

# 1

## First Day on Campus 学苑初涉

### First Sight



**Task 1** Answer the questions by matching the following items.

1 What do you expect from the first day on campus?

- |   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) a friendly      | A club      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2) a quiet         | B roommate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) a comfortable   | C library   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4) a knowledgeable | D dorm room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) an interesting  | E tutor     |

2 What do you call these students?

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1) a student in his/her first year at college               | A a senior    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2) a student in his/her second year at college              | B a graduate  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3) a student in his/her third year at college               | C a freshman  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4) a student in his/her fourth year at college              | D a junior    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5) a student who has completed his/her education at college | E a sophomore |

Task 2

STEP 1

Here is the campus map of a university. Point out the locations of the main entrance, classrooms, library, Marble Chapel, dining hall, gymnasium, sand volleyball court and athletic field (运动场).



- |                     |                         |                      |                                     |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ① Main Entrance     | ⑥ Marble Chapel         | ⑪ Dining Hall        | ⑯ Smith Hall Dormitory              |
| ② Admissions Center | ⑦ The Coffee Bean       | ⑫ Courtide Cafe      | ⑰ North Athletic Field              |
| ③ Classrooms        | ⑧ Harlow Residence Hall | ⑬ Fitness Center     | ⑱ Sand Volleyball Court             |
| ④ Auditorium        | ⑨ Smart Residence Hall  | ⑭ Pollard Fieldhouse | ⑲ Athletic Field & Softball Diamond |
| ⑤ Library           | ⑩ Tatham Residence Hall | ⑮ Gymnasium          |                                     |

STEP 2

Now work with your partner, draw a rough map of your college and mark the locations of the important buildings and structures such as the following.

- 1 Main Entrance
- 2 Teaching Building
- 3 Library
- 4 Dorm
- 5 Dining Hall
- 6 Gymnasium
- 7 Administration Hall (行政办公楼)
- 8 Athletic Field
- 9 Bank
- 10 Supermarket



## Reading It

# The Facts of Campus Life

Jessica King



1 Goodbye parents, hello freedom! It's time to move from high school to college. But before you start celebrating, prepare yourself for the problems that might show up in your campus life.

2 Freshman year of college means moving to a new place where you don't know many people. You have to deal with roommates, new friends, and clubs, not to mention getting to class on time and passing exams. No matter how hard you might try, problems are sure to occur, so you have to be prepared to deal with them when they appear. Campus life can be great, but there are two common problems that most freshmen have to address.

### Roommates

3 If there is one thing that students are most anxious about, it's meeting their new roommates, with whom they share a dorm room. What will he or she be like? Will we get along? What if we are completely different?

4 Not everyone is going to get along with their roommates. We've all heard terrible stories, like the guy who never showers or the girl who parties at 4:00 a.m. on a Tuesday. It may take some time for you to get to know someone, and that's OK!

You don't have to be your roommate's best friend forever; you just need to be friendly and respectful. If you find that you are completely different, look at it as a learning opportunity.

5 If problems start to appear, try to address them quickly. Search for something in common between you. "One of my roommates and I didn't get along at first," says Michael Nadeau, a 2005 graduate of Ramapo College in Mahwah, New Jersey. "We had different political views, and we had a lot of arguments at first, but then we got along when we decided to talk about football and gym exercise instead. Eight years later, I'm going to be one of the groomsmen at his wedding."

6 When dealing with a roommate, remember a very important rule—open communication. It's a good idea to sit down and have a talk at the beginning of the year and set down some rules. You should discuss things like music, sleeping schedules, and study habits. And remember—be open to compromise!

7 Finally, if you find yourself not able to work it out, find a person to help you, like a campus advisor. Don't request a room change right away—part of the college life is learning to deal with problems!

### Scheduling Time

- 8 In college, there's certainly going to be a lot for you to do—between classes, clubs, and social activities. Your schedule will be full!
- 9 To make sure you have enough time to study, gather all the important information you get from teachers in your first classes. Work out your own calendar by marking every paper, test, and assignment you have to finish for the semester. Once your studies are mapped out, it's easy to find the times when you have to work hard, or the times when you can have a little more freedom. You can also use this calendar to plan ahead. If you know a friend will have a birthday party on the weekend before a test, make sure you don't leave all your studying to a short period that weekend—do it gradually over the time before the party.
- 10 When you understand which clubs and sports teams you want to join, find out what their meeting/practice schedules are like. Many freshmen want to join every club that looks interesting—and that's great—but remember that you will not have enough time to be completely devoted to all of them. Pick and choose a few clubs you want to focus on. Once you're comfortable with your schedule, you can try to add a few more things, one at a time.
- 11 Some students have problems with their freedom in campus life. Mom and Dad are not there to make sure that you stay out of trouble. You will have freedom that most students don't have while they're under their parents' watch. You will most likely have the opportunity to party, sleep in, skip classes, and stay out late. Though you may enjoy the freedom, consider the influence of your actions on your grades, health, and reputation. Just try to make good decisions.

