**Unit - 1 Section A**

**1 He was not a good student, and had he not been from a famous family, he probably would have been removed from the school for deviating from the rules. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Churchill was not a good student. If he had not been from a famous family, he probably would have been dismissed from the school because of breaking the rules.  
**Sentence structure note:** “Had he not been …” 为倒装的虚拟条件句，相当于“If he had not been …”。在书面语中， 条件从句可以不用连词if, 而将谓语中的had, were 或should 等移至主语之前，构成倒装。例如：  
Had it not been for his help, I would never have completed the project. 要不是他帮忙，我完不成这个项目。  
Were you in my position, you would do the same. 你要是处于我这个位置，你也会这样做的。  
Should you be passing, do come and see us. 如果你经过这里，一定要来看我们。

**2 Thankfully, he did finish at Harrow and his errors there did not preclude him from going on to the university. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Fortunately, he graduated from Harrow and his mistakes there did not keep him from going to college.

**3 He eventually had a premier army career whereby he was later elected prime minister. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Finally he joined the army, and then his outstanding army career made it possible for him to be elected prime minister.

**4 He achieved fame for his wit, wisdom, civic duty, and abundant courage in his refusal to surrender during the miserable dark days of World War II. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** He became well-known because of his intelligence, wisdom, responsibility of a citizen, and remarkable courage in his refusal to give up during the most painful days of the Second World War.

**5 His amazing determination helped motivate his entire nation and was an inspiration worldwide. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** He was determined to win the war, which inspired the British people and the world as well.

**6 Toward the end of his period as prime minister, he was invited to address the patriotic young boys at his old school, Harrow. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** As his period as prime minister was coming to an end, he was invited to give a speech to the students who loved their country, at his old school, Harrow School.

**7 Personal history, educational opportunity, individual dilemmas — none of these can inhibit a strong spirit committed to success. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Personal experience, educational background or individual difficult situations — nothing can prevent a person with a strong will from succeeding.

**8 No task is too hard. No amount of preparation is too long or too difficult. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** A person with a strong will is not fearful of any difficult task and is willing to put in lots of time and hard effort to get prepared for his goal.  
**Sentence structure note:** “No … too … ” 是一种强调句型。例如：  
No job is too small. 没有任何一种工作是微不足道的。

**9 Take the example of two of the most scholarly scientists of our age, Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** The two most learned scientists of our age, Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison, are typical examples.

**10 Both were called "slow to learn" and written off as idiots by their teachers. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Both of them were labeled as boys with learning difficulties and described as stupid by their teachers.

**11 They worked intensely each day with their sons, and the boys learned to never bypass the long hours of hard work that they needed to succeed. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** They spent lots of time and energy helping their sons each day, and the boys learned that without long hours of hard work success will be impossible.

**12 In the end, both Einstein and Edison overcame their childhood persecution and went on to achieve magnificent discoveries that benefit the entire world today. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** At last, both Einstein and Edison conquered the prejudice against them in their childhood and made impressive achievements from which the whole world benefits today.

**13 His background was certainly not glamorous. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** His background was actually very plain.

**14 He failed in business twice, suffered a nervous breakdown when his first love died suddenly and lost eight political elections. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** He tried to run a business twice, neither of which was successful. He experienced a serious emotional and psychological collapse when his first love died suddenly, and he failed in eight political elections.

**15 Yet his strong will was the spur that pushed him forward, strengthening his optimism, dedication and determination. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** However, his strong will motivated him to go forward and made him more optimistic, dedicated, and determined.

**16 It intensified and focused his efforts and enabled him to triumph over the overwhelming failures and profound difficulties in his life. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** It made his efforts stronger and more focused, and enabled him to defeat a large number of failures and serious difficulties in his life.

**17 A hundred years later, people from around the world commend Abraham Lincoln as the greatest American president of all time. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Now, people around the world praise Abraham Lincoln as the greatest American president of all time.

**18 Just like Churchill and Lincoln, only those who "keep their eyes on the prize", those who uphold a committed and focused will and spirit, will find their endeavors successful. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Just like Churchill and Lincoln, only those who stay focused on their goal and concentrate their will and spirit on their work, will finally achieve success through their sustained efforts.  
**Note:** keep one's eyes on the prize: stay focused on the end result; not let small problems get in the way of good results 执著地追求成功  
I know it's difficult going to class after work, but just keep your eyes on the prize. At the end of next year, you'll have your MBA. 我知道下班之后再去上课是很困难的，但是你得坚持既定目标！明年底你就能获得工商管理硕士了。

**19 They achieved prosperity because they possessed a fierce will to keep preparing and working and a passion to succeed. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** They made such great achievements because they had a strong will to persist in preparing and working, and they were eager to be successful.

**20 They attained success, not because it was easy, but because they had the will to overcome profound obstacles and to work diligently in the pursuit of their goals. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** They became successful not because it didn't need much hard work, but because they were strong-willed to defeat many great difficulties, and they worked extremely hard to realize their aims.  
**Sentence structure note:** “not because … but because” 是比较重要的平行结构句型，表示“不是因为…，而是因为…”。这种句型一般否定前半部分，肯定后半部分，从而形成对比。例如：  
Sometimes plagiarism occurs not because students are trying to cheat, but because they have not been taught how to paraphrase accurately. 剽窃的存在有时不是因为学生想作弊，而是因为老师没有教他们如何准确地转述。  
I think markets move not because of an external force, but because the internal structures are either strengthening or weakening. 我认为市场的变化不是因为外部力量，而是因为其内部结构在加强或削弱。

**21 After growing up on a cattle ranch without running water or electricity, Sandra Day O'Connor fought to achieve the best education possible. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** After growing up on a cattle ranch where neither running water nor electricity was available, Sandra Day O'Connor struggled to get the best education she could.

**22 Consistently graduating at the top of her class, she worked her way into Stanford Law School, where she graduated with honors. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** After graduating as one of the best students from high school and college, she went on with her studies at Stanford Law School and graduated there with excellent performance.

**23 Even with the prestige of her degree from Stanford, she was rejected from the entire law circuit as firms preferred to hire less qualified men rather than risk hiring a female lawyer, which was unprecedented. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Even with the educational background of world-famous Stanford University, she was refused by all the law firms, as they preferred to employ male lawyers even if they were less capable instead of taking the risk to employ a female lawyer, because this had never happened before.

**24 Through sheer persistence she was eventually nominated and then appointed the first woman Supreme Court Justice of the United States of America. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Always keeping trying, she was finally chosen and assigned as the first female Supreme Court Justice of the USA.

**25 There, she acted as a crucial vote on issues like abortion and women's rights. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** She played a critical role on issues like abortion and women's rights.

**26 Many people simply say that they want something, but they do not expend the substantial effort required to achieve it. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Many people just say that they want something, but they do not spend the time and energy needed to make it happen.

**27 Many people let the threat of failure stop them from trying with all of their heart. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Many people couldn't try their best because they are afraid of failure.

**28 The secret of success is based upon a burning inward desire — a robust, fierce will and focus — that fuels the determination to act, to keep preparing, to keep going even when we are tired and fail. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** The secret of success is based on a burning desire inside your heart; it is a strong, powerful will and concentration that gives the energy to act, and to keep preparing and moving forward even when we are tired, or when we face failure.

**29 ... "It's not how many times you fall down that matters. It's how many times you get back up that makes success!" (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** ... It doesn't matter if you have failed many times. What does matter is that you will always recover from the failures on the way to success.

**30 Focus on becoming more knowledgeable. Focus on gradual, consistent progress. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Emphasis should be put on getting more knowledge and on gradual but consistent progress.

**31 Maintain the strong will to keep going — even when you are tired and want to slack or the odds seem too large. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Even when you are tired and want to be lazy or are faced with too many difficulties, you should always have the strong will to move forward.

**32 Where there's a will, there's a way! (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** A strong-willed person will be successful!

**33 With hard work, determination, dedication and preparation, you can transcend any handicap, accomplish any feat, and achieve success! (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** With hard work, determination, dedication and preparation, you can overcome any difficulty, make any achievement, and be successful!

**Unit - 1 Section B**

﻿**1 Les Brown and his twin brother were adopted by Mamie Brown, a kitchen worker, shortly after their birth in a poverty-stricken Miami neighborhood. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Les Brown and his twin brother, born in an extremely poor region in Miami, were taken by Mamie Brown, a kitchen worker, as her sons soon after their birth.

**2 Because of his overactive behavior and nonstop talking as a child, Les was placed in special education classes for the learning disabled all the way through high school. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Because he was more active and talkative than normal kids during his childhood, Les was sent to the classes specially set up for those with learning difficulties; he was there until he graduated from high school.

**3 Upon graduation, he became a garbage collector. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** As soon as he graduated from high school, he became a garbage collector.  
**Sentence structure note:** “upon + n. / v.-ing” 结构相当于“ as soon as / when …”。例如：  
Upon the completion of data collection, each survey was reviewed to ensure that the responses were properly documented. 数据一收集完，每一项调查都要被复查，以确保所有的答复都被准确地记录下来了。  
Upon uttering this word, Dan and Harry exchanged a quick, meaningful look. 一说完这话，丹和哈里就意味深长地迅速对视了一下。

**4 The prospective opportunities for his future looked slim to others, but not to Les. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Others believed that he would have a hopeless future, but Les did not think so.

**5 He was destined to be a disc jockey, also known as a "DJ", one of the radio celebrities mixing music broadcasts for the whole city. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** He was certain to be a disc jockey, also known as a "DJ", a famous person mixing and broadcasting various music to the audience of the whole city.

**6 At night he would take a radio to bed so he could indulge his dream by listening to the local DJs. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** At night he would take a radio to bed and listened to the DJs so he could enjoy his own dream of becoming a DJ.

**7 A hairbrush served as his microphone as he energetically practiced speaking his masterpieces to his imaginary listeners. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** He used a hairbrush as his microphone when he energetically practiced his best performance as a DJ to the listeners he imagined in his mind.

**8 He aggravated his friends with his constant practicing. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** He practiced broadcasting music constantly, which made his friends extremely annoyed.

**9 They scorned him and said to stop dreaming and focus on the real world. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** They laughed at him and told him to stop daydreaming and face reality.

**10 Nonetheless, Les didn't let their negativity stop him. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** However, Les didn't give up in spite of their negative attitudes toward him.

**11 He kept his goals close to his heart and remained wrapped up in his own world, completely absorbed in preparing for his future, preparing to live his dream as a renowned DJ. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** He kept his dream deep in his heart and soul and was totally involved in his own world, completely focusing on getting ready for his future in which he saw himself as a famous DJ.   
**Note:** live one's dream: realize one's dream 实现梦想  
After Louis was able to buy the house with the beautiful yard, he lived his childhood dream of owning an ideal house. 在路易斯有能力买下那套带有漂亮院子的房子后，他实现了自己儿时拥有一套理想房子的梦想。

**12 One day Les decided to take the initiative and begin with this enterprise. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** One day Les made up his mind to take action and to begin his career as a DJ.

**13 The manager looked dubiously at the untidy young man in overalls and a straw hat and inquired, "Do you have any expertise in broadcasting?" (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** The manager looked with suspicion at the young man who was dressed rather unprofessionally, and he asked him if he had any experience in broadcasting.

**14 He adored his adoptive mother, Mamie Brown, and was careful with his money to try and buy her nice things. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** He loved his adoptive mother very much and instead of wasting his money, he bought things that she enjoyed having.

**15 His persistence was very persuasive, and the station manager finally gave in and took Les on to do small tasks — at no pay. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** His persistence finally persuaded the station manager to give him a job of doing tiny things without any pay.

**16 He catered to their every need at work and worked overtime whenever necessary. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** He tried to satisfy every person's need at work and worked extra time when it was necessary.

**17 Eventually, his enthusiasm won their confidence and they would send Les in their Cadillac to pick up celebrities, not knowing that he didn't even have a driver's license! (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Finally, his passion made them believe him, and they would ask him to receive famous persons with their luxury vehicle, without knowing that he didn't even have a driver's license.

**18 While hanging out with the station's real DJs, Les taught himself their posture and hand movements on the control panel. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** During the time spent with the station's real DJs, Les learned by himself how to operate the control panel.

**19 He stayed around the studio, soaking up whatever knowledge he could. He was disciplined; back in his bedroom at night, he faithfully practiced in anticipation of the opportunity he knew would come. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** He stayed around the studio, absorbing as much knowledge as possible. He was a self-controlled man. When he was back at his bedroom every night, he practiced devotedly, expecting that his opportunity would eventually come.

**20 Les stayed close in case there was some way he might help cow his co-worker's distress. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Les accompanied him, trying to find some way to help relieve his colleague's suffering.

**21 He also worried that the illness was sure to doom this broadcast. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** He also worried that the illness would make the broadcast a failure.

**22 Frantic with distress, Les called the general manager. "Mr. Klein, I can't find nobody," Les said. (Para. 19)**  
**Meaning:** Crazily and anxiously, Les called the general manager. "Mr. Klein, I can't find anybody," Les said.  
**Note:** can't find nobody 常见于美国口语，意思相当于can't find anybody。

**23 "Yes sir," replied Les, grinning with the sudden opportunity. (Para. 21)**  
**Meaning:** Les answered happily, "Yes sir", and there was a big smile on his face because of the sudden opportunity.

**24 He didn't even blink before he called his mother and his friends. (Para. 21)**  
**Meaning:** He lost no time in calling his mother and his friends.

**25 "You all go out on the front porch and turn up the radio because I'm about to come on the air!" he said. (Para. 21)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Les Brown was so excited and proud that he wanted his family and friends to share his great joy of realizing his long-pursued dream.

**26 Les rushed into the booth, hoisted Rock onto a nearby couch, and sat down in his place. (Para. 22)**  
**Meaning:** Les ran quickly into the studio, lifted Rock and put him onto a nearby couch, and sat down in Rock's place.

**27 He flipped on the microphone and eloquently rapped … (Para. 22)**  
**Meaning:** He turned on the microphone and fluently talked in a rhythmic way …

**28 There were none before me and there will be none after me. Therefore, that makes me the one and only. (Para. 22)**  
**Meaning:** Nobody was like me in the past and nobody will be like me in the future. So, that makes me unique.

**29 Young and single and love to mingle. (Para. 22)**   
**Meaning:** I am a young and single man, and love talking to old friends and making new friends.

**30 Qualified to bring you satisfaction, a whole lot of action. Look out, baby, I'm your lovin' man. (Para. 22)**  
**Meaning:** I am sure to bring you happiness and stir you up to move and dance. Attention, love, I'm your favorite.

**31 He had dazzled the audience and heard applause from his general manager. (Para. 23)**  
**Meaning:** His great performance amazed the audience and also got the approval from his general manager.

**32 From that fateful beginning, Les was propelled to become an icon in broadcasting, politics, public speaking and television. (Para. 23)**  
**Meaning:** After that decisive moment, Les was inspired to go forward and finally became a symbolic figure in broadcasting, politics, public speaking and television.

**Unit - 2 Section A**

**1 I was on a tour of France with my friends when our car pulled to a stop at the beach and we saw the Mediterranean Sea. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** One day on a tour of France, my friends and I stopped the car at the beach, and we saw the Mediterranean Sea.

**2 Massive waves surged against large rocks that formed a waterproof jetty. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Giant waves crashed against large rocks that formed a jetty to prevent the water from passing through.

**3 People said this beach was known for its notorious rip currents. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** People said this beach was famous for its dangerous rip currents.

**4 Nothing scared me as much as water. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Water frightened me very much.  
**Sentence structure note:** “nothing ... as much as” 的意思是 “ ... (the) most”。例如:  
Nothing in the world can bother you as much as your own mind. 世界上最让人困扰的就是自己的心境。

**5 Just the sight of the sea made me sick to my stomach. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** When I saw the sea, I felt extremely uncomfortable.

**6 I'd hopped from that height and hit the water with an incredible impact. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** I had jumped from that high diving board and struck the surface of the water very hard.

