

修订版

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学生用书

高等学校教材（英语专业用）

交际英语教程 核心课程（三）

李筱菊 主编

COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH
FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

CORE COURSE 3
(UNITS 6—10)
(REVISED EDITION)

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上海外语教育出版社



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UNIT 6

GENERATIONS AND THE FAMILY

Prologue: The family album — listening & discussion

1 Discussion

1. Look at the drawings representing a family photograph album and discuss with your partner:

- the appearance of the people in the photographs
- the possible relationships between them

Useful phrases:

X and Y seem to be related.

X (is / looks) just like Y.

There's a very strong likeness between X and Y.

X bears a very strong resemblance to Y.

X takes after Y (more to do with personality than mere looks).

X has got his mother's eyes ...

X could be Y's (brother, mother, etc.)

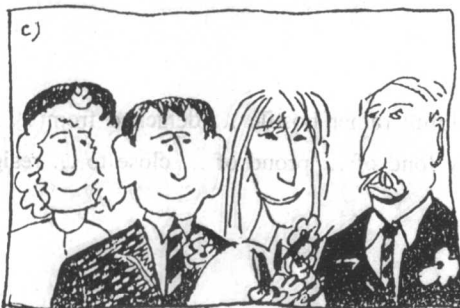
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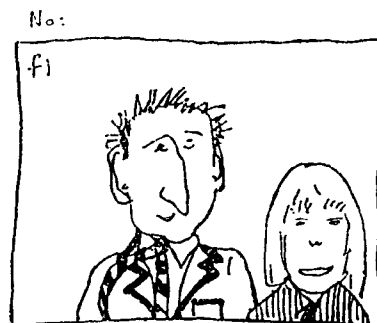
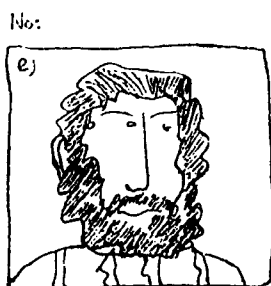


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2. Draw arrows between the different characters and write over each arrow the relationship you suppose they have.

e.g.

a $\xrightarrow{\text{brother of}}$ b

2 Listening

1. Now listen to a fairly typical sitting-room conversation in which the hostess is talking about the photos in her family album with a visiting friend.

Look at the drawing of the album and do the following tasks while you listen:

- 1) Number each photograph in the order it is mentioned.
- 2) Identify the speaker.
- 3) Name the characters.
- 4) Check to see if the relationships you guessed are correct.

Discuss your findings with your colleague.

e.g. "I thought the one with the moustache was the bride's brother, but, actually, it was her father.

It's funny; he didn't look old enough to be her father"[†]

2. Listen to the tape again in order to determine some of the attitudes suggested.

- 1) the speaker's attitude to her father
- 2) the speaker's attitude to her mother
- 3) the speaker's attitude to her grand-parents-in-law
- 4) the speaker's attitude to Christmas family reunions

(Here are some words and phrases that may be helpful: rather hostile ... detached from ... cool towards ... not very enthusiastic about ... extremely fond of ... proud of ... close to ... resigned to ... ironic about ...)

[†]By the way, do you know why the past tense is used here?

3. Specific questions

1) What does the speaker say about herself, her father and grandfather?

- a. They look like one another.
- b. They are all thorough-going.
- c. They all have the same nose.
- d. Her grandfather usually walks all the way home.

What are her exact words? _____

2) What does the speaker say about her grandfather and her mother?

- a. They live next door to each other.
- b. Her mother set her grandfather's house on fire.
- c. Her grandfather thought the worst of her mother.
- d. Her grandfather was very fond of her mother.
- e. They got on very well together.

What are her exact words? _____

3) What does the speaker imply when she refers to her son in the photo?

- a. He's always untidy in photographs.
- b. She put the wrong photo in the album by mistake.
- c. The members of her side of the family are usually smart.
- d. Her son looks just like his father.

What are her exact words? _____

4) What does the speaker say about her daughter?

- a. She has a rather unpleasant expression on her face.
- b. She is rather like her brother.
- c. She doesn't look like anyone else in the family.
- d. She is very strange to look at.

What are her exact words? _____

5) What does the speaker say about Jake?

- a. Her husband's family are not very proud of him.
- b. He has the darkest looks of anyone in the family.
- c. He upset his family by becoming a priest.
- d. He is very close to David's mother.

What are her exact words? _____

- 6) What does the speaker say about Brian and his father?
- Brian always follows his father around.
 - They are strikingly similar in looks.
 - They are strikingly similar in personality.
 - Brian lives just off the block where his father lives.

