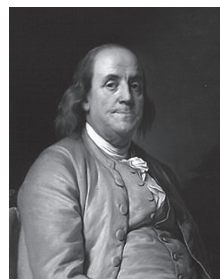


# Unit 1



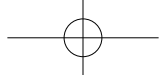
## *Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)*

**B**enjamin Franklin was born to a humble Puritan family in Boston. Having little formal education, he taught himself to write. At twelve, he was apprenticed to his brother James to be trained as a printer, and at sixteen he began to publish essays anonymously in the *New England Courant*, a newspaper started by James. At twenty-four, he had his own printing business in Philadelphia. He published the newspaper *The Pennsylvania Gazette* and printed his own *Poor Richard's Almanac*, which brought him economic security and social recognition. In Philadelphia, Franklin was active in public service, helping to create the first public library and the first hospital in America. In his middle years, he retired from business and devoted himself to scientific research, making great contributions in the study of electricity and other fields. In his later life, Franklin became an active figure in the American Revolution and was a founding father of the United States of America. He helped draft the Declaration of Independence and was one of its signers. During the American Revolution, he represented the United States in France and helped win French support for American independence.



A printer and publisher, author, inventor and scientist, statesman and diplomat, and civic activist, Benjamin Franklin was a versatile man and the most accomplished American of his age. His *Autobiography*, written on four different occasions over a period of nineteen years, recounted his life story of rising from “poverty and obscurity” to “a state of affluence and some degree of reputation.” Ever since its publication, Franklin’s *Autobiography* has become not only a source of information about its author as well as early America in the 18th century, but also a source of inspiration to generations of readers. His depiction of personal success as something within the reach of anyone willing to work hard for it makes the story of Benjamin Franklin a quintessential symbol of the American Dream.

Franklin’s *Autobiography* consists of four parts: Part one, written in 1771



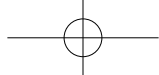
in England, tells of his ancestry and his youthful adventures. Part two, written in 1784 in Paris, relates his establishment of a public library and has an elaborate discussion of ways for self-improvement. Part three and Part four, written in 1788 and 1789–1790 in Philadelphia, recollect, among other things, his scientific endeavors and political involvements. Franklin did not live to complete his *Autobiography*, which stopped in the year 1762, leaving out many of the important events in Franklin's life. The *Autobiography* was first published in 1791 in French translation and included only the first part. In 1818, Franklin's grandson published an edition of the *Autobiography* in three parts (without the last part). The complete *Autobiography* as we know it today was not published until 1868. The present selection, about Franklin's early readings, is a modernized version from Part one of the *Autobiography*.

## Reading Selection

### The Autobiography (excerpt)

From a child I was fond of reading, and all the little money that came into my hands was ever laid out in books. Pleased with the *Pilgrim's Progress*, my first collection was of John Bunyan's<sup>1</sup> works in separate little volumes. I afterward sold them to enable me to buy R. Burton's<sup>2</sup> *Historical Collections*; they were small chapmen's books<sup>3</sup>, and cheap, 40 or 50 in all. My father's little library consisted chiefly of books in polemic divinity<sup>4</sup>, most of which I read, and have since often regretted that, at a time when I had such a thirst for knowledge, more proper books had not fallen in my way, since it was now resolved I should not be a clergyman. Plutarch's<sup>5</sup> *Lives* there was in which I read abundantly, and I still think that time

1. John Bunyan: 约翰·班扬 (1628–1688), 英国小说家, 其代表作《天路历程》(*The Pilgrim's Progress*, 1678) 是一部宗教寓言, 在当年的英国及其北美殖民地十分流行。
2. R. Burton: 理查德·伯顿 (Richard Burton) 是伦敦书商克罗奇 (Nathaniel Crouch) 的笔名, 他在17世纪末用这个笔名发行了很多面向大众的廉价读物, 包括一系列关于英国历史的书籍。
3. chapmen's book: 小商贩走街串巷叫卖的书籍; 廉价书籍。
4. polemic divinity: 护教神学, 也称 polemic theology, 主要方法是通过攻击对立神学观点来维护己方的信仰。
5. Plutarch: 普卢塔克 (c. 46–120 A.D.), 希腊传记作家、哲学家, 著有《希腊罗马名人传》(*Parallel Lives*)。莎士比亚的罗马题材戏剧即取材于此书。



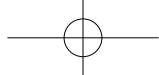
## Unit 1 Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

spent to great advantage. There was also a book of Defoe's<sup>6</sup>, called *An Essay upon Projects*, and another of Dr. Mather's<sup>7</sup>, called *Essays to Do Good*, which perhaps gave me a turn of thinking that had an influence on some of the principal future events of my life.

