

Lesson One

Twelve Things I Wish They Taught at School

一、课文语言点补充

1. I attended junior and senior high school, public institutions in New York and New Jersey, -

junior and senior high school 指美国的初级和高级中学，其中的 high school 不要与我国的“高校”混淆。

2. The facilities and the skills of the teachers were probably above average for the United States at that time.

average 主要有以下用法：

- 1) n. 平均数，一般水平

The average of 4, 5 and 9 is 6. 4、5、9 三个数的平均数是 6。

These marks are well above / below average. 这些分数远在平均分
数之上 / 之下。

- 2) adj. 平均的，平常的

The average temperature in Oxford last month was 18 degrees. 牛津
上月的平均温度是 18 度。

Children of average intelligence can also become top students by their
own efforts. 智力一般的儿童仍可通过个人努力成为优等生。

- 3) vt. 平均，平均值为

This car averages 40 miles to the gallon. 这辆车平均每加仑汽油可

行驶 40 英里。

3. Sometimes I think how grateful I would be today if I had learned more back then about what really matters.

此句为一个混合时态的虚拟语气（也称“错综时间条件句”）。其中主句部分是对现在的虚拟，if 引导的从句部分是对过去的虚拟。

例：

If we hadn't got everything ready by now, we should be having a terrible time tomorrow. 如果现在一切还没准备好，明天情况就糟了。

matter vi. 关系重大，要紧

Some things matter more than others. 有些事情更重要。

What really matters is the way you express them. 真正重要的是你表达的方式。

4. In some respects that education was terribly narrow...

respect n. 方面

A lot of work will have to be done in these respects. 这些方面要做的事情还很多。

respect vt. 尊重，尊敬

As in China, the old in Korea are also respected. 同中国一样，朝鲜的老年人也得到尊重。

辨析：**respective, respectable, respectful**

respective 意思是“各自的”。例：They each excel in their respective fields. 他们在各自领域内都是出类拔萃的。

respectable 意思是“体面的，值得尊敬的”。例：Professor Green is a respectable and good-humored old man. 格林教授是一位令人尊重而又幽默的老者。

respectful 意思是“恭敬的，毕恭毕敬的”。例：Most students are very respectful to their teachers. 绝大部分学生对老师都是很恭敬的。

5. Perhaps all the deficiencies have since been rectified.

deficiency n. 不足，缺少

Vitamin deficiency can lead to illness. 身体缺乏维生素就会生病。

She can't hide her deficiencies as a writer. 她无法掩盖她身为作家的不足之处。

rectify vt. 纠正，改正

I made some mistakes that can not be rectified. 我犯了一些不可纠正的错误。

6. It seems to me there are many things (often more a matter of attitude and perception than the simple memorization of facts) -

辨析：more than, more than

more than 与其说……不如说……例：It is more a matter of your laziness than the bad weather that left the work unfinished. 与其说是恶劣天气倒不如说是你们的懒惰使得工作无法完成。

more than 多于当用于一个数字及可数名词复数前时，动词要用复数形式。例：More than 17,000 children are said to have written to Richard. 据说已有 17,000 多名孩子给理查德写了信。
more than 与 happy, glad, willing 等词连用时常用于 more than happy (glad, willing) to do sth. 表示“非常乐意”。例：I am more than happy to take you there in my car. 我非常乐意用车把你送去。
more than one 不止传统上看作单数，不管后面是否跟有名词都是如此。例：More than one boy was rejected. 被辞退的孩子不止一个。More than one has passed. 有多名孩子通过了（考试）。

7. things that truly would be useful in later life, useful in making a stronger country and a better world, but useful also in making people happier.

此句为一个排比句 (parallelism), 是通过 be useful 的重复而实现的排比。主要将语法结构上相似的词、短语或句子排列在一起, 突出这些成分意义上的相似或相反之处。这种结构简洁明了, 节奏性强。例: And my fellow Americans, ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country. (J. F. Kennedy's inaugural address) 我亲爱的同胞们, 不要问国家能为你们做些什么, 而应问问自己能为国家做些什么。(肯尼迪就职演说)

One trusts one's lawyer, one's doctor, one's priest, I suppose. (Graham Greene) 我想大家相信自己的律师, 依赖自己的医生, 遵从自己的神父。(哥拉海姆·格林)

8. That's one of the few things that we do better than the other species on our planet.

species n. 物种, 类型

A new species of antelope is found in south China's Jiangxi province. 在中国南部的江西省又发现了一种新品种的羚羊。

species, means, series 等词单复数一致, 使用时请注意。

Begging was the only means of living for the poor old woman in the past. 过去这位可怜的老妇只能靠乞讨谋生。

