

NEW METHOD ENGLISH

— Believe It Or Not —

# 新方法英語

## 信不信由你

何兆枢 王國鳴 謝雲錦 編

上海外语教育出版社

# 新方法英语

## NEW METHOD ENGLISH

—Believe It Or Not—

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何兆枢 王冈鸣 谢云锦 编

Leroy H. Mann Sr. Donald Gum 校对

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## 出版说明

本书选自美国电视节目《信不信由你》的解说词,其内容广泛,诸如名人轶事、地理、气候、风俗、文化、趣闻、科技和外星文明等等;其口头语言规范,文风简朴明快。

本书可用作听、说、读、写全面训练的教材,对具有相当英语水平的读者及出国人员训练班学员来说是不可多得的好教材。

## 前 言

本书选自美国电视节目 Believe it or Not (1984 年版) 的解说词。该电视节目内容广泛, 涉及历史人物轶事、外国地理、气候、风俗、文化、生物趣闻、生命起源、地球演变、人类进化、外星文明、自然灾害、环境保护、探险活动、医学奇迹、科技进步、奇谈怪论和幽默讽刺等。该节目以知识性、趣味性和娱乐性吸引着一代又一代的美国电视观众, 历数十年而不衰。它的解说词是规范化的现代美国英语的优秀代表作, 文体简朴、语言流畅、风格明快。本书选思想性与科学性较强的 50 个片段为范文, 可归纳为 4 大类:

动物与人类	第 1—12 课
非凡的人物	第 13—25 课
外国风土人情	第 26—37 课
科技新闻	第 38—50 课

我们根据原节目录音, 笔录了文本并经过美国教授 Emory H. Mann Sr. 和 Donald Gum 校对。上海外国语学院龚继光教授对录音文本及全部练习作了审订。对这三位教授的出色工作, 我们谨表谢意。

本书是“听、说、读、写”全面性训练的英语教材, 尤其是本书的练习为学习者提供了由浅入深、形式多样的“听、说、读、写”的全面的基本训练, 并对难点给予启发性的指导。书末附有录音文本及练习答案, 这些对英语自学者尤为必要。

本书配有录音磁带和录象带。录音磁带和录象带由上海外语音像出版社制作出版。

本教材有未尽善处, 欢迎国内学界同仁批评与指正。

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## Lesson One

### Wild Horses in Captivity

#### Words and Phrases

bushy / 'buʃi / a.	浓密的
disposition / dispə'ziʃən / n.	气质、性情
moat / mout / n.	壕、深沟
bollard / 'bɒləd / n.	护柱、护桩
stallion / 'stæljən / n.	公马
unpredictable / 'ʌnpri'diktəbl / a.	无法预言的
caution / 'kə:ʃən / n.	小心, 谨慎
tame / teim / vt.	驯服、制服
bridle / 'braɪdl / v.	给马套上辔头
break / breɪk / vt.	驯马
saddle / 'sædl / n.	马鞍
version / 'vɜ:ʃən / n.	变体、变种
graze / greɪz / v.	(牛、羊等)吃草
specimen / 'spesɪmɪn / n.	标本、样品
fossil / 'fɒsl / n.	化石
evolutionary / ɪvə'ljʊ:ʃənəri / n.	进化的
evolutionary chain	(生物)进化链

#### The Outline

This talk tells you why certain horses are kept behind bollards built along a moat in the San Diego Zoo, California. They are precious living fossils, a long-missing link in the evolutionary chain of horses. Zoologists believe that their ancestors produced all horses in the world. They are called "Prezewalski's horse" for their finder, the Russian explorer.

#### Drills for A Check-up

##### I. Listening Comprehension

1. Complete the following sentences, using ideas and information you have just learn-



ed from this talk without referring to the text:

(a) The ancestor of today's horses is believed to be the \_\_\_\_\_. Until now, their descendants still \_\_\_\_\_. They are \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and have a big \_\_\_\_\_. Their disposition is \_\_\_\_\_. In some zoos, they are kept \_\_\_\_\_. Even their keepers have to \_\_\_\_\_, because they are \_\_\_\_\_ and extremely \_\_\_\_\_. They have never been \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_ to saddle.

