Passage 1

PARALLEL PROVERBS

Proverbs are among the most ancient of human institutions. Numerous proverbs appear in the tongues of which we have the oldest existing records: Egyptian, Akkadian, Chinese, Sanskrit, Greek, and Latin. The Hebrews have contributed to the Bible an entire “Book of Proverbs.” Yet, though most countries teem with popular sayings, a few groups have none. Literacy and culture seem to have nothing to do with it. The African Negroes have many proverbs, the American Indians none.
Criticism of life, in brief and pithy form, is characteristic of proverbs, while their popular philosophy is, indeed, proverbial. “Proverbs are the wisdom of peoples” goes an Italian saying. This is perhaps an exaggeration, but there is no doubt that much of a nation’s folk-philosophy gets into proverbs, along with the spice of national customs and, above all, the peculiar flavor of the nation’s language and phrase-ology.

How did proverbs originate? No one knows exactly, but if the Greeks have given us a correct etymology in their word for “proverb” (paroimia, “by the roadside”), then proverbs are sayings that have grown up “along the road.” The Latin equivalent, *proverbium*, means “a word uttered forth” or “publicly.” Proverbs are generalizations of human experience, condensations of oft-repeated occurrences of the trial-and-error variety. Above all, they are the fruit of observation and inductive reasoning, two of the great faculties of the human mind.

A sage of ancient Babylon, Palestine, Greece, or Rome, watching the infinite variations of events taking place around him, yet noticing that similar sequences led more or less inevitably to the same outcome, was undoubtedly the one who first spun the generalization. Then he offered it, as the Greek word implies, “along the road,” to anyone who cared to listen. The saying caught on, became popular, was passed from mouth to mouth, from generation to generation. Ultimately, it became an integral part of the group’s folklore, and was repeated whenever the situation it described recurred.

Every proverb tells a story and teaches a lesson. “If the pitcher hits the rock, or the rock hits the pitcher, it’s too bad for the pitcher” is a Spanish warning that you should not pit yourself against superior forces. China says the same thing in these words. “Don’t set out unarmed to fight a tiger.” Our American Southern counterpart is, “The worm is wrong when it argues with the
"The palest ink is better than the most retentive memory" is China's 35 admonition to "put it in writing," while Spain urges, "Don't sign papers you don't read, or drink water you don't see." Portugal, in the same vein, reminds you that, "caution and chicken broth never harmed anyone."

Exercise 1 Vocabulary Preparation

Answer the following questions correctly.

1. "It takes two to make a quarrel" is a proverb that we have to ponder. A proverb is a ________
   1. popular short saying
   2. state of being proud
   3. kind of old song
   4. singing contest arranged by a singer

2. A person who forms and gives judgements about literature, art or music is called a ________
   1. criticize
   2. critic
   3. critical
   4. criticism

3. Boonlert originated a new style of dancing. "Originated" in this sentence means the ________ of this style of dancing.
   1. writer
   2. dancer
   3. creator
   4. teacher

4. That old sailor spun a yarn about his life at sea. "Spun a yarn" in this sentence means ________
   1. opened an argument
   2. came to the conclusion
   3. sang a love song
   4. told a story

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His knowledge is the fruit of long study.

“Fruit” in this sentence means
1. result
2. plant
3. vegetable
4. cause

Exercise 2 Comprehension Questions

a. Write (T) for the correct answer or (F) for the incorrect one in the space provided.

1. Some of Hebrew proverbs become the Bible.
2. Every country in the world has its own proverbs.
3. Popular philosophy is also proverbs.
4. No one knows how proverbs have originated.

Some proverbs do not give us good example.

b. Choose the best answer.

