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Practical

English

Reading

# 实用英语阅读

李 慧 谢道兵 赵燕宁 编著

English

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## Unit 1 College Student's Father Deems Higher Education Worthless



① Ling Ling (not her real name) is worried as Sept 7, the last day for her to **enroll** in a university in Chengdu, Sichuan province, as a first-year student, **approaches**. "My dad doesn't want to pay for my university education as he believes the investment in higher education can't be **recouped**," the 19-year-old told *Chengdu Economic Daily*.

② Ling was born in a small village in northern Sichuan. All her relatives are farmers. Upon **completion** of their **primary** school education, her parents started a small business. Five years ago, they moved to Chengdu, the **provincial** capital of Sichuan, with Ling and her younger brother. They have **purchased** an apartment and a small shop there. "My family isn't short of money. My father doesn't want me to **pursue** university education because he thinks it not **worthwhile** going to university," Ling said.

③ Her father **estimates** it will cost a total of 80,000 yuan in **tuition** fees and living expenses to finish a four-year university education. If his daughter works for four years instead, she can earn at least 80,000 yuan in four years. With that money, she can start a small business. "In my neighborhood, at least 10 university **graduates** cannot find jobs and stay at home," her father told *Chengdu Economic Daily*. He said as a primary school graduate, he earned more than many university graduates with his small business. He said his view that attending a university is not worthwhile is not groundless, citing that nearly 7 million students graduated from institutions of higher learning nationwide this year and their employment situation is grim.

④ To persuade her father to support her higher education **financially**, Ling has **pestered** him every day for a month. But her efforts have been in vain.

⑤ After her story spread online at a local news portal, a survey was launched on the website to **solicit** netizens' opinions. More than 10,000 netizens replied and 71 percent supported her father's view. About 50 percent thought society was a good university and about



20 percent thought a person could improve himself or herself anywhere.

⑥ Despite strong opposition from survey **respondents**, 55 readers of *Chengdu Economic Daily* said higher education could broaden one's **horizons**. They want to help Ling financially since she cannot borrow money from her relatives who share her father's view.

[Excerpted from: <http://www.ecns.cn> (中新网)]

## Word List

1. enroll	v.	登记,注册,报到
2. approach	v.	接近
3. recoup	v.	收回,获得补偿
4. economic	adj.	经济的,经济上的
5. completion	n.	完成,结束,实现
6. primary	adj.	主要的,初级的,基本的
7. provincial	adj.	省的,地方性的
8. purchase	v.	购买
9. worthwhile	adj.	值得的,值得花时间的
10. estimate	v.	估计,估量,判断
11. tuition	n.	学费,讲授
12. graduate	v.	授予……学位,毕业
13. attend	v.	出席,照料,致力于
14. employment	n.	使用,职业,雇佣
15. financially	adv.	财政上,金融上
16. pester	v.	纠缠,烦扰,使困扰
17. solicit	v.	征求,恳求,招揽
18. respondent	adj.	回答的,应答的
19. horizon	n.	地平线;视野,眼界;范围

## Idioms and Expressions

1. pay for 赔偿,为……付钱
2. move to 移动到



3. living expenses 生活费用
4. primary school 小学
5. graduated from 毕业于……
6. in vain 徒劳的
7. higher education 高等教育
8. share one's view 认可某人的观点

## Notes to the Text

*Chengdu Economic Daily* (Para ③):《成都商报》。《成都商报》是1994年成都商报社出版的报刊,其主要内容由要闻、财经、市民、文体和特刊五大版块组成。

## Exercises

### I. Answer the following questions.

1. Name some of the functions of education.
2. Why do some people think education is worthless?
3. Do you think education plays an important role in your life?

### II. Reading comprehension.

1. The passage is mainly concerned with \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. a girl's lifestory
  - B. netizens' attitudes toward education
  - C. tuition fees
  - D. some parents' attitudes toward education
2. Ling Ling is worried because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the last day to enroll approaches
  - B. she has no money to pay the tuition fees
  - C. she made a mistake
  - D. she can't catch up with other classmates
3. The word "grim" in para ③ is the closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. promising
  - B. harsh
  - C. upset
  - D. dangerous
4. What did Ling Ling do to persuade her father to support her higher education financially?
 