(b) A million years ago, their ancestors lived freely in \_\_\_\_\_. They were discovered by a \_\_\_\_\_, Prezewalski, in 1879. Zoologists believe that actually, they were \_\_\_\_\_ of all horses that now thrive throughout the world.

2. Choose according to this talk the most correct statement from the alternatives given below:

(a) This horse has long legs, a big head with a shaggy mane and an untamed disposition.

(b) All horses throughout the world share a common ancestor that, zoologists believe, is Prezewalski's horse.

(c) In zoos, Prezewalski's horses are kept in captivity, confined behind bollards, because they are extremely dangerous and unpredictable.

(d) This species used to live in the Mongolia desert. They had been unknown in the West until a Russian explorer discovered them in 1789.

(e) This species is precious because it is facing extinction.

(f) Zoologists believe what Prezewalski discovered is a special variety of horses that had been missing from the evolutionary chain.

3. Write a precis in no more than 30 words of what has just been discussed in the talk on any of the following topics:

(a) The appearance and disposition of Prezewalski's horse.

(b) It is Zoologists' belief that horses living in the Mongolia desert one million years ago are the common ancestors of today's horses.

4. Answer the following questions after you have listened carefully to the talk:

(a) What does this horse look like? Why is it kept behind bollards in San Diego Zoo?

(b) Why is Prezewalski's horse special in the evolution of horses?

(c) What do the words "living fossil" mean?

## II. Intensive Listening

To develop your ability to identify words and phrases from the speech, do the following drills. You may need to listen to the tape recorder again before you do it.

1. Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with the exact words you have just heard in the talk: (The number in the parentheses indicates how many words are to be written in that blank.)

(a) At one time, all horses (2) this: (1) , (1) , (1) a big head and (2) dis-

position.

(b) Even his (1) have to (1) him with great (1) . For (1) all other horses here, he has never been (1) , (1) or (3) .

(c) They are (2) , a long-missing (1) in (3) that (1) every horse (1) the world.

2. What word precedes each of the following words? Do not refer to the script.

(a)        why

(b)        model

(c)        version

(d) long-        link

3. Repeat aloud the following segments of what the speaker has just said. Try to imitate his tone, intonation and rhythm. Do not miss any words. The cues may help you somewhat when you repeat the segments.

(a) There is a good reason .... It is unpredictable...

(b) He is an unchanged model..., a specimen of...

(c) They are called "Prezewalski's horse" , ...in the Mongolia desert in 1879. They are..., a long-missing link ...that produced every horse in the world.

## Learn to Speak

1. Read the following sentences loudly and clearly, imitating the speaker's tone and intonation as exactly as you can:

(a) At one time, all horses looked like this: short, bushy, with a big head and an unfriendly disposition.

(b) Even his keepers have to approach him with great caution, for unlike all other horses here, he has never been tamed, bridled or broken to saddle.

(c) They are living fossils, a long-missing link in the evolutionary chain that produced every horse in the world.

2. Speak in no more than 30 words on any of the following topics:

(a) The appearance of Prezewalski's horse.

(b) This horse has never been tamed and is extremely dangerous.

(c) Zoologists have established that the wild horse found in the Mongolia desert 100 years ago is a species of horse that is the common ancestor of all domestic horses.

3. Answer the following questions extemporaneously:

(a) Why is there a moat with bollards built between Prezewalski's horse and visitors to the San Diego Zoo?

(b) What is special about the species of horse found in the Mongolia desert?

