

**Major
New Edition**

**Reading & Topic-Discussion Textbook
for Intermediate and Advanced Students**

EXPRESS YOURSELF 2

25 Contemporary Issues with **25** Topical Dialogues

325 Topical Questions
69 Opinion Samples

*Written by LIS KOREA Editorial Staff
& Duane Vorhees*



CONTENTS

Topical
Dialogues



Contemporary
Issues



Recommendation 2

26	Paradox of Our Times	8	114
27	Stress	12	116
28	Generation Gap	16	118
29	Computer & Internet	20	120
30	Man's Desire-Enough Is Never Enough!	24	122
31	Pollution	28	124
32	Insurance	32	126
33	Love	36	128
34	Stock Market	40	130
35	Prejudice	44	132
36	Conscience	48	134
37	Optimism & Pessimism	52	136
38	Disease	56	138
39	Emergency	60	140
40	Studying English	64	142
41	Marriage & Divorce	68	144
42	Self-Evaluation	72	146
43	Retirement	78	148
44	Life & Destiny	82	150
45	Morality	86	152
46	Recipe for a Successful Life	90	154
47	Future Society	96	156
48	Is Life Fair?	100	158
49	Science & Religion	104	160
50	Lessons in Practical Happiness	108	162
	Appendix (Openers for Your Discussion!)		164

25

Contemporary
Issues

EXPRESS

YOURSELF (2)

PART (1)

Issue 26

Paradox of Our Times



1. The paradox of our times is that we have taller buildings, but shorter tempers; wider freeways, but narrower viewpoints.
2. We buy more, but enjoy it less.
3. We have bigger houses and smaller families; more conveniences, but less time; we have more advanced degrees, but less common sense; more knowledge, but less good judgment; more medicine, but less wellness.
4. We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values.
5. We have higher incomes, but lower morals.
6. We have been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.
7. We've conquered outer space, but inner space is still a mystery to too many of us.
8. We have cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul; split the atom, but not our prejudices.
9. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.
10. These are times of steep profits and shallow relationships;

world peace and domestic warfare; more leisure and less fun; two incomes and more need.

11. It is a time when there is much in the show window and nothing in the stockroom; a time when technology can bring a letter to you in seconds, and you can choose either to make a difference⁴ or just hit "delete."



Comprehension



1. What is a paradox?
2. What does "short-tempered" mean?
3. What is common sense?

Express Yourself



1. Why are modern people getting more short-tempered?
2. Why are the viewpoints of contemporary⁴ people getting narrower?
3. If we save so much time with gadgets⁴ like washing machines, toasters, and computers, why are we always in such a hurry?
4. In what ways do we lack common sense despite advanced degrees?
5. If knowledge isn't necessary for good judgment, then what is?
6. Is it true that as we make more money we lower our moral values?
7. Can we live in a society free from prejudice?
8. Do you think a two-income family runs a higher risk of divorce than a single-income one?

⁴-contemporary : current; modern

⁴-gadget : a small mechanical apparatus or electronic device

Opinion Samples



1. Too many modern people live in crowded cities. Noise always invades their lives. They are constantly short of breath and space, in too much of a hurry all the time, too selfishly aware of other people's possessions. Older, simpler times were much better for the promotion of self-reflection, patience, and balance.

2. The time we save today is not invested with interest. Our work is easier and doesn't take as long as it used to, but we still don't have anything better to do. So, like dogs chasing our tails, we just go hurry-scurry⁺ through our lives, in search of elusive⁺ happiness.

3. Actually, money can be a very liberating tool. With it, we can travel, have enough leisure for contemplation,⁺ free time to tinker⁺ with our problems. If we have to struggle every waking moment, we can't have the energy or time needed for effective improvement. I've heard that necessity is the mother of invention. But if that is so, then wealth is the father of the surplus time needed to develop it.

-hurry-scurry : with hurrying and scurrying; confusedly; in a bustle

-elusive : hard to define or describe; tending to escape

-contemplation : the act of looking at or thinking about (sth) thoughtfully

-tinker : work with a thing without useful results

Useful Expressions



These expressions are related to the topics discussed in this chapter. It will be good speaking practice to let students explain what these sentences mean in their own English.

1. People who do the most for the world's advancement are the ones who demand the least.
→ _____
2. The most reliable thing about some people is the assurance they will be unreliable.
→ _____
3. Many people don't do anything on time, except buy.
→ _____
4. If you wish to get along with people, pretend not to know already whatever they are telling you.
→ _____
5. Constructive criticism is when I criticize you. Destructive criticism is when you criticize me.
→ _____
6. Be big enough to admit and admire the abilities of people who are better than you are.
→ _____
7. The busy man seems to have time for everything. The man who just thinks he's busy hasn't time for anything.
→ _____
8. Time is what we want the most, and what we use the worst.
→ _____
9. Philosophy is a study which enables men to be unhappy more intelligently.
→ _____
10. If you think the world is all wrong, remember that it contains people like you.
→ _____

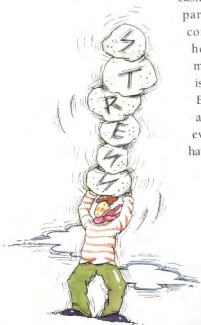
Issue 27

Stress



Despite decades of studies on stress management, tension and burnout^{*} are still major problems for modern urban dwellers, both mentally and physically. Though there is wide consensus among professionals that stress causes illness, it is much less clear how much damage it does us. Part of the problem is that stress levels affect people differently. A few have learned how to shrug off^{*} stress with little thought—or perhaps they merely think so, perhaps it is bothering them much more than they realize—but for others even minor frustrations cause them to go to pieces.^{*} Nevertheless, some aspects of the illness seem clear. As with most health-related issues, a good diet and low alcohol and tobacco intake make it

easier to manage stress; intense exercise is particularly helpful. Being able to concentrate on some project, perhaps a hobby such as painting or playing a musical instrument, is also very useful, if it is unrelated to the stress-causing activity. But, most valuable of all is developing the ability to step outside oneself, put everything in proper perspective,^{*} and have a good hearty laugh!



- **burnout** : fatigue and frustration resulting from prolonged stress and overwork
- **shrug off** : get rid of (sb) or (sth); consider (sb) or (sth) as being of little importance
- **go to pieces** : lose control of oneself
- **perspective** : a mental outlook

Comprehension



1. Why is it so hard to treat stress properly?
2. What do doctors know about stress?
3. What are the best ways to deal with the problem?

Express Yourself



1. Who suffers from the most stress, in your opinion?
2. Who handles stress better, in general, men or women?
3. Can we be stress-free? How?
4. How do you deal with stressful situations?
5. Do you think living in a complex society is more or less stress-creating than in a simpler society, or is there no difference?

More Talking Points

Talk about the kinds of stress these people are likely to suffer:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| a. employees | b. employers | c. the elderly |
| d. stock investors | e. the jobless | f. the handicapped |
| g. high school students | h. college students | i. taxi/bus drivers |
| j. husbands | k. wives | l. young children |
| m. unmarried people | | |

Opinion Samples



1. It doesn't make any difference about a person's job, or what the particular cause of the stress is—the one who suffers the most stress is the one who doesn't realize how much stress he is under. The strong, silent type—the doggedly stubborn—the robot on autopilot⁺—these are the ones who are most apt to break down. Many times, they engage in obsessive behavior as an unconscious means of stress relief, but such behavior merely exacerbates⁺ the problem. The ones who deal with the problem most successfully are, first, the ones who realize there is a problem and, second, actively take steps to manage the stress effectively.

2. In “the good old days” many problems probably existed that were either taken for granted⁺ or for which no adequate vocabulary existed in order to discuss them. I'm sure that just as many people suffered from stress—due to family situations, economics, death and illness, and so forth—but thought that it was “just life.” It wasn't until professionals began to consider stress to be an illness, not just an ordinary condition, that they began to learn how to control it.

