

Passage A

Passage B



Passage A

- **Think About It**
- **Read About It**
- **Talk About It**
- **Write About It**

1. What do you know about Oxford University? Share what you know with each other.

Reference:

Oxford, one of the most famous universities in the world, is the oldest university in Britain. It is situated to the northwest of London.

2. What do you like about your university learning experience?

Reference:

I like the professor's interesting lectures and the way he / she organizes class activities. I particularly enjoy group work.

3. Have you ever received a scholarship? Do you think universities should try their best to provide their students with more scholarships? Explain.

Reference:

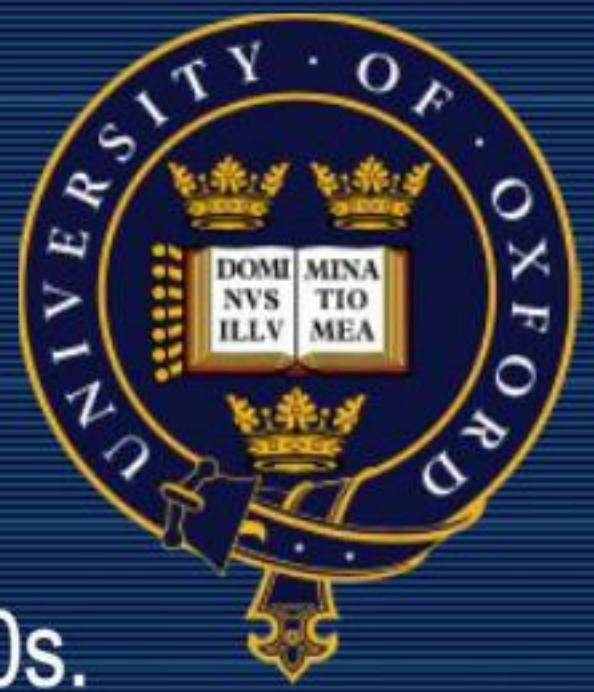
Good universities should provide different kinds of scholarships. Students will be motivated to study harder if there are more opportunities for them to be granted scholarships.



Read About It

- Language Points
- Content Awareness
- Language Focus

Oxford University



Oxford University is the oldest university in Britain and one of the world's most famous institutions of higher learning. Oxford University was established during the 1100s. It is located in Oxford, England, about 80 kilometers northwest of London.

The university has over 16 300 students (1999 — 2000), almost a quarter of these students are from overseas and more than 130 nationalities are represented. It consists of 35 colleges, plus five private halls established by various religious groups. Three of the five private halls are for men only. Of the colleges, St. Hilda's and Somerville are for women, and the rest are for men and women.



At Oxford, each college is a corporate body distinct from the university and is governed by its own head and fellows. Most fellows are college instructors called tutors, and the rest are university professors and lecturers. Each college manages its own buildings and property, elects its own fellows, and selects and admits its own undergraduate students. The university provides some libraries, laboratories, and other facilities, but the colleges take primary responsibility for the teaching and well-being of their students.

→ Each student at Oxford is assigned to a tutor, who supervises the student's program of study, primarily through tutorials. Tutorials are weekly meetings of one or two students with their tutor.

Students may see other tutors for specialized instruction. They may also attend lectures given by university teachers. Students choose which lectures to attend on the basis of their own special interests and on the advice of their tutors.

The university, not the individual colleges, grants degrees. The first degree in the arts or sciences is the Bachelor of Arts with honors. Oxford also grants higher degrees, diplomas, and certificates in a wide variety of subjects.

The Rhodes scholarship program enables students from the United States, Canada, and many other nations to study at Oxford for a minimum of two years. The British government grants Marshall scholarships to citizens of the United States for study at Oxford and other universities that are located in Britain.

The competition for scholarships and grants is, however, extremely strong and there are usually strict requirements. Students should check carefully that they are eligible to apply for a particular scholarship before making an application, as most of the schemes are restricted to certain nationalities and / or programs.



The students and staff at Oxford are actively involved in over 55 initiatives (2001), including visits to more than 3 700 schools and colleges, to encourage the brightest and best students to apply to Oxford, whatever their background.

The university has been named the UK's most innovative university in the Launchit2001 competition, which aimed to discover which British university has demonstrated the greatest achievements in innovation and enterprise across the broadest range of activity. In the national Teaching Quality Assessment exercises for 2000, Oxford was awarded top marks in six out of ten subjects assessed.

Oxford, Stanford and Yale Universities have recently become partners in a joint "distance learning" venture, the Alliance for Lifelong Learning, which will provide online courses in the arts and sciences.



The mission of Oxford is to aim at achieving and maintaining excellence in every area of its teaching and research, maintaining and developing its historical position as a world-class university, and enriching the international, national, and regional communities through the fruits of its research and the skills of its graduates.

In support of this aim the university will provide the facilities and support for its staff to pursue innovative research by responding to developments in the intellectual environment and society at large; and promote challenging and rigorous teaching which benefits from a fruitful interaction with the research environment, facilitating the exchange of ideas through tutorials and small-group learning and exploiting the University's resources in its libraries, museums, and scientific collections, to equip its graduates to play their part at a national and international level.

THE END!



establish *v.*

— **set up**

Examples

- Father established this business forty years ago.
- Public schools for girls were established in some places.

locate *v.*

— establish in a certain place

Examples

- Where is the new factory to be located?
- The baker located his bakery in the new shopping center.

represent *v.*

— stand for or be a sign or symbol of

Examples

- The foreign minister represented the country at the conference.
- Each dot on my map represents a town.

consist of

— (no passive) be made up of

Examples

- The United Kingdom consists of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.
- That area's future weather pattern might consist of long, dry periods.

plus *prep.*

— with addition of

adj. — (of numbers) higher than zero

- ~~Three plus two equals five~~

Examples

- Three is a plus quantity.
- Daytime temperatures vary between minus 5° and plus 12° .

distinct *adj.*

— different; separate

Examples

- The twins had distinct personalities.
- Those two ideas are quite distinct from each other.

govern *v.*

— control or guide (actions and feelings)

Examples

- Don't let a bad temper govern your decision.
- The rise and fall of the sea is governed by the movements of the moon.

property *n.*

- 1) land, buildings or both together
- 2) the thing or things that somebody owns

— The statue was considered town property.

