



Unit **1**

Learning Focus

- Practice reading poems and learn to appreciate them. Pay attention to the pronunciation, intonation and rhythm.
- Memorize the useful expressions of extending invitations:
 - I wonder if you'd like to go skiing this weekend.
Oh, yes. I'd love to very much.
 - How about going bowling?
Great! What time?
 - I'd like it very much if you could come to the exhibition next week.
It's very kind of you to invite me. I'll be there.
 - Would you be able to come to my office before the exhibition?
I'm sorry, but I've got an appointment that day.

Reading Aloud



Task 1

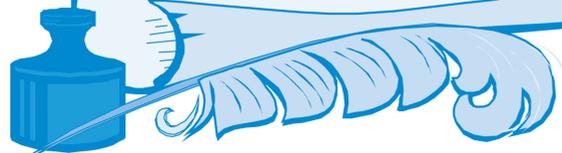
Read the following poem aloud after the recording. Pay attention to the pronunciation, intonation and rhythm.

Dreams

By Langston Hughes

Hold fast to dreams
For if dreams die
Life is a broken-winged bird
That cannot fly.

Hold fast to dreams
For when dreams go
Life is a barren field
Frozen with snow.





Task 1

You will hear eight short conversations. After each conversation, there will be a question. After each question, there will be a pause of ten seconds. The conversations and questions will be spoken only once. When you hear a question, you should decide on the correct answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.

Example:

You will hear: W: Are you catching the 10:15 flight to New York?

M: No. I'll leave this evening.

Q: What are the two persons talking about?

You will read: A. New York City. B. An evening party.

C. A plane trip. D. The man's job.

From the conversation, we learn that the man is to take a flight to New York. Therefore,

C. A plane trip. is the correct answer. Now listen.

- A. Helen isn't like her mother.
B. Helen is a teacher.
C. The man should notice the book.
D. The man shouldn't judge people only by their appearances.
- A. Because she is ill.
B. Because she may go to her grandmother's funeral.
C. Because she misses home.
D. Because her parents have come to see her.
- A. He had a toothache.
B. He had a fever.
C. He broke his leg.
D. He cut his fingers.
- A. He is a bus driver.
B. He is a taxi driver.
C. He works in an office.
D. He sells cars.
- A. The man can use the computer.
B. The man cannot use the computer.
C. The man needs to buy a computer.
D. The man learns to use the computer.
- A. He is very thin.
B. He is handsome.
C. He is very fat.
D. He is funny.
- A. Sending things earlier.
B. Not sending anything.
C. Not buying her daughter anything.
D. Sending things by air.
- A. It is sold.
B. It needs repairing.
C. It is new.
D. It is too old.

Task 2

You will hear two conversations. After each conversation, there will be some questions. After each question, there will be a short pause. The conversations and questions will be spoken only once. When you hear a question, you should decide on the correct answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.

Word Power

talk somebody's head off: make somebody feel tired by talking too much 说话太多而另某人生厌



Conversation 1

1. A. A dancing party.
C. A big party.
2. A. Because they like to visit with the Greens.
B. Because the Greens are interesting.
C. Because the Greens are talkative.
D. Because the Greens invited them to their party.



Conversation 2

3. A. Playing football.
C. Taking pictures.
 4. A. In the morning.
C. In the afternoon.
 5. A. A photographer.
C. A basketball player.
- B. Going to games.
D. Driving cars.
 - B. At night.
D. At noon.
 - B. A driver.
D. A bank clerk.

**Task
3**

You will hear a passage. The passage is printed in the textbook with some words or phrases missing. The passage will be spoken three times. During the second reading, you are required to fill in the five blanks with the words or phrases you hear. The third reading is for you to check your answers. Now listen.

My grandmother is ninety-four now. Her ability to see, hear and walk has weakened, and it becomes apparent that Grandma can no longer take care of herself, so 1) _____ were held to discuss what to do. No one wanted to live with her; that was evident. We talked about sending her to a 2) _____, but that idea was quickly rejected. Although Grandma would be with more people of her own age, she would see less of her family—and that would 3) _____. Besides, the really good homes are 4) _____, and the inexpensive ones are not so good. Mother flatly stated that Grandma would not 5) _____ in a nursing home. I admired my mother greatly for this decision.



**Task
4**

You will hear a passage. After the passage you will hear five questions. The passage and the questions will be spoken only once. After each question, there will be a short pause. During the pause, you should decide on the correct answer from the four choices marked A, B, C and D.

Word Power

1. **agriculture**: the practice or service of farming 农业
2. **typical**: having the usual features or qualities of a particular group or thing 典型的；具有代表性的

1. A. Because of children.
B. Because of the development of science and industry.
C. Because of the development of agriculture.
D. Because of the development of education.
2. A. Smaller families.
B. No families.
C. Larger families.
D. Broken families.
3. A. People should be ready to move at any time.
B. People cannot support many children.
C. Children are eager to leave their home.
D. Farmers are becoming fewer and fewer.
4. A. The government.
B. A small number of families.
C. Social workers.
D. A large number of families.
5. A. Families of the past and the present.
B. Families of the future.
C. Families of the past.
D. Families of the past, the present and the future.

