

1 Home and Family

Unit

PART I

Teaching Focus and Topic Exploration

Teaching Focus

| | Text A | Text B |
|-------------------------|---|---|
| Theme | Family Always Comes First | The Edge |
| Vocabulary | neighborhood, cricket, irritated, wheelchair, exclaim, beforehand, apologetic, tone, echo, incident, mistreat, priority, breathe, vision, relentless, pursuit, passionately | reject, apologize, essentially, nut, puzzle, confirm, fasten, passport, visa, document, handwriting, jealous, blank, flood, lip |
| Phrases and Expressions | a large circle of friends; no wonder; call out to; to sb.'s surprise; you know; above all; take sb. for granted; in the end; mend one's ways; strive for | take a risk; apologize to sb. for doing sth.; be big on sth.; go to it; be jealous of; except for; a flood of |
| Grammar | How to use "no wonder" and "no matter how" ("Focusing on Sentence Structure") | |
| Writing | 1) Avoiding Misused Modifiers ("Basic Writing Skills") 2) Writing Email Messages ("Practical Writing") | |
| Chinese Wisdom | Chinese Family Values | |

Topic Exploration

"East or west, home is best." Home is the one place in the world that belongs to you. While "home," compared with "family," generally denotes a place rather than "a group consisting of one or two parents, their children and close relations," this word in the context of this unit has all the connotations that are ascribed to "family."

To explore the topic of "Home and Family," it's advisable to have the students talk about their thoughts and feelings about being away from home. As a result of sharing their thoughts and hearing about

their classmates' experiences, students may gain a deeper understanding of what home means to them.

The two questions provided in “Exploring the Topic” in the Student’s Book are designed to serve this purpose. For Questions One, the following words may be of help: grandparents, the apple trees in the backyard, etc. For Question Two, you could give such hints like laughter and joy, mutual trust, etc.

PART II

Understanding and Learning

Reading Through

Suggestions for Teaching Text A

Text A describes how Asif, a young boy of 12, learns a lesson about respecting and caring for his aged grandmother. The story describes the inner change that the boy undergoes: from his initial indifference to his grandmother’s need for his help to becoming a loving, caring grandson. His inner change is due, first of all, to the impact of his friend Zaid’s care and love for his own grandfather. By comparing and contrasting himself with his friend, he comes to see his wrong doing. In addition, the love and care he receives from his grandmother provides powerful impetus for the boy to strive for perfection. In teaching this text, attention should be paid to the following:

1. Asif comes to realize his duties and obligations to his grandmother through self-education;
2. The grandmother’s kindness and forgiveness;
3. Moral virtue is not inborn, but is acquired through education.

It is recommended that the analysis of Asif’s inner change be linked with the discussion of the story of Huang Xiang, who cooled his parents’ mattress with a fan in the hot summer and warmed his parents’ quilt with his body in the cold winter. This old Chinese story is concerned with one of the key elements in our long-standing cultural tradition, that is, the Chinese concept of “Xiao” (孝, filial piety).

Text Structure

The whole text consists of 19 paragraphs which fall roughly into four sections. The first eight paragraphs form the first section which introduces Asif, the hero of the story. Asif is a highly sociable boy who fails to care for his grandmother, a disabled old lady who counts on his help. The second section (the 9th paragraph to the 14th paragraph) describes how his friend Zaid’s loving care for his grandfather causes Asif to reflect on his attitude toward his own grandmother. In the third section (the 15th paragraph to the 18th paragraph) the reader can see how Asif’s grandmother’s forgiveness and encouragement further facilitate Asif’s inner change. The last section, which is the last paragraph, concludes the text with a discussion of the moral of the story. The following chart may illustrate the development of the story.

1st Section:

Introduction (Paras. 1-8): Asif was highly sociable, but indifferent to his grandmother's need for his help.



2nd Section:

Development 1 (Paras. 9-14):
Zaid's love and care for his grandfather embarrassed Asif.



3rd Section:

Development 2 (Para. 15-18):
Asif's grandmother's love and forgiveness helped Asif realize the truth that family always comes first.



4th Section:

The Epilog/Conclusion (Para. 19):
The moral of the story.

Detailed Study of Text A

Family Always Comes First

1. Family Always Comes First (Title)

Meaning:

Caring for one's family is more important than anything else (or family matters the most).

» Note that the concrete noun "family" is used in the abstract sense to denote the love and care among the members of one's family. Therefore, there is no article preceding it.

2. He had a large circle of friends in both his school and his neighborhood. (Para. 1)

Meaning:

He made a lot of friends who were either his schoolmates or his neighbors.

a large circle of friends

a large group of friends 一大群朋友

Nancy had **a large circle of friends**. They often drew a circle on the ground and played the games. 南希有一大群朋友，他们经常在地上画一个圆圈玩游戏。

neighborhood

n. [C] a district or an area of a town; the people who live there 社区；街坊

This is one of the safest **neighborhoods** in this city. 这是该城市里最安全的社区之一。

3. **No wonder** he was proud of his **social skills**. (Para. 1)

Meaning:

It is not surprising at all that he took pride in his ability to make friends.

no wonder

(It is) not surprising or (it is) as expected that... 难怪; 怪不得

No wonder the president of the International Olympic Committee has called these the first “Green Games.” 难怪国际奥委会主席称这是第一届“绿色奥运”。

social skills

the abilities to deal with people easily 社交技能; 社交能力

Social skills are regarded as one of the most important set of skills for human beings to possess in today’s society. 社交技能被认为是当今社会人类应具备的最重要的技能之一。

4. **One day, Asif was going out to play cricket with his neighborhood friends when his grandmother called out to him**. (Para. 2)

Meaning:

One day, Asif was just about to go out to play cricket with his neighborhood friends, but just at this moment his grandmother shouted to him in a loud voice.

