

International Clock Talk

1
Unit

FOCUS FOR LISTENING

International Clock Talk is about the confusion that can arise when people from different cultures around the world, with different views about time, interact with each other.

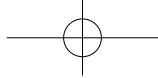
FOCUS FOR CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS

Play the part of either a student in Beijing or a student in New York and discuss the similarities and differences between your experiences in **The Best of Both Worlds**.

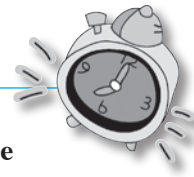
FOCUS FOR SPEAKING PRACTICE

In **World Clock**, discuss how people from different countries feel about time, as you role-play.





Warming Up



Now you will hear a broadcaster introduce the program “International Clock Talk”. Decide whether the following statements are T (true), F (false) or NG (not given) based upon the information you hear.



- () 1. People have been invited to the radio program to discuss different views of time.
- () 2. There is likely to be conflict during the radio show because everyone is late.
- () 3. People who arrive at the last moment are unhappy about the radio program.

Listening



Understanding Short Conversations

Now you will hear ten short conversations. A question will follow each conversation. Listen carefully and choose the best answer from the four possible choices.





- 1 A. Because they are all in the same country.
 B. Because they are all from the same culture.
 C. Because they have already discussed their views.
 D. Because there is no time difference in the country.

- 2 A. Making foreign friends in different ways.
 B. Coping with all the problems caused by foreigners.
 C. Thinking just like foreigners about problems.
 D. Dealing with how foreigners think about time.

- 3 A. Learning more Australian traditions.
 B. Telling Australians what he's used to.
 C. Relaxing more when dealing with Australians.
 D. Getting mad every time he is kept waiting.

- 4 A. They are very serious about time.
 B. They notice time differences.
 C. They feel people care too much.
 D. They don't think time matters much.

- 5 A. Because he knows he's in another country where rules are different.
 B. Because he has made a habit of it since moving to another country.
 C. Because he is used to being late in his own country.
 D. Because he thinks people in this country are always late.

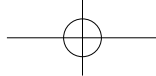
- 6 A. He never worries about being late.
 B. He appreciates being late for meetings.
 C. Germans don't turn up late for meetings.
 D. Germans don't care if he's late.

- 7 A. They are more relaxed about time.
 B. They are more likely to be annoyed if people are late.
 C. They relax more often than before.
 D. They are more likely to tell the truth about time.

- 8 A. Because she had been in the restaurant for 15 minutes.
 B. Because she had been there for two hours which she thought was too long.
 C. Because she had to meet someone for a meal in 15 minutes.
 D. Because she hoped to meet someone from her country on time.

- 9 A. Brother and sister.
 B. Mother and son.
 C. Father and daughter.
 D. Close friends.

- 10 A. Two hours.
 B. Four hours.
 C. Three and a half hours.
 D. Two and a half hours.



Understanding a Long Conversation

Now you will hear a long conversation followed by five questions. Listen carefully and choose the best answer from the four possible choices.



Questions 1 to 5 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

New Words:

Swede 瑞典人
stiff 严谨的

1

- A. They take taxis more often than others.
- B. They keep themselves busier than others.
- C. They are the most serious people.
- D. They are the most time-conscious people.

2

- A. More than five minutes.
- B. About five minutes.
- C. About two minutes.
- D. No more than two minutes.

3

- A. Because everything seems to happen on time.
- B. Because everyone is too stiff and serious.
- C. Because they are the most caring people in the world.
- D. Because people in Sweden are always right.

4

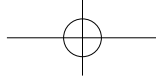
- A. Stiff and serious.
- B. Kind and caring.
- C. Serious and different.
- D. Ordinary and stressful.

5

- A. They get stressed because they are always late.
- B. They are always late because life has too much stress.
- C. They are not very time-conscious and are often late.
- D. They have a habit of being different and kind.

TAXIS





Understanding a Passage

Now you will hear a passage followed by five questions. Listen carefully and choose the best answer from the four possible choices.



Questions 1 to 5 are based on the passage you have just heard.

1

- A. Meetings are too long and too frequently held.
- B. People often come to work late.
- C. Employees don't attend meetings on time.
- D. The company president has too much responsibility.

2

- A. To have more important meetings at work.
- B. To think of the right words to use in advising his people.
- C. To employ people from many different countries.
- D. To tell people they must come to meetings on time.

3

- A. Because it causes meetings to run late into the night.
- B. Because it means people spend time waiting for latecomers.
- C. Because it means the president has to repeat his explanation.
- D. Because it causes workers to do things that are unimportant.

