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■ 丛书主编 林汝昌

CENTURY ENGLISH
READING BASIC COURSE

世纪英语 阅读基础教程

■ 主 编 胡艳芬

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中南大学出版社

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世纪英语阅读基础教程③

主 编 胡艳芬

☐责任编辑 谢贵良

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Unit
1

Spare the Rod but Don't Spoil the Child's Life if You Truly Care

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1



East or west, home is best.

Part One

A First Look

● Look and say

Directions: Look at the picture carefully and then discuss the questions with your partner.



Questions for Discussion



1. What happens in this picture?
2. Is there any generation gap between you and your parents?
3. How to improve the relationship between parents and their children in your opinion?

● Reading the Passage

Directions: Read the following passage in 8 minutes and try to get the main idea through your reading.

Spare the Rod but Don't Spoil the Child's Life if You Truly Care

- 1 When you read about crowds of teenagers waiting all night at an airport to welcome pop-stars home, or about the increasing numbers of all-night parties frequented by young folk, don't you wonder why parents allow this behaviour?
- 2 Many of these boys and girls blackmail by declaring: "I'll run away if I can't go," or "All the other parents let their kids go." Others beg: "Let me go this once, Mother," so you're tempted to abandon your principles temporarily. Next time, you're cajoled: "You allowed me to go last week," —so you weaken again.
- 3 "I can always tell which youngsters have no discipline at home," said a schoolmaster. "These children don't want to obey our rules either, so they are frequently in trouble."
- 4 Many parents expect to be regarded as friends and contemporaries by their offspring, but young folk prefer authoritative parents. One 15-year-old girl said: "I don't know what's right; often I wish my parents would tell me what time to come in at night, instead of simply moaning when I'm late."
- 5 School-children now have comparatively few years of carefree happiness. Forced to adult-awareness before their time, by continual sex-propaganda from television, films, records and magazines, they are anxious to find a "steady" boy or girl-friend.
- 6 Numbers of girls are marrying at 16 or 17, sacrificing the wonderful early years by accepting the heavy responsibilities of grown-ups too soon. One girl told me: "I was too young to know my own mind..."
- 7 The youngsters are often not sufficiently mature or experienced to cope with personal relationships, while financial problems can destroy young love rapidly.
- 8 Parents should encourage their children to entertain their friends at home sometimes, but they should also be taught to respect the neighbours and other members of their own family.
- 9 A friend grumbled recently: "My children will never come for meals when they're called" —but this was her fault. Had she taught them to be well-mannered during their early childhood?
- 10 Parents must insist on punctuality, tidiness, and courtesy from their children; for if they are not polite at home, why should they act differently outside?
- 11 Should we grant permission lightly for our young daughters to holiday alone with their boyfriend? Why are we afraid to say "No"? Are we wise to permit our children to "dodge" all the household chores? They gain experience by tackling jobs in the home.
- 12 If a teenager suggests: "I'm going to buy a stereogram on hire-purchase," Why doesn't his father act firmly and refuse to sign the agreement? Far better to explain the pitfalls of the system, then advise the youngster to wait and save up his money to buy the article outright.
- 13 With diminishing parental control, many of our youngsters are reaching maturity without learning the hard lessons of life. And having had their own way too often, they are unable and



unwilling to accept with equanimity the inevitable reverses in later life.

14 Though we spare the rod nowadays, don't let us spoil the child.

(516 words)

● Words and Expressions

blackmail ['blækmeil] *vt.* to put under pressure to do something, to extract money from somebody
by threatening to make public damaging information 敲诈, 勒索

beg [beg] *vt.* ask in a humble way 恳求, 请求

cajole [kə: 'dʒəʊl] *vt.* to persuade by praise or deceit 哄骗

offspring ['ɒfsprɪŋ] *n.* children 子孙, 后代, 孩子

folk [fəʊk] *n.* informal people (非正式) 人们

grumble ['grʌmbl] *vi.* to complain in a sullen, bad-tempered way 埋怨, 发牢骚

tidiness ['taɪdɪnis] *n.* ability to keep material things neat and in order 整洁

courtesy ['kə: təsi] *n.* politeness 礼貌

dodge [dɒdʒ] *vt.* (coll.) avoid by using tricks or by cunning (口) 推托

hire-purchase [haie 'pə: tʃəs] *n.* purchase by instalments, (a number of sums of money to be paid
at intervals) 分期付款购买法

pitfall ['pɪtfɔ: l] *n.* traps, unexpected dangers 隐藏着的危险

outright ['aʊtraɪt] *adv.* not by instalments, at once, right away 立刻地

equanimity [i: kwə 'nɪmɪti] *n.* calmness of mind 沉着, 平静, 镇定

rod [rɒd] *n.* a long, straight, thin piece of wood or metal, a stick used for punishment (惩罚时用
的) 棍棒

