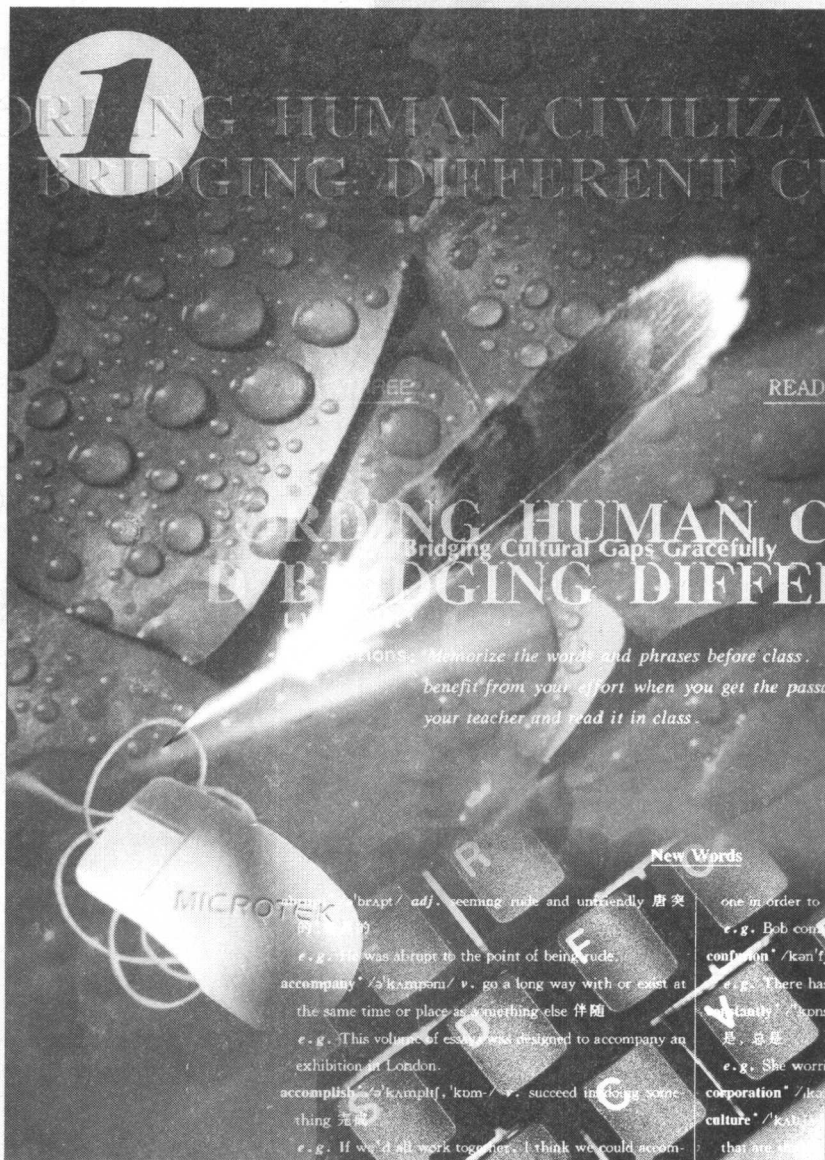


# 新编大学英语

NEW COLLEGE ENGLISH

活页

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## Unit 1 Love

### A Good Heart to Lean On

*More than I realized, Dad has helped me keep my balance.*

1 When I was growing up, I was embarrassed to be seen with my father. He was severely crippled and very short, and when we would walk together, his hand on my arm for balance, people would stare. I would be ashamed of the unwanted attention. If he ever noticed or was bothered, he never let on.

