

Unit 1

Listening & Speaking Practice

Guided Conversations

◀ Sample Conversations ▶▶▶

Read the following conversations and pay attention to the underlined parts. Then practise the conversations with your partner.

1. **A:** Hi, Leo. Is there a major shopping centre nearby?
B: Yes. The Starlight Shopping Center has over a hundred shops.
A: How do we get there?
B: Well, turn right outside the hotel and turn left at the first traffic lights. Go straight up the street, cross at the next set of lights and turn right at the pink tower.
A: Oh dear, that's too hard to remember.
B: Well then, what about a taxi? You can get one just outside the hotel.
2. **A:** Cathy, what's your opinion on today's TV programs?
B: Well, if you ask me, I think they're terrible. Most of the programs are a complete waste of time.
A: How do you feel about the series?
B: They are interesting, but I think they are too violent.
A: What about the news reports?
B: In my opinion, the news shows are extremely superficial. They don't tell you anything.

◀ Bank of Useful Expressions ▶▶▶

Asking for and Giving Directions and Locations	Asking for and Giving Opinions
1. Which is the way to the station?	1. What do you think of/about...?
2. Where is the train/bus going?	2. What's your opinion of...?
3. Can you show me the way to Jinxing Hotel?	3. How do you like...?
4. Where can I wash my hands?	4. How do you feel about...?
5. The post office is two blocks straight ahead.	5. I was just wondering what you thought about...?
6. Which floor is the Men's Wear Department on?	6. Personally, I think that...
7. Go down this street, and turn left at the first crossing.	7. I couldn't agree with you more.
8. Sorry, I'm a stranger here myself.	8. Well, in my opinion, ...

◀ Mini Role-play ▶▶▶

Make conversations with your partner according to the following situations. Try to use the expressions in the above Bank.

Situation 1: Your partner is a newcomer to Nanjing. He/She has lost his/her way and now is asking you for help. You show him/her the way.

Situation 2: Your partner asks for your ideas about studying abroad. Give him/her your opinions.

Listening Practice

◀ Word Dictation ▶▶▶

Listen carefully. Fill in the blanks with the words you hear.

1. What he says is _____ an excuse.
2. *Hamlet* is one of the greatest works of English _____.
3. The _____ played many beautiful pieces last night.
4. Reporters are not always _____ in what they write.
5. Television can be an excellent _____ for education.
6. The president's speech isn't _____.
7. The houses were _____ by a fire last month.
8. The new general manager doubled the sales of the _____ store.
9. The wrong words used by the political leader have lost him the _____.
10. Don't miss the _____. It may never come again.

◀ Sentence Comprehension ▶▶▶

In this task, you will hear five sentences. There are three choices for each sentence. Decide which is closest in meaning to the sentence that you've heard.

1. A. A politician may lose his election because of improper words.
B. The wrong words may leave a bad impression on any political leader.
C. Every political leader is good at giving a speech.
2. A. The more words you remember, the more knowledgeable you will be.
B. The more words you know, the more exactly you will think.
C. The more words you want to remember, the more difficulties you should overcome.
3. A. An ordinary word can establish a friendship.
B. A friendship may be ended just because of one or two words.
C. Any word you say may hurt a friendship.

4. A. English study can lead people to success.
 B. English will lend color to your personality.
 C. Mastery of English will make you more popular.
5. A. You must learn to avoid certain words in embarrassing situations.
 B. You must remember the different meanings of words in different situations.
 C. You must choose words carefully depending on situations.

◀ Dialogues ▶▶▶

Dialogue 1 How Was Your Exam?

Listen to the dialogue and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- _____ 1. Mary is a top student in the class.
 _____ 2. Mary did not answer the last two questions.
 _____ 3. The exam was longer and more difficult than before.
 _____ 4. Mary took more courses this year than last year.
 _____ 5. The two speakers are talking about how to prepare for exams.

Dialogue 2 What's Your Major Anyway?

Listen to the dialogue and complete each of the following statements with no more than three words.

1. David majors in _____.
 2. David wanted to _____ when he first started college.
 3. According to Susan, David's English is _____.
 4. David changed his major for fear that he might have difficulty in _____.
 5. Susan's major is probably _____.

◀ Passages ▶▶▶

Passage 1 Education in the Year 2020

Listen to the passage and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- _____ 1. It seems that teachers will be replaced by computers in 2020.
 _____ 2. We don't know exactly what education will be like in 2020.
 _____ 3. Students will do most of their classwork at home.
 _____ 4. A teacher may collect and read his students' papers through the Internet.
 _____ 5. Technology will make education perfect in the future.

Passage 2 How to Practise Listening?

Listen to the passage and complete each of the following statements with no more than three words.

1. If you come across new words in listening, you should _____.
 2. Listen for _____ that the speaker thinks are most important in a sentence.