Examples

- The police found some stolen property in the thief's house.
- That's my personal property.

elect *v.*

— choose (somebody) by voting

Examples

- They elected him to represent them.
- We must urge that delegates be elected from the various factories in a district.

select *v.*

— choose (as being the most suitable, etc.)

Examples

- He selected an appropriate birthday card for his mother.
- When you select a team you pick out the people most suitable for it.

facility *n.*

— aids, circumstances, which make it easy to do things

Examples

- One of the facilities our students have is a large library.
- This kitchen has a garbage disposal and other modern facilities.

primary *adj.*

— chief, main

Examples

- A primary cause of Tom's failure is his laziness.
- His diaries are a primary source for the history of the period.

Each student at Oxford is assigned to a tutor, who supervises the student's program of study, primarily through tutorials.

Key

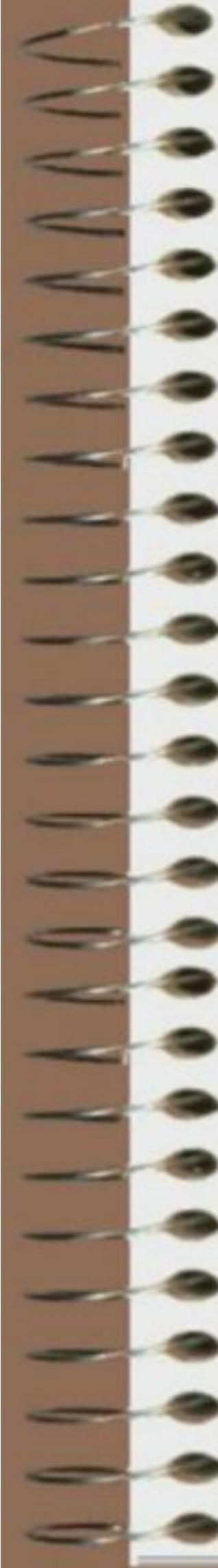
Each Oxford student has a supervisor who advises and instructs the student on a one-to-one basis.

assign *v.*

— give as a share or duty

Examples

- They assigned me a small room.
- Two pupils were assigned to sweep the floor.



on the basis of

— according to or grounded on the circumstance that provides a reason for some action or opinion

Examples

- Students are able, on the basis of experience, to choose which subjects to specialize in.
- Decisions were often made on the basis of incorrect information.



grant *v.*

— give (especially what is wanted or requested)

Examples

- They refused to grant them long-term credits.
- He requested that the premier grant him an interview.

enable *v.*

— **make able**

Examples

- This train enables me to get there in time.
- This would enable them to double their output of machine guns.

minimum *n.*

— the least, or the smallest possible quantity, number, or degree

Examples

- This price is his minimum; he refuses to lower it further.
- Allow a minimum of five minutes for introducing the dialogue.

Students should check carefully that they are eligible to apply for a particular scholarship before making an application, as most of the schemes are restricted to certain nationalities and / or programs.

Key

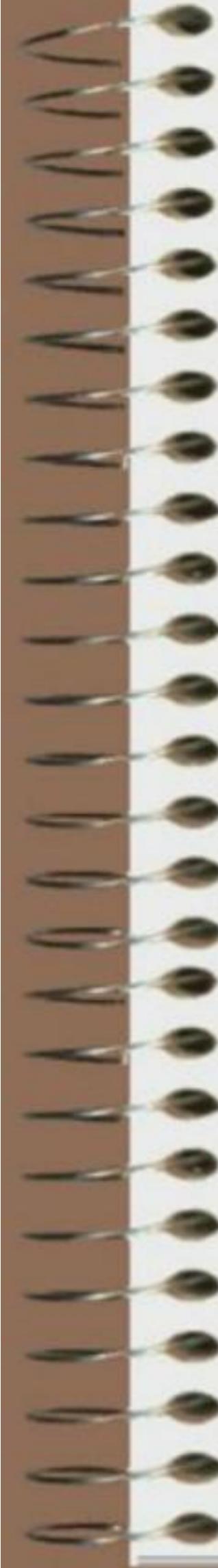
Students should make sure that they are qualified for applying for a particular scholarship because most of the plans will only accept applicants from some specified nations and / or majors.

eligible *adj.*

— fit, suitable to be chosen; having the right qualifications

Examples

- Only native-born citizens are eligible for the U.S. presidency.
- Anyone who can speak French is eligible to join the club.



apply for / to

— request something, especially officially and in writing

Examples

- He has applied for a post in England.
- I applied to four universities and was accepted by all of them.



scheme *n.*

— **plan (for work or activity)**

Examples

- He suggested several schemes to increase the sales.
- Most of his schemes were never carried out for lack of money.

restrict *v.*

— limit; keep within limits

Examples

- The sale of alcohol is restricted in Britain.
- He was restricted by the doctor to five cigarettes a day.

involve *v.*

— cause (someone) to become connected or concerned

Examples

- We are involved, whether we like it or not.
- More than 4000 workers were involved in strikes in 1946.

demonstrate *v.*

— show clearly by giving proof(s) or example(s)

Examples

- The salesman demonstrated the new washing-machine to the customers.
- These figures clearly demonstrate the size of the economic problem facing the country.

award *v.*

— give as the result of an official decision, especially a prize

Examples

- The University awarded him an honorary degree.
- The best students are awarded special scholarships.

assess *v.*

— judge the quality, importance or worth of

Examples

- The value of the property has been assessed at \$20,000.
- Examinations are not the only means of assessing students' ability.

maintain *v.*

— continue to do or have (something)

Examples

- Microsoft intends to maintain its position as market leader.
- The two classmates maintained their friendship for the next forty years.

enrich *v.*

— make rich, improve (in quality, favor, etc.)