2 It was difficult to coordinate our steps—his halting, mine impatient—and because of that, we didn't say much as we went along. But as we started out, he always said, "You set the pace. I will try to adjust to you." 5

3 Our usual walk was to or from the subway, which was how he got to work. He went to work sick, and despite nasty weather. He almost never missed a day, and would make it to the office even if others could not. It was a matter of pride for him. 10

4 When snow or ice was on the ground, it was impossible for him to walk, even with help. At such times my sisters or I would pull him through the streets of Brooklyn, N. Y., on a child's sleigh to the subway entrance. Once there, he would cling to the handrail until he reached the lower steps that the warmer tunnel air kept ice-free. In Manhattan the subway station was the basement of his office building, and he would not have to go outside again until we met him in Brooklyn on his way home. 15

5 When I think of it now, I marvel at how much courage it must have taken for a grown man to subject himself to such indignity and stress. And I marvel at how he did it—without bitterness or complaint.

6 He never talked about himself as an object of pity, nor did he show any envy of the more fortunate or able. What he looked for in others was a "good heart", and if he found one, the owner was good enough for him. 20

7 Now that I am older, I believe that is a proper standard by which to judge people, even though I still don't know precisely what a "good heart" is. But I know the times I don't have one myself. 25

8 Unable to engage in many activities, my father still tried to participate in some way. When a local baseball team found itself without a manager, he kept it going. He was a knowledgeable baseball fan and often took me to Ebbets Field to see the Brooklyn Dodgers play. He liked to go to dances and parties, where he could have a good time just sitting and

watching.

30

9 On one memorable occasion a fight broke out at a beach party, with everyone punching and shoving. He wasn't content to sit and watch, but he couldn't stand unaided on the soft sand. In frustration he began to shout, "I'll fight anyone who will sit down with me! I'll fight anyone who will sit down with me!"

10 Nobody did. But the next day people kidded him by saying it was the first time any fighter was urged to take a dive<sup>1</sup> even before the bout began. 35

11 I now know he participated in some things vicariously through me, his only son. When I played ball (poorly), he "played" too. When I joined the Navy, he "joined" too. And when I came home on leave, he saw to it that<sup>2</sup> I visited his office. Introducing me, he was really saying, "This is my son, but it is also me, and I could have done this, too, if 40 things had been different." Those words were never said aloud.

12 He has been gone many years now, but I think of him often. I wonder if he sensed my reluctance to be seen with him during our walks. If he did, I am sorry I never told him how sorry I was, how unworthy I was, how I regretted it. I think of him when I complain about trifles, when I am envious of another's good fortune, when I don't have a "good heart". 45

13 At such times I put my hand on his arm to regain my balance, and say, "You set the pace. I will try to adjust to you." (703 words)

