

How to use this book

1 Preparation

Books

My professor insisted us to read Shakespeare's major work as a requirement. I felt that it was pointless. Because, first, Mr Shakespeare writes so obscurely that it takes away the interest of reading.

2 Comprehension

1. According to the paragraph, how is Shakespeare evaluated at present?
2. Who is mentioned as a contemporary writer?
3. What does anachronism mean?

3 Questions

1. Do you like to read books? Why or why not?
2. What is the best book you've read so far?
3. Tell me about the best story you've read

4 Vocabulary & Expressions

requirement: something that is needed or asked for in order to advance
obscurely: difficult to understand
relevant: directly connected with the subject or problem being discussed or considered

5 Review

1. This poet is too _____ to understand.
2. You'd better refer to the _____ chapters in this book for your research paper.

① Preparation

上课之前,自己练习说一说话题,检查对paragraph的理解程度,看网络教材并听三遍MP3录音,听完后模仿正确的发音和语气,慢慢读三遍再快速读三遍并背诵。

② Comprehension

利用paragraph,检查学生有没有正确地理解课文,学生应该提前准备paragraph相关内容,才能正常上课。

③ Questions

这个阶段, Topic多样的问题和老师互相交流意见,听问题,用英语思考,再用英语表达出来的主题对话的训练过程。对Topic的提问,本人用自己思考后的方式回答的这种努力过程,可以激发学生以前积累的词汇,英语写作等能力。

LEVEL 5-B

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Websites

I am into speedy loading pages, so sometimes it drives me crazy waiting for all these colorful and animated pages to load. Cyberspace patience is measured in milliseconds, unlike that of off-line where an hour is tolerable. My bandwidth is that of a 56 kbps modem and I don't have the luxury with an ADSL connection.

To all those web designers out there, give me the option to choose what kind of pages to load. Don't cram into my browser and flash pages when all I need is a simple text file. Give me the option to save and play audio and video outside the browser. Don't give me those endearing pop ups and rollover because they annoy me. Give me an intuitive interface instead so I can navigate easily to those pages I need.

* Comprehension

1. What is the writer talking about?
2. What annoys the writer?
3. What does "navigate" mean in this paragraph?

* Questions

1. What are your favorite websites? Why do you like them?
2. What do you think are the main characteristics of great websites?
3. Do you like websites that are flashy but slow or plain but fast loading? Why?
4. Do you have your own personal home page? If so, tell me about it.

* Vocabulary & Expressions

millisecond : a unit of time equal to one thousandth of a second

bandwidth : the width or spread of the range of frequencies used for the transmission of radio or TV signals

ADSL : Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line

cram into : to force something into a small space

endearing : making someone love or like you (= attractive)

intuitive : an intuitive idea is based on feelings rather than on knowledge or facts

interface : the part of a computer system through which two different machines are connected

navigate : to find out the way to a place, especially by using maps

* Review

Fill in each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

endearing	navigate	intuitive	instead	cram
patience	tolerable	luxury	flash	connection

1. The apartment is really too small, but it's _____ for the time being.
2. She has such a (an) _____ smile.
3. _____ fire swept through the mountain in town yesterday.
4. I don't need that kind of _____ car.
5. You'll need to have some _____ if you want to be served in this restaurant.
6. This is a very bad _____. Could you call me back again?
7. They _____ her clothes into the bag.
8. Early explorers used to _____ by the stars.
9. He seemed to have a (an) _____ awareness of how I felt.
10. The black shoes are out of stock. Why don't you buy the red one _____?

* Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1. tolerable | 2. endearing | 3. Flash | 4. luxury | 5. patience |
| 6. connection | 7. cram | 8. navigate | 9. intuitive | 10. instead |

Internet Shopping

I doubt that Internet shopping will ever replace traditional shopping anytime soon. A paradox of modern life is that the more high tech it becomes, the more they lack in high touch as opposed to virtual things. However, the need to interact with tangible things, to touch, taste and see, it is so ingrained in animal nature that technology can never find a satisfactory replacement for it.

Take the case of modern banking. Banking technology has replaced the need to manually calculate one's accounts in the bank with a paper and pen. But this never stopped people from wanting to do so. In fact, statistics show that more people these days are feeling a greater need to see their money with their very eyes, and to fill bank forms with a paper and pen than they ever did before. This parallels truly with shopping. People go shopping not so much to buy goods as to take a walk for excitement or exercise to take in the sights and sounds. It's just the trend of shopping style; technology cannot win over the nature.

* Comprehension

1. What has modern banking replaced?
2. What does "very eyes" mean in this paragraph?
3. What does the writer think about Internet shopping?

* Questions

1. What do you usually use the Internet for?
2. Do you think that the Internet is definitely necessary? Why or why not?
3. Have you ever done Internet shopping? If so, what did you buy?
4. What do you think about Internet shopping?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

paradox : a situation that seems strange because it involves two ideas or qualities that are very different

virtual : virtual objects and activities are generated by a computer to simulate real objects and activities

tangible : able to be felt by touch

ingrained : ingrained attitudes or behavior are firmly established and therefore difficult to change

manual : operated or done by hand or without the help of electricity (adv. manually)

statistics : a collection of numbers which represent facts or measurements

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

statistics	tangible	manual	replace	traditional
calculate	paradox	interact	ingrained	parallel

1. It's a (an) _____ that in such a rich country there can be a great number of poverty.
2. _____ in illness are used in planning health care.
3. The most important thing in teaching English is to make students _____ with each other.
4. Have you ever heard _____ Indian music?
5. We usually _____ oil price in dollars.
6. I've been using this computer for 10 years but I can't afford to _____ it.
7. There should be _____ evidence that the economy is starting to recover.
8. If two lines _____, they can never meet each other.
9. It would take too long to do a (an) _____ search of all the data.
10. Morals tend to be deeply _____.