**7 The air was ousted from my lungs and I blacked out. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** The air was forced out of my lungs and I became unconscious.

**8 The next thing I knew, my brother was pulling my feeble body out of the pool. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** When I woke up, I found my brother was pulling my extremely weak body out of the pool.

**9 From then on, my fear wouldn't recede ... (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** After that, my fear of water was deep in my mind and never weakened.

**10 "Just enjoying the view," from dry land, I added silently, worried they might deem my fear pathetic if they knew. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** When his friend asked "Are you coming?", the author responded "Yeah. Just enjoying the view" to conceal his fear and reluctance to get into the water. Adding "from dry land" silently suggested that he preferred to stay on dry land but he didn't want his friends to know about it, worrying that they might think his fear of water was pitiful.

**11 A mob of people were running into the sea, fully clothed. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** A group of people were racing into the water without taking off their clothes.

**12 I glimpsed something moving up and down amid the waves, past the end of the jetty. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** I saw something was up and down in the middle of the waves, just behind the end of the jetty.

**13 I gasped, realizing the catastrophe with horror. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** I was shocked and horrified when I realized that the boy was drowning in the sea.

**14 The would-be rescuers fought against the tide, but the situation was bleak. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Those people who intended to save the drowning boy were struggling with the rip current, but the situation was hopeless.

**15 His head popped up, then a wave crashed over him and he disappeared for a moment; I had to intervene. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** His head suddenly appeared from the water. But a wave swept over him and he disappeared for a moment. I had to do something to save him.

**16 I appraised the situation and realized — the jetty! (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** The author examined the situation carefully and suddenly he understood that it was only from the jetty, which was close to the boy, that a rescuer could get to the boy and save him.

**17 I raced down the beach, out onto the jetty, and it hit me: *Water*! (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** I ran down the beach and went out onto the jetty. Suddenly, I realized my fear of water again.

**18 My palms got sweaty and my stomach felt sick, symptoms of my fear. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** My palms were wet with sweat and my stomach felt sick, which were signs of my inner fear of water.

**19 I stopped short. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** I suddenly stopped because of my fear of water.

**20 The people in the water had underestimated the waves and weren't making any progress. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** The people in the water had not expected the waves to be so powerful and were unable to move forward to help the boy.

**21 Yet in the midst of this tragedy, I was extremely terrified. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** But when I saw the boy drowning in the sea, I was very frightened.

**22 I was paralyzed with fear, but I forced myself to move forward with this impromptu rescue. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** My inner fear of water caused me to lose the ability to move, but I forced myself to move forward to make this unprepared rescue.

**23 *I don't want this. Surely someone else can save him before I have to.* (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** This brings out the author's psychological conflict within him: On one hand, it is clear that he was the only one who knew how to get to the boy in time; on the other hand, he expected someone else could save him before he did it.

**24 At the ridge of the jetty, I whirled around, convinced I'd see an athletic swimmer plowing through the rough water toward the boy. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** At the ridge of the jetty, I turned around and around, feeling certain that I could see a good swimmer swimming swiftly through the rough water to save the drowning boy.

**25 To my dismay, no one was there. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:**I was disappointed to find there was no one nearby.

**26 I turned back out to the sea to see the boy battered by vicious waves about 25 yards away from me. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** I turned around and looked out into the sea only to find the boy repeatedly hit by the violent waves. He was about 25 yards away from me.

**27 Sucking in a deep breath, I threw myself into the water. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** After I breathed in deeply, I dived into the water.

**28 As soon as I jumped in, I felt like I was back in that pool, breathless, struggling, terrified. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** When the author jumped in, his fear of water came back to him together with the feelings and agony that had once gripped him.

**29 Then, with clarity, I saw a thin arm waving weakly a few yards away. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Then I saw clearly the boy was waving his thin arm weakly and he was only a few yards away from me.

**30 He popped back up, eyes wide with terror, pawing and twisting against me. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** When the boy appeared from the water again, his eyes were wide open because of his strong fear. He rubbed against me with his hands and turned sharply and quickly against me.

**31 His struggling would derail any rescue attempt, and we'd both perish. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** If he continued to struggle like that, my attempt to save him would be ruined, and we both would drown in the water.

**32 When I turned back toward shore a wave pounded over us. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** When I turned back toward shore a wave hit us with force.  
**Note:** pound: *v*. hit sth. very hard several times and make a lot of noise, damage it, break it into smaller pieces, etc. 连续重击；猛打  
During the match, the boxers were pounding each other. 在比赛中，拳击手相互击打。

**33 It was forcibly dragging us out to the sea. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** The rip current pushed us with force further away from the jetty, and out into the sea.

**34 I knew I'd never be able to escort him back like this. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** It was clear that I was unable to take him back to safety if we continued to swim this way.

**35 Desperate to survive, I remembered what I'd learned in my life saving class: *Never, ever swim against the rip current! Swim sideways to the pull of the current and slowly make your way back toward shore.*(Para. 15)**  
**Note:** If you get caught up in a rip current, please bear in mind that the current is too strong to fight head-on. Instead, swim sideways, parallel to the beach, to the pull of the current so you can swim back to shore with the waves helping you along. For detailed information, please refer to *rip current* in Background information.

**36 It was an odd-looking but practicable solution. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** Swimming that way seemed very strange, but it was a possibility which would work.

**37 *Swim sideways and float to rest.* (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** Just swim sideways to the pull of the current and float near the surface of the water to relax your body.

**38 That absence of fear was a moment of triumph! (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** At this moment, I had overcome my inner fear of water, which was a great victory to me.

**39 On the brink of collapse, I stopped fighting, just letting myself go. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** When I was about to be completely exhausted, I stopped swimming and just relaxed myself, drifting on the water.

**40 Someone grabbed for me. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** Someone reached for me.

**41 I ascended not only from the sea onto the secure rocks of the jetty — but also to my salvation, leaving behind the terrible fear that had gripped me for so long. (Para. 19)**  
**Meaning:** I climbed onto the secure rocks of the jetty, rising up from not only the sea, but also the terrible fear of water which had been with me for such a long time.  
**Note:** leave behind意思是“有意地忘记（某事，尤指往事）”。例如：  
I wanted to leave the past behind, but my memory always caught up with me. 我想忘了过去，但回忆总是摆脱不掉。

**42 Weary as I was, the water had never looked so beautiful. (Para. 19)**  
**Meaning:** Although I was very tired, the water had never looked so beautiful.   
**Meaning beyond words:** After the rescue effort, the author felt the water looked so beautiful because he had finally overcome his psychological fear of water, which had once made him sick to his stomach and had gripped him for so long.

**Unit - 2 Section B**

**1 I saw it on a flight I took six years ago, and only now can I speak of it without tears filling my eyes at the memory. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Six years ago, when I took a flight, I saw real courage. It isn't until now that I can speak of it without tears in my eyes.  
**Sentence structure note:**  
“only now can I …”是一个倒装结构，用于强调作者很长时间以来都被那个故事所感动。

**2 The early-morning transcontinental flight hosted mainly professional people going to San Francisco for a day or two of business. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** This early-morning flight was heading for San Francisco across the continental United States (from east to west), and carried mostly professional people on business for one or two days.

**3 As I looked around, I saw lots of designer suites, CEO-level expensive haircuts, designer briefcases and all the trimmings of lofty business travelers. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** When I looked around, I found that many proud business travelers were fashionably dressed. They had smooth and well-cut hair, designer briefcases and all the decorations that matched the style of a CEO.   
**Note:** designer 在句中作形容词，仅用于名词前，意思是“由著名设计师设计的；名牌的；品牌的”，如designer clothes / jeans / suits （名牌服装 / 牛仔裤 / 套装）。  
**Note:** CEO: n. [C] Chief Executive Officer 总裁；首席执行官

**4 I settled back with my paperback novel for some light reading and the brief flight ahead. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I leaned back comfortably in my seat. I'd like to spend the time reading my paperback novel at ease as it would only be a short flight.  
**Note:** 句中light reading 的意思是“休闲阅读”，与之相反的表达是 heavy reading，指“费力、沉闷的阅读”。

**5 Immediately upon take-off, long before we had reached our cruising altitude, it was clear that something was wrong. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Just when the plane took off, and long before we could climb very high, there was, obviously, something wrong.

**6 The aircraft was bumping vertically up and down and tilting left to right. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** The aircraft was moving up and down and shaking left to right.

**7 All the experienced travelers, including me, looked around with knowing grins. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** All the experienced travelers, including me, looked around and gave each other understanding grins.  
**Meaning beyond words:** These experienced travelers grinned at each other because they all knew such kind of bumping could sometimes happen during flights.

**8 We had experienced minor problems and turbulence on prior flights. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** When we took flights previously, we sometimes met with some minor problems and turbulence.

**9 It wasn't long before our relaxed attitudes began to evaporate. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Soon our relaxed attitudes were disappearing.  
**Sentence structure note:**  
"It is / was not long before …" means that "It takes / took a short time …" . For example:  
It wasn't long before she had persuaded him to go with her to the theater. 她没用多久就说服他一起去看电影了。

**10 The plane climbed higher but that didn't help our plight. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** The plane climbed higher but we were still in big trouble.

**11 The pilot soon provided some grave news regarding the flight. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** The pilot soon gave the passengers some serious news about the flight.

**12 At this time, it appears we have no nose-wheel steering. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** At this time, the nose-wheel steering doesn't seem to work any more.

**13 Our indicators show that our landing system has failed, which necessitates that we abort the flight and return to New York. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The indicator lights of the plane show that the landing system doesn't work properly and we have no choice but to give up and fly back to New York.

**14 Because of the problems with the mechanisms, it's unlikely our landing gear will lock, so the flight attendants will prepare you for a bumpy landing. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Because of the problems with the landing gear, the passengers and the crew were all in danger.

**15 We want to have as little on board as possible in the event of a rough touchdown. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** We need to have as little weight as possible on the plane in case that the plane should touch down hard.

**16 No sight has ever been so sobering as that fuel, hundreds of gallons of it, streaming past my window out of the plane's tanks. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Hundreds of gallons of jet fuel were pouring down out of the plane's tanks outside the windows of the plane, the sight of which made us become aware of the serious situation.  
**Meaning beyond words:** It was obvious that they were in big trouble.  
**Note:** The use of the present perfect tense here is to stress that the effect of what had happened is so strong that the author cannot forget it — not even now, when he is speaking of it.

**17 The flight attendants scrambled to get people into position and comforted those who were instantaneously hysterical. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** The flight attendants hurried to get passengers back into their seats and comforted those who became too afraid to calm down just after they heard the news.

**18 As I looked at the faces of my fellow business travelers, I was stunned by the changes I saw. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** As I looked at the faces of my fellow business travelers, it was really surprising to me that almost all of them had got into a panic.

**19 Even the most sophisticated looked vulnerable and grim. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Even the most experienced and knowledgeable people were affected and extremely worried.

**20 There wasn't a single exception, and I realized that no one faces death without fear; no one is immune to its terror. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** There wasn't a single exception, and I came to understand that everyone faces death with fear, and everyone is affected by the terror of death.  
**Note:** By using "… no one faces death without fear; no one is immune to its terror", the author wants us to believe that this incident reveals a fact that people normally respond in the same way in the face of death, which can make what happens next stand out as a contrast.

**21 Then, somewhere in my proximity, I overheard a still calm voice underlying the panic. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Then, when all the others were in panic, I accidentally heard a still calm voice somewhere close to me.  
**Note:** Here, *calm* is contrasted with *panic*; *still* is used to show how unexpectedly the author heard such a calm voice.

**22 Despite the circumstance, there was no angry emotion or tension, and this calm voice evoked a calm in me that quieted some of my initial fears. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Although the surroundings were in disorder, there were no angry emotion or stressed feelings in this calm voice, which helped to produce a calm in me. I was not frightened any more.  
**Note:** This description of the woman's calm is intended to illustrate how such a calm voice attracted "me" and why "It became imperative that I find her" in the next sentence.

**23 It became imperative that I find her. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** It was important for me to find out who she was.  
**Sentence structure note:** “It is / becomes imperative / essential / crucial / vital / important / necessary that …”结构后面常用“(should) + verb” 形式的虚拟语气。例如：  
It is imperative that the public (should) be informed about these dangers. = It is imperative to inform the public about these dangers. 必须告知公众这些危险。  
It's essential that we put everything on the table for discussion. 我们把事情摆到桌面上来讨论，这一点很重要。

**24 A few of the men maintained their appearance of calm by bracing against their armrests and grinding their teeth, but their fear was written all over them. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Several men tried to keep calm by pushing themselves against their armrests and grinding their teeth. However, it was obvious that they were frightened.  
**Note:** The word *armrest* means "the part of a seat on which you rest your arm".  
**Note:** This description of the few men's reaction is in sharp contrast with the woman's composure.

**25 Try as I might, I could not have spoken so calmly, so sweetly at that moment as the fabulous voice I heard. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** The woman's wonderful voice sounded so calm and sweet that even if I made an attempt, I could not speak in the way she did at that time.

**26 The child listened closely, sensing that her mother's words were invaluable. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** The child listened carefully. She understood that her mother's words were extremely useful.

**27 The mother's gaze held the child so fixed and intent that the child seemed untouched by the sounds of grief and fear all around her. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** The child's total attention was calmly fixed on her mother, who was paying undivided and calmly fixed attention to her child. This made the child unaffected by the chaos around her and her mother.

**28 I relished the sound of calm confidence amongst the terror. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** I admired the sound of calm confidence in such a terrible situation.

**29 Finally, I hovered nearby and by some miracle could hear her soft, sure, confident voice say in a calming tone over and over again, "I love you so much. Do you know for sure that I love you more than anything?" (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** At last, I stayed very close to the woman. Fortunately, I could hear that she spoke calmly and repeatedly in a soft, sure, confident voice that she loved the child more than anything else.  
**over and over (again):** many times 再三地；重复地  
I've told you over and over again not to do that. 我一再跟你讲不要那么做。  
**Note:** The woman's words here suggest that her conquest of fear is based on her maternal love for her child.

**30 As her first concern was for her daughter's well-being, the mother then put her body over her daughter's, strapping the seat belt over both of them to save her daughter from a possible wreckage. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** As the mother was much concerned about her daughter's safety and health, she put her body over her daughter's and fastened the seat belt over both of them to save her daughter from the possible crash.   
**Note:** The description here shows how great the maternal love is.

**31 Then, for no earthly reason, our landing gear held and we glided to a gentle stop. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** Suddenly, almost as if a miracle happened, the landing gear locked properly and the plane moved smoothly on the runway and stopped quietly.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Their survival was a miracle.

**32 Our touchdown was smooth and easy; the tragedy we had feared was not our destiny. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** The plane landed smoothly and without difficulty. The air crash we had all worried about did not become our fate.   
**Usage note:**   
destiny, fate, lot  
The three words all mean a future that someone or something will have. *Destiny* and *fate* both suggest that the future has been decided or planned by God or by a godlike power. *Destiny* often suggests a future that includes something great and important. For example:  
He was a great leader whose destiny was to free the people of his country. 他是个伟人，其使命就是解放其国民。  
*Fate* often suggests a future that cannot be avoided and that is usually sad or unpleasant. For example:  
It was the explorer's fate to die lost and alone. 那位探险者独自迷途而死，这就是他的命运。  
*Lot* suggests that someone's future has been decided by luck. For example:  
It was not their lot in life to have children. 他们真是命里不该有孩子。

**33 The voice I heard that day never hesitated, never acknowledged dread, and maintained an evenness that seemed emotionally and physically impossible. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** On that day, there was no hesitation in the woman's voice, nor did she show or admit any fear. She kept calm the entire time as if everything was OK and normal. Her behavior and her emotions were almost impossible to maintain in the face of the possibility of such a terrible accident, but she made it.

**34 During that descent, not one of the hardened business people could have spoken without a hint of fear in their voice. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** When the plane was going down, even the most experienced businessman was greatly frightened.

