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1

Unit

# College life: Challenges and opportunities



Attending college is an important milestone to many people. Whether it's developing effective study habits or establishing lifelong friendship, what happens in college may have a deep influence on people's academic life and professional career.

Do you still remember your first days in college? Did you have a smooth transition from high school to college? How challenging are classes? How do you communicate with your professors and peers? Is it worth it to go to college? Does college life meet your expectations? This unit will help you answer these questions.

## Scenario

A workshop will be held to enhance the mutual understanding and communication between Chinese students and international students in your college. The theme of the workshop is: what you expect to get from your college experience. You are invited to take part in the workshop to share ideas with your peers.

What are you expecting from your college life? How will you describe your expectations? Why do you have such expectations? What will you do to make your expectations come true? Follow the step-by-step learning process and you will be able to complete the task after studying this unit.

## Learning objectives

Upon completion of this unit, you will be able to:

- talk about challenges and opportunities in college life using new vocabulary
- identify and write the topic sentence of a paragraph
- understand better the challenges and opportunities at college
- explain the importance of attending college
- make a speech of what you expect to get from college experience

## Viewing

Do you still remember how you spent your first days at college? Did you encounter any challenges? Did you get any advice from others? Watch a video clip about advice for freshmen from American students. Do you think the advice would be helpful to freshmen in China?



**1** Fill in the blanks with what you hear from the video clip.

- 1 To be yourself, to make new friends, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 To \_\_\_\_\_. That is 100 percent really important.
- 3 To show up, to \_\_\_\_\_, to pay attention, and to enjoy yourself.
- 4 To maintain the \_\_\_\_\_, make sure you have enough time to focus on your academics, and focus on \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5 To make the most of the connections and \_\_\_\_\_ you make.
- 6 To make sure you \_\_\_\_\_.
- 7 To budget \_\_\_\_\_.  
Don't spend money on the things unnecessary.

**2** Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 Do you think the advice would be useful to you?
- 2 If you were asked to give college students advice, what advice would you give?

## Reading

You have listened to the American students giving advice for freshmen. Have you ever had any advice from the professors? Now read the following text and see what an American professor would say to freshmen and their parents.

# Some thoughts from a professor



- 1 As both a college professor and parent of a college student, this time of year always seems to raise a variety of thoughts as freshly minted high school graduates head off to their new adventures. In a couple of weeks, green first-year students will be wandering around campuses everywhere, looking young and confused.
- 2 “Where do I find Burdine Hall?” asks the first-year looking impossibly young.
- 3 “It’s that building right behind you,” I answer with a smile, knowing that I will have this conversation several times over the next few days.
- 4 Parents and students are nervous, excited, worried about paying bills, and so on. It’s a big transition. So what do professors think about all of this? I can’t speak for all of my colleagues, but I do have a few suggestions for parents and students heading off to college. First a few thoughts for students:
- 5 Don’t get too stressed out, particularly about grades. The first semester may be a little rough as the transition to college evolves. AP students, in particular, need to be careful about stressing over grades. You’ve been sold a bill of goods if your teachers told you AP classes are just like college classes. They aren’t. College classes are more difficult and much more thorough. If you attend a research university, you will be studying with the people who write the books and articles and they will be teaching based upon both their own and others’ research. It will be challenging.
- 6 Don’t be frightened by the faculty. Yes, we all have PhD degrees, but we are there to help you learn. Professors can be busy people. Teaching is only part of our job. At a research university, professors are expected to have ongoing research programs that require supervision of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and we spend a lot of time writing and collecting data. Take advantage of that. Visit your professors during office hours and find out how you can get involved in their research. Faculty usually welcome help and want undergraduates to become involved in research. They also really like talking about their work.
- 7 Take advantage of the educational opportunity in front of you. You should have fun in college, but you are there to study and to learn. Use the libraries, faculty, and other resources to get every ounce you can out of your college.



- 8 Don't be dominated by anyone, including your parents, in choosing your major. Every year I have one or two students telling me that Mom and Dad are forcing them to do premed, but they hate it. It's your life, make of it what you want and find something to study that fascinates you. Besides, if you don't really want to be a doctor, you probably won't be very good at it and you certainly won't be happy.
- 9 Don't call your professors by their first names unless they invite you to do so. Write emails with proper grammar, spelling, and capitalization. First impressions matter and your professors will likely be people who write your reference letters in the future. Get to know them, but be polite.
- 10 For parents, here are some things to keep in mind:
- 11 Leave your kids alone. Let them explore college and let them make mistakes. They will learn from those mistakes and grow up in the process. Don't hover over them and don't constantly check to make sure they are doing laundry or that they are studying. Encourage them to do well, but don't stress them out. Once a student told me his father warned him that anything less than a 3.5 GPA would mean he'd be financially cut off. This is not a way to support your child as he or she gets accustomed to a new and different lifestyle and a complicated set of demands.
- 12 Don't call or email professors if your kid gets a bad grade — most likely he or she deserved the bad grade and, if not, you need to let your kid work it out with the professor him or herself. Also, just because your kid got As in high school does not mean the same will happen in college. College is much more demanding than high school.
- 13 Finally, both parents and students need to recognize that college is a tremendous opportunity to spend four years at a place where knowledge is created. Students are exposed to new ideas and their preconceptions about the world are often challenged deeply. This is good; it is what makes you grow as a person and more able to deal with the complex world in which we live.

#### CULTURE NOTES

**AP (大学先修学分课程):** It stands for Advanced Placement, a program in the United States and Canada created by the College Board that allows students to take courses in their high school that are equal to college courses.