1. Every proverb ________
   1. shows its strength
   2. gives us valuable lessons
   3. is not recognized among people
   4. is well-known all over the world

2. Which of the following groups has no proverb?
   1. Egyptian
   2. Chinese
   3. American Indians
   4. African Negroes

3. Proverbs come from people’s ________
   1. laziness
   2. rudeness
   3. cleverness
   4. wise thoughts

3. All proverbs are outcomes of a ________
   1. language
   2. criticism of life
   3. popular philosophy
   4. All are correct
4. Both Greek and Latin have given us the definition of proverbs.
   1. do not have their own proverbs.
   3. have shown us the original of proverbs.
   4. tell us where proverbs come from.

5. Which of the following is true according to the passage?
   1. Early civilization has no proverb.
   2. Proverbs are written as a Bible for all.
   3. Human being can observe things and give reasons.
   4. Proverbs are long and fruitful.

6. Which of the followings is a proverb?
   1. Time and Tide wait for no man.
   2. Birds of the same feather flock together.
   4. All are correct.

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**Passage 2**

**Television: How It Affects Us**

How does television affect our lives? It can be very helpful to people who carefully choose the shows that they watch. Television can increase our knowledge of the outside world; there are high-quality programs that help us understand many fields of study; science, medicine, the arts, and so on. Moreover, television benefits very old people who can’t often leave the house, vocabulary as well as patients in hospitals. It also offers nonnative speakers the advantage of daily informal language practice; they can increase their vocabulary and practice listening.
On the other hand, there are several serious disadvantages to television. Of course, it provides us with a pleasant way to relax and spend our free time, but in some countries, people watch the “boob tube” for an average of six hours or more a day. Many children stare at a TV screen for more hours each day than they do anything else, including studying and sleeping. It’s clear that the tube has a powerful influence on their lives and that its influence is often negative.

Recent studies show that after only thirty second of TV, a person’s brain “relaxes” the same that it does just before the person falls asleep. Another effect of television on the human brain is that it seems to cause poor concentration. Children who view a lot of TV can often concentrate on a subject for only fifteen to twenty minutes; they can pay attention only for the amount of time between commercials!

Another disadvantage is that TV often causes people to become dissatisfied with their own lives. Real life does not seem as exciting to these people as the lives of actors on the screen. To many people, TV becomes more real than reality, and their own lives seem boring. Also many people get upset or depressed when they can’t solve problems in real life as quickly as TV actors seem to. On the screen, actors solve serious problems in a half-hour program or a thirty-second commercial.

Before a child is fourteen years old, he or she views eleven thousand murders on TV. He or she begins to believe that there is nothing strange about fight, killings, and other kinds of violence. Many studies show that people become more violent after certain programs. Some people even do the things that they see in a violent show. An example is the effect of the movie The Deer Hunter. After it appeared on TV in the United States, twenty-nine people tried to kill themselves in a way similar to an event shown in the film.
The most negative effect of the ‘boob tube’ might be people’s addiction to it. People often feel a strange and powerful need to watch TV even when they don’t enjoy it. Addiction to a TV screen is similar to drug or alcohol addiction. People almost never believe they are addicted.

Exercise 1 Vocabulary Preparation

Answer the following questions correctly.

1. The rise in the price of gasoline ‘will affect us all.’
   ‘Affect’ in this sentence means ________.
   1. cause a particular condition in  2. move feeling in
   3. have an influence on  4. act a part on

2. As our world population increase everyday, the value of our lives decreases day by day.
   “Increase” and “decrease” ————.
   1. are the same word  2. mean the same thing
   3. have opposite meaning  4. have no prefixes

3. There are informal conversations between the statement of two countries, so there are no official records being kept.
   The word “informal” has “in” as a prefix which means ________
   1. into  2. not
   3. against  4. down

4. Which of the following words has “al” as a suffix?
   1. hospital  2. several
   3. capital  4. informal

5. Kongrit has read that book several times.
   “Several” in this sentence means . . .
   1. only twice  2. individual
3. three or more
4. different

6. She was very pleased to see us, and she gave us her smile.
   1. pleasant
   2. pleasing
   3. pleasance
   4. pleasure