\_\_\_\_\_

  - A. Beg his father every day for a month.
  - B. Curse her father every day for a month.
  - C. Entertain his father every day for a month.

D. Honor her father every day for a month.

5. How many survey respondents disagreed Ling Ling's father's opinion? \_\_\_\_\_

A. 10,000.

B. 71.

C. 2,900.

D. 55.

### III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. My family isn't short of money. My father doesn't want me to pursue university education because he thinks it not worthwhile going to university. (Para ②)

\_\_\_\_\_

2. He said his view that attending a university is not worthwhile is not groundless, citing that nearly 7 million students graduated from institutions of higher learning nationwide this year and their employment situation is grim. (Para ③)

\_\_\_\_\_

### IV. From the words listed below, select a word to fit each space with proper form in the sentences. Use each word only once.

enroll	approach	economic	completion	primary
purchase	pursue	graduate	attend	horizon

1. The moon has risen above the \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What does this tell us about \_\_\_\_\_ growth?

3. Christmas was \_\_\_\_\_.

4. I should like to \_\_\_\_\_ all my children in the swimming class.

5. He gave his son some money for the \_\_\_\_\_ of his school books.

6. I will \_\_\_\_\_ from Peking University this July. I have majored in accounting.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ of this bridge is expected in a year or so.

8. Can you \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting this afternoon?

9. We will \_\_\_\_\_ the subject of discussion tomorrow.

10. Our company has targeted career women as our \_\_\_\_\_ customers.

### V. Fill in the blanks with the words given.

1. employment/employ/employer

A. Why should we \_\_\_\_\_ you?

B. Do not insult your former boss or your former \_\_\_\_\_.

C. The state of \_\_\_\_\_ in this city is improving.



## 2. estimate/estimation/estimable

- A. Who is the best candidate in your \_\_\_\_\_ ?
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ the time and cost of testing.
- C. You get healthy self-esteem from behaving in ways that you find \_\_\_\_\_.

## 3. worthwhile/worth/worthy

- A. Under ordinary circumstances, this would have been a slight but \_\_\_\_\_ risk.
- B. If you be loved, be \_\_\_\_\_ of love.
- C. The stamp is not \_\_\_\_\_ collecting.

## 4. financially/finance/financial

- A. He does not understand \_\_\_\_\_ at all.
- B. You can both benefit \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. This should be not only a \_\_\_\_\_ issue, but a social one.

## 5. attend/attendance/attendant

- A. She is an \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ has dropped away recently.
- C. Who will \_\_\_\_\_ the meeting?



## Unit 2 Getting the Most out of Meeting



① One aspect of business life which many managers are unhappy with is the need to attend meetings. Research **indicates** that managers will spend between a third and a half of their working lives in meetings. Although most managers would agree that it is hard to think of an **alternative** to meetings, as a means of considering information and making collective decisions, their **length** and **frequency** can cause problems with the workload of even the best-organized executives.

② Meetings work best if they take place only when necessary and not as a matter of routine. One example of this is the discussion of personal or career matters between members of **staff** and their lines and personnel managers. Another is during the early stages of a project when the team managing it need to learn to understand and trust one another.

③ Once it has been decided that a meeting is necessary, decisions need to be taken about who will attend and about the location and length of the meeting. People should only be invited to attend if they are directly involved in the matters under discussion and the **agenda** should be **distributed** well in advance. An agenda is **vital** because it acts as a road map to keep discussion **focused** and within the time limited **allocated**. This is also the responsibility of the person chairing the meeting, who should encourage those who say little to speak and stop those who have a great deal to say from talking too much.

④ At the end of a well-organized meeting, people will feel that the meeting has been a success and be pleased they were invited. They will know not only what decisions were made, but also the reasons for these decisions. Unfortunately, at the end of a badly-organized meeting those presents will leave feelings that they have wasted their time and that nothing worthwhile has been **achieved**.

