Introduction



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Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875)

Hans Christian Andersen was born on April 2, 1805, in Odense, a small fishing village on the island of Funen. His father was a poor cobbler.



Even so, he was a literary man of progressive ideas, who enjoyed reading and encouraged his son Hans Andersen to cultivate his artistic interests.

Andersen started writing while he was a university student. After his first novel *Improvisatore*, which was based on his trip to Italy in 1833, received critical acclaim, Andersen earned even greater fame as a writer with his first book of fairy tales, *Tales Told for Children*. Later, Anderson became a well-loved writer of children's literature. By the time of his death in 1875, he had published a total of around 130 tales.

Andersen wrote many books that have been considered as the best works of literature for children, such as *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling*, and *The Emperor's New Clothes*. Despite many difficulties, Andersen rose above challenges to become a successful writer. In his works, Anderson zealously intertwined his lyrical writing style with manifestations of beautiful imaginary lands and humanism.

After having lived a solitary life, Andersen died alone in 1875. On his funeral day, all the Danish people wore mourning clothes, and the king and queen attended his funeral. Andersen was also an active poet, and his beautiful fairy tales are still loved by people around the world.

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The Little Match Girl

It was New Year's Eve. A poor little girl was walking down the snow-covered streets. She had not sold one box of matches all day, and she was too frightened to go home, so the poor little match girl sat sadly beside the fountain and took out a match and lit it. She cupped her hand over it, and as she did so, she started to see magical things in its light . . .

Like many of Andersen's tales, *The Little Match Girl* has touched the hearts of children and adults all around the world. The author wrote this story for his mom who had a very poor childhood.

The Emperor's New Clothes

This was adapted from the story *Duke Rukanore* by J. Manuel, a 14th century Spanish author. Once upon a time, there was an emperor who loved new clothes so much that he spent huge amounts of money on obtaining them. One day, some swindlers convinced the emperor that they could make clothes that would be invisible to any man who was stupid. The original fairy tale is a critical look at society.

The Red Shoes

A long time ago, there was a little girl who was pretty but poor. She was obliged to go barefooted. Then she bought a pair of new red shoes. However, every time she put on the shoes, she couldn't stop dancing. One day her adoptive mother fell ill, but the little girl did not take care of her. Instead, she put the red shoes on, went to the ball, and began to dance. Strangely enough, she could not take the shoes off and had to dance far out into the dark woods for a couple of days and nights. This story has the strong Christian message: retribution of selfishness.

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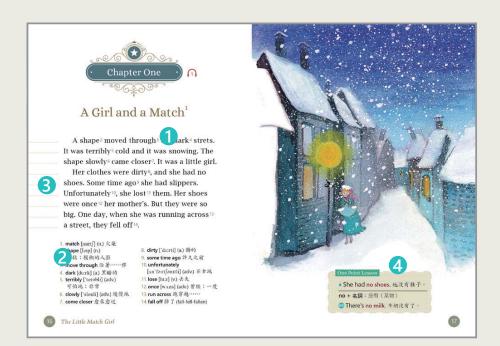
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How to Use This Book

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1 Original English texts

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is divided phrase by phrase and sentence by sentence.

2 Explanation of the vocabulary

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined. **3** Response notes

Spaces are included in the book so you can take notes about what you don't understand or what you want to remember.

One point lesson

In-depth analyses of major grammar points and expressions help you to understand sentences with difficult grammar.

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Audio Recording

In the audio recording, native speakers narrate the texts in standard American English. By combining the written words and the audio recording, you can listen to English with great ease.

Audio books have been popular in Britain and America for many decades. They allow the listener to experience the proper word pronunciation and sentence intonation that add important meaning and drama to spoken English. Students will benefit from listening to the recording twenty or more times.

After you are familiar with the text and recording, listen once more with your eyes closed to check your listening comprehension. Finally, after you can listen with your eyes closed and understand every word and every sentence, you are then ready to mimic the native speaker.

Then you should make a recording by reading the text yourself. Then play both recordings to compare your oral skills with those of a native speaker.

How to Improve Reading Ability

如何增進英文閱讀能力

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Catch key words

Read the key words in the sentences and practice catching the gist of the meaning of the sentence. You might question how working with a few important words could enhance your reading ability. However, it's quite effective. If you continue to use this method, you will find out that the key words and your knowledge of people and situations enables you to understand the sentence.

2 Divide long sentences

Read in chunks of meaning, dividing sentences into meaningful chunks of information. In the book, chunks are arranged in sentences according to meaning. If you consider the sentences backwards or grammatically, your reading speed will be slow and you will find it difficult to listen to English.

