

Aims and Objectives

In this unit you will learn:

1. Genre/Style: Exposition
2. Word Power: Prefix & Conversion
3. Grammar: Concessive Clauses
4. Writing Skill: Exposition (1)
5. Translation Skill: Be Aware of False Friends
6. Reading Skill: Introduction to Effective Reading

Brief Introductions to the Texts

The first article in this unit *Books* points out the importance of learning to read at a young age, and making reading a lifelong habit. The author pleads for government and family support for reading and having many books available.

The second passage by Dave Barry, *Cannons, Cell-Phone and Zippers* is an attempt by the author to use humor to make the point that sometimes technology goes too far.

The last passage *What Does a Credit Card Bring Us?* by Eillton Henley is a brief but excellent article about credit cards. The author explains how credit cards work and points out both the positive and negative reasons for having them.

Part A

Intensive Reading

Reading

Pre-Reading

Task 1

Whole class activity: Why do we read?

Task 2

Pairwork: There is a reading method known as SQ3R. Discuss with your partner what SQ3R stands for?

Reading and Thinking

Books

Knowledge may be acquired through conversation, watching television or travelling, but the deepest and most consistent way is through reading. If we consider the literate population of the world, we may conclude that a few spend their whole lives on academic reading; many read something light for pleasure, a few dip into something more serious now and then; while very many men, women and children never advance beyond the sports page of a newspaper, a fashion article or the comics.

If you have learned to love books as a child, the reading habit will never desert you. But if this has not been your good fortune, you tend to think of reading as a bore. A few, but very few, come to the

Can you use another verb to replace the verb "advance" without changing the meaning of the sentence?

habit late in life. The circumstances which help to set a child on the path to the literary adventure are: a life even barely above real poverty, so that there is scope in the family for thoughts and activities not
 15 wholly devoted to the struggle for making a living; the availability of free books either in the home or in public library; and the possession of a character both curious and independent.

Do you have something to add to the already mentioned circumstances?

In order to desire to read one must be curious. A few children are able to keep this curiosity and their mental independence alive despite the educational system of their country. But many fail to do so
 20 either because of an overstrict system where what is most important is memory work; or because of a careless and lazy one where even the basic disciplines of literacy are ignored in the sacred name of free expression. It is a wonder that at least a few children survive their
 25 schooling and emerge as people who can think, people who are open-minded and knowledgeable.

What does the author mean by “despite the educational system of their country”?

Thus, various circumstances are not favorable for the reading habit. And we may add to this the worldwide atmosphere of violence and anarchy, the New Dark Age¹ in which we live today. Many of us
 30 no longer have the peace of mind necessary to a quiet hour with a book. But it is precisely because of our present troubles that we should read. How, otherwise, are we to understand the nature of hatred, of cruelty, of power politics? How, otherwise, are we to take a stand on the serious question of individual freedom and authority? How,
 35 otherwise, are we to comprehend and perhaps solve these urgent problems that face us?

Can you give some examples of violence and anarchy in the contemporary world?

Ideally then, an education system should be one in which the love of learning, rather than the acquisition of facts, is cultivated; one in which the spirit of enquiry is encouraged. Ideally, family and gov-
 40 ernmental policy should be to see that we have a great number of books—any books. A person with a book is a real person alive on the earth; without a book he is a fool. (479 words)

Is there anything special in the style of this paragraph?

1. **Dark Age**: the period in European history from about AD 476 (the fall of Rome) to about AD 1000, believed to be lacking in knowledge and art 欧洲中世纪的早期 (5 世纪至 11 世纪, 被认为是愚昧黑暗时代); 欧洲中世纪

NEW WORDS

acquire /ə'kwaɪə/	<i>vt.</i>	to gain, to come to acquire 取得, 获得; 学到
▲ literate /'lɪtərɪt/	<i>a.</i>	able to read or write 有读写能力的; well-educated 有文化修养的
dip /dɪp/	<i>vt.</i>	(dipped; dipping) to put sth. in/into a liquid for a moment 浸, 蘸
	<i>vi.</i>	to drop slightly 落下, 下降
	<i>n.</i>	浸, 蘸
fashion /'fæʃən/	<i>n.</i>	manner 方式, 样子; way of dressing or behaving that is popular at a certain time 流行款式, 时新式样, 时装
comic /'kɒmɪk/	<i>a.</i>	of comedy 喜剧的; funny 滑稽的
	<i>n.</i>	children's magazine with sets of funny drawings 连环漫画; comedian 喜剧演员
desert /dɪ'zə:t/	<i>vt.</i>	to leave (a place) empty, to leave (people) cruelly 离弃, 抛弃, 舍弃; to leave military service without permission 从……开小差, 擅离 (职守)
	<i>vi.</i>	开小差, 擅离职守
literary /'lɪtərəri/	<i>a.</i>	of literature 文学 (上) 的; of writers 文人的, 书卷气的
wholly /'həʊli/	<i>ad.</i>	completely, entirely 完全地, 全部地
possession /pə'zeʃən/	<i>n.</i>	ownership 所有, 占有; property (<i>pl.</i>) 占用物
curious /'kjʊəriəs/	<i>a.</i>	eager to learn 好奇的, 好求知的; peculiar 奇特的, 稀奇的
overstrict /'əʊvə'strɪkt/	<i>a.</i>	过于严格的
★ sacred /'seɪkrɪd/	<i>a.</i>	holy 神圣的; connected with religion 宗教的; solemn 神圣不可侵犯的
emerge /i'mə:dʒ/	<i>vi.</i>	(from) come out 浮现, 出现; (of facts) become known (问题等) 发生, 显露, (事实等) 暴露
▲ anarchy /'ænəki/	<i>n.</i>	absence of government or control 无政府状态, 混乱, 无秩序
precisely /pri'saɪsli/	<i>ad.</i>	exactly 正好, 恰恰
hatred /'heɪtrɪd/	<i>n.</i>	hate 憎恶, 憎恨
cruelty /'kru:əlti/	<i>n.</i>	(to sb./sth.) behavior that causes pain or suffering to others, especially deliberately 残忍, 残酷

