

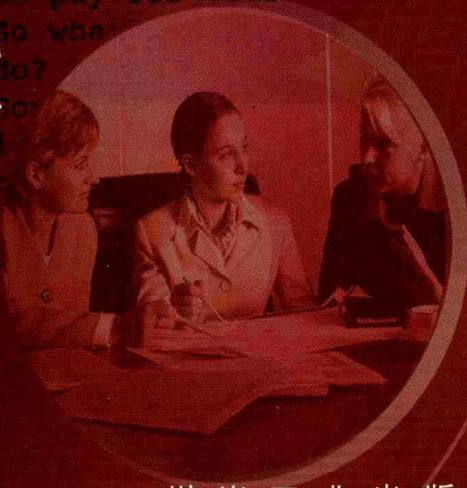
煤炭院校公共英语统编教材

CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE

主编 李惠敏 李东风

2

当代大学
英语泛读教程



煤炭工业出版社

公共英语统编教材

CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE

当代大学英语泛读教程

2

主编 李惠敏 李东风

煤炭工业出版社

·北京·

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

当代大学英语泛读教程. 2 /李惠敏, 李东风主编. --北京: 煤炭工业出版社, 2010

煤炭院校公共英语统编教材

ISBN 978-7-5020-3702-4

I. ①当… II. ①李… ②李… III. ①英语-阅读教学-高等学校-教材 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2010) 第 133609 号

煤炭工业出版社 出版
(北京市朝阳区芍药居 35 号 100029)
网址: www.cciph.com.cn
煤炭工业出版社印刷厂 印刷
新华书店北京发行所 发行

*

开本 787mm×1092mm¹/₁₆ 印张 65
字数 1695 千字 印数 1—8,400
2010 年 8 月第 1 版 2010 年 8 月第 1 次印刷
社内编号 6512 定价 85.00 元
(共四册)

版权所有 违者必究

本书如有缺页、倒页、脱页等质量问题, 本社负责调换

内 容 提 要

本书为《CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE》第2册，共10单元。每单元围绕某一话题精选4篇精读和4篇快速阅读文章，并辅以阅读技巧点拨、双语注解和习题操练。题型涉及阅读理解、英汉翻译、词汇选择、简短回答、判断正误、选择填空等，所涵盖的知识点和能力测试与大学英语四、六级考试改革的方向一致，可帮助学生熟悉新题型、提高应试能力；所选文章内容丰富，体裁多样，融知识性和趣味性于一体，可拓宽知识面、提高学习能力、培养学习兴趣，为运用英语打基础。

本套教材适合非英语专业本科一、二年级和新高职学生使用，建议与精读教材同步使用，也可作为广大英语爱好者提高英语水平的自学教材。

前言

从语言学习规律来看,外语语言应用能力的提高是建立在大量阅读基础之上的。阅读是掌握语言知识、打好语言基础、获取信息的重要渠道。对于外语学习者来说,阅读不仅是目标语语言输入的主要来源,也是听、说、写、译等其他语言技能发展的基础和源头。没有足够的语言输入,其他技能的发展与提高是有限的。《CURRENT EXTENSIVE ENGLISH READING COURSE》系列教材是按照《大学英语课程教学要求》,在兼容大学英语泛读教程和快速阅读教程特点的基础上,针对大学英语四级考试的特点而专门设计编写的。其主旨就是帮助学习者扩大英语词汇量,提高新词新语、常用词汇和语法现象的识读速度,进而增强英语语感,开阔语言文化视野,转变语言思维方式,增强跨文化意识和交际能力,掌握英语阅读策略和阅读技能,最终促进其英语语言综合能力的全面提高。

本套教材选用的语料均为时文,大都选自国内外出版的期刊、报纸、书籍、杂志以及国内外主流网站。内容既有科普、人文社科文章,也有独特人物、异域风情篇章;既有心理学、政治、经济、历史、地理、文学艺术等主体话题,也有人们喜闻乐道的校园生活以及安全、网络、婚姻、家庭、情感、诚信、战争与和平、人际交往等热门话题。

本套教材的主要特点有:

- (1) 构思新颖;
- (2) 内容时尚且不乏经典,语言鲜活;
- (3) 主题明确、新潮,话题热点;
- (4) 理论指导,有读有练,效果易见;
- (5) 循序渐进,分级编写,由浅入深,适用面广。

本套教材总主编为河南理工大学赵增虎。本册主编为李惠敏和李东风,副主编为朱宝锋、翟中伟、张欣欣和王静。

本教材在编写的过程中,得到了河南理工大学学校领导、教务处的大力支持,同时也得到了英语界同仁的倾力相助,在此向他们表示感谢!

