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*Unit One*

# Watching TV

## Part One

**Introduction**

( Watching TV is the main source of entertainment for most families. )

Television is now playing a very important part in our lives. But television, like other things, has both advantages and disadvantages. Do the former outweigh<sup>1</sup> the latter? Firstly, television is not only a convenient<sup>2</sup> source of entertainment<sup>3</sup>, but also a comparatively cheap one. All you need to have is a television set and an antenna<sup>4</sup> or cable satellite connections, and then you can enjoy TV programs from the whole world.

## Unit Three

# Keeping Pets

### Part One

### Introduction



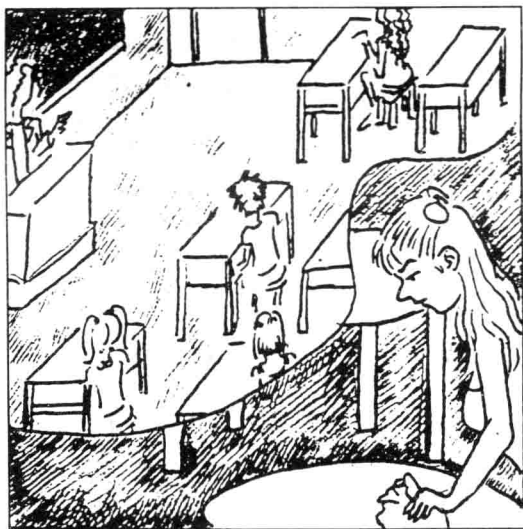
( Sometimes pets are annoying to others. )

A “pet” is an animal we keep for emotional<sup>1</sup> rather than economic reasons. Perhaps that is the most basic difference between animals and pets. The purpose of keeping animals such as poultry<sup>2</sup> is to make money by raising them and then selling them after they grow up. So, keeping animals can bring large income for their owners. On the contrary, the motive<sup>3</sup> of people in raising pets is that they want to satisfy their spiritu-

ted or hurt. College students can be affected<sup>14</sup> by bad ideas and commit crimes. Nowadays, the criminal rate of college students is increasing rapidly.

## Part Two

## Listening



(Part-time jobs may take up students' class time. )

### ● Blank Filling

**Directions:** Listen to this conversation three times. The first time, listen to get the general idea. The second time, the tape will be stopped frequently. During the pauses, fill in the blanks with what you hear from the tape. The last time, listen to the whole conversation again to check your answers.

(This is a conversation between a personnel manager Alice and a job applicant Mr. White. )

3. Many students who have part-time jobs have shown a decline in their studies.
4. The main task of students is to study hard and learn what is needed for the development of our nation. Social experience can be gained later after they finish their studies.
5. The time for college students to study is very precious and they should cherish<sup>42</sup> the valuable time and devote themselves to their studies instead of using time to earn a little money.
6. Part-time jobs can't help students develop a sense of thriftiness among young people for many students spend the money on high-priced items and luxuries. They are likely to spend money very extravagantly<sup>43</sup> because they think that the money is earned by themselves and they have the right to spend it.
7. Since students are in their formative<sup>44</sup> years, part-time jobs may expose them to social ills at an age when they can't differentiate good from bad.
8. Some college students become delinquents<sup>45</sup> because they come under the influence of bad people through part-time jobs.
9. Though students who have part-time jobs may relieve their parents' economic burden, their early contact with society adds greatly to the worries of their parents.
10. Though some part-time jobs can help students practice what they learn in college, many of the jobs require nothing of the students' knowledge and the students can learn nothing from their jobs, either.
11. Some students have become drop-outs<sup>46</sup> because, through part-time jobs, they have found the more education you have, the less money you make.

## Part Seven

## Functional Devices

### ● Showing worry, concern, and sympathy

#### 1. Showing worry, fear, anxiety

What's worrying you?

What's wrong with you?

friend, exercise, go to a movie or just get out of the house and away from your computer.