### Language & Culture

**groomsman:** 男宾相。一般新郎 (groom) 会从亲朋好友中挑选出几位单身男性作为自己婚礼的男宾相, 被选作男宾相的人将之视为一种荣誉。在男宾相中, 新郎通常会指定其中一位作为伴郎 (best man)。新娘 (bride) 一方相应地也会有几位女宾相 (bridesmaid) 和一位伴娘 (maid of honor)。

## Understanding It

**Task 1** Read the text and answer the following questions.

- 1 What should freshmen do before they start celebrating getting into college?
- 2 What are the two common problems that most freshmen have to address?
- 3 What is an important rule for dealing with a roommate?
- 4 What will you do if you cannot get along with your roommates?
- 5 What should you do to make sure you have enough time to study?

**Task 2** Read the text again and correct the following statements.

- 1 Everyone is going to get along with their roommates.
- 2 When problems start to appear, try to avoid them quickly.
- 3 You don't have to be your roommate's BFF; you need to be cool.
- 4 To schedule time well, you need to do everything quickly.
- 5 You should pick and choose a club that looks interesting.

**Task 3** Fill in the blanks with the relevant information from the text.

- 1 When you move to the college campus, no matter how hard you might try, \_\_\_\_\_ are sure to occur.
- 2 If problems appear between you and your roommates, search for \_\_\_\_\_ between you.
- 3 When you have a talk with your roommates, remember to be open to \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 When you decide which clubs you want to join, you should find out their \_\_\_\_\_.

## New Words

\***advisor** /əd'vaɪzə/ *n.* (学生的) 指导老师; 辅导员; 顾问  
**ahead** /ə'hed/ *ad.* 提前; 预先; 向前  
**anxious** /'æŋkʃəs/ *a.* (令人) 焦虑的; 渴望的; 急切的  
**argument** /'ɑ:gjʊmənt/ *n.* 争吵; 争论; 论证; 理由  
**assignment** /ə'saɪnmənt/ *n.* 作业; 任务  
**beginning** /bɪ'gɪnɪŋ/ *n.* 开始; 开端  
**calendar** /'kælɪndə/ *n.* 日历; 一览表  
**campus** /'kæmpəs/ *n.* 校园  
**celebrate** /'selɪbreɪt/ *v.* 庆祝; 赞美  
**club** /klʌb/ *n.* 俱乐部  
**comfortable** /'kɒmfətəbəl/ *a.* 舒服的  
**common** /'kɒmən/ *a.* 共同的; 普通的  
**communication** /kə,mju:nɪ'keɪʃən/ *n.* 沟通; 交流; [pl.] 通信; 交通工具  
**completely** /kəm'plɪtli/ *ad.* 完全地; 彻底地  
\***compromise** /'kɒmprəmaɪz/ *n. & v.* 妥协  
**decision** /dɪ'sɪʒən/ *n.* 决定; 决心  
**devote** /dɪ'vəʊt/ *v.* (~ to) 把……专用于; 将……奉献给  
**dorm** /dɔ:m/ *n.* 宿舍(楼)  
**freedom** /'fri:dəm/ *n.* 自由  
\***freshman** /'freʃmən/ *n.* 大一学生; 新手  
**gather** /'gæðə/ *v.* 收集; 聚集  
**gradually** /'grædʒuəli/ *ad.* 逐渐地  
**graduate** /'grædʒuət/ *n.* 毕业生 *v.* 毕业  
**gym** /dʒɪm/ *n.* 健身房; 体育馆  
**habit** /'hæbɪt/ *n.* 习惯; 习性  
**influence** /'ɪnfluəns/ *n.* 影响  
**information** /,ɪnfə'meɪʃən/ *n.* 信息; 资料  
**opportunity** /,ɒpə'tju:nɪti/ *n.* 机会; 时机  
**political** /pə'lɪtɪkəl/ *a.* 政治的  
**reputation** /,repju'teɪʃən/ *n.* 声誉; 名声

