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COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Keeping a conversation going

Responding to and refuting an argument

Making suggestions

Expressing disagreement

Stating opinions

Describing problems and offering solutions

Showing contrast

Expressing agreement

PRESENTATION SKILLS

Attracting the audience's attention

Emphasizing important information

Giving examples

Using quotations

Closing a presentation

Inviting questions

Giving an overview

Making contrast

1

UNIT

Building a better city

After learning this unit, you will be able to:

- read sentences with proper sentence stress
- keep a conversation going
- attract the audience's attention in a presentation
- talk about the Chinese cities that are most livable

PRONUNCIATION

- 1 Listen to a passage. Pay attention to the stress of each sentence.

Urbanization is when people move from rural areas to cities and towns. Multiple factors contribute to urbanization. For example, people seek the best opportunities to provide for themselves and their families, and urban environments are often the answer.

Urbanization opens the door for people to move to a place that gives them more employment choices and access to better schools and health care.

Sustainability is the key word when considering the future of urbanization. We should focus on creating cities that work for everyone. City planners should use renewable energy, water recycling, and green travel to people's benefit. Local governments need to be more mindful of their city planning, so their populations can thrive for the foreseeable future.



- 2 Listen to the passage again and read after the recording.

LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND

NEWS REPORT 1

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

- A. It has reduced the amount of landfill by half.
B. It has been made a model of waste management.
C. It began improving its waste disposal five years ago.
D. It has been selected as a case study on energy savings.
- A. Holding public meetings.
B. Making door-to-door visits.
C. Effective government supervision.
D. People's willingness to separate waste.

WORD BANK

landfill /'lændfɪl/ *n.* 填埋的废物

organic /ɔ:'gænik/ *a.* 有机物的

compost /'kɒmpɒst/ *v.* 把...制成堆肥
n. 混合肥料

bucket /'bʌkɪt/ *n.* 桶

Cajicá /kə'hi:kə/ 卡希卡 (哥伦比亚地名)



NEWS REPORT 2

WORD BANK

coordinated /kəʊ'vɔ:dəneɪtɪd/ *a.*
协调的

framework /'freɪmwɜ:k/ *n.* 框架

recreational /ˌrekri'eɪʃənəl/ *a.*
娱乐的

master plan *n.* 总体规划

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

- 1
 - A. The future look of Xiongan New Area.
 - B. The fast development of Xiongan New Area.
 - C. The transport networks of Xiongan New Area.
 - D. The ecological corridors of Xiongan New Area.
- 2
 - A. Its urban water system will have taken shape.
 - B. The Beijing-Xiongan railway will be open to traffic.
 - C. It will have made great progress in pollution control.
 - D. It will have developed into a highly advanced modern city.

NEWS REPORT 3

WORD BANK

municipality /mjuːnɪsə'pæləti/ *n.*
市政当局

futuristic /ˌfju:tʃə'rɪstɪk/ *a.* 极其现代的; 未来派的

simulated /'sɪmjəleɪtɪd/ *a.* 模拟的

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

- 1
 - A. It will strengthen cooperation with private companies.
 - B. It will make full use of the opportunities of the metaverse.
 - C. It will create a futuristic, human-centered version of the city.
 - D. It will build a space where humans and virtual environments interact.
- 2
 - A. Invest in building portals soon.
 - B. Provide support for the private sector.
 - C. Seek investment from different parties.
 - D. Offer education and training to the citizens.
- 3
 - A. Reap the benefits of big data.
 - B. Create more employment in the city.
 - C. Develop and share the new technology.
 - D. Use artificial intelligence in urban governance.

LISTEN TO COMMUNICATE

CONVERSATION 1

1 Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1 A. They develop plans to improve air quality.
B. They make plans to improve traffic efficiency.
C. They make decisions about the use of land in cities.
D. They set quality standards for construction projects.
- 2 A. Good speaking skills.
B. Data processing skills.
C. A master's degree in a related major.
D. Majoring in environmental planning.
- 3 A. The future of urban planners is bright.
B. Being a city planner is worth pursuing.
C. The number of urban planners will be reduced.
D. It takes a lot of effort to become an urban planner.
- 4 A. The profession of urban planning.
B. The importance of urban planning.
C. The employment in urban planning.
D. The current situation of urban planning.

