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1

Unit

College life: Challenges and opportunities



Why is it important to go to college? Maybe it's because going to college always means more opportunities. In college, you have the opportunity to listen to the lectures of top experts in their fields and participate in various activities. These encourage you to think, ask questions, and explore new areas, which allows you to grow further.

While the time spent in college is a fond memory and a happy experience for most, you will also face various challenges, for example, tough courses, interpersonal relations, job hunting, etc. In this unit, you are going to learn how to deal with the challenges and to work hard for success.

Learning objectives

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

- discuss challenges and opportunities you face in college
- figure out the logic of a problem-solution passage while listening
- stress two-word compounds correctly in oral communication
- do a role-play concerning how to deal with challenges in college

Warming up

1 What can you do to make your college life more meaningful and rewarding? Look at the following opportunities students usually have in college and rank them in order of how important you think they are. (1 = most important, 8 = least important)

- Explore subjects in greater depth than you did in high school.
- Discover new passions.
- Learn to manage your time effectively.
- Follow and satisfy your curiosity.
- Learn more about yourself.
- Meet lots of interesting people and make new friends.
- Get prepared for your future career.
- Take part in various extracurricular activities.

2 Work in pairs and compare your answers. Are there any differences? Explain your choice to your partner.

iExplore 1: Listening and speaking

Passage

Listening and understanding

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

indulge /ɪnˈdʌldʒ/ v. (使)(自己)沉溺于

adjust /əˈdʒʌst/ v. 适应;
使适合

1 Have you ever come across any problem when you come back home after a year in college? Now listen to a passage and decide whether each of the following statements is true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Homesickness was the biggest challenge the speaker once faced.
- 2 At first the speaker enjoyed the excitement of returning home.
- 3 The speaker often woke up from strange dreams at home.
- 4 The speaker's relationship with old friends at home had changed.
- 5 The busy schedule in college made many students feel at a loss.
- 6 Combining new hobbies with home life helped the speaker find a new normal.

LISTENING SKILLS

Understanding the logic of a problem-solution passage

Problem-solution is a commonly-used structure for analyzing and discussing a topic by identifying a problem and proposing one or more solutions. When listening to a problem-solution passage, in order to figure out the logic of the argument effectively, you should pay special attention to the following information:

Problem	background and description of the problem
Reasons	causes of the problem
Solutions	ways to solve the problem

There are also some clues that can help you identify the information mentioned above. For example:

Present the problem	The problem is ...; What's worrying me is ...; It's a tricky issue that ...; It has aroused wide concern in ...
Explain reasons	because / since / as ...; due to the fact that ...; The causes may include ...; One possible reason for that may be ...
Give solutions	To solve the problem, ...; We need to take steps to ...; By ..., we can ...; To get over it, you need to ...

- 2** Listen to the passage again and complete the following table with what you hear.

Problem	After the exciting experience of a year in college, coming back home can be surprisingly 1) _____.
Reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As you enter a new culture, you quickly 2) _____ to a different way of life. Everyone at home 3) _____. Some friends had become 4) _____ while others had become closer together. Once the pace of life is changed, you may feel 5) _____.
Solution	Integrate some of your new 6) _____ and hobbies into your old life.



Conversation

Listening and understanding

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

sophomore /'sɒfə,mɔː/ *n.* (高中或大学的) 二年级学生

CULTURE NOTES

NGO (非政府组织):

It is short for non-governmental organization. An NGO is a non-profit and sometimes international organization independent of governments. NGOs are active in various areas like education, healthcare, environmental protection, etc., and they are often more effective than other organizations in getting aid directly to the people who need it most.

Model UN (模拟联合国):

It is an educational simulation or academic activity in which students can learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the United Nations.

1 In college students need to plan in advance for their future career. Once they have a goal, they can call the College Career Center for suggestions and help. Now listen to a conversation and check (✓) the things that the woman thinks important to get a job in the UN or an NGO.

