NEC-3

49 The ideal servant 理想的仆人

It is a good thing {主从my aunt Harriet died years ago}. [If she were alive（adj.） today] she would not be able to air公开（观点、不满等） her views on（对…）公开发表意见 her favourite topic主题,话题 of conversation: domestic servants佣人.

→if she were …… she would not be able…为「非真实性条件状语从句」。因为所陈述的内容为对现在情况的假设，因此使用 were和would not be这样的动词形式。

→air one’s views （on/about/to）……：（对……）公开发表意见

Aunt Harriet lived in that leisurely从容的,悠闲的 age （when servants were employed to do housework）. She had a huge, rambling杂乱无章的 country house called 'The Gables（n.）尖顶屋两端的山形墙'.

She was sentimentally（adv.）情感（上）地；（尤指）（出于）怀旧地 attached（adj.）非常喜欢…的，热爱…的 to this house, for even though it was far too big for her needs, she persisted in顽强坚持；执著 living there [long after her husband's death]. Before she grew old, Aunt Harriet used to entertain招待;款待 lavishly慷慨地，大方地.

→you are attached（adj.） to someone or something, 非常喜欢…的，热爱…的

→you persist（v.） in doing something, 顽强坚持；执著 （介词“in +名词或「动名词」”形式）

I often visited The Gables when I was boy. No matter how many guests were present（adj.）, the great house was always immaculate（adj.）干净整洁的;纤尘不染的. The parquet拼花地板；镶木地板 floors shone [like mirrors]； highly polished用擦亮剂等）擦光，擦亮 silver银器(尤指餐具) was displayed in gleaming反光；闪光 glass cabinets内阁；柜橱； even甚至 my uncle's huge collection of books was kept miraculously奇迹般地 free from dust.

Aunt Harriet presided over负责；主持 an invisible army of servants （that continuously scrubbed用力擦洗；刷净, cleaned, and polished擦光，擦亮）. She always referred to称…（为） them as 'the shifting不断移动的；流动的 population', for they came and went with such frequency that I never even got a chance to learn their names.

→If you preside over a meeting or an event, you are in charge. 负责；主持

Though my aunt pursued执行；贯彻，寻求；追求 {宾从what was, in those days, an enlightened policy开明政策} , in that 因为,就在于,既然she never allowed her domestic staff（一组织的）全体工作人员，职员 to work more than eight hours a day, she was extremely极端地；非常，很 difficult to please使高兴；使满意.

→in that因为，就在于，既然。复合连词，引导“原因状语从句”，从狭隘的一面或几面来说明原因或理由，含有“推论条件”的意味。

→to please作状语，修饰difficult。she与to please有逻辑上的“动宾关系”。

While尽管，虽然 she always criticized批评;指责;批判 the fickleness（adj.）变化无常的；善变的；靠不住的 of human nature, she carried on继续；接着；坚持 an unrelenting（adj.）没完没了的；无休止的 search for the ideal servant [to the end到底；直到死 of her days], even after she had been sadly disillusioned使醒悟；使不再抱幻想 by Bessie.

→you carry on doing something, v.继续；接着；坚持

you carry on an activity, v.举行；进行；开展

→to the end到底；直到死。通常用于表示“极点”或“程度”

Bessie worked for Aunt Harriet for three years. During that time she so gained获得；赢得 my aunt's confidence信心；信任 that she was put in charge（n.） of the domestic staff. Aunt Harriet could not find words to praise Bessie's industriousness（n.）勤奋 and efficiency（n.）效率；效能.

In addition to除……以外还 all her other qualifications资格，能力, Bessie was an expert cook. She acted the role of the perfect servant for three years [before Aunt Harriet discovered her 'little weakness'].

→in addition to（介）+名/动名ing …除…以外还，短语介同，后接名词、「动名词」 等，并与之一起作「状语」。往往用来表示“对所陈述事情首先肯定，后再加以补充”

After being absent（adj.） from不在，缺席 the Gables for a week, my aunt unexpectedly想不到的；未预料到的 returned [one afternoon] with a party of guests / and instructed吩咐;命令 Bessie to prepare dinner.

Not only was the meal well below the usual standard, but Bessie seemed unable to walk steadily稳定地,稳固地. She bumped（无意地）碰撞，冲撞 into the furniture and kept mumbling咕哝;含糊地说 about the guests.

→bump into 撞到。有时也用来表示“意外碰到”

如，He bumped into an old friend yesterday. 他昨天意外地碰到了一个老朋友。

When she came in with the last course ——a huge pudding甜点心；布丁 ——she tripped将…绊倒；使跌倒 on the carpet / and the pudding went flying through the air, narrowly狭窄地；勉强地 missed my aunt, and crashed碰撞;相撞 on the dining table [with considerable force].

Though this caused great mirth（n.）欢笑;欢乐 among the guests, Aunt Harriet was horrified惊骇的,使感到震惊;使产生反感. She reluctantly不情愿地，勉强地 came to the conclusion得出这样的结论 that Bessie was drunk（adj.）喝醉的.