4

- A. He considered his feelings and thought about his problems.
- B. He thought about whether he should say something.
- C. He planned how he was going to tell his workers.
- D. He wrote out the different habits of different peoples.

5

- A. Because no one approved of his ideas.
- B. Because no one appeared at the meeting.
- C. Because he decided not to have meetings.
- D. Because he decided not to talk to his employees.



Understanding a Movie Dialog

Task 1 Now listen to a dialog from the movie *The Sixth Day* and fill in the blanks according to what you hear.

Secretary: Natalie's on Line One.

Adam: What's up, honey? You look 1) _____.

Natalie: Oh, Adam, I just talked to the vet and made them... they had to put Oliver to sleep.

Adam: What? He wasn't even that 2) _____.

Natalie: Oh, I know. But apparently he had some kind of, I don't know... highly infectious canine virus or something. And, and they had to put him down. It's the 3) _____.

Adam: Oliver was licking Clara's face this morning.

Natalie: Don't worry, because I asked the same thing, and the virus is 4) _____ to humans. So um... So she's fine.

Adam: This is going to 5) _____ her heart, and you know that.

Natalie: No, it won't. I want you to go down to RePet... and get Oliver 6) _____.

Adam: I'm not going to have some freak of science sleep in my daughter's bed.

Natalie: Oh, Adam, for heaven's sake. It's not dangerous.

Adam: No, yes, no, no. Oliver can live on in our 7) _____.

Natalie: She's only eight. She won't understand that, honey.

Adam: Look, it's the 8) _____ process of life. You're born, you live and you die. She has to learn about it some day.

Natalie: Yeah, but she doesn't have to learn about it on your 9) _____. It's hard...

Adam: I really 10) _____ that, honey.

Natalie: Will you do it?

Adam: No.

Natalie: Thank you, darling. And Clara thanks you too. I love you. Bye, bye.

Adam: But I won't do it. No, no, no, listen. Natalie, I just won't...



New Words:

- vet 兽医
- infectious 传染性的
- canine 犬科的
- virus 病毒
- lick 舔
- RePet (影片中) 克隆宠物的机构
- freak 怪物

Task 2 Now listen to the movie dialog again. Read the words while listening, and try to improve your pronunciation, stress and intonation by imitating what you hear.

Task 3 Now play the roles of Adam and Natalie.

Speaking



Practicing Conversational Skills

Useful Expressions



Read the following expressions for talking about maximum quantities. Try to learn them by heart.

Asking About Maximum Quantities

- What's the maximum speed I can drive on this highway?
- What's the maximum sitting capacity of this stadium?
- What's the highest temperature in this region?
- How soon will we arrive there?
- How long will you stay in Shanghai?

Talking About Maximum Quantities

- 70 kilometers per hour.
- No more than 80 kilometers per hour.
- It's 10,000.
- It can get as high as 50 degrees Centigrade in summer.
- No later than 10:00 pm.
- Before 8:00 am.
- In no more than 30 minutes.
- At most a week.
- Almost/Nearly a week.

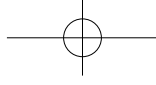
Read the following expressions for talking about minimum quantities. Try to learn them by heart.

Asking About Minimum Quantities

- What's the minimum pay per hour these days?
- What's the per-person minimum expense for the dinner?
- What's the least we have to pay for watching cable TV?
- What's the lowest temperature here in winter?
- How far do we still have to walk?

Talking About Minimum Quantities

- No less than 5 dollars an hour.
- It's set at 5 *yuan*.
- The minimum charge is 5 dollars a month.
- It could be as low as 20 degrees Centigrade below zero.
- At worst it can be 20 degrees Centigrade below zero.
- I'm afraid at least 5 miles.



Read the following expressions for talking about comparisons. Try to learn them by heart.

Asking About Comparisons

How would you compare this year's classes with last year's?

What do you think of his second movie in comparison to his first?

How is the food there in comparison to where you come from?

Is this computer as good as mine?

Is fashion in America similar to that in Mexico?

They're almost the same as last year's.

It's much more exciting than the first one.

They have as many vegetables.

They're very similar.

They're very alike: They're both spicy.

No. I don't think it's any better.

No. It's no better than yours.

Sure!

No. There are quite a few differences.

Talking About Comparisons

Read the following expressions for talking about contrasts. Try to learn them by heart.

Asking About Contrasts

What do you think of rock music in contrast to opera?

How does the weather in California contrast with that on the East Coast?

