



# Unit 1

## Passage 1

**Directions:** Read the following passage, and then answer the questions by choosing the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D).

### 快速阅读自查表

阅读和练习建议用时: 11 分 44 秒
实际用时:
正确答题数记录:

## The Communication Problem Between Men and Women

### Public Men and Private Women

I was addressing a small gathering in a suburban Virginia living room—a women’s group that had invited men to join them. Throughout the evening, one man had been particularly talkative, frequently offering ideas, while his wife sat silently beside him on the couch. Toward the end of the evening, I commented that women frequently complain that their husbands don’t talk to them. This man quickly gestured toward his wife and said, “She’s the talker in our family.” The room burst into laughter; the man looked puzzled and hurt. “It’s true,” he explained. “When I come home from work I have nothing to say. If she didn’t keep the conversation going, we’d spend the whole evening in silence.”

### Communication Problems in Marriage

The above case clearly shows that although men tend to talk more than women in public situations, they often talk less at home. And this pattern is causing problems for marriages.

Sociologist Catherine Kohler Riessman reports in her new book *Divorce Talk* that most of the women she interviewed—but only a few of the men—gave lack of communication as the reason for their divorces.

In my own research, complaints from women about their husbands most often focused not on things such as having given up the chance for a career or doing far more than their share of daily life. Instead, they focused on communication: “He doesn’t listen to me”, “He doesn’t talk to me”. I found that most wives want their husbands to be, first and foremost, conversational partners, but

few husbands share this expectation of their wives.

### **Reasons for the Lack of Communication at Home**

How can women and men have such different impressions of communication in marriage? Why is there a widespread imbalance in their interests and expectations?

#### ● **Different Ways of Creating Intimacy**

My research on men's and women's conversations uncovered patterns similar to those described for children's groups.

For women, as for girls, moments of intimacy are the building blocks of relationships, and talk is the cement that holds those blocks together. Little girls create and keep friendship by exchanging secrets. Similarly, women regard conversation as the basis of friendship. So a woman expects her husband to be a new and improved version of a best friend. What is important is not the individual subjects that are discussed, but the sense of closeness that emerges when people tell their thoughts, feelings, and impressions.

Bonds between boys can be as intense as girls', but they are based less on talking, more on doing things together. Since they don't assume talk as the cement that binds a relationship, men don't know what kind of talk women want, and they don't miss it when it isn't there.

#### ● **Different Ways of Providing Help**

When a girl told a friend about a problem, the friend responded by asking probing questions and expressing agreement and understanding. But the boys dismissed each other's problems. Todd assured Richard that his drinking was "no big problem", and when Todd said he felt left out, Richard responded, "Why should you? You know more people than me."

Women perceived such responses as unsupportive. But men seemed satisfied with them. Whereas women reassure each other by implying, "You shouldn't feel bad because I've had similar experiences," men do so by implying, "You shouldn't feel bad because your problems aren't so bad."

#### ● **Different Ways of Making Response**

Women often complain about men's absent mind when they are talking. There is a simple reason for women's impression that men don't listen. Researcher Lynette Hirschman found that women make more listener-noise, such as "mm", "uh-huh", and "yeah", to show "I'm with you". Men, she found, more often give silent attention. Women who expect a stream of listener-noise interpret silent attention as no attention at all.



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Women's conversational habits are as frustrating to men as men's are to women. Men who expect silent attention interpret a stream of listener-noise as overreaction or impatience. Also, when women talk to each other in a close, comfortable setting, they often overlap, finish each other's sentences and anticipate what the other is about to say. This practice is often perceived by men as interruption and lack of attention.

### ● Different Ways of Viewing Conversational Purpose

The different views on conversational purpose between men and women caused a man to complain about his wife, "She just wants to talk about her own point of view. If I show her another view, she gets mad at me." When most women talk to each other, they assume a conversationalist's job is to express agreement and support. But many men see their conversational duty as pointing out the other side of an argument. This is regarded as disloyalty by women, and refusal to offer support. It is not that women don't want to listen to other points of view, but that they prefer them phrased as suggestions and inquiries rather than as direct challenges.