本教材所采用的语言文字材料均注明了出处,在此谨向其作者表示衷心的感谢!

由于编者能力有限,本书在编写中可能会出现不足,甚至是错误之处,恳请读者批评指正。

编者

2010年6月

Contents

Unit 1 Friend and Friendship	1
Part I Intensive Reading	1
Part II Translation	12
Part III Bank Cloze	12
Part IV Fast Reading	13
Part V Reading Skills	22
Unit 2 The Generation Gap	24
Part I Intensive Reading	24
Part II Translation	35
Part III Bank Cloze	36
Part IV Fast Reading	36
Part V Reading Skills	45
Unit 3 Education	46
Part I Intensive Reading	46
Part II Translation	57
Part III Bank Cloze	58
Part IV Fast Reading	59
Part V Reading Skills	69
Unit 4 Speeches and Presentations	71
Part I Intensive Reading	71
Part II Translation	83
Part III Bank Cloze	83
Part IV Fast Reading	84
Part V Reading Skills	95
Unit 5 Career Planning	97
Part I Intensive Reading	97
Part II Translation	108
Part III Bank Cloze	109
Part IV Fast Reading	110
Part V Reading Skills	119
Unit 6 Marriage	121
Part I Intensive Reading	121
Part II Translation	131
Part III Bank Cloze	132
Part IV Fast Reading	133
Part V Reading Skills	141
Unit 7 Animal Culture	142

Part I	Intensive Reading	142
Part II	Translation.....	153
Part III	Bank Cloze.....	154
Part IV	Fast Reading	155
Part V	Reading Skills	165
Unit 8	Contending	166
Part I	Intensive Reading	166
Part II	Translation.....	177
Part III	Bank Cloze.....	178
Part IV	Fast Reading	179
Part V	Reading Skills	187
Unit 9	Entertainment	188
Part I	Intensive Reading	188
Part II	Translation.....	199
Part III	Bank Cloze.....	200
Part IV	Fast Reading	201
Part V	Reading Skills	211
Unit 10	Artistic World	212
Part I	Intensive Reading	212
Part II	Translation.....	225
Part III	Bank Cloze.....	225
Part IV	Fast Reading	226
Part V	Reading Skills	236
Keys		238
Glossary		246

Unit 1

Friend and Friendship

Background

There's a miracle called Friendship that dwells in the heart. We don't know how it happens or when it gets started. But we know the special lift(n.振奋) it always brings and realizes that friendship is the most precious gift we give to ourselves. Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make us smile and encourage us to succeed. They lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us. However, friendship is something many people take for granted. They are unaware how powerful and positive friendship can be, or they would take it more seriously. The right friends can help us feel worthwhile. The right friends can even help us keep high spirit. School, work, parenting, and even old age are better and more fun when shared with friends.

Part I Intensive Reading

Directions: There are four passages in this part. Each passage is followed by some questions or unfinished sentences. For each of them there are four choices marked A, B, C and D. You should decide on the best choice and mark the corresponding letter.

Passage 1

Is Friendship a Luxury — or a Necessity?

I am a rich woman. Not in dollars, possessions, wisdom, or property. I am rich with friends. I have been blessed with the good fortune of encountering remarkable people and the tenacity to keep those relationships alive. I collect friends like other people collecting belongings.

I started my collection at a young age. It was a necessary skill for an only child. While others had sisters or brothers as **built-in** playmates, I had to develop my ability to make friends. My first

and most enduring friendship has been with Macy. We met in the first grade, and our friendship has **flourished** over the years. We have as much in common as we do in contrast. Our strength has been our combined ability to keep the friendship alive.

Through my many relationships, I have discovered that friendship is something that I'm good at. It has become one of my most valued skills. In my opinion, it is a skill that most women—and some very special men—have mastered. I have often wondered, however, if this “friendship” skill, which I value so highly, holds the same value to others. I had to know. So, I asked my friends. As I expected, their responses were **gems**.