Examples

- An education enriches the mind.
- American culture has been enriched by European immigrants.

In support of this aim the university will provide the facilities and support for its staff to pursue innovative research by responding to developments in the intellectual environment and society at large.

Key

To help meet this goal, the university will give financial and technical support to its teachers in their advanced scientific research for developing the academic environment and the society as a whole.

environment *n.*

— all the surrounding conditions which influence growth and development

Examples

- A child's character is greatly influenced by his home environment.
- Schools should be surrounded by a pure and healthy environment.

at large

— as a whole

Examples

- The people at large wanted peace.
- The country at large is hoping for great changes.

promote *v.*

— **advance (someone) in position; help to organize or start**

Examples

- Within a year he was promoted from teller to assistant cashier.
- Mutual understanding between the two countries should be promoted.

rigorous *adj.*

— stern; strict

Examples

- The training involved rigorous exercises.
- The examination is rigorous and extreme.

benefit from / by

— gain by; receive advantage from

Examples

- Who would be most likely to benefit from the old man's death?
- You will benefit by taking a holiday.

facilitate *v.*

— make easy or less difficult

Examples

- Modern inventions have facilitated housework.
- Zip codes are used to facilitate mail service.

exploit *v.*

— **use or develop (a thing) fully so as to get profit**

Examples

- You must exploit every opportunity to learn new things.
- They exploit rich resources in wheat and oil.

equip *v.*

— make (oneself or another) able (to do something) or prepared (for something)

Examples

- Your education will equip you to earn a good living.
- Her evening study has equipped her for a career as an electrical engineer.



Content Awareness

Read and Think

- Exercise 2
- Exercise 3

Ex. 2 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

1. How many international students are studying at Oxford?

Reference:

About 4 000 international students are studying at Oxford.

Ex. 2 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

2. What does a tutor do?

Reference:

A tutor supervises the students' course of study and meets with them every week.

Ex. 2 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

3. Are good students often granted a scholarship? Why or why not?

Reference:

Not necessarily. Because most of the scholarships are restricted to certain nationalities and / or courses.

Ex. 2 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

4. Why did the students and staff visit more than 3 700 schools and colleges in 2001?

Reference:

They visited those schools in order to encourage the brightest and best students to apply to Oxford.

Ex. 2 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

5. Would you like to study at Oxford University if you have an opportunity? List as many reasons as you can think of.

Reference:

Open.

Ex. 3 Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- ___ 1 Each college at Oxford is independent of the university and is managed by its own head and fellows.
- ___ 2 The students from the United States, Canada and many other countries can apply for Marshall Scholarships to study at Oxford University.
- ___ 3 The students should make sure that they are qualified for a particular scholarship before making an application.
- ___ 4 The joint “distance learning” venture by Oxford, Stanford and Yale Universities only provides online courses for science students.
- ___ 5 In order to fulfill its aim, the university provides the faculty members with the facilities and supports them to pursue innovative research.



Check up

Ex. 3 Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the passage.

- T** 1 Each college at Oxford is independent of the university and is managed by its own head and fellows.
- F** 2 The students from the United States, Canada and many other countries can apply for Marshall Scholarships to study at Oxford University.
- T** 3 The students should make sure that they are qualified for a particular scholarship before making an application.
- F** 4 The joint “distance learning” venture by Oxford, Stanford and Yale Universities only provides online courses for science students.
- T** 5 In order to fulfill its aim, the university provides the faculty members with the facilities and supports them to pursue innovative research.



Language Focus

Read and complete:

- [Exercise 4](#)
- [Exercise 5](#)
- [Exercise 6](#)

Read and translate:

- [Exercise 7](#)

Read and simulate:

- [Exercise 8](#)

Ex. 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

pursue
distinct

responsibility
minimum

grant
exploit

equip
award

restrict
elect

1. The group _____ one of its members to be their spokesperson.

✳ **elected**

2. Wage increases are being kept to a(n) _____ in many companies because of the economic depression.

✳ **minimum**

Ex. 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

pursue
distinct

responsibility
minimum

grant
exploit

equip
award

restrict
elect

3. The engineering profession now has many _____ branches.

✳ **distinct**

4. Now that you're 13 you should have more sense of _____.

✳ **responsibility**

Ex. 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

pursue
distinct

responsibility
minimum

grant
exploit

equip
award

restrict
elect

5. Students usually _____ one or more of the subjects, which they have studied at "A" level, such as Art, Drama, English, Music, etc.

✳ **pursue**

6. We need to make sure that we _____ our resources as fully as possible.

✳ **exploit**

Ex. 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

pursue
distinct

responsibility
minimum

grant
exploit

equip
award

restrict
elect

7. Congress is considering measures to _____ the sale of cigarettes.

✳ **restrict**

8. College courses should be designed to _____ students with knowledge and skills to help them survive in modern society.

✳ **equip**

Ex. 4 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

pursue
distinct

responsibility
minimum

grant
exploit

equip
award

restrict
elect

9. The local government _____ \$1.1 million so that the old theater could be taken down and rebuilt.

✳ **granted**

10. For his achievement in the medical field, the Mayor _____ him a medal of merit.

✳ **awarded**

Ex. 5 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Change the form where necessary.

1. The organization provides information on health issues to the public _____.

→ **at large**

2. _____ what the Minister says, we will learn whether the Government's thinking has advanced.

→ **On the basis of**

Ex. 5 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Change the form where necessary.

3. I'd like to say a word or two _____ his proposal.

→ **in support of**

4. In response to your advertisement in the *Bedfordshire Reporter*, I am writing to _____ the post of secretary.

→ **apply for**

Ex. 5 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Change the form where necessary.

