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听力阅读一把抓

——趣味话题

著者 /Andrew E. Bennett (白安竹)

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Andrew E. Bennett 是哈佛大学教育硕士，常年从事英语教学与研究。他所编写的“听力阅读一把抓”系列专为英语学习者增进英语听力和阅读技巧，扩充词汇量、了解社会流行话题而设计。本系列共有三册，分别是《听力阅读一把抓——趣味话题》《听力阅读一把抓——时尚话题》《听力阅读一把抓——热点话题》。每本书中都包含了广泛的日常话题，它们在考试中出现的频率最高。熟悉这些话题，可以极大地提高学习者的英语交流能力。

本丛书的重要特点：

- ★ 每个话题都是最新时文，解说了最新潮的社会现象。
- ★ 话题贴近生活，富有趣味性。
- ★ 每篇文章的词汇注释简单解释了与话题相关的词汇，帮读者扩充词汇量。
- ★ 各种题型的设计从词汇、短语、句子、听力等各方面训练读者的英语能力。
- ★ 附赠的CD语音清晰，学习者可以体验并模仿地道的美语表达方式和语音语调。书中有光盘图标的一部分在CD中可以找到相应的录音。

本丛书的重要用途：

- 练习英语听力和阅读 该丛书提供了最新的时文资料，能够帮助备考各类英语考试的读者不断提高英语听力和阅读水平。
- 准备英语口语 无论是升学考试还是求职面试，英语口语都非常重要。本丛书配有语音地道的MP3光盘，反复进行听力练习并随录音进行模仿，就一定能练就地道而又流利的英语口语，对考官的问题对答如流。
- 应对国外生存 书中内容涉及衣食住行各个方面，不管是要长期旅居国外，还是短期国外旅游，读完这三本书，你的国外生活定会畅行无阻。

认真学完本丛书，一定可以让你摆脱哑巴英语，让你的英语顶呱呱！

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Chien-Ming Wang 1

Reading Passage



Track 1

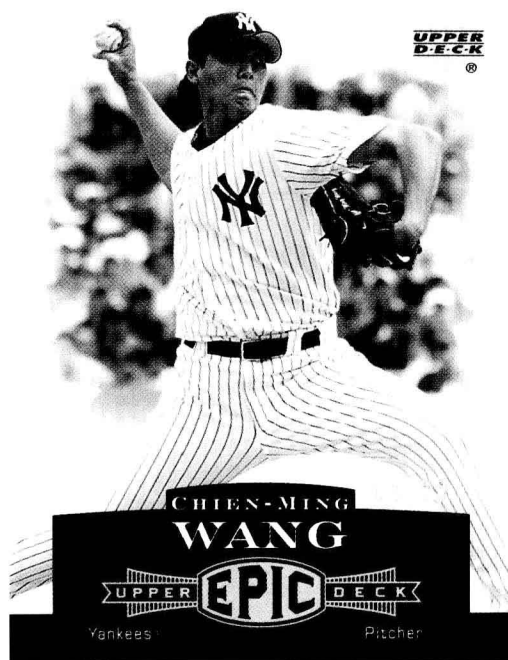
In baseball, there is a saying: “Good hitting wins games. Good pitching wins championships.” Every team hopes to win the World Series. **To do so**, they need pitchers like Chien-Ming Wang. He’s one of the game’s very best.

Wang was born on March 31, 1980 in Tainan, Taiwan. As a young man, he was already an **excellent** pitcher. In 2002, he played for Taiwan at the Asian Games. Then, in 2004, he was **part of** Taiwan’s Olympic team. **Finally**, in 2005, Wang got his **chance** to play for the New York Yankees.

In his first season with the Yankees, Wang played very well. He had a record of 8 wins and only 5 losses. The next year, Wang had a great season, winning 19 games. Then, in 2007, he won 19 games again! Very few pitchers ever win that many games in a season. Doing so two years in a row is incredible.

In Taiwan, Wang is a **real hero**. Millions of people watch him play on TV. Also, because of him, New York Yankees hats and shirts are very big sellers.

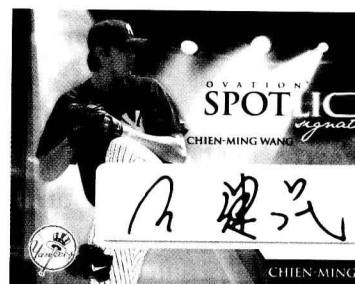
Chien-Ming Wang’s **fans** and teammates **expect** great things from him. They **hope** to see him win many World Series championships. **In fact**, Wang’s last name means “king.” He truly is a king of pitching!