The differences begin to clarify why women and men have such different expectations about communication in marriage. For women, talk creates intimacy. Marriage is about closeness: You can tell your feelings and thoughts, and still be loved. Their greatest fear is being pushed away. But men live in a different world, where talk maintains independence and status. They don't talk to create intimacy, as women do, but to compete with others.

In the public setting, men feel challenged to show their intelligence and display their understanding. But at home, where they have nothing to prove and no one to defend against, they are free to remain silent. For wives, being home means being free from the worry that something said might offend someone, or cause disagreement, or appear to be showing off. At home, she is free to talk.

### Solving the Problem

The communication problems that endanger marriage can't be fixed by making a few small changes. They require a totally new way of thinking about the role of talk in human relationships. Many of the psychological explanations may not be helpful, because they tend to blame either women (for not being strong enough) or men (for not being in touch with women's feelings). A sociolinguistic approach by which male-female conversation is seen as cross-cultural communication allows us to understand the problem and to look for solutions without blaming either party. Once the problem is understood, improvement comes naturally. Wives may look to their friends or family for the kind of talk they need. And husbands can do likewise.

(1,088 words)



1. Women often complain, saying that their husbands don't spend enough time \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) talking to them  
B) laughing more  
C) offering ideas in public  
D) sitting silently
  
2. In most cases, Riessman found that women got divorced \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) because of their career  
B) because of talk in public situations  
C) because of communication problems  
D) because of a lack of sharing
  
3. Boys are quite different from girls in that boys build friendship by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) talking or conversing  
B) exchanging secrets  
C) doing things together  
D) discussing individual subjects
  
4. How does a woman feel when her problems are dismissed?  
A) She feels others understand.  
B) She feels others aren't supportive.  
C) She feels others agree with her.  
D) She feels others think she is bad.
  
5. \_\_\_\_\_ is important to women, and not men, when they are speaking to others.  
A) Patience or overreaction  
B) Silent attention or no interruption  
C) Lack of attention or absent mind  
D) Listener-noise or quick response
  
6. Different from men, women think that conversationalists must \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) suggest other viewpoints  
B) show intelligence  
C) point out an argument  
D) express agreement and support
  
7. Husbands may remain silent at home because they don't have \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) anything to prove at home  
B) feelings and thoughts at home  
C) intimacy in the home  
D) disagreements with their wife
  
8. According to the last paragraph, people may solve their communication problems with \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) psychological explanations  
B) sociolinguistic approaches  
C) some small changes in thinking  
D) fundamental changes in thinking



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## Passage 2

**Directions:** Read the following passage, and then complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

### 快速阅读自查表

阅读和练习建议用时：11分32秒
实际用时：
正确答题数记录：

### Marriage in the Middle Ages

When someone says the word “marriage” today, we think about two people who are in love and who want to spend the rest of their lives with each other. Marriage is a serious commitment, one that isn’t taken lightly for most people. One wouldn’t likely marry a stranger they just met, for instance. In the Middle Ages, however, marriage was quite different. Women didn’t have any choice as to who they would marry. Most of the time, they didn’t even know the man before they took part in the marriage ceremony. Marriage was different in other ways back then too. There were many reasons a marriage could not take place, and strict rules existed for whether or not a divorce was allowed. Despite the differences in various aspects of marriage, the marriage ceremony has stayed rather similar in Western countries over the years. Western countries carry on some of the same traditions in their societies today.

#### Arrangement

In the Middle Ages, marriage was not based on love, but were done by arrangement, usually handled by parents. Women were generally not allowed to choose who they wanted to marry. However, sometimes men were able to choose their bride. Husbands and wives were generally strangers until they get married. If love was involved at all, it came after the couple had been married. Even if love did not develop through marriage, the couple generally developed a friendship of some sort.

In the Middle Ages, children were married at a young age. Girls were as young as 12 when they married, and boys as young as 14. The arrangement of marriage was based on financial

worth. The family of the girl gave an amount of money or some property to the boy she was to marry. This money or property is called a dowry. The dowry went with the girl at the time of marriage and stayed with the boy forever, even if the girl died or somehow left the relationship.