▶▶ Note that the sentence could be recast as “One day, when Asif was just about to go out..., his grandmother called out...” However, the version in the text is more common.

cricket

n. **[U] a game played on grass by two teams of 11 players** 板球运动

During the summer term we would play **cricket** at the village ground. 在夏季学期, 我们会在村里的空地上打板球。

call out to

summon someone to deal with an emergency or provide a service 对……大声呼叫

Many times when my youngest brother was sitting alone, he would **call out to** our mummy to come to him. 我最小的弟弟一个人坐着的时候经常会呼唤妈妈到他跟前去。

5. **Asif got irritated and thought, “Oh! Not again!”** (Para. 3)

Meaning:

Asif became annoyed, saying to himself: “I do wish she wouldn’t do that again!”

irritated

adj. **annoyed or angry** 恼火的; 急躁的

It is impossible to be fearful, anxious, **irritated** and healthy at the same time. 恐惧、焦虑、烦躁和健康是不可能同时存在的。

6. Asif, I'm wondering if you could take me to the nearby park in my wheelchair as the doctor has suggested that I spend some time in the fresh air every day. (Para. 5)

Meaning:

The doctor has advised me to get some fresh air every day. That's why I'm asking you to take me to the neighborhood park in my wheelchair.

- Note that "I'm wondering" is a polite or less direct way to ask someone to do something for the speaker.

wheelchair

- n.* [C] a special chair with wheels, used by people who cannot walk because of illness, an accident, etc. 轮椅

Many stations have **wheelchair** access from the car park or entrance to the station platforms. 许多车站都有从停车场或入口到站台的轮椅通道。

7. "And they are waiting for me, if I take you to the park, I will miss my match," exclaimed Asif. (Para. 6)

Meaning:

Asif cried out: "They are waiting for me right now. If I take you to the park, I'll miss the match."

exclaim

- v.* say something suddenly and loudly, especially because of strong emotion or pain (因惊讶、愤怒或兴奋而) 惊叫, 呼喊

The spectacular sunrise made us **exclaim** in surprise. 壮观的日出让我们惊叹不已。

8. When Saturday arrived, to Asif's great surprise, his good friend, Zaid, was not there to play with them. (Para. 9)

Meaning:

On that Saturday, Asif was very surprised to find his close friend Zaid did not join them in the match.

to sb's surprise

cause someone to feel surprised 使某人惊讶的是

To everyone's surprise, the old product still enjoys similar popularity. 让每个人都没有想到的是, 老产品还是一样受到欢迎。

9. Neither of them had ever missed the weekend cricket match without telling each other beforehand. (Para. 9)

Meaning:

They always played cricket matches at the weekend. If either of them was unable to make it, one would let the other know about it in good time.

beforehand

adv. before something else happens or is done 预先; 事先

You should have told me **beforehand** that you might be late. 你应该事先跟我说一声你可能会迟到。

10. After a while, Asif saw Zaid coming toward him in quite a hurry. (Para. 10)

- Note the use of “quite” in the prepositional phrase “in quite a hurry.” Generally speaking, “quite,” as an adverb, is used to modify an adjective or another adverb, e.g. quite big/small, quite slowly/fast, etc. But when it is used with an adjective before a noun in the singular form, it is always put before the indefinite article “a” or “an.” More examples: in quite a loud voice, in quite an apologetic tone, etc.

11. “You know, my grandfather is extremely ill,” said Zaid in an apologetic tone. (Para. 11)

Meaning:

Zaid said (to Asif) that his grandfather was seriously ill, his voice conveying his apology.

you know

an informal expression used to add force to a statement (用于强调) 你要知道

You know, I've been thinking of what you said yesterday. 你知道吗, 我一直在想你昨天所说的话。

apologetic

adj. **feeling or showing that you are sorry for doing something wrong or for causing a problem** 道歉的; 愧疚的

She looked nervous and **apologetic**. 她显得紧张并有歉意。

tone

n. **[C] the way your voice sounds, which shows how you are feeling or what you mean** 语气; 腔调

Don't speak to me in that **tone** of voice. 别用那种口吻跟我讲话。

12. Above all, he's family! (Para. 12)

Meaning:

Most importantly, he is a family member!

- Please note that the fixed expression “he's family” means that he is very special to me as he is a family member. This expression could be roughly interpreted as “blood is thicker than water” (血浓于水). Besides, “he's family” also suggests a sense of affection.

above all

most importantly 最重要的是

Now keep quite still, and, **above all**, don't try to talk. 现在你要保持安静, 最重要的是, 不要说话。

13. Asif was surprised as well as embarrassed. (Para. 13)

Meaning:

Asif felt ashamed, or guilty, about what he had done. Moreover, he was a little shocked.

14. Zaid's words—"I hope you understand as you also have a grandmother"—echoed in his mind. (Para. 13)

Meaning:

He heard Zaid's words—"I hope you understand as you also have a grandmother"—playing and replaying in his mind.

echo

- v. 1) **repeat and send back a sound** 回荡; 回响
Her footsteps **echoed** in the empty room. 她的脚步声在空荡荡的屋子里回响。
- 2) **repeat an idea or opinion because you agree with it** 附和; 重复
Their views often **echo** each other. 他们常常见解一致。
- n. [C] **a sound that is repeated as it is sent back** 回声; 回音
He heard nothing but the **echoes** of his own voice. 他只听见自己的回音。

15. He remembered how carelessly he had turned down his grandmother. (Para. 13)

Meaning:

He recalled that he had thoughtlessly rejected his grandmother's request to take her to the park.

turn down

- 1) **refuse (a request or offer or a person that makes it)** 拒绝
Tom had to **turn down** the invitation to the party last weekend because he was too busy. 汤姆太忙了, 不得不拒绝上周末的聚会邀请。
- 2) **reduce the force, speed, loudness, etc. of something by using controls** 调低
Could you **turn down** the radio a little bit? 你能把收音机声音调低一点吗?

