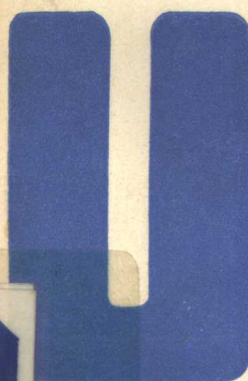
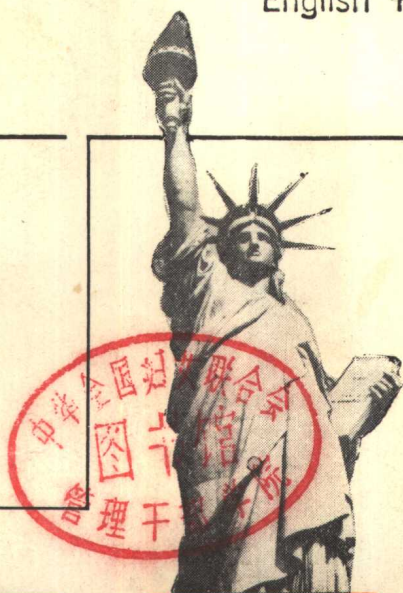


OUR CHANGING CULTURE

# 变化中的美国文化

English For Today (5)

(英汉对照)



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谭大立 毛四维 译

聂振雄 校订

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**Unit One**

**Changing Patterns of Behavior**

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*Lesson One*

## **Seeking Advice**

### **Letter 1**

Dear Ann Landers : You have made plenty of trouble for me and I want you to know it .It's hard enough to be a step-mother—now I've got double trouble because Ann Landers says, "A high school student should be able to date if she is dependable and has a sense of responsibility."

My step-daughter is in high school. She is only 14 but has the body of an 18-year old. The problem is she has the mind of a 10-year old. We have told her no dating in cars until she is 16.All hell broke out around here when your column appeared.

Thanks for nothing—Reader From The Old School

Dear O. S.: Go back and read my advice again. Then read it to your step-daughter. I said a high school girl who has integrity and a record of dependability should be permitted to date. According to your letter, that child



has neither. You're on solid ground, Mother. Don't let her beat you down.

## **Letter 2**

Dear Ann Landers: Is our daughter normal? Am I crazy or what? Linda is 16, doesn't lift a finger around the house, yells bloody murder if I misplace something that SHE should have put away. She has a tantrum if I don't have her blouses pressed in time. If I ask her to run an errand for me, she says I'm exploiting her. I'm exhausted and disgusted. What goes? —Beat Mom.

Dear Mom: Who raised that vegetable? When you plant onions, don't expect lilacs to bloom.

## **Letter 3**

Dear Ann Landers: I read the letter from the young woman who went to the funeral of her best friend and couldn't shed a tear. My heart went out to her, even though my problem is just the opposite.

I can cry if a girl I work with tells me she left her change purse in the ladies' room and it had \$2 in it. A sad movie starts me bawling so loud my husband has told me repeatedly, "If you don't cut that out, I'm going to move to another row and act like I don't know you."

I cry at weddings, bar mitzvahs, christenings, graduations and birthday parties. Every time I hear "God Bless America," tears run down my cheeks and I streak

my makeup.

Am I some kind of nut? Why do I feel everything so strongly? please explain, Ann. And if you print my letter in the paper, I just know I'll be so thrilled I'll bawl my head off. —Weepers Finders

Dear W. F.: Here's your letter. Now go get a handkerchief and wipe your eyes so you can read it.

You're in better shape than the woman who couldn't shed a tear at her best friend's funeral. Stop feeling embarrassed because you are a sensitive person and your emotions are close to the surface. What this world needs is more people who care and aren't ashamed to show it.

#### **Letter 4**

Dear Ann Landers: I'd like to delve further into your response: "Hard work never killed anybody." Maybe hard work never killed anybody, but it sure has destroyed a lot of marriages. The man who is obsessed with his job is just as hooked as the alcoholic, the junkie, or the compulsive gambler. The big difference is that the "work freak" is admired by society, considered a "go-getter." The other guys are considered "sick" or "bums."

Having followed your column for several years, I am well aware that you are a staunch supporter of the Work Ethic. From what I've heard, both you and your husband are extremely energetic and superachievers.

Well, not everybody possesses that kind of drive or wants that kind of life.

More and more marriages are breaking up because husbands are spending all their time and energy piling up money. The final battle cry of the driven loon is, "Look how hard I work to provide my family with something better! All I get is criticism." What he DIDN'T provide his family with was his presence when they needed him. sign me —Ex-wife.

Dear Ex: The man who puts in so many hours at his job that his family gets no time or attention is shortchanging them AND himself. Those dynamos pay a big price for their so-called success. Often they end up with a large net worth, a bleeding ulcer, and no relationship with a wife or child.

But not all work freaks fall into that category. Some (myself, for example) make plenty of time for family, friends, worthy causes, and fun travel. I enjoy the challenge, the excitement, and the opportunity for growth that my work provides. But I'm not actually working for the steak. It's the sizzle that fascinates me.

## **Letter 5**

Dear Ann Landers: I buried my husband yesterday. We were married for 23 years. My hand is not very steady but I must write this letter. Perhaps it is grief therapy for myself, but whatever the reason I hope you will not think I am out of my head.

Our marriage was what you might call "average." We had more than our share of arguments, but on balance we had more fun together than most couples our age. I am Italian and Bill was Irish. Maybe that explains a few things. Anyway, I loved him very much and I know he loved me.

We had an argument Wednesday night. It was a bitter quarrel and we both said things we shouldn't have. Thursday morning I fixed Bill a good breakfast but we didn't speak. I figured we'd patch things up at supper. That afternoon at 4 o'clock he was dead. It was a massive heart attack, his first. By the time I reached the hospital, he was gone.