10 Speaking of relationships, my friend Sarah feels that “friendships, like any good relationships, take work.” She adds that “some of us work hard and maintain as many as we can, and some are too lazy to keep up and so we risk losing that treasure.” On the subject of hard work, my friend Lois puts friendship into financial terms. She remarks, “In economic terms, a friendship is a scarce **commodity**, and that's what makes it precious. To have it, you have to make a significant investment—time, effort, care, interest and a **turn-the-other-cheek** attitude. Very few of us are willing, or even able, to make that kind of investment on anything but a small scale. That's why real friendships are rare.” She is quick to tell me that she admires me for always investing in my friendships. My friend Bill compares his friends to “the Board of Directors of his life,” giving him wise advice or a good **smack** in the head when he needs it most.

20 These **analogies** made me wonder: Are financial terms an appropriate way to describe friendship? I think so. First, we're talking about the value of friendship. Value implies worth, and to me, my friends are worth more than I could ever **quantify**. In fact, I'd love to look back at the end of my life and say that I've lost count of the number of friends I've collected. My friend Wolf feels “true friendship is when you don't count the favors you do for one another. You do them simply because you enjoy helping your friend.” My 13-year-old “niece” (a good friend's child) puts in her two cents. She thinks that “friends are worth even more than gold.” And my friend Stephanie offers: “Happy hour with your friends—20 dollars...a lifetime with them—priceless.” Speaking of priceless, that's how my friend Peg describes her relationship with me. She says, “I couldn't imagine enjoying my life without you in it. That's why I have a hard time trying to place a value on our friendship. It's too precious.”

30 Do you need more proof that friendships are a necessity rather than a luxury? Fortunately, some researchers at UCLA have uncovered some surprising findings suggesting that women's biological response to stress actually encourages gathering with other women. Their research confirms what my **gut** has always told me: friends are essential to a happy, fulfilling life.

I didn't need science to tell me that. I know that true friends are like valuable or precious possessions. They are the currency by which I measure my life's worth. My friends have caused me to **take stock** in my life, and I invest heavily in friends for the valuable returns that I receive. Over the years, I've found that I have friends for many different reasons—for advice, for companionship, for fun, for understanding, for arguing, for balance and for feedback. I figure that I'm on this planet to become the best woman I can. For me, achieving that is a collaborative effort.

40 When I'm counting my many blessings, I will surely be reviewing my precious friend collection. I'll always need Ann's frankness to keep me **grounded**, Beth's energy to **spur me on** and Nikki's spirit to help me keep the faith. I'll treasure Sarah's loyalty, Lois's insight, Wolf's

creativity, Jude's optimism, Bill's thoughtfulness and Peggy's unconditional love. I can depend on Barb to help me dream, Chandra to give me comfort, Stephanie to make me see all sides and my "favorite niece" to give me hopes that the next generation of women will know the value of friendship and reap its benefits.

(812 words, from www.makingbreadmagazine.com/Features/MoneyEmotions/friendship.htm)

Notes

analogy *n.* 类似, 类推

built-in *adj.* 内置的, 固定的, 嵌入的

commercial *n.* an advertisement on television or radio 在电视或无线电上的广告

flourish *v.* to grow well or luxuriantly; thrive 茂盛, 繁盛

gem *n.* 宝石, 珍宝, 精华

grounded *adj.* [电] 接(好)地的; (喻) 脚踏实地的

gut *n.* (slang) innermost emotional response 内心的感觉, 内心深处的情感反应

quantify *v.* to determine or express the quantity of 确定……的数量, 量化

smack *n.* a sharp blow or slap 沉重的打击或拍击

spur on *v.* to incite or stimulate 刺激, 鞭策

take stock *v.* 清查存货

tenacity *n.* 坚韧

turn-the-other-cheek 转过另一边脸来让人打, [喻] 容忍

UCLA University of California at Los Angeles (美国) 加利福尼亚大学洛杉矶分校

Questions 1 to 5 are based on Passage 1

1. According to the viewpoint of the author, she is wealthy because she has a lot of _____.
A. possessions
B. knowledge
C. money
D. friends
2. Which of the following is **Not** true according to paragraph 2?
A. The author had sisters and brothers to play with when she was young.
B. Collecting friends is a necessary ability for an only child in a family.
C. The author keeps a long-term friendship with Macy.
D. The author and Macy have not only much in common but also much in contrast.
3. The author wants to know if _____.
A. other people collect friends as she does
B. some people have mastered the skill of friendship
C. other people value friendship skills as highly as she does
D. her friends will respond to her questions
4. Real friendships are rare, because _____.
A. it is a scarce commodity
B. some people work hard and maintain as many friends as they can
C. few people are willing or able to make a significant investment in their friendships