In what way are Chinese women different from Japanese women?

Could you tell me the differences between these two rooms?

How much larger is the population of Shanghai than our hometown?

Rock music is much more popular among young people.

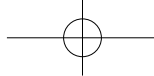
Winter temperatures in California are much higher than on the East Coast.

Usually Japanese women..., while Chinese women...

Sure, this is more spacious but more expensive, whereas that one is smaller and cozier.

About three times larger.

Talking About Contrasts



Model Dialogs



A: What does the National Minimum Wage Act provide for?

B: It ensures that the minimum wage for an adult employee is 7 euros per hour.

A: How much do you earn a week?

B: About 300 euros.

1

Maximum and Minimum Quantities

A: What is the maximum speed for cars on this road?

B: 120 kilometers an hour.

A: What about the minimum speed?

B: 80 kilometers an hour.

3

A: How much money is allowed for entertaining guests when on official business?

B: The standard is \$25 per person.

A: What, even for entertaining senior executives? What is the maximum expense for lunch per-person then?

B: \$35.

2

Comparisons and Contrasts

1

A: Who are more time-conscious, Americans or Arabs?

B: On the whole, I think Americans are.

A: So, do you think American culture is better in this respect?

B: No, I don't think so. I think Arab culture is as good as American culture.

A: We believe that if we treat people decently, they will do the same to us in return.

B: Yes, but some people ignore this idea.

A: Really? I think the majority of people believe in the concepts of love, harmony, and peace.

B: But, in some parts of the world, they don't.

2



Situational Conversations



The Best of Both Worlds

Purpose:

Practice talking about maximum and minimum quantities, comparisons and contrasts.

Directions:

Work with a partner. One of you will take the part of A, and the other B. A and B are former classmates. A is currently studying IT in New York, while B is studying Business Management in Beijing. Make up short conversations based on the following situations, using appropriate expressions for talking about maximum and minimum quantities, comparisons and contrasts.

- ① A and B are talking about the credits of their universities.
- ② A and B are talking about the speed limit in Beijing and New York.
- ③ A and B are comparing the teaching methods in China and the United States.
- ④ A and B are comparing Beijing and New York.
- ⑤ A and B are contrasting Chinese and Americans' attitude toward time.
- ⑥ A and B are contrasting Chinese and American food.

Sample Dialog:

A: Jerry, it's so great to see you again! How is Beijing?

B: Wow, you look great Jennifer! Er, Beijing, it's very exciting. It's opened my eyes to the differences in the way people do business around the world.

A: Really, like what?

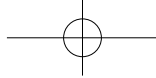
B: Well, you know how everything in America seems to focus on the actual product or what needs to be accomplished. That's not the case in China. There's a lot more emphasis on getting to know who you are dealing with.

A: Oh, you mean people think relationships are more important than getting things done.

B: Not exactly, they just think that without a good business relationship nothing can get done.

A: I guess that's a better way to put it.

B: Right. And there are many people from other parts of the world on the course and they also seem to stress relationships as much as or more than we do in the United States.



Pair Work



World Clock

Work in pairs. Play the parts of people from different countries and discuss whether people should live by plans and deadlines. The result of the discussion will be reported to the whole class.

Relevant Ideas:

We are/are not slaves to the clock.

Time is/is not a resource.

Time is/is not money.

Time is/is not the enemy.

The efficient use of time should/should not be emphasized.

Time is/is not unlimited and unending.

Opening exchanges are/are not necessary for a business call.

Sample Dialog:

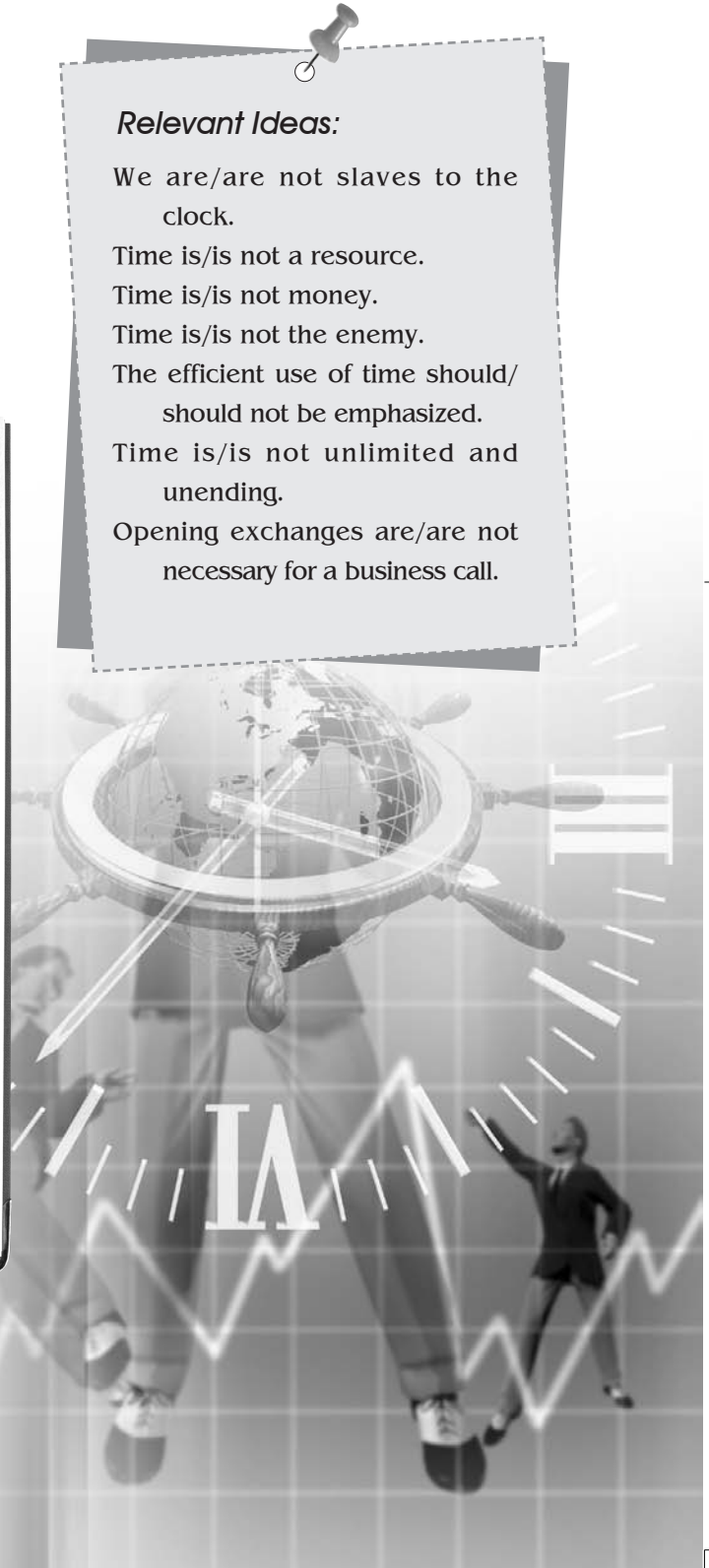
A: Sometimes it gets me down how we are slaves to the clock.

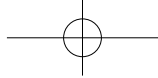
B: Maybe you're a slave, but I'm not. In your country, the United States, people think they must follow rigid schedules. But in my country, Brazil, people are much more relaxed.

A: I'd be surprised if anybody can be really relaxed about time. We all have to get our work done.

B: You'd really have to visit Brazil to understand how things are there. We do have to work, but we're much more relaxed about it.

A: I look forward to doing that one day. Living by the clock causes me a lot of stress.





Listening and Speaking

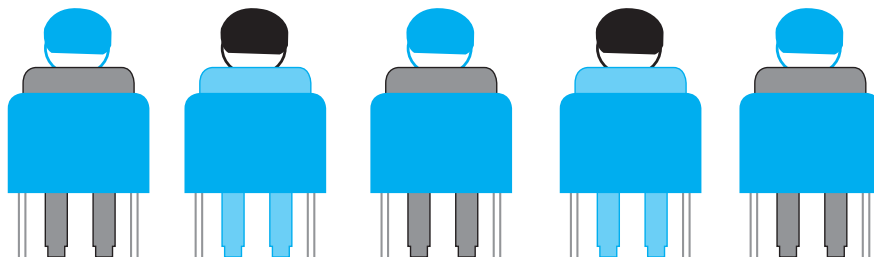


Story-retelling



Task 1 Now you will hear a story. Listen carefully and fill in the blanks while listening.

- ① In his home country, the U.K., students would often _____ him.
- ② In his third day of classes, he asked a student a question. The student just gave the professor _____.
- ③ It was obvious that the student didn't understand the question, so he _____.
- ④ Later that day, after talking to other people at the school, he discovered that often Japanese students don't _____, even when they don't understand something.
- ⑤ In the months that followed, the professor learned how to encourage his students to speak up more. And he, _____, changed his teaching style so his students could gradually understand more. But it took _____ work.