Years ago you gave some advice on how to have a good marriage. You said, "Never go to bed mad." How I wish I had taken that advice. It's awful to know that our last words were angry ones.

I hope every married couple who reads this will ask themselves this question: "If I never see my beloved again, what were the last words we spoke to one another?" That's something to think about, isn't it?  
—Too Late For Me

Dear Friend: Yes, it is. And I thank you for starting a lot of people thinking. God bless you.

## Letter 6

Dear Abby: I think it's about time girls got over this ridiculous hangup of refusing to give a guy a goodnight

kiss. A goodnight kiss is just an expression of thanks. Why hurt a guy's feelings by turning him down?

There are all kinds of kisses. A goodnight kiss is one way of saying, "Thanks for taking me out and spending your hard-earned money on me." —A Sensitive Guy.

Dear Sensitive: Sorry, but I don't believe a girl should kiss a guy for taking her out and spending his hard-earned money on her. She might prefer to give him the cash and call it square.

A kiss should say, "I like you," not "Thank you."

## **Letter 7**

Dear Abby: On Christmas Day a relative with whom I had been on the outs for four years telephoned me and said, "There is no sense in our being mad at each other for the rest of our lives. Let's be friends again!"

I wept.

He later told me that he had been inspired to call me after reading in your column, "Call up an enemy today and bury the hatchet."

Thanks a million, Abby. —De Espana

Dear De: De nada!

## **Letter 8**

Dear Abby: My own tendency to be late was cured when

someone said that tardiness is the subtlest form of self-love and conceit—counting your time and convenience more important than another's.

Perhaps that is why the tardiness of my in-laws rankles me so. They are consistently late, a half hour to an hour and a half, even for a dinner when others are involved.

Don't suggest that I give them an earlier arrival time. One family member did this, and when it was discovered, retaliation set in.

How would you handle this? (Short of excluding these members from family gatherings.) —Offended and Baffled.

Dear O and B: Don't sweat it. Invite them only on those occasions when their late arrival will not inconvenience YOU!

### **Selection 9: Mr., Mrs., Miss—and Ms.**

1. MS? Isn't that the abbreviation for manuscript? As a matter of fact, it is. And *The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language* lists it as an abbreviation for "millisecond" as well in this era of precision and technology. What is it doing then in a series of familiar titles of address?

2. Generally pronounced /MIZ/, the term has been in use for some time in advertising and public-relations circles to avoid "mislabeling" women whose marital status is unknown. Since "Mrs." clearly indicates a

married woman and "Miss" an unmarried one, "Ms." it was felt, nicely avoided making any such distinction but still let it be known that the person so addressed was female. Since "Ms." has no spelled-out form ("Mr." and "Mrs." are both bona fide abbreviations, but "Ms." uses the period without being an abbreviation for anything), no plural, and (to date at least) no foreign-language equivalent, grammarians are having a hard time accounting for it.

3. Recently, the women's liberation movement adopted the designation as its own. Feminists feel that it is an invasion of their privacy to be obliged to indicate via the title "Mrs." or "Miss" whether or not they are married. A man, they argue, is always just plain, "Mr." Why shouldn't a woman have the same right to keep her marital status her own business? Often a woman is widowed or divorced anyway — technically single but still theoretically a "Mrs.," a situation that might perhaps be a source of confusion.

4. The term "Ms." has been struggling for wider acceptance during the last few years, and there are signs that it is finally becoming respectable. One woman member of the U. S. House of Representatives has managed to get the *Congressional Record* to list her as "Ms." Some state legislatures have introduced bills allowing women to use "Ms." when registering to vote. In February, 1972, the revised edition of the Government Printing Office style-book included "Ms." in its list of acceptable "prefixes."

5. Further indication of the widening application of

"Ms." is a monthly magazine which began publication in 1972. Its masthead bears the title *Ms.* No additional explanatory subtitle is provided. The magazine is written, edited, produced, and published by women, and it contains articles and features of interest to the "new generation" of feminists as well as to their male antagonists or supporters. So far in its young career, *Ms.* seems to be thriving.

6. With the flexible ways of the English language, it probably won't be too long before "manuscript" and "millisecond" have to move over to make way for a new dictionary definition. "Ms." will have scaled the heights of grammatical respectability.

## COMPREHENSION

### True-False Sentences

#### Letter 1

1. Ann Landers says that a high school girl should be able to date if she is dependable and responsible. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The step-daughter has a mature mind. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ann Landers agrees with the step-daughter. \_\_\_\_\_

### Yes-No Questions

#### Letter 2

Answer Yes or No. Quote a reason for your answer.

1. Does Linda help around the house? \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Does Linda force her Mom to wait on her? \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Does Linda readily agree to run errands for her Mom? \_\_\_\_\_.



## Contradiction and Comment

### Letter 3

These statements are incorrect. Reply negatively and then supply the correct information. (Number 1 is partly answered for you as an example.)

1. The letter writer only cries about important or serious things. No. She cries about \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Her husband approves of her crying. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. If the letter is printed in the newspaper, the writer says that she will be very unhappy and cry. \_\_\_\_\_.

## True-False Sentences

### Letter 4

According to the letter writer, are these statements true or false?

1. Hard work has destroyed marriages. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The work freak is similar to the alcoholic or gambler. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Ann Landers does not believe in hard work. \_\_\_\_\_

According to Ann Landers, are these statements true or false?

4. The man who works so hard that he has no time for his family is hurting them and himself. \_\_\_\_\_
5. All work freaks are alike. \_\_\_\_\_
6. She enjoys working hard, but she doesn't like steak. \_\_\_\_\_

## Or Questions

### Letter 5

1. Did the husband and wife have more arguments or more