Time taken: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

### Proper Names

**Brooklyn** /'bru:klin/ 布鲁克林(美国纽约市的一个区)

**Dodgers** /'dɒdʒəz/ 一棒球队名(过去在布鲁克林,现已迁至洛杉矶市)

**Ebbets Field** /'ebəts/ 棒球场名

**Manhattan** /mæn'hætən/ 曼哈顿(美国纽约市的一个区)

## Quiz 1

1. Directions: *Choose the most appropriate word or phrase to complete each of the following sentences.*

- 1) When she's drunk, she's \_\_\_\_\_ of saying rude things.  
A. ashamed      B. independent      C. envious      D. capable
- 2) An argument \_\_\_\_\_ in the classroom between the children.  
A. broke out      B. broke off      C. broke in      D. broke through
- 3) The crowd cheered in \_\_\_\_\_ when the player caught the ball.  
A. recognition      B. appreciation      C. interaction      D. participation
- 4) Let's leave early, \_\_\_\_\_ we'll get stuck in a traffic jam.  
A. despite      B. otherwise      C. unless      D. so
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ hard he tries, he never seems to be able to do the work satisfactorily.  
A. Whatever      B. No matter however  
C. No matter how      D. Whatever how
- 6) When you got lost in the forest you \_\_\_\_\_ very frightened.  
A. must have been      B. must be      C. should have been      D. would be
- 7) Everyone interviewed had been \_\_\_\_\_ to unfair treatment.  
A. subjected      B. adjusted      C. devoted      D. entitled
- 8) The \_\_\_\_\_ of life in the village was slow and restful.  
A. way      B. pace      C. step      D. routine
- 9) He has no \_\_\_\_\_ of winning.  
A. occasion      B. luck      C. chance      D. favors
- 10) You are \_\_\_\_\_ by law to stop your car after an accident.  
A. deprived      B. derived      C. engaged      D. required
- 11) Albert Einstein seldom wore strange clothes, \_\_\_\_\_ a cruel man.  
A. nor is he      B. so is he      C. nor was he      D. so was he
- 12) If he \_\_\_\_\_ on tourists for his business, he would have closed his shop.  
A. depends      B. has depended      C. depended      D. had depended
- 13) She is enjoying the job more \_\_\_\_\_ she has got more responsibility.  
A. until      B. now that      C. whereas      D. unless
- 14) The tree looked as though it \_\_\_\_\_ for a long time.  
A. hasn't watered      B. didn't water  
C. hadn't been watered      D. wasn't watered

15) Please see to it that no one \_\_\_\_\_ in without identification.

- A. will come      B. should come      C. comes      D. came

16) Peter, who was usually shy, found himself \_\_\_\_\_ to the girls.

- A. spoke      B. speaking      C. spoken      D. speaks

2. Directions: *Read the sentences carefully and choose the word or phrase which is closest in meaning to the one underlined.*

1) I can't let you into the building without security clearance.

- A. surface      B. safety      C. situation      D. sense

2) The pressure of city life forced him to move to the country.

- A. stress      B. standard      C. education      D. cost

3) The first thing is to identify local crime problems.

- A. appreciate      B. watch      C. benefit      D. recognize

4) If we shift the furniture against the walls, we will have more space to dance.

- A. change      B. lift      C. move      D. put

5) She gradually realized that he was not telling the truth.

- A. fortunately      B. slowly      C. recently      D. immediately

6) Did you participate in any of the activities that were on offer at the hotel?

- A. take part in      B. break in      C. run in      D. put in

7) All his friends remarked on the change in him since his marriage.

- A. complained about      B. thought about      C. brought about      D. talked about

8) Don't stare at people like that, you might upset them.

- A. look at      B. work at      C. throw at      D. marvel at

3. Directions: *Choose the most appropriate word to complete each sentence. Some of the words can be used twice.*

1) A. aloud      B. loud      C. loudly

a. His voice is \_\_\_\_\_ enough to be heard all over the hall.

b. He read her letter \_\_\_\_\_ to the rest of the family.

c. I feel very annoyed when my neighbor's cock crows \_\_\_\_\_ outside my window.

d. The television is rather \_\_\_\_\_, could you please turn it down?

2) A. shameless      B. ashamed      C. shameful

a. She ought to be thoroughly \_\_\_\_\_ of herself for talking to her mother like that.

b. I didn't think that there was anything \_\_\_\_\_ in what I had done.

- c. He has a \_\_\_\_\_ desire for power.
- d. I feel \_\_\_\_\_ that I haven't written for so long.
- 3) A. pace      B. rate      C. steps
- a. We must take \_\_\_\_\_ to make sure such an accident can never happen again.
- b. The car was going at the \_\_\_\_\_ of 85 kilometers an hour.
- c. She followed Bobby, rarely keeping \_\_\_\_\_ with him.
- d. He liked to work at his own \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) A. regretful      B. regrettable
- a. We feel it is \_\_\_\_\_ that the government refuses to listen to our ideas on road safety.
- b. It is a \_\_\_\_\_ fact that our hearing fails as we grow old.
- c. I feel rather \_\_\_\_\_ that the affair ended like that.