- 1 a double major
- 2 communication skills
- 3 extracurricular activities and projects
- 4 the GPA
- 5 language ability
- 6 sports
- 7 volunteer work

2 Listen to the conversation again and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. To look for a job.
B. To change his major.
C. To get a reference from the UN.
D. To get advice for his future career.



- 2 A. Public Health. B. African Studies.
C. Political Science. D. International Relations.
- 3 A. A Model UN. B. A local UN program.
C. An internship in the UN. D. A volunteer job in school.
- 4 A. French. B. Spanish.
C. German. D. Chinese.
- 5 A. The Dean's Office.
B. The Language Center website.
C. The Course Registration website.
D. The Office of Academic Administration.

Thinking and speaking

- 3** From the conversation, we've learned that students have to be fully prepared for their future. What is your dream job after graduation? Work in pairs and discuss what you have to do now in order to be qualified for your future job.



iExplore 2: Viewing and speaking



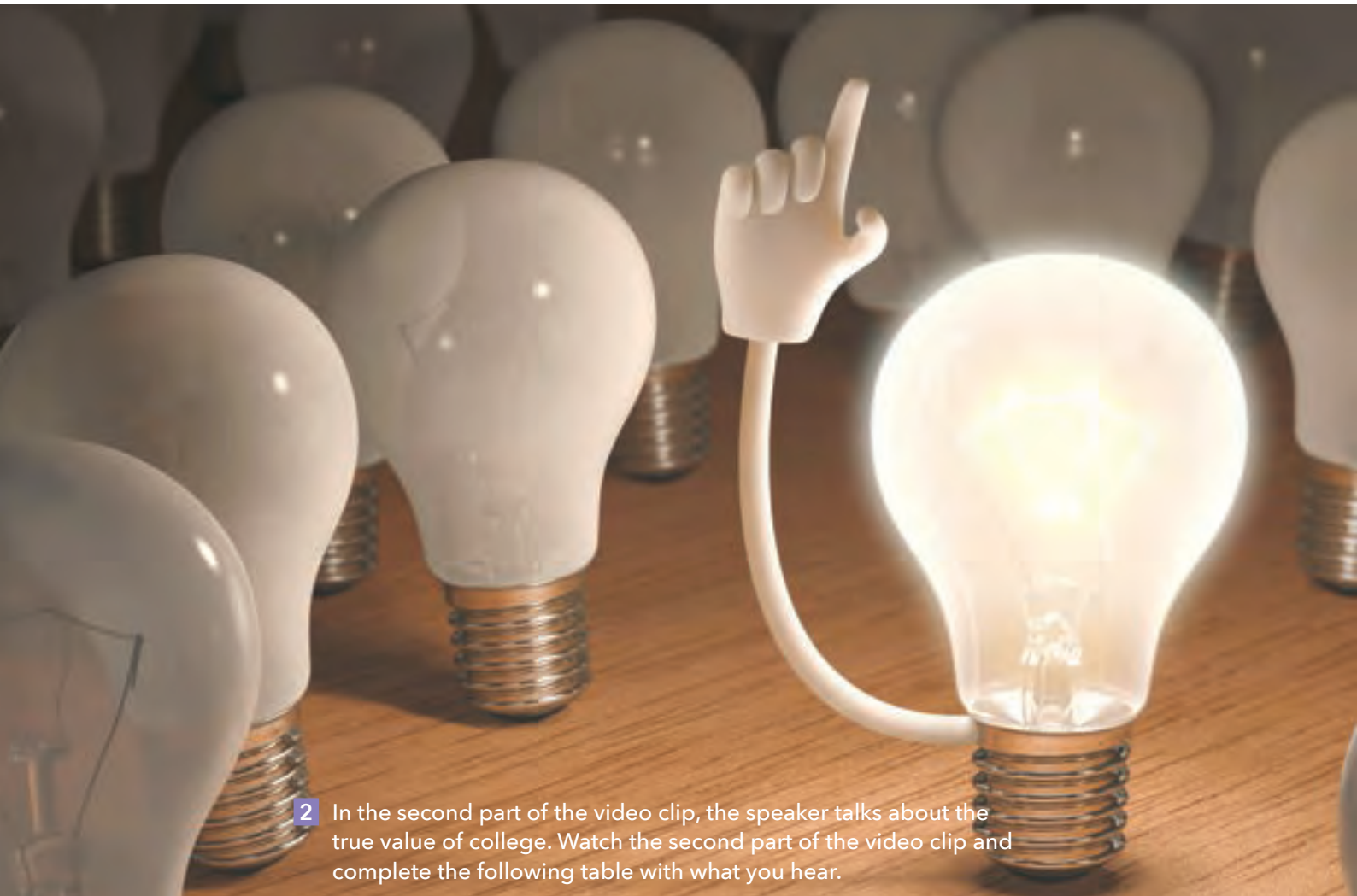
Viewing and understanding

1 Grades do matter when students look for a job or apply to a graduate school. But the GPA is not everything. Now watch the first part of a video clip and complete the following table with what you hear.

Wrong concepts of grades	Harmful effects
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We believe that grades are critically important. We 1) _____ the As. We 2) _____ the Cs and Ds. We let the grades 3) _____ us. We believe A students are inherently 4) _____, while C students are inherently 5) _____. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We stop studying to learn something new. Rather, we study to maintain a 6) _____. We fear tests and believe that teacher 7) _____ prove how dumb we are. We start looking for 8) _____ teachers and classes. We learn that 9) _____ is a sign of deficiency. We go to college with the belief that success, failure, and worth are all measured by 10) _____.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

critically /'krɪtɪkli/ *ad.* 极其
 inherently /ɪn'herəntli/ *ad.*
 (特性)内在地, 固有地
 dumb /dʌm/ *a.* 愚蠢的
 deficiency /dɪ'fɪʃnsi/ *n.* 弱点;
 缺点; 不足
 embrace /ɪm'breɪs/ *v.* 欣然
 接受