3. Athletes know they have only a short time to be in their best physical condition. The body inevitably ages, gets weaker, less coordinated. And in sports there is only one winner. Even second place is a tremendous disappointment. And there is the constant refrain⁺ of “what-if”: what if I had been just a fraction of a second⁺ faster, what if I had passed the ball instead of trying for the shot myself, what if I had stayed on second instead of trying to steal third.....?

4. Being a judge must be one of the most frustrating jobs in the world. Many times a person may seem clearly guilty in a commonsense way, and yet be technically innocent in terms of evidence or legal procedure. So which is more important, justice or the law? And how can a judge neglect one or the other without feeling compromised?⁺

- **autopilot** : automatic pilot

- **exacerbate** : make (sth) worse or more severe; aggravate

- **take for granted** : fail to appreciate the value of (sb) or (sth)

- **refrain** : a repeated utterance

- **a fraction of a second** : a moment

- **compromise** : settle by concessions

Useful Expressions



1. Don't be afraid to enjoy the stress of a full life.
→ _____
2. Remember that having too many things is one of the major sources of psychological stress.
→ _____
3. Distract your mind when you're under pressure. Do something frivolous,⁺ non-stressful, and unrelated to "real life."
→ _____
4. Most of the stress we bring on ourselves is due to bad habits and bad attitudes.
→ _____
5. Shun⁺ the "Superman" urge. No one can be perfect in everything.
→ _____
6. A lot of people who are worrying about the future ought to be preparing for it.
→ _____
7. Instead of counting their blessings, many people magnify their problems.
→ _____
8. Wealth is a worry if you have it, and a worry if you don't have it.
→ _____
9. It's foolish to worry about something beyond your control—such as your life.
→ _____
10. "Don't worry" is a better motto if you add the word "others."
→ _____

-frivolous : not deserving of serious attention; inappropriately silly

-shun : avoid (sb) or (sth) deliberately and consistently; keep away from

Issue 28

Generation Gap



During a quarrel with his parents, young Michael cried, "I want excitement, adventure, money, and beautiful women. I'll never find it here at home, so I'm leaving. Don't try and stop me!"

With that he headed toward the door. His father rose and followed close behind.

"Didn't you hear what I said? I don't want you to try and stop me."

"Who's trying to stop you?" replied his father. "If you wait a minute, I'll go with you."

The term "generation gap"⁴ was coined⁴ by sociologists and anthropologists in the 1960's and is often still used today. One concept of the generation gap is that parents and offspring have different values and beliefs. As a result, many parents fear that they will lose influence with their children when peer pressure becomes too highly valued.

Parents and their children find it hard to learn from each other, so they point their fingers at⁴ each other instead. Grown children often boast a better education and more secure finances than their parents, while the older generation may be richer in experience. How can we better get the two age groups to understand and appreciate the advantages of the other? We all have a responsibility to narrow the gap and balance each set of values, because social development needs them both.



- **generation gap** : the difference in values and attitudes between one generation and the next, especially between young people and their parents

- **coined** : invented

- **point the finger at** : blame or accuse (sb) of doing wrong

Comprehension



1. What does "generation gap" mean?
2. When was the term created?
3. Why is it important to narrow the gap?

Express Yourself



1. Why is it hard to understand the other generation?
2. For each generation, what is the first step in narrowing the gap?
3. In what areas of living is the generation gap widest?
4. Do you feel a gap between the values of your parents and yourself? What about between you and your kids?
5. What is the best way to eliminate⁴ the generation gap?

Opinion Samples



1. Listen more than you talk. Questions adults ask may seem like an interrogation⁺ to kids. So, instead of trying to control or manipulate⁺ a teenager, try to adopt an attitude of curiosity. Ask questions like, "Is this something you want me to help with?" If listening is your only object, you won't be formulating a response while your teen is still talking. You'll listen better, and the teen will feel encouraged to talk more.

2. Remember that hypocrisy⁺ and double standards⁺ are among the biggest adult lies for idealistic kids. Don't expect them to follow any rules you yourself violate. "Do as I say and not as I do" won't improve any relationship.

- **interrogate** : question (sb) formally and closely

- **manipulate** : influence or manage (sb) or (sth) in a clever or dishonest way

- **hypocrisy** : the practice of showing or expressing feelings, beliefs, or virtues that one does not actually hold or possess

- **double standard** : a set of principles or a moral rule used in one case but not in another

Useful Expressions



1. A teen-age girl usually makes up her face easier than her mind.
→ _____
2. About the only time teenagers get homesick these days is when they're at home.
→ _____
3. Teenagers haven't changed very much. They still grow up, leave home, and get married. The big difference is that today they don't always do it in that order.
→ _____
4. The easiest way to get a teenage boy to be quiet is to ask him where he's been.
→ _____
5. Nothing makes it more difficult to understand teenagers than listening to what they say.
→ _____
6. Today's teenagers will listen to CDs, radio, TV—they'll listen to anything but reason.
→ _____
7. If you want a definition of poverty, ask parents with three or four teen-agers in the family.
→ _____
8. Modern medicine still hasn't decided whether it's harder on a middle-aged man to wash the car himself or argue his teenage son into doing it.
→ _____
9. It's nice to kiss the kids goodnight—if you don't mind waiting up for them.
→ _____
10. Having teenagers is what undermines a parent's belief in heredity.⁴
→ _____

⁴ **heredity** : the passing on of qualities, characteristics, or traits from parents to their young through the genes

Issue 29

Computer & Internet



Throughout civilized history, mankind has devised tools to help them accomplish their purposes. But has any device been more flexible or useful than the computer? In a few decades it has revolutionized the way we live and work. It is not only a calculator but a communication device, a graphics instrument, a recorder/transmitter of music/photos/ text, and a gaming machine as well.

In addition to the addiction problem that has developed, another concern has emerged. As computerized systems become more complex and more ubiquitous,⁴ what would happen if they failed? Would there be a worldwide catastrophe?⁴ How long would it last? Could we recover?



Comprehension



1. Why do people use computers?
2. What do people do with computers?
3. Concerning computers, what do people worry about?

Express Yourself



1. What do you use computers for?
2. How long could you live without turning one on?
3. What effect has the internet had on your life?
4. Do you think the internet widens or narrows the gap between rich and poor?
5. What bad effects has the computer had on your life? What are the dangers in general?
6. How can we end computer illiteracy⁴ in our society? Should we?
7. What would be the result of a sudden crash of all computer systems? (Discuss in detail)

-ubiquitous : being or seeming to be everywhere at the same time

-catastrophe : a great and sudden disaster, such as an earthquake or a flood; a complete failure

-computer illiteracy : inability to handle a computer

Opinion Samples



1. Technology is a product of the search for knowledge, one of the primary components⁴ of human nature. Even though most people act with good intentions, some manage to use new tools and techniques in negative ways. Nevertheless, whether used for good or ill, it is impossible for us as a group to turn our backs on technological development.

2. Fortunately, computers are constantly redesigned to make them easier to use! Occasionally they do crash,⁴ and this causes inconvenience (and sometimes major problems)—but do we really want to go back to relying on pen and paper?

3. The computer is indeed a useful tool. But, like any other, it may pose a danger when misused. Current threats include hacking,⁴ spreading viruses, invading people's privacy, and disseminating⁴ misinformation. Future problems include over-reliance on computer technology. The merging⁴ of nanotechnology,⁴ genetic engineering,⁴ and artificial intelligence⁴—which may not be so far in the future after all—could have apocalyptic⁴ results. Software designers need to apply better solutions, and users need to be both more aware of existing solutions and more vigilant⁴ about computer crimes committed against them. A watchdog organization needs to be created to police software.

