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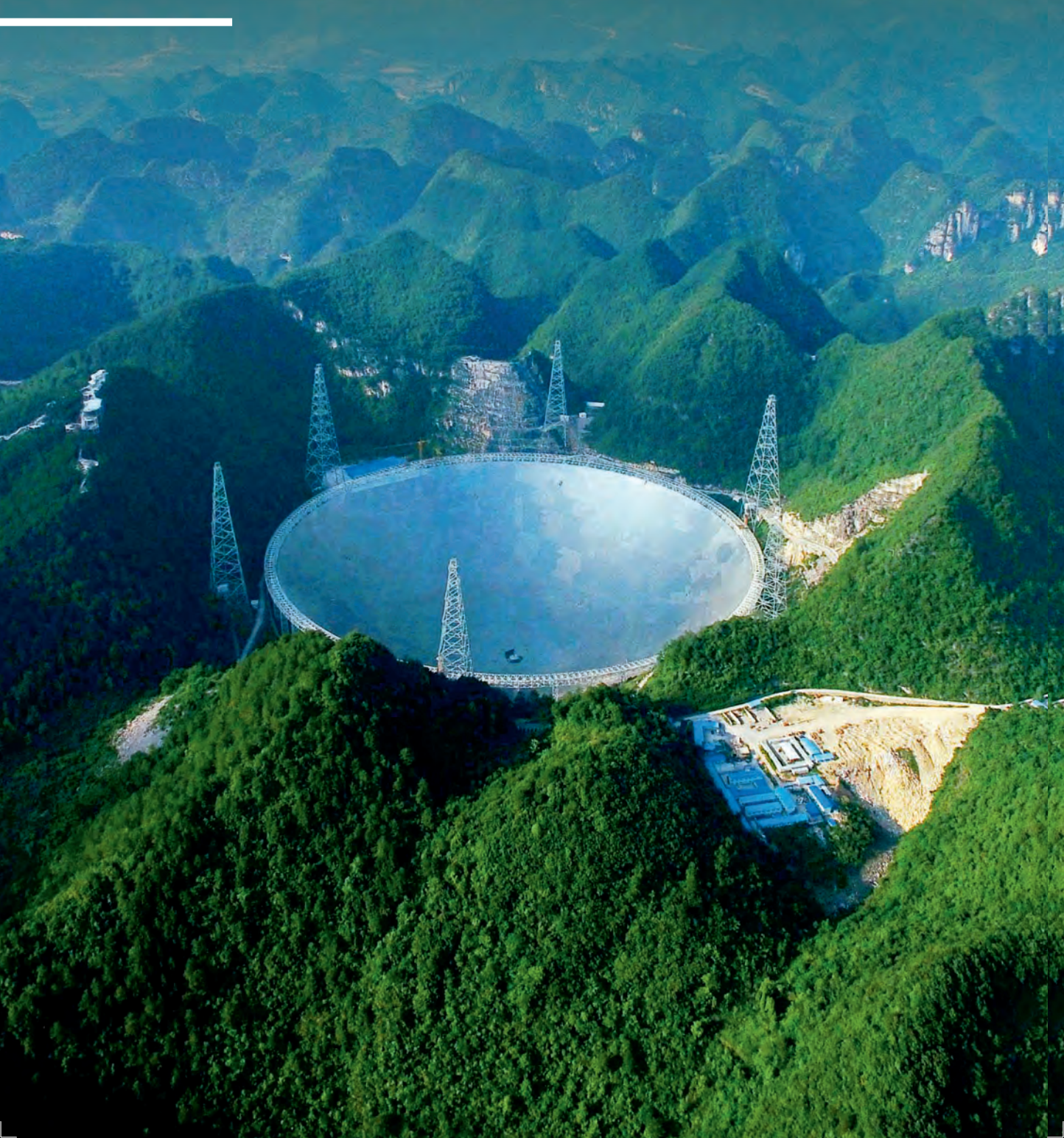
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1

Unit

Making People's Life Better



Lead-in

The historic mission of the Communist Party of China (CPC) in the new era is to lead the Chinese people to realize the Two Centenary Goals, and fulfill the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation. The Chinese Dream integrates national pride and personal wellbeing. It is people’s yearning for a better life and a brighter future for the nation. In this unit, you will learn about what achievements have been made, what responsibilities young people like you should shoulder, and how you can tell the stories of your Chinese Dream.