## Unit 2 Psychology in Our Daily Life

### Is There a Doctor in the Body?

1 When you go to the doctor, you like to come away with a prescription. It makes you feel better to know you will get some medicine. But the doctor knows that medicine is not always needed. Sometimes all a sick person needs is some reassurance that all will be well.<sup>1</sup> In such cases the doctor may prescribe a placebo.

2 A placebo is a sugar pill, a harmless shot, or an empty capsule. Even though they 5 have no medicine in them, these things seem to make people well. The patient thinks it is medicine and begins to get better. How does this happen?

3 The study of the placebo opens up new knowledge about the way the human body can heal itself.<sup>2</sup> It is as if there was a doctor in each of us.<sup>3</sup> The “doctor” will heal the body for us if we let it. 10

4 But it is not yet known just how the placebo works to heal the body. Some people say it works because the human mind fools itself. These people say that if the mind is fooled into thinking it got medicine, then it will act as if it did<sup>4</sup>, and the body will feel better.

5 Other people say this is not so. They say that the placebo makes the wish to get better become reality. The placebo will not work if the patient knows it is a placebo. This shows 15 that the body is not fooled by it. It seems that if patients think they have been given medicine, they will have hope. They feel that they are getting some help. This gives them a stronger will to get better, and that is what helps to heal them.

6 Placebos do not always work. The success of this treatment seems to rest a lot with the relationship between the patient and the doctor. If the patient has a lot of trust in the 20 doctor and if the doctor really wants to help the patient, then the placebo is more likely to work. So in a way, the doctor is the most powerful placebo of all.

7 An example of the doctor’s role in making the placebo work can be seen in this study. Some patients with bleeding ulcers were put in two groups. The first group were told by a doctor that they had been given a new drug which, it was hoped, would give them some re- 25 lief. The second group were told by a nurse that they had been given a new drug but that not much was known about how it would work. As a result, 70 percent of the people in the first group got much better. Only 25 percent of the people in the second group got better. And both groups had in fact been given the same thing—a placebo.

8 The placebo has been found to work with a lot of different cases. It helps such things 30

as seasickness, coughs, colds, and even pain after an operation. And there was an experiment done to see if a placebo could help old people stay healthy and live longer.

9 The test was done in Romania with 150 people over the age of 60. They were put in three groups with 50 people in each group. The first group were given nothing at all. The second group were given a placebo. The third group were given a real drug and told that it would help with the problems of old age. (In fact, it was not a drug for old age at all.) The three groups were studied for many years. The first group showed no changes from the way old people in that village had always been. The second group (with the placebo) had much better health and a lower death rate. The third group (with the real drug) showed much the same results as the group that took the placebo.

10 A placebo can also have bad effects. If patients expect a bad reaction to medicine, then they will also show a bad reaction to the placebo. This would seem to show that a lot of how you react to medicine is in your mind rather than in your body.<sup>5</sup> Some doctors still think that if the placebo can have bad effects it should never be used. They think there is still not enough known about it.

11 And yet, the use of the placebo has been well known for hundreds of years in other countries. Tribal doctors in some African countries have known for a long time that patients will get better if they think they are going to. Many of the “treatments” they use do not seem able to make a sick person better, and yet such treatments work.

12 The strange power of the placebo does seem to suggest that the human mind is stronger than we think it is. There are people who say you can heal your body by using your mind. And the interesting thing is that even people who swear this is not possible have been healed by a placebo. (839 words)

Time taken: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

### Proper Names

**Romania** /ru:'meɪniə/ *n.* 罗马尼亚(欧洲巴尔干半岛东北部国家)



## Quiz 2

1. Directions: *Choose a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined word in the sentence given.*

- 1) He had been miraculously (奇迹般地) healed of his illness.  
A. treated              B. cured              C. examined              D. prescribed
- 2) Her rough, red hands reflected a life of hard physical work.  
A. recalled              B. returned              C. showed              D. reacted
- 3) Everything will ultimately depend on what is said at the meeting next week.  
A. finally              B. certainly              C. truly              D. actually
- 4) Her announcement this afternoon confirmed that she would in fact be resigning (辞职).  
A. stated              B. declared              C. demonstrated              D. proved
- 5) Words play an important role in your everyday life.  
A. character              B. part              C. position              D. duty

