

English Reader Book 4

广播电视外语讲座课外读物

陈琳 编

人民教育出版社

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Prepared by

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致 读 者

本书为广播电视英语讲座课外读物第四册，可配合广播电视英语讲座课本第四册使用。

广播电视英语讲座的听(观)众来自各行各业，学习目的也各不相同。但就多数而言，最终是要提高理解力，以便能阅读并进而翻译各类书籍、文件或资料。为此，在广播电视英语讲座课本第四册(亦即最后一册)的教学中，将以帮助听(观)众在听说读写四会初步综合训练的基础上进一步提高阅读理解力为主要目的。而本册课外读物的编写，也以有助于达到这一目的为出发点。

本册读物共十一篇，有幽默小品、短篇故事及独幕话剧。为使其更适合讲座听(观)众的需要，对原文作了程度不同的改写，但均保持原作的风格。注释则力求详尽，对词汇及语法进行分析，并适当介绍西方风俗习惯，以期有助于培养读者独立进行阅读的能力。根据众多读者来信要求，为减少阅读时前后翻找的麻烦，本册恢复了分篇词汇表，省去书末总词汇表。

课外阅读(或称泛读)是提高外语水平的必不可少的环节，而且阅读量要大。讲座的听(观)众，除阅读这套课外读物外，还应大量阅读其他各种简写读物及浅易原文读物，并阅读与各自专业有关的书籍和资料。希望这套课外读物能引起讲座听(观)众对大量阅读的兴趣，起到抛砖引玉的作用。

编 者

一九八二年三月

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Ruthless

Judson Webb was a businessman. He had a comfortable flat in New York, but in summer he used to leave the dusty city and go to the country. There he had a cottage which consisted of three rooms, a bathroom and a kitchen. In one of the rooms there was a big closet. He liked his cottage very much, especially his closet where he kept his shotguns, fishing-rods, wine and other things. It was his own closet and even his wife was not allowed to have a key, for Judson Webb loved his personal possessions and got very angry when anybody else touched them.

It was autumn now and Judson was packing his things for the winter. In a few minutes he would be driving back to civilization — to New York.

As he looked at the shelf on which the whiskey stood his face was serious. All the bottles were unopened except one. It was placed invitingly in front with a whiskey-glass by its side. The bottle was less than half full. As he took it from the shelf, Helen, his wife, spoke from the next room:

"I've packed everything. Hasn't Alec come to get the keys?"

Alec lived nearby and acted as caretaker.

"He's at the lake taking the boats out of the water. He said he'd back in half an hour."

Helen came into the room carrying her suitcase. She stopped and looked in surprise as she saw the bottle in her husband's hand.

"Judson," she cried, "you're not taking a drink at ten in the morning, are you?"

"No, my dear. I'm not taking anything out of the bottle. I'm just putting something into it." He took two white tablets out of a small bottle and put them on the table. Then he opened the whiskey bottle.

"The person who broke into my closet last winter and stole my whiskey will probably try to do it again while we are away," he went on, "only this time he'll be very sorry if he comes."

Then one by one he dropped the tablets into the bottle and held it up to watch them dissolve. His wife looked at him in horror.

"What are they?" she asked him at last. "Will they make the man sick?"

"Not only sick. They will kill him," he answered with satisfaction.

He closed the bottle and put it back on the shelf near the little whiskey-glass. He was pleased. He said:

"Now, Mr. Thief, when you break in, drink as much as you wish ..."

Helen's face was pale.

"Don't do it, Judson," she cried. "It's horrible, it's murder!"

"The law does not call it murder if I shoot a thief who is entering my house by force."

"Don't do it," she begged, "the law does not punish burglary by death, what right have you?"

"When it comes to protecting my property, I make my own laws¹."

"But all they did was to steal a little whiskey," she said, "probably some boys. They did not do any real damage."

"It does not matter. If a man robs me of five dollars it is the same as if he took a hundred. A thief's a thief²."

She made one last effort: "We won't be here again till next spring. I shall worry all the time if I know that this bottle full of poison is here. Suppose something happens to us and nobody knows ..."

He laughed at her earnestness. "We'll risk it," he said. "I've made my money by taking risks. if I die, it will all belong to you, and you can do as you please."

She knew it was useless to argue. He had always been ruthless in business. She went to the door with

a sigh of defeat.

