

内 容 提 要

本书根据英语强化训练的特点和规律,以高级英语经常涉及的题材为主线,组织了题材广泛,内容丰富的会话素材,并辅以翔实有趣的最新文化背景介绍。听力、口语练习生动活泼、形式多样;所介绍的题目涉及广泛,涵盖英语国家的历史、文化、政治、科技等各个领域。本书的英语语言起点为大学英语4级,可供准备参加IELTS、PET5-5、TOEFL和其他类似水平的英语考试的读者使用,也可供出国留学预备人员、在校大学生以及其他希望提高英语听说能力的读者使用。

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前 言

随着我国成功加入 WTO ,以及我国与国际间的交往日趋频繁 ,社会对英语人才的需求越来越大。为适应我国经济的快速发展 ,满足社会对英语人才培养的现实需求 ,我们以先进的英语教学理念为指导 ,借鉴国外出版的最新英语语言教材 ,结合编者自己在主要英语国家留学、任教和研究的亲身经历 ,根据新颖、实用的原则 ,编写了这套《3E 英语培训系列教材》。全套教材分“英语读写教程”和“英语听说教程”两大部分 ,每一部分按照读者的英语水平分为 I、II、III ,即初级、中级、高级三个分册。

《英语听说教程 III (求精)》以专题为主线 ,题材广泛 ,内容丰富 ,涉及当代社会的人际关系、语言文化、社会问题以及科学技术等领域 ,包括许多年轻人感兴趣且乐于交谈的话题 ,如 :教育体制、医疗体制、家庭结构、弹性工作时间、老龄社会、转基因食品、动物权利、校园暴力、安乐死 ,等等。

同国内现有的英语听力、口语教程相比 ,本书具有以下特点 :

1. 从听力入手 ,强化听、说技能训练。我们注意将“听”与“说”有机结合起来 ,每一单元围绕一个场景 ,先进行听力训练 ,然后再进行口头训练。听力训练为口头训练提供语言素材 ,口头训练巩固听力部分的语言文化知识 ,二者相辅相成 ,可以达到事半功倍的效果。

2. 除了听力材料之外 ,本书还提供了大量与听力材料的专题相关的阅读材料 ,以帮助学习者获得信息 ,拓展视野 ,训练思维能力 ,提高就某一话题连续地陈述观点和展开辩论的能力。

本书的英语语言起点为大学英语 4 级 ,可供准备参加 IELTS、PETS-5、TOEFL 和其他类似水平的英语考试的读者使用 ,也可供出国留学预备人员、在校大学生以及其他希望提高英语听说能力的读者使用。

四川外语学院的严忠志教授负责本书的总体策划和结构设计 ,并审阅和修改了全稿。尹陈毅副教授负责材料收集和具体编写工作。

在本书的编写过程中 ,我们参考和使用了相关资料 ,在此谨向相关人士表示真诚的谢意。最后 ,我们恳请使用本书的老师 and 读者对书中的不足之处不吝指正 ,提出宝贵意见 ,以便本书再版时的修改完善。

编 者

2003 年 7 月

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British Education System

LISTEN

AND

THINK

👉 **Listen to the talk carefully and indicate whether each of the following statements is true, false or not mentioned in the talk. You may take notes when necessary.**

- (1) In Britain there are not only some old, world-famous schools, colleges and universities, but also some new and innovative ones.
- (2) Everyone between the ages of five and eighteen must attend educational establishments.
- (3) International students normally go to one of the 2,400 independent schools, some of which are Britain's famous and ancient schools.
- (4) In the secondary school pupils spend about two years preparing for the General Certificate of Secondary Education or, in Scotland, the Scottish Certificate of Education.
- (5) After leaving school, some students can directly go to study in a university or university sector college.
- (6) If the student decides to work, it is necessary that he/she obtain vocational qualifications.
- (7) In Britain, both universities and university sector colleges have the power to award their own degrees at all levels.
- (8) A-levels are the only entrance qualifications for students in the UK.
- (9) International students are required to have a certain level of English competence to study in British universities.
- (10) It takes three years to study for an honours degree all over the UK.