2. Directions: *Fill in each of the blanks with the appropriate form of the word in brackets.*

- 1) You will have to take your \_\_\_\_\_ to a chemist. (prescribe)
- 2) Ozone (臭氧) is fairly \_\_\_\_\_ to people, but it damages plants. (harm)
- 3) Her loss of memory is a \_\_\_\_\_ problem, rather than a physical one. (psychology)
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ of the bear's habitat (栖息地) have revealed (揭示) a lot about its activities. (observe)
- 5) If it would be \_\_\_\_\_, we could go on a later train. (prefer)
- 6) Under these conditions, an \_\_\_\_\_ public transport system (交通运输系统) would be possible. (effect)
- 7) Once there were regularly scheduled airlines (航班), it became \_\_\_\_\_ to make a business trip by ship. (practical)
- 8) The spring days are beginning to \_\_\_\_\_ out. (length)
- 9) One of their \_\_\_\_\_ is that only 22 percent of professors in universities are women. (find)
- 10) To reach the millions of people who watch television, \_\_\_\_\_ are willing to pay big money. (advertise)

3. Directions: *Combine the two sentences in each pair, using an appositive clause (同位语从句).*

- 1) We have to accept the fact.  
They are the stronger team and are sure to win.
- 2) She belonged somewhere.  
She needed reassurance.
- 3) The news took everyone by surprise.  
The enemy was near.
- 4) We should all share the cost.  
They didn't like my suggestion.
- 5) Her recent behavior confirms my opinion.  
She is not happy here.

4. Directions: *Read the passage carefully. Fill in each of the blanks with the suitable word(s) from the four choices provided.*

How good are you at telling whether someone is lying to you? If you had the 1) \_\_\_\_\_ of just listening to someone, just reading what they said or actually seeing them, which would help you 2) \_\_\_\_\_ in deciding whether they were lying or not?

- 1) A. chance      B. time  
C. choice      D. test
- 2) A. most      B. least  
C. greatly      D. somewhat

Psychologist Richard Wiseman designed a test to answer this question. He interviewed(采访) an actor twice. In one interview, the actor told the truth and in 3) \_\_\_\_\_, he lied. Then a group of people just viewed the interviews, another group just heard the interviews and the third group just 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the interviews.

- 3) A. another      B. the other  
C. others      D. the others
- 4) A. attended      B. viewed  
C. read      D. listened to

Which groups of people were best at finding the lie—viewers, listeners or readers? Dr Wiseman explained that the listeners were best at finding the lie (73%), then the readers (64%) and 5) \_\_\_\_\_, the viewers (52%).

- 5) A. then      B. next  
C. perhaps      D. finally
- 6) A. good      B. better  
C. best      D. excellent

But why were the listeners so much 6) \_\_\_\_\_ at finding the lie? Dr Wiseman thinks that this was because they didn't have visual cues (视觉暗示).

When people lie, their body language 7) \_\_\_\_\_ tells the observer that they are not being honest. But an experienced liar (说谎者) will try to be 8) \_\_\_\_\_. The actor controlled his body language well, so about half the viewers judged whether he was lying on his body language alone.

Liars, 9) \_\_\_\_\_, find it much more difficult to control the tone (声调) of their voice. They don't think people will notice details like the tone and therefore don't even try to control them.

It's interesting that the readers did quite well. Dr Wiseman thinks this is 10) \_\_\_\_\_ to the number of words a liar uses. When the actor was telling the truth, he used 88 words, but when he 11) \_\_\_\_\_, he used only 44.

So if you're not sure whether to believe what someone is saying to you or not, 12) \_\_\_\_\_ your eyes and just listen.