Questions about the Reading

Choose the best answer.

1. () How old was Chien-Ming Wang when he pitched for Taiwan's Olympic team?
 - (A) 20 years old
 - (B) 22 years old
 - (C) 24 years old
 - (D) 25 years old
2. () What is true about Wang's second season with the Yankees?
 - (A) He won more games than any other pitcher.
 - (B) He won fewer games than in 2007.
 - (C) He won more games than in his first season.
 - (D) He won as many games as in 2005.
3. () What is suggested about winning 19 games?
 - (A) Many pitchers win that many games every year.
 - (B) It's difficult to win 19 games in one season.
 - (C) In 2005, no pitcher won that many games.
 - (D) No Yankee player has ever won so many games.
4. () What does the word *record* in line 8 mean?
 - (A) win vs. loss amount
 - (B) best mark ever
 - (C) note written down
 - (D) copy of something
5. () According to the article, what do Wang's teammates dream he will do?
 - (A) Lead them to championships
 - (B) Win 19 games every season
 - (C) Help them sell many shirts
 - (D) Make them as popular as he is



Writing about the Article

Answer each question based on the article.

1. Why do baseball teams need good pitchers?

Good pitchers help teams

2. When did Chien-Ming Wang start pitching for the Yankees?

He started pitching

3. How do people in Taiwan feel about Chien-Ming Wang?

Many people feel he

Vocabulary Building

Choose the best word to fill in each blank.

- After we waited for him for five hours, Bob _____ arrived.
(A) only (B) finally (C) truly (D) already
- Many sports _____ like to collect cards of their favorite players.
(A) seasons (B) games (C) records (D) fans
- Is that photograph of you with Michael Jordan _____? I can't believe you met him!
(A) young (B) real (C) great (D) first
- People are calling the firefighter a _____. He saved a little girl's life.
(A) team (B) hero (C) loss (D) championship
- This restaurant is very expensive. Of course, we _____ great service.
(A) expect (B) win (C) play (D) hope
- Hisano is a(n) _____ student. She does well in all her classes.
(A) excellent (B) big (C) last (D) well
- Before the game, I was lucky to have a _____ to meet some players.
(A) record (B) seller (C) year (D) chance
- My birthday party is next week. I _____ you will come.
(A) hope (B) mean (C) need (D) watch

Phrase Building

Write the correct phrase in each blank.

- ☐ part of
 ☐ in fact
 ☐ even better
 ☐ to do so



Morris Advertising has a famous sports department. Getting a job there is not easy. _____, it's one of the hardest jobs to get in the advertising business. Just getting an interview with the department manager is hard. _____, you have to send him 10 examples of your previous ad work. If the manager likes what he sees, he will call you for an interview. It's a lot of trouble, but it's worth it. Being a _____ the Morris team is every advertiser's dream.

Grammar Exercise

Because vs. Because of

Complete each sentence with *because* or *because of*.

Example: _____ the bad weather, the game was canceled.

Answer: *Because of* the bad weather, the game was canceled.

1. I can't buy it _____ it's too expensive.
2. She left _____ she was tired.
3. I was late _____ the heavy traffic.
4. _____ the building's rules, I can't raise a dog or cat.
5. _____ his computer wasn't working, he couldn't send you an e-mail.

Listening Exercise



Track 2

Listen to the conversation. Then, answer the following questions.

1. () How does the man feel about the game?
 - (A) He thinks it was too long.
 - (B) He thinks it ended very late.
 - (C) He thinks it was boring.
 - (D) He thinks it was interesting.
2. () Where did the woman watch the game?
 - (A) At a restaurant
 - (B) At her house
 - (C) At a stadium
 - (D) At a bar
3. () What does the man want to do?
 - (A) Get something to eat now
 - (B) Play baseball with his friends
 - (C) Find a quiet place that shows games
 - (D) Watch a game with the woman

Listening Activity



Track 3

Listen to the report. Then, fill in the information in the chart.

1. Which team won the game?	
2. What was the final score?	
3. How many hits did the Angels have?	
4. How many games may Wang win?	
5. What is the most important thing for Wang's team?	

答案: Unit 1: Chien-Ming Wang

Questions about the Reading

1. C
2. C
3. B
4. A
5. A

Writing about the Article

1. Good pitchers help teams win the World Series.
2. He started pitching for the Yankees in 2005.
3. Many people feel he is a real hero.