4. Read the whole text of this passage clearly and fluently. Try to imitate the speaker's tone and intonation.

## Lesson Two

### The Philippine Eagle

#### Words and Phrases

wing-span / wiŋ-spæn / *n.*

eagle / 'i:gl / *n.*

dominate / 'domineit / *vt.*

rain forest / rein'fɔrist / *n.*

hornbill / 'hɔ:nbil / *n.*

a bird of prey / prei / *n.*

substantial / səb'stænʃəl / *a.*

lemur / 'li:mə /

spot / spɒt / *vt.*

formidable / 'fɔ:midəbl / *a.*

endanger / in'deindʒə / *vt.*

species / 'spi:ʃi:z / *n.*

insecure / 'in-si'kjuə / *a.*

provocation / ,prɒvə'keɪʃən / *n.*

voyage / 'vɔɪdʒ / *n.*

poach / poutʃ / *n.*

survival / sə'vaɪvəl / *n.*

urgency / 'ɜ:dʒənsi / *n.*

conservationist / ,kɒnsə'veɪʃənɪst / *n.*

commission / kə'mi:ʃən / *n.*

翼展

鹰

支配, 控制

热带雨林

犀鸟

猛禽

丰富的, 大量的

狐猴

发现, 认出

令人生畏的

危害

物种

不安全的

挑衅, 刺激, 激怒

旅程

偷猎

生存

紧迫, 紧急的事

环境保护主义者

委员会

#### The Outline

The Philippine eagle is one of the strongest birds of prey in the world. They catch flying lemurs living in a rain forest. Their fledglings need 8 months to develop their muscles and skills before they make their long voyage and begin their independent life. Though protected by law, the Philippine eagle is facing extinction.

## Drills for A Check-up

### I. Listening Comprehension

1. Complete the following sentences, using ideas and information you have just learned from this talk without referring to the text:

(a) The Philippine Eagle is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ birds of \_\_\_\_\_ in the world, just next to the \_\_\_\_\_. Its wings span \_\_\_\_\_. It lives exclusively on \_\_\_\_\_.

(b) Its fledgling needs \_\_\_\_\_ to develop its \_\_\_\_\_. 8 months after \_\_\_\_\_ when it is strong enough to \_\_\_\_\_, it practises \_\_\_\_\_, testing its own \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_ limbs. Finally, a special \_\_\_\_\_ is needed to agitate it to \_\_\_\_\_. Then, it begins its \_\_\_\_\_.

(c) Though the Philippine Eagle looks \_\_\_\_\_ and is protected from \_\_\_\_\_ by \_\_\_\_\_, its survival is still \_\_\_\_\_. One explanation can be as this: It lives exclusively on \_\_\_\_\_ living in a rain forest. When the forest is destroyed, \_\_\_\_\_ become rare. The Philippine Eagle's survival is thus \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Choose according to this talk the most correct statement from the alternatives given below:

(a) The Philippine Eagle lives exclusively on flying lemurs that can be found only in a rain forest.

(b) The Philippine Eagle is endangered by illegal hunters.

(c) The Philippine Eagle is now facing extinction; Only 3 to 5 thousand remain.

(d) The hornbill is an agitating bird, bigger than the Philippine Eagle.

(e) In this case, a hornbill drives a Philippine Eagle's fledgling to leave its nest to begin its independent life.

(f) Charles A. Lindbergh offered financial support to save the remaining Philippine Eagles.

3. Write a precis in no more than 40 words of what has just been discussed in the talk on any of the following topics:

(a) The Philippine Eagle is the victim of its prodigious appetite and its favorite food—flying lemurs.

(b) Fledglings of strong birds like the Philippine Eagle need as many as 8 months to grow up, to become strong enough to dominate the sky above a rain forest.

4. Answer the following questions after you have listened carefully to the talk:

(a) How does a Philippine Eagle catch its prey? (Recommended words: swoop, snatch, clutch, claw, hooked beak).

(b) Why is the Philippine eagle facing extinction?

(c) Who is Charles A. Lindbergh? What did he promise to save the Philippine Eagles? And why?

### II. Intensive Listening

1. Fill in the blanks of the following sentences with the exact words you have just

heard in the talk: (The number in the parentheses indicates as many words as it states are to be filled in that blank.)