16. He realized that Zaid truly loved and cared for his family while he had taken his family for granted and considered himself above everything else. (Para. 14)

Meaning:

He realized that Zaid gave all his love and care to his family. In contrast, he had not cared much for his family and always thought of his own interests before he thought of other people.

take sb. for granted

treat someone with too little attention or concern; not recognize the true value of someone 视某人为理所当然

He spends all his time at work and **takes his wife for granted**. 他把所有的时间花在工作上而忽视了妻子, 认为一切理所当然。

grant

- vt. **agree to give sb what they ask for, especially formal or legal permission to do something** 准予
My request was **granted**. 我的请求得到了批准。
- n. [C] **a sum of money that is given by the government or by another organization to be used for a particular purpose** (政府、机构的) 拨款

He has been awarded a research **grant**. 他得到一笔研究经费。

17. While Asif sat in his room, thinking deeply about the incident, his grandmother entered the room to ask about his well-being as she had seen him returning early looking sad. (Para. 15)

Meaning:

While Asif sat in his room, he thought a lot about that matter. His grandmother came to ask if he was OK because she felt Asif was in a low mood.

incident

n. [C] **something that happens, especially something unusual or unpleasant** 发生的事情 (尤指不寻常的或讨厌的)

There was a shooting **incident** near here last night. 昨夜, 这附近发生了枪击事件。

well-being

n. [U] **a feeling of being comfortable, healthy, and happy** 健康; 幸福

We hope to improve the health and **well-being** of poor children. 我们希望能使贫穷儿童更加健康和幸福。

18. This was enough for him. (Para. 16)

Meaning:

He found it too much to bear emotionally. (His grandmother's act of kindness was enough for him to open up emotionally and apologize.)

19. He wrapped his arms around her, and told her about Zaid's grandfather and how guilty he felt over mistreating her. In the end, he burst into tears. (Para. 16)

Meaning:

He put his arms around his grandmother, and told her about Zaid's grandfather. He also told her he felt guilty about not treating her well, and finally could not stop himself from weeping.

wrap sth. around sb.

put something firmly around somebody or something (用手臂、腿或手指) 围住某人

David **wrapped his arms around his mother** and gave her a kiss. 大卫用胳膊搂住母亲, 亲了她一下。

mistreat

vt. **treat a person or an animal in a cruel, unkind or unfair way** 虐待

It is against the law to **mistreat** an animal. 虐待动物是违法行为。

in the end

finally; at last 后来; 终于

In the end he had to walk—or rather run—to the office. 最后, 他不得不走着——应该说是跑着——去办公室。

burst into sth.

suddenly begin to cry, laugh, or sing, etc. 突然(哭、笑、唱等)起来

She **burst into** peals of laughter. 她忽然哈哈大笑起来。

20. Dear, dear, look on the bright side. Look what you've learned. (Para. 17)

Meaning:

Oh, don't feel guilty. Just see the positive side of things and think of the progress you've made.

- ▶▶ Note that “dear” is an interjection used in expressions that show that you are surprised, upset, annoyed or worried. (惊奇、不安、烦恼、担忧等时说) 天啊
E.g.: Oh **dear!** I think I've lost my purse! 糟糕，我可能把钱包给丢了!

look on the bright side

see the good points in a situation that seems to be bad 看到光明的一面

Look on the bright side—at least you didn't lose your job. 你要看到光明的一面，至少你没有失业。

look + how/what/who...

- ▶▶ The verb “look” is used in the sense of looking at or noticing something. The structure of this kind is used to give an example that proves what you are saying, or makes it clearer. Also note that this structure is often used in imperative sentences. Another example would be:
Be careful climbing that ladder. **Look what** happened last time. 爬那梯子时小心点儿，上次就出事了。

21. We always have time to mend our ways and become a better version of ourselves! (Para. 17)

Meaning:

If you haven't done something well, there are always opportunities to correct your past mistakes so that you can do better than before.

become a better version of oneself=perfect oneself 完善自己

mend one's ways

begin to behave well 改正不良行为

He pledged that he would **mend his ways**. 他保证他将改过自新。

mend

vt. **repair something** 修补；修理

Could you **mend** my bike for me? 你能帮我修一下自行车吗?

22. From that day onward, Asif realized that no matter how old we get, our first priority remains our family. (Para. 18)

Meaning:

After that day, Asif was fully aware that as long as we live, our family counts most in the world.

onward

adv. **(from...onward) beginning at a particular time or age and continuing after that** 从……起一直

I worked here from May **onward**. 我从五月起在这儿工作。

no matter how

however 无论如何

No matter how much the car costs, I'll buy it. 这车无论多贵我都买。

priority

n. [C; U] **something that you think is more important than other things and should be dealt with first** 优先事项; 当务之急

These issues should clearly be at the top of the **priority** list. 这些问题显然应该放在优先事项清单的首位。

23. Now, here comes the moral of Asif's personal story: Family always comes first. (Para. 19)

Meaning:

What Asif's personal story teaches us is that family is the most important thing in one's life and that one should put one's family above everything else.

moral

n. [C] **a practical lesson that a story, an event or an experience teaches you** 寓意; 教育意义

What is the **moral** of this story? 这个故事的寓意是什么?

adj. **concerned with principles of right and wrong behavior** 道德的

Babies are born without a **moral** sense. 婴儿生下来时没有辨别是非的能力。

24. It is a simple yet almost universal truth that we live, breathe, and strive for. (Para. 19)

Meaning:

It seems that this is a plain truth, but it concerns almost every one of us. This very truth gives meaning to our life and should be our shared goal.

universal

adj. **true or suitable in every situation** 普遍正确的; 广泛适用的

Is it a **universal** truth that exercise is good for you? 锻炼有益是永恒的真理吗?

breathe

v. **take air into your lungs and send it out again through your nose or mouth** 呼吸