Vocabulary Building

1. B
2. D
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. A
7. D
8. A

Phrase Building

In fact
To do so
part of

Grammar Exercise

1. because
2. because
3. because of
4. Because of
5. Because

Listening Exercise

1. D
2. A
3. D

Listening Activity

1. the Yankees
2. 8 to 1
3. 4
4. 20
5. winning the World Series

2 Internet Communities

Reading Passage



Track 4

At its heart, the Internet is about communication. Most people use the Net to meet new friends and **stay in touch** with old ones. Over the years, whole new communities have grown online. For millions of people, belonging to an Internet community is very important to their lives.

Since the Internet's early years, many websites have **included** forums. People join forums to **discuss hobbies** and subjects which interest them. Besides posting public **messages**, **members** can **contact** friends through PMs (**private** messages).

In the mid-2000s, "social networking" sites like MySpace and Facebook grew

very quickly. On these sites, members each have a page to introduce themselves and blog about their lives. Photos, music, and videos can be added. And, people can leave comments on their friends' pages.

These sites are very popular. MySpace has more than 100 million members.

Many people spend several hours a day on the site. Updating a blog and **keeping up with** friends' pages takes a lot of time!

That worries some people. Is it **healthy** to spend so much time online? There are also questions about safety. What kinds of details should people post about their lives? These are not easy questions, and we're still **figuring out** the answers.



communication 交流; 交际
networking 社交; 交友

community 社区
update 更新

Questions about the Reading

Choose the best answer.

1. () According to the article, what is key to the Internet?
 - (A) Allowing people to contact one another
 - (B) Making it easy to buy whatever you want
 - (C) Reading the latest news right after it happens
 - (D) Learning about new hobbies and subjects
2. () What does the article suggest about Internet forums?
 - (A) They have only just become popular over the last year.
 - (B) They are a part of very few websites.
 - (C) They include public and private ways to communicate.
 - (D) They are usually visited by people at work.
3. () What is NOT something people can do on Facebook?
 - (A) Look for jobs
 - (B) Write about daily activities
 - (C) Upload personal photos
 - (D) Add songs to a page
4. () Why are some people worried about MySpace?
 - (A) The site owners make people post personal details.
 - (B) It is more popular than Facebook.
 - (C) Members sometimes spend a lot of time on the site.
 - (D) Not enough people have joined up.
5. () What does the phrase *belonging to* in line 3 mean?
 - (A) owning something
 - (B) being part of
 - (C) making sure of
 - (D) finding out about



Writing about the Article

Answer each question based on the article.

1. What do people discuss on forums?

People write about _____

2. On social networking sites, what can people do on friends' pages?

People can leave _____

3. How many members does MySpace have?

The website has _____

Vocabulary Building

Choose the best word to fill in each blank.

- That's a(n) _____ letter. I doubt your sister wants you to read it.
(A) healthy (B) popular (C) easy (D) private
- Once a month, _____ of the movie club see a movie together.
(A) comments (B) members (C) blogs (D) subjects
- If you have free time, I'd like to _____ an important matter with you.
(A) discuss (B) introduce (C) spend (D) add
- Building model planes is my oldest _____. I built my first one 10 years ago.
(A) detail (B) answer (C) hobby (D) heart
- Jack wasn't at the office, so I left a _____ with one of his colleagues.
(A) message (B) forum (C) subject (D) site
- Does the set meal _____ a dessert?
(A) belong (B) leave (C) join (D) include
- Are you sure it's _____ to live next to a highway? There's so much air pollution.
(A) old (B) early (C) public (D) healthy
- If you need to _____ me, call me on my cell phone.
(A) interest (B) contact (C) post (D) worry

Phrase Building

Write the correct phrase in each blank.

- ☐ keep up with
 ☐ stay in touch
 ☐ figure out
 ☐ belong to

This summer, I'll stay at my uncle's house in the countryside. I'm used to going online every day, but he doesn't have a computer. How am I going to _____ with my friends? We only chat online, so calling them on the phone won't work. Plus, I'm not sure how I'll _____ all the sports news. I guess I can watch the TV news or read the newspaper. Well, I need to _____ something soon, since I'm leaving next week!



Grammar Exercise

Adjective Clauses

Fill in each blank with *who*, *which*, or *where*.

Example: It's the town _____ I grew up.

Answer: It's the town *where* I grew up.

1. Barry is my friend _____ works at IBM.
2. This is the key _____ opens the front door.
3. Is that the building _____ you live?
4. Here are several books _____ you should read.
5. People _____ exercise a lot are usually healthy.

Listening Exercise



Track 5

Listen to the conversation. Then, answer the following questions.