2 In the second part of the video clip, the speaker talks about the true value of college. Watch the second part of the video clip and complete the following table with what you hear.

How should we see grades?	What should we do in college?
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We shouldn't 1) _____ tests, or teacher comments, or grades.• Grades are not about us. They are all about the 2) _____.• Grades just tell us where we are 3) _____, not where we'll 4) _____, or who we inherently are.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We should know that when we struggle, that's when we 5) _____.• We have to 6) _____ ourselves, take the hard classes, and embrace the hard work.• We have to be open to 7) _____.

Thinking and speaking

3 Do you agree with the speaker's idea that the point of college isn't to prove your intelligence, but to grow your intelligence, and you need to take the hard classes and challenge yourselves? Why? Try to use your own experience to prove your opinion.

iPractice: Pronunciation

Stressing two-word compounds

A two-word compound combines two words into one, and creates its own meaning. Generally speaking, in oral English, the first word in a two-word compound is usually pronounced with primary stress and the second with secondary stress.

- 1** Listen to the following two-word compounds and underline the primary stress in them.

college life	public health	United Nations
online classes	radio program	university education
gap year	academic career	undergraduate degree

- 2** Listen to the following conversation and pay attention to the two-word compounds. Then listen again and read after the speakers.

Miss Lee: Well, first of all, just try to do the best you can in your study. Since you want to work in an organization like the UN, my recommendation would be to do a double major. In addition to your current discipline, add an International Relations or International Studies program.

Jack: That's a good idea. I'm particularly interested in the African countries. Maybe I can try to complete an extra program in African Studies.

Miss Lee: Also make sure to get involved in activities and projects outside the classroom as much as possible. The Model UN run by the Student Union would be a good start.

Jack: That's a good point. I didn't even know we have a Model UN.