7) A. never      B. seldom  
C. rarely      D. often

8) A. calm      B. silent  
C. honest      D. shy

9) A. therefore      B. further  
C. however      D. actually

10) A. related      B. connected  
C. bound      D. associated

11) A. lies      B. lied  
C. lay      D. laid

12) A. open      B. lose  
C. close      D. believe

## Unit 3 Culture

### Bridging Cultural Gaps Gracefully

1 Why is it that when you study a foreign language, you never learn the little phrases that let you slip into a culture without all your foreignness exposed? Every Chinese-language textbook starts out with the standard phrase for greeting people; but as an American, I constantly found myself tongue-tied<sup>1</sup> when it came to seeing guests off at the door. An abrupt goodbye would not do, yet that was all I had ever learned from these books. So I 5 would smile and nod, bowing like a Japanese and trying to find words that would smooth over the visitors' leaving and make them feel they would be welcome to come again. In my fluster, I often hid behind my Chinese husband's graciousness.

2 Then finally, listening to others, I began to pick up the phrases that eased relations and sent people off with a feeling of mission not only accomplished but surpassed<sup>2</sup>. 10

3 Partings for the Chinese involve a certain amount of ritual and a great deal of one-upmanship<sup>3</sup>. Although I'm not expected to observe or even know all the rules, as a foreigner, I've had to learn the expressions of politeness and protest<sup>4</sup> that accompany a leave-taking.

4 The Chinese feel they must see a guest off to the farthest feasible point—down a flight of stairs to the street below or perhaps all the way to the nearest bus stop. I've sometimes waited half an hour or more for my husband to return from seeing a guest off, since 15 he's gone to the bus stop and waited for the next bus to arrive.

5 For a less important or perhaps a younger guest, he may simply say, "I won't see you off, all right?" And of course the guest assures him that he would never think of putting him to the trouble of seeing him off. "Don't see me off! Don't see me off!" 20

6 That's all very well, but when I'm the guest being seen off, my protests are always useless, and my hostess or host, or both, insists on seeing me down the stairs and well on my way, with our going through the "Don't bother to see me off" ritual at every landing. If I try to go fast to discourage them from following, they are simply put to the discomfort of 25 having to flee after me. Better to accept the inevitable.

7 Besides, that's going against Chinese custom, because haste is to be avoided. What do you say when you part from someone? Not "farewell" or "Godspeed", but "Go slowly." To the Chinese it means "Take care" or "Watch your step" or some other such caution, but translated literally it means "Go slowly."

8 That same "slowly" is used in another polite expression used by the host at the end of 30

a particularly large and delicious meal to assure his guests what a poor and inadequate host he has been.

9 American and Chinese cultures are at polar opposites. An American hostess, complimented for her cooking skills, is likely to say, “Oh, I’m so glad that you liked it. I cooked it especially for you.” Not so a Chinese host or hostess (often the husband does the fancy 35 cooking), who will instead apologize for giving you “nothing” even slightly edible and for not showing you enough honor by providing proper dishes<sup>6</sup>.

10 The same rules hold true with regard to children. American parents speak proudly of their children’s accomplishments, telling how Johnny made the school team or Jane made the honor roll<sup>7</sup>. Not so Chinese parents, whose children, even if at the top of their class in 40 school, are always so “naughty”, never studying, never listening to their elders, and so forth.

11 The Chinese take pride in “modesty”; the Americans in “straightforwardness”. That modesty has left many a Chinese hungry at an American table, for Chinese politeness calls for three refusals before one accepts an offer, and the American hosts take a “no” to mean 45 “no”, whether it’s the first, second, or third time.

12 Recently, a member of a delegation sent to China by a large American corporation complained to me about how the Chinese had asked them three times if they would be willing to modify some proposal, and each time the Americans had said “no” clearly and definitely. My friend was angry because the Chinese had not taken their word<sup>8</sup> the first time. I 50 recognized the problem immediately and wondered why the Americans had not studied up on cultural differences before coming to China. It would have saved them a lot of confusion and frustration in their negotiations.