- D. some people think of friendships in financial terms
5. We can infer from the passage that making friends helps the author to _____.
A. reap a lot of benefits in her life
B. become successful in her life
C. be the richest in the world
D. become intelligent

Passage 2

How to Win Friends and Influence People

On Saturday morning, April 15, 1865, **Abraham Lincoln** lay dying in a hall bedroom of a cheap lodging house directly across the street from Ford's Theater, where Booth had shot him. Lincoln's long body lay stretched across a little bed that was too short for him.

As Lincoln lay dying, Secretary of War Stanton said, "There lies the most perfect ruler of men that the world has ever seen."

What was the secret of Lincoln's success in dealing with men? I studied the life of Abraham Lincoln for ten years, and devoted all of three years to writing and rewriting a book entitled *Lincoln the Unknown*. I believe I have made as detailed and thorough a study of Lincoln's personality and home life as it is possible for any human being to make. I made a special study of
10 Lincoln's method of dealing with men. Did he have the habit of criticism? Oh, yes. As a young man in the Pigeon Creek Valley of Indiana, he not only criticized but he wrote letters and poems **ridiculing** people and dropped these letters on the country roads where they were sure to be found. One of these letters aroused resentments that burned for a lifetime.

Even after Lincoln had become a practicing lawyer in Springfield, Illinois, he attacked his **opponents** openly in letters published in the newspapers. But he did this just once too often.

In the autumn of 1842, he ridiculed a proud Irish politician by the name of James Shields. Lincoln ridiculed him through an **anonymous** letter published in the Springfield journal. The town roared with laughter. Shields, boiled with anger. He found out who wrote the letter, leaped on his horse, started after Lincoln, and challenged him to fight for his honor. Lincoln didn't want
20 to fight. He was opposed to fighting; but he couldn't get out of it and save his honor. He was given the choice of weapons. Since he had very long arms, he chose broad swords of a horse soldier and took lessons in sword fighting from a **West Point** graduate; and on the appointed day, he and Shields met on a sand bar in the Mississippi River, prepared to fight to the death; but at the last minute, their followers interrupted and stopped the fight.

That was the most horrible personal incident in Lincoln's life. It taught him an invaluable lesson in the art of dealing with people. Never again did he write an **insulting** letter. Never again did he ridicule anyone. And from that time on, he almost never criticized anybody for anything.

Time after time, during the Civil War, Lincoln put a new general at the head of the Army of

the **Potomac**, and each in turn—McClellan, Pope, Burnside, Hooker, Meade—made serious mistakes one after another, and drove Lincoln to walk in his room back and forth in despair. Half the nation seriously blamed these incapable generals, but Lincoln, “with **malice** towards none, with **charity** for all”, held his peace. One of his favorite quotations was “judge not, that you be not judged.”

And when Mrs. Lincoln and others spoke ill of the Southern people, Lincoln replied: “Don’t criticize them; they are just what we would be under similar circumstances.”

When dealing with people, let us remember that we are not dealing with creatures of logic. We are dealing with creatures of emotion, creatures **bristling** with prejudices and **motivated** by pride and **vanity**.

10

And criticism is a dangerous **spark**—a spark that is likely to cause an explosion in the powder store of pride—an explosion that sometimes hastens death. For example, General **Leonard Wood** was criticized and not allowed to go with the army to France. That blow to his pride probably shortened his life.

Bitter criticism caused the sensitive **Thomas Hardy**, one of the finest novelists that ever enriched English literature, to give up the writing of fiction forever. Criticism drove **Thomas Chatterton**, the English poet, to suicide.

Benjamin Franklin, inexperienced in his youth, became so **diplomatic**, so skillful at handling people that he was made American Ambassador to France. The secret of his success? “I will speak ill of no man,” he said, “... and speak all the good I know of everybody.”