**First name (名字):** (also given name especially in *AmE*) It is the name or names that were given to you when you were born, which comes before your family name. It can be rude to call people by their first name if they are much older or more important than you.

**GPA (各科成绩的平均积分点):** It is short for grade point average, the average of a student's marks over a period of time in the US education system. An A is four points, a B is three, a C is two, a D is one, and an F is zero.

## Understanding the text

- 1 Why does the author want to give suggestions to freshmen and their parents? What suggestions does he give to them? Read the text and complete the diagram.

The problem the author finds at college: Freshmen and their parents are 1) \_\_\_\_\_ about the new college life.



The suggestions the author gives to freshmen and their parents:

### Suggestions for freshmen

- Don't get 2) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't be 3) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Take advantage of 4) \_\_\_\_\_.
- Don't 5) \_\_\_\_\_ by anyone in choosing your major.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ unless they invite you to do so.

### Suggestions for parents

- Leave your kids 7) \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_ if your kid gets a bad grade.



The author's conclusion: College is a tremendous 9) \_\_\_\_\_ for students to spend four years at a place where knowledge is created, and where they grow as a person and learn to deal with the complex world.

- 2 Work in pairs. Read the sentences from the text and discuss the questions.

- 1 *Parents and students are nervous, excited, worried about paying bills, and so on. It's a big transition. (Para. 4)*  
How did you feel when you headed off to college as green first-year students? Do you agree with the author that it is a big transition from high school to college? Why or why not?
- 2 *Don't be dominated by anyone, including your parents, in choosing your major. (Para. 8)*  
How did you choose your major, by yourself or by your parents? If by yourself, why did you choose it? If by your parents, why did they pressure you into it?
- 3 *Write emails with proper grammar, spelling, and capitalization. First impressions matter and your professors will likely be people who write your reference letters in the future. (Para. 9)*  
Have you ever written any emails to your professor in English? Do you have any difficulties in doing it? If yes, what difficulties do you have?



## Sharpening your skills

### READING SKILLS

#### How to identify the topic sentence

The topic sentence tells readers the main idea of a paragraph in simple and direct terms. It may include two elements: the topic, which is the subject of the paragraph, and a perspective on the topic, which is a statement about the topic. It is usually at the beginning or the end of a paragraph, but its position may vary. For example:

*Don't be dominated by anyone, including your parents, in choosing your major. (Para. 8)*

This sentence is the first sentence of Paragraph 8 and also the topic sentence of the paragraph. The topic is "major choosing," and the perspective is "don't be dominated by anyone."

**Read the following paragraphs. Identify and underline the topic sentences.**

#### Paragraph 1

Initiating conversations with those around you can create some of the most unexpected friendships. The conversation can start in a non-personal way such as discussing lectures or reading assignments, and can lead to meeting for coffee outside of the classroom. It is also helpful to get to know your classmates so that you can find a study partner or have someone you can reach out to for information if you have to miss a class. In classes held in large lecture halls, it is helpful to know a few people, so you don't feel lost in the crowd.

#### Paragraph 2

Perhaps you were class president in high school. Or perhaps you were a member of the honor society. You could have graduated in the top five percent of your graduating class; perhaps you were even valedictorian (致告别词的毕业生代表). Maybe you were in the honors program. Actually, it doesn't really matter what you did in high school as you make the transition to college. High school success (or lack of it) doesn't automatically apply to college.



## Building your language

### Words and expressions

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Change the form where necessary.

**complicated**      **deserve**      **supervision**      **frighten**  
**educational**      **tremendous**      **evolve**      **dominate**

- 1 She has every right to be proud of her \_\_\_\_\_ academic achievements.
- 2 Some of my classmates at college were extremely talented, which sometimes \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- 3 Everyone \_\_\_\_\_ a second chance, and people like him really do need to be helped.
- 4 A new study shows that big public colleges are \_\_\_\_\_ by wealthier students.
- 5 This chapter is written in a clear, understandable style, making it easier to understand the \_\_\_\_\_ legal issues discussed.
- 6 Numerous studies have shown that boys are falling behind girls in terms of \_\_\_\_\_ achievement.
- 7 It was unbelievable that students had accomplished the project without \_\_\_\_\_.
- 8 Well, I think we'll know how to measure success or failure as events \_\_\_\_\_.

2 Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English, using the expressions below.

**stress out**      **hover over**      **head off**      **take advantage of**  
**get involved in**      **work out**      **speak for**      **get accustomed to**

- 1 Self-respect and self-confidence will take you a long way in \_\_\_\_\_ (适应新环境, 结交新朋友).
- 2 What can you expect as you \_\_\_\_\_ (步入高等教育的精彩世界)? The first thing you'll notice is the workload.
- 3 It might be tempting to \_\_\_\_\_ (参与所有社团) under the sun but you won't have time to do it all.
- 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (利用开学的前几周), reaching out, while everyone is fresh and new, to make some friendship ties.
- 5 We are trying to \_\_\_\_\_ (找到如何完成项目的方法) under the supervision of our professor.
- 6 They're helicopter parents \_\_\_\_\_ (一直在子女身边徘徊), scheduling almost their entire day from sunrise to sunset.
- 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (我代表所有学生的家长) when I say I really appreciate what you have done for the students.
- 8 When the semester is approaching the end, \_\_\_\_\_ (我身边的每个人都变得紧张起来) and I'm feeling it, too.



## Collocations

Complete the sentences by choosing suitable words in brackets to collocate with the *italicized* words.