13 Once you’ve learned the signals and how to respond, life becomes much easier. When guests come, I know I should immediately ask if they’d like a cup of tea. They will 55 respond, “Please don’t bother,” which is my signal to fetch tea. (797 words)

Time taken: \_\_\_\_\_ minutes

### Proper Names

**Jane** /dʒeɪn/ (女子名)简

**Johnny** /ˈdʒɒni/ (男子名)约翰尼(John 的昵称)

### Quiz 3

1. Directions: *Choose the most appropriate word or phrase to complete each of the following sentences.*

- 1) My father \_\_\_\_\_ on walking to the town.  
A. continued      B. insisted      C. believed      D. objected
- 2) He was never \_\_\_\_\_ in the early morning.  
A. at best      B. in the best      C. for his best      D. at his best
- 3) Three policemen were needed to \_\_\_\_\_ the fight.  
A. break up      B. break out      C. break off      D. break down
- 4) Whose turn is it to \_\_\_\_\_ the children after school?  
A. call for      B. pick up      C. go against      D. slip into
- 5) Many a famous pop star \_\_\_\_\_ ruined by drugs.  
A. have      B. has      C. have been      D. has been
- 6) I suggested \_\_\_\_\_ the matter to the meeting to hear what they've got to say.  
A. putting      B. to put      C. being put      D. to be put
- 7) I \_\_\_\_\_ myself lucky as I only hurt my arm in the accident.  
A. consider      B. remember      C. pretend      D. assure
- 8) Fred turned his head, trying to \_\_\_\_\_ breathing in the smoke.  
A. refuse      B. avoid      C. involve      D. expect
- 9) They \_\_\_\_\_ to help but couldn't get there in time.  
A. had intended      B. intended      C. have intended      D. intend
- 10) They drove into town without \_\_\_\_\_ to each other.  
A. being talked      B. to talk      C. talking      D. talk
- 11) Students soon get \_\_\_\_\_ if you criticize them too often.  
A. discouraged      B. lost      C. confused      D. accomplished
- 12) It's time someone made him \_\_\_\_\_ of the effects of his actions.  
A. unconscious      B. aware      C. assured      D. thoughtful

2. Directions: *Each of the following words has two different meanings. Complete the following sentences with the appropriate words. Each word can be used twice. Change the form if necessary.*

observe	original	follow	accompany	interpret	make
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- 1) Did you \_\_\_\_\_ anything strange in that child's behavior?
- 2) It's a story that would \_\_\_\_\_ a great film.
- 3) Do your own thing, don't just \_\_\_\_\_ the crowd.
- 4) This is your most \_\_\_\_\_ work so far.
- 5) The judge has warned the local council that it must \_\_\_\_\_ the law.
- 6) The prisoners are \_\_\_\_\_ to dig holes and fill them in again.
- 7) Sarah sings and Bill \_\_\_\_\_ her on the guitar.
- 8) The two leaders don't understand a word of each other's languages, so they have to have someone there to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9) He was \_\_\_\_\_ to a dinner by his friend.
- 10) Many people are \_\_\_\_\_ the minister's statement as meaning that she intends to resign (辞职).
- 11) Can you let me have the \_\_\_\_\_ of your report—I can't read this photocopy.
- 12) She promised to \_\_\_\_\_ his advice.

3. Directions: *Choose the most appropriate word or phrase to complete each sentence. Some of the words can be used twice.*

- 1) likely      alike      like
  - A. The boss treated us \_\_\_\_\_.
  - B. I can not see what it is, but it feels \_\_\_\_\_ some kind of metal.
  - C. I suppose he might be at the party tonight, but it's less \_\_\_\_\_.
  - D. She's very \_\_\_\_\_ to ring me tonight.
- 2) except      except for      besides
  - A. I'd like to go with you \_\_\_\_\_ that I can't swim.
  - B. It's a good movie, \_\_\_\_\_ a few boring scenes.
  - C. It's cool and quiet everywhere \_\_\_\_\_ in the kitchen.
  - D. \_\_\_\_\_ Tom, there are many other students attending the meeting.

