

RISKS



RISKS

IF YOU NEVER TRY ANYTHING NEW,
YOU'LL MISS OUT ON MANY OF LIFE'S GREAT DISAPPOINTMENTS.

Book 4, Unit 6

Quotations on Risk (1)

- "There's as much risk at doing nothing as there is at doing something."
- Taking Risks, Reaping the Benefits.
- "Avoiding danger is no safer in the long run than outright exposure. Life is either a daring adventure, or nothing."
 - -- *Helen Keller*

Quotations on Risk (2)

- To win without risk is to triumph without glory.
 - -- *Pierre Corneille*
- It's better to be a lion for a day than a sheep all your life.
 - -- *Sister Elizabeth Kenny*

Risks and Jobs

- Potential risks involved in different jobs.
- Work in groups to classify the jobs (P. 134) according to the risks they involve.
- The risks are
 - physical risks
 - financial risks
 - emotional risks

New words

- ✓ psychiatrist 精神科医生
- ✓ civil servant 公务员
- ✓ ambassador 大使
- ✓ stockbroker 股票经纪人

Risks and Jobs, cont'd

- Your opinions vary according to your experience of life.
 - ✓ your home environment;
 - ✓ your school education;
 - ✓ your peers / the people you know / the people you want to know;
 - ✓ your daily activities (reading, movie-watching);
 - ✓ your expectations of life.

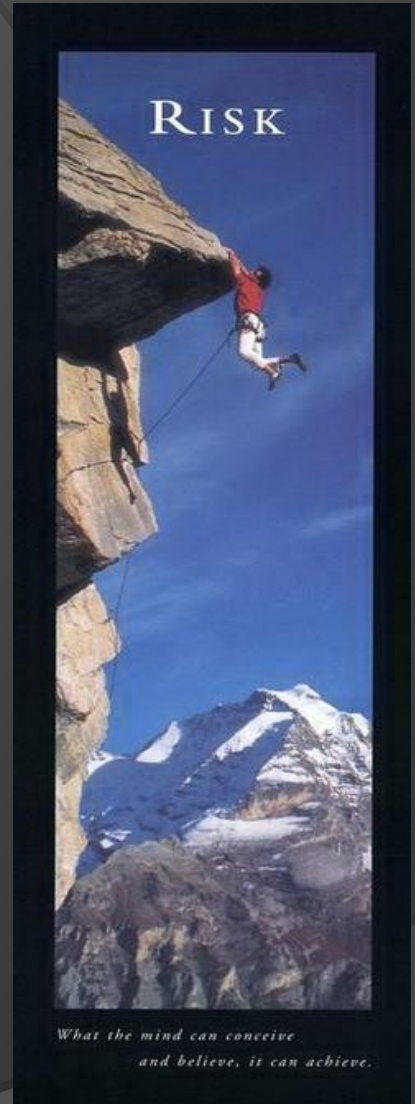


Your understanding of the risks for a particular job.



Your potential to take risks.

YOUR UNDERSTANDING



What are the risks for ...