### **Notice of Marriage to the Public**

After a marriage was arranged, a wedding notice was posted on the door of the church. The notice was put up to ensure that there were no grounds for prohibiting the marriage. The notice stated who were to be married, and if anyone knew any reason the two could not marry, they were to come forward with the reason. If the reason was a valid one, the wedding would be prohibited.

### **Conditions Prohibiting a Marriage**

There were many reasons for prohibiting a marriage. One reason was that the two were close relatives in a family. Besides, if the boy or the girl had taken a religious vow, the marriage was also prohibited. A religious vow is a promise to the church, which was very powerful during the Middle Ages. Sometimes widows or widowers took religious vows after the death of their spouse, and later regretted doing so when they could not remarry. But there was nothing they could do about it. A couple could not be married during a time of fasting. Nor could a couple be married by someone who had killed someone.

### **The Ceremony**

The church ceremony in the Middle Ages took place outside the church door before entering the church. During the ceremony in front of the church doors, the man stood on the right side and the woman stood on the left side, facing the door of the church. The priest, the highest authority in the ceremony, began the ceremony by asking if anyone knew of any reason the couple should not be married. He also asked this of the man and woman so they may confess any reason for prohibiting their marriage. If there were no reasons to stop the ceremony, the ceremony could continue with the priest saying, “Will you have this woman to be your wife, will you love her, and honor her, keep her and guard her, in health and in sickness, as a husband should a wife... so long as you both shall live?” Then the priest, changing the wording of “as a husband should a wife”, asked the same question of the woman. Both the man and the woman should answer by saying “I will”. At this time the woman was given by her father. The wedding continued with the saying of promises. Both the man and the woman would say, “I take you... to have and to hold from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness, and in health, till death do us part, if the church will allow it...” At this time they exchanged rings. They then bowed their heads and the priest gave them a blessing. This ended the marriage ceremony.



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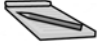
### **Traditions and Changes**

Many of the things that took place during the wedding have become traditions, and are currently practiced in Western countries. The marriage ceremony, for example, contains much of the same wording as was used in the Middle Ages. Today, the man and the woman stand on the same sides of the altar as they did in the Middle Ages. The wedding ceremony of today also includes a ring exchange, and the ring is put on the fourth finger, the same finger it was placed on during the Middle Ages. In the Middle Ages, a couple and their families would have a large dinner after the wedding, and this is still carried on in today's Western societies.

One change societies have today is the acceptance of divorce. People today can get divorced for practically any reason. In the Middle Ages, there were few reasons the wedding could be dissolved. One reason was if either the man or woman were not of legal age, 12 for girls and 14 for boys. If the husband or wife had previously made a religious vow or were not Christian, the marriage would be dissolved.

Marriages in the Middle Ages were done by arrangement. Most of the time the man and woman did not know each other prior to their wedding. The marriage involved a dowry, and a ceremony beginning at the church door and proceeding into the church. After the couple was married, there were few reasons for divorce. Over time, marriages have carried on similar traditions and have also changed to involve the man and woman in deciding who they want to marry, and most importantly: LOVE.

(1,065 words)



1. Though there are some differences between marriages today and that in the Middle Ages, \_\_\_\_\_ has not changed much over the years in Western societies.
2. Marriage in the Middle Ages was usually arranged by \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In the Middle Ages, it was possible for couples to develop some sort of love or \_\_\_\_\_ after they got married.
4. In the Middle Ages, a wedding notice was usually put up on the church door to see if there would be any valid reasons for \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Once a widow took \_\_\_\_\_ following the death of her spouse, she would not be allowed to remarry.
6. Since the Middle Ages, the ring has been placed on \_\_\_\_\_ at the wedding ceremony.
7. Quite different from today, there were only few occasions in the Middle Ages on which couples were permitted to \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The key element in marriage today is \_\_\_\_\_ rather than financial worth.