3. Think about _____ and ask questions like “Who is speaking?” or “What is the relationship between the speakers?”
4. Listen with _____ in mind: Are you listening for general understanding of the whole text or conversation? Or are you just listening for specific information?
5. Listen for _____ such as *first*, *then*, *next*, *after that*, and *finally*.

◀ Listening for Fun ▶▶▶

Listen and see how well you can understand the story.

Text-based Practice

Vocabulary & Structure

I *Complete the following sentences by using some of the words from Text A and Text B with the help of the first few letters given.*

1. On several oc _____ he was seen getting out of the apartment the spy had used.
2. Instead of bursting into tears, she me _____ gave a smile.
3. Everybody at the conference has noticed that the figures in the report are not ac _____ at all.
4. Our bombing task was a success, but during the pro _____ we still lost seven aircraft.
5. As we know, one's pe _____ or character is shaped early in his life.
6. Soap opera can always win great po _____ among housewives.
7. Air is a med _____ for sound waves to travel through.
8. It is cu _____ for many Americans to send greeting cards around Christmas.
9. The disabled boy unfortunately became the ta _____ of students' jokes at school.
10. The speaker really experienced an aw _____ moment when nearly half of the audience left the lecture.

II *Translate the following English expressions into Chinese and vice versa.*

A
1. have something to do with literature

2. a command of English

3. depend on the situations

4. judge a person by his/her words

B
1. 与以前的经历有关

2. 对语言技能的掌握

3. 取决于天气

4. 以貌取人

5. enrich your vocabulary

5. 丰富你的生活

6. once she comes

6. 一旦下雨

7. pick up the rules

7. 学会英语

8. be surprised at the way North Americans eat

8. 对她获得的分数表示惊讶

III Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with proper prepositions or adverbs from Text A and Text B.

1. Could you pick me _____ at the corner of the street after school?
2. Nobody can make such a simple decision _____ this without any consideration.
3. Anyone who can figure it _____ will be rewarded at once.
4. The boss is _____, but he will be back in an hour.
5. It is not wise to judge a person simply _____ the clothes he/she wears.
6. She smiled at him, and he _____ turn smiled back.
7. That letter has something to do _____ the new arrangement of the Union.
8. Father will leave _____ Hong Kong from Beijing tomorrow.
9. Media _____ TV or radio can inform children, educate children, and entertain children.
10. My new school is now far away _____ where I live.

IV Complete each of the following sentences with the proper form of the words given in brackets.

1. (double) For our company, this year's aim is _____ the profit to \$200 million.
2. (conscious) Now the board became quite _____ of the fact that they were breaking the law.
3. (decide) His opinion is _____ on that question.
4. (communicate) Almost every student in our school can _____ with each other in English.
5. (behave) It's quite obvious that neither my brother nor James _____ properly at the party.
6. (enrich) English teachers always suggest that students _____ their vocabulary if they want to improve their English.
7. (embarrass) Some people have got used to _____ others in public.
8. (occasion) _____ the whole family spends the summer in Salt Lake City.
9. (direct) By the age of 15, she _____ the famous film *Memory* by herself.
10. (destroy) The buildings _____ in World War II will be rebuilt.

V Translate the following sentences into English.

1. 与他争辩的时间越长，我越觉得无聊。(the more... the more...)

2 新起点 自主综合训练

2. 秘书必须学会充分利用电脑进行文字处理。(word processing)

3. 在IBM的工作经历使他比其他应聘者更具优势。(candidate, advantage over)

4. 修理工不但多收了我的钱,而且也没有修好我的车。(overcharge, not only... but also...)

5. 不知道她是否还在遭受严重的精神病的折磨。(wonder whether/if)

Grammatical Exercises

I *Fill in the blanks with the appropriate form of the words given in brackets. Consult "Writing Practice" Exercises I, II and III in your textbook if necessary.*

- (fat) Almost all the students' faces are the same but Li Deming looks _____ than before.
- (bad) Mother knows he is _____ at learning maths. Later she finds he is much _____ at Chinese. And now she is getting to know he is the _____ at English.
- (big) (small) A pineapple is a little _____ than an apple, but much _____ than a watermelon.
- (great) He has made far _____ progress this term than he did last term.
- (well) —Annie plays the piano very _____.
—Sue plays it _____ than Annie. And Sally plays it the _____.
- (worry) It was _____ day I had ever spent in the past 30 years.
- (old) My mother has three brothers, all _____ than her. _____, George, is an officer.
- (interesting) This book is not as _____ as that one.
- (encourage) The more they talked, the _____ they felt.
- (dangerous) Most of the students think that a lion is much _____ than a bear and it is the _____ animal in the world.

