

Lesson **1**

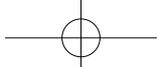
The Middle Eastern Bazaar

Additional Background Material for Teachers' Reference

This piece is taken from the book *Advanced Comprehension and Appreciation Pieces for Overseas Students*. It was prepared by L. A. Hill and D. J. May and published by the Oxford University Press in 1962. This is the third book in the series which began with *Comprehension and Precise Pieces for Overseas Students* by L. A. Hill, and continued with *Further Comprehension and Precise Pieces* by R. D. S. Fielder and L. A. Hill. The author in his introduction states: "This third book is intended for students preparing for the Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency Examination, and for students in the top class of secondary schools or in the first year of a university course."

Detailed Study of the Text

1. The Middle Eastern bazaar takes you back...of years (Para. 1):
 - 1) A bazaar is an oriental market-place where a variety of goods is sold. The word perhaps comes from the Persian word *bazar*.
 - 2) The bazaar takes you back hundreds—even thousands—of years because it was possibly built centuries ago, the architecture was ancient, the bricks and stones were aged and the economy was a handicraft economy which no longer existed in the West.



2. The one I am thinking of particularly is entered... (Para. 1):

- 1) **is entered...:** The present tense used here is called “historical present”. It is used for vividness.
- 2) **Gothic:** of a style of building in Western Europe between the 12th and 16th centuries, with pointed arches, arched roofs, tall thin pillars, and stained glass windows
- 3) **aged:** having existed long; very old

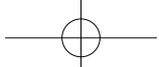
3. You pass from the heat and glare of a big open square into a cool, dark cavern... (Para. 1):

- 1) Here “the heat” is contrasted with “cool”, “glare” with “dark”, and “open square” with “cavern”.
- 2) **glare:** strong, fierce, unpleasant light, not so agreeable and welcome as “bright sunlight”
- 3) *Cavern* here does not really mean a cave or an underground chamber. From the text we can see it is a long, narrow, dark street of workshops and shops with some sort of a roof over them.
- 4) In front of the gateway there is a big, open square. It is hot there and the brightness of the sunlight is most disagreeable. But when you enter the gateway, you come to a long, narrow, dark street with some sort of a roof over it and it is cool inside.

4. which extends as far as the eye can see (Para. 1): The words *eye* and *ear* are used in the singular not to mean the concrete organ of sight or hearing but something abstract; they are often used figuratively. Here *the eye* means man’s power of seeing or eyesight.

e.g.

She has an *eye* for beauty. (She is capable of recognizing and appreciating beautiful things.)



Lesson 1 The Middle Eastern Bazaar

She has an *ear* for music. (She is sensitive to music.)

The boy has a sharp *eye*. (He overlooks nothing.)

The big poster caught my *eye*. (my attention)

Keep an *eye* on that mischievous boy. (Keep a watch on him.)

to turn a blind *eye* to sth./sb.

to turn a deaf *ear* to sth./sb.

His words are unpleasant to the *ear*.

The view was pleasing to the *eye*.

5. losing itself in the shadowy distance (Para. 1):

- 1) The place is dark, so when the street is long, objects in the distance become unclear and indistinct.
- 2) *Shadowy* suggests shifting illumination and indistinct vision.

6. Little donkeys...entering and leaving the bazaar (Para. 1):

- 1) **thread their way:** The donkeys went in and out among the people and from one side to another.
- 2) The words “entering” and “leaving” go with the word “throng” which differs from “crowds” in that it carries a stronger implication of movement and of pushing and a weaker implication of density.

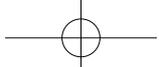
e.g.

The *crowd* jammed the hall.

*Throng*s circulated through the street. / *Throng*s gathered.