⑤ Much together has been given over the years to ways of keeping meeting short. One man





who has no **intention** of spending half his working life in meeting is Roland Winterson, chief executive of a large manufacturing company. He believes that meetings should be short, sharp and infrequent. "I try to hold no more than two or three meetings a week, attended by a **maximum** of three people for no longer than half an hour," he says. "They are clearly aimed at achieving a specific objective, such as making a decision or planning a **strategy**, and are based on careful preparation. I draw up the agenda for every meeting and **circulate** it in advance; those attendings are expected to study it carefully and should be prepared to both ask and answer questions. Managers are best employed carrying out tasks directly connected with their jobs not attending endless meetings. In business, time is money and spending it in needless meetings that don't achieve anything can be very costly. **Executives should follow the example of lawyers and put a cost on each hour of their time and then decide whether attending a long meeting really is the best way to spend their time.**"

[Excerpted from: <http://english.koolearn.com> (新东方在线)]

## Word List

- |                |      |                    |
|----------------|------|--------------------|
| 1. indicate    | v.   | 表明;指出;预示;象征        |
| 2. alternative | n.   | 二中选一;可供替代的,可供选择的事物 |
| 3. length      | n.   | 长度,长;时间的长短;(语)音长   |
| 4. frequency   | n.   | 频率;频繁              |
| 5. routine     | n.   | [计] 程序;日常工作;例行公事   |
| 6. staff       | n.   | 职员;参谋;棍棒;支撑        |
| 7. location    | n.   | 位置;地点;外景拍摄场地       |
| 8. involve     | vt.  | 包含;牵涉;使陷于;潜心于      |
| 9. agenda      | n.   | 议程;日常工作事项          |
| 10. distribute | n.   | 分发;分配              |
| 11. vital      | adj. | 至关重要的;生死攸关的;有活力的   |
| 12. focus      | vt.  | 使集中;使聚焦            |
| 13. allocate   | vt.  | 分配;拨出;使坐落于         |
| 14. achieve    | vt.  | 取得;获得;实现;成功        |
| 15. intention  | n.   | 意图;目的;意向;愈合        |
| 16. maximum    | n.   | [数] 极大,最大限度;最大量    |
| 17. strategy   | n.   | 战略,策略              |
| 18. circulate  | vi.  | 传播,流传;循环;流通        |



## Idioms and Expressions

1. be unhappy with 不满意,不开心
2. collective decisions 集体决策
3. best-organized executives 做事极有条理的高管
4. a matter of routine 例行公事
5. be directly involved 直接涉及
6. in advance 提前
7. road map 公路图
8. over the years 多年以来
9. chief executive 行政长官;董事长;美国总统;(美国的)州长
10. aim at 针对;目的在于
11. draw up 草拟,起草;停住;使靠近

## Notes to the Text

Getting the Most out of Meeting (from the title of this passage): 最大限度地避免会议。  
“get out of” 的意思是“逃避,避免”。

## Exercises

### I. Answer the following questions.

1. What do most managers think about meetings?
2. How much time do managers spend on meetings?
3. What are the functions of meetings?

### II. Reading comprehension.

1. According to the writer, an example of a valuable meeting is one which \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. allows colleagues to achieve a better working relationship  
 B. requires managers to discuss staffing needs with personnel  
 C. selects a suitable group of people to work together as a team  
 D. encourages staff to present ideas on improvements in management



2. According to the writer, the agenda is important because it \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. is seen by everybody before the meeting
  - B. helps to give direction to the discussions
  - C. contains items of interest to all those present
  - D. shows who should speak at each stage of the meeting
3. The writer says that people leaving a well-organized meeting will understand \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. the reason for their invitation to attend
  - B. how the decisions taken were relevant to them
  - C. the importance of proposals under discussion
  - D. why certain courses of action were agreed upon
4. What does Roland Winterson say about the meetings that he organizes? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. He aims to hold them on a regular basis.
  - B. He ensures they have a definite purpose.
  - C. He requires his managers to draw up the agenda.
  - D. He uses them to make decisions about strategy.
5. What is Roland Winterson's opinion about meetings? \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. They waste a manager's time.
  - B. Their importance is often underestimated.
  - C. They frequently result in wrong decisions.
  - D. Their effectiveness could be improved with better planning.