LISTEN

AND

SPEAK

👉 **Listen to the talk again and answer the following questions.**

- (1) What are the two parallel school systems in the UK ? And what is the difference between them ?
- (2) After leaving the secondary school, what decisions do students have to make about their future ?
- (3) What are the two kinds of higher education institutions ?
- (4) What are the main routes into higher education ?
- (5) What qualifications should international students have if they apply to study in the British colleges or universities ?

Words and Expressions

compulsory /kəm'pʌlsəri/ a. 强制的 ;义务的	innovative /'ɪnəuveitiv/ a. 革新的 ,创新的 ;富有革新精神的
parallel /'pærəlel/ a. 平行的 ;相同的	
baccalaureate /ˌbəkə'leɪt/ n. 学士	vocational /vəu'keɪʃənəl/ a. 行业的 ,职业的

Notes

1. General Certificate of Secondary Education(GCSE) (英国)普通中等教育证书
2. Scottish Certificate of Education(SCE) 苏格兰教育证书
3. A-level (Advanced level) (英国)中学高级水平考试
4. International Baccalaureate(IB) 国际高中毕业考试
5. General National Vocational Qualifications (GNVQs) (英国)全国通用职业资格
6. foundation course 预科
7. honours degree 荣誉学位 (在英国 ,学士学位有四个等级 :一等荣誉学位 first-class honours 、二等荣誉学位 second-class honours、三等荣誉学位 third-class honours 和普通学位 ordinary degree。)

READ

AND

TALK

👉 **Read the following passages and restate the ideas as clearly and completely as you can. Make sure that your sentences are meaningful and that your grammatical structure is correct.**

Passage 1

A Brief Introduction to the Chinese Education System

China has adopted a nine-year compulsory schooling system, which means all children are required to attend school for at least nine years. Students have to complete both the primary school program and the junior middle-school program. Higher education is only for those students who have passed examinations of all levels. Student must pass the entrance examination for senior middle schools or middle-level technical schools. After two, three or four years, they have to go through national college entrance examination for admission to universities.

The primary school education requires six years. Pupils are required to take a variety of subjects such as the Chinese language, fundamental mathematics and moral education. They also take part in sports and extra-curriculum activities. Foreign languages such as English are optional courses in the senior year of the primary education.

Middle school education has two parts, 3-year junior middle school program and senior middle school. From junior middle school, students begin to learn a variety of science subjects such as chemistry, physics and biology and other subjects such as history, geography, and foreign languages. Physical education is enthusiastically encouraged.

Senior middle school education is a continuation of junior middle school. Students take up specific subjects in either science or humanity subjects. Many contests are organized annually in all levels to encourage their study. The “Olympic Series” are the most noticeable ones. The purpose is for them in preparation for the national college entrance examination. Examinations are designed separately for science and arts students.

Higher education in China is to train specialists for all the sectors of the country’s development. Universities, colleges and institutes offer four- or five-year undergraduate programs as well as special two- or three-year programs. Students who have completed a first degree may apply to enter graduate schools.

Passage 2

University Admission in China

University admission is operated on a centralized enrolment system, in which admissions committees at the provincial level are under the Ministry of Education. Admission is granted on the basis of academic, physical and moral qualifications. Special allowances are made for minority nationality and overseas Chinese candidates.

The nationwide examinations are held in the first ten days of July. Candidates can take the examination in either one of the two categories, humanities or sciences/engineering. They apply for the in-

stitutions and departments they wish to enter in order of preference. Enrolment is determined by the examination results. Brief investigation into their social behavior and moral character is conducted before students are admitted. In some faculties, specific physical requirements must be met.

➤ ***Read the following passage and describe the British education system in your own words. Make sure that your sentences are meaningful and that your grammatical structure is correct.***

Passage 3

British Higher Education and Beyond

Around a third of young people in England and Wales, 40% in Scotland and 45% in Northern Ireland go to university to study full-time as undergraduates. Students at university usually spend three years researching a subject in-depth and are awarded a Bachelor's degree (for example, Bachelor of Arts, BA; or Bachelor of Science, BSc) on the successful completion of their studies. There are some four-year courses, and medical and veterinary courses normally require five years. All traditional first degree courses in Scotland require a minimum of three years' study (or four years to the honours level). Although a university degree can directly prepare students for a professional career in, for example, medicine or law, most degrees offer students broader courses in arts/humanities, science, and many other disciplines.