urgent /'ɜːdʒənt/	<i>a.</i>	calling for immediate attention 急迫的, 紧要的
cultivate /'kʌltiveɪt/	<i>vt.</i>	to break up land 耕作, 栽培, 养殖; to improve or develop by careful attention, training, or study 培养, 陶冶, 发展
enquiry/inquiry /in'kwaiəri/	<i>n.</i>	question, request 打听, 询问; survey, investigation 调查

PHRASES

dip into	to read a book for a short time 随便翻阅, 浏览; to use up (money) 花钱
come to the habit	to form the habit gradually 养成习惯
set sb. on the path to	to lead on the way to do or become 将某人引上……道路
make a living	to earn a living; to live by some means 谋生
in the name of	using the authority of 以……名义
take a stand on	to express one's attitude toward an opinion on 采取……的立场, 表明态度
see (to it) that	to make sure of sth. 注意, 务必做到, 保证使

EXERCISES

Reading Comprehension

Task 3

Are the following statements true or false? Mark "T" before a true statement and "F" before a false one.

- _____ 1. In the author's opinion, a child can be set on the path of literature with the guidance of a good teacher.
- _____ 2. Most children fail to keep their curiosity and mental independence alive because of the educational system in their country.
- _____ 3. The author thinks that people's peace of mind necessary to read books is disturbed by many present troubles.
- _____ 4. In line 10, "good fortune" refers to being born into a rich family.
- _____ 5. In line 29, "the New Dark Age" refers to the lack of knowledge and art in the present

age.

- _____ 6. The author argues that what should be encouraged is a love of learning rather than mere memory work.

Task 4

Raise questions that match the following answers.

1. _____?
One can acquire knowledge through reading, travelling, conversation, net-surfing, etc.
2. _____?
Those who can read and write form the literate population of the world.
3. _____?
One needs to possess a character both curious and independent in developing one's reading habit.
4. _____?
There is academic reading, serious reading, bedtime reading, etc.
5. _____?
An ideal education system should be one in which the love of learning and the spirit of enquiry are cultivated and encouraged.
6. _____?
A person with a book is a real person alive; without a book he is a fool.

Task 5

The article "Books" consists of five paragraphs. From the list of headings below choose the most suitable heading for each paragraph.

N.B. There are more headings than paragraphs so you will not use them all.

List of Headings

- A. Circumstances of forming a child's reading habit
- B. Reading, the only way to acquire knowledge
- C. Effect of two educational systems on keeping a child's curiosity
- D. An ideal educational system
- E. People's different tastes towards reading
- F. The importance of reading at the present time
- G. The advantages of overstrict educational system

_____ Paragraph 1

- _____ Paragraph 2
 _____ Paragraph 3
 _____ Paragraph 4
 _____ Paragraph 5

vocabulary and structure

Task 6

Give synonyms and antonyms to the following words.

A. synonyms:

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. available | 2. curious | 3. cultivate |
| 4. urgent | 5. precisely | 6. ignore |

B. antonyms:

- | | | |
|---------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. consistent | 2. strict | 3. knowledgeable |
| 4. literate | 5. open-minded | 6. fortune |

Task 7

Add the correct prefix to each of the following words, making it opposite in meaning to the original one.

- | | | |
|------|-----------|------------|
| il- | fortune | consistent |
| dis- | literate | curious |
| mis- | pleasure | important |
| un- | dependent | possible |
| in- | favorable | possession |
| im- | available | |

Task 8

Word formation can be mainly divided into three categories: conversion, derivation and compounding. Conversion means making a word change from one part of speech into another part of speech.

Tell what part of speech of the italicized word is in each of the following sentences and translate it into Chinese.