- 1 Campus violence has been a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (ongoing, steady) *problem* for decades in America.
- 2 While providing an environment in which students can work with top experts in specialized areas, the project also aims to \_\_\_\_\_ (expose, show) *them to other disciplines*.
- 3 With every \_\_\_\_\_ (ounce, bit) *of strength* I have, I am going to accomplish the project on time.
- 4 Human behavior is especially difficult to study because it can be influenced by a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (amount, variety) *of factors*.
- 5 You could have chosen a much safer, less *challenging* \_\_\_\_\_ (topic, idea) for your first attempt at a novel.
- 6 He \_\_\_\_\_ (deserves, wins) *the reward* for all the hard work he has done in the past decade.

## Vocabulary learning strategies



We have learned some words about college life and freshmen's feelings in the text, such as "green first-year students" and "confused" (Para. 1). You can scan the QR code to learn more about these words.

## Language focus



In the text, the "do + verb" pattern is used in the sentence "... I do have a few suggestions for parents and students ..." (Para. 4) to emphasize the suggestions. The author also uses "unless" in the sentence "Don't call your professors by their first names unless they invite you to do so" (Para. 9) to introduce the only circumstances in which an event you are mentioning will not take place. You can scan the QR code to learn more about these two sentence patterns.

## Banked cloze

Complete the passage with suitable words from the word bank. You may not use any of the words more than once.

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exposed	resources	ongoing	transition	fears
stressed	interesting	challenging	educational	access
fascinates	complicated	sources	frightened	involved

---

New surroundings and courses may be challenging for college students, especially for freshmen. The suggestions from a professor can help them face the challenges positively and have an easy 1) \_\_\_\_\_ from high school to college. To begin with, there is no doubt that college classes are difficult and 2) \_\_\_\_\_, and you should not get too 3) \_\_\_\_\_ out about grades. Next, do not be 4) \_\_\_\_\_ by the faculty. Instead, you can visit your professors during office hours, get to know them, and try to get 5) \_\_\_\_\_ in their research. Besides, you should study hard and take advantage of the 6) \_\_\_\_\_ opportunities at college, such as libraries, faculty, and other 7) \_\_\_\_\_. Then, you should choose a major that 8) \_\_\_\_\_ you by yourself. After all, it is your life. Finally, you need to recognize that college is a tremendous opportunity for you where you can be 9) \_\_\_\_\_ to new ideas and knowledge. It makes you more able to deal with the 10) \_\_\_\_\_ world and become a real person.

## Sharing your ideas

The author of the text gives two suggestions to American parents. One is that parents should leave their kids alone. The other is that parents should not call or email professors if their kid gets a bad grade. What do you think of these two suggestions? Take a selfie recording for 1-2 minutes talking about these two suggestions. The following questions might be helpful for you to organize your thoughts.

- Should parents leave their kids alone? Why or why not?
- Should parents call or email professors if their kid gets a bad grade? Why or why not?
- Are these suggestions also suitable for Chinese parents? Why or why not?

Try to make full use of the relevant information from the text, and the words and expressions in Building your language.

## Viewing

In iExplore 1, the author claims that college is what makes you grow as a person and more able to deal with the complex world in which we live. That is to say, college education plays a vital role in young people's growth and career success. However, not everyone wants to attend college, and some even drop out of college. Steve Jobs was one of them. Watch a video clip and find out why he dropped out and what he did afterward.



### 1 Fill in the blanks with what you hear from the video clip.

Why did I drop out?

- I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' 1) \_\_\_\_\_ were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the 2) \_\_\_\_\_ in it.
- I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

How did I feel when I dropped out?

- It was pretty 4) \_\_\_\_\_ at the time, but looking back it was one of the best 5) \_\_\_\_\_ I ever made.
- It wasn't all romantic.
- I 6) \_\_\_\_\_ it, and much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be 7) \_\_\_\_\_ later on.

What did I do after I dropped out?

- The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the 8) \_\_\_\_\_ that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that 9) \_\_\_\_\_.

### 2 Work in pairs and discuss the questions.

- 1 What do you think of Steve Jobs' dropping out of college?
- 2 What do you expect from your college education?

## Reading

As you have seen in the video clip, Steve Jobs dropped out of college, and achieved great business success later on. Actually we can find more similar examples, say Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, etc. However, can we consider dropping out of college a fast track to business success? Read the following text, and see what the author says.

- 1 An increasingly familiar and attractive story has been circulating about young people who, drawing inspiration from billionaire entrepreneurs and computer giants, consider dropping out of college a fast track to business success.
- 2 Names like Jobs, Gates, Dell and others lend star power to the myth of the wildly successful college dropouts. One recent *New York Times* article compared the phenomenon to "lighting out for the territories to strike gold," with one young executive describing it as "almost a badge of honor" among start-up entrepreneurs. Like any myth, this story has a kernel of truth: There are exceptional individuals whose hard work, determination, and intelligence make up for the lack of a college degree. If they could do it, one might think, why can't everybody?
- 3 Such a question ignores the outlier status of these exceptional dropout entrepreneurs and innovators.