● Phrases

in trouble in danger, in a difficult or dangerous state 处于困境中

instead of in place of 代替..., 而不是……

cope with deal with, manage, 对付, 妥善处理

insist on declare firmly, esp. in the face of doubt or opposition 坚持宣称; 坚持认为

● Cultural Hints

Parents' attitude towards their children in the US In the United States, parents can be divided into two groups—the New Breed and the Traditionalists. A recent study found that 43% of the parents belong to the New Breed. They stress freedom over authority and duty to self over duty to others—including their own children. The study found that New Breed parents are loving but self-oriented, and they take a carefree attitude to their own child rearing, saying that “I want to be free, so why shouldn't my children be free? Traditionalists—the 57% of parents committed to stricter child rearing and older American values—implicitly say to their children, “We will sacrifice for you and be repaid by your success and sense of obligation.” But the New Breed parents say to their sons and daughters, “We will not sacrifice for you, because we have our own lives to lead. But when you are

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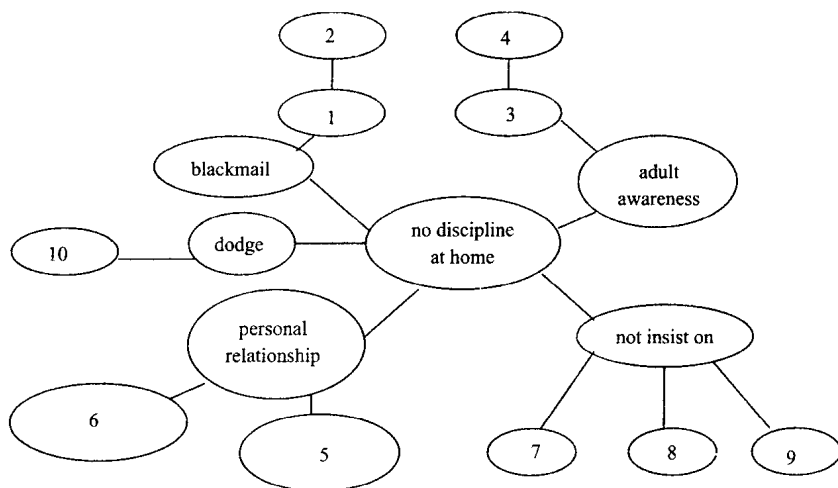


grown, you owe us nothing .” Nowadays, with the changing of the society, Traditionalists are less willing to make sacrifices for their children than their parents were and some of them even agree with the New Breeders that unhappy parents should not remain married simply for the sake of the children.

美国父母对孩子的态度 在美国，父母对待儿童的态度可分为两种：一为新一代的父母，一为传统型的父母，其中 43% 居前者，57% 居后者。新一代的父母强调自我的发展，对孩子采取放任自流的态度，认为“自己既然要追求自由，为何自己的孩子不能自由？”；而传统的父母对孩子的管教较为严格，强调传统的美国价值观，认为现在为孩子们作出牺牲，待孩子成功时得到回报。不过近年随着社会的发展，持传统观点的父母已开始不像当年他（她）们的父母那样肯为孩子们作出牺牲了。一些人已倾向同意新一代父母的观点，认为如果父母婚姻不幸，不必为了孩子而保持不愉快的婚姻。

● Vocabulary Map

① **Directions:** The following vocabulary map may help you form a schema on the main idea of the passage. Fill in the map with what you think suitable according to the passage.



② **Directions:** State the main idea of the text on the basis of the vocabulary map. You may begin with the sentence given.

Growing up is easier when there are guidelines to follow. _____



● Reading Comprehension

Directions: Read the passage again and choose the best answer for each of the following items.