### III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Once it has been decided that a meeting is necessary, decisions need to be taken about who will attend and about the location and length of the meeting. (Para ③)

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2. Executives should follow the example of lawyers and put a cost on each hour of their time and then decide whether attending a long meeting really is the best way to spend their time. (Para ⑤)

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### IV. From the words listed below, select a word to fit each space with proper form in the sentences. Use each word only once.

indicate	alternative	frequency	routine	staff
agenda	achieve	intention	maximum	strategy

1. They have to cut down the office \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I assure you that this is not my \_\_\_\_\_.
3. And you can defeat it, with \_\_\_\_\_ and skill.
4. What other \_\_\_\_\_ do we have?
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ number of marks for the subject is 100.
6. The clouds \_\_\_\_\_ the coming of rain.
7. Repeat, repeat, repeat the new behavior — the same \_\_\_\_\_ at the same time of day.
8. There are \_\_\_\_\_ contacts between the peoples of the two countries.
9. This is really an \_\_\_\_\_ to be proud of.
10. We now proceed to the next item on the \_\_\_\_\_.

**V. Match the following words from the text with the definition and synonyms on the right.**

- |                      |              |
|----------------------|--------------|
| 1. (     ) vital     | a. distance  |
| 2. (     ) location  | b. place     |
| 3. (     ) involve   | c. important |
| 4. (     ) circulate | d. scatter   |
| 5. (     ) length    | e. affect    |



## Unit 3 Eight Ways to Be Efficient



- ① Close your eyes for one minute and just breathe.

**Grab** hold of your mind, block out the **screaming** voices of panic, and purposely focus on just **breathing in and out**. Notice where you're feeling tense, and **intentionally** relax those muscles. Slow your breathing, calm your mind. Just take those sixty seconds to **reclaim** quiet and peace.

- ② Clear your workspace.

When we get too busy, our workspace usually reflects the **clutter** of our minds. We leave papers on our desk or on the kitchen **counter** as reminders to do something, and pretty soon the desk or counter is a mass of piles and **sticky** notes and reminders. Whether or not you **consciously** recognize it, the **chaos** of those piles distracts you and makes it nearly impossible to focus on anything. So take five minutes to clear off your workspace. Toss the trash, drop the dirty dishes in the kitchen sink, and stash the piles of papers in a nearby drawer or shelf for later attention. If you're afraid you'll forget something important, take a second to **schedule** an appointment to tend to those stashed piles. Your immediate objective is to create a clear, clean, distraction-free space for focused working.

- ③ Take five minutes to write down everything that needs to get done.

Use whatever method works best for you to **capture** everything. I rely heavily on technology, but when I'm in this situation, I prefer old-fashioned pen and legal pad. **Don't try to organize or prioritize the tasks; just do a brain dump.** Part of the anxiety you feel is a fear that you're forgetting something, so get it all there on paper in front of you.

- ④ Scan the list.

Is there anything there that somebody else could do? Your secretary or assistant? A colleague? Your **spouse** or child? This is no time to be too proud to ask for help — remember, we're in **crisis** mode here.

- ⑤ Take five minutes to offload anything that reasonably can be **delegated**.



Is there anything on the list that can be put off until tomorrow (or the next day) without knocking the earth off its axis? Take one minute to check off those tasks that don't truly have to be done right this minute. Circle the ones that do need immediate attention.

⑥ Choose one of the circled tasks.

Don't spend a lot of time **agonizing** over priority. Just pick one. If there's something that can be done in a couple of minutes — responding to an email or returning a phone call, maybe do that and enjoy the happiness of seeing your list begin to **dwindle** immediately. But the main thing is to just pick one.

⑦ Clear everything else away, and do it.

Gather the materials you need for that task, then sit down and get it done. If it will take more than an hour or so, considering using the “Pomodoro Technique”: set a timer for 25 minutes and work steadily until the timer goes off. Then take a five-minute break — **stretch**, walk, get a drink of water and then get back to work, with the timer set for another 25-minute **segment**. Keep up that approach until you've finished the task.