2 Listen to the conversation again and complete the following sentences with what you hear.

- 1 City planners need to _____ and current use of land through surveys, field investigations, and other methods.
- 2 They need to analyze the information, _____, project program costs, and predict trends.
- 3 Analytical skills are crucial for city planners, as they must analyze data to help _____ within a city.
- 4 City planners must also conduct research and write grant proposals, so _____ are also important.

WORD BANK

outlook /'aʊtlʊk/ n. 前景



WORD BANK

interconnected /,ɪntəkə'nektɪd/ a.

互相联系的

adequate /'ædɪkwət/ a. 足够的

CONVERSATION 2

1 Listen to a conversation and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. The history of urbanization.
 - B. The benefits of urbanization.
 - C. The trend of urban development.
 - D. The negative side of urbanization.
- 2
 - A. Write a paper on urbanization.
 - B. Do some research on urbanization.
 - C. Interview an expert on urbanization.
 - D. Make a presentation on urbanization.
- 3
 - A. House prices.
 - B. Overcrowding.
 - C. Unemployment.
 - D. Education services.
- 4
 - A. Raise people's awareness.
 - B. Improve public transportation.
 - C. Create more job opportunities.
 - D. Enhance public service facilities.

2 Listen to the conversation again and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 The woman has done some research on the future development of cities.
- 2 When too many people move to urban areas, the benefits of urbanization are reduced.
- 3 For those who have just moved to the city, the increasing house prices can pose a great challenge.
- 4 It is getting easier for young people to find jobs in cities.
- 5 Education and social services can be negatively affected by the process of urbanization.

ACT-OUT

Work in pairs. You and your partner are discussing the pros and cons of urbanization. One of you focuses on the benefits of urbanization while the other focuses on the harm of urbanization. Before your discussion, list at least three points to support your view.



Pros of urbanization	Cons of urbanization
1	1
2	2
3	3

COMMUNICATION SKILLS: Keeping a conversation going

We have all been in situations where we have found keeping the conversation going difficult. There are ways to avoid such situations. The following three rules may help you keep the conversation going.

- Take responsibility for the conversation.
- Ask follow-up questions or give encouraging comments.
- Listen with genuine interest.

An active sharing of your ideas, opinions and information can lead to a fruitful talk between you and your partner. Asking follow-up questions is a good way to keep the conversation going. Giving encouraging comments also helps serve the purpose.

Follow-up questions

- What do you think about ...?
- What would you do if ...?
- How about ...?
- How often do you ...?
- How do you plan to do it?
- Are you aware of ...?
- Really?
- Do you like ...?
- How does this happen?
- Why?
- Why is that?

Encouraging comments

- That sounds interesting!
- Sounds like a good plan / idea!
- Go on!
- Exactly.
- Absolutely!

LISTEN TO SHARE

WORD BANK

perception /pə'sepʃən/ *n.* 认识;
看法

multidimensional
/ˌmʌltɪdaɪ'menʃənəl/ *a.* 多维的

Glasgow /'glɑːsgəʊ/ 格拉斯哥 (英国城市)

PASSAGE 1

① Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 Do you think it is important for a city to promote its brand image? Why or why not?
- 2 What are some possible ways to develop the brand image of a city?

② Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1
 - A. Goals of a branding strategy.
 - B. Failed examples of city branding.
 - C. Developing the brand image of a city.
 - D. Benefits and difficulties of branding a city.
- 2
 - A. Many branding campaigns fail.
 - B. Many cities do not carry out good research.
 - C. Branding campaigns are costly and time-consuming.
 - D. Successful branding campaigns need to be innovative.
- 3
 - A. Being clear about the goals.
 - B. Having diverse branding objectives.
 - C. Using the strategies of similar cities.
 - D. Learning from successful examples.

③ Listen to the passage again and decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 City branding has been regarded as effective in promoting city growth.
- 2 Creating a brand image for a city requires a lot of thought and consideration.
- 3 With regard to the branding strategy, a smart idea is to copy other cities' successful exercises.
- 4 A single word cannot define a city, as it is constantly changing and developing.