All possible means have been tried. 一切办法都试过了。

9. It hardly matters what the subject is, as long as it deeply interests you, and you place it in its broader human context.

as / so long as 只要

As long as you can come back before dusk, you can use my car. 只要你在黄昏前能赶回来, 你就可以用我的车。

You can look as long as you don't touch. 只要别摸, 看多长时间都可以。

human context 意为“人文环境”

10. But don't get trapped by the first subject that interests you, or the first thing you find yourself good at.

trap vt. 使……陷入，用计捕捉

They were trapped in the burning hotel. 他们被陷在发生火灾的旅馆里。

It's cruel to trap birds. 诱捕鸟是很残忍的。

11. The answers can be a gateway to real insights.

a gateway to 通向……的途径，获得……的手段。

The port of Dover is England's gateway to Europe. 多佛港是英国进入欧洲的大门。

A good education can be the gateway to success. 良好的教育是通往成功之路。

12. It's much braver to ask questions even when there's a prospect of ridicule than to suppress your questions and become deadened to the world around you.

prospect n. 前景，期望

She viewed the prospect of a week alone in the house without much enthusiasm. 她想像在那所房子孤身一人百无聊赖地呆上一星期的情景。

The prospects of this year's wine harvest are poor. 今年葡萄酒产量前景不佳。

suppress vt. 抑制，压抑，镇压

Are the police suppressing some evidence? 警方是否隐瞒了一些证据？

He could scarcely suppress a laugh. 他忍不住要笑出声来了。

become deadened to 对……不敏感或麻木不仁

Since her son's death, Susan has become deadened to other people's lives. 儿子去世后，苏珊对别人的生活变得漠不关心了。

John became a drunkard at the age of 16 and became deadened to all his parents' warnings and advice. 约翰 16 岁就开始酗酒，父母的警

告与建议一概充耳不闻。

13. Many conversations are a kind of competition that rarely leads to discovery on either side.

lead to 导致，产生

She admitted that hard work led to her success in her experiment. 她承认是艰苦的工作使她获得实验的成功。

The unexpected snow led to many accidents. 突如其来的大雪导致许多事故。

英语中 **result in** 也有类似的用法。

His irresponsibility resulted in his dismissal. 他由于不负责任而被解雇。

14. They, and people from other parts of the country and from other nations, have important perspectives that can enrich your life.

perspective n. 角度，视点

If you see the events in the historical perspective, you can definitely reach a different conclusion. 如果你从历史角度来看这些事，你必然会得出一个不同的结论。

He sees things in their proper perspective. 他观察事物很准确。

enrich vt. 使……富裕，丰富

Yunnan is a province enriched by the profits from tourism. 云南是一个因旅游收入而富裕起来的省份。

Reading enriches the mind. 读书可以充实头脑。

前缀 **en** 同形容词结合可改变词性，使之变为动词。类似的词还有：**enlarge, enable** 等。

I want to enlarge the lawn. 我想扩大草坪的面积。

The training in this university will surely enable you to find a good job. 大学的教育一定会帮你找到一份好工作的。

15. We're changing the atmosphere, the surface, the waters of the

earth, often for some short-term advantage

waters 水体 指湖泊、河流、海洋等水的总称。也可指国家的领海、领水等。

short-term adj. 短期的 [反] long-term

Our university provides short-term training of various kinds. 我校可提供多种形式的短期培训。

Chopping down the forest can bring us some short-term benefit; in the long run, we'll suffer a lot from our near-sightedness. 砍伐森林可给我们带来短期效益，从长远来看，我们会因自己的短见而损失惨重。

16. You can't know your planet unless you know something about science and technology.

unless conj. 意为 if...not，但语气更强。其引导的条件从句有下列两种形式：

1) **unless** 意为“如果不……就”

We will carry on selling the furniture unless we are told to stop.
如果无人制止，我们就继续卖家具。

The mail will go by air unless it is quicker by other means. 如果没有更快捷的方式，邮件一般会被空运。

2) **unless** 意为“如果不……就（不）……”用于否定句中。

I will not go to France unless the firm pays my expenses. 公司不出钱我就不去法国。（注意：此类句子中，主句是将来时，但从句用一般现在时）

She wouldn't go with him unless I came too. 我不来她也不会跟他来的。

（此句中主句是过去将来时，从句是一般过去时。）

17. School science courses, I remember, concentrated on the unimportant parts of science, leaving the major insights almost untouched.

