

Let's Enjoy Masterpieces!



All the beautiful fairy tales and masterpieces that you have encountered during your childhood remain as warm memories in your adulthood. This time, let's indulge in the world of masterpieces through English. You can enjoy the depth and beauty of original works, which you can't enjoy through Chinese translations.

The stories are easy for you to understand because of your familiarity with them. When you enjoy reading, your ability to understand English will also rapidly improve.

This series of ***Let's Enjoy Masterpieces*** is a special reading comprehension booster program, devised to improve reading comprehension for beginners whose command of English is not satisfactory, or who are elementary, middle, and high school students. With this program, you can enjoy reading masterpieces in English with fun and efficiency.

This carefully planned program is composed of 5 levels, from the beginner level of 350 words to the intermediate and advanced levels of 1,000 words. With this program's level-by-level system, you are able to read famous texts in English and to savor the true pleasure of the world's language.

The program is well conceived, composed of reader-friendly explanations of English expressions and grammar, quizzes to help the student learn vocabulary and understand the meaning of the texts, and fabulous illustrations that adorn every page. In addition, with our "Guide to Listening," not only is reading comprehension enhanced but also listening comprehension skills are highlighted.

In the audio recording of the book, texts are vividly read by professional American actors. The texts are rewritten, according to the levels of the readers by an expert editorial staff of native speakers, on the basis of standard American English with the ministry of education recommended vocabulary. Therefore, it will be of great help even for all the students that want to learn English.

Please indulge yourself in the fun of reading and listening to English through ***Let's Enjoy Masterpieces***.

珍 • 奥斯汀

Jane Austen
(1775–1817)

Jane Austen was born on December 16th, 1775 in the village of Steventon, Hampshire, England. She was the seventh child (out of eight) and the second daughter (out of two) of the Reverend George Austen and his wife, Cassandra Leigh. Jane Austen had a happy childhood with her sister, brothers, and the other children who lodged with the family and whom Mr. Austen tutored. Mr. Austen had an extensive library. As a little girl, Jane was often encouraged to read and write.

Ever since her books were first published, (*Sense and Sensibility* in 1811, *Pride and Prejudice* in 1813, *Mansfield Park* in 1814, and *Emma* in 1815), they have been frequently reprinted.

Her posthumous novels *Northanger Abbey* and *Persuasion* were published at the end of 1817. Her novels are admired because they carefully describe the problems of love and marriage between common people in the British middle-class during her lifetime. Unfortunately, she died in 1817 at the age of 42.

Though not the first novel she wrote, *Sense and Sensibility* was the first Jane Austen published under the pseudonym "A Lady." The novel was originally titled *Elinor and Marianne*. Its background is England during the 18th century. It describes the love and conflicts related to the marriages of the Dashwood sisters, Elinor and Marianne. Elinor represents the "sense" of the title, and Marianne represents "sensibility" of the title. The novel shows how the two sisters become mature through some difficult experiences.

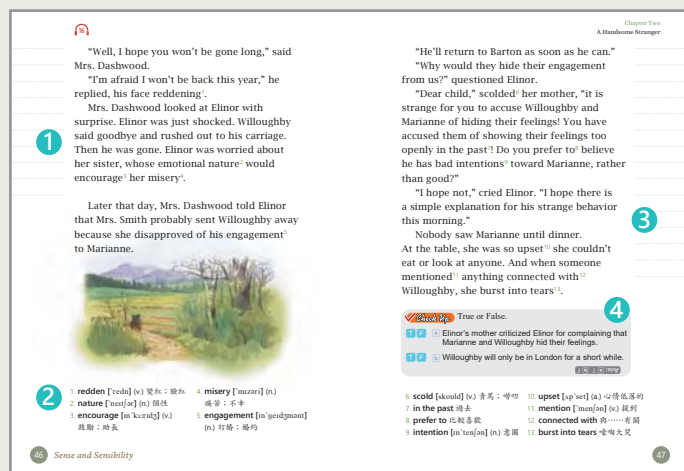
The Dashwoods live in Norland Park, England. Mrs. Dashwood is Mr. Dashwood's second wife. She and her three daughters Elinor, Marianne, and Margaret are facing poverty after the death of her husband. Most of the dead Mr. Dashwood's inheritance is given to John Dashwood, his son from his first marriage. John promised his father that he would take good care of his stepmother and sisters, but his selfish wife Fanny does not allow him to give them their fair share of the inheritance. Mrs. Dashwood and her daughters are treated as unwelcome guests in their former home. Luckily, a distant relative offers to rent the Dashwood women a cottage.