**request** /rɪ'kwest/ *v.* 要求; 请求  
\***respectful** /rɪ'spektfəl/ *a.* 尊重他人的; 有礼貌的; 谦恭的  
**schedule** /'skedʒu:əl/ *n.* 时刻表; 日程; 计划 *v.* 安排; 将……列入计划表  
**semester** /sɪ'mestə/ *n.* 学期  
**shower** /'ʃaʊə/ *v.* 淋浴; 下雨 *n.* 淋浴; 阵雨  
**social** /'səʊʃəl/ *a.* 社交的  
**view** /vju:/ *n.* 观点  
\***wedding** /'wedɪŋ/ *n.* 婚礼

## Phrases & Expressions

**focus on** 集中精力于; 以……为焦点  
**get along (with someone)** (和某人) 相处得来  
**in common** 共同的  
**map out** 制订(计划等)  
**not to mention** 更不用说  
\***skip class** 逃课  
\***sleep in** 睡懒觉; 睡过头  
**stay out** 外出; 不在家  
**stay out of** 不要卷入  
**work out** 解决; 制订出

## Proper Nouns

**New Jersey** 新泽西州(美国一州名)

带“\*”号标注的词汇为超纲词

# Doing It

## Task 1

### STEP 1

For most freshmen, it's the first time for them to share a dorm room with roommates. They may have all kinds of worries about their dorm life. Find the three common worries listed in the third paragraph of the text.

### STEP 2

The sentence structure "What if...?" could express people's worries about something. Change the following sentences using "What if...?" as the examples do.

#### EXAMPLES

- 1 Will I get accepted to college? →  
What if I don't get accepted to college?
- 2 Will I pass the exam? →  
What if I fail the exam?

#### Tips

"What if..." is usually followed by:

- 1 a declarative sentence (陈述语句)
- 2 the present tense (一般现在时)
- 3 something unpleasant (不好的事情)

- 1 Will we be completely different? → What if
- 2 Will we get along well? → What if
- 3 Will the guy call you? → What if
- 4 Will the girl party at 4:00 a.m. on Tuesday? → What if
- 5 Can I schedule time well? → What if

### STEP 3

Interview (采访) two or three of your classmates and record what worries they have. You can follow the example given below.

#### EXAMPLE

**Interviewer (采访者):** Excuse me. I wonder if you have any worries about your campus life.

**Interviewee (受访者):** Oh, yes. I have a few/some/a lot of worries. Like, what if I don't get along with my roommates? What if I don't like my major? ...

# Better Acquaintance

STEP

4

Discuss in groups to find out suggestions to overcome the worries and then pick out two worries and the suggestions to present to the class.



.....

.....

.....

.....

## Task 2

STEP

1

“Open communication” is a golden rule in dealing with roommates. When problems appear, you need to have a one-on-one talk with your roommates. But conducting a talk is a skill. The following expressions are used to ask people to do something. Put them in the right order from the least polite to the most.



- 1 I'd appreciate it if you could turn down the music.
- 2 Turn down the music.
- 3 Would you mind turning down the music?
- 4 I wonder if you could please turn down the music.
- 5 Please turn down the music.
- 6 Could you please turn down the music?

\_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_ > \_\_\_\_\_

STEP

2

Complete the half-done conversation below.

A: Mathew?

B: Yeah?

A: I like Linkin Park, but for the moment, could you please 1) \_\_\_\_\_?

You see, I'm 2) \_\_\_\_\_.

B: Oh, sure. Sorry, I 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

A: Thanks a lot.

B: 4) \_\_\_\_\_.

### Language & Culture

**Linkin Park:** 林肯公园。它是一个来自美国加州的摇滚乐队，组建于1996年。

STEP  
**3**

Work in pairs. Role-play a conversation as if you have the following problems to solve. Try to talk with your partner in a polite way.

- 1 A roommate spreads things all over.
- 2 A roommate often uses your personal items without asking.
- 3 A roommate has a poor habit, like seldom taking showers, or rarely washing clothes and socks.
- 4 A roommate makes long-time phone calls every night, which disturbs your rest.
- 5 A roommate shows no respect for your personal space.

STEP  
**4**



Think back about the talks you have had with your partner. Were they polite and effective (有效的)? Can you summarize some rules to help your talk with the roommates to go well?

*To have a successful talk with a roommate, I think we should \_\_\_\_\_*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Tips**

- Talk honestly with each other.
- Clearly state problems and expectations.
- Keep our heads cool and never quarrel.

**Task 3**

STEP  
**1**

Remember the song you sang in your childhood: "If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands..."? Can you find out sentences of the similar structure (If..., do/don't...) in the text?

STEP  
**2**

Actually people often use this kind of structure to give suggestions. Study the sentences below and figure out what they mean.

