

Inspirational Stories from Around the World

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NAN'UN-DO

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Preface

This textbook consists of a collection of inspirational stories from around the world chosen specifically for their human interest value in the hope that these real life stories will motivate students to learn more about the English speaking world. Apart from being an English textbook, these stories demonstrate to students that even in the face of adversity, such as racial or religious discrimination, political persecution or physical disability, the protagonists were steadfast in their determination to reach their goals.

Each chapter consists of eight sections: 1. Background Quiz, 2. Reading, 3. Vocabulary Build-up, 4. Reading Comprehension, 5. Word Forms, 6. Story Line Reproduction, 7. Utilizing Useful Words and Phrases, and 8. Dialogue Completion. The functions of each section are as follows;

1. Background Quiz: Students are to answer questions based on the background to the reading article in Section 2, so that they can be better prepared to comprehend the reading article.
2. Reading: This is the main section of each chapter and all exercises are based on the reading article. Students are required to read the passage carefully in order to do the subsequent tasks.
3. Vocabulary Build-up: There are approximately twenty important words printed in bold type in the reading passage. Students are required to find the appropriate word in bold type in the reading passage which matches each description given and write that word in the parentheses.
4. Reading Comprehension: Four paragraphs on the topic of the reading article are provided, one of which closely matches the content of the reading article in Section 2. Students are required to choose the one paragraph which most closely matches the content of the reading article.

Students are expected to have read through the article in order to grasp the story line and to answer this comprehension quiz.

5. Word Forms: Exercises in this section have been developed in order for students to broaden their vocabulary by understanding the meanings of prefixes, and suffixes, or by combining words to make one compound word. These newly acquired words are then to be used in the "fill-in-the-blank" questions that follow.
6. Story Line Reproduction: In this section, ten incomplete sentences taken from the reading article are given in random order. Firstly, students are to listen to an audio recording of each sentence and fill in the blanks to complete the sentences. The completed sentences are then to be put into the same order as they appear in the reading article. This exercise is to help improve students' writing skills.
7. Utilizing Useful Words and Phrases: The exercises in this section include useful expressions and idiomatic phrases extracted from the reading article. Students are to rearrange the words or phrases given in parentheses to make complete sentences.
8. Dialogue Completion: An incomplete dialogue between two people talking on the topic of the reading article is given. Students are to listen to an audio recording of the dialogue and fill in the blanks to complete the dialogue. After having completed the dialogue and understood the two speakers' opinions, students are required to choose the best answer to the questions. Then students are recommended to memorize the dialogue and present it orally in the form of a role play to the class as the final stage.

Inspirational Stories from Around the World

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Chapter 1 Phone Salesman Becomes Opera Singer

1. Background Quiz: Answer the following questions based on the background to the Reading article in Section 2.

1. What do the letters “UK” stand for?
2. What kind of TV program is “Britain’s Got Talent”?
3. What is YouTube?
4. How does bullying affect students?
5. Where does Puccini, the composer of “Turandot,” come from?

2. Reading: Read the passage carefully and do the tasks that follow.



“Britain’s Got Talent” is a popular TV program in the UK in which many **amateurs** hope to appear, in order to **increase** their chances of becoming well-known professional artists. **Participation** in the program can often be an **ordeal** for **competitors**, due sometimes to the negative comments made by the judges and the large number of contestants hoping to be able to progress through to the finals.

In 2007, a poorly dressed mobile phone salesman named Paul Potts appeared as a vocalist in one of the heats of the TV program. As soon as he started singing the **audience** **immediately** rose to their feet, giving him a standing **ovation**, and some were even moved to tears. The judges agreed and selected him to appear in the finals on June 17, 2007, in which he sang the operatic aria “Nessun Dorma” from Puccini’s “Turandot” which won him the championship. His **outstanding** performance attracted the **attention** of the media and his video on YouTube

scored millions of hits, not only from Great Britain, but from around the world. He recorded an album titled “One Chance,” which became a number one top seller in 9 countries.

Paul Potts, who was born in England on October 13, 1970, had achieved his dream of becoming a professional singer, but it was not **due to** some one night lucky break. It was the **result** of years of singing practice on his part during his years as a child, while being raised in an ordinary everyday family. His father worked as a bus driver and his mother as a cashier at a supermarket. Paul says that he was so shy as a child, that he was **bullied** at school and lost all **self-confidence**, but it was only when singing that he was able to **regain** that confidence. Even after becoming the manager of a mobile phone store, he never gave up practicing singing, as he had a strong **desire** to become a professional opera singer one day.

