

# 8

Unit

# Culture and tradition

## Vocabulary and collocation

**1** Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words in brackets.

- 1 She hoped the different ethnic groups in the area could live together in \_\_\_\_\_ co-existence. (peace)
- 2 She invited all her friends to her party, but only a \_\_\_\_\_ of them turned up. (hand)
- 3 The town, of course, has a very \_\_\_\_\_ history. (color)
- 4 More like counselors and friends, today's teachers are not the \_\_\_\_\_ authority figures they once were. (power)
- 5 A \_\_\_\_\_ leg injury forced her to withdraw from the competition. (pain)
- 6 The student has not been completely \_\_\_\_\_ with the teacher. (truth)
- 7 For me, Venice is probably the most \_\_\_\_\_ city in Europe. (beauty)
- 8 We've signed a treaty with neighboring states to limit emissions of \_\_\_\_\_ gases. (harm)
- 9 Thank you for calling when I was ill – it was very \_\_\_\_\_ of you. (thought)
- 10 It's \_\_\_\_\_ that his own country did not fully appreciate his talent until it was recognized abroad. (shame)



- 10 If companies with a strong company culture attract us, we would be \_\_\_\_\_ with it once we get access to the company.
- A. happy    B. safe  
C. careful    D. familiar

**3 Complete the following sentences with the proper form of the words given in the box.**

diligence	idle	descendant	stereotype	decorative
conquest	greedy	rescue	forbid	precious

- She has been working very hard and hopes that her \_\_\_\_\_ would be noticed at work.
- He's very smart, but he didn't pass the exam because he's a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ student.
- They shouted for help, but nobody came to \_\_\_\_\_ them.
- He gave the picture a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ border, which changed the look of the page.
- The Pennsylvania Dutch are \_\_\_\_\_ of early German immigrants.
- This hidden treasure demonstrates the Spanish \_\_\_\_\_ of Mexico in the 16th century.
- He doesn't conform to the national \_\_\_\_\_ of a Frenchman.
- It is just \_\_\_\_\_ to want more money.
- The law \_\_\_\_\_ the sale of cigarettes to people under the age of 16.
- The museum is full of rare and \_\_\_\_\_ treasures.

**4 Complete the following sentences by choosing suitable words in brackets.**

- She likes to spend her time in a regular classroom with children of her own age, as *opposed* (to / against) in a special classroom with other young children.
- Have you *heard* (of / at) the Mexican festival Day of the Dead?
- Most people *associate* this brand (with / on) good quality.
- The dragon is always *referred* (to / in) as one of the symbols of China.
- The student has finally (conquered / seized) his *fear* of public speaking.
- These low-quality goods are (ruining / wrecking) the brand's *reputation*.
- He tried to impress me with his (extended / extensive) *knowledge* of wine.
- Bob seems to *have an instinct* (for / on) knowing which products will sell out.

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

consists	symbol	depicts	heritage	associated
therefore	historic	combined	officially	popularly

Although an integral part of the United Kingdom, Wales is not represented on the national flag more 1 \_\_\_\_\_ known as the Union Jack.

The proud and ancient battle standard ( 战旗 ) of the Welsh is the Red Dragon. It 2 \_\_\_\_\_ of a red dragon on a green and white background. As with any ancient 3 \_\_\_\_\_, the appearance of the dragon has been adapted and changed over the years, and 4 \_\_\_\_\_ several different variations exist.

The current flag was 5 \_\_\_\_\_ adopted in 1959, and is based on an old royal badge used by British kings and queens since Tudor times. The red dragon itself has been 6 \_\_\_\_\_ with Wales for centuries, and the flag is claimed to be the oldest national flag still in use.

The Red Dragon now flies proudly over public and private buildings throughout Wales, and thousands still cross the border into England every other year, when the two nations meet for their “7 \_\_\_\_\_ struggle” on the rugby battlefield known as Twickenham. Welsh people carry the dragon as a symbol of pride in their history and culture.

## Structure and grammar

- 1** Scan the QR code in Language focus section in the Students’ Book to learn about the sentence pattern “as opposed to” and “in opposition to.” Then complete the following sentences by translating the Chinese in brackets into English.

- 1 I prefer learning in a game for two or three hours, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ ( 而不愿意坐在教室里学习 10 分钟 ).
- 2 We’re going to Florida for our vacation this year, \_\_\_\_\_  
( 而不是本地的海滩 ).
- 3 \_\_\_\_\_ ( 和坐着看电视相比 ), you could be working on  
your paper.
- 4 The cost of these planes is \$3 million, \_\_\_\_\_ ( 而不是  
他们的竞争者开出的 200 万美元 ).
- 5 Students discuss ideas, \_\_\_\_\_ ( 而不是单纯照搬课本 ).