II *There is a mistake in each sentence below. Find the mistakes and correct them. Consult "Writing Practice" Exercises I, II and III in your textbook if necessary.*

- Prices for bikes can run so high as \$350.
- The more difficult the problems are, I am the less likely able to solve them.
- Although the sea is rich with life, the most great part of it is not nearly as productive as the land.
- The best work is not always done by those who work the faster.
- Venus approaches the Earth the most closely than any other planet does.

6. Since there are only three to choose from, may I claim the latter?
7. The more we looked at the abstract painting, less we liked it.
8. We have produced twice much rice this year as we did in 1976.
9. Whether you agree or not, this was the most perfect arrangement for him and Paul under the circumstances.
10. Oh, I'm afraid that coat may be too much expensive for me.

III *Complete the following sentences according to the Chinese given below. Consult "Writing Practice" Exercises I, II and III in your textbook if necessary.*

1. There are _____ today at the exhibition than yesterday.
今天参观展览会的人比昨天少。
2. She has bought many shoes _____ she can afford.
她买了很多双她能买得起的昂贵的鞋。
3. Our classroom is _____ than theirs.
我们的教室比他们的明亮得多。
4. John's composition is _____ than Tom's.
约翰的作文同汤姆的一样糟。
5. She doesn't look _____ Mary.
她看起来不如玛丽年轻。
6. Look out! The road is becoming _____ and _____.
当心! 这条路越来越危险。
7. The higher you climb, _____ you are.
你爬得越高, 就越觉得累。
8. The workers of the factory now are _____ that of the factory five years ago.
这个工厂的工人比五年前增加了两倍。
9. Which animal do you like _____, a cat or a dog?
你喜欢哪种动物, 猫还是狗?
10. Jack's father is _____ than her mother.
杰克的父亲比母亲大一岁。

Reading Practice

Passage 1

How to Improve English?

The most important way to improve English would be to contact native speakers directly or to use

English as the main communication tool. It is essential to have the fundamentals of English mastered before communicating directly with a native speaker. If you do not have a basic understanding of English, then talking with a native will only lead to frustration (沮丧, 灰心) and little learning will take place. But I understand that most Chinese do not find these opportunities easily.

Just as important, I discovered that reading English newspapers, essays and books would greatly improve one's English. In fact, native English speakers who read a great deal are usually good at oral expression. Reading is very critical to a person's ability to speak well. Reading builds a vocabulary and phrasal use in context. This is a way to avoid "Chinglish". English is very much a phrasal and idiomatic language and reading increases your knowledge on how to understand them and their patterns.

The student of English needs to start reading easier materials like *China Daily* or other English language publications every day. Many of the articles were written by native English speakers. Once you master newspapers, then move on to novels or books. The learner of English must read at least thirty minutes or more per day. It takes time and effort, but it will be rewarding (有回报的). Always remember language will improve if you are interested, have enough exposure to it, and are motivated. Never allow frustration to defeat you. Good luck and enjoy learning English!

The passage above contains some suggestions about how to improve your English. After reading it, you are required to complete the outline below.

How to Improve English?

The important ways to improve English:

1. Directly contacting _____;
2. Working in an English-spoken _____;
3. Reading English _____, _____ and _____;
4. Some easier materials for the student of English: _____ or other _____;
5. Time suggested for reading: no less than _____.

Passage 2

How Do Different Indian Tribes Talk to Each Other?

Each Indian tribe had a different language. Many Indians never learned any language except their own. Do you know how Indians from different tribes talked to each other? They had two ways to talk without sound. One way was by sign language; the other way by signals (信号).

Sign language is a way of talking by using signs. Indians used sign language when they met a stranger. In this way, they could find out whether the stranger was a friend or an enemy. In Indian sign language, signs were made with the hands. To tell the time of day when something happened, an Indian pointed to the sky. He showed where the sun had been at the time.

Indians usually used signals when they wanted to send messages to someone far away. To make

signals, an Indian might use a pony (矮种马). He might use a blanket, a mirror or fire arrows.

To signal that he had seen many animals, an Indian rode his pony in a large circle.

The blanket signal was visible from far away. An Indian held the corners of a blanket in his hands. Then he began to swing (摆动) the blanket from side to side in front of him. An Indian could send many different signals with his blanket.

He could also send many signals with a mirror. He usually used the mirror to warn someone of danger. And he also used it to send messages in code. Of course, mirrors could be used only when the sun was shining. At night, Indians used fire arrows for signaling.

Now you can see that Indians didn't need to learn every language. They could talk to one another by using signals or sign language.

The passage above tells us how Indians from different tribes could talk to one another without learning every language. After reading it, you are required to give brief answers to the questions below.

1. How did Indians from different tribes talk to each other?

They talked by using _____ and _____.

2. What could Indians get to know about a stranger by using sign language?

They could get to know whether the stranger was _____ or _____.