2. Another way to control Internet addiction is to use the computer as part of your recovery<sup>25</sup>. Whenever you're online, use a time-tracking program to log your activity, and stick to a strict, time-limiting regime.
3. List the necessary tasks you need to fulfill when you're on line. When the tasks are done, turn off the computer at once. A calm psychological condition is essential to resist the temptation of the Internet.
4. When it comes to teenagers, parents and teachers should enhance guidance and communication. Many children consider the Internet a castle for stress-relief. The point is to solve their problems in real time and give them more psychological care.
5. For some people, total abstinence<sup>26</sup> may be a reasonable cure, but that may not be a practical option if your work or school requires online activity. Thus, the best solution to fight cyber addiction could be a step-by-step recovery program, which may likely mean professional assistance.

### Comprehension and discussion:

- (1) According to the passage, what's the definition of "cyber addiction"? Can you give a typical example?
- (2) What are the advantages of cyber enthusiasm?
- (3) What are the disadvantages of cyber addiction?
- (4) What are the useful steps to overcome cyber addiction?

## Part Four Interview

**Topic:** The advantages and disadvantages of computers and the Internet

### Procedures:

1. The class should divide into groups of 4 or 5 students.
2. Choose one student as the interviewer, others as interviewees, and one as secretary to take notes.
3. The interviewers ask their interviewees some questions about the topic.

tragedies<sup>36</sup> happening everyday in the world.

## Part Seven

## Functional Devices

### ● Showing disappointment and regret

#### 1. Showing regret and apology

There are times you make mistakes and do something wrong, so you save yourself a lot of trouble by apologizing first—before someone complains to you. In this case, it may be even more essential to “break the bad news gently”. Here are some examples:

I'm not exactly sure how to put this, but...

I've got to apologize for...

I'm afraid I have something to tell you...

Um, this isn't easy to explain, but...

I'm awfully/terribly/dreadfully/ever so sorry...

But I'm afraid...

Please excuse me for...

#### 2. Showing disappointment

Oh, dear, I can't find...

Good God! I've forgotten to...

What a disappointment!

I'm really disappointed to.../that...

Oh, no! How could this happen to me!

Oh, how could he do such things!

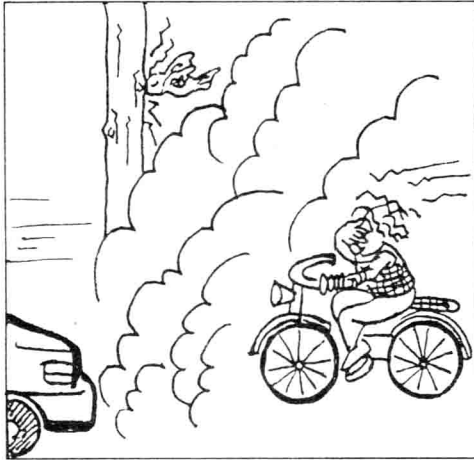
Just think, all that work for nothing!

I feel/am a little/ rather/ very disappointed that...

It's rather disappointing that...

Much to my disappointment/ regret, I have to...

## Part Four

**Interview**

( Car exhaust causes air pollution. )

**Topic:** Do you want to have a car?

**Procedures:**

1. The class should divide into several groups of 4 or 5 students.
2. Choose one student as the interviewer, others as interviewees, and one as secretary to take notes.
3. The interviewers ask their interviewees some questions about the topic.
4. The secretaries take notes about the interviewees' opinions.
5. After the interview, each group makes a report and delivers it to the class.

Here are some questions you might use in your interview:

1. Do you want to own a private car?
2. If you get your own car, what will you do with your car?
3. What are the advantages of owning a private car?
4. Are there any shortcomings in owning a private car?
5. Do you think too many cars are the real cause of road accidents?
6. Have you witnessed or heard any car accidents? What are the causes of car acci-



## Part Seven **Functional Devices**

### ● **Showing satisfaction and dissatisfaction**

#### **1. Inquiring about satisfaction or dissatisfaction**

How do you like...?

What do you think of...?

Do you really like it?

Are you satisfied/happy/pleased with it?

What seems to be the problem/ the matter with it?

What's the matter/ the problem/wrong with it?

#### **2. Expressing satisfaction**

It's fine/very nice/ perfect.

It's just what I had in mind/wanted/meant/need/was looking for.

Everything is to my satisfaction.

It's worth one's while/worthwhile to...

It's well done.