Objectives

At the end of this unit, you should be able to

- discuss the essence and components of the Chinese Dream and the achievements that have been made;
- elaborate on the responsibilities that young Chinese people are expected to shoulder in the course of realizing the Chinese Dream;
- have a good grasp of the tips for becoming an interculturally competent public speaker.

Task for the unit

You are to give a 5-minute speech on the responsibilities of the young Chinese generation at the International Youth Forum. Your speech will center on the responsibilities of the young in the great cause of national rejuvenation.

Pre-Class Work



Nurses Celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the Founding of the People's Republic of China, Xi'an, Shaanxi Province

- 01 Search on the internet for the achievements made in the past decades in your hometown (e.g. see the series of short videos *See China in 70 Seconds*). Take notes on the achievements that have been made.
- 02 Read the speech in Activity 2, and do research on the basic information of the Chinese Dream including when it was proposed, what it means, and how it is relevant to the Chinese people. Collect stories of people who have made great contributions to the realization of the Chinese Dream.

Warming-up

1 Work in groups of three or four and share what you have found in your pre-class research.

1. When and on what occasion was the Chinese Dream proposed?
2. How do you understand a *xiaokang* society?
3. How has your hometown changed in the past decades?

2 Identify the dress code of each figure and put the corresponding letter beneath it.

Personal appearance

Personal appearance is important in public speaking, since your audience will quickly make assumptions about you, consciously or unconsciously, based on your personal appearance. The most obvious element of personal appearance is how you are dressed. Adapt your dress code to the audience and the speech topic so as to make a favorable first impression. Dressing properly will also boost your confidence in your delivery of the speech. Make yourself look neat and well-groomed, with clean clothes, tidy hair, and comfortable accessories. Business or business casual is usually preferred on a public speaking occasion.

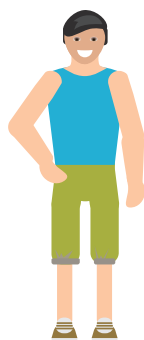
A Street wear

B Casual

C Business casual

D Business









A Street wear

B Casual

C Business casual

D Business









Discuss with a classmate what you should wear if you are to give a speech as a student representative at your university opening ceremony and as a group representative in class presentation.

3 Work in pairs. Discuss the following questions with your partner.

1. Do you know any general rules on how to dress appropriately for the occasion?
2. What image would you like to present in front of your audience?
3. What do you usually do to enhance your personal appearance?

Understanding Contemporary China

Activity 1 Understanding the Chinese Dream

- 1** Read the following paragraph about the Two Centenary Goals that are set for the realization of the Chinese Dream, and fill in the blanks.

The Chinese people have been struggling since the advent of modern times to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the Party celebrates its centenary in 2021, and to build China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced, harmonious, and beautiful by the time the People's Republic of China celebrates its centenary in 2049.

1. The First Centenary Goal is _____.
2. The Second Centenary Goal is _____.

- 2** Part of the Chinese Dream is becoming a reality, as evidenced by the remarkable progress made in various sectors. Look at the following figures about the achievements during the 13th Five-Year Plan period (2016–2020). Match the numbers on the left with the information on the right.

1. More than 35,000 km
2. 82%
3. 30,733 yuan
4. More than 60 million
5. 99.94%
6. Above 95%

A. Per capita disposable income in 2019

B. New jobs created in urban areas from 2016 to August 2020

C. Net enrollment rate of primary school-age children in 2019

D. High-speed railway mileage by the end of 2019

E. The basic medical insurance rate by 2019

F. The share of good air quality days in 337 cities at or above the prefecture level in 2019

- 3** Work in pairs. Make a 1-minute speech on one of the achievements listed above. Illustrate your ideas with examples or stories you have found in your pre-class research.

Activity 2 Understanding the Chinese Dream of young people

1 Read the speech and explain in what ways the Chinese Dream relates to everyone.



¹ **T**he 18th CPC National Congress put forward a master blueprint for completing the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects and accelerating socialist modernization, and it issued a call for achieving the Two Centenary Goals. We made clear our desire to realize the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation in accordance with the guiding principles of the Congress. At present, all are discussing the Chinese Dream and thinking about how it relates to them and what they need to do to realize it.

² —The Chinese Dream pertains to the past and the present, but also the future. It is the crystallization of the tireless efforts of countless people with lofty ideals, embraces the yearnings of all the sons and daughters of the Chinese nation, and reveals the prospect of a bright future, when our country will be prosperous and strong, the nation will be rejuvenated, and the people will enjoy a happy life.

