

# 25

Contemporary  
Issues

## EXPRESS

### YOURSELF (1)

### PART (1)



## Issue 01

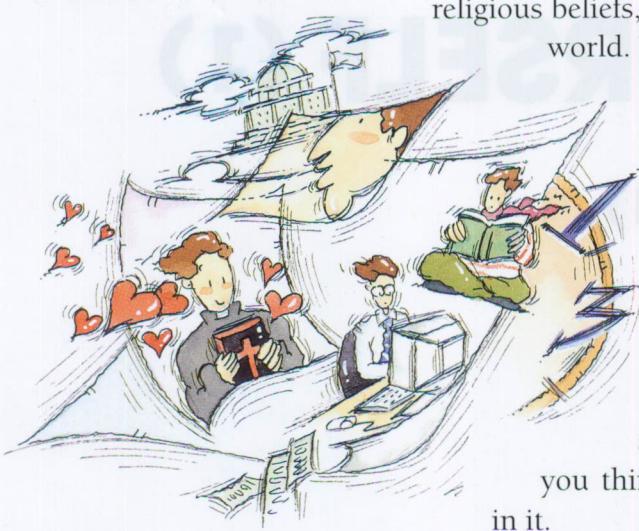
# Life Styles



People have different attitudes toward living. Some seek self-oriented happiness, without any consideration for others. To them, "happiness" means wielding<sup>↓</sup> political or economic power over others. But most of these people turn out to be disappointed in their pursuit of happiness: since man's desire is endless, nothing can fully satisfy their needs.

Other people believe that the first step to attaining happiness is to restrict personal desire. Priests, monks, and nuns are the most common representatives<sup>↓</sup> of this group. By refraining from worldly passion, they think they are happy because they live their lives in accordance with<sup>↓</sup> religious commands. But, can anyone without personal autonomy<sup>↓</sup> be genuinely happy?

A third group consists of very ordinary people. They have no great wealth or political authority. While they may have religious beliefs, they do not turn their back on<sup>↓</sup> the world. But they treasure their families, they value the little things of everyday life. They are happy if they have three meals a day, a car, a home, a vacation, enough money to educate their children....



Which group of people is the happiest? Who knows?<sup>↓</sup> If you think you are happy, then you are. Happiness is the result of how you think about the world and your place in it.

→ **wield** : exercise (influence) effectively

→ **representatives** : typical examples of something

→ **in accordance with** : in conformity with

→ **autonomy** : self-government; independence

→ **turn one's back on** : abandon, ignore, or reject

→ **Who knows?** : It is not possible to know at the moment.

## Comprehension



- According to the essay, how many groups of life styles are there?
- What does the expression “to turn one’s back on the world” mean?
- What is the definition of happiness?

## Express Yourself



- What types of social activities do you engage in?
- What would you think about becoming a priest, monk, or nun?
- What religion do you have?
- How do you spend your free time? Do you prefer spending it alone or with friends?
- Do you think the quality of your life is improving or getting worse?
- What musical instruments can you play?
- Do you enjoy singing?
- Have you ever done any volunteer work?
- Are you usually on time for appointments?
- How do you relieve<sup>+</sup> your stress?
- Are you forgetful?<sup>+</sup> If so, how do you cope with<sup>+</sup> it?
- Do you think you are happy? Why or why not?

<sup>+</sup>**relieve** : lessen or reduce (pain or anxiety, for example); ease

<sup>+</sup>**forgetful** : often forgetting things

<sup>+</sup>**cope with** : deal well with (sb) or (sth)

## Opinion Samples

**ANS...**

**1.** The quality of my life is worsening. I agree that material wealth grows as the economy expands. But I don't think money is everything in terms of a quality life. What are the really decisive factors? I think quality depends upon environmental concern, stress, crime rates, education, etc. Economic wealth comes after these. We all know our environment is becoming dirtier and crimes are on the rise. Everybody suffers from stress, caused by a variety of sources, which shortens the life expectancy<sup>↓</sup> of our generation. Even material comfort might be a source of stress. The quality of life can't be measured by material wealth.

**2.** Traditional sex roles used to be clear-cut<sup>↓</sup> in our society. Men did not try to understand women's work, and vice versa.<sup>↓</sup> For example, men did not pitch in<sup>↓</sup> to help with domestic chores, and women were not allowed to interfere in male jobs. This division was probably an obstacle to mutual understanding. But now society is changing rapidly. Many women are making money outside the home, while more men seem ready to help with cooking, cleaning the house, washing the dishes, taking care of the children, and so forth. This not only helps men and women understand each other better, but also helps ease the problems between spouses.

→ **life expectancy** : the length of time that a person or animal is expected to live  
 → **clear-cut** : not vague or confused; obvious  
 → **vice versa** : the same but in the opposite order  
 → **pitch in** : join forces with others; help or cooperate

## Useful Expressions



These expressions are related to the topics discussed in this chapter. It will be good speaking practice to let students explain what these sentences mean in their own English.

- 1.** The world is full of people making a good living but poor lives.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.** Death is not a period, but a comma, in the story of life.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.** Believe that life is worth living, and your belief will help create the fact.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 4.** It has been said that life is a game—but how can we play it if we don't know where the goalposts are?

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.** Some people treat life like a slot machine—putting in as little as possible while hoping for the jackpot.<sup>↓</sup>

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 6.** A long life is a gift of God; a full and fruitful life is your own doing.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 7.** After all, life is really simple; we ourselves create the circumstances that complicate it.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 8.** The tragedy of life is what dies inside a man while he lives.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 9.** People who are afraid of death are usually afraid of life.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 10.** We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 02

# Traffic & Transportation



In modern societies, cars have become indispensable for most people. They are needed for commuting to work, for shopping, and for leisure purposes. However, this widespread use also poses many traffic-related problems. For example, since the roads are congested<sup>+</sup> most of the day, the meaning of “rush hour”<sup>+</sup> is fast disappearing. A lot of drivers complain that the police are more interested in “collecting money” from law-breaking commuters<sup>+</sup> than in facilitating the traffic flow. In addition, as more and more “demand pressure” is put on gasoline supplies, and as more taxes are added by the government to regulate usage, prices are rising dramatically.

Worldwide, the automobile is probably the number-one contributor to air pollution, and policies designed to protect the environment are expensive. So far, mass transportation systems such as subways and buses—and electric or other alternatives<sup>+</sup> to internal combustion engines<sup>+</sup>—have proved inadequate for solving the needs of conveniently moving large numbers of people from place to place.



to move quickly and easily from one place to another

**→congested** : too full or crowded because of too many people or vehicles

**→rush hour** : a period of heavy traffic

**→commuter** : a person who travels regularly between a home in one community and work or school in another

**→alternatives** : choices, more possibilities from which to choose

**→internal combustion engines** : engines which produce energy by burning fuel within themselves

## Comprehension



1. What does "rush hour" mean and why is the expression becoming meaningless?
2. Explain "demand pressure."
3. Why haven't the problems associated<sup>+</sup> with automobile usage been corrected?

## Express Yourself



1. If you were late for an appointment, would you violate the traffic rules?
2. What traffic rules do you often break?
3. If you were stopped by a police officer for a traffic violation, what would you do?
4. Have you ever tried to bribe<sup>+</sup> a police officer?
5. How do you feel when you get a ticket?
6. If you knew you were only going to be someplace for 10 minutes, would you pay for half an hour of parking or just park illegally?
7. When do you take the subway?
8. When do you take a taxi?
9. When do you take a bus?

<sup>+</sup>associated : connected

<sup>+</sup>bribe : pay money to (sb) in exchange for a favor, especially by doing something dishonest

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Yesterday I got my first traffic ticket.<sup>+</sup> I was so angry that I drove away recklessly.<sup>+</sup> Even though I knew this was dangerous behavior, I couldn't help myself. But after nearly causing an accident, I stopped my car, drank a coffee, and relaxed for a few minutes. I realized that my bad driving was the reason I had received the ticket in the first place, and this helped calm me down. Then I was able to drive the way I know I should.

**2.** When I go downtown I never drive. For one thing, it is very dangerous. The roads are crowded with cars all the time, and an accident or some road construction can cause me to be delayed an hour or more. So driving never guarantees on-time arrival for appointments. And gas and parking are both expensive. On the other hand, the subway is safe, cheap, and timely.

01 not responsible or guilty **2** now **3** my word **4** it's **5** **6** **7** **8** **9** **10** **11** **12** **13** **14** **15** **16** **17** **18** **19** **20** **21** **22** **23** **24** **25** **26** **27** **28** **29** **30** **31** **32** **33** **34** **35** **36** **37** **38** **39** **40** **41** **42** **43** **44** **45** **46** **47** **48** **49** **50** **51** **52** **53** **54** **55** **56** **57** **58** **59** **60** **61** **62** **63** **64** **65** **66** **67** **68** **69** **70** **71** **72** **73** **74** **75** **76** **77** **78** **79** **80** **81** **82** **83** **84** **85** **86** **87** **88** **89** **90** **91** **92** **93** **94** **95** **96** **97** **98** **99** **100** **101** **102** **103** **104** **105** **106** **107** **108** **109** **110** **111** **112** **113** **114** **115** **116** **117** **118** **119** **120** **121** **122** **123** **124** **125** **126** **127** **128** **129** **130** **131** **132** **133** 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→**traffic ticket** : a notice given to a driver for a traffic violation

→**reckless** : lacking care or caution; careless

## Useful Expressions



- 1.** Fewer accidents are caused by traffic jams<sup>↓</sup> than by pickled<sup>↓</sup> drivers.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 2.** Traffic tickets are like wives. No one complains about them until he gets one of his own.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 3.** The way traffic is today, it's easier to star<sup>↓</sup> on Broadway than it is to cross it.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 4.** Fast transportation has made us all neighbors—but, unfortunately, not brothers.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 5.** People seem to have thought up every solution to the traffic problem except staying at home.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 6.** Doctors tell us that people are living too fast. Traffic statistics show they are dying the same way.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

- 7.** A traffic light is a device for trapping you in the middle of the intersection.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **traffic jam** : a long line of vehicles on a road that cannot move, or that can only move very slowly

→ **pickled** : intoxicated; drunk

→ **star** : play the leading role in a theatrical or film production

## Issue 03

# Meals



Eating is supposed to be one of the most pleasant things in life. Sometimes we are not sure if we eat to live or live to eat. However, these days, many people are being deprived of regular meals. Some folks claim they are too busy to take the time, or they skip<sup>+</sup> a meal because they are dieting. The meal that is most often missed is breakfast, so the eater or fixer<sup>+</sup> can stay in bed longer, even though health experts usually insist this is the most important meal of all. In some cases, this phenomenon is because wives are working outside the home, in others because husbands do not insist on breakfast. More convenient Western ideas about breakfast are becoming popular: eggs, toast, cereal, coffee.

Later in the day, lunches are also becoming more problematic, especially for salaried workers. The variety and quality of food seem to be declining, even as the restaurants themselves become more crowded and expensive.

After work, it is usually an informal requirement to join co-workers in a meal and drinks, so a family meal at home is out of the question<sup>+</sup> for a lot of male workers.



<sup>+</sup>deprive (sb) of (sth) : take something from someone, especially something they need or want

<sup>+</sup>skip : not do something that you usually do or that you should do

<sup>+</sup>fix : make (sth) ready; prepare

<sup>+</sup>out of the question : not possible

## Comprehension



1. Which meal is considered the easiest to skip?
2. How many reasons are given for not eating?
3. What does a Western breakfast consist of?

## Express Yourself



1. Do you usually have breakfast?
2. Who prepares breakfast in your family?
3. What do you think about having a modest Western-style breakfast?
4. What do you usually eat for lunch?
5. What do you most look for in a lunch outside the home?
6. What do you think about carrying a lunch box to work?
7. What is your favorite dessert?
8. Do you usually volunteer to pay for your fellow workers' lunches?
9. What do you think about Dutch treat? \*
10. Do you think it's a good idea to take a nap after lunch?
11. Do you think one hour is enough time for lunch?
12. What is your favorite food?
13. Do you like Western food? If so, which?
14. Do you drink coffee after a meal?
15. How many cups of coffee do you drink a day?
16. Do you try to maintain a balanced diet?
17. Do you usually buy fruit in a department store, or in the market?
18. Are you worried about pesticides\* when you eat fruit?
19. Do you peel your apples?

\*Dutch treat: an occasion when people share the cost of something such as a meal in a restaurant

\*pesticide: a chemical used to kill harmful insects

## Opinion Samples



**1.** For too long we have thought that common courtesy demands that one person pay for everyone's meals. Oftentimes this leads to an embarrassing struggle over who will pay. Of course, each person is expected to take turns,<sup>♦</sup> but the order is not always clear and this may lead to resentment<sup>♦</sup> by the others. Meal costs are also constantly rising, so paying for multiple meals at one time is often inconvenient. We could save ourselves a lot of trouble if we would agree to go Dutch—each pays for his own meal.

**2.** I'm very concerned about getting poisoned by what I eat. I can never be sure if any fruit is pesticide-free, even after I wash it. So I try to peel it before I eat it. As a result, I shy away from<sup>♦</sup> some of my favorite foods, like strawberries. My health is more important than my palate.<sup>♦</sup>

♦take turns : succeed one another in order

♦resentment : a feeling of displeasure or anger because of an insult or other wrong

♦shy away from : drawback; hesitate to do

♦palate : the sense of taste

## Useful Expressions



1. Don't argue at the dinner table. The one who is not hungry always wins the argument.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Children who are reared in homes of poverty have only two mealtime choices—take it or leave it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Exercise doesn't make you nearly as hungry as thinking does—especially thinking about food.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. The best exercise is to exercise discretion<sup>4</sup> at the dinner table.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. More and more food is coming canned or prepackaged—including food for thought.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. There is a new diet that will reduce weight like nothing else. It's called the high price of food.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Most kids think a balanced diet is a hamburger in each hand.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Eating plenty of onions and garlic will help you live longer, claim dietary authorities—but you will die very lonely.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Table manners must have been invented by people who were never hungry.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Many people seem to be allergic to food for thought.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→take it or leave it : accept or refuse (sth) without changes or conditions

→discretion : caution or self-control in one's speech or behavior

## Issue 04

# Sleep



**I**t is commonly believed that everybody should get at least eight hours of sleep a day. But a lot of people try to get by on less, thinking that sleeping is just a waste of their time. Even some experts claim that it is the quality of sleep that counts rather than the quantity, and that we could live healthy lives with only three or four hours of good sleep. To them, "good sleep" is characterized by REM (Rapid-Eye Movement). It is during this phase of sleep that we dream.

Dreams and their interpretation are other interesting phenomena associated with sleeping. Throughout history, seers<sup>↓</sup> have tried to use them as a guide to the future. Today, psychologists are apt to see them as the acting out<sup>↓</sup> of the anxieties and fantasies we cannot express during our waking hours. For Sigmund Freud, they were symbolic expressions of our sexual desires.