7. People in Bangkok watch the boob tube for an average of four hours or more a day.
   What is the meaning of “boob tube”?
   1. a stupid TV show
   2. a TV set
   3. a broken TV set
   4. a part of a TV set

8. You’ll solve the problem if you concentrate on it.
   “Concentrate” in this sentence means . . . .  . .
   1. come together
   2. focus your attention
   3. increase your strength
   4. produce your energy

9. Please be serious about your work.
   “Serious” in this sentence means . . . . . .
   1. at east
   2. solemn
   3. happy
   4. concerned

10. Marsha’s son is addicted to drugs.
    Drug ........ is a bad thing for boys and girls.
    1. addicted
    2. addiction
    3. addictive
    4. addictively

Exercise 2 Comprehension Questions
a. Write (T) for the correct answer or (F) for the incorrect one in the space provided.
   ___1. Television is helpful for those who carefully choose what is good for them to watch.
There are only bad programs on TV.

TV programs always help people increase their vocabulary capacity.

After watching TV for long hours, children can concentrate better on their studies.

Some people often compare their personal lives with the lives of actors on TV.

b. Choose the best answer.

1. Good television programs help people______
   1. increase their knowledge  2. observe a vast wasteland
   3. see a procession of violence  4. choose good commercials

2. Very old people and patients in hospitals get ______ from watching TV programs
   1. good choice  2. much benefit
   3. very bored  4. moving fast

3. The influence of TV programs on our lives is ______.
   1. not much  2. not a real thing
   3. very strong  4. powerless

4. People who watch a lot of TV programs ______
   1. can sleep soundly at night
   2. enjoy discussing their problems with friends
   3. think that TV programs are very bad
   4. seem to be unhappy with their own lives

5. There are many murder programs on TV that are ______.
   1. good for  2. interesting to
   3. harmful to  4. valuable to

6. Many studies have shown that many violent shows make people ______.
1. Enjoy watching TV
2. Become more violent
3. Copy whatever is in the shows
4. Frighten to death

7. After the movie The Deer Hunter appeared on TV in the United States, many American people tried to ______ in a way similar to an event in the film.
   1. Commit suicide
   2. Help themselves
   3. Call for attention
   4. Ask for help

8. Many people do not believe that ______
   1. Some TV programs are useful
   2. They are TV addicts
   3. Drinking alcohol while watching TV is good
   4. Seeing one type of program on TV is not good

**Passage 3**

**What’s New**

In the modern world, it is important to be well-informed. Success in many fields depends on getting the latest information. To keep up with what is happening in the world, well-informed people read newspapers and newsmagazines. They listen to the news on the radio and they watch it on television. Owners of home computers can even receive their news directly from the wire services-news agencies that supply newspapers, magazines, radio, and television with news reports-through special telephone links.

Most people read newspapers for the news of the day. The typical daily newspapers contains articles about local, regional, national, and international news, as well as sports news, weather reports, editorials, and other features. In large cities, newspaper readers can often choose between a ‘morning paper’ distributed early in the morning and an ‘evening paper’ distributed at the end of...
the workday. Most American newspapers also publish an enlarged Sunday edition containing articles about the news of the day and of the week, plus a number of entertainment and advertising supplements. Daily newspapers are designed to be read quickly by busy people looking for specific information. The Sunday papers, on the other hand, are intended to entertain as well as inform, and they tend to be read leisurely by all members of the family. Other types of newspapers include campus newspapers, written by students at universities, and weekly newspapers, usually intended for a specific audience.

News magazines, such as TIME, NEWSWEEK, and U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT are published weekly. They contain articles about the important national and international news of the week, and special sections are devoted to news about such areas as business, science, education, and the arts. News magazines are a popular source of general information on a wide range of recent events. They also feature longer articles dealing with the influence of current events on modern life.