Task 2 Now work in pairs and retell the story with the following sentences as the beginning of each story. Each of you in turn gives two sentences of the story and all sentences must be logically connected.

- ① I'm a philosophy student in Japan. One day I had a new professor from the U.K. I didn't understand...
- ② I'm a philosophy professor from the U.K. One day I discovered that my students didn't understand me, so...

Homework



Language Sense Enhancement

Task 1 Try the following tongue twister.

Can you can a can as a canner can
can a can?
If you can't can any candy can,
how many candy cans can a candy
canner can if he can can candy
cans?

Task 2 Recite the following sayings.

- Better be an hour too early than a minute too late.
- Footprints on the sand of time are not made by sitting down.
- Opportunity seldom knocks twice.
- The morning sun never lasts a day.
- Time and tide wait for no man.

Supplementary Listening

Culture Shock

Task 1 Now you will hear a long conversation followed by five questions. Listen carefully and choose the best answer from the four possible choices.

New Word and Expression:

refer to 指称
appropriate 恰当的

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the conversation you have just heard.

- A. It wouldn't cause any problems for people.
B. She knew how to deal with it.
C. It only occurred when people didn't understand a culture.
D. She wouldn't experience it.
- A. They will feel the lack of direction in a completely new environment.
B. They will not know what to do or how to do things in a new place.
C. They will never do things that they think are wrong.
D. They will not know what appropriate or inappropriate behavior is.
- A. They may find it hard to get along with people around them.
B. They may suffer both mental and physical discomfort.
C. They may be afraid of meeting new people and new things.
D. They may feel depressed when repeatedly doing wrong things.
- A. Language. B. Banking machines.
C. Telephone. D. Television.
- A. Because it is a natural experience.
B. Because it encourages better understanding of oneself.
C. Because it helps you with language abilities.
D. Because it helps broaden your horizons.



Solutions for Culture Shock

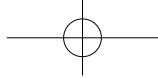
Task 2 Now you will hear a passage followed by five questions. Listen carefully and choose the best answer from the four possible choices.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the passage you have just heard.

1. A. Because that can help you have more physical exercise.
B. Because that can help you make friends with American people.
C. Because that can help you experience what Americans are doing.
D. Because that can help you gain more experience by visiting different places.
2. A. American friends.
B. Religious people.
C. People on the Internet.
D. Volunteers.
3. A. Taking part in any enjoyable activity.
B. Learning a new skill or hobby from a friend.
C. Jogging.
D. Taking part in sports.
4. A. By taking part in community activities.
B. By applying to the university you're studying at.
C. By going to the local church every Sunday.
D. By helping with housework in the host family.
5. A. Guess the meaning.
B. Look it up in a dictionary.
C. Try to say it and ask for help.
D. Keep it in mind.

New Word:

eliminate 消除



Task 3 Now listen to a **V·A** Special English report and fill in the blanks while listening.



Scientists using measurements from the Hubble Space Telescope think they have found the speed at which the universe is expanding. The expansion-rate is important for estimating 1) _____ of the universe.

For years, scientists have been seeking an exact measurement of the expansion-rate. 2) _____, American scientist Edwin Hubble provided evidence that the universe is not peaceful and unchanging, but developing. He proposed that galaxies in space were moving away from each other at speeds which 3) _____.

Earlier estimates of the expansion-rate differ widely. Some researchers say the universe is 10,000 million years old. Others say it could be as much as 20,000 million years old.

4) _____, 27 scientists representing 13 research groups announced what they believe is the most exact estimate. They used the Hubble Space Telescope to observe 18 galaxies as far as 65 million light years from Earth. 5) _____ is how far light travels in one year—almost ten-million-million kilometers.

The international team of scientists discovered 800 very bright stars in those galaxies. The scientists used the stars to compare several other methods of measuring 6) _____.

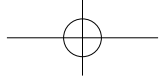
The scientists say their findings show that our universe has been expanding for at least 12,000 million years. However, they say the universe could be as much as 1,500 million years older, depending on 7) _____.

Some experts say the findings 8) _____ that the expansion of the universe is speeding up and will continue. This means that the universe will not 9) _____, as some scientists had believed.

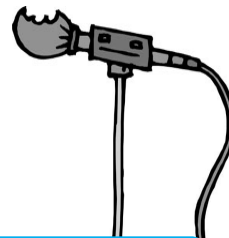
However, other researches immediately disputed the new findings. For example, Allan Sandage of the Carnegie Observatories in California has been studying the expansion-rate question for more than 20 years. His group's findings show the universe is closer to 15,000 million years old—10) _____.