3. How did an Indian show that he had seen many animals?

He _____.

4. Why was a blanket chosen as a signal in their soundless talking?

Because it could be easily _____.

5. What did Indians use for signaling at night?

They used _____.

Passage 3

What Is Language?

Can you remember the day when you spoke your first word? If you can, you are unusual.

Try to imagine what the first few months of your life were like. I am sure you just spent most of your time eating, sleeping and crying. As you grew older, you were awake more of the time. It took your parents more time to play with you and talk to you. You watched and listened curiously. You began to know that people made certain sounds to go with certain things.

Then you began to try making the sounds you heard. And step by step you were able to make the right sound for one thing.

On that day you came to understand the secret of language. The secret is that a certain sound means a certain thing. One sound might be as good as another. But it is no good as a word unless

everybody agrees on its meaning. Only when a group of people use the same set of sounds for things can they understand each other. Then, and only then do these people have a language.

After you found the secret of language, you learned words. Some of the words meant things, such as *books*, *chairs* and *shoes*. Some words meant doing things, such as *going* and *swimming*, and other words describe (描述) things, such as *good* and *dirty*. Soon you learned to put words together to express your idea, such as “I want to go out and play with my friends.” This is language. By means of language people can communicate. So we say languages are means of communication.

Choose the best option for the following.

- 1. During the first few months of your life you _____.**
 - A. spoke your first word
 - B. played with your parents
 - C. just spent most of your time eating, sleeping and crying
 - D. were awake most of the time
- 2. According to the passage we may say that one of the most important characteristics of language is that _____.**
 - A. its meaning is agreed on by all of those who speak it
 - B. different sounds mean different things
 - C. it sounds beautiful
 - D. its secret is known to everybody
- 3. People have a language when _____.**
 - A. they know its secret
 - B. they know its meaning
 - C. they become familiar with each other
 - D. they use the same set of sounds for things and understand each other
- 4. The phrase “step by step” in Line 6 means “_____”.**
 - A. gradually
 - B. in a moment
 - C. in time
 - D. slowly
- 5. From the passage we can conclude that _____.**
 - A. everyone can remember the day he spoke the first word
 - B. languages are means of communication
 - C. all the words of a language mean things
 - D. a person got to know the secret of language when he spoke the first word

Translation

Translate the following six sentences chosen from the above three passages into Chinese.

1. The most important way to improve English would be to contact native speakers directly or to use English as the main communication tool.
2. If you do not have a basic understanding of English, then talking with a native will only lead to frustration and little learning will take place.
3. In this way, they could find out whether the stranger was a friend or an enemy.
4. Now you can see that Indians didn't need to learn every language. They could talk to one another by using signals or sign language.
5. I am sure you just spent most of your time eating, sleeping and crying. As you grew older, you were awake more of the time.
6. Only when a group of people use the same set of sounds for things can they understand each other.

Writing Practice

Guided Writing

Combine the following pairs of sentences with the connectives given in brackets.

Models:

1. An Indian pointed to the sky.
He showed where the sun had been at the time. (and)
—An Indian pointed to the sky and showed where the sun had been at the time.
2. They can make a good deal at a surprisingly low price.
They can rediscover the use of some old items. (not only... but also...)
—Not only can they make a good deal at a surprisingly low price, but they can also rediscover the use of some old items.
1. Reading English at least thirty minutes or more per day takes time and effort.
Reading English at least thirty minutes or more per day will be rewarding. (but)
2. We will bring joy into other people's lives.
We will add happiness into our own. (not only... but also...)
3. We must learn to live in balance with nature.
Our beautiful planet will die. (or)

4. You can stay at home.

You can go out with me. (either... or...)

5. I can't buy a new bicycle now.

This old bicycle will have to be used for a bit longer. (so)

6. It's going to rain.

It's getting dark. (for)

7. The Africans were not showing too much respect to me of course.

The Africans were showing too much respect to Kay and other whites. (not... but...)

8. John is not capable.

John's wife is not pretty. (neither... nor...)

Applied Writing

Letter of Congratulations

◀ Sample ▶▶▶

Dear Franz,

I have learned with much delight that you were recently appointed Assistant Sales Manager of your company. I would like to add my congratulations to the many you must be receiving on your promotion.

Please accept my sincere congratulations. The raise of position brings with it added responsibilities, and you will double your efforts to give full satisfaction to your boss. I am looking forward to your further promotion.

Good luck!

Yours sincerely,

Robert

◀ Simulation Writing ▶▶▶

Grow and Mason are friends. Grow writes to Mason to express his congratulation on learning about his finding a job in Broadcom Corporation, an excellent company in IT field. His letter includes the following.

learn with delight that...

dreamed of

achieve the goal

a step to success

diligent and talent

bring about

bright future

Dear Mason,

Sincerely yours,