→ **seer** : a person who can foresee or foretell events

→ **acting out** : performing, behaving as though in a real situation but not actually doing the action

## Comprehension



1. How many hours of sleep do we need every day?
2. When do we dream?
3. What purposes do dreams serve in human culture?

## Express Yourself



1. How many hours do you sleep?
2. Do you feel okay with three or four hours' sleep?
3. If your spouse were snoring, what would you do?
4. Do you need an alarm clock to get up in the morning?
5. Do you like to sleep in a bed or on the floor?
6. Do you think your dreams have anything significant to tell you?
7. How often, and when, do you dream?
8. Do you try to interpret what your dreams mean?
9. Do you believe that you would be lucky if you saw a pig in your dreams? If so, would you buy a lottery ticket?
10. Do you enjoy a nap<sup>+</sup> during the day time?
11. Do you think sleep helps relieve your stress?
12. Do you think it's okay to work at night?

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Whenever I have a dream I try to interpret it in a Freudian manner.<sup>→</sup> Most of my dreams relate to my everyday life, so understanding them helps me know more about myself. Since Freud was a pioneering<sup>→</sup> genius in the field of psychology, any interpretation based on his ideas must be accurate.

**2.** Three or four hours' sleep! Doing that might save time, but I don't think most people could operate very effectively that way. I have tried to get by with less sleep, many times, but I always felt tired and irritable, and would have to take a nap at work just to get me through the day. So now I make it a rule<sup>→</sup> to get at least six hours of sleep, no matter what, and most nights I get seven or eight. So these days I feel refreshed and energetic, and I get a lot more done.

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→in a Freudian manner : by Sigmund Freud's doctrines  
 →pioneering : being the earliest in a field or study, activity, etc.  
 →make it a rule : always try

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## Useful Expressions



1. When the alarm clock rings, the best part of the day is over.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. If you want your dream to come true, don't oversleep.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Do you realize how many mistakes you'd make if you didn't sleep away a third of your day?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. The best bridge between despair and hope is a good night's sleep.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you sleep in a chair you have nothing to lose, but a nap at the wheel is often a permanent snooze.♦  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Most of us spend a lifetime going to sleep when we're not sleepy, and getting up when we are.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. If you want your wife to listen to what you say, talk in your sleep.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. A real surprise is when the college boy comes home and discovers people sleep at night rather than in the daytime.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. It's extremely difficult for a babysitter to wake up five or ten minutes before the parents return home.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Boasting and sleeping are the forerunners♦ of failure.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

♦snooze : a light nap

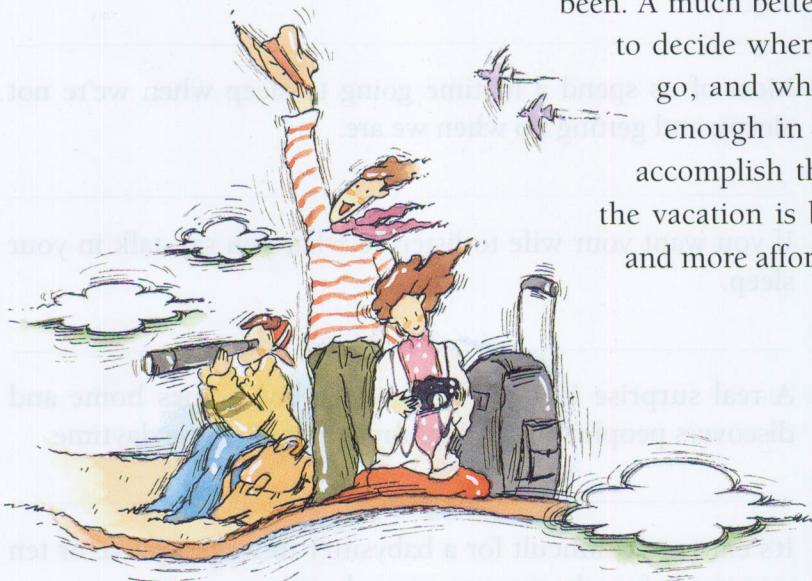
♦forerunner : a person or thing that comes or goes before, as in time

## Issue 05

# Vacation



**A**s people make more money, often they think that now is the time to enjoy themselves more. Leisure becomes more important in their lives. As their psychological horizons<sup>+</sup> expand beyond just earning an income, they also want to find out more about the world. So they want to travel. One problem, however, is that they don't really know where they want to go or what they want to do when they get there. So they blindly<sup>+</sup> go somewhere, just because they think it is fashionable to do so. Often they take some package<sup>+</sup> tour that offers them "10 countries in 7 days." That way, they collect a lot of stamps in their passports and a lot of predictable photographs, but they don't have much fun or relaxation, and they don't really know very much about where they've been. A much better approach would be to decide where they really want to go, and why, and then plan far enough in advance in order to accomplish those goals. That way the vacation is both more enjoyable and more affordable.<sup>+</sup>



-psychological horizons : limits of consciousness or attitude

-blindly : without guidance or relevant information

-package : a plan or an offer made up of several items, each of which must be accepted

-affordable : not expensive

## Comprehension



1. Why has travel become more popular?
2. What mistake do people sometimes make?
3. What should they do to make the most of their vacations?

## Express Yourself



1. How much paid vacation do you get each year?
2. Where do you most want to go?
3. In the summer, which place do you prefer—the mountains or the sea?
4. What do you think about visiting the seaside in winter?
5. Which do you think is the best season for a vacation?
6. For your vacation trip, will you drive or use public transportation such as trains or buses?
7. Would you say “yes” if your boss asked you to sacrifice your vacation? “Work comes first,” doesn’t it?
8. Name the countries you want to visit.
9. Describe your ideal vacation.
10. Are you willing to lose vacation time for better pay?
11. Describe your usual weekend.

**-make the most of :** use to greatest advantage

## Opinion Samples



Language Test

**1.** It seems to me that most people I know only think about taking a vacation in the summer. But that's a terrible season, since everyone else is rushing to all the same spots at the same time. So instead of a relaxing vacation, they spend their time stuck in traffic or on an overcrowded beach; service is stretched to the limit,<sup>+</sup> and prices are inflated. So they go back home more tired than when they began, glad their time in hell is over and looking forward to going back to work! So I take my sabbatical<sup>+</sup> in the winter. Even the seashore is very pleasant then, although it is too cold to swim or get a tan, because it is very quiet. I can calmly reflect on my life, take my time doing what I really enjoy, and charge my batteries back up.<sup>+</sup> So when I return to my job I'm able to work more effectively.

**2.** The ideal vacation for me is to make a trip alone. I think vacations should be a chance to reflect on myself and think about what I am doing and what I should do with my life. Only traveling alone makes this possible.

- 
- **service is stretched to the limit** : the ability to provide accommodations has reached its maximum capacity
  - **sabbatical** : a year of release from normal teaching duties granted to a professor for research; a period of leave from one's work
  - **charge one's batteries back up** : rest or relax in order to get back his or her energy

## Useful Expressions



1. My vacations are easy to plan—my boss tells me when, and my wife tells me where.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Most people could live within their incomes if they were as economical all year round as they are right after their vacations.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Nothing makes time pass faster than vacations and short-term loans.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Vacation is a system whereby people who are merely tired become exhausted.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Vacations are a little like love affairs—anticipated with relish,<sup>+</sup> experienced with inconvenience, and remembered with nostalgia.<sup>+</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Summer vacations get kids tanned, mothers in the pink,<sup>+</sup> and fathers in the red.<sup>+</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Don't tell the tired-looking person he needs a vacation—the chances are he just had one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. One of the most common disruptions of marital bliss is the choice of where to spend a vacation. What this country needs is an ocean in the mountains.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. You are getting old when you're on vacation and your energy runs out before your money does.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. A vacation makes you feel good enough to return to work—and so poor you have to.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **relish** : great enjoyment; pleasure; zest

→ **nostalgia** : a desire for the past; homesickness

→ **in the pink** : feeling fit

→ **in the red** : in debt

## Issue 06

# Special Days



Which day is the most important to you each year? Is it your birthday? Perhaps the birthday of someone you love? Or an anniversary? Many people have their own special days and want to celebrate them in some distinctive way. The celebration may be a special meal or dining out, or a gift, perhaps a trip. Maybe even a greeting card is enough to mark the occasion. But the point is that the day symbolizes some important event, and that its importance is recognized by other significant people as well.

Traditional holidays are also important, but they have a group significance instead of a personal meaning. Usually some religious or national figure is commemorated.<sup>+</sup> These occasions may be marked by community celebrations, or especially by family get-togethers. As families become more fragmented<sup>+</sup> and scattered, these holidays may be ever-more important, since they provide a chance for people to share their lives with each other again.



<sup>+</sup>commemorate: honor the memory of a person, group, or event  
<sup>+</sup>fragment: break or become broken into small parts

## Comprehension



1. Does the celebration of special occasions always have to be expensive?
2. How many ways to celebrate them are mentioned? What are they?
3. Do public holidays have the same purpose as private ones?

## Express Yourself



1. How do you celebrate New Year's Day?
2. Did you make any New Year's resolutions<sup>+</sup> this year? What were they? Were you able to keep them?
3. How do you celebrate your birthday?
4. How do you celebrate your wedding anniversary?<sup>+</sup>
5. What do you think would be the perfect gift for a wedding anniversary?
6. What do you want to do for your next birthday?
7. What do you like to receive on your special day?
8. Do you think cash is an appropriate gift?
9. Do you think it's okay to throw a luxurious party in an expensive restaurant for your child's birthday?
10. What do you usually prepare for your child's birthday?
11. How do you celebrate your parents' birthdays? And what do you prepare for their gifts?
12. What if your spouse forgot your birthday or wedding anniversary?

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I've decided to take a week off and travel for my next birthday. I want to free myself from my nine-to-five job, my friends and my relatives in order to spend some time to discover myself. I have a good job with an adequate income, I have an active social life. But is that my purpose on earth? Am I being too selfish? So I want to get away by myself and relax and think about my future. But I wonder if I have the courage actually to change my life.

**2.** These days a lot of parents throw a party<sup>+</sup> in an expensive restaurant for their children's birthdays. They do this to show off their wealth, and because they're too lazy to prepare food and drinks at home. This might send the wrong signal to their children, who would naturally enough think that celebrating a special day requires money, and who might be disappointed if their birthday party is not more luxurious than their friends'. This is the worst thing parents can do in raising<sup>+</sup> their children.

→ **purpose on earth** : ultimate meaning in life

→ **throw a party** : give a party

→ **raise** : take care of; bring up

## Useful Expressions



1. A woman bakes a child's birthday cake big enough to hold all the candles—and her own small enough not to.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

2. The best way to remember your wife's birthday is to forget it once!

→ \_\_\_\_\_

3. When a man has a birthday he may take a day off.<sup>+</sup> When a woman has a birthday she may take as much as five years off.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

4. A diplomatic husband said to his wife, "How do you expect me to remember your birthday when you never look any older?"

→ \_\_\_\_\_

5. It's what guests say after they leave the party that counts.<sup>+</sup>

→ \_\_\_\_\_

6. The success of a big party is usually measured by the money that is wasted.

→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 07

# Friends



How many friends do you have? Which do you think is better, having many friends or just a few very close ones? Do you think your friends would stay with you if you were in trouble? You know people say, "A friend can't be known in prosperity." A lot of those who say this claim that their conclusion is based on personal experience of losing a supposed friend when they were in a difficult situation. If so, it seems friendship is more a matter of social convenience than character or shared interest. However, others can point to unexpected support during a serious crisis from someone whom they did not expect to be a good friend. So I guess the question of friendship can cut both ways:<sup>↓</sup> in some cases it is mere lip service<sup>↓</sup> and in others it is genuine commitment.<sup>↓</sup>



→ **cut both ways** : have or result in advantages as well as disadvantages

→ **lip service** : insincere claims of friendship, admiration, support, etc.

→ **commitment** : a strong or firm belief shown by one's actions; loyalty

## Comprehension



1. Why do you suppose "a friend can't be known in prosperity"?
2. Who is most likely to say that?
3. Are any counter-examples<sup>↓</sup> given? If so, what?

## Express Yourself



1. Why do people need to make friends?
2. Is it okay for your spouse to have friends of the opposite sex?
3. How did you meet your best friend?
4. What usually causes trouble between friends?
5. What is the most important thing in maintaining a harmonious friendship?
6. Do you believe the saying, "Out of sight, out of mind"?
7. What's the difference between having male and female friends?
8. What's the difference between the friends you made in elementary, middle and high school, and college?
9. Do you tell your friends everything about your private life?

<sup>↓</sup>counter- : a prefix that means "contrary" or "opposite"

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Friendship often turns sour<sup>+</sup> because of money problems.

People think it's okay to lend money to a friend, but when they try to get the money back they become estranged. My point is this: "Lend money to your friend if you want to lose them both."

**2.** As in marriage, understanding is the most important thing in friendship. Having a friend means that you may often be angry, hurt, even disappointed by your friend. Whenever you are in such a situation, you must be "ready" to understand your friend, however. If not, the friendship will break up sooner than later. Without understanding, you can't overcome the ups and downs<sup>+</sup> of any relationship.

-oerden & grondslagen van enkele merken voor verschillende soorten  
-equivalenten voor verschillende soorten  
-Charm lo me, ridge lo meO" grondz. sli oorliefd voeg oC. d  
-Gebiedt afstand bns alsn grived oswiordt oorwilleli sli esedW. X  
-ri abien rov ebearil adi oswiordt oorwilleli sli z'mdW. 8  
-fogalloo hia Joodbe digid hie slbing gneisens  
-Teld eisung mng hude grindewas alswal roog lfta nov oC. P

→turn sour : become estranged, unfriendly or unpleasant  
→ups and downs : periods of good and bad luck or spirits

## Useful Expressions



1. Warm friends often freeze up<sup>4</sup> at the mention of cash.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. A friend that isn't in need is a friend indeed.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. The best recipe for making friends is to be one yourself.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Having money and friends is easy. Having friends and no money is an accomplishment.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Time separates the best of friends, but so does money—and marriage.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. A good friend is one who can tell you all his problems—but doesn't.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. The more arguments you win, the fewer friends you'll have.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Friendship is like money—easier made than kept.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Blessed are our enemies, for they tell us the truth when our friends flatter us.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. You can win more friends with your ears than with your mouth.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 08

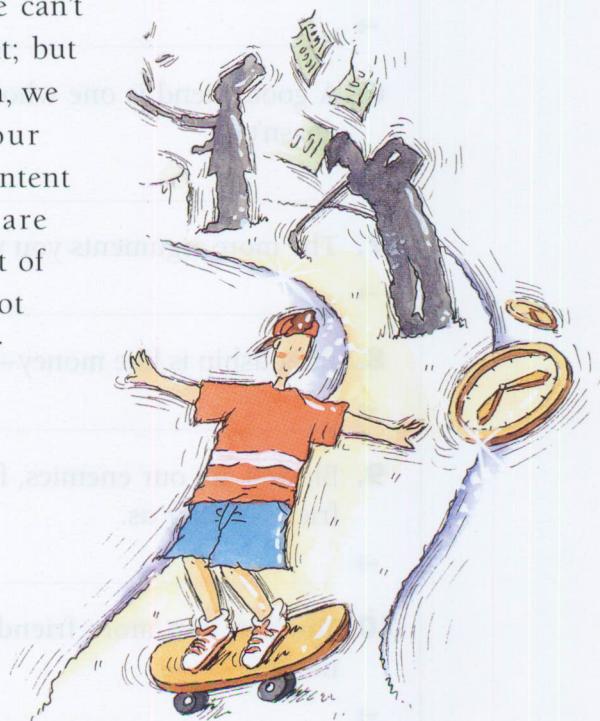
# Hobbies



One of the main reasons people have hobbies is to kill time. Many of the great developments in science and technology have given us all a lot of time beyond that which we fill with necessary activity. But few of us use that extra time creatively, so we get bored. So we need a hobby to make the time pass enjoyably: we collect stamps or learn how to cook or just listen to our CDs.