- 1 If life cheats you, don't be disappointed and worried and believe that pleasantness is coming.
- 2 If life gives you a lemon, make it lemonade.
- 3 If you cannot have the best, make the best of what you have.



# Better Acquaintance

STEP

3

Imagine any possibilities in your campus life and put them down after the examples.

## EXAMPLES

- 1 If you have taken a fancy to (喜欢上了) a girl/boy, ...
- 2 If you have gained much weight by the end of the semester, ...

- 1 If you \_\_\_\_\_, ...
- 2 If you \_\_\_\_\_, ...
- 3 If you \_\_\_\_\_, ...
- 4 If you \_\_\_\_\_, ...
- 5 If you \_\_\_\_\_, ...

## Tips

run out of money; fail the physical test; quarrel with your roommate; miss an important lecture...

STEP

4

Exchange what you have listed above with your partner. Give a suggestion to each case your partner has listed, then present two of them in class.

## EXAMPLES

- 1 If you have taken a fancy to a girl/boy, be brave and let her/him know.
- 2 If you have gained much weight by the end of the semester, do more exercise and go on a diet.

Your suggestion to each case in Step 3:

- 1 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Tips

take part-time jobs; do physical exercise every day; make a sincere apology; get up earlier...

## Task 4

STEP

1

In this text, the writer uses some phrasal verbs with "out". Can you underline all of them in it?

STEP

2

Complete the half-done conversation by filling in the blanks with the phrasal verbs you've found in Step 1.

A: Have you 1) \_\_\_\_\_ your weekly calendar?

B: Well, I'm still working on it. But, do I have to?

A: If you want to 2) \_\_\_\_\_ troubles like failing exams, you'd better manage your time well in the beginning.

B: Actually, I don't think I can 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

A: What's up?

- B: I just have no clue. It seems like there're so many things to do.  
A: Well, first, you need to 4) \_\_\_\_\_ what is the most important thing.  
B: Study, I guess. We have a lot of classes this semester.  
A: Then, mark all the class hours on the calendar.  
B: All right.  
A: Then, set some time for reviewing notes and doing homework for each lecture.  
B: You mean after-class study?  
A: Yes. Once you have 5) \_\_\_\_\_ your study, you will figure out when you can put in some personal activities.  
B: Sure. I've got to leave some time for basketball, movies and hanging out.  
A: Of course, especially for the weekend. But don't 6) \_\_\_\_\_ late.

STEP  
3

Work out your calendar for this month.

STEP  
4

Exchange your calendar with your partner and let him/her check out whether your calendar works. You can refer to the following feedback.

- 1 I think the calendar will work, and you need to stick to it.
- 2 I think it's OK, but it could be better if you give more time to study.
- 3 I think it's OK, but it could be better if you set aside more time to have fun.
- 4 I don't think it will work because \_\_\_\_\_.



# Better Acquaintance

## Writing It

**Task 1** Read the following sentences and figure out in what way they are alike.

- 1 But before you start celebrating, prepare yourself for the problems that might show up in your campus life.
- 2 Freshman year of college means moving to a new place where you don't know many people.
- 3 Campus life can be great, but there are two common problems that most freshmen have to address.
- 4 If there's one thing that students are most anxious about, it's meeting their new roommates, with whom they share a dorm room.
- 5 We've all heard terrible stories, like the guy who never showers or the girl who parties at 4:00 a.m. on a Tuesday.
- 6 Once your studies are mapped out, it's easy to find the times when you have to work hard, or the times when you can have a little more freedom.

- 7 Many freshmen want to join every club that looks interesting.
- 8 Pick and choose a few clubs you want to focus on.

**Task 2** Using attributive clauses (定语从句) can help you write briefly and effectively. Improve the following passage by using attributive clauses. Pay attention to the underlined sentences.

I have moved to college and settled down on the campus. It is beautiful and large. I share a dorm room with a roommate. She majors in math and is crazy about numbers. I met Johnny at a nice café. He works there as a manager. What a small world!

**Task 3** How do you feel about your campus life? Try to describe it in both simple sentences and sentences with attributive clauses.

Aspect	Simple sentences	Sentences with attributive clauses
Campus	There is a beautiful lake. Many people sit and read around the lake.	There is a beautiful lake, around which many people sit and read.
Study		
Teacher		
Room		
Club		
New friend		

**Task 4** Write a letter of about 100 words to your friend to tell him/her about your campus life. Try to use attributive clauses.

.....

.....

.....