→ **component** : one of the parts that make up a whole

→ **crash** : fail suddenly

→ **hack** : get into someone else's computer system without permission in order to find out information or do something illegal

→ **disseminate** : make (information) known widely

→ **merge** : bring things together so they become one; unite

→ **nano** : a prefix that means one billionth

→ **genetic engineering** : the science of changing of genes or genetic material to produce desirable new traits in plants, animals, or human beings or to eliminate undesirable traits

→ **artificial intelligence** : the ability of a computer to reason as humans do

→ **apocalypse** : a prophecy or revelation, especially about the end of the world

→ **vigilant** : aware of what is happening; watchful

4. Computers are a great boon⁺ to mankind. They make things much easier to manage and more efficient. The more people learn to use them, the better off we all will be. However, there is at least one negative aspect: a whole new generation has been raised to invent new useless forms for the rest of us to fill out, in order to desimplify⁺ our lives again.

5. Too many people have become too trusting of computers. They have lost the ability to think for themselves. If the computer says "black is white," then it must be true! No one pays any attention to the data that is fed in to achieve that result. Even though I work with computers all the time, and am thankful for their existence, I make it a point to apply a reality check to whatever the machines tell me.

6. What I see every day is people wasting inordinate⁺ amounts of time on the speedy, efficient computer—not in the pursuit of knowledge, but in the progress of their gamesmanship.⁺

7. As a society we have become overwhelmingly reliant on all forms of technology. People are forgetting the sort of skills that are necessary to survive in the real world. One of these days something rather catastrophic is bound⁺ to happen. I don't know what this will be, but I do know we won't be ready for it, because we'll be too busy pressing buttons and waiting for our beloved computers to save us.

8. My world would fall apart, business, utilities, and government would cease to function, if all the computers stopped working. No power. No money. No communication. No waiting in line for 10 minutes trying to buy a loaf of bread even though you know the right price and have the exact change but for some reason the laser scanner can't read the barcode and update the store inventory and produce a uniquely coded receipt....

- **boon** : a help or blessing

- **desimplify** : make complicated

- **inordinate** : excessive

- **gamesmanship** : the art or practice of using tactical maneuvers to further one's aims or better one's position

- **bound** : certain

Useful Expressions



1. The computer is a great invention. There are as many mistakes as ever, but now they're nobody's fault.
→ _____
2. There is now a female computer on the market. You don't ask it anything, but it tells you anyway.
→ _____
3. Computers will never entirely replace human beings. Someone has to complain about the errors.
→ _____
4. A cheap but top-rate computer is the one between your ears.
→ _____
5. Modern science is simply wonderful. It would take fifty people twenty years to make the same mistake a computer can make in only two seconds.
→ _____
6. No matter how quickly you purchase a new computer component, it's obsolete⁴ before you can get it home.
→ _____
7. Some computers are almost human. When they make a mistake they put the blame on another computer.
→ _____

⁴ **obsolete** : no longer used

Issue 30

Man's Desire—Enough Is Never Enough!



Suppose you did the work you love, didn't have any debt, could afford a comfortable vacation, and were rich enough to move into a bigger house. Could you be happy under those circumstances? You might say yes, but most people would probably still feel dissatisfied in a short time. No matter how much we have, we usually want more. That is the nature of endless desire.

Why are people continuously unhappy with their earthly lot?⁴ First, we are always comparing ourselves with others. We are dying to know how much money our neighbors, friends, and relatives have, where they live, what they drive, what they wear, and how they spend their vacations. It is always easy for us to fantasize⁴ about how easier life would be if we only had a little more money. Second, the mass media feed us falsely glamorous notions about the world, how the beautiful people live lives of such luxury and ease; and we want the same. So we are never satisfied with what we have, no matter how comfortable we may actually be; we are all like mosquitos flying into the flames.



We are too strongly hooked to the illusion of spiraling⁴ desire to restrain ourselves easily.

We need to remove our lust⁴ for earthly goods step by step. Doing so requires time and practice, like learning how to ride a bicycle. Unfortunately, we don't make much progress because, during the ride, instead of concentrating on keeping our balance we are too likely to be wishing we had a ten-speed.

-lot : fate; fortune; destiny

-fantasy : the creative imagination; an imagined event or situation, especially one that fulfills a wish

-spiral : a winding curve that moves upward or toward a fixed center; move in a spiral form

-lust : an overwhelming desire or craving

Comprehension



1. What is the nature of our desire?
2. Why can't we be satisfied with three meals a day?
3. How can we free ourselves from excessive greed?

Express Yourself



1. Do you want to be gorgeous?⁴ Why or why not?
2. Do you want to be rich? Why or why not?
3. Do you want to be famous? Why or why not?
4. Do you want to know everything? Why or why not?
5. Do you want a big house? Why or why not?
6. Do you want a big car? Why or why not?
7. Are you happier when you think you have more money, a bigger house, or a more expensive car than your peers?
8. Is being rich good or bad?
9. If you had everything you wanted, what would you do then?
10. Why is it hard to give up our desires?
11. How can we cure ourselves from always wanting too much?

⁴ gorgeous : incredibly beautiful or magnificent

Opinion Samples



1. It's always hard to tell exactly where I am in the race. Some of my friends seem ahead of me in terms of worldly possessions, and some behind. Or, one may drive a nice new car and live in a real dump,⁺ while another may have both a big sedan and a big house but always be short of cash. I have yet to find the perfect yardstick⁺ to measure my own success against; the standards keep shifting.⁺ All I know is, I'm not yet satisfied with what I have, and my friends don't seem to be either.

2. I've been rich, and I've been poor; rich is better. Sometimes idealistic spoilsports⁺ try to convince me that wealth doesn't matter, but I think they are either jealous or lazy. A big car is safer to drive than a compact, and having a chauffeur is more convenient than driving yourself, just as it's more comfortable to hire a maid to clean up the house. And a bigger house has more security and more room for various activities and guests; why be unnecessarily cramped and confined? And, of course, money is necessary for routine medical care—not to mention emergencies!—and better educational opportunities, as well as happier vacations, better clothes, and more beautiful objects of art. Anyone who says poor is better must be a hypocrite.⁺

3. It's hard to abandon our desires, because having them is to our evolutionary advantage. If our species hadn't been striving for millennia to better ourselves, we'd still be living very nasty, short, and brutish⁺ lives indeed. If suddenly we were all satisfied with what we had, it would be the end of progress. It may be difficult to define how much "enough" is, but surely it is more than we already have.

- **dump** : a shabby rundown place

- **yardstick** : a standard used in comparing or judging

- **shift** : change position, direction, place, or form

- **spoilsport** : one whose conduct spoils the pleasure of others, as in a game

- **hypocrite** : a person who practices hypocrisy

- **brutish** : brutal; gross; uncivilized

Useful Expressions



1. Some of us veer⁺ to the left and some of us swing⁺ to the right, but most of us are self-centered.

→ _____

2. A selfish fool is a man who says it's nobody's business what he does.

→ _____

3. The person who lives for himself alone usually dies the same way.

→ _____

4. Too many people conduct their lives on the cafeteria plan—self-service only!

→ _____

5. Master⁺ selfishness or it will master you.

→ _____

6. Selfish individuals have a very easy time of it—if they can get along without friends.

→ _____

7. The trouble with most people is that every time they think, they think only of themselves.

→ _____

- **veer** : turn aside from a course, direction, or purpose

- **swing** : move back and forth

- **master** : bring (sth) under control

Issue 31

Pollution



People in industrial societies frequently complain about trash and litter on the ground and about smog and bad smells in the air. But even more serious is the poor health caused by pollutants. Tiny air- or water-borne particles, that are too small to be seen, kill more than twice the number who die in automobile accidents. They are so small that they can evade the body's respiratory⁺ defenses and lodge themselves deeply in lung tissue, where they slowly kill their hosts. Car exhaust⁺ is the biggest source, so if the automobile doesn't kill you in an accident it may still kill you by polluting the air you breathe.

Pollution is also responsible for making many animals and plants extinct. Pesticides are probably the worst offenders in this regard. Designed to kill insects that may destroy a farmer's crop, they also get into the ground water. And once they enter the food chain, they cause death and disease throughout an ecological⁺ system. One of the ironies is, after a few generations, the target insects acquire immunity and are little affected, but the poison designed to control them continues to spread uncontrollably among other animals, perhaps forever.