You're doing/have done a good/wonderful job!

I'm really satisfied with...

That's really what I want/expect!

#### **3. Expressing dissatisfaction**

It's too...

I really expected it to be...

I really thought it would be...

I really hoped it would be...

It wasn't as... as I thought it would be.

I'm afraid this is unsatisfactory.

### To learn things first-hand, for yourself

It's one thing to read about the culture of another country, but another entirely to experience it yourself. Things you had previously only read about in a book or learned about in a classroom will become your own personal experiences.

Studying abroad is not for everyone, but it is something that everyone should consider. Talk to your academic advisor or study abroad coordinator today, or visit the University System of Georgia Office of International Education Web site at [www.usg.edu/oie/study\\_abroad/](http://www.usg.edu/oie/study_abroad/).

### Comprehension and discussion:

- (1) What are the benefits of studying abroad in general?
- (2) What's the best time to study overseas in one's life? And why?
- (3) What are the advantages of experiencing a different culture?
- (4) How will you change yourself when studying abroad?
- (5) Why can an overseas student impress a prospective employer?

## ● Passage Two 'Sea turtles' losing the job race

After studying in Australia for four years, in 2000, Zhang Qian returned to Beijing as a 'sea turtle.' She sent out a dozen professionally prepared resumés and was soon summoned for personal interviews with human resources (HR) personnel of one company after another.

Zhang Qian is only one of tens of thousands of 'sea turtles' who have been caught in the great changes that have occurred in China's labour market.

The roughly 7,000 'sea turtles' in Shanghai, China's economic centre, have acquired a new name - 'sea weeds,' a pun on *hai dai*, which is a shortened form of *hai gui dai ye*, or "returned from overseas and waiting for a job."

Experts here attribute the decreasing salary level for 'sea turtles' to the fact that, with domestic education gradually adapting<sup>26</sup> to international practices, students trained in China have become more competitive in the job market.

2. Generally speaking, students abroad can learn advanced knowledge and technology, as the science and technology is more advanced than that in China.
3. Studying abroad is a very precious and valuable experience for a person. You can learn a lot of things from this experience.
4. Students abroad can get to know other countries well, such as the culture, politics, economy, the architecture, the local customs, and so on.
5. Studying abroad can bring about some changes in your psychology and mind, as different peoples have different ways of thinking.
6. Your studying methods and habits may also experience some changes. It's known that the education system and methods are very distinct from those in China. Western education encourages students to study and create independently, while the domestic education focuses more on the delivery of knowledge.
7. Students abroad can learn how to take care of themselves. Because students abroad are living far away from their families, they have to look after themselves.
8. Going abroad can train and cultivate a student's abilities, especially the associative and communicative abilities. As most of the people whom the students abroad face are foreigners and strangers, so they are forced to attempt to associate and get along with them well.
9. Studying abroad can exercise the abilities of dealing with various kinds of problems and the abilities of overcoming different difficulties. With these essential experiences, the students abroad can become more mature.
10. Studying abroad is a good way to develop China's education with the educational facilities and resources in the developed countries.
11. Studying abroad can facilitate and promote the spread of splendid and excellent cultures and civilization and likewise, it is good for the communication between different countries.
12. Studying abroad is also good for China's development. As more and more students abroad complete their studies and come back to serve China, China's development will be better facilitated. In China's history, thousands of students abroad have come back and made tremendous contributions toward China's development.
13. To those studying abroad themselves, they also hope to find good jobs after they come back or work in other countries. In this way, their ideals and potential can be fulfilled. Many who studied abroad in the past are now managers, engineers, or scientists.

## Part Five

**Talk Show**

**Topic:** Should we donate money to the beggars?

**Roles:** a host, a true beggar, a false beggar, a passerby

**Procedures:**

1. Four students should go to the front of the class, each representing one of the roles.
2. Firstly, the host makes an introductory speech, and then the guests deliver their own speeches.
3. The host should manage the talk well to make it progress smoothly.
4. The audience can ask questions of the guests or comment on their views.
5. Finally, the host makes a speech summing up the talk.