PASSAGE 2

1 Work in pairs and discuss the following questions.

- 1 How do you think smart city technology influences the lives of residents?
- 2 Do you know any examples of smart devices in your city?

2 Listen to a passage and choose the best answer to each question you hear.

- 1 A. IoT technologies help to save energy.
B. Streetlights use about half of a city's electricity.
C. The bulbs of streetlights need special materials.
D. Energy-efficient bulbs reduce energy bills by 20 percent.
- 2 A. Efficient traffic management.
B. The construction of green spaces.
C. Efficient and greener waste management.
D. The development of high and new technologies.
- 3 A. It has been widely used.
B. It helps find lost things.
C. It helps maintain social order.
D. It helps better manage public activities.

3 Listen to the passage again and complete the following sentences with what you hear.

- 1 It gives the city more information and data to _____, leading to tremendous benefits that positively influence the lives of everyone who lives and works there.
- 2 Some of them are promoting smart garbage containers, _____ that alert collecting services when a container is full.
- 3 There is _____ for a city than streets covered with litter. And it saves money for the city services as garbage can be _____.
- 4 This is good for _____ as police forces and public traffic managers have a better view of the different flows and can _____.

WORD BANK

consumption /kən'sʌmpʃən/
n. (燃料或能源等的) 消耗, 消耗量

localization /ˌləʊkəlaɪ'zeɪʃən/
n. 定位

mobility /məʊ'bɪləti/
n. 流动性

Antwerp /'æntwɜ:p/
安特卫普 (比利时城市)



CULTURE NOTES

The Tall Ships Races are an international youth sailing competition designed to promote cultural exchange and cooperation among young people. Participants need to sail on the sea for several days and participate in cultural and social activities in various ports of call.

PRESENTATION

As urban areas continue to expand and grow, smart city technology is developing to enhance sustainability and better serve humanity. In this section, you are going to give a presentation on “My idea of smart cities”. In your presentation, you will talk about, but are not restricted to the following:

- the importance of making a city smart
- examples of smart cities in today’s world
- the future development of smart cities



PRESENTATION SKILLS: Attracting the audience’s attention

When we make a presentation, we have about 60 seconds to capture our audience’s attention, establish credibility, orient them to our topic, and motivate them to listen. We need to develop and rehearse a well-crafted opener for our presentation to get the audience’s attention.

Of all the starters, storytelling is among the most powerful and consistently successful. The story can be about you personally, providing the audience with a first-hand account of why you’re passionate about the topic. Or you can tell a story about another person who the audience can learn from. Make sure the story encapsulates the key point of your message.

Consider these questions as you craft your version of a captivating story:

- What challenges have you faced in relation to your topic?
- How did you overcome them?
- Who or what helped you or harmed you?
- What lessons did you learn?
- What do you want your audience to gain, feel, or do as a result of the story?

TALK ABOUT CHINA



Making cities livable for all their citizens while maintaining their sustainability is crucial to the future of the world. As far as China is concerned, making cities livable is now the central goal of urban planning. The government has made it clear that urban development should focus on creating environments where people can live in harmony with each other and with nature. At present, governments at all levels are taking a more sophisticated approach to urban planning, and are encouraging enterprises and citizens to participate in creating the cities of the future. Large investments have been made in transportation infrastructure, social support and environmental protection to improve the life in cities and spread prosperity to smaller cities and hinterlands. All these efforts are aimed at building livable cities and are already showing massive benefits in many cities across the country.

- 1 Read aloud the passage about China's efforts to build livable cities.
- 2 Talk with your partner about the cities you find most livable in China. Your talk may include:
 - the city each of you thinks most livable
 - why you think the cities are most livable
 - suggestions for improvement

WORD BANK

sophisticated /sə'fɪstɪkətɪd/ *a.*
先进的

hinterland /'hɪntə'lænd/ *n.* 偏远地区

VIEW THE WORLD

WORD BANK

integral /'ɪntəgrəl/ *a.* 不可缺少的
grid /grɪd/ *n.* 电力网
seamlessly /si:'mi:ləsli/ *ad.* 无缝地；
 不停顿地
emission /ɪ'mɪʃən/ *n.* (热、气等的)
 散发
backbone /'bækbəʊn/ *n.* 支柱；
 基础
accelerate /ək'seləreɪt/ *v.* (使)
 加快



- 1 The video clip shows the smart city of tomorrow. Watch the video clip and fill in the blanks with what you hear.