You **breathe** less when you sleep, so you get less oxygen. 你睡觉时呼吸更少, 所以得到的氧气也少。

strive for

try very hard to achieve something 努力; 奋斗

But I have this urge to **strive for** perfection. 但我有追求完美的渴望。

25. We will not stop, nor will we rest until our vision is accomplished... (Para. 19)

Meaning:

We will keep working hard to realize the goal we have set ourselves...

vision

- n. 1) [C] **an idea of what you think something should be like** 构想; 念头
That's my **vision** of how the world could be. 那就是我对这个世界未来的构想。
- 2) [U] **ability to see** 视力
Cats have good night **vision**. 猫的夜间视力好。

26. ...rather, we will do whatever it takes, and be relentless in our pursuit to live passionately for the family. (Para. 19)

Meaning:

On the contrary, we will do everything that needs to be done and spare no effort to become people who put their family above everything else.

relentless

- adj.* **not stopping or changing** 不停的; 不减弱的
His quest for perfection is **relentless**. 他不断追求完美。

pursuit

- n. [U] **the act of looking for or trying to find something** 追求; 寻找
I believe that the **pursuit** of truth through honest debate is a noble undertaking. 我相信通过诚实的辩论来追求真理是一项高尚的事业。

passionately

- adv.* **with strong intense feelings or emotions; with great enthusiasm, zeal, or fervor** 热诚地; 狂热地
She believes **passionately** in education and hard work. 她坚信教育和勤奋工作的重要性。

Reading More

Suggestions for Teaching Text B

Text B and Text A share both similarities and dissimilarities. Like Text A, the message the author wishes to get across in Text B is that the members of her family love and care for each other, in spite of their different attitudes to life and different pursuits. As we learn from the text, it was out of love and care that the author's father strongly opposed her plan of going to the Amazon Rainforest. Similarly, the author's sister drove her to the airport in spite of the risk of angering their father if he should find out. At the end of the text, the sister revealed her sympathy for the author's way of life and expressed her understanding and love for the author, although the two sisters had entirely different lifestyles.

However, unlike Text A, Text B devotes much space to the description of the differences within the family, and even the conflicts among the family members. The main character in this story, a young woman, finds that her family do not understand her because she has a different lifestyle. Therefore, although the danger of the rainforest is specifically mentioned in the beginning of the text, the author indicates that she has "heard the same things" all her life.

Yet, in spite of all this, you should bear in mind that the main theme of the text is to demonstrate

familial affinity (家庭的亲密), rather than familial conflict. The students would be misled if their attention were drawn mainly to the generation gap between the father and the daughter.

Just as in the teaching of Text A, you are advised to draw out students' experience in overcoming differences with their parents in the past. You can ask students to talk about their parents. Do their parents run the family in a democratic way? Do their parents respect their views and their wishes? What do their parents do in situations where they find themselves disagreeing with their children? How are the differences solved? If a student has touching stories about how they and their parents overcame their differences after a "quarrel," you could ask them to share their stories with the entire class.

Detailed Study of Text B

The Edge

1. The Edge (Title)

There is a common expression in English used to describe the lifestyle of someone who enjoys risks: living on the edge. So, in this case, the title reflects how the woman is off to a dangerous land (at least in her family's mind), and the use of "the edge" could be referring to her lifestyle and her love of risks and challenges. As well, "the edge" could refer to the risk her sister took in telling her how proud of her she was, as this was something not normally done in their family. While there are perhaps a few possible interpretations of the title, the basic one is that the title refers to the author's desire to take risks, especially in the eyes of her rather reserved family.

2. When these "discussions" took place, my sister, Kristy, would always try to break the tension. (Para. 2)

Meaning:

When we had these so-called "discussions" (or when the quarrels started), my sister would always try to do something to prevent the situation from becoming more tense.

3. It's not dangerous and it's still overseas. (Para. 2)

Meaning:

It is safe there, yet it is nonetheless a foreign country.

4. I rejected the idea of England because it was not exciting enough. (Para. 3)

Meaning:

I refused to accept my sister's suggestion about going to England because England would not provide me with the same exciting experiences.

reject

vt. refuse to accept, consider or use 拒绝接受

She **rejected** my suggestion. 她拒绝了 my suggestion. 她拒绝了 my suggestion.

5. My sister and I are three and a half years apart in age, but a world apart in the way we live our lives. (Para. 4)

Meaning:

My sister and I were born only three and a half years apart, but our lifestyles could not be more different.

► The adverb “apart” is generally used to denote physical distance between two objects, people, etc. For example:

The wife and the husband live **apart**. 丈夫和妻子是分开住的。

It may also be used figuratively:

Any agreement is not likely, as the two sides in the dispute are a long way **apart**. 争论双方分歧很大，不大可能达成任何协议。

a world apart

greatly different 天壤之别

The twins are **a world apart/worlds apart** in personality, though identical in appearance. 这对双胞胎虽然外表一模一样，但个性上却有天壤之别。

6. Her life is neat and quiet. (Para. 4)

Meaning:

Her life is well-ordered and very peaceful.

7. I take too many risks and love adventures. (Para. 4)

Meaning:

I've done many things that might cause danger, and I like such exciting experiences.

take a risk

do something that you know might fail or be dangerous, etc. 冒险

You shouldn't **take risks** when driving. 开车时不应冒险。

8. I've spent most of my adult life apologizing to my family for being different, for embarrassing them by what I wear, what I do or what I say. (Para. 4)

Meaning:

Since I've become an adult, I feel I've had to say “I'm sorry” to my family all the time for having my own personalities, for the clothes I wear and the things I do and say.

apologize

vi. **say one is sorry, e.g. for having done something wrong, or for causing pain or trouble** 道歉; 谢罪

He **apologized** for his lateness. 他为迟到而道歉。

apologize to sb. for doing sth.

tell someone that you are sorry that you have done something wrong 因做某事向某人道歉

He **apologized to me for stepping** on my foot. 他因踩到我的脚而向我道歉。

9. **Essentially, they think I'm a nut.** (Para. 4)

Meaning:

All in all, they think I'm sort of crazy.

essentially

adv. **in reality, though perhaps not in appearance; basically** 本质上；根本上

His analysis is **essentially** correct. 他的分析大体正确。

nut

n. 1) **[C] a person who is or seems to be strange or crazy** 怪人

He's a bit of a **nut**. 他多少有点疯疯癫癫。

2) **[C] a dry fruit with a kernel (seed) surrounded by a hard shell** 坚果

The crust of a **nut** is harder than that of a peanut. 坚果的壳比花生的壳要坚硬。

10. **I think I puzzle her—she just can't seem to figure me out.** (Para. 5)

Meaning:

I think I am a mystery to her—she just can't understand me.

puzzle

vt. **make (someone) feel helpless and uncertain in the effort to understand something** 使迷惑；使困惑

His words **puzzled** me completely. 他的话使我十分迷惑不解。

n. **[C] (usually singular) something one cannot understand or explain** 难题；谜

Their son is a **puzzle** to them. 他们不懂自己的儿子。

11. **My family is not big on emotional goodbyes, so with a “Go to it, tiger” and a quick “I love you, too,” my sister was gone.** (Para. 8)

Meaning:

My family does not like to show their feelings when they say goodbye. After saying “Good luck, my brave girl” and “I love you, too,” my sister left.

be big on sth.

enjoy something 非常喜欢某物

I **am not big on** hot temperatures. 我不喜欢热天气。

go to it

good luck (用以鼓励) 去吧

“Go to it, tiger” is an expression one would use in a very casual setting, like at a baseball game, to wish someone good luck. It simply means “good luck” or “have fun” or “you can do it.”

However, in this text, the author, having made reference to how unemotional her family tends

to be, gives us this example of “Go to it, tiger” to reveal just how awkward her sister must have been feeling. To clarify: This situation is not a casual one (like a baseball game), as the woman is leaving for a dangerous place. Yet, the sister’s inappropriately casual comment does not show that she doesn’t care—indeed, quite the opposite. It conveys how hard this must be for her. Not being one to show emotions, she makes a casual remark like “Go to it, tiger” instead. This “Go to it, tiger” implies a lot of unspoken emotions, based on how the author has described her family.

12. I was sad because this just confirmed that she didn’t understand. (Para. 8)

Meaning:

I was sad because the way she’d said goodbye to me made it quite clear that, I felt, she still did not understand me.

► The word “this” refers to what has been described in the previous sentence, that is, the way she’d said goodbye to me.

confirm

vt. 1) **prove** 证实

I’d like to **confirm** what the financial arrangements were. 我想进一步确认财政安排的情况。

2) **approve; agree to; ratify** 肯定; 确认

The general manager **confirmed** my plan for promotion. 总经理批准了我的推销计划。

13. I checked in and fastened myself into the plane seat. (Para. 9)

Meaning:

I went through security, got on the plane, and sat down in my seat with the safety belt tightened around me.

fasten

vt. **to attach something firmly to another object or surface** 使牢固; 使固定

They **fastened** the rope to a tree. 他们把绳子绑在树上。

14. There, along with my passport, visa, and other important documents, was a small white envelope with “Kathy” written on it in my sister’s handwriting. (Para. 9)

Meaning:

In the bag, I saw my passport, visa, other important documents, and a small white envelope. On the envelope I saw my sister had written my name, “Kathy.”

► Please note the inverted order of the sentence.

passport

n. [C] **an official document that identifies you as a citizen of a particular country** 护照

Can I see your **passport**, please? 请给我看看您的护照可以吗?

visa

n. [C] **a stamp or mark put in your passport by officials of a foreign country that gives you permission to enter, pass through or leave their country** (护照上的) 签证

He was finally granted a **visa**. 他终于拿到了签证。

document

n. [C] **an official paper or book that gives information about something, or that can be used as evidence or proof of something** 文件; 公文

The date of the **document** can be deduced from references to the Civil War. 该文件的日期可以从其对内战的提及处推算出来。

envelope

n. [C] **a flat paper container used for sending letters in** 信封

Don't forget to seal the **envelope** before you mail it off. 寄出之前别忘了把信封封好。

handwriting

n. [U] **the particular way in which someone forms letters with a pen or pencil** 笔迹; 字迹

Job applicants have to submit a specimen of **handwriting**. 求职者必须提交一份笔迹样本。

15. After I read the writing on the inside, I realized that my sister—who I had decided just couldn't understand—actually did. (Para. 10)

Meaning:

After I read what my sister had written inside (the envelope), I began to see that my sister did, in fact, understand me, although I had believed up to that point that this would never happen.

►► “Did” stands for “understood.” The subject of “did” is “my sister.” Also note that the clause “who...just couldn't understand” that is separated by dashes (破折号) can be regarded as an embedded relative clause (嵌入式关系从句). This clause functions as the post-modifier of the noun “sister,” but on the other hand, it is the object of the verb “had decided.” A similar example:

She has an adopted child who she says is an orphan. 她收养了一个孩子, 据她说是一个孤儿。 Here, the embedded relative clause “who...is an orphan” functions as a post-modifier of the noun phrase “adopted child.”

16. It seemed there was a small part of her that was jealous of what I was doing. (Para. 10)

Meaning:

No matter how happy she said she was for me, I could see she felt some envy toward my life—even if she tried her best to fight it.