**35 Only the greatest courage, with a foundation of even greater love, had brought that mother up and lifted her above the chaos around her. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** Only the greatest courage, supported by her maternal love, had forced her to face bravely the possible crash with confidence and calm, so she was not affected by the disorder around her.

**Unit - 3 Section A**

**1 Audrey Hepburn thrilled audiences with starring roles in noteworthy films ... (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Audrey Hepburn played leading roles in many extraordinary films, and such roles gave great pleasure to the people who watched the films...

**2 Despite her success in the film domain, the roles she most preferred portraying were not in movies. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Although Audrey Hepburn was a successful actress, the role she most preferred playing was not being an actress.

**3 She was an exemplary mother to her two sons and a UNICEF (the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund) Ambassador of Goodwill serving victims in war-torn countries. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** She was an excellent mother to her two sons and also a UNICEF Ambassador of Goodwill providing services to people who were suffering from the destruction of war in their countries.

**4 … Audrey Hepburn was aware of the brutality, death, and destruction of war. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** … Audrey Hepburn knew clearly that war is cruel, violent, deadly and destructive.

**5 She was hungry and malnourished, as her family was bankrupted as a result of the invasion. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Because of the Nazi invasion, her family became so poor that she did not have enough food to eat and became ill as a result.

**6 Audrey's father abandoned the family, and two of her uncles were taken captive and killed. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Audrey's father ran away and deserted the family, and two of her uncles were arrested and then killed.

**7 Audrey was grabbed off the street by Nazis and placed in line to be sent to a work camp. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Nazis arrested Audrey on the street, and placed her together with other people to be sent to a work camp.

**8 When the guards glanced away she darted off, barely escaping, and huddled in a cold, foul basement full of rats. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** When the guards took their eyes off her, she quickly ran away and escaped. Then she hid in a cold dirty basement full of rats.

**9 The little girl who would become the world's most magical actress began as an anonymous refugee confronting life's horrors and fragility firsthand. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Though now the most attractive movie star, at the very beginning, she was just an unknown person being forced to leave her country and directly face the terrible reality and an unstable life.

**10 But she refused to allow her spirit to be afflicted by the desperate reality of her young life. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Hopeless as her young life was, she was unwilling to let the reality have a negative influence on her spirit.

**11 Instead, she transcended those challenges but never forgot what it felt like to suffer, to be hungry, alone and helpless. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Instead of being influenced by the hopeless reality of her young life, she overcame those obstacles and was always aware of the feeling of suffering, hunger, loneliness, and desperation.

**12 After the war, Audrey and her mother left Holland, arriving in London as poor immigrants. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** When the war was over, Audrey and her mother left Holland, moved to London with little money, and lived there.

**13 Her dream of becoming a prime dancer drove her into a rigorous schedule at a famous ballet school. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** To realize her dream of becoming a leading dancer, she went to a famous ballet school to get a strict training.

**14 Later, she was spotted by a producer and eventually landed a role in the film *Roman Holiday* starring Gregory Peck, one of Hollywood's top leading men. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Later, a film producer noticed her, and she finally got a chance to play a role in the film *Roman Holiday* together with the great Hollywood actor, Gregory Peck.   
**Note:** land: vt. get sth. that you wanted, esp. a job or opportunity 得到，获得（自己想要的某物，尤指工作或机会）  
In his final year of college, he successfully landed a job on Wall Street with his unusual efforts. 在大学最后一年，他异常地努力，终于在华尔街找到一份工作。

**15 Soon, Audrey was transformed from a malnourished immigrant to an internationally famous movie star. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Soon, Audrey grew from an immigrant who was physically weak because of not having enough food to eat to a world-known actress.

**16 … Audrey felt that her most significant work was humanitarian work with those in need, and as the mother to her two sons. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** … Audrey thought her most important work was to serve people in need and to be the mother of her two sons.

**17 She suffered through two divorces and from her memories of the war. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Her experience of two divorces and terrible memories of the war tortured her a lot in her life.

**18 Yet, Audrey never let her sadness overcome her or jeopardize her hope for a brighter future. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Yet, Audrey never allowed her sad feelings to conquer her or to spoil her hope for a better future.

**19 Friends said Audrey had a complete lack of ego and accepted and appreciated others as they were. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Friends said Audrey didn't have any sense of self-importance and she accepted and appreciated whatever others were like.   
**Sentence structure note:** “as they are”（as 此处用作连接词）是一个固定结构，通常用在句尾，表示“照现在的情形；照现在的样子”，如果是单数事物则需用“as it is”。例如：  
The wise person accepts things as they are. 智者对一切事物随遇而安，处之泰然。  
I learned long ago to face life as it is, not as I wish it to be. 我早就学会了要直面现实生活，而不是只想去过我所希望的生活。

**20 For Audrey it was a paradise where she could hide from the world with her beloved family, work in her garden and take long walks in nature. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Home in Switzerland was a wonderful place to Audrey, where she could escape from the world to spend time together with her dear family, work in her garden and take long walks in nature.

**21 In 1988, Audrey was appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF designed to provide emergency food and healthcare to children suffering the destruction of war or other catastrophes. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** In 1988 Audrey was selected as a Goodwill Ambassador for UNICEF, which was established to help children suffering from war or other disasters by providing them with food and healthcare.

**22 In that role, her lifelong passion for helping those in need, found its greatest calling. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** In that role, she found a perfect way to express her lifelong passion for helping those in need.  
**Note:** calling: n. a strong desire or feeling of duty to do a particular kind of work, esp. work that helps other people （从事某种工作，尤指帮助他人的）强烈冲动；使命感；天职  
Some think teaching is a profession; but for me, it is a calling. 有些人认为教书是一个职业，但对我来说，这是一个使命。

**23 She turned down three million dollars to pen her autobiography and instead accepted one dollar a year in the more conscientious role as diplomat for UNICEF. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** She didn't accept an offer of three million dollars to write the story of her life, but accepted the demanding role as a UNICEF ambassador for one dollar a year.

**24 For seven months out of each of her last five years, she and Robby left the peace and beauty in their cozy home to embark on outreach trips into some of the most difficult places on earth. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** During the last five years of her life, she and Robby left their peaceful and beautiful home and spent seven months each year traveling to some of the most difficult places to provide help.

**25 … Audrey Hepburn traveled representing UNICEF, making over 50 emotionally draining and physically dangerous missions into bleak destinations to raise world awareness of wars and droughts. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** As an ambassador of UNICEF, Audrey Hepburn accomplished more than 50 tasks that were not only emotionally demanding but also physically dangerous by going to harsh places to draw international attention about the bad conditions in countries that had suffered from wars and droughts.

**26 Having been a victim of war, she understood the blessing of being the beneficiary of food, clothing, and, most of all, hope. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Since she once suffered from war herself, she understood how important it was to be provided with food, clothing, and the most important thing — hope.

**27 Audrey felt it was wicked that billions of children were deprived of simple joys and drowned in overwhelming misery. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Audrey thought it was very bad that so many children were unable to have the necessary food and clothing that they should enjoy, but led a miserable life.

**28 She believed deeply in the ideology that all people share in the duty to care for those in need. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** She strongly believed that all people have the responsibility to help those in need.

**29 Audrey Hepburn was always ready to lead by example. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** At any time, Audrey Hepburn was ready to set a good example for others to follow.

**30 She said: "When you deny childhood, you deny life." (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** She believed that if someone does not treasure childhood, he will not truly get the meaning of life.

**31 She saw UNICEF's work as an integral, sacred force in people's lives and said of UNICEF's results, "Anyone who doesn't believe in miracles is not a realist." (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** She thought UNICEF's work played an important and necessary role in people's lives and commented on the work by saying that we all should believe in miracles.   
**Meaning beyond words:** The sentence "Anyone who doesn't believe in miracles is not a realist" suggests that many people at that time disregarded the work of UNICEF by claiming that it was not realistic and didn't help much in fact. On the contrary, in the eyes of Audrey, realists should believe in their strength to create miracles, and UNICEF's achievement was a good example.

**32 In 1992, Audrey was stricken by cancer. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** In 1992, Audrey was badly affected by cancer.

**33 Even as her life ended at 63 years of age, she remained a gracious woman who perpetually signified simplicity, charity, charm and kindness. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** Till the end of her life, she had been a great woman always representing simplicity, charity, charm and kindness.

**34 The majesty of Audrey Hepburn's spirit of social responsibility and dedication lives on in her words … (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** Audrey Hepburn's sense of social responsibility and her dedication for helping those in need continue to exist in her words and inspire people around the world.

**35 "Remember, if you ever need a helping hand, it's at the end of your arm. As you get older, remember you have another hand: The first is to help yourself, the second is to help others." (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Remember, when you are in need of help, you should try working on your own. When you grow up, you should try your best not only to help yourself but also to help others.

**36 … "For beautiful eyes, look for the good in others; for beautiful lips, speak only words of kindness; and for poise, walk with the knowledge that you are never alone." (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** To have beautiful eyes, discover the good in other people. Lips are beautiful only when they speak kind words. You will obtain confidence when you walk knowing that you are never walking by yourself.

**Unit - 3 Section B**

**1 Steven had to face rejections and obstacles in his film-creating efforts, but his persistence and dedication transformed the obstacles into an alternative route to success.**  
**Meaning:** On his way to making films, Steven was confronted with many rejections and obstacles, but his hard work and strong determination helped him overcome them and finally become successful.

**2 … a packed lunch tucked into his briefcase. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** … with his lunch packed and put in his briefcase.

**3 The young boy tried to immerse himself in film in any way possible. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** When Steven was still a young boy, he tried every way he could to get himself completely involved in filmmaking.

**4 … even though he didn't have a legitimate security pass, he would try to manipulate his way past the guards and into his personal paradise. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** … he didn't have a valid permit to get into the film shooting places, but he would try his best to figure out a way to avoid the guards and get into the studios where he found his own paradise.

**5 Such persistence is hardly surprising from a boy whose lifelong conviction was to "Make sure you are right and go on!". (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Considering the boy's strong belief, which was to "Make sure you are right and go on!", it is not surprising at all that he became so persistent in filmmaking.

**6 Steven immediately began collecting footage of family events, and he simulated action scenes with his miniature toy spacecraft, populating his films with his neighborhood friends as actors. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** With the camera, Steven started at once to film things happening in his family, created action scenes with his small toy spaceship, and asked his friends in the neighborhood to act in his movies.

**7 People quickly began to recognize his terrific talent … (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** His great talent in filmmaking was soon known and appreciated by others ....

**8 His film *Firelight* was twice analyzed by a national newspaper and was presented in the city theater as if it were a Hollywood premiere. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** A national newspaper reviewed Firelight two times and the movie was presented in the cinema like the first showing of a Hollywood movie.

**9 By the time he was 17 years old, Steven had established himself as a director with the artistic intuition of a man twice his age. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** At the age of 17, Steven had been recognized as a director who had the artistic talent of a man of 34.

**10 His achievements are certainly related to the personal obstacles and setbacks he faced from an early age. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** His achievements certainly have something to do with the difficulties and problems he has encountered since a young boy.

**11 Steven's family moved often, so that he was constantly trying to find his place in a turbulent environment with new people. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Because his family often moved, Steven kept adapting himself to the constant change of living places and people.

**12 Despite his natural intelligence, Steven had a carefree attitude and put little effort into school. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Though he was born intelligent, Steven neither took the school work seriously nor studied hard.

**13 Socially, he wasn't athletic or popular, and since his conspicuous interest in film made him seem eccentric, classmates shunned and mocked him. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** He was not good at sports and his classmates didn't like him. His particular interest in film made him seem so strange that his classmates avoided him and laughed at him.

**14 His home life was not ideal either, as his father's rigid engineering temperament could not understand his or his mother's artistic personalities. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** He didn't have a pleasant home life either. As an engineer, his father was strict and stubborn, while he and his mother were artistic and imaginative, and his father could not understand them.

**15 Steven would miss his father when he was gone for long work trips, and then reverted to furiously arguing with him as soon as he returned. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** When his father was away from home for work, Steven would miss him. But as soon as he came back home, Steven would angrily quarrel with him again as usual.

**16 Finally, when he was in high school, his parents ended their unhappy marriage with a divorce. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Finally, when he was in high school, his parents' unhappy marriage came to an end and they divorced.

**17 The theme of the lack of a father figure consistently infected Steven's films. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** The theme of the lack of a father always had a strong influence on Steven's films.

**18 Unfriendly surroundings at home and school made Steven strive even harder to achieve in the film world. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Unfavorable conditions at home and school drove Steven to work even harder for success in the film domain.

**19 But even with a formidable 10 years of experiences in filmmaking and his friends at Universal Studios endorsing him, his grades were too poor, and he was flatly turned down at both institutions. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Despite his 10 years of impressive experiences in filmmaking and the support from his friends at Universal Studios, he got an absolute refusal from the two universities because of his low grades at school.  
**Note:** flatly refuse / deny / oppose, etc. sth. 表示“断然拒绝/否认/反对某事”。例如：  
Alexander could see no point at all in doing this and flatly refused the proposal. 亚历山大认为这样做毫无道理，就断然拒绝了这项提议。

**20 Unfortunately, the university was not suited to his experience, and one academician recalled, "Steven knew more about cameras, mounts, and lenses than anyone else in the department. He could teach there." (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Unfortunately, the university was not what he needed. A scholar said that Steven could be a teacher there because he knew more about filmmaking than all the other people in the department.

**21 Despite his manifest talent, his low grades sabotaged transfer attempts, forcing real film schools to withhold acceptance. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Though his talent was easy to see, his grades were too poor for him to be transferred to real film schools, which refused to accept him.

**22 Steven contrived to rectify the situation on his own by diverting his attention away from academics. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Steven managed to change the situation by himself, by shifting his focus from film schools to his own filmmaking.

**23 Introducing himself under the pretext of being either an actor, director, or producer, he would invite people to dinner to make connections and learn as much as he could. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** By pretending to be an actor, director, or producer, he invited people to dinner to get familiar with them and to learn from them as much as he could.

**24 Even though he was caught and expelled at least once a day, he always returned to smuggle himself back in again. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** He was found and forced to leave at least one time each day, but he always worked out a way to get into the place again.

**25 He would discretely create scenes and then shoot and re-shoot his movies. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** He would create each scene separately and then shoot the movie scenes time and again.  
**Note:** shoot: v. take photographs or make a film of sth. 拍摄（电影、照片等）；摄制  
If I had Hollywood money, I'd shoot a film that would go to Hollywood or to the Cannes Film Festival and win. 如果我有好莱坞那么多投资，我也会拍出能到好莱坞或戛纳电影节去获大奖的电影。

**26 He kept upgrading from 8 to 16 and finally 35 mm film before he was allowed a screening. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** He kept improving from 8 to 16 and finally 35 mm film till he got a chance to present his movies.  
**Note:** Generally, a 35 mm film can have more detail than an 8 mm or 16 mm frame size since it is bigger, and thus better resolution. It is the film gauge most commonly used for motion pictures.

**27 It was a short, silent film and the plot differed greatly from the sci-fi and combat films that would later predominate Steven's career. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Being short and without sound, this film differed greatly in content from the film types, such as sci-fi and combat films that would be dominant in Steven's future career.   
**Note:** sci-fi: n. [U] (infml) science fiction 科幻小说  
... a two-and-a-half hour sci-fi film 一部两个半小时的科幻片

**28 Still, the short film was awesome enough to win Steven, only 21 years old, a seven-year contract with Universal Studios. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** The short film was so good that it helped Steven get a seven-year contract with Universal Studios, at the age of 21.

**29 After directing smaller TV dramas and low-budget projects, Steven earned the chance to direct his big Hollywood debut: a thriller film starring a shark! (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Steven had directed some TV dramas and other low-cost projects before he was given a chance to direct his first big Hollywood movie, which was a thriller film about a shark.