- Teenagers are waiting for _____ all night at an airport?
A. film stars B. friends C. family members D. pop-stars
- Which of the following ways used by teenagers to meet their demands is not mentioned in the text?
A. Threat. B. Begging. C. Discussion. D. Cheat.
- Young people prefer _____ parents in the author's opinion.
A. friendly B. authoritative C. generous D. democratic
- School-children are forced to have adult-awareness before their time by _____.
A. school education B. parents' behavior
C. continual sex-propaganda from different media
D. public opinion
- Parents must insist on punctuality, tidiness and _____ from their children.
A. politeness B. modesty C. honesty D. bravery

● Vocabulary and Structure

① **Directions:** Complete the table with missing members of the word-families.

Verb	Adjective	Noun
weaken		
	authoritative	
encourage		
		permission
act		

② **Directions:** Fill in the following blanks with the proper form of the words listed below.

spare	blackmail	frequently	prefer
anxious	entertain	alone	outright
inevitable	maturity		

- She _____ guests with refreshments.
- He went to the hospital to visit the patient _____.
- I'm _____ to know who is the winner.
- His _____ gives us a deep impression.
- Tom was accused of _____.
- Mary stayed home _____, but she didn't feel lonely.
- Failure is _____ to him because of his laziness.



8. He could have _____ the explanation.
9. The intruding plane was shot down _____.
10. The hero _____ death to surrender.

③ **Directions:** Complete the following sentences by using the given phrases.

1. He is willing to _____ (帮助那些处于困境的人). (in trouble)
2. They _____ (被认为是最有希望的足球运动员). (regard as)
3. She _____ (没乘公共汽车而是步行到那里去的). (instead of)
4. The child _____ (不知道如何应付那种复杂局面). (cope with)
5. We _____ (坚持自力更生). (insist on)

Part Two

Look Again

● Timed Reading (1)

Directions: Try to finish reading the following passage in 8 minutes and then do the exercises.

Is Your Child a Bully?

Tom was eight, and a bully (恶霸). He picked on other children in the playground, spoilt their games and, sometimes, hit them. He was a big boy, and the other children were afraid of him. His mother wouldn't believe me when I told her about Tony's behaviour at school. "He's such a good boy at home," she said.

What made Tony into the playground menace (威胁)? There were two reasons for his behaviour: one to do with school, and the other concerning his home.

At school, Tony could hardly read; his reading age was at the six year level. He felt ashamed and very frustrated about his lack of reading skills—particularly since most of the children he knew were better readers than he was. Tony was compensating for his own inadequacy by using physical strength to assert himself, this was to make him look big when, inside himself, he felt small.

Tony was frustrated at home, as well as at school. He had an older brother, Patrick, who teased (戏弄) him by taking away his comics and toys and generally making his life a misery. When I asked their mother what she did about Patrick's behaviour she said: "It annoys me so much, I just lose my temper and hit him."

By using physical punishment to stop Patrick's victimization (欺骗) of Tony, she was really sending out a message, loud and clear, to both boys: it's all right to be a bully, but made sure you are bigger than anyone else.

Tony was in a perfect learning situation to become poor, quiet Tony at home (where he was the little innocent) and Tony the menace in school where his real feelings of desperation (绝望) expressed themselves. He had become two different personalities.



So how was Tony helped? First, he was given extra reading lessons and extra attention in school. He was made responsible for ringing the bell at break time, and for looking after the Nature Table in the classroom. The headmistress, crafty soul, made him a “playground monitor” with the duties of seeing that none of the smaller children were knocked about at playtime. “I’m relying on you,” she told him. He was given responsibility.

He was also chosen to act the part of Goliath in the school play. The script was altered so that Goliath came over as very strong, but very kind. “You are a soldier, but you’re very gentle,” the headmistress told Tony. Tony was very good in the play, and he began to get the new message: it’s possible to be strong without being a bully.

Tony soon learned to read. I made a book for him about giants, and Father Christmas, and a schoolboy hero called—you’ve guessed—Tony. He made up some of the story himself and I taught him to recognize and build up the words as he went along, using large flashcards and felt-tip pens.

Tony never bullied again. I suspect that his mother was too indulgent (纵容的) towards both boys, and that to be given some responsibility and some self respect was all that was needed to cure Tony’s predilection (偏爱) for hitting smaller children.