What are her exact words? _____

- 7) What does the speaker imply about her mother?
- She doesn't get on well with the speaker's husband.
 - She doesn't get on well with the speaker's mother-in-law.
 - She entertains others very well when there is a family reunion.
 - She tends to quarrel with the speaker's mother-in-law at family reunions.

What are her exact words? _____

After you've done task 3 perhaps you'd like to go back and improve some of your answers in task 2?

3 Discussion

Which of the characteristics of this family could be paralleled in some Chinese families today?

- "Black sheep" in the family.
- "Like father, like son."
- Small family reunions — uncles, aunts and cousins living too far away to see each other very often.
- Difficult relation — personality clashes between in-laws.

4 Follow-up

Bring into class a number of photographs (or a group photograph of a family). They may be members of your own family or a friend's or a relative's family.

Suppose an English friend is visiting your home and you are showing him/her these photographs. Discuss physical and personality similarities and differences, personal sympathies and conflicts, talents and professions, family reunions, special occasions, family anecdotes, etc.

Work in pairs. Change roles the second time.

I THE FAMILY IN CHINA

1 Different types of family — warm up

1. The terms below are commonly used in describing types of family.

the stem family

the nuclear family

the simple family

the joint family

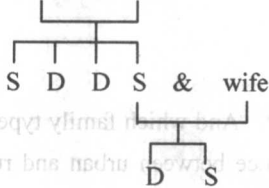
the extended family

the conjugal† family

1) In pairs, discuss what you think each means.

2) Label each of the family trees below with one of the family types.

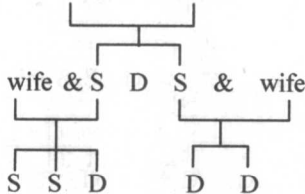
A. mother & father



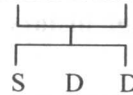
B. husband & wife



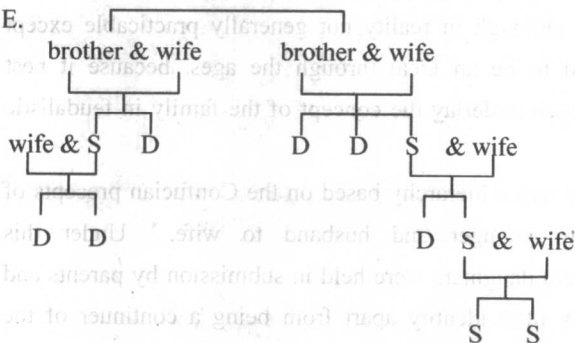
C. mother & father



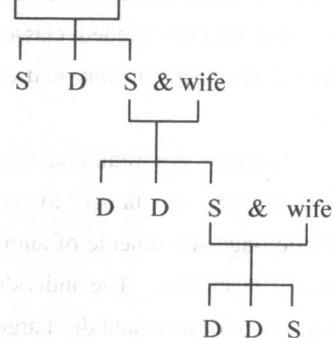
D. mother & father



E.



F. father & mother



† "Conjugal" means "of marriage".

2. Below are definitions of 3 types of family. Try to match them to the terms given in 1 above. Why do you think there are only 3 definitions for the 6 terms?

- a) — a household made up of husband and wife, and their unmarried children if any.
- b) — a household consisting of father and mother, no more than one married son and his wife, and other unmarried children if any; in some cases also a married grandson and his wife, and other unmarried grandchildren.
- c) — a household which includes brothers and their wives, and their children if any and, in some cases, their children's children, either married or unmarried.

3. What type of family do you belong to?

Do a survey in class to find out how many families of your classmates belong to each type. Fill in the blanks with the figures you find out:

nuclear/simple/conjugal families: _____

stem families: _____

extended/joint families: _____

Which is the most prevalent type among your classmates' families? And which family type do you think is the most prevalent in China today? Is there any difference between urban and rural areas? Or between the China of today and the China of two or three generations back?

2 The Chinese family through history — reading

Read the following passage and do the exercises.

The Chinese Family through History†

Historically, three basic types of families existed in China: the nuclear family, the stem family, and the extended family. The last of these, although in reality not generally practicable except among the wealthy landed classes, continued to be an ideal through the ages, because it best embodied the ideas of unity and continuity which underlay the concept of the family in feudalistic

5 China.

In structure, the traditional Chinese family was a hierarchy based on the Confucian precepts of the superiority of father to son, elder to younger and husband to wife. Under this generation-age-sex scheme of authority, sons and daughters were held in submission by parents and wives by husbands. The individual had very little identity apart from being a continuer of the
10 family line of descent and discharger of duties to the family.

† Based on Edgar Snow, *Red China Today*, New York, 1971 and Hugh D R Baker, *Chinese Family and Kinship*, Macmillan, 1979.

