

Lesson 1 A private conversation

Last week I went to the theatre.

I had a very good seat.

The play was very interesting.

I did not enjoy it.

A young man and a young woman were sitting behind me.

They were talking loudly.

I got very angry.

I could not hear the actors.

I turned round.

I looked at the man and the woman angrily.

They did not pay any attention.

In the end, I could not bear it.

I turned round again.

‘I can’t hear a word!’ I said angrily.

‘It’s none of your business,’ the young man said rudely.

‘This is a private conversation!’

上星期我去看戏。

我的座位很好,

戏很有意思,

但我却无法欣赏。

一青年男子与一青年女子坐在我的身后,

大声地说着话。

我非常生气,

因为我听不见演员在说什么。

我回过头,

怒视着那一男一女,

他们却毫不理会。

最后, 我忍不住了,

又一次回过头去,

生气地说: “我一个字也听不见了!”

“不关你的事,” 那男的毫不客气地说,

“这是私人间的谈话!”

Lesson 64 The Channel Tunnel

In 1858, a French engineer, Aime Thome de Gamond, arrived in England with a plan for a twenty-one-mile tunnel under the English Channel.

He said that it would be possible to build a platform in the centre of the Channel.

This platform would serve as a port and a railway station.

The tunnel would be well-ventilated if tall chimneys were built above sea level.

In 1860, a better plan was put forward by an Englishman, William Low.

He suggested that a double railway-tunnel should be built.

This would solve the problem of ventilation, for if a train entered this tunnel, it would draw in fresh air behind it.

Forty-two years later a tunnel was actually begun.

If, at the time, the British had not feared invasion, it would have been completed.

The world had to wait almost another 100 years for the Channel Tunnel.

It was officially opened on March 7, 1994, finally connecting Britain to the European continent.

1858 年，一位名叫埃梅·托梅·德·干蒙的法国工程师带着建造一条长 21 英里、穿越英吉利海峡的隧道计划到了英国。

他说，可以在隧道中央建造一座平台。

这座平台将用作码头和火车站。

serve as 用作..., 充当...

如果再建些伸出海面的高大的烟囱状通风管，隧道就具备了良好的通风条件。

well-ventilated // 通风良好的

chimney // 烟囱

sea level 海平面

1860 年，一位名叫威廉·洛的英国人提出了一项更好的计划。

put forward 提出

他提议建一条双轨隧道，这样就解决了通风问题。

因为如果有一列火车开进隧道，它就把新鲜空气随之抽进了隧道。

ventilation // 通风

42 年以后，隧道实际已经开始建了。

如果不是因为那时英国人害怕入侵，隧道早已建成了。

世界不得不再等将近 100 年才看到海峡隧道竣工。

它于 1994 年 3 月 7 日正式开通，将英国与欧洲大陆连到了一起。

Lesson 65 Jumbo versus the police

Last Christmas, the circus owner, Jimmy Gates, decided to take some presents to a children's hospital.

Dressed up as Father Christmas and accompanied by a 'guard of honour' of six pretty girls, he **set off** down the main street of the city riding a baby elephant called Jumbo.

He should have known that the police would never allow this sort of thing.

A policeman approached Jimmy and told him he ought to have gone along a side street as Jumbo was holding up the traffic.

Though Jimmy agreed to go at once, Jumbo refused to move.

Fifteen policemen had to push very hard to get him off the main street.

The police had a difficult time, but they were most amused.

'Jumbo must weigh a few tons,' said a policeman afterwards, 'so it was fortunate that we didn't have to carry him. Of course, we should arrest him, but as he has a good record, we shall let him off this time.'

去年圣诞节，马戏团老板吉米·盖茨决定送些礼物给儿童医院。

他打扮成圣诞老人，在由 6 个漂亮姑娘组成的“仪仗队”的陪同下，骑上一头名叫江伯的小象，沿着城里的主要街道出发了。

set off 出发

他本该知道警察绝不会允许这类事情发生。

sort of 此类事情

一个警察走过来告诉吉米，他应该走一条小路，因为江伯阻碍了交通。

hold up 阻碍

虽然吉米同意马上就走，但江伯却拒绝移动。

15 个警察不得不使用很大的力气把它推离主要街道。

警察虽然吃了苦头，但他们还是感到很有趣。

"江伯一定有好几吨重，" 一个警察事后这样说，"值得庆幸的是它没让我们抬它走。当然，我们应该逮捕它。但由于它一贯表现很好，这次我们饶了它。"

let sb. off 饶恕

Lesson 66 Sweet as honey!

In 1963 a Lancaster bomber crashed on Wallis Island, a remote place in the South Pacific, a long way west of Samoa.

The plane wasn't too badly damaged. but over the years, the crash was forgotten and the wreck remained undisturbed.

Then in 1989, twenty-six years after the crash, the plane was accidentally rediscovered in an aerial survey of the island.

By this time, a Lancaster bomber in reasonable condition was rare and worth rescuing.