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## Passage 3

**Directions:** Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-7, choose the best answer from the four choices marked A), B), C) and D). For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

### 快速阅读自查表

阅读和练习建议用时：12分32秒

实际用时：

正确答题数记录：

## Let Shortness Out of the Way

### Height

What is the secret ingredient that will make you attractive to single women? It is your HEIGHT. How tall you are is very, very important to women. And, sadly for many of us short men, being short is one thing that cannot be changed. If you are overweight, you can go on a diet and lose weight to become more attractive to women. If you are poor, you may be able to get a job or gain a promotion to become richer. You can then dress better. If you smoke, you can give up the cigarettes and if you are an alcoholic, you can give up the alcohol. There is no way you are going to get any taller, though. Wearing shoes with high heels just brings attention to your lack of height and displays to both men and women how self-conscious you are about your height. So you get angry at women wanting something in you that you can't change. That is the way I felt, but the solution is to date single women that are the same height as you or shorter. Easy.

### Protection

The reason women enjoy the company of men that are their height or taller goes way back to when men were expected to protect, shelter and provide for women. A somewhat outdated notion now, but elements of this mentality exist subconsciously in women's minds today. Women think, "How can a man who is short protect and shelter me from harm?" Taller men are perceived to have more muscle and more strength. Women feel safer in the arms of a man who can surround them

and protect them from outside dangers. Some women feel that this is “natural” and feel more “comfortable” this way. Some men also feel like this. Some men also find taller women intimidating. The good thing is that shorter men can still provide women with all these needs. All a guy needs is a shorter woman, and he can provide her with the same feelings a guy 12 inches taller can provide for a taller woman.

### **A Better Choice**

You are now thinking, great, now I’ve got to eliminate all those tall, long-legged, slender single women that I dream of. Don’t look at it that way. I prefer to look at it in a more positive way. The smarter reader is going to realize that chasing taller women, who are not interested in shorter men anyway, is a complete waste of time. You can utilize your time better by chatting only to single women shorter than or the same size as you. Don’t forget to allow for the additional height women gain by wearing high-heeled shoes when judging a woman’s height. Believe me, there are some very attractive and desirable shorter women around. Some of them are as pretty and as cute as others and they aren’t necessarily overweight. So the next time you enter a nightclub or bar, don’t even look at the taller women—head straight to the nearest women who are the same height as you or shorter.

### **Less Competition**

You’ll find that even a lot of taller men don’t bother with women who are a great deal shorter than them. That leaves you with less competition. The guys 6’3” and above are chasing the women 5’10” or taller. If you are 5’10”, then any woman from 5’4” to 5’10” is your go. Not a bad range, is it? If you are 5’6” (like myself) or less, that still leaves you with plenty of women to meet. One thing you should always remember is that men are generally taller than women anyway. Another thing you need to know is that the taller the woman, the more likely it is that she will prefer the company of a taller man. A 6’0” woman is more likely to be with a taller man than a woman, say, 5’8” or 5’6”. I have observed the taller a woman is, the less tolerant she is toward shorter men.

### **Impressing with Personality**

If you do really fancy a woman who is taller than you, there is still hope. Remember that women prefer personality to looks. If you have personality you may be able to impress her with it and overcome her natural preference for taller men. You will have to work very hard at it, though as it is likely she will not be as responsive and open to you as she would be to an approach from a taller man. If you have a sense of humor she can relate to or some other personality traits she cannot resist, you still have a chance. You had better be quick, because if your fantastic personality



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doesn't come to the fore quickly, you'll find she'll soon tire of you and begin to look elsewhere. There are exceptions to the rule that single women prefer men the same height as them or taller, but nine times out of ten you will find single women in the company of men who are taller than them. My ex-wife is an example of this as she is 5'8" and I am 5'6". Height had nothing to do with our relationship, either in the courting or separating stages, but I find this is the exception rather than the rule.

### Tests

To prove to yourself height is important, there are two easy tests you can conduct. First, ask women friends at work or within your family of all the men they have dated and/or married, how many have been shorter than them. Invariably, they will say very few, if any. Second, go to shopping centers or just walk down the street and look at people who are obviously couples and observe who is the taller in the relationship. In most cases, the boyfriend or husband will be the taller.

