Advanced English

TEACHER'S BOOK 2

张汉黑

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商务印书馆

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GĀOJÍ YĪNGYŬ 高级英语 (教师用书) 第二册

张 汉 熙

商 务 印 书 馆 出 版 (北京王府并大街 36 号 邮政編章 2007240) 新华书店总店北京发行所发行 河北香河县第二印刷 厂 印刷 ISBN 7-100-00173-0/G・39

1982 年 5 月第 8 覧 1992 年 5 月北京第 7 次印刷 印数 3808 册 开本 850×8168 1/32 字数 365 千 印张 9 1/2

定价: 3.05 元

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This book follows the general plan and structure of Advanced English Teacher's Book 1 by Mei Renyi and Wang Lili.

All the background material in section I, Additional Background Material for Teachers' Reference, are excerpts or based on material from various encyclopedias and Who's Whos.

The definitions of all the individual words in section II, Detailed Study of the Text, are mostly taken from Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language.

The explanations of the synonyms in section III, Key to Exercises, are taken from Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language and Reader's Digest, Use the Right Word.

Lesson 2, Marrakech, and lesson 8, The Worker as Creator or Machine, are based on the two lesson plans prepared by visiting Canadias professor Ruth Gamberg.

The keys to all the translation exercises (from English to Chinese) in section III, Key to Exercises, were prepared by Comrade Mei Renyi.

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Lesson One

Face to Face with Hurricane Camille

Joseph P. Blank

Additional Background Material for Teachers' Reference

1. Hurricane: a tropical storm in which winds attain speeds greater than 75 miles (121 kilometers) per hour. The term is often restricted to those storms occurring over the North Atlantic Ocean. Incipient hurricanes usually form over the tropical N Atlantic Ocean and mature as they drift westward. Hurricanes also occasionally form off the west coast of Mexico and move northeastward from that area. An average of 3.5 tropical storms per year eventually mature into hurricanes along the east coast of North America, usually over the Caribbean Sea or Gulf of Mexico.

Similar storms occurring over the West Pacific Ocean and China Seas are called typhoons and those over the Indian Ocean are called tropical cyclones. Hurricanes are given girls' names and typhoons are given serial numbers. The National Weather Service of the United States has used girls' names to identify hurricanes in the Atlantic, Caribbean, and Gulf of Mexico since 1953 and the names were given in alphabetical order. A semi-permanent list of 10 sets of names in alphabetical order was established in 1971. This practice of giving girls' names to hurricanes changed recently. In 1980 a hurricane was given a man's name and was called Hurricane David. Hurricane season begins June 1 and ends Nov. 30.

- 2. Hurricane Camille: The storm lashed Mississippi and Louisiana for two days, Aug. 17-18, in 1969. The death toll was 258.
- 3. Hurricane Betsy: The storm lashed Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana in 1965 from Sept. 7-10, causing the death of 74 persons.
- 4. Salvation Army: Protestant denomination and international nonsectarian Christian organization for evangelical and philanthropic work. It was founded by William Booth, with the assistance of his wife Catherine Booth. The movement, begun in 1865, was originally known as the East London Revival Society, shortly renamed the Christian Mission, and finally in 1878 designated the Salvation Army.

A military form of organization, with uniforms and other distinctive features, was adopted in the interest of a more effective "warfare against evil". The organization has established branches in more than 75 countries throughout the world. Each country has its divisions and local corps, with a commander at the head of all. International headquarters are in London. The army operates hospitals, community centers, alcoholic and drug rehabilitation programs, emergency and disaster services, social work centers and recreation facilities. Support of the vast undertakings in all parts of the world depends upon voluntary contributions and profits from the sale of publications.

