

### TPO1-33 听力文本整理（第二部分）

TPO2 Lecture 2 Botany

Narrator

Listen to part of a lecture from a Botany class.

Professor

Hi, everyone. Good to see you all today. Actually, I expected the population to be a lot lower today. It typically runs

between 50 and 60 percent on the day the research paper is due. Um, I was hoping to have your exams back today, but, uh,

the situation was that I went away for the weekend, and I was supposed to get in yesterday at five, and I expected to fully

complete all the exams by midnight or so, which is the time that I usually go to bed, but my flight was delayed, and I ended

up not getting in until one o'clock in the morning. Anyway, I'll do my best to have them finished by the next time we meet.

OK. In the last class, we started talking about useful plant fibers. In particular, we talked about cotton fibers, which we

said were very useful, not only in the textile industry, but also in the chemical industry, and in the production of many

products, such as plastics, paper, explosives, and so on. Today we'll continue talking about useful fibers, and we'll begin

with a fiber that's commonly known as "Manila hemp."

Now, for some strange reason, many people believe that Manila hemp is a hemp plant. But Manila hemp is not really

hemp. It's actually a member of the banana family—it even bears little

banana-shaped fruits. The “Manila” part of the

name makes sense, because Manila hemp is produced chiefly in the Philippine Islands and, of course, the capital city of the

Philippines is Manila.

Now, as fibers go, Manila hemp fibers are very long. They can easily be several feet in length and they’re also very

strong, very flexible. They have one more characteristic that’s very important, and that is that they are exceptionally

resistant to salt water. And this combination of characteristics—long, strong, flexible, resistant to salt water—makes Manila

hemp a great material for ropes, especially for ropes that are gonna be used on ocean-going ships. In fact, by the early

1940’s, even though steel cables were available, most ships in the United States Navy were not moored with steel cables;

they were moored with Manila hemp ropes.

Now, why was that? Well, the main reason was that steel cables degrade very, very quickly in contact with salt water. If

you’ve ever been to San Francisco, you know that the Golden Gate Bridge is red. And it’s red because of the zinc paint that

goes on those stainless steel cables. That, if they start at one end of the bridge and they work to the other end, by the time

they finish, it’s already time to go back and start painting the beginning of the bridge again, because the bridge was built

with steel cables, and steel cables can’t take the salt air unless they’re treated repeatedly with a zinc-based paint.

On the other hand, plant products like Manila hemp, you can drag through the

ocean for weeks on end. If you wanna

tie your anchor to it and drop it right into the ocean, that's no problem, because plant fibers can stand up for months, even

years, in direct contact with salt water. OK. So how do you take plant fibers that individually you could break with your

hands and turn them into a rope that's strong enough to moor a ship that weighs thousands of tons? Well, what you do is you

extract these long fibers from the Manila hemp plant, and then you take several of these fibers, and you group them into a

bundle, because by grouping the fibers you greatly increase their breaking strength—that bundle of fibers is much stronger

than any of the individual fibers that compose it. And then you take that bundle of fibers and you twist it a little bit, because

by twisting it, you increase its breaking strength even more. And then you take several of these little bundles, and you group

and twist them into bigger bundles, which you then group and twist into even bigger bundles, and so on, until eventually,

you end up with a very, very strong rope.

TPO 2 Conversation 2

Narrator

Listen to a conversation between two students. They are both studying to be English teachers.

Girl

Did you register already for your classes next semester?

Boy

Yes, I did.

Girl

What are you taking?

Boy

Um...contemporary literature, English style, um... the teaching seminar, and I still have to do my student teaching. I' m

gonna help teach a writing class of the junior high.

Girl

That' s a heavy schedule.

Boy

Yeah, it will be really busy and I' m also taking a theory class. But I have to quit my job a couple of weeks 'cause it will

be just too much.

Girl

Where do you work at?

Boy

Buster' s coffee shop, but just till the end of the month. What are you doing next semester?

Girl

Actually a teaching seminar too. And I will have to start writing my thesis. You know, I' m also going for my master' s

degree.

Boy

So you are not writing any poetry, I imagine.

Girl

No, I was actually thinking about revising some of my poems and sending them into places for publication.

Boy

Cool, you should. Um, did you hear about that new poetry club, The Poetry Kitchen?

Girl

Yeah, no time.

Boy

It's fun. It's Sunday night. You don't do anything at Sunday nights?

Girl

I do homework Sunday nights.

Boy

Well, it's only from 7 to 9.

Girl

Is it every Sunday?

Boy

Last Sunday of every month. I don't know about this month, 'cause it's probably a little too close to Thanksgiving, so

they might move it up. I don't know what they are gonna to do, but it's a good time, it's fun, some really impressive

readings.

Girl

Who? From our class?

Boy

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Some people from our class are reading. A lot of them go, sometimes even the professor.

Girl

Really? I don't know if I would want reading in front of her.

Boy

You wouldn't have to read, you can just watch. I just watched the first time, but it's a good environment to read them, I

think anyway.

Girl

I probably have to write something new, so maybe during the summer, I just can't now.

Boy

Yeah, it wouldn't be the same just reading old stuff. Are you going to do summer school?

Girl

Definitely. Otherwise, I will be short 6 credits. I have no choice.

Boy

Yeah, me too. This is the second summer I'll have to take classes. I gotta go now, my Shakespeare class starts at twenty

minutes.