7. The roadway is about twelve feet wide, but it is narrowed every few yards by little stalls where goods of every conceivable kind are sold (Para. 1):

- 1) **roadway:** (the roadway) the middle part of a road where vehicles drive
e.g. Don't stop on the *roadway*; go to the side.
- 2) **stall:** small, open-fronted shop, table, etc. used by a trader in a market, on a street



e.g. a book-*stall*; a flower-*stall*

- 3) The small shops lining the street try to expand their shop space by encroaching on the street, so the street becomes narrow every few yards.
- 4) **goods of every conceivable kind:** goods of every kind you can think of
e.g.
people of *every conceivable* age/nationality

buildings of *every conceivable* shape

Note the spelling of the word *conceivable*: it is formed in accordance with the old rule: “i” before “e” except after “c”.

8. The *din*...and makes you dizzy (Para. 1):

- 1) **din:** loud, confused noise that continues

e.g.

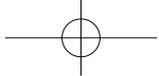
The blaze of light and the appalling *din* of the orchestra had almost dazed Elizabeth.

As Crawford raised his gavel, the *din* from below increased to a “baying roar”.

- 2) The noun “din” is followed by three “of” phrases.
- 3) The expression “crying one’s ware” is now considered old-fashioned.
wares: rather literary, meaning articles for sale, usu. not in a shop
e.g. The baker traveled round the town selling his *wares*.
- 4) **clear a way:** to remove from (as a space) all that occupies or encumbers, or that impedes or restricts use, passage or action
- 5) **would-be:** likely; possible
- 6) The loud, confused noise of...continues without interruption and makes you feel mentally confused.

9. Then as you penetrate...muted cloth-market (Para. 1):

- 1) **penetrate:** to pierce or pass into/through (The word *penetrate* is



Lesson 1 The Middle Eastern Bazaar

used here to indicate that you have to pass through a big crowd in order to go deeper into the market.)

2) **the noise of the entrance fades away:**

fade away: to go slowly out of hearing; to disappear gradually

3) **the muted cloth-market:** It is muted because the earthen floor deadens the sound of footsteps and people in the market speak in low, soft tones.

10. **The earthen floor...any sounds to echo (Para. 2):**

1) **earthen:** made of earth

e.g. an *earthen* jar

2) **beaten hard by countless feet:** flattened by treading; which becomes flat and hard because it is much traveled

3) **deadened:** to lessen or dull the sound of (footsteps)

4) **the vaulted mud-brick walls and roof:** Muslim style of architecture

11. **The shopkeepers speak in slow...follow suit (Para. 2):**

1) **measured:** steady, slow and deliberate; rhythmical

2) **sepulchral:** suggestive of the grave of burial; dismal; gloomy

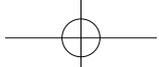
3) **follow suit:** to do the same as someone else has done

4) The buyers overcome by the grave-like atmosphere, also speak in slow, measured tones.

12. **One of the peculiarities...persecution (Para. 3):**

1) **peculiarities:** characteristics

2) Shopkeepers dealing in the same kind of goods usually scatter themselves over the bazaar so as to avoid competition. (It would then be more difficult for customers to compare goods and prices.) But in the Middle Eastern Bazaar they come together in the same area in order to form a closely-knit guild against injustice or persecution (coming from, perhaps, the tax collectors and



government officials).

3) **collect**: to come together; to gather

e.g. water/dust *collects*

4) **knit**: to unite firmly and closely

5) **guild**: society of persons for helping one another, forwarding common interests

13. each open-fronted shop...for storage (Para. 3):

1) **open-fronted shop**: the goods are displayed at the front of the shop, without any window or doorway blocking the view

2) a **trestle table for display**: One displays anything that one spreads out for others to view or puts in a position where it can be seen to advantage or with great clearness so as to strike the eye.

display: to show or exhibit; to make visible

e.g.

The exhibition of pictures was criticized because the best paintings were not well *displayed*. (They were perhaps put in a dark corner or some other place with insufficient light where people could not see them properly.)

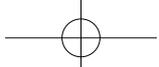
The peacock *displayed* its fine feathers.

cf. **exhibit**:

One *exhibits* anything which he puts forward prominently or openly, either with the express intention or with the result of attracting others' attention. When we *exhibit* flowers, animals, children's drawings, unearthed relics, etc., we want to bring their inherent properties to light.

e.g.

