■美文阅读

So Much To Learn

It was the last day of final examinations in a large Eastern university. On the steps of one building, a group of engineering seniors huddled^①, discussing the exam due to begin in a few minutes. On their faces was confidence. This was their last examthen on to commencement[®] and jobs.

Some talked of jobs they already had; others of jobs they would get. With all this assurance⁴ of four years of college, they felt ready and able to conquer⁵ the world.

The approaching exam, they knew, would be a snap. The professor had said they could bring any books or notes they wanted. Requesting only that they did not talk to each other during the test.

Jubilantly they filed into the classroom. The professor passed out the papers. And smiles broadened as the

students noted there were only five essay type questions.

Three hours passed. Then the professor began to collect the papers. The students no longer looked confident. On their faces was a frightened expression. No one spoke as, papers in hand, the professor faced the class.

He surveyed the worried faces before him, then asked: "how many completed all five questions?"

Not a hand was raised.

"How many answered four?" Still no hands.

"Three? Two?"

The students shifted restlessly in their seats.

"One, then? Certainly somebody finished one."

But the class remained silent. The professor put down the papers. "That is



exactly what I expected," he said.

"I just want to impress upon you that, even though you have completed four years of engineering, there are still many things about the subject you don't know. These questions you could not answer are relatively common in everyday practice." Then, smiling, he added: "You will all pass this course, but remember—even though you are now college graduates, your education has just begun."

The years have obscured the name of this professor, but not the lesson he

①huddle ['hʌdəld] vi. 挤在一起 ②due to 因……引起;可归于……

相当于 caused by

③commencement [kəˈmensmənt] n. 开始; 毕业典礼; 开端; 学位授予典礼

(4) assurance [əˈʃʊərəns]

n.保证,担保;保险;确信

(5)conquer ['kɒŋkə(r)] vt.

征服; 克服; 攻克; 打败(敌人);

vi. 得胜,胜利

6broaden ['bro:dn] vt.

扩大; 放宽; 加宽; 使……变宽, 扩展

■知识播报

你知道spend、 take、pay的区别吗?

pay的主语必须是人: (sb) pay money for sth. / pay sb.for sth.;

spend的主语必须是人: (sb.) spend money/...for/on sth./ in doing sth. 在……方面花钱或精力;

take表示做某事花费多少时间, 其主语一般是 一 件事; 有时也可以是人: It takes/ took sb. some time to do sth. 强调完成动作所花费的时间。

例句:

① it takes sb. some time to do sth.

It took him half an hour to finish his homework. 他花了半个小时完成家庭作业。

② sb. spend some time/money on sth./(in) doing sth.

I spent thirty yuan on this book. 我花30元买了这 本书。

She spent ten minutes (in) getting there. 她10分钟 到达那儿。

③ sb. pay (some money) for sth.

He paid a lot of money for the building. 他买房子 花了许多钱。

表示"花费"的动词中,还有一个,即cost:

cost的主语必须是物或事: (sth.) cost(s) sb. money/ life/health/time...

This coat cost me eighty yuan. 这件上衣花了我80 元。

■轻松一刻

George knocked on the door of his friend's house. When his friend's mother answered he asked, "Can Albert come out to play?"

"No," said the mother, "it's too cold."

"Well, then," said George, "Can his football come out to play?"

乔冶敲着他朋友家的门。当朋友的妈妈来应门 时,他问:"阿尔伯特可以出来玩吗?"

"不行,"那位妈妈说,"天气太冷了。"

"噢,那么,"乔冶问,"他的足球可以出来玩 吗?"



■短语妙用

To make a long story short 长话短说

当我们需要在很短的时间内把事情讲给 别人听时,可以用 to make a long story short 来告诉对方,就是"长话短说",把最关键的几 点告诉你,其他细节就省略不提了。我们可以 把 make 换成 cut, to cut a long story short 的 意思也是一样的。

例句:

To make a long story short, Peter and Julia got married and moved to Edinburgh.

长话短说, Peter 和 Julia 结婚了, 然后搬 到爱丁堡去了。

So much went wrong on the day, to make a long story short, we missed our flight.

那天诸事不顺,总之长话短说,我们最后 没能赶上那班飞机。

Charlie worked in the record company for 20 years - to cut a long story short, during that time he became the most powerful figure in the industry.

Charlie在唱片公司做了20年,长话短 说,在这期间他成了业界最有影响力的人物。