## Reading



## Word Bank

activate *v.* 激活  
 Activities Fair 社团展  
 community *n.* 社区  
 create *v.* 创造  
 critical *a.* 挑剔的; 批评的; 关键的  
 double major 双学位  
 expect *v.* 预期; 期待  
 outgoing *a.* 外向的  
 recruitment literature 招募信息  
 reinvent *v.* 改造  
 sign up 报名  
 take one's time 不着急  
 try out 尝试  
 turn over a new leaf 翻开新的一页  
 volunteer group 志愿者组织

College is a perfect place for a person to create a new self, that is, to reinvent himself/herself. Your history through middle and high school isn't quite so clear. You are around a lot of people who know almost nothing about you, and you can decide what they will think of you.

This is not to say that you must change everything about yourself. There are lots of wonderful things about you, and you should keep them. There probably are, however, some things you would like to change, and you might find it easier to do so in college than anyplace else.

### Story of Erica Jacobs

I was pretty boring in high school, and most of my social life was going to films with several girls who were boring too. When I entered college, I knew I wanted to be someone different from the old me. I wanted to join a volunteer group that would do something for society. I don't want to be a shy girl any more!

My opportunity came with an Activities Fair. Campus organizations set up tables in a common area, spoke to interested students about what they do, and passed out recruitment literature. I liked the sound of the Program to Activate Community Talent (PACT), and signed up to find out more about it.

PACT devoted itself to helping the community in several ways. I was involved with teenagers whose

families were struggling, and for whom college was a dream far, far away. This group continued for two semesters. Then, study for the double major forced me to leave PACT. The experience let me break out of the old me and become a new person.

### How to Reinvent Yourself

Begin by finding out what you would like to change. Maybe you want to be more outgoing, less critical, or you'd like to listen more to others. When you meet new people, try out the new you. Begin small, and don't expect too much for one step. Were you known for being late for everything in high school? College is a place to turn over a new leaf.

Be careful when you decide what you would like to change about yourself. Be sure that the change will have a good result. The change should also be something that you can keep on. If you decide to make a change and soon find that it is too difficult for you to make it, you probably should not have tried it in the first place. Make a change that's right for you and will have a lasting good effect.

It's OK if you want to get back to old ways sometimes. However, if you want to make some changes for the better, take your time. Important changes don't happen overnight, and you will have at least four years at college to create a new self.

# Further Development

**Task 1** Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 At college you must change everything about yourself.
- 2 Erica Jacobs' social life in high school was very simple.
- 3 Erica Jacobs joined PACT at an Activities Fair.
- 4 When you try to reinvent yourself, you should make a big change at once.
- 5 You need to make sure you can keep the change.

**Task 2** Answer the following questions according to the text.

- 1 Why is college a perfect place for a person to create a new self?
- 2 What did Erica Jacobs decide to do after she entered college?
- 3 What kind of teenagers did Erica Jacobs face when working for PACT?
- 4 What does the writer mean by saying "... if you want to make some changes for the better, take your time"?

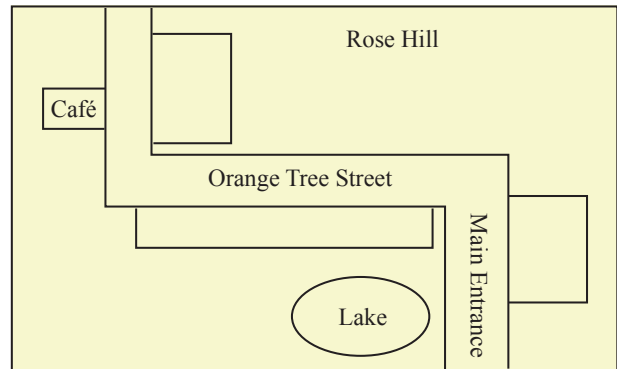
## Listening

**Task 1** Shelly has got lost on the campus. She is asking Martin for directions. Listen to the conversation between them and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Shelly is looking for a dorm building.
- 2 Martin and Shelly are both freshmen.
- 3 Martin never got lost on the campus.
- 4 Martin will show Shelly around the campus when they meet at 3 p.m. the next day.

**Task 2** Martin is showing Shelly around the campus. Listen to their conversation and mark the following places on the map.

- A Science Building
- B Classrooms
- C Student Center



**Task 3** Listen to the conversation in Task 2 again, and take down the following sentences according to the Chinese hints.

- 1 在你的左边有个湖。\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 左转。\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 沿着这条街一直走。\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 你会看到教室在你的左边，玫瑰山在你的右边。  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 在街的尽头，右转。\_\_\_\_\_

## Speaking

**Task 1** Work in pairs. Tell your partner some wonderful things about you. You can describe from the following aspects.

personality

special talent

good habits

### EXAMPLES

- 1 I'm good at maths.
- 2 I can cook.
- 3 I'm a good listener.

