The monkey chased it away. Soon the fly came back and sat on the old man's nose again, and again the monkey chased it away. This continued for five or six times. The monkey at last became very angry. He jumped up, ran to the garden, and picked up a large stone. The next time that the fly sat on the old man's nose the monkey hit it hard with the stone.<sup>6</sup> He killed the fly, but unfortunately he also broke the old man's nose.

All of the stories of Aesop always have a moral.<sup>7</sup> What is the moral of this story? The moral is that many people, even people who are our friends sometimes act exactly like this monkey. They do things too quickly, without thinking. Instead of<sup>8</sup> doing good, they hurt us. Such friends are sometimes worse than our enemies.

## Notes

1. Aesop: [ˈiːsɒp] 伊索, 古希臘哲學家。 *Aesop's Fables* 《伊索寓言》。
2. belong to: 屬於……。
3. be fond of: 喜歡……。
4. chase away: 趕走。
5. fall asleep: 睡着, 沉沉入睡。
6. The next time that... the monkey hit it hard with a stone; the next time that 後面連接的是一個時間副詞子句。主句是 the monkey hit it hard with a stone. hard 是副詞, 意思是猛烈地, 重重地。
7. moral: 1) 道德上的; 2) 教訓, 寓意。
8. instead of: 代替, 而不是……; 不但沒有……, 反而……。

## Comprehension Exercises

### I. Multiple Choice:

1. Aesop was \_\_\_\_\_.

- a. a Greek beast-fable writer of many years ago
  - b. an old Greek story teller
  - c. a Greek teacher who first told this story
  - d. an expert on animals
2. The old man loved the monkey very much because the monkey \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. belonged to him
  - b. was a good friend of his
  - c. was very clever
  - d. only helped him in some ways
3. Why was the monkey so angry with the fly?
- a. The fly often came and sat on the old man's nose.
  - b. The monkey wanted many times to chase the fly away, but failed to do so.
  - c. The monkey was in a bad mood that day.
  - d. The monkey felt tired after he failed to chase the fly away.
4. Which of the following is true?
- a. The stone didn't hit the old man's nose.
  - b. The stone did not kill the fly but broke the old man's nose.
  - c. The stone killed the fly and also broke the old man's nose.
  - d. The stone only killed the fly.
5. What is the moral of this story?
- a. Think twice before you act.
  - b. It's good to have a devoted friend.
  - c. Our friends sometimes do us harm.

d. Make a quick decision if you want to do anything.

*II. True or False;*

1. This story is about an old monkey who broke his master's nose.
2. The old man liked the monkey very much.
3. The monkey got angry and ran to the garden to pick up a large stone.
4. The monkey did something wrong but he did not mean it.
5. The story implied that what the monkey did broke the old man's heart badly.



### 3. Big Ben of London<sup>1</sup>

The Big Ben's story goes back to 1834. In that year the old Parliament<sup>2</sup> building burned down. Its clock tower crashed to the ground. There had to be a new building<sup>3</sup>—and a new clock.

Plans were made. They called<sup>4</sup> for a “King of Clocks, the biggest and best in the world.” So the clock had to be big. And it had to keep very good time, too.

Some people said, “No one can make such a clock.” They were wrong. The big clock was made in two years. But it couldn't be put in a tower. A tower wasn't even built yet!

Five more years went by before a clock tower was finished.<sup>5</sup> Then the four bells for the chimes were brought into the tower. And at last the giant hour bell was put in place. It rang out for the first time on July 11, 1859.

This great bell had to have a name. A meeting of Parliament was called to pick one. “The clock is the King of Clocks,” one man said. “Let's call the bell the Queen of