⑧ When you finish that task, cross it off the list and choose another.

One item at a time, work through the list until you're caught up.

[Excerpted from: en8848.com.cn (小e英语)]

## Word List

- |                  |      |                         |
|------------------|------|-------------------------|
| 1. grab          | vt.  | 攫取;霸占;将……深深吸引           |
| 2. scream        | vi.  | 尖叫;呼啸;发出尖锐、刺耳的声音;令人触目惊心 |
| 3. intentionally | adv. | 故意地,有意地                 |
| 4. reclaim       | vt.  | 开拓;回收再利用;改造某人,使某人悔改     |
| 5. clutter       | n.   | 杂乱,混乱                   |
| 6. counter       | n.   | 柜台;对立面;计数器;(某些棋盘游戏的)筹码  |
| 7. sticky        | adj. | 黏的;黏性的                  |
| 8. consciously   | adv. | 自觉地;有意识地                |
| 9. chaos         | n.   | 混沌,混乱                   |
| 10. schedule     | vt.  | 安排,计划;编制目录;将……列入计划表     |
| 11. capture      | vt.  | 俘获;夺得;捕捉,拍摄,录制          |
| 12. prioritize   | vt.  | 对……区分优先次序               |
| 13. spouse       | n.   | 配偶                      |
| 14. crisis       | n.   | 危机;危险期;决定性时刻            |



- |               |     |                         |
|---------------|-----|-------------------------|
| 15. delegate  | vt. | 委派……为代表                 |
| 16. agonizing | vt. | 使极度痛苦;折磨(agonize的ing形式) |
| 17. dwindle   | vi. | 减少;变小                   |
| 18. stretch   | vt. | 伸展,张开;(大量地)使用,消耗(金钱,时间) |
| 19. segment   | n.  | 段;部分                    |

## Idioms and Expressions

1. a mass of 大量的
2. focus on 集中于
3. clear off 摆脱;清除;走开
4. distraction-free space 无干扰的地方
5. rely heavily on 很大程度上依赖于
6. old-fashioned 老式的;过时的;守旧的
7. put off 推迟;扔掉;阻止
8. check off 核对;经核对无误后在……上作记号;扣除
9. keep up 保持;继续;不低落;不落后
10. cross off 从……划掉,删除
11. catch up 赶上;把……缠住

## Notes to the Text

1. legal pad (Para ③): 标准拍纸簿。
2. Pomodoro Technique (Para ⑦): 番茄工作法。“Pomodoro Technique”是弗朗西斯科·西里洛于1992年创立的一种相对于GTD更微观的时间管理方法。弗朗西斯科·西里洛曾一度苦于学习效率低下,便和自己打赌,找到了一枚厨房定时器,形状像西红柿(Pomodoro在意大利语中的意思是“番茄”),以25分钟为一个单位,来规划自己的时间。

## Exercises

### I. Answer the following questions.

1. How many ways are there to be efficient?

2. Which is the most important way to be efficient, in your opinion?
3. Do you know anything about "Pomodoro Technique"?

## II. Reading comprehension.

1. What is the passage mainly about? \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. How to clear your workspace.                      B. How to choose the most important task.  
 C. How to make a list.                                      D. How to improve working efficiency.
2. According to the author, what is his favorite method to write down things that needs to get done? \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. Technology.    B. Pen and legal pad.  
 C. Brain dump.    D. Drawer and shelf.
3. According to the passage, when should we use the "Pomodoro Technique"? \_\_\_\_\_  
 A. When all the circled tasks will take more than half an hour or so.  
 B. When the circled task will take more than half an hour or so.  
 C. When the circled task will take more than an hour or so.  
 D. When all the circled tasks will take more than an hour or so.
4. The phrase "knocking the earth off its axis" in Para ⑤ is the closest in meaning to \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. beat the earth    B. the earth stop turning  
 C. the earth without trouble                              D. tap the earth
5. This passage is possibly excerpted from \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. a book about cooking                                      B. a book about science  
 C. a book about psychology                                      D. a book about job market

## III. Translate the following sentences into Chinese.

1. Grab hold of your mind, block out the screaming voices of panic, and purposely focus on just breathing in and out. (Para ①)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Don't try to organize or prioritize the tasks; just do a brain dump. (Para ③)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. From the words listed below, select a word to fit each space with proper form in the sentences. Use each word only once.