- **respiratory** : relating to or affecting breathing
- **exhaust** : the vapors or gases released
- **ecology** : the relationship between living things and their environments

Comprehension



1. Give at least two examples of irony in the essay.
2. Does the essay offer any solution to the problem?
3. What are the visible signs of pollution?

Express Yourself



1. Air pollution is mainly caused by trucks and cars. Would you buy an electric car for a cleaner environment, in spite of its higher price and greater inconvenience?
2. What do you think is the most important reason to clean our air?
3. Some doubt our water supply is safe and free from pollution, despite reassurances from the government. Are you willing to buy and drink mineral water at high prices to protect yourself?
4. Do you think bottled water is any healthier than tap water?
5. It is said that disposable diapers take more than one hundred years to decompose,⁴ and they are filling our landfills at remarkable speed. Do you think we should discontinue their production?
6. What do you think about building more nuclear power plants in spite of the potential danger of radioactive release?
7. Would you be willing to sacrifice your current standard of living for a cleaner environment?
8. Would you be willing to pay higher taxes for a healthier environment?
9. Do you think our country's anti-pollution laws are tough enough?
10. Are you concerned about other forms of pollution than just bad air and water? What about too much noise?
11. Do you think overcrowdedness is a form of pollution?

Opinion Samples



1. Many people say they would sacrifice their living standard for a cleaner environment. But in reality it is not easy. Suppose you could only get electricity every other day, and you could not drive your car half the time; your air conditioner and car would be almost obsolete.⁴ Are you sure you wouldn't complain? People who are accustomed to modern technology may find it almost impossible to give it up. We have to continue building nuclear power plants, as many as possible, and try to develop more effective technology to prevent radioactive⁴ leakage.

2. I don't think our anti-pollution laws are tough enough to discourage on-going pollution. Polluters are spewing⁴ their garbage into the rivers and air. They do it deliberately⁴ since the law is so permissive.⁴ If they are caught, they are just negligibly fined. That's all. To them, the fine⁴ is cheaper than operating a pollution control facility.

→ **obsolete** : no longer in use or in fashion

→ **radioactivity** : the release of radiation by atomic nuclei

→ **spew** : send or force (sth) out in

→ **deliberately** : intentionally; on purpose

→ **permissive** : showing permission

→ **fine** : money imposed as a penalty for an offense

Useful Expressions



1. If you really want to appreciate what an enormous⁴ job it is to clean up the environment, start cleaning out your closets.
→ _____
2. Everywhere we look somebody is doing something about pollution –like contributing to it.
→ _____
3. Detroit has finally come up with a 100 percent effective anti-pollution device. It's an ignition key that doesn't fit.
→ _____
4. Air-pollution is something we all have to pay for through the nose.
→ _____
5. Many people will never be bothered by air pollution because they don't stop talking long enough to take a deep breath.
→ _____

⁴enormouse : very great in size, extent, number, or degree

Issue 32

Insurance



Have you ever considered buying life insurance? To many Koreans, until recently, such an idea was considered morbid.⁴ However, buying the right to receive money in compensation for death or disaster became more acceptable after a series of national tragedies, for which Korea gained an international reputation as a "collapsing republic." The trend has also been fueled by the growing crime rate. Even so, many people are still reluctant to purchase cancer insurance: they cannot exactly explain why, but perhaps they feel that being insured somehow tempts⁴ the Fates to inflict⁴ death or fatal illness sooner.



- **morbid** : thinking too much about death, decay, or other unhealthy matters
 - **tempt** : provoke
 - **inflict** : cause something unpleasant

Comprehension



1. What does "morbid" mean?
2. Why was Korea once thought to be a collapsing republic?
3. Does the writer of the paragraph seem sympathetic⁴ towards people who do not have life insurance? Why do you say so?

Express Yourself



1. Is your life insured? Why or why not?
2. Are you insured against cancer? Why or why not?
3. Are you insured against fire? Why or why not?
4. Is your car insured? Why or why not?
5. Do you have insurance on your household contents?
6. Would you recommend life insurance for your spouse?
7. You know one in five cars is not insured. What do you think about mandatory coverage⁴ for all autos?
8. If you have insurance, did you buy it through a relative or friend; or did you buy it based entirely on your needs and perceived benefits?

- **sympathetic** : in agreement; favorable

- **coverage** : the amount or area of protection given by an insurance policy

Opinion Samples



1. I bought cancer insurance. Cancer is still an incurable disease and expensive to treat. Think about your family members. If you were sick, they would have to suffer, too. They would be financially strained, as well as being bothered by having to take care of you. Insurance can reduce the financial burden and help you maintain a stable mind. Insurance has become a *must*⁴ for anyone living in a dangerous society.

2. Most people in Korea buy their insurance through relatives, friends, and acquaintances.⁴ Even though they don't see any immediate need for it, they buy it in order to maintain their personal or official relationship with the salesman. In this way, many people are "forced to buy" insurance. I know this is dangerous as well as wrong. We must buy insurance based upon our needs and benefits, not because of personal relationships.

- **must** : something that is required or necessary

- **acquaintance** : a person whom one knows but who is not a close friend

Useful Expressions



1. When the praying does no good, insurance may help.
→ _____
2. He doesn't carry life insurance, just fire insurance—he knows where he's going.
→ _____
3. Most women don't buy life insurance—they marry it.
→ _____
4. Life insurance keeps you poor all your life so you can die rich.
→ _____
5. The uninsured are in no more peril⁴ than the insured, but their families are.
→ _____
6. Life insurance is the last thing on earth a man wants, but it's too late then.
→ _____
7. Honesty may be the best policy, but life insurance is more satisfactory to the widow.
→ _____
8. Hope only arrives when the situation is hopeless.
→ _____

⁴-peril : grave risk; danger; jeopardy

Issue 33

Love



No word is more romantic than love. To many people, love means everything. A person becomes happy when in love, and lonely and depressed if unloved. Love is usually regarded as a great thing, immune⁴ from criticism. But problems arise if it is identified with selfishness and jealousy. Too many people seek to "own" their lovers, like property, simply because they are centered on their own feelings of love; but this attitude can easily jeopardize⁴ the relationship. Ultimately, love is based on mutual understanding and affection, and we must accept our partners as they are, not as something to be possessed or changed.

Love between parents and children is usually regarded as endless and unconditional. Nevertheless, a distinction is sometimes made between maternal and paternal love. The attitude is sometimes expressed that a father may have limits to his love, but that a mother never can. Perhaps this is because the child was once, before birth, part of the mother's daily existence, but to the father has always been another, separate, being.



• immune : protected; guarded; safe
• jeopardize : endanger

Comprehension



1. What is the most romantic word?
2. What two negative emotions does love sometimes provoke?
3. Why may there be a difference between maternal and paternal love?

Express Yourself



1. Who was your first love?
2. Was it love at first sight?
3. When did you try to hold hands and kiss your sweetheart?⁺
4. Do you believe that the first love is bound to fail?
5. How often do you kiss and hug your sweetheart now?
6. How often do you kiss and hug your children?
7. Is there any difference between Daddy's love and Mama's love?
8. Do you think love out of wedlock⁺ deserves criticism? Why or why not?
9. Do you think platonic love can exist between a man and a woman? Do you have any personal experience?
10. Do you think you have to marry if you are in love?
11. Do you think you have to be in love to marry?

- **sweetheart** : a person whom one loves

- **out of wedlock** : outside of marriage

Opinion Samples



1. It is said that first loves are bound⁺ to fail. The belief may be based on widespread experience, and may even be statistically⁺ valid,⁺ but people seldom give serious thought as to why. There surely are many reasons, though, I think. First and foremost,⁺ people are so eager to fall in love that they try to will⁺ the condition into existence, even before they really know what love is. Then they are so jealous over their newfound ecstasy⁺ that they try to control their lover's actions. This behavior leads to serious friction between them and contributes to their break-up. But gradually, as people mature, they learn how to love each other as equal partners and how to treat each other. This leads to lasting relationships.