The host took us through his stable to show us his horses. He *exhibited* with particular pride two snow-white mares. He himself led them out of the stable, in order to *display* to advantage their sleek coats.



Lesson 1 The Middle Eastern Bazaar

14. **Bargaining is the order of the day... (Para. 3):** Bargaining is the normal way of doing things...

(the) **order of the day:** that which is of the greatest general interest at a particular time; prevailing state of things

e.g.

They failed to act since confusion was *the order of the day* at the headquarters.

His period was a building age, when competition was *the order of the day*.

15. **veiled women...beating the price down (Para. 3):**

1) **veiled women:** According to Muslim custom women have to wear veils when they go out.

2) **price:** (*colloquial*) to ask the price of

e.g. Before buying the coat, why not *price* it in a number of shops?

3) **narrow down their choice:** to reduce the number of their choice

4) **beat down:** to bargain with (seller), causing seller to lower (price)

16. **It is a point of honour...the last moment (Para. 4):**

1) **a point of honour:** sth. considered important for one's self-respect

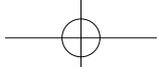
2) **what it is:** which (thing) in particular (The words "it is" are added to show emphasis.)

17. **yield little (Para. 4):** to refuse to reduce the price by any significant amount

18. **The seller...makes a point of protesting that... (Para. 4):**

1) Here *protesting* can be replaced by *insisting*, meaning affirming strongly.

2) **make a point of doing sth.:** to regard or treat it as necessary



e.g.

To realize our goal of the four modernizations, we *make a great point of* learning the strong points of all nations and all countries, learning all that is genuinely good in the political, economic, scientific and technological fields and in art and literature.

The teachers *make a point of* setting strict demands on the students.

Tourists to Beijing *make a point of* visiting the Great Wall.

While helping the young workers develop political consciousness, the veteran workers *made a special point of* upgrading their cultural levels and professional skills.

- 3) The seller thinks it is necessary for him to declare that the price he is asking makes it impossible for him to gain any profit.

19. **and that he is sacrificing this because of his personal regard for the customer (Para. 4):** He is selling the thing at less than its cost because he respects the customer.

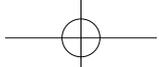
20. **with the customer coming and going at intervals (Para. 4):** the customer bargains for some time, then leaves (hoping to frighten the seller that he might lose the customer) and comes back again after a period of time and carries on the bargaining

21. **One of the most...copper-smiths' market (Para. 5):**

- 1) **picturesque:** striking; vivid
2) **impressive:** deeply impressing mind or senses, esp. so as to cause approval or admiration

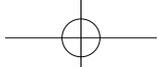
22. **As you approach it...on your ear (Para. 5):**

- 1) **tinkling:** a succession of light, ringing sounds
e.g. the *tinkling* of a small bell
2) **bang:** to hit violently; to make a loud noise



Lesson 1 The Middle Eastern Bazaar

- e.g. to *bang* a door
- 3) **clash**: to make a loud, broken, confused noise (as when metal objects strike together)
e.g. swords *clash*; the *clashing* of cymbals
- 4) **impinge (on)**: to have an effect (on); to strike
23. **It grows louder and more distinct (Para. 5):**
- 1) **it**: the tinkling and banging and clashing
- 2) **distinct**: not only clear, but easily heard, clearly marked, distinguished apart from other sounds
24. **until you round a corner...lamps and braziers (Para. 5):**
- 1) **round**: to make a turn about
- 2) **dancing flashes**: quick bright lights moving up and down
- 3) **catch the light of**: to intercept and reflect the light of...
- 4) The dancing flashes are reflections of the (unsteady) lights from the lamps and braziers thrown on the polished copper.
25. **hammering away at copper vessels of all shapes and sizes (Para. 5):**
away: continuously; constantly
e.g. working/laughing/muttering *away*
26. **the ship-owner...sometimes takes a hand with a hammer himself...(Para. 5):**
take a hand (in sth.): to help; to play a part (in sth.)
e.g.
Don't fool around, come and *take a hand* in the cleaning.
The leading cadres also *took a hand* in the digging.
27. **the red of the live coals...to the strokes of the bellows (Para. 5):**
- 1) **live**: *adj.* burning; glowing
e.g.
live embers (small pieces of burning wood or coal in a dying fire;



ashes of dying fire); a *live* shell/cartridge/bomb (unexploded)

Also: It was a *live* broadcast, not a recording.