New Words and Expressions:

- measurement 测量
- Hubble Space Telescope 哈勃望远镜
- universe 宇宙
- expansion 伸展, 扩大
- evidence 根据, 证据
- galaxy 星系
- dispute 争论, 辩论
- Carnegie Observatories 卡内基天文台



ORAL REPORT



Prepare a three-minute oral report on one of the following topics or any other topic related to what you have learned in this unit. You will be asked to present it in the next class. ▼

- Time is money.
- Are Chinese people time-conscious?
- Five tips for time management



• Audio Script •

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to “International Clock Talk”, our weekly radio program about cultural differences. Today we are honored to have invited a number of people from different countries to give us their views.

You may be interested to know that some of our guests arrived at the studio very early, while others turned up at the last minute!

Time, and how different cultures deal with it, is what we are going to talk about first. Please stay with us and hear more about the different views of time.

(Words: 92)



Audio Scripts

- 1 **W:** It's time for "International Clock Talk"! Time to discuss how you feel about time!
M: Well, since we all come from the same country, I think our views will be similar.
Q: Why does the man believe the people will have similar views?
- 2 **W:** It annoys me the way my foreign friends treat time.
M: I just read a book about this problem! It's entitled *International Clock Talk*.
Q: Which problem is the book about?
- 3 **M:** Australians are so relaxed about time! It drives me mad!
W: That's the way they are. While you're here, you'll have to get used to it.
Q: What advice does the woman give the man?
- 4 **M:** Have you noticed differences between our cultures?
W: Sure. In my country, people don't care about time very much. Here, you take it seriously.
Q: How do people in the woman's country feel about time?
- 5 **W:** Can you explain why you're always five minutes late for conferences?
M: Oh, I'm sorry. In my country, people are often late.
Q: Why is the man late for conferences?
- 6 **W:** What do you appreciate most about life in Germany?
M: German people are rarely late for meetings. I never have to deal with latecomers.
Q: What does the man like best about life in Germany?
- 7 **M:** I've heard that Chinese people are very relaxed about time.
W: That used to be true. Nowadays, people are increasingly bothered by lateness.
Q: According to the woman, how have Chinese people changed?
- 8 **M:** Why did you walk out of the restaurant abruptly? We had just started talking.
W: Just started? We were there for two hours! In my country, meals take 15 minutes!
Q: Why did the woman walk out of the restaurant so abruptly?
- 9 **W:** What did Mom think about her trip to Russia? I'm so looking forward to hearing about it.
M: She didn't say much. When I picked her up at the airport this morning, she was just eager to get home to see Dad. She just said the food was great there.
Q: What is the relationship between the two speakers?
- 10 **M:** It's only 6:30, and you're done! I won't finish work till 10. You're very efficient.
W: Well, Tom finished two hours earlier than me. That's a sign of efficiency in my country.
Q: How many hours earlier did the woman finish her work than the man?

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

• Audio Script •

M: You travel a lot. Which people do you think are the most time-conscious?

W: I think it's probably the Swedes.

M: Really, what makes you say that?

W: Well, on my last trip to Sweden, I ordered a taxi to pick me up at my hotel at 6:25 am. I got to the street at 6:27, but the taxi had already left.

M: That's a little hard to believe. Is it true?

W: Absolutely, everything runs on time there. There's no room for mistakes. Everyone is very time-conscious!

M: They must seem very stiff and serious!

W: Sure, but once you get to know them, you find kind, caring people behind their serious faces.

M: This is very different from my experiences traveling in South America. Of course, people there are very kind, but they don't care much about time.

W: I agree. South Americans don't put very much stress on time. They're always late for everything, but no one seems to mind.

(Words: 154)

- 1 What does the woman think about Swedish people? **D**
- 2 How long did the taxi driver wait for the woman? **D**
- 3 Why does the woman say "there's no room for mistakes" in Sweden? **A**
- 4 According to the woman, what are Swedes usually like? **B**
- 5 What do the man and the woman say about people in South America? **C**



• Audio Script •

The biggest problem in my company has to do with culture, in particular our different ways of looking at time. People from some countries think it is OK to show up late for a meeting and some people even don't think they need to come at all! As president of the company, however, it is my responsibility to tell them that this is not acceptable. Whereas in some other countries attending meetings is not considered very important, in this country, and especially in this company, meetings must be attended on time. Not being on time causes inefficiency. I spent all night thinking about the exact words that I would use to explain my feelings. I even wrote my words down. I planned to discuss this problem at the meeting today, and entitled my speech "International Clock Talk". Unfortunately, I have a problem—no one came to the meeting!