**2** Read the following tips and translate the Chinese sentences into English using "it."

**it 作形式宾语**

it 可以用作形式宾语。it 作形式宾语的时候，本身无实义，只起一种先行引导的作用。譬如，在课文“Dragons across cultures”的 *Legend has it that the dragon controls the rain, rivers, lakes and the seas; they can protect the innocent and give them safety* 这句话中，it 是形式宾语，真正的宾语是 that 引导的从句。it 作为形式宾语时，真实宾语有三种情况：1) 真实宾语为不定式；2) 真实宾语为动名词；3) 真实宾语为从句。例如：

- [1] I find it easy enough to get on with Pam. (it 指代 to get on with Pam)
- [2] You must find it exciting working here. (it 指代 working here)
- [3] I took it for granted that you would stay with me. (it 指代 that 引导的从句)

1 我认为值得去。

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2 他们觉得在如此短的时间内完成这项工作是非常困难的。

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3 她发现和他争论是没有用的。

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4 你不能理所当然地认为他们会守规矩。

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5 这次会议被取消，我们觉得很遗憾。

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**3** Read the following tips and rewrite the sentences using double negative.

**双重否定**

英语句子中常常可以看到两个表示否定意义的词连用的情况，这一现象是双重否定结构，用来表示肯定和强调。譬如，在文章“Dragons across cultures”的 *It can be almost impossible to talk about dragons without being influenced by one's cultural heritage* 这句话中，be almost impossible ... without ... 是双重否定结构，用来表示肯定和强调。这句话的意思是：When we talk about dragons, we will definitely be influenced by our cultural heritage.

1 You should take a break after driving for three hours.

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2 He always goes out with his security men in attendance.

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3 They quarrel each time they meet.

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4 Whenever I see the film, I will be moved to tears.

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5 Pleasure always comes with pain.

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## Reading

### Section 1

**1** Read the text “Why all the hard work?” and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 What does Carl Crow mean by saying that “If it is true that the devil can only find work for idle hands, then China must be a place of very limited satanic activities”?
  - A. There are many idle people in China.
  - B. Chinese people are very hard-working.
  - C. There are not many devils in the world anymore.
  - D. There are not many activities taking place in China.
- 2 Which of the following is NOT included in Western employers’ perception about the Chinese workforce?
  - A. The Chinese value education.
  - B. The Chinese value self-improvement.
  - C. The Chinese value the virtue of hard work.
  - D. The Chinese value the balance of work and life.

- 3 Why do Chinese students work so hard according to the text?
  - A. They want to have a good job.
  - B. They want to excel academically.
  - C. They are pushed hard by their parents.
  - D. They want to be praised by their teacher.
- 4 Which of the following is NOT a factor contributing to Chinese people's work ethic?
  - A. Socialization.
  - B. National ethic.
  - C. Globalization.
  - D. The ethic of entrepreneurship.
- 5 What is the author's attitude toward Chinese people's diligence?
  - A. Positive.
  - B. Neutral.
  - C. Negative.
  - D. Not mentioned.

**2** Read the text "Dragons across cultures" and choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 Which of the following is NOT the Chinese people's perception of the dragon?
  - A. Monster.
  - B. Virtue.
  - C. Kindness.
  - D. Benevolence.
- 2 Why did Chinese emperors wear robes with a dragon design?
  - A. The design looked nice.
  - B. They wore them to avoid bad luck.
  - C. The dragon represented imperial power.
  - D. The emperors were born in the Year of the Dragon.
- 3 Which of the following is NOT mentioned about the dragon in China?
  - A. Temples and shrines have been built to honor dragons.
  - B. The Chinese wear clothes with a dragon design on special festivals.
  - C. At the Dragon Boat Festival, dragon boat races play an important part.
  - D. The Chinese may include the character for dragon when naming a child.
- 4 What does the legend Saint George and the Dragon tell about most dragons in the West?
  - A. Dragons symbolize evil in the West.
  - B. Dragons symbolize illness in the West.
  - C. Dragons symbolize wisdom in the West.
  - D. Dragons symbolize heroism in the West.
- 5 Which of the following statements is true according to the text?
  - A. Dragons are considered evil in England.
  - B. All Western dragons are considered monsters.
  - C. Dragons usually love fortune more than power.
  - D. The Red Dragon is depicted on the Welsh national flag.

