

高等学校教材

(英语专业用)

交际英语教程

核心课程 (三)

下册

CECL

COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH
FOR CHINESE LEARNERS

CORE COURSE 3

(UNITS 6—10)

上海外语教育出版社

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广州外国语学院 李筱菊 主编

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UNIT 6: GENERATIONS AND THE FAMILY

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UNIT 6

GENERATIONS AND THE FAMILY

1 Prologue: The Family Album — listening & discussion

1.1 Discussion

1. Look at the drawings representing a family photograph album and discuss with your partner:

a) the appearance of the people in the photographs

b) the possible relationships between them

Useful phrases:

X and Y seem to be related.

X is just like Y.

There's a very strong likeness between X and Y.

X bears a very strong resemblance to Y.

X takes after Y (more to do with personality than mere looks).

X has got his mother's eyes ...

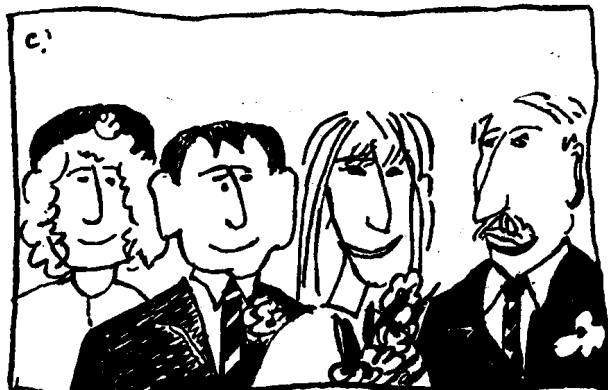
No.:



No.:



No.:



No.:



No:



No:



2. Draw arrows between the different characters and write over each arrow the relationship you suppose they have.

e. g.

brother of

a —————> b

1.2 Listening

1. Now listen to a fairly typical sitting-room conversation in which the hostess is talking about the photos in her family album with a visiting friend.

Look at the drawing of the album and do the following tasks while you listen:

- 1) Number each photograph in the order it is mentioned.
- 2) Identify the speaker
- 3) Name the characters
- 4) Check to see if the relationships you guessed are correct.

Discuss your findings with your colleague.

e.g. "I thought the one with the moustache was the bride's brother, but, actually, it was her father. It's funny; he didn't look old enough to be her father"†

2. Listen to the tape again in order to determine some of the attitudes suggested.

- 1) the speaker's attitude to her father
- 2) the speaker's attitude to her mother
- 3) the speaker's attitude to her grand-parents-in-law
- 4) the speaker's attitude to Christmas family reunions

(Here are some words and phrases that may be helpful: rather hostile ... detached from ... cool towards ... not very enthusiastic about ... extremely fond of ... proud of ... close to ... resigned to ... ironic about ...)

3. Specific questions

- 1) What does the speaker say about herself, her father and grandfather?
 - a. They look like one another.
 - b. They are all thorough-going

† By the way, do you know why the past tense is used here?

- c. They all have the same nose.
- d. Her grandfather usually walks all the way home.

What are her exact words? _____

2) What does the speaker say about her grandfather and her mother?

- a. They live next door to each other.
- b. Her mother set her grandfather's house on fire.
- c. Her grandfather thought the worst of her mother.
- d. Her grandfather was very fond of her mother.
- e. They got on very well together.

What are her exact words? _____

3) What does the speaker imply when she refers to her son in the photo?

- a. He's always untidy in photographs.
- b. She put the wrong photo in the album by mistake.
- c. The members of her side of the family are usually smart.
- d. Her son looks just like his father.

What are her exact words? _____

4) What does the speaker say about her daughter?

- a. She has a rather unpleasant expression on her face.
- b. She is rather like her brother.
- c. She doesn't look like anyone else in the family.
- d. She is very strange to look at.

What are her exact words? _____

5) What does the speaker say about Jake?

- a. Her husband's family are not very proud of him.
- b. He has the darkest looks of anyone in the family.
- c. He upset his family by becoming a priest.
- d. He is very close to David's mother.

What are her exact words? _____

6) What does the speaker say about Brian and his father?

- a. Brian always follows his father around.
- b. They are strikingly similar in looks.
- c. They are strikingly similar in personality.
- d. Brian lives just off the block where his father lives.