The French authorities had the plane packaged and moved in parts back to France.

Now a group of enthusiasts are going to have the plane restored.

It has four Rolls-Royce Merlin engines, but the group will need to have only three of them rebuilt.

Imagine their surprise and delight when they broke open the packing cases and found that the fourth engine was sweet as honey - still in perfect condition.

A colony of bees had turned the engine into a hive and it was totally preserved in beeswax!

1963 年，一架兰开斯特轰炸机在瓦立斯岛坠毁。那是南太平洋中一个很偏僻的小岛，位于萨摩亚群岛以西，距离群岛还有很长一段距离。

飞机损坏的程度并不严重，但是，多年来这起飞机失事已被遗忘，飞机残骸也没受到破坏。

wreck // 残骸

undisturbed //

于是，到了 1989 年，飞机失事 26 年后，在对小岛的一次航空勘查中那架飞机被意外地发现了。

aerial // 航空的

到了那个时候，状况良好的兰开斯特轰炸机实属罕见，值得抢救。

法国政府让人把飞机包装起来，一部分一部分地搬回法国。

一群热心人计划修复这架飞机。

enthusiast // 热心人

该飞机装配有 4 台罗尔斯-罗伊斯的默林发动机，但是他们只需要修复其中的 3 台。

想一想他们所感受到的惊奇和兴奋——当他们拆开包装箱时，他们发现第 4 台发动机就像蜂蜜一样甜——发动机完好无损。

一群蜜蜂把发动机当作了蜂房，发动机在蜂蜡中被完整地保存了下来。

hive /haɪv/ 蜂房

preserve // 保护

beeswax // 蜂蜡

Lesson 67 Volcanoes

Haroun Tazieff, the Polish scientist, has spent his lifetime studying active volcanoes and deep caves in all parts of the world.

In 1948, he went to Lake Kivu in the Congo to observe a new volcano which he later named Kituro.

Tazieff was able to set up his camp very close to the volcano while it was erupting violently.

Though he managed to take a number of brilliant photographs, he could not stay near the volcano for very long.

He noticed that a river of liquid rock was coming towards him.

It threatened to surround him completely, but Tazieff managed to escape just in time.

He waited until the volcano became quiet and he was able to return two days later.

This time, he managed to climb into the mouth of Kituro so that he could take photographs and measure temperatures.

Tazieff has often risked his life in this way.

He has been able to tell us more about active volcanoes than any man alive.

波兰科学家哈罗恩，塔捷耶夫花了毕生的精力来研究世界各地的活火山和深洞。

1948 年他去了刚果的基伍湖。对一座后来被他命名为基图罗的新火山进行观察。

当火山正在猛烈地喷发时。塔捷耶夫有办法把帐篷搭在离它非常近的地方。

尽管他设法拍了一些十分精彩的照片，但他却不能在火山附近停留太长的时间。

他发现有一股岩浆正向他流过来，

眼看就要将他团团围住，但塔捷耶夫还是设法及时逃离了。

他等到火山平静下来，两天以后又返回去。

这次他设法爬进了基图罗火山口，以便能拍摄照片和测试温度。

塔捷耶夫经常冒这样的生命危险。

他能告诉我们的有关活火山的情况比任何在世的人都要多。

Lesson 68 Persistent

I crossed the street to avoid meeting him, but he saw me and came running towards me.

It was no use pretending that I had not seen him, so I waved to him.

I never enjoy meeting Nigel Dykes.

He never has anything to do.

No matter how busy you are, he always insists on coming with you.

I had to think of a way of preventing him from following me around all morning.

‘Hello, Nigel,’ I said. ‘Fancy meeting you here!’

“Hi, Elizabeth,” Nigel answered.

‘I was just wondering how to spend the morning — until I saw you.

You’re not busy doing anything, are you?’

‘No, not at all,’ I answered. ‘I’m going to . . .’

‘Would you mind my coming with you?’ he asked, before I had finished speaking.

‘Not at all,’ I lied, ‘but I’m going to the dentist.’

‘Then I’ll come with you,’ he answered.

‘There’s always plenty to read in the waiting room!’

我穿过马路以便避开他，但他看到我并朝我跑过来。

若再装作没看见他已是没有用了，我只好向他招手。

我就怕遇到奈杰尔·戴克斯。

他从来都是无事可做。

不管你多忙，他总是坚持要跟你去。

我得想办法不让他整个上午缠着我。

“你好，奈杰尔，想不到在这儿见到你。”我说。

“你好，伊丽莎白奈。”杰尔回答说，

“我正不知道怎么消磨这一上午呢，正好见到你。

你不忙，是吗？

“不，不忙，我打算去...”我回答。

“我跟你一道去行吗？”没等我说完话他就问道。

“没关系，但我准备去牙医那里。”我说了个谎。

“那我也跟你去，”他回答。

“候诊室里总有很多东西可供阅读！”