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Unit **1**

Social Customs

Objectives:

- Listen for comparisons and contrasts
- Listen for details
- Listen for numbers
- Understand descriptions of various social customs



Task 1 A typical English gentleman

In this task, you will hear Gretel and Mr. Clark talking about “the typical English gentleman.” Practice listening for details.

Listening aids

bowler hat (*BrE*) a hard round black hat (硬圆顶黑色) 常礼帽

1. Listen to the passage and answer the following questions.

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

2) Why was she so surprised?

3) Why did Gretel think the men she saw must be typical English gentlemen?

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

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

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

Task 2 Britain and Japan

In this task, you will hear a conversation between a British man and a Japanese student comparing life in Britain and Japan. Practice making comparisons and noting differences while listening.

Listening aids

compact /kəm'pækt/ *adj.* small, but arranged so that everything fits neatly into the space available 小巧的
humid /'hju:mɪd/ *adj.* hot and wet in a way that makes you feel uncomfortable 潮湿 (炎热) 的
Osaka /əʊ'sɑ:kə/ 大阪 (日本本州岛西南岸港市)

1. Listen to the conversation and complete the following sentences comparing Japan and Britain.

- 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 smaller, don't they?

2. Note some detailed information about the differences between Japan and Britain and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 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) Etsuko thinks the countryside in Japan is more beautiful than that in England.
- [] 4) Britain is mountainous and Japan is flat.
- [] 5) Houses in Britain tend to be smaller and more compact.

Task 3 Folk dances in the US

In this task, you will hear about folk dances in the US. Practice listening for details.

Listening aids

folk dance a traditional dance from a particular area 民间舞蹈

square dance a type of traditional country dance or folk dance in which four pairs of dancers face each other in a square, and someone calls out the movements they should do 方块舞

1. Listen to the conversation and answer the following questions.

- 1) How many dancers are there in a square dance in the US?

- 2) Why is it called square dance?

- 3) How does the caller tell the dancers what they should do?

- 4) What kind of clothes do people wear for folk dances?

2. Listen again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 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 square 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 about the instructions.

3. Listen for a third time and fill in the blanks.

- 1) In square dancing, usually _____ when they start, with men and women _____.
- 2) There's a man who tells the dancers _____. He usually _____, and _____ while they dance.
- 3) Folk dancing in the United States is very fast; people _____.
- 4) The dancers wear _____. That makes the dances pretty to watch.

Task 4 Various customs

In this task, you will hear six customs in different countries. Practice listening for details.

Listening aids

Czech /tʃek/ 捷克（欧洲中部国家）

omelet /'ɒmlɪt/ *n.* eggs mixed together and cooked in hot fat, sometimes with other food added 煎蛋（卷）

Listen to the recording and answer the following questions.

- 1) What is known as “Setsubun”?

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

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

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

- 5) What is a “Smrt”?

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

Task 5 Life in Victorian times and now

In this task, you will hear a discussion about whether life is better today than it was in Victorian England. Make comparisons of the respective advantages and disadvantages with what you hear.

Listening aids

dreadful /'dredfəl/ *adj.* extremely unpleasant 糟糕透顶的

Victorian /vɪk'tɔːriən/ *adj.* relating to or coming from the period from 1837 to 1901 when Victoria was Queen of the UK (英国) 维多利亚(女王)时代的

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

- [] 1) The two speakers agree that life in Victorian times was 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 times, when people never had time to stop and enjoy themselves.
- [] 4) Children in Victorian England hardly ever saw their parents, because their parents were working hard.
- [] 5) Children nowadays do not wear tight, uncomfortable grown-up clothes, and their life is much better than before.
- [] 6) According to the woman, women today enjoy more freedom, though they may have to work hard.

2. Listen again and complete the list of advantages and disadvantages of life in Victorian times.

Advantages	Disadvantages
Lots of servants to do the work	Terrible life for servants

(To be continued)

(Continued)

Advantages	Disadvantages

Task 6 Family patterns in the US

In this task, you will hear the changing of American family structures. Note comparisons between the past and the present.

Listening aids

expand /ɪk'spænd/ *v.* to become larger in size, number, or amount, or to make something become larger
(使) 扩大, 增加

split /splɪt/ *v.* to divide or separate something into different parts or groups, or to be divided into different parts or groups 分裂

widowed /'wɪdəʊd/ *adj.* If someone is widowed, their husband or wife has died. 寡居的, 鳏居的

1. Listen to the passage and choose the best answer to each of the following sentences.

- As job patterns changed and the economy progressed _____, people were forced to move to different parts of the country for job opportunities.
A. to an agricultural one
B. from industrial to agricultural
C. from agricultural to industrial
- 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
- Currently, there is a(n) _____ in the number of childless marriages.
A. increase B. decrease C. don't know
- Now one in _____ Americans lives alone.
A. three B. four C. five

2. Listen again and write down the different family types in the US in the past and at present.

In the past: _____

At present: _____

3. Listen for a third time and complete the definitions below with the details you hear.

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

Task 7 Hydra—the idyllic Greek isle

In this task, you will hear a description of a Greek scenic spot and learn about the local lifestyle. Pay attention to the contrasts in the passage as well as the numbers.