What are her exact words? _____

-
- 7) What does the speaker imply about her mother?
- a. She doesn't get on well with the speaker's husband.
 - b. She doesn't get on well with the speaker's mother-in-law.
 - c. She entertains others very well when there is a family reunion.
 - d. She tends to quarrel with the speaker's mother-in-law at family reunions.

What are her exact words? _____

After you've done task 3 perhaps you'd like to go back and improve some of your answers in task 2?

1.3 Discussion

Which of the characteristics of this family could be paralleled in some Chinese families today?

1. "Black sheep" in the family.
2. "Like father, like son."
3. Small family reunions — uncles, aunts and cousins living too far away to see each other very often.
4. Difficult relations — personaliy clashes between in-laws.

1.4 Follow-up

Bring into class a number of photographs (or a group photograph of a family). They may be members of your own family or a friend's or a relative's family.

Suppose an English friend is visiting your home and you are showing him/her these photographs. Discuss physical and personality similarities and differences, personal sympathies and conflicts, talents and professions, family reunions, special occasions, family anecdotes, etc.

Work in pairs. Change roles the second time.

I THE FAMILY IN CHINA

1 Different types of family — warming-up

1. The terms below are commonly used in describing types of family.

the stem family

the nuclear family

the simple family

the joint family

the extended family

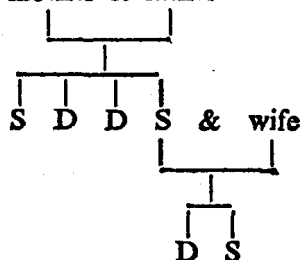
the conjugal† family

1) In pairs, discuss what you think each means.

2) Label each of the family trees below with one of the family types.

† "Conjugal" means "of marriage".

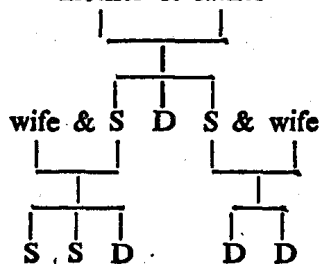
A. mother & father



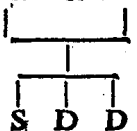
B. husband & wife



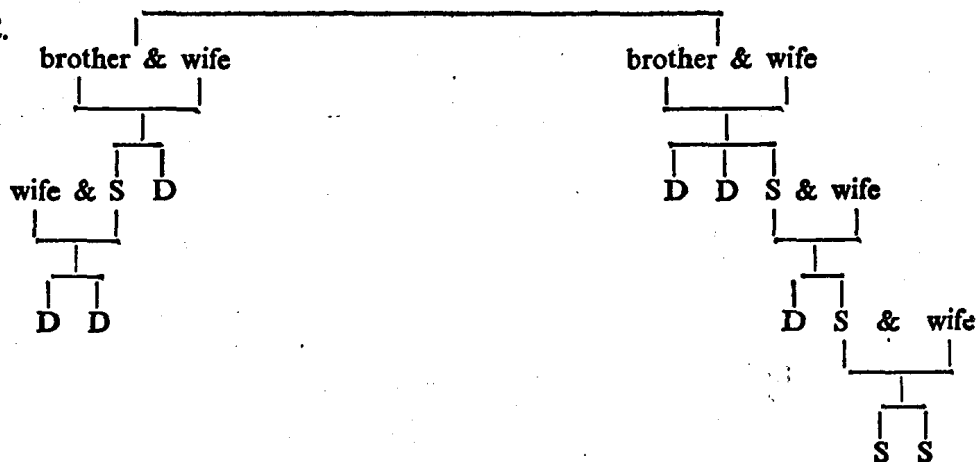
C. mother & father



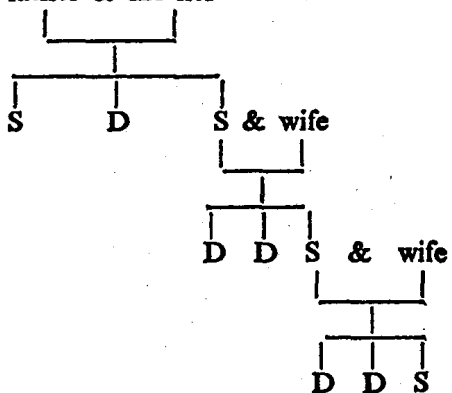
D. mother & father



E.



F. father & mother



2. Below are definitions of 3 types of family. Try to match them to the terms given in 1 above. Why do you think there are only 3 definitions for the 6 terms?