## The myth of the successful college dropout: Why it could make millions of young Americans poorer

- 4 Those who are able to achieve such success often rely on a set of skills already developed before they get to college. They know how to educate themselves, get a bank loan, and manage their time and their money. They may benefit from a network of family, friends and acquaintances who open doors and provide a safety net.
- 5 But what happens to young people without access to these important resources? For them, skipping college to pursue business success is like investing their savings in lottery tickets in the hopes that they will be a multimillion-dollar winner, or failing to pursue an education because they expect to be an NBA superstar. The reality is that the next college dropout will not be LeBron James, James Cameron, or Mark Zuckerberg. He will likely belong to the millions of college dropouts you don't hear the press singing about. These are the 34 million Americans over 25 with some college credits but no diploma. Nearly as large as the state of California, this group is 71 percent more likely to be unemployed and four times less likely to pay back student loans. Far from being millionaires, they earn 32 percent less than college graduates, on average.
- 6 The vast majority of kids, especially those from disadvantaged families, need college to improve their circumstances. In fact, a recent UCLA study found that those who are least likely to attend college, including kids from disadvantaged backgrounds, benefit most from a college education.
- 7 These students are not offered the choice between Ivy League universities and Silicon Valley. They are not paid by Peter Thiel, the

PayPal co-founder who awards \$100,000 fellowships for students under 20 to leave college and pursue a venture for two years. For them, college is not a choice but a necessary and vital stepping-stone toward a future of opportunity. It is the platform from which whole families can be lifted to better prospects. Almost without fail, every degree – from associates to doctorate – leads to progressively higher wages, according to another recent report.

- 8 College provides young adults with the intellectual capital to succeed and the social capital to help them make connections, build networks, and establish lifelong relationships. It provides them with skills in analysis and reasoning combined with confidence that will lead them to confidently express and embrace new ideas. It transforms their perspectives, opening them up to different cultures, different world views, and different ways of seeing – and solving – some of the world’s most complex problems.
- 9 Far from being an obstacle to entrepreneurial success, a college education arms a person with the set of skills necessary to take advantage of a great idea. At their best, colleges and universities are themselves hothouses of innovation, a natural site and climate for translating ideas into application. It is no coincidence that some of the practical ideas that have most changed our world, such as the Internet, came directly out of universities and colleges. Nor is it a coincidence that communities of entrepreneurs, Silicon Valley included, grow up around great universities.
- 10 Appealing as it may be, the against-all-odds story of the college dropout is not the story we should be selling our young people. Research with Chicago Public Schools students – arguably among those who have the most to gain from college education – shows that only a fraction of those qualified for selective colleges ever make it there, in part because of misconceptions about what is possible. Let’s not further diminish their prospects and ambitions. There is a proven path for economic, social and intellectual opportunity, and it leads through our college campuses.

#### CULTURE NOTES

**Light out for the territories:** It means “to head for the frontier region,” coming from *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* of Mark Twain. It can be used to describe someone who leaves steadiness behind to go in search for freedom, adventure and new opportunities.

**Strike gold:** It literally means “to discover gold.” It can also mean “to discover a source of wealth or success.”

## Understanding the text

- 1** The text is a piece of argumentative writing in which the author presents his own argument on media stories about millionaire dropouts. Read the text and complete the diagram to see how the author supports his argument and opposes the media's argument.

**The media's argument (Paras. 1-2):**

Dropping out of college is 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to business success.

**The author's rebuttal (Paras. 3-5):**

- Those who are able to achieve such success often rely on 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ before they get to college.
- Young people without access to these important resources are more likely to be unemployed and earn less.



**The author's argument (Para. 6):**

The vast majority of kids, especially those from disadvantaged families, need college to 3) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Supporting point 1 (Para. 7):**

These students are not offered the choice between Ivy League universities and Silicon Valley.

**Supporting point 2 (Para. 8):**

College provides young adults with the 4) \_\_\_\_\_ to help them succeed.

**Supporting point 3 (Para. 9):**

Colleges and universities are themselves hothouses of 5) \_\_\_\_\_.



**The author's conclusion (Para. 10):** We should not sell the stories of successful college dropouts to our young people.

- 2** Read the text and identify the paragraph from which the information contained in each of the statements is derived. Write down the paragraph number in the blanks.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 Successful college dropouts depend on the skills they developed before they go to college.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 College dropouts are more likely to be unemployed or earn less than college graduates on average.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 According to a recent report, every degree leads to higher wages as far as the students from disadvantaged families are concerned.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 Young people think that dropping out of college is a shortcut to business success.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 College and universities are a place of innovation which can translate ideas into application.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 Media stories about millionaire dropouts should not be sold to young adults. College education is necessary for most of them.



## Building your language

### Words and expressions

1 Complete the sentences with the words below. Change the form where necessary.

**inspiration**  
**fellowship**

**coincidence**  
**intellectual**

**phenomenon**  
**selective**

**diploma**  
**circulate**

- 1 All new creations are built on previous creations and provide \_\_\_\_\_ for future ones.
- 2 For more than a century the department of education has collected data on the number of high-school \_\_\_\_\_ awarded each year.
- 3 It seems to her a happy \_\_\_\_\_ that she and her best friend are classmates.
- 4 The university does not offer \_\_\_\_\_ for international students.
- 5 Outside the official investigation, a different story began to \_\_\_\_\_ among the students.
- 6 As a teacher she was very \_\_\_\_\_, accepting only a small number of exceptionally gifted students.
- 7 There is no question that she has the \_\_\_\_\_ ability to succeed in whatever program she chooses.
- 8 In today's class we talked about natural weather \_\_\_\_\_ such as lightning and thunder.

2 Replace the underlined words with the correct form of the words and expressions below. You may need to make other changes.

