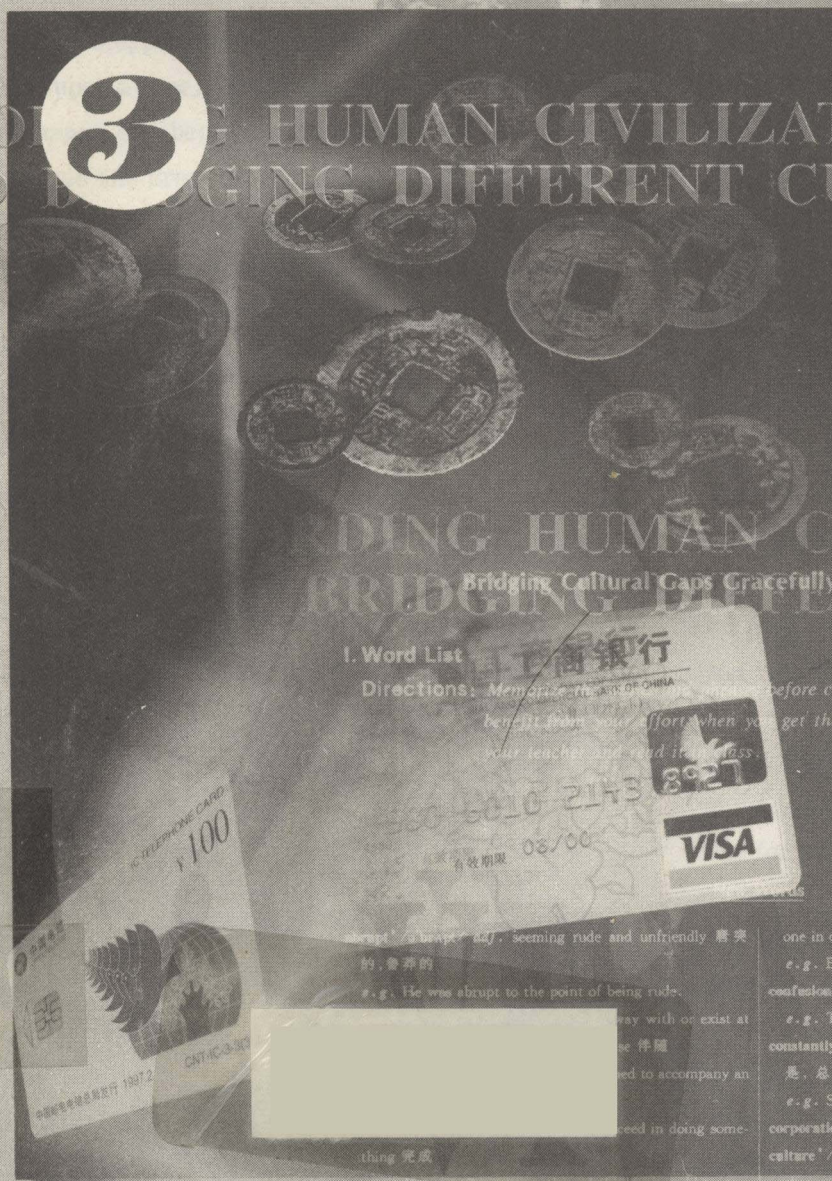


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Unit 1 Myths and Legends

Why the Tortoise's Shell Is Not Smooth

1 The distant sound of low voices, broken now and again by singing, reached Okonkwo from his wives' huts as each woman and her children told folk stories. Ekwefi and her daughter, Ezinma, sat on a mat on the floor. It was Ekwefi's turn to tell a story. Suddenly the murmuring stopped and all eyes turned to their favorite and most skillful storyteller.

2 "Once upon a time," she began, "all the birds were invited to a feast in the sky. They 5 were very happy and began to prepare themselves for the great day. They painted their bodies deep red and drew beautiful patterns on them with dye.

