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JINDIAN ENGLISH

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Preface

前言

最新《大学英语教学大纲（修订本）》规定：大学英语教学的目的是培养学生具有较强的阅读能力和一定的听说写译能力，使他们能用英语交流信息。由此可见，在诸多的技能要求当中，阅读能力位居其首。在大纲的指导下，全国大学英语四级考试中阅读的分值达到了40分。由此，参与四级考试的教师和学生都达成了一个共识：阅读理解成绩提高了，四级考试就有很大把握了。

为了扩大视野，全方位地提高学生的阅读能力，我们特此编写了这套阅读丛书。本丛书具有以下特点：

1. 围绕教学大纲，选材力求做到有的放矢，最大限度地覆盖四级考试的目标词（target word），并尽善尽美地使用四级考试中常用的阅读技巧。

2. 除了注重实用性，本套丛书选材还特别注重趣味性与可读性，并兼顾文理大学生的知识层面，使文理大学生皆能在轻松愉悦中提高阅读能力。

3. 本套丛书所有练习均配有参考答案，这一方面有利于学生的自测，另一方面也给他们提供了一个深入学习的机会。例如近年来在四级考试中经常采用的且让考生感到很棘手的简答题，在本套丛书中给予了相当的重视。在出简答题时，本套丛书力求做到言之有物，有理有据。在提供答案时，又力求做到言简意赅，高度概括。这不仅充分贯彻了四级考试的精神，而且使得学

生不再对这类题型感到无所适从，同时又从根本上提高了阅读技能和语言素质。

4. 本套丛书使用方便，通过注解生词，难点注释，以及简答題和阅读理解題等形式，使課文要点与难点无一疏漏，并免去学生阅读过程中查字典的麻烦。

5. 本套丛书采取由易到难的编排方式，既可使大学一到四年级不同英语水平的学生各取所需，亦可作为具有同等阅读能力的英语爱好者的自学教材。

我们已进入 21 世纪，新世纪对大学生提出了更高的要求。本套丛书顺应时代要求，通过严谨的课本形式，使大学生在提高英语阅读能力的同时也能得到生活的感悟、人生的启迪，对于提高大学生的英语语言运用能力和综合素质，使其成为适应时代要求的新型人才会起到很大的作用。

编 者

2003 年 6 月

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Unit One

1.1 Friendship American Style

美国式的友谊

文化是语言的重要组成部分,不同的文化背景会形成不同的价值观念。学习语言必不可少的一个环节就是学习文化。作为英语学习者,了解美国青年人的交友观,无论是对于跨文化交际或者是对于以后踏出国门进行深造都大有裨益。

Friendships formed at a university can be some of the strongest relationships men and women ever make. College friendships, if they are strong, can **transcend** time and distance. Yet, making friends is not always easy and it can be even more difficult for international students. Knowing a few key ideas about American communication patterns¹ can help international students develop these campus friendships.

Self-disclosure is the sharing of personal information and feelings between two or more people. It is an important part of communication in the United States and is governed by certain accepted practices². People are careful and somewhat **wary** about disclosing informa-

transcend

[ˈtrænsˌend]

vt. 超越,超出

self-disclosure

[ˌselfdɪsˌkləʊʒə]

n. 自我暴露

wary

[ˈweəri]

a. 留神的

tion because it can make one sound weak or **vulnerable**. These are two traits Americans do not see desirable.

Usually, disclosure is **mutual**. People expect that, "If I share personal information of feelings, you will also." It takes place gradually and the people involved must disclose at the same rate³ for both persons to be comfortable.

Self-disclosure involves a high level of trust between two people. This is because the particular information being shared is not available unless it is given by the person who holds the information.

It is best not to share personal problems when first meeting a new person or talking to a causal **acquaintance**. For example, most people feel uncomfortable listening to a person they do not know well about an operation or sickness the person has had recently.