* Answers

1. paradox	2. Statistics	3. interact	4. traditional	5. calculate
6. replace	7. tangible	8. parallel	9. manual	10. ingrained

Digital Cameras

I am fond of the sights of Korean streets. Red chili peppers are strewn on summer streets to dry, fat persimmons hanging on branches are so overburdened that they threaten to break, the multi colored neon lights of the metropolis are reflected on the night water, elaborately festooned temples from an ancient past are placed with great tranquility in the heart of a modern city, and lovely pagodas are bordered with cherry blossoms. I capture them all with my digital camera.

On a day, I would stroll lazily around my neighborhood taking in the scene. I see couples lolling in the park, just letting the day go by. Leaves are sailing; riding on magic carpets of mini-whirlwinds. Moreover, flowers in vibrant colors are soaking in the rich rays of the summer sun. Grass like an orchestra is waving to the masterful baton of summer symphony which only nature could hear. My camera captures the reality of the moment and preserves it for posterity.

* Comprehension

1. What does the writer capture with the digital camera?
2. What are mentioned as a representative of modern city?
3. What does "letting the day go by" mean?

* Questions

1. Do you like to take a picture? Why or why not?
2. Do you own a digital camera? If so, describe it.
3. What are the benefits of digital camera?
4. What are the characteristics of good photographs?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

metropolis: a very large city that is the most important city in a country or area

elaborate

: containing a lot of small details or parts that are connected with each other in a complicated way (adv. elaborately)

festooned: covering something with long pieces of material, especially for decoration

tranquil: pleasantly calm, quiet and peaceful (n. tranquility)

pagoda: a Buddhist temple that has several levels with a decorated roof at each level

stroll: to walk somewhere in a slow relaxed way

loll: to sit or lie in a very lazy and relaxed way

vibrant: energetic, bright and strong

posterity: people who will live in the future generation

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

elaborately	tranquil	loll	posterity	metropolis
strolled	threatened	preserve	vibrant	overburdened

1. He _____ back in his comfortable chair.
2. Sometimes, Han-bok is made with _____ colors.
3. I'm not used to this _____ atmosphere.
4. The _____ donkeys finally fell down.
5. This wedding dress is _____ made with beads.
6. We _____ in the waterfront after the dinner.
7. Paris is the fashion _____ of France.
8. The bandits _____ me with death.
9. We have to _____ the forest.
10. The photographer captured the scene on camera for _____.

* Answers

- | | | | | |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. lolled | 2. vibrant | 3. tranquil | 4. overburdened | 5. elaborately |
| 6. strolled | 7. metropolis | 8. threatened | 9. preserve | 10. posterity |

Photoshop

I LOVE PHOTOSHOP. HERE'S WHY.

A handy filter, the motion blur can make eye-catching people who distract attention from me fade into the background. With the blending options, I can transpose myself into exotic locales I've never been and brag it to my friends in the photo. For special romantic effect, I drag a picture of Jessica Alba to recline on a beach with me, adjust the opacity to blend mismatched colors with the ambient colors, and there I have a photorealistic shot. No one will ever know.

I can even eliminate scenes of the crime: an ex-girlfriend and my current girlfriend must never know about them. Moreover, to increase my desirability to potential mates, I apply the 'Healing' brush to smoothen out my pimples and to enlarge my orbs to look like a startled does'(female deer) eyes, I use the distort tool: I skew it from it's Mongolian slant and set it American horizontal. Image is everything when you have nothing in reality, right?

* Comprehension

1. According to the paragraph, what kind of effects does Photoshop have?
2. What can you do with 'Healing' brush?
3. What does "potential mates" mean?

* Questions

1. Have you ever used Photoshop? If so, what did you use it for?
2. What kind of software do you use?
3. What are advantages of using Photoshop?
4. What are disadvantages of using Photoshop?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

blur: a shape that you cannot see clearly

transpose: to change the order or position of two or more things

locale: the place where something happens or where the action takes place in a book or a film

brag: to talk too proudly about what you have done, what you own, etc.

opacity: the quality of being difficult to see through

ambient: the temperature of the surrounding area

orb: a bright ball-shaped object, especially the sun or the moon

distort: to explain a fact, statement, idea, etc. in a way that changes its real meaning

skew: to affect a test or an attempt to get information in a way that make the results incorrect

slant: a sloping position or angle

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

bragged

current

blur

distracted

fade

dragged

recline

adjust

eliminate

potential

1. His scar on his face is beginning to _____.
2. Check and _____ the brakes regularly.
3. "I came out top in the test," he _____.
4. We have to be aware of _____ problems not to fail.
5. Noise on the street continuously _____ him from his homework.
6. Don't _____ on this bed. It's broken.
7. He got up and _____ his chair towards the table.
8. You have to _____ greasy food for your diet.
9. The _____ situation is very different to that in 1995.
10. Everything is a (an) _____ without my glasses.

* Answers

1, fade

2, adjust

3, bragged

4, potential

5, distracted

6, recline

7, dragged

8, eliminate

9, current

10, blur

Judgment

Nude models must have lots of nerves to display their nudity in public. In a repressed society, nudity is a taboo, which is regarded as ipso facto sinful. Though we have come a long way from this fallacy, people still frown upon nudity. Nude artists are breaking our sexual rigidity bravely. Personally there isn't anything pornographic about nudity, especially if those pictures are taken for artistic or commercial purposes, like lingerie advertisements or fashion shows.