- a household made up of husband and wife, and their unmarried children if any.
- a household consisting of father and mother, no more than one married son and his wife, and other unmarried children if any; in some cases also a married grandson and his wife, and other unmarried grandchildren.
- a household which includes brothers and their wives, and their children if any and, in some cases, their children's children, either married or unmarried.

3. What type of family do you belong to?

Do a survey in class to find out how many families of your classmates belong to each type.

Fill in the blanks with the figures you find out:

nuclear/simple/conjugal families: _____

stem families: _____

extended/joint families: _____

Which is the most prevalent type among your classmates' families? And which family type do you think is the most prevalent in China today? Is there any difference between urban and rural areas? Or between the China of today and the China of two or three generations back?

2 The Chinese family through history — reading

Read the following passage and do the exercises.

— . — . — . — . — . — .

The Chinese Family through History†

Historically, three basic types of families existed in China: the nuclear family, the stem family, and the extended family. The last of these, although in reality not generally practicable except among the wealthy landed classes, continued to be an ideal through the ages, because it best embodied the ideas of unity and continuity which underlay the concept of the family in feudalistic China.

5

In structure, the traditional Chinese family was a hierarchy based on the Confucian precepts of the superiority of father to son, elder to younger and husband to wife. Under this generation-age-sex scheme of authority, sons and daughters were held in submission by parents and wives by husbands. The individual had very little identity apart from being a continuer of the family line of descent and discharger of duties to the family.

10

The first challenges to patriarchal despotism in the family were found in the reforms put forward by the Taiping rebels over a century ago, though eventually they failed to

† Based on Edgar Snow, *Red China Today*, New York, 1971 and Hugh D R Baker, *Chinese Family and Kinship*, Macmillan, 1979.

materialize. The Kuomintang in 1931 also put forth a civil code in which the legal structure of the family was nominally altered. Male authority was abolished and equality in property rights and divorce was promised to women. As with many Kuomintang decrees, however, 15 the new legislation had little actual effect on the traditional family system because the laws remained largely on paper.

The basic family law of the People's Republic, called the Marriage Law as promulgated in 1950, went much further and was energetically, if not completely, enforced. It explicitly defined the basis of the family in a marriage contract freely made between individuals whose 20 equality of rights as citizens was protected. Spouses shared ownership and management of family property and responsibility for the care and support of their children as well as aging parents. A new version of the law went into effect in 1981, which, besides reaffirming the principles in the 1950 law, gives a further guarantee to free will in contracting or dissolving the family partnership. 25

More important than any mere law in altering the family relationship has been the change in the economic structure of society as well as of the family. The land reform in the early fifties dealt the first shattering blow to patriarchal supremacy by enforcing the equal distribution of land among fathers and sons and men and women. Following that, abolition of private ownership of land and enterprises deprived the male family head of opportunities 30 to use ownership as a means of subjection. Since in most contemporary Chinese families every adult member, both senior and junior, both man and wife, goes outside the home to work and has an independent income, the hierarchical system of some members dominating the others is difficult to maintain. With the recent governmental promotion of the one-child family as part of the population control programme, one of the major functions of the family, 35 that of carrying on the ancestral line of descent through a son rather than a daughter, is finally being rejected. Thus, although the traditional principle of unification rather than individualization continues to be the basis of the Chinese family today, the family itself is a very different thing from what it used to be in size, in structure, as well as in nature.

— • — • — • — • — • — •

1. A writer doing a more formal kind of writing often tries not to repeat the same words. Therefore, in one piece of writing he often uses different expressions to refer to the same thing or idea. These expressions may be synonymous or may differ quite substantially in their shade, scope, or strength of meaning.

Below is a list of expressions from the reading passage (the forms of some have been changed or expanded to help you). Try to group together the ones having the same reference in the passage. The number in brackets indicates the line each occurs in.

through history (title)

through the ages (3—4)

unity (4)

idea underlying something (4)
 hierarchy (6)
 to be superior to (7)
 father, son; elder, younger (7)
 scheme of authority (8)
 to hold in submission (8)
 each individual having an identity (9)
 to continue (10)
 the family line of descent (10)
 patriarchal despotism (11)
 to put forward (12)
 to put forth (13)
 civil code (13)
 to alter (14, 26)
 male authority (14)
 decrees (15)
 legislation (16)
 laws (16)
 to promulgate (18)
 to be enforced (19)
 to go into effect (23)
 change (27)
 patriarchal supremacy (28)
 to hold in subjection (31)
 senior, junior (32)
 hierarchical system (33)
 to dominate (33)
 to carry on (36)
 the ancestral line of descent (36)
 principle as a basis of something (37)
 unification (37)
 individualisation (38)

2. Use a phrase to give the main idea (topic) of each paragraph of the reading passage. For the 1st and 2nd paragraphs, optional answers are provided for you to choose from. For the 3rd, 4th and 5th paragraphs, you will have to give your own answer.