"I'll walk down the road and say good-bye at the farm-house," she said quietly. She had made up her mind to tell the caretaker's wife about it. Someone had to know.

"All right, my dear," he smiled, "And don't worry about your poor little burglar. No one is going to be hurt unless he breaks in."

Helen went down the road and Judson started to close the closet door. He suddenly remembered that he had not packed his hunting books drying outside on the stone table in the garden^s. So, leaving the door open, he went to fetch them. But on his way back to the house he suddenly slipped on a stone. His head struck the massive table as he fell, and he lost consciousness.

Several minutes later he felt a strong arm round him and Alec's voice was saying: "It's all right, Mr. Webb, it was not a bad fall. Take this — it'll make you feel better."

A small whiskey-glass was pressed to his lips. Half-conscious, he drank.

(By W. de Mille, slightly abridged)

New Words and Expressions

ruthless ['ru:θlis] *a.*

无情的, 残忍的

businessman ['biznismən] n.	商人
comfortable ['kʌmfətəbl] a.	舒适的
cottage ['kɒtɪdʒ] n.	别墅; 小屋
consist(of) [kən'sɪst] vi.	由...组成, 包含
bathroom ['bɑ:θrʊm] n.	浴室
closet ['kləʊzɪt] n.	壁橱, 碗橱; 盥洗室, 抽水马桶
shotgun ['ʃɒtgʌn] n.	猎枪
fishing-rod ['fɪʃɪŋrɒd] n.	钓鱼杆
personal ['pɜ:snl] a.	私人的, 个人的
possession [pə'zefən] n.	所有物; 所有权
touch [tʌtʃ] vt.	触摸
civilization [ˌsɪvɪlaɪ'zeɪʃn] n.	文明, 文化
whiskey ['wɪski] n.	威士忌酒
serious ['sɪəriəs] a.	严肃的, 认真的
<u>invitingly [ɪn'vaɪtɪŋli] ad.</u>	吸引人地
full [fʊl] a.	满的
<u>caretaker ['keəteɪkə] n.</u>	管事人, 代理人
suitcase ['sju:tkeɪs] n.	小提箱, 衣箱
tablet ['tæblɪt] n.	片, 药片
<u>dissolve [dɪ'zɒlv] v.</u>	溶解
horror ['hɒrə] n.	恐怖
satisfaction [ˌsætɪs'fækʃn] n.	满足
murder ['mɜ:də] n., vt.	谋杀
force [fɔ:s] n.	暴力
by force	凭借暴力; 强迫地
punish ['pʌnɪʃ] vt.	惩罚
<u>burglary ['bɜ:gləri] n.</u>	盗窃
<u>protect [prə'tekt] vt.</u>	保护
property ['prɒpəti] n.	财产

law [lə:] <i>n.</i>	法律
damage ['dæmɪdʒ] <i>vt., n.</i>	损害, 毁坏
rob [rɒb] <i>vt.</i>	抢劫
effort ['efət] <i>n.</i>	努力
poison ['pɔɪzn] <i>n., vt.</i>	毒药; 使中毒
suppose [sə'pəʊz] <i>vt.</i>	设想
earnestness ['ɜ:nɪstnɪs] <i>n.</i>	认真
<u>earnest</u> ['ɜ:nɪst] <i>a.</i>	认真的
risk [rɪsk] <i>n., vt.</i>	冒险
to take risks	冒险
belong(to) [bi'lɒŋ] <i>vi.</i>	属于
useless ['ju:sɪs] <i>a.</i>	无用的
argue ['ɑ:gju:] <i>vi.</i>	争论
sigh [saɪ] <i>vi.</i>	叹气, 叹息
defeat [di'fi:t] <i>n., vt.</i>	失败, 打败仗
unless [ən'les] <i>conj.</i>	除非
hunting ['hʌntɪŋ] <i>n.</i>	打猎
hunt [hʌnt] <i>v.</i>	打猎
slip [slɪp] <i>vi.</i>	滑, 溜
<i>n.</i>	失手
massive ['mæsɪv] <i>a.</i>	体积巨大的
consciousness ['kɒnʃənsɪs] <i>n.</i>	知觉
press [pres] <i>vt.</i>	压, 挤
half-conscious ['hɑ:f'kɒnʃəs] <i>a.</i>	半知觉的

注 释

1. When it comes to protecting my property, I make my own laws. 谈到保护我的财产, 我立我自己的法律。

Uncle Podger at Work¹

There are many people who say they like to do a little piece of work themselves. They say: "Why call somebody into the house, or ask a lot of people to help when you can do the job very well alone?"