1. () How does the woman feel about MySpace?
 - (A) It's a little confusing.
 - (B) It's not hard to use.
 - (C) It's a very limited service.
 - (D) It's only for young people.
2. () Why doesn't the man have a MySpace account?
 - (A) He is not skilled at using computers.
 - (B) All of the instructions are in English.
 - (C) The woman won't teach him how.
 - (D) His digital camera is broken.
3. () What is the man interested in doing?
 - (A) Keeping a blog
 - (B) Chatting with friends
 - (C) Sending messages
 - (D) Sharing photos

Listening Activity



Track 6

Listen to the man. Then, fill in the information in the chart.

1. What kind of account did Rebecca get?	
2. How many friends does she want?	
3. What did Rebecca ask her brother to do?	
4. What does the man do on Wednesdays?	
5. What does the man like to do on weekends?	

答案: Unit 2: Internet Communities

Questions about the Reading

1. A
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. B

Writing about the Article

1. People write about hobbies and subjects which interest them.
2. People can leave comments on their friends' pages.
3. The website has more than 100 million members.

Vocabulary Building

1. D 2. B
3. A 4. C
5. A 6. D
7. D 8. B

Phrase Building

stay in touch
keep up with
figure out

Grammar Exercise

1. who
2. which
3. where
4. which
5. who

Listening Exercise

1. B 2. A 3. D

Listening Activity

1. a Facebook account
2. 200
3. join Facebook
4. He has classes.
5. He likes going to the beach.

Console Gaming 3

Reading Passage



Track 7

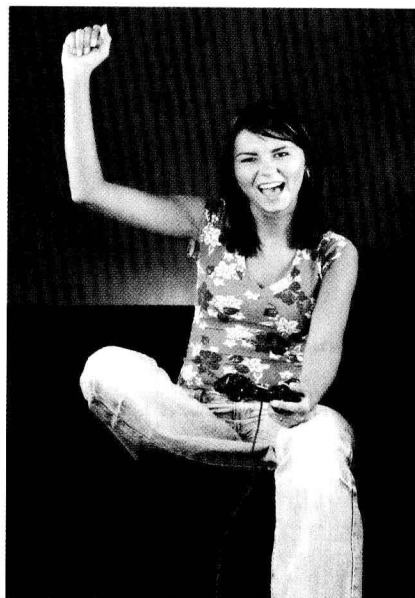
Video games aren't just for children **anymore**. The \$30 billion **industry** now **attracts** people of all ages. At the center of the industry are console machines. They can be found in millions of living rooms around the world.

In the past, console machines from companies like Atari and Sega were very **simple**. They could only play games. Today's machines are **along the lines of** home **entertainment** centers. Besides playing games, you can use them to look at photos, watch movies, and surf the Internet.

There are now three main companies making console machines: Sony, Microsoft, and Nintendo. Sony's PS3 and Microsoft's XBOX 360 **focus on** power and graphics. Serious video game players love the fast action and the look of the games. They also enjoy playing against other gamers **online**.

Nintendo's Wii focuses on fun and easy-to-play games. It also has a special controller. To play many games, you wave it around. For example, with Wii Tennis, you **swing** the controller like a tennis racket. Many people hold "Wii parties" at their homes, with friends **coming over** to play games together.

Millions of each of these systems have been sold. Over time, they'll surely bring us more **exciting** games and interesting features.



billion 十亿; 十亿的
graphics 图片; 图像

surf the Internet 网上冲浪; 上网; 浏览网站
feature 特点; 特色

Questions about the Reading

Choose the best answer.

1. () What is the main idea?
 - (A) Sega used to make simple video game machines.
 - (B) Future console machines will be very powerful.
 - (C) Video games now reach a very wide market.
 - (D) Children love playing games in their free time.
2. () What were early console machines (such as Atari) like?
 - (A) They acted as home entertainment centers.
 - (B) They did a great job with online gaming.
 - (C) They cost much more than today's machines.
 - (D) They were very limited in their features.
3. () How is the Wii different from other modern gaming systems?
 - (A) The system has a stronger focus on graphics.
 - (B) Gamers feel it is the most powerful system.
 - (C) Its games are not as difficult to learn to play.
 - (D) It is the only system with sports games.
4. () What is NOT a feature of today's console machines?
 - (A) Going online to visit different sites
 - (B) Working on school and office tasks
 - (C) Playing against others on the Net
 - (D) Using the machine to view photos
5. () What does the word *serious* in line 10 mean?
 - (A) passionate
 - (B) honest
 - (C) unsmiling
 - (D) important



Writing about the Article

Answer each question based on the article.

1. How much is the video game industry worth?

The industry is _____.

2. Who are the major console machine makers?

The three major _____.

3. What do people do at Wii parties?

At Wii parties, _____.