This bookish inclination at length determined my father to make me a printer, though he had already one son (James) of that profession. In 1717 my brother James returned from England with a press and letters to set up his business in Boston. I liked it much better than that of my father, but still had a hankering for the sea. To prevent the apprehended effect of such an inclination, my father was impatient to have me bound to my brother. I stood out some time, but at last was persuaded, and signed the indentures<sup>8</sup> when I was yet but twelve years old. I was to serve as an apprentice till I was twenty-one years of age, only I was to be allowed journeyman's wages<sup>9</sup> during the last year. In a little time I made great proficiency in the business, and became a useful hand to my brother. I now had access to better books. An acquaintance with the apprentices of booksellers enabled me sometimes to borrow a small one, which I was careful to return soon and clean. Often I sat up in my room reading the greatest part of the night, when the book was borrowed in the evening and to be returned early in the morning, lest it should be missed or wanted.

And after some time an ingenious tradesman, Mr. Matthew Adams, who had a pretty collection of books, and who frequented our printing-house, took notice of me, invited me to his library, and very kindly lent me such books as I chose to read. I now took a fancy to poetry, and made some little pieces; my brother, thinking it might turn to account, encouraged me, and put me on composing occasional ballads<sup>10</sup>. One was called *The Lighthouse Tragedy*, and contained an account of the drowning of Captain Worthilake, with his two daughters: the other was a sailor's

6. Defoe: 笛福(Daniel Defoe, 1660–1731), 英国小说家, 代表作有《鲁滨逊漂流记》(*Robinson Crusoe*, 1719)等。《论计划》(*An Essay upon Projects*, 1697)是笛福发表的第一本书, 主要讨论社会和经济问题。
7. Dr. Mather: 柯顿·马瑟(Cotton Mather, 1663–1728), 作家、牧师。他的宗教思想对当年新英格兰地区的清教徒有广泛影响。他的《论行善》(*Essays to Do Good*)发表于1710年, 认为行善是对上帝应尽的义务, 号召各行各业的人都要行善。富兰克林最早在《新英格兰报》发表系列文章, 使用的笔名是“Silence Dogood”, 可见马瑟对富兰克林的影响之深。
8. indenture: 契约, 合同。在18世纪的北美殖民地, 契约劳动是一种十分普遍的雇佣劳动方式, 有契约学徒工、契约劳工等形式。在合约期限内, 契约工的劳动属于主人, 人身自由也受到一定限制。
9. journeyman's wage: 满师学徒工的工资, 可以每日得到当日的报酬。
10. occasional ballad: 应景歌谣。应景诗(occasional poetry)是指为特定场合或事件而作的诗歌, 如美国总统就职典礼上有诗人朗诵诗歌。歌谣体(即四行一段)是应景诗的常见形式之一。



song, on the taking of Teach (or Blackbeard) the pirate.<sup>11</sup> They were wretched stuff, in the Grub-Street-ballad<sup>12</sup> style; and when they were printed he sent me about the town to sell them. The first sold wonderfully, the event being recent, having made a great noise. This flattered my vanity; but my father discouraged me by ridiculing my performances, and telling me verse-makers were generally beggars. So I escaped being a poet, most probably a very bad one; but as prose writing has been of great use to me in the course of my life, and was a principal means of my advancement, I shall tell you how, in such a situation, I acquired what little ability I have in that way.

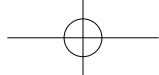
There was another bookish lad in the town, John Collins by name, with whom I was intimately acquainted. We sometimes disputed, and very fond we were of argument, and very desirous of confuting one another, which disputatious turn, by the way, is apt to become a very bad habit, making people often extremely disagreeable in company by the contradiction that is necessary to bring it into practice; and thence, besides souring and spoiling the conversation, is productive of disgusts and, perhaps enmities where you may have occasion for friendship. I had caught it by reading my father's books of dispute about religion. Persons of good sense, I have since observed, seldom fall into it, except lawyers, university men, and men of all sorts that have been bred at Edinborough<sup>13</sup>.