concentrate ... on 集中……于，聚集

The noise outside made me unable to concentrate on my study. 窗外的噪音使我无法集中精力学习。

We must concentrate our efforts on improving education. 我们必须致力于改进教育工作。

leave sth. untouched 未动，未触及

The enemy soldiers took most the valuables away but left the old furniture untouched. 敌军士兵将值钱的东西席卷一空，那些破家具却碰都没碰。

Children ate up all the greens but left all meat untouched. 孩子们吃光了青菜却一点儿肉也没吃。

18. For example, Copernicus showed that — far from being the center of the universe ...

far from 远非，几乎与之相反

The problem is far from easy 这个问题决不容易。

Your account is far from the truth. 你所说的远非事实。

19. But once you make the effort, your life has changed -

effort n. [C] 努力，奋斗

His efforts were much appreciated. 大家都夸他很努力。

I will make every effort to come on time. 我将尽一切努力准时到来。

effort n. [U] 力量，精力

They lifted the heavy rock without effort. 他们没费劲就把那块沉重的石头抬起来了。

He must put more effort into his work. 他必须更加努力地工作。

20. In a world as tightly connected as ours is, don't restrict your attention to American or Western culture.

restrict sb. / sth. to 限制、约束

Speed is restricted to 30 mph in towns. 市内车速每小时不得超过 30 英里。

In order to lose some weight, Jenny restricts herself to 2 meals a day.
为了减肥，珍妮每日只吃两餐。

类似的表示“限制”的词组还有 limit ... to, confine to 等。

21. Our passion to understand the universe and our compassion for others jointly provide the chief hope for the human race.

辨析：passion, compassion

passion n. 强烈的情感（如恨、爱、怒等）例：She argued with great passion. 她争论时情绪很激动。His passion for skating surpasses all his other hobbies. 他酷爱滑冰超过其他一切嗜好。

compassion 同情，怜悯例：The plight of the refugees aroused our compassion. 难民的困苦引起了我们的同情
Out of compassion for her terrible suffering they allowed her to stay. 他们因为同情她的悲惨遭遇而准许她居留。

jointly adv. 共同地，一起

K&D is a jointly-run business. 科德是一家合营公司。

China works jointly with the UN and its subsidiaries on many issues.
在许多方面中国都同联合国及其下属机构紧密合作。

二、课后练习答案

Work on the Text

1. Answer these questions.

- 1) The author attended junior and senior high school in New York and New Jersey, just after the Second World War.
- 2) In some respects that education was terribly narrow; the only thing

I ever heard in school about Napoleon was that the United States made the Louisiana Purchase from him. In spelling, grammar, the fundamentals of math, and other vital subjects, my teachers did a pretty good job, but there's so much else I wish they'd taught us.

- 3) While you learn a little bit about many subjects, make sure you learn a great deal about one or two. It hardly matters what the subject is, as long as it deeply interests you, and you place it in its broader human context. After you teach yourself one subject, you become much more confident about your ability to teach yourself another.
- 4) Because many apparently naïve inquiries are really deep questions. The answers can be a gateway to real insights.
- 5) Older people have grown up in a world very different from yours, one you may not know very well. They, and people from other parts of the country and from other nations, have important perspectives that can enrich your life.
- 6) Because everyone's understanding is incomplete. Be open to correction, and learn to correct your own mistakes.
- 7) Because it's the only one we have. We're changing the atmosphere, the surface, the waters of the Earth, often for some short-term advantage when the long-term implications are unknown.
- 8) School science courses should concentrate on the major insights of science instead of the unimportant parts of it.
- 9) Because the great discoveries in modern science are also great discoveries of the human spirit. Sir Isaac Newton was a British physicist, mathematician and astronomer. He invented the law of gravity. Charles Robert Darwin was a British biologist, the creator of the theory of evolution. Sigmund Freud was an Austrian

psychoanalyst, the founder of the psychoanalytic psychology. Albert Einstein was a German American, a theoretical physicist, and the creator of Theory of Relativity.

10) Spending too much time watching TV will waste a lot of our precious time.

11) Once we make the effort, our life has changed; we've acquired a source of enjoyment and excitement for the rest of our days. We should learn about the history, religions and viewpoints of the people in other countries because our world is tightly connected and we shouldn't restrict our attention.

12) Yes. People are much colder to each other than before. Yes. Because humans are capable of great mutual compassion, love, and tenderness. These feelings, however, need encouragement to grow.

