

L2 The Cost of Gratefulness

課文翻譯

在我大概十三歲的時候，星期六我爸爸常常帶我去郊遊。在旅途回程中，我們時常停下來買十分錢的冰淇淋甜筒。我不確定爸爸會不會駐足在冰淇淋店，但只要我們開始準備回家，我就心存願望祈禱他會買冰淇淋給我。我知道我們可能會直接前往冰淇淋店，或者轉彎空手回家。

他常會問：「你想吃冰淇淋甜筒嗎？」而我總說：「聽起來很不錯，爸爸！」我總是點巧克力，而他點香草。他會給我二十分錢，我則跑去買冰淇淋。我們會在車裡吃冰淇淋。我愛我的爸爸，而我也愛冰淇淋——對我而言，這就是天堂。

某個決定性的一天，我們正在回家路上，而我正希望同時祈禱爸爸提議的甜美聲音能響起。然後聲音響起了：「你今天想來個冰淇淋嗎？」

「聽起來很不錯喔，爸爸！」

但是他說：「兒子，我也覺得這聽起來真的是不錯。你今天想要請客嗎？」

二十分錢！我的心倒縮了一下。我付得起這筆錢，但是存錢很重要。爸爸常常這樣告訴我。但一說到要花我的錢，冰淇淋似乎就不是花這筆錢的好選擇了。

為什麼我沒有想過這是個回報我那慷慨的父親的一個絕佳機會？為什麼我沒想到他至少已經買過五十個冰淇淋甜筒給我，而我卻連一個甜筒也從沒買給他過？而我所想到的只是得花二十分錢！

被一陣自私、吝嗇又不知感恩的心情衝擊下，我說出往後常在耳邊響起的那番糟糕話語：「嗯，那樣的話，我想我就不吃不請客了。」

我的爸爸只說：「沒關係，兒子。」但當我們轉身回家時，我明白自己錯得有多離譜，並懇求爸爸轉回程路。「我願意付錢！」我懇求著。

但他只是說：「沒關係，我們不是真的需要吃冰淇淋。」他沒有聽從我的請求。我們就開車回家了。

我對於自己的自私和不知感恩感到很後悔。但爸爸沒有再提及這件事，他也沒有表現出失望的樣子。

我學到慷慨是互相的，而表達感恩有時只比僅僅說「謝謝你」再多花費一些而已。在那一天表達感恩原本只要花我二十分錢，而那也可能是我所嚐過最棒的冰淇淋。

再告訴你一件事。隔週我們又去另外一趟旅行，而當我們經過那重要的轉角時，我說道：「爸，你今天想吃冰淇淋甜筒嗎？我請客。」

單字例句翻譯

1. frequently

You will find it easier to memorize new words if you review them frequently.

如果你常常複習，就會發現背單字容易許多。

Passengers are annoyed by the trains' frequent delays.

乘客們對於火車時常誤點感到惱怒。

When the frequency of her headaches increased, she decided to see a doctor.

當她頭痛的頻率增加之時，她決定去看醫生。

2. outing

The student are excited about next week' s outing to a nearby ranch.

學生們對於下禮拜去附近農場的旅遊感到興奮不已。

3. cone

The ice cream melted quickly in the hot weather and dripped down the side of the cone.

冰淇淋在炎熱天氣中迅速融化，並沿著冰淇淋甜筒邊緣滴下。

4. head

The bus is heading for the terminal stop.

公車前往終點站。

5. pray

I pray that every corner of the world can be at peace.

我祈禱世界每個角落都和平。

prayer

God must have heard my prayer—my wish was granted!

上帝一定聽到了我的祈禱——我的願望實現了！

6. empty

The writer stared at the empty page, lost in thought.

作家注視著空白的頁面陷入沉思。

empty

I emptied the drawers to make space for odds and ends.

我把抽屜清空以騰出空間放雜物。

7. hand

Dad used to hand me a one-dollar bill and I would run errands for him.

爸爸通常會給我一張一元鈔票，而我便幫他跑腿。

8. fateful

Do you know the fateful day of President Lincoln' s assassination?