Nudity has an artistic element to it that draws the viewers' attention and arouses the basic instincts, so it has nothing vulgar about it. It's just natural to feel drawn toward a well-sculptured nude body. Whether or not you feel ennobled or debased by such nude displays, you must not state those displays with judgment. Nothing is dirty except your perception so never criticize for what its creativity!

* Comprehension

1. What did the writer mention about nudity?
2. According to the paragraph, what does the writer think about nude artists?
3. What does "repressed society" mean?

* Questions

1. What do you think of nude models?
2. What do you think is considered as a taboo these days?
3. Do you think pornography is related to the nudity? Why or why not?
4. Have you ever been to a fashion show? If so, how was it?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

taboo : a social custom which means a particular activity or subject must be avoided

ipso facto : used to show that something is known from or proved by the facts

fallacy : a false idea or belief, especially one that a lot of people believe is true

rigid : rigid methods, systems, etc. are very strict and difficult to change (n. rigidity)

vulgar : sexual remarks, jokes, etc. that are spoken with coarse language and offensive way

debase : to reduce the quality or value of something

perception : the way you regard something and your beliefs about what it is like

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

perception

rigid

fallacy

taboo

vulgar

element

draw

criticize

debase

arouse

1. It's a common _____ to think that crime is caused by poverty.
2. The chief _____ of success is confidence.
3. Betty's finding it hard to keep to the school's _____ rules.
4. Parent's views influence their children's _____ of the world.
5. At the end of essay, you have to _____ a conclusion.
6. Nowadays, teenagers use too many _____ words.
7. What is considered as a (an) _____ in your country?
8. His behaviors _____ father's anger.
9. My children do nothing but _____ and complain all the time.
10. Politicians _____ the meaning of the word 'democracy'.

* Answers

1. fallacy

2. element

3. rigid

4. perception

5. draw

6. vulgar

7. taboo

8. arouse

9. criticize

10. debase

Perception

Am I being too self-conscious about my appearance? I just can't stand when others comment on my looks, behavior, or personality. I understand when my family and intimate close friends make statements if my appearance has changed, but I tend to be all ears when disinterested party struck me with insignificant or minor comments. I tried to let it go in one ear and out the other, but it seems to be rooted in my brain.

My friends stated that I lack in self-confidence, which makes me to be concerned all the time. But how can you not be so bothered about it when people talk about you? I bet it would constantly bother me if I try to ignore all the statements. I don't have the tolerance to laugh over them, but I still have to find a solution to distinguish all the comments.

* Comprehension

1. Name three things the writer can't stand.
2. What do the writer's friends say to the writer?
3. What's the difference between 'self-conscious' and 'self-confident'?

* Questions

1. What do you say if someone tells you that you are unattractive?
2. What do you say if someone says that you are conservative?
3. What do you think about your self-conscious?
4. Do you think the appearance is important in social life? Why or why not?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

comment: to express an opinion about someone or something

intimate: having an extremely close relationship

party: a group of people that someone has formed in order to go somewhere or do something in an organized way

insignificant: too small or unimportant to consider or worry about

be rooted in: to have developed from something and be strongly influenced by it

distinguish

: to be able to recognize and understand the difference between two similar things or people

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

distinguish

insignificant

intimate

party

comment

tend

concerned

tolerance

1. My parents always _____ on my sister's attitude.
2. I decided to invite my _____ friends to my birthday party.
3. The bus was rented by a (an) _____ of tourists.
4. Looking at the Earth from space makes you realize how small and _____ we all are.
5. Dogs can _____ a greater range of sounds than humans.
6. I really appreciate my parents' _____ and understanding.
7. We were very _____ about your safety and convenience.
8. Lighter cars _____ to be noisy and uncomfortable.

* Answers

1. comment

2. intimate

3. party

4. insignificant

5. distinguish

6. tolerance

7. concerned

8. tend

Comments

DO YOU THINK YOU ARE HONEST?

I think I am truly honest when it comes to comment. I am ingenuous to others, but more importantly I'm truthful to myself. As a human being, I slip once in a while. Now and then I end up being untrue to myself, but generally I am honest. If I'm not honest at times, I try harder to be next time. When I am asked to express my opinion about something, I speak my mind out freely though it may give emotional scars to others. Although I try to be sensitive about others' feelings, I know that it's better to be sensible than to be sensitive.

I am, in most cases, honest to myself, but that honesty draws the borderline in my friendships and relationships. When someone criticizes me and I see that person has a point, I neither close my mind to him/her nor ignore the criticism. However, when I criticize others, they tend to get offended. Should I be honest to myself or be deceitful to the listeners?

* Comprehension

1. What is the writer talking about?
2. What does the writer do when someone criticizes him / her?
3. What does "emotional scars" mean?

* Questions

1. What do you think is 'being honest'?
2. Do you think you are honest? Why or why not?
3. How do you feel when you are not honest?
4. Do you think honesty is the primary aspect in any relationship? Why or why not?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

ingenuous : inexperienced, simple, trusting and honest

sensitive : able to understand other people's feelings and problems

sensible : reasonable, practical and able to judge things well

borderline : a situation in which you are not sure whether someone or something is acceptable

deceitful : someone who is untrustworthy tells lies in order to get what they want

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

sensible

deceitful

sensitive

express

criticism

truthful

ingenuous

emotional

1. I cannot _____ how I was happy at that time.
2. She was a (an) _____ girl and did not panic.
3. Steve, an inexperienced reporter, seemed too _____.
4. Victims are left with _____ problems that can last for life.
5. It would be _____ not to present the data as fairly as possible.
6. The classroom teacher must be _____ to children's needs.
7. When she was questioned, she could not give him a (an) _____ answer.
8. A (an) _____ is a statement that expresses disapproval.