A number of students go on to do postgraduate studies. These usually lead to an additional formally recognized qualification, such as a Master's degree (for example, Master of Arts, MA; or a Master of Science, MSc) or a doctorate (PhD).

A growing number of mature students enter the higher education system. The option of mature students staying in work while also studying part-time for a qualification is becoming increasingly popular.

Related Words and Expressions

pre-school education 学龄前教育

nursery /'nɜːsri/n. 托儿所

fundamental mathematics 基础数学

moral education 德育

extra-curriculum activities 课外活动

middle school 中学

junior middle school 初中

senior middle school 高中

middle-level technical school 中等专业学校

contest /'kɒntest/ n. 比赛

national university entrance examination 高考

higher education 高等教育

admissions committee 招生委员会

compulsory subject 必修科目

optional subject 选修科目

undergraduate /ʌndə'grɪdʒuət/ n.

大学肄业生 (尚未取得学位的)大学生

postgraduate /pəʊst'grɪdʒuət/ n. 研究生

doctor /'dɒktə(r)/ n. 博士

diploma /di'pləʊmə/ n. 毕业文凭

Bachelor's degree / the first degree 学士学位

Bachelor of Arts (BA) 文学学士学位

Bachelor of Science (BSc) 理科学士学位

Master's degree 硕士学位

Master of Arts (MA) 文学硕士学位

Master of Science (MSc) 理学硕士学位

doctorate (Phd) /'dɒktərət/ n. 博士学位

 **Choose one of the following topics and discuss it with your classmates.**

- (1) What are the similarities and differences between the British education system and the Chinese education system ?
- (2) What suggestions would you make to reform the Chinese education system ?
- (3) What entrance qualifications should be required for higher education ? In what ways should students be assessed fairly and effectively ?
- (4) What role do extra-curriculum activities play in education ?
- (5) What are the changes in education around the world in the past decade ?
- (6) What changes do you foresee in the next 20 years ?
- (7) Please give a brief account of your personal educational background.



American Families

LISTEN

AND

THINK

👂 **Listen to the talk carefully and indicate whether each of the following statements is true, false or not mentioned in the talk. You may take notes when necessary.**

- (1) In the typical American family, the father earns money and the mother raises the children.
- (2) The traditional nuclear family does not exist any more in the modern American domestic structures.
- (3) Many children are raised in single-parent families due to the increased incidence of divorce.
- (4) The stigma against children born to unmarried couples is rapidly disappearing; and some children know only their mother.
- (5) Although women have had greater career opportunities since the 1970s, in most families the burden of childbearing still falls disproportionately on women.
- (6) The boom in reproductive technology has helped to increase the population of the United States by a variety of methods.
- (7) Gay couples and individuals are entitled to raise children, becoming parents either through reproductive technology or adoption.
- (8) Some committed couples cannot live together in stable, long-term relationships without any plans of marriage if they have children.
- (9) Parents of nuclear families today often struggle to balance spending time with their family and the demands of the job.
- (10) Americans still insist on the importance of the family unit, even though there are as many definitions of “family” as there are ethnic groups in the United States.

LISTEN

AND

SPEAK

➤ **Listen to the talk again and answer the following questions.**

- (1) What does the typical American family look like?
- (2) What kinds of family structures can be found in the United States at present?
- (3) Why are many children raised in single-parent families?
- (4) What problems do professional women face?
- (5) What changes are nuclear families experiencing?