Radio and television present the important news of the hour. Many radio stations in the U.S. broadcast news every hour, and a few all-news stations broadcast news and news commentary programs all day. Most commercial television stations have news programs in the evening (beginning at 5.00 or 6.00 P.M.) and at night (beginning at 10.00 or 11.00 P.M.). The evening news program generally consists of a national network news program and a local news program, while at night it is usually a local program. In addition, some TV stations offer early morning news, late night news, and weekly ‘news magazine’ programs. Cable television networks in some cities offer foreign language news and all-news channels.

Students learning English in English-speaking countries find the news a useful source of language practice. To improve their listening comprehension;
they listen to the news on the radio and watch it on television. Then they check their comprehension by reading newspapers and news magazines. Everyone likes to talk about the news. In the office, on the campus, at parties, or on the street, conversations often begin with questions like ‘What’s new?’, What’s happening?’, or “Have you heard about…..?”. By staying well informed, these students find it easier to enter into conversations about the news.

**Exercise 1 Vocabulary Preparation**

*Answer the following questions correctly.*

1. Sirimart is a well-informed woman; she gets good _______ from reading good newspapers.
   1. inform
   2. informing
   3. informative
   4. information

2. Government should supply electricity to every consumer.
   ‘Supply’ in this sentence means _______.
   1. provide
   2. meet
   3. store
   4. grant

3. The postman had forty parcels to be distributed to houses all over the town.
   ‘Distribute’ in this sentence means _______.
   1. put into
   2. send out
   3. spread out
   4. keep up

4. Lazy people usually work leisurely.
   ‘Leisurely’ means _______.
   1. deliberately
   2. carefully
   3. unhurriedly
   4. quickly

5. Money is to be used for a specific purpose.
   This sentence means that _______.

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1. one can spend money as he wants
2. money should be spent carefully
3. money is what money is
4. one should not worry about money matters
6. Surachai devotes his spare time to rugby.
   This sentence means that Surachai ________.
   1. plays rugby whenever he has free time
   2. does not like playing rugby at all
   3. plays rugby all day and all night
   4. pays no attention to any other kinds of sport
7. He is improving in health. And this ______ makes his mother feel better.
   1. improving
   2. improved
   3. improve
   4. improvement

Exercise 2 Comprehension ‘Questions
a. Write (T) for the correct answer or (F) for the incorrect one in the space provided.
   _____1. Newspapers, magazines, radios stations and television stations get news reports from the wire services.
   _____2. Sunday newspapers are designed to be read quickly by busy people looking for specific information.
   _____3. Campus newspapers and weekly newspapers are written by university students.
   4. People often listen to radio and television for the important news of the hour.
   _____5. Some radio and television stations broadcast news all day.
   _____6. Most American television stations offer foreign language news programs,
7. Students learning English listen to the news on radio and watch it on television to improve their reading comprehension.

b. Choose the best answer.

1. Newspapers contain _______
   1. the news of the day  
   2. only bad news  
   3. only good news  
   4. the important news of the hour

2. A newspaper which is distributed at the end of the workday is a/an _______
   1. morning newspaper  
   2. evening newspaper  
   3. campus newspaper  
   4. a late newspaper

3. Which type of newspaper contains a number of entertainment and advertisement supplements?
   1. a morning paper  
   2. an evening paper  
   3. a campus newspaper  
   4. a Sunday newspaper

4. News magazines are usually published _______
   1. daily  
   2. weekly  
   3. fortnightly  
   4. monthly

5. Longer articles dealing with the influence of current events on modern life are often found in _______
   1. daily newspapers  
   2. news magazines  
   3. Sunday newspapers  
   4. network news programs

6. Weekly news magazines are intended for a __ audience.
   1. general  
   2. specific  
   3. family  
   4. university

7. News bulletins are broadcast every hour on many _______
   1. radio stations  
   2. cable TV networks  
   3. new magazine programs  
   4. commercial TV stations
8. Special telephone links make it possible for owners of home computers to receive news from_____.
   1. newspaper  2. magazines  3. wire services  4. radio and TV stations

