

Lesson 9 A Tale of Two Cities

It was the **best** of times, it was the **worst** of times, it was the **age** of **wisdom**, it was the age of **foolishness**, it was the **epoch** of **belief**, it was the epoch of **incredulity**, it was the **season** of **Light**, it was the season of **Darkness**, it was the **spring** of **hope**, it was the **winter** of **despair**, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to **Heaven**, we were all going direct the other way..

The above **paragraph** is **probably** one of the most famous paragraphs in English. The famous novel, “A Tale of Two Cities”, starts with this paragraph. Charles Dickens wrote this novel in which he **described** the **cruel** rich French **aristocrats** before the **historical** French **revolution**. It is a love story which ends in a **tragedy**. Some people say that this novel is not the best of Dickens’ work, but it is the most **popular**.

In this book, Dickens described how poor French people **suffered** under **injustice** before the Revolution and how the revolution was **inevitable**. But he also **pointed out** that the revolution did not bring **justice**. In fact, it **produced** another kind of injustice. We should always **understand** that anything **based upon hatred** will never produce **justice**. Justice must be based upon **forgiveness**.

Vocabulary

age 時代

aristocrat 貴族

based upon 基於

belief 信仰

best 最好

cruel 殘酷的

darkness 黑暗

describe 形容

despair 失望

epoch 新紀元

essay 文章

foolishness 愚笨

forgiveness 寬恕

French 法國的

hatred 仇恨

heaven 天堂

historical 歷史性的
hope 希望
incredulity 懷疑
inevitable 不可避免的
injustice 不正義
justice 正義,公義
light 光明
paragraph 段落
point out 指出
popular 受人歡迎的
probably 可能
produce 產生
revolution 革命
season 季節,時代
spring 春天
suffer 受苦
tale 故事
tragedy 悲劇
understand 瞭解
wisdom 智慧
worst 最壞
winter 冬天

More Sentences

1. This is a fairy tale.
2. He is the best singer in the world.
3. She is the best student in my class.
4. He is my worst student.
5. This is the age of conflict.
6. He is clever. But he does not have wisdom.
7. We finally see the light.
8. We hope that darkness will soon disappear.
9. Despair really hurts people.
10. Heaven is so far away from us.
11. This paragraph was not clearly written.
12. He probably will come back finally.
13. This is a long essay.

14. You must read this essay.
15. Can you describe what happened last night.
16. It is hard to describe my childhood.
17. He is a cruel person.
18. We do not have aristocrats in our country now.
19. This is a historical event.
20. This is a great tragedy.
21. People suffer in the war.
22. People suffer if they are poor.
23. Injustice causes hatred.
24. There is a revolution going on in our country.
25. This war is unfortunately inevitable.
26. Justice will bring peace.
27. Terrorism results from hatred.
28. Justice is built upon forgiveness.
29. I pointed out to my students that they must work hard.
30. It was pointed out by many people that the war may break out soon.
31. We must understand the importance of knowledge.
32. Can you understand the meaning of this sentence?
33. This fiction is based upon a real event.
34. This machine is based upon a complicated theory..

Grammar Points to be Noted

1. the best
best 是 good 比較級的最高級, 我們不能說 good, more good, most good, 而要說 good, better, best.
2. the worst
worst 是 bad 比較級的最高級, 我們不能說 bad, more bad, most bad, 而要說 bad, worse, worst.
3. wisdom 是名詞, 為什麼這裡要名詞? 理由很簡單, 在 of 的後面, 一定要用名詞的. 如果說 age of wise, 是錯的.
4. Light, Darkness, Heaven 都用了大寫, 乃是因為對光明, 黑暗和天堂的尊敬. Light 幾乎代表上帝, Darkness 幾乎意指魔鬼, Heaven 是只有善人才能去的地方, 也是上帝的所在也, 當然要用大寫了.

5. all going direct to Heaven

如果我們寫的話，應該用 **directly**，而不是 **direct**。但狄更司是大文豪，他怎麼寫都可以的，我們凡人千萬用 **directly**。下一句話也應用 **directly**。

Correct the Following Mistakes:

1. This is the age of foolish.
2. He is a man of wise.
3. This bicycle is more good than the other one.
4. He is the most bad student in my class.
5. Hope that dark will disappear soon.
6. You must to read the essay.
7. Please describe how this happens last night.
8. Describe war is hard.
9. This is a great tragic.
10. We are not have bad people in this town.

Translate the Following into English:

1. 他是最好的演員。
2. 他是最壞的作家。
3. 智慧是不容易得到的。
4. 這一段很難懂。
5. 這篇文章很短。
6. 你能形容你的爸爸嗎？
7. 希特勒非常殘忍。
8. 英國仍有貴族。
9. 這件事有歷史意義。
10. 我不喜歡看悲劇。
11. 戰爭中，人人受苦。
12. 高科技建築在基本科技之上。