One of the problems, though, is with having expensive hobbies. Usually they are intended to show off our wealth or our being up-to-date<sup>+</sup> with some supposed trend, rather than supporting any genuine interest.

Too often, we can't really afford it; but even if we can, we just feed<sup>+</sup> our general discontent because we are spending a lot of money but not relieving our boredom.



<sup>→</sup>up-to-date : based on the latest information, changes, improvements, or styles  
<sup>→</sup>feed : nourish

## Comprehension



1. What are two reasons given for having a hobby?
2. Why are hobbies necessary in the modern world?
3. What is wrong with having expensive hobbies?

## Express Yourself



1. What are your hobbies?
2. How much money do your hobbies cost you?
3. With whom do you enjoy your hobbies?
4. How often do you engage in your hobbies?
5. Do you make friends with people who have the same hobbies?
6. What are the best things about your hobbies?
7. Are there any hobbies you would like to try soon?
8. Are there any hobbies you have given up? Why?
9. Did you ever recommend that family members share your hobbies with you?

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Having a hobby is supposed to be an enjoyable way to relax. On weekends or at night, too many people have no interest in going anywhere or doing anything, so they just stay at home watching TV or nagging<sup>→</sup> their families. But if they could develop an interest in something else, they would be too absorbed in<sup>→</sup> it to bother the other people at home. Domestic tranquility<sup>→</sup> would be achieved! Even better would be something the entire family could enjoy together. A fun, stimulating, inexpensive hobby would help keep the family close and comfortable with each other.

**2.** I'm happy whenever I meet someone who shares my interests. We usually become friends right away because we often have similar characteristics. We can immediately understand each other, and we have something vital to talk about. In fact, talking itself is one of the greatest hobbies we can enjoy, don't you think so? And it's certainly one of the least expensive—is that what people mean when they say “talk is cheap”?

→ **nag** : bother or annoy (sb)

→ **absorbed in** : completely interested in

→ **tranquility** : calmness

## Useful Expressions



1. Fishing stimulates the brain—also the imagination.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Many a problem will solve itself, if we forget about it and go fishing.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. A lot of singers on TV are worth watching. Too bad they're not worth listening to.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Finding a simple life is today's most complicated job.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. The greatest pleasure in life is doing what other people say can't be done.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Nothing grows faster than a fish from the time he bites until he gets away.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Why not learn to enjoy the little things – there are so many of them?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. What we enjoy, not what we have, constitutes<sup>+</sup> our abundance.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 09

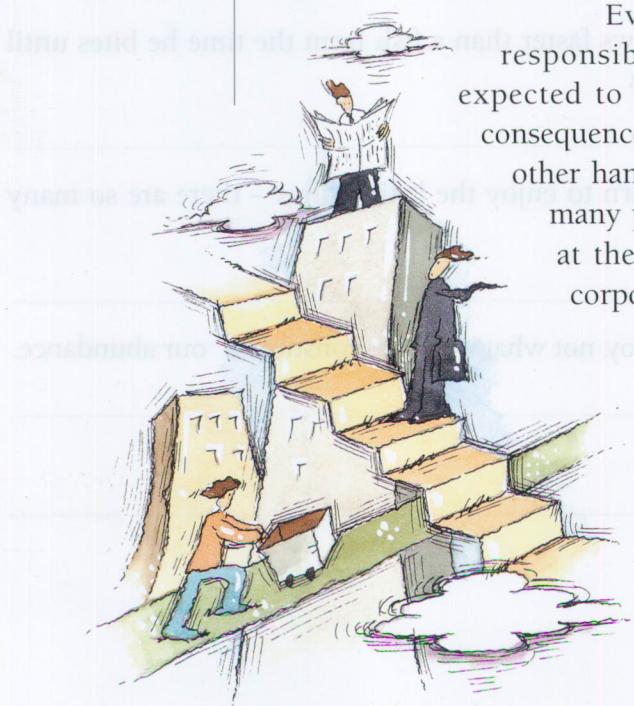
# Jobs



**M**ost people in modern society spend more than eight hours a day working. Some are successful in their jobs, but many more are under stress. Workers are classified into two groups; self-employed and employees. An interesting fact is that the self-employed envy the employees, and vice versa. The reason? People tend to exaggerate the others' benefits they don't have.

Businessmen seem to have greater satisfaction from their jobs than ordinary workers do. They have the power to decide things by themselves. That's why ordinary workers are envious of them. But businessmen must take responsibility for their decisions, and if something goes wrong they could go bankrupt.

Every employee has a certain job responsibility, but if he does what he is expected to he is usually exempt from<sup>+</sup> bad consequences. He has a stable position. On the other hand, a competent worker may enjoy many promotions and raises, but still be at the mercy of<sup>+</sup> the manipulations<sup>+</sup> of corporate executives.



Who is happier is not the question. The important thing is that people must decide which category they should belong in by evaluating themselves honestly.

<sup>+</sup>exempt from : free from a duty or an obligation

<sup>+</sup>at the mercy of : without any protection against

<sup>+</sup>manipulate : influence or manage (sb) or (sth) in a clever or dishonest way

## Comprehension



1. What advantage do businessmen have?
2. What disadvantage do workers have?
3. Which is better, being the employer or the employee?

## Express Yourself



1. Would you want to be a businessman or an employee?
2. Are you satisfied with your job?
3. Would you want your children to do your job?
4. What are your priorities in getting a job?
5. Would you take a night job if it were better paid?
6. When do you feel like giving up your job?
7. Why don't you start your own business?
8. Do you have any idea of starting a new business?
9. What are the obstacles to starting your own business?

### More Talking Points

Talk about the good and bad aspects about having the following jobs.

- |                           |             |                          |
|---------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| a. physicians             | b. teachers | c. politicians           |
| d. the nation's president | e. farmers  | f. professional athletes |
| g. judges                 | h. soldiers | i. panhandlers           |

## Opinion Samples



**1.** People have different priorities<sup>+</sup> in getting jobs. Some put their emphasis on making more money, others want job security, promotion opportunities, work they are comfortable with. As for me, I want my own business. After I quit my first job I never thought about working for anyone again. When I work for someone else and can't sell my ideas to the boss, that disappoints me. And often employees become the scapegoats<sup>+</sup> for marketing failures. I love to work alone with my ideas and plans, knowing whether my business succeeds or not is up to me.

**2.** I really want to have my own business, as most employees do. But a boss must have many special characteristics. First of all, he must have creative ideas and know when, where, and how to apply them. Of course, he must have the nerve<sup>+</sup> to go ahead with his plans against difficult markets. He must cultivate customers, because success largely depends upon human relationships. If he has solid relationships with his business partners, he may be able to make up<sup>+</sup> for temporary financial straits.<sup>+</sup>

- **priority** : something considered in terms of their relative importance
- **scapegoat** : a person, group, or thing that unjustly receives the blame of others
- **nerve** : courage
- **make up** : compensate for (sth)
- **strait** : a position of difficulty, perplexity, distress, or need

## Useful Expressions



1. The best way to appreciate your job is to imagine yourself without one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Before arguing with your boss, make absolutely sure you're right—then let the matter drop.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. You can tell a man's character by what he turns up<sup>+</sup> when offered a job—his nose or his sleeves.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Going to college won't guarantee you a job, but it'll give you four years to worry about getting one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. No dream comes true until you wake up and go to work.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. The fellow who is fired with enthusiasm for his work is seldom fired by his boss.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. It's always hard to find a job for the fellow who doesn't want one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. There may be luck in getting a job, but there's none involved in keeping it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. According to the latest statistics, there are five million people in our country who aren't working. And there are even more if you count those with jobs.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Be thankful if your job is a little harder than you like. A razor can't be sharpened on a piece of velvet.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 10

# Men & Women



The traditional roles of men and women are changing. Even though men have not been freed from being the principal breadwinners, they are also expected to help with household chores. Women too are making money outside the home, but they still operate<sup>+</sup> under the assumption<sup>+</sup> that childrearing is primarily their function. Men and women alike cry under the load and insist they are overworked and underappreciated.<sup>+</sup> Both are probably right. But women still have more to complain about than men. More of the housekeeping burden falls on their shoulders than on their husbands', and at work they are paid less and promoted less often. What may be worse, the stress being placed on them may be taking its toll<sup>+</sup> on their children and spouses; society needs to understand that women are just human, not superwomen.



## Comprehension



- Are modern women free from childcare?
- Which gender<sup>+</sup> suffers more from the change in roles? Who benefits more?
- What should men understand about women?

A: A: A: A: A: A: A: A: A:

<sup>+</sup>operate : work

<sup>+</sup>assumption : an idea or a statement accepted as true without proof

<sup>+</sup>underappreciate : not to be thankful for (sth)

<sup>+</sup>take its toll (on) : have a very bad effect on (sth) or (sb) over a long period of time

<sup>+</sup>gender : sexual identity

## Express Yourself

**Ques.**

1. Are men and women equal in our society?
2. Do you think men are stronger than women?
3. Are women more intelligent than men?
4. Who has the stronger desire to be rich and famous, men or women?
5. Do women love their children more than men do? Why or why not?
6. Would you vote for a female candidate for President?
7. Would it matter to you if you had a female boss?
8. Do you think women should be conscripted<sup>+</sup> too?
9. Do you think women are more honest than men?
10. Who do you think finds it harder to live in our society, males or females?
11. Should married women work outside the home? What about your wife?
12. Do you think women are still discriminated against in the workplace?
13. What would you think if you had a househusband<sup>+</sup> who managed all the household affairs including child care while you pursued a career?
14. Is being a househusband the proper thing for a man to do? Would you ever consider being a househusband?

## Opinion Samples

**Ans.**

1. Men and women alike seek fame and fortune; it is part of human nature. But women's ambitions have been thwarted<sup>+</sup> throughout history, either through lack of opportunity (rank, education, etc.) or because of domestic duties. So, many of them have sought vicarious<sup>+</sup> success in their husbands or children.
2. In terms of theft, men and women are equally honest; which is to say<sup>+</sup> that most people will not steal, either out of ethical consideration or the fear of being caught. But verbal and emotional honesty<sup>+</sup> is a different matter. While it is true that some men will say

→ **conscript** : enroll (sb) by force into service in the armed forces; draft

→ **househusband** : a married man who manages a household as his main occupation

→ **thwart** : prevent (sth) from happening; block

→ **vicarious** : felt or understood through another person's experience

→ **which is to say** : that is to say; clarify

→ **verbal honesty** : not telling lies

→ **emotional honesty** : being true to one's own self

anything to seduce<sup>+</sup> a woman, most women will lie shamelessly about their true feelings in order to trap a man in marriage. I suppose that the primary difference is that the man is only looking for a brief moment of enjoyment, but the woman believes her entire life's finances may be at stake.<sup>+</sup>

**3.** I'd love it if I could stay home all day. With the modern conveniences available, most of the drudgery<sup>+</sup> of housework is gone. I could finish everything that needed to be done by noon without even straining myself, and I'd have the rest of the day to relax, read, paint, compose, or just watch TV or listen to music. What's wrong with a life like that?

**4.** The vast majority of people in modern society, whether male or female, have dull, boring jobs. They work, quite simply, because they need the money, not out of any enduring interest in the work itself. And increasingly, both mates have to get jobs just to make ends meet.<sup>+</sup>

**5.** I chose not to marry. It's not because I'm opposed to marriage and having a family, but because women are changing. Today's woman cares far more about her profession than she does about her family.

**6.** Women are expected to perform the traditional wife-and-mother roles whether or not they have paid jobs, but men can focus on getting ahead in their career (even if they do contribute a bit to the housework, as a sort of hobby). Until it becomes socially acceptable for males to take a more active part at home, the "superwoman" myth will continue to bedevil<sup>+</sup> the modern female. Ten years ago women complained that housewifery was too confining, and they wanted their chance to climb the corporate ladder.<sup>+</sup> Now, whichever rung<sup>+</sup> they may have reached, these same women feel stuck there and bemoan<sup>+</sup> the lack of time they can spend with their children.

-**seduce** : persuade (sb) to have sexual intercourse; persuade (sb) to engage in wrongful or immoral behavior

-**at stake** : at risk; in jeopardy

-**drudgery** : dull work

-**make ends meet** : have enough money for one's living expenses

-**bedevil** : trouble in a mean way

-**corporate ladder** : metaphor for advancement within a company

-**rung** : a rod or bar forming a step of a ladder

-**bemoan** : mourn over (sb) or (sth); grieve for

## Useful Expressions



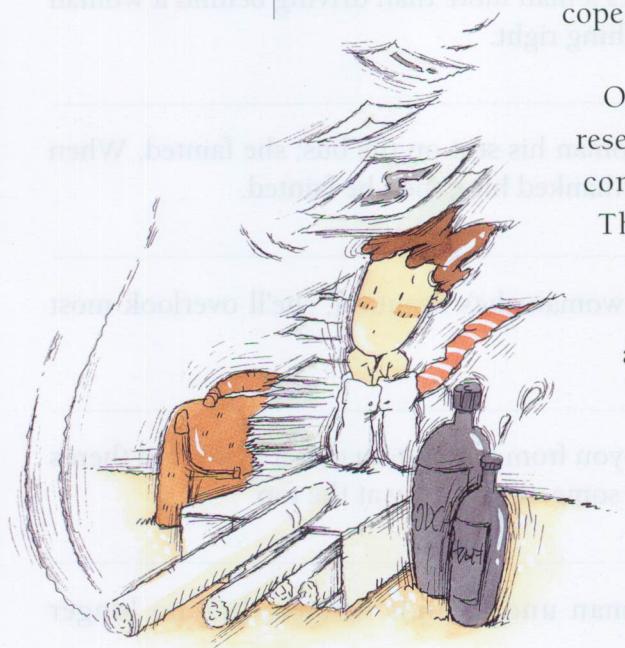
1. The best ambition of some girls is to make a man a good husband.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. The best way to win an argument with a woman is to hit her over the head with a new mink coat.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. When a wise man argues with a woman, he says nothing.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nothing confuses a man more than driving behind a woman who does everything right.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. A man gave a woman his seat on the bus; she fainted. When she revived, she thanked him; then he fainted.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. If a man tells a woman she's beautiful, she'll overlook most of his other lies.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. A girl may love you from the bottom of her heart, but there's always room for some other fellow at the top.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. By the time a man understands women, he's no longer interested.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. A woman always remembers where and when she got married; a man sometimes forgets why!  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. A woman's ideal man is one clever enough to make money and foolish enough to spend it on her.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 11

# Health



People say that health is the most important thing in life, but it seems to have the least significance in their actual lives. We see many people in modern society undermining their health through lack of exercise and having unbalanced diets. Alcohol, smoking, and junk food<sup>↓</sup> also aggravate<sup>↑</sup> this phenomenon. Another new factor adding to many people's health problems is stress. Experts say we can't avoid stress as long as we live in this ever-changing world. So what counts is not how to avoid it, but how to reduce it and cope with<sup>↓</sup> it effectively.