His road to success was not an easy one, but it proves that through **determination** and **persistence**, even the highest goals are **attainable**.

3. Vocabulary Build-up: Find the appropriate word or phrase in bold type in the reading passage which matches the description and write the word in the parentheses.

1. at once ()
2. because of ()
3. difficult experience ()
4. belief in own abilities ()
5. loud and long applause ()
6. able to be accomplished ()
7. dream or wish for something ()
8. get back something previously lost ()
9. people watching a live performance ()
10. people doing something for pleasure ()

4. Reading Comprehension: Choose one of the paragraphs below which most closely matches the content of the reading passage.

1. Paul Potts, who won a popular TV program, "Britain's Got Talent," was a mobile phone salesman. He became the number one amateur opera singer in the UK and his mobile phone company made a lot of profit. Then, he became the president of the company.
2. Paul Potts, who was born in 1970, participated in "Britain's Got Talent" and won the final contest. He was able to achieve his dream of becoming a professional singer, but his road to success was not an easy one.
3. Paul Potts' outstanding performance titled "One Chance" attracted the attention of the media and his video on YouTube scored millions of hits, not only from Great Britain, but from around the world. He is a man who got a one-night lucky break.
4. Paul Potts never gave up practicing singing even after becoming the manager of a mobile phone store. His outstanding opera performance always attracted many customers and helped promote his company. He still has a strong desire to become the number one amateur opera singer in the UK.

5. Word Forms: Add such suffixes as "-er," "-ee," "-or," "-ar," or "-ist," to the words listed below making any necessary spelling changes and make a word meaning a person. Then, fill in each blank with the most appropriate person. Each word can be used once only.

vocal, sell, cash, manage, instruct, special, science, invent, employ, beg

1. A () handles payments from customers purchasing goods and services.
2. The main () as well as the guitarist of the band was Paul McCartney.
3. Alfred Nobel, the founder of the Nobel Prize, is the () of dynamite.
4. Dr. Albert Einstein is the greatest () in the 20th Century.
5. Every () or worker should understand the work regulations.
6. Dr. Fred Hollows is the most well-known eye () in Australia.
7. Prof. Jackson used to be the general () of the best hotel in India.
8. Michael used to ask for money like a () when he had no job.
9. She has been teaching skiing for years and is nominated as the best skiing () of the year.
10. Many business transactions are only successful after long discussions between the buyer and the ().

6. Story Line Reproduction: First listen to the recording of each sentence and fill in the blanks.



Then put the sentences below into the correct order in which the story line was produced. The first and last sentences have been indicated for you.

A reality TV program in the United Kingdom, “Britain’s Got Talent,” attracts many contestants.

- (a) One of these contestants was a () dressed salesman named Paul Potts.
- (b) This applause () the judges and they selected him as a finalist.
- (c) His version of this aria won him first place in the () and his performance was uploaded onto YouTube.
- (d) With the () of this album, Paul finally had achieved his dream of becoming a professional singer.
- (e) As soon as he began singing, the () started to applaud.
- (f) This () success shows that even the most difficult goals are attainable.
- (g) As a () of his success on YouTube, he released an album titled “One Chance,” which became a top seller.
- (h) After achieving this dream Paul explained that he had been () at school because of his shyness.
- (i) In that final, Paul sang an () aria from “Turandot.”
- (j) It was only through singing that this () disappeared and he was able to regain self-confidence and achieve success.

Story line: (a)→()→()→()→()→()→()→()→()→(f)

7. Utilizing Useful Words and Phrases: Rearrange the words/phrases in parentheses below to make complete sentences.

1. (as, talking about, she started, her father, soon as), Jane burst into tears.

2. He finally (his dream, a professional, of becoming, achieved) pianist.

3. In her childhood, Katie (was, bullied, that, so shy, at school, she was).

4. (millions of, his video on, hits, YouTube, scored) and the amateur singer became famous.

5. Having a strong desire to be an interpreter, (up, never, John, studying, gave, French).



8. Dialogue Completion: Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks. Then answer the questions below by choosing the most appropriate answer.