(533 words)

● Reading Exercises

Directions: The following statements are all based on the passage you’ve just read. Decide whether they are true or false, put *T* for true and *F* for false in the space provided.

- _____ Tony was eight, and a good boy at school.
- _____ Tony’s behaviour at school was the same as that at home.
- _____ Tony’s reading age was lower than his actual age.
- _____ Patrick was friendly to his younger brother.
- _____ Patrick’s mother punished him because of his victimization of Tony.
- _____ One of the ways of helping Tony was to teach him differently.
- _____ The headmistress asked Tony to do a lot of things at school to punish him.
- _____ Tony succeeded in acting the part of Goliath in the school play.
- _____ Tony never bullied again because he realized his own fault.
- _____ The mother’s indulgence towards her children brought about their bad behaviour in the author’s opinion.

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● Vocabulary Exercises

Directions: Choose the one that best completes each sentence.

- He _____ other children in the playground, spoilt their games and, sometimes, hit them.
A. picked up B. picked on C. picked out D. picked down
- He’s _____ good boy at home.
A. such B. so C. such a D. so a
- The story has to _____ the outstanding deeds of a model worker.





- A. do with B. do by C. do for D. do up
4. She always tells lies, I think what she said just now was _____ true.
A. really B. probably C. nearly D. hardly
5. I feel _____ that I have done so little for my family.
A. guilty B. ashamed C. sad D. anxious
6. Nancy is a good girl at home, _____ at school.
A. as well B. as good C. as good as D. as well as
7. His brother _____ his comics and toys secretly.
A. took away B. took in C. took on D. took over
8. Hard life drove the poor couple to _____.
A. disappointment B. sorrow C. desperation D. death
9. Tony protected the smaller children from _____ at playtime.
A. knocking down B. knocking over C. knocking out D. knocking about
10. He _____ some of the story himself.
A. made up of B. made out C. made up D. made over

● Timed Reading (2)

Directions: Read the following passage in 6 minutes and then do the exercises.

Trouble in the Family

I bumped into (偶然碰见) young Fiona the other day—not her usual cheerful self, by any means.

“Just walked down the road with my dad,” she said ruefully (悔恨地). “And, as usual, we fought all the way.”

Well, I’ve news for Fiona, and her dad.

Nothing is more natural.

Indeed, I’d go so far as to say if there are NO tensions in a family, something is wrong!

It’s a sign they either don’t care enough, or they’re building up pressure that will eventually explode.

Oh, I know there’s nothing more exasperating (使人恼怒的) for a mother than to see her teenage boy at loggerheads (不和, 相争) with Dad.

It’s as bad for Dad to see a teenage girl seemingly unable to hit it off with her mother.

It may comfort them to know teenage rebellion (反抗) is a sign of normality, not a sign they’ve failed as parents.

Changing standards always lead to family tension, too.

I honestly don’t think we can expect youngsters to stick to the rules our parents set for us.

Oh, yes, up to about the age of 12, you can impose your standards.

After that, wise parents know when to make a stand, and when to give way.

But nothing is more likely to send a teenager slamming out of the door than a parent who says, “In my young days. . .”

Mind you, modern life has its part to play in family tensions.

Families don't talk nearly so much as they used to. If someone tries, the rest say, "Sssshhh — we can't hear the TV!"

Oddly enough, all these extramural (校外的) activities at school, &c., tend to rob family life of some of its togetherness.

Visits to concerts, swimming baths, and so on, were once family things. Now, more and more, our leisure is organized for us.

The Sunday afternoon walk used to be a ritual (仪式) with many a family.

That hour, when a family had time to take their time, to talk over their problems, to meet other folk who were also out as families.

I reckon it did more than we'll ever realize to dissolve (使终结) tensions.

D'you know one of the best remedies for coping with family tension?

Two words. "I'm sorry."

It's amazing how hard some folk find them to say. They think it implies weakness or defeat.

Nothing of the kind. Exactly the opposite, in fact.

(395 words)

● Comprehension Exercises

Directions: Choose the best answer from the four choices based on the passage you've just read.