Marianne has Colonel Brandon and Willoughby proposing to marry her. Marianne has no interest in Colonel Brandon who is quiet and in his 30s, but she is in love with Willoughby, who is quite a handsome man. Elinor has long been attracted to Fanny's brother Edward, a quiet young man with a gentle nature. Elinor admires Edward's intelligence and good sense. After the two sisters have experienced both romance and heartbreak, they each find love and happiness.



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

本書使用說明



1 Original English texts 3 Response notes

It is easy to understand the meaning of the text, because the text is rewritten according to the levels of the readers.

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

2 Explanation of the vocabulary

The words and expressions that include vocabulary above the elementary level are clearly defined.

4 One point lesson

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

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

1 *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 is 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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Before You Read



Elinor

I am Elinor, the oldest of three sisters. Our mother is Mrs. Dashwood, and our father, Henry Dashwood, died suddenly in middle age¹. I must be strong and take good care of my mother and sisters. I cannot let² my own emotions control³ me, for if I do, I will just be adding to⁴ my family's difficulties⁵.



Marianne

Oh, when will I meet my true love? I am looking for a handsome, young, gentleman who will sweep me off my feet⁶. It doesn't matter if he is fabulously⁷ rich or not. I don't understand my older sister Elinor. It's obvious⁸ that she is in love with Edward Ferrars, but she does not show it. Oh, if I were in love, I would show him how much I loved him!



Edward Ferrars

I am not a very ambitious⁹ man. My family wants me to be a successful man in society, but I just want a simple, private¹⁰ life. Even if I have to give it up¹¹ to marry the woman I love, I would pursue¹² a quiet life.



Willoughby

I am a charming¹³, young, and handsome gentleman. Maybe I am a bit of¹⁴ a playboy. But I don't have a lot of money. So when I marry, it must be to a woman who is rich and who can support¹⁵ me.



Colonel Brandon

I am a quiet man, but I am not timid or shy. I think I have fallen in love with Marianne. However, she recently¹⁶ is in love with Willoughby. I know he is such a scoundrel¹⁷ but I won't say anything about him for the time being¹⁸ because I do not want her to be hurt by anyone.

1. middle age 中年

2. let + A + 原型動詞：讓 A……

3. control [kən'trəʊl] (v.) 控制

4. add to 增加

5. difficulty ['dɪfɪkəlti] (n.) 困境

6. sweep sb off sb's feet

使某人傾心

7. fabulously ['fæbjuləsli] (adv.)

驚人地

8. obvious ['ɒbvɪəs] (a.) 明顯的

9. ambitious [æm'bɪʃəs] (a.)

有野心的

10. private ['praɪvɪt] (a.) 隱私的

11. give up 放棄

12. pursue [pə'suː] (v.) 追求

13. charming ['tʃɑːrɪŋ] (a.) 迷人的

14. a bit of 有點兒

15. support [sə'pɔːt] (v.) 供養；支持

16. recently ['riːsəntli] (adv.) 最近

17. scoundrel ['skaʊndrəl] (n.) 渾蛋

18. for the time being 目前

Chapter One

1 The Dashwoods

The Dashwoods¹ lived in the Southern English town of Sussex for many generations². They owned a large country house³ named⁴ Norland Park. The head of the family was old Mr. Dashwood, an elderly⁵ unmarried⁶ gentleman. During the last years of Mr. Dashwood's life, he invited his nephew⁷, Henry Dashwood, and his family to move into Norland Park.

Henry Dashwood had one son, John, by his first wife and three daughters by his present⁸ wife. John was a young man who had received a large inheritance⁹ from his mother. The Norland fortune¹⁰ was not as important to John as it was to his sisters who had little money of their own.