20

Any fool can criticize, condemn, and complain—and most fools do. But it takes character and self-control to be understanding and forgiving. “A great man shows his greatness,” said **Carlyle**, “by the way he treats little man.”

Instead of criticizing people, let’s try to understand them. Let’s try to figure out why they do what they do. That’s a lot more profitable and interesting than criticism; and it breeds sympathy, tolerance, and kindness. “To know all is to forgive all.”

As **Dr. Johnson** said, “God himself, sir, does not intend to judge man until the end of his day.” Why should you and I?

(812 words, 选自《高级英语阅读》2000年, 北京语言文化大学出版社)

Notes

Abraham Lincoln the sixteenth President of the United States 亚伯拉罕·林肯 (1861—1865, 美国第十六任总统)

anonymous *adj.* having an unknown or unacknowledged name 匿名的

bristle *v.* to react in an angry or offended manner 被激怒

Carlyle 卡莱尔 (1795—1881), 苏格兰作家、历史学家、哲学家

charity *n.* benevolence or generosity toward others or toward humanity; indulgence or forbearance in judging others 慈善, 博爱, 宽厚, 仁慈

diplomatic *adj.* using or marked by tact and sensitivity in dealing with others 老练的

Dr. Johnson (Dr. Samuel Johnson, 1709—1784) 萨穆尔·约翰逊博士, 英国作家、评论家

insult *v.* to give offense; offend 侮辱, 凌辱

Leonard Wood 伦纳德·伍德 (1860—1927, 第一次世界大战时美国将军)

malice *n.* a desire to harm others or to see others suffer; extreme ill will or spite 恶意
motivate *vt.* to provide with an incentive; move to action 提供动机, 给予(某人做……的)动机
opponent *n.* one that opposes another or others in a battle, contest, controversy or debate 对手
Potomac a community of central Maryland, a residential suburb of Washington, D.C. 波托马克, 美国马里兰州中部社区, 华盛顿特区的郊外住宅区
ridicule *vt.* to expose to ridicule; make fun of 嘲弄, 使……受嘲笑; 取笑
spark *n.* a vital, animating or activating factor 生气, 活力或活跃因素; 导火索
Thomas Chatterton 托马斯·查特顿(1752—1770), 英国诗人
Thomas Hardy 托马斯·哈代(1840—1928), 英国著名小说家、诗人
vanity *n.* something about which one is vain or conceited 虚荣、虚夸的东西
West Point (美国)西点军校

Questions 6 to 10 are based on Passage 2

6. The purpose of the first two paragraphs is to _____.
 A. describe how Lincoln was murdered
 B. tell readers who murdered Lincoln
 C. inspire readers to think about the secret of Lincoln's success
 D. relate that Lincoln's body was placed in a poor place
7. The primary reason of the fight between James Shields and Lincoln was that _____.
 A. James Shields liked fighting with people
 B. James Shields was irritated by Lincoln's insulting letter
 C. Lincoln was afraid to fight with James Shields
 D. Shields was sensitive and proud
8. During the Civil War, Lincoln _____.
 A. seriously criticized his incompetent generals
 B. had the most horrible personal incident in his life
 C. demonstrated great tolerance to his generals' mistakes
 D. spoke ill of his generals
9. From the viewpoint of the author, when dealing with people, we should remember that _____.
 A. people are always rational
 B. people are readily affected or stirred by emotions
 C. people are not easily got annoyed by prejudices
 D. people are not motivated by pride and vanity
10. From the passage we can conclude that _____.
 A. it is foolish to criticize
 B. it is beneficial to criticize
 C. it is advisable to criticize
 D. it is necessary to criticize

Passage 3

Friendship in Different Cultures

In writing assignments in English classes my students frequently raise the topic of friendship. Reading what they write, I start to understand Chinese friendship obligations. For instance, once a student wrote that she understood that her friend wanted to go shopping. My student was busy and really had no time to do that, but she kept silent, put her work aside and went shopping with her friend, sometimes they write about middle school friends and describe the closeness they feel when they are together. Sometimes they write with great sadness when they feel they are no longer close to someone they considered a friend. All this is quite different from what American young people would say about friendship.