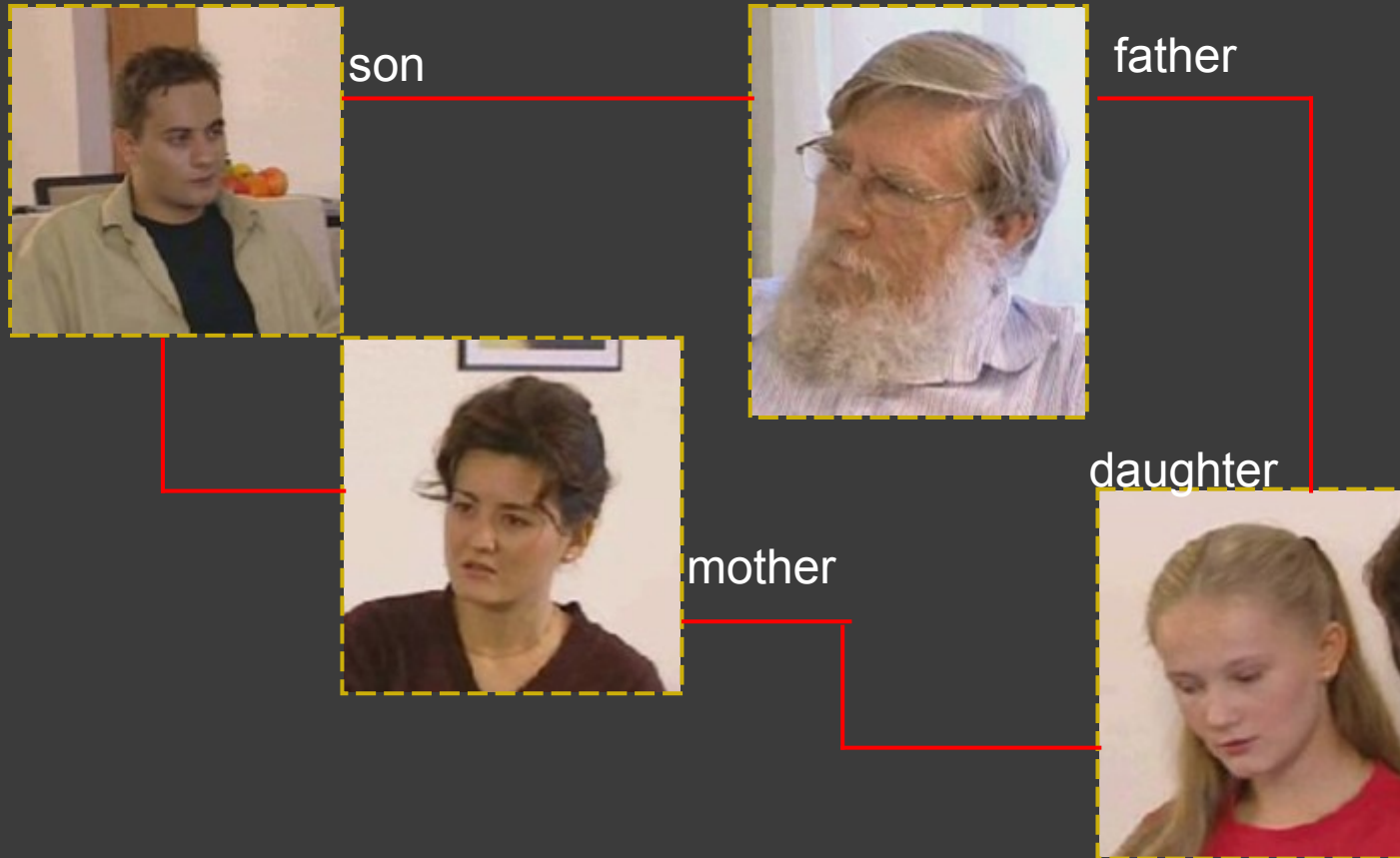
- faculty members at Zhejiang University?
- students at Zhejiang University?



Is it fun to take risks?

- Video
- New words
 - ✓ steep rock faces
 - ✓ scary
 - ✓ slippery
 - ✓ They have holes and cracks, and lumps and ribs where it's easy to ...
 - ✓ evaluate
 - ✓ choke
 - ✓ venture
 - ✓ flexible
 - ✓ hook

Characters



Exercise

1. Now I'd like to try it out and climb on a real rock face.
2. The rocks aren't slippery. They have holes and cracks, and lumps and ribs where it's easy to get a good hold.
3. Haven't you always said that we should expand our horizons and push ourselves to the limit?
4. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
5. Climbing-shoes are very flexible and fit around the feet tightly.
6. On TV I've seen that climbers use some metal hooks to help them climb more safely.
7. To be honest, this conversation reminds me of, uh, my childhood, my parents being protective of me.
8. The greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

Why do we take risks?



- ✓ (Taking risk) is part of growing up, and it's fun to try new things.
- ✓ We should expand our horizons and push ourselves to the limit.
- ✓ It is our habit – We're always taking risks no matter what we're doing.
- ✓ Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
- ✓ The greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.

In the poem

- To laugh ...
- To weep ...
- To reach out to another ...
 - To express feelings ...
- To place your ideas, your dreams, before the crowd ...
 - To love ...
 - To live ...
 - To hope ...
 - To try ...



