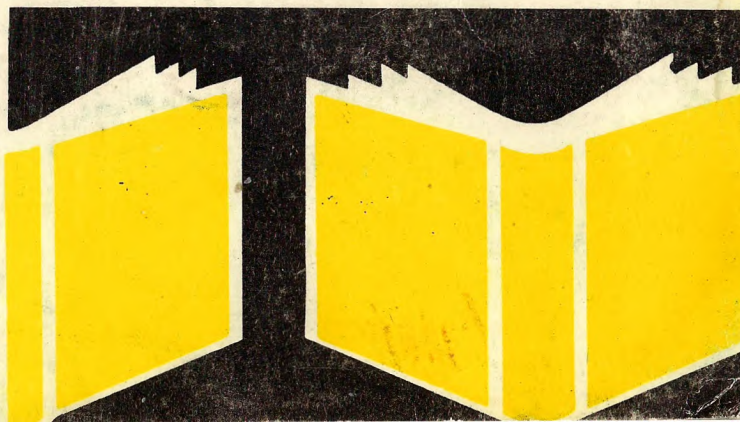


Essential
English

FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

Book 1

BY C. E. ECKERSLEY



ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

for
Foreign Students

BOOK ONE

revised edition

by

C. E. ECKERSLEY

Illustrations by

CHARLES SALISBURY,
BURGESS SHARROCKS

and from 'Punch' and 'The Humorist'



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PREFACE

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH is a course in four books, of which this is the first, for the teaching of English to adult foreign students. It aims at giving the student a sound knowledge of the essentials of both spoken and written English and taking him well on the way to a mastery of idiomatic conversational and literary English.

The normal constructions and sentence patterns of English are introduced gradually and systematically, and are well drilled at every stage. The learner is guided through "essential" grammar in the simplest possible manner, and every new construction is explained and illustrated as soon as it is used.

The restricted vocabulary within which the four books are written has been based on *A General Service List of English Words*.¹ But neither this list, nor any other list, has been followed slavishly and blindly; the vocabulary and the grammar and the structures taught have been tested constantly by the experience gained during some thirty years of teaching English to foreign students or writing text-books for them.

'Because I believe that a knowledge of the *spoken* tongue is the true basis of language learning, much of this book is in "conversational" form; and my constant endeavour has been to ensure that, despite the restrictions that a limited vocabulary naturally imposes, every sentence in these conversations is expressed in the living, colloquial idiom that an educated Englishman would use.

And, since the most effective spur to learning a language (or anything else) is interest, every effort has been made to cover the linguistic pill with the jam of gaiety. So, as soon as

¹ A new edition of the *Interim Report on Vocabulary Selection* (Longmans).

the preliminaries are mastered, the reader is introduced to Mr. Priestley, his household and his group of students. We see them here and in subsequent books chatting together, telling jokes, reading stories that they have written, singing songs or acting short plays. It is on these conversations and stories and the "talks by Mr. Priestley" that the language teaching is based, and from them that the copious exercises by which the teacher is enabled to test how far the work has been understood, are drawn.

Fundamentally, this new edition of *ESSENTIAL ENGLISH* is the same as the old one, but there are one or two changes. Some extra material has been added; the Future Tense has been treated rather more fully; comparison of adjectives, which originally was delayed until Book II, is now treated here in Lessons 20-22; Lesson 11 has been expanded; there are two new "Stories without words" (page 155 and 166); the sections on sentence construction have been deferred to a later book and an index has been added.

In the Teacher's handbook¹ that has been prepared to accompany this volume the general principles and the main techniques of language teaching are discussed, detailed suggestions and practical hints are given on the teaching of each lesson, and a complete Key to the Exercises is provided.

Though a text-book that is the ideal one to every teacher and student is, perhaps, an impossibility, it is hoped that most students and teachers will feel that this new edition is an improvement on the old one, but the author will be most grateful at any time for further criticisms and suggestions that will help to make *ESSENTIAL ENGLISH* more useful to those who study it or teach from it.

C. E. E.

August 1955.

