

1.

A year ago, I paid no attention to English idioms, though my teacher emphasized the importance again and again. But soon, the importance of English idioms was shown in an amusing experience.

One day, I happened to meet an Englishman on the road, and soon we began to talk. As I was talking about how I was studying English, the foreigner seemed to be astonished gently shaking his head, shrugging his shoulders, saying, "You don't say!" "You don't say!" I was puzzled. I thought, perhaps this is not an appropriate topic. "Well, I'd better change the topic." So I said to him, "Well, shall we talk about the Great Wall? By the way, have you ever been there." "Certainly, everyone back home will laugh at me if I leave China without seeing it. It is magnificent." He was deep in thought when I began to talk like a tourist guide, "The Great Wall is one of the wonders in the world. We are very proud of it." Soon I was interrupted again by his order, "You don't say!" I couldn't help asking. I said, "Didn't you say you don't say?" Hearing this, the Englishman laughed to tears. He began to explain, "You don't say actually means really. It is an expression of surprise. Perhaps you don't pay attention to English idioms." Only then did I realize I had made a fool of myself. Since then, I have been more careful with idiomatic expressions.

21. A year ago, I paid no attention to English idioms because \_\_\_\_.

- A. English idioms were too difficult to master
- B. I did not realize the importance of them
- C. My teacher didn't emphasize the importance
- D. I had no interest in English learning

22. When I first heard "You don't say!", I thought \_\_\_\_.

- A. the Englishman was not interested in the topic
- B. the Englishman was only interested in the Great Wall
- C. I had talked too much
- D. I had to stop talking at once

23. We can learn from the second paragraph that \_\_\_\_.

- A. the Englishman was leaving China without seeing the Great Wall
- B. the Englishman wanted to see the Great Wall after I talked about it
- C. the Englishman wanted me to act as his guide
- D. the Englishman visited the Great Wall and thought it worth visiting

24. After the Englishman explained the idiom, \_\_\_\_.

- A. the Englishman made me a fool
- B. the Englishman made a fool of himself
- C. I felt very silly
- D. I felt proud of my understanding

2.

There once was a little boy who wanted to meet the king. He set off, walking towards the king's castle. After many years of walking, the king's castle came into his view. However, as the boy drew closer to the outside of the castle, the guards noticed him.

"Get out of here!" ordered the guards.

Well, the little boy didn't have to be told twice. He turned...and ran. All he wanted to do was to tell the king wonderful things, and see all the beautiful things in the king's house. But he couldn't even get near the castle! The boy finally stopped running, sat down and cried.

A young man happened to be coming down the path at the very moment. He saw the little boy and stopped. "What's wrong, young man?" he asked.

"Sir, I walked and walked just to see the king. But these guards made me scared. I wanted to tell the king how lovely everything is and just tell the king that I just wanted to see him!"

The man looked at the little boy thoughtfully. "Look, why don't you try again? I'll come with you this time."

The little boy got up and took the man's hand. The king's guards spotted them.

"Look, mister, we don't have to do this...I don't want you to get hurt. We can just turn around now."

The man held the little boy's hand and went on. The boy really thought the man might be crazy until he looked back up at the guards. They were all smiling now. The little boy was amazed.

"Who are you?" asked the little boy in astonishment.