Miss Lee: Languages are also very important for the UN and NGOs working internationally. Make sure you pick up at least one second language with fluency.

Jack: I have been learning French since high school, and I'm planning to take another language this year. Can I find any language course here?

Miss Lee: Yeah, of course. Our college has more than enough language courses you can choose. Just go to the Language Center website and check out which one you like.

Unit project

Doing a role-play

Mr. and Miss Challenge in college

You and your group will work for the next year's freshman orientation. To help freshmen better understand the challenges they will meet in college, you will put on a role-play titled "Mr. and Miss Challenge in college" during the orientation. The following steps may help you with the project.





Step 1 Brainstorm

Think about your college life and make a list of the top five challenges that you are facing now. Some common college challenges may include the GPA, time management, financial pressure, peer relationships, depression, etc.

Step 2 Find causes and solutions

Choose one challenge that you think is the most difficult for you to handle and discuss with a partner to find out the causes of and possible solutions for the problem.

Step 3 Role-play

Work in a group of four or five, each playing the role of the challenge you pick, for example, Mr. GPA, Miss Time, etc. You may first write a script for the role-play. Your role-play should include the basic features of the challenge and how the problem could be managed in order to achieve maximum success. You may probably begin this way:



Mr. GPA

Good morning! My name is Grade Point Average, but students prefer to call me Mr. GPA. I could either become your best friend or worst enemy ...

Step 4 Evaluate

Vote for the Best Mr. or the Best Miss.

Further listening

News report 1

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

proportion /prə'pɔːʃn/ *n.* 部分; 份儿

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. Universities should lower their requirements.
B. Universities should change teaching methods.
C. Students cannot meet self-study requirements.
D. Students cannot develop a good learning strategy.
- 2 A. 16. B. 60.
C. 76. D. 300.
- 3 A. The same as the time spent on lectures.
B. Twice the time spent on lectures.
C. Three times the time spent on lectures.
D. Four times the time spent on lectures.
- 4 A. Failure on exams.
B. Poor communication in class.
C. A high rate of college dropouts.
D. Too many questions during the lecture hours.

News report 2

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

petition /pə'tɪʃn/ *n.* 请愿书

Listen to a news report and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. Took an exam. B. Registered for a course.
C. Signed a petition. D. Started a blog.
- 2 A. Look into the exam. B. Punish the lecturer.
C. Change the test scores. D. Arrange another exam.
- 3 A. Some students cheated on exams.
B. The lecturer was unfair in grading.
C. The questions included many mistakes.
D. The questions included knowledge they weren't taught.
- 4 A. It included some questions that didn't need math.
B. It included a topic that was not taught in the course.
C. It only tested the contents in the further reading materials.
D. It had a term whose meaning was not explained in the question.

Conversation

Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. He fails in exams.
B. He feels stressed out.
C. He gets tired of study.
D. He has trouble with friends.

- 2 A. He is afraid of losing face.
B. He feels pressures from his classmates.
C. He doesn't want to disappoint his teachers.
D. He is in danger of being expelled from the school.

- 3 A. See a doctor.
B. Focus on study.
C. Get support from friends.
D. Get advice from teachers.

- 4 A. Go swimming. B. Listen to music.
C. Take a vacation. D. Keep a diary.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

lousy /'laʊzi/ *a.* 非常糟糕的
vicious /'viʃəs/ *n.* 恶性循环

Passage

Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each of the questions you hear.

- 1 A. Try a variety of classes.
B. Gain some work experience.
C. Step away from academic life.
D. Know the outcome of their decisions.

- 2 A. Those who have a business.
B. Those who know their future goals.
C. Those who lack confidence in study.
D. Those who have an advanced degree.

- 3 A. When to take a gap year.
B. What to do in a gap year.
C. Who should take a gap year.
D. How to prepare for a gap year.

WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS

outcome /'aʊt,kʌm/ *n.* 结果
overwhelming /,əʊvə'welmiŋ/
a. (规模、数目或总额)巨大的