* Part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping to outstanding young representatives from all walks of life on May 4, 2013.

- ³ —The Chinese Dream is the dream of the country and the nation, but also of every ordinary Chinese. One can do well only when one's country and nation do well. Only if everyone strives for a better tomorrow can our efforts be aggregated into a powerful force to realize the Chinese Dream.
- ⁴ —The Chinese Dream is ours, but also yours, the younger generation. The great renewal of the Chinese nation will eventually become a reality in the course of the successive efforts of the youth.
- ⁵ During all periods of revolution, construction and reform, the Party has always valued, cared about and trusted young people, and placed great expectations on the younger generations. The Party believes that young people represent the future of our country and the hope of our nation, regards them as a vital contingent for the cause of the Party and the people, and always encourages them to realize their ideals in the great struggle of the people.
- ⁶ Today, we are closer than at any time in history to attaining the goal of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, and we have greater confidence in and capability for achieving this goal than ever before. “The last one tenth of the journey demands half the effort.” The closer we are to achieving the goal of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation, the more we should redouble our efforts and not slacken our pace, and the more we must mobilize all young people to this end.
- ⁷ Looking ahead, we can see that our younger generation has a promising future, and will accomplish much. It is a law of history that “the waves of the Yangtze River from behind drive on those ahead,” and it is the responsibility of young people to surpass their elders. Young people need to boldly assume the heavy responsibilities that the times impose on you, aim high, be practical and realistic, and put your youthful dreams into action in the course of realizing the Chinese Dream of the rejuvenation of the Chinese nation.
- ⁸ First, young people must be firm in your ideals and convictions. “One must both have great ambition and make tireless efforts to achieve great exploits.” Ideals provide direction in life, and convictions determine the success of a cause. Without ideals and convictions one's spirit becomes weak. The Chinese Dream is the common ideal of the people of all ethnic groups, and a lofty ideal that young people should harbor. Socialism with Chinese characteristics

is the correct path for leading the people in realizing the Chinese Dream that the Party articulated after untold hardships, and all young people should firmly adopt it as a guideline for your lives.

- 9 Young people should guide your actions with Deng Xiaoping Theory, the important thought of the Three Represents and the Scientific Outlook on Development; base your ideals and convictions on the rational recognition and acceptance of scientific theories, on a correct understanding of the laws of history, and on an accurate understanding of the basic national conditions; keep enhancing your confidence in the Chinese path, theories and system; have more faith in the Party's leadership; and always follow the Party in upholding Chinese socialism.
- 10 Second, young people must have professional competence. Learning is necessary for growth and progress, while practice is the way to improve competence. The qualities and competence of young people will have a direct influence on the course of realizing the Chinese Dream. There is an ancient Chinese saying, "Learning is the bow, while competence is the arrow." This means that the foundation of learning is like a bow, while competence is like an arrow; only with rich knowledge can one give full play to one's competence. Young people are in the prime time of learning. You should regard learning as a top priority, a responsibility, a moral support and a lifestyle. You should establish a conviction that dreams start from learning and career success depends on competence. You should make assiduous learning a driving force and competence building a resource for your youthful endeavors.
- 11 Young people must orient yourselves to modernization, the world and the future, have a sense of urgency in updating your knowledge, study with great eagerness, lay a good foundation of basic knowledge while updating it promptly, assiduously study theories while enthusiastically developing skills, and constantly enhance your competence and capabilities to meet the development needs of our times and the requirements of our undertaking. Young people must apply what you have learned, stay close to the grassroots and the populace, and, in the great furnace of the reform and opening up and socialist modernization, and in the great school of society, acquire true skills and genuine knowledge, improve competence, and make yourselves capable personnel who can shoulder important social responsibilities.

