

● 大学英语序列教程

(下)

现代英语

CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH



● 张道真 编著

● 西北大学出版社

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Lesson Seventeen

Text A

William Tell—a Hero of Switzerland

In the marketplace of the town of Altdorf, there is a famous statue. It is a statue of William Tell, the best known of all Swiss heroes in the fight for independence.

For a time Switzerland was under the rule of Austria. The Austrian governor of Altdorf, a man named Gessler, set up the Duke of Austria's hat on a stick in the marketplace and ordered all the Swiss to kneel down in front of it. William Tell refused and was taken prisoner.

Tell was a famous archer and Gessler knew of him. He told Tell that he would set him free if he could shoot an apple from his young son's head. He must shoot from a distance of eighty yards, and must split the apple in two. Tell agreed to the cruel trial. He took his bow and two arrows, and shot the first at his son's head, splitting the apple. Gessler then demanded to know why Tell had

needed two arrows. Tell replied that the second arrow was for Gessler.

Tell was again taken prisoner and Gessler ordered his soldiers to take him to the castle at Kussnacht. To get there they had to take a boat across Lake Lucerne. Tell was thrown into the boat and they began to row. Soon a storm rose on the lake. The waves grew wilder and wilder. The soldiers were frightened and asked Tell to steer the boat for them. Tell brought the boat close to the shore and suddenly jumped to land, kicking the boat away onto the wild lake. The place where he jumped to the shore became known as Tellsprung, and a chapel called Tell's Chapel was built there.

Later Tell had his revenge. He waited for Gessler and killed him. There is another chapel near Kussnacht. This chapel is a very important place for Swiss people, and many of them visit it. The Swiss are very proud of their tradition of independence, and William Tell is a symbol of that tradition.

— Adapted from *Let's See Europe*

Text B

Simon Bolivar

Napoleon had a tremendous effect on Europe in the early nineteenth century. At almost the same time, a man called Simon Bolivar was influencing nineteenth-century South America.

For nearly three hundred years, most of South America was under Spanish rule. Simon Bolivar vowed to free his native land, Venezuela, from Spain. When he died in 1830, he had freed not only Venezuela, but Ecuador, Bolivia, Peru, and Colombia as well.

Young Bolivar was educated as an aristocrat, but he studied and travelled in Europe, and the examples of the French and American revolutions stirred him deeply. In 1811, he and a group of patriots revolted and declared Venezuela's independence. But they were crushed by Spanish troops, and Bolivar fled the country.

In 1819 he marched with an army over the snow-covered Andes Mountains, surprised the Spanish Army, and was able to bring independence to Colombia. Two years later, Bolivar liberated Venezuela, and the following year Ecuador was freed.

Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador were united into the Republic of Gran Colombia, with Bolivar as president. Later he was able to help in the liberation of Peru. Upper Peru was renamed Bolivia in honour of its liberator.

Bolivar had the powers of a dictator, though his ideals were freedom and justice. He encouraged formation of constitutional government, establishment of more schools, and freeing of slaves.

In time, each country wanted its independence, and Gran Colombia fell apart. Bolivar's enemies accused him of being a tyrant. Finally Bolivar resigned as president. He died in 1830 at the age of forty-seven, a disappointed man with many enemies, but to the people of South America he is still El Libertador, the liberator.

— from *Lots More Tell Me Why*

Words and Expressions

statue ['stætju:] n. 雕像, 塑像

stick [stik] n. 棍子

order ['ɔ:də] vt. 命令

archer ['ɑ:tʃə] n. 射手, 弓箭手

set free 释放

shoot [ʃu:t] vt. 射中

yard [jɑ:d] *n.* 一码
 split [split] *vt.* 使裂开
 demand [di'mɑ:nd] *vt.* 要求
 cruel ['kruəl] *a.* 残酷的
 bow [bəu] *n.* 弓
 arrow ['ærəu] *n.* 箭
 row [rəu] *vi.* 划船
 wild ['waild] *a.* 狂暴的
 steer [stiə] *vt.* 掌舵, 驾驶
 shore [ʃɔ:] *n.* 岸
 kick [kik] *vt.* 踢
 chapel ['tʃæpl] *n.* 小庙, 小教堂
 revenge [ri'vendʒ] *n.* 报仇
 symbol ['simbl] *n.* 象征
 tremendous [tri'mendəs] *a.* 极大的
 effect [i'fekt] *n.* 影响
 influence ['influəns] *vt.* 影响
 vow [vau] *vt.* 发誓 (要...)
 free [fri:] *vt.* 解放
 stir [stə:] *vt.* 触动, 使不安
 deeply ['di:pli] *ad.* 深深地
 patriot ['peitriət] *n.* 爱国人士
 revolt [ri'vəult] *vi.* 起义, 造反
 declare [di'kleə] *vt.* 宣布
 crush [kraʃ] *vt.* 粉碎, 击败
 flee [fli:] *vt.* 逃离

surprise [sə'praiz] *vt.* 奇袭
 liberate ['libəreit] *vt.* 解放
 president ['prezident] *n.* 总统
 liberation [,libə'reiʃən] *n.* 解放
 rename [ri:'neim] *vt.* 重新命名
 in honour of 纪念
 power ['paʊə] *n.* 权力
 justice ['dʒʌstis] *n.* 正义
 encourage [in'kʌridʒ] *vt.* 鼓励
 formation [fɔ:'meiʃən] *n.* 组织
 constitutional [,kənsti'tju:ʃənəl] *a.* 立宪的
 establishment [is'tæbliʃmənt] *n.* 建立
 tyrant ['taiərent] *n.* 暴君
 resign [ri'zain] *vi.* 辞职
 disappointed [,disə'pɔintid] *a.* 失望, 灰心
 enemy ['enimi] *n.* 敌人

Notes

1. William Tell ['wiliəm'tel]: legendary Swiss hero who lived probably in early 14th century, is looked on as a hero of the Swiss struggle for independence, and is the subject of a drama by Schiller and an opera by Rossini.
2. Lake Lucerne [lu:'sə:n]: a lake in Central Switzerland, 39 kilometres long.
3. Simon Bolivar ['saimən,bəli'vɑ:] (1783—1830):

Venezuelan soldier and statesman.