On the other hand, modern medical researchers still suspect our genes have considerable control over our destiny. This means our health is still in the hands of God. However, that doesn't necessarily mean we can't do anything about our bodies. Rather, we should continue to stay fit by temperate living—no smoking, moderate drinking, a nutritional diet and adequate exercise. That way, to some extent, we can make up for the genetically undesirable aspects in our physicality.<sup>↓</sup>

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tylew engol zimtrme nem a boiram

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rad no il mce of rigtne detloc han

→ **junk food** : food that is high in calories but low in nutritional value

→ **aggravate** : make (sth) worse

→ **cope with** : deal well with

→ **physicality** : the physical attributes of a person

## Comprehension



1. "But" expresses a contradiction.<sup>†</sup> What two things are being opposed in the first sentence?
2. What are the five things mentioned that are bad for our health?
3. What can we do about stress?

## Express Yourself



1. Do you think you are healthy?
2. Do you eat three meals a day?
3. Do you take vitamins every day? Do you think they help your health?
4. Do you often drink a tonic?<sup>†</sup>
5. Do you exercise every day?
6. Have you ever been hospitalized? Why?
7. Do you regularly see a dentist? Why or why not?
8. When you have a cold, do you see a doctor right away or just rest at home?
9. Do you believe what doctors tell you?
10. What diseases are you the most afraid of?
11. What do you think is the most important thing in terms of your health?
12. What do you do when you're under stress?
13. Have you ever suffered from insomnia?<sup>†</sup> Did you ever take sleeping pills?

→ **contradiction** : inconsistency; discrepancy

→ **tonic** : a medicine that increases mental or physical strength

→ **insomnia** : inability to sleep; sleeplessness

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I don't trust doctors, not because they are not intelligent, but our bodies are too complex to understand. Their 6 years of study is not enough.

**2.** When people have a cold or the flu, they rush to the doctor expecting to be cured. But so far, no effective treatment exists. The best anyone can do is get plenty of rest and vitamin C, especially by drinking orange juice.

**3.** When it comes to<sup>↓</sup> dental problems, precaution<sup>↓</sup> is always the best option. Visiting a dentist regularly guarantees dental health. When you feel something is wrong with your teeth, it is always too late to cure it.

- **treatment** : the use of medicines, surgery, etc., in curing a person of a disorder
- **when it comes to** : the expression used to introduce a new topic or a new aspect of a topic that someone is talking about
- **precaution** : an action done in advance to guard against possible danger, error, or accident

## Useful Expressions



1. Exercise is the best medicine.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. It's not healthy to be so interested in death.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Don't complain because you have to get up early every morning. The time may come when you can't get up—period.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why not cultivate health instead of treating disease?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. If you want to be the picture of health, you'd better have a happy frame of mind.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. A lot of people lose their health trying to become wealthy, and then lose their riches trying to get their health back.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Many people suffer poor health, not because of what they eat but from what is eating them.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. The only way to keep your health is to eat what you don't want, drink what you don't like, and do whatever you'd rather not.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. The secret of good health is to leave the table hungry, the bed sleepy, and the tavern<sup>↓</sup> thirsty.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. A great deal of poor health in modern society may be attributed to<sup>↓</sup> heavy meals and light work.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **eating them** : bothering them

→ **tavern** : a pub

→ **be attributed to** : result from

## Issue 12

# Good Habits & Bad



Rather than sudden, grave resolution,<sup>↓</sup> your life is probably more affected by trivial, repetitive, unthinking behavior. Until the day you die, your body and mind will be governed by good habits and bad ones. These acts determine the quality of your existence. Everyone knows that bad habits are easy to form, since they are quite agreeable<sup>↓</sup> to man's lazy and selfish nature; but good ones are difficult to fabricate<sup>↓</sup> because they need perseverance<sup>↓</sup> and lack social reinforcement.<sup>↓</sup> But, nevertheless, though bad habits are hard to break, it is never too late to start making good ones—you just need determination and dedication. Doing something over and over again until you don't have to think about it is how actions become habitual in the first place.



## Comprehension



1. Is "habit" ever directly defined in the paragraph?
2. Why are bad habits so easy to acquire?
3. What would make it easier to form good habits?

<sup>↓</sup>resolution : firm determination; a decision to do (sth)

<sup>↓</sup>agreeable : to one's liking; pleasing; pleasant

<sup>↓</sup>fabricate : make or manufacture

<sup>↓</sup>persevere : hold to or persist in a course of action, a belief, or a purpose, in spite of opposition or discouragement

<sup>↓</sup>reinforce : make (sth) stronger by adding extra support; strengthen

## Express Yourself



1. What good habits do you have?
2. What are your worst habits?
3. How do you create a habit? Or does it just happen without any activity on your part?
4. Are there any habits you want to lose?
5. What habits do you want your children to have?

### More Talking Points

**What habits would be good (and bad) to exercise in the following activities?**

- |                     |                        |                   |
|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| a. driving          | b. reading             | c. watching TV    |
| d. studying English | e. talking with people | f. spending money |
| g. shopping         | h. exercising          | i. eating         |

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Though I'm not even aware of most of my habits – they just happen naturally – sometimes I have taught myself to do things automatically. Like getting up early in the morning. I have done this for so long that I no longer need an alarm clock.<sup>+</sup> Unfortunately, I get up even on holidays when I could sleep in. But all habit acquisition<sup>+</sup> comes from training. Force yourself to do the same thing at the same time under the same circumstances every day, and it doesn't take very long to make it a habit.

<sup>+</sup>alarm clock: a clock that can be set to sound a bell or buzzer at a certain time in order to wake a person up

<sup>+</sup>acquisition: the act or process of acquiring (sth)

**2.** We need to develop good habits in our children from an early age; the younger they are, the more likely this behavior will last<sup>+</sup> them through their lives. They need to learn to work diligently, be obedient to their parents, tell the truth, and take care of their personal hygiene.<sup>+</sup> If they master those qualities<sup>+</sup> they are likely to have happy, fruitful<sup>+</sup> lives.

**3.** People watch too much television—or, rather, they don't watch it at all in any meaningful sense. They turn it on indiscriminately<sup>+</sup> and then leave it on whether they are watching it or not. It's on, making noise, whether they are eating or talking to each other or taking a nap. So people should carefully limit their TV time to a few shows they really want—sports or news or whatever—and spend the rest of their time more actively engaged: reading a book, playing a musical instrument, or taking a walk.

**4.** Merchandisers know that most purchases are spot<sup>+</sup> decisions rather than carefully considered acts. We all buy things we don't really need and spend too much for them. So we should devise<sup>+</sup> a careful budget every week or every month and stick to it, avoiding temptation by leaving our cash and credit cards at home when we go out. If we absolutely have to get something, we should plan our moves<sup>+</sup> as carefully as a general preparing an attack: what do we need exactly, how much are we willing to spend, and where can we get it the cheapest?

→ **last:** supply (sb) or (sth) adequately

→ **hygiene:** practices that promote good health and the prevention of disease

→ **quality:** a character trait; something typical of one's personality or character

→ **fruitful:** producing good results

→ **indiscriminate:** showing lack of care in making choices

→ **spot:** made, paid, or delivered immediately

→ **devise:** plan

→ **moves:** actions

## Useful Expressions



1. A habit is something a fellow hardly notices until it's too strong to break.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. The worst boss anyone can have is a bad habit.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. There's only one good thing that can be said for bad habits. If it weren't for them we couldn't make New Year's resolutions.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. The only way to avoid bad habits is to make it a point to avoid them.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Good habits are usually formed; bad habits we fall into.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Many people look forward to the new year for a new start on old habits.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. We first make our habits, and then our habits make us.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Habit is a cable. We weave a thread of it every day until it is extremely difficult to break.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Marriage is a case of two people agreeing to change each other's habits.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Few of us are proud of bad habits, but without them there wouldn't be anything for the doctor to tell us to give up when we aren't feeling well.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 13

# Cars



**T**oday a car is not just a luxury item; for many, it is almost a necessity. People factor in<sup>+</sup> a lot of considerations when buying one. So, even though a compact<sup>+</sup> car may be convenient and economical in terms of price, mileage, insurance, and taxes, some people would rather get a larger, more expensive model because of its higher social status<sup>+</sup> and better safety.

Thanks to the exploding demand for cars of all kinds, roads are becoming ever more crowded. Governments around the world are actively trying to discourage or limit the use of automobiles. But most of these plans, quite naturally, clash<sup>+</sup> with people's interests. Perhaps the simplest method of control is to impose heavy taxes; but in the long run, a better approach would be investing in public transit<sup>+</sup> by building or upgrading

light rail systems and subways, bus lines, and so forth. If these systems were safer, more convenient, and more comfortable, more people might be willing to put aside the time-, energy-, and money-consuming activity of driving.



→factor in : calculate (sth)  
 →compact : an automobile that is smaller than a standard model  
 →status : social, legal, or professional position relative to that of rank or standing; prestige  
 →clash : be strongly out of harmony; conflict; disagree  
 →transit : the moving of people or goods from one place to another

## Comprehension



1. Why is a car "almost" a necessity?
2. What is one advantage that a large, expensive car has over a compact?
3. What is the easiest tool governments use to limit driving?

## Express Yourself



1. Do you usually fill up when you drop by a gas station?
2. If you knew that gas prices would go up 5% tomorrow, would you fill up today?
3. Who do you think ought to wash your family car?
4. How often do you wash your car?
5. Do you wash your car yourself, or do you take it to a carwash?\*
6. When did you get your driver's license? Was it difficult?
7. How long did you practice before you actually drove a car on the road by yourself?
8. How did you feel when you drove a car on the road for the first time?
9. What is your first concern in buying a car (design, price, make,† fuel efficiency,‡ color, etc.)?
10. What do you think about driving a foreign-made car?
11. What do you think about driving a used car?
12. What are the advantages of buying a used car?

\*carwash : an area or a building equipped for washing cars

†make : a brand

‡fuel efficiency : a measure of how much energy is usefully produced by a certain machine; for example, on average, how many kilometers a car may travel per liter of gas

## Opinion Samples

**ANS...**

**1.** Price is my first consideration in buying an auto. Since the quality of most cars is mandated<sup>↓</sup> by the government, cheapness doesn't have to be a problem. Compact cars not only cost less to buy, but also continue to save money in terms of insurance, taxes, and fuel. In addition, they are easier to park and maneuver<sup>↓</sup> through heavy traffic. In my view, a car is a tool pure and simple: Why pay more money just to gain a status symbol?

**2.** Driving a new car is expensive because of the various taxes. So I bought a used car first. I paid less money, and I didn't have to worry about many kinds of taxes. Novice<sup>↓</sup> drivers can hardly avoid having minor accidents; beginners who drive new cars are nervous about scratching their cars, but used-car drivers are less worried about that. I strongly recommend a used car for beginners. Nevertheless, one drawback<sup>↓</sup> is that used cars are more likely to break down, so their drivers must be prepared to invest frequently in parts and repairs.

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→ **mandate** : make (sth) mandatory; require  
 → **maneuver** : direct (sth) skillfully by changes in course or in position  
 → **novice** : a beginner  
 → **drawback** : a disadvantage or inconvenience

## Useful Expressions



1. Driving an automobile would be a much greater pleasure if each motorist would use his head as much as he uses his horn.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Many people are having trouble with their new cars. The engine won't start and the payments won't stop.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you think a seat belt is uncomfortable, you've never tried a stretcher!<sup>↓</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. A cheap old car can be quite annoying. But so can an expensive new one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Anybody who thinks the automobile has made people lazy never had to pay for one.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Present-day cars are so quiet that the only noise you hear is from the finance company.<sup>↓</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Today's cars keep a person strapped<sup>↓</sup> without safety belts.<sup>↓</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Car sickness is that feeling you get every month when the payment is due.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Natural death is now defined as being killed by an automobile.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. A new car isn't a barometer<sup>↓</sup> of how much money a fellow has, but it's a pretty good indication of how much he owes.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→stretcher : a movable object on which a sick or injured person can be carried

→finance company : a company that makes loans to clients

→strapped : broke; with limited or no money

→safety belt : a seat belt

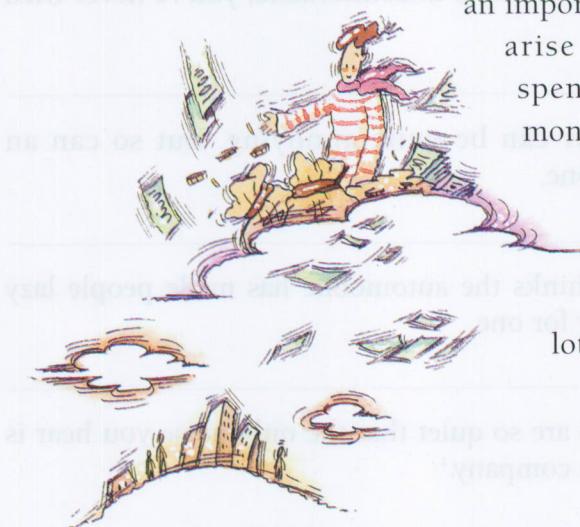
→barometer : something that shows or gives an idea of changes that are happening

## Issue 14

# Money



**M**oney is often said to be the permanent source of malice<sup>+</sup> among human beings. We see many people who have become slaves of money. They think money is everything, and that they can do anything if they have enough of it. They also claim money defines our social status. Others think that's not true, even though they agree money is an important part of life. But serious problems arise when people don't know how to spend money. Our parents say making money is easier than spending it, and may be afraid that "almighty"<sup>+</sup> money has bad effects on their kids' character. It is certainly true that spending money wisely requires a lot of practice.