3 "Tortoise saw all these preparations and soon discovered what it all meant. Nothing that happened in the world of the animals ever escaped his notice; he was full of cunning. As soon as he heard of the great feast in the sky his throat began to itch at the very 10 thought. There was a famine in those days and Tortoise had not eaten a good meal for two moons¹. His body rattled like a dry stick in his empty shell. Slowly but surely he began to plan how he would go to the sky."

4 "But he had no wings," said Ezinma.

5 "Be patient," replied her mother. "That is the story.² Tortoise had no wings, but he 15 went to the birds and asked to be allowed to go with them.

6 "'We know you too well,' said the birds when they had heard him. 'You are full of cunning and you are ungrateful. If we allow you to come with us you will soon begin your mischief. We know you of old.'³

7 "'You do not know me,' said Tortoise. 'I am a changed man. I am not the mis- 20 chievous man you once knew. On the contrary, I am thoughtful and well-meaning⁴. I have learned that a man who makes trouble for others is also making trouble for himself. Rest assured, I promise I will not cause you any trouble.'

8 "Tortoise had a sweet tongue, and within a short time all the birds agreed that he was a changed man, and they all gave him a feather, with which he made two splendidly colorful 25 wings.

9 "At last the great day came and Tortoise was the first to arrive at the meeting place. When all the birds had gathered together, they all set off together. Tortoise was very happy as he flew among the birds, and he was soon chosen as the man to speak for the party because he was a great orator.

10 “‘There is one important thing which we must not forget,’ he said as they flew on their way. ‘When people are invited to a great feast like this, they take new names for the occasion. Our hosts in the sky will expect us to honor this age-old custom.’

11 “None of the birds had heard of this custom but they knew that Tortoise, in spite of his failings in other areas, was a widely traveled man who knew the customs of different peoples. And so they each took a new name. When they had all taken a new name, Tortoise also took one. He was to be called *All of you*. 35

12 “At last the party arrived in the sky and their hosts were very happy to see them. Tortoise stood up in his many-colored plumage and thanked them for their invitation. His speech was so eloquent that all the birds were glad they had brought him, and nodded their heads in approval of all he said. Their hosts took him as the king of the birds, especially as he looked somewhat different from the others. 40

13 “After a selection of nuts⁵ had been presented and eaten, the people of the sky set before their guests the most delectable dishes Tortoise had ever seen or dreamed of. The soup was brought out hot from the fire and in the very pot in which it had been cooked. It was full of meat and fish. Tortoise began to sniff aloud. There was pounded yam and also yam soup cooked with palm oil and fresh fish. There were also pots of palm wine. When everything had been set before the guests, one of the people of the sky came forward and tasted a little from each pot. He then invited the birds to eat. But Tortoise jumped to his feet and asked: ‘For whom have you prepared this feast?’ 45 50

14 “‘For all of you,’ replied the man.

15 “Tortoise turned to the birds and said: ‘You remember that my name is *All of you*. The custom here is to serve the spokesman first and the others later. They will serve you when I have eaten.’

16 “He began to eat and the birds grumbled angrily among themselves. The people of the sky thought it must be their custom to leave all the food for their king. And so Tortoise ate the best part of the food and then drank two pots of palm wine, so that he was full of food and drink and his body grew fat enough to fill out his shell. 55

17 “The birds gathered round to eat what was left and to peck at the bones he had thrown on the floor. Some of them were too angry to eat. They chose to fly home on an empty stomach⁶. But before they left each took back the feather he had lent to Tortoise. And there he stood in his hard shell full of food and wine but without any wings to fly home.⁷ He asked the birds to take a message for his wife, but they all refused. In the end Parrot, who had felt more angry than the others, suddenly changed his mind and agreed to take the message. 60 65

18 “‘Tell my wife,’ said Tortoise, ‘to bring out all the soft things in my house and cover the ground with them so that I can jump down from the sky without hurting myself.’