4. The Andes ['ændi:z] Mountains: a mountain system running the length of West South America.

5. Proper names:

Venezuela [ˌvene'zweɪlə] Ecuador ['ekwədɔ:]

Bolivia [bə'li:vɪə] Peru [pə'ru:]

Colombia [kə'lʌmbiə]

Grammar

The Indefinite Article

"A" is an Indefinite Article. When used before a vowel sound, it has the form "an" (e.g. an apple, an hour). The basic meaning of the Indefinite Article is "one". It is used mostly in this sense, denoting a member of a class or a holder of an occupation:

I borrowed a book from the library.

Give me a piece of paper.

John is a clever boy.

He has been a doctor for many years.

My brother plans to be a lawyer.

It is often used in expressions of time and measurements,

Our class meets four times a week.

He earns two dollars an hour.

She visits us twice a year.

These shoes cost ten dollars a pair.

Butter is eighty cents a pound.

Gasoline used to sell for fifteen cents a gallon.

Sometimes it is used to represent a class of people or things;

A good girl (= Good girls) mustn't act like that.

A horse is a useful animal (= Horses are useful animals.)

It is also used in a number of set phrases;

I saw your cousin a *couple of* weeks ago.

The door opened *all of a sudden*.

It's a pity you can't go with us.

Did you *have a good time* at the party?

A cheerful person is always *in a good mood*.

Pardon me, I *am in a hurry* to get to my class.

He didn't take your book. *As a matter of fact*,

he was not in the room.

After expressions such as *kind of*, *type of*, an "a" is usually not used;

What *kind of* suit was he wearing?

She is the sort of student *that* teachers are proud of.

He is the *type of* man we need for the job.

What *brand of* cigarette do you prefer?

What make of car are you planning to buy?
That variety of bird is extremely rare around here.

Exercises

1. Answer these questions,

(A)

1) Who was William Tell?

(He was a hero of Switzerland.)

2) Is there a statue of him? Where is it?

(Yes, there is. It's in the marketplace of the town of Altdorf.)

3) Who ruled over Switzerland for a time?

(The Austrians did.)

4) What's the name of the governor of Altdorf?

(His name was Gessler.)

5) What did he do one day?

(He set up the Duke of Austria's hat on a stick in the marketplace and ordered all the Swiss to kneel down in front of it.)

6) Why did he do that?

(He wanted to make the Swiss afraid of the Austrian rulers.)

7) Did everybody do as he ordered?

(No, not everybody.)

8) Who refused to obey him? What happened to him then?

(William Tell did and he was taken prisoner.)

9) What did Gessler know about William Tell? What did he do?

(He knew Tell was a famous archer. He told Tell that he would set him free if he could shoot an apple from his young son's head. He must shoot from a distance of eighty yards and must split the apple in two.)

10) Did Tell agree to do so?

(Yes, he did. He took his bow and two arrows, and shot the first at the apple on his boy's head.)

11) Did he hit the apple?

(Yes, he did. He hit the apple and split it in two.)

12) Did Gessler set Tell free? Why?

(No, he didn't. When he asked to know why Tell needed two arrows, Tell answered that the second arrow was for him. So Tell was taken prisoner again.)

13) What did Gessler do then?

(He ordered his soldiers to take Tell to

the castle of Kussnacht.)

14) How did they go there?

(They took a boat across Lake Lucerne.)

15) What happened on the way?

(A storm rose on the lake and the waves grew wilder and wilder.)

16) What did the soldiers do?

(They were frightened and asked Tell to steer the boat for them.)

17) What did Tell do?

(He brought the boat close to the shore and suddenly jumped to land and kicked the boat away onto the wild lake.)

18) What did William Tell finally do?

(He had his revenge. He finally killed Gessler.)

19) What did the Swiss people think of Tell?

(They thought he was a national hero. They built two chapels for him, one at the place where he jumped to the shore and the other near Kussnacht.)

20) Why did the Swiss people show such love for him?

(Because they are proud of their tradition of independence and William Tell is a symbol of that tradition.)

(B)

1) Who was Simon Bolivar?

(He was a hero in South America.)

2) Where was he born?

(He was born in Venezuela.)

3) Who ruled over South America for a long time?

(Spain did.)

4) What did Bolivar vow to do?

(He vowed to free his native land, Venezuela, from Spain.)

5) Why did he have such revolutionary ideas?

(Because he studied and travelled in Europe and was influenced by the French and American revolutions.)

6) What did he do in 1811?

(He and a group of patriots revolted and declared Venezuela's independence.)

7) Did they succeed in their revolt?

(No, they didn't. They were crushed by Spanish troops. Bolivar fled the country.)

8) What did Bolivar do in 1819?

(He marched with an army over the snow-covered Andes Mountains, and surprised the Spanish Army.)