¹ *Essential English, Book I, Teacher's Book.*

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THE SOUNDS IN ENGLISH

VOWELS

*Phonetic
Symbol*

Examples

i:	me, tree, three, he, people, the ¹
i	ship, it, ticket, this, king, shilling
e	bed, pen, egg, yes, men, well
æ	man, that, am, and, Paris, can, Spanish
ɑ:	past, dark, arm, are, car, hard
ɒ	not, lot, wash, song, from, rock, coffee
ɔ:	all, small, ball, or, forty, morning
u	put, full, look, good, foot, book
u:	who, move, noon, blue, do, too
ʌ	up, cup, much, sun, some, but
ə:	her, Thursday, burn, third, thirteen, worth, work
ə	a, the ² , under, father, address, servant, Saturday

DIPHTHONGS

ei	say, baby, train, plate, table, waiter, Spain
ou	no, smoke, those, motor, only, Poland, hotel
ai	five, nine, ice, eye, my, side
au	how, count, flower, cloud, hour, now
ɔi	boy, noise, boil, voice
iə	dear, clear, beer, really, ear
ɛə	where, there, their, chair, hair, care
ɔə ³	four, door, your, more, floor
uə	sure, poor

¹ Strong form.

² Weak form.

³ Many speakers of Standard English do not use this sound. They use, instead, [ɔ:].

CONSONANTS

*Phonetic
Symbol*

Examples

p	pen, pay, people, pull, open, inkpot, help
b	be, bath, boy, bad, husband, bed, beef
t	train, tree, sit, tea, inkpot, table, hotel, stop
d	door, day, sad, kind, desk, Friday, word
k	cold, back, clock, car, class, king
g	gold, bag, girl, dog, good, go, egg-cup
f	fine, far, safe, flower, fifteen, after
v	very, save, vegetable, seven, never
θ	thank, thick, thin, nothing, think, twentieth
ð	then, that, there, weather, with, together
s	so, sit, sleep, thinks, place, cigarette
z	zero, has, knives, comes, plays, noise
ʃ	ship, sharp, fish, English, shilling, short
ʒ	pleasure, measure
tʃ	Charles, each, Richard, much
dʒ	John, judge, age, Japan, language
h	his, happy, here, help, unhappy
m	man, make, many, my, swim
n	name, near, then, finish
ŋ	sing, thing, working, English, king
r	red, around, very, rich, every, room
l	leave, long, full, pull, greatly, last
w	will, work, away, when, window, wash
j	yellow, year, you, young, yes, piano

THE ENGLISH ALPHABET

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

LESSON 1 (First Lesson)

Number 1 (one)



Number 1 is a man.
This is a man.



Number 2 (two)



Number 2 is a woman.
This is a woman.



Number 3 (three)



This is a boy.

Question: What is this?

WHAT

Answer: This is a boy.

Number 4 (four)



This is a girl.

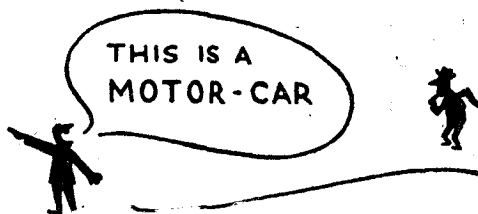
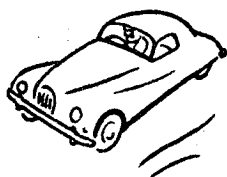
Question: What is this?



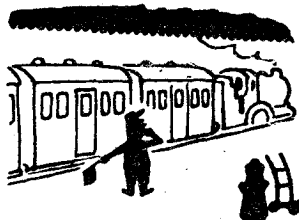
WHAT'S THIS?

Answer: This is a girl.

Number 5 (five)



Number 6 (six)



Question: What is this?



WHAT'S THIS ?

Answer: It is a train.

Number 7 (seven)



Question: What is number 7?

Answer: Number 7 is a mountain.

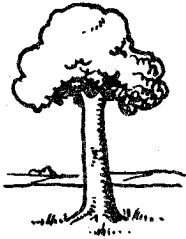
Number 8 (eight)



Question: What is number 8?

Answer: Number 8 is a clock.

Number 9 (nine)



Question: Is this a tree?

YES

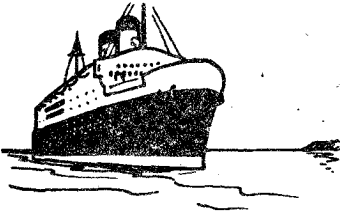
Answer: Yes, this is a tree.



QUESTION

ANSWER

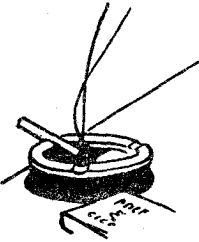
Number 10 (ten)



Question: Is this a ship?