A smart city of tomorrow

- People don't only 1) _____, they also produce it to meet the city's needs.
- Your city will be able to adapt to all kinds of things – to your needs, to 2) _____, to the weather, all with the 3) _____.
- As interconnected as your city is, almost every building will have its own 4) _____. You will move through this city seamlessly, effortlessly, 5) _____.
- That's what your workplace will look like too, providing 6) _____ to do your best work, whether you're at the office or working remotely.

- 2 The rapid development of science and technology is changing city life drastically. It will continue to do so in the foreseeable future. Work with your partner and discuss what city life would be like 30 years from now. You can approach the topic from the following aspects:

- energy
- traffic
- natural environment
- workplace
- residence
- public services

FURTHER LISTENING

NEWS REPORT

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

- 1 A. It was initiated by the United Nations.
B. Its theme is decided by the United Nations.
C. Its general theme is "Better City, Better Life".
D. Its theme does not necessarily change every year.
- 2 A. To promote urban development.
B. To address the challenges of urbanization.
C. To raise awareness of climate-related disasters.
D. To solve problems brought by natural disasters.

WORD BANK

initiate /ɪˈnɪʃieɪt/ v. 发起

declaration /ˌdeklə'reɪʃən/ n. 公告;
宣言

drought /draʊt/ n. 旱灾; 干旱

CONVERSATION

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

- 1 A. Ways of building underwater cities.
B. The possibility of living underwater.
C. The experience of living underwater.
D. The progress in underwater technology.
- 2 A. The ocean offers possible living space.
B. Humans want to challenge the impossible.
C. Land becomes scarce with overpopulation.
D. Technology makes living underwater possible.
- 3 A. Several underwater cities have been built.
B. There have been some concepts of underwater cities.
C. The floating underwater buildings are under construction.
D. An underwater community has been built to hold up to 100 people.
- 4 A. The issue of food.
B. The great pressure.
C. The lack of oxygen.
D. The freezing temperature.

WORD BANK

spiral /ˈspɪərəl/ a. 螺旋形的

skyscraper /ˈskaɪˌskreɪpə/ n. 摩天
大楼

nitrogen /ˈnaɪtrədʒən/ n. 氮气

dissolve /dɪˈzɒlv/ v. 溶解

WORD BANK

commuter /kə'mju:tə/ *n.* 通勤者

occupancy /'ɒkjəpənsi/ *n.* 占用；使用

paved /peɪvd/ *a.* 铺砌过的

biodiversity /,baɪəʊdər'vɜ:səti/ *n.* 生物多样性

retention /rɪ'tenʃən/ *n.* (液体、热量等的) 保持

policymaker /'pɒləsi,mɛɪkə/ *n.* 政策制定者

PASSAGE

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

- 1 A. The rapid development of the economy.
B. People's need to drive and park conveniently.
C. Cars taking up too much space in modern cities.
D. Traffic jams becoming more serious in modern cities.
- 2 A. Move people around with ease.
B. Increase the rates of vehicle use.
C. Reduce the number of traffic accidents.
D. Increase the number of vehicles on the road.
- 3 A. A failure to price the cars properly.
B. A failure to price the fuel of cars properly.
C. A failure to price the use of cars properly.
D. A failure to price the transport system properly.



EXIT TICKET

1 Check the functional language you have learned in this unit.

Follow-up questions

- What do you think about ...?
- What would you do if ...?
- How about ...?
- How often do you ...?
- How do you plan to do it?
- Are you aware of ...?
- Really?
- Do you like ...?
- How does this happen?
- Why?
- Why is that?

Encouraging comments

- That sounds interesting!
- Sounds like a good plan / idea!
- Go on!
- Exactly.
- Absolutely!

2 Check the skills you have learned in this unit.

- Read sentences with proper sentence stress
- Keep a conversation going
- Attract the audience's attention in a presentation

3 Note down the useful ideas you have learned in this unit.

- _____
- _____