Intimate disclosures⁴ about a sexual relationship are not appreciated by most people either, unless the person being disclosed to has shared something of a similar nature. It is always so important to know that, in general, both men and women in the U. S. are more comfortable disclosing to women. This is not to say women don't share private talk with men or men don't disclose to other men. It is

vulnerable

[ˈvʌlnərəbl]

a. 脆弱的

mutual

[ˈmju:tʃuəl]

a. 相互的

acquaintance

[əˈkweɪntəns]

n. 熟人, 相识

just that this society, historically, has not encouraged men to express their feelings openly.

In his book, *The Handbook of Foreign Student Advising*, Gary Althen identifies five **generalizations** about the communicative style of Americans:

generalization

[ˌdʒenərəlaɪˈzɪʃən]

n. 概括, 归纳

Preferred topics of conversation — this is sometimes referred to as “small talk⁵.” Americans prefer to talk about the weather, sports, jobs, mutual acquaintances, and past experiences, especially ones in common with their conversation partner. A few topics are almost forbidden. These consist of personal income, the price of an item unless it is volunteered, and the age of an older adult.

Favorite form of verbal interaction⁶ — in a conversation between Americans, participants take turns⁷ speaking frequently and usually after each has spoken only a few sentences. No one speaks for very long at a time. Americans also prefer to avoid arguments. If an argument is unavoidable, it is carried on in a controlled tone and volume as in any other conversation. Ritual conversations⁸ are kept to a minimum⁹, basically “How are you?” “Fine, how are you?” “Fine.” “Nice to meet you.” “Hope to see you again.”

Depth of involvement — “small talk” is

preferred. This usually consists of nonpersonal conversation with little or no silence breaks taking place. Silence causes the participants to feel uncomfortable.

Manner of speaking — the American ideal is to be somewhat verbally **adept**, to speak in moderate tones and to use few gestures.

Level of meaning emphasized — Americans, taught in the scientific method of understanding the world, look for specific facts and physical or **quantifiable** evidence to support their viewpoints. One of the most important ways to get to know others is to become involved in activities and events on campus. Involvement may be easiest through campus organizations which allow students to meet people with similar interests.

International students should understand that Americans don't normally extend themselves¹⁰ because they fear **rejection** by others. Americans have also grown up without knowing much about other countries and other people of the world. A certain uneasiness is created when faced with the unknown. International students should be **assertive** and may need to take some of the first steps. Despite the fact that Americans seem to back off¹¹ from others, they do value those who approach them.

adept

[əˈdept]

a. 熟练的, 内行的

quantifiable

[ˈkwɒntifaɪəbl]

a. 量化的

rejection

[riˈdʒekʃən]

n. 抵制, 拒绝

assertive

[əˈsɜːtɪv]

a. 断言的

The short attention span¹² of many American students may also pose a problem. If Americans are not interested, they just shut off¹³. Another thing to keep in mind is that Americans are talkers rather than listeners. The best way to get a conversation going is by asking someone to talk about himself or herself.

The way a person listens is very important to Americans. Americans expect eye contact¹⁴, head nods, and verbal **interjections** like "Uh huh," "Hmmm," "I know," and so on. These behaviors communicate interest and attention to Americans.

While the informal rules of American interpersonal communication may seem **daunting**, knowing how and why people communicate makes it easier for international students to feel comfortable. Those first encounters may lead to **rewarding** friendships.

interjection

[ˌɪntəˈdʒekʃən]

n. 插入

daunting

[ˈdɔːntɪŋ]

a. 令人气馁的

rewarding

[riˈwɔːdɪŋ]

a. 有回报的

Notes

1. communication patterns: 交际(沟通)的类型、模式。
2. accepted practices: 被广泛接受的做法。
3. at the same rate: 以同样的速率。
4. intimate disclosure: 亲密朋友之间的倾诉。
5. small talk: 闲聊。
6. verbal interaction: 口头交际。
7. take turns: 轮流。



8. ritual conversations: 谈话中的礼仪部分。
9. are kept to a minimum: 保持到最小程度。
10. extend themselves: 此处为主动要求建立友谊。
11. back off: 退缩。
12. attention span: 注意力持续的时间。
13. shut off: 不答腔, 不讲话。
14. eye contact: 互视对方。

Exercises

I Answer the following questions.

