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**107 bài luyện nghe Tiếng Anh Level 2 (Phần 2)**

Article #11 If I Was Tiny

Imagine what life would be like if you were two inches tall.

You would have to be careful that nobody stepped on you.

You would have to watch out for cats, dogs and birds.

It would be very dangerous, but just think of the things that you could do.

You could live in dollhouse, or even a shoebox.

You could use a bottle cap for a plate.

You would have to wear dolls' clothes.

A stamp would make a lovely picture to hang on your wall.

You could hide in a mouse hole or a drawer.

You wouldn't need much food.

You could probably live comfortably on the crumbs that people would leave on the table.

A thimble would make a good cup.

If you went outside, the grass would seem like a jungle.

An insect would be huge and frightening.

A puddle would seem to be an ocean.

You could cross the puddle in a paper cup and use a spoon for an oar.

A matchbox would make a good bed with a handkerchief as a bedspread.

You'd brush your hair with a toothbrush, but you'd never find anything small enough to brush your teeth with.

You could take a ride on the back of a mouse.

You wouldn't find any books that were small enough to read, but you might read the back of a pill bottle.

You could ride in a toy car and have a soup bowl for a swimming pool.

A leaf could be your umbrella, and a mitten would make a great sleeping bag.

If you used your imagination, you could think up something to use for almost all your purposes.

Being small might be fun, but then again, it would be frightening.

I'd be afraid of my pet cat.

I wouldn't want a book to fall on me.

I would be afraid of being swept away by a big gust of wind.

I think I'd rather be my size.

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### Article #12 If I were a Giant

If I were a giant, I wouldn't be able to fit in my house.

I'd have to live in a building that had a high ceiling, but I'd probably have a hard time getting through the door.

I'd have to make my own clothes, but where would I get a giant needle and thread to sew with?

I couldn't ride in a car or a plane.

I suppose I would just have to take giant steps to get from place to place.

I would have to be very careful not to step on anybody or anything.

When I talked, people would cover their ears.

My voice would sound very loud to them.

I wouldn't find shoes to cover my feet.

I wouldn't find a knife and fork to eat my dinner with.

I might have to use a rake as a fork.

My dinner would be huge.

What would I cook my dinner in?

I certainly wouldn't find an oven big enough to put my dinner in.

If I sneezed, it would be like a hurricane.

If I fell down, it would be like an earthquake.

I wouldn't have any friends because everyone would be too tiny for me to talk to.

I think that being a giant would be very lonely.

I couldn't have just one apple.

I would have to have a lot of apples to fill me up.

I would have to drink gallons and gallons of water to quench my thirst.

I could never relax under a tree.

I would be taller than all the trees.

I don't think that being a giant would be fun.

I won't ever make a wish to be a giant.

I would rather be my height.

I'm very happy the way I am.

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### Article #13 Do People Have the Right to Smoke in Public?

My father used to smoke.

He got very ill.

The doctor told him that he had to quit smoking.

My father tried for a long time to quit.

It was very difficult for him.

Smoking is an addiction.

After many months, my father finally gave up smoking, but he still craved a cigarette once in a while.

He says that quitting smoking is the hardest thing that he has ever done.

When my father did smoke, he smoked everywhere.

He smoked in restaurants, stores and many public buildings.

Now, you are not allowed to smoke in a lot of public places.

When my father smoked, the rules were not so strict.

People could smoke just about anywhere.

It really wasn't fair to the people who didn't smoke.

Their clothes always smelled like smoke, and they breathed in second-hand smoke.

Some people think that second-hand smoke is actually worse for you than if you smoke yourself.

People would smoke in their houses, and very young children would inhale the smoke that was in the air.

Some people still smoke in their houses, and their children breathe in the smoke.

Some restaurants have areas for smokers and nonsmokers, but usually the smoke drifts from one area to the other.

There are some businesses that have banned smoking altogether.

Personally, I think that smoking in public places should be completely banned.

I don't think that I should have to breathe in another person's smoke if I choose not to smoke myself.

It wouldn't be fair for a nonsmoker to get lung cancer because they had to be in a place where smokers were allowed to light up.

I know that smoking is a powerful addiction and that it is very difficult to quit, but smokers should restrict their smoking to places where there is nobody else around.

Lung cancer is an awful disease.

Nobody should have to suffer with lung cancer.

People should be educated about the dangers of smoking.

Smoking should be banned in public places, but eventually I would like to believe that fewer people will smoke.

It would be nice to live in a smoke free environment.