**30 *Jaws* was a box office hit and it made Steven famous. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** The movie *Jaws* was so successful that it drew a large amount of money from ticket sales and made Steven famous.   
**Note:** box office: n.  
1) [sing.] used to describe how successful a film, play, or actor is, by the number of people who pay to see them 票房（指电影、戏剧、演员等能吸引多少人来观看）  
*The Phantom of the Opera*, a novel published in 1911, later became an enormous box office success as a musical play. 《歌剧魅影》是1911年出版的一本小说，后来其音乐剧票房获得了巨大成功。  
2) [C] the place in a theater, cinema, etc. where tickets are sold （戏院、电影院等的）售票处  
Let's meet at the box office, and then we can go into the theater together. 我们在售票处见面吧，然后一起进电影院。  
**Note:** hit: n. [C] sth. such as a movie, song, play, etc. that is extremely popular or successful 风行一时（热门）的事物（如电影、歌曲、戏剧等）  
There was no way of knowing which film would be a success, which song would be a hit. 很难预料哪部电影将大获成功，哪首歌曲将风行一时。

**31 He continued his relationship with Universal Studios to produce the notable movies *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park*, and *Schindler's List*. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** He continued his contract with Universal Studios and made more remarkable movies in his career such as *E.T.*, *Jurassic Park*, and*Schindler's List*.

**32 As his first producer said, "It is not by any coincidence that Steven is in his present position." Instead, it is Steven's committed spirit that has strengthened him in standing fast against all rejections, prejudice and skepticism and driven him to keep moving onward. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** As his first producer said, Steven achieved his success in filmmaking by no accident. Though he had experienced many obstacles such as rejections, prejudice and skepticism, his persistence helped him to overcome all of them and to continue progressing in his career.  
**Sentence structure note:**  
平行结构是指在一个句子或段落中重复相同的单词或短语模式，以强调所说的要点同等重要。此处使用 “it is not … that …; it is … that …” 这样的平行结构可以起到连接相邻句子的作用，有助于更好地组织要点，促进对课文的理解，同时也产生一种语言上的韵律美。例如：  
It is not because I am striving to cultivate an air of innocence that I often dress in white; it is because I have to think of my own convenience for entering and leaving my place of work that I wear white. 我并不是因为要努力营造纯洁气氛才常穿白色衣服，而是因为我必须考虑进出工作场所方便才穿白色的。

**Unit - 4 Section A**

**1 It's 4:15 in the morning, and my alarm clock has just stolen away a lovely dream. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** It's 4:15 in the morning and my alarm clock has just woken me up from a lovely dream.  
**Note:** In Paragraph 1, present tenses are used to describe a scene which is not actually happening and to make the imaginary scene seem more immediate and more real.

**2 I run in when we arrive, stagger through security and finally get to my gate. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** I run in after we arrive, walk unsteadily through security and get to the place where I should get on the plane.  
**Note:** The word *gate* here means "the place at the airport where people get on a plane".

**3 … I'm stuck in this terminal for the next 218 minutes, and my only consolation is a cup of complimentary airport coffee. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** … I am trapped in this terminal for the next 218 minutes and my only comfort is a free cup of coffee offered by the airport.  
**Note:** The author used 218 minutes instead of 3 hours and 38 minutes in order to emphasize the trouble of waiting for a long time.

**4 This is traveling, a burdensome series of running and waiting, and after countless hours, finally getting there. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Traveling means we have to spend countless hours running and waiting before we finally get to the destination, which is quite troublesome.

**5 I don't mind the actual flying, the wonder of being airborne in a dense metal bird. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I don't mind the flying itself as it is a great wonder that the plane, like a heavy metal bird, can fly in the sky.

**6 The rest of the journey, however, can feel like a tedious lesson in the ills of modernity, from the predawn x-ray screening to the sad airport malls selling clusters of keepsakes. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** But the rest of the journey is very boring. You have to endure and tolerate the problems and difficulties brought by modernity, such as going through the x-ray screening early in the morning and wandering around the terrible airport shopping departments selling various keepsakes.  
**Note:** The word *ills* means "problems and difficulties", and *screening* literally means "tests done to check someone for a particular disease", here*x-ray screening* means "the process of testing passengers and their luggage for possible dangers". The word *keepsake* means "a small object that you keep in order to remind you of something or someone".

**7 It's the result of a globalized world, and it sucks. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** It is the result of globalization, and that's too bad and very annoying.  
**Note:** Here, *suck* means "be very bad, very annoying, etc." This is used only in the present tense.

**8 Because in this digital age, there is still something important about the handshake at a business luncheon. (Para. 3)**   
**Meaning:** Because even in this digital age, meeting other business people and shaking hands with them at a business lunch is still important.

**9 But most travel is decidedly optional. Only corporate travel, about 30% of trips over 50 miles, is truly compulsory. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** But most travel is definitely of your own choice. You can choose to go or not to go. Only 30% of trips over 50 miles which are made for business are truly a necessity.

**10 Instead, we travel because we want to, because the annoyances of the airport are offset by the thrill of being someplace new. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** We travel because we want to, and also because the excitement of being in a new place will compensate for the annoyances caused by the airport.

**11 Because the flights are on sale. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Because the flight tickets are sold at a price lower than usual.

**12 Because Paris is Paris. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Because you go to Paris for the sake of its uniqueness. You just want to experience the wonder of Paris.  
**Note:** Parallelism is used in "Because work is stressful …. Because Paris is Paris". Such a rhetorical device adds balance and rhythm to sentences, giving ideas a smoother flow and thus they can be more persuasive because of the repetition the sentences employ.

**13 Thanks to modern aviation, we can now move through space at an inhuman speed. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Thanks to modern aircraft technology, we can now move through space at an extremely rapid speed, which seems beyond human capability.

**14 For the first time in human history, we can outrun the sun and move from one hemisphere to another in a single day. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** For the first time in human history, we can travel faster than the sun, and we can go from one half of the earth to another in a single day.

**15 But here's the irony: Our mind is most likely to solve our most stubborn problems while we are sitting in luxury in a Left Bank café. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** But it is very strange and funny that we tend to solve our most difficult problems when we are relaxing in a luxurious Left Bank café.  
**Meaning beyond words:** We travel because we want to get rid of the stubborn problems at home, but visiting new places may stimulate our brains and, therefore, be beneficial to problem solving. This is the irony.

**16 So, instead of contemplating that buttery dessert, we should be conscious of those domestic issues we just can't solve. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** So, instead of focusing on the dessert covered with butter, we should think about the problems we are unable to solve at home.

**17 The larger lesson, though, is that our thoughts are saturated with the familiar. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Based on what we have learned about traveling, we should extend our understanding to a broader sense and realize that our mind is full of the familiar things which are happening around us.

**18 The brain is a space of near infinite possibility, which means that it spends a lot of time and energy choosing what not to notice. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** The brain is able to take in an unlimited number of things, so it has to spend a lot of time and energy choosing what to notice and what not to notice.

**19 As a result, creativity is traded away for efficiency; we think in finite, literal prose, not symbolic verse. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Consequently, we sacrifice our creativity to improve efficiency. We think in a clear and definite way without much space for imagination, just as what we do in writing prose, which is completely different from writing poems. In writing poems, we use fewer words to express our more imaginative thinking.

**20 A bit of distance, however, helps loosen the cognitive chains that imprison us, making it easier to mingle the new with the old; the mundane is grasped from a slightly more abstract perspective. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** A bit of distance, however, helps free us from our usual thinking patterns, making it easier to deal with old things from new perspectives. An ordinary thing could be understood with a more flexible attitude without being confined to a single rigid view.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Traveling in a new place enables us to change our usual thinking patterns and to improve our cognitive abilities, so that we can see the old problems from multiple, new perspectives and approach these problems with flexibility.

**21 According to research, the experience of an exotic culture endows us with a valuable open-mindedness, making it easier to realize that even a trivial thing can have multiple meanings. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** According to research, experiencing a foreign culture can make us become much more open-minded. We learn to see that even a small thing can have a great many meanings.

**22 Such multicultural contrasts mean that seasoned travelers are open to ambiguity, willing to realize that there are decidedly different (and equally valid) ways of interpreting the world. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** The contrasts between different cultures mean that travelers with rich experience are open to different views about this world. They are more willing to realize that there are definitely different ways of looking at the world and that the many different ways are equally valid.  
**Note:** Here, the adjective *seasoned* means "experienced in a particular activity or job". It is usually used before a noun. For example:  
Jackson is a seasoned teacher with more than 30 years of experience in the classroom. 杰克逊是位拥有30多年课堂教学经验的资深教师。

**23 This, in turn, allows them to expand the circumference of their "cognitive inputs" as they refuse to settle for their first answers and initial guesses. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** This, in turn, increases their opportunities to see and hear more from the world, as they refuse to be satisfied with the ideas and thoughts that strike them first.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Being open to ambiguity and exposed to many cultures expand their horizons and make them more knowledgeable and profound.

**24 Of course, this mental flexibility doesn't come from mere distance, a simple change in latitude and longitude. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Of course, this mental flexibility, being open-minded to all that we see, is not just the consequence of distance — the change of places.

**25 Instead, this renaissance of creativity appears to be a side effect of difference: We need to change cultures, to experience the disorienting diversity of human traditions. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Our creativeness is rather caused by differences, unexpected to us: We need to change from one culture to another just in the way we change from one train or airplane to another, to experience the diversity of human traditions.  
**Note:** disorienting: *a.* confusing you and making you not certain about what is happening around you 令人迷惘的  
In the new environment of the university, the absence of familiar language and lifestyle may be disorienting. 在大学新环境中，没有了熟悉的语言和生活方式可能让人产生迷惑之感。

**26 The same facets of foreign travel that are so confusing (Do I tip the waiter? Where is this train taking me?) turn out to have a lasting impact, making us more creative because we're less insular. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Some experiences in foreign trips may make us confused, such as whether we should tip the waiter and where the train is taking us. These experiences may have a deep impact on us, reminding us that our home-based perspective of seeing things should be changed. Consequently, we become more open-minded and more creative.

**27 We're reminded of all that we don't know, which is nearly everything; we're surprised by the constant stream of surprises. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** We are made aware of all that we don't know, which is nearly everything; we're continuously surprised by new things.

**28 Even in this globalized age, we can still be amazed at all the earthly things that weren't included in the *Let's Go* guidebook and that certainly don't exist back home. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Even in this globalized age, we can still be surprised by the things in the world which are not yet included in the *Let's Go* guidebook and cannot be found at home.

**29 So, let's not pretend that travel doesn't have its drawbacks, or that we endure jet lag for pleasure. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** So let's just admit that travel is not perfect and has its disadvantages, and that jet lag is not a pleasure.  
**Note:** Jet lag is a temporary disorder that causes fatigue, anxiety, insomnia, headache, irritability, confusion, sweating, coordination problems, dizziness, memory loss and other symptoms as a result of air travel across time zones. It is considered a circadian rhythm sleep disorder (昼夜节律性睡眠障碍), which is a disruption of the internal body clock. Some individuals report additional symptoms, such as heartbeat irregularities and increased susceptibility to illness.

**30 We don't spend 10 hours lost in the Louvre because we like it, and the view from the top of Machu Picchu probably doesn't make up for the trouble of lost luggage. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** We get lost in the Louvre for 10 hours not because we like it, and the view from the top of Machu Picchu probably cannot ease the trouble of lost luggage.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Travel does have its problems, such as getting lost and getting frustrated with lost luggage, all of which are not easily made up for. We should not deny this.  
**Sentence structure note:** 在We don't spend 10 hours lost in the Louvre because we like it. 这个句子中，否定词not否定的是后面的状语从句because we like it，而不是谓语动词spend。如果一个否定句含有状语，其否定词常常是从意义上否定状语，即使从形式上看似乎否定的是动词。例如：  
Rome was not built in a day. 罗马不是一天建成的。  
The mountain is not valuable because it is high. 山不是以高为贵。  
He did not go to work by bus. 他不是乘公共汽车上班的。   
这种句子常常含有歧义，请比较下面两句的意思：  
I did not leave home because I was afraid of my father. 我离开了家，并不是因为我怕我爸爸。  
I did not leave home, because I was afraid of my father. 我没有离开家，因为我怕我爸爸。

**31 More often than not, I need a vacation after my vacation. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Usually, I need a rest after my travels — I am tired after traveling.

**32 We travel because we need to, because distance and difference are the secret cornerstones of creativity. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** We travel because we need to, because distance and difference play a fundamental role in stimulating creativity.

**33 But something in our mind has been changed, and that changes everything. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** When we get home after travel, something has changed in our mind. We have learned something new and become less insular and more open-minded. This kind of change in thinking patterns can have a lasting impact on our life and change everything in our future life.

**Unit - 4 Section B**

**1 Traveling solo — A blessing overall! (title)**  
**Meaning:** Traveling alone is a good thing as a whole.

**2 You've always been fascinated with Chinese aesthetics and culture, with red, fragrant temples and venerable statues. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** You have always been attracted by the art of beauty and culture of China, and by its red, pleasant-smelling temples and old statues.

**3 You have a chunk of money saved and extra vacation time earned. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** You have saved a lot of money and got extra time for a vacation.

**4 … and find, for yourself, the soul of the country. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** … and find for yourself the best part and the essence of the country.

**5 Unfortunately, right from the onset, none of your friends share that dream. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Unfortunately, right from the beginning, none of your friends have the same dream, nor will they go together with you.

**6 For me, it came naturally. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** I made the decision to travel alone naturally.

**7 I made that trip to China, and then zigzagged on a multinational excursion through Indonesia, Thailand, England and France. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** I traveled to China, and after that I also traveled to several other countries during one trip, including Indonesia, Thailand, England and France.

**8 … solo traveling is strange, and even considered inconceivable or reckless by many people. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** … traveling alone is strange, and even considered unbelievable or impulsive by many people.

**9 People ask me if the isolation makes me sad or even if I'm more susceptible to violent or dangerous situations. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** People ask me if my being alone makes me sad or even ask me if I'm more likely to be exposed to violence and danger.

**10 I remember searching desperately for accommodations in Taiwan. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** I remember that once I was hopelessly searching for a place to stay in Taiwan.

**11 As it turned out, she was offering to let me stay at her flat and even had a friend come show me around the city the next day. (Para. 6)**  
**Sentence structure note:** “as it turned out” 意思是“结果是”，用于表达本该某事发生的时候，实际所发生的却是另外的情形。例如：  
They said the repairs would cost around 200,000 dollars, but as it turned out, the final bill was twice that amount. 他们说修理要花费大概20 万美元， 但最后账单却是该数额的两倍。  
As it turned out, he passed the exam quite easily. 结果他非常轻松地通过了考试。  
**Note:** 在口语中，go to / and do sth. 以及come to / and do sth. 常常省略中间的to / and，即go do sth. 或 come do sth.。例如：  
I'll go see the doctor. 我要去看医生。  
She'd better come get you, anyway. 不管怎样，她最好来接你。

**12 Also in Taiwan, I met two girls who smuggled me into their hotel room, gave me one of the beds (they shared the other), and took me to a feast with their tour group. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Also in Taiwan, I met two girls, and they took me into their hotel room secretly. They gave me one of the beds (they shared the other), and took me to have a big dinner with their tour group.

**13 But there has also been the downside of those not-so-pleasant experiences. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** But there have also been disadvantages as shown by some unpleasant experiences.

**14 In Indonesia, a cute boy gave me a ride on his motorbike, and thought that gave him license to grope me illicitly. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** In Indonesia, a cute boy offered to take me for a ride on his motorbike, and thought that permitted him to touch me indecently.

**15 Many times in Indonesia, boys menaced me assuming I was willing to pay for their company. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Many times in Indonesia, boys threatened me and thought that I was willing to pay them to show me around.

**16 … but one snored like a lawnmower ... (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** … but one girl breathed noisily in her sleep like a lawnmower …

**17 I've been irritated and perplexed many times — not speaking a language, not understanding or being understood. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** I have been annoyed and confused many times because I can't speak a local language, thus unable to understand or be understood by others.