2. It is natural to marry when we are in love. But I don't think love is everything in a marriage. We have many loves throughout our lives, but usually one marriage. What does that mean? That love alone is not sufficient for marriage. When we date, love may be everything. But when it comes to marriage we should be realistic. If not, we can't get over how fantastic being in love feels, and we are doomed to disappointment.

- **bound** : certain; sure

- **statistic** : a numerical fact or datum

- **valid** : logical; convincing

- **first and foremost** : as the main reason for

- **will** : cause by self-effort

- **ecstasy** : intense joy or delight

Useful Expressions



1. What a nice world this world would be if we loved others as we love ourselves.

→

2. A woman cherishes the memory of her first love affair with the same zeal with which a man forgets his.

→

3. To love others makes us happy; to love ourselves makes us lonely.

→

4. There are three things most men love but never understand: females, girls, and women.

→

5. Love at first sight may be all right, but it might be wise to take a second look.

→

6. A man doesn't know the value of a woman's love until he starts paying alimony.⁴

→

7. Love is an unusual game. There are either two winners or none.

→

8. You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving.

→

9. Democracy, like love, can survive almost any attack—except neglect and indifference.

→

10. There would be fewer divorces if men gave as much loving attention to their wives as they do to their cars and jobs.

→

⁴-alimony : an amount of money that a court orders a divorced person to pay as support to a former husband or wife

Issue 34

Stock Market



The stock market has become the center of our lives. It affects us all, investors and noninvestors alike. Even governments rise or fall on the way the market behaves. It's all a big game of chance, of course. Lucky investors may get rich overnight,⁺ but the unlucky become impoverished just as quickly. The illusion is that stock prices always go up, but that just is not true. And even when the market average goes up, there are lots of individual stocks that plummet⁺ in price—often because of rumors or conditions that have nothing to do with how well-managed the company is or what its real financial future is likely to be. If I were a gambler, I wouldn't bet on the market, I'd go to the race track—at least there, someone always wins.



⁺ **overnight** : happening as if in a single night; suddenly
⁺ **plummet** : fall straight down; plunge

Comprehension



1. Why is investing in the market a gamble?
2. If the overall market value is rising, and I have money invested in it, does that mean I'm making money?
3. How do we know if a stock is going to be a good investment?

Express Yourself



1. Why do many people invest when markets are erratic?⁴
2. Do you own stock? Do you plan on buying any? Why or why not?
3. Do you have an investment strategy?⁴
4. Do you know a better investment than stocks?
5. Why do some people sell their stock for less money than they paid for it?
6. Why don't people who have made a lot of money just take it out while they still have a profit to show?
7. Why do noninvestors worry about market conditions?
8. What is your opinion of people who never invest?
9. Is it possible to buy stocks that are guaranteed to make money?

⁴-erratic : irregular or uneven, as in quality or progress

-strategy : a plan of action

Opinion Samples



1. The ideal situation is buying a lot of stock when the price is very low and then selling it right away at a big profit. If the market is stable, there may be real long-term value but not much short-term excitement. But if stock prices are fluctuating⁴ wildly, it is possible, if you are very careful, to time a purchase just when the stock price is bottoming out and then turn it over a day or a week later at double or triple the price. Of course, if you're wrong, the value may continue to decline and you'll lose your money, but that's why you need to be careful.

2. If I buy stock for \$100 and then the value starts to go down, I really only have two choices. I can cut my losses and sell for \$95, or I can hope for a market correction and wait. The problem is, the stock may continue to decline, and I may have to sell it eventually for only \$50, or it may even completely lose its value and I will lose the entire amount.

3. We all need to be concerned about the market, even if we don't have anything invested in it. Its condition rather directly affects what goods and services are available and how much they cost, what the interest rates are, how much we pay for a mortgage or loan, whether the company we work for will stay in business or if it lays us off or not. Wobbly⁴ economies cause much hardship, increase the gap between the rich and poor, and may lead to the collapse⁴ of governments or governing systems.

-fluctuate : change or vary irregularly

-wobbly : unsteady

-collapse : fall down; break down or fail suddenly and completely

Useful Expressions



1. The first time a man bets, he bets to win. The rest of the time he's trying to break even.
→ _____
2. No one has more faith than the person who plays the slot machines.
→ _____
3. The best throw of the dice is to throw them away.
→ _____
4. Never bet on a sure thing unless you can afford to lose.
→ _____
5. It is hard to decide whether gambling is a means of getting something for nothing or nothing for something.
→ _____
6. The safest bet is the one you didn't make.
→ _____
7. No wife can endure a gambling husband—unless he's a steady winner.
→ _____
8. The best way to get out of a poker game with a small fortune is to start with a large one.
→ _____
9. All forms of gambling are frowned⁴ upon by preachers—except marriage.
→ _____
10. There are two times in a man's life when he shouldn't gamble: when he can't afford it and when he can.
→ _____

⁴frown : disapprove of (sth)

Issue 35

Prejudice



Prejudice is a negative or hostile attitude, opinion, or feeling toward a person or group, formed without adequate knowledge, thought, or reason, and based on negative stereotypes. Prejudice is based on prejudgment and often leads to discrimination,⁴ actions that limit some person's or group's choices and opportunities. Prejudices are attitudes rooted⁴ in ignorance and a fear of differences. Whether the seeds are planted around the dinner table, on the playing field, or in the classroom, they can grow out of control, like weeds in a flower garden. Even worse, when not uprooted,⁴ prejudices are carried from generation to generation and can fuel victimization, bigotry,⁴ and hatred. However, the good news is that no one is born prejudiced. Since prejudice is learned, it can be unlearned. With awareness, education, and action, it can be weeded out.⁴



- **discrimination** : unfair treatment of people based on their belonging to a class or category, such as race, age, or sex, rather than on individual merit

- **rooted** : held in place

- **uprooted** : pulled out; removed violently or torn away from a native place or environment; destroyed or eradicated

- **bigotry** : extreme unwillingness to accept the possibility that an idea differing from one's own may be correct

- **be weeded out** : be removed

Comprehension



1. What is the difference between prejudice and discrimination?
2. Over time, what are the probable results of prejudice?
3. So, what's the good news?

Express Yourself



1. How do we learn prejudice?
2. Who do you think are more prejudiced, children or adults?
Why do you think so?
3. Why is it hard to free ourselves from prejudices?
4. Talk about ways of ending the cycle of prejudice.

More Talking Points

What are the common stereotypes about the following?

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| a. the rich | b. the poor |
| c. the handicapped | d. the beautiful |
| e. the ugly | f. fat people |
| g. men without a college diploma | h. the elderly |
| i. the young | j. religious people |
| k. atheists | l. homosexuals |
| m. the homeless | n. doctors |
| o. lawyers | p. politicians |
| q. the police | r. women with foreign husbands |
| s. divorcees | t. singles |
| u. professional athletes | v. ex-convicts |
| w. the unemployed | |

Opinion Samples



1. Rich people are often thought of as being dishonest if they were born without much money, and lazy if they were born into wealth.
2. Men without a college education are either not very bright or not very ambitious—or both!
3. We learn prejudice by listening to what other people say, especially if they are people we are supposed to respect—our parents or friends, or authority figures like public officials, teachers, religious leaders, or businessmen. Or, sometimes we generalize from very limited experience: we have a bad experience with one or a few members of some group and then extend the negative feelings towards the group as a whole. It is also true, historically, that some groups have been held out as scapegoats⁺ for social problems; this phenomenon represents prejudice and bigotry at their most entrenched⁺ and is by far the most difficult to eliminate.

