

B3U5 Key & Script

Part I Pre-Reading Task

1. In the Gobi Desert it sounds like the dunes are singing. Actually, they are advancing, pushing people out of their homes, now swallowed by the sand.
2. In this village there is only one family remaining. 90-year-old Tubibatu and his wife Tuwachin were born here, and they plan to stay.
3. They've chosen to defy the desert. Every day the couple ride their motorbike to the nearest well, collecting water for the shrubs they have been planting for 15 years, building a dam against the ocean of sand.
4. "We have faced many difficulties. Often we plant bushes but the wind takes them away. It's a natural disaster."
5. Desertification is the biggest ecological danger China faces. Beijing is planting a great green wall of China, 4,800 kilometers by 1,500 kilometers along the border of the Gobi Desert.

Transcript:

One of China's Many Efforts to Fight Desertification

In the Gobi Desert it sounds like the dunes are singing. Actually, they are advancing, pushing people out of their homes, now swallowed by the sand.

In this village there is only one family remaining. 90-year-old Tubibatu and his wife Tuwachin were born here, and they plan to stay.

"People say that I am crazy because I still live here. They ask why you are staying in the desert when we could live a better life elsewhere. Often people want to know how we can confront the desert and defy nature."

They've chosen to defy the desert. Every day the couple ride their motorbike to the nearest well, collecting water for the shrubs they have been planting for 15 years, building a dam against the ocean of sand.

"We have faced many difficulties. Often we plant bushes but the wind takes them away. It's a natural disaster. The desert is a natural disaster."

This natural disaster is known as the yellow dragon, a fitting name for the sandstorms that can reach as far as the capital Beijing, choking city-dwellers. Desertification is the biggest ecological danger China faces.

Beijing is planting a great green wall of China, 4,800 kilometers by 1,500 kilometers along the border of the Gobi Desert. This ambitious project was launched in 1978. 66 billion trees have been planted so far. In this province it has been a success. The new forest of shrubs is acting like a buffer zone. It is even gaining on the desert.

"Before all of this there was only desert. It took 15 years to create this oasis."

Can the yellow dragon be stopped by the great green wall? Aiming to plant the largest artificial forest in the world, China plans to continue the project until 2050.

Part II Text A

Comprehension

1. Text Analysis

Events	Napoleon's Invasion of Russia	Hitler's Invasion of the Soviet Union
Invader's Expectations	victory within 5 weeks	victory within 3 months
Casualties	At least 500,000 of the 600,000 French soldiers died in the war.	The Soviet Union lost 23 million lives. Hitler lost 210 thousand in Moscow alone.
Russia's Strategy	retreat, scorch the earth, bide their time, hit-and-run	retreat, scorch the earth, refuse to surrender under siege, counterattack
Result	Napoleon's downfall and abdication, fall of the French Empire	fall of Nazi Germany
The Point the Author Tries to Make	The power of nature in shaping the course of history should not be underestimated.	

2. Structured Rewriting

(answer for your reference)

In the spring of 1812, Napoleon began his invasion of Russia, confident of a quick victory. 1) In the face of the advancing French army, the Russians kept retreating, biding their time until the severe Russian winter came to their aid. When winter came, the French soldiers began to die of cold and hunger in large numbers. Their retreat turned into a disaster, leading finally to the fall of Napoleon's empire.

In 1941, Hitler launched his undeclared war against the Soviet Union. 2) Using the tactics of blitzkrieg, he anticipated a quick victory. But the resistance of the Soviet people and Russia's severe winter turned the tide against him. The retreat of his troops was followed by Stalin's counter-offensive, which led to the fall of Nazi Germany.

Both Napoleon and Hitler failed to reckon with the elements of nature. 3) Both underestimated the severity of the Russian winter. What they expected to be easy and quick victories turned out to be the greatest military disasters in human history.

3. Translating Difficult Sentences

- 1) 拿破仑对马到成功充满自信，预言要在 5 个星期内攻下俄国。
- 2) 大军团紧追不舍，但它的推进很快由于补给运输缓慢而停顿下来。
- 3) 拿破仑孤注一掷，决定向远在 448 公里之外的莫斯科进发。
- 4) 苏联领导人约瑟夫·斯大林被打了个措手不及，他指示全国人民在德国入侵者面前实行“焦土”政策。
- 5) 正当希特勒的军队逼近莫斯科时，寒冷的冬季早早地降临苏联大地，而且是多年不遇的严寒。

4. Discussion Questions

Answers up to students.