The author is basically saying that she could tell that her sister was happy for her, but that there were some feelings of envy—the “small part of her” reference leads the readers to believe that her sister was trying her best not to let this envy overtake her happiness for the author.

jealous

adj. **wanting what others have** 嫉妒的; 妒羡的

Her colleagues are **jealous** of her success. 她的同事羡慕她的成功。

►► Note that although “jealous” and “envious” are synonyms and interchangeable in certain contexts, the former is usually considered as a more unpleasant feeling than the latter. Compare the following pair:

Tom has a good job, of which Jack is very **jealous** because he thinks he should have gotten it. 汤姆有一份好工作，这让杰克非常妒忌，因为他认为自己本来该得到这份工作。

Tom has a nice family. I'm **envious** of him, indeed. 汤姆有一个幸福的家庭，我真羡慕他。

be jealous of

feeling unhappy because someone has something that you wish you had 嫉妒

You **are** just **jealous of** her. 你就是在嫉妒她。

17. The card was blank except for what my sister had written. (Para. 10)

Meaning:

There was nothing but my sister's writing on the card.

blank

adj. 1) **(of a surface) not written or printed** 空白的

He tore a **blank** page from his notebook. 他从笔记本上撕下一页白纸。

2) **void of expression** 无表情的；不理解的

She stood there with a **blank** look. 她站在那里，面无表情。

n. **[C] a space left to be filled in a document** (纸张上的)空白处

Please fill in these **blanks** in the form. 请把表格里的空白填写好。

except for

apart from; with the exception of 除……之外

The walls were bare **except for** a clock. 墙上除了一只挂钟什么也没有。

18. I really admire you for experiencing life in such a full way. (Para. 11)

Meaning:

You have won my heartfelt respect because you dare to lead an exciting life.

admire

vt. **respect somebody for what they are or for what they have done** 钦佩；羡慕

I really **admire** the efficiency of your secretaries. 我真佩服你们秘书的办事效率。

19. That day, my sister, for one brief moment, showed me a side of herself that she had never shown before. (Para. 14)

Meaning:

That day, my sister briefly revealed an aspect of her personality that had never been revealed before.

a side of

an aspect of 一个方面

This is **a side of** Alan that I never knew existed. 我以前从来不知道艾伦还有这样的一面。

20. Or maybe I had never looked deeply enough. (Para. 14)

Meaning:

Or perhaps I had not thought about the matter (whether my sister really understood me or not) carefully enough.

21. With a flood of tears running down my face, I turned and looked out of the window.

(Para. 14)

Meaning:

As the tears ran down my face, I turned away from the letter and looked out of the window.

flood

- n.* 1) [C] a very large number of things or people 大量
She received a **flood** of letters after the accident. 事故后她收到大量的来信。
2) [C; U] the covering with water of a place that is usually dry; a great overflow of water 水灾; 洪水
Some families lost everything in the flood. 有些家庭因为洪水什么也没有了。
v. 1) (cause to) be filled or covered with water (被)淹没
Towns all over the country have been **flooded**. 全国各地的小镇纷纷被洪水淹没。
2) to arrive or go somewhere in large numbers (大量地)涌到, 涌去
Refugees are still **flooding** across the border. 难民仍在不断涌过边境。

a flood of

a large quantity of 大量

He received a **flood of** grateful letters. 他收到大量表示感谢的信件。

22. As the plane backed out of the gate, I saw her lips say "I love you." (Para. 14)

Meaning:

Just as my plane was moving backward away from the gate and was on the point of taking off, I caught a glimpse of my sister as she mouthed the words "I love you" to me.

lip

- n.* [C] either of the two soft edges at the opening to the mouth 嘴唇
My upper **lip** is always numb and it burns. 我的上唇总是麻木, 有灼伤感。

23. ...I knew she really did. (Para. 14)

Meaning:

...I knew she really loved me; she meant it.

- ||>> Here, "did" refers to "love" in the preceding sentence.

Practical Writing

Suggestions for Teaching Practical Writing

In teaching Practical Writing, it is advised to have two basic things in mind: the layout and the writing of an email. It is highly advisable to present some examples (both in Chinese and English) to the students when you talk about the outline of the email. Then you may proceed to talk about some guidelines for writing email messages. The following is only for reference.

Guidelines for Writing Email Messages

I. Message Addresses

1. Be careful when addressing your email. There are addresses that may go to a group, even if the address looks like it is just one person. Be sure about to whom you are sending each message.
2. Look at the cc field when replying. Don't continue to include irrelevant people if the mail has become a two-way conversation.
3. Verify all addresses before initiating a long or personal discourse.

II. Message Content

1. Think first! Remember that the other person cannot see your face or hear your voice and therefore cannot determine the emotional context of the message. Irony (讲反话) can easily be misinterpreted.
2. Be careful with upper case. Upper case looks as if you're shouting, which may be considered rude.
3. Be brief without being overly terse (简洁). When replying to a message, include enough original material to be understood, but no more. It is extremely bad form to reply to a message by including the entire previous message; edit out all the irrelevant material.

III. Attachments & Size of Emails

Know how large a message you are sending. Including large files such as postscript files or programs may make your message too large to deliver or at least consume excessive resources. Consider file transfer as an alternative, or cutting the file into smaller chunks and sending each as a separate message.

IV. Instructions for Sending an Email

Sending an Email

In order to send the message successfully, you will need to fill in the following pieces of information:

To: Type the email address of the person you are sending the message to.

Cc: Carbon copy recipients will receive a copy of the message you are sending. Enter their addresses in this field.

Bcc: Blind carbon copy recipients will also receive a copy of the message, but their names will not appear in the message header so they can remain anonymous.

Subject: The title of your message—the first part that the recipient will see on their screen.

V. Making Email Content Effective

1. Personalize your email message

The opening salutation of your email message provides an excellent opportunity to demonstrate to the recipient that you know who they are. Email messages that do so immediately gain a level of acceptance that is otherwise impossible to obtain.

Message personalization can be as simple as including the name of the recipient in the salutation. If, for some reason, this information is not available when you send the email message, consider using a salutation that reflects the customer's relationship with your organization. For example, "Dear (product) user" or simply "Dear Sir" clearly establishes the company-client relationship in the mind of the recipient.

2. Keep the message content brief and to the point

Many people who receive emails regularly are busy people, and this is especially true during business hours. When these people receive a lengthy email message, they are simply more prone to push it aside, sometimes with the intention of returning to it later.