(a) The eagle family's food (1) is substantial: a flying lemur (1) some (1) away. (1) its (2), the Philippine eagle is (1) endangered (1); only 3 to 5 (1) remain.

(b) Not until it is (1) to fly, the eagle needs (2). In this case, an (1) hornbill (1) it (2).

(c) In an effort to save (1) Philippines' (1) 50 (2) eagles, Charles A. Lindbergh, the American (1) who made (4) in his "Lone Eagle" in 1927 offered (2) to (3) for the Philippine Eagles.

2. What word precedes each of the following words? Do not refer to the script.

(a) \_\_\_\_\_ spotted

(b) \_\_\_\_\_ appearance

(c) \_\_\_\_\_ species

(d) \_\_\_\_\_ frightens

3. Repeat aloud the following segments of what the speaker has just said. Try to imitate his tone, intonation and rhythm. Do not miss any words. The cues may help you when you repeat the segments.

(a) With its 7-foot wing-span, .... Second to the South America's hornbill..., it is the...in the world.

(b) The eagle's first weeks.... At 8 months old, ..., it is still..., ..., testing its own weight...

(c) Now, protected from..., the Philippine Eagle's survival is....

## Learn to Speak

1. Read the following paragraphs loudly and clearly, imitating the speaker's tone and intonation as exactly as you can:

(a) With its 7-foot wing-span, the Philippine eagle dominates the sky above its rain forest at home. Second to the South America hornbill, it is the largest bird of prey in the world.

(b) Despite its formidable appearance, the Philippine eagle is an endangered species: only 3 to 5 dozen remain.

(c) Not until it is programmed to fly, the eagle needs special provocation. In this case, an agitating hornbill may be used to frighten it into action. It doesn't know what the hornbill will do, but it knows it is time to leave and makes its voyage.

(d) In an effort to save the Philippines' remaining 50 monkey-eating eagles, Charles A. Lindbergh, the American pilot who made the solo Atlantic flight in his "Lone Eagle" in 1927 offered financial support to the Conservation Commission for Philippine eagles.

2. Speak in no more than 30 words on either of the following topics:

(a) How the Philippine eagle lives in a rain forest.

(b) The Philippine eagle's fledgling takes 8 months to develop its strength and skill

before it begins its independent life.

(c) With the rain forest ever decreasing on earth, the habitat and the food for the Philippine Eagle to survive have become a critical problem for which conservationists feel concerned.

3. Answer the following questions extemporaneously:

(a) How many Philippine eagles remain?

(b) Why is the species of Philippine eagles endangered?

4. Read the whole text of this passage clearly and fluently. Try to imitate the speaker's tone and intonation.

## Lesson Three

### The Lion Hunting for Prey

#### Words and Phrases

pride / praɪd / <i>n.</i>	(狮的)群
offspring / 'ɔ:fspɪŋ / <i>n.</i>	后代, 幼仔, 崽子
wildebeest / 'wɪldəbi:st / <i>n.</i>	非洲的大羚羊
migrate / maɪ'greɪt / <i>vi.</i>	迁徙, 迁移
lurk / lɜ:k / <i>vi.</i>	潜伏, 潜藏
camouflage / 'kæmʊflɑ:dʒ / <i>vt.</i>	掩护, 伪装
panic / 'pænik / <i>n.</i>	恐慌
flank / flænk / <i>n.</i>	侧翼, 侧面
stick (out of) / stɪk / <i>vi.</i>	伸出, 探出
hide / haɪd / <i>n.</i>	兽皮, 皮革
penetrate / 'penɪtreɪt / <i>vt.vi.</i>	穿透, 透过
hang on	坚持下去
suffocation / sʌfə'keɪʃən / <i>n.</i>	窒息
animosity / ,æni'mɒsɪti / <i>n.</i>	敌意
tragedy / 'trædʒɪdi / <i>n.</i>	悲剧, 惨事

#### The Outline

This talk will tell you how lions are organized when they hunt for their prey.