- ¹² Third, young people must dare to innovate and create. Innovation is the soul driving a nation's progress and an inexhaustible source of a country's prosperity. It is also an essential part of the Chinese national character. This is what Confucius meant when he said, "If you can in one day renovate yourself, do so from day to day. Yea, let there be daily renovation." Life never favors those who follow the beaten track and are satisfied with the *status quo*, and it never waits for the unambitious and those who sit idle and enjoy the fruits of others' work. Instead, it provides more opportunities for those who have the ability and courage to innovate. Young people are the most dynamic and most creative group of our society, and should stand in the forefront of innovation and creation.
- ¹³ Young people should dare to be the first, boldly free their minds and progress with the times, dare to seek high and low for a way to forge ahead, and be ambitious to learn from and then surpass the older generation. With your youthful energy, you can create a country of youth and a nation of youth. Young people should have the willpower to cut paths through mountains and build bridges over rivers, and be indomitable and advance bravely in bringing forth new ideas. You should have a pragmatic attitude that pursues truth, so you can constantly accumulate experience and achieve results in the course of bringing forth new ideas in your chosen occupations.
- ¹⁴ Fourth, young people must be devoted to hard work. "The sharpness of a sword results from repeated grinding, while the fragrance of plum blossoms comes from frigid weather." Human ideals are not easy to achieve, but need hard work. From poverty to prosperity, and from weakness to strength, China has been able to progress step by step over centuries thanks to the tenacity of one generation after another, and to the nation's spirit of constant self-improvement through hard work. Currently we are facing important opportunities for development, but we are also facing unprecedented difficulties and challenges. The dream stretches out before us and the road lies at our feet. Those who overcome their weaknesses are powerful, and those who keep improving themselves come out victors. If we are to achieve our development goals, young people must work long and hard without letup.
- ¹⁵ Young people must bear in mind that "empty talk harms the country, while hard work makes it flourish" and put this into practice. You must work hard

at your own posts, start from trivial things, and create your own splendid life with hard work, outstanding performances and remarkable achievements. Young people must never fear difficulties, but try to overcome them; you should go to the grassroots with tough conditions and the frontline for national construction and project development to temper yourselves and enhance your capabilities. Young people must have the courage and determination to start up businesses and do pioneering work, try to blaze new trails and start new endeavors in reform and opening up, and constantly create new prospects for their career development.

¹⁶ Fifth, young people must temper your character. Socialism with Chinese characteristics is a form of socialism in which material and cultural progresses go hand in hand. It is difficult for a nation without inner strength to be self-reliant, and a cause that lacks a cultural buttress cannot be sustained for long. Young people are a social force that leads the social ethos. The cultural attainment of a nation is represented mostly by the morality and mental outlook of the younger generation.

2 In order to realize the Chinese Dream, what do young people need to do? Work in pairs. Summarize the points highlighted in President Xi's speech and list them below.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Reflect upon how well you have behaved in relation to one or two of the aspects listed above and what you can do to improve yourself.

3 Share with your partner the stories you have collected in your pre-class research of people who have been devoted to rejuvenating the Chinese nation.

Understanding Public Speaking

Speaking publicly for intercultural communication

Intercultural communication is complex due to cultural differences. Speaking publicly to a culturally diverse audience is challenging not just because of different languages, but also because people from different cultures have different ways of thinking and seeing the world. To be an interculturally competent speaker, you are expected to think and act in ways that acknowledge and respect your audience, while cherishing your cultural roots and making references to Chinese history and heritage. The following tips can help you combine your English public speaking skills and Chinese heritage:

- Be alert and sensitive to the cultural factors, such as beliefs, values, and traditions that could affect your cross-cultural audience's understanding of and responses to your message.
- Try your best to make your speech one that your audience wants to hear, is able to understand, and also would like to respond to.
- You can elaborate on your ideas and views by “explaining China’s culture, history and points of view in such a way that the people from other countries can understand and identify with China, and be ready to give it greater appreciation and support.”*
- By conveying to your audience the joys and sorrows of ordinary people, you can enhance the affinity of your audience for your talk, which will give the points you want to make greater resonance with your audience.
- Successful communication needs abundant facts and effective evidence so as to be both informative and persuasive.

* From President Xi Jinping's speech at the centenary celebration of the Western Returned Scholars Association on October 21, 2013.

Activity 3 Learning from an example

- 1 Read the speech and figure out the possible target audience, foreign or Chinese. Justify your answer by finding evidence from the speech.



¹ Since the founding of the PRC in 1949, and particularly since the start of reform and opening up in 1978, China has completed an extraordinary journey, in which people of my generation have been personally involved.

² In the late 1960s, when I was in my teens, I was sent to a small village named Liangjiahe in Yan'an, Shaanxi Province, in western China. There I worked in the fields as a farmer for seven years. Like the locals, I lived in caves dug out from loess hills and slept on an earthen bed. The locals were very poor, and they could go for months without a bite of meat. I grew to understand what they needed most. Later when I became secretary of the village's Party branch, I set out to develop the local economy, because I knew what they needed. I very much wanted to see them have meat on their dinner tables, and I wanted to see that often. But that was a hard goal to attain.

* Part of the speech made by President Xi Jinping at a reception on September 22, 2015.