1. We live in an age of rapid technological *advance*.
2. An *advanced* class is a school class which is doing work of a higher standard than is usual for students at that stage in their education.
3. We *have advanced* greatly in our knowledge of the universe.
4. Despite trucks and helicopters, the camel is still man's best friend in the *desert*.

5. He has become so rude that his friends *are deserting* him.
6. We all *desire* health and happiness.
7. The only thing that I have observed to be without limit is the businessman's *desire* for profits.
8. Doctors have discovered that keeping a pet can do *wonders* for your health.
9. She could barely conceal her *wonder* as she gazed around the richly decorated room.
10. He is starting to *wonder* whether he did the right thing in accepting this job.

Task 9

Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions.

1. Perfection can be acquired _____ practice.
2. Whenever he is asked to write an experiment report, he seldom goes _____ two pages.
3. The boy did not talk much in class, but he emerged _____ one of the best students upon graduation.
4. What stand are you going to take _____ this issue?
5. When did you come _____ the habit of getting up so early?
6. I haven't read that book properly. I've only dipped _____ it.
7. He was set _____ the path to a sports career when he was a teenager.
8. The criminal was executed in the name _____ the law.
9. The bad weather added _____ the difficulty of the job.
10. What am I _____ do in such a situation?

Task 10

Translate the following sentences into English.

读好书，我们可以从中得到乐趣、友谊、经验和教诲。一本好书可以使我们全神贯注而暂时忘却我们周围的一切，甚至我们自己。读好书是生活中最大的乐事之一。在我们心情愉快的时候，读好书能使我们更加满足。当我们伤心的时候，它能减少我们的痛苦。

Task 11

There are altogether 10 mistakes in the following passage. You may have to change a word, add a word or delete a word. Mark out the mistakes and put the corrections in the blanks provided. If you change a word, cross it out and write the correct word in the corresponding blank. If you add a word, put an insertion mark (Λ) in the right place and write the missing word in the blank. If you delete a word, cross it out and put a slash (/) in the blank.

About Reading Books

By Virginia Woolf

It is simple enough to say that since books have classes—fiction, biography, poetry—we should separate them and take from each what it is right that each should give us. Yet few people ask books what books can give us. Most common we come to books with blurred and divided minds, asking of fiction that it shall be true, of poetry that it shall be false, of biography that it shall be flattering, of history that it shall enforce our own prejudices. If we could banish all such preconceptions when we read, that would be an admire beginning. Do not dictate to your author; try to become him. Be his fellow-worker and accomplice. If you hang back, and reserve and criticize at first, you are prevented yourself from getting the fullest possible value from what you read. And if you open your mind as widely as possible, then signs and hints of almost imperceptible fineness, from the twist and the turn of the first sentences, will bring you into the presence of a human being unlike any other. Steep yourself in this, acquaint yourself with this, and soon you will find that your author is giving you, or attempting to give you, something far definite. The thirty-two chapters of a novel — if we consider how to read a novel first — is an attempt to make something as formed and controlled as a building: but words are more impalpable than bricks; reading is a longer and more complicated process than see. Perhaps the quickest way to understand the elements of what a novelist is doing is not to read, but write; to make your own experiment with the dangers and difficulties of words. Recall, then, some event that has left a distinct impression on you — how at the corner of the street, perhaps, you passed two people talking. A tree shook; an electric light danced; the tone of the talk was comic, but also tragic; a whole vision, an entire conception, seemed contained in that moment.

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Task 12

Choose the best conjunction to fill in the blank of each of the following sentences.

no matter how/however
whenever

whichever
while

whatever
though

whether
as

1. In a word, _____ the prospects are bright, the road has twists and turns.
2. _____ our motherland needs us, we will respond to her call.
3. You must finish this experiment today, _____ way you do it.
4. Capable _____ he is, he can't complete the work all by himself.
5. _____ busy the professor is, he often takes time off to give talks on popular science.
6. All matter, _____ state it is in, has two things in common: it takes up space and has weight.
7. The chemical composition of water is H_2O _____ it is solid, liquid, or water vapor.

Task 13

Complete the following sentences by translating the concessive clauses into English.

1. 虽然他可以自谋生计, we will give him some help anyway.
2. He is able to catch every word the announcer says, 无论他说得有多快。
3. 尽管这些材料由热引起的膨胀并不大, we must, nevertheless, allow for such expansions in many cases.
4. There is energy working around us all the time, 不管我们是否意识到。
5. 不论他找到什么借口, we do not believe him.
6. You will meet with difficulties, 不管你采用哪种方法。
7. 星星尽管看起来很小, they are really large bodies.
8. 这虽然对有些人是如此, it is not true of all.
9. 不管那些数字是否准确, we have to recheck them.
10. 一个电子装置初看起来无论多么复杂, is a combination of several simple devices.
11. 钢虽坚硬, it will bend or break under the action of a strong force.
12. 不管情况如何, we must have all the data ready for the experiment by then.