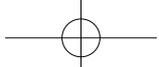
- 2) **red:** referring to the red light (of the burning coals)
- 3) **to:** along with; accompanied by; as an accompaniment for
- 4) The light of the burning coal becomes alternately bright and dim as the coals burn and die down, burn again, along with the repeated movements of the bellows.

28. **Here you can find...and strictly functional (Para. 6):**

- 1) **intricate:** a specific word, meaning the designs are of interwinding or interlacing parts
- 2) **functional:** designed to serve practical purposes; opposite to “ornamental”
- 3) Here you can find beautiful pots and bowls with fine, complicated and traditional designs; you can also get simple household utensils for daily use, which are pleasant to look at but do not have any decoration on them and are strictly designed to serve useful purposes.

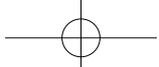
29. **Elsewhere...and yet harmonious (Para. 7):**

- 1) **profusion:** plenty; (too) great amount
- 2) **rich:** (of color) deep, strong and beautiful
- 3) **varied:** It implies more than “different”. It stresses the idea of full of changes of variety, having numerous forms or types.
- 4) **texture:** arrangement of threads, etc. in textile fabric, characteristic feel due to this
- 5) **bold:** strongly marked; clearly formed
- 6) You have a whole variety of carpets with vivid color, woven in different ways, having designs typical of different regions. Some of the designs are clear-cut, well-marked and simple; while others are very complicated, showing all the details yet having all the different parts combined in a pleasing and satisfactory arrangement.



Lesson 1 The Middle Eastern Bazaar

30. **exotic smells (Para. 7):** *Exotic* means not only foreign, but also out of the ordinary, strikingly or excitingly different or unusual. It is used to describe something which is very pleasing either to the mind or senses.
31. **and the food market...your humble bread and cheese (Para. 7):**
- 1) “Sumptuous dinner” is contrasted with “humble meal”.
 - 2) **sumptuous:** rich and costly, suggesting lavish expenditure
e.g. a *sumptuous* banquet; *sumptuous* furnishing
 - 3) **humble:** (of things) poor; mean
32. **in the maze...which honey-comb this bazaar (Para. 7):**
- 1) **maze:** a set of intricate windings
 - 2) **honey-comb:** *v.* to fill with holes, cells, or cavities
 - 3) The streets that pierce the bazaar from all directions and lead toward all directions cut the bazaar into small sections like the honeycomb.
33. **every here and there (Para. 7):** every now and again; at one place or another
34. **a doorway gives a glimpse of a sunlit courtyard (Para. 7):**
- 1) **glimpse:** a quick, imperfect view of sb./sth.
e.g. to get/catch a *glimpse* of sb./sth. from a train
 - 2) Now and again through a doorway you’ll be able to catch a brief view of a sunlit courtyard.
35. **where camels lie...beside them (Para. 7):**
- 1) **disdain:** to consider unworthy of one’s notice; to treat with scorn
 - 2) The camels are considered very arrogant, hence disdainfully chewing their hay, showing no interest in the activities going on around them.
36. **It is a vast, sombre cavern of a room (Para. 8):** a room that is like a vast sombre cavern
- 1) The use of implied comparison and the noun *cavern* instead of the adjective *cavernous* makes the description more vivid.



e.g.

Jurgis had to work in the *hell* of a fertilizer factory.

He was a *tyrant* of a landlord.

They live in a *palace* (match-box) of a house.

She is a *kitten* of a girl.

Before him stood a little *shrimp* of a fellow.

2) **sombre**: partially deprived of light or brightness; dark; gloomy

37. **dim** (Para. 8): lack of clarity of outline of physical things or mental ones

38. **a huge pole** (Para. 8):

Compare: a vast cavern

Huge commonly suggests immensity of bulk.

e.g. a *huge* mass of earth; a *huge* leather bellows

Vast suggests immensity of extent.

e.g.

a *vast* expanse of the sky

China is a populous country with a *vast* territory.