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#### Article #14 My Favorite Bedtime Story

Every night when I was little, my mother would read me a bedtime story.

My favorite story was Tom's Midnight Garden.

This was a story by Philippa Pearce.

It was quite a long book, and it took quite a few nights for my mother to read the entire book to me.

In Tom's Midnight Garden Tom moves to the city to stay with his aunt and uncle.

He is very bored at their apartment.

They have no children, so Tom has nothing to do.

One night, the clock strikes thirteen times.

Tom knows that this is impossible.

A clock can only strike up to twelve times.

He sneaks downstairs and goes outside.

When he gets outside, there is a wonderful garden that wasn't there the day before.

The next day, Tom goes outside and finds that there is no garden.

The garden only seems to appear at night.

Every night, Tom slips out to this wonderful garden, and he meets some people in the garden.

He meets a girl named Hattie.

Hattie and Tom become very good friends in this garden.

Some very strange things happen in this book.

There are some coincidences that keep you guessing about what is really going on.

The surprise ending is wonderful.

I really enjoyed Tom's Midnight Garden and I was very sad when my mother and I came to the end of the book.

I felt that I had visited the magical garden with Tom.

It is a book that I will remember all of my life.

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#### Article #15 If I Found a Magic Lamp

If I was walking down the beach on day, and I happened to bump my toe on a magic lamp,

I would pick it up and rub it.

If it was a real magic lamp (but I don't believe that there really is a magic lamp), a genie would pop out in a cloud of smoke, and he would call me master.

He would say that he would grant me three wishes.

I would have to think very hard about those wishes because I wouldn't want to waste them.

I don't think I'd want millions of dollars.

Money doesn't buy happiness, or so they say.

I might wish for good health, because if your health isn't good you won't be able to enjoy anything.

Some people might wish for beauty, but beauty is only skin deep.

Some people would wish for a mansion, or a beautiful car or a big boat.

I don't want any of those things.

Some people would want fame.

Some people would want talent.

Some people would wish for happiness.

That might be a good thing to wish for.

Yes, maybe I'd wish for health and happiness, but what would my third wish be?

I could wish for something enormous, something global.

I could wish for world peace.

That would be a wonderful thing if somebody could grant me that.

Yes, that would probably be my third wish.

It's too bad there aren't any genies inside magic lamps.

I won't get my three wishes.

I can still work toward getting my wishes.

I can eat well and exercise to stay healthy.

I can be involved with a lot of things and be with my friends to stay happy.

I can volunteer my time to different organizations to help achieve world peace.

I can do my fair share in my community to help others.

That's how I can get my three wishes, not through a magic lamp.

I can only get what I want through self-determination and hard work.

That is the key to getting your wishes fulfilled.

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## Article #16 Superstitions

I am not superstitious, are you?

Yesterday was Friday the thirteenth.

Some people think that Friday the thirteenth is an unlucky day.

I think that it is just like any other day.

Some people believe that if a black cat crosses your path, you will have bad luck.

I don't believe that either.

My mother always gets upset if I open an umbrella in the house.

She says that it is bad luck.

She is probably right about that one because an open umbrella would take up a lot of space, and you might knock things over.

If your left hand is itchy, you are supposed to get money.

I have had an itchy left hand before, but I haven't received any money because of it.

It is bad luck to walk under a ladder.

This is probably true because you might knock somebody off the ladder, or have a can of paint fall on top of you.

If you are acting in a play, it is bad luck if someone says "good luck" to you.

This is very confusing.

You are supposed to tell an actor to "break a leg."

It doesn't mean that you want the actor to break his leg.

It means good luck to the actor.

Actors have a lot of superstitions that are very unusual.

I am not superstitious.

I don't believe in superstitions at all.

It is just fun to learn about superstitions.

Some of them are very old and have been passed down from generation to generation.

I once did a project at school on superstitions.

It was a very interesting topic, and I got a good mark for it.

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## Article #17 Help

Did you ever have to call for help?

Were you ever in a situation that was an emergency?

It is good to know what to do in case of an emergency.

You should always know how to get in touch with the police and fire departments.

I have read stories where very young boys or girls have called the police and saved their friend's or family member's lives because they knew just who to get hold of.

If you see a fire, you should call the fire department.

A lot of tragedies have been prevented because the calls have been made quickly.

It is important that emergency vehicles arrive very quickly.

That is why those vehicles have sirens.

When their sirens go, it means to get out of the way.

Policemen, firemen and ambulance attendants are trained to handle very difficult situations.

They often save peoples' lives.

They go through a lot of training to become good at what they do.