- |       |          |         |         |         |
|-------|----------|---------|---------|---------|
| grab  | scream   | reclaim | counter | sticky  |
| chaos | schedule | capture | crisis  | stretch |





1. In summer people feel \_\_\_\_\_ in that relative humidity is quite high.
2. In fact, in each reminder remind yourself to \_\_\_\_\_ the next one!
3. How can you sort out the order from the \_\_\_\_\_?
4. A large crowd of customers swarmed before the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. With the \_\_\_\_\_ of the escaped tiger, everyone felt relieved.
6. He had no right to take your book away; so \_\_\_\_\_ it.
7. A \_\_\_\_\_ broke the silence.
8. He got up with a \_\_\_\_\_ and a yawn.
9. Once you give us a chance to succeed, we'll \_\_\_\_\_ that opportunity.
10. These countries have been seriously disadvantaged by the financial \_\_\_\_\_.

### V. Fill in the blanks with the words given.

#### 1. intentionally/intention/intent

- A. Good \_\_\_\_\_ alone is not enough.
- B. I had not done it \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. When do you \_\_\_\_\_ to leave Beijing?

#### 2. consciously/conscious/consciousness

- A. I did this \_\_\_\_\_.
- B. She recovered \_\_\_\_\_ after about twenty minutes.
- C. They dropped him and when I looked at him, he was still \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 3. delegate/delegacy/delegation

- A. Since 2006, he is one of members of \_\_\_\_\_ of Chinese film in United States all the time.
- B. Should I \_\_\_\_\_ this task or just say no all together?
- C. Most of all, you should be clear about the reasons for \_\_\_\_\_ and what it is meant to achieve.

#### 4. agonizing/agon/agonize

- A. Why do you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself with the thought of your failure?
- B. The old woman died in \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. I don't know why life has to be so \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 5. sticky/stick/sticker

- A. He waved the \_\_\_\_\_ at them.
- B. This old stamp isn't \_\_\_\_\_ any more.
- C. Each time a child follows through with a task, he receives a \_\_\_\_\_.



## Unit 4 Females Prefer to Go Dutch



① After a seemingly endless 12-year journey, students finally reach their **cherished destination** and settle down as freshmen. After the struggles of middle and high school, college is a haven for freshers: a warm bed, new friends and, most important of all, freedom. Only one thing is missing: a romantic partner who can bring **vitality** and **flavor** to the college experience.

② But this flavor can often be **soured** by that well-worn poisoner of relationships everywhere: money.

③ And money issues can damage such a fragile butterfly as campus love. Male students, as a result of both societal conditioning and a sense of **chivalry**, often take it for granted that paying the bill is **symbolic** of both their value in a relationship and the **embodiment** of politeness.

④ “I never let a girl pay the bill, or I feel **embarrassed**,” said Wei Xu, an 18-year-old freshman at Sichuan Agricultural University. According to an online survey on Sohu.com that **quizzed** 6,000 students, 8.8 percent of them (mostly male) get an extra “relationship budget” from parents. Every month, Wei’s father gives him another several hundred yuan so that he can **sustain** the **status** of **generous** boyfriend. Whereas, according to female students, having a boyfriend that acts like an ATM is not always welcome.

⑤ “Spending parents’ money is not something to be proud of,” said Pan Tongtong, 18-year-old, a freshman at Beijing Normal University. “I would view such a boy as an irresponsible type.”

⑥ Liu Na, 18-year-old, a freshman at Shenzhen University, **echoed** those **sentiments** by saying that she prefers “Going Dutch” as a way to show each other respect. “The nature of a relationship is sharing not taking,” said Liu. “Plus, I don’t want to feel as though I am relying on my boyfriend financially.”

⑦ However, male students find it hard to accept the dawning reality of financial co-existence.