

中美生活：

閱讀十會話

顏元叔編著

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編 著 顏 元 叔

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MY BREAKFAST

For breakfast, I usually have rice *gruel* with *condiments* such as salted peanuts, *pickles*, *dried meat shreds*, or different kinds of preserved *bean curd*. But sometimes, instead of eating at home, I go to a little shop near my home where I eat a *cruller* placed inside a kind of cake, *topped* with *sesame seeds* called in Chinese, *burnt bun*. With it I drink a bowl of hot *soy bean milk*.

Sometimes my sister also eats at that shop. But she likes to eat the cruller wrapped up in a roll of sweet, *glutinous rice*, with *soybean milk*. Other customers at the shop eat *almond beancakes*, a fried egg pancake with chopped *green spring onions* in it, or a *crisp sweet cake* stuffed with sweet bean *mash*. Some people have big plain *steamed buns* called *mant'ou*, or steamed *dumplings* stuffed with meat or vegetables, called *bao dz*.

Occasionally, if I'm in a hurry, I'll just stop at a *bakery* on my way to school and buy a *roll* and a *carton* of milk. Then I eat and drink standing up before *rushing off* to *catch* my bus to school. I feel hungry again by ten in the morning and start thinking about lunch!

Worst of all is no breakfast at all. If I get up too late and don't have time, I go straight to school without eating anything! But I am so hungry I can't *concentrate* on my studies, and so the whole morning is *wasted*.

Vocabulary:

1. gruel ['gruel, 'gru:əl, 'gruɪl; 'gruəl] n. 稀飯。
2. condiment ['kɒndimənt; 'kandəmənt] n. 佐餐小菜。
3. pickle ['pɪkl; 'pɪkl] n. 醬菜。
4. dried [draɪd; draɪd] adj. 乾的。
5. shred [ʃred; ʃred] n. (肉) 鬆。
6. bean curd [bi:n; bin] [kə:d; kəd] n. 豆腐。
7. cruller ['krʌlə; 'krʌlə] n. 油條。
8. topped [tɒpd; tɒpd] p. p. 蓋在上面。
9. sesame seed ['sesəmi; 'sesəmi] [si:d; sid] n. 芝麻。
10. soy [sɔɪ; sɔɪ] n. 大豆。
11. bean [bi:n; bin] n. 豆。
12. glutinous ['glu:tɪnəs; 'glutɪnəs] adj. 黏性的。
13. almond beancake ['ʌmənd] [bin] [kek] 杏仁餅。
14. green spring onion [grɪn] [sprɪŋ] ['ʌnjən] 青蔥。
15. crisp sweet cake [krɪsp] [swɪt] [kek] 甜脆餅。
16. mash [mæʃ; mæʃ] n. (豆) 沙。
17. steam [sti:m; stim] v. 蒸。
18. bun [bʌn; bʌn] n. 小長形麵包。

19. dumpling ['dʌmplɪŋ; 'dʌmplɪŋ] n. 米糰。
20. bakery ['beɪkəri; 'bekəri] n. 麵包廠。
21. roll [roul; rol] n. 圓形小麵包。
22. carton ['kɑ:tən; 'kɑ:tn] n. 硬紙盒。
23. rushing off ['rʌʃɪŋ; 'rʌʃɪŋ] [ɔ:f; af] 跑走。
24. catch [kætʃ; kætʃ] v. 搭(車)。
25. concentrate ['kɒnsentreɪt; 'kɒnsn,tret] v. 集中(注意力)。
26. waste [weist; west] v. 浪費。

Idioms:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. to dress up | = to wear one's best clothing |
| 2. to call off | = to cancel |
| 3. to take place | = to happen; to occur |
| 4. to take it easy | = to relax; not to worry |
| 5. to give (someone) a hand | = to help (someone) |

CONVERSATION

Li-li : Oh, I'm so hungry! I missed breakfast this morning.

Ling-ling : Here, have some candy.

Li-li : Thanks. Oh, here comes the bus.

(Later)

Ling-ling : That bus was really crowded. Oh, there's a food stand. Maybe you could get something to eat before class.