Read aloud

- To laugh is to risk **being a fool**.
- To weep is to risk **appearing sentimental**.
- To reach out to another is to risk **involvement**.
- To express feelings is to risk **exposing your true self**.
- To place your ideas, your dreams, before the crowd is to risk **their loss**.
- To love is to risk **not being loved in return**.
- To live is to risk **dying**.
- To hope is to risk **despair**.
- To try is to risk **failure**.
- The person who risks nothing, does nothing, has nothing and is nothing.
- They may avoid suffering and sorrow,
- But they simply cannot learn, feel, change, grow, love or live.
- Risks must be taken because,
- The greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing.
- "Only a person who risks is free."
- <William Arthur Ward>

IN-CLASS READING



Analyzing the daily risks of life

- As I turn on the light I feel a slight tingle (刺痛感), my house is old with old wiring (电线) and there is a small risk of electrocution (触电).
- I take a shower, and as I reach for the soap, I wonder about the many chemicals it contains. Are they all good for the skin as the advertisements have claimed (声称)?
- As I walk down to breakfast, I take care not to fall upon the stairs. Falls kill 16,000 people per year – mostly in domestic accidents.

Analyzing the daily risks of life, cont'd

- Shall I drink coffee or tea with my breakfast? Both contain caffeine, a well-known stimulant (刺激物) which may be carcinogenic (致癌的).
- I prefer meat. But a meat-heavy diet probably contributes to cancer of the colon (结肠).
- I live seven miles from work and can commute by car, by bicycle, or by bus. But all have risks. I wonder which has the lowest risk?

Analyzing the daily risks of life, cont'd

- As I approach Boston, I see the urban haze (烟雾) caused by air pollution. There are toxic (有毒的) parts of air pollution which are not visible. The risk to life caused by air pollution is high.
- Although I don't smoke tobacco, half of the committee does, and I am exposed to the poison which causes 40 percent of all cancers and kills 15 percent of all Americans.
- The water tastes of chlorine.

Analyzing the daily risks of life, cont'd

- My office walls are brick and cinder block. Both contain radioactive materials, and radiation can increase my risk of cancer.

from *Analyzing the Daily risks of Life*
by Richard Wilson (Harvard University)

Some useful expressions/sentences associated with *risk*:

Healthy eating can help reduce the risk of heart disease.

The birds could pose a serious health risk for people who eat them.

Anyone travelling without a passport runs the risk of being arrested.

an increased risk of skin cancer

They didn't pose a significant risk to safety.

I never walk home alone at night -- it's not worth the risk.

You can use it, but it's at your own risk.

There's an element of risk in any kind of investment.

the risks associated with drug use

The benefits to patients who are taking the drug far outweigh the risks.

In-class Reading Passage:

Risks and You

Modern life and risks

- Modern life is full of all manner of threats (L6)
 - ✓ To our lives
 - ✓ To our peace of mind
 - ✓ To our families
 - ✓ To our future
- From these threats come questions that we must pose to ourselves. (L7)

Is the food we
buy safe?



Are toys for our
children likely to hurt
them?





Should my family
avoid smoked
meat?



Are we likely to
be robbed on
our vacation

Nothing we do is completely safe.

- All of this is another way of saying that nothing we do is completely safe. (L29)
- There are risks, often potentially serious ones, associated with every hobby we have, every job we take, every food we eat – in other words, with every action. (LL29-31)
- But the fact ... should not reduce us to trembling neurotics (神经症患者). (LL31-33)
- The point is to inform ourselves about the relevant risks and then act accordingly. (LL33-34)

Reading Comprehension:

Para. 1-3

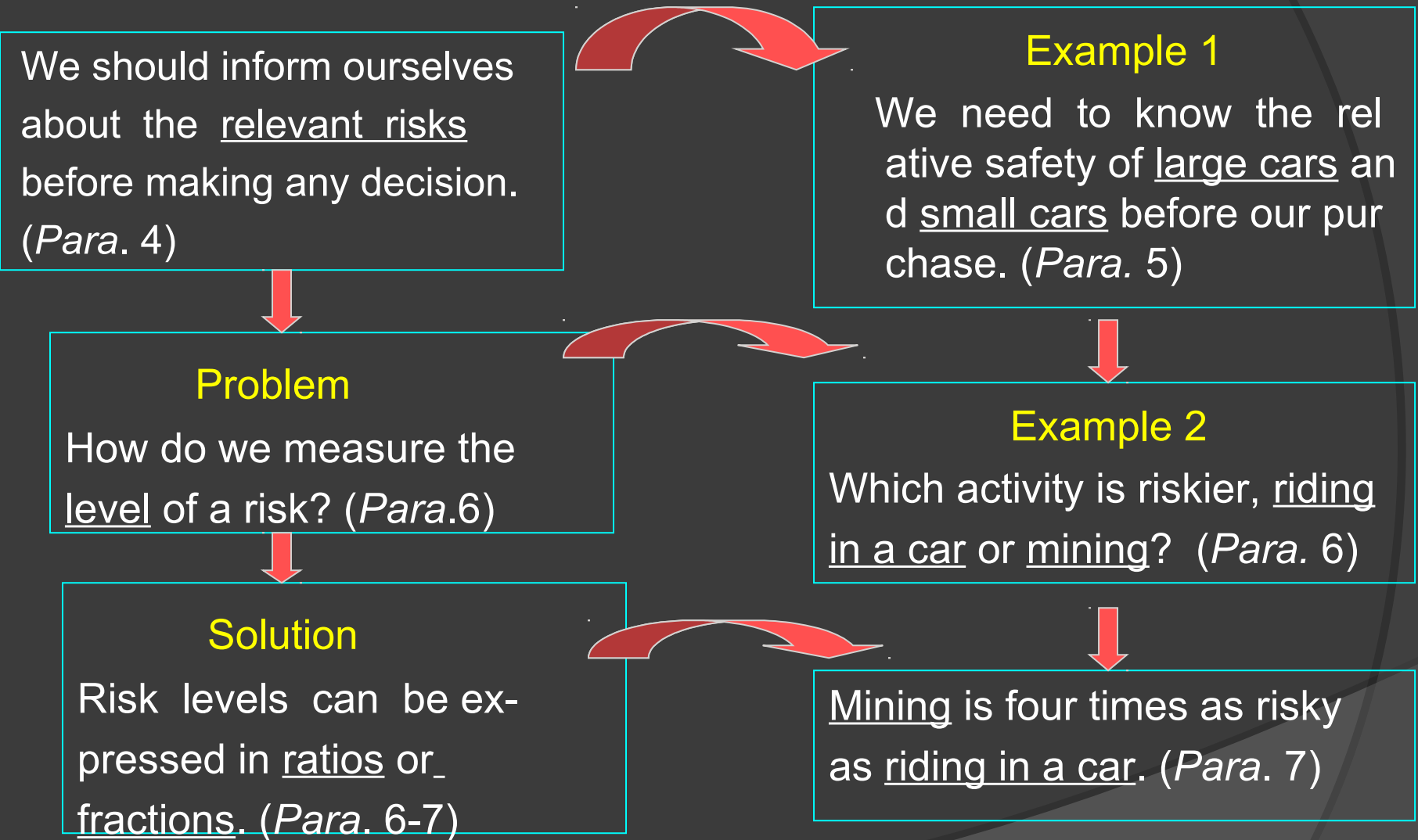
- What is the main idea of this part?

Risks are always a matter of **probability** rather than **certainty**.

- How does the author support this main idea?

By means of a comparison between **hypocho**
ndria and **anxiety about the risks of life**, and a
n analysis of injury prevention.

Diagram



Understanding Specific Information



What is risk?

	Similarity	Difference
Hypochondria	In both cases, the fear or anxiety feeds on partial information.	The hypochondriac can turn to a physician to get a definitive clarification of the situation.
Anxiety about the risks of life		Risks are a matter of probability rather than certainty.

How Do We Measure the Risk Level?

	Total number of deaths	People involved in the activity	The risk level
Traveling by car	25,000	200 million	1/10,000
Coal mining	300	700,000	4/10,000

pose (L7)

- pose a threat/danger/risk/problem
 - Rising unemployment is posing serious problems for the administration.
- We posed for photographs.
- Ann struck a pose (= stood or sat in a particular position) and smiled for the camera.

strength (L2)

- on the strength of 基于……, 由于……的影响
- have the strength to walk away when someone offered him drugs (U5, L70)
- Be aware of your own strengths and weaknesses.

- I'm trying to build up my strength.
- Jo hit him with all her strength.
- physical strength – inner strength
- The sea was very cold and it required great strength of mind to get in.

reduce to (L33, L55)

- reduce somebody/something to something
(*phrasal verb*)
 1. reduce somebody to tears/silence, etc.
 - ✓ She was reduced to tears in front of her students.
 2. reduce somebody to doing something
 - ✓ Eventually Charlotte was reduced to begging on the streets.
 3. change something into a shorter, simpler form
 - ✓ Many jobs can be reduced to a few simple points.

1. 他的模样变化太大，你很可能认不出他了。

(may well)

His appearance has changed greatly. You may well not recognize him.