2. Look up the following words in an English-English dictionary before looking at the Word List. (You have to decide the part of speech of each first.)

facility n. ability to do or perform something easily and well

grateful adj. feeling or showing thanks to another person

matter vi. to be important

philosopher n. a person who studies, has much knowledge of, and usu. teaches philosophy

insight n. the power of using one's mind to see or understand the true nature of a situation

3. Paraphrase.

1) Every student should learn new knowledge regularly and experience the happiness of learning.

2) The answers can help you to understand things deeply.

3) ... show no interest to the world around you.

- 4) It's a shame not to learn lessons from your mistakes.
- 5) ... there is probably something worth admiring and learning.

4. Discuss or speak on the following topics.

In my opinion, what is the most important thing is not to be afraid to ask “stupid” questions. In this world, there are mysteries and wonders everywhere, and nobody knows everything. Things such as “why sky is blue?” and “why flowers are red?” are actually very deep questions, though they are seemingly “stupid” and “naive”. People who never take things for granted and have the courage to challenge the authority can always learn the most. This is a quality which is very essential to people living in an “information explosion” period.

- 1) No, I don't think so. Of all the nine things, some things such as “science and technology, know your planet” are learnable, that is, through your courses in your school or your reading, you can meet your personal demand in these fields. Other things, such as “passion” and “everybody makes mistakes” usually can't be learned at school. As we all know, the former is usually an inborn quality while the latter is an attitude to mistakes. You may try to show your passion, but it is not something learnable.

We expect to learn a lot of useful things from our school. Besides the nine things listed in the text, I suppose schools should teach us to know more about the world, particularly how to get on with people from other countries and cultures. The world is striding toward a global village, and with the development of modern transportation and communication, people will be much closer than ever before. Therefore, trying to understand and tolerate other cultures will be very essential for us.

5. Write a paragraph of about 130 words on the topic: The Most

Important Thing I Think I Should Learn at College.

As I see it, the most important thing I should learn at college is how to live meaningfully. What I expect to acquire from the school is not only theoretical knowledge but also something that can help me to understand the world in which we are living and how to make our life a meaningful one. It is generally understood that there will be a lot of theoretical knowledge through our college education, but how to apply our “textbook experience” to our daily life is very important to us. To some degree, as a social person, everybody is expected to contribute what he masters to the society he lives in, in this way, and most probably, only in this way, can we make our society a better place. At the same time, we are making our life more meaningful. To conclude, to learn how to live meaningfully is exactly the thing I sincerely hope the school should teach us.

Vocabulary Exercises

1. Complete the following sentences with compound words formed in the same way as in the examples. Each word is to be used once only.

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1) supermarket | 2) first-hand | 3) gentleman |
| 4) high-grade | 5) newcomer | |

2. Translate the following into English.

1) Use the verb + noun collocation.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| attend a meeting | do a good job | experience hardships |
| teach oneself English | discover wonders | refrain from the cough |
| master a skill | gain knowledge | need encouragement |
| enrich one's life | accept correction | correct mistakes |
| abandon the expectation | make an effort | |

2) Use the “useful expressions”.

- (1) The newly built bridge collapsed, which led to the penal suit against one engineer and two local officials.
- (2) He has worked for a whole day, leaving the lunch untouched.
- (3) Far from being a waste of time, regular physical exercises can make students strong and more capable of learning.
- (4) In the Sea World, the seals and dolphins are capable of performing all kinds of tricks that make the children laugh all the time.
- (5) Those who take delight in others' suffering will pay for it sooner or later.
- (6) In some respects, the new dictionary needs improving.
- (7) When the bus rushed out of the road and turned over, many children got trapped inside.
- (8) In the opening ceremony, the municipal government will provide food and drink for more than 1,000 guests.
- (9) In China, one family in the city is restricted to only one child.
- (10) As long as we can have a rest, it doesn't matter where we shall go.

3) Use learn, ask and teach.

- (1) The boy asked the policeman the way to the railway station.
- (2) There is no short cut to take in learning a foreign language.
- (3) Learning that the math teacher I liked most was still teaching in that school, I decided to go and see him.
- (4) The old worker teaches his children to be honest.
- (5) He asked his boss if he could leave the office earlier that day.
- (6) Hardship has taught us to be grateful to what we have now.
- (7) When he graduated, he asked to work in Tibet for one year.
- (8) I just want to care about the others and hope to get concern from them at the same time. I'm not asking too much.
- (9) The intelligent people can learn from their own mistakes.

- (10) It's no use asking for help because it's already over midnight.
 (11) The scientist taught his students that young people should face the future.
 (12) When being asked about the greatest pleasure in life, she said, "Study".