Li-li : Oh, good. They've got glutinous rice.

Ling-ling : I think I'll have a steamed dumpling with sweet bean mash.

Li-li : And some hot soy bean milk.

Ling-ling : We'd better hurry, or we'll be late for school.

Li-li : Let's eat it on the way. We can pay for it and take it with us.

Ling-ling : Okay.

Li-li : I feel much better now. I hate to go without breakfast.

Ling-ling : Me too. What's your favorite breakfast?

Li-li : Rice gruel with peanuts, dried meat, and other condiments. How about you?

Ling-ling : Sometimes on Sunday we sleep late. Then our whole family goes out to a Cantonese breakfast.

Li-li : Oh, I like that too ! My favorite is the white turnip cakes. But we can't do that every day.

Ling-ling : No, and it's too much trouble to make those things at home.

Li-li : Talking about it makes my mouth water.

Ling-ling : Maybe after the final exam, during New Year vacations, we could get together with some of our classmates and go to one of those Cantonese restaurants.

Li-li : That would be something to look forward to.

Ling-ling : There goes the bell! We're just in time for class.

THE FAMILY

The Family

Did you see the television *program* called "Roots"? Do you know the meaning of "roots"? Roots is another way of saying "Family Tree." Many Americans are looking for their roots. Sometimes, though, it is very difficult to find who is in the family tree because the *ancestors* of most Americans came from other countries. For example, one person's mother may have ancestors from Germany while his father's relatives may be from England. If he cannot read German he may have a problem looking up his family tree. *In any case*, looking up the family roots is becoming more and more popular each year. Where are the roots of your family tree?

Family Reunions & Get-Togethers

America is a very wide country. One family's relatives may live in the East or South while others may live in the West or Mid-West. Still, relatives like to get together from time to time. Brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins,

nieces, nephews, and grandparents often gather for small family get-togethers on Christmas, *Thanksgiving*, the Fourth of July, and birthdays.

Some families have family reunions. Hundreds of relatives from all over the country may come. *Family reunions* take place about once every one to five years. Let's talk about family *get-togethers* and reunions in your country.

Baby-Sitters

If you get married and have children, can you still go on a date with your husband or wife? In some countries, mothers never leave their children, but in the U.S. many parents *hire* a *baby-sitter*. A baby-sitter is a person (usually a *teenager*) who watches the children when the parents are away. Usually the baby-sitter just watches TV while the children sleep.

A baby-sitter doesn't receive much money. Some people ask their mothers or mothers-in-law to *babysit* for *free*. When the children fight, cry, or wet their *diapers*, a baby-sitter cannot *relax*. Would you like to be a baby-sitter?

Vocabulary:

1. program ['prougræm; 'progræm] n. 節目。
2. ancestor ['ænsistə; 'ænsɛstə] n. 祖先。
3. In any case [in; ɪn] ['eni; 'ɛni] [keɪs; kes] 無論如何。
4. Thanksgiving ['θæŋks, gɪvɪŋ; ,θæŋks'gɪvɪŋ] n. 感恩節。
5. Family reunions ['fæmili; 'fæməli] ['ri: 'ju: njən; ri'junjən] 家庭團聚。
6. get-together ['gettu, gedə; 'gettu, gedə] n. 聚會。
7. hire ['haɪə; haɪr] v. 雇用。
8. baby-sitter ['beibi, sitə; 'bebi, sitə] n. 看管小孩的人。
9. teenager ['ti: n, eidʒə; 'tin, edʒə] n. 少年人。
10. babysit ['beibi, sit; 'bebi, sit] v. 看管小孩。
11. -for free [fɔ; fɒr] (fri:; fri) 免費。
12. diaper ['daɪəpə; 'daɪəpə] n. 尿布。
13. relax [ri'læks, ri'ræks] v. 休息。

Idioms:

1. to be on the house = to be free
2. to go Dutch = to pay separately
(each person pays his own)
3. to treat (someone) = to pay the bill (for someone else)
4. to eat out = to eat at a restaurant or drive-in
5. to hit the spot = to be perfect; to satisfy