-scapegoat : a person, group, or thing that unjustly receives the blame of others
 -entrenched : fixed firmly or securely

Useful Expressions



1. The bigot agrees there are two sides to every question—his and the wrong one.
→ _____
2. The difference between a prejudice and a conviction is that you can explain a conviction without getting angry.
→ _____
3. What some people call common knowledge may be just a prejudice.
→ _____
4. We may ask for information, but we are usually only interested in confirmation of our own opinions.
→ _____
5. There is nothing so easy to acquire and so difficult to drop as prejudice.
→ _____
6. Prejudice is a great timesaver. It enables you to form opinions without bothering to get the facts.
→ _____
7. Prejudice is when you decide a fellow is a stinker⁺ before you even meet him.
→ _____
8. Many people tailor⁺ their religion to fit the pattern of their prejudice.
→ _____
9. A prejudiced person is someone who's too stubborn⁺ to admit you're right.
→ _____
10. Don't be so narrow-minded that your ears rub together.
→ _____

→ **stinker** : someone who behaves badly

→ **tailor** : adapt so as to adjust to a purpose, need, etc.

→ **stubborn** : determined; persistent

Issue 36

Conscience



What is conscience? It is defined differently by various people. To some it is an innate⁴ sense of right and wrong. To others it is something we learn from our parents and our society. Some people are actively guided by their conscience in every undertaking. Others seem to pay little heed to moral decisions and excuse their actions by saying "It's just business" or "If I didn't do it, then someone else would, so I might as well be the one to benefit" or "Everybody does it" or "I didn't mean to hurt anyone."

Is it possible to be perfectly honest? Is it okay to do something wrong if it is a trivial matter, or if in the service of a greater good? It may be true that we live in a selfish, competitive world, so nobody is absolutely free from guilt. To survive, maybe we have no choice but to damage someone else's interests in order to protect our own. Does a tiger have less right to live than a deer? Or a deer than grass? But even so, there is no excuse for taking deliberate advantage of other people. Any wrong action deliberately undertaken, no matter how minuscule,⁴ should be the last to be forgiven. It is important not to try to hurt others on purpose.

But then, what about those errors that are not premeditated?⁴ Should they always be forgiven? What about killing someone by mistake? What if the act is done by someone who is not responsible for his actions, like a child or an idiot?



- **innate** : processed at birth; inborn; existing as a basic or essential characteristic

- **in the service of** : serving

- **minuscule** : very small; tiny

- **premeditate** : plan or plot in advance

Comprehension



1. How do we acquire a conscience?
2. Why is it not possible to be perfectly guilt-free?
3. What is the most serious crime of all?

Express Yourself



1. Does your conscience bother you if you tell a lie?
2. Do you think honesty is always the best policy, or can lying sometimes be the better option?
3. If you picked up a little money on the street, would you report it to the police? Why or why not?
4. Could you betray your friend to save your life?
5. Could you betray your country to save your family?
6. Would you have a guilty conscience if you were in love with two people?
7. Can we criticize a soldier who leaked confidential⁺ information in order to avoid torture⁺ or to save his life?
8. If your parent and spouse were both drowning, who would you rescue first?
9. What do you think about those people who have fled from North Korea, leaving their family behind?
10. Do you think it's okay to remarry if your husband or wife died?

- confidential : secret

- torture : extreme physical or mental pain

Opinion Samples



1. I don't understand those people who escape from North Korea but leave their loved ones behind. They know their family will be in trouble when they run away. I know that harsh conditions forced them to escape. But the whole family should suffer their fate together or seek freedom together, and no one should pursue individual happiness by risking the punishment of the rest of the family. For abandoning their families, the lone refugees must suffer terribly for the rest of their lives.

2. We should not feel guilty about remarrying. Everyone has the right to enjoy life, even after a spouse has died. Maybe a promise was made to the dead husband or wife, when alive, never to marry anyone else. But I don't think anyone should be bound to that oath. The dearly departed⁴ can't be hurt by the "faithlessness" of the surviving spouse, and happiness for the living is more important than keeping faith with the dead.

⁴ the departed : a dead person

Useful Expressions



1. Conscience, like a pencil, needs to be sharpened occasionally.
→ _____
2. The greatest tormentor⁺ of the human soul is a guilty conscience.
→ _____
3. One should be more concerned about what his conscience whispers than about what other people shout.
→ _____
4. Conscience is not the curse of God; it is the gift of God.
→ _____
5. As long as your conscience is your friend, never mind about your enemies.
→ _____
6. Conscience is the only mirror that doesn't flatter.⁺
→ _____
7. A man's best boss is a well-trained conscience.
→ _____
8. The world would be better off if people paid as much attention to their conscience as they do to their neighbors' opinions.
→ _____
9. One of the most painful wounds in the world is a stab of conscience.
→ _____
10. A man's conscience, and not his mattress, has most to do with his sleep.
→ _____

- **torment** : great physical or mental pain; annoy, pester, or harass

- **flatter** : praise (sb) insincerely, especially in order to win favor

Issue 37

Optimism & Pessimism



How do you know if you are a pessimist or an optimist? Perhaps by the way you answer this question: If I have a glass of water, do I say it is half-empty or half-full? The answer not only indicates your character but also affects the way you live. An optimist may not think change is necessary, since things are okay now. On the other hand, he might also work hard for better conditions, in the happy belief that progress is possible and desirable. A pessimist may be discouraged from trying to make things better, or may be so dissatisfied with current conditions that he helps spur⁺ action for improvement. But, an optimist is likely to be pleased with any good development and take pride in his role, however modest, while the pessimist, even if the catalyst for major reforms, will probably continue to disparage⁺ the world's shortcomings.⁺



- **spur** : incite (sb) to take action

- **disparage** : criticize (sb) or (sth) in a way that shows you do not think they are very good or important

- **shortcoming** : an inadequacy; a flaw

Comprehension



1. Explain the half-full or half-empty analogy.*
2. Can we generalize about the roles optimists and pessimists play in social change? Why or why not?
3. What personal difference does each respective* attitude make?

Express Yourself



1. Do you expect to live longer than the national average life expectancy?
2. Do you think you will be reasonably healthy until you die?
3. Do you believe you will make enough money so that after you retire you can continue to lead a comfortable life?
4. Do you think Korea will be reunited in the near future?
5. Do you think a cure for cancer is within reach? Hepatitis? AIDS?
6. Is social and sexual equality a reality that can be achieved?
7. How do you describe yourself, as an optimist or a pessimist?
8. What about your spouse?
9. Are most of your friends optimists or pessimists?
10. What are the biggest advantages enjoyed by an optimist? By a pessimist?
11. What are the biggest drawbacks* to being optimistic? Pessimistic?

-analogy : similarity in some ways between things that are otherwise unlike

-respective : relating to each of two or more persons or things; particular

-drawback : a disadvantage or inconvenience

Opinion Samples



1. The way I see it, I'll be working maybe 30 or 40 years before I retire. By then, I will have bought my own home, and will have met most of my material needs. My children will all be grown and on their own. So by then, my expenses should be relatively low. If I couldn't provide for 20 years of low-cost existence in twice as many years of hard work and careful investment, I would be a very foolish person indeed. Of course, the unexpected may occur, and a serious illness could deplete⁴ my savings in a hurry, but I would expect my insurance and my children to help me in case of such an emergency.

2. Optimists have an unlimited capacity to be satisfied with life. Even when conditions are unimaginably bad, they still have the ability to hope. On the other hand, pessimists don't count on very much pleasure in life, so they never have to worry about failed expectations.

⁴-deplete : empty (sth) out; use up

Useful Expressions



1. A good business manager hires optimists as salesmen and pessimists to run the credit department.
→ _____
2. You can't have rosy⁺ thoughts about the future if your mind is full of the blues⁺ about the past.
→ _____
3. Optimism is man's passport to a better tomorrow.
→ _____
4. Optimists count their blessings; pessimists discount theirs.
→ _____
5. A pessimist has no motor; an optimist has no brakes.
→ _____
6. A pessimist thinks the world is against him—and it is.
→ _____
7. With a choice of two evils, the pessimist takes both.
→ _____
8. When he smells flowers, a pessimist looks around for the funeral, and an optimist overlooks the thorn.
→ _____
9. Nothing worries the pessimist like the optimist who says there's nothing to worry about.
→ _____
10. With riots, demonstrations, and high taxes, if the pessimists aren't satisfied today they will never be.
→ _____

→ **rosy** : bright and cheerful

→ **blues** : depressed spirits; sadness

Issue 38

Disease



Everybody hopes to stay healthy until he dies, but his wish rarely comes true. Young or old, many a man suffers from disease. Young people especially think they can stay permanently healthy, so they sometimes mistreat their bodies. People with an incurable disease become disheartened⁺ and may even think of committing suicide. Cancer and AIDS are the most dreadful diseases now, with no effective treatment.