**entrepreneurial**  
**educate**

**diminish**  
**make up for**

**exceptional**  
**rely on**

**fraction**  
**drop out**

- 1 Nothing could reduce the students' enthusiasm for the summer volunteer project.
- 2 She didn't own a car herself and was dependent on public transportation and friends to get around town.
- 3 He was taught at home by private teachers and showed talent in art.
- 4 This is only a small part of the amount of money necessary to attend most private schools.
- 5 Students are invited to come and hear what it takes to get the skills required of a successful young businessman.
- 6 My laptop had a really strange problem, which would only start in unusual circumstances.
- 7 She stopped taking the course because she could not afford to pay the £16,000 annual fees.
- 8 I have decided to take extra lessons to reduce the effect of the time I missed.

## Collocations

Complete the sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English, using suitable expressions from the collocation box.

- 1 Like many of his peers, Yu \_\_\_\_\_  
( 想要追求学业 ) in Harvard University in the late 1980s but failed repeatedly to get a visa.
- 2 Our professor says that \_\_\_\_\_  
( 上课对我们来说很重要 ) because college classes are difficult and challenging.
- 3 Her parents hoped that she could \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( 大学毕业后从事医药工作 ) but she didn't agree.
- 4 College means freedom, but you have to be motivated:  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( 没有人会逼迫你听课 ).
- 5 You are much more likely to \_\_\_\_\_  
( 获得成功 ) if you love what you are doing and have a passion for it.
- 6 After years of teaching and research, her father eventually  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( 实现了成为教授的目标 ).

### Nouns which often go after:

attend	class	lecture	college
achieve	success	goal	skill
pursue	dream	career	study

## Vocabulary learning strategies

The text uses some words formed with negative prefixes "un-," "dis-," and "mis-," such as "unemployed" (Para. 5), "disadvantaged" (Para. 6) and "misconception" (Para. 10). These negative prefixes change the meaning of the words into their opposite. You can scan the QR code to learn more about the words formed with the negative prefixes.



## Translation



### 1 Translate the paragraph into Chinese.

Far from being an obstacle to entrepreneurial success, a college education arms a person with the set of skills necessary to take advantage of a great idea. At their best, colleges and universities are themselves hothouses of innovation, a natural site and climate for translating ideas into application. It is no coincidence that some of the practical ideas that have most changed our world, such as the Internet, came directly out of universities and colleges. Nor is it a coincidence that communities of entrepreneurs, Silicon Valley included, grow up around great universities.

### 2 Translate the paragraph into English, using the words and expressions below.

**transition**    **increasingly**    **campus**    **semester**  
**pursue**    **undergraduate**    **innovative**    **get involved in**

中国的高等教育发展迅猛。这为更多的平民百姓提供机会，让他们追求上大学的梦想，并对他们的职业生涯起着越来越重要的作用。根据最新报道，2017年约有372万新生被录取进入大学学习。为了帮助新生适应校园生活，上海的一些高校想出了创新的迎新方法。这些方法包括：在社交网站如微博和微信上张贴信息指南、使用智能手机app简化入学手续等。同时，学校还举办迎新情况介绍会，帮助学生尽快投入学习，完成从中学向大学的过渡。

## Sharing your ideas

In the text the author argues that college education is necessary for young adults regardless of the against-all-odds story of the college dropouts. Have a discussion about this topic with your classmates. The following questions might be helpful for you to organize your thoughts.

- Do you agree with the author? Why or why not?
- Why do you attend college?
- What are your expectations from college education?

Try to make full use of the relevant information from the text, and the words and expressions in Building your language.



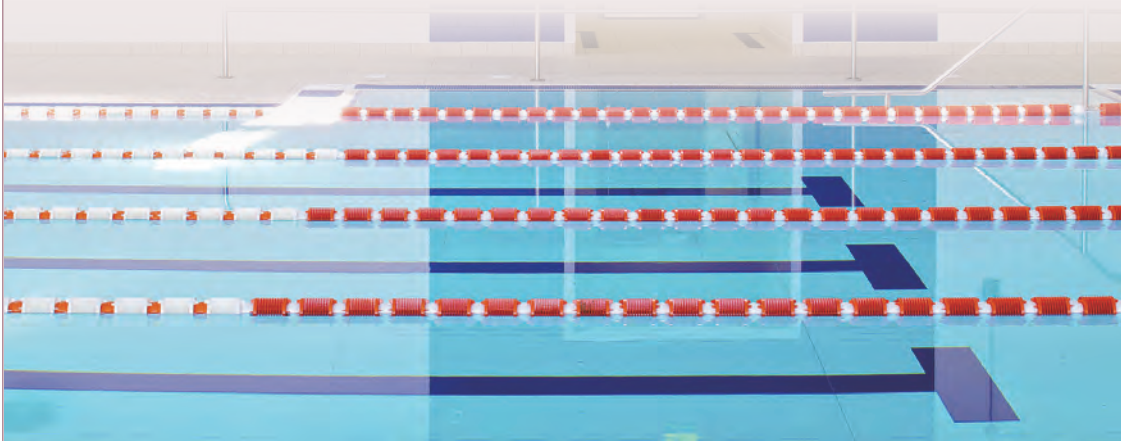
## Unit project

### Making a speech

#### What do I expect from college experience?

In iExplore 1 of this unit, you have learned about the suggestions from a professor. In iExplore 2, you have got acquainted with the arguments for or against dropping out of college. Now it's time to give your thoughts on college education and share them with others.

As stated in Scenario, you are going to make a two-minute speech at a workshop talking about why you attend college and what you expect to get from your college experience. The following steps may help you with the project.



### Step 1

#### Develop your ideas

For the first step of preparation, you may consider the following questions:

- Why do you attend college?
- What challenges are you faced with at college?
- Why is college education so important to young people?
- What is your opinion of dropping out of college?
- What do you expect to get from your college experience?