## Comprehension



- What behavior is described as indicating that many people are slaves of money?
- According to the paragraph, does anyone believe that money is not important?
- What is the hardest thing about spending money?

→ **malice** : the desire to harm others or to see others suffer

→ **almighty** : all-powerful; omnipotent

## Express Yourself



1. How does money make you happy?
2. How much money do you want to make?
3. What qualities<sup>↓</sup> must a man have to make a lot of money?
4. How much money should a spouse get for an allowance? A child? Parents?
5. Would you bequeath<sup>↓</sup> all your money to your children?
6. How do you teach your children how to spend money?
7. Do you reward<sup>↓</sup> your children with extra money when they do what is expected of them?
8. Have you ever given money to a charity?<sup>↓</sup>
9. Do you ever give money to beggars on the subway?
10. How powerful do you think money is?
11. Do you think money can buy love?
12. What are you saving up your money for?
13. Who takes care of the money in your family? You or your spouse?
14. How many credit cards do you have?
15. Do you buy anything on credit?<sup>↓</sup>
16. Do you think a credit card is convenient? Or does it just encourage extra spending?
17. Have you ever gotten a loan from a bank? Was it hard or easy?
18. Have you ever borrowed money from relatives? How much was the interest?
19. How much do you save out of your paycheck?<sup>↓</sup>
20. How much is your allowance?
21. Would you lend money to a friend?
22. Have you ever lent any money to anyone? Did you have any problems getting it back?
23. Would you take a friend to court if you couldn't get your money back?
24. What do you usually do with your bonus?
25. Have you ever lost a large amount of cash? Did you get it back?

**→quality** : a personal trait, especially a feature typical of one's character

**→bequeath** : leave or give (property) by will

**→reward** : give (sth) to (sb) because they have done something good or helpful

**→charity** : an institution or a fund established to help the needy

**→credit** : a system of buying goods or services with payment made at a later time

**→paycheck** : salary or wages

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I'm going to teach my children how to spend money, of course. It's very important to prevent them from becoming either a cheapskate<sup>↓</sup> or a big spender. First, I'll have my children make their own pocket money when they are 15. That will teach them money is not easy to get, and they'll be more careful about spending it. I also have to teach them when and where to spend money. Children must learn the difference between generosity and waste.

**2.** Credit cards certainly promote spending money, even though they are a convenient means of purchasing. When people have credit cards they seem to be under the illusion<sup>↓</sup> that they have money in their account, so banks end up suffering from skyrocketing<sup>↓</sup> bad loans.<sup>↓</sup> However, this is due to their random issuing of credit cards to ineligible<sup>↓</sup> people. The government should strongly enforce the law and restrict the issuing of cards only to those qualified.<sup>↓</sup>

**3.** I give no money to any charity. We can't be sure if it's honest. Many charities are just scams.<sup>↓</sup> They get rich from the money they collect from individual donors. They behave like business corporations,<sup>↓</sup> not aid organizations.

**4.** Years ago I borrowed some money from my brother-in-law when my business had problems. I appreciated his help and paid him bank-level interest. I know we are usually expected to pay double the bank-level interest<sup>↓</sup> on a private loan. But I think bank-level interest is okay for loans among relatives.

→ **cheapskate** : a stingy person; one unwilling to spend money

→ **illusion** : an idea or a belief that is mistaken

→ **skyrocket** : rise rapidly or suddenly

→ **bad loan** : a sum of money that has been lent but is not likely to be repaid; bad debt

→ **ineligible** : not qualified

→ **qualified** : having the qualities, accomplishments, skills, knowledge, or credentials one needs for a job

→ **scam** : a dishonest business scheme

→ **corporation** : a large business organization; a company

→ **interest** : a charge for borrowing money, usually a percentage of the amount borrowed

## Useful Expressions



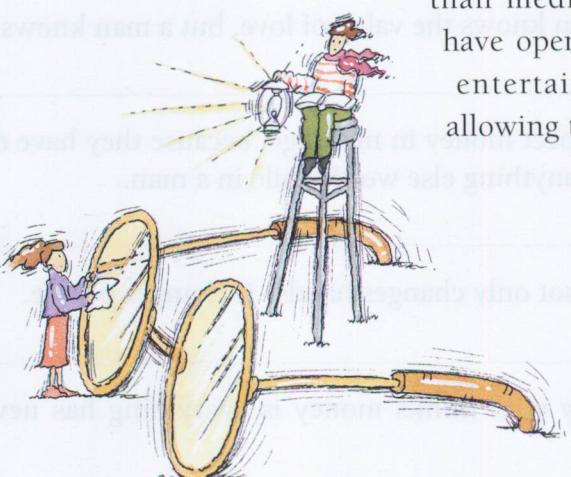
1. The lack of money, not the love of it, is the root of all kinds of evil.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Most people have simple financial problems. They're short of money.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. If you want to know the value of money, try and borrow it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. A woman knows the value of love, but a man knows its cost.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Girls expect money in marriage, because they have difficulty finding anything else worthwhile in a man.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Money not only changes hands—it changes people.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Anybody who thinks money is everything has never been sick.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. The poor complain about the money they can't get, and the rich complain about the money they can't keep.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. A person's character is put to a severe test when he suddenly acquires or quickly loses a considerable<sup>+</sup> amount of money.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Married men can't understand why every bachelor isn't a millionaire.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 15

# Great Inventions



The good ideas of brilliant people can change the world. Civilization itself is the progressive accumulation<sup>+</sup> of novel notions. But sometimes we overlook the simple inventions of everyday life, because we take them for granted.<sup>+</sup> Electricity, for example—can you imagine a world without electricity? The electric light alone, in effect, has prolonged<sup>+</sup> our very lives by giving us so many hours of added activity. Or take knitting, which has saved more lives than medicine has. Simple eyeglasses have opened worlds of knowledge and entertainment to the nearly blind, allowing them to lead full, active lives.



## Comprehension



1. Define civilization, if you can.
2. In what sense has the electric light added years to our life span?<sup>+</sup>
3. How has knitting saved lives?

<sup>+</sup>accumulate : collect or gather (sth) together

<sup>+</sup>take (sb) or (sth) for granted : expect that (sb) or (sth) will always be there when you need them and never show them any special attention or thank them

<sup>+</sup>prolong : lengthen (sth) in duration

<sup>+</sup>life span : the average or longest period of time that an organism can be expected to live

## Express Yourself



1. What invention is most needed at the moment?
2. Is there ever going to be a pill we can take to delay aging?
3. Is a "time machine" possible, do you think? If it were to be technically feasible<sup>+</sup> to go back in time, what would be the danger of doing so?
4. Have you ever tried to invent something? How about redesigning some process to make it more efficient or safer?
5. What would happen if creative thought were to end?

### More Talking Points

Discuss the effects of the following inventions. What are the positive qualities? What bad side effects have they had?

- |                                       |                                  |                            |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Compass                            | 2. Paper                         | 3. TV                      |
| 4. Telephone                          | 5. Car                           | 6. Birth control pill      |
| 7. Eraser                             | 8. Numbers                       | 9. Religion                |
| 10. Law                               | 11. Atomic bomb                  | 12. Professional sports    |
| 13. Cosmetics                         | 14. Plastic surgery <sup>+</sup> | 15. Pesticide <sup>+</sup> |
| 16. Canning technology                | 17. Clock                        | 18. Matches                |
| 19. Medicine                          | 20. Liquor                       | 21. Cigarette              |
| 22. Money                             | 23. Tape recorder                | 24. Lottery                |
| 25. Fast-food <sup>+</sup> restaurant | 26. School                       | 27. Bank                   |
| 28. Beauty contest                    | 29. Expressway                   | 30. Air conditioner        |
| 31. Refrigerator                      | 32. Microwave oven               | 33. Vacuum cleaner         |
| 34. Dishwasher                        | 35. Batteries                    | 36. Airplane               |
| 37. Printing press                    | 38. Alphabet                     | 39. Classical music        |
| 40. Internet                          |                                  |                            |

<sup>+</sup>feasible : capable of being done; possible

<sup>+</sup>plastic surgery : surgery to repair, restore, or remodel body tissue or parts

<sup>+</sup>pesticide : a chemical used to kill harmful insects

<sup>+</sup>fast-food : restaurant food prepared and served quickly

## Opinion Samples

**ANSWER**

**1.** What we need more than anything else is an empathy<sup>+</sup> device. If we knew directly how our actions affected others, we'd be a lot more careful about our behavior. For instance, if I insulted someone and then felt for myself how sharply the humiliation stung,<sup>+</sup> I'd probably adjust my words a little better the next time.

**2.** There is no danger of running out of new ideas. Just a century ago, some of the world's leading scientists were convinced that all the secrets of the universe had been uncovered, and that the only task remaining was to refine and perfect existing methods. Now the body of knowledge doubles every decade. The more we know, the more we find out how little we actually understand; one good idea generates<sup>+</sup> a hundred more. The danger we face is an overflow<sup>+</sup> of information, not a drought.

**3.** My only problem with plastic surgery is its cost (and the fact that medical insurance doesn't cover it). It's truly amazing that we can all become as beautiful or handsome as we desire. We can look younger than our actual age, remove ugly birth defects, change the shape of our nose or eyes, correct the debilitating<sup>+</sup> effects of bad accidents. I don't understand why people have a problem with any of this.

**4.** The Greeks used to be able to recite the whole of Homer, because they had learned it by heart. Now we can't even remember the names of our fellow graduates after only a few years have passed. The printing press has destroyed our memory and forced us into linear ways of thinking,<sup>+</sup> instead of maintaining traditional cyclical attitudes<sup>+</sup> toward nature. It has limited our creativity and destroyed our taste for poetry. In addition, it has made it too easy for vicious, harmful ideas to spread among foolish people, causing untold trouble to the world.

- **empathy** : understanding of another's situation, feelings, and motives

- **sting** : cause (sb) to feel a sharp physical or emotional pain

- **generate** : bring (sth) into being; produce

- **overflow** : an excess; too great an amount or quantity

- **debilitate** : weaken, especially by disease or neglect

- **linear ways of thinking** : thought that proceeds logically from one step to the next (A to B), rather than holistically or circularly

- **cyclical attitudes** : beliefs and actions that repeat themselves over time, based on age and season for example

## Useful Expressions



1. The most dangerous part of any automobile is the nut behind the wheel.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Another invention is the permanent temporary tax.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. A great invention for dieters would be a refrigerator that weighs you every time you open the door.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. There's a new invention on the market—a pencil with an eraser on both ends. It's for people who do nothing but make mistakes.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. We will pay a big price for an invention that will help us save time we don't know what to do with.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Of all the labor-saving devices invented for women, none has ever been as popular as a devoted man.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. One of the greatest labor-saving inventions of all time is tomorrow.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. The most humiliating<sup>+</sup> thing about science is that it keeps filling our homes with gadgets smarter than we are.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Inventions are coming so fast that the ladder of success may soon be replaced by an escalator.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. It is solemnly hoped that someday a genius will come along and invent something that will make golf unnecessary.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

## Issue 16

# Parents & Children



**W**hat is the best relationship between parents and children? Some people say they should be friends. They say this kind of relationship provides a comfortable atmosphere<sup>+</sup> for children, so they will grow less stressed and have a more positive character.

But others believe that a friends-like relationship between parents and children is somewhat “dangerous” for both of them. Under this relationship, no strict discipline can be enforced, so the children may become troublemakers.<sup>+</sup> As these people say, if you spare the rod, you spoil the child.

Another issue is whether it is good for them all to live together after the children

get married. It is true that a big family has many advantages that a nuclear one<sup>+</sup> doesn’t. But most children don’t want to live with their parents, saying, “We don’t want to be interfered with.” Do you think parents have a right to criticize their children for refusing to live with them?



<sup>+</sup>**atmosphere** : a general feeling or mood

<sup>+</sup>**troublemaker** : a person or thing that causes trouble or strife

<sup>+</sup>**nuclear family** : a family unit consisting of a mother and father and their children

## Comprehension



1. What reason is given for parents and children being friends?
2. What reason is given against parents and children being friends?
3. Why don't some married children want to live with their parents?

## Express Yourself



1. Would you prefer being part of a big extended family or a small nuclear one?
2. If your wife were opposed to living with your parents, what would you do?
3. How much allowance<sup>+</sup> do you give your parents, if any? How much do they give you?
4. How often do you see your parents?
5. What kinds of gifts do your parents like the most?
6. Do you think it's your duty to take care of your parents when they get old?
7. Would you spank<sup>+</sup> your children if they went astray?
8. How many children do you want to have?
9. Do you want a boy or a girl for your first child?
10. If you had two daughters, would you try again to have a son?

<sup>+</sup>allowance : an amount of money or food, given at regular intervals or for a specific purpose

<sup>+</sup>spank : strike with the open hand, especially on the buttocks, as a punishment

## Opinion Samples

**ANS...**

**1.** My parents say they're only happy if I'm healthy and my business is going well. They have no other wishes except my family's well-being. I know they have spent their lives worrying about my safety, education, and success. They never received any formal education themselves, but their top priority fell on my getting a college education. When I passed my college entrance exam they looked like the happiest people in the world. My dad said learning is everything and knowledge is more valuable than money.

**2.** When it comes to educating my children, spanking is the last thing I want to do. All parents should know children are wiser than we think. They understand their parents' every intention. For them, advice and persuasion are stronger weapons than force and violence. Spanking can never be justified<sup>+</sup> as a means of education. It can never be regarded as anything but violence against children. And violence begets<sup>+</sup> violence.