**18 Once, in Italy, a hotel clerk tried to overcharge me and only gave up after 10 minutes of arguing. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Once, in Italy, a hotel clerk tried to ask me for more money than needed. He argued with me for 10 minutes; but at last, he gave up.

**19 Having a companion might have helped safeguard me from some of those problems. But it would have suppressed other opportunities … (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** If I had had a companion, some of those problems might have not happened. But it would have prevented me from getting other opportunities that could only be obtained by traveling alone …

**20 Getting sick in China, and being nursed with chocolate bars and tissues by a couple from Texas. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Once I got sick in China, and a couple from Texas looked after me and provided me with chocolate bars and tissues.

**21 The few times I have traveled with a companion, I haven't had the same ample opportunities to meet people. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** I traveled with a companion a few times, and I didn't have as many opportunities to meet people as when I traveled alone.

**22 Other travelers can swap stories with you about the local folklore of the places they've been to and often have credible insights into the place you're visiting. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Other travelers can share stories with you about the local traditions and customs of the places they've been to, and often they have deep understanding of the place you are visiting.

**23 Locals are also more likely to see you as approachable and be upfront with you when you're on your own. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** The local people are also more likely to see you as friendly, easy to talk to, and tend to be frank with you when you are alone.

**24 Of course you have to be careful not to endanger yourself by throwing caution to the wind. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Of course you should be careful not to put yourself in a dangerous position, and should always pay attention to the potential danger.

**25 Watch your back, but don't presume the worst and be overly fearful. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Take care and watch out, but don't always think the worst will happen and be too frightened.

**26 If you hear stories about criminals on a road, take the road — just don't take much cash, and don't accept Coca Cola from strangers. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Traveling on a road where criminal stories often take place, you should not take much cash because the gangs may rob you of your cash. You should not accept any drink from strangers because it may contain drugs to trap you.

**27 The key to solo travel is to open your mind, close your eyes and leap in! (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** The key to solo travel is to be brave to accept new ideas, close your eyes and try it.

**28 Everything that happens to you is an experience, and good, bad or neutral, they will all benefit you in some way. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Everything that happens to you is an experience. Whether the experience is bad, good or neutral, they will all benefit you in a certain way.

**29 Take those little annoyances, those inefficiencies, and those boring bureaucrats with a laugh. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Do not take too seriously those little annoyances, those inefficiencies, and those boring bureaucrats.

**30 If you despise something, just remember: You don't live there, you can leave anytime, and you'll never have to deal with this again! (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** There may be something you dislike; never take it too seriously. You do not have to live there and face the problem all the time. If you feel uncomfortable with it, you can leave anytime.

**Unit - 5 Section A**

**1 In a society where slavery in the strict sense has been abolished, the social indications around work, the value of work and the salary, have degraded many laborers into modern slaves — "wage slaves". (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** In a society where slavery, strictly speaking, has been put to an end, the social status of work, the value of work and the salary, have made many laborers become modern slaves — "wage slaves".  
**Note:** "Wage slaves" here refers to those who work for the mere purpose of earning a wage.

**2 People are considered laborers if their job has an adverse effect on them, yet they feel compelled to continue working by the necessity of conforming to societal expectations and earning the revenue to support themselves and their families. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** People are considered laborers if their job has a bad or negative effect on them, but they are forced to work because they want to meet the expectation of the society and earn some money to support themselves and their families.  
**Note:** societal: a. relating to society or the way society is organized 社会的  
In time, humans began to develop societal organizations that eventually would become what we know as towns and cities. 经过一段时间之后，人类开始形成社会组织，这些社会组织最终发展为我们所知道的乡镇和城市。

**3 The polar opposite of labor is play. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Play is completely opposite to labor.

**4 Between labor and play stands work. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Work lies somewhere between labor and play.  
**Note:** Here we are reminded of what is mentioned in the preceding paragraph "The polar opposite of labor is play".

**5 People are labeled as workers if their personal interests coincide with the jobs society pays them to do; what is necessary labor from the point of view of society is voluntary play from the individual's personal point of view. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** People are regarded as workers if their personal interests agree with the jobs society pays them to do; what is necessary labor from the perspective of society can mean voluntary play to a worker.  
**Note:** The labor required in a job is voluntary play to workers because they show interest in it, enjoy what they are doing and find pleasure in it, just as if they were playing a game.  
**Note:** point of view: n. a particular way of thinking about or judging a situation 视角；角度  
How does your point of view square with what some of your colleagues have said? 你的观点与你一些同事的意见在多大程度上一致？

**6 Whether a job is to be designated as labor or work depends, not on the job itself, but on the tastes of the individual who undertakes it. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Whether a job is to be considered as labor or work depends, not on the job itself, but on whether the very person who does it has interest in it or not.

**7 The difference does not, for example, correlate with the difference between a manual and mental job or between jobs of low or high esteem; … (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** The difference between labor and work has no connection with the difference between a manual and mental job or between jobs which get low or high respect and admiration.

**8 Workers are therefore more prone to dedicate more time to working, taking too little leisure rather than too much. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Workers are therefore more likely to spend more time in working, and they will spend extremely little amount of time on relaxation.

**9 To laborers, on the other hand, leisure means autonomy from compulsion, so it is natural for them to imagine that the fewer hours they have to spend laboring, and the more hours they have free for play, the better. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** To laborers, on the other hand, leisure means complete freedom from what they are forced to do or what they have to do; so, it is natural for them to think that it is better if they spend less time on labor and more time on play.  
**Note:** compulsion: n. [sing., U] the act of forcing or influencing sb. to do sth. they do not want to do, or the situation of being forced or influenced （被）强制；（被）强迫  
Who would undertake such a difficult task without compulsion? 如果不是强制性的，谁会去承担这样一项困难的任务？

**10 They will also work with more diligence and precision because they have fostered a sense of personal pride in their jobs. (Para. 5)**   
**Meaning:** They will also work harder and more accurately because they have developed a sense of personal pride in their jobs.

**11 On the other hand, laborers, whose sole incentive is earning their livelihood, feel that the time they spend on the daily grind is wasted and doesn't contribute to their happiness. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** On the other hand, laborers, whose only motive is making a living, feel that the time they spend on the boring daily work is wasted and doesn't bring them happiness.

**12 Instead of valuing all 24 hours of their day as enjoyable and productive hours, they gauge only the time spent in leisure and play as meaningful. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Instead of regarding all 24 hours of their day as enjoyable and productive hours, they believe that only the time that they spend in leisure and play is meaningful.

**13 Unfortunately, laborers are all too commonplace, and only a small percentage of the population is in the lucky position of being workers. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Unfortunately, laborers are so common that they can be seen almost everywhere, and only a small percentage of the population is lucky to be workers.

**14 In recent decades, technological innovation and the division of labor have caused major economic changes by eliminating the need for special strength or skill in many fields and have turned many paid occupations with enjoyable work into boring labor. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** In recent decades, the improvements in technology and the division of labor have caused great economic changes. People do not need special strength or skill any more in many fields. Many paid jobs with enjoyable work have become boring labor routine.

**15 Increasing productivity with automated machines, such as robots, has reduced the number of necessary laboring hours. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:**With the use of machines which can automatically do the work for people, such as robots, productivity has increased and the number of necessary laboring hours has accordingly decreased.

**16 It is possible to imagine an upcoming society in which the majority of the population will have almost as much leisure time as in earlier times was enjoyed by the medieval aristocracy. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** It is possible to imagine that in a society of the near future, most of the people will have a lot of spare time, which would be similar to the amount of time for play enjoyed by aristocrats in medieval times.

**17 The medieval aristocrats had an abundance of leisure time but often wasted it in trivial pursuit of games and fashion. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** The medieval aristocrats had a large amount of leisure time but often wasted it on such insignificant things as playing games and following the latest fashion.

**18 Likewise, modern-day laborers with too much leisure time may find it difficult to refrain from the addictive and trivial pursuits of celebrity gossip, extravagant fashion, and excessive video games and TV — similar bad habits that waste valuable time. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Similarly, laborers of modern day, who have too much leisure time, may find it hard to stop doing such insignificant things as talking about private affairs of famous people, and spending a lot of money on fashion and too much time on video games and TV shows. These bad habits will equally waste valuable time.

**19 However, it's not necessary to take such a toxic attitude toward such a positive thing as leisure time. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** However, it's not necessary to take such a negative attitude toward leisure time, which is, after all, a positive thing.

**20 Lifelong learning can make the difference between being bored, unhappy laborers and workers who find meaning and joy in their employment and life. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Lifelong learning will make people become workers who find meaning and joy in both job and private life rather than make them dull, unhappy laborers.

**21 "Continuing education" or "experiential learning" can offer an array of classes from pleasant diversions such as sports, art classes or music to leadership development, advanced accounting skills, or CAD (computer-aided design), to name only a few. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** "Continuing education" or "experiential learning" can provide you with a number of classes, which range from pleasant activities such as sports, art classes or music to leadership development, advanced accounting skills, or CAD, just to mention a few examples.   
**Note:** experiential: a. (infml.) relating to or based on experience 与经验有关的；由经验得来的  
Surprisingly, many parents feel they missed experiential music-making activities in their youth and want to learn about music in the way their children are learning. 令人吃惊的是，很多家长觉得他们年轻时错过了体验式音乐创作的活动，现在想以他们的孩子学习音乐的方式去学习音乐。

**22 They hurl their passion into their work, be it physical like the work of a smith, or more mental like that of a scientist or an artist. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** They put their passion into their work, whether it is physical like the work of a smith, or more mental like that of a scientist or an artist.  
**Note:** The word *smith* here refers to "blacksmith ( 铁匠；锻工 )".  
**Sentence structure note:** be it … or … 表示“无论 … 还是 … ”。例如：  
The public donates money to our cause and for the victims of disasters, be it natural, such as earthquakes, or man-made, such as oil spills. 公众为我们的事业捐款，为灾难受害者捐款，无论是地震之类的自然灾难，还是石油泄漏之类的人为灾难。

**23 Even purely mental work can suffice as an outlet, as aptly expressed by the phrase "sinking one's teeth into a problem". (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Even purely mental work can be enough for them to express and release their enthusiasm, as is well expressed by the phrase "sinking one's teeth into a problem".

**24 Laborers are slaving away at a job they don't enjoy for a small monetary reward, waiting all day until they go home and play. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Laborers are working hard at a job for a small amount of money though they don't enjoy that job at all. They are always waiting just for their turn to go home and play.

**25 But while laborers are counting down the hours, workers are energized and focused, taking optimum pleasure in the task at hand. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** But while laborers are waiting anxiously for the time to leave work and go home, workers are energetic and concentrated and enjoy what they are doing immensely.

**26 By choosing a job that is both useful to society and personally fulfilling, workers maintain a simultaneous sense of purpose and enthusiasm that improves their whole lives. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** By choosing a job that is both useful to society and satisfying to themselves, workers are not only aware of what they want and but also highly motivated, which improves their whole lives.

**27 So in the end, whatever job you choose, you must contend with this essential question: Will you be a laborer or a worker? (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** The author further stresses the significance of differentiating a laborer from a worker by ending the passage with a question, revealing the fact that people have to face the choice no matter what job they choose.

**Unit - 5 Section B**

**1 He greeted me with a cheerful smile and instant hospitality. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** He greeted me with a happy smile, receiving me warmly right away.

**2 I sat there with my shoes off, watching as he got ready to stitch up my shoes I'd entrusted to him. (Para. 4)**   
**Meaning:** I took off my shoes and sat there, watching as he was ready to do some repair work on the shoes I'd given to him.

**3 It was worn through because I had failed to have the shoes patched a month ago. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** It was worn out because I had failed to have the shoes repaired a month ago.

**4 This handicraft is my specialty and I want to do a good job. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** This manual work of repairing shoes is something I am skilled at and I want to do a good job.

**5 In this simplistic little shop that was no different from so many other shoe-repair shops on the residential side streets of Washington? (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** In this very simple little shop that was not different at all from so many other shoe-repair shops along the streets in the part of Washington where people live?  
**Meaning beyond words:** Here the author is doubtful whether there is a tradition in such an ordinary shop.

**6 The thought seemed a bit absurd. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** The thought seemed a bit ridiculous.

**7 He must have sensed my bias, for he smiled with a gleam in his eyes as he went on. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** He must have felt that I had a prejudice against him, which had been revealed from the expression in his eyes. So he went on with a smile.

**8 I've utilized good leather. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** I've used good leather.

**9 He saw me, and he waved and smiled, as cordial as could be. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** He saw me, and waved his hands and smiled very warmly and politely.

**10 That was the beginning of our friendship, a fellowship that came to mean more and more to me as time passed. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** That was the beginning of our friendship, which gradually became more and more important to me as time went by.

**11 Then I found myself lingering in his store or dropping in every few days, just to chat with him for the joy he would impart. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Then I found myself hanging around his store or visiting the store every few days, just to chat with him because he would give me much joy.  
**Meaning beyond words:** This sentence implies that the author didn't realize that he had been so much influenced by the shoe repairer's attitude toward job that he often visited the store just to chat with him.

**12 What little hair he had was gray; his face was deeply lined. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** He had little hair, which was gray; his face was full of deep wrinkles.

**13 His personality was clear, but never stern. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** He had a distinctive personality, but he was never severe and strict.

**14 And, I remember best his fine dark eyes, alive with his charitable, carefree, and humorous spirit. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** And, I remember very clearly his fine dark eyes, which were full of kind, happy, and humorous spirit.

**15 Often, as he stood in front of his door overseeing the street, working at a pair of shoes, he sang a beautiful melody in a high, clear voice. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Often, as he stood in front of his door from where he could have a full view of the street, working at a pair of shoes, he sang a beautiful tune in a high, clear voice.

**16 Neighbors nicknamed him "the singing cobbler". (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Neighbors called him "the singing cobbler".

**17 He'd periodically pause his work to referee arguments or give out candy. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** He would occasionally stop his work to settle the children's arguments or distribute candy among them.

**18 He had no patience for bullying and would insist the children play fair in front of his store. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** He did not allow frightening and hurting the weak, and he insisted the children play games in a fair and honest way in front of his store.

**19 One day, I came away from my house filled with fury because of a poor job some painters had done on my house. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** One day, I left my house filled with great anger because some painters had done a poor job on my house.

**20 My friend waved to me as I walked by, so I went into his shop to vent my frustration. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** My friend waved to me as I walked by, so I went into his shop to tell him about my feeling of being frustrated.

**21 The undutiful attitude these days is almost a sin. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Many people are not doing their duty these days, and their attitude toward work is wrong.

**22 That's hard on a child. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** That has a bad effect on a child.

**23 He pondered that for a minute before answering. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** He thought carefully about that for a minute before he answered.

**24 In this country, each of us can make our own contribution to the fabric of society, and we must endeavor to make it a good one. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** In this country, each of us can make our own contribution to building our society, and we must try hard to make it a good one.

**25 When a person amends their ways and learns to take pride in their work, a lifetime of happiness will ensue. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** When a person improves their ways and learns to take pride in their work, a lifetime of happiness will come as a result.

**26 There was a little sign: "Call for shoes at shop next door." (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** There was a little sign that tells people to get their shoes at the shop next door.

**27 I went into the next shop, and what I heard pierced my heart. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** I went into the next shop, and what I heard made me very painful and sad.

**28 Yes, the old man had passed away. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** Yes, the old man had died.

**29 He was stricken with an infectious illness two weeks before and died two days later. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** He suffered severely from an illness that could be easily passed on from one person to another two weeks ago, and he died two days later.

**30 I went away with a wretched void in my heart. (Para. 19)**  
**Meaning:** I went away with a sad feeling of emptiness in my heart.

**31 But he had left me something, an important piece of wisdom I will invariably remember: "If you have inherited a prideful tradition, you must carry it on; if you haven't, then start building one now." (Para. 19)**  
**Meaning:** But he had left me a piece of wisdom, which is very valuable to me, and which I will always remember — if you have inherited a prideful tradition, you must stick to the tradition and continue with it; if you haven't, then start building one now.