**Suggestions for speeches:**

The true beggar tells one experience of begging. At one time, he went to somewhere to go on business, but he lost all of his money on the train carelessly. He had been hungry for a whole day. He begged some passersby for a little money to buy him some food and a ticket. Perhaps because he didn't pretend to be miserable, though he had asked five people, nobody was willing to give him any money. In the end, he resorted to the police for help.

The false beggars also tell his stories of begging. He belongs to the cheating beggars for he usually makes up wretched stories to move the passersby and make a large sum of money.

The passerby is a sympathetic and kind-hearted person. He has donated lots of money to beggars. But sometimes he finds out that he has been cheated by them. Therefore, although he is willing to donate money to the beggars who really need help, he can't distinguish what kinds of beggars are true and what kinds are false. Could you give the passerby any suggestions?

4. You think we should give money to beggars, but your classmate disagrees.
5. You agree with your classmate that East Lake is a good place for an autumn outing.

## Part Eight

## Writing

**Directions:** Please write an essay based on the topic of “buskers”. First you should state clearly your point of view and then give reasons or examples to support your views. You may use the points we’ve just debated and you can also use your own ideas.

### ● A Sample Essay

#### Buskers

After a day’s work, as you go into the crowded London underground, suddenly you hear music. You take some money out of your pocket and throw it into the open guitar case of the busker. The musicians bring color and life to the city’s underground.

If you have time and look at the wall behind the busker, you will see the names of the musicians on it with a time near each name. Each musician plays for an hour only and those who want to play write their names on the wall.

From time to time the police come to an underground station and the musicians have to go to another place. If the police ask one of the buskers what he is doing, he usually answers that he is just practicing. If the police ask about the money in the guitar case, the musician answers that it fell out of his pocket into his guitar case.

An American girl on a visit to London said that she liked busking and often played in an underground station where there were many buskers. Some of them played quite close together, but one important rule is that you mustn’t stand very close to another musician because people will hear two musicians at the same time.

Why do musicians want to play in the street? Some musicians do it for money, some

Although they are very young, they are talented, brilliant<sup>5</sup>, and mature in mind. They have created wonderful and magnificent works for millions of readers.

As a matter of fact, their emergence is not an accidental<sup>6</sup> phenomenon. On the contrary, they were destined to appear. That is to say, their appearance has a lot of inevitable<sup>7</sup> factors and necessary conditions. Firstly, they are living in an age with an abundance of material things. From very young ages, they are exposed to a wide display of modern civilization, in particular all kinds of new things, such as computers, mobile phones, videos, etc. The modern civilization enables<sup>8</sup> children to have a developed and advanced mind. Secondly, in this age, the whole society pays much attention to the education and development of children. All the parents wish their children to have a bright future. Therefore, from young ages, their parents wish them to be taught by excellent teachers. Besides, the modern education system stresses how to develop children's intelligence<sup>9</sup> and encourage their creativity and imagination.

Though these writers are very young, they have mature minds and their works also include deep thoughts. So, their works are not only suitable for children, but also for adults. They really demonstrate superb<sup>10</sup> talents in writing compared to their companions<sup>11</sup>.

But there are some criticisms of them. Some people argue that middle school period is a golden age for students to master as much knowledge as possible. So they should devote most of their time to study. If they don't continue learning, their writing will be affected<sup>12</sup> by their limited knowledge and later on, they won't be able to write excellent works any more. There is a well-known ancient Chinese story that tells of a child called Zhong Yong, who was able to compose poems when he was only six years old. So, in order to show his talent, his father took him everywhere to compose poems. However, when he grew up, he could not write good poems any longer. Han-Han may be a similar example. He indeed showed a keen interest and great talent in writing, but he did very poorly in other subjects such as maths, physics, and science.

Nowadays, some parents intentionally<sup>13</sup> cultivate their children into writers in order to obtain entrance to top universities, as juvenile writers are always enrolled into famous

lift my eyes to look younger.” She seems certain the investment will pay off. “It is my decision. I will pay what it costs.”

Some are not so lucky. Liu Xingmei, a teacher in her 50s, is waiting for her final post-operative care after three separate visits to the operating room. She initially<sup>24</sup> embarked on her surgical saga to solve a lifelong problem of sagging eyelids. “The first time I had it done, at a private home by a local practitioner,” she says, “one eye ended up bigger than the other. The second time, I had it done at a salon but the stitches got infected. This time, I went to the hospital and it looks good.”