* Answers

1. express

2. sensible

3. ingenuous

4. emotional

5. deceitful

6. sensitive

7. truthful

8. criticism

Hypothetical Situations

If my sibling is malicious to me, I'm going to get back at him/her. I will give a taste of own medicine to teach a lesson. If he/she banter me and embarrasses me in front of my friends, I have to find a way for him/her to pay me back! If anyone tries to stab my back or use me for personal achievement, I will not tolerate the person's impudence. It's not that I'm vengeful; it's just that people don't know what they dish out to others unless they taste it and find it's a bitter pill to swallow. I think that is called education, or justice.

Selfish people should be educated to have respect in others. Why don't they think before they act crudely? If I turn a blind eye on anybody's rudeness, they may think it's easy to get away with bad behavior. In fact, people should not take advantage over anyone.

* Comprehension

1. What is the writer's attitude towards impudent people?
2. What does the writer think about selfish people?
3. What does "vengeful" mean?

* Questions

1. If your brother or sister is mean to you, what would you do?
2. If you had a million dollars, what would you do?
3. What do you think about impudent people?
4. Which one do you think is worse, being dishonest or being impudent? Why?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

malicious: showing a desire to harm or hurt someone

banter: to joke with and tease someone

stab: to push a knife into someone or something

impudent: not sensible or wise (n. impudence)

vengeful: very eager to punish someone who has harmed you

dish out: to give something to various people in a careless way

hypothetical

: based only on an idea or suggestion about that might happen or might be true and not on a real situation

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

hypothetical

vengeful

stabbed

embarrass

impudence

malicious

achievement

bitter

1. She had the _____ to report to her teacher.
2. Let's consider a (an) _____ case.
3. The medicine tasted _____ and the child spat it out.
4. He was threatened by his _____ wife.
5. Steven was _____ to death by bandits.
6. At the end of this course, you have to take a (an) _____ test.
7. I think that might be a (an) _____ gossip. Just ignore it.
8. Children _____ me with personal questions.

* Answers

1. impudence

2. hypothetical

3. bitter

4. vengeful

5. stabbed

6. achievement

7. malicious

8. embarrass

Styles

A suave person is sensitive and docile. He couches harsh realities in a soft way that it doesn't offend. While a blunt person is straightforward, sometimes to the point of being brutally frank, the suave person uses euphemism. These are roundabout yet inoffensive ways to express meanings. The blunt person calls a spade a spade. He doesn't quibble, so at times he appears rude and insensitive. But of course, being blunt doesn't necessarily connote something negative. It can also imply nuances such as honesty and sincerity.

On the other hand, suavity isn't always synonymous with sensitive or diplomatic in the sense of peace-making. At times, people think of suavity as tinged with insincerity and wrapped with smooth-talk. Would you rather have suave personality or be blunt?

* Comprehension

1. According to the paragraph, what are the characteristics of a suave person?
2. What does "call a spade a spade" mean?
3. According to the paragraph, what kind of nuances does being blunt imply?

* Questions

1. Are you suave or blunt?
2. Can you tell the difference if the opponent is being suave or not?
3. When would you show your suaveness?
4. How do you respond when someone is showing suaveness? Explain.

* Vocabulary & Expressions

suave: someone who is suave is polite, confident and relaxed, especially in an insincere way

docile: quiet and easily controlled

couch: to express in a particular way

blunt: speaking in an honest way even if this upsets people

euphemism: a polite word or expression that you use instead of a more direct one to avoid shocking or upsetting someone

roundabout: not done in the shortest, more direct way possible

call a spade a spade to say exactly what you think is true, without trying to be polite

quibble: to argue about small points or details that are completely unimportant

connote: if a word connotes something, it makes you think of feelings and ideas that are not its actual meaning

nonchalant: behaving calmly and seeming not to worry or care about anything

gullible: too ready to believe what other people tell you, so that you are easily deceived

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

quibble	frank	blunt	sincerity
connotes	suave	docile	roundabout

1. They had a (an) _____ discussion about the issue.
2. I heard from my parents that I was a (an) _____ child.
3. Don't _____ about the money – just pay what she asks.
4. Politicians tend to be _____ in front of the public.
5. I don't doubt her _____, but I think she's got her facts wrong.
6. It was a (an) _____ way of telling us to leave.
7. Jane was straightforward and _____ as always.
8. The word 'plump' _____ cheerfulness.

* Answers

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|------------|-------------|
| 1, frank | 2, docile | 3, quibble | 4, suave |
| 5, sincerity | 6, roundabout | 7, blunt | 8, connotes |

Personality Types

An emotional person, contradistinguished from a cognitive sort of person, tends to use emotion instead of reason in dealing with things. To be emotional, however, doesn't always imply being unreasonable; in fact, being emotional isn't synonymous with being irrational or unreasonable, as it just functions to describe one among the many personality types.

To illustrate, when faced with the testimony of a person who claims to have been abducted by aliens in a UFO, the cognitive person tends to be analytic and skeptical while the emotional person tends to go by what she feels, such as the apparent sincerity of the testifier as shown by her face or her voice. The cognitive person oftentimes resorts to reason when faced with challenges. While the emotional person is more likely to become teary eyed and sensitive, the cognitive type keeps fiery or tender feeling bottled up in the scientific and sterile laboratory of his brain.

* Comprehension

1. What kinds of personality types are mentioned above?
2. According to the paragraph, what are differences between an emotional person and a cognitive person?
3. What does the cognitive person do when they face challenges?