When used figuratively, *huge* stresses the greatness of a person's (or thing's) capacity.

e.g. a *huge* eater

Vast stresses a thing's range, scope or variety, as well as extent.

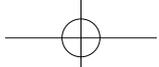
e.g. *vast* knowledge/interests

39. **a blind-folded camel...walks constantly in a circle** (Para. 8):

1) **blind-folded**: with eyes bandaged

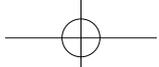
2) *Constantly* means continuously, stressing firmness, steadiness and devotion; *endlessly* stresses weariness and tediousness and monotony.

40. **which is then pressed to extract the oil** (Para. 8):



extract: to obtain from a substance by any chemical or mechanical operation, as by pressure, distillation, etc.

41. **and in superb condition—muscular, massive and stately (Para. 8):**
- 1) **superb:** (*colloquial*) of very high quality, excellent
 - 2) **muscular:** having well-developed muscles; strong, suggestive of great physical strength
 - 3) **massive:** large and imposing or impressive
 - 4) **stately:** The camel walks in a slow, deliberate and dignified pace, hence stately.
42. **The pressing...and their stone wheels (Para. 9):**
- 1) **ramshackle:** shaky; unsteady; likely to go to pieces, as from age or neglect
 - 2) **apparatus:** an integrated assembly of tools, instrument, etc., used for a specific purpose
 - 3) Note the use of *tower* and *dwarf* and the mental picture the author wants to create.
tower: to reach high (above or over surroundings)
dwarf: to make look small by contrast or distance
43. **The machine is operated by one man (Para. 9):** The stress is on *one*, meaning not *two* or *three* men. If the words are replaced by *a man*, then the stress is on *man*, meaning not a *woman* or a *boy (girl)*.
44. **who shovels...in motion (Para. 9):**
- 1) **nimble:** moving or acting quickly and lightly; light and quick in motion
 - 2) **a dizzy height:** so high that it causes giddiness/that it makes people have a kind of whirling sensation
 - 3) **throw one's weight on to:** to use all one's strength to press down
 - 4) **set...in motion:** to get...going; to get...operating



45. Ancient girders creak and groan...a used petrol can (Para. 9):

- 1) **ancient:** not only very old, but also old-fashioned and antiquated
- 2) **creak:** *n.* & *v.* (to make a) sound like that of an unoiled door-hinge, or badly-fitting floorboards when trodden on
- 3) **groan:** *n.* & *v.* (to make a) sound like that caused by the movement of wood or metal parts heavily loaded
- 4) **trickle:** a slow, small flow (of liquid)
- 5) **ooze:** to give forth steadily (moisture)
- 6) **runnel:** a small channel
- 7) **used:** no longer new; second-hand

e.g.

used cars (cars offered for sale after they have been used and are no longer in new condition)

- 8) **petrol:** (*AmE*) gasoline

46. Quickly the trickle...and sighs of the camels (Para. 9):

- 1) **glisten:** (esp. of wet or polished surface, tearfilled eyes) to shine brightly; to sparkle

e.g. *glistening* dew-drops; eyes *glistening* with tears

Compare: dancing *flashes* and live coals *glowing* bright and then dimming...

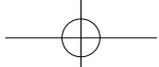
flash: sudden and transient outburst of flame or light

e.g. a *flash* of lightning; *flashes* of fireworks

(fig.) a *flash* of wit/hope/inspiration

glow: to send out brightness or warmth without flame

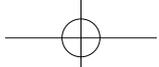
- 2) **taut and protesting:** The ropes are drawn tight and the ancient girders creak and groan.
- 3) **its creaks:** “its” stands for the overhead apparatus or the beam
- 4) **blend:** to mix; to intermingle
- 5) **squeaking:** making short, deep, rough sound like that of a hog