They never panic in emergencies.

For your part, you should keep emergency numbers near the phone, or know what the emergency numbers are.

Where I live, there is a special number that you call for any emergency.

We teach that number to everyone, even very tiny children.

It is important to remain calm if you need help.

If you call an emergency number, you have to be able to speak clearly, and tell the person you are talking to exactly what the problem is.

I hope you are never in an emergency situation, but it is a good idea to be prepared.

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## Article #18 The Peach Orchard

When I was very young, I lived near a peach orchard.

Now, there is a park where the orchard used to be.

I always remember the peach orchard because my grandmother and I used to go there and pick peaches.

The owner of the orchard would let all the neighbors pick peaches.

It's not the fact that I used to get many ripe, tasty peaches that I remember; it's the time that I used to spend with my grandmother that I remember.

My grandmother was very old, but she was very healthy.

She used to walk a lot.

I think that is what kept her fit.



She had a lot of energy so she liked to go to a lot of places.

She would get a fruit basket, and then she would ask me if I wanted to go to the orchard.

I always said yes because I enjoyed walking through the orchard on a sunny day.

We never climbed up on a ladder to reach the peaches; we just reached for the low hanging fruit.

My grandmother and I used to talk all the time that we were out there.

It was nice to spend time with her.

She told me many stories about when she was a young girl.

We laughed and got to know each other better.

My grandmother only visited us during the summer.

She lived in California, and I lived in Niagara Falls, so we didn't get to spend a lot of time with each other.

We enjoyed the hot summer days in the orchard.

You could smell the peaches, and the bees buzzed lazily by us.

My grandmother would point out different insects and birds to me.

I learned a lot about nature from her.

We would end up with a big basket of peaches.

When we got home, my mother would wash the peaches, and often she would bake a peach pie for us.

Nobody bakes a peach pie like my mother.

It's good to have memories like that.

Childhood memories of time spent with my grandmother are very precious to me.

Sometimes, it's just the simple things that you do in life that leave you with the nicest memories.

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## Article #19 Learning to Dance

I went to England with my mother.

She used to be a singer in a band.

We went to the hotel that she used to sing at.

It was a big fancy hotel.

Some of the people that she knew when she sang in the band were still there.

They remembered my mother, and they had a good time talking to her and remembering old times.

Many people told me that I looked like my mother.

In the hotel, they had a fancy hall where they had ballroom dancing.

I am not used to that kind of dancing.

I always dance to rock music.

A man told me that he would teach me how to dance.

It looked very easy.

I held one of his hands, and put my other hand on his shoulder.

He told me exactly how to move my feet.

I was very clumsy, and I stepped on his toes.

He was patient with me, and he counted "one, two, three."

I tried to waltz with him.

I would start out pretty well, but then I would get mixed up and stand on his toes again.

The man laughed about it.

I told him that I wasn't a very good dancer, but he said that I was good for a beginner.

I think he was just being polite.

The man asked my mother to dance.

My mother is a very good dancer.

I didn't know that about her.

She never stepped on the man's toes once.

The man thanked us for dancing with him, and I thanked him for giving me dancing lessons.

I don't think I'll ever be very good at that type of dancing.

Each generation has a specific type of dancing.

The way that I dance is different from the way that my mother dances.

The way that I dance doesn't involve moving your feet too much.

I'm not too good at fancy steps.

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## Article #20 Super Heroes

When my brother was very young, he loved super heroes.

He collected plastic figures of all the super heroes.

I think he had every super hero figurine that there was.

He used to tie a towel over his shoulders and run through the back yard.

He pretended that he was rescuing people.

One time he stood on the roof.

He really thought that he could fly with his super hero cape on.

He would have hurt himself if he had jumped.

My dad saw him and told him to get down.

My dad explained to my brother that super heroes are not real.

Real people cannot fly from rooftops.

My brother was disappointed.

He thought that the super heroes really existed.

My dad explained that most super heroes were created as comic book characters.

Somebody used their imagination to make them up, and then an artist drew them.

My brother was not impressed.

He said that he wanted to meet the super heroes.

My father told him that he might meet someone dressed up as a super hero, but it wouldn't really be a super hero in the costume.

It is hard to explain to small children that the things that they see in comic books and on television aren't really real.

My brother still pretends that he is a super hero.

He doesn't jump from rooftops, but he runs around and makes noises like he is flying.

I look at him and remember when I used to do things like that.

I'm more mature than my brother.

I know that super heroes aren't real, but I know that he is having fun and using his imagination.