* Questions

1. What's your personality like?
2. What are your strengths?
3. What are your weaknesses?
4. Which one do you prefer, an emotional person or a cognitive person? Why?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

cognitive: related to the process of knowing, understanding and learning something
synonymous with: a situation, quality, or idea that is the same or nearly the same as another
irrational: irrational behavior, feelings, etc. seem strange because they are not based on clear thoughts or reasons

testimony

: a formal statement that something is true, such as the one a witness gives evidence in a court of law

abduct: to take someone away by force (= kidnap)

fiery: containing or looking like fire

sterile: completely clean and not containing any bacteria

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

sterile	irrational	cognitive	testimony
synonymous	abducted	unreasonable	skeptical

1. She seems to think that an effortless person is _____ with being lazy.
2. Tony's _____ is crucial to the prosecution's case.
3. Police suspect that the girl was _____ late last night.
4. Operations must be carried out in a(an) _____ environment.
5. My sister keeps telling me that my fear of flying is _____.
6. As children grow older, their _____ processes become sharper.
7. Some archaeologists are _____ about their findings.
8. Steve decided to break up with Annie because of her _____ behavior.

* Answers

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. synonymous | 2. testimony | 3. abducted | 4. sterile |
| 5. irrational | 6. cognitive | 7. skeptical | 8. unreasonable |

Child-parent relationships

I love to have as many children as I can. I jokingly tell my wife I want to have enough to make a soccer team but she just stares at me and shakes her head. I imagine a big family of about 4 or 5 kids going out with their mom and dad to go on a picnic in the park on Saturdays.

The image is warm and blissful, and it evokes golden memories such as the warm pudding my mother used to bake in winter. All five of us kids would be tucked up in bed, waiting in great expectation for that magic moment when my mom would read us a bedtime story and we would fall asleep with comfort.

We didn't have much then, as my parent's were struggling to cope with the economic depression of the 50's, but we had more than our fill of laughter and companionship. I would like to have the same child-parent relationships of my own as to my parents.

* Comprehension

1. Why does the writer want to have 4 or 5 kids?
2. What does "golden memories" mean?
3. What kind of child-parent relationships does the writer want to have?

* Questions

1. How many siblings do you have?
2. Could you tell me about your childhood? Explain how you spend your childhood with your parents and siblings.
3. How many children do you want to have?
4. What do you think are good parents?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

stare at: to look at something or someone for a long time without moving your eyes

evoke: to produce a strong feeling or memory in someone

comfort: a feeling of being more calm

struggle

: to try extremely hard to achieve something, even though it is very difficult and you have a lot of problems

cope with: to succeed in dealing with a difficult problem or situation

companionship: a friendly and comfortable relationship with someone

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

evoke

struggle

cope

stare

expectation

comfort

depression

companionship

1. Many people who lost their jobs _____ to pay bills.
2. My parents _____ at me in disbelief, shaking their heads.
3. He never forgot the hardships he experienced during the Great _____ of the 1930's.
4. These days, parents tend to have high _____ towards their children.
5. These seats will enable the audience to sit in _____ while watching the shows.
6. My mother had to _____ with bringing up five children.
7. She always depends on the _____ before making any judgment.
8. The pictures _____ my childhood memories.

* Answers

1, struggle

2, stare

3, Depression

4, expectation

5, comfort

6, cope

7, companionship

8, evoke

Exercise

I'm not into any kind of sports these days because I'm up to my neck in work. I'm totally swamped that I take rest only between heartbeats. It's a lame excuse, but I just couldn't find the time for it. But sometimes I try to squeeze a workout in between my hectic schedules.

It's a simple workout that consists of stretching and breathing exercises, right in my office. When I need a breather, I go out for a stroll in the park. That's all I can manage on the weekdays. But on the weekends, I love to go out for a swim at the pool. I do 50 laps of breaststroke until I get my heart pumping healthily. I really need to keep in shape through sports. Since I have been working this crazily, I cut back on workout and put on more weight. My mother once told me that in the process of making a suitable living, I'm losing my social life. When there is something to gain, there is something to lose!

* Comprehension

1. What exercise does the writer do on the weekdays?
2. What exercise does the writer do on the weekends?
3. What does "I take rest only between heartbeats." mean?

* Questions

1. What kind of exercise do you do?
2. Which one do you prefer, doing exercise or having a diet? Why?
3. What do you think makes people healthy?
4. What do you think is the most effective exercise to keep in shape?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

be up to one's neck in : to be in a difficult situation, or to be very busy doing something

lame : an explanation, exercise or argument that sounds ineffective and not convincing

hectic : very busy or full of activity

breather : a short time to rest from work

breaststroke

: a way of swimming in which you push your arms out and then bring them back in a circle towards you while bending your knees towards your body and then kicking them out

cut back on

: to reduce the numbers of something, or the time or money that is spent on something, especially because you do not have enough money

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

lame	breather	hectic	squeeze	go out
up to	manage	cut back	put on	suitable

1. I told my boss that I can _____ all the process of this project by myself.
2. Nancy came out with a(an) _____ excuse about missing the bus again.
3. I've had a pretty _____ day at the office.
4. Let's _____ for a walk. I need some fresh air.
5. I'm looking for a(an) _____ gift for my son.
6. Unless you work out, you'll _____ some weight.
7. Why don't you have a(an) _____? You've been working for 5 straight hours.
8. You should _____ on your expense to save money.
9. After washing an orange, just _____ fresh pulp from it.
10. We're _____ our neck in paper work.