→justify : show or prove (sb) or (sth) to be right, just, or valid  
 →beget : cause to exist or occur; produce

## Useful Expressions



- 1.** The most important thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.** The ability to say no is perhaps the greatest gift a parent has.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.** The best thing that parents can spend on their children is time—not money.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.** The main problem with teenagers is that they're just like their parents were at that age.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.** The modern father wants his son to have all the things he never had—such as straight A's on his report card.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.** It's beginning to look like we have too many part-time parents.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.** It's better to teach children the roots of labor than to hand them the fruits of yours.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.** When all the kids have grown up, married, and moved away, many parents experience a strange new emotion; it's called freedom.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 9.** Too often an abandoned<sup>+</sup> child is the one who is still living with his parents.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 10.** One reason so many children are seen on the streets at night is because they're afraid to stay home alone.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

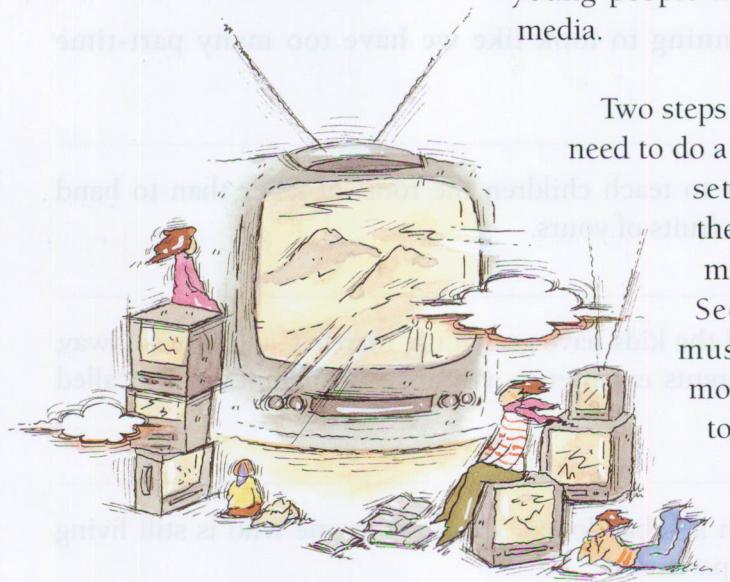
## Issue 17

# TV & Movies



**A** lot of people in modern society are hooked<sup>♦</sup> on TV. The idiot box has become a “third parent” to our children and a “second spouse” to our wives and husbands. Indeed, in some homes the children, and individually the parents, spend more time with the television than each other. Critics worry that passively watching TV is too absorbing of our time and attention; we not only do not get enough physical exercise, but we do not stimulate our mental activity either.

Another problem is the tendency toward copycat<sup>♦</sup> behavior: we dress, talk, and behave in ways that we model<sup>♦</sup> after characters on TV and in the movies. This is especially worrisome since so many of these programs are excessively violent and sexually suggestive. Many legal experts believe that delinquency<sup>♦</sup> problems are made much worse by young people imitating what they see in the media.



Two steps need to be taken. First, parents need to do a better job of policing<sup>♦</sup> their TV sets, not only in terms of what their children watch but also how much time they spend doing it. Second, parents and teachers must educate kids to develop a more conscious, critical attitude toward what they watch, instead of just absorbing it all like a sponge.

→ **hooked** : addicted or devoted to (sth)

→ **copycat** : an imitation or a reproduction of (sth)

→ **model** : copy the qualities or character of another

→ **delinquency** : behavior that is contrary to the requirements of the law, especially by young people

→ **police** : control

## Comprehension



1. Name three problems with movies and television.
2. Why do legal experts blame TV for so much delinquency?
3. How should the problem be addressed? \*

## Express Yourself



1. What programs do you usually watch on TV?
2. How many hours a day do you watch TV?
3. Do your children watch much TV? How much?
4. Do you subscribe to cable TV?
5. Who has the most power over channel selection in your home?
6. Do you change the channel when commercials\* come on?
7. Do you think commercials are a good source of product information?
8. Do you think watching TV is educational?
9. How often do you go to a movie theater?
10. How many video tapes or DVDs do you watch?
11. What kind of movies do you like? Do you like American films? What kind? Science fiction? Comedies? Dramas? Horror? Crime? Adventure?
12. What do you think about Korean movies?
13. What was the most impressive movie you've ever seen?
14. Who's your favorite movie star?

\*address : take action about or deal with (sth)

\*commercial : an advertisement on radio or television

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I don't think watching TV is educational. It requires no effort, and people don't have to exercise their imagination, because TV swiftly shows what comes next. People become stereotyped<sup>↓</sup> and uniform.<sup>↓</sup> However, some programs, documentaries for example, give opportunities to explore new worlds, broadening our experience and giving us the chance to think.

**2.** I change the channel when commercials come on. If there is a movie, commercials are shown at least twice before the show begins. They last at least 10 minutes, and most of them are already familiar to me. So I watch a different channel for a couple of minutes. I often miss the first several minutes of the movie when I return, but I don't care. Another reason I hate commercials is that they are designed to encourage us to spend. They tempt<sup>↓</sup> us to buy things for which we have no need.



→ **stereotype** : a conventional or oversimplified idea or image of (sb), often based on race, gender, religion, or profession

→ **uniform** : always the same; not changing or varying

→ **tempt** : invite or attract (sb)

## Useful Expressions



1. Small children start school these days with a big advantage. They already know two letters of the alphabet—TV.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. A child's definition of a torture chamber is a living room or den without a TV set.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. The rising crime rate would be slowed considerably if we'd put as many cops on the streets as there are on television.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. The world might be improved with less television and more vision.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Middle age is when a man's favorite nightspot is in front of a TV set.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Before deciding to retire from your job, stay home a week and watch daytime television.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Television has added a new dimension<sup>+</sup> to boredom—eyestrain!  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. If you think television has killed conversation, you've never heard people trying to decide which program to watch.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Once upon a time movies were rated on how good they were, not on who was allowed to see them.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. The best way to stop kids from seeing dirty movies is to label them "Educational."  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

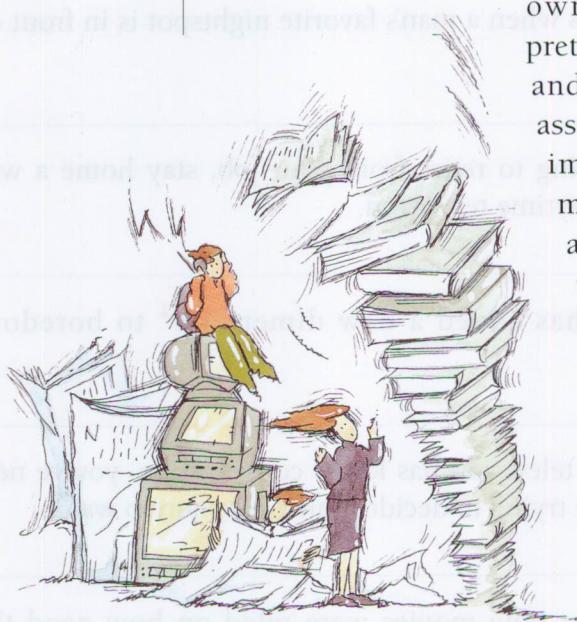
## Issue 18

# Books, Newspapers & Magazines



**T**oday we live in the Information Age. We get vital knowledge of all sorts from books, newspapers, magazines, television, radio, and the Web.<sup>+</sup> But significant differences exist between print and electronic media. Certainly the latter are more immediate and more appealing to our senses, but the former are usually more reliable and thoughtful. I suppose this attitude comes from long familiarity; people tend to believe what they read, but they don't always trust their own senses.

Nevertheless, publishers and editors are often motivated by commercial interests. They may be perfectly willing to slant<sup>+</sup> their coverage to achieve their own private ends. Or they may pretend to know more than they do, and present stories based more on assumptions than facts. It is always important for info-consumers to maintain a skeptical,<sup>+</sup> critical attitude toward their sources, no matter by which medium<sup>+</sup> the message is delivered.



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<sup>+</sup>Web : the worldwide web

<sup>+</sup>slant : present news or information, for example, in a way that fits a particular opinion; bias

<sup>+</sup>skeptical : showing doubt

<sup>+</sup>medium : one of the means or channels of general communication

## Comprehension



1. What era do we live in?
2. What seem to be the main differences between the various media?
3. What should we be aware of?

## Express Yourself



1. Do you prefer a morning paper or an evening one? Why?
2. What newspapers do you subscribe<sup>to</sup>? Why?
3. What magazines do you subscribe to? Why?
4. Which section do you read first in a newspaper?
5. Do you often read the so-called sports papers? Why or why not?
6. What is the most important reason you read a newspaper?
7. What is the most important reason you read magazines?
8. Do you believe everything you read in the newspaper? In a magazine?
9. Do you read every advertisement in the paper?
10. Do you trust what the ads say?
11. What kinds of ads do you think are most truthful?
12. Which is better to subscribe to, an on-line newspaper or one printed on paper?
13. What kinds of books do you read?
14. How often do you visit a bookstore?
15. Talk about the most impressive books you have ever read.

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I believe some of the information in the newspapers. But even so, the articles are always personally or commercially biased.<sup>+</sup> We should realize that there is always an invisible background behind every story on politics or business. And then we can take what we read with a grain of salt.<sup>+</sup> It's safer that way.

**2.** Well-presented ads always seem plausible.<sup>+</sup> But that does not mean they are always, or even usually, truthful. Their makers are very skillful at revealing only what they want to expose about their products or services. They exaggerate,<sup>+</sup> present as facts what may still be unproven, or slander<sup>+</sup> rival goods. But mainly, they appeal to our emotions rather than to our intellects.

<sup>+</sup>biased : prejudiced

<sup>+</sup>take (sth) with a grain of salt : assume that (sth) may not be true

<sup>+</sup>plausible : seemingly true or reasonable

<sup>+</sup>exaggerate : speak or write about (sth) as if greater or more important than is really the case

<sup>+</sup>slander : make a false statement about (sb) or (sth)

## Useful Expressions



1. Nowadays it seems that more books are read in laundromats than in libraries.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. How-to-get-rich books are now filed under FICTION.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. A poor aptitude for good books eventually leads to intellectual malnutrition.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. All that most people lose when they buy a book on dieting is the price of the book.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. There are a lot of books telling you how to manage when you retire. What most people want is one that'll tell them how to manage in the meantime.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. There is one good thing you can say for a book. It is not interrupted at the most interesting part for a word from the sponsor.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Some folks commit a crime and go to jail; others commit a crime, write a book about it, and get rich.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. The radio will never take the place of the newspaper, because you can't swat<sup>↓</sup> flies with it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Most newspapers condemn gambling on the editorial page and print racing tips<sup>↓</sup> on the sports page.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Newspapers are owned by individuals and corporations, but freedom of the press belongs to the people.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **laundromat** : a self-service laundry

→ **swat** : hit (sb) or (sth) with a sharp blow or slap

→ **tip** : useful information; a helpful hint

## Issue 19

# Sports



In our modern world, sports have become a part of our daily life. People are crazy<sup>↓</sup> about many kinds of sports. There are two ways to enjoy them, playing or watching them on TV. Professional sports are booming here in Korea. We have pro baseball and soccer. And, recently, basketball became professional and is growing ever more popular. Players are making more money and playing better, and fans are enjoying high-quality games. Some national athletes have even gained international attention. So everybody seems to benefit from professional sports. But the players and coaches are under heavy stress. Players must compete for positions, and coaches are at the mercy of their win-lose record. And many players, the ones on the bench, are still living from hand to mouth.<sup>↓</sup>



→crazy : full of enthusiasm or excitement

→from hand to mouth : with nothing in reserve; with no savings; barely getting by

## Comprehension



1. The word “fan” is derived from “fanatic.”<sup>+</sup> Which word in the paragraph has the same meaning?
2. Which three professional Korean sports are mentioned?
3. What is stressful to players and coaches?

## Express Yourself



1. Why are people crazy about professional sports?
2. What do you think is the difference between amateur and professional sports?
3. Which kind of sport do you prefer, amateur or professional?
4. Which do you prefer, playing a sport, watching it on TV, or watching it “live”?
5. What are your favorite sports?
6. What do professional sports give us?
7. What makes professional players do their best?
8. Do you think their salaries are high enough?
9. What do you think about importing foreigners to play professional sports?
10. Do you think it's okay for your children to become pro athletes? What kind of sport would you recommend for your children?

<sup>+</sup>**fanatic** : a person with extreme enthusiasm or zeal, such as in religion or politics; extremely enthusiastic

## Opinion Samples



**1.** You know what makes professional players do their best—Money! They face cut-throat<sup>+</sup> competition every day, and their play determines their salary. They must make their money while they're in their best years. Another reason is job responsibility. Their job is their life's goal, and people only glorify gold medalists.

**2.** Although I think playing sports is an important part of growing up, I would never encourage my children to become professional athletes. It would mean a life of constant injuries, hard competition, stress, and eventual<sup>+</sup> disappointment and disillusionment<sup>+</sup> when their playing days are over. Many can never adjust to being out of the public eye after they retire. And the most important reason is that a sports life is very short; no one can find a lifelong career in it.

-cut-throat : cruel; murderous; ruthless

-eventual : ultimate

-disillusion : free (sb) from a false idea or belief

## Useful Expressions



1. The true sports fan is a guy who'll do anything to get to the game—even take his wife along with him.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Notice on a new TV set: "Warning—extended watching of basketball and baseball games may be harmful to your marriage."  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Baseball is not the same as politics. If you are caught stealing in baseball, you're always called out.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. A woman is like an umpire. She makes snap decisions and never reverses them.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Winter sports are characterized by the setting of ice, snow, and bones.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. There are only two groups of football coaches: those who have been fired and those who will be.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Many fans rush to the football stadium to get good seats—then stand up to watch the game.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. We are inclined to think that if we watch a football or baseball game, we have taken part in it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Serious sport has nothing to do with fair play. It is bound up with<sup>4</sup> hatred, jealousy, boastfulness, disregard<sup>4</sup> of all rules and sadistic pleasure in violence.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. If exercise is so good for us, why do so many athletes retire at thirty-five?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→bound up with : closely associated or connected  
→disregard : lack of attention or regard

## Issue 20

# Education



**N**one are more interested in their children's education than Korean parents. They even have a saying that emphasizes their basic attitude: "no learn, no food." As a result, most Korean parents are willing to sacrifice their own enjoyment and comfort in behalf of<sup>+</sup> their kids' educational opportunities. Many experts regard this passion for schooling as the basis for the strong economic development of the last few decades.

Most Koreans continue to believe that a college degree is the "license" needed to enter high society. Recent developments have highlighted this basic tendency, such as so-called "genius education." In addition to providing special education for gifted children, it also seeks to turn ordinary children into intellectual over-achievers through constant stimulation from a very early age, often through very direct maternal participation. In other words, two- or three-year-olds may already know how to play several musical instruments, have advanced math and communication skills, and be able to speak one or more foreign languages.



But this approach also has its shortcomings.<sup>+</sup> For one thing, long-term studies seem to show that whatever advantage these forced prodigies<sup>+</sup> may have over their ordinary classmates tends to disappear within a few years of entering school, and the education gap narrows considerably—unless active, prolonged stimulation is continued. But this development

<sup>+</sup>in behalf of : for the benefit of; in the interest of

<sup>+</sup>shortcoming : an inadequacy; a flaw

<sup>+</sup>prodigy : a person with exceptional talents or powers

merely underlines<sup>+</sup> what many see as the program's more serious problem: children who are under heavy pressure to study against their will are *apt to* suffer from depression<sup>+</sup> and have difficulty adjusting<sup>+</sup> to their peers. In the long run, the concern<sup>+</sup> is that they *may* turn into bright but maladjusted adults who can never find happiness or satisfaction.