**Task 2** Work in pairs. Look at the map you have drawn at the beginning of the class. One asks for directions of different places and the other gives the answer. Then exchange the roles.

### EXAMPLE

- A:** Excuse me, could you tell me how to get to the library?
- B:** Oh, sure. Go along the street and turn left at the second crossing. Then you'll see it.



**Task 3** Work in pairs. Have you experienced or seen anything impressive on campus? It could be something good, something bad, or even something strange or confusing. Share your story with your partner.

### EXAMPLE

One day at noon, when I was walking out of the library, it was raining cats and dogs, but I didn't have an umbrella. I stood there wishing the rain would stop soon. Then a girl walked out of the building. She looked at me and said, "Do you need help? I can share my umbrella with you if you are heading for the canteen." How nice! We went to the canteen together. That's a sweet memory.

## Writing

**Task** What kind of person do you expect yourself to be? Write a short paragraph on "The Person I'd Like to Be". The following words, expressions and sentence structures are for your reference.

- sense of responsibility; outgoing; friendly; efficient; tolerant; attractive; popular; a top student; slim; well-built
- live up to sb's expectations; make friends; work hard; join clubs; take a part-time job; do voluntary work; get along with roommates; lose weight; take exercise
- I hope I'm going to be...  
I'll become a person who...  
I used to be..., but I want to make a change.  
I want to... so that...  
To achieve this, I need to...  
Although it is difficult to..., I'll...  
It was interesting to find that...



## Personal Questions

### Related Knowledge

When we meet a new person, we'd like to ask them questions to know more about them. However, one should avoid asking very personal questions because not everyone likes to share personal information with people whom they have just met.

In China, people are not very aware how personal a question is. The questioner asks what they care about. If people don't want to answer it, they can push away the question tactfully or beat around the bush. But it is impolite if they say "I don't want to talk about it."

However, in many English-speaking countries people care a lot about privacy and it is considered impolite and even rude to ask someone very personal questions. Usually, questions related to the following topics are more likely to be considered as personal ones: age, weight, marital status, income, religion, politics and sex.

If you are close friends, it is OK to ask some personal questions, but the questioner must be tactful. The following expressions could help:

- *I don't mean to be rude, but could I ask how much you make a year?*
- *I hope you don't mind if I ask you this question, but how much do you make a year?*
- *Please don't answer this question if it is too personal, but could I ask how much you make a year?*

If you are not sure whether a question is too personal or not, you could say:

- *I have a question to ask you, but I'm not sure if it's a personal one for you. Are you married?*
- *If this question is considered too personal in your culture, please don't answer it. Are you married?*

In some cultures, people can choose not to answer personal questions. They may say:

- *Sorry, I prefer not to answer that question.*
- *Sorry, that's a hard question for me to answer.*
- *If you don't mind, I'd rather not answer that question.*

## Cases



Caesar and Eric are freshmen and they have just moved in today. Caesar wants to be friendly so he decides to have a chat with his roommate.

**Caesar:** *I noticed your parents seldom talked to each other. Are they all right?*

**Eric:** *Sure. They are fine.*

**Caesar:** *Your stuff looks like very expensive. Does your father make a lot of money?*

**Eric:** *I don't know.*

**Caesar:** *He must, I guess. Hey, do you have a girlfriend?*

**Eric:** *I'd like to talk to you, but I'm really busy at the moment.*



Caesar thinks Eric is a tough person to deal with. He is disappointed and decides to take a walk on campus. Then, he meets Zoe, a classmate in high school.

**Caesar:** *Hi, Zoe. It's so great to see you here. Have you gained weight recently? You look plump.*

**Zoe:** *Do I? I didn't realize that.*

**Caesar:** *You got a new cell phone. Cool! How much did you pay for that?*

**Zoe:** *No idea. It's a gift from my grandparents.*

## Exercises

**Task 1** Suppose you were Caesar, what questions would you ask Eric?

**Task 2** How can you improve the questions Caesar asks Zoe?



## Project:

Wang Hua, a Chinese student, was admitted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology, while his classmate Li Li was enrolled by Fudan University. They first introduce their universities. And then the two classmates meet on the Internet and start a conversation about the two universities.

### STEP 1

Wang Hua wrote a passage to introduce MIT. Read the passage carefully and try to introduce your middle or high school with reference to it and the tips below.

### Introduction to MIT

As the top polytechnic (理工的) university in the world, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) is a private research university. It was founded in 1861; however, the Institute didn't admit its first students until 1865. It is located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, United States, and occupies 168 acres.