你知道林肯總統被刺殺的那個重大日子嗎？

9. afford

They want to give their children the best education that they can afford.

他們想在可負擔的範圍內給孩子最好的教育。

affordable

This shop sells clothes at affordable prices.

這家店賣的衣服價格合理。

10. golden

Andrew knew the meeting would be a golden opportunity for him to present his new idea to the committee.

安德魯知道此次會議是向委員會提出他新點子的絕佳機會。

They exchanged golden rings at their wedding ceremony.

他們在婚禮上交換金戒指。

The golden sand of this beach attracts tourists from all over the world.

這座海灘的金黃沙粒吸引了來自世界各地的旅客。

gold

The chain is made of pure gold.

這條鍊子是用純金做的。

gold

the man wore a gold watch and carried an expensive briefcase.

那男人戴著金錶並提著一個昂貴的公事包。

She wore a red dress and gold shoes to the dance.

她穿著紅色的洋裝跟金色的鞋子去參加舞會。

11. opportunity

If you let this opportunity pass you by, you will always regret it.

如果你讓這個機會白白流逝，你會後悔的。

12. generous

The generous entrepreneur makes frequent donations to help those in need.

這位慷慨的企業家常常捐款給需要幫助的人。

generosity

You shouldn't have taken advantage of my generosity.

你不該利用我的慷慨大方。

13. selfish

It was selfish of you to leave without cleaning up after yourself.

你人真自私，離開前也不打掃乾淨。

selfishness

If we stop caring about others, we will fall victim to our own selfishness.

如果我們停止關心他人，就會淪為自私自利的受害者。

14. miserly

The miserly old man never gave anything to anybody.

那個吝嗇的老人從來不施予任何東西給人。

miser

The miser has plenty of money in the bank but is unwilling to spend a penny.
那位年老的鐵公雞銀行裡存著大量錢財，卻一毛不拔。

15. ingratitude

The child's selfishness and ingratitude left his parents heartbroken.
這孩子的自私自利和不知感恩使他的父母心碎。

gratitude

I feel a sense of gratitude to those who helped me through the hardships.
我對於那些曾經幫助我走過難關的人心存感激。

16. awful

We canceled our outing because of the awful weather.
因為惡劣的天氣，我們取消了旅遊。

awe

The tourists stared at the pyramids in awe.
觀光客們敬畏地觀看著金字塔。

17. beg

My brother kept bugging me until I begged him to leave me alone.
直到我求我哥不要煩我，他才沒繼續鬧我。

He was in tears when he saw children begging for food on the streets.
當他看見孩子們在街上乞討食物，他淚流滿面。

beggar

He gave some money to the beggar.
他給了乞丐一些錢。

18. plead

The prisoner pleaded for mercy.
囚犯懇求憐憫。

pleading

He talked to the judge in a pleading tone of voice.
他以請求的語調和法官懇談。

19. ungratefulness

After everything I did for him, I was shocked at his ungratefulness.
在為他做了所有事之後，我對他的完全不知感恩感到震驚。

gratefulness

This small gift represents my gratefulness for your help.
這個小禮物代表我對你的協助的感激之情。

grateful

I am grateful to my teacher for his endless patience.
我對於教師無盡的耐心心存感激。

20. crucial

Childhood is a crucial stage in shaping a person's character.

童年是人格塑造很重要的一個階段。

Idioms and Phrases

1. occur to one (that ...)

It never occurred to me that my parents needed my help.

我從沒想過我父母會需要我的幫忙。

2. in a fit of

He cried out in a fit of despair.

絕望之餘他大叫一聲。

3. ring in one's ears

The boy's nasty remark rang in her ears as she walked home.

她回家時，這男孩令人厭惡的言語仍在她耳邊迴盪。

4. in that case

“The decision has been made.” “In that case, there is no need to discuss this issue any further.”

「已經做好決定了。」「那樣的話，就沒有必要再討論這個議題了。」

5. rub it in

I know I was wrong. You don't have to rub it in.

我知道我做錯了。你不需要一直重提它。