Words and Expressions

norm /nɔ:m/ <i>n.</i> 标准, 规范	plurality /pluə'rli:ti/ <i>n.</i> 较大数, 多数
interfaith /'intə'feiθ/ <i>a.</i> 不同宗教信仰者(间)的, 不同宗教团体(间)的	encompass /in'kʌmpəs/ <i>v.</i> 包围, 环绕, 包含
demographic /ˌdi:mə'grɜ:fik/ <i>a.</i> 人口统计学的	gay /gei/ <i>n.</i> 美俚 男性同性恋者
reproductive /ˌri:prə'dʌktiv/ <i>a.</i> 生殖的, 再生的	stigma /'stigmə/ <i>n.</i> 耻辱, 污名
adoption /ə'dɒpʃ(ə)n/ <i>n.</i> 收养	infertile /in'fɜ:tail/ <i>a.</i> 不生育的
	portray /pə:'trei/ <i>v.</i> 描绘

Note

Little League 少年棒球联盟

READ

AND

TALK

➤ **Read the following passages and describe the gist as clearly and completely as you can. Make sure that your sentences are meaningful and that your grammatical structure is correct.**

Passage 1

What's Happening to American Families?

Few issues vex Americans more than what has happened to the role of the family in caring for children. Almost one in four of the nation's youngsters under 18 lives with only one parent, almost always the mother. If the youngster is black, the ratio rises to one in two. The divorce ratio has tripled and the percentage of out-of-wedlock births among teenage women has doubled over the past 15

years.

Caring for infants is not just a dilemma for female-headed households. Whether or not the family is intact, more than half of all mothers with a preschool child are in the labor force, 50 percent more than the proportion employed out of the home a decade ago.

What we need, we hear on all sides, is a return to the good old days when parents were responsible for their kids and kids obeyed their parents. We long for a return to an age when fundamental values were shared by all people.

In the aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, the American family has been stripped of two of its traditional social functions: serving as a unit for economic production and as a school for the vocational training of children.

The family was once an interdependent economic unit to which all members contributed. It produced most of the goods it consumed. As households began to specialize in cash crops, household self-sufficiency declined. Cottage industries were eliminated as more and more goods were produced in factories. Parental authority was no longer reinforced by control over property inheritance and the acquisition of craft skills.

Women's roles in the family were also transformed. At the beginning of the 20th century, women spent virtually all their adult lives bearing and rearing children. Now, female life expectancy is longer by 30 years and women have 30 to 40 years of reproductive life. There has been a remarkable increase in female participation in the labor force. Today, both marriage partners need to bring in income to meet family bills. Although women are less financially dependent on their husbands, they continue to bear the major burden of household and childcare chores whether they work or not.

There has been a marked reduction in the salience of the family. Since 1960, the proportion of women not marrying has doubled; the probability of divorce has risen to 50 percent.

In the typical American family of the 1980s and 1990s, both parents were at work outside the home. This had major consequences for family life. The economist Victor Fuchs has calculated that between 1960 and 1986, the opportunity for children to spend time with parents declined by 10 hours per week for the average white child and 12 hours for the black child. The principal reason was the increase in the proportion of mothers holding paid jobs; not far behind was the increase in one-parent households.

Passage 2

The Changing Face of American Families

Six years ago, Evelyn Josepha, a single mother, let go of her children. Her baby boy went into foster care, and her daughter went to live with Evelyn's mother—a separation that was to last four

years, enough time for Evelyn to get a grip on her life and get away from substance abuse.

When she returned to their lives four years later, they were all little more than strangers to each other. Although she had visited with them regularly during those four years, those visits were more like “having an aunt bringing them treats,” says Evelyn.

Although her story is not necessarily the norm, her circumstances reflect the increasing complexity of today’s American families, as shown in a new Census Bureau report. The traditional family, of course, still exists, and is even thriving against all odds. Based on surveys of 37,000 households, the number of children living in “nuclear” families, with both of their biological parents, rose from 51 % to 56 % between 1991 and 1996.

But, during that same five-year gap, the number of children who actually lived under the same roof with two adults, including all types of families from nuclear, to stepparents to other non-traditional households, continued to fall from 73 % in 1991 to 71 % in 1996.

The numbers are striking: in 1996, about one in four children lived with a single parent, up slightly from 1991. About 17 % of children were living in a blended family with stepparents, stepsiblings, or half-siblings, a rise of over 10 % in those six years. Nearly 1.5 million children were living with adoptive parents, but only about half of them were living with two parents.