5. Our company _____ a 50% increase in production this year.

→ **is aiming at**

Ex. 6 Consult a dictionary for the usage of the following words and make a sentence with each of them.

challenging

joint

range

specialized

venture



challenging

1. At the meeting, the scholars raised some **challenging** questions for the city government.



joint

2. She had taken the money out of the **joint** account she had with her husband.

Ex. 6 Consult a dictionary for the usage of the following words and make a sentence with each of them.

challenging

joint

range

specialized

venture



range

3. They will be given a range of topics to choose from.



specialized

4. To do this kind of experiment needs specialized equipment.

Ex. 6 Consult a dictionary for the usage of the following words and make a sentence with each of them.

challenging

joint

range

specialized

venture



venture

5. Learning to drive was a whole new **venture** for me.

Ex. 7 Translate the following sentences into English.

1. 任何年满18岁的人 都有资格投票 (vote)。

(be eligible to)

anyone over the age of 18

be eligible to vote



Anyone over the age of 18 is eligible to vote.

Ex. 7 Translate the following sentences into English.

2. 每学期开学前，这些奖学金的申请表格就会由学校发给每一个学生。(apply for, scholarship)

before the start of every semester

a form to apply for ...



A form to apply for these scholarships is sent by the university to every student before the start of every semester.

Ex. 7 Translate the following sentences into English.

3. 遵照医生的建议，我决定戒烟。

(on the advice of)

on the advice of my doctor

give up smoking



On the advice of my doctor, I decided to give up smoking.

Ex. 7 Translate the following sentences into English.

4. 公园位于县城的正中央。

(be located in)

be located in

center



The park is located right in the center of town.

Ex. 7 Translate the following sentences into English.

5. 这所大学提供了我们所需的所有材料和设备。
(facilities)

all the ... we desire/need



The university provides all the materials and facilities we desire.

Ex. 8 Read and compare the English sentences, paying attention to their italicized parts, and then translate the Chinese sentences by simulating the structure of the English sentences.

1. Oxford University **is** the oldest university in Britain **and one of** the world's famous institutions of higher learning.

Simulated reproduction:

Newton **is** the most important natural philosopher **and one of** the greatest thinkers in the history of Western thought.

Simulated translation:

鲁迅是中国最伟大的作家之一，同时也是世界杰出文学家之一。

Reference:

Lu Xun **is** one of the greatest writers in China **and one of** the world's outstanding men of letters.

2. **Most** fellows are college instructors called tutors, **and the rest** are university professors and lecturers.

Simulated reproduction:

Most schools here are supported by the state, **and the rest** are funded by some multinational corporations.

Simulated translation:

大部分研究生选择了文学作为其研究领域，其余的选择了语言学。

Reference:

Most graduate students chose literature as their field of study, **and the rest** made linguistics their choice.

3. Students **choose which** lectures **to** attend **on the basis of** their own special interests and **on the advice of** their tutors.

Simulated reproduction:

Teachers **choose which** students **to** supervise **on the basis of** their own academic specialties and **on the advice of** their department heads.

Simulated translation:

人们购买什么样的房子居住是根据各自的特殊需要和有关专家的建议。

Reference:

People **buy what** kind of houses **to** live in **on the basis of** their special needs and **on the advice of** relevant experts.

4. The Rhodes scholarship program **enables** students from the United States, Canada, and many other nations **to** study at Oxford **for** a minimum of two years.

Simulated reproduction:

The funds granted by the central government **enable** students from the countryside **to** pursue their studies **for** a minimum of three years.

Simulated translation:

这些虚拟教学设施能使来自亚洲和非洲的学生能在一个真实的情景中学习外语至少3个月。

Reference:

These virtual teaching facilities **enable** overseas students from Asia and Africa **to** learn a foreign language in a real-life situation **for** a minimum of three months.

5. Students **should check** carefully that they **are eligible** to apply for a particular scholarship **before making** an application, **as** most of the schemes **are restricted to** certain nationalities and / or programs.

Simulated reproduction:

Job hunters **should check** carefully that they **are eligible** to apply for a particular position **before making** an application, **as** all the posts **are restricted to** some special fields of studies.

Simulated translation:

学生在做出决定前应该认真核查他们是否有资格加入这个俱乐部，因为他们每个人只有一次选择机会。

Reference:

Students **should check** carefully that they **are eligible** to join this club **before making** their decision, **as** each of them **is restricted to** only one choice.

Ex. 9. Work in pairs and talk about your university / college. Ask each other questions and say as much as you can with the help of the following pictures, words, phrases and sentence patterns.

Describe:



Teaching Building

Tips:

**oldest / famous university, northwest / east / southeast of,
big / beautiful, ...**

Ex. 9. Work in pairs and talk about your university / college. Ask each other questions and say as much as you can with the help of the following pictures, words, phrases and sentence patterns.

Describe:



Teaching Quality

Tips:

teaching facilities, supervise, strict requirements, ...

Ex. 9. Work in pairs and talk about your university / college. Ask each other questions and say as much as you can with the help of the following pictures, words, phrases and sentence patterns.

Describe:



Students

Tips:

overseas students, scholarship, ...

Ex. 9. Work in pairs and talk about your university / college. Ask each other questions and say as much as you can with the help of the following pictures, words, phrases and sentence patterns.

Describe:



Library

Tips:

excellent, campus, ...

Ex. 9. Work in pairs and talk about your university / college. Ask each other questions and say as much as you can with the help of the following pictures, words, phrases and sentence patterns.

Describe:



Sports Ground

Tips:

strong competition, ...