My dear Uncle Podger is just that sort of man. He likes pictures very much and often buys them. But let me tell you what happens when he hangs a picture on the wall.

Well, a picture comes home from the shop. It is standing in the dining-room. It is necessary to put it up. And Uncle Podger says:

"Oh, leave that to me. Don't trouble about it. I will do it myself."

Then he takes off his coat and begins. But he has no nails. He sends the girl to buy some nails. Then he sends one of the boys to tell her what size to buy. Then he shouts:

"Now you go and get me my hammer, Will; and bring me the ruler, Tom; and I shall want the ladder, Jim, and a kitchen-chair, too. And don't go away, Maria, because I shall want somebody to hold the light; and when the girl comes back, she must go out again for some cord; and Tom! — Where is Tom? —

Tom, come here; I shall want you to hand me up the picture."

When all is ready and Tom hands him the picture, he lifts it up and drops it, and it comes out of the frame². He tries to save the glass, and cuts himself. Then he runs round the room, looking for his handkerchief. Of course he can't find his handkerchief, because it is in the pocket of his coat, and he does not know where his coat is. All the house must start looking for his coat, while he is sitting and shouting:

"Doesn't anybody in the whole house know where my coat is? Six of you, and you can't find the coat that I put down five minutes ago!" Then he finds that he is sitting on it, and shouts:

"Oh, I have found it myself now. You can never find anything, you fools."

Half an hour passes. At last we tie up his finger, bring him a new glass, all the tools which he wants, and the ladder, the chair and the flashlight. The whole family stands round him now ready to help. Two of us hold the chair; a third helps him to get up on it and holds him there. A fourth hands him a nail. A fifth hands him the hammer. He takes the nail, and drops it.

"There!" he says, "now the nail has gone."

And we all must go down on our knees and look for it⁴, while he stands on the chair and grumbles:

"Will you keep me here all the evening?"

At last we find the nail, but this time he has lost the hammer.

"Where is the hammer?" he shouts. "What did I do with the hammer? Seven of you and you don't know what I did with the hammer!"

At last we find the hammer for him, and then he has lost the mark which he has made on the wall for the nail⁵, and each of us must get on the chair beside him, and try to find it. We each discover it in a different place, and he calls us all fools again one after the other, and tells us to get down.

At last, Uncle Podger finds his mark for the nail, and puts the point of the nail on it with his left hand, and takes the hammer in his right hand. With the first blow he smashes his thumb, and drops the hammer on somebody's foot⁶. Then he comes down and runs round the room asking for some cold water.

But this time Aunt Maria gets angry and says that next time Uncle Podger wants to do a job she will go and spend a week with her mother⁷.

"Oh, you women! You have no patience," Uncle Podger says. "Why, I like doing a little job of this sort."

He tries again, and, at the second blow, the nail goes through the wall and the hammer falls.

Then we must find the hammer again, and he makes a new hole. About midnight, the picture is up at last⁸, and everybody is very tired except, of course, Uncle Podger.

"There you are!" he says, coming down from the chair as last. "Why, other people call in a special man to do a little thing like that!"

(By Jerome K. Jerome, slightly abridged)

New Words and Expressions

nail [neil] <i>n.</i>	钉子
send [send] <i>vt.</i>	送; 差遣
hammer ['hæmə] <i>n.</i>	钉锤
ruler ['ru:lə] <i>n.</i>	尺子
ladder ['lædə] <i>n.</i>	梯子
kitchen-chair ['kitʃintʃə] <i>n.</i>	厨房用椅
light [laɪt] <i>n.</i>	灯
cord [kɔ:d] <i>n.</i>	绳
lift [lɪft] <i>vt.</i>	举, 抬
frame [freɪm] <i>n.</i>	框子
save [seɪv] <i>vt.</i>	救, 救援
handkerchief ['hæŋkətʃɪf] <i>n.</i>	手帕
fool [fu:] <i>n.</i>	傻子, 蠢人
pass [pɑ:s] <i>vt.</i>	传递
tie [taɪ] <i>vt.</i>	捆