#### Drills for A Check-up

##### I. Listening Comprehension

1. Choose according to this talk the most correct statement from the following alternatives:

- (a) The cubs do nothing but play within a protected circle created by the pride.
- (b) Some people may probably think that the wildebeest is an easy prey for lions.
- (c) One after another, the lurking lions jump out of the bushes to disperse the herd, which then run into chaos.

(d) The struggle between hunting lions and wildebeests may last quite a long time. Sometimes, a captured wildebeest can escape from a brutal kill.

2. Fill up the blank in each of the unfinished sentences with the most relevant of the four alternatives given below:

(a) A pride of lions comprise \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) one female lion and its cubs                      (B) several female lions and cubs  
(C) several male lions and cubs                      (D) lions and their offspring

(b) For lions, a successful hunt needs \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) a stroke of luck                                      (B) a good organization  
(C) a brutal struggle                                      (D) quick actions

(c) According to the narrator, the struggle between lions and wildebeests is \_\_\_\_\_.

- (A) brutal    (B) agonizing  
(C) tragical    (D) instinctive

3. Write a precis in no more than 60 words of what has just been discussed in the talk on any of the following topics:

- (a) Why the lion is a social animal.  
(b) How lions hunt wildebeests.  
(c) How the narrator comments on the struggle between the predator and the prey.

4. Answer the following questions after you have listened carefully to the talk:

- (a) What do cubs do in a lion family?  
(b) What do male lions do in a pride?  
(c) What do lions do on the hunt for wildebeests?  
(d) How do wildebeests react to hunting lions?

## II. Intensive Listening

1. Fill in the blanks with exactly the same words as you have just heard used in the talk.

(a) For lurking lions, hunting is often (4). They succeed in bringing down any of these wildebeests only about once in (4).

(b) The object is for one of them to (3) to frighten the herd and to (6).

(c) All the (1) can do is to hang on and hope she can bring down her prey (2).

(d) (1) the struggle, there is no (1) here. In (1), death is not (2), it is simply (1) fact of life.

2. Find out in the talk the words or phrases respectively synonymous with the words or phrases given below:

- (a) dawn    (b) female lion  
(c) move toward    (d) partner

3. Repeat the following segments of the talk. Try to follow the narration as exactly as



you can:

(a) In the entire cat species, ...In its extended family..., there may be...and all their offspring. For cubs, playing within a protected circle.... In time, however, ...into the work required for survival.

(b) For them, .... Two female lions, ..., approach.... The object is.... As the panic of the herd..., the lioness that is on the far flank....

(c) The kill is neither quick nor sure..... All the lioness can do is....

## Primary Oral Drills

### I. Learn to Speak

1. Give your expressions in English of the following words:

- |              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| (a) luck     | (b) attempt |
| (c) presence | (d) tragedy |

2. Speak in no more than 55 words on any of the following topics, using ideas and information you have just learned from this talk. But, do not just read the related paragraphs of the text:

- (a) How a lion family is organized and how they live in a pride.
- (b) Lions are not so successful in hunting as people imagine.
- (c) For lions, a successful hunt relies more on team work than on their pointed

teeth and sharp paws.

(d) In the animal world, the weak is destined to be the prey of the strong.

3. Answer the following questions extemporaneously:

- (a) What does the term "social animal" mean?
- (b) What do herds of wildebeests do on the Masai Mara Plain of Kenya every

year?

(c) Why did the speaker say "For lurking lions, hunting is often a matter of luck"?

(d) What did the speaker mean by the word "animosity" in this talk?

4. Speak in no more than 150 words, summarizing this talk. Try to improve your pronunciation by imitating the speaker's tone, intonation and rhythm. Before you speak, write down the key words as your cues.

### II. Develop Speaking Skills

1. Say a few words to express your surprise at the following statements:

(a) It seems quite unthinkable that lions are really not so successful in hunting as people imagine.

(b) Lions learn their hunting tactics with difficulty.

(c) Male lions do not live with female lions and cubs.

2. Give your answers to the following inquiries:

(a) How does Nature maintain the balance between the predator and the prey?