19 "Parrot promised faithfully to deliver the message, and then flew away smiling to himself. However when he reached Tortoise's house he told his wife to bring out all the hard and sharp things in the house. And so Tortoise's wife dutifully brought out her husband's hoes, knives, spears, guns, and even his cannon. Tortoise looked down from the sky and saw his wife bringing things out, but it was too far to see what they were. When all seemed ready he let himself go. He fell and fell and fell until he began to fear that he would never stop falling. And then like the sound of his cannon he crashed to the ground."

20 "Did he die?" asked Ezinma.

21 "No," replied Ekwefi. "His shell broke into hundreds of pieces. But there was a great medicine man⁸ in the neighborhood. Tortoise's wife sent for him and he gathered all the bits of shell and stuck them together. That is why the Tortoise's shell is not smooth."

(1160 words)

Time taken: _____ minutes

Proper Names

Okonkwo /ˌəʊˈkəʊnk,wəʊ/ (男子名) 奥康瓦

Ekwefi /ekˈwefi/ (女子名) 爱克蔚菲

Ezinma /eˈzi:nmə/ (女子名) 爱金玛

Quiz 1

1. Directions: Fill in each of the blanks with an appropriate preposition or adverb.

- 1) Failing to lock your doors at night is an invitation _____ disasters.
- 2) I was grateful _____ the stranger for returning my lost wallet.
- 3) The audience cheered, yelled and whistled _____ approval.
- 4) The chickens peck _____ the seeds which covered the ground.
- 5) _____ the end, I decided that I wouldn't go after all.
- 6) We sent _____ the holiday brochure as soon as we saw it advertised.
- 7) As an actor, he has to be able to cry _____ will.
- 8) She was condemned _____ death on May 12th and executed two weeks later.
- 9) Before handing _____ to John, I'd like to thank you all for your support.
- 10) Bill greeted us _____ a cheerful smile.
- 11) Please put the lights _____ as you leave the building.
- 12) Don't blame me—I did it _____ my boss's request.
- 13) Don't go to work _____ an empty stomach.
- 14) You shouldn't drive for more than three hours _____ taking a break.

2. Directions: Translate the following Chinese into English according to the examples given.

Example: 一个改过自新的人: a changed man 铁石心肠的: stone-hearted

1) 一个旅游甚广的人	2) 伤心欲绝的
3) 本性敦厚的	4) 冷酷的
5) 心地善良的	6) 眼睛睁得大大的
7) 颜色鲜亮的	8) 皮肤黝黑的

3. Directions: Fill in each of the blanks with an appropriate phrase. Change the form if necessary.

1) die of die out die down

A. Don't worry, the gossip will soon _____.

B. Smallpox (天花) has completely _____ in this country.

C. The animals _____ starvation in the snow.

2) set off set aside set about

A. She _____ cleaning up after the party.

B. Let's _____ one hour a day for review purposes.

C. The slightest movement would have _____ the device and blown us all sky high.

3) in place of take the place of take place

A. We don't know what _____, but they both looked furious afterward.

B. Who will _____ Mr White?

C. _____ our advertised program, we will be showing a film.

4) fall asleep fall ill fall dead

A. The director _____ in the middle of the meeting, and we had to send him to the hospital.

B. He _____ soon after he turned off the light.

C. The bullet went through his head, and he _____ on the spot.

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

1) He insisted on _____ in a cheaper hotel.

A. stay

B. staying

C. to stay

D. being stayed

2) My aunt never married because her father didn't _____ to her marriage to a man she loved.

A. consent

B. confirm

C. contend

D. conceive

3) He hasn't got enough clothes on—look, he's _____ with cold.

A. roaring

B. trembling

C. murmuring

D. spitting

4) Our _____ was delayed because of bad weather.

A. famine

B. capture

C. grief

D. departure

5) The employer is _____ to ask for references.

A. conceited

B. condemned

C. entitled

D. refrained

6) The semi-final will be a chance for the losing team to get their _____ on the winning team for their earlier defeat.