(Words: 148)

- 1 What is the company's greatest problem? **C**
- 2 Which of the following does the speaker consider is his duty as president of the company? **D**
- 3 Why does lateness cause a decrease in efficiency? **B**
- 4 What did the company president do the previous night? **C**
- 5 Why couldn't the president do what he had planned? **B**



• Audio Script •

Secretary: Natalie's on line one.

Adam: What's up, honey? You look 1) upset.

Natalie: Oh, Adam, I just talked to the vet and made them... they had to put Oliver to sleep.

Adam: What? He wasn't even that 2) sick.

Natalie: Oh, I know. But apparently he had some kind of, I don't know... highly infectious canine virus or something. And, and they had to put him down. It's the 3) law.

Adam: Oliver was licking Clara's face this morning.

Natalie: Don't worry, because I asked the same thing, and the virus is 4) harmless to humans. So um... So she's fine.

Adam: This is going to 5) break her heart, and you know that.

Natalie: No, it won't. I want you to go down to RePet... and get Oliver 6) replaced.

Adam: I'm not going to have some freak of science sleep in my daughter's bed.

Natalie: Oh, Adam, for heaven's sake. It's not dangerous.

Adam: No, yes, no, no. Oliver can live on in our 7) memories.

Natalie: She's only eight. She won't understand that, honey.

Adam: Look, it's the 8) natural process of life. You're born, you live and you die. She has to learn about it some day.

Natalie: Yeah, but she doesn't have to learn about it on your 9) birthday. It's hard...

Adam: I really 10) appreciate that, honey.

Natalie: Will you do it?

Adam: No.

Natalie: Thank you, darling. And Clara thanks you too. I love you. Bye, bye.

Adam: But I won't do it. No, no, no, listen. Natalie, I just won't...

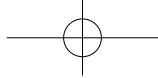
Notes for Teachers

This extract is taken from the movie *The Sixth Day* (《第六日》2000).

The movie is about Adam Gibson, a helicopter pilot, who survives a near-fatal accident but returns home only to find that he has been replaced by an exact duplicate of himself, a clone. He must not only save himself from people who want to destroy him to protect their secret, but uncover who and what is behind the horrible things happening to him.

This dialog is a videophone conversation between the husband Adam Gibson and his wife Natalie. During the conversation, Natalie tells her husband about the death of the family dog. She also asks him to go to RePet, an animal cloning company, and pick up a clone of the dog before coming home. Adam doesn't think that cloning is natural and tries to talk her out of it. The dialog ends with the wife refusing to take "no" for an answer.





Unit 1

Notes for Teachers

When asking about maximum or minimum quantities, the superlative form of a word is often used. Responses to these questions usually include phrases like “as... as”, “no later/more/less than”.

In talking about comparisons and contrasts, expressions like “compare... with/to”, “in comparison to” and “as... as”, “similar to”, “in contrast to” and “different from” are frequently applied.



Lead-in Activity

Do You Know...?

Aim: Familiarize students with expressions about maximum and minimum quantities.

Timing: 6 minutes.

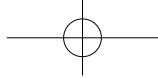
Procedure:

1. The teacher asks the whole class the following questions.
2. The student who knows the answer volunteers.

Questions for the teacher's reference:

- What is the maximum speed people can drive on Jing-Jin-Tang Expressway?
 - What is the maximum sitting capacity of the National Stadium?
 - What is the minimum pay people get per month in Beijing?
 - How long can you stay in the U.S. with a visit visa?
 - What is the lowest temperature in Beijing in winter?
- (Note: The teacher can change the questions to make them more closely related to the life of the students.)





Unit 1

Notes for Teachers

In **The Best of Both Worlds**, students work with a partner, playing the parts of former classmates who parted to study at two different colleges, one in Beijing and the other in New York. Students should compare and contrast their experiences.



Notes for Teachers

The purpose of **World Clock** is to give students opportunities to talk about the different attitudes toward time held in various countries. The teacher can ask students to research how people in different countries feel about time before the class. Students choose a country to represent (or the teacher chooses for them), and then they engage in conversations. After the pair work, the teacher can ask several students to report to the class, to check the results of the pair work and learn something about different opinions of time. After the reports, the teacher can make a summary.



• **Audio Script** •

It was not until his third day of class that the professor realized no one understood what he was saying. 1) In his home country, the U.K., students would often sit quietly and listen to him. But if they had problems, they would speak up. He soon found out that Japanese students could be very different.