2. 我们说的那个人刚从大学毕业。

(in question)

The man in question has just graduated from the university.

3. 你叫我把门锁上，我就照你说的做了。

(accordingly)

You asked me to lock the door and I did accordingly.

4. 没有一个明智的人会说那儿没危险。

(sensible)

No sensible person will say there is no risk there.

5. 贫穷使他沦落到乞讨为生。

(reduce...to)

Poverty reduced him to a beggar / begging for a living.

6. 我没有告诉警察我所怀疑的事情。

(suspect)

I didn't tell the police what I suspected.

7. 只几分钟工夫，广场上的人数大大地增加了。

(multiply)

Only in a few minutes, the number of the people in the square multiplied greatly.

8. 上周他们派人给房子估价。

(assess)

Last week, they sent someone to assess (the value of) the house.

Dictation

8 sentences

1. Modern life is full of all manner of threats – to our lives, our peace of mind, our families, and our future. (LL5-7)
2. Anxiety about the risks of life is a bit like hypochondria; in both, the fear or anxiety feeds on partial information. (LL11-12)
3. It is much more difficult when anxiety about other forms of risk is concerned, because with many risks, the situation is not as simple. (LL15-16)
4. Risks are almost always a matter of probability rather than certainty. (L17)
5. All of this is another way of saying that nothing we do is completely safe. (L29)

6. The point is to inform ourselves about the relevant risks and then act accordingly. (LL33-34)
7. There are risks, often potentially serious ones, associated with every hobby we have, every job we take, every food we eat — in other words, with every action. (LL29-31)
8. Once we understand that risk can never be totally eliminated from any situation and that, therefore, nothing is completely safe, we will then see that the issue is not one of avoiding risks altogether but rather one of managing risks in a sensible way. (LL68-70)



Finally

No Risk, No Fun? People Who Take Risks Are More Satisfied With Their Lives.

Science Daily (Sep. 19, 2005) —

AFTER-CLASS READING



Passage 1

- be preoccupied with (I.3)
- strike terror/fear into someone's heart (I.5)
- incubation period (I.26)
- short-sighted (cf. near-sighted) (I.26)
- the lesser of the two evils （两害相较取其轻） (I.30)
- YPLL (years of potential life lost) (I.32)
- in this light (I.38)
- by virtue of (I.53)
- put differently (I.55)
- other things being equal (I.65)

Risky sports

- white-water rafting (*l.10*)
- mountain climbing (*l.22*) (e.g. Alpine climbing) (*l.35*)
- sky-surfing (*l.15*)
- radical free skiing (*l.17*)
- in-line skating (*l.27*)
- base (building, antenna, span, earth) jumping (*l.29*)
(低空跳伞)

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT



Unit 6 Risks

Group Discussion

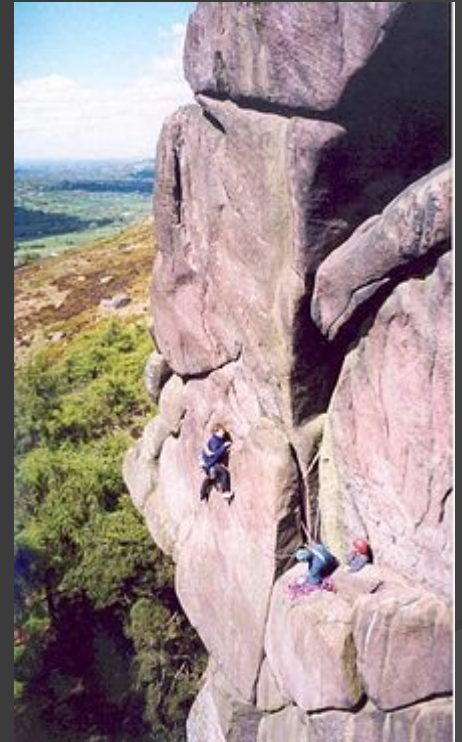
Weighing the Risks



- 1) What are some of the negative effects of technology on our health?
- 2) Are environmental risks worth taking?
Explain your answer.
- 3) Do you think people have interfered too much in the environment?

Staging a Talk Show

- Is it worthwhile for college students to do dangerous sports?



Some useful tips:

- People want to escape the mundane/monotonous lifestyle;
- People need an element of risk in their lives;
- There is a basic human need for novelty;
- People have a desire to seek challenges;
- ...