- ³ This Spring Festival I went back to Liangjiahe, which now has asphalt roads, tile-roofed brick houses, and internet access. The elderly enjoy the basic old-age pension, the villagers are covered by medical insurance, and the children receive good education. Having meat for dinner is of course no longer a dream. This made me feel strongly that the Chinese Dream is the people's dream, and that if it is to succeed, it must be based on the Chinese people's aspiration for a better life.
- ⁴ Changes in the small village of Liangjiahe epitomize the development and progress of the Chinese society since 1978. In less than 40 years we have boosted our economy to become the world's second largest, supplying 1.3 billion people with food and clothing and basically achieving moderate prosperity. The people enjoy dignity and rights at an unprecedented level. These changes have not only affected the lives of the Chinese. They also signify remarkable progress in human civilization and China's important contribution to world peace and development.
- ⁵ Nonetheless, we are fully aware that China remains the world's biggest developing country. China's per capita GDP is only two-thirds of the world average and one-seventh that of the United States, ranking about 80th in global terms. According to our standards, there are still 70 million people living in poverty in China; according to World Bank standards, 200 million Chinese are still living below the poverty line. In urban and rural areas 70 million people rely on subsistence allowances, and there are 85 million people with disabilities. Over the past two years I have visited many impoverished areas in China, and paid personal visits to families in need. Even now I can still see their faces and feel their longing for a better life.
- ⁶ All this demonstrates that we in China must continue our hard work. Development remains the top priority for contemporary China, and the primary task of China's leadership is to focus on improving people's living standards and achieving common prosperity. It is to this end that we have put forward the Two Centenary Goals. The first is to double GDP and the per capita incomes of urban and rural residents compared to 2010 levels, and to complete the building of a moderately prosperous society in all respects by 2020, as the centenary of the CPC approaches. The second is to build China into a modern socialist country that is prosperous, strong, democratic, culturally advanced and harmonious, and achieve the great rejuvenation of the Chinese nation by the middle of the century, which will see the centenary of

the PRC. All that we are doing now is designed to accomplish these goals. We must achieve the first goal, and in order to do that we must drive reform to deeper levels, we must thoroughly implement the rule of law, and we must run the Party with strict discipline. This is what we call the Four-Pronged Strategy*.

2 Based on the information in the speech, complete the table that shows how President Xi interacts with his audience.

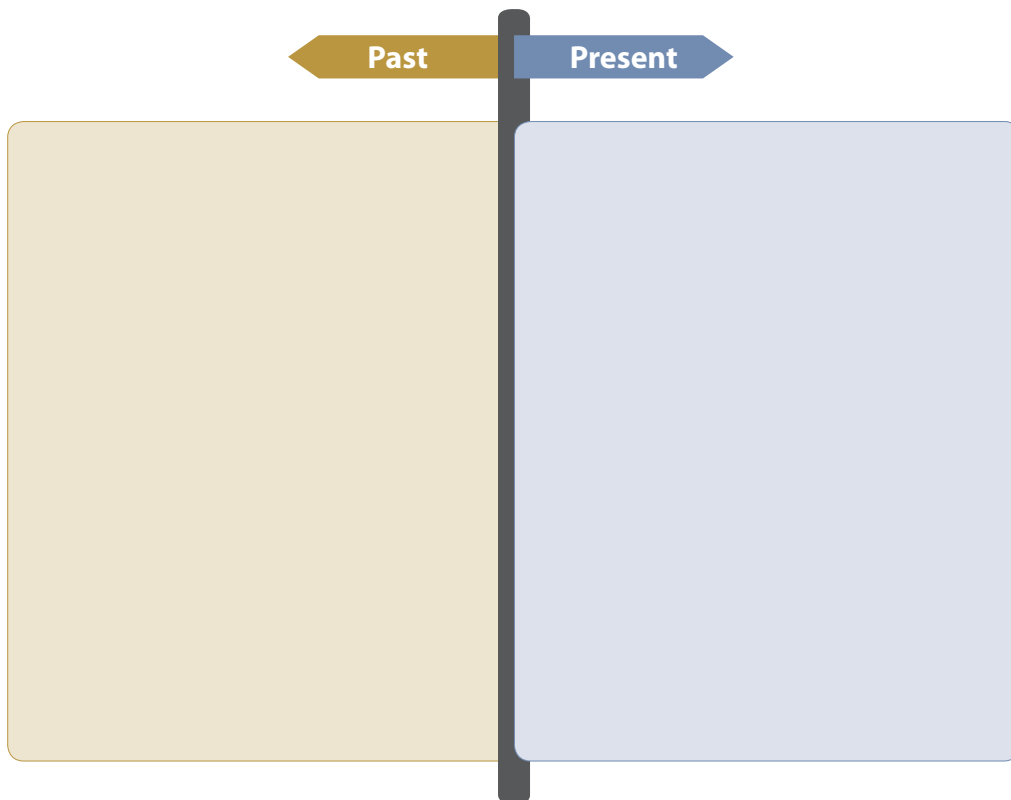
Speaking tips	Content	Effects achieved
Telling stories		Attracting the audience
Making a comparison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liangjiahe in the late 1960s and that in 2015 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arousing the audience's empathy by relating the audience to the joys and sorrows of ordinary Chinese people Making it easy for the audience to understand Highlighting the importance and essence of the Chinese Dream
Being alert and sensitive to the cultural factors		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helping the cross-cultural audience better understand and respond to President Xi's message Highlighting the value hidden behind the stories Making the audience understand and identify with China
Supporting ideas with abundant facts and effective evidence		Making the speech informative and persuasive