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hierarchy (6)
to be superior to (7)
father, son; elder, younger (7)
scheme of authority (8)
to hold in submission (8)
each individual having an identity (9)
to continue (9)
the family line of descent (9 – 10)
patriarchal despotism (11)
to put forward (11)
to put forth (13)
civil code (13)
to alter (14, 24)
male authority (14)
decrees (15)
legislation (15)
laws (16)
to promulgate (17)
to be enforced (18)
to go into effect (22)
change (24)
patriarchal supremacy (26)
to hold in subjection (28)
senior, junior (29)
hierarchical system (30)
to dominate (31)
to carry on (33)
the ancestral line of descent (33)

2. Use a phrase to give the main idea (topic) of each paragraph of the reading passage. For the 1st and 2nd paragraphs, optional answers are provided for you to choose from. For the 3rd, 4th and 5th paragraphs, you will have to give your own answer.

Paragraph 1:

- a. The ideas that underlay the concept of the feudalistic Chinese family.
- b. The concept of the family of feudalistic China.
- c. The three types of families in feudalistic China.
- d. The ideal type of family in feudalistic China.

Paragraph 2:

- a. The structure of the traditional Chinese family.
- b. The individual in the traditional Chinese family.
- c. Confucius's precepts as the basis of the traditional Chinese family.
- d. The generation-age-sex scheme of authority in the traditional Chinese family.

Paragraph 3:**Paragraph 4:****Paragraph 5:**

3. Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false. Read out (and explain if necessary) the exact part in the passage that gives support to your decision.
 - 1) The extended type of family was
 - a. the only type of family existing in old China.
 - b. considered to be the best form of family in old China.
 - c. found to be impracticable especially by the poorer classes in old China.
 - 2) Under the traditional family system in old China
 - a. members were ranked on a graded system.
 - b. women were considered inferior to men.
 - c. children had to obey parents.
 - d. brothers and sisters were all equal.
 - 3) In the traditional Chinese family
 - a. every individual could develop his or her personality.
 - b. the individual was required to put duties to the family above his or her personal rights.
 - c. the individual lived only for the purpose of performing duties to the family and carrying on the family line.
 - 4) The Taiping rebels
 - a. made the first attempts in history to change the feudalistic Chinese family system.
 - b. succeeded in making some changes in the feudalistic Chinese family system.

- 5) The Kuomintang
 - a. passed a law to change the feudalistic Chinese family structure.
 - b. put this law into effect.
 - c. did away with male supremacy in the Chinese family.
 - d. made sure that women had equal property and divorce rights with men.
 - 6) The first Marriage Law of the People's Republic
 - a. was put forth in 1950.
 - b. ran directly counter to the Kuomintang law.
 - c. was put into effect.
 - d. stated that marriage was a form of contract entered into voluntarily by husband and wife.
 - e. made it quite clear that husband and wife were equal.
 - f. stated that husband and wife were equally responsible for bringing up their children and supporting their old parents.
 - 7) The 1981 law
 - a. was just a reissue (重版) of the 1950 law.
 - b. lays more stress on the free will of both man and woman in marriage and in divorce.
 - 8) Changes in the Chinese family system were brought about
 - a. mainly by law.
 - b. by the land reform which distributed land equally to all members of a family.
 - c. by the abolition of private ownership of land and enterprises so that the male family head could no longer use property ownership to control other members of the family.
 - d. by both husband and wife going out to work and becoming economically equal.
 - 9) The policy of discouraging each family from having more than one child
 - a. is a government policy for controlling population.
 - b. helps the traditional functions of the family to be better fulfilled.
 - c. shatters the tradition of always requiring a male descendant (后代) to carry on the family line.
 - 10) The Chinese family of today
 - a. has completely discarded the old basis for the traditional Chinese family.
 - b. rests entirely on the same basis as the traditional Chinese family.
4. Fill in the following table to show the differences between the Chinese family of the past and that of today.

The Chinese family	size	structure	nature
of the past			
of today			

3 Problems with contemporary families — listening & speaking

3.1 CONVERSATION 1

- Listen to CONVERSATION 1 to find out:
 - Who you think the speakers are.
 - What problem they are talking about.
 - If the Chinese woman is happy with the work she does.
- Listen again more carefully and answer the following questions.
 - What “two jobs” does the Chinese woman do? Which of these jobs does she feel she does badly? In what way?
 - What particular difficulties does she mention in her “job” at home? Does her husband help? Is he very helpful?
 - Why doesn't she give up her “outside” job and stay at home?
 - The English woman makes some comparisons between married women in her country and in China. What differences does she mention?
 - What does the foreign woman suggest could be a solution to the problem of the working wife? Does the Chinese woman agree?
 - What are your opinions on the problem?