A. revenge

B. temptation

C. certainty

D. despair

7) Do you think the president will be able to _____ his promise not to raise taxes?

A. obtain

B. find

C. capture

D. fulfill

8) The new furniture does not _____ to the design of the new room.

A. conform

B. condemn

C. confine

D. confirm

9) I know I had to get on the plane _____ my fear.

A. unless

B. despite

C. because of

D. rather than

- 10) I am very _____ of all the support you gave me.
A. eloquent B. appreciative C. jealousy D. spoiled
- 11) Jane _____ her lateness to the traffic jam.
A. contributed B. reflected C. attributed D. represented
- 12) Although they are sisters, they are the _____ opposite of one another.
A. very B. much C. little D. just
- 13) The general _____ the tourists safe passage to the American embassy during the war.
A. consented B. granted C. registered D. led
- 14) Little _____ explain so much about the matter.
A. did I need B. need I to C. I need to D. need I

Unit 2 Manners

No One Stops to Say "Thank You" Anymore

1 I am sitting in a local restaurant offering takeout homestyle meals, surrounded by exhausted but happy shoppers, families out for Friday night dinner, and students taking a break from college exams. The warm room buzzes with conversation. A well-known local homeless man—very untidy but clean—comes in, places an order, pays for it, then sits quietly waiting for his dinner. All talk stops. No one looks at him and several diners leave. He is aware of the general discomfort his presence has caused. When his takeout is ready, he gathers up his numerous bags and his dinner and, laden down¹, advances to the door to go back to the streets. Just as he reaches the door and begins to shift bundles to free a hand, a well-dressed man coming to the restaurant steps aside and holds the door for him. The homeless man stops and says, "Thank you very much."

2 What struck me about this encounter was not the wealthier man helping out the less fortunate one.² It was the homeless man stopping to thank him despite being desperate to escape a room full of disapproving people. No doubt he also thanked whoever had given him the money to buy dinner. In line buying my own meal³, no one had thanked the young people behind the counter who dished up mashed potatoes for them. Had I taken a poll of the room, though, I bet everyone there would have considered themselves as having more manners than a person who lives on the streets.⁴

3 But how many of us are truly well-mannered? Some observations have been surprising.

4 When I let someone into my lane of traffic, men almost always acknowledge this courtesy with a wave of the hand; women (the "polite" sex) hardly ever do. More women than men (the "chivalrous" sex) hold open doors⁵ for those behind them; teenage boys commit this nicety the least. And I no longer see mothers instructing a child, boy or girl, to hold open a door when several people are approaching—something expected of all boys when I was growing up.

5 Manners are a tool to remind us of others around us. Our actions affect each other; there is always give and take. However, if youth today are any indication, we are truly destined to become a society of people who think only of themselves.⁶ Maybe it sounds cliché, but my parents would have killed me⁷ had I done some of the things I endure from today's youth.

6 I never ran in public, much less between and around the legs of people⁸ in stores. One
scream and I would have been taken to the car and lectured on my behavior.⁹ Whenever I
was rude in public, I was made to apologize; my parents didn't do it for me. These embar-
rassing moments didn't harm me; rather¹⁰, they caused me to become aware that there
were others inhabiting this world besides myself and my actions affected them. 35

7 I have yet to receive an apology from a child who just ran over my foot while chasing
a sibling, and only half the time have the parents apologized.¹¹ Often they simply gather up
the children, making no eye contact, and take them to another part of the store to run
around. If a child isn't made to deal with a minor situation, how will one ever handle a ma-
jor *faux pas* (which we all inevitably commit at some point)?¹² 40

8 I have noticed that children are not even being schooled in social graces. At a Sunday
brunch, a clown was making balloon animals¹³ for the children. My friend's daughter,
Sarah, stood by me waiting her turn¹⁴. One by one the children grabbed their balloons
and—yes—ran. I was the only adult present who prompted “What do you say?” when the
clown handed Sarah her balloon. The clown beamed at us, grateful he had actually been ac- 45
knowledgeed.¹⁵