1. the+family name+s
集合名詞，同姓氏的一家人

2. generation [ˌdʒenə'reɪʃən]
(n.) 世代

3. country house 鄉間小屋

4. named [neɪmd] (a.)
被命名為……

5. elderly ['eldərli] (a.) 年長的

6. unmarried [ˌʌn'mærid]
(a.) 未婚的

7. nephew ['nefju:] (n.) 姪子

When old Mr. Dashwood died, Henry learned that his uncle had not left the fortune to him, but rather for him to use during his lifetime¹¹. When Henry died, the inheritance would pass to his son John and then to John's son. This was because old Mr. Dashwood had been especially fond of¹² John's son. But out of kindness, the old man left Henry's daughters 1,000 pounds each.



Check Up

Why did old Mr. Dashwood not leave all his money to Henry?

- ☐ a He was very impressed with his nephew's grandson.
- ☐ b He did not like Henry's daughters.
- ☐ c He wanted to give all the money to John instead.

Ans: a

8. present ['prezənt] (a.) 現任的

9. inheritance [ɪn'herɪtəns]
(n.) 遺產；資產

10. fortune ['fɜ:tʃən] (n.) 財富

11. lifetime ['laɪftaɪm] (n.) 一生

12. be fond of 喜愛……

珍・奧斯汀 (Jane Austen, 1775–1817)



珍・奧斯汀 1775 年 12 月 16 日生於英國漢普郡史蒂文頓堂區。她的父親喬治・奧斯汀是牧師，與其母親卡珊德拉・麗共有八個小孩，其中有兩個女孩，她排行第七，是第二個女兒。珍・奧斯汀與她的兄弟姐妹，以及寄宿家中、父親的家教學生們，一同度過快樂的童年。由於父親有間大圖書館，珍・奧斯汀還是小女孩時便常常受鼓勵，進行閱讀與寫作。

自從她的著作被首次出版以來，（《理性與感性》（*Sense and Sensibility*, 1811）、《傲慢與偏見》（*Pride and Prejudice*, 1813）、《曼斯菲爾德莊園》（*Mansfield Park*, 1814）、《艾瑪》（*Emma*, 1815）），這些書籍頻繁再刷。

她的遺作《諾桑覺寺》（*Northanger Abbey*）和《勸導》（*Persuasion*）於 1817 年末出版。她的小說深刻描述當時英國中產階級百姓的愛與婚姻，因此十分受到推崇。不幸的是，珍・奧斯汀於 1817 年去世，享年 42 歲。

《理性與感性》雖非珍・奧斯汀第一本小說，卻是第一本以筆名「一位女士」（A Lady）出版的作品，原書名為《依莉諾與瑪麗安》（*Elinor and Marianne*）。小說背景為 18 世紀的英格蘭，描述戴西伍姊妹和婚姻相關的愛情與衝突。依莉諾代表了標題的「理性」，而瑪麗安則代表「感性」。小說表現兩位姊妹如何經歷一些困難而臻至成熟。

戴西伍一家住在英國的北國莊園。戴西伍太太是先生的第二任妻子，先生死後，她與三個女兒（依莉諾、瑪麗安與瑪格麗）面對困苦的生活。戴西伍先生大多的遺產都給了第一段婚姻生的兒子：約翰・戴西伍。約翰答應父親會好好照顧繼母與姐姐，但自私的妻子芬妮不許約翰把應得的部分遺產給他們。戴西伍太太和女兒們在自己家中，卻如不被歡迎的賓客，幸好一位遠房親戚願意出租小屋給他們。

瑪麗安被布蘭登上校和威洛比求婚，但瑪麗安對 30 幾歲、安靜的上校沒興趣，喜歡十分英俊的威洛比。依莉諾倒是早就受芬妮的哥哥愛德華吸引。愛德華是個沈靜紳士的男人，依莉諾欽佩他的智識與品味。在經歷過浪漫與心碎，兩位姊妹找到了各自的真愛與幸福。