## Comprehension



1. What words or phrases point out Koreans' attitude toward education?
2. What are the two goals of "genius education"?
3. What effect on the meaning of the last paragraph do words like "seem," "tends to," "apt to," and "may" have?

## Express Yourself



1. Do you think a college degree is a must?
2. Do you think a college degree helps your child get a better job?
3. Did you have a part-time job during your school days?
4. Would you allow your children to have a part-time job?  
Would you encourage it?
5. Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?
6. What was/is your favorite subject in school?
7. Would you teach your young children English?
8. Do you think we should teach young children hanja?

<sup>+</sup>underline : stress or emphasize

<sup>+</sup>depression : the condition of feeling sad and sorrowful

<sup>+</sup>adjust : change or adapt oneself or (sth) to be right or fit for present conditions

<sup>+</sup>concern : worry

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Yes, a college degree is one of the most important things we can get in life. I don't mean the diploma<sup>+</sup> itself. We learn many important things on our own. We train for a profession, life, love, and human relationships. We learn a lot of things while experiencing the ups and downs of life. But college life provides us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. It forgives our mistakes, permits extremism<sup>+</sup> to some degree, encourages a different life style. How could we ever enjoy the feeling of loving someone, or being loved, more strongly than on a college campus?

**2.** I don't think a college degree is everything in life. I admit students learn many things in college and train for many occupations. But the essential life skills are the ones you have to develop on your own. In some ways, in fact, the artificial structure of college life buffers you from "real" life and merely delays entry into the cruel world of adulthood. Passing a test on paper is not a substitute<sup>+</sup> for having to apply the necessary skills to genuine situations. In the real world, mistakes are not long tolerated; errors have consequences which are painful and perhaps permanent. Instead of sending my kids to college right away, I'd rather<sup>+</sup> they first experience how tough—and satisfying—having a job, making decisions, and being responsible to themselves and others can be; later, when they have matured and gained a fuller understanding of what an education really entails,<sup>+</sup> they can return to school for a degree or to fulfill their intellectual curiosity. After all, you have to get into the water to learn how to swim, you can't just stand around the pool.

**3.** I know school is important for all of us. But some people are poor students and not interested in learning anything. What does a diploma mean to them? If they cultivate the same patience that graduates have, and have some common sense from reading or from experience, they are intelligent enough, at least, to live in society. A diploma itself has no meaning. The question is whether or not people have the patience to get through an ever-challenging life.

→ **diploma** : a paper or certificate given by a school showing that a person has earned a degree or completed a course of study

→ **extremism** : a tendency to go to extremes, especially in politics

→ **substitute** : a person or thing that takes the place of another; a replacement

→ **would rather** : prefer that or to

→ **entail** : require (sth) as a necessary accompaniment or result

## Useful Expressions



1. Since people learn from their mistakes, many fools are getting a fantastic education.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Many men are able to solve big problems at the office, but are unable to settle little ones at home.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. No man is fully educated until he learns to read himself.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. It is not the I.Q. but the I WILL that is important in education.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. A person isn't educated unless he has learned how little he already knows.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. It is a thousand times better to have common sense without an education than to have an education without common sense.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Among the few things more expensive than an education these days is the lack of it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. A person should have enough education so he doesn't have to look up to anyone. He should also have enough to be wise enough not to look down on anyone.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Education is not a head full of facts, but knowing *how* and *where* to find facts.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Education is a wonderful thing, but it doesn't go far enough. It merely teaches a man *how* to speak, not *when* or *how long*. And neither does it teach him exactly *when* to shut up.<sup>+</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **shut up** : cause (sb) to stop speaking; silence

## Issue 21

# Family



Today most people live in small nuclear families, and many wives work outside the home. This situation has led to the "latchkey kid" phenomenon. After school, children go home to an empty house, with both parents gone. It is feared that kids with career moms are lonelier than those from large families, and that they have more trouble adapting to society. On the other hand, latchkey kids do not necessarily become problem children, if their

parents spend time with them whenever possible. The solution seems to be love and adequate discipline. If parents are good role models,<sup>↓</sup> and perform their parental responsibilities well, most of the time their children grow up to be conscientious<sup>↓</sup> adults no matter what<sup>↓</sup> their family structure.



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- **latchkey kid** : a child who spends part of the day alone and unsupervised, especially one who has a key to his or her home for entrance after school while the parents are at work
- **role model** : someone whose behavior or attitudes people try to copy out of admiration
- **conscientious** : guided by or done with a sense of what is right or proper
- **no matter what** : regardless of

## Comprehension



1. What is a nuclear family?
2. What does "latchkey kid" mean?
3. According to the paragraph, are large, extended families better than nuclear ones?

## Express Yourself



1. Who is the boss in your home, you or your spouse?
2. Who should do the dishes, the husband or the wife?
3. Should wives work outside the home?
4. Should husbands do household chores if their wives have a job?
5. Should wives work even after they have children?
6. How should a man feel if his wife makes more money than he does?
7. If a woman made enough money to support the family, should her husband quit his job to look after the house?
8. Who should be in charge of disciplining the children?
9. What did you do, and how did you feel, when your first child was born?
10. Did you expect a boy as your first child?
11. Describe how your family members share household duties.
12. What do you think about living with your parents-in-law?
13. Do you enjoy taking care of your children?
14. Talk about the roles of a mom and a dad in disciplining children.

## Opinion Samples



**1.** I think if a wife is contributing to the family's financial situation by working outside the home, at least the husband should help her with the household chores.<sup>+</sup> Why should she have to do two jobs all by herself? But there is another advantage for husbands and wives if they both work in and outside the home: she can have an insight<sup>+</sup> into how the business world works, and he can learn how difficult housework is. That way they can understand each other better and avoid a lot of trouble in their marriage.

**2.** When my son was born, I was thrilled. So were my parents. We all believe that this is better than having a girl for the first child. It makes family continuance easier and more predictable. But when my second child was a daughter, I was overjoyed. She grows cuter every day, and is so sweet. My son always seems to be causing trouble around the house. But I love them both, and I suppose it doesn't really matter if we have sons or daughters.

<sup>+</sup>chores : routine or minor tasks

<sup>+</sup>insight : an understanding of the true nature of (sth)

## Useful Expressions



1. Many a family argument has been saved by the doorbell or telephone.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. There is just as much authority in the family today as there ever was—only now the children exercise it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Can you remember when the family meals were carefully thought out instead of thawed<sup>+</sup> out?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Nowadays there are more model homes than model families.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. In today's world of inflation, a big spender is any man who can support his kids.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Happy laughter and family voices in the home will keep more kids off the street at night than the strictest curfew.<sup>+</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. There is no sure cure for laziness in man, but a wife and children often help.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. It takes a raft of money to keep the family afloat<sup>+</sup> these days.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. Keeping peace in the family requires patience, love, understanding, and at least two television sets.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
10. Domestic peace is the luxury you enjoy between the children's bedtime and your own.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→thaw : melt

→curfew : a regulation requiring a person to be home at a stated time, such as one imposed by a parent on a child

→afloat : surviving financially

## Issue 22

# Crime & Punishment



The nation's per capita<sup>↓</sup> income has steadily grown, and educational opportunities have expanded, but its crime rate has also increased. In particular, juvenile delinquency is growing rapidly. If conditions are improving, why isn't criminality on the decline? The crime itself and its punishment are both costly. It not only destroys individual lives but entire families. The bill<sup>↓</sup> for confinement is also getting more expensive, and taxpayers are complaining about their money being used to support "welfare for lawbreakers."

What is the key factor in criminality? Genetics?<sup>↓</sup> Family problems? Social alienation?<sup>↓</sup> Peer pressure?<sup>↓</sup> Cultural upheaval<sup>↓</sup> caused by the switch-over<sup>↓</sup> from a traditional to a modern society? Drugs and/or alcohol? Lack of individual conscience and responsibility? The glorification of violence in the media? The phenomenon of copy-cat crimes?



While the cause of criminality is still inexplicable,<sup>↓</sup> the cure is necessarily<sup>↓</sup> even more so. Is better education the answer? Harsher punishment? More intrusive<sup>↓</sup> social intervention?

## Comprehension



1. What is the unexpressed assumption in the first paragraph, and especially the first sentence?
2. What is the taxpayers' complaint?
3. What are copy-cat crimes?

→ **per capita** : by or for each individual

→ **bill** : cost

→ **genetics** : the genetic properties or makeup of an organism or group

→ **alienate** : lose the friendship or support of (sb); cause (sb) to become emotionally isolated

→ **peer pressure** : a strong feeling that one must do the same things as other people of one's age in order to gain popularity

→ **upheaval** : a sudden and violent disturbance

→ **switch-over** : the act or process of changing from one thing to another

→ **inexplicable** : incapable of being explained

→ **necessarily** : as a necessary result; inevitably      → **intrude** : break or come in without being wanted or asked

## Express Yourself



1. What causes people to commit crimes?
2. How can criminality be reduced?
3. Have you ever broken the law? If so, what were the circumstances?
4. Is it fair to use public money to feed, house, and clothe criminals? Give them medical treatment and educational/vocational opportunities?
5. Why is juvenile delinquency<sup>↓</sup> on the rise?
6. Are laws too permissive?
7. Do you think the punishment of a first-time offender should be commuted?<sup>↓</sup>
8. Should parents be responsible for their children's actions?
9. In what way (if any) is society responsible for criminality?
10. What is the most effective deterrent to heinous<sup>↓</sup> acts?

### More Talking Points

**Briefly define the following crimes and say how you would punish them if you were a judge:**

- |  |                    |                            |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|
| a. DWI (driving while intoxicated)             | b. Bribery         | c. Defamation of character |
| d. Forgery                                     | e. Fraud           | f. Robbery                 |
| g. Rape (including date rape and marital rape) | h. Shoplifting     | i. Mugging <sup>↓</sup>    |
| l. Adultery                                    | j. Murder          | k. Sexual harassment       |
| o. Drug dealing                                | m. Prostitution    | n. Vandalism <sup>↓</sup>  |
| r. Littering                                   | p. Organized crime | q. Terrorism               |
| u. Child molestation                           | s. Gambling        | t. Tax evasion             |
|  | v. Bigamy          |                            |

→ **juvenile delinquency** : antisocial or criminal behavior by children or adolescents

→ **commute** : reduce (a legal sentence) to a less severe one

→ **heinous** : very wicked or evil; horrible

→ **mugging** : attacking (sb) with the intent of robbing

→ **vandalism** : intentional damage to or destruction of public or private property

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Judges should have some leeway<sup>+</sup> in imposing sentences on first-timers. To some extent, the circumstances, the nature of the crime, and the character of the offender should be taken into account. Particularly in the case of young offenders, the gravity<sup>+</sup> of the situation is not always apparent—until it is too late. Often the procedure of being arrested and tried is itself enough to deter any further criminality, while prison time might just harden the youth to a life of crime. Nevertheless, recidivists<sup>+</sup> should expect to be punished to the maximum extent allowed.

**2.** Only individuals are responsible for their own behavior. Any attempt to foist<sup>+</sup> the responsibility onto any others' shoulders, whether parents or "society," is doomed to failure.<sup>+</sup> Every person must police himself sufficiently to act in a moral, legal manner, because there are not enough resources available to control the actions of everyone. What society needs to do is clearly and consistently set the rules and outline the penalties for breaking them, and make sure that everyone understands them. Then we can all play together in the football game called life.

**3.** We cannot avoid our collective responsibility for crimes committed in our midst.<sup>+</sup> If someone is starving, should he be blamed for stealing a piece of bread? If anyone is denied a suitable job or educational opportunity, should he be further punished for trying to improve his station in life by any means available? If a person grows up in an environment without adequate moral guidance, should we be surprised that he doesn't know what standards are expected of him? We need to invest more deeply in effective social programs aimed at alleviating<sup>+</sup> poverty, ignorance, discrimination, and child neglect—these approaches are by no means cheap, but in the long run they are not as expensive as allowing the conditions of criminality to fester.<sup>+</sup>

<sup>+</sup>**leeway** : a degree of freedom of action or thought

<sup>+</sup>**gravity** : seriousness; importance

<sup>+</sup>**recidivist** : a person who commits crimes time after time

<sup>+</sup>**foist** : impose (sth) upon another by coercion or trickery

<sup>+</sup>**doomed to failure** : sure to fail

<sup>+</sup>**midst** : the position of being among other things or parts

<sup>+</sup>**alleviate** : make (sth) easier to bear; relieve; lessen

<sup>+</sup>**fester** : be or become a source of irritation

## Useful Expressions



1. Society invites the crime, and criminals accept the invitation.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. The death penalty may not eliminate crime, but it stops repeaters.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. The average crime expert seems to know everything about crime except how to reduce it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. The best way to put down crime is to stop putting up with<sup>↓</sup> it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. Gossip is one form of crime for which the law provides no punishment.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Judges certainly are getting tougher on criminals. They're giving them much longer suspended sentences.<sup>↓</sup>  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. Criminals seem to know their rights better than their wrongs.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. The dumbest criminal on earth is the one who holds up a group of tourists on their way home from Las Vegas.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. If a man defrauds<sup>↓</sup> you one time, he's a rascal;<sup>↓</sup> if he does it twice, you're a fool.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→put up with : endure (sb) or (sth) without complaint

→sentence : a court judgment

→defraud : take (sth) from (sb) by dishonest methods

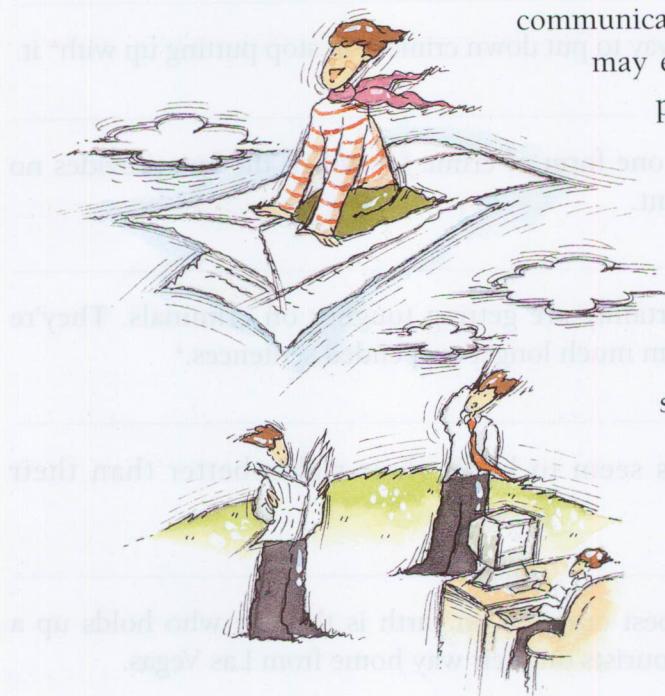
→rascal : a dishonest person

## Issue 23

# Communication



Today communication methods are becoming more diverse as technology advances. Everybody has a telephone at home plus a mobile phone, and many people with some knowledge of computers can communicate with each other around the clock<sup>+</sup> on global networks. These communication skills are becoming a part of our life.