Reference

Reference

Our university is located in the northeast of Guangzhou, one of the biggest cities in our country. It is one of the key universities affiliated with Ministry of Education, P. R. C. It has over 15 000 students coming from across the country and the number of students is on the rise. In recent years many overseas students have come to study in our university. The university provides quite a number of modern teaching facilities. On our beautiful campus there is a big library, many teaching buildings and large sports grounds. The teaching quality of our university is excellent. In the national Undergraduate Teaching Quality Assessment exercises for Year 2000, our university was awarded the first prize. The university also provides various scholarships, but the competition is very strong and there are usually strict requirements.

Ex. 10 Write a paragraph of around 80 words about the roles played by Oxford University and its individual colleges respectively.

Your writing should include the following points:

Colleges:

- ✓ selecting their own undergraduate students
- ✓ being responsible for students' tutorial teaching and well-being
- ✓ providing accommodations, meals, etc. for students

The University:

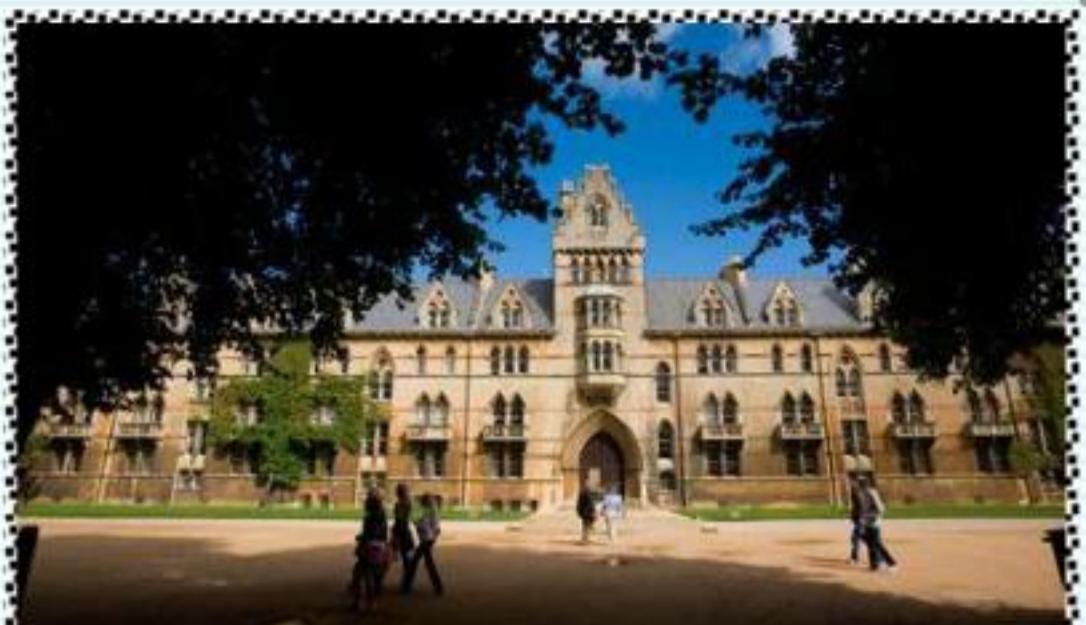
- ✓ providing resources for teaching and learning: libraries, laboratories, and other facilities
- ✓ selecting and supervising graduate students
- ✓ awarding degrees



Reference



At Oxford, the university and its individual colleges have different roles to play. Basically, the colleges select their own undergraduate students and take primary responsibility for the students' ~~to teacher teaching and well-being~~ teaching and well-being. They also provide accommodations, meals, and other care for their students. As for the University, it provides a wide range of resources for teaching and learning in the form of libraries, laboratories, and other facilities. In addition, the University selects and supervises graduate students, and awards degrees in a wide variety of subjects.

