



Unit 1

Social Customs



Objectives:

- ◇ Understand descriptions of various social customs.
- ◇ Learn to make comparisons.
- ◇ Understand discussions of advantages and disadvantages of customs.
- ◇ Understand cohesiveness of a passage in expressing similarities and differences.

Listening Aids

booze-up /'bu:z'ʌp/ (8) <i>n.</i>	(BrE infml) a party where people drink a lot of alcohol
bowler hat (1)	(BrE) a hard round black hat 圆顶硬礼帽
bride-to-be (8) <i>n.</i>	a woman who is going to be married soon
compact /kəm'pækt; 'kɒmpækt/ (2) <i>adj.</i>	small, but arranged so that everything fits neatly into the space available
Czech /tʃek/ (4)	捷克 [欧洲中部国家]
divorce /dɪ'vɔ:s/ (6) <i>adj.</i>	legally end one's marriage to (sb.)



dreadful /'dredfʊl/ (5) <i>adj.</i>	extremely unpleasant
expand /ɪk'spænd/ (6) <i>v.</i>	become larger in size, number, or amount, or make sth. become larger
folk dance (3)	a traditional dance from a particular area
frown /fraʊn/ (8) <i>v.</i>	make an angry, unhappy, or confused expression, moving your eyebrows together
humid /'hju:mɪd/ (2) <i>adj.</i>	hot and wet in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable
Lent /lent/ (4) <i>n.</i>	the 40 days before Easter when some Christians eat less food or stop doing sth. that they enjoy 大斋节
omelet /'ɒmlɪt/ (4) <i>n.</i>	eggs mixed together and cooked in hot fat, sometimes with other foods added
Osaka /əʊ'sa:kə; 'ɔ:sɑ:kɑ:/ (2)	大阪[日本本州岛西南岸港市]
split /splɪt/ (6) <i>v.</i>	divide or separate sth. into different parts or groups, or be divided into different parts or groups
square dance (3)	a type of traditional country dance in which four pairs of dancers face each other in a square, and sb. calls out the movements they should do 方块舞
Victorian /vɪk'tɔ:rɪən/ (5) <i>adj.</i>	relating to or coming from the period from 1837—1901 when Victoria was Queen of England (英国) 维多利亚女王时代的, 有维多利亚女王时代特色的
vows /vaʊz/ (8) <i>pl.</i>	(also marriage/wedding vows) the promises one makes during one's wedding
widow /'wɪdəʊ/ (6) <i>v.</i>	(be widowed) if someone is widowed, their husband or wife has died

Task 1

In this part, you'll hear Gretel and Mr. Clark talking about "the typical English gentleman".



A. Answer the following questions.

1) What did Gretel want to see in the City of London?

2) Why was she so surprised?

3) What did the Englishmen look like?

4) Why did Gretel think they must be typical English gentlemen?

5) Did Mr. Clark also think there is such thing as a “typical” Englishman?

6) What English saying did Mr. Clark use to prove his opinion?

B. Write down the poem “If All the Seas Were One Sea”.

Task 2

You'll listen to a conversation between a British man and a Japanese student comparing life in Britain and Japan.

A. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.

1) I found that living in Japan, _____. They seem to work the whole day.

2) Where I was living in Japan, in the north, it was much _____, especially in winter, _____ centigrade. Does the winter in Osaka _____ than the winter in England?

3) I found Japan _____ than Britain, especially in the



north. The mountains are _____. I found it _____ than Britain.

- 4) And therefore the towns and villages _____.
- 5) So because the cities are more crowded, _____ tend to be _____, don't they?

B. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.

- 1) People need to take three showers a day in the humid and hot summer in Japan. []
- 2) Winter in Osaka is shorter than that in England. []
- 3) Estuko thinks the countryside in Japan is more beautiful than that in England. []
- 4) Britain is mountainous and Japan is much flatter. []
- 5) Houses in Britain tend to be smaller and compact. []

Task 3

In this task, you'll listen to a conversation about folk dances in the United States.

A. Answer the following questions.

- 1) What is the difference between the folk dances in the US and other countries?

- 2) How many dancers are there in a folk dance in the US according to the man?

- 3) Why is it called square dance?

- 4) How does the man tell the dancers what they should do?



5) What kind of clothes do people wear in folk dancing?

B. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.

- 1) There is only one folk dancing group in each city in the United States. []
- 2) Usually there are four men and four women in a folk dancing group. []
- 3) In square dancing, there are four people on each side of the square. []
- 4) A man usually speaks quickly to tell the dancers what they should do. []
- 5) People dance fast, therefore there is not much time for them to think of the instructions in the song. []

C. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.

- 1) In square dancing, usually _____ when they start, with a man and a woman _____.
- 2) Then there's a man who tells the dancers _____. He usually _____, and _____ while they dance.
- 3) Folk dancing in the Unites States is very fast; people _____.
- 4) The dancers wear _____. They makes the dances _____.