A question was once, somehow or other, started between Collins and me, of the propriety of educating the female sex in learning, and their abilities for study. He was of opinion that it was improper, and that they were naturally unequal to it. I took the contrary side, perhaps a little for dispute's sake. He was naturally more eloquent, had a ready plenty of words; and sometimes, as I thought, bore me down more by his fluency than by the strength of his reasons. As we parted without settling the point, and were not to see one another again for some time, I sat down to put my arguments in writing, which I copied fair and sent to him. He answered, and I replied. Three or four letters of a side had passed, when my father happened to find my papers and read them. Without entering into the discussion, he took occasion to talk to me about the manner of my writing; observed that, though I had the advantage of my

11. 沃斯雷克 (Worthilake) 是波士顿港口的灯塔看守。沃斯雷克一家溺亡及海盗黑胡子被击毙这两件事都发生在 1718 年, 是当年新英格兰地区的大事。

12. Grub Street: 格拉布街, 位于伦敦西区。在 17 世纪和 18 世纪, 这条街是穷困潦倒的作家的聚居区。为生计所困, 这些作家一般靠写一些应景诗文糊口, 因此格拉布街就成了平庸写作的代名词。

13. Edinborough: 爱丁堡 (Edinburgh), 苏格兰首府。苏格兰的长老会教徒有好争论的名声。



## Unit 1 Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

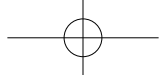
antagonist in correct spelling and pointing<sup>14</sup> (which I owed to the printing house), I fell far short in elegance of expression, in method and in perspicuity, of which he convinced me by several instances. I saw the justice of his remarks, and thence grew more attentive to the manner in writing, and determined to endeavor at improvement.

About this time I met with an odd volume of the *Spectator*<sup>15</sup>. It was the third. I had never before seen any of them. I bought it, read it over and over, and was much delighted with it. I thought the writing excellent, and wished, if possible, to imitate it. With this view I took some of the papers, and, making short hints of the sentiment in each sentence, laid them by a few days, and then, without looking at the book, tried to complete the papers again, by expressing each hinted sentiment at length, and as fully as it had been expressed before, in any suitable words that should come to hand. Then I compared my *Spectator* with the original, discovered some of my faults, and corrected them. But I found I wanted a stock of words, or a readiness in recollecting and using them, which I thought I should have acquired before that time if I had gone on making verses; since the continual occasion for words of the same import, but of different length, to suit the measure<sup>16</sup>, or of different sound for the rhyme, would have laid me under a constant necessity of searching for variety, and also have tended to fix that variety in my mind, and make me master of it. Therefore I took some of the tales and turned them into verse; and, after a time, when I had pretty well forgotten the prose, turned them back again. I also sometimes jumbled my collections of hints into confusion, and after some weeks endeavored to reduce them into the best order, before I began to form the full sentences and complete the paper. This was to teach me method in the arrangement of thoughts. By comparing my work afterwards with the original, I discovered many faults and amended them; but I sometimes had the pleasure of fancying that, in certain particulars of small import, I had been lucky enough to improve the method of the language, and this encouraged me to think I might possibly in time come to be a tolerable English writer, of which I was extremely ambitious. My time for these exercises and for reading was at night, after work or before it began in the morning, or on Sundays,

14. spelling and pointing: 拼写和标点。当年的英文拼写和标点符号尚无统一标准。

15. *Spectator*: 《旁观者》，英国出版物，在伦敦发行，发行人为英国散文家艾迪生 (Joseph Addison, 1672–1719) 和斯蒂尔 (Richard Steele, 1672–1729)。在 1711–1712 年间，《旁观者》每日发行，每期只有两三千词的长度，后来被结集出版，共 7 卷。《旁观者》及其先驱《闲谈者》(*Tattler*, 1709) 是最早的定期出版物。

16. measure: 诗歌的韵律，音步。



when I contrived to be in the printing-house alone, evading as much as I could the common attendance on public worship which my father used to exact of me when I was under his care, and which indeed I still thought a duty, thought I could not, as it seemed to me, afford time to practise it.

