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# The Gift of the Magi

## Before You Read



long hair  
長髮



short hair  
短髮



curly hair  
捲髮



straight hair  
直髮



blond hair  
金髮



brown hair  
棕髮



dark hair  
黑髮



red hair  
紅髮

She had a lot of long, beautiful hair.  
她有一頭長而美麗的秀髮。

hurry down

迅速下樓

She hurried down the stairs.  
她迅速地走下樓

stairs

樓梯

walk up

往上走

apartment  
building

公寓大廈

bookstore

書店

beauty salon

美容院

second floor

二樓

first floor

一樓

entrance

入口

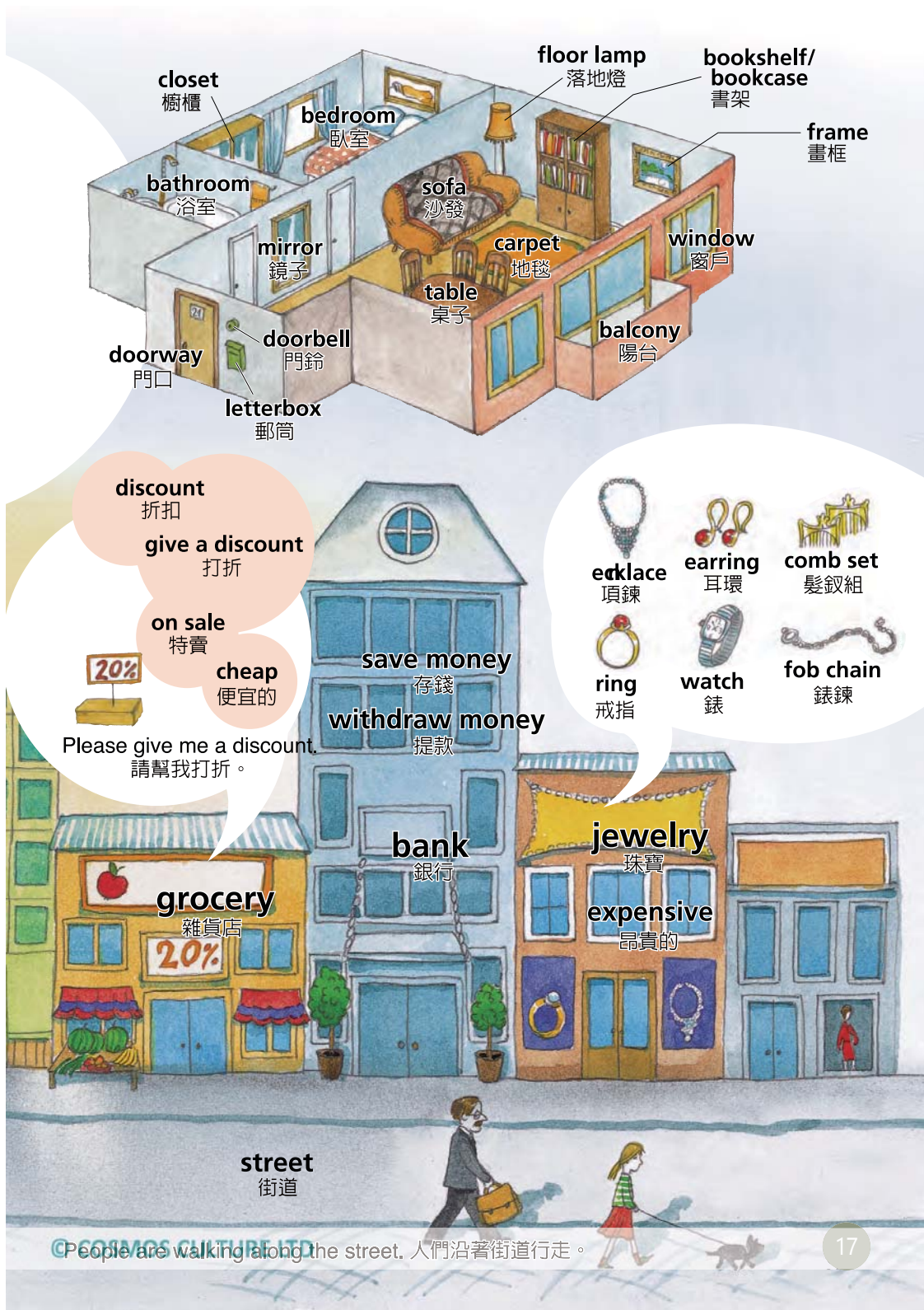
driveway/road

車道

sidewalk/pavement 人行道

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## Chapter One

### Only One Dollar and Eighty-Seven Cents

Della sat at<sup>1</sup> her kitchen table. She was counting<sup>2</sup> something. “One penny<sup>3</sup>, two pennies, three pennies . . . ,” she counted.