- 6) **rumble**: *n. & v.* (to make a) deep, heavy continuous sound
e.g. tanks, thunder, armored cars, a freight train *rumbles*
- 7) **grunt**: a high-pitched, nasal-sounding cry

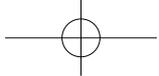
Key to Exercises

- III. 1) 我要说的这个市场，是从哥特式的拱形门洞进入，门洞的砖石由于年深日久而显古旧。你从巨大的露天广场的炎热而耀眼的阳光中一下走进了阴凉而昏暗的洞穴。市场一眼望不到头，消失在远处的阴影里。
- 2) 对顾客来说，到最后才让店主猜着他喜欢什么，想买什么，是一件荣誉攸关的事情。
- 3) 另一方面，卖主故意一再声称他现在的要价是无利可图的，只是出于他个人对买主的敬慕，才肯这样不惜血本。
- 4) 此杆一端连接一根竖着的柱子，可以绕柱旋转，另一端套在一头蒙住双眼的骆驼身上。骆驼不停地打转转，为石轮的转动提供动力。
- 5) 此机器由一人操作。他把亚麻子浆铲入一只石缸，利索地爬到令人目眩的高处，把绳索结好，然后全身压在一根用树干做成的横梁上，使绳索和滑轮起动。古老的大梁发出吱吱嘎嘎声和哼哼声，绳索抽紧，慢慢地，一滴滴的亚麻子油顺着石槽流入一只旧汽油桶。随着大梁压向地面，绳索绷得紧紧的，大梁不停地发出响声，一点一点的油滴变成闪闪发亮的油流。大梁的吱嘎声和磨轮的轧轧声，以及骆驼偶尔发出的呼噜声、叹息声融合成一片。
- IV. 1) gateway, courtyard
n. + n. seaside, doorway, graveyard, warlord
- 2) godsend, sunset
n. + v. daybreak, moonrise, bullfight



- 3) scarecrow, grindstone
v. + n. cutback, cutthroat, rollway
- 4) hardboard, highlight
adj. + n. shortterm, softcoal, softliner hardware
- 5) outcome, inflow
adv. + v. output, upgrade, downpour
- 6) breakthrough, blackout
v. + adv. pullover, buildup

- V. 1) thread (*n.*) She failed to put the *thread* through the eye of the needle.
(*v.*) He *threaded* through the throng.
- 2) round (*v.*) On the 1st of September the ship *rounded* the Cape of Good Hope.
(*adv.*) He wheeled *round* and faced me angrily.
- 3) narrow (*v.*) In the discussions we did not *narrow* the gap any further.
(*adj.*) He failed by a very *narrow* margin.
- 4) price (*n.*) The defense secretary said the U.S. was not looking for an agreement at any *price*.
(*v.*) At present consumption rates (of oil) the world may well be *pricing* itself out of its future.
- 5) live (*v.*) About 40% of the population *lives* on the land and tries to live off it.
(*adj.*) The nation heard the inaugural speech in a *live* broadcast.
- 6) tower (*n.*) The *tower* was built in the 14th century.
(*v.*) The general *towered* over his contemporaries.
- 7) dwarf (*v.*) A third of the nation's capital goods are shipped



- X.
- 1) A zig-zag path loses itself in the shadowy distance of the woods.
 - 2) At the bazaar there are many stalls where goods of every conceivable kind are sold.
 - 3) I really don't know what it is that has made him so angry.
 - 4) The newly unearthed bronze vase is pleasing in form and engraved with delicate and intricate traditional designs.
 - 5) Beyond the mountains there is a vast grassland that extends as far as the eye can see.
 - 6) They decided to buy that house with a garage attached.
 - 7) The teachers make a point of being strict with the students.
 - 8) This little girl is very much attached to her father.
 - 9) To achieve the four modernizations, we make a point of emulating the advanced science and technology of other countries.
 - 10) As dusk fell, daylight faded away.
 - 11) The apprentice watched his master carefully and then followed suit.
 - 12) Frank often took a hand in the washing-up after dinner.
- XI. bazaar, veiled women, copper vessels, carpets, spice, mosque, camels, caravanserai, desert, etc.