5. Red Cross: international organization concerned with the alleviation of human suffering and the promotion of public health. The creation of the agency was spurred by the publication of Un Souvenir de Solférino (1862), an account by Jean Henry Dunant (1878-1910) of the suffering endured by the wounded at the battle of Solferino in 1859. Dunant, a Swiss citizen, urged the formation of voluntary aid societies for relief of such war victims. He also asked that service to military sick and wounded be neutral. The Societé genovoise d'utilité publique, a Swiss welfare agency, actively seconded Dunant's suggestion, the result being the formation (1863) of the organization that is today known as the International Committee of the Red Cross. The next year, delegates from 16 nations met in Switzerland and the Geneva Convention of 1864 for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick of Armies in the Field was adopted and signed by 12 of the nations represented. It provided for the neutrality of the personnel of the medical services of armed forces, the humane treatment of wounded, the neutrality of civilians who voluntarily assisted them, and the use of an international emblem to mark medical personnel and supplies. In honor of Dunant's nationality a red cross on a white background—the Swiss flag with colors reversed—was chosen as the symbol (which in Moslem areas is replaced by a red crescent and in Iran by a red lion and sun). Today there are national Red Cross societies in over 100 countries of the world, each a self-governing organization, and two international groups with headquarters in Geneva: the International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies. The olanket agency for all Red Cross group in known as the International Red Cross.

Detailed Study of the Text

1. Introduction: Face to Face with Hurricane Camille is a piece of narration. Simply defined, narration is the telling of a story. A good story has a beginning, a middle and an end, even though it may start in the middle or at some other point in the action and move backward to the earlier happenings. Narration is concerned with action, with life in motion, with a meaningful series of actions. It revolves around people, called characters, in some kind of struggle or conflict against other people, nature, society or themselves. In the story the leading character is called the hero or protagonist and the people or forces he fights against is called the antagonist or the enemy. The actions, that is, incidents and events are generally presented in order of their occurrence, following the natural time sequence of the happenings (chronological order). As the conflict develops, suspense and tension increase until the highest point or the climax of the struggle is reached. After the climax, the story quickly moves to a conclusion, which is sometimes called a denouement.

Action (plot) usually dominates narration; however, some narratives focus on character, theme (the idea behind the story), or atmosphere (the mood or tone).

Face to Face with Hurricane Camille describes the heroic struggle of the Koshaks and their friends against the forces of a devastating hurricane. The story focuses mainly on action but the writer also clearly and sympathetically delineates the characters in the story. The hero or the protagonist in the story is John Koshak, Jr., and the antagonist is the hurricane.

The first 6 paragraphs are introductory paragraphs, giving the time, place and background of the conflict—man versus hurricanes. These paras also introduce the characters in the story. The writer builds up and sustains the suspense in the story and gives order and logical movement to the sequence of happenings by describing in detail and vividly the incidents showing how the Koshaks and their friends struggled against each onslaught of the hurricane. The writ-

er describes these actions in the order of their occurrence. This natural time sequence or chronological order holds the story together. The story reaches its climax in paragraph 27 and from there on the story moves rapidly to its conclusion. In the last para the writer states his theme or the purpose behind his story in the reflection of Grandmother Koshak: "We lost practically all our possessions, but the family came through it. When I think of that, I realize we lost nothing important."

- 2. Face to Face with Hurricane Camille: All headings and titles are generally succinct and particular care is given to the choice of words. The aim is to present the article, story, etc. as vividly and as forcefully as possible to attract the attention of would-be readers. face to face: The phrase in this context means "confronting one another". This phrase connotes a sense of urgency and danger. The confrontation is generally with something dangerous, difficult or hard to resolve, e.g.. face to face with the enemy, face to face with the tiger, face to face with the problem.
- 3. John Koshak, Jr.: Jr. is the abbreviation of junior. This term is generally used in the United States and is put after the name of a son to indicate he has the same first name as his father. The term Sr. (senior) is sometimes put after the name of the father. This is done only with men's names. If the name continues into the third generation, Roman numerals (I. II. III. etc.) are used. This happens mainly among big, rich, upper class families, e.g. John Rockefeller II, John Rockefeller III.
- 4. Radio and television warnings ... Gulf of Mexico: The National Weather Service of the United States broadcast warnings of potential hurricanes.

Warnings had sounded: Radio and television had broadcast warnings about the hurricane.

August 17: Hurricane Camille devastated the area for two days August 17,18.

lashed: a specific verb, meaning to strike with great orce, e.g. waves lashed the cliffs

Gulf of Mexico: Most hurricanes in this area are formed over the Caribbean Sea and they move over the Gulf of Mexico to strike the Gulf States of the United States—Florida, Mississsippi, Louisiana,

etc.

5. It was certain ... the Koshaks lived:

pummel: to beat or hit with repeated blows. The Koshaks will have to put up with many onslaughts of the fierce storm.