2) In his third day of classes, he asked a student a question. The student just gave the professor a blank stare. 3) It was obvious that the student didn't understand the question, so he put it a different way. When it still wasn't answered, he asked a completely different question. When the student still didn't understand, he asked another student. And when she didn't understand, the professor asked a third, a fourth and a fifth.

4) Later that day, after talking to other people at the school, he discovered that often Japanese students don't speak up in class, even when they don't understand something.

5) In the months that followed, the professor learned how to encourage his students to speak up more. And he, in turn, changed his teaching style so his students could gradually understand more. But it took a great deal of work.

(Words: 196)

Audio Script

W: I always thought that culture shock was something that would happen to other people, not to me.

M: Actually, I'm not totally certain what the words "culture shock" refer to.

W: Culture shock is the anxiety that occurs when a person moves to completely new surroundings.

M: Does it include a lack of direction and not knowing what is appropriate or inappropriate?

W: It sure does. And, it generally sets in a few weeks after arriving in a new place.

M: Is it a physical or mental discomfort?

W: It's both. Most people suffer stress in their body and mind. It can result in feeling very tired, getting sick, becoming depressed and doing things you might otherwise think are wrong.

M: I think I've experienced all of those symptoms.

W: It's only natural. When you first arrive, you don't speak the language, don't know how to use banking machines, don't know how to use the telephone and so forth.

M: At the same time it can also be an opportunity.

W: I agree. It can help you develop a better understanding of yourself and encourage a sense of creativity.

(Words: 179)

Task 1

- 1 What did the woman first think about culture shock? **D**
- 2 Which of the following statements is NOT true about people experiencing culture shock? **C**
- 3 How may culture shock affect people's lives? **B**
- 4 When the woman talks about the newcomer's inability, which of the following is NOT mentioned? **D**
- 5 How can culture shock also be an opportunity? **B**



• Audio Script •

Even though you may not be able to eliminate culture shock, there are ways to ease the stress. The following are some activities that can help:

Get out of your room or apartment, so you are able to experience first-hand what Americans are doing.

Make friends so you can talk to them and ask about what you don't understand.

Read to learn about the culture of the country you're in.

Find an activity that you can enjoy so you will be able to reduce stress and depression. Americans like to jog and they also like to play sports.

Find out from your host family or other Americans about community activities, religious services, or volunteer opportunities. Make the most of this opportunity to become a member of their community.

Improve your English. Ask about anything you don't understand. Don't be afraid to make mistakes. Someone will be happy to put you right.

(Words: 149)

Task 2

- ① Why is it advised to get out of your room or apartment? **C**
- ② To whom can you talk when you want to understand the American culture? **A**
- ③ Which of the following is NOT mentioned as a way to reduce your stress and depression? **B**
- ④ How might you become a member of the community? **A**
- ⑤ What should you do if you are NOT sure about how to say something? **C**



Audio Script

Scientists using measurements from the Hubble Space Telescope think they have found the speed at which the universe is expanding. The expansion-rate is important for estimating 1) [the age, size and future](#) of the universe.

For years, scientists have been seeking an exact measurement of the expansion-rate. 2) [Seventy years ago](#), American scientist Edwin Hubble provided evidence that the universe is not peaceful and unchanging, but developing. He proposed that galaxies in space were moving away from each other at speeds which 3) [increase with distance](#).

Earlier estimates of the expansion-rate differ widely. Some researchers say the universe is 10,000 million years old. Others say it could be as much as 20,000 million years old.

4) [Late last month](#), 27 scientists representing 13 research groups announced what they believe is the most exact estimate. They used the Hubble Space Telescope to observe 18 galaxies as far as 65 million light years from Earth. 5) [A light year](#) is how far light travels in one year—almost ten-million-million kilometers.

The international team of scientists discovered 800 very bright stars in those galaxies. The scientists used the stars to compare several other methods of measuring 6) [distances in space](#).

The scientists say their findings show that our universe has been expanding for at least 12,000 million years. However, they say the universe could be as much as 1,500 million years older, depending on 7) [other measurements](#).

Some experts say the findings 8) [support the idea](#) that the expansion of the universe is speeding up and will continue. This means that the universe will not 9) [slow down and break up](#), as some scientists had believed.

However, other researches immediately disputed the new findings. For example, Allan Sandage of the Carnegie Observatories in California has been studying the expansion-rate question for more than 20 years. His group's findings show the universe is closer to 15,000 million years old—10) [or possibly even older](#).

(Words: 313)