- Victor: I like (1) _____) on TV.
 Sophie: I do too. I like “Britain’s Got Talent.”
 Victor: Almost all countries have TV talent shows and “Britain’s Got Talent” is (2) _____).
 Sophie: Yes, I know. I watched “America’s Got Talent” when I was in the US, and “Italia’s Got Talent” in Italy, but “Britain’s Got Talent” is the best.
 Victor: Why do you think so, Sophie?
 Sophie: The judges are very professional and give (3) _____). And the audience is always very supportive of the artists.
 Victor: I think that the comments made by the judges are (4) _____).
 Sophie: That’s the point, Victor. So, the judges only (5) _____).
 Victor: I heard that hundreds of people want to take part in “Britain’s Got Talent” every week. They are selected (6) _____).
 Sophie: Hundreds? That many?
 Victor: Yes, everyone wants to be famous like Paul Potts and Susan Boyle. They were (7) _____) which the show had discovered.
 Sophie: I heard at first they were very amateurish, but through the trial heats, they became more (8) _____).
 Victor: And now, they are perfect professionals and perform around the world.
 Sophie: (9) _____), I’m going to participate in the preliminary audition of “Britain’s Got Talent” next week.
 Victor: Good luck, Sophie!

- (1) Why does Sophie think that “Britain’s Got Talent” is best?
 Because ...
1. she watched it when she was in Britain.
 2. the judges are professional and the audience is supportive.
 3. “America’s Got Talent” is better than “Italia’s Got Talent.”
 4. she watched “Italia’s Got Talent” in Britain.
- (2) How were Paul Potts and Susan Boyle when they first appeared?
 They were like ...
1. professional artists from the beginning.
 2. severe professional judges.
 3. a supportive audience.
 4. true amateurs.
- (3) Why do hundreds take part in “Britain’s Got Talent” every week?
 Because they want to ...
1. be famous like Paul Potts and Susan Boyle.
 2. be true amateurs.
 3. be perfect judges.
 4. be criticized by the judges.

Chapter 2 Sportsman's Wish Comes True

1. Background Quiz: Answer the following questions based on the background to the Reading article in Section 2.

1. Refer to a world map and find where in South Korea Busan is located.
2. Where in the United States is the State of Colorado located?
3. What kind of sport is Mogul skiing?
4. Where in Italy is Turin located?
5. What is the difference between foster parents and biological parents?

2. Reading: Read the passage carefully and do the tasks that follow.



At the age of three, a boy became separated from his parents while they were shopping in a **crowded** street market in South Korea's second largest city, Busan. The boy was later discovered **wandering** the streets by the **authorities** and was sent to a city **orphanage**. Despite a constant **search** of 3 months, the parents were unable to find their son. In 1982, he was **adopted** out to an American couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, who were traveling in South Korea at the time.

The Dawsons took their newly adopted son back home to Colorado, USA. They named him Toby and raised him with much tender loving care. Toby became a healthy, happy and very **fit** young man. He was a very keen sportsman and was particularly good at snow skiing, as both his foster parents were ski instructors. Toby Dawson won several ski **tournaments** and **competed** at the national level in Mogul skiing events. Toby continued training day after day with the help of his foster parents, while at the same time

hoping to become world famous and to one day be able to find his **biological** parents.

His sports training over many years **paid off** and finally he was successful in winning a **bronze** medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy. A video of his childhood, which included photos of him as a baby, was often **televised** in South Korea. A man living in Busan, on seeing the TV program, wondered whether Toby might be his long lost son.

DNA tests **proved** that the man in Busan, Kim Jae-su, was in fact Toby's biological father, and Toby's real name was Kim Bong-seok. It was plain to see that they were father and son as they were so much alike in appearance, despite their age difference. Their **reunion** took place in February 2007, 26 years after having been separated.

Toby Dawson is very happy now that he has two **motherlands**, South Korea and the USA. He has been appointed a Public Relations **ambassador** by the Korean National Tourism Organization and intends **establishing** a Toby Dawson Foundation to help **orphans** in South Korea.

3. Vocabulary Build-up: Find the appropriate word or phrase in bold type in the reading passage which matches the description and write the word in the parentheses.

1. in good health ()
2. recognized as true ()
3. a reddish-brown metal ()
4. children whose parents are dead ()
5. moving about without a definite purpose ()
6. filled with a large number of people ()
7. an institution for abandoned children ()
8. concerning the science of life or living things ()
9. contests among teams for the purpose of winning a championship ()
10. the highest ranked official representative of a government in another country ()

4. Reading Comprehension: Choose one of the paragraphs below which most closely matches the content of the reading passage.