9. Commercial television stations have programs in the evening and at night.
   1. commentary  2. entertaining  3. educational  4. news

Passage 4

The Olympic Games

Although we do not know the exact origins of the earliest Olympic games, we know that the ancient Greeks had a festival in which athletes competed in sports. This celebration was held regularly every four years and was open to all men and boys who spoke Greek as their native language. These ancient games were simpler than our modern ones. For the month before the festival, the athletes Mended a formal course of exercise at the gymnasion in the city of Olympia. Then the competition itself consisted of a single footrace. Later festivals included such sports as jumping, wrestling, discus throwing, and horse racing.

These early Olympic games were most popular around the fifth century B.C. At the time, winning at a sport brought the highest possible honor to the individual competitor, his family, and his city. The winner of a game received neither gold nor silver but a simple crown of olive leaves. Later, however, when the Greeks began paying athletes, there were problems with professionalism. In addition, instead of participating in all sports, the 15
competitors began to specialize; that is, they concentrated on only one Olympic event. Because of this interest in money and the increasing specialization of athletes, the ancient games lost their original purpose; they ended in A.D. 393.

The first of the modern Olympic took place in the same country as the original festivals. Two hundred eighty-five athletes from thirteen countries competed in Athens in 1896. Today, thousands of athletes from over one hundred countries compete-each time in a different city of the world. The games are popular and spectacular events. There have been hundreds of exciting, special Olympic moments that people all over the world have shared by reading newspaper stories, watching films, or seeing the actual events on TV or in person.

In 1904, for example, the Cuban runner Felix Carvajal lost his money in New Orleans and could not afford to take the train to St. Louis, Missouri, where the games were taking place. Nevertheless, he participated in the twenty-six-mile Olympic marathon. To do this, he had to run the seven hundred miles to St. Louis. He arrived just in time for the beginning of the marathon. Moreover, after already running seven hundred miles, he succeeded in finishing the marathon in fourth place. Another runner, black American Jesse Owens, won four gold medals and the hearts of the world in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. As he received his medals, the ruler of Germany, Adolf Hitler, stared coldly from his seat.

War between Greek cities stopped the ancient games only twice in one thousand years. Politics rarely entered into the Olympic games. In modern times, however, such has not been the case. Political conflicts have influenced the games more often than just during the rule of Hitler. World War I stopped the celebration of the Olympics in 1916, and the same thing happened
in 1940 and 1944, because of South African apartheid athletes from that country were barred for many years; and at the 1972 games in Munich, political terrorists from the Middle East killed seventeen people. Since then many countries have avoided the games for political reasons.

In addition to politics, there have been problems with the athletes who compete in the games. Some have used illegal drugs and chemicals. Furthermore, as in the ancient Greek festivals, there have been increasing problems with professionalism of modern athletes. In general, only ‘amateurs’ are supposed to compete in the Olympics, but the exact time between ‘amateur’ and ‘professional’ has become very thin. For these reasons, participants and spectators worry about the future of the Olympic games.

Exercise 1 Vocabulary Preparation

Answer the following questions correctly.

1. I want to know the exact size of the room.

   This means that ______.
   1. the room is big
   2. I am capable of telling you the size of the room
   3. the size of the room must be told correctly in every detail
   4. the size of the room is very important to me

2. Christmas and Easter are Church festivals.

   ‘Festivals’ is the time for ______.
   1. rejoicing
   2. praying
   3. working
   4. performing

3. At the Olympic Games our representatives were in competition with the best swimmers from all parts of the world.
‘Competition’ has ‘corn’ as a prefix which means.____
1. always 2. together
3. through 4. hardly

4. Saengchan entered in the footrace competition.

"Footrace’ is a_____.
1. kind of football 2. subdivision of mankind
3. contest in swimming 4. running competition

5. Sutin was a football player: now he is a football coach by_____.
1. profession, professional 2. professional, professional
3. professional, profession 4. profession, profession