As for the number of children being born to teens and to unmarried older women, that decreased for the first time in three decades. Still, the census report shows that one in three children are born to unmarried parents.

So, how are families—and especially the children—faring in this chaos? How are the kids bearing up in a time when many sociologists question whether the nuclear family—the two-parent, forever-together family—is becoming more of an aberration rather than the norm?

Passage 3

The New American Family

Today’s families are a diverse mix of single-parent households, remarried families, nuclear families, unmarried couples, and couples without children. There is no prototype for the “normal” family. data from the 2000 Census shows that married couples with children make up just 24 percent of all households, compared to 40 percent in 1970. In fact, there are slightly more single person households in America, 25 percent, than nuclear family households.

Researchers believe that the nuclear family is actually holding steady after two decades of decline. The percentage of nuclear families is down because other types of living arrangements are on the rise, including people living alone, single parents, and unmarried couples.

Single parent households continued to rise over the last decade. Single mother households now make up 7 percent of all households. Single father households doubled from 1990, from 1 percent to 2 percent.

One of the biggest changes in household structure is the number of families headed by unmarried couples, which rose 71 percent in the last decade. Unmarried couples now account for at least 4.5 percent of all households, and there are children in one-third of those households.

Even within nuclear families, the model is changing. Families are getting smaller. The number of families with just one child has doubled since the seventies and now accounts for more than 20 percent of families. Meanwhile, families with four or more children decreased from 17 percent in 1970 to 6 percent in 2000.

In two parent families, it is likely that both parents work. There is also a strong possibility that one of the parents is a stepparent.

These changes in family structure can be attributed to several factors. For one, people are marrying later. The average age for first marriage is now 26.8 for men and 25.1 for women. That means more adults spend at least some time living alone. Both later marriage and divorce lead to smaller families. Divorce also results in more single parent families, though some of those classified as single parents may actually be in co-parenting situations. Widespread affluence also results in more people living alone. Some choose not to remarry after divorce; others put off marriage.

Partially as a result of affluence, both single and married people tend to have higher expectations for a happy marriage and are less likely to stay in an unhappy marriage. As people become more isolated from community and extended family, they place more responsibility for their fulfillment on their marriage partner.

Contemporary families are under severe stress. Stress in turn can contribute to marital conflict, parent-child alienation, child abuse and neglect, and other tensions that affect children's well-being.

➤ **Read the following passage. Compare the different kinds of American family structures and describe their similarities and differences. Make sure that your sentences are meaningful and that your grammatical structure is correct.**

Passage 4

Various Kinds of American families

Married Nuclear Families

In these families, both adults are the biological or adoptive parents of the children. There are three types of married nuclear families depending on the employment status of the woman and man. In

the first type, the man works outside the home while the woman works inside the home caring for the children. Twenty-eight percent of all households fit this description according to the current U. S. Census. In the second type of married nuclear family, the woman works outside the home and the man cares for the children. This constitutes 2 percent of families in this country. In the third kind of married nuclear family, both the husband and the wife work outside the home or are income providers. In some situations, the woman might have a home-based business, such as a day care center. Nearly 60 percent of women with children under the age of six were in the work force at the beginning of the decade.

Cohabiting Families

In this kind of family, the couple who live together are not legally married. Either one or both of them are the biological or adoptive parents of the children.

Single-Parent Families

In this kind of family there is only one parent in the home. Primarily because of high divorce rates and adults choosing not to marry, this is currently the fastest growing family form in America. More than half of all children will spend some of their lives in a single-parent family. Currently, 88 percent of these families are headed by women.

Stepfamilies / Blended Families

These families are generally created by divorce and remarriage, rather than by the death of the mother or father. In stepfamilies, biologically unrelated children often live in the same household. There are thousands of new stepfamilies being created each week in this country.

Joint / Shared-Custody Families

In these families, children are legally raised by both parents who are not living together. Generally, the children move back and forth between the residences of each parent, depending on the agreement between the parents.

Grandparent-Led Families

Sometimes children are raised by their grandparents when their biological parents have died or no longer can take care of them. The number of these families has increased by 40 percent in the past ten years. In addition, many grandparents take some primary responsibility for childcare, particularly when both parents work.