### Conclusion

So remember that height is important to single women. You can be mildly overweight or have no hair and have a better chance with a shorter woman than any shorter guy has with a taller woman. Don't waste your time reaching for what you can't have and stick to the attainable. Lastly, don't go around complaining about your height. It is not you that has a problem with your height. It is women who have a "thing" about height. It may be a subconscious thing to women, but in many cases it is a major concern anyway. What you need to do is turning that women's "thing" into your favor. The best way to do it is to concentrate only on single women who find your height acceptable.

(1,104 words)



1. What is very important to make one attractive to single women?  
A) Hobby.                                      B) Personality.  
C) Height.                                        D) Wealth.
2. Short men's problem can be solved by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) wearing shoes with high heels                B) getting a well-paid job  
C) giving up alcohol                                 D) dating shorter women
3. Women may think that taller men have more \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) intimidating behaviors                         B) outdated notions  
C) shelters and provisions                         D) muscle and strength
4. It is generally a waste of time for a short man to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) judge a woman's height                        B) chase taller women  
C) think about height                               D) chat with single women
5. A 5'6" man has a competitive edge in chasing a woman \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) 5'6" or less                                      B) 5'6" or taller  
C) less tolerant                                       D) more tolerant
6. A short man might have some hope to attract taller women if he has \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) impressive looks                                B) a sense of humor  
C) personality                                         D) persistence
7. A woman will be bored with a man if he isn't \_\_\_\_\_.  
A) working hard to get a chance                B) responsive and open to her  
C) quick to show his great personality         D) fantastic or impressive in courting
8. To prove the importance of height, you can ask the opinion of the female co-workers or women within \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Height is important in a relationship, so if you observe couples in the street, you'll most probably find that the taller one is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Generally speaking, the height of a man is \_\_\_\_\_, though may be a subconscious one, to single women.



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## Passage 4

**Directions:** Read the following passage, and then answer the questions. For questions 1-7, mark **Y** (YES) if the statement agrees with the information given in the passage, mark **N** (NO) if the statement contradicts the information given in the passage, or mark **NG** (NOT GIVEN) if the information is not given in the passage. For questions 8-10, complete the sentences with the information given in the passage.

### 快速阅读自查表

阅读和练习建议用时：12分45秒
实际用时：
正确答题数记录：

## Travel in the United States Today

### An Anecdote

Liu Ping, an artist from Sichuan, China, went to the United States for exhibitions of his artwork at museums around the country. His trip required him to take several flights from one major U.S. city to another. On one of these flights, he had some troubles. First, he woke up late. His flight required him to be at the airport an hour before taking off. When he woke up, he looked at his clock, and realized that he only had 20 minutes to reach the airport. He wasn't sure whether he was going to make it. He hurried and reached the airport check-in counter in time. But there was a bigger problem when he tried to board his plane. In his hurry to make his flight, he packed a pair of scissors in his carry-on bag. He thought this would be only a small problem. But airplane security took this very seriously. They asked him to stand to one side so they could check him for other "potential weapons". This process took so long that he actually missed his flight and had to take another.

### Changes in Domestic and International Flying

Long gone are the days when an airline passenger is able to go straight to the gate and catch his flight. As you all know, the way we think about travel has been greatly changed by the events

of September 11 and what followed. These shifts have had a practical and psychological impact on all of us. Most of these changes have taken place in the airline industry, although other parts of the travel industry and the nation as a whole have been forced to adjust also. Immediately after September 11, as you know, travel was greatly reduced virtually across the planet. In the past year, it has been steadily picking up. However, in most cases, it has not reached pre-September 11 levels. Domestic travel in the United States has recovered much more quickly than international travel. In fact, domestic travel has been very strong this summer, with some destinations, such as the national parks, reporting record-breaking numbers of visitors. International travel has been picking up too, but more slowly. Recently, more people are beginning to plan international trips again.

### **The Effects of Terrorism on Airline Travelers**

How has September 11 affected the traveler? Well, many of you are no doubt familiar with the practical changes that have come about after the bombings of September 11. These have especially impacted air travelers. Airport security is much tighter. Access is much more strongly restricted. Long lines are visible inside terminals and sometimes along the sidewalks outside the airport buildings. In short, you have to wait longer and in more lines than you used to. As a result, whether you are flying domestically or internationally, it is necessary to arrive at airports earlier than you did before, and make sure that all your documents are in order. One of the more drastic changes is that all security screeners who check passengers at United States airports have been professionally trained.