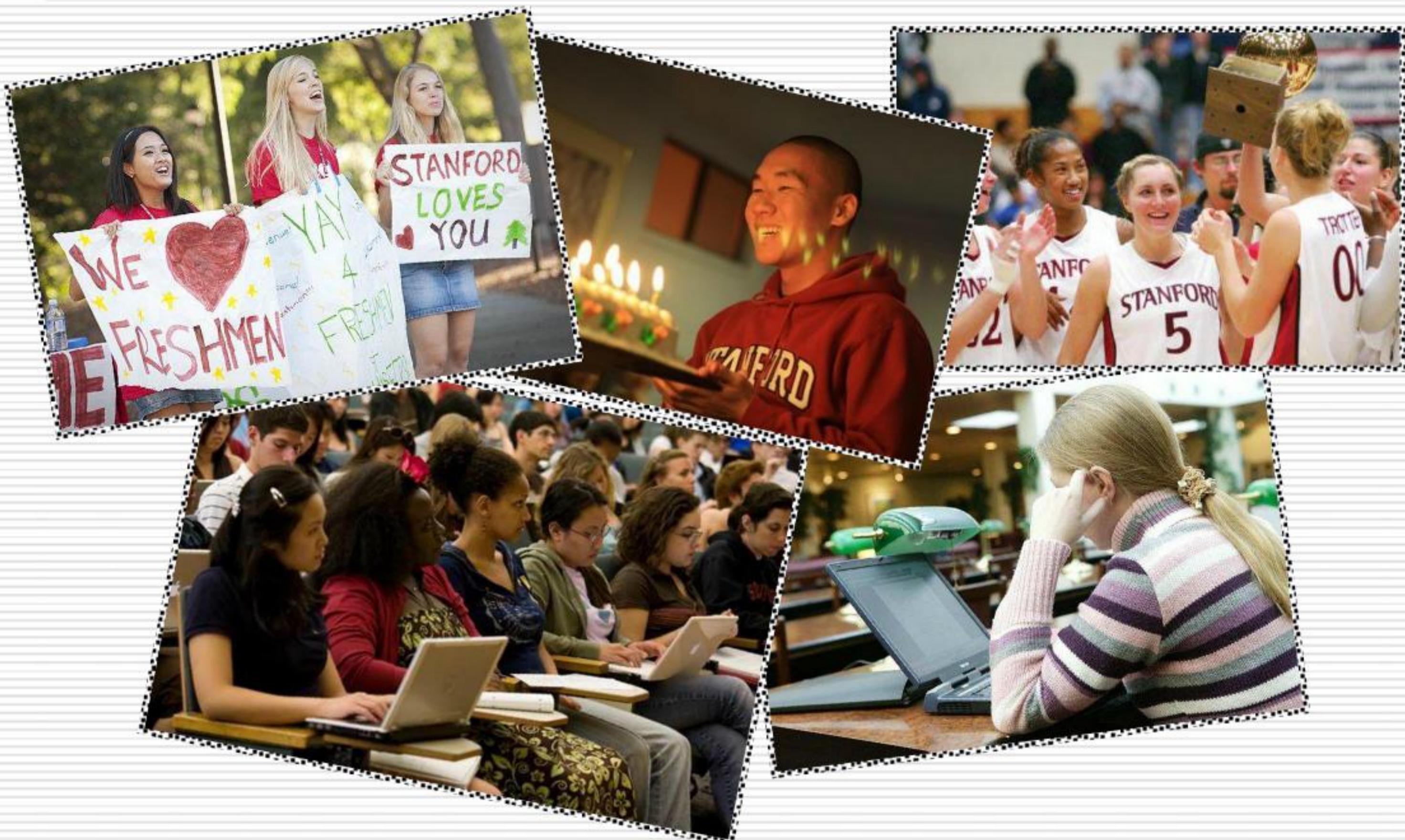




Passage B

- **Think About It**
- **Read About It**

Before reading Passage B, describe the pictures to your classmates.



1. Do you think college education is a once-in-a-lifetime journey?

Reference:

Yes. To most of us students, it is a once-in-a-lifetime journey, so we should cherish the time we spend in college and make good use of all the possible educational resources to broaden our horizons and cultivate life and career development skills.

2. Who have supported you on your road to college?

Reference:

My parents. In China, and in the world in general, it is the parents who support their children on their road to college. But many students also support themselves by applying for a scholarship or taking a part-time job to earn the tuition.

3. How did you start your college journey?

Reference:

Open.



Read About It

- Language Points
- Content Awareness
- Language Focus
- Reading Skill Practice

A Once-in-a-Lifetime Journey

*Adapted from Remarks of President Hennessy of Stanford University
at 2011 Opening Convocation Ceremony*

Parents, transfer students and members of the Class of 2015:

Good afternoon and welcome to Stanford University. Today, we celebrate the arrival of 1709 new freshmen and 47 transfer students.



I trust that as you prepared for this day, you must have taken some time to contemplate what you are searching for in your undergraduate education. Today we are living in a time of great change. New medical discoveries in science are revolutionizing the way we treat human disease as well as challenging us with deep and complex ethical questions. The changes we have brought in our environment — from global warming to the reduction and extinction of various flora and fauna — force us to face the question of how we will build a model for sustainable existence. Events around the world remind us that we share a small planet among peoples with different beliefs, hopes and cultures, and that understanding and appreciating their ambitions and their history will be critical to building a better world for all.

Now that you have accepted the invitation to join this university, the question I expect you are all asking is, "How should I make the most of my time here?" I can offer a few suggestions based on my 34 years as a member.

My first suggestion is to get to know the faculty, who have chosen to pursue the academic life because of their passion for learning and their desire to share their knowledge with others. We have an extraordinary faculty — get to know them and discover why they are passionate about their scholarly pursuits.

Over the next few years, you will get to know students whose backgrounds, cultures or beliefs are different from yours. You may find that your values — and your prejudices — are challenged. I hope that you will discover a new understanding and appreciation for the pluralistic society in which we live and find constructive ways to contribute to the world. The opportunity to learn from your fellow students is an important part of a Stanford education.





You have chosen to attend a university that is not only a great educational institution; it is also a great research institution. I encourage you to take advantage of that. Take courses and attend seminars that explore the frontiers of fields where new knowledge and understanding are being created. For me, participating in research as an undergraduate led me from my major in electrical engineering to my graduate major in computer science, and it ignited a passion for being on the leading edge of discovery. This passion sustained me through my PhD and continues to excite me after more than 30 years as a Stanford faculty member. Being at the forefront of discovery and taking part in the creation of new knowledge is an immensely rewarding and life-altering experience.

As you begin your time at Stanford and plan your four years here, I would urge you to remember that your undergraduate education is a foundation for life. It is a once-in-a-lifetime journey. It is much more than your ticket to your first job. It is an opportunity to develop the skills and passion for being a lifelong learner in areas related to and outside of your future career.



To the parents in the audience, I assure you that Stanford will provide a variety of possibilities for growing and learning during the next few years. But it is your children, as individuals, who will choose what excites them, what generates intellectual passion and what engages their very able minds. I hope that you will support that choice.

I welcome all our new students and their parents to the Stanford family. Students, I hope your time here transforms your lives, just as it has transformed the lives of so many alumni. And, finally, I hope your time here will help to provide a foundation on which you will make your contributions to a better future for yourselves and the generations that will follow.

THE END!

contemplate *v.*

— think (about) deeply and thoughtfully

Examples

- The doctor contemplated the difficult operation he had to perform.
- The government has contemplated reforming the entire tax system.

challenge *v.*

— question the truth, rightness or validity of something

Examples

- The teacher challenged my statement that rice grows in Oregon.
- Traditional female roles are constantly being challenged by contemporary feminists.

complex *adj.*

— difficult to understand, explain, or deal with

Examples

- What he said is too complex for me to understand.
- Life is getting more complex and difficult for the people in that country.

various *adj.*

— different from each other; (many) different kinds of

Examples

- There has been snow today in various parts of the country.
- He gave me a job of going around the various offices to collect the fees.

The changes we have brought in our environment — from global warming to the reduction and extinction of various flora and fauna — force us to face the question of how we will build a model for sustainable existence.