Answer: Yes, it is.

Number 11 (eleven)



Question: Is this a ship?

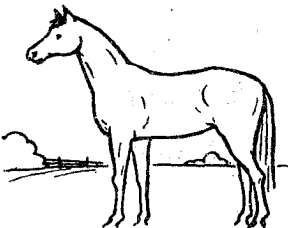
NO

Answer: No, it is not a ship;



it is a cigarette.

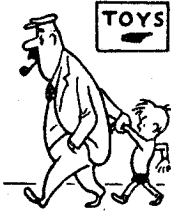
Number 12 (twelve)




Question: Is this a cigarette?

Answer: No, it is not a cigarette;
it is a horse.

Number 13 (thirteen)



 This is a man and a boy.

AND

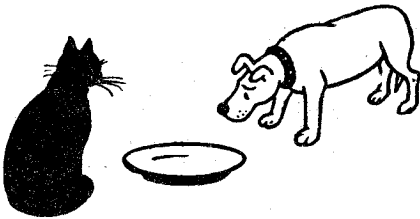
Number 14 (fourteen)



Question: What is this?

Answer: It is a woman and a baby.

Number 15 (fifteen)



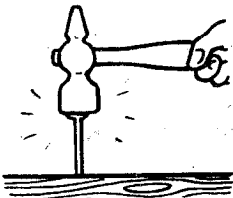
Question:

Is this a woman and a baby?

Answer:

No, it is not; it is a cat and a dog.

Number 16 (sixteen)



Question: Is this a cat and a dog?

Answer: No, it is not; it is a hammer and a nail.

ESSENTIAL ENGLISH EXERCISES

I. Put in the missing words:



Number 1 is a —



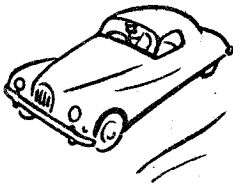
Number 2 is a —



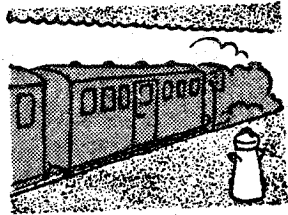
Number 3 is —



Number 4 —



— 5 is a motor-car



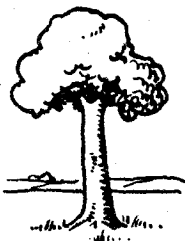
— 6 is —



— 7 is —



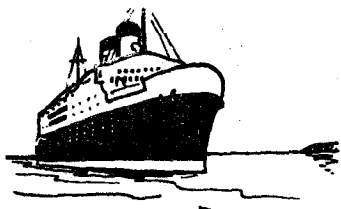
Number 8 —



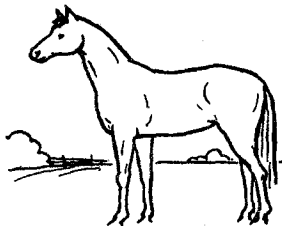
What is this?
It is _____



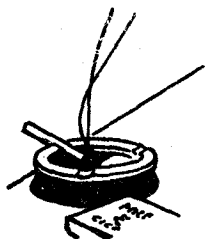
Is this a man and a boy?



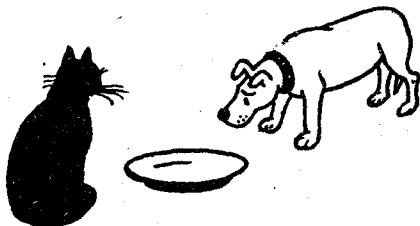
What is this?



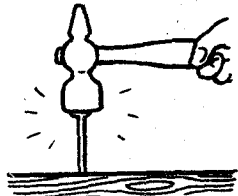
What is this?



Is this a cigarette?



Is this a cat and a dog?



Is this a cigarette?
No, _____
It is _____



Is this a cat and a dog?

It is _____

II. Write in words the numbers 1 to 16, e.g.:

1	2	...
one	two	...