To complete this task, you need to answer these questions one by one. You can select some relevant information from the texts in iExplore 1 and iExplore 2. But it is by no means sufficient. You may have more to tell, especially the voice from your heart.

## Step 2

### Organize your ideas

It might be good if your speech includes the following three parts: opening, body and ending.

#### Outline

**Opening:** Greet your audience and introduce yourself briefly.

e.g. *Good morning, I am so glad to meet all of you. I am ...*

**Body:** Give your answers to the questions.

e.g. *I attend college because of the following reasons. On the one hand, ... on the other hand, ...*

*During the four-year study at college, I expect that I can ...*

**Ending:** Summarize the main points you have made in the body part.

e.g. *To sum up, I want to get every ounce I can out of my college and become more able to deal with the complex world in which we live.*

## Step 3

### Write a script

When writing your script, remember you are drafting a speech rather than a written essay. This means that you'd better write in a spoken style. It is better for you to use simple and concrete words.

## Step 4

### Rehearse your speech

After your script is done, you can start rehearsing it. Find one or more roommates to be your audience. Speak clearly with accurate pronunciation, clear articulation, and appropriate stress and pause.

## Step 5

### Deliver your speech

Now, are you ready for the actual performance? You may also refer to the following checklist to improve your performance.



# Checklist

## OK Need improvement

---

- 1 I have greeted the audience and introduced myself briefly.
- 2 I have answered the questions with explanations.
- 3 I have summarized my main points.
- 4 I have used accurate and clear language.
- 5 I have maintained a confident and calm manner in my delivery.



YOU CAN  
UPLOAD YOUR  
SPEECH  
TO  
THE ONLINE  
COURSE AFTER  
FINISHING IT.



# Vocabulary

## iExplore 1

### New words

**mint** /mɪnt/

vt. (*usu. passive*) to give sb. a degree or give them the appropriate skills for a particular job, etc. 授予…学位; 传授…技能

*As a newly minted Economics graduate, he is passionate to start his career.*

n. [U] 薄荷

**stressed** /strest/ a. (*also ~ out*) so worried and tired that you cannot relax 焦虑的; 紧张的; 无法放松的

*He was too stressed out before the final exam.*

**evolve** /ɪ'vɒlv/ v. to develop and change gradually over a long period of time (使) 逐步发展; (使) 逐步演变

*The small family store has evolved into a national supermarket chain.*

**thorough** /'θɒrə/ a. including every possible detail 彻底的; 全面的; 详尽的

*The police are making a thorough investigation into the accident.*

**frighten** /'fraɪtn/ vt. to make sb. feel afraid 使害怕; 使受到惊吓

*She was frightened by the anger in his eyes.*

**ongoing** /'ɒŋ,ɡəʊɪŋ/ a. (*usu. before noun*) continuing, or continuing to develop 继续进行的; 不断发展中的

*The ongoing debate has made everyone tired.*

**supervision** /,sʊ:pə'vɪzən/ n. [U] the act of supervising sb. or sth. 监督; 指导

*He completed his essay under the supervision of his professor.*

**postdoctoral** /,pɒst'dɒkt(ə)rəl/ a. (*only before noun*) relating to study done after a PhD 博士后的

*She made a great contribution during her postdoctoral research.*

**involved** /ɪn'vɒlvd/ a. (**be / get ~ in**) to take part in an activity or event, or be connected with it in some way 与…有关

*More than 20 students get involved in the project.*

**undergraduate** /,ʌndə'grædʒʊət/ n. [C] a student in the first four years of college, who is working for their first degree (尚未取得学位的) 大学(本科)生

*Although he is only a second-year undergraduate, he does several part-time jobs to support his tuition.*

**educational** /,edʒu'keɪʃn(ə)l/ a. relating to education 教育的

*The educational development of children has made great progress.*

**ounce** /aʊns/ n. [sing.] a very small amount of sth., such as a quality or characteristic 少量; 一点

*Mary is such a shy girl that the speech this time has spent every ounce of her courage.*

**dominate** /'dɒmɪ,neɪt/ v. to control sb. or sth., or to have more power or importance than them 支配; 控制; 占重要地位

*As a girl, she was dominated by her mother.*

**premed** /'pri:med/ n. [U] a degree or set of classes that you take in college before you go to the medical school 医学预科学位; 医学预科班

*Some people think that doing premed is the best choice.*

**capitalization** /,kæpɪtəlaɪ'zeɪʃn/ n. [U] the use of capital letters 大写

*The first letter of a country's name is always in capitalization.*

**reference** /'ref(ə)rəns/ n.

1 [C] (*also letter of ~*) a letter that is written by sb. who knows you, to describe you and say if you are suitable for a job or course, etc. 推荐信; 介绍信

*In order to apply for a PhD, he needs the reference from his professor.*

2 [C, U] sth. you say or write that mentions another person or thing 提及; 谈到

*The article made no reference to previous research on the subject.*

**hover** /'hɒvə/ vi. to stay nervously in the same place, esp. because you are waiting for sth. or are uncertain what to do 徘徊; 走来走去

*The little boy hovered in the yard watching his parents.*

**accustomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/ a. (**be / get ~ to sth.**) to be used to sth. 习惯于某事

*I'm accustomed to getting up early.*

**complicated** /'kɒmplɪ,ketɪd/ a. difficult to understand or deal with, because of the many details or parts involved 复杂难懂的; 难处理的