Key

The environmental changes, such as global warming and the decreasing and dying out of various plants and animals, pose a severe question. That is: how we should develop an existence pattern in which we can maintain our environmental sustainability.

face *v.*

— be in a position in which one must deal with (a problem or unpleasant situation)

Examples

- Sooner or later he will face being on his own.
- Manufacturing industry faces a grim future if the government pursues its present policies.

Events around the world remind us that we share a small planet among peoples with different beliefs, hopes and cultures, and that understanding and appreciating their ambitions and their history will be critical to building a better world for all.

Key

What happens in the world reminds us that we live on and have to share the same “small planet” with peoples who have different beliefs, hopes, and cultures. And we should recognize and value each other’s desires, hopes, ambitions and each other’s culture and history, which is crucial to building a better world for us all.

appreciate *v.*

— recognize and enjoy the good qualities or worth of

Examples

- He quit his job, because his abilities were not appreciated in the company.
- They chose to attend the medical college, for doctors are highly appreciated in that country.

offer *v.*

— provide, give

Examples

- This agreement does not offer much hope of a lasting peace.
- The booklet offers practical advice to people with housing problems.

passion *n.*

— a strong liking

Examples

- He devoted every spare moment to the pursuit of his passion.
- She had an extraordinary passion for Shakespeare. She collected almost all his books.

desire *n.*

— strong hope or wish

Examples

- He expressed a desire to see that the papers should be made public.
- The two leaders spoke their desire for improved relations during the peace talk held last week.

extraordinary *adj.*

— more than what is ordinary; special

Examples

- The government passed an Act to give the army extraordinary powers.
- Her strength of will was extraordinary; she never gave up no matter what circumstances she was in.

pursuit *n.*

— an activity to which one gives one's time, whether as work or for pleasure

Examples

- The whole magazine is produced and edited in the pursuit of excellence.
- They are passionate about their life-long pursuit of their chosen subject.

values *n.*

— standard or principles; ideas about the worth or importance of certain qualities

Examples

- The values of today's young people differ from those of their parents.
- People behave in certain ways because of their social values.

I hope that you will discover a new understanding and appreciation for the pluralistic society in which we live and find constructive ways to contribute to the world.

Key

I hope you will find a new way to understand and appreciate the diversified society we live in and find your own way to serve it.

contribute *v.*

— say or do things to help to make something successful

Examples

- He didn't contribute one idea to the discussion.
- The Song dynasty contributed three great inventions to world civilization.

You have chosen to attend a university that is not only a great educational institution; it is also a great research institution.

Key

The university you attend not only offers you the best opportunity to learn, but also provides you with the best facilities and resources to do research work.

take advantage of

— make use of

Examples

- We took advantage of the fine weather today to play tennis.
- We will take full advantage of the exceptional opportunities open in export.

explore *v.*

— examine (especially a subject or question) carefully in order to find out more

Examples

- We must explore all possible ways to increase food production.
- Mathematics is the instrument used by the physical sciences to explore phenomena and record conclusion.

sustain *v.*

— keep in existence over a long period; maintain

Examples

- The runner was able to sustain the same pace for hours.
- We were too tired to sustain the interesting conversation.

rewarding *adj.*

— (of an experience or action) worth doing or having; giving satisfaction

Examples

- Reading can be rewarding to everyone.
- A tour of the Great Wall is an immensely rewarding experience.

urge *v.*

— request earnestly; try to persuade

Examples

- They urged that the library be kept open during the vacation.
- They urged the local government to approve plans for their reform program.

(be) related (to)

— connected in some way

Examples

- The fall in the cost of living is directly related to the drop in oil price.
- The theme of the dialogue should be related to the theme of the reading passage.

assure *v.*

— tell firmly and with confidence, especially with the aim of removing doubt; promise

Examples

- The captain of the ship assured the passengers that there was no danger.
- They were assured that they would have the right to work.

But it is your children, as individuals, who will choose what excites them, what generates intellectual passion and what engages their very able minds.

Key

But it is up to your children to decide what ignites their eagerness to learn, what can stimulate their passion for knowledge, and what is the focus of attention of these talented people.

individual *n.*

— a single person or thing

Examples

- You can have the bathroom designed to suit your individual needs.
- This honor is not given to me as an individual but as a representative of a literary movement.

engage *v.*

— attract and keep (the interest and attention) of (someone)

Examples

- The spots of blood on the floor engaged the attention of the police.
- Her attention was engaged by the display of new hats in the shop window.

I hope your time here transforms your lives, just as it has transformed the lives of so many alumni.

Key

I hope your university life here will be a once-in-a-lifetime journey and makes you ready for a new life, just as it has done to so many of the university's graduates.

transform *v.*

— change completely in form, arrangement, or nature

Examples

- The five years that he spent on the ship transformed him from a boy to a man.
- In the past 20 years the country has been transformed into an advanced industrial power.



Content Awareness

Read and think

- Exercise 11
- Exercise 12

Ex. 11 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

1. What was the critical question the speaker thinks the new students must have contemplated as they prepared for the day of starting their college life?

Reference:

They must have contemplated what they are searching for in their undergraduate education.

Ex. 11 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

2. What kind of environmental challenge does the speaker think our planet is facing and what model of existence it should build?

Reference:

Our planet is facing the challenges from global warming to the reduction and extinction of various flora and fauna, and a model for sustainable existence is urgently needed to be built.

Ex. 11 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

3. What does the president encourage the students to do to take advantage of the university as a great research institution?

Reference:

He encourages the students to take courses and attend seminars that explore the areas where new knowledge and understanding are being discovered.

Ex. 11 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

4. How does the president assure the parents of the education their children will obtain at Stanford?

Reference:

He assures them that Stanford would afford the students various opportunities to grow and to learn during the next few years.

Ex. 11 Work with your partner and answer the following questions.