**Unit - 6 Section A**

**1 Today, when I look back, I'm surprised that I recall the beginning so vividly; it's still clearly fixed in my mind with all its coloring and emotional intensity. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Today, when I look back on life, I'm surprised that I can remember the beginning of the war very clearly. I can see the same color and get the same intense feeling in my mind as that of the actual day in my life.

**2 It begins with my suddenly noticing 12 distant silver points in the clear brilliant sky filled with an unfamiliar abnormal hum. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** It begins like this: I suddenly notice 12 silver points far away in the clear and bright sky. The low and continuous sound made by them is unfamiliar and abnormal.

**3 Suddenly, nearby, at the edge of the forest, there's the tremendous roar of bombs exploding. From my standpoint, I see gigantic fountains of earth spraying upward. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Suddenly, the bombs explode nearby, at the edge of the forest, the noise of which is extremely loud. To my eyes, the earth raised by the explosion sprays upward, just like a very big fountain.

**4 I have not yet grown accustomed to war and can't relate into a single chain of causes and effects these airplanes, the roar of the bombs, the earth radiating out from the forest, and my seemingly inevitable death. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I have not yet learned about war. I do not yet know that it is the planes that drop the bombs, and that the explosions of the bombs make the earth spread out from the forest. All this activity may bring about my inescapable death.

**5 Unable to conceive of the danger, I start running toward the forest, in the direction of the falling bombs. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I cannot imagine or sense the danger of the explosion, so I start running toward the forest, toward where the bombs are falling.

**6 And I remember that my mother, pressing me to her, is saying something that I don't yet know exists, whose meaning I don't understand: That way is death. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I remember that my mother drags me close to her and is saying something that I have never heard before but does exist. I don't understand its meaning yet. My mother says that if I go that way, I will die.

**7 We have to evacuate the city and run away in the night like convicts. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** We have to move out of the city and run away in the night as if we were criminals.

**8 Where to, I don't know; but I do understand that flight has suddenly become some kind of higher necessity, some new form of life, because everyone is running away. (Para. 3)**   
**Meaning:** I don't know where to flee. But I understand that if I am to live, I must run away. Flight has become a new form of life because everyone is running away.   
**Note:** The word *flight* means "the act of running away or trying to escape from sb. or sth.（逃跑；溃退）"

**9 All highways, roads, and even country paths are a tangle of wagons, carts, and bicycles, with bundles and suitcases, and innumerable terrified, helplessly wandering people. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** All highways, roads, and even country paths are full of large numbers of wagons, carts and bicycles loaded with bundles and suitcases. Large groups of people are wandering helplessly with fear.

**10 … they run in circles, fall from profound fatigue, sleep for a moment, then begin anew their aimless journey. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** … they don't know where they are running to, and their efforts seem to be in vain. They fall down because they are extremely tired. They stop to have a short sleep and start their aimless journey all over again.  
**Note:** run in circles 或 run around in circles，意思是行动漫无目的，纯粹浪费时间，或毫无目标，不知道该做什么或去何地。例如：  
Stop running in circles, and organize your time so that you are more productive at the job and in your life. 别浪费时间了，做事要有条理，这样你在工作和生活中才能更有效率。

**11 We mustn't get lost, my mother warns; but even without her telling me, I sense that some form of dangerous evil has permeated the world. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Never shall we get lost, my mother warns; but even without her telling me, I can feel something dangerous and evil has spread to every part of the world.

**12 He sees the airplanes flying at him, sees them violently dip and aim, sees the fire of ammunition, hears the roar of the engines passing over his head. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** He sees the airplanes trying to attack him. They fly down sharply and aim. He sees the fire of those bullets and hears the loud noise made by the airplanes which are passing over his head.

**13 There's smoke on the horizon, the blaze of battle fading. We pass by deserted villages, solitary, burned-out houses. We pass battlefields dense with the garbage of abandoned war equipment, bombed-out railway stations, overturned cars. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** There is smoke on the horizon and the fires of battle are fading. We pass by villages which have been deserted by their residents and only see houses which have been burned to the ground by the fires. We pass battlefields which are littered with the garbage of abandoned war equipment, railway stations which have been destroyed by bombs, and cars which are upside down.

**14 It smells of gunpowder, and of burning, decomposing meat after a massacre. Everywhere are the corpses of horses, too defenseless in this human war. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The places we pass by have the smell of gunpowder and also the smell of burning and rotten dead bodies left after a killing. We can find dead bodies of horses everywhere – horses do not know how to protect themselves in this war made by humans.

**15 When winter comes, we stop running from the bombs so we can hide from the severe elements. (Para. 6)**  
**Note:** "The elements" means the weather, especially wind and rain (指风、雨等自然力；恶劣天气).  
For example:  
The area where most refugees are waiting is exposed to the elements. 大多数难民所呆的区域暴露于恶劣的天气下。

**16 Winter is but another season for those in normal conditions, but for the poor during wartime, winter is a disaster, a pervasive and constant threat. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Winter is just one of the four ordinary seasons for those who lead a normal life. But for the poor people during wartime, winter is a disaster and a threat, which is very common and exists all the time.

**17 We find an apartment in the slums that provides a minimal coverage from the snow but we still can't afford to heat the furnace; we can't buy fuel nor risk stealing it. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** We find an apartment in the poor areas. It can only save us from being exposed to the snow, and we are still unable to heat the furnace to keep us warm. We can't buy fuel nor take the risk of stealing it.

**18 Death is the punishment for the robbery of coal or wood — human life is now worth next to nothing. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Death is the price for taking coal or wood illegally. Human life is nearly worth nothing now.

**19 My mother stands brooding at the window for hours; I can see her fixed stare. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** My mother stands at the window for hours, deep in thought. I can see that she is worried and simply stares at nothing.

**20 I can see other residents staring out into the street from many windows, as if they were waiting for something. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** I can see other people who live in the neighborhood standing by their windows and staring out into the streets, as if they were expecting something.

**21 I weave my way around the backyards with a gang of stray boys; it's something between play and searching for a scrap of anything edible. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** I play with a group of homeless boys around the backyards. However, it is not actually a real game. We are finding something to eat by running here and there, in and around the backyards.

**22 Immediately we make a long queue of cold and hungry children. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Immediately, a lot of cold and hungry children including me queue next to the store, waiting for it to open.

**23 We stand in the frost all night and the following day, huddled together to summon a bit of warmth. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** We stand in the frost for a whole night and a whole day. We gather together closely for a bit of warmth.

**24 But instead of candy, we are each granted an empty metal container that once held some fruit drops. (Para. 8)**  
**Note:** fruit drop 指水果硬糖。

**25 Weak and stiff from the cold, yet at this moment happy, I carry my treasure home, guarding it jealously. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** I am weak and stiff because of the cold weather, but at this moment I am happy. The metal container is such a treasure for me that I protect it all the way home so that no one else would take it away from me.

**26 It's valuable; the inside wall of the can still has a sugar residue. (Para. 8)**   
**Meaning:** The empty can is valuable because there is still some sugar left on the inside wall of it.

**27 We have a dilute, sweet drink: our only nutrition for days. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** The drink my mother made by adding water into the can tastes a little sweet. This is our only food for days.

**28 I can't quite remember when or how the war ended for us; my mind is always drawn back to that first day in the meadow, the explosions destroying the peaceful flowers and the naive days of my childhood. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** I can't remember clearly when or how the war ended for us. I always remember the first day in the meadow, the explosions which destroyed the peaceful flowers and the carefree days of my childhood.

**29 Try as I might, I still can't understand what we could have done to justify all the suffering war inevitably inflicts. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Although I try hard, I still cannot understand what we have done to subject us to the pain and suffering which is inescapable in a war.

**Unit - 6 Section B**

**1 Overnight, a military camp had sprung to life on the empty field just below his home in Normandy. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Quickly and unexpectedly, a military camp had appeared on the empty field just below his home in Normandy.

**2 For a seven-year-old orphan, it was in essence a dream come to life. (Para. 1)**   
**Meaning:** For a seven-year-old orphan, the military camp may only exist in his dreams, and now the boy's dream came alive.

**3 His keeper Mrs. Bijeaux, had to drag him in at night from his terrace on the cliff overlooking the beach. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** At night, Luis was not willing to leave the terrace on the cliff, where he can see what was happening on the beach. So, his keeper, Mrs. Bijeaux, had to drag him in from the terrace.

**4 Now he watched, wide-eyed, as jeeps roared up the road and men scrambled about, emptying trucks loaded with guns, ammunition, food, and giant army bags. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Now, he watched curiously what was happening on the beach, with his eyes wide open. He saw the jeeps going up the road quickly and noisily and men moving about quickly. They were emptying trucks which were full of guns, ammunition, food and very big army bags.

**5 He yawned as the scent of crisp bacon, eggs, coffee, and the smell of toast came from the kitchen tent. He tilted his small head back, breathing in the fragrance. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** He yawned when the pleasant smell of crisp bacon, eggs, coffee and toast came out from the kitchen tent. He moved his small head back and breathed in the pleasant smell in a satisfied manner.

**6 His stomach moaned. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** His stomach made sounds of hunger when he smelled the fragrance of the food. He wanted to eat very much.

**7 Ronald Smith, a lieutenant in the Seabees, the US Navy's Construction Battalion, held a clipboard and checked off the morning's accomplishments. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Ronald Smith was a lieutenant in the Seabees, the US Navy's Construction Battalion. He held a clipboard and noted down what they have done in the morning.   
**Note:** Seabee指海军工程营成员。海军工程营隶属于美国海军，主要承担简易机场和其他战斗设施的建设任务，其官方名称是“工程营”（Construction Battalion）。Seabee 的称呼则取自组成该名称两个单词的首字母发音。

**8 It had been more than a year since he'd been deployed and last seen them. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** It had been more than a year since he'd been away from America and last seen his wife and children.

**9 There was a moment of hesitation; then, the boy timidly made his way down. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The boy hesitated for a very short while, and then he went down the hill shyly.

**10 Smith tried out his high school French, hoping he could remember the right wording: "*Comment t'appelles-tu*?" (What is your name?) (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Smith tried to speak the French which he learned in high school and hoped that he could remember the correct expression: "*Comment t'appelles-tu*?" (What is your name?)

**11 This little guy looked like he could use a good meal, and the camp had more than enough food. In his halting French, Smith invited Luis to have lunch. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** It seemed that the little guy needed a good meal and the camp had a lot more food than was needed. In his broken French, Smith invited Luis to have lunch.

**12 Smith piled two plates high with roast beef, carrots, and apple pie sprinkled with sugar. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Smith filled two plates with roast beef, carrots and apple pie dotted with sugar. They were piled high up on the plates.

**13 At 1800 hours, as Smith was again heading for the mess tent, he saw Luis sitting in the same spot. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** At 6 o'clock in the afternoon, as Smith was walking toward the tent where soldiers ate, he saw Luis sitting in the same place as before.  
**Note:** 此处mess tent指用餐帐篷。

**14 He motioned, and Luis ran to him. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** He waved at Luis, and Luis ran to him.

**15 But he clutched Smith's hand and smiled his shy smile. (Para. 12)**   
**Meaning:** But he held Smith's hand firmly and smiled shyly.

**16 He watched the boy walk up the path and out of sight. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** He watched the boy walk up the path and disappear from view.

**17 The other soldiers didn't mind; in fact, the boy helped ease their homesickness. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** The other soldiers didn't mind Luis' eating with them. In fact, the boy helped to make the soldiers feel less homesick.

**18 Luis giggled when Smith carried him aloft on his shoulders and soon began riding along in the jeep down to the beach, where Smith supervised the unloading of freight from the ships and took inventory. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Luis laughed when Smith lifted him high up on his shoulders and gave him a ride in the jeep down to the beach. It is the place where Smith watched and directed the unloading of cargo from the ships and checked the goods in stock.  
**Note:** In the text, *take inventory* means "make a list of everything".

**19 When Smith oversaw construction projects in the camp, Luis tagged along. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Luis always followed Smith when Smith watched and checked the progress of construction projects in the camp.

**20 If Smith left the radius of the camp to rebuild a road or to repair a bridge, Luis waited in the vicinity for his return. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** If Smith went out to rebuild a road or to repair a bridge far from the camp, Luis waited for him nearby.

**21 He ascertained that Luis had been abandoned at birth and had no living relatives. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** He found out that Luis had been abandoned at birth and had no relatives who were still alive.

**22 But when he petitioned to adopt him and become his legal guardian, the answer was straightforward and firm: no. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** But when he applied to adopt him and become his legal keeper, he was rejected directly and firmly.

**23 Notwithstanding the regulations, Smith enclosed Luis in a hug and promised to return for him later. (Para. 16)**  
**Note:** If you send a document with an email message, you *attach* it.

**24 The two had grown so close amongst the trials of war, and Smith knew he would never forget the boy. (Para. 16)**   
**Meaning:** They had gone through the hardships and sufferings of war together and became very close to each other. Smith knew that he would never forget Luis.

**25 After the war ended, Smith took a multitude of trips returning to France looking for Luis. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** After the war ended, Smith returned to France many times to look for Luis.

**26 France was a country torn apart by the bombs of the war and then pieced back together again. (Para. 17)**   
**Meaning:** France was torn into pieces by the bombs in the war and then rebuilt on the ruins.

**27 … but he simply could not find any remnant of the boy he had come to love like a son. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** … but he simply could not find any trace of the boy whom he had loved just like his own son.

**28 He combed through phone books and even hired a private investigator. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** He looked up Luis' information in the phone books page by page and even hired a private investigator to help him find Luis.

**29 His repeated failures haunted him as he repeatedly asked himself punishing questions: Why have I failed Luis? What could I have done differently? (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** As he continued to fail to find Luis, which upset him a lot, he repeatedly asked himself the difficult question: Why had he disappointed Luis and what could he have done differently to keep his promise?

**30 Finally, old age forced him to stop traveling, but Smith dwelled more and more on his one broken promise and lifelong regret. (Para. 18)**  
**Meaning:** Finally, Smith grew very old and couldn't travel and look for Luis any more. But he spent more and more time thinking about the promise he failed to keep and his lifelong regret about not having found Luis.

**31 In his final will, Smith instructed his children to continue where he had left off, pleading with them to find Luis. (Para. 19)**   
**Meaning:** In his final will, Smith asked his children to finish what he had not yet finished himself and to continue the search for Luis.

**Unit - 7 Section A**

**1 The economic slump so many people suffered through originated in the United States, with a regulatory failure of mortgages rated less risky than they turned out to be. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** The economic decline first occurred in the US. The authorities did not properly evaluate the risk of mortgages, which proved to be far more serious than expected. They failed to take effective measures to regulate the mortgages, and a large number of people were severely affected.

**2 As large numbers of homeowners proved unable to repay their loans, the companies that had the oversight and those that owned the loans (as well as their subsidiaries and their shareholders) lost sizable amounts of money. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** As large numbers of homeowners were unable to pay back their loans, the companies that were in charge of the loans and those banking institutions that made the loans (as well as their subsidiaries and their shareholders) lost very large amounts of money.

**3 The effects of these drastic losses soon spiraled into the US job market as layoffs and terminations. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** The dramatic losses soon seriously affected the US job market — many people lost their jobs and became unemployed.

**4 The rebound was slow in coming. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** The improvement in the job market was coming slowly.

**5 Facing tenant eviction after several months of unpaid rent, Sue Johnson packed up whatever she could fit into her two-door automobile and drove out of town. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** As Sue Johnson hadn't paid the rent for several months, she was forced to leave her apartment. She put all her belongings into boxes and tried to fit as many as possible into her two-door automobile, and then drove out of town.

**6 She wound up at a motel, putting down the $260 she had managed to scrape together from friends and from selling her living room set. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** She finally stayed at a motel where she had to pay a deposit of $260 for a room. She had managed to collect the money from friends and from selling the set of furniture in her living room.