The guests had, of course, realized this from the moment Bessie opened the door for them / and, long before the final catastrophe, had had a difficult time 宾补trying to conceal隐藏，隐瞒 their amusement.

→在英语中，the moment可作连词，表示“一….就…”，即as soon as 之意，

如：Tell me the moment you get the results. 你一得到结果，就立刻告诉我。

→have a difficult/hard，etc. time doing. 费很大的力气做 …

如：Poor Susan had a time trying to get the children to go to bed. 可怜的苏珊费了很大的力气，才使孩子们上床睡觉。

The poor girl was dismissed解雇,遣散 instantly立即，马上. After her departure离开;启程;动身, Aunt Harriet discovered that there were piles of empty wine bottles of all shapes and sizes neatly（adv.）整洁的；整齐的 stacked (整齐地)堆放，排放 in what had once been Bessie's wardrobe衣柜，衣橱. They had mysteriously found their way there [from the wine cellar地窖]!

→find one’s way… 找到…的路。句中 had mysteriously found their way……为拟人用法

1. in that因为，就在于，既然。复合连词，引导“原因状语从句”，从狭隘的一面或几面来说明原因或理由，含有“推论条件”的意味，多用于书面语，通常置于主句后，偶尔置于主句前，如：

The book is unsatisfactory / in that it lacks a good index. 这本书不能令人满意，因为缺少一个完善的索引。（un-satis-factory [ˌʌn-ˌsætɪs-ˈfæk-təri] adj. 不能令人满意的；不符合要求的；不满足的）

I could understand his point of view，in that I'd been in a similar position myself. 我能理解他的观点，因为我自己也有过类似的处境。

In that he killed Abel，he was a murderer. 既然他把艾贝尔杀了，他就是一个凶手。

1. to the end到底；直到死。通常用于表示“极点”或“程度”，如：

They'll fight to the end. 他们将战斗到底。

A true friend is faithful to the end. 一个忠诚的朋友是忠实到底的。

1. in addition to（介）+名/动名ing……除……以外还，短语介同，后接名词、「动名词」 等，并与之一起作「状语」。往往用来表示“对所陈述事情首先肯定，后再加以补充”，如：

In addition to books，the delegate代表，代表团成员 presented our university with other valuable gifts. 除书籍外，那位代表还赠送给我校其他一些珍贵礼品。

1. 在英语中，the moment可作连词，表示“一…….就……”，即as soon as 之意，如：

Tell me the moment you get the results. 你一得到结果，就立刻告诉我。

除此以外，immediately、the minute、the instant（[ˈɪns-tənt] n. 瞬间，顷刻；此刻）、the second 等也可以这样使用，如：

Tell me immediately you have any news. 一有消息，你就立刻告诉我。

I loved you the instant （I saw you）. 一见到你，我就爱上了你。

1. find one’s way… 找到……的路。句中 had mysteriously found their way……为拟人用法，如:

[In those days] many precious art objects found their way across the Atlantic. 那时，许多珍贵艺术品，被运到了大西洋彼岸。

The word has found its way into some diplomatic documents. 这个词已在一些外交文件中使用。（diplo-matic [ˌdɪ-plə-ˈmæ-tɪk] adj. 外交上的；外交人员的；有手腕的；策略的）

50 New Year resolutions（n.）决心 新年的决心

The New Year is a time for resolutions. Mentally内心里, at least, most of us could compile编辑,编制 formidable令人惊叹的；艰巨的 lists of 'dos' and 'don'ts'. The same old favorites recur 复发；重现 year in year out年复一年 with monotonous单调乏味的；毫无变化的 regularity（n.）规律,规律性.

We resolve决定；下定决心 to get up earlier each morning, eat less, find more time to play with the children, do a thousand and one许许多多的 jobs about the house, be nice to people we don't' like, drive carefully, and take the dog for a walk every day.

Past experience has taught us that certain accomplishments成就，造诣 are beyond attainment达不到的，做不到的. If we 系remain（事实、问题等)仍然是(表示强调) 表inveterate（adj.）积习不改的；上瘾的 smokers, it is only because we have so often experienced the frustration（n.）挫折,失败 （that results由……产生 from failure）.

（如果我们烟瘾大，戒不掉，那是因为屡戒屡败，失去信心。）

→You can use remain in expressions such as the fact remains that or the question remains whether，系动词：（事实、问题等)仍然是(表示强调)

如，The question remains whether he was fully aware of the claims. 问题是他是否完全意识到了这些要求。

The fact remains that inflation is unacceptably high... 事实是通货膨胀率仍高得离谱。

→that results from failure由于失败而产生的。作定语。

result from由……产生，因……而起。

Most of us fail in our efforts at self-improvement（n.）自我完善 [because our schemes are too ambitious雄心勃勃的/ and we never have time to carry them out实行，执行]. We also make the fundamental基础的，根本的 error of announcing our resolutions正式决定，决议 to everybody / so that we look even more foolish [when we slip back滑回，退回 into our bad old ways].