Gulfport: seaport in S. Miss., on the Gulf of Mexico

Miss.: abbreviation for Mississippi

the Koshaks: When a "s" is added to a surname and used with the definite article "the", the term, then, stands for the whole family.

e.g. the Koshaks: the Koshak family, all the Koshaks in the family the Browns: the Brown family

the Lis: the Li family

- 6. fled inland to safer ground: ran away to the interior of the country (away from the coast) where they would be safer.

 safer ground: The hurricane loses force as it blows inland and people away from the coast are safe from tidal waves caused by the hurricane.
- 7. coastal communities: people living together in towns, cities, villages, along the coast
- 8. aged 3 to 11: The youngest child was three years and the eldest 11 years old. The other five were older than 3 and younger than 11.
- 9. who had moved into the ten-room house with the Koshaks: John Koshak's grandparents left California and came to Gulfport to live with their son, John Koshak Jr.. In capitalist countries especially in the U.S., children, when they grow up and start working, generally live away from their parents.
- 10. John, 37: elliptical, John who was 37 years old
- 11. whose business was right there in his home: His business office, workshop, etc. were all in his home.

right there: exactly, precisely there (in his home)

12. all of Magna Products' ... on the first floor:

all of: every one, every bit of, every piece of. It is used with a plural verb.

Magna Products: name of the company owned and run by John Koshak Jr.

engineering drawings: diagrams and sketches for machines art work: designs, models, pictures for the various toys

first floor: in U.S., the ground floor; in Europe and Great Britain,

the floor above this

- 13. Hurricane Betsy: see point 3 in Additional Background Material for Teachers' Reference
- 14. Koshak had moved his family to a motel:

 motel: a blend or portmanteau word, formed by combining partsof [mo(torist) + (ho)tel]
- 15. We're elevated 23 feet: In British English one would probably say "We're 23 feet above sea level."
- 16. we're a good 250 yards from the sea: We're at least 250 yards distant from the sea.

 a good: a general intensive, meaning "at least", "full", e.g. we waited a good six hours
- 17. The place has been here ... ever bothered it: The house has been here since 1915, and no hurricane has ever caused any damage to it.
- 18. we can batten down and ride it out: a metaphor, comparing the house in a hurricane to a ship fighting a storm at sea. We can make the necessary preparations and survive the hurricane without much damage.

batten: to fasten canvas over the hatches of a ship, especially in preparing for a storm

ride it out: to stay afloat during a storm without too much damage

- 19. The men methodically ... hurricane: The men in the house made all the necessary preparations to fight the hurricane and they went about their work in a systematic and orderly manner.
- 20. Since water mains ... and pails: They were afraid the water supply might be cut off so they filled the bathtubs and pails with water. main: a principal pipe, conduit, or line in a distributing system for water, gas, electricity, etc.
- 21. A power failure ... for the lantern:

 power failure: a breakdown in the supply of electricity

 check out: to examine (the batteries and fuel) and see if they were

 all right
- 22. John's father moved ... to the refrigerator:

 generator: a dynamo; a small machine for producing electricity

 wired several light bulbs: connected several light bulbs by wire to
 the generator. When the generator produced electricity these bulbs

 would light up.

prepared a connection: Preparations were also made to connect, when necessary, the refrigerator to the generator.

23. gray clouds ... on the rising wind:

scudded in: driven inland by the wind

Gulf: the Gulf of Mexico

rising wind: wind that was getting stronger and stronger

24. A neighbor ... with the Koshaks:

whose husband was in Vietnam: This was 1969. The husband of this neighbor was in the American army fighting in Vietnam.

sit out the storm: to stay until the end of the storm

25. Another neighbor ... of his dog?: The dash in this sentence indicates that some words have been left out and the structural pattern has been changed from a statement to an indirect question. The sentence might read as follows: "Another neighbor came by on his way inland and asked if the Koshaks would mind taking care of his dog."

come by: American English, to pay a visit

- 26. Wind and rain now whipped the house: a metaphor. Strong wind and rain was lashing the house as if with a whip.
- 27. Stay away ... storm-shattered panes:

stay away: keep far away from; don't go near

concerned about: anxious, uneasy, worried about

glass flying from storm-shattered panes: small pieces of glass flying around in the air when the panes of a window are shattered by the storm

28. As the wind ... through the walls:

mounted to a roar: The sound of the wind gets louder as the force of the wind increases. The roaring sound indicates the wind has reached hurricane strength.