You are ready to move to a more sophisticated level of comprehension when you find that narrowly focusing on chunks is irritating. Instead of considering the chunks, you will make it a habit to read the sentence from the beginning to the end to figure out the meaning of the whole.

3 Make inferences and assumptions

Making inferences and assumptions are part of your ability. If you don't know, try to guess the meaning of the words. Although you don't know all the words in context, don't go straight to the dictionary. Developing an ability to make inferences in the context is important.

The first way to figure out the meaning of a word is from its context. If you cannot make head or tail out of the meaning of a word, look at what comes before or after it. Ask yourself what can happen in such a situation. Make your best guess as to the word's meaning. Then check the explanations of the word in the book or look up the word in a dictionary.

4 Read a lot and reread the same book many times

There is no shortcut to mastering English. Only if you do a lot of reading will you make your way to the summit. Read fun and easy books with an average of less than one new word per page. Try to immerse yourself in English as often as you can.

Spend time "swimming" in English. Language learning research has shown that immersing yourself in English will help you improve your English, even though you may not be aware of what you're learning.



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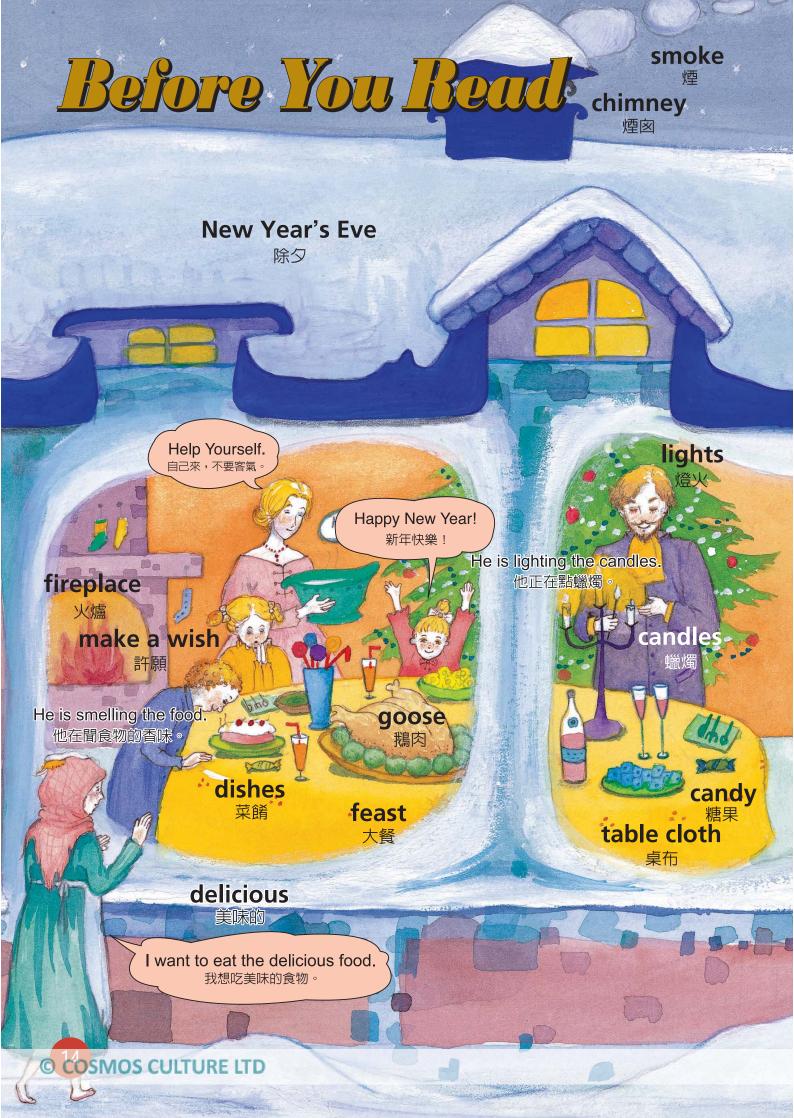
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A Girl and a Match¹

A shape² moved through³ the dark⁴ streets. It was terribly⁵ cold and it was snowing. The shape slowly⁶ came closer⁷. It was a little girl.

Her clothes were dirty⁸, and she had no shoes. Some time ago⁹ she had slippers. Unfortunately¹⁰, she lost¹¹ them. Her shoes were once¹² her mother's. But they were so big. One day, when she was running across¹³ a street, they fell off¹⁴.