**Task
5**

You will hear two passages. Each passage will be spoken twice. After each passage you will hear five questions. When you hear a question, you should complete the answer with what you hear from the recording. Now listen.

Word Power

1. **rush hour**: the time of day when traffic is the heaviest because people are going to or coming from work (上下班时的) 交通拥挤时间, 高峰时刻
2. **senior citizen**: old or retired person 老人; 退休的人



Passage 1

1. There are _____ people in the family.
2. John is the children's _____.
3. He wants to avoid _____ with the noisy children.
4. He is a _____ student.
5. She wants to find the _____ of job as she did before her marriage.



Passage 2

1. They are people _____ years of age.
2. They tend to live in their own _____.
3. They become more concerned with their _____.
4. Because people are _____ than before.
5. They are gaining social influence in _____.



Task 1

Read and memorize the expressions in the short conversations.

1

M: I wonder if you'd like to go skiing this weekend.
W: Oh, yes. I'd love to very much.

2

M: How about going bowling?
W: Great! What time?



3

M: I'd like it very much if you could come to the exhibition next week.
W: It's very kind of you to invite me. I'll be there.

4

M: Would you be able to come to my office before the exhibition?
W: I'm sorry, but I've got an appointment that day.

Task 2

Read the following two conversations after the recording and pay attention to the expressions of extending invitations that you have just learned.

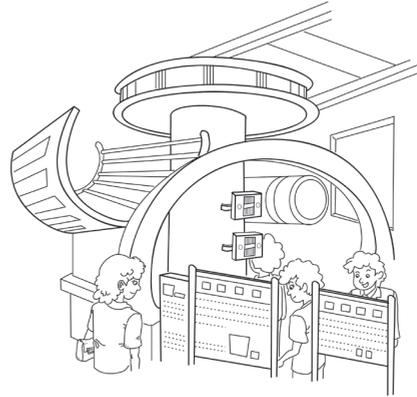


Conversation 1

- M:** Hi, Helen.
- W:** Hi, Tony. How are you doing?
- M:** Not bad. Say, Helen, are you doing anything tonight? Would you like to go out?
- W:** Sorry, I can't. I have to finish a project report.
- M:** Well, how about Sunday night? Are you doing anything then?
- W:** No, I'm not. What are you planning to do?
- M:** How about going to see a movie? I know there is a new movie that's showing.
- W:** Oh, that's a good idea.
- M:** Great! What about having a pizza first?
- W:** Sure, why not? Where would you like to meet?
- M:** Shall I pick you up at your house?
- W:** OK. What time?
- M:** Is 7:00 OK?
- W:** Fine. Well, see you then.
- M:** Bye.



Picture 1



Picture 2



Conversation 2

- M1:** Hello, this is Sam Johnson. May I speak to Mr. Zhang?
- M2:** Speaking. How are you, Mr. Johnson?
- M1:** Fine, thank you. And you?
- M2:** I'm fine, thanks.
- M1:** I'm calling to tell you that there is an exhibition here next month. Would you like to come?
- M2:** Thank you for telling me. When, exactly?
- M1:** From the 21st to the 25th.
- M2:** Will you be attending?
- M1:** Of course. And we would be pleased if you could come to visit our company's booth (展台).
- M2:** That sounds nice. Thank you very much.
- M1:** My pleasure. I'll send you an invitation letter soon and I look forward to your visit.
- M2:** I'll be there.

**Task
3**

Act out the following conversations and create your own conversations based on the given situations.



First try to complete Conversation 1 with the information provided and then listen to the recording to check your answers.



Conversation 1

M: Hello, Mary. There is a concert at the National Concert Hall this Sunday. I have two tickets. 1) _____ to go with me?

W: Sounds good. 2) _____ music will they perform?

M: Mainly 3) _____. They'll perform Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*.

W: Wow! I like it very much.

M: Me, too. It's really beautiful.

W: 4) _____ does the performance start?

M: It starts at 7:00 p.m.

W: Where shall we meet then?

M: 5) _____ outside the Hall?

W: Fine with me. I'm looking forward to it now.

Act out Conversation 2 with your partner based on the following clues.



Conversation 2



Partner A

1. Answer the phone.
2. Say "Speaking".
3. Say Saturday afternoon is not OK because you have promised to go shopping with your mother.
4. Say your mother wants you to help her buy a scarf.
5. Say yes.
6. Say yes.
7. Answer B and say goodbye.



Partner B

1. Say you want to speak to A.
2. Invite A to see a play on Saturday afternoon.
3. Ask if A's mother can go alone.
4. Ask if A can make it another time.
5. Ask if next Saturday is OK.
6. Tell A you'll pick him/her up at about 5:00.
7. Say goodbye.