What can we do to stay healthy? People choose different methods. But prevention is the best option, and a regular check-up is the first step. The most important thing is that we trust our doctor under all circumstances. There are many people who have no faith in doctors, under the assumption⁺ that the body is too complex for any human being to understand. So they tend to rely on natural or spiritual healing. Do you think they deserve criticism for their ignorance?



-dishearten : cause (sb) to lose courage and hope

-assumption : an idea or a statement accepted as true without proof

Comprehension



1. What are most people wrong about?
2. Why do some young people mistreat their bodies?
3. Why are cancer and AIDS considered to be such dreadful diseases?

Express Yourself



1. Do you believe in faith healing?
2. Do you trust doctors?
3. How often do you have a cold? What do you do to cure it?
4. What disease or ailment do you commonly have trouble with?
5. Do you regularly see a dentist?
6. What do many people complain about concerning doctors?
7. Do you think AIDS patients deserve criticism?
8. Do you think cancer and AIDS will be conquered in the near future?

Opinion Samples



1. We have an illusion that doctors are godlike beings, able to miraculously heal all diseases. But, really, they are just technicians, with limited knowledge about our biology. No one, with only six years of medical training, can completely understand the human body—it's just too complex. And doctors, like the rest of us, are merely human, far from being perfect. Nevertheless, when we are sick we must follow their advice if we want to get better.

2. I visit a dental clinic every six months. When it comes to dental problems, we don't feel any pain until a serious problem develops. Then it is too late to cure it. A regular check-up is the only way to be free from the dreadful pain of problem teeth.

Useful Expressions



- 1.** You have a very common disease if you're sick of high doctor fees.

→ _____

- 2.** A summer cold isn't much different from a winter cold, except that we talk about it more.

→ _____

- 3.** Human diseases are the same as they were a thousand years ago, but doctors have given them more expensive names.

→ _____

- 4.** Conceit is the only disease known to man that makes everybody sick except the person who has it.

→ _____

- 5.** Nobody is sicker than the man who is sick on his day off.

→ _____

- 6.** It seems that almost everybody you meet has a cure for the common cold – except your doctor.

→ _____

- 7.** The mental case most difficult to cure is being crazy about oneself.

→ _____

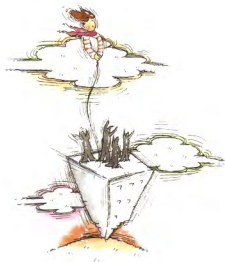
Issue 39

Emergency



Have you ever been in an emergency? Were you ever in a risky situation? As society becomes more complex, danger seems to lurk⁺ around every corner. Terrible car crashes are probably the most common sort of sudden, serious calamity,⁺ but the number of violent crimes, burglaries, fires, and so forth also seems to rise continuously.

And yet most people fail to take any steps to deal with any of these possibilities should they occur. "It can't happen to me" seems to be a common attitude. But accidents are far more likely to occur when they are unexpected than when anticipated. We should all receive training in how to deal with an emergency situation: first-aid lessons, self-defense, how to contact the proper authorities quickly, and so forth. Our failure to be prepared could literally⁺ mean the difference between life and death.



→ **lurk** : wait out of view; lie in wait

→ **calamity** : an event that causes great stress and suffering; a disaster

→ **literally** : actually; without exaggeration or inaccuracy

Comprehension



1. What is the implied reason for the rising number of accidents and serious incidents?
2. Besides the emergencies listed, what else could easily happen to us?
3. How should we deal with possible bad situations?

Express Yourself



1. Are you willing and able to help people in an emergency?
2. If you saw someone being mugged, would you risk your life to help?
3. Can we criticize people who refuse to help someone in an emergency?
4. How could you prepare for a possible earthquake?
5. Do you have a first-aid kit at home?
6. Have you ever called the fire department? The police department?
7. If you were burglarized, pickpocketed, mugged or robbed, would you report to the police or would you just pretend nothing happened? How about if you were involved in an automobile accident?
8. If you had a flat tire⁴ on the road, what would you do?
9. If you came across someone with a flat tire, would you be willing to help?
10. If you came on a traffic accident, would you help transfer the injured to the hospital?

⁴ - flat tire: tire with the air out

Opinion Samples



1. We can't predict when an earthquake is coming, so we can't prepare for one at all. But at least we should have water, canned or dried ready-to-eat food, and a radio handy⁺ at all times. Nevertheless, beyond taking simple precautions, there is nothing we can do. Our destiny is still in the hands of God. When our number is up,⁺ we can do nothing to change the situation; and if it isn't our preordained⁺ time, we have nothing to worry about.

2. Whether or not we should help people in an emergency depends upon the situation. For example, if a robber or rapist has a dangerous weapon such as a knife or gun we must be careful. If a situation looks too dangerous to get involved in, we must think of some other way to help. Ill-advised⁺ attempts to interfere are fraught with⁺ danger for the would-be rescuer and the victim as well. Under the circumstances, we have no right to criticize anyone who doesn't want to risk his own life to help a stranger.

- **handy** : readily available

- **one's number is up** : one's turn has come

- **preordain** : decide the fate of (sth) beforehand

- **ill-advised** : done with bad advice or with insufficient thinking

- **fraught with** : filled with a specified element; charged

Useful Expressions



1. We fear men so much because we fear God so little.
→ _____
2. Man blames most accidents on fate—but feels more personally responsible when he makes a hole-in-one.
→ _____
3. A hospital emergency room is a place where you can receive medical attention just as fast as you can prove your ability to pay for it.
→ _____

Issue 40

Studying English



Few people in the world are more disturbed than Koreans over English. Most Koreans readily admit that knowing how to communicate in English is one of the most important professional qualifications. And many of them give up their free time and their hard-earned cash to improve their skill. But few of them know how to go about it effectively.

On the one hand, the linguistic structures of Korean and English are very different, and so a keen⁺ understanding of grammar is thought necessary in acquiring the other language. On the other hand, native speakers don't often speak well in a grammatical sense, but they certainly can communicate their ideas and feelings very adequately. In fact, the grammar-oriented study that most Koreans undergo⁺ at school doesn't much help them to talk and listen in real life. It is even the sad truth that, despite a large vocabulary and deep grammatical knowledge, most Koreans do not write in English very well, either.

The lack of English skill is often cited as an impediment to the Korean economic advance, since most of the world does its business in that language. Some people have suggested that there is only one way to solve the problem: make English proficiency⁺ the most important part of university entrance exams. After all, Korean students and their parents will do whatever it takes to get a degree from a top-class school. But other people (perhaps in jest⁺) insist that the best way to learn English is to marry an American and move to the States.



- **keen** : intense; enthusiastic

- **undergo** : experience

- **proficiency** : a high standard of ability and skill

- **jest** : a mocking or humorous comment

Comprehension



1. What is the Korean dilemma⁴ this essay discusses?
2. Does the writer regard grammar as being of primary or secondary importance?
3. Name the two solutions to the problem suggested by the essay.

Express Yourself



1. Why do you study English?
2. How long have you studied English?
3. What is the most difficult thing in your English studies?
4. What do you think is the best way to study English?
5. Have you ever used an English-English dictionary?
6. What is the difference between using an English-English dictionary and an English-Korean one?
7. What do you think about current English teaching methods in middle and high school?
8. Have you ever studied any other foreign language? What is the difference between it and English?
9. Do you think it's okay to teach English in elementary school?
10. Do you read English newspapers?
11. Have you ever tried to watch programs on AFKN?
12. Which do you think is more difficult, speaking or writing English?
13. Have you ever written a letter or a diary in English?