- 1. match [mæt∫] (n.) 火柴
- shape [∫eɪp] (n.)
 形狀;模糊的人影
- 3. move through 沿著……移
- 4. dark [da:rk] (a.) 黑暗的
- 5. **terribly** [`terəbli] (adv.) 可怕地;非常
- 6. slowly [`slouli] (adv.) 緩慢地
- 7. come closer 愈來愈近 (come-came-come)

- 8. dirty [`d3:rti] (a.) 髒的
- 9. some time ago 許久之前
- 10. unfortunately [ʌn`fə:rt∫ənɪtli] (adv.) 不幸地
- 11. lose [lu:z] (v.) 遺失 (lose-lost-lost)
- 12. once [wAns] (adv.) 曾經;一度
- 13. run across 跑穿越……
- 14. fall off 掉了 (fall-fell-fallen)



One Point Lesson

▲ She had no shoes. 她沒有鞋子。

no + 名詞:沒有(某物)

➡ There's no milk. 牛奶沒有了。

2

The snow was falling¹ from the beautiful winter sky. It was New Year's Eve². The streets were almost³ empty⁴ now. Everyone was inside⁵ their warm homes.

The little girl walked in the snow with bare⁶ feet. In her hands, she was carrying⁷ some matches. Every day, she went out to sell⁸ matches. But today she didn't sell any⁹. She was so cold but she couldn't go home. When she didn't sell any matches, her father would beat¹⁰ her.

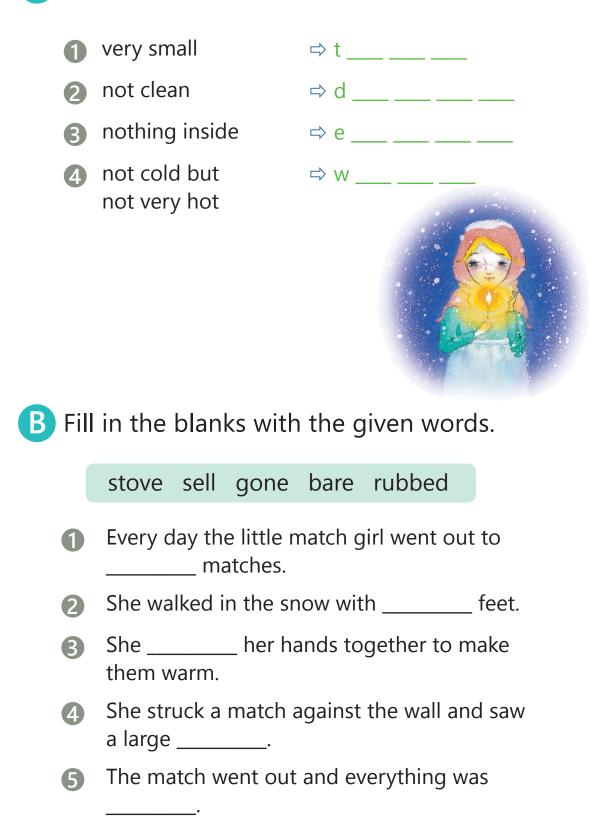
- 1. fall [fɔ:l] (v.) 掉落;下 (fall-fell-fallen)
- 2. New Year's Eve 除夕
- 3. almost [`ɔ:lmoust] (adv.) 幾乎
- 4. empty [`empti] (a.) 空的
- 5. inside [In`saɪd] (prep.) 在……裡面

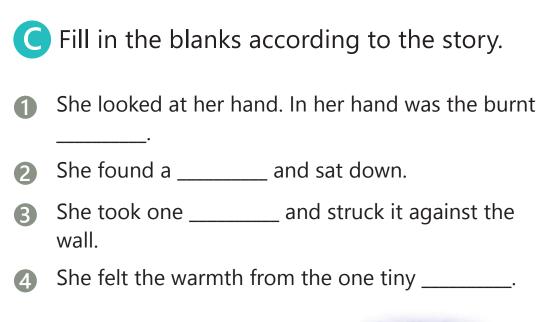
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- 6. bare [ber] (a.) 赤裸的
- 7. carry [`kæri] (v.) 攜帶
- 8. sell [sel] (v.) 賣 (sell-sold-sold)
- 9. not...any 一點都沒有
- 10. beat [bi:t] (v.) 打 (beat-beat-beaten)

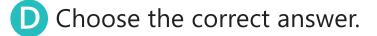
Comprehension Quiz Chapter One

A Fill in the blanks to complete the vocabulary.









- Why didn't the little match girl go home?
 - (a) Because she didn't have a house.
 - (b) Because she lost her way.
 - (c) Because her father would beat her.
- What happened to the little girl's shoes?
 - (a) Someone stole them.
 - (b) She lost them.
 - (c) They became too small for her.