3. Establish good email etiquette guidelines

Strive to ensure that your email message content follows common email etiquette guidelines.

For example, you should never write email messages (including subjects) in ALL CAPS. It's also wise to avoid sending email attachments to customers unless you're confident that they will be well received.

Attachments can be burdensome for the recipient to download and provide additional risks related to virus contamination. Further, attachment file formats are not typically universal.

4. Focus on a single subject

Since you don't wish to contact your customers via email very frequently, it may be tempting when developing email message content to tell the customer about everything you're doing at the moment. Resist this temptation!

Never forget that, in general, your readers are busy people with short attention spans. They will likely have sufficient time and interest to digest only a single message from you at a time.

PART III

Key to Exercises

Reading Through

Reading Out

- | | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| (1) universal | (2) strive | (3) nor |
| (4) accomplished | (5) relentless | (6) learned |

Getting the Message

1. Because he made a lot of friends in both his school and neighborhood.
2. The doctor expected her to spend some time in the fresh air every day.
3. She let Asif go while she remained at home.
4. Because they both had never missed the weekend cricket match without telling each other beforehand.
5. He felt surprised as well as embarrassed.
6. He wrapped his arms around her, and told her about Zaid's grandfather and how guilty he felt over mistreating her, and in the end burst into tears.
7. She asked Asif to look on the bright side and look what he had learned.
8. It refers to "family always comes first."

Using the Right Word

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 1. mistreat | 2. priority | 3. vision | 4. tone |
| 5. relentless | 6. incident | 7. echoed | 8. pursuit |

Working with Expressions

- | | | | |
|------------|--------|-------|-----------|
| 1. when | 2. nor | 3. of | 4. for |
| 5. without | 6. for | 7. To | 8. onward |

Focusing on Sentence Structure

- A**
1. No wonder he knows so much about the products, as he is the designer.
 2. No wonder you're tired after hours of walking.
 3. No wonder the children are excited—this is the first time they've been abroad.
- B**
1. No matter how much it hurt, he would do it.
 2. You should report any incident, no matter how minor it is.
 3. Feeding babies is a tricky job no matter how careful you are.

Translating

- A**
1. Some companies post ads so frequently that users become irritated.
 2. He is hard-working, cheerful, and above all honest.
 3. The mail service stops due to weather because the company's top priority is ensuring that employees are safe.
 4. Only when everyone strives for their own dreams can we realize the Chinese Dream.
- B**
1. 阿西夫火气上升，心想：“天啊！别再这样好不好！”
 2. 我们总有时间改过自新，成为更好的自己！

3. 从那天起，阿西夫认识无论我们长多大，家庭都要摆在首位。
4. 这个简单的真理不是与生俱来的天赋，而是后天习得的。

Using Topic-Related Terms

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------|----------------------|
| (1) moral | (2) mistreated | (3) mended | (4) a better version |
| (5) priority | (6) pursuit | | |

Basic Writing Skills

- A**
1. With a beating heart, I opened my mouth for the doctor.
 2. Driving along the road, we noticed several dead animals.
 3. Books with hard covers don't sell well in the bookstores.
 4. Ann returned the milk that had gone bad to the supermarket.
- B**
1. While trying to improve fitness, people should avoid sweet food as much as possible.
 2. Mary finally found her glasses kicked carelessly under the bed.
 3. My grandmother could hardly read the old newspaper yellowed with age.
 4. If sealed in plastic, membership cards can be kept clean.

Reading More

Getting the Message

1. **A** In Paragraph 1, the father said to the author that there were lots of dangers over there.
2. **C** Paragraph 2 says that when there was a quarrel in the family, "my sister, Kristy, would always try to break the tension."
3. **D** Paragraph 4 says that the author takes too many risks and loves adventures.
4. **D** At the end of the text, the author realizes that her sister does understand her. This shows that the author understands her sister, too.
5. **B** From the text we can see the family actually care about the author, though they don't express it clearly.

Using the Right Word

- | | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|-----------|
| 1. passport | 2. jealous | 3. blank | 4. reject |
| 5. neat | 6. confirm | 7. documents | 8. admire |

Working with Expressions

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|
| 1. over | 2. apart | 3. for | 4. out |
|---------|----------|--------|--------|

5. for 6. to; for 7. along 8. of

Cloze

1. B 2. A 3. C 4. B 5. B
6. A 7. B 8. A 9. B 10. A

Practical Writing

A

1. The sender's name is Jackson He and his email address is jhe@cam.ac.uk.
2. sw347@cam.ac.uk, liyang@cam.ac.uk, and wu_0821@cam.ac.uk.
3. August 11, 2023.
4. Flora Green.
5. It's about asking for a response to a meeting summary.

B

- (1) Steve White <sw347@cam.ac.uk> (2) Jackson He <jhe@cam.ac.uk>
(3) John <wwjohn@cam.ac.uk> (4) Jackson
(5) no questions (6) promotion plan
(7) good (8) perfect
(9) conduct some market investigation (10) Steve

C

1. A 2. A 3. C 4. D 5. B

Chinese Wisdom

A

众所周知，尊敬、爱护和赡养老人，保护、教育和照顾儿童，是一项中华民族的优良传统。老人是家庭中的顶梁柱，孩子则是家庭延续的希望。所以说，尊老爱幼是家庭和睦的基础，是社会稳定的要素。例如，为了发扬尊老爱幼的美德，政府可以鼓励民众把座位预留给老人、儿童以及其他有需要的人群。除此之外，作为千禧一代，我们更要一同保持和发扬这种美德。家是最小国，国是千万家。只有这样，我们才能生活在一个幸福的大家庭里，我们的国家才会和谐发展。

B

In Chinese culture, the concept of the "big family" referring to "the whole country" is deeply rooted in the minds of the people. In China's history, there are countless shining examples of "small families" being sacrificed for the "big family." One example among them is "Great Yu who passed by

his family home three times without entering it.” Legend has it that just four days after his marriage, Yu was given the task of fighting the flood. During 13 years of controlling the flood, Yu passed by his own family home quite a few times but did not go in. Yu said that he could not rest in his own home as long as the flood was still making numerous families homeless. Later, with relentless hard work, Yu finally managed the flood, and people were able to live in peace from then on.