9 I don't blame the children, however. They emulate what they see. And what they are
seeing is a society focused solely on acquisition—be it the dream house or another drink in a
restaurant or a space on a crowded freeway—without ever stopping to thank the source.¹⁶

10 Rude language is now so commonplace that it is accepted behavior. And I'm not talk- 50
ing about the obviously blue vocabulary¹⁷ in books and movies, or that *damn* is considered
harmless compared to what else has become acceptable. I'm referring to inconsiderate word
choice. For example, while discussing a story idea with an editor, a very young staff mem-
ber asked if I was the “chick” who had called for information. I said nothing, knowing that
a show of displeasure would have labeled *me* oversensitive rather than *him* rude.¹⁸ 55

11 Most people today feel proud to have built a society that treats the races, sexes, and
economic classes more equally than ever before. And, yes, we have made real strides in
these areas. But isn't it ironic that these same people don't find it necessary to say “Excuse
me” to an older couple walking very slowly in front of them, before zooming around the
couple? 60

12 It's not necessary to provide yet another analysis of the disintegration of the family or
the breakdown of the social fabric or the price of democracy to explain what has happened to
our society. The matter at hand is simply to thank the next person who provides a helping
hand when needed.

13 In a crowded world, manners are of vital importance. Small, friendly human interac- 65
tions help ease the everyday stress of having to hurry, trying to squeeze onto a crowded
thoroughfare, standing in one more line to deal with a clerk of some kind, or calling a cus-

customer service representative for the third time about a mistake on a bill. Manners make us aware that everything we have derives from a source. Are we really so pressured that we cannot stop to observe simple courtesy? (991 words)

Time taken: _____ minutes

Proper Name

Sarah /ˈseərə/ (女子名) 萨拉



Quiz 2

1. Directions: *Read each of the following sentences carefully and choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the one underlined from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.*

- 1) I was baffled by his refusal.
A. angered - B. confused
C. disappointed D. annoyed
- 2) The island is inhabited only by birds.
A. occupied B. noticed
C. destroyed D. liked
- 3) It's up to this country to take the initiative in banning nuclear weapons.
A. take actions B. take the first step
C. sign its name D. follow the others
- 4) Their work alternates between London and New York.
A. changes frequently B. differs greatly
C. remains the same D. goes on in turn
- 5) I consulted a doctor about my pains.
A. told B. discussed
C. sent for D. asked for advice
- 6) The police reassured her about her child's safety.
A. informed B. told her once again
C. comforted D. frightened
- 7) I'm much obliged to you for what you have done for us.
A. grateful B. pleased
C. uneasy D. inclined
- 8) In our company, payments by check easily outnumber cash transactions.
A. payments B. companies
C. exchanges D. business deals
- 9) Congress has adopted the new measure.
A. accepted B. chosen
C. rejected D. advanced
- 10) He is considerate and pleasant. I really enjoy his company.

A. firm
C. hospitality

B. warmth
D. companionship

2. Directions: *Choose the best phrase from the four to complete each sentence.*

- 1) Would you please help me _____ the vegetables and salad? It's half past six and our guests will arrive soon.
A. dish out B. dish up C. eat up D. seek out
- 2) Our pet dog, poor Darkley, was _____ by a bus yesterday.
A. run over B. run through C. run out D. run on
- 3) It's the end of September and the National Day is _____.
A. in hand B. on hand C. at hand D. by hand
- 4) After the harvest, the peasants began to _____ and enjoy the results of hard work.
A. set back B. settle down C. load down D. sit back
- 5) May I _____ that if we don't leave now we shall miss the bus?
A. point out B. point to C. speak out D. refer to
- 6) John's girlfriend is coming tonight and he is going to _____ her _____ at the airport at 6:00.
A. pick...on B. pick...out C. pick...over D. pick...up
- 7) He is unwilling to _____ in favor of a young man.
A. step in B. step up C. step aside D. step back
- 8) The book has been well reviewed, but _____ actual sales it hasn't been very successful.
A. in terms of B. in need of C. in contrast to D. in place of
- 9) Summers in the south of France are _____ dry and sunny.
A. in the most part B. in part C. in good part D. for the most part
- 10) I'll be late home—something's just _____ at work.
A. come along B. come up C. come in D. come off