Liu is just one victim of over 200,000 botched operations over the last decade, as untrained practitioners lured unsuspecting patients with promises of an instant new look. Eyelid surgery, if done incorrectly, can cause nerve damage, punctures in the eyelid, or even blindness.

Despite the continuing dangers of a largely unregulated industry, the women wandering the unadorned waiting room defend their choice for a new pair of eyes. Whatever their origins, the women say, double eyelids will bestow confidence and new opportunities.

### Comprehension and discussion:

- (1) Why did Li Fei want to have the eyelid operation?
- (2) Why do more and more young people want to have plastic surgery?
- (3) Why do college graduates want to have plastic surgery?
- (4) What are the dangers of plastic surgery?

## ● Passage Two Made-for-order beauty in dispute

It seems paradoxical<sup>25</sup>, but it has become a reality in China today: While fad-obsessed women want everything going into their stomachs to be natural, they are, on the other hand, increasingly seeking artificial means to recreate their outward appearances.

In an effort to repair the image of artificially enhanced beauty and to give it legitima-

**Procedures:**

1. Four students should come to the front, each representing one of the roles.
2. Firstly, the host makes an introductory speech, and then the guests deliver their own speeches.
3. The host should manage the talk well to make it progress smoothly.
4. The audience can ask questions of the guests or comment on their views.
5. Finally, the host makes a speech summing up the talk.

**Suggestions for speeches:**

At first, the plastic beauty tells her story of plastic surgery. She was once an unshapely and short girl, and naturally, she felt inferior in front of her classmates at all times. Before her graduation, she heard that plastic surgery can change a person's appearance completely. Without much consideration, she applied and accepted plastic surgery.

Then after eight months, she was even not recognized by her best friend, for not only was she six centimetres taller than before, but also her appearance had undergone striking changes. She had transformed into a beautiful girl and she found her longed-for job as a tourist guide. Now, she is quite different than before. She is very confident in herself and this year she participated in a beauty contest and achieved the third place. On the other hand, she also acknowledges that she had to endure enormous physical torture and spiritual pain.

The college student yearns for plastic surgery, because she lacks confidence in herself because of her poor facial features and lower height. She has long wished to have plastic surgery, but she is not sure whether it can be successful.

Lastly, the specialist expresses his view. He firstly admits that plastic surgery can make us more beautiful, but on the other hand, it also has some risks. Some people become disabled due to plastic surgery. And then it's very expensive to have plastic surgery and the sufferers have to endure tremendous pain and torture. So, he points out that we'd better not have plastic surgery unless it's necessary.



they grow up. However, the worst problem is that many children from single-parent families become juvenile delinquents. As a fact, these children are more likely to commit crimes. Perhaps because they \_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_.

B: Divorce between parents surely influences the young and innocent children. This is a \_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_. What are the reasons for divorce, do you know?

A: Oh, let me see, maybe the main reasons are extra-marital love affairs. This is also called the problem of the third party. Another reason is that the couple finds they can't get along well. These days, young people are less serious about marriage, but when they get married, they may feel disappointed in each other.

B: What you said sound reasonable. But I still want to add one reason—many couples don't know \_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_. Marriage needs maintaining with love and care, otherwise, it will wither and die.

## Part Three

## Reading

**Directions:** Read the following passages, and complete the comprehension and discussion questions after the passages. You can also use the information in these passages for your later discussion.

### ● Passage One Divorce rises with changing marriage and love

Between October 1, 2003 and September 30, 2004, within a year of China's new marriage registration<sup>7</sup> regulations going into effect, the marriage registration centre of Xicheng District in Beijing saw 1,783 couples get divorced, almost double the number of divorce cases in the previous 12 months.

Zhou Baojun, a marriage registration clerk at the Xicheng centre in Beijing, attributed<sup>8</sup> the higher rate partially to the new Marriage Registration Regulations, which she said have made divorce much easier.

Divorce procedures used to be so fastidious<sup>9</sup> and exhausting that many people