- Fiona looked unhappy the other day because she was at loggerheads with _____.
A. her mother B. her father C. her brother D. her friend
- In the author's opinion, tensions in a family are _____.
A. serious B. terrible C. avoidable D. inevitable
- Up to about the age of _____, you can impose your standards on your children.
A. 10 B. 11 C. 12 D. 13
- _____ has its part to play in family tensions.
A. Modern life B. Individual difference
C. External influence D. Social development
- Which of the following were once family things?
A. Visits to concerts. B. Swimming baths. C. Sunday afternoon. D. All the above



● Translation

Directions: Translate the following sentences from Chinese into English.

- 处于困境的人应相信自己能摆脱困境。(in trouble)

2. 她被认为是全班最勤奋的学生。(regard as)
3. 那不但没有减弱反倒增强了我们的勇气。(instead of)
4. 他能妥善处理自己的全部工作。(cope with)
5. 他坚决认为自己无罪。(insist on)

● Writing

① **Directions:** *Reorganize the following sentences so that they form a coherent (连贯) paragraph.*

1. People did not live in well-built houses where doors could be locked.
2. How did this influence the way people felt about home?
3. Enemies could attack you and kill or rob you, and you had little protection against them.
4. In the old days, life was difficult.
5. They did not have the protection of an organized police force or telephones which could summon the police instantly.

② **Directions:** *For this part, you should write a composition entitled: **Education: Examination-oriented or Quality-oriented**? In 3 paragraphs, you should base your composition on the following outline. Write no less than 120 words.*

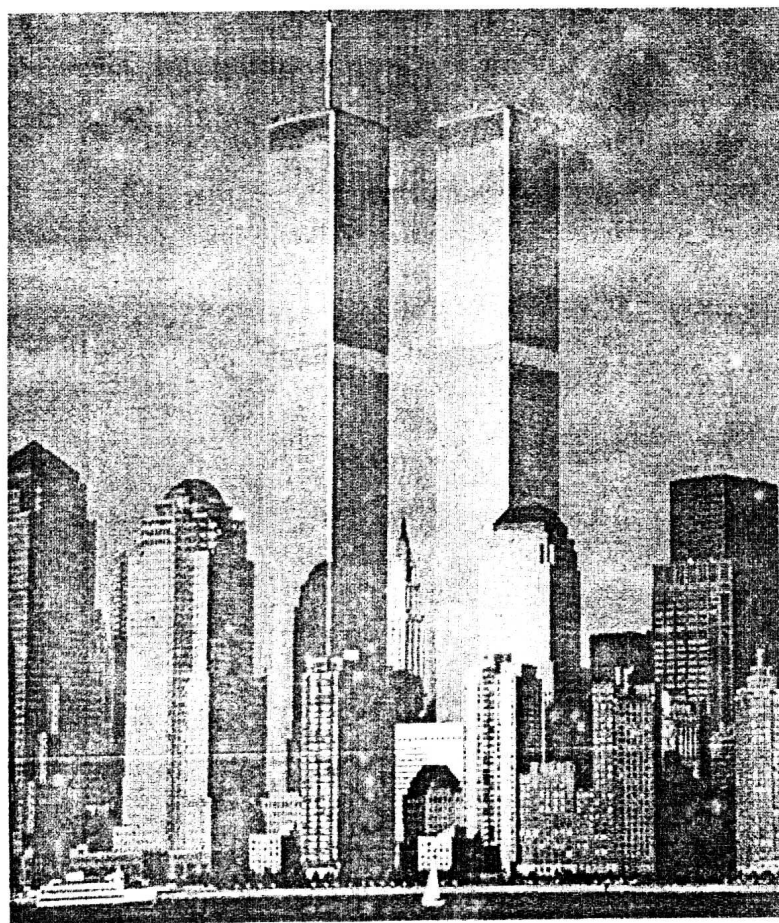
1. Nowadays all students are struggling for high scores.
2. The exam-oriented education should be replaced by quality-oriented education.
3. My comment is that we should quicken the transition from exam - oriented education to the quality-oriented education.



Unit
2

Sept. 11th Event

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12



A storm may arise from a clear sky—something unexpected may happen any time.

Part One

A First Look

● Look and say

Directions: Look at the picture carefully and then discuss the questions with your partner.



Questions for discussion

1. Have you ever heard of terrorism? What do you think was the most frightful terrorism?
2. Have you ever experienced any terrified accident?
3. Can you list some world tallest buildings?