III. Answer the questions:

1. What is number 1?
2. What is number 2, etc.? (to number 16)
3. Is number 1 a man?
4. Is number 2 a woman?
5. Is number 3 a boy?
6. Is number 4 a train?
7. Is number 5 a mountain?
8. Is number 6 a woman?
9. Is number 7 a girl?
10. Is number 8 a clock?
11. Is number 9 a tree?
12. Is number 10 a cigarette?
13. Is number 14 a woman and a baby?
14. Is number 15 a hammer and a nail?
15. What number is a man? (*Answer: Number one is a man.*)
16. What number is a ship?
17. What number is a horse?
18. What number is a hammer and a nail?
19. Is number 12 a horse?
20. Is number 16 a cat and a dog?

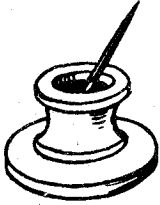
Dictation

Man, woman, boy, girl, motor-car, train, mountain, clock, hammer, nail, first.

This is a cigarette. This is a cat and a dog.

LESSON 2 (Second Lesson)

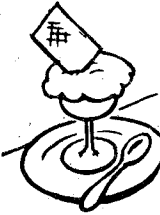
Number 17 (seventeen)



Number seventeen is an inkpot.

AN

Number 18 (eighteen)

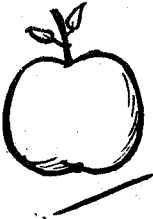


What is number eighteen?

It is¹ an ice-cream (or an ice).

IT'S AN ICE

Number 19 (nineteen)



Is number nineteen an apple?

Yes, it is.



Number 20 (twenty)



Is this an apple?

Is it an ice?

What is it?

It is (it's) an eye.

¹ or, in the short form generally used in conversation, "It's an ice."

Number 21 (twenty-one)



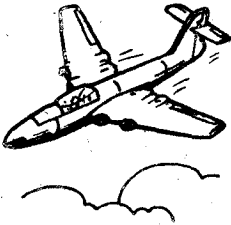
Is this a ship?

Is it a clock?

What is it?

It is (it's) a cat and an umbrella.

Number 22 (twenty-two)

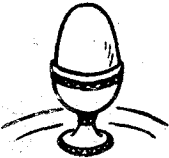


Is this an umbrella or an
aeroplane?

OR

It is (it's) an aeroplane.

Number 23 (twenty-three)



Is this an egg or an apple?

It is (it's) an egg.



Number 24 (twenty-four)



This is a bad egg. This egg is bad.

Is this a good egg? Is this egg
good?

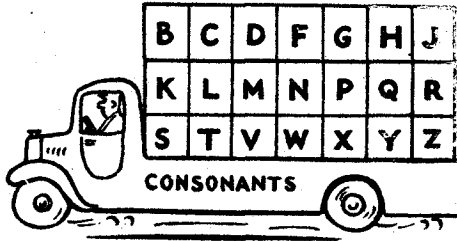
No, it is not.

NO, IT ISN'T¹

It is (it's) a bad egg. It is bad.

It is (it's) a bad one. It is not (it isn't) a good one.

¹ This short form is generally used in conversation.



a before (in front of) a consonant sound.
an before (in front of) a vowel sound.

in

The egg is in the egg-cup.
 The boy is in the bed.
 The girl is in the classroom.
 The train is in the station.
 The aeroplane is in the sky.



where

Question

Where is¹ the egg?
 Where is the boy?
 Where is the girl?
 Where is the train?
 Where is the aeroplane?

Answer

The egg is in the egg-cup.
 The boy is in the bed.
 (*Put in the answers.*)

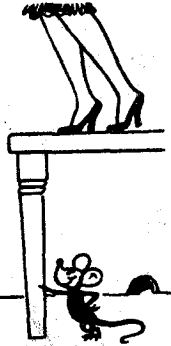
¹Short form *Where's*

on

The cigarette is on the table.
 The ship is on the sea.
 The clock is on the wall.
 The apple is on the plate.

under

The cat is under the umbrella.
 The mouse is under the table.
 What is under the umbrella?
 The cat is.



What is under the table?
 The mouse is.

Is the egg in the egg-cup? Yes, it is.
 Is the cat under the umbrella? Yes, it is.
 Is the train in the sky? No, it isn't.
 Is the dog under the umbrella? No, it is not (it isn't).

PRONUNCIATION DRILL

[i:]	[i]	[e]	[æ]	[ɑ:]
sea	it	egg	bad	class
seventeen	twenty	seventeen	apple	
eighteen	give	bed	grammar	
nineteen	ink	umbrella		
cream	before	twenty		
	the ¹	second		

¹ Before a vowel sound.