

I had walked along the river many times since meeting the fisherman that day in winter, but I did not see him again until spring. It was late afternoon, and I had bicycled to a point along the river about a mile downstream from where we had met, hoping to find a deserted spot to draw a picture. I found a niche in the sloping floodwall and started drawing a junk moored not far from me. Half an hour passed, and just as I finished the drawing, I heard someone calling my Chinese name. I looked down to see Old Ding scrambling up the floodwall, his boat anchored behind him. I noticed that he limped badly, and when he got up close I could see that one of his legs was shorter than the other and set at an odd angle. Such was his balance and skill in the boats that I only saw his deformity when he came ashore. He squatted down beside me and explained that he had just returned from a long fishing trip on Dong Ting, a sprawling lake in North Hunan. "Big fish up there," he said, gesturing with his arms. Then he asked me what I was doing. I showed him the drawing, and his face lit up. "Just like it! Just like the boat!" He cupped his hands to his mouth and yelled something in the direction of the junk, and right away a family appeared on deck. "Let's show it to them!" he said, and dragged me down to the water.

1  
words for sentences:

desert

niche

slope

scramble

limp

squat

lit up

2/

## Vocabulary expansion

**crawl, march, pace, shuffle, stagger, stride, stroll, wade**

All of these verbs are associated with movement. Which of them would you associate with each of the people mentioned below? When you have decided, make a sentence for each, using the word in an appropriate context.

- a) a soldier
- b) a baby
- c) a couple out for a walk on a Sunday morning
- d) a very old man wearing slippers
- e) a boxer who has just received a blow
- f) an anxious father waiting for a baby to be born
- g) a trout fisherman in a stream
- h) a man anxious not to miss a train, walking to the station

Which of these words could you use as nouns in the following common expressions? Complete the sentences below.

- 1 Jones set the \_\_\_\_\_ with a first lap of 57 seconds.
- 2 You won't have any difficulty with the exam. You'll take it in your \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 They were mending the road ahead of us and the traffic had slowed to a \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 He hoped to steal a \_\_\_\_\_ on his rivals by publishing his book before them.