* Answers

- | | | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| 1. manage | 2. lame | 3. hectic | 4. go out | 5. suitable |
| 6. put on | 7. breather | 8. cut back | 9. squeeze | 10. up to |

Fashion and Style

Good fashion sense simply consists of good taste in clothing, make-up and perfume. It's a function of knowing what to wear considering time and place. More importantly, knowing what sorts of apparel look good on you, what shades of make-up bring out the best in you and what fragrances best exude you will have great effects showing your fashion sense to the public.

Developing a good fashion sense is as easy as reading beauty tips in a fashion magazine. These days you can start having a great sense of fashion just clicking the mouse and surfing through the Internet. Of course, one's fashion taste must accord with the times: Fashionable Elvis of the 60's would look like Hilly Billy if he's put in the 2000's. Anyone who can mix and match any type of clothes is the real fashion leader.

* Comprehension

1. What consists of good fashion sense?
2. According to the paragraph, how can people develop their fashion sense these days?
3. What's an important condition of a good fashion sense?

* Questions

1. What do you think is a good fashion sense?
2. Why do you think people want to look splendidly?
3. What do you think of people who pay much attention on their appearances?
4. If you have to choose either fashionable clothes or comfort clothes, what would you pick? Why?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

considering

: used when describing a situation, before stating a fact that you know has had an effect on that situation

apparel : clothes, especially clothes worn on a special occasion

fragrance : a pleasant smell

exude : to flow out slowly and steadily or to make something do this

accord with : to match or agree with something

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

accord with

considering

exude

fragrances

public

taste

apparel

tips

1. You can add onions or garlic depending on your _____.
2. They make soaps and _____ based on natural ingredients.
3. I decided to have a short vacation _____ the amount of work I've done.
4. Their opinions _____ the principles of socialist ideology.
5. Women's _____ is offered in petite, regular and tall models.
6. It's serious that factors _____ pungent smell in this town.
7. Steve gave me some useful _____ on how to take good pictures.
8. Michael is supposed to make a speech to the _____.

* Answers

1, taste

2, fragrances

3, considering

4, accord with

5, apparel

6, exude

7, tips

8, public

IQ vs. EQ

WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT, IQ OR EQ?

An 'Intelligence Quotient' or IQ is a number calculated from a set of standardized tests to measure a person's intelligence in relation to one's age group. Genetically, you are born with IQ. IQ test scores are related to the brain structure and function, including performance on plain tasks that anyone can complete within a few seconds. IQ is associated with scholastic, occupation, socioeconomic advancement, etc.

On the other hand, EI (Emotional Intelligence) or EQ (Emotional Intelligence Quotient) describes one's ability, capacity, or skill to distinguish, assess, and control the emotions of oneself and others. EQ isn't precise as IQ. Therefore, some people say EQ can be learned or increased as they grow whereas others say that EQ cannot be increased. A person with high EQ will have tolerable knowledge to control one's emotion and an amicable life. There is a saying that emotions (EQ) may be the true measure of human intelligence.

* Comprehension

1. What are associated with IQ and EQ?
2. What are related to the IQ test?
3. What do people say about EQ?

* Questions

1. Which one do you think is important, IQ or EQ? Why?
2. Have you ever taken an IQ test?
3. Do you think a person has more chance to get a professional job according to the IQ?
4. What do you think is the human intelligence?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

quotient : the number which is obtained when one number is divided by another

genetically : in a way that is connected with genetics

plain : very clear and easy to understand or recognize

scholastic : connected with schools or teaching

socioeconomic : based on combination of social and economic conditions

assess : to make a judgment about a person or situation after thinking carefully about it

precise : precise details, costs, measurements, etc. are exact

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

genetically

plain

assess

precise

scholastic

calculate

standardize

function

1. It's difficult to _____ the effects of the new legislation just yet.
2. Can you _____ the speed of light?
3. Primates are _____ similar to humans.
4. It's important to realize the social _____ of education.
5. The _____ details of the sale have not yet been released.
6. He spoke in Russian, but his message was _____ enough.
7. Attempts to _____ English spelling have never been successful.
8. Some private universities used to consider the _____ achievements of high schools to screen the best students.

* Answers

1. assess

2. calculate

3. genetically

4. function

5. precise

6. plain

7. standardize

8. scholastic

Gods and Demons

The idea of becoming immortal like a vampire fascinates me greatly. It would be one of my desires to be able to live through the ages and watch old civilization die and new ones born and to feel the winds of change in the seasons. To stalk at night searching for hapless victims I can sink my fangs into, and to decree whether they die or be immortal vampires like me, gives me an exhilarating sense of power that normality can never even hope to give. Also, the gods and the goddess of Greek have distinctive characteristics and the tides of history. I am significantly mesmerized with the ancient gods and goddess myth as I read through the meaning of each god: Zeus, the king of gods; Poseidon, the god of sea; Apollo, the god of sun. I would love to have one of these strong qualities for myself. Gods and Demons both have my interest for being unusual.

* Comprehension

1. What are mentioned as demons and gods?
2. According to the paragraph, what are the characteristics of vampires?
3. What do you think does the writer pursue?

* Questions

1. What do you think of being immortal?
2. What do you think of having unusual life?
3. What are you interested in these days?
4. Do you believe in God or any mythological gods? Why or why not?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

immortal : living or continuing forever

stalk : to follow a person or animal quietly in order to catch or kill them

hapless : unlucky

fang : a long sharp tooth of an animal such as a snake or wild dog

decree : to make an official judgment or give an official command

exhilarate : to make someone feel very excited and happy

mesmerize : to attract attention from others

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

immortal

stalk

hapless

exhilarated

fascinates

distinctive

significantly

mesmerized

1. The number of unemployment has been increased _____.
2. The wild animals _____ their preys at night.
3. Tony's voice is very _____.
4. Plato believed that the soul is _____.
5. The idea of traveling through time _____ me.
6. Innocent citizens were _____ victims of terrorism.
7. I'm always _____ by the bustle and noise of New York.
8. Jane was absolutely _____ by Pavarotti on TV.