→fail in在……方面失败。后接名词、代词或「动名词」

Aware（adj.） of these pitfalls隐患；陷阱；圈套, this year I attempted to keep my resolutions to myself. I limited myself to two modest要求不过分的,谦虚的 ambitions: to do physical exercise every morning / and to read more of an evening.

→you are aware（adj.） of something, 知道的；明白的，注意到的；察觉到的；意识到的

→keep… to oneself 把……秘藏心底

→limit… to… 把…限定在…

I shall limit myself to three aspects of the subject. 我只准备讨论这个问题的3个方面。

→of an evening相当于in the evenings，类似的表达法如：

of a Sunday = on Sundays of a night = at nights

An all-night整夜，通宵 party on New Year's Eve provided me with a good excuse （for not carrying out either（两者之中）任何一个 of these new resolutions [on the first day of the year]）, but on the second, I applied使（自己）全神贯注于 myself assiduously刻苦地；勤奋地 to the task.

（不过，新年第二天，我全力以赴地照着去做了。）

→you apply yourself to something / or apply your mind to something, v.使（自己）全神贯注于；使（注意力等）集中于

apply oneself to（介）… 全力以赴于……，致力于…

The daily exercises lasted only eleven minutes / and I proposed建议,提议;打算,计划 to do them early in the morning before anyone had got up. The self-discipline自我约束 （required要求;命令 to drag myself out of bed eleven minutes earlier than usual） was considerable相当多的;相当大的.

（早锻炼一共只有11分钟，我打算在别人起床之前进行。这就要求我比平时早11分钟把自己从床上拽起来，这种自我约束是很艰苦的。）

→you propose to do something, v.打算；计划

Nevertheless然而；尽管如此, I managed to creep down into the living room for two days before anyone found me out. After jumping about [on the carpet] / and twisting扭曲身体，扭动；旋转 the human frame（n.）(人体的)骨架;(尤指)体形，体态 into uncomfortable positions, I sat down at the breakfast table in an exhausted condition. It was this that betrayed背叛,出卖；流露出,暴露出me.

→twist （…）into …使（…）扭曲成…，把（…）扭曲成…，有时被引申用来表示“将（…）歪曲成…，把（…）歪曲成…

→It was this that betrayed me. 「强调句」由it引导。被强调部分是指示代词this.

[The next morning] the whole family trooped成群移动，结队前行 in to watch the performance. That was really unsettling令人担忧的；令人不安的, but I fended off挡开,回避,制止 the taunts嘲笑；奚落 and jibes嘲弄；讥讽 of the family [good-humouredly（adv.）和气地，心情好地] / and soon everybody got used to the idea. However, my enthusiasm（n.）热情,热忱 waned衰落；减少；变暗淡.

→trooped in 结队而入。

→you fend off unwanted questions, problems, or people, v.挡开，避开(问题或人)

you fend off someone who is attacking you, 挡住，抵挡(攻击)

fend v. 防御，保护；供养；闪避，挡开

The time （I spent at exercises） gradually diminished（使）减小；（使）减弱；（使）降低. [Little by little一点点地，逐渐地] the eleven minutes fell to zero. By January 10th, I was back to where I had started from.

I argued争论,提出理由 that if I spent less time exhausting myself at exercises in the morning, I would keep my mind fresh for reading [when I got home from work]. 目的状Resisting抵抗;抵制 the hypnotizing使着迷;使沉醉 effect of television, I sat in my room [for a few evenings] with my eyes glued用胶水粘 to book.

→keep one’s mind fresh for…… 保持头脑清醒地…

→someone is glued to something, v.完全吸引；使专注于

→with my eyes glued to a book为带有介词with的「独立主格结构」，my eyes为分词短语glued to a book的逻辑主语。

One night, however, feeling cold and lonely, I went downstairs / and sat in front of the television pretending 假装,装作 to read. That proved to be my undoing（n.）失败的原因；毁灭的原因, for I soon got back to 回到，恢复到 my old bad habit of dozing off打瞌睡 in front of the screen.

I still haven't given up my resolution （to do more reading）. In fact, I have just bought a book （entitled How to Read a Thousand Words a Minute）. Perhaps it will solve my problem, but I just haven't had time to read it!

1. By January 10th, I was back to where I had started from.

where I had started from起始点。这里where连词引导 一个「名词性从句」，作介词to的宾语。

除where外，「名词性从句」 还可由连词 what、whatever、whoever、whichever、wherever、 when、whenever等引导。这样使用的连词，相当于「定语从句」中 “先行词+关系代词/副词”的作用，如文中那样，当用于介词之后时，介词不能省略，如：

I’ll vote for whoever promises to reduce taxes. 谁答应减税，我就投谁的票。

I often think about when I was young. 我经常回想我年轻的时候。