PART IV

Translation

Text A

家永远第一位

阿西夫是个12岁的男孩，读六年级。他在学校和社区都有一大群朋友。无怪乎，他对自己的社交能力颇为得意。

有一天，阿西夫正想外出和社区的朋友打板球，他奶奶却大声呼叫他。

阿西夫火气上升，心想：“天啊！别再这样好不好！”

他走到奶奶房间，问她有什么事。

“阿西夫，你用轮椅把我推到附近的公园好吗？医生建议我每天要在那里待一会儿，呼吸新鲜空气。你是知道的，你哥哥阿蒂夫每天带我到那里，但他必须复习迎考。所以我想，或许你能带我去。”她热切地说道。

“不过……奶奶！”阿西夫叫道，“我得出去和朋友打板球呀！他们都在等我呢，要是我带你去公园，我就没法去比赛了。”

奶奶让他走了，自己留在家。

后来几天，这种事发生数次，只是奶奶从未发牢骚。

到了星期六，令阿西夫惊奇的是，他的好朋友扎伊德没有去跟他玩球。他们从未在没有事先通知的情况下缺席周末球赛。这事让阿西夫有点儿生气。

过了一会儿，阿西夫看到扎伊德匆匆忙忙向他走来。

“阿西夫，对不起，今天我打不了球，本周后面的几天也没空。我和爸爸、妈妈要赶紧去医院。你知道，我爷爷病得厉害。”扎伊德话中带着歉意。

“你也有个奶奶，我想你能理解。我爷爷对我们来说很珍贵。重要的是，他是我的家人！好了，我得赶紧走了，再见！”扎伊德说着就朝家里跑去。

阿西夫又尴尬又震惊。“你也有个奶奶，我想你能理解。”扎伊德的话还在他大脑中回荡。他想起自己如何轻率地拒绝奶奶！

他意识到，扎伊德才是真正爱自己的家，关心自己的家人，而自己却没有把家人当作一回事，光顾着自己。

阿西夫坐在自己的房间里，独自沉思那件事。就在这时，奶奶走了进来，问他是否一切都好，因为她看到他回来得很早，还满脸不高兴。

他再也忍受不了了。他双臂搂住奶奶，告诉她扎伊德爷爷的事，他也为自己待奶奶不好而负疚，说着眼泪便夺眶而出。

“好了，好了！看看好的一面，看看你学到了什么。我们永远来得及改过自新，成为更好的自己！”奶奶微笑着说。

从那天起，阿西夫意识到，无论我们长多大，关爱家人是首要任务。他向奶奶保证，每天带她去公园。

阿西夫的故事告诉我们这样一个道理：家永远第一位。这是一个简单而普遍的真理，我们为之生活、呼吸和奋斗。在这一理想实现之前，我们不会停步不前，也不会中途而废。相反，我们会竭尽全力，坚持不懈，为家人积极地生活。这个简单的真理不是与生俱来的天赋，而是后天习得的。

Text B

边缘线上

在我出发去亚马孙热带雨林的前一个晚上，我又听到我一生老是听到的那些话。“可为什么是亚马孙呢？”我的父亲问我。“你知道，那里十分危险。”“是的，爸爸，我知道。危险的地方到处都有，”我回答说。

当这些“讨论”发生时，我的姐姐克里斯蒂总设法打破这种紧张的局面。“凯西，”她建议道，“你为什么不去英格兰上暑期学校？那里没有危险，而且那里也是国外。”

我拒绝去英格兰是因为那里不够刺激，我想体验不同的东西。

姐姐和我相差三岁半，但我们的生活方式却截然不同。她的生活井井有条、安安静静。而我总是冒险，喜欢刺激。长大成人后的大部分时光里，我一直在道歉——为我和他人不同道歉，为我的穿着、我的行动、我的言论使他们感到尴尬而道歉。归根结底，他们认为我是个怪人。

由于姐姐和我如此不同——或者说我和她如此不同——我们并不十分亲密。我想我令她感到迷惑不解——她似乎无法理解我。

因为姐姐似乎是对我的暑期计划反对最少的那个，所以我请她开车送我去机场。“没有问题，”她说，“不过不要告诉爸爸！”我笑了笑答应了。

第二天在去机场的路上，姐姐像往常一样安静。但是，自从我作出去亚马孙雨林的决定后，她第一次开口问起了我的旅行：计划去哪里？住哪里？她似乎很感兴趣。

我的家人不喜欢情绪激动的离别。一句“去吧，好样的”和一句匆匆的“我也爱你”之后，姐姐就走了。我很难受，因为这恰恰证实了她对我的不理解。

检票登机后，我系好座位上的安全带。我朝姐姐替我提进机场的包里瞥了一眼，包里除了护照、签证和其他重要文件，还有一个白色的小信封，信封上有我姐姐亲笔写的“凯西”字样。我打开信封，看到里面有一张卡片。

看完里面的内容后，我认识到我的姐姐——一个我曾经以为肯定不会理解我的人——事实上很理解我。看上去姐姐还有一点羡慕我的行为。卡片很空，唯有姐姐写的如下字句：

我真的羡慕你如此充分地体验人生。我爱你！

我真希望能和你一块儿去。

你的姐姐，克丽丝蒂

那天，姐姐短暂地流露出她从未向我流露过的一面，也许也是我从来没有试图认真地理解她。眼泪如潮水般流下我的脸颊，我转头把目光投向窗外，看到姐姐在机场里微笑着向我招手。飞机徐徐离开机场的登机口，我看到她的嘴唇在说“我爱你”。我也报之一笑，因为我第一次知道姐姐真的爱我。

FLTRP