* Answers

1. significantly

2. stalk

3. distinctive

4. immortal

5. fascinates

6. hapless

7. exhilarated

8. mesmerized

Culture and Marriage

I'm strictly monogamous and I intend to be one. I'm happily married to a lovely wife and I have two kids I adore. I have never been tempted to fool around, and I don't think I would ever be, although social stereotypes would tolerate me if I allowed myself to be. That's a luxury I can't afford literally. I mean, it's not that I can resist temptations more than other men can, or that I have a superior morality. It's just that I can't afford it.

To have to support a single family is hard enough, how much do I have to work more for two or three? But that's just on the financial side. The most pragmatic reason is that I think that I have no room left in my heart for love or romance because it is fully occupied already. To cram another marriage in my life is to steal the remaining change in my purse, and worse, to overwork my already burdened heart. Being completely faithful to one is richer than anything.

* Comprehension

1. What does the writer think about his marriage?
2. What does "monogamous" mean?
3. According to the paragraph, why doesn't the writer think about another marriage?

* Questions

1. Are you monogamous or polygamous?
2. Do you think that men are naturally polygamous and women are naturally monogamous? Why or why not?
3. What are the formulas of happy marriage?
4. What is your personal opinion on marriage in modern society?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

monogamy: the custom or practice of being married to only one husband or wife
(adj. monogamous)

adore: to love someone very much and feel very proud of them

literally: used to emphasize that something is actually true

resist: to try to prevent change or prevent yourself being forced to do something

pragmatic: dealing with problems in a sensible, practical way instead of strictly following a set of ideas

polygamy: the custom or practice of having more than one husband or wife at the same time in a society where this is allowed (adj. polygamous)

formula: a method or set of principles that you use to solve a problem or to make sure that something is successful

* Review

Fill in each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

adore	resist	literally	pragmatic
superior	morality	occupied	temptation

- _____ politicians should be voted in the future election.
- Sorry, this seat is already _____.
- Hard training and _____ technique brought him victory.
- I really _____ car racing.
- They _____ our attempts to modernize the distribution of books.
- There might be a (an) _____ to cheat if students sit too close together.
- The Olympic Games were _____ watched by billions of people.
- _____ is the belief that some behavior is right and acceptable and that other behavior is wrong.

* Answers

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|
| 1, pragmatic | 2, occupied | 3, superior | 4, adore |
| 5, resist | 6, temptation | 7, literally | 8, Morality |

Spending and Saving

I want to be frugal but I just can't help spending. To make matters worse, I spend money on stuff I don't really need. For instance, I have a box chockfull of books and CD's I bought but never found the time to check out. However, whenever I pass a bookstore or a records shop, I'm drawn inside to buy one or two. Though I know I wouldn't have enough left on my wallet to last me until the next pay day. I'm compelled to splurge. It wouldn't have been this egregious if I had enough money.

So at times, I struggle to make ends meet; I stretch my budget so tight, and I pull my belt a notch tighter until I look like number 8. I'm always broke. I don't spend all my dough at once, but it's like a trickle effect, a small hole emptying a huge drum of water overnight. I have to go on a budget diet soon!

* Comprehension

1. What is the writer's problem?
2. What does "I pull my belt a notch tighter until I look like number 8" mean?
3. Find the word that implies 'money' in the paragraph.

* Questions

1. Are you frugal or extravagant?
2. How do you spend your money?
3. Do you save your money on monthly basis? If so, do you think the amount of saving is proper considering your income?
4. What are you saving your money for?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

frugal : careful to only buy what is necessary

egregious : an egregious error, failure, problem, etc. is extremely bad and noticeable

notch : a V-shaped cut in a surface or edge

dough : money

trickle : a thin slow flow of liquid

extravagant : spending a lot of money on things that are not necessary

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

frugal

dough

extravagant

compelled

budget

last

stretch

splurge

1. It was very _____ of you to spend \$500 on a dress.
2. Maria worked hard for her _____.
3. The rain _____ us to stay indoors.
4. We were taught to be _____ and hard-working.
5. You have to _____ your legs before starting exercise.
6. Your _____ is the amount of money that you have available to spend.
7. These batteries _____ twice as long as others.
8. If you _____ on something, you spend a lot of money, usually on things that you do not need.

* Answers

1. extravagant

2. dough

3. compelled

4. frugal

5. stretch

6. budget

7. last

8. splurge

Speeding

I'm a speed freak but I struggle to drive within the speed limit. On a clear stretch of highway, I keep my feet on the gas and an eye on the speedometer, keeping it at the allowable maximum speed. I have been given a ticket more than once for speeding, but it was worth the thrill of sensing the road with my wheels zooming like a dream.

I just hate it when I'm stuck in a bottleneck on a city street, so although I have to take a long but clear detour to beat the jam, I take it gladly for what it's worth. I do what I can to satisfy my need for speed. Yet, never take a risk of others by driving recklessly.

* Comprehension

1. What does the writer like?
2. How does the writer think of getting speeding tickets?
3. What does the writer do to avoid the traffic jam in a city?