In the United States you can certainly ask a friend to do something with you, but you would not expect a friend to recognize and respond to your wishes without stating them. Nor would you expect a friend to drop everything to respond to a non-urgent need such as going shopping. In fact an American friend would feel that they had imposed too much if the friend gave up a real need to study to go shopping. There are limits to what you can expect from a friend. In the U.S. you feel free to ask your friend for help, but you recognize that the friend may say no, if they give you a reason. A friend in China is someone who, **sensing** that you are in need in some way, offers to assist you without waiting to be asked. In China there are few limits on what you can ask or expect of a friend. You can feel free to tell your friend what he or she can or should do to help you or please you. 10

Chinese expect friendships to be more lasting

Another difference is that my Chinese students seem to expect their friendships to stay the same over a long period of time, maybe for a lifetime. A true friendship is a relationship that **endures** through changes in the lives of the friends. In the United States a person is likely to change even “best friends” several times over the years. Even this relationship in which people feel close emotionally and tell each other their secrets and personal problems may not survive life changes such as move to another city, graduation from a university, a significant change in economic circumstances, or the marriage of one of the friends. I think the reason is that friendship, like other relationships in the United States including marriage, depends on frequent **interaction** with the other person. If the people involved do not see each other and interact regularly, the relationship is likely to **wither** and die. 20

In the West, people often have many friends at one time, but the friendships are usually tied to **specific** circumstances or activities. When a person changes circumstances or activities, he or she changes friends. A person may have work friends, leisure activity friends, and neighborhood friends. Also two people who are friends usually have similar financial circumstances. This is because friendships in the West are based on equality. Friends should exchange similar activities and give similar things to one another. If one can afford to treat the other to a meal at an 30

expensive restaurant and the other does not have enough money to do the same, it will cause a problem in the relationship.

Americans expect friends to be independent

As with so many other things in the West, people prefer to be independent rather than dependent, so they do not feel comfortable in a relationship in which one person is giving more and the other person is dependent on what is being given. For Westerners friendship is mostly a matter of providing emotional support and spending time together. Chinese friends give each other much more concrete help and assistance than Western friends do. A Chinese friend will use personal connections to help a friend get something hard to obtain such as a job, an appointment
10 with a good doctor, an easier path through an official **procedure** or an introduction to another person who might also be able to give **concrete** help. Chinese friends give each other money and might help each other out financially over a long period of time. This is rarely part of Western friendships, because it creates dependence of one person on the other and it **goes against** the principles of equality.

American friends like Chinese friends give each other emotional support in times of trouble, but they do it differently. A Westerner will respond to a friend's trouble by asking, "What do you want to do?" The idea is to help the friend think out the problem and discover the solution he or she really prefers and then to support that solution. A Chinese friend is more likely to give specific advice to a friend. For instance, if in a friendship between two Chinese women, one
20 woman is arguing with her husband, the friend might advise and she says so directly. An American friend in a similar situation may want her friend to choose wise actions too, but she will be very **cautious** about giving direct advice. Instead she may raise questions to encourage her friend to consider carefully what may happen if she does one thing instead of another.

(890 words, 选自《英语学习》2000年第1期, 外语教学与研究出版社)

Notes

cautious *adj.* showing or practicing caution; careful 谨慎的, 小心认真的

concrete *adj.* of or relating to an actual, specific thing or instance; particular 具体的

endure *vi.* to continue in existence; last 持续, 持久

go against to be opposite to 违背

interaction *n.* the act or process of interacting 相互作用的行为或过程

procedure *n.* a set of established forms or methods for conducting the affairs of a business, legislative body, or court of law 程序, 步骤

sense *v.* to have a feeling, without being told directly 感觉到, 意识到

specific *adj.* explicitly set forth; definite 明确提出的, 一定的

urgent *adj.* compelling immediate action or attention; pressing 紧迫的, 急迫的

wither *v.* to cause (esp. a plant) to become reduced in size, color, etc. 枯萎, 凋谢