4. Directions: *Write the correct form of the word in brackets to complete each of the following sentences.*

- 1) We celebrated the successful \_\_\_\_\_ of our task. (accomplish)
- 2) In spite of these latest threats, war may still be \_\_\_\_\_. (avoid)
- 3) In the \_\_\_\_\_, I lost my shoe and wasn't able to stop and pick it up. (confuse)
- 4) We've just had some \_\_\_\_\_ news. (disappoint)
- 5) It was more than an act of \_\_\_\_\_—it was real friendship. (polite)
- 6) It's \_\_\_\_\_ to be caught telling a lie. (embarrass)

- 7) We bought the house for \_\_\_\_\_; it's near the shops and the railway station. (convenient)
- 8) Radio was the pilot's only means of \_\_\_\_\_. (communicate)
- 9) I wouldn't have the \_\_\_\_\_ to sit sewing all day. (patient)
- 10) I looked at her for some \_\_\_\_\_, but she only stared at me blankly. (respond)
- 11) As we came close to the hall we could hear \_\_\_\_\_. (laugh)
- 12) His \_\_\_\_\_ to pay the fine (罚款) got him into trouble. (refuse)
- 13) Newspapers often don't respect the individual's right to \_\_\_\_\_. (private)
- 14) Through \_\_\_\_\_ we were able to reach a compromise (妥协). (negotiate)
- 15) The company had to put forward a \_\_\_\_\_ that lay-offs (下岗) be considered. (propose)



## Unit 4 Holidays and Special Days

### A Merry Christmas

#### More Stuffing?

Patrick Brendan

1 “Merry”, as you may know, has two meanings: happy and drunk. If you’re like a large number of British people, then your Christmas will be an alcoholic, rather than a religious, occasion. Throughout the whole Christmas season, which stretches from early December to the end of the first week in January, you will spend hours drinking with friends, relatives and colleagues. Whether you are surrounded by the noisy friendliness of a pub or 5 whether you are seated in the peaceful comfort of someone’s home, you will be sipping away on a drink.

2 If you walk down Piccadilly or Oxford Street just before Christmas, you will see an incredible amount of money being spent on electronic games, bottles of spirits, expensive clothes, CDs, cassettes, cameras, and a large number of luxury items. If you walk down 10 the main street of several towns in the East end of London just before Christmas, you won’t see a large amount of money being spent on presents. If you have the money or if you are prepared to go into debt, you will participate in the conspicuous consumption<sup>1</sup> that Christmas has come to represent. If you are poor, you will feel sad and disappointed because you cannot give the gifts you would like to give to your loved ones. 15

3 Christmas is supposed to be a time to express our love and goodwill towards others. It is supposed to be a time when we perform acts of kindness for people less fortunate than ourselves. But do we think of other people when we sit down to our Christmas dinner? Of course not—we’re too busy eating those delicious foods associated with Christmas. We are too busy wondering whether the presents we gave were as nice or better than the ones we 20 received. We forget to think of the sick and the homeless. The whole idea of Christmas now is completely unchristian—I’m sure that Christ would be distressed if he could see what sort of celebrations are being carried out in his name.

4 So I’m against Christmas—I agree with Scrooge: “It’s all humbug.” If we’re going to continue with this wasteful, thoughtless ceremony, then let’s be truthful about it, and call 25 it “Stomach Week”—but let’s get rid of the hypocritical pretence that Christmas is “the season of goodwill”<sup>2</sup>. Let’s face it, Christmas is a holiday that has lost its meaning.