Families Headed by Adults of the Same Sex / Queer Families

Children are sometimes reared by two adults of the same sex who live together. For example, two sisters may be raising their children together in the same household. Also included in this definition are families where lesbian (female) or gay (male) couples are filling parenting roles. Most frequently, the adults bring children from a heterosexual relationship to these families.

Foster and Group-Home Families

Foster parents and institutional childcare workers often provide a substitute family for children referred by the courts or government agencies. While problems with their parents or guardians are being resolved, the children may live in these families.

Commuter Families

In these families, the parents live and work in different towns or states. One parent provides the primary residence, and the other parent comes home for short periods of time, such as weekends and holidays. The number of commuter families is growing due to the difficulty of finding two suitable jobs in the same vicinity or the need for parents to receive an additional job.

Related Words and Expressions

vex /veks/ *v.* 使烦恼, 恼怒

out-of-wedlock 私生的

salience /'seiljəns, -jəns/ *n.* 明显, 突出, 突起

substance abuse 毒品滥用

sibling /'sibliŋ/ *n.* 兄弟, 姐妹

half-siblings 同父异母兄妹

census /'sensəs/ *n.* 人口普查

aberration /[bə'reɪf(ə)n/ *n.* 失常

prototype /'prəʊtətaɪp/ *n.* 原型

stepparent /'steppəərənt/ *n.* 继父(母)

affluence /'fluəns/ *n.* 富裕, 富足

nuclear family 核心家庭(只包括父母和子女的家庭)

cohabiting family 未婚同居家庭

queer family 同性恋家庭

biological parents 亲生父母

lesbian /'lezbɪən/ *a.* (女性)同性恋的 *n.* 同性恋的女性

heterosexual /hetərəu'seksjuəl/ *a.* 异性的, 异性爱的

foster /'fɒstə(r)/ *v.* 养育, 抚育

➡ **Justify your opinion: American families have experienced many changes over the recent decades. Please describe some of the changes and discuss the possible factors that contribute to them.**

A. Read the following points when you think about the changes in American families.

- (1) One major change has been in the workforce participation of women, particularly married women, which has affected traditional gender roles. More and more mothers are working outside than ever before.
- (2) The American family is changing. More people in the United States are forming different kinds of families than in the past. By 1987, the “traditional” family of the 1950s had become rare.
- (3) Recent studies by government researchers show that the divorce rate in the United States is one of the highest in the world.

- (4) The number of remarriages involving children has steadily grown in the recent years. Almost half of children experience the breakup of their parents by the time they are sixteen years old. The greater part of them become members of stepfamilies because divorced people remarry. Many of these children share homes with children not biologically related to them.
- (5) Single parent households continued to rise over the last decade. Single mother households now make up 7 percent of all households. Single father households doubled from 1 percent to 2 percent. Children are growing up in single-parent families in increasing numbers. Three-fifths of children in single-parent families are living with a separated or divorced parent, whereas about one third of the children in these families are living with a never-married parent.
- (6) One of the biggest changes in household structure is the increasing number of families headed by unmarried couples. Some families today are choosing cohabitation over marriage. Cohabiting households can look like a family from the outside. They contain a man, a woman, and children, but they generally function differently than married couples.
- (7) More people of the same sex are making a home together in the United States today. A growing number of gays and lesbians are forming families and having children.
- (8) Fewer babies were born. The birth rate fell to its lowest point in the history of the nation.
- (9) Even within nuclear families, the model is changing. Families are getting smaller. The number of families with just one child has doubled since the 1970s and now accounts for more than 20 percent of families. Families today are busier than ever. Rather than sitting down together for a family dinner, parents may be working late and children may be playing on a soccer team, learning Spanish, or taking piano lessons.

B. Read the following points when you think about the factors that contribute to the changes in American families.

- (1) Beginning in the late 1950s, a wave of social change swept through American life. Almost every American family was affected.
- (2) Social historians say the most far-reaching change in the family has resulted from changes in women's work. A majority of married women in the United States no longer stay home all day to cook, clean and raise children. They now have paid