Paragraph 1:

- a. The ideas that underlay the concept of the feudalistic Chinese family.
- b. The concept of the family of feudalistic China.
- c. The three types of families in feudalistic China.

d. The ideal type of family in feudalistic China.

Paragraph 2:

a. The structure of the traditional Chinese family.

b. The individual in the traditional Chinese family.

c. Confucius's precepts as the basis of the traditional Chinese family.

d. The generation-age-sex scheme of authority in the traditional Chinese family.

Paragraph 3:

Paragraph 4:

Paragraph 5:

3. Decide whether each of the following statements is true or false. Read out (and explain if necessary) the exact part in the passage that gives support to your decision.

1) The extended type of family was

a. the only type of family existing in old China.

b. considered to be the best form of family in old China.

c. found to be impracticable especially by the poorer classes in old China.

2) Under the traditional family system in old China

a. members were ranked on a graded system.

b. women were considered inferior to men.

c. children had to obey parents.

d. brothers and sisters were all equal.

3) In the traditional Chinese family

a. every individual could develop his or her personality.

b. the individual was required to put duties to the family above his or her personal rights.

c. the individual lived only for the purpose of performing duties to the family and carrying on the family line.

4) The Taiping rebels

a. made the first attempts in history to change the feudalistic Chinese family system.

b. succeeded in making some changes in the feudalistic Chinese family system.

5) The Kuomintang

a. passed a law to change the feudalistic Chinese family structure.

b. put this law into effect.

c. did away with male supremacy in the Chinese family.

d. made sure that women had equal property and divorce rights with men.

6) The first Marriage Law of the People's Republic

a. was put forth in 1950

b. ran directly counter to the Kuomintang law.

c. was put into effect.

- d. stated that marriage was a form of contract entered into voluntarily by husband and wife.
- e. made it quite clear that husband and wife were equal.
- f. stated that husband and wife were equally responsible for bringing up their children and supporting their old parents.

7) The 1981 law

- a. was just a reissue (重版) of the 1950 law.
- b. lays more stress on the free will of both man and woman in marriage and in divorce.

8) Changes in the Chinese family system were brought about

- a. mainly by law.
- b. by the land reform which distributed land equally to all members of a family.
- c. by the abolition of private ownership of land and enterprises so that the male family head could no longer use property ownership to control other members of the family.
- d. by both husband and wife going out to work and becoming economically equal.

9) The policy of discouraging each family from having more than one child

- a. is a government policy for controlling population.
- b. helps the traditional functions of the family to be better fulfilled.
- c. shatters the tradition of always requiring a male descendant (后代) to carry on the family line.

10) The Chinese family of today

- a. has completely discarded the old basis for the traditional Chinese family.
- b. rests entirely on the same basis as the traditional Chinese family.

4. Fill in the following table to show the differences between the Chinese family of the past and that of today.

The Chinese family	size	structure	nature
of the past			
of today			

3 The contemporary Chinese family

3.1 Breaking up or holding together ? — reading

1. Prediction

You are going to read a news story. It is reprinted on the following pages from the August 28, 1984 issue of *CHINA DAILY*.

It is always a good strategy to try to make some predictions before you read anything. In the case of a news story, the following will help you to predict:

- 1) The heading. What is the heading of this news story ? What do you think the story is about ?
- 2) The illustration (if any). What can you see in the illustration here ? What more can you guess from it ?
- 3) The subheading (if any). Where is the subheading of this story ? Where is the subheading usually placed ? Does this subheading give you a better idea what the story is about ?
- 4) The first paragraph (which is called the 'lead', and which usually gives the gist of the whole story). Reading over the lead quickly you will be able to get the following main points about the story:

where ? _____

when ? _____

who ? _____

what ? _____

With these predictions in mind, go home and read the rest of the story. Fill in the table on page 296 as you read. Time yourself and see how fast you can do it.