* Questions

1. Are you a traffic violator or law-abiding driver?
2. What is the car of your dreams? What features does it have?
3. What sort of cars do the majority of Koreans prefer these days?
4. What are the advantages and disadvantages of these car types: small cars like sports cars, medium sized-cars like compacts, and big cars like vans?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

freak: someone who is so interested in something that other people think they are strange or unusual

speedometer: an instrument in a vehicle that shows how fast it is going

allowable: acceptable according to the rules

thrill: a sudden strong feeling of excitement and pleasure or the thing that makes you feel this

zoom: to go somewhere or do something very quickly

bottleneck: a place in a road where the traffic cannot pass easily, so that there are a lot of delays

detour: a way of going from one place to another that is longer than the usual way, for example because you want to avoid traffic problems or to visit something

reckless: not caring or worrying about the possible bad or dangerous results of your actions (adv. recklessly)

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

satisfy	reckless	detour	allowable
speedometer	freak	thrill	beneath

1. Even though I've been acting for years, I still get a(an) _____ out of going on stage.
2. Brad glanced at the _____ while Julie was driving.
3. She could see the muscles of his shoulders _____ his T-shirt.
4. I have to make a(an) _____ because of the construction.
5. He is charged with causing death by _____ driving.
6. When you take this medicine, you have to keep _____ dosage.
7. Steve has over 100 jazz CDs. He must be a jazz _____.
8. Unfortunately, the test result didn't _____ me.

* Answers

- | | | | |
|-------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 1, thrill | 2, speedometer | 3, beneath | 4, detour |
| 5, reckless | 6, allowable | 7, freak | 8, satisfy |

Quarrels and Disagreements

I had this argument once with my boss over a salary increase, which I thought I deserved for what I have sacrificed for, but wasn't given earlier, and we resolved it amicably with no bad feelings through compromise.

Arguments aren't quarrels, only differences of opinions. In the real world, conflicting opinions hardly ever get resolved because what is at stake is not only issue but personalities. Also, the average angry person hardly ever gets convinced by an opponent, but he can be persuaded to go halfway and meet him in the middle to cooperate. I didn't expect my boss to be swayed 360 degrees, but I knew he could budge more than an inch if I try hard to persuade him toward my own point of view. Through compromise, I got him to fork me more of the company pie. Yeah!

* Comprehension

1. Why did the writer have an argument with the boss?
2. What is the writer's opinion on arguments and quarrels?
3. What does "I didn't expect my boss to be swayed 360 degrees" mean?

* Questions

1. In a conflict with your spouse, your boss or your friends, how do you resolve it?
2. What was the most unforgettable conflict you've ever faced?
3. Are you a coolheaded person or a short-tempered one?
4. How do you avoid conflicts?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

quarrel: an angry argument, often about something that is not important

amicable : an amicable agreement, relationship, etc. is one in which people feel friendly towards each other and do not want to quarrel

compromise: to reach an agreement with someone by both of you accepting less than you wanted at first

be at stake: if something that you value very much is at stake, you will lose it if a plan or action is not successful

opponent: someone who tries to defeat another person in a competition, game, fight, or argument

be swayed : to influence someone who has not yet decided about something so that they change their opinion

budge: to move, or move someone or something from one place to another

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

opponent	swayed	budge	amicable	conflict
compromise	deserve	sacrifice	resolve	convince

1. She was forced to _____ in order to avoid a major argument.
2. Tyson knocked his _____ out in the first round of boxing tournament.
3. I managed to _____ them that the story was true.
4. Our interests _____ with theirs.
5. Don't allow yourself to be _____ by his promises.
6. We're looking for _____ relationships between the two companies.
7. International oil prices are unlikely to _____.
8. You've been working all morning. I think you _____ a rest.
9. I'll do my best to peacefully _____ the financial issue.
10. Workers are less willing to _____ leisure time over overtime.

* Answers

- | | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| 1, compromise | 2, opponent | 3, convince | 4, conflict | 5, swayed |
| 6, amicable | 7, budge | 8, deserve | 9, resolve | 10, sacrifice |

Drinking Habits

Korea's drinking culture is different from foreign drinking culture. Usually elders pay for the drinks or the person who invited people over is responsible for the outcome. However, young drinkers have to respect the elders by holding the glass with two hands when they drink or when the elders pour the alcohol into the glass, whether that person is old, young, man or woman. Sometimes young people go Dutch just to be equal and reduce the complexity.

It's a custom to receive the drink from elders without refusing it, but lately drinking habit has changed slightly; a boss or co-workers tend to force the employees to drink going over the limit. I'm not against drinking, but I wouldn't like to get stressed out and lose my health over drinking. Most of all, remember not to be vicious drinker.

* Comprehension

1. According to the paragraph, what is Korea's drinking culture? What are the etiquettes to be observed?
2. How has the drinking habit changed in Korea?
3. What does the writer think about drinking?

* Questions

1. What are the merits and demerits about drinking?
2. Do you like to drink? Why or why not?
3. What are your favorite alcoholic drinks?
4. What do you think of heavy drinkers?

* Vocabulary & Expressions

go Dutch : to share the cost of a meal in a restaurant

reduce : to make something smaller or less in size, amount or price

complexity : the state of being complicated

vicious : violent and dangerous and likely to hurt someone

* Review

Fill in the each blank with one of the proper words in the box.

reduce	vicious	responsible	respect
receive	refuse	lately	slightly

1. I _____ Mr. Smith as my leader.
2. Steve is _____ for sanitation at the General hospital.
3. We were hoping that they would _____ the rent a little.
4. Next month, we're going to move to a(an) _____ larger house.
5. When did you _____ my letter?
6. Tell me about the movie you've seen _____.
7. He expects me to stay on here and I can hardly _____.
8. The villain in the movie was cruel and _____.

* Answers

- | | | | |
|------------|----------------|-----------|-------------|
| 1, respect | 2, responsible | 3, reduce | 4, slightly |
| 5, receive | 6, lately | 7, refuse | 8, vicious |