Task 4

In this task, you'll listen to six customs in different countries.

Answer the following questions.

1) What was known as "Setsubun"?

2) What did many Chinese families burn to bring good luck before the Chinese Lunar New Year?



3) What was the old custom in choosing what to wear by brides in America?

4) Why did the people of Ponti, Italy eat an omelet made with 1,000 eggs before Lent?

5) What was a “Smrt”?

6) What did people do on St. Anthony’s Day in Mexico?

Task 5

In this task, you’ll hear a discussion about whether life is better now than it was in Victorian England.

A. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F) according to the tape.

- 1) The two speakers agree that Victorian life used to be much more fun than it is now. []
- 2) In Victorian England, people had to wear hats and long gloves even when they were eating cakes and biscuits. []
- 3) Life is much slower than it used to be in Victorian England, where people never had time to stop and enjoy themselves. []
- 4) There were more illnesses in Victorian times, some of which do not exist today. []
- 5) Children in Victorian England hardly ever saw their parents, because their parents were working hard. []
- 6) Children nowadays do not wear tight, uncomfortable grown-up clothes, and their life is much better than before. []
- 7) According to the woman, women today enjoy more freedom, though they may have to work hard. []



B. Write out a list of the advantages and disadvantages of life in the Victorian times.

Advantages	Disadvantages

Task 6

This passage is about the changing of American family structure.

A. Choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

- With the industrialization of American society, the _____ family became more common.
 a) extended b) nuclear c) blended
- At present, nearly one out of every _____ marriages in the United States ends in divorce.
 a) two b) three c) four
- Now one in _____ Americans lives alone.
 a) three b) four c) five
- Currently, there is a(n) _____ in the number of childless marriages.
 a) increase b) decrease c) don't know



B. Complete the following sentences with what you hear on the tape.

- 1) The American _____ is in the _____ of _____. There _____ mainly two types of families: _____ and _____.
- 2) Then as _____ changed and the economy _____ from _____ to _____, people were _____ to move to different parts of the country for _____. These moves _____ the extended family.
- 3) Now besides these two types of _____ groupings, the word “_____” is being _____ to include a variety of _____.

C. Complete the definitions below according to what you hear on the tape.

- 1) The extended families most often include _____
_____.
- 2) The nuclear families usually consist of _____.
- 3) The blended families occur when _____
_____.

Task 7

In this task, you'll hear a passage about the differences between Japanese men and women before and after they get married.

A. Fill in the following chart with a “✓” mark in corresponding columns according to the information given on the tape.

	Men	Women	Both
Study subjects like history or English			
Study engineering			
Go to university to get good jobs			
Look for a good job because they want a good husband			



Look for a good job because they want to be successful			
Work for a lifetime			
Work up to ten years			
Get married by twenty-seven			
Cook the meals			
Look after the children			
Go out for a drink after work			
Come home by four o'clock in the afternoon			

B. Choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) Japanese women often go to university to study _____.
 a) medicine b) science c) arts
- 2) There may be _____ women in engineering classes of thirty or forty students.
 a) three or five b) two or four c) one or two
- 3) Men do NOT want to work for a big company to _____.
 a) look for a wife b) earn a lot of money c) support a family
- 4) Nowadays Japanese women begin to look for a job because they _____.
 a) want to compete with men b) like it
 c) hope to find a good husband
- 5) A few years after Japanese women get married, they often _____.
 a) work in the same company
 b) find a better job in another company
 c) stay at home and look after everything
- 6) After Japanese men get married, they often _____.
 a) prepare the meal b) look after the children
 c) go out for a drink after work
- 7) Japanese women can go back to work _____.
 a) after their children are born
 b) when their old company wants them back
 c) after their children have grown up



Task 8

In this dialogue, four people are talking about marriage and divorce in England.

A. Choose the best answer to complete each of the following sentences.

- 1) "Taking their vows" means _____.
a) getting married b) getting divorced c) getting engaged
- 2) "We basically suit each other very well" means _____.
a) we like each other
b) we're completely similar to each other
c) we get along with each other
- 3) When Sue says that she and her husband are "loath to lose their freedom just yet", she means _____.
a) they hate the idea of having children
b) they want to enjoy their freedom for a few more years, but they may consider having some kids later
c) they are revolted by the idea of giving up their freedom
- 4) If a person is frowned upon by society, he/she is _____.
a) criticized severely by society b) ridiculed by people
c) disapproved of by society
- 5) When asked about how people get married in England, Geth is talking about _____.
a) people born in London only
b) people whose family are all living in London.
c) people living in London with their parents and relatives living elsewhere in Britain
- 6) At a registry office you need a minimum of _____.
a) the bride and bridegroom plus four other people
b) the bride and bridegroom and two other people
c) the bride and bridegroom only
- 7) Geth thinks that young people in London often live together _____.
a) because they are afraid of marriage
b) with the intention to get married eventually
c) without thinking of ever getting married