6. I want to buy this dress, Can you give me the actual figures?

‘Actual’ in this sentence means_____.
1. good 2. exact
3. estimate 4. suitable

7. Sudyong participated in the 1994 Bangkok marathon.

‘Participate’ means_____.
1. enter into 2. go ahead with
3. do away with 4. get along in

8. There was a long-drawn-out conflict between employers and workers.

‘Conflict’ in this sentence means_____.
1. ideas 2. punishment
3. disagreement 4. action

9. Can the planets influence human character, as astrologers claim?

‘Influence’ means_____.
1. reach an opinion about 2. have an effect on
3. work away at 4. bring trouble to
10. The spectators applauded and cheered happily as their football team scored a goal twenty seconds before half time.

“spectator” means ____.

1. announcer  2. opposing player
3. on-looker  4. football coach

Exercise 2 Comprehension Questions

a. Write (T) for the correct answer or (F) for the incorrect one in the space provided.

___1. The early Olympic games were held regularly every year.
___2. The early Olympic games which were held in Greece were open for all people.
___3. The games which are played in the Olympic now are simpler than the ancient ones.

4. The winner of the ancient Olympic games got a crown of olive leaves as a trophy.
___5. The 1896 Olympic games were held in Athens.
___6. Felix Carvajal finished in first place in the Olympic marathon.
___7. Both WW I and II had stopped the celebration of the Olympics.
___8. Actually both amateur and professional athletes are supposed to compete in the Olympics.

b. Choose the best answer.

1. The actual origins of the earliest Olympic games______.
   1. have been revealed to all  2. are unknown
   3. are well recorded  4. have come into existence

2. The ancient athletes had to attend a formal course of exercise at the gymnasium ______ before the festival.
1. half a month
2. one month
3. two months
4. several months

3. Jumping, wrestling, discus throwing, and horse racing were sports that came ______ footrace.
   1. before
   2. with
   3. after
   4. over

4. The winner of the ancient Olympic games brought great honor to ______.
   1. himself and his family
   2. his family and his city
   3. himself, his family and his city
   4. himself, his family, his city, and his country

5. In the beginning, the athletes ______.
   1. were interested only in horse racing
   2. got paid from the government
   3. knew that they would get a lot of money
   4. participated in all the sports

   1. from few countries
   2. from all over the world
   3. from Greece and European countries
   4. from professional countries

7. Jesse Owens ____.
   1. was a black American
   2. won four gold medals
   3. was stared at by Adolf Hitler
   4. All are correct

8. Politics played an important role in many ______ Olympic games.
   1. ancient
   2. modern
   3. Greek
   4. professional
The house was quiet. Ralph folded the newspaper and laid it on the small round table beside him.

“Where’s Ann?” he asked.

“She’s studying,” Lisa replied, “At least she’s staring at the books. Ralph, when are you going to get off her back?”

“When she brings her grade up.”

“She may never be able to do that.”

“It’s just a matter of her applying herself. The school says she’s intelligent enough. I don’t understand it. Lynn certainly has no trouble in school. If her sister can do it, why can’t Ann?”

“They’re different, that’s all. Who knows why?”

“I’m not asking her to match Lynn’s grades,” Ralph said: “When Ann makes a B average, she can do what she wants in the evenings, just like Lynn. But as it is now, not a college in the country will accept Ann-with her average.”

“May be she shouldn’t go,” Lisa said.

“She has to. I couldn’t, and more than anything else, I wanted to. I’m trying to give her the chance that my father wouldn’t give me.”

Ralph remembered how he had once pleaded, many years ago. “Why can’t I go, Dad? Marian and Louis didn’t really want to. And the others never even thought of it. Besides, we have the money now.”

“You know it isn’t the money. There’s such a thing as justice-such a thing as a father’s being fair to all his children. I didn’t send the other to college and I’m not sending you. You may as well forget the idea.” His father’s tone had been final.