## Section 2

**Read a passage with seven statements attached to it. Five of the seven statements contain information given in one of the paragraphs respectively. Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may not choose any paragraph more than once.**

- A As Mexico celebrates the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos), I'm reminded of a visit I once made with a Swedish friend to the Museum of Mummies in a Mexican city. The perfectly preserved corpses of babies and adults were displayed amid neon lights, fake cobwebs, and other adornments. Confronted with this seeming lack of respect for the dead and vulgarity of the displays, I explained to my shocked companion that Mexicans have a peculiarly different relationship with death to other cultures.
- B The celebration of the Day of the Dead – which is actually a week of festivities which begin on October 28 and end with a national holiday on November 2 – is an integral part of this embracement of death that is special to Mexican national identity. During this period, the popular belief is that the deceased have divine permission to visit friends and relatives on Earth and enjoy once again the pleasures of life. To facilitate this, Mexicans visit the graves of families and friends and adorn them with brilliantly colorful flowers and offerings of food – in particular the sugary “bread of the dead” – spices, toys, candles, and drinks amongst other things. The period is specifically a joyous, ritualistically elaborate celebration of life, rather than sober mourning of its passing.
- C The origins of this festival go back to the ancient peoples of Mexico such as the Purepecha, Maya and Aztec. They believed that the souls of the dead returned each year to visit their living relatives – to eat, drink and be merry, just as they did when they were living. Before the arrival of the Spanish in the 16th century, it was common for people to keep skulls, which they saw as symbols of life, not death.
- D Nevertheless, in a country as socially and geographically diverse as Mexico, there is significant regional variation in the nature of festivities: The southern state of Chiapas is far more likely to focus its efforts on processions and public commemorations of death than the valley of Mexico, where the decoration of altars in homes and tombs of the deceased is more popular. Urbanization, too, plays a large role in regional variations. For the south and rural areas the period holds far greater social and cultural significance than in the north and large cities; families and communities in rural areas will often spend large parts of the year preparing for the occasion.



- E As the anthropologist Claudio Lomnitz correctly points out, in many respects this “playful familiarity and proximity to death” is all the more unusual in contemporary Mexican culture because so much of Euro-American 20th century thought has been about denying death – preserving the life of the citizen at all costs. The existence of this peculiar Mexican attitude is born of three major themes in Mexican history.
- F First is the Aztec heritage of the concept of life and death which combined with elements from other cultures and developed into a wholly unique concept of death. Second is the violent and tumultuous nature of Mexico’s past: the brutality of the Spanish conquest where the local population of central Mexico was slaughtered over the course of the 16th century; the humiliating control by its North American neighbor; and the bloody fighting in the Mexican revolution. These upheavals made it impossible to ignore the commonplace reality of unnatural death in Mexico. And thirdly, the using of “death” by Mexican intellectuals in the early 20th century meant that direct confrontation with the mortality of life became an integral part of the Mexican nation. As the artist Diego Rivera said in 1920: “If you look around my studio, you will see Deaths everywhere, Deaths of every size and color.”
- G Learning how to cope with mortality has always been a central preoccupation of human existence. The celebrations of the Day of the Dead provide an insight into how the Mexicans do it.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1 The origins of the Day of the Dead go back to the ancient indigenous peoples of Mexico such as the Purepecha, Maya and Aztec.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2 My Swedish friend was shocked by the seeming lack of respect for the dead when visiting the Museum of Mummies in a Mexican city.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3 In Mexico, from October 28 to November 2, the shops are filled with candies in the shape of skulls and other symbols of death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4 There are significant regional variations in the celebration of the Day of the Dead in Mexico.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5 In Aztec culture, the head was believed to be a source of human power and energy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6 It’s important for human beings to know how to deal with death.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7 The violent nature of Mexico’s past contributes to the peculiar Mexican attitude toward death.

### Section 3

Read the following two passages and choose the best answer to each of the questions after the passage.

Questions 1-5 are based on the following passage.

Skills such as weaving, forging and soldering are in danger of being lost as demand for them falls in the digital age, the Heritage Crafts Association has warned.

It said some traditional crafts were now “in the hands of an ageing population” and at risk of fading away in the next five years.

The group listed nine of Britain’s most endangered professions, including the crafting of traditional wooden beer barrels and the manufacture of denim. It said there was one master cooper and one denim-maker left in the UK, as well as one clog-maker and two scissor-makers.

Owen Jones, the last full-time craftsperson of oak swill baskets in Britain, first learned his trade in 1988. “I learned from one of the last swillers, a man called John Barker, who had served his time since his internship in the 1930s in the swill shops in Furness,” he said. “He recognized the skill was becoming extinct and so was keen to pass it on.”

Pat Reynolds, co-coordinator at the Heritage Crafts Association, said centuries-old crafts would die out unless younger people made a concerted effort to learn them.

“We have an incredible range of craft skills in the UK and some of the best craftspeople in the world,” she said. “These skills will only survive if they live in each generation. They provide a link to our roots, and they are part of our shared heritage.”

The association has launched a photography competition to celebrate the work of practitioners of traditional British crafts. The winning photos will be announced and displayed during London Craft Week in May.

The future is not gloomy for all UK craft industries: There has been a boom in craft breweries, with many small breweries experiencing a doubling in sales over the past two years as both national and international demand has grown for locally and independently made beers.