MIT's educational disciplines have expanded beyond the original physical sciences and engineering into fields such as biology, economics, and management. Now MIT has five schools and one college, with a strong emphasis on scientific, engineering, and technological education and research.

MIT's mission is to advance knowledge and educate students in science, technology, and other areas of scholarship that will best serve the nation and the world in the twenty-first century.

### Tips

#### How to Introduce a School

The introduction of a school usually includes its location, nature, social status, history, number of teachers and students, organizations, majors, etc.

#### Useful Expressions

It was founded in... 学校创立于……

It is located in... 学校坐落于……

It occupies/covers... 学校占地……



STEP  
2

Li Li introduces Fudan University to Wang Hua. Listen to the introduction three times and fill in the blanks with the missing information.

Initially known as “Fudan Public School”, Fudan University was founded in the year 1) \_\_\_\_\_. It consists of 2) \_\_\_\_\_ schools and departments, with 70 undergraduate disciplines. Fudan now has 3) \_\_\_\_\_ full-time degree students and 2,678 full-time qualified teachers and researchers.

The goal of Fudan is to cultivate more 4) \_\_\_\_\_ talents for China. After years of exploration and trial, Fudan has now established its own curricula and management system, both of which are 5) \_\_\_\_\_ and advanced in China.

STEP  
3

Through the Internet, Wang Hua and Li Li start a conversation about their two universities. Complete the following half-done conversation. Then role-play it with your partner.

**Wang Hua:** Hello, Li Li! Long time no see! How are you?

**Li Li:** 1) \_\_\_\_\_

**Wang Hua:** 2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Li Li:** The Massachusetts Institute of Technology. How about you?

**Wang Hua:** Great! It’s a very famous university in the world. I’m in Fudan University.

**Li Li:** 3) \_\_\_\_\_

**Wang Hua:** It was founded in 1905.

**Li Li:** How many schools and departments does your university have?

**Wang Hua:** 4) \_\_\_\_\_

**Li Li:** MIT has 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Wang Hua:** If I have a chance to go to America, I’ll certainly visit your university.

**Li Li:** Welcome! I’ll be waiting here for you.



# 2

## Study at College 学习规划

### First Sight



**Task 1** Fill in the following blanks with the words given below. Change the form if necessary.

application                  campus  
college                        course  
credit                         commencement (毕业典礼)  
degree                        department  
graduation                  transfer

- 1 When we finish high school, most of us go to \_\_\_\_\_ to get higher education.
- 2 In some countries like the US, you need to send your \_\_\_\_\_ to the school before you are accepted.
- 3 I'm interested in computer, so I choose to study in the Computer \_\_\_\_\_ of my school.
- 4 We have three dining halls on \_\_\_\_\_.

- 5 How many \_\_\_\_\_ do you take for this semester?
- 6 For the four hours of English classes I take each week this semester, I will get four \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 Not every student can get a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ after they receive several years of higher education. They need to meet the basic requirements.
- 8 Many students will take a job after \_\_\_\_\_.
- 9 Some students will \_\_\_\_\_ to another school to further their education.
- 10 Colleges or universities usually hold a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ for students upon their graduation.

**Task 2** Fill in the blanks with “high school” or “college” according to your understanding. Then discuss with your partner the differences between them.

- 1 In \_\_\_\_\_, you do homework. In \_\_\_\_\_, you study.
- 2 In \_\_\_\_\_, some professors teach without looking at the teaching notes.
- 3 In \_\_\_\_\_, you’re told what classes to take. In \_\_\_\_\_, you can choose classes by yourself.
- 4 In \_\_\_\_\_, when you miss a class, you don’t need a note from your parents saying you are sick that day.
- 5 In \_\_\_\_\_, you are not responsible for knowing what it takes to graduate.
- 6 In \_\_\_\_\_, some classes may have 100 students or more.



## Reading It

# Graduation Season

Based on a story by Jennifer Gibbons



1 I love this time of year. The flowers are in bloom, and everything is green. Summer is coming. And students everywhere are graduating. New beginnings.

2 There was a time in my life when the graduation season didn't make me happy at all. I'd go to commencement ceremonies and feel sad, longing for a degree of my own. But it always felt far out of my reach. That's because I have a learning disability that makes math seem like Greek to me. Don't ask me to do linear algebra. I can't. But in California where I live, you need to pass algebra to go to a state college. You also need an extra science class like astronomy. To take astronomy—you guessed it—you need to be able to do algebra.

3 I tried taking basic math classes at the local community college, but I always got lost—even when I asked for help and worked hard. I gave up after a while and drifted. I couldn't understand why it was so difficult. I was bitter.