When about 16 years of age I happened to meet with a book, written by one Tryon, recommending a vegetable diet. I determined to go into it. My brother, being yet unmarried, did not keep house, but boarded himself and his apprentices in another family. My refusing to eat flesh occasioned an inconveniency, and I was frequently chid for my singularity. I made myself acquainted with Tryon's manner of preparing some of his dishes, such as boiling potatoes or rice, making hasty pudding, and a few others, and then proposed to my brother, that if he would give me, weekly, half the money he paid for my board, I would board myself. He instantly agreed to it, and I presently found that I could save half what he paid me. This was an additional fund for buying books. But I had another advantage in it. My brother and the rest going from the printing-house to their meals, I remained there alone, and, dispatching presently my light repast, which often was no more than a biscuit or a slice of bread, a handful of raisins or a tart from the pastry-cook's, and a glass of water, had the rest of the time till their return for study, in which I made the greater progress, from that greater clearness of head and quicker apprehension which usually attend temperance in eating and drinking.

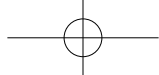
And now it was that, being on some occasion made ashamed of my ignorance in figures, which I had twice failed in learning when at school, I took Cocker's<sup>17</sup> book of Arithmetic, and went through the whole by myself with great ease. I also read Seller's and Shermey's<sup>18</sup> books of Navigation, and became acquainted with the little geometry they contain; but never proceeded far in that science. And I read about this time Locke<sup>19</sup> *On Human Understanding*, and the *Art of Thinking*, by Messrs. du Port Royal<sup>20</sup>.

17. Cocker: 科克尔(Edward Cocker, 1631-1676), 英国数学家、教师。他的《算术》(*Arithmetick*) 教材前后出版了一百多个版本, 具有广泛影响。

18. Seller and Shermey: 赛勒(John Seller, 1630-1697), 英国人, 精于地图制作和水文测量, 出版过《实用航海》(*Practical Navigation*, 1669) 等书。舍米(Samuel Shermey, 1633-1669), 英国航海家, 著有航海教材《海员杂志》(*Mariners Magazine*, 1669)。

19. Locke: 约翰·洛克(John Locke, 1632-1704), 英国哲学家。他在《人类理解论》(*An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, 1690) 中提出了经验论原则。他的《政府论》(*Two Treatises on Government*, 1690) 影响了美国的《独立宣言》。

20. Messrs. du Port Royal: 波尔罗亚尔学派的先生们。波尔罗亚尔是一个修道院, 位于巴黎附近。



## Unit 1 Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

While I was intent on improving my language, I met with an English grammar (I think it was Greenwood's<sup>21</sup>), at the end of which there were two little sketches of the arts of rhetoric and logic, the latter finishing with a specimen of a dispute in the Socratic method<sup>22</sup>; and soon after I procured Xenophon's<sup>23</sup> *Memorable Things of Socrates*, wherein there are many instances of the same method. I was charmed with it, adopted it, dropped my abrupt contradiction and positive argumentation, and put on the humble inquirer and doubter. And being then, from reading Shaftesbury and Collins<sup>24</sup>, become a real doubter in many points of our religious doctrine, I found this method safest for myself and very embarrassing to those against whom I used it; therefore I took a delight in it, practised it continually, and grew very artful and expert in drawing people, even of superior knowledge, into concessions, the consequences of which they did not foresee, entangling them in difficulties out of which they could not extricate themselves, and so obtaining victories that neither myself nor my cause always deserved. I continued this method some few years, but gradually left it, retaining only the habit of expressing myself in terms of modest diffidence; never using, when I advanced anything that may possibly be disputed, the words certainly, undoubtedly, or any others that give the air of positiveness to an opinion; but rather say, I conceive, or I apprehend a thing to be so and so; it appears to me, or *I should think it so or so*, for such and such reasons; or *I imagine it to be so*; or *it is so, if I am not mistaken*. This habit, I believe, has been of great advantage to me when I have had occasion to inculcate my opinions, and persuade men into measures that I have been from time to time engaged in promoting; and, as the chief ends of conversation are to *inform* or to be *informed*, to *please* or to *persuade*, I wish well-meaning, sensible men would not lessen their power of doing good by a positive, assuming manner, that seldom fails to disgust, tends to create opposition, and to defeat everyone of those purposes for which speech was given to us, to wit, giving or

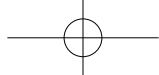
21. Greenwood: 格林伍德 (James Greenwood, c. 1683–1737), 著有《实用英语语法》(*An Essay Towards a Practical English Grammar*, 1711)。

22. Socratic method: 苏格拉底问答法。这是一种辩论法, 通过仔细设置问题, 使问题的答案能够验证自己的观点并揭示对方观点的错误。这种方法与诡辩论不同, 它通过提出一系列的假设问题, 逐步推翻错误观点, 去伪存真, 达到发现真理 (或解决问题的正确方法) 的目的。