She was saving<sup>4</sup> pennies. Now, she had one dollar and eighty-seven cents.



She worked hard to save that money.  
 Every time<sup>5</sup> she went to the grocery<sup>6</sup>, she said,  
 “Oh, it’s too expensive! Please give me a  
 discount<sup>7</sup>.” She did this for many, many months.

She counted the money again and again.  
 But there was only one dollar and eighty-seven  
 cents. She cried out<sup>8</sup>, “No! There must<sup>9</sup> be more  
 money. I saved for so long<sup>10</sup>!”

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>sit at</b> ... 坐在……前                | 7. <b>give a discount</b> 打折              |
| 2. <b>count</b> [kaunt] (v.) 數；計算         | 8. <b>cry out</b> 大喊出來                    |
| 3. <b>penny</b> [ˈpeni] (n.)<br>分（美制錢幣單位） | 9. <b>must</b> [mʌst] (aux.)<br>一定（表猜測之意） |
| 4. <b>save</b> [seɪv] (v.) 存錢；儲蓄          | 10. <b>for so long</b> 如此長的時間             |
| 5. <b>every time</b> 每一次                  |   |
| 6. <b>grocery</b> [ˈɡrouʃəri] (n.)<br>雜貨店 |   |

#### One Point Lesson

💧 She **was counting** something.

她正在數著某樣東西。

**be 動詞 + V-ing**（現在分詞）：現在進行式，說明現在正在發生的事件。

e.g. Ellie **was studying** English.

艾莉正在讀英文。



Life<sup>1</sup> was not easy for Della. She lived in<sup>2</sup> a very small apartment. It cost<sup>3</sup> eight dollars a week. She had to spend<sup>4</sup> her money very wisely<sup>5</sup>.

At the entrance<sup>6</sup> of the apartment, there was a doorbell<sup>7</sup>. But this didn't work<sup>8</sup> anymore. There was also a letterbox<sup>9</sup>. But it was too small for letters. It really wasn't a very good apartment.

On the letterbox, there was the name "Mr. James Dillingham Young." This was Della's husband.

1. **life** [laɪf] (n.) 生活

2. **live in** ... 住在……  
(live-lived-lived)

3. **cost** [kɒst] (v.) 花費  
(cost-cost-cost)

4. **spend** [spend] (v.) 花費

5. **wisely** [ˈwaɪzli] (adv.) 睿智地

6. **entrance** [ˈentrəns] (n.) 入口

7. **doorbell** [ˈdɔːrbel] (n.) 門鈴

8. **work** [wɜːrk] (v.) 運作

9. **letterbox** [ˈletəbɔːks] (n.)  
信箱

10. **be proud of** 因……感到驕傲

11. **once** [wʌns] (adv.) 從前

12. **salary** [ˈsæləri] (n.) 薪水

13. **matter** [ˈmætər] (v.) 要緊

14. **greet** [gri:t] (v.) 歡迎；問候

15. **hug** [hʌg] (v.) 擁抱



A long time ago, Mr. James Dillingham Young was proud of<sup>10</sup> his name. Once<sup>11</sup>, his salary<sup>12</sup> was thirty dollars a week. Now, it was only twenty.

Twenty dollars never bought very much. But, sometimes, that didn't matter<sup>13</sup>. When he came home, his wife always greeted<sup>14</sup> and hugged<sup>15</sup> him. He was her "Jim."







Now, Della still<sup>1</sup> sat at the kitchen table, and  
cried. She wiped<sup>2</sup> her tears<sup>3</sup> and stood up<sup>4</sup>.

Tomorrow was Christmas. She only had one  
dollar and eighty-seven cents to buy her husband  
a present<sup>5</sup>. She saved for a long time but it wasn't  
enough<sup>6</sup>. She wanted to buy something very nice  
for him.

She walked to another window. As<sup>7</sup> she walked,  
she passed<sup>8</sup> a mirror. It was between two  
windows. It wasn't a very good mirror, of course.  
It was a mirror in an eight-dollar-a-week apartment.  
She looked at herself in the mirror. Her eyes were  
red and puffy<sup>9</sup> from<sup>10</sup> crying.

1. **still** [stɪl] (adv.) 依然
2. **wipe** [waɪp] (v.) 擦去；抹掉
3. **tear** [tɪr] (n.) 眼淚
4. **stand up** 站起來
5. **present** [ˈprezənt] (n.) 禮物

6. **enough** [ɪˈnʌf] (a.) 足夠的
7. **as** [əz] (adv.) 同時；當時
8. **pass** [pæs] (v.) 經過
9. **puffy** [ˈpʌfi] (a.) 腫的
10. **from** [frɒm] (prep.) 由於

Chapter One  
Only One Dollar and Eighty-Seven Cents





Then, she got an idea<sup>1</sup>. Her hair was tied up<sup>2</sup>, but now she pulled it down<sup>3</sup>. She had a lot of very long, beautiful hair.