5. What enlightenment have you gained from the president's speech?

Reference:

Open.

Ex. 12 Choose the best answer to each question with the information from the passage.

1. What question do we face due to the change of the environment?
 - A) How to revolutionize the way we treat human disease.
 - B) How to live in a time of great change.
 - C) How to develop a pattern for sustainable existence.
 - D) How to share a small planet with other peoples.

Ex. 12 Choose the best answer to each question with the information from the passage.

2. What can we learn from the fifth paragraph?

- A) Students tend to have prejudices against other cultures.
- B) Students are keen to find a constructive way to contribute to the world.
- C) Students will live in a pluralistic society at college.
- D) Students should learn to understand and appreciate people from other cultures.

Ex. 12 Choose the best answer to each question with the information from the passage.

3. What did the president think of his participating in research when he was an undergraduate?
- A) It was memorable.
 - B) It was **rewarding**.
 - C) It was unexpected.
 - D) It was difficult.

Ex. 12 Choose the best answer to each question with the information from the passage.

4. What does the seventh paragraph tell us?
- A) The president motivates the students to be a lifelong learner.
 - B) The president urges the students to participate in the creation of knowledge.
 - C) The president attaches great importance to the undergraduate education.
 - D) The president encourages the students to develop the creative skills.

Ex. 12 Choose the best answer to each question with the information from the passage.

5. It can be inferred from the passage that the president introduces undergraduate education at Stanford as _____.
- A) the basis for personal perfection
 - B) an academic career shortcut
 - C) the only key to success
 - D) a once-in-a-lifetime journey



Language Focus

- Vocabulary (Ex. 13)
- Phrases (Ex. 14)
- Translation (Ex. 15)

Ex. 13 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

sustain transform
generate critical

challenge urge
constructive foundation

engage
prejudice

1. Reducing unemployment will be the main _____ facing the new government.

* **challenge**

2. The new toy didn't _____ the child's attention for long; a few minutes later he cried again.

* **engage**

Ex. 13 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

sustain transform
generate critical

challenge urge
constructive foundation

engage
prejudice

3. They accused him of having _____ against his women employees.

* **prejudice**

4. At the meeting, she made a number of _____ remarks to help improve our work.

* **constructive**

Ex. 13 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

sustain transform
generate critical

challenge urge
constructive foundation

engage
prejudice

5. He said she _____ him from a hard-drinking person to a devoted husband and father.

* **had transformed**

6. My tutor _____ me to take the time to read at least three books on the list.

* **urged**

Ex. 13 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

sustain transform
generate critical

challenge urge
constructive foundation

engage
prejudice

7. The mutual understanding between the couple provides a solid _____ for their marriage.

* **foundation**

8. The knowledge that a rescue team would continue searching for them _____ the trapped miners.

* **sustained**

Ex. 13 Fill in the blanks with the words given below. Change the form where necessary.

sustain transform
generate critical

challenge urge
constructive foundation

engage
prejudice

9. He did not realize that the unemployment was all that
_____ in the city.

* **critical**

10. The terrible accident _____ a lot of public interest in the
nuclear power issue.

* **generated**

Ex. 14 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Change the form where necessary.

1. We are going to _____ the fine weather to do some gardening.

→ **take advantage of**

2. Their knowledge and experience _____ immensely _____ the progress of the work.

→ **contributed ...to**

Ex. 14 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Make changes where necessary.

3. The film you watched yesterday _____ a novel by D.H. Lawrence.

→ **was based on**

4. I'd like to _____ you something that happened last week near my home.

→ **share with**

Ex. 14 Complete the following sentences with phrases or expressions from the passage. Make changes where necessary.

5. The organizer will invite big car makers from all over the world to _____ the exhibition.

→ **participate in**

Ex. 15 Translate the following sentences into English.

1. 他们花了多年的时间寻找内心的平静，但是收效甚微。

(search for)

search for peace of mind

peace of mind



They spent many years searching for peace of mind, but with little success.

Ex. 15 Translate the following sentences into English.

2. 这种新药的成功研制已经使许多疾病的治疗发生了根本性的变革。 (revolutionize)

revolutionize

development



The successful development of the new drug has revolutionized the treatment of many diseases.

Ex. 15 Translate the following sentences into English.

3. 由于这个国家的经济不景气, 这家公司濒于破产。
(on the edge of)

economic depression

on the edge of bankruptcy



The company is on the edge of bankruptcy due to the economic depression in the country.

Ex. 15 Translate the following sentences into English.

4. 大学毕业后他成为了一名护士。他认为护士这一职业可能很有发展前途。 (rewarding)

after college

Nursing could be a very rewarding career.



He became a nurse after college. He thought nursing could be a very rewarding career.

Ex. 15 Translate the following sentences into English.

5. 他像往常一样在文件上签了名。

(just as)

just as he has always done it



He signed his name on the paper just as he has always done it.

Reading Skills Practice

Skimming

Skimming means reading through a passage quickly to get a general idea of its content. It is a valuable rapid reading skill, which helps improve your comprehension and save your time.

There are three basic forms of skimming — previewing, overviewing, and reviewing. In preview skimming you view the material before you actually read it. You can use it to select a book, survey a chapter, or search for useful research material. Overview skimming is to get a “big picture” view of the material. You use it when you have a lot of material to read and don’t have enough time to read it all. Review skimming is to view the material again. You can use it to go back to the material again to refresh your memory, especially before a test or important discussion.



To skim efficiently, you should:

read the title of the text

read the first paragraph

read the first sentence of each of
the other paragraphs

read the final paragraph

look for key words



Ex. 16

Ex. 16 Now take two minutes to skim the following passage for the general idea and then write it down in the space provided.

→ Go to page 19.



Reference

Eugene O'Neill is a great American playwright. He brought new techniques to the American theater and produced a large number of works, many of which were based on his life experiences.



Go to Menu



Go to Passage A



Go to Passage B