3. Complete the following sentences.

1) Put suitable prepositions or adverbs in the blanks.

- (1) in (2) at (3) for; above (4) toward
 (5) In (6) at; of (7) On; in (8) on
 (9) in; behind (10) to; at; on (11) by (12) from

2) Choose correct word from the brackets.

- (1) facilities (2) difficult (3) confident (4) confine (5) remarks

4. Choose the best word for each blank.

- (1) a (2) when (3) move (4) what
 (5) with (6) taking (7) release (8) drives
 (9) perhaps (10) so (11) at least (12) more

Grammar Exercises

1. Choose the right verb form.

- 1) is 2) are 3) are 4) stay 5) is
 6) are 7) is 8) mean 9) is 10) belong

2. Put in the correct form of the verb in brackets.

- 1) are 2) are 3) does 4) is
 5) can't go 6) was criticized 7) doesn't believe 8) has

3. Translate the following into English paying special attention to verb forms.

- 1) Both Mary and her child like Uncle Tom very much.
 2) Either my father or my mother is going to come for the parents'

meeting.

- 3) The team are training very hard.
- 4) The government was criticized by the people because of this policy.
- 5) Neither you nor your friend Jack has to take the responsibility for this.
- 6) Poultry tend to be infected with this disease.

4. Complete the following sentences with the correct choice (for revision of nouns).

- | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1) B | 2) B | 3) C | 4) A | 5) C |
| 6) D | 7) C | 8) A | 9) C | 10) A |

三、课文译文

学校要是教给我们这 12 种本领就好了

卡尔·萨根

1. 二战刚一结束，我在纽约和新泽西的公立学校上了初中和高中。那似乎是很久以前的事了。学校的设施、教师的水平在当时的美国大大高于一般水准。从那以后我学到了不少东西。我所学到的最重要的一点，就是要学的东西实在是太多，而我还没有学到的东西也太多。有时候我想，那时要是能学点真正重要的东西，今天我会多么地心存感激。在某些方面，当时的教育十分狭隘；关于拿破仑，在学校里我所学到的仅仅是美国从他手里买下了路易斯安那。（在一个约 95% 的居民不是美国人的星球上，学校当局认为只有美国历史才值得教授。）在拼写、语法、数学基础知识及其他一些重要科目方面，我的老师们做得相当不错。但是还有许多其他的东西，我希望他们曾教授给我。

2. 或许该教而没教的缺陷自那以后已经得以纠正。在我看来似乎有许多学校该教的东西（主要是态度问题、认识问题，而不是简单

的对事实记忆的问题)——那些在以后的生活中真正有用的东西,即那些能使国家更强大、世界更美好,也能使人们更幸福的东西。这是我们人类比这个地球上其他物种做得好些的为数有限的几件事情中的一件。每个学生都应该经常体验一下说出“啊,原来是这么一回事!”时的感受——也就是你以往不懂的或是不知道自己不懂的事情,一下子变得豁然开朗时的感受。

3. 下面就是我列出的学校该教的东西:

挑一件难事并把它学好

4. 希腊哲学家苏格拉底曾经说过这是人类最大乐趣之一,确实也是如此。与其涉足多门学科而略知一二,还不如选一两个学科学精学透。只要你对所选的课题感兴趣,只要你的研究不脱离课题本身更为广阔的人文环境,你的课题是什么并不重要。自学一个课题以后,你就会对自学另一课题的能力更加充满信心。你会逐渐发现你已获得了一种主要技能。世界的变化日新月异,你必须在一生中不断地自学。但不要沉溺于你感兴趣的或你发现自己擅长的第一个课题而止步不前。这个世界充满了奇妙的事物,有些我们完全长大成人之后才会发现;很遗憾,大部分我们一辈子也发现不了。

不要害怕问些“愚蠢的”问题

5. 许多看似幼稚的提问实际上是很深刻的问题,诸如草为何是绿的、太阳为何是圆的、为什么我们的世界需要 55,000 个核武器。对这些问题的回答很可能会使你对事物有深刻的理解。尽可能明确你有哪些事情不明白同样也很重要,提问题就是找出不懂之处的办法;提“愚蠢的”问题,对于提问者来说需要勇气,对答问者来说需要知识和耐心。不要把自己的学习局限于课堂。与朋友们深入地讨论不同的观点。明知会引起嘲笑而提问要比把问题埋在心里、对周围的一切变得麻木不仁勇敢得多。

仔细倾听

6. 很多情况下人们谈话时,总是争相表现自己,这类交谈对双