1. Toby Dawson was only three months old when he was adopted by American ski instructors. He became famous because he won the 2006 Winter Olympics. He was later able to get back home to meet his father again.
2. Toby Dawson was a Korean orphan raised by an American couple, who were ski instructors. He became famous by winning an Olympic bronze medal and later was able to find his biological father.
3. Toby Dawson became famous as a Mogul skiing champion because he practiced hard under his biological father's training. Now he wants to establish a foundation to help orphans in South Korea.
4. Toby Dawson's biological parents were ski instructors from the USA and trained him to be an Olympic skier. He was an orphan from South Korea and his foster father met him for the first time in 26 years in 2007.

5. Word Forms: Add the suffix "-age" to the words listed below making any necessary spelling changes. Then, fill in each blank with the most appropriate word. Each word can be used once only.

marry, volt, short, mile, orphan, pass, bag, post, parent, percent

1. What gas () does your car do per gallon?
2. The poor boy was sent to a city () in Busan.
3. I am pretty sure that Katie is of good () and came from Britain.
4. After the earthquake, the () of gas is a serious problem.
5. At which counter do we have to check in our (), on the right or the left?
6. How much () do I have to pay to send this parcel to Australia?
7. Nadia was so selfish that her second () lasted only half a year.
8. Only a small () of Japanese people were unemployed in 2012.
9. There is a sign saying "High ()!" on the fence of the power company.
10. The () of heavy vehicles such as buses and trucks is prohibited on this bridge.

6. Story Line Reproduction: First listen to the recording of each sentence and fill in the blanks.



6

Then put the sentences below into the correct order in which the story line was produced. The first and last sentences have been indicated for you.

A boy was separated from his parents in a busy market in Busan.

- (a) The biological father arranged DNA tests for himself and Toby, and they eventually met again after 26 years of ().
- (b) He continued ski training every day () to become world famous.
- (c) They took their () son to the USA and named him Toby Dawson.
- (d) As a result of his years living as an adopted child, Toby () a foundation to help orphans in South Korea.
- (e) His parents were not able to find him as he had been sent to an ().
- (f) An American (), Mr. and Mrs. Dawson, saw the boy at this orphanage and decided to adopt him.
- (g) It was there that Toby's biological father () his son on TV.
- (h) After several years in the US, Toby became a () young man and very good at skiing.
- (i) As a result of this daily training, Toby won a () medal at the 2006 Winter Olympics.
- (j) The story and pictures of this sporting success were often () in South Korea.

Story line: (e)→()→()→()→()→()→()→()→()→(d)

7. Utilizing Useful Words and Phrases: Rearrange the words/phrases in parentheses below to make complete sentences.

1. (arriving at, on, several suitcases, Narita Airport, with), I telephoned the home delivery service.

2. (he is, now that, a Japanese girl, married to), his Japanese language should improve.

3. (his regular, over, many years, violin practice, paid off), and he finally won the Stravinsky Contest.

4. (so much, the twins, were, appearance, alike in), no one could tell one from the other.

5. She overcame her handicap and finally (successful, a gold medal, she was, in winning).



8. Dialogue Completion: Listen to the recording and fill in the blanks. Then answer the questions below by choosing the most appropriate answer.

Dave: (1) _____) Toby Dawson, Mike?

Mike: He is great. He practiced skiing every day, and (2) _____) at the Winter Olympics in Turin. He even (3) _____), and met his biological father after 26 years.

Dave: I remember I saw a picture of the Mogul skier with his Korean father on TV. They were (4) _____).

Mike: This teaches us that if we have a very strong will and make an effort, we can (5) _____) in life.

Dave: It's easy to say so, Mike, but (6) _____) like him.

Mike: He was unlucky when he was separated from his parents in Korea, but he was lucky in a sense, because (7) _____) a kind American couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dawson.

Dave: I agree with you, Mike.

Mike: His foster parents raised him (8) _____), but Toby could never forget his biological parents.

Dave: I understand his feelings. By the way, do you have (9) _____) why you play golf every weekend?

Mike: Not really, Dave. I just like it and (10) _____) Tiger Woods one day.

Dave: No way, Mike. You will (11) _____) every day if you really want to be like him.

Mike: I know, but I get lazy sometimes. I could never be like Toby Dawson.

(1) What does Dave say about Toby's picture?

He says that ...

1. he saw it on the Internet.
2. he saw it on TV.
3. Toby and his foster father are very much alike.
4. it was taken in Turin.

(2) Why does Mike think that Toby was lucky in a sense?

Because Toby ...

1. became an orphan in Korea.
2. met his biological father in Turin.
3. became famous worldwide.
4. was adopted out to an American couple.

(3) Why does Mike play golf?

Because he ...

1. wants to be famous.
2. wants to be like Toby Dawson.
3. just likes it.
4. does not go skiing.