seemingly: apparently; as if

- 29. With mops ... spreading water: The house was leaking very badly. The Koshaks had to use all the utensils they could lay their hands on (mops, towels, pots, buckets) to hold the leaking water.
- **30.** At 8:30 ... the generator:

power failed: electricity was cut off

Pop: (slang) father; also a familiar term of address to any elderly man

turned on the generator: started their generator to produce their own electric power

- 31. The French doors ... windows disintegrated:
 - French doors: two adjoining doors that have glass panes from top to bottom and they open in the middle
 - blew in: burst open by the storm, the two adjoining doors (of the French doors) flew inwards
 - gun-like reports: loud explosive noises like guns being fired windows disintegrated: windows broke up, windows broke into pieces
- 32. The generator was doused, and the lights went out: Water got into the generator and put it out. It stopped producing electricity so the lights also went out.
 - douse: to put out (a light, fire, generator, etc.) quickly by pouring water over it
- 33. That water tasted salty: when Charlie licked some drops of water on his lips he found they tasted salty like sea water. From this ne concluded they were in real trouble for it seemed the sea had reached them although they were 23 feet above sea level and 250 yards from the sea.
- 34. water was rising by the minute: Water was rising every minute. Water was rising minute by minute.
- 35. Everybody out the back door to the cars: an elliptical sentence showing the tension and urgency of the moment. The full sentence might read; "Everybody go out through the back door and run to the cars."
- 36. Count them! Nine!: elliptical "Count them! There are nine children!"
- 37. The children ... in a fire brigade: simile, comparing the passing of children to the passing of buckets of water in a fire brigade when fighting a fire
- 38. the electrical systems had been killed by water: The electrical systems in the car (for example the battery for the starter) had been put out by water (just as the generator in the house was doused). kill: to cause (an engine, etc.) to stop (American English)
- 39. the water was too deep to flee on foot: The deep water made it impossible for them to try to escape by walking or running.

- 40. Everybody on the stairs: elliptical "Everybody go and sit on the stairs."
- 41. protected by two interior walls: The stairs were protected by two walls inside the house, walls not directly exposed to the wind and rain.
- 42. The wind sounded ... yards away: simile, comparing the sound of the wind to the roar of a passing train
- 43. The house ... foundations: The house shook and was loosened from its foundations.
- 44. Water inched its way up the steps: Water rose on the steps of the staircase inch by inch.
- 45. more or less taken responsibility... two children: Charlie had to some extent taken upon himself the task of looking after the neighbor and her two children.
 - more or less: rather; to some extent e.g. We hope our explanations will prove more or less helpful.
 - to take responsibility for: to consider oneself answerable for. The pattern for the phrase is: to take the responsibility for (of doing) something.
- 46. with outward calm: to appear calm (but to be worried in one's mind)
- 47. his voice lacked its usual gruffness: The lack of gruffness shows the old man's sincerity and solemn feeling. In this critical situation the old couple tenderly express their mutual love.
- 48. John watched ... crushing guilt: As John watched the water inch its way up the steps, he felt a strong sense of guilt because he blamed himself for endangering the whole family by deciding not to flee inland.
 - lap: to move or strike gently with a light, splashing sound erushing: overwhelming
- 49. ferocity of Camille: the destructive force and power of the hurricane
- 50. Get us through this mess, will You?: The capital "Y" in You shows that the words were addressed to God. "will you" is a rough form of request. Here it indicates a request made out of desperation. Oh God, please help us to get through this storm safely.
 - mess: a state of trouble or difficulty. Here it refers to the hurricane.
- 51. A moment later ... through the air: personification, the hurricane

acting as a very strong person lifting something heavy and throwing it through the air

in one mighty swipe: in a big, hard, sweeping blow skim: to throw so as to cause to bounce swiftly and lightly

- 52. marooned group: a group of people who were helpless and isolated by the storm
- 53. Miami, Fla: Fla is abbreviated form of Florida, a southern state of the United States.
- 54. graded Hurricane Camille: classified the hurricane according to its destructive force and power (as the greatest recorded storm... Hemisphere)
- 55. In its concentrated ... 200 m.p.h.: The hurricane was concentrated within a breadth of about 70 miles and in this area the hurricane threw or hurled out winds that reached nearly 200 m.p.h.)