**7 It was all the money Sue had left after her unemployment benefits had expired. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** It was all the money Sue had left after her unemployment benefits had ended.

**8 She faced life as a migrant, a previously unimaginable situation for a woman who, not that long before, had held a corporate job in a large metropolitan city and was enrolled in a graduate business school. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** She had to live a life as a migrant. It was impossible for her to imagine such a situation before because she had a job in a company in a large city and was a student in a graduate business school not long before.

**9 Sue knew that in all likelihood, she would end up living in her car. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Sue knew that she would be very likely to live in her car in the end.

**10 She was part of a hard-luck group of jobless people who called themselves "99ers", because they had exhausted the maximum 99 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits that they could claim. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** She was one of a miserable group of jobless people. They called themselves "99ers" because they were no longer allowed to claim unemployment insurance benefits which they could only receive for 99 weeks.  
**Note:** hard-luck: a. used for describing a person or group that has had a lot of trouble and bad luck in their lives 倒霉的；不幸的  
The soldier grew up in a hard-luck working-class family with few financial and educational resources. 该士兵成长于一个不幸的工人家庭，经济状况和教育背景都不太好。

**11 Long-term unemployment was at record levels, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The total number of people who didn't have jobs for a long period of time reached the highest level, according to the report released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**12 Modest payments of unemployment benefits were a lifeline that enabled people who were out-of-work to maintain at least an appearance of normalcy, keeping a roof over their heads, putting gas in their cars, paying electric and phone bills. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** Although the unemployment benefits were small in amount, they helped jobless people to survive and to keep at least a normal appearance, provide them with shelter, put gas in their cars, and pay their electric and phone bills.  
**Note:** normalcy: n. [U] (AmE) (also normality) a situation in which things happen in the usual or expected way 正常状态；常态  
It took many years after the region had suffered from the great flood, to rebuild housing, schools, factories, etc., and to return to a life of normalcy. 在遭受了大洪水以后，该地区花了很多年的时间来重建住房、学校和工厂等，重新回到正常的生活。

**13 Without the checks, people like Sue, who once was a director of client services at a technology company, began to tumble over the economic cliff. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Without unemployment benefits, people like Sue, who once was a director of client services at a technology company, began to get into financial difficulties.

**14 With no income to deposit, Sue's checking account deteriorated into negative balances. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** As Sue had no income to put into her checking account, by and by, her account turned negative.

**15 Her car was on the verge of being repossessed. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Her car was about to be taken back due to her failure to pay back the loan.  
**Note:** repossess: vt. take back cars, furniture, or property from people who stop paying for them as they had arranged 收回（购物者未能按计划付款的货物）  
When the real estate bubble burst, lenders repossessed more than one million homes in a year. 当房地产泡沫破裂时，贷款方在一年之内收回了一百多万套房子。

**16 And, the constant harassment of the financing company for her car loan added to her daily stress. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Moreover, the financing company kept bothering her about her car loan. This increased her daily stress.

**17 Each day, like a ping pong ball, Sue went back and forth between resolve and despair. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Every day, Sue's mood was changing between hopeful determination and despair.

**18 It was a sickening plunge considering that only a short year and a half before, Sue was earning $56,000 a year at her old job, enjoyed vacationing in places like Mexico and the Caribbean, and had started business school at an excellent university. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** The suddenly worsening living conditions made Sue feel upset, compared to the life of comfort and respect she enjoyed only a short year and a half ago, when she was earning $56,000 a year in her old job, spent holidays in places like Mexico and the Caribbean, and had started business school at an excellent university.

**19 Initially, Sue had tried to finish her university certification remotely, but finally dropped out because of the stress from her sinking finances. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** At first, Sue had tried to finish her university certification by distance education, but she finally dropped out because of her worsening financial situation.

**20 She applied for every possible job in the employment spectrum, from minimum-wage retail jobs to director positions. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** She applied for every possible job offered in the employment market, from the least-paid retail jobs to director positions.

**21 Sue should have been evicted from her two-bedroom apartment for non-payment several months before she was, but, thankfully, the process was delayed by paperwork and bureaucracy. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Sue would have been forced to leave her two-bedroom apartment several months before because she had failed to pay the rent. Fortunately, she didn't have to move out of her apartment right away because her eviction was delayed by the lengthy processes for documentation and inefficiency of officials.  
**Note:** The tone of the sentence is both helpless and sarcastic. On one hand, in her helpless condition after losing her corporate job, Sue was lucky that her eviction from the apartment was postponed, which enabled her to stay there a little longer. On the other hand, the fact that she could still live in the apartment without paying rent suggests sarcasm of the inefficiency of the bureaucracy. Furthermore, the use of "should have done" and "thankfully" is ironic in tone.

**22 Eventually, the bureaucracy caught up with her and a municipal council gave her 10 days to leave her apartment for good. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Finally, the officials found that she had not paid the rent, and a municipal council gave her 10 days to leave her apartment forever.

**23 She had no choice but to comply. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** She did not have a choice and had to do what the municipal council had ordered, and she moved out of her apartment.

**24 She wondered if she would ever again be able to reclaim that life of comfort and respect. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** She wondered whether she would ever be able to get back that life of comfort and respect.

**25 Sue even considered turning the steering wheel of her car into a tree and ending her life story right there. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Sue even thought of bumping her car against a tree and killing herself right there.  
**Meaning beyond words:** This implies that Sue had nearly lost her hope for life.

**26 Friends came to her aid. (Para. 12)**   
**Meaning:** Her friends helped her with money.

**27 One friend wired her $200 while she was driving away from her old apartment, enabling her to find refuge in a motel along the way. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** One of her friends sent $200 to her bank account while she was driving away from her old apartment, so she was able to find shelter in a motel along the way.  
**Note:** wire: vt. send money directly from one bank to another using an electronic system 电汇（钱款）  
A man came in and announced that he wanted to wire some money to his girlfriend in California. 一位男士走进来，说他想给加利福尼亚的女朋友汇些钱。

**28 But Sue worried there wouldn't be any more charity for the money and gas she desperately needed. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** But Sue worried that no one would help her out with money and gas any longer which she needed very much.

**29 Welfare was not an option, because she didn't have young children. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** She was unable to claim welfare because she didn't have young children.

**30 And, Sue knew that none of her three adult sons were in a position to help her. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Moreover, Sue knew that none of her three adult sons were able to help her.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Her three adult sons might also be severely affected by this economic slump that swept across the nation and they also got into financial difficulties.

**31 I don't want to be seen as a parasite. (Para. 14)**  
**Meaning:** I don't want to depend on others for a living.   
**Note:** Here the metaphor that she does not want to be a parasite is employed to indicate Sue's determination to live on her own.

**32 Lining the shelves underneath the television were her food supplies: rice and noodles that she mixed with water in the motel's ice bucket and heated up in a microwave; peanut butter and jelly; a loaf of white bread — the subsistence of a desperate person. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** All her food supplies were put on the shelves under the television. They were rice and noodles she mixed with water in the motel's ice bucket and heated up in a microwave, peanut butter and jelly and a loaf of white bread. For Sue, a person in despair, this food was only enough to stay alive.   
**Meaning beyond words:** Sue's condition was a catastrophe.

**33 Sue's days were spent surfing Internet job indexes, applying for jobs where the silent "No." "No." "No." gave way to a feeling of helplessness. (Para. 15)**  
**Meaning:** Sue stayed online all day searching the job lists for employment opportunities. As she was applying for jobs, she always met with flat refusals that made her feel increasingly helpless.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Sue had made every endeavor to fight against the reality, hoping to find a job and live on her own. But the reality was so harsh that it destroyed her hope.

**34 She worried about what would happen when her cell phone was cut off for non-payment, and calls to her number would disappear into an invisible world she could not reach. (Para. 16)**  
**Meaning:** She worried about what would happen if her cell phone was cut off for not paying the phone bill, and she could not answer any calls to her number.

**35 Finally, an old friend sent Sue a ray of hope, a small miracle: $300 cash — just enough for another brutal week of struggle. (Para. 17)**  
**Meaning:** Finally, an old friend gave Sue some hope by sending her $300 in cash, which was a real surprise. It was enough to drag on for another week.  
**Meaning beyond words:** While this was the only hope in her difficult situation, it was just a temporary remedy, and she couldn't live on that kind of hope very long; her future might be even more brutal.

**Unit - 7 Section B**

**1 Economic bubbles occur when, for any number of reasons, excessive investment in commodities (such as oil), securities (such as stocks and bonds), real estate, or collectibles drives up prices well beyond the item's intrinsic value. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** Economic bubbles happen if excessive investment in commodities (such as oil), securities (such as stocks and bonds), real estate, or collectibles causes prices to go up dramatically and go far beyond the item's real value for many reasons.  
**Note:** collectible (*also* collectable): n. [C, usu. pl.] an object that you can collect as part of a set 可以收集（或收藏）的物品  
Tomorrow morning Bruce Fern will be here for our monthly antiques and collectibles radio program. 明天上午布鲁斯•弗恩将会来参加我们每月一次的古玩和收藏品广播节目。

**2 Speculators risk money in such investments because they hope that the price of an asset they purchased will quickly increase. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Speculators take the risk of investing their money in such areas as commodities, securities, real estate or collectibles, etc. because they hope that the price of an asset they purchased will quickly increase.  
**Note:** speculator: n. [C] sb. who buys goods, property, shares in a company, etc., hoping that they will make a large profit when they sell them 投机商；投机倒把者  
One speculator told me that oil would hit $200 a barrel within minutes. 一位投机商告诉我说石油会在几分钟内达到每桶200美元。

**3 Since most speculators are nervous about where they invest their money, bubbles are by no means the norm. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** The economic bubbles don't occur easily because most speculators worry about their investment.

**4 After all, every investment entails the risk that it is overpriced. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** After all, every investment involves the risk of being rated higher than its real value.

**5 They also know that rising prices will encourage either greater production of a commodity or greater willingness of current owners to sell. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** They also know that rising prices will encourage the producer to expand their production of a commodity or prompt the current owners to be more willing to sell.

**6 As an analogy, think of negative economic feedback like your eyes. (Para. 2)**   
**Meaning:** Let us compare negative economic feedback to your eyes.  
**Note:** Here a comparison is used to illustrate how the economic feedback mechanism works.

**7 But what if, instead, your eyes worked as a "positive feedback" mechanism? (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** But what would happen if your eyes worked as a "positive feedback" mechanism?  
**Note:** "What if …" is used for asking what would happen in a particular situation (要是…，那怎么办？；如果…，那会怎样？). For example:   
What if World War II had never happened? 要是没有发生第二次世界大战会是什么样子？

**8 Economic bubbles occur when prices trending sharply upward spur positive, rather than negative, feedback. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Economic bubbles occur if prices go up suddenly and produce a positive feedback instead of a negative one.  
**Note:** The word *trend* here is used as a verb which means "show a general tendency in the way a situation is changing or developing (显示某种趋向)". For example:   
Interest rates will naturally trend higher as the economy gets back on track. 随着经济走上正轨，利率会自然走高。

**9 For whatever reason (fear of shortages, greed, an excessively optimistic attitude toward the future, or flaws in the analysis of an asset's underlying value), buyers believe that the value of the asset will continue to rise. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Because of many different reasons, such as buyers' fear of shortages, being greedy for more money, having an over-optimistic attitude toward the future, making mistakes in the analysis of an asset's basic value, etc., buyers believe that the value of the asset will continue to rise.

**10 If the price rises, overly enthusiastic speculators buy more, or those who missed out on the lower price flock to buy before the price rises any higher. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** If the price rises, over-enthusiastic speculators buy more, or those who lost the opportunity to buy the stocks at a lower price gather in crowds to buy before the price rises any higher.

**11 The foremost explanation is the "greater fool theory": Buyers justify their purchases by assuring themselves they will find "a greater fool" who will pay even more. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** The best explanation is the "greater fool theory": Buyers convince themselves that their purchases are worthwhile and that they will find "a greater fool" who will pay even more.

**12 Buyer enthusiasm infects other buyers, amplifying the effect even further. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Enthusiasm spreads among buyers, which increases the effect even further.

**13 Under the right conditions, prices can reach dizzying heights before falling. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** Under the right conditions, prices can reach a surprisingly high level before falling.

**14 Most bubbles are easily assimilated or averted by an elastic market. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Most bubbles are easily absorbed or prevented from posing any danger by a flexible market.

**15 Provided the bubble is small enough, the losers earn wisdom in retrospect, and the winners earn a lot of money. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** If the bubble is small enough, the losers may become much wiser when they look back and learn how they lost money, and the winners are satisfied with what they have earned.

**16 But the effects of a bubble might become cumulative if many owners of an overpriced asset feel rich and spend foolishly, especially in a period of deregulation. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** But the effects produced by the bubble might increase gradually if many owners of an overpriced asset feel rich and spend foolishly the profit money they are expecting but don't actually have, especially when there is no effective regulation of investment practices.

**17 Over the next five years the market appraisal rises to $500,000. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** During the next five years, the market's assessed value of the house rises to $500,000.

**18 … so you borrow another $240,000 from a bank using this equity to secure the loan. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** … so you use this equity as a guarantee to borrow another $240,000 from a bank.  
**Note:** The word *secure* here is used as a verb which means "get money from a bank or from a person by promising to give them goods or property if you cannot return the money (为借款作保)". For example:  
The bank wants Jack to get his parents as co-signers, who will guarantee to secure the loan if Jack cannot make the payments. 银行要杰克叫他的父母来做联署担保人，杰克无法还款时他父母可以为贷款做担保。

**19 You suddenly feel less need to be economical with your purchases and allocate more money for things like a vacation home, a new car, etc. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Suddenly you think it unnecessary to spend money carefully. So you use more money to enjoy such luxuries as a vacation home, a new car, etc.

**20 But equity is not revenue. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Equity means the amount of money that you would have left if you sold your house and paid off the money you borrowed to buy the house, while revenue is the money that you have made. We may spend revenue without taking any risks, but not equity because its value is likely to fluctuate in the market.

**21 The market holds long enough for you to spend the money. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The market remains steady for a time long enough for you to spend the money borrowed from the bank.

**22 So you default on your loan and give your house, car, and vacation home to the bank. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** If you become unable to pay back the money you borrowed, you are forced to give your house, car, and vacation home to the bank.

**23 If this situation is widespread, it can culminate in the failure of those banks and a severe crackdown on the lending needed to grow the economy. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** If this situation is widespread, banks who made the loans will fail as a result, and the power and willingness of banks to lend more money in order to develop the economy will suffer a powerful blow.

**24 In a normal market, investors buy stock in a company because they anticipate that future profits will become dividends and they believe the value of the company's assets will increase. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** In a normal market, investors buy stock in a company because they expect that future profits made from the market will be distributed to shareholders like themselves and they believe the value of the company's assets will increase.

**25 Sometimes, though, a "herd mentality" sets in and too many brokers rush to buy, driving prices like mercury up a thermometer to levels that prove unrealistic. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** But people are often influenced by their peers. So, a large number of brokers are rushing to buy. As a result, the price of the stock, just as the mercury of a thermometer, rises unreasonably high.

**26 Eventually it becomes clear that further increases are not forthcoming and price deterioration develops, followed by a swift drop. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Finally it becomes clear that further increases in price are not likely to occur and price begins to go down, followed by a quick drop.

**27 The buzz about the economic possibilities of the Internet encouraged investors to fund the creation of many dot-com companies — too many it turned out. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Excitement over the promising economic prospects of the Internet encouraged investors to invest in it, and many Internet companies were created. But there were too many of them.

**28 For several years, dozens of entrepreneurs sought to duplicate for themselves the results of those that had come before. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** For several years, many entrepreneurs tried to repeat for themselves the success achieved by those companies that had come before.