- 1 Why are the traditional craft skills in danger of being lost according to the passage?
  - A. Demand for them falls.
  - B. It’s hard to learn a skill.
  - C. The skills are no longer important.
  - D. The craftsmen are reluctant to pass the skills on to strangers.

- 2 Which of the following is NOT included in Britain's most endangered professions?
- A. Paper cutting.
  - B. Scissor-making.
  - C. The manufacture of denim.
  - D. The crafting of traditional wooden beer barrels.
- 3 How can the centuries-old crafts be saved from dying out according to Pat Reynolds?
- A. The price of wooden beer barrels goes up.
  - B. Young people can make efforts to learn them.
  - C. The crafts can be in the hand of the ageing population.
  - D. The craftspeople should always do their best to ensure good quality.
- 4 What has the Heritage Crafts Association done to promote traditional crafts?
- A. It has helped to sell traditional crafts.
  - B. It has taught young people traditional crafts.
  - C. It has persuaded the ageing population to pass the skills on.
  - D. It has launched a competition to celebrate traditional British crafts.
- 5 Which of the following statements is true according to the passage?
- A. There is a boom in craft breweries.
  - B. The future of UK craft industries is not bright.
  - C. Many craftsmen such as John Barker learned a skill for money.
  - D. The brewery industry in the UK has received government subsidies.

**Questions 6-10 are based on the following passage.**

Japanese women are pushing back against a tradition that dictates they must give chocolates to male colleagues on Valentine's Day, with growing anger at the practice of "forced giving."

Until recently, women in the workplace were expected to buy chocolates for their male workmates as part of a tradition called giri choco – literally, obligation chocolates. Men are supposed to repay them on March 14 on White Day – an event **dreamed up** by chocolate makers in the early 1980s to boost sales.

But there is growing evidence that giri choco is falling out of favor.

For a growing number of people, the pressure to avoid causing offence by spending thousands of yen on chocolates for co-workers is becoming intolerable. Some companies are now banning the practice.

A survey found that more than 60 percent of women will instead buy chocolates as a personal treat on February 14th. More than 56 percent said they would give chocolates to family members, while 36 percent would make the same gesture toward partners or the objects of a crush.

“With giri choco, we have to worry about things like how much is appropriate to spend on each chocolate and where we draw the line in who we give the chocolates to, so it’s good that we no longer have this culture of forced giving,” one of the surveyed office workers said, according to the Japan Today website. Giving chocolates as Valentine’s Day gifts took off commercially in Japan in the mid-1950s, growing into a multimillion-dollar market that provides some manufacturers with a sizeable chunk of their annual sales in just a few days.

- 6 What does the practice of “forced giving” mean in Japan according to the passage?
  - A. Japanese men must give flowers to female colleagues on Valentine’s Day.
  - B. Japanese women must give flowers to male colleagues on Valentine’s Day.
  - C. Japanese men must give chocolates to female colleagues on Valentine’s Day.
  - D. Japanese women must give chocolates to male colleagues on Valentine’s Day.
- 7 What does “dreamed up” mean in Para. 2?
  - A. Invented.
  - B. Fantasized.
  - C. Imagined.
  - D. Experienced.
- 8 According to the survey, for whom would most women like to buy chocolates?
  - A. Family members.
  - B. Themselves.
  - C. Partners.
  - D. Lovers.
- 9 Why do many women not like giri choco?
  - A. They do not like their male colleagues.
  - B. They are too busy to buy chocolates for their male colleagues.
  - C. Their spouses are not happy about them buying chocolates for their male colleagues.
  - D. They worry about how much they should spend and whom they give the chocolates to.
- 10 Who benefit most from giri choco?
  - A. Children.
  - B. Chocolate makers.
  - C. Male colleagues.
  - D. Family members.

## Translation

### 1 Translate the English sentences into Chinese.

- 1 More efforts in conservation work might have prevented the damage of this historical building.
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2 The smartest man cannot succeed without hard work.

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3 This festival was only celebrated in part of this country.

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4 This historical building was the imperial palace.

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5 Being lack of protection, the intangible cultural heritage has been lost.

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**2 Translate the Chinese sentences into English.**

1 中国文学与民间传说中有很多关于勤劳的农民的故事。（folklore）

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2 东方国家对龙怀有很高的敬意。（in high respect）

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3 据传说，龙掌管着雨水、河流、湖泊和大海。

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4 她在国外学习的时候努力融入当地文化。（fit into）

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- 5 中国最盛大的节日，亦称为春节，标志着农历新年的开端。

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## Writing

- 1** Write an English summary of the text "Dragons across cultures." You should write no more than 80 words.
- 2** The school newspaper has a column on the theme of "Chinese culture." Choose one symbol of Chinese culture and write at least 100 words to introduce it and submit your essay to the school newspaper.