There were two things that she and her husband valued<sup>4</sup> very much.

One was a gold watch. Jim received it from his grandfather. He loved it very much.



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. <b>get an idea</b> 有個想法<br>(get-got-gotten) | 6. <b>than</b> [ðæn] (prep.)<br>用於比較級之後           |
| 2. <b>tie up</b> 綁起來                           | 7. <b>Queen of Sheba</b><br>席巴女王，聖經中拜訪所羅門王並考驗其智慧。 |
| 3. <b>pull down</b> 放下                         |   |
| 4. <b>value</b> [ˈvælju:] (v.) 珍惜；重視           |   |
| 5. <b>envy</b> [ˈenvi] (v.) 嫉妒；羨慕              |   |



The other was Della's hair. Della's hair was envied<sup>5</sup> by many people. Some people said to Della, "Your hair is more beautiful than<sup>6</sup> the Queen of Sheba's<sup>7</sup> jewels<sup>8</sup>!"

Jim's watch was also very wonderful<sup>9</sup>. Some people said to him, "Your watch is good enough for<sup>10</sup> a King!"

So, Jim and Della were very proud of these things.

8. **jewel** [ˈdʒuːəl] (n.)  
寶石；首飾

9. **wonderful** [ˈwʌndərfəl] (a.)  
美妙的

10. **good enough for**  
好得足以……





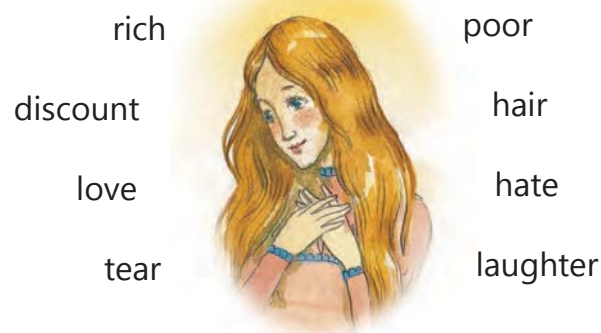
Della continued looking at her hair. It fell<sup>1</sup> around her shoulders, down her back, and to her knees. It was very, very long hair. Her hair was almost like<sup>2</sup> a dress.

She tied it up again. She did it quickly<sup>3</sup>, but she suddenly<sup>4</sup> felt very sad. A couple of<sup>5</sup> tears rolled down<sup>6</sup> her cheeks.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <b>fall</b> [fɔ:l] (v.) 落下<br>(fall-fell-fallen) | 8. <b>lock</b> [lɒ:k] (v.) 鎖上<br>(lock-locked-locked) |
| 2. <b>almost like</b> 幾乎像                           | 9. <b>hurry</b> [ˈhʌ:ri] (v.) 使加快；急速                  |
| 3. <b>quickly</b> [ˈkwɪkli] (adv.)<br>迅速地           | 10. <b>stair</b> [steɪ] (n.) 階梯；樓梯                    |
| 4. <b>suddenly</b> [ˈsʌdənli] (adv.)<br>突然地         | 11. <b>out of</b> 離開；在……之外                            |
| 5. <b>a couple of</b> 一些                            | 12. <b>look for</b> 尋找                                |
| 6. <b>roll down</b> 滾落<br>(roll-rolled-rolled)      | 13. <b>find</b> [faɪnd] (v.) 找到                       |
| 7. <b>put on</b> 穿上；戴上<br>(put-put-put)             | 14. <b>sign</b> [saɪn] (n.) 招牌                        |
|   | 15. <b>goods</b> [gʊdz] (n.) 商品                       |
|   | 16. <b>kind</b> [kaɪnd] (n.) 種類                       |

## Comprehension Quiz Chapter One

**A** Circle the words related to Della.



**B** Match.

- |              |     |                                     |
|--------------|-----|-------------------------------------|
| ① Door bell  | • • | a To do something quickly           |
| ② Letter box | • • | b Be very smart                     |
| ③ Wise       | • • | c A thing to put mail into          |
| ④ Hurry      | • • | d A thing to see yourself in        |
| ⑤ Mirror     | • • | e A thing you press to make a noise |

**C** True or False.

- T F** ① Jim received a watch from his father.  
**T F** ② Della saved money for a long time.  
**T F** ③ It was easy for Della to save money.  
**T F** ④ Della's hair fell to her knees.  
**T F** ⑤ Jim had more money than before.

**D** Fill in the blanks with the given words.

envied      valued      loved

There were two things that she and her husband  
① \_\_\_\_\_ very much. One was a gold watch.  
Jim received it from his grandfather a long time ago.  
He ② \_\_\_\_\_ it very much. The other was Della's hair.  
Della's hair was ③ \_\_\_\_\_ by many people.