*The instructions are too complicated to follow.*

**deserve** /dɪ'zɜːv/ vt. to have earned sth. by good or bad actions or behavior 应得, 应受到 (奖赏或惩罚)  
*People who study and work hard deserve a better life.*

**tremendous** /trə'mendəs/ a.  
1 excellent 极好的; 特棒的  
*Peter is such a tremendous player that he has a promising future.*  
2 very big, fast, powerful, etc. 巨大的; 极快的; 强有力的  
*She had a tremendous amount of work to do.*

**preconception** /,pri:kən'sepʃn/ n. [C] a belief or opinion that you have already formed before you know the actual facts 先入之见  
*Before meeting with a business partner, please erase any preconceptions you may have about them.*

## Phrases and expressions

**speak for sb. / sth.** to express the feelings, thoughts, or beliefs of a person or group of people 代表...讲话; 充当...的代言人  
*I speak for the parents of the students in saying that we want better schools.*

**sell sb. a bill of goods** to take unfair advantage of sb. 欺骗某人  
*He sold me a bill of goods about that used car.*

**take advantage of** to use a particular situation to do or get what you want 利用某物 (做某事)  
*It is good for every student to take advantage of the library for their study.*

**make (sth.) of sb. / sth.** to use the chances, opportunities, etc. you have in a way that achieves a good result (利用机会等) 获得 (好结果)  
*His dream was to find a job and make something of it.*

**stress sb. out** to make you so worried or nervous that you cannot relax 使非常紧张; 使压力大  
*Too much work can always stress him out.*

**cut off** to prevent sb. from having sth. that they need or want 隔断; 停止供应  
*My parents said they would cut off my pocket money if I continued playing games.*

**work (sth.) out** to think about sth. and manage to understand it 设法弄懂某事物  
*This is a difficult question that will take the students some time to work out.*

## Proper names

**Burdine** /'bɜːdɪn/ **Hall** 伯丁楼 (位于美国得克萨斯大学奥斯汀分校)

## iExplore 2

### New words

**dropout** /'drɒpɔːt/ n. [C] sb. who leaves school or college before they have finished 中途辍学的学生  
*The number of dropouts of this year is less than people imagined.*

**circulate** /'sɜːkjʊ,leɪt/ v. to pass from place to place or person to person (使) 散布; (使) 传播  
*Rumors are circulating fast that Mr. Li is going to retire soon.*

**inspiration** /,ɪnspə'reɪʃn/ n. [U] a feeling of encouragement that you get from sb. or sth., which gives you ideas about what you should do 鼓舞; 启示  
*The success of Bill Gates has been a source of inspiration for many young people.*

**billionaire** /,bɪljə'neə/ n. [C] sb. who has a billion or more than a billion dollars 亿万富翁  
*Because of several successful investments, he became a billionaire at the age of 28.*

**giant** /'dʒaɪənt/ n. [C] a very successful or important person or company 成功 (重要) 人物; 兴旺的大公司  
*As a giant of music, he has made many wonderful compositions and has always been nice to his fans.*

**wildly** /'waɪldli/ ad. extremely 极其; 极度  
*The hotel rooms vary wildly.*

**phenomenon** /fə'nɒmɪnən/ n. [C] (pl. **phenomena**) sth. that happens or exists 现象  
*Sharing things has gradually become a common phenomenon.*

**territory** /'terətri/ n. [C, U] land that is owned or controlled by a particular government, ruler, or military force 领土; 版图; 领地  
*The male tiger is standing on the boundary of its territory to protect its baby.*



**badge** /bædʒ/ n. [C] a small piece of metal, plastic, etc. that you wear or carry to show people that you work for a particular organization 徽章; 证章

*No one without a security badge could walk into this building.*

**start-up** /'stɑ:tʌp/ n. [C] a new small company or business 新创办的小公司 (企业)

*This Internet start-up earned more than 100 million yuan last year, which is beyond most people's anticipation.*

**kernel** /'kɜ:nəl/ n. [C] sth. that forms a small but important part of a statement, idea, plan, etc. 核心; 要点

*Although she expressed her opinion only by a few words, people could get a kernel of her idea.*

**exceptional** /ɪk'sepʃnəl/ a.

1 unusually good or impressive 非常好的; 杰出的

*Li Na is such an exceptional athlete that she deserves the honor she has got.*

2 unusual or not likely to happen often 罕见的; 特殊的  
*Such cold weather is exceptional for May.*

**outlier** /'aʊt,laɪə/ n. [C] a statistical observation that is marked different in value from the others of the sample 异常值

**educate** /'edʒu,keɪt/ vt. to teach or train sb., esp. at a school or college (尤指学校) 教育, 训练

*There are some parents who would like to educate their children at home rather than send them to kindergartens.*

**lottery** /'lɒtəri/ n. [C] a game used to make money for a state or a charity in which people buy numbered tickets, so that if their number is picked by chance, they win money or a prize (发行彩票) 抽奖给奖 (筹款法)

*Do you have any idea of what to do if you win the lottery?*

**multimillion** /,mʌlti'mɪljən/ a. worth or costing many millions of dollars, etc. 数百万 (美元等) 的

*The multimillion-pound deal took the start-up company out of difficulty.*

**superstar** /'su:pə,stɑ:/ n. [C] sb. who is extremely famous 超级明星

**diploma** /dɪ'plɒmə/ n. [C] an official paper showing that a student has successfully completed their high school or college education 毕业证书; 毕业文凭

*After four years of hard work, he got the diploma in history with the highest honor.*