23. Xenophon: 色诺芬 (c. 434–355 B.C.), 古希腊历史学家。

24. Shaftesbury and Collins: 沙夫茨伯里此处指三世伯爵安东尼 (Anthony Ashley Cooper, 1671–1713), 英国政治家、哲学家。柯林斯 (Anthony Collins, 1676–1729), 英国哲学家。此二人都是自然神论者。自然神论 (Deism) 是以理性为基础的哲学和神学理论, 认为上帝创造了世界之后便不再支配世界, 不再向自然现象施加影响力, 也不再给超凡的启示。





receiving information or pleasure. For, if you would inform, a positive and dogmatical manner in advancing your sentiments may provoke contradiction and prevent a candid attention. If you wish information and improvement from the knowledge of others, and yet at the same time express yourself as firmly fixed in your present opinions, modest, sensible men, who do not love disputation, will probably leave you undisturbed in the possession of your error. And by such a manner, you can seldom hope to recommend yourself in *pleasing* your hearers, or to persuade those whose concurrence you desire. Pope<sup>25</sup> says, judiciously:

*“Men should be taught as if you taught them not,  
And things unknown propos'd as things forgot,”*

farther recommending to us

*“To speak, tho' sure, with seeming diffidence.”*

And he might have coupled with this line that which he has coupled with another, I think, less properly,

*“For want of modesty is want of sense.”*

If you ask, why *less* properly? I must repeat the lines,

*“Immodest words admit of no defense,  
For want of modesty is want of sense.”*

Now, is not *want of sense* (where a man is so unfortunate as to want it) some apology for his *want of modesty*? and would not the lines stand more justly thus?

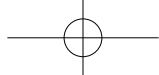
*“Immodest words admit but this defense,  
That want of modesty is want of sense.”*

This, however, I should submit to better judgments.

My brother had, in 1720 or 1721, begun to print a newspaper. It was the second

25. Pope: 蒲柏 (Alexander Pope, 1688–1744), 英国诗人。此处富兰克林根据记忆引用蒲柏的诗句, 和事实有点出入。前三行引自蒲柏的《论批评》(*An Essay on Criticism*, 1711), 但文字并不完全准确; 后面几行并不是蒲柏的诗句。





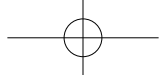
## Unit 1 Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

that appeared in America,<sup>26</sup> and was called the *New England Courant*. The only one before it was called the *Boston News-Letter*. I remember his being dissuaded by some of his friends from the undertaking, as not likely to succeed, one newspaper being, in their judgment, enough for America. At this time (1771) there are not less than five-and-twenty. He went on, however, with the undertaking, and after having worked in composing the types and printing off the sheets, I was employed to carry the papers through the streets to the customers.

He had some ingenious men among his friends, who amused themselves by writing little pieces for this paper, which gained it credit and made it more in demand, and these gentlemen often visited us. Hearing their conversations, and their accounts of the approbation their papers were received with, I was excited to try my hand among them; but, being still a boy, and suspecting that my brother would object to printing anything of mine in his paper if he knew it to be mine, I contrived to disguise my hand, and, writing an anonymous paper, I put it in at night under the door of the printing-house. It was found in the morning, and communicated to his writing friends when they called in as usual. They read it, commented on it in my hearing, and I had the exquisite pleasure of finding it met with their approbation, and that, in their different guesses at the author, none were named but men of some character among us for learning and ingenuity. I suppose now that I was rather lucky in my judges, and that perhaps they were not really so very good ones as I then esteemed them.

Encouraged, however, by this, I wrote and conveyed in the same way to the press several more papers which were equally approved; and I kept my secret till my small fund of sense for such performances was pretty well exhausted, and then I discovered it, when I began to be considered a little more by my brother's acquaintance, and in a manner that did not quite please him, as he thought, probably with reason, that it tended to make me too vain. And, perhaps, this might be one occasion of the differences that we began to have about this time. Though a brother, he considered himself as my master, and me as his apprentice, and, accordingly, expected the same services from me as he would from another, while I thought he demeaned me too much in some he required of me, who from a brother expected more indulgence. Our disputes were often brought before our father, and I fancy I

26. 据考证，富兰克林的哥哥所办的《新英格兰报》(*New England Courant*) 实际上是美国的第5份报纸。



was either generally in the right, or else a better pleader, because the judgment was generally in my favor. But my brother was passionate, and had often beaten me, which I took extremely amiss;<sup>27</sup> and, thinking my apprenticeship very tedious, I was continually wishing for some opportunity of shortening it, which at length offered in a manner unexpected.