Passengers' carry-on items are passed through an X-ray machine where they are checked for what in today's terms are considered dangerous items, such as knives. Until just recently, scissors were considered a threatening item. They are now allowed in carry-on bags as long as they are no more than 4" in length. Screeners are now more frequently performing random searches of baggage. 100% of all checked baggage is checked for explosives and other dangerous items. Now all passengers are required to go to the ticket counter before check-in. Passengers must have some form of government-issued ID, such as a state driver's license or passport. If you do not have ID, you are not getting on an airplane. Most airports allow only ticketed passengers to go to the departing gate, and you now have to walk quite a stretch before your loved ones can greet you upon arrival.

### **Security Measures Aboard Airplanes**

Even the airplanes themselves are more secure. After September 11, when the Department of Homeland Security was put into place, it was given the task of performing security assessments on



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over 75 of the United States' major airports and actual airline security systems. As a result, every U.S. larger passenger aircraft has now been equipped with hardened doors that separate the pilot from the passengers. Thousands of federal air marshals were assigned to flights in order to help ensure the safety of passengers, and to guard against terrorist acts. We have just recently witnessed an unfortunate event where a person on an aircraft claiming to have a bomb was shot by an air marshal. Make no mistake about it; these security measures are very serious.

### **The Feelings of American Travelers When Flying**

Psychologically, the changes have been great. Americans are nervous and worried travelers, and they tend to somewhat indiscriminately group together vast portions of the world. After September 11, they have tended to avoid travel to any country in the Middle East and much of Asia, as well as India and Pakistan. For the traveler, one of the results of travel in a post-September 11 world is that you need to be better-informed about your destination. It is a good idea to read up on the places you are planning to visit, to understand their history, laws, cultures, customs and current conditions. The more you know about your destination, the better-prepared you will be to anticipate problems that could have been avoided.

### **Changes to Travel Insurance and Methods of Travel Planning**

Changes within the travel insurance industry as well have taken place as a result of the September 11 terrorist attacks. Currently, some major travel insurance companies provide coverage for terrorist attacks committed in the United States of America, such as CSA Travel Protection. Prior to September 11, travel insurance only covered terrorist attacks committed overseas. Along with the travel insurance industry, the methods Americans use to plan their trips have also changed. More than 60% of U.S. vacationers are now using the Internet to plan their vacations either alone or with assistance of a professional travel agent. Americans had already known about travel information and travel business on the Internet prior to September 11, but many more began to utilize it after the attacks.

### **The Positive Results of the September 11 Bombings**

Although the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 are in no way seen as something positive, these same horrific events have led to many improvements to the safety and security of travel within the United States. Some of these new security practices may seem like an inconvenience, but they have been set up to ensure the safety of American and friendly foreign travelers scared by the events of September 11.

(1,131 words)



- ( ) 1. This passage centers round the effects of the September 11 terrorist attacks on air travel in the U.S.
- ( ) 2. Liu Ping was not permitted to get on his scheduled airplane because several “potential weapons” were found in his luggage.
- ( ) 3. Due to the significant drop in the number of air travelers, airline industries around the world began to suffer heavy financial losses after the events of September 11.
- ( ) 4. One of the inconveniences brought about by the events of September 11 is that travelers have to spend more time checking in at the airport than they used to.
- ( ) 5. After September 11, all the baggage is checked for explosives and other dangerous items.
- ( ) 6. To prevent any possible terrorist attacks on airplanes, both federal and state governments have sent thousands of air marshals aboard.
- ( ) 7. After September 11, 2001, Americans have become so frightened and worried about travel that they tend to avoid any travel overseas.
8. Having a clearer idea of your destination will help you become better-prepared for \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Following the events of September 11, some travel insurance companies began to provide coverage for \_\_\_\_\_ committed in the U.S.
10. Although horrific, the events of September 11 do have brought about improvements to \_\_\_\_\_ of travel within the U.S.