* The translation of the term “四个全面” has been updated to “The Four-Pronged Comprehensive Strategy” in the English translation of the third volume of *The Governance of China*. It was first proposed by President Xi Jinping during an inspection tour of Jiangsu Province in December 2014. It was newly narrated as “to make comprehensive efforts to build a great modern socialist country, deepen reform, advance law-based governance, and ensure full and strict governance over the Party” in the “Outline of the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021-2025) for National Economic and Social Development and Vision 2035 of the People's Republic of China.”

Activity 4 Telling a story in an intercultural context

You are invited to a social gathering with your foreign friends. During the gathering, your friends say that Chinese people live much better and happier lives than they thought.

- 1 List the changes that have taken place in China during the past five to ten years. Following the tips on Page 13, you are encouraged to tell stories of your family or your relatives as examples. Compare their lives in the past to how they are now.



- 2 Work in pairs. Tell your partner how you would present your ideas and what key points or values you would like to convey to your foreign friends by using these stories.

Making Your Voice Heard

- 1 Prepare a 5-minute speech on the responsibilities of the young Chinese generation at the **International Youth Forum*** (see Task for the unit). Here are some suggestions to help you prepare for it.

Step 1

Make an outline for your speech. You can take yourself as an example and include the following information in your speech: What is your Chinese Dream? How well have you done in realizing your ideals and in what aspects do you need to improve? In what ways can you contribute to the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation?

Step 2

You are advised to tell stories to illustrate your ideas, using the tips on Page 13.

Step 3

You may conclude your speech with President Xi's quote on his expectations for the young (see President Xi's speech in Activity 2 for details).

Step 4

Pay special attention to your personal appearance and dress appropriately for the speaking occasion.

* **International Youth Forum** is a platform that provides passionate young people with the opportunity to present their ideas on human rights and development goals. Every year young people from different countries come together to discuss thematic areas of concern, being determined to change the world and secure a better future for the coming generations.

Step
5

Use visual aids wherever necessary (e.g. pictures, graphs/charts/tables, PowerPoint slides).

Step
6

Do a timed rehearsal of your speech.

Language Bank

- Two Centenary Goals “两个一百年”奋斗目标
- to build a moderately prosperous society in all respects 全面建成小康社会
- a modern socialist country
社会主义现代化国家
- to accelerate socialist modernization
加快推进社会主义现代化
- the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation
中华民族伟大复兴的中国梦
- to aim high, be practical and realistic
志存高远，脚踏实地
- to be firm in one's ideals and convictions
坚定理想信念
- to orient oneself to modernization, the world and the future 面向现代化、面向世界、面向未来
- to dare to be the first, boldly free one's mind, progress with the times, seek high and low for a way to forge ahead
敢为人先、解放思想、与时俱进、上下求索、开拓进取
- To realize the Chinese Dream, we must adhere to the path of socialism with Chinese characteristics.
实现中国梦，必须坚持中国特色社会主义道路。
- Empty talk harms the country, while hard work makes it flourish.
空谈误国，实干兴邦。
- The last one tenth of the journey demands half the effort.
行百里者半九十。
- One must both have great ambition and make tireless efforts to achieve great exploits.
功崇惟志，业广惟勤。
- If you can in one day renovate yourself, do so from day to day. Yea, let there be daily renovation.
苟日新，日日新，又日新。