Language Sense Enhancement

1. In 1812, Napoleon Bonaparte, Emperor of the French, led his Grand Army into Russia. He was prepared for 1) the fierce resistance of the Russian people defending their homeland. He was prepared for 2) the long march across Russian soil to Moscow. But he was not prepared for 3) the devastating enemy that met him there — the raw, bitter, 4) bleak Russian winter.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler, leader of Nazi Germany, 5) launched an attack against the Soviet Union, as Russia then was called. Hitler's 6) military might was unequaled. His war machine had 7) mowed down resistance in most of Europe. Hitler expected a short 8) campaign but, like Napoleon before him, was taught 9) a painful lesson. The Russian winter again came to 10) the aid of the Soviet soldiers.

Language Focus

I. Basic Practice

1.

- 1) They are now in a position to govern the country in alliance with either the Free Democrats or the Green Party.
- 2) The government troops recaptured the city from the rebels at the cost of two thousand casualties.
- 3) A team of experts were assembled to study the environmental impact of the project.
- 4) The media campaign was designed to increase public awareness of food safety.
- 5) The aircraft had to undergo an endurance test of temperatures of minus 65 degrees Celsius and plus 120 degrees.
- 6) Firm leadership and decisive action are what people want to see in their leaders.
- 7) Not altogether to his surprise, Edna seemed to have feelings very similar to his own about the matter.
- 8) The men who were trapped in the cave faced a desperate struggle to stay alive.
- 9) The government forces engaged the terrorists in the northwestern part of the country.
- 10) Much to my surprise Mary said many harsh and unkind things about her former opponents.
- 11) Months of exploring in the Arctic took a heavy toll on his health.
- 12) My school was among the first to equip the classrooms with computers.
- 13) These tests were so poorly designed as to render the results meaningless.
- 14) The doctor said to the patient, "Medication can help shorten the course of the illness and lessen its severity."
- 15) Is it the teacher's job or is it the responsibility of the parents to instruct children in good manners, acceptable standards of behaviour and in telling the difference between right and wrong?

2.

- 1) There is no cure for the disease, although drugs can slow down its pace of development.
- 2) The new president will have to reckon with all the angry voices if he fails to deliver on his campaign promises.
- 3) The prime minister has decided to press on with his plans for reform.
- 4) Fears that the world was about to run out of fuel has proved groundless.
- 5) Just figuring out how to use the equipment took the medical staff a whole hour.
- 6) The handshake was his first face-to-face opportunity to size up his potential opponent.

3.

- 1) Without air support, our prospect of winning the campaign looked bleak. But, because the enemy underestimated us, we were able to catch them off guard by a surprise attack. We won a decisive victory, which helped to turn the tide of war.
- 2) Unity is crucial to an organization. Failure to reckon with this problem will weaken the effectiveness of its operation. In many cases, constant friction within an organization has brought its work to a halt.
- 3) The school is pressing ahead with its regular assessment of teachers to encourage better performance. But it is still biding its time for a full scale reform, in part because it is still awaiting further instructions from the Ministry of Education.

II. Usage

- 1) As it was getting dark, I decided to stop at a motel.
- 2) Do exactly as I say.
- 3) At night, I used my coat as a blanket.
- 4) This year, as in previous years, tickets sold very quickly.
- 5) I slipped on the thin ice as I ran home.
- 6) The situation is not so bad as you suggest.
- 7) You may need to include in your report background materials as appropriate.
- 8) The market is falling. Adjust your expectations as necessary.

III. Inversion

- 1) Not until it was too late did they find that things had gone wrong.
- 2) Never before had the invaders encountered such fierce resistance.
- 3) Not in the least did the joke embarrass me.
- 4) In front of our house runs a little brook that goes right through the village.
- 5) Underneath the address was Tom's signature.
- 6) Not until midnight did the plane arrive at the airport.

Comprehensive Exercises

I. Cloze

The English often complain about the 1) severity of their weather, but in 1588 they had reason to be grateful to it, for it was to play a 2) decisive part in the defeat of the Spanish Armada, a huge fleet 3) assembled by the Spanish king when he decided to 4) press ahead with his plan to conquer England.

On 19th July, the Armada was spotted off the coast of England and the English fleet set out to 5) engage it. Over five days the two sides fought a series of battles. Then, on the night of 27th July, the English struck a blow that was to 6) turn the tide of events. Just after midnight eight old English ships were set on fire and allowed to drift into the Armada anchored off Calais. 7) Caught off guard, many of the Spanish crews panicked and cut their anchor cables in their hurry to escape. The Armada then 8) fled northwards, hoping to find a safe way home by way of Scotland.