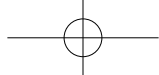
One of the pieces in our newspaper on some political point, which I have now forgotten, gave offense to the Assembly<sup>28</sup>. He was taken up, censured, and imprisoned for a month, by the speaker's warrant, I suppose, because he would not discover his author. I too was taken up and examined before the council; but, though I did not give them any satisfaction, they contented themselves with admonishing me, and dismissed me, considering me, perhaps, as an apprentice, who was bound to keep his master's secrets.

During my brother's confinement, which I resented a good deal, notwithstanding our private differences, I had the management of the paper; and I made bold to give our rulers some rubs in it, which my brother took very kindly, while others began to consider me in an unfavorable light, as a young genius that had a turn for libeling and satire. My brother's discharge was accompanied with an order of the House (a very odd one), that "*James Franklin should no longer print the paper called the New England Courant.*"

There was a consultation held in our printing-house among his friends, what he should do in this case. Some proposed to evade the order by changing the name of the paper; but my brother, seeing inconveniences in that, it was finally concluded on as a better way, to let it be printed for the future under the name of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN; and to avoid the censure of the Assembly, that might fall on him as still printing it by his apprentice, the contrivance was that my old indenture should be returned to me, with a full discharge on the back of it, to be shown on occasion, but to secure to him the benefit of my service, I was to sign new indentures for the remainder of the term, which were to be kept private. A very flimsy scheme it was; however, it was immediately executed, and the paper went on accordingly, under my name for several months.

27. 富兰克林本人对这一句话有如下注释: "I fancy his harsh & tyrannical Treatment of me, might be a means of impressing me with that Aversion to arbitrary Power that has stuck to me thro' my whole Life."

28. the Assembly: 马萨诸塞地区的众议院。下一句中的 speaker 即众议院议长。下文中的 "the Council" 和 "the House" 也都指这个众议院。



## Unit 1 Benjamin Franklin (1706–1790)

At length, a fresh difference arising between my brother and me, I took upon me to assert my freedom, presuming that he would not venture to produce the new indentures. It was not fair in me to take this advantage, and this I therefore reckon one of the first errata of my life; but the unfairness of it weighed little with me, when under the impressions of resentment for the blows his passion too often urged him to bestow upon me, though he was otherwise not an ill-natured man: perhaps I was too saucy and provoking.

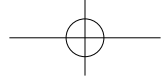
When he found I would leave him, he took care to prevent my getting employment in any other printing-house of the town, by going round and speaking to every master, who accordingly refused to give me work. I then thought of going to New York, as the nearest place where there was a printer; and I was rather inclined to leave Boston when I reflected that I had already made myself a little obnoxious to the governing party, and, from the arbitrary proceedings of the Assembly in my brother's case, it was likely I might, if I stayed, soon bring myself into scrapes; and farther, that my indiscreet disputations about religion began to make me pointed at with horror by good people as an infidel or atheist. I determined on the point, but my father now siding with my brother, I was sensible that, if I attempted to go openly, means would be used to prevent me. My friend Collins, therefore, undertook to manage a little for me. He agreed with the captain of a New York sloop for my passage, under the notion of my being a young acquaintance of his. So I sold some of my books to raise a little money, was taken on board privately, and as we had a fair wind, in three days I found myself in New York, near 300 miles from home, a boy of but 17, without the least recommendation to, or knowledge of, any person in the place, and with very little money in my pocket.

1771



### Questions for Discussion and Topics for Writing

1. How does Benjamin Franklin learn to write? Does Franklin's practice in debating and poetry writing contribute to his prose writing? What do you think of his method of learning?
2. The Puritan work ethic puts emphasis on the necessity for hard work as a sign of personal salvation and an element in a person's worldly success. According to Max Weber, it is also the driving force for the development of capitalism.



Can you find an example of this Puritan work ethic at work in this selection or elsewhere in Franklin's *Autobiography*?

3. Read *The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin* in its entirety, and then think about the influence of Franklin's early readings on his life and character. Write a short essay to explain your understanding.