However, the traditional forms of communication are still hard to replace and may even be gaining influence over people's minds. For example, a letter makes people more pleased than just a phone call, even if there is no difference in the message. The more technology develops, the more people seem to miss the personal touch.

<sup>+</sup>around the clock : for the entire 24-hour day without pause

## Comprehension



1. What modern communication devices are mentioned?
2. In spite of the plethora<sup>+</sup> of instantaneous communications available,<sup>+</sup> what seems to be happening?
3. Why does this seem to be so?

## Express Yourself



1. Talk about the differences between making a phone call and writing a letter.
2. How often do you call your parents?
3. What do you usually talk about when you call them?
4. Do you think it's okay to use company phones for personal business?
5. Do you have a mobile phone? Why or why not?
6. When did you last write a letter?
7. How often do you write letters to your friends or family?
8. Which do you prefer, writing a letter or just calling up?
9. How many letters did you write to your wife or husband before you were married?
10. What was the most impressive letter you ever received?
11. Do you use the internet?
12. What kind of information do you get from the internet?
13. Talk about common courtesy in using mobile phones in public areas.

<sup>+</sup>plethora : an amount, number or quantity that is too much

<sup>+</sup>available : capable of being obtained

## Opinion Samples



**1.** Phones have become ubiquitous<sup>+</sup> around the world.

Nearly everyone uses them at least once every day to conduct business or just to chat. Even proposing<sup>+</sup> over the phone does not sound ridiculous anymore. Nevertheless, letters have not lost their power to move people. Mail still makes us seem special or important. So, if you really want to communicate some special feeling, or celebrate some special occasion, you may want to express yourself on paper if you really want your message to be remembered.

**2.** I know there are many merits in having a beeper or a mobile phone, and there are many inconveniences I have to suffer by not carrying it, but I still resist wearing one. I would feel like I was wearing a dog collar if I had a mobile phone, and that someone was always watching me. I want to feel free wherever I am, and it is my own choice to contact someone or to be contacted. I know time is running against me,<sup>+</sup> and I will have to carry a mobile phone sooner or later. But I do not want to be reduced to being a line in a switchboard.

<sup>+</sup> **ubiquitous:** being or seeming to be everywhere at the same time

<sup>+</sup> **propose:** make a proposal, especially an offer of marriage

<sup>+</sup> **time is running against:** getting older, having less time left to accomplish something

## Useful Expressions



1. With telephone rates due to go up again, we begin to wonder if what we have to say is still worth saying.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. You're definitely middle age when the telephone rings and you hope it's not for you.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Only an optimist thinks the woman in the phone booth will be right out because he heard her say goodbye.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. Can you imagine anyone being as unhappy as a woman with a live secret and a dead phone?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. When a man answers the phone he reaches for a pencil; when a woman answers she reaches for a chair.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. Women and telephones repeat what they hear, but only the telephone repeats it exactly.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. To make a long story short, try long distance.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

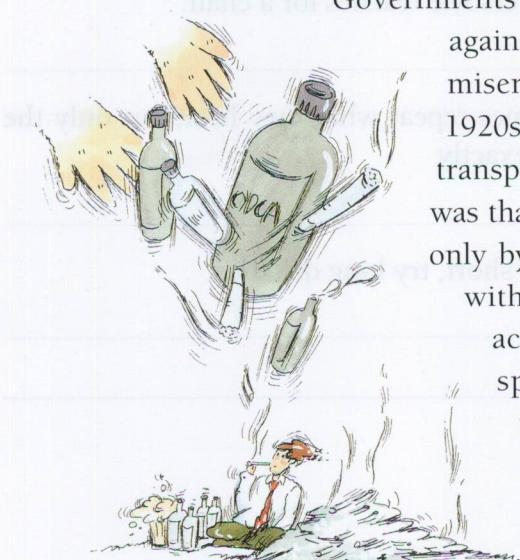
## Issue 24

# Smoking & Drinking



**D**espite harsh anti-smoking laws, many people continue to light up. Around the world, legislators have tried to eradicate<sup>+</sup> smoking by restricting smoking areas, banning or limiting tobacco ads, imposing steep taxes, and putting ominous<sup>+</sup> health warnings on cigarette packages. But the addictive habit is too strong to be ended overnight. The number of young smokers is rapidly growing. Some kids are curious, and others blindly imitate adults. An even larger portion of young smokers bend to peer pressure. Another problem is that many governments rely heavily on income generated by cigarette sales, so that they are reluctant to crack down<sup>+</sup> aggressively. They don't seem to realize that skyrocketing health costs will outpace current incomes sometime soon.

Governments are even less aggressive in their attacks against alcohol. Perhaps this is because of the miserable failure of a famous attempt. In the 1920s the United States had prohibited the sale, transport, and manufacture of liquor. The idea was that society would benefit in many ways—not only by removing obvious bad effects associated with drunkenness and alcoholism, including accidents, lost work, chronic<sup>+</sup> poverty, and spousal abuse, but also by reducing the incidence of other social evils such as gambling and prostitution<sup>+</sup> (since most of the drinking was in saloons rather than at home).



→ **eradicate** : get rid of (sth); destroy

→ **ominous** : being a sign of trouble or danger

→ **crack down** : take severe measures, especially in enforcing regulations

→ **chronic** : lasting for a long time or often repeated

→ **prostitution** : the practice of performing sexual acts for pay

**Exercise 1****Do you drink?**

But since many people simply ignored the law and drank anyhow, the main difference was that they had to resort to expensive, illegal methods of obtaining spirits.<sup>↓</sup> The result was that organized crime grew tremendously rich and powerful. The gangs that profited most also committed many more violent murders, bribed even more public officials, and sponsored even more casinos and brothels.<sup>↓</sup> After about a decade of Prohibition,<sup>↓</sup> the Americans gave up on the attempt.

**Comprehension**

1. Name three ways governments have tried to control smoking.
2. Why do youngsters usually begin smoking?
3. What is the problem with the unaggressive policies most governments follow in regard to<sup>↓</sup> smoking?
4. Why did Prohibition fail?

1. Three ways governments have tried to control smoking are:  
a) taxes on tobacco products  
b) laws against smoking in public places  
c) laws against advertising tobacco products

2. Youngsters usually begin smoking because they are curious or want to fit in with their friends. They may also be influenced by peer pressure or by advertisements for tobacco products.

→ **spirits** : alcoholic drinks

→ **brothel** : a house of prostitution

→ **Prohibition** : the period from 1920 to 1933, when the manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverage was illegal in the United States

→ **in regard to** : with respect to; about

## Express Yourself

**Ques.**

1. Do you smoke? Why or why not?
2. How many cigarettes do you smoke a day?
3. Do you think you could quit if you wanted to?
4. Have you ever tried to quit smoking? Why or why not?
5. Are you worried about smoke-related diseases?
6. Do you smoke inside the house?
7. Are you worried about second-hand smoke?
8. What do you think about a law that bans smoking in public places?
9. Do you think cigarettes are expensive?
10. What would you do if you noticed your child smoking?
11. What do you think about women smoking?
12. Do you drink?
13. Are you a social drinker?<sup>4</sup>
14. What kind of liquor do you usually drink?
15. How often do you drink?
16. Does your job force you to drink?

**ANS.**

**1.** Smokers complain whenever cigarette prices go up. But I don't think cigarettes are very expensive considering the bad effects of smoking. Smoking gives us many kinds of disease and increases medical costs all over the world. Through additional taxes, smokers must pay their share of this uncalculated medical bill.

**2.** I don't think there is any difference between men and women smoking. If men can smoke anywhere, women should be able to also. The only exception I would make to this policy is respecting<sup>4</sup> pregnant women, since smoking can adversely<sup>4</sup> affect their unborn babies. Adults may have the right to injure their own health, but not to damage their unwitting<sup>4</sup> offspring. The same goes for drinking and taking other drugs as well.

→ **social drinker** : one who drinks lightly, primarily at parties to be polite or convivial

→ **respecting** : concerning

→ **adverse** : not favorable; going against or in an opposite direction

→ **unwitting** : not knowing; unaware

## Useful Expressions



1. The best way to stop smoking cigarettes is to marry a woman who objects to it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
2. Some people feel that a cigarette is not harmful if they borrow it from somebody else.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why is it that someone who has the fortitude<sup>4</sup> to give up smoking doesn't have the will power to stop bragging<sup>4</sup> about it?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
4. There's nothing more stubborn than a drunkard trying to convince you he isn't.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
5. As kids, we started smoking cigarettes because we thought it was smart.<sup>4</sup> Why don't we stop smoking for the same reason?  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
6. When a drunken driver runs into a telephone pole, he blames the pole.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
7. It is useless for alcoholics to worry about the future, for there will soon be no future for them to worry about.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
8. Warning: Boozers<sup>4</sup> are losers.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
9. A heavy drinker insisted that his liquor bill should be deductible as a medical expense. "My friends and I drink to each other's health."  
→ \_\_\_\_\_

→ **fortitude** : mental and emotional strength in facing difficulty and danger

→ **brag** : boast

→ **smart** : fashionable; intelligent

→ **boozier** : a heavy drinker

## Issue 25

# Mysteries in Our Lives



We all know life is full of strange occurrences we don't understand. We are often puzzled about people's different actions and about weird<sup>↓</sup> occurrences. Some of these mysteries disappear as we become older, but others become even stranger. These are some of life's greatest conundrums.<sup>↓</sup>



## Mystery 1

One of the greatest mysteries is why a lawnmower that has been allowed to rest all winter refuses to work in the spring.

1. Can you explain why?
2. Do you think this rule can be applied to people? How?
3. What lessons can we learn from this?

## Mystery 2

A woman walked into a shoe store and tried on a dozen pairs of shoes without finding a proper fit. Finally, the bored assistant told her, "Madam, we can't fit you because one of your feet is larger than the other." The woman walked out of the store without buying anything.

In the next store, the fitting proved equally difficult. At

<sup>↓</sup>weird : strange

<sup>↓</sup>conundrum : riddle, anything that puzzles

last, the smiling assistant explained, "Madam, do you know that one of your feet is smaller than the other?"

The woman left the store happily with two new pairs of shoes under her arm.

1. Why didn't she buy anything in the first store?
2. Why did she buy shoes in the second store?
3. Why did she buy two pairs of shoes instead of one?
4. Do you think the woman's behavior is stereotypical? Is this the way "all" women act? Or is it merely a "human" trait she displays?

### Mystery 3

The next time you're in a meeting, look around and identify<sup>+</sup> the yes-butters, the not-nowers and the why-notters. Why-notters move the world.

1. Who are yes-butters?
2. Who are not-nowers?
3. Who are why-notters?
4. Do you think why-notters are always right?
5. What are the strong points of the not-nowers?
6. What are the weak points of the yes-butters?

### Mystery 4

Today everyone is interested in physical fitness<sup>+</sup> due to current fashion. All that stretching, reaching, pulling, bending, sucking in<sup>+</sup>—and that's just to get into the jeans!

<sup>+</sup>identify : recognize (sb) or (sth) as a certain person or thing

<sup>+</sup>fitness : the state or condition of being physically fit, especially as the result of exercise and proper nutrition

<sup>+</sup>sucking in : squeezing the stomach in

1. Is physical fitness socially important?
2. Do you personally care about your physical condition?
3. What attitude supports the fashion industry?

### Mystery 5

Happiness is like a cat: if you try to coax<sup>4</sup> it, it will avoid you, but if you pay no attention to it, it will rub against your legs and spring unbidden<sup>5</sup> into your lap.

1. Do you agree?
2. Does love behave the same way as happiness?
3. How about money?
4. What about a woman—is she catlike, too? A man?

### Mystery 6

Would you want any of the following? Why or why not?

1. Coffee without caffeine.
2. Beer without alcohol.
3. An alarm clock that rings just once.
4. A watch that never runs slow or fast.
5. A wife who never nags.
6. A pill that could prolong your life to 200 years.
7. A marriage without conflict.
8. A friend who never needs your help or advice.
9. A fortune inherited by your parents.
10. The money won by a lottery ticket.

→ **coax** : attempt to influence by gentle persuasion

→ **unbidden** : not asked or summoned; uninvited

**Mystery 7**

If you can look back on your life with contentment, you have one of man's most precious gifts—a selective memory.

1. What does "selective memory" mean?
2. What does the writer think about our lives?
3. What is the most frustrating aspect of your own past?

**Mystery 8**

Usually a husband regards himself as the head of the household, and the pedestrian thinks he has the right of way. And these are usually harmless beliefs, in the abstract.<sup>+</sup> Disillusion sets in<sup>+</sup> only when we try to prove them.

1. What does this mean?
2. Who is the boss in your family?
3. Could you accept your wife being the boss in your family?

**Mystery 9**

At age 20, we worry about what others think of us. At 40, we don't care what they think. At 60, we find that they haven't paid any mind to us at all.

1. Why are the young so concerned about others' opinions?
2. Why are the middle-aged unconcerned?
3. What have the elderly discovered about themselves?
4. Discuss how our spending and dress habits change as we age.

<sup>+</sup>in the abstract : in theory but not necessarily in reality

<sup>+</sup>set in : begin to happen or be apparent

**Mystery 10**

A rich man once asked a friend, "Why am I criticized for being miserly? Everyone knows I will leave everything to charity when I die."

"Well," said the friend, "let me tell you about the pig and the cow. The pig was lamenting to the cow one day about how unpopular he was. 'People are always talking about your gentleness and your kind eyes,' said the pig. 'Sure, you give milk and cream, but I give more. I give bacon, ham, bristles.<sup>↓</sup> They even pickle<sup>↓</sup> my feet! Still nobody likes me. Why is this?'"

"The cow thought a minute and then replied, 'Well, maybe it's because I give while I'm still living.'"

1. Why is it better to give while we are alive? Who benefits more, the giver or the receiver?
2. Should we give to make ourselves feel better, or to make others feel better?
3. Which is better, giving it all away or none of it?

→ **bristle** : short, stiff hair

→ **pickle** : soak (sth) in vinegar and spices

## Useful Expressions



- 1.** You are never given enough time or money.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 2.** The solution to a problem changes the nature of the problem.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.** It's always the partner's fault.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.** When the plane you are on is late, the plane you want to transfer<sup>→</sup> to is on time.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 5.** If people listened to themselves more often, they would talk less.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.** Create a need and fill it.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.** Nobody notices the big errors.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 8.** Don't worry over what other people think about you. They're too busy worrying about what you think of them.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 9.** If the shoe fits, it's ugly.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_
- 10.** As soon as you sit down to a cup of hot coffee, your boss will ask you to do something which will last until the coffee is cold.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_