**29 Many investors envisaged wealth for any business with a website that could advertise on TV or billboards, even if their actual services were ambiguous. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Many investors thought that they would get rich by starting a business with a website that could advertise on TV or billboards, even if they were uncertain about what actual services to offer.

**30 Very few companies bucked the trend. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Very few companies could go against the trend and earn profit.

**31 Most had blundered into awful financial difficulties, selling off their assets to healthier companies. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** Most companies had found themselves in terrible financial situations and had to sell their assets at a low price to healthier companies.

**32 Bubbles are not limited to the arena of real estate or "get rich" stock offerings. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Bubbles don't merely happen to the field of real estate or stock offerings that can "get people rich".  
**Note:** The word *offering* means "something that is offered for sale (产品；用品)". For example:  
The computer manufacturing company must advertise its products to generate interest in its new offerings. 这家电脑生产公司必须为产品打广告以提高新产品的吸引力。

**33 In 1996, a series of stuffed animal toys called Ty Beanie Babies™ became such a fad that speculators bought up large quantities, assuming that their value as collectibles would continue to rise. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** In 1996, a series of stuffed animal toys called Ty Beanie Babies™ were so popular that speculators bought large amounts of them, thinking that their value as collectibles would continue to rise.

**34 Maybe, but why not see for yourself? (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning beyond words:** Maybe there were some people who made money on that fad, but most of them didn't.

**35 Check out the price of Beanie Babies in an online auction site and decide if any of these sellers have struck it rich. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Check out the price of Beanie Babies in an online auction site and decide if any of these sellers have acquired great wealth overnight.

**Unit - 8 Section A**

**1 They are baffled that these parents produce so many children with an abundance of talent and whether they too could raise such a child. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** They are wondering why these parents bring up so many talented children and whether they too could raise such a child.

**2 The fact is that Chinese parents do things that seem provocative, unimaginable, even illegal, to opinionated Westerners. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** The fact is that, to stubborn Westerners, Chinese parents do things that seem to be irritating, unimaginable, and even unlawful.

**3 Chinese mothers can dispense with formal courtesies and say to an obese child who gorges on food, "Hey fatty, lose some weight." (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Chinese mothers can ignore formal politeness and say to an overweight child who eats too much food, "Hey fatty, lose some weight."  
**Note:** "Fatty" is an insulting word for someone who is overweight.

**4 By contrast, Western parents must be humane, tiptoe around the issue, talk in terms of "health", And never ever mention the f-word. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** By contrast, Western parents must be kind and avoid touching the issue directly. They would rather talk about the effects upon their children's "health" than mention the word "fatty".

**5 And still their kids end up in therapy for eating disorders and a negative self-image. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** But, in the end, their kids still suffer from the results of unhealthy eating habits and from a bad self-image, and have to see a doctor for their problems.

**6 I've thought long and hard about how Chinese parents can get away with what they do, and I think there are three ideological differences between Chinese and Western parents. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** I've tried to think for a long time about how Chinese parents do not receive criticism or punishment for what they do, and I think there are three differences in thinking between Chinese and Western parents.

**7 First, I've noticed Western parents cradle their children's self-esteem to insulate them from criticism. (Para. 3)**  
**Meaning:** First, I've noticed Western parents care too much about their children's self-esteem, and avoid criticizing them.

**8 For a Chinese mother an A-minus is no milestone; she will gasp in displeasure and ask what went wrong. (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** For a Chinese mother an A-minus means nothing. She will take a deep breath unhappily and ask what went wrong.

**9 Other Western parents will express disapproval, but they won't question the child's intellect or risk insecurities calling the child "stupid","worthless" or "gross". (Para. 4)**  
**Meaning:** Other Western parents will express disagreement, but they won't question the child's intelligence or take the risk of calling the child "stupid", "worthless" or "gross", which they think might cause the child to lose confidence.

**10 If a Chinese child gets a B, irrespective of the subject, there would first be a screaming, hair tearing explosion. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** If a Chinese kid gets a B, regardless of the subject, the mother would explode with a scream, feeling greatly frustrated.

**11 The Chinese mother would intensify her efforts and get dozens, maybe hundreds of practice tests and use every tool at her disposal, to get her child's grade up to an A. (Para. 5)**  
**Meaning:** The Chinese mother would increase her own efforts and get dozens, maybe hundreds of practice tests and use every tool available, to help her child get an A.

**12 Chinese parents demand perfect grades because they take it for granted that their child can get them, and grades are a more important measure of success than "self-esteem". (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Chinese parents require their child to get perfect grades because they believe that their child can get them, and grades are a more important measure of success than "self-esteem".

**13 That's why the solution to substandard performance is always to punish and shame the child. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** So, when the children perform poorly in school, Chinese parents always punish them and make them feel ashamed of their grades.  
**Note:** *substandard*: a. not as good as you would normally expect, or not good enough to be accepted 低于标准的；不够标准的；次等的  
The extremely cold weather has made these poor people's already substandard living conditions even worse. 极寒天气使这些穷人本已很差的生活现状雪上加霜。

**14 Chinese parents believe that their child is hardy enough to take the shaming and to improve from it. (Para. 6)**  
**Meaning:** Chinese parents believe that their child is strong enough to face the shaming and to improve from it.

**15 …, but it's probably a combination of the Confucian doctrine of loyalty and the fact that parents have sacrificed so much for their children;… (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** … but it's probably because of loyalty advocated by Confucianism and because of the fact that parents have done a lot for their children …

**16 Another area where Chinese and Westerners clash is that most Westerners don't believe offspring must show permanent gratitude to parents. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** Another area where Chinese and Westerners have different ideas is that most Westerners don't believe children forever owe their parents a lot.

**17 It's parents who force life on their kids, so it's the parents' responsibility to provide for them. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** It's parents who give birth to their kids, so it's the parents' responsibility to take care of them.

**18 Their duty will be to their own kids. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** They will be responsible only for their own children.

**19 This strikes me as a terrible deal for the Western parents. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** This makes me feel that Western parents are treated terribly.

**20 … and therefore have ultimate authority over their children's desires and preferences. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** … and therefore have absolute power to control their children's desires and preferences.

**21 Chinese children have no rights to infringe, which is why Chinese daughters can't have boyfriends in high school and there are no late curfews or trips to sleep-away camps. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Chinese children have no rights to disobey their parents their parents; this explains why Chinese daughters can't have boyfriends in high school and there is no staying out late, nor are there trips to sleep-away camps.

**22 Also even the slightest defiance or indignation, anything less than unquestioning obedience, is extinguished, and punished into submission. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** And even the slightest disagreement or feeling of unfair treatment that won't agree with the parents' wishes is suppressed, and punished until the children completely obey.

**23 Western propaganda often paints a portrait of Asian mothers as scheming, indifferent, militant people unconcerned with their kids' true interests. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** According to the distorted Western impressions, Asian mothers are often depicted as calculating, cold, aggressive people who care little about their kids' true interests.

**24 For their part, many Chinese secretly believe they care more about their children and are willing to sacrifice more for them than Westerners, who seem perfectly content to let their children turn out badly and shame their tradition and heritage. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** In their opinion, many Chinese secretly believe they care more about their children and are willing to sacrifice more for them than Westerners, who seem never upset with their children behaving badly and bringing disgrace on their tradition and honor.

**25 Of course there is also some overlap — all decent parents want to do what's best for their children. It's the methodology that's different. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** Of course there is something they have in common — all responsible parents want to do what's best for their children, but they are using different methods.

**26 Westerners preach respecting the children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices, and providing a positive and nurturing environment. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Westerners advocate respecting the children's individuality, encouraging them to pursue their true passions, supporting their choices, and providing an environment which is positive and helpful for their development.

**27 But while Western children may have a high opinion of themselves and glowing self-esteem, how do they perform in the real world? (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** But while Western children may think highly of themselves and have strong self-esteem, how do they perform in the real world?

**28 Chinese parents protect their children by armoring them for the future, letting them see what they're capable of, and conferring upon them skills, work habits, and inner confidence that no one can ever take away. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Chinese parents protect their children by equipping them for the future, letting them see what they're capable of, and providing them with skills, work habits, and inner confidence that no one can ever take away.

**29 When the time comes to perform, Chinese children have a blueprint for success; they know how to compete with the best the world has to offer. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:**: When the time comes to perform, Chinese children have a scheme for success; they know how to compete with the top competitors in the world based on the skills they have got from their parents.

**30 The proof is in the pudding! (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** You can only know whether something is good or bad after you have tried it.  
**Meaning beyond words:** Only after you have tried the Chinese parenting method can you realize its benefits to your children.  
**Note:** The earliest printed example of the proverb "the proof is in the pudding" is "All the proof of a pudding is in the eating". It means that the true value or quality of something can only be judged when it's put to use. The meaning is often summed up as "results are what count" or, "I'll believe it when I see it".

**Unit - 8 Section B**

**1 I might point out, as others have, that Asian-American girls aged 15 to 24 have above average rates of suicide and eating disorders. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** I might point out, as others have already mentioned, that Asian-American girls aged 15 to 24 have higher rates than the average number of suicide and suffering from eating disorders.

**2 I might question the arrogance of ascribing her child's success to the Chinese child-rearing techniques of criticism and name-calling when it could just as likely have resulted from genetic or economic blessings. (Para. 1)**  
**Meaning:** I might wonder why the Chinese mother is so excessively proud of her child-raising method of criticizing and scolding, which she believes leads to her child's success. Actually, the success could also be the result of genetic or economic advantages.

**3 More importantly, if I did make such contentions, I'd risk being called a liar by my own children. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** More importantly, if I did hold such opinions, my own children would possibly perceive me as a person who tells lies.

**4 Sophie, my oldest, would remind me of the recent evening when I stared in stony silence at her report card, sniffing in contempt at her father's happy congratulations. (Para. 2)**  
**Meaning:** Sophie, my oldest daughter, would remind me of the recent evening when I stared at her report card coldly and silently, scorning her father's happy congratulations.  
**Note:** A "report card" means "a written statement by teachers about a child's work at school, sent to their parents ( 教师寄给家长的学生成绩报告单 )".

**5 I got 5 solid As. (Para. 3)**  
**Note:** The word *solid* here means "strong; completely good, with no mistakes or bad parts".

**6 I certainly didn't think it warranted the "screaming, hair-tearing explosion" that the author informs us would have greeted the daughter of a Chinese mother. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** I certainly didn't think it was necessary to react to the grades with "screaming, hair-tearing explosion" as the Chinese mother did.

**7 However, I articulated my displeasure clearly enough. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** However, I expressed my displeasure clearly enough.

**8 But, it was only because I feared my husband's reproach that I refrained from telling my own daughter, when she collapsed in tears, that she was acting like an idiot. (Para. 7)**  
**Meaning:** When my daughter collapsed in tears, I kept myself from telling her that she was acting like a fool, only because I was afraid of being blamed by my husband.

**9 The difference, I suppose, between proud Chinese mothers and Western ones is that I felt ashamed that I didn't subordinate my anger to my pride in what she did accomplish. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** The difference, I suppose, between proud Chinese mothers and Western ones is that I felt ashamed that I failed to control my anger and didn't show my pride in what she did achieve.

**10 Admittedly (and I am ashamed to say this too), I also did not then go out and get hundreds of practice tests and work through them with my daughter far into the night, doing whatever it took to get her the A. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** I have to admit (and I am ashamed to say this too) that I did not go out to get a lot of practice tests and finish them with my daughter into late night, trying my best to improve her grade to A.

**11 I would leave those tasks for a tutor to administer. (Para. 8)**  
**Meaning:** I would leave those tasks for a tutor to manage.

**12 Reading her essay definitely put some Chinese iron into my Western spine, and though I eventually apologized to my daughter for failing to acknowledge, right off the bat, all those tough classes last semester in which she had done phenomenally well, and for expressing my disappointment at the others too vigorously, I have also vowed that she will clamp down on those three subjects in which she is "underperforming." (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Reading her essay of course helps me obtain something useful from the traditional Chinese way of educating children. Although finally I apologized to my daughter for failing to admit immediately that she had performed extremely well in all those difficult classes last semester, and for expressing too strongly my disappointment at the other classes, I promised to help her make progress with those three subjects in which she was not performing excessively well.  
**Note:** It should be noted that the author decided to help her daughter deal with the three subjects in which she performed not extremely well because the author had learned something from the article of the Chinese mother, which was like putting "some Chinese iron into my Western spine".  
**Note:** phenomenally: ad. extremely impressive or surprising 令人印象深刻地；惊人地  
Last year we finished a phenomenally successful advertising campaign which ended up bringing our company phenomenal sales. 去年我们完成了一次非常成功的广告运作，最后给公司带来了可观的销售额。

**13 Her father and I are unanimous in this. (Para. 9)**  
**Meaning:** Her father and I fully agree on this.

**14 But Chinese methods, I think, do still need some scrutiny. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** But I think Chinese methods do still need to be examined closely.

**15 By the time the psychiatrist diagnosed her, in second grade, she was lagging far behind her classmates. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** When she was diagnosed with dyslexia in second grade, she fell far behind her classmates.

**16 For years I forced her to spell words in the bathtub with foam letters, to do worksheets, to subdivide words into sounds and take practice tests. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** For years I forced her to spell words in the bathtub with letters made of foam, to do exercises, to split words into separate sounds and take practice tests.

**17 My criticism and forced rehearsing was redundant, it turns out — inside, she was all ready to punish herself, and I was only prolonging her misery and shattering her confidence. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** My criticism and forced repetitive instructions to make her practice proved to be unnecessary. She was all ready to punish herself, and I was only bringing her more misery and destroying her confidence.

**18 Eventually, and totally out of character, she even stopped loving school. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** In the end, she completely changed and even stopped loving school.

**19 She lost her sparkle. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** She became a dull girl, lacking enthusiasm for anything.

**20 At last we heard about a reading program where students spent four hours every day in a small room under a supervisor with a specialization in dyslexia, drilling in letters and sight words. (Para. 10)**  
**Meaning:** At last we learned about a reading program where students spent four hours every day in a small room under instruction from an expert in dyslexia, doing exercises with letters and most frequently used words.   
**Note:** sight words，常见词，指孩子初期阅读中出现频率最高的词。

**21 Neither her father nor I wanted to make a unilateral decision when she was the one who suffered, so we asked her. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Neither her father nor I wanted to make a decision based on our own will considering that it was she who suffered. So we asked her.

**22 But every day she returned to the trenches, her little shoulders bent under the weight of her struggle. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** But every day she returned to the place where she was battling for the improvement of her reading ability, her little shoulders bent under the pressure of her struggle.

**23 Rosie has a process she follows when she's scared — "Overcome your fears," she whispers to herself. (Para. 11)**  
**Meaning:** Rosie has her own way of dealing with her fears — whispering to herself the words: "Overcome your fears."

**24 Because of this, she emerged with a conception of herself as a powerful, versatile person. (Para. 12)**  
**Meaning:** Owing to this, she began to think of herself as a powerful person of many talents.

**25 I have a feeling when Chinese children are underdeveloped or suffer from learning disabilities like Rosie's, their parents channel their admirable passion into finding a solution that works. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** I have a feeling that when Chinese children have developmental problems or suffer from learning difficulties like Rosie's, their parents will try their best to find a solution that works.

**26 In some scenarios roaring like a tiger turns children into pianists who debut at Carnegie Hall, but in others it only limits, constricts, and reins them in. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** In some cases, roaring like a tiger may drive children to become pianists who give their first public performance at Carnegie Hall, but in other cases it only limits, restricts, and confines the development of children.

**27 Positive enthusiasm gives some the excuse to fail and others the chance to succeed. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** Deep concern for children provides some children with the excuse for their failure, but for others, it provides the chance to succeed.

**28 Wherever we reside on our big green, blue planet, Chinese mothers and I both understand that our job as mothers is to be the type of tigress that each of our different children needs. (Para. 13)**  
**Meaning:** No matter where we live, Chinese mothers and I both understand that our job is to be the strict mother that each of our different children needs.