Questions 11 to 15 are based on Passage 3

11. The author starts to understand Chinese friendship obligations when he _____.

- A. works in the United States
 - B. reads his students' writing assignments in English classes
 - C. is frequently asked the question of friendship by his students
 - D. writes about the topic of friendship
12. In the United States, if you ask an American friend to do something with you while he or she is busy, the friend will _____.
- A. give up what he or she is doing and go with you
 - B. respond to your wishes without saying no
 - C. feel that you have imposed too much
 - D. keep silent
13. According to the author, friendship for Chinese students is a relationship that _____.
- A. survives life changes
 - B. is likely to wither and die if the people involved do not interact with each other regularly
 - C. is tied to specific circumstances or activities
 - D. is based on financial equality
14. Which of the following may **Not** affect the close relationships between friends in the West?
- A. *Two friends engage in similar activities and earn similar amount of money.*
 - B. Two friends don't correspond with each other for a long time.
 - C. One of the two friends got married and they don't see and communicate regularly.
 - D. One of the two friends moved to another city.
15. According to the passage, what do American friends and Chinese friends have in common?
- A. They prefer to be independent rather than dependent.
 - B. They give each other concrete help and assistance.
 - C. They give each other financial help.
 - D. They provide emotional support in times of trouble.

Passage 4

My Best Friend — Arnold

I recently lost my best friend Arnold in an automobile accident while moving my family to our new home in Arizona. Arnold was an 8-month-old **pot belly** who taught me so much about love, devotion and **companionship**. I am **devastated** by his loss, but thank God daily for blessing me with the joy of having Arnold for his short life.

Anyone expecting to have a pot belly as a pet should know that if you are a true pet lover and devote yourself to them, a pot belly will make the most wonderful friend. You will be assured of endless hours of fascination and entertainment as you both grow together in understanding the human/pot belly relationship. Words cannot describe this relationship and it can only be fully understood by experiencing it.

Arnold didn't know he was a pig—he thought he was just another member of our family—following his behavior through observing me, my wife, my two daughters and our dogs. He was convinced he was loved by all; and he was, even when he was trying to just get our attention. He learned his name, how to sit and how to use the litter box all in the first week we had him (at 7 weeks old).

He loved to sleep on your lap as you sat on the couch watching TV. He didn't care if he grew to weigh 45 pounds, he still expected you to lift him onto your lap at precisely 8:00 p.m. every evening where he would fall fast asleep within seconds after putting his wet nose between your neck and shoulder. If you didn't respond to his initial “**honks**” letting you know it was his **nap** time, he would **bump** your legs with his nose until you picked him up. With his weight as it was, you couldn't hold him all evening as he preferred, so you had to slide him off onto the couch next to you where he would sleep for hours with all four legs and his nose sticking straight up in the air. He would **snore** as long as he could feel you next to him but would immediately wake up if you tried to leave the couch. We had hours of fun balancing objects like a salt shaker on his flat nose while he slept soundly.

Arnold helped me in all my **chores** around our five acres in the country. Just being there at my feet, interested in what I was doing made even the most common tasks enjoyable. He even helped me build a small aircraft and a **trailer** to pull it around in. I was planning on taking him flying with me some day. He loved to play with my **sockets** and rolled them around on the shop floor. Just as I would struggle and get frustrated with some difficult task, Arnold would show up underneath the trailer, with his wet nose in my ear and honking—seeming to say, “take a break and laugh with me for a while, that should make it all better.” And it did, every time. God's wonderful creations attend to us in the most special ways if we can just stop for a few moments and observe them. God used Arnold to teach us this very important lesson in life which we will never forget.

My wife and two daughters began to say that Arnold and I were so close that he had become the son that I never had in our family. It seemed that we could no longer have any kind of conversation in our family or with our friends without Arnold being a main topic. The neighborhood kids would make appointments to come visit Arnold and couldn't wait to come over and play with him.

Arnold went most everywhere with us—Pets Mart, **Wal-Mart**, birthday parties, Christmas vacation to Grandma's. He loved riding in the car or shopping basket and was a big hit everywhere he went. Arnold had become such an important part of our life that when we found out that our family would have to move to another state, we decided to take him with us.

On the day we left our old home town, we had a going away lunch with our friends from church. Everyone there just had to go out to the truck where Arnold and all our other pets were and say goodbye. Arnold trusted me to take care of him and get him to his new home. **Tragically**, along the way, the wind **blast** from a **semi-trailer**, knocked our trailers out of control and pushed our truck off a 40 feet bridge. We lost a big part of our family that day when our pets Arnold. I feel terrible for not being able to protect Arnold the way he trusted me to. However, I will be