4 I had been unemployed for a whole year. I sent out résumés every day, but nothing was working. I was stuck. Something had to change.

5 I made a list of things I was good at. One of them was working with small children. Maybe

I could land a position at a preschool. I marched back to my community college and signed up for 15 units of classes. I was nervous, but I knew I had to do something drastic.

6 School turned out to be amazing. I studied, and I made friends. I was happy.

7 I met with a counselor and asked him about transferring. He did the same song and dance about math I'd heard many times before.

8 "You know, some people aren't meant to transfer to four-year colleges," he told me.

9 In the past, when I'd gotten this speech, I'd never said anything. This time I spoke up.

10 "I know that, but I want to transfer and get a degree," I replied. "Please don't defer me from my dream."

11 Right after I uttered the words, I looked around, wondering for a split second who'd said them. It couldn't be me. But it was.

12 I looked into Mills College. I learned they had a great English Department—and didn't have a math requirement. It was meant to be.

13 So I sent in my application and prayed that it would all be OK. If push came to shove, I thought I could even try algebra again. A month

later, I got the big envelope in the mail—the good kind of reply that most people looked forward to. And I nearly fell down when I saw it.

- 14 I took my dad to the campus that was now mine. “This college is perfect for you,” he said. I pointed to Toyon Meadow, where commencements were held. “Someday I’m going to be sitting here in my cap and gown,” I told him.
- 15 Two years later, I was. I sat with my friends, listening to Senator Barbara Boxer give her keynote speech. Dad sat up front, beaming. I’d never seen him look happier.
- 16 When they announced my name, I started to weep. I heard shouting and saw my mother, my cousin and my friends waving and cheering. I waved back.
- 17 “Well done,” the provost said.
- 18 Afterwards, I had a party at my house, and people from all different parts of my life were there. This is it, I thought. This is my magic time. This is everything.
- 19 Now, as I approach my fifth-year reunion, I still keep my degree on a bookshelf, along with a graduation card someone gave me. For the longest time, an appointment reminder about transferring colleges was tucked next to it. It was a good token of the valuable lesson I’d learned. The first step toward changing your life is never easy. But boy, it is worth it.

### Language & Culture

**commencement ceremony:** 毕业典礼。每年的五、六月份都有学生毕业，很多大学（也有部分中学）都在这时举办毕业典礼，活动地点通常在户外，毕业生们身穿学位服。有时，学校还邀请毕业生家长及其亲朋好友来参加。这个短语中的 commencement 由动词 commence（开始）派生而来，有着“毕业生完成学业、人生舞台拉开序幕”的寓意。

**cap and gown:** 顶帽和长袍。毕业生穿的学位服一般都由顶帽和长袍两个部分组成，长袍后面还带有兜帽（hood）。

**community college:** 社区学院。美国的社区学院通常为两年制的公立高等教育机构，毕业生只能获得副学士学位（associate's degree）和毕业证（diploma）。有志继续深造的学生在社区学院毕业后可以转学（transfer）进入四年制学院或综合性大学（university），通常两年或三年后可获得学士学位（bachelor's degree）。转学一般首先由学生本人向有意向的学校提出申请（application），校方决定录取与否。

## Understanding It

**Task 1** Read the text and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The writer had been out of job for a long time before she went back to community college again.
- 2 The writer was good at getting along with little children.
- 3 The counselor discouraged the writer from transferring to a four-year college.
- 4 The writer studied education in college in order that she could become a teacher after graduation.
- 5 Both of the writer's parents came to the commencement ceremony.

**Task 2** Read the text again and order the following events according to the time they occurred.

- 1 Sending out résumés to look for a job.
- 2 Visiting Mills' campus with Dad.
- 3 Finding what I was good at.
- 4 Wearing the cap and gown for my commencement.
- 5 Trying some basic math classes and getting lost.
- 6 Meeting with a counselor to talk about transferring.
- 7 Making the application to a four-year college.
- 8 Signing up for 15 units of classes.

\_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_ ➤  
\_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_ ➤ \_\_\_\_\_

**Task 3** Read the text carefully and answer the following questions.

- 1 Why does the writer love this time of year? Did she love it before? Why or why not?
- 2 What kind of classes do you think the writer signed up for after she made a list of what she was good at? Why was she nervous?
- 3 What is the counselor's attitude toward the writer's idea of transferring?
- 4 What does the phrase “if push came to shove” in Paragraph 13 mean according to the context?
- 5 In Paragraph 19, you read “For the longest time, an appointment reminder about transferring colleges was tucked next to it.” What does “the longest time” mean?