Listening aids

amphitheater /'æmfɪθɪətə/ *n.* an area of land surrounded on all sides by hills (四周有丘陵环绕的) 圆形凹地

Athens /'æθənz/ 雅典 (希腊首都)

awning /'ɔ:nɪŋ/ *n.* a sheet of material outside a shop, tent, etc. to keep off the sun or the rain (用帆布等做的) 雨篷, 凉篷, 遮篷

blend /blend/ *n.* mixture, combination (不同事物的) 交融, 糅合

cobbled /'kɒbəld/ *adj.* (of an area or street) paved with rounded pebble stones 地面用鹅卵石铺成的

flank /flæŋk/ *v.* to be on both sides of someone or something 位于……两侧

Greece /gri:s/ 希腊

hike /haɪk/ *v.* to walk for a long distance 远足

Hydra /'haɪdrə/ 伊兹拉岛 (希腊岛屿)

idyllic /ɪ'dɪlɪk/ *adj.* extremely happy, peaceful, or picturesque 美丽宁静的

isle /aɪl/ *n.* a word for an island, used in poetry or in names of islands 岛

maze /meɪz/ *n.* a complicated and confusing arrangement of streets, roads, etc. 迷宫似的街道

retreat /rɪ'tri:t/ *n.* a quiet or private place that one goes to in order to rest or in order to concentrate on a particular problem or task (静心修养或专心做事的) 静居处, 隐居处

stretch /stretʃ/ *v.* to spread out or cover a large area of land 延伸, 绵延

tranquility /træŋ'kwɪlə'ti/ *n.* the quality or state of being calm, quiet, and peaceful 安宁, 平静

well-worn /wel wɔ:n/ *adj.* showing the signs of extensive use or wear (东西、衣服等) 用得破旧的

workaday /'wɜ:kədeɪ/ *adj.* ordinary and not interesting 普通的

yacht /jɒt/ *n.* a large boat with a sail, used for pleasure or sport 大游艇

1. Complete the following table to show the contrasts between Hydra and Athens.

	General atmosphere	Means of transportation	Most favored by
Hydra			
Athens			

2. Fill in the blanks with the numbers you hear.

- 1) The main town of Hydra Island, also called Hydra, is home to about _____ of the island's _____ residents.
- 2) In the _____, the island became a favorite retreat for artists and writers, who still draw inspiration from its idyllic surroundings.

Task 8 Marriage customs in England

In this task, you will hear three people talking about marriage and divorce in England. Listen for the details and decide meanings from the context.

 Listening aids

booze-up /bu:z ʌp/ n. (BrE) (informal) a party where people drink a lot of alcohol 狂饮作乐的聚会
bride-to-be /braɪd tə bi/ n. a woman who is going to be married soon 准新娘

1. Listen to the conversation and choose the best answer to explain the meaning of the phrases or expressions.

- 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 our 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

2. Listen again and decide whether the statements are true (T) or false (F).

- [] 1) In Geth's opinion, people usually go back to where their parents live to get married.
- [] 2) It is a tradition for all the relatives and friends to have a drink together after the wedding ceremony.
- [] 3) Marriage in a registry office is fairly easy because the couple can just walk in and get married.
- [] 4) Marriage in a registry office takes longer than in a church.
- [] 5) Many young people in London live together without thinking about getting married.
- [] 6) Home ties are more restrictive in London than in the country.
- [] 7) In Geth's opinion, people who live in London can do more or less as they want.
- [] 8) Geth thinks divorce is more likely if people have been living together before getting married.
- [] 9) Sue's marriage is unsuccessful because she and her husband have little in common.
- [] 10) Sue and her husband loathe the idea of having children.

Task 9 New York tenement

In this task, you will hear an introduction to a typical tenement in old New York. Listen for details as well as for numbers.

Listening aids

census /'sensəs/ *n.* an official survey of the population of a country that is carried out by the government in order to get details of the number of people living in the country, their ages and occupations, where they live, etc. 人口普查, 人口普查

faucet /'fəʊsɪt/ *n.* (AmE) the thing that you turn on and off to control the flow of water from a pipe 水龙头

gruesome /'gru:əsəm/ *adj.* very unpleasant or shocking, usually involving death or injury 令人厌恶的, 可怕的

insanitary /ɪn'sænɪtəri/ *adj.* so dirty that it is likely to have a bad effect on people's health 不卫生的, 有害于健康的

Jew /dʒu:/ *n.* a person who believes in and practices the religion of Judaism 犹太人

Jewish /'dʒu:ɪʃ/ *adj.* relating to the religion of Judaism or to the people who believe in or practice it 犹太教的, 犹太人的

Lower Manhattan 曼哈顿下城区 (曼哈顿最南部区域)

rear /rɪə/ *adj.* at or near the back of something 后部的, 后面的

tenement /'tenmənt/ *n.* a large building, especially one in a poor part of a city, which is divided into a lot of small flats that can be rented cheaply (城市较穷苦地区的) 廉租公寓

1. Listen to the interview and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1) Which of the following is NOT true about the immigrants to New York in the last decades of the 19th century?
- A. They contributed to the sharp surge in the population of New York.
- B. They lived in poorly conditioned buildings in Lower Manhattan.

- C. They were mostly eastern European Jews.
D. They wanted to make New York the largest Jewish city in the world.
- 2) Which of the following is true about people's life in a typical tenement in Lower Manhattan in the late 19th century?
- A. The tenements were beside railways.
B. When they needed to wash, they had to go outside.
C. They could use an indoor toilet in the rear yard.
D. People carried their waste to dump outside the tenement as there were no trash bins inside the building.

2. Listen again and fill in the blanks with the numbers you hear.

- 1) In the last decades of the _____ century, New York's population grew from _____ to _____.
- 2) —How many people would have lived in a place like this?
—Around _____, about _____ people lived in a tenement, so about _____ to _____ people per apartment.
- 3) —Have we any idea how many New Yorkers lived in tenements?
—By _____, about _____ of New Yorkers lived in tenements.
- 4) First of all, you have many more people living in the tenements by the end of the _____ century. By _____, there were about _____ people, according to the census.

Task 10 Baby boomers

Dictation: Listen to a passage about baby boomers. Altogether the passage will be read to you four times.