Now make more conversations based on the situations given below.

Situation 1

A wants to invite B to go to the volleyball game tonight. However, B has to look after his/her sister's baby because his/her parents are not at home.

Situation 2

A is calling to invite B to go out to have dinner tomorrow evening. B says sorry to A because B has to stay at home and study. But Friday evening is OK with B.

Situation 3

B would like to know whether A, manager of a company, is able to go to Guangzhou next week. A would love to, but he/she will be away on business those days. A promises to go at a later time.

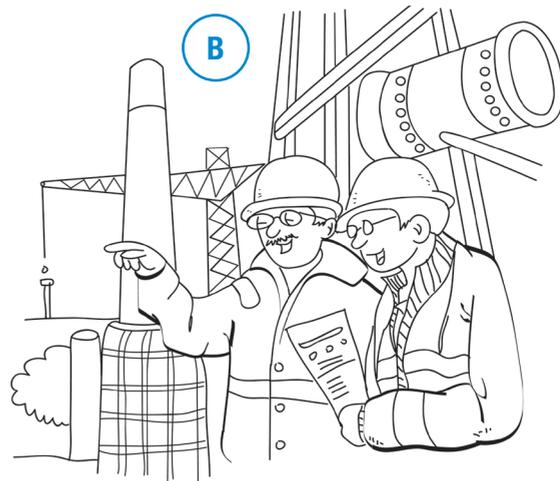
Situation 4

B invites A to attend the international fair in Kunming next month. A is really glad to attend it. A asks when it is exactly. A also wants to make sure that someone will be able to pick him/her up at the airport when he/she arrives in Kunming.



**Task
1**

Work in pairs to practice the expressions of extending invitations based on the following pictures.



**Task
2**

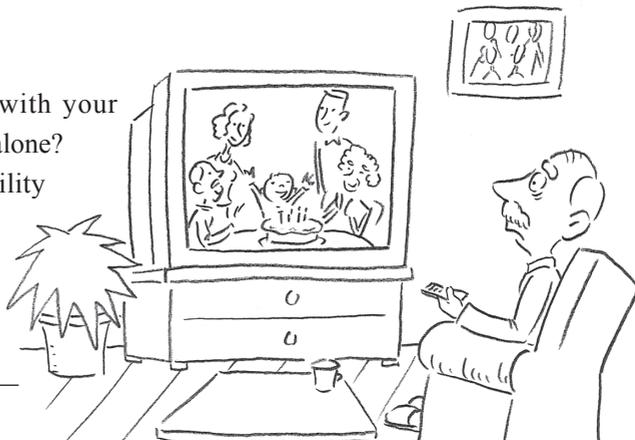
Take turns inviting your classmates to do something. You can either accept or politely decline the invitations.

Task 3 Look at the table. You are going to hear three conversations. Circle the number of each conversation next to the picture according to the sequence in which you hear them. Then listen again and complete the table below. Finally, practice the conversations with your partner.

Picture	Conversation	Things to do	Accept or decline	Time to meet	Place to meet
 A.	1 2 3	1) _____ _____	Decline		
 B.	1 2 3	2) _____ _____	3) _____	At 10:00	4) _____ _____
 C.	1 2 3	To see a dolphin show	Accept	5) _____	Outside the zoo gate

Task 4 Look at the picture. Describe and comment on it. Then discuss the following questions with your classmates.

1. Would you like to live together with your parents and grandparents or to live alone?
2. Who should take on the responsibility of looking after the old?
3. What have your parents done for you? What will you do for your parents?
4. Which is more important to you—family or career?



Facing Culture



Listen to a passage about Thanksgiving in the United States. Then discuss the following questions with your partner.

Thanksgiving is a holiday in the United States that is always celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. It is a time when family members come from near and far to be together for a big dinner and to give thanks for all the good things in their lives.

The first Thanksgiving celebration in the United States was held in Virginia in December, 1619. It was a religious day of giving thanks to God and did not involve any food. Two years later, the first Thanksgiving in the New England colonies (殖民地) was celebrated a few months after the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts. Many of the Pilgrims had died during the long, cold Massachusetts winter, but summer had brought new hope and a spirit of optimism (乐观) to the colonists. They decided to have a festival in the fall to thank God for their corn harvest. The festival lasted three days and included foods such as turkey and pumpkin that people still eat today on Thanksgiving Day.

Although Thanksgiving has always been celebrated in the fall after the harvest, it was not always celebrated on the same date. In 1789, President George Washington named November 26 as the day of national Thanksgiving. In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln changed the date of Thanksgiving to the last Thursday in November. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt moved the date one week earlier. The time between Thanksgiving and Christmas was the biggest shopping period of the year, and he wanted to help businesses by giving people another week for shopping. In 1941, Congress made the fourth Thursday in November the legal date of Thanksgiving.

Questions

1. How was the first Thanksgiving celebrated?
2. How do American people celebrate Thanksgiving now?