**unemployed** /,ʌnɪm'plɔɪd/ a. without a job 未被雇用的; 失业的

*After being unemployed for several months, he decided to start his own business.*

**disadvantaged** /,dɪsəd'vɑ:ntɪdʒd/ a. in unfavorable circumstances, esp. with regard to financial or social opportunities (在经济、社会机会等方面) 处于不利地位的, 社会地位低下的

*The government has implemented a lot of policies to help the disadvantaged families.*

**Ivy League** /,arvi 'li:g/ a. 常春藤大学联盟的 (与美国东北部著名的八所大学有关的)

**fellowship** /'feləʊʃɪp/ n. [C] money given to a student to allow them to continue their studies at an advanced level (为让学生能进一步深造而授予的) 奖学金

*In order to get the fellowship for outstanding students, Paul studied day and night before the exams.*

**doctorate** /'dɒkt(ə)rət/ n. [C] a university degree of the highest level 博士学位

*Daisy became a lecturer in a university after she received her doctorate in 2015.*

**progressively** /prəʊ'gresɪvli/ ad. happening or developing gradually over a period of time 逐步发展地  
*The relation between these two colleagues has become progressively worse.*

**intellectual** /,ɪntə'lektʃʊəl/ a. relating to the ability to understand things and to think intelligently 知识的; 智力的

*Accounting is a job that requires considerable intellectual effort.*

**entrepreneurial** /,ɒntrəprə'nɜ:riəl/ a. having the qualities that are needed to succeed as an entrepreneur 企业家的; 创业者的

*There is no doubt that they would fail since they have no entrepreneurial spirit.*

**hothouse** /'hɒt,haʊs/ n. [C] a place or situation where a lot of people are interested in particular ideas or activities 有利于...的地方 (环境); 温床

*The university was once a hothouse of novel ideas.*

**coincidence** /kəʊ'ɪnsɪd(ə)ns/ n. [C, U] a surprising and unexpected situation in which two things that are related happen at the same time, in the same place, or to the same people 同时发生; 巧合

*It was coincidence that they went to the same restaurant at the same time.*

**odds** /ɒdz/ n. [pl.] difficulties that make a good result seem very unlikely 重重困难  
*Some students do manage to achieve business success against all odds.*

**arguably** /'ɑ:gjuəbli/ ad. used to say that there are good reasons why sth. might be true, although some people may disagree 无疑地  
*Arguably, China is having a greater say around the world.*

**fraction** /'frækʃn/ n. [C] (a ~ of) a very small amount of sth. 少量; 一点儿  
*What Nancy got is only a fraction of her father's heritage.*

**selective** /sɪ'lektɪv/ a.  
1 used about schools that accept only the students they want (学校挑选学生) 有选择的  
*At some highly selective schools, students have as little as a 1 in 10 chance of getting in.*  
2 careful about what you choose to do, buy, allow, etc. (对做事、购物等) 认真挑选的, 仔细选择的  
*You have to be selective when choosing your major.*

**misconception** /,mɪskən'sepʃn/ n. [C, U] an idea that is wrong or untrue, but that people believe because they do not understand it correctly 误解; 错误想法  
*There is a widespread misconception that they are brothers.*

**diminish** /dɪ'mɪnɪʃ/ v. to become smaller or less important, or to make sth. do this (使) 减少; (使) 减小  
*Because of the limited budget, the cost would be diminished.*

## Phrases and expressions

**drop out** to leave a school or university before your course has finished 退学; 辍学  
*Because of disease, he has to drop out to receive the treatment in hospital.*

**light out** to leave in a hurry 匆匆离开  
*I want to light out as soon as I have enough money.*

**strike gold** to do sth. that makes you a lot of money 发大财; 暴富  
*After five years of hard work, they finally struck gold with the last investment.*

**a badge of honor / courage** sth. that shows that you have a particular quality 荣誉 / 勇气等的标志  
*He sees his injuries as a badge of honor.*

**a kernel of truth** a very small part of sth. that is true 几分真理

*There is a kernel of truth in what he says.*

**make up for**  
1 to have so much of one quality that it does not matter that you do not have enough of sth. else 补偿, 弥补 (指一方面的优势足以弥补其他方面的不足)  
*People's hard work and determination cannot make up for the lack of a master's degree in the recruitment of certain positions.*

2 to make a bad situation better, or replace sth. that has been lost 弥补, 补偿 (不良情况或失去之物)  
*The sales team is trying every method to make up for the loss of the last season.*

**rely on** to depend on sth. in order to continue to live or exist (为生活或生存而) 依赖  
*There are gradually less women who rely on their husbands for a living.*

**without fail** if you do sth. without fail, you always do it 总是; 老是  
*The young girl visits her mother every week without fail.*

## Proper names

**Gates** 盖茨 (Bill Gates, 1955-, 美国微软公司联合创始人)

**Dell** 戴尔 (Michael Dell, 1965-, 戴尔公司创始人)

**NBA** (National Basketball Association) 美国男子职业篮球联赛

**LeBron** /lə'brɒn/ **James** 勒布朗·詹姆斯 (1984-, 美国职业篮球运动员)

**James Cameron** /'kæməɹən/ 詹姆斯·卡梅隆 (1954-, 加拿大导演)

**Mark Zuckerberg** /'zʌkəbɜ:zɡ/ 马克·扎克伯格 (1984-, 美国 Facebook 创始人之一)

**Peter Thiel** /tjel/ 彼得·蒂尔 (1967-, 美国企业家, PayPal 创始人之一)

**PayPal** /'peɪpæl/ 贝宝 (美国 eBay 公司的全资子公司)