But the 9) gamble failed, for the Spanish had not 10) reckoned with the start of the 11) harsh autumnal British weather. As the Armada rounded the north of Scotland, it sailed into one of the most 12) devastating storms to hit that coast in years. Without anchor cables its ships were unable to find 13) shelter from the storm and many crashed onto the rocks with great loss of life.

Other storms followed, leaving only 67 of the original 120 ships to 14) limp back home. The English, convinced that God had sent the storms to help them, celebrated with a medal declaring, "God blew and they were scattered."

II. Translation

The outcome of the winter campaign proved that the strategy adopted by our commander was correct. When our enemy assembled all their forces and took the gamble of pressing on all the way towards the east, he instructed us to bide our time and not to engage the enemy. He predicted that with the coming of the severe winter and heavy snow, the enemy transportation vehicles would be slowed down and their equipment rendered useless. Sooner or later their supplies would run out. As it turned out, when the temperature dropped to minus 20 degrees Celsius, the enemy soldiers, starved and frozen, could not pursue us any further. The freezing cold and heavy snow had taken their toll. Enemy soldiers limped their way through the snow and mud. It was then that our commander ordered a counter-attack. The enemy were completely caught off guard. Severely weakened by the long march, they were unable to put up any resistance. To no one's surprise, most enemy soldiers just threw down their arms. We won a decisive victory that turned the tide of the war.

Part III Text B

Comprehension Check

1. D 2. D 3. B 4. A 5. A 6. D

Language Practice

- 1) Years of military service have hardened him.
- 2) The wooden boat was built to withstand just about every weather condition at sea.
- 3) Work is scheduled to commence on February 1.
- 4) Jim Brown, our class president, was the designated speaker at the commencement.
- 5) I don't see any point going on a picnic in such bad weather. Let's call it off.
- 6) The pace of political change in the country took many people by surprise.
- 7) In this hotly contested election, who will come out the winner is really hard to predict.
- 8) He had felt no pain or discomfort prior to the heart attack.
- 9) Make sure that all the tools you may need are in place before you start the work.
- 10) The prime minister has just announced that the economy of the country is in good shape.
- 11) The farmers hold the late spring cold weather responsible for the crop failure.
- 12) We have arranged for our engineer to come next week in case you need any technical help.
- 13) Hitler's original plan was to kill off all the German Jews.
- 14) Getting frustrated will only hinder your work.
- 15) You cannot cancel the flight at such short notice.

Part IV Comprehensive Language Practice

Viewing & Comprehension Practice

- 1.

1) T 2) F 3) T 4) T 5) F

2.

- 1) Using gravity, the canals carry water from the rain-soaked mountains to the desert.
- 2) But maintaining the ancient system is difficult, and risky.
- 3) "I have been doing this for 10 years. The first time it was quite scary. But after a while I got used to it."
- 4) "It is important to do this. If we don't, the canals will dry up and the village will not have drinking water."
- 5) The scale of production here is best revealed from the air. Farmers use these mud-brick blocks to dehydrate millions of grapes and make raisins. It is another ingenious example of people working with Mother Nature.

Transcript:

The Modern-Day Engineering Marvel

In western China, another engineering wonder is more understated.

This is Turpan, home of the Uygur people. It's a dry and desolate area spotted with odd-looking mounds. Those bumps are actually wells that lead to an ancient irrigation system called the Karez. Beneath the surface, more than a thousand vertical wells stretch down to canals. Using gravity, the canals carry water from the rain-soaked mountains to the desert. The underground canals prevent the water from evaporating while the wells give people access to the water. Today this system nourishes an area called Grape Valley, once an oasis for weary travelers along the Silk Road.

But maintaining the ancient system is difficult, and risky. (Sadik Eysa) "I have been doing this for 10 years. The first time it was quite scary. But after a while I got used to it."

Workers regularly descend into the wells to dredge out sediment and stabilize the walls.

"It is important to do this. If we don't, the canals will dry up and the village will not have drinking water."

The canals provide drinking water to thousands and irrigate 30% of the crops in the region. Some of these grape fields date back to the third century.

The scale of production here is best revealed from the air. Farmers use these mud-brick blocks to dehydrate millions of grapes and make raisins. It is another ingenious example of people working with Mother Nature.