1. What are the strongest relationships people ever make according to the author? And why?
2. What are the two traits that Americans do not regard as desirable?
3. What are the topics that are forbidden to a casual conversation partner?
4. What is the ideal American manner of speaking?
5. Which of the American communication principles mentioned in the text impresses you most?

II Choose the best answer for each of the following statements.

1. People are cautious to disclose information for the reason that this act is _____.
 [A] despised
 [B] desirable
 [C] a mark of one's cowardice
 [D] a mark of one's sensitivity
2. Self-disclosure involves a high level of trust between two

people in that _____.

- [A] it shows the willingness of the person who holds the particular information to share it with the other person
- [B] it shows that the person who holds the particular information tends not to trust the other person
- [C] it is unconventional for a person who holds the particular information to disclose it to the other person
- [D] it is uncomfortable and undesirable for the person who holds the information

3. Which of the following is NOT true of the text?

- [A] You can never ask anyone about his/her income.
- [B] You can never ask anyone about his/her age.
- [C] Generally you cannot ask anyone about the price of an item.
- [D] Generally you cannot ask anyone about his/her sexual relationship.

4. The fact that Americans expect eye contact, head nods and verbal interjections indicates that they expect _____.

- [A] the appreciation of the conversation partner
- [B] the respect of the conversation partner
- [C] the involvement of the conversation partner
- [D] the trust of the reliability of the information offered

5. Which of the following is true of the text?

- [A] Although Americans do not like to volunteer their feelings, they value those who approach them.
- [B] Americans are generally known as a nation of open minds, hence you can ask them whatever questions you like.
- [C] Americans as a race are surprisingly conservative.
- [D] Americans seldom have trust of others.

1.2 Beauty Is in the Eye of the Beholder

情人眼里出西施

“梦中情人”是一个永恒的话题,它给人们渴望与追求。本文描述了一个五彩缤纷的“爱”的世界。从中你也许会找到属于自己的梦想。

For years men and women have been getting married. They say their wedding **vows** which bring them together as one. They promise to love and **cherish** each other until death do them part.

vow

[vau]

n. 誓言

cherish

[ˈtʃerɪʃ]

vt. 珍爱

When a man and a woman get married, it is one of the biggest decisions they will make in life. A man may select a woman because he, in his own eyes, sees her as the just-right wife¹ for him. Every man has his own definition of what the “just-right” wife is. For instance, the millionaire man and the poor man both may define their just-right wife according to her physical qualities.

A millionaire may describe his “just-right” wife as charming, beautiful, sexy, intelligent, and well developed. On the other hand, a poor man may define his “just-right” wife as pleasing, attractive, desirable, **knowledgeable**,

knowledgeable

[ˈnɒlɪdʒəbl]

a. 懂事明理的

and **shapely**. Both men describe their just-right wife by the same physical qualities but use different words. The millionaires definition of the just-right wife is more elegant, whereas the poor man's definition is a more common, everyday **description**.

Although some men define the just-right wife by her physical qualities, other men describe their just-right wife by her athletic qualities. For example, the outdoors man may define his just-right wife as a woman who loves to fish, to camp, to hunt, and to water ski², **whereas** the inside sportsman may define his just-right wife as a woman who enjoy watching football, basketball, baseball, and **wrestling**. Both of these men define their just-right wife by her sports qualities but in two different **atmospheres**.

Still, there are other men who have their definitions of the just-right wife. For instance, consider the fit man and the fat man. The fit man may describe his just-right wife as a woman who gets up every weekday morning at six o'clock and runs two to three miles. After running, she prepares breakfast, washes the dishes, takes the children to school, and then goes to work. After work, she arrives home, washes a couple loads of laundry, goes

shapely

[ˈʃeɪplɪ]

a. 身材苗条的

description

[dɪˈskrɪpʃən]

n. 描述

whereas

[weəˈræz]

conj. 却, 而

wrestling

[ˈreslɪŋ]

n. 摔跤

atmosphere

[ˈætməsfɪə]

n. 氛围, 范围