m.p.h.: miles per hour

m.p.g.: miles per gallon

r.p.m.: revolutions per minute

g.p.m.: gallons per minute

f.p.s.: feet per second

- 56. devastated everything in its swath: destroyed everything in its path swath: the space covered with one cut of a scythe; a long strip or track of any kind
- 57. It seized ... miles away: personification, the hurricane acting as a very strong person lifting something very heavy and dumping it 3½ miles away

600,000-gallon oil tank: an oil tank that can store 600,000 gallons of oil

dump: to throw down something heavy with a bump

58. It tore ... and beached them: Three large cargo ships were torn free from the cables and anchors that held them and were grounded on the beach

moorings: cables, anchors, buoys, etc. that hold a ship in place to beach: to ground a boat on a beach

59. Telephone poles ... snapped them: simile, the sound of the snapping poles compared to the firing of guns

20-inch-thick pines: 20-inch-thick pine trees; pine trees 20 inches in diameter

- 60. a hurricane party ... vantage point: The people in the Richelieu Apartments held a party to enjoy the unusual and impressive spectacle of the hurricane because the apartment provided an unusually clear and broad view of the storm.
 - a hurricane party: a party held especially for watching the hurricane spectacular: transferrred epithet, modifying the "storm" and not "vantage point", meaning impressive to see and strikingly unusual vantage point: a position that allows a clear and broad view
- 61. up the stairs—into our bedroom: elliptical. Everybody hurry up the stairs and go into our bedroom
- 62. She carried ... trailed away: Grandmother Koshak sang a few words alone and then her voice gradually grew dimmer and stopped.

 bar: a measure in music; the notes between two vertical lines on a music sheet

trail away: to grow gradually weaker, dimmer

63. With two walls ... television room: Because the two walls of the bedroom where they were seeking shelter were breaking up, John ordered everyone to go into the television room.

with: as the result of, because of,

Examples: With the staff greatly reduced, they had to stop work. With the flood water rising rapidly, the residents on the banks of the river were evacuated.

He was faint with hunger.

bedroom sanctuary: the bedroom which was a place of refuge and protection

into the television room: elliptical

- 64. Janis understood: Janis understood why her husband put his arm around her. At this critical moment when all their lives were in danger, John put his arm around her to encourage and comfort her.
- 65. Dear Lord ... what I have to: Janis prayed to God to give her courage to face what she had to face. She, her husband and her children might die in the storm.
- 66. We won't let it win: We won't let the hurricane defeat us, kill us. These were words of self-encouragement.
- 67. Pop Koshak raged silently: Grandfather Koshak was furiously angry but he kept silent. He didn't shout and curse the hurricane.

- 68. Without reason ... into the TV room: He did not drag the two pieces of furniture into the TV room for a special purpose. He did it mechanically and perhaps he felt he shouldn't stand there doing nothing. The mattress, however, came in handy later on.
 - a cedar chest: a box made of cedar wood
 - a double mattress: a bed mattress for a double bed, a bed designed or made for two people
 - TV room: room where TV set is kept
- 69. it toppled on him: The wall disintegrated and bricks and plasters fell on him.
- 70. Make it a lean-to against the wind: Put up the mattress as a protection against the wind.
 - a lean-to: noun; a shed or other small outbuilding with a sloping roof, the upper end of which rests against the wall of another building. The mattress was set up slanting, the bottom resting perhaps on the door-sill and the top part slanting inwards so that the adults could prop it up with their heads and shoulders, while the kids could sit under it.
- 71. Spooky flew off ... bookcase: The cat on the top of the bookcase was also carried away by the wind.
 - a sliding bookcase: a bookcase with sliding panels
- 72. If the floor goes ... on this: If the floor disintegrates, let's put the children on this wooden door. (The wooden door will help to keep the children afloat in the water.)
- 73. The main thrust of Camille had passed: The direct and forceful attack of the hurricane had passed.
- 74. Strips of clothing festooned the standing trees: metaphor; Bits of clothing were hanging on the trees as if decorating them with festoons.
 - festoon: a wreath or garland of flowers, leaves, paper, etc. hanging in a loop or curve
- 75. blowndown power lines ... over the roads: simile, blowndown power lines compared to black spaghetti
 - blowndown power lines: Wires carrying electricity were blown down by the wind. They lay in a tangled mess on the ground.
 - black spaghetti: Italian noodles, generally white but called black here because of the black color of the power lines