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

- 1) My piano playing has improved _____ since I have had a new teacher. (significant)
- 2) Tom's father could not bear Tom's _____ behaviors. (rebel)
- 3) The new car has many added _____ such as a TV set. (refine)
- 4) Farmers import most of their _____ and materials. (machine)
- 5) He did not appear to be _____ of the difficulties that lay ahead. (sense)

- 6) A jury's decision in a court must be made _____. (objective)
- 7) Children's _____ of their native tongue is still a mystery to many linguists.
(acquire)
- 8) There is little _____ that the protesters will leave the building peacefully.
(indicate)
- 9) All she was interested in was the _____ of her own career. (advance)
- 10) Considering the problems he's had there can be little _____ of him winning the race.
(expect)

4. Directions: *Read the passage carefully and choose the best one from the four choices marked A, B, C, and D to fill in each blank.*

Americans today believe that acceptable social behavior follows effortlessly from personal virtue. The 1) _____ between morals and manners has become blurred (模糊). All you need is a good heart, most people 2) _____, and the rest will take care of itself. You don't have to write thank-you notes.

Many Americans believe that natural behavior is beautiful. The "natural" 3) _____ to human relations presumes that to know any person 4) _____ is to love him, that the only human problem is a communication problem. This 5) _____ that people might be separated by basic, genuinely irreconcilable (不可调和的) differences—philosophical, political, or religious—and assumes that all such differences are 6) _____ misunderstandings.

Indeed, it has never been easier to insult people inadvertently (非故意地). A gentleman opens a door for a lady because his mother taught him that ladies 7) _____ such courtesies, but this one 8) _____ and spits in his eye because he has insulted her womanhood. A young lady 9) _____ her seat in a crowded bus to an elderly, frail gentleman, and he gives her a dirty look because she has insulted his manhood. 10) _____ you, those are just people trying to be nice; the only problem is that they are 11) _____ on different systems of etiquette.

Curiously, it has never been 12) _____ to insult people intentionally. If you say, "You are nasty and I hate you," the person is apt to reply, "Oh, you're feeling 13) _____; I'll wait until you feel better."

The idea that people can behave "naturally" without resorting to a(n) 14) _____ code tacitly (心照不宣地) agreed upon by their society is as silly as the idea that they can communicate by using a language without 15) _____ accepted semantic and grammatical rules.

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1) A. instinct | B. distinction | C. intuition | D. similarity |
| 2) A. resume | B. perform | C. assume | D. conduct |

- | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 3) A. approach | B. way | C. road | D. means |
| 4) A. enough well | B. enough good | C. good enough | D. well enough |
| 5) A. approves | B. denies | C. supports | D. disagrees |
| 6) A. no more than | B. not more than | C. a bit more than | D. much more than |
| 7) A. dislike | B. appreciate | C. thank | D. approve |
| 8) A. turns out | B. turns up | C. turns around | D. looks around |
| 9) A. offering | B. offers | C. offered | D. offer |
| 10) A. Mind | B. Warn | C. Beware | D. Notice |
| 11) A. doing | B. assuming | C. trying | D. operating |
| 12) A. harder | B. easier | C. worse | D. better |
| 13) A. friendly | B. terrible | C. disgusting | D. hostile |
| 14) A. natural | B. artificial | C. unnatural | D. artistic |
| 15) A. superficially | B. profoundly | C. commonly | D. individually |