→ **dilemma** : a situation that requires a person to choose between options that seem equally difficult or unfavorable

Opinion Samples



1. I study English to survive the cut-throat⁴ competition of the business world. I have to communicate with my customers overseas, and they have to communicate with me. Since they don't speak Korean, and I can't learn all of their languages, it's just more convenient for all of us to use English. The better my command of the language, the easier it is to maintain friendly, productive relations. So improving my skill is an absolute must.

2. Writing English is more difficult than speaking it. Speaking tolerates⁴ minor mistakes, but writing doesn't. Writing also requires logic, but speaking emphasizes the ability to communicate. Writing calls for many years of practice, but speaking needs a shorter period of learning. Both skills, however, demand years of practice and patience in order to gain complete fluency.

- cut-throat : cruel; ruthless; murderous

- tolerate : allow (sth) to happen; permit

Useful Expressions



1. Politicians should watch their words—they use up so many of them.
→ _____
2. A man's language is an index of his mind.
→ _____
3. Some people use language to express thought, some to conceal thought, and others instead of thought.
→ _____
4. We often show off our command of language best when we say nothing.
→ _____
5. It is better to be quiet and thought a fool than to speak and end all doubt.
→ _____
6. A speech is like a love affair—any fool can start one, but it requires considerable skill to end it.
→ _____
7. No speech is entirely bad if it's short enough.
→ _____
8. It's too bad that more people are thoughtless than speechless.
→ _____
9. A speech should be like a woman's skirt—long enough to cover the subject, but short enough to be interesting.
→ _____
10. The best time to end your speech is when you feel the listening is lessening.
→ _____

Issue 41

Marriage & Divorce



Most people see marriage as a way of gaining personal intimacy, the continuation of a family name, the stability and regularity of home life, and financial security. That is why marriage has survived as a human institution for so long. Even though married people may have bad times within their relationships once in a while, they usually expect to have the same spouse for their entire lives. Nevertheless, despite these intentions, divorce rates are on the rise. And, inevitably,* the children of divorced parents suffer enormous psychological stress. It is for that reason, in fact, that many unhappily married folk stay together. But is it always the right decision to make? Not only are they sacrificing* their own happiness for "their children's well-being," but maybe the kids are also unhappy in that tense* situation.



- **inevitable** : impossible to avoid or prevent; certain to happen

- **sacrifice** : willingly to stop having something you want or doing something you like in order to get something more important

- **tense** : feeling very nervous and worried

Comprehension



1. Why do people get married?
2. Why do they stay married?
3. Is divorce always bad for children?

Express Yourself



1. Do you like being married?
2. Do you think you can love your spouse perpetually?⁴
3. When do married people feel the lack of freedom?
4. Why do many people prefer to stay married even though they have so many complaints about their marriage?
5. Which do you think is more important, the happiness of your children or your own?
6. Do you believe people who say that they can't get a divorce because of their children?
7. If your spouse died, would you remarry?
8. What behavior from your spouse could you never forgive?

⁴-perpetual : lasting forever or for an indefinitely long time

Opinion Samples



1. Family life is the most important reason for being married. I like helping and caring for others because it makes me feel needed, loved, and important. I also expect the ones I have loved and cared for to help me when I get too old to do for myself. So, I guess marriage is a kind of mutual-assurance policy (which is what they used to call insurance).

2. I wouldn't want any second marriage—once is enough! Married people know their freedom is severely restricted by their spouses. Each wants to know where the other has been and what he or she is doing. Sometimes they feel it a duty to report every hour's activities. I want to remain single forever, that's the only way to enjoy my life. Some people are worried about feeling lonely. But single people don't realize married people also feel lonely, especially if they're neglected by their spouses. Human beings are lonely by nature, and spouses can't help with that problem.

3. I got married because of the practical, traditional domestic conveniences marriage provides men—having services done for them, such as laundry, cleaning, and cooking. So far, it has worked out fine. I can do whatever I want to do, but I have a nice, clean home and a willing sex partner waiting for me when I get there. If I were single, this kind of service would cost way too much.⁴

⁴way too much : much too much

Useful Expressions



1. There are a lot more marital arguments over a wink than a wink.
→ _____
2. Why are husbands and wives more courteous to strangers than to each other?
→ _____
3. Some men believe in dreams until they marry one.
→ _____
4. Faith is better company than imagination for the wife whose husband fails to come home on time.
→ _____
5. Time separates best friends, but so does money—and so does marriage!
→ _____
6. If all gambling were illegal, we would all have to stop driving cars and getting married.
→ _____
7. Marriage is like arthritis.* You have to learn to live with it.
→ _____
8. A little common sense would prevent most divorces—and marriages too.
→ _____
9. Many divorces are caused by the marriage of two people who are in love with themselves.
→ _____
10. Nowadays some girls seem more particular† about choosing their divorce lawyers than choosing their husbands.
→ _____

* **arthritis** : a disease that causes inflammation and stiffness of a joint or joints in the body

† **particular** : giving or demanding close attention to details; fussy

Issue 42

Self-Evaluation



Everybody wants to have a successful social and private life. So, many people spend a great deal of time developing their personal skills and trying to develop fruitful relationships with influential figures.⁴ They think they must do these things in order to get ahead. But they are wasting their time unless they understand themselves. Before they try to exploit⁴ outside resources, they should first explore their inner selves and discover who they really are. If they cannot do so, they will get nowhere—no matter how hard they try. Many diagnostic⁴ tests are readily available for self-evaluation,⁴ and psychologists are convinced that the answers accurately describe character. Others feel that these tools are no more accurate than



- **figures** : a person, especially a well-known one
- **exploit** : use (sth) to the greatest possible advantage
- **diagnosis** : a close analysis of the nature of (sth)
- **self-evaluation** : analysis of one's self by oneself

horoscopes⁴ or other such non-scientific devices. However, used honestly and with common sense, the tests probably provide at least a good approximation⁴ of personality, and may be the beginning of wisdom (if knowing oneself is indeed what it means to be wise, as I think it does).

Comprehension



1. What is the first step on the path to success?
2. How accurate are the available personality tests? According to whom?
3. What is the probable value of these tests?

Express Yourself



1. Are you optimistic or pessimistic?
2. Do you like to work alone or with others?
3. Do you want to make lots of money?
4. Does money make you happy?
5. What are the most important things in your life?
6. Are you hot-tempered?
7. Would you be willing to give up your life for some great purpose?
8. Are you a risk-taker?
9. Are you imaginative?
10. Are you generous to others?
11. Do you like to meet new people?
12. Do you frequently volunteer your time to help others?
13. Do you keep promises to yourself?
14. Do you actively invest in the stock market?
15. Do you regularly buy lottery tickets?
16. Do you think you are open-minded?
17. Do you think you are honest?
18. Do you think you are patient?
19. Do you think you are law-abiding?
20. Do you think you are thrifty?

More Talking Points

Self-evaluation Test on Leadership Skills

1. Is doing the right thing important even if nobody is watching?
2. Do you follow through on commitments,⁺ meet deadlines, and complete tasks on time?
3. Do you take responsibility for your own actions, accept blame for your mistakes, and have the ability to work with little or no supervision?⁺
4. Do you help others in need, listen well, and respect others?
5. Are you willing to stand up for your ideas, even if they are unpopular?
6. Do you try to solve a problem, or complain about it?
7. Are you able to change when the situation warrants⁺ another approach?
8. Can you make others proud to be associated with you, transmit⁺ a sense of mission to them, and make them enthusiastic about their role?

Self-evaluation Test for Drivers

1. Does your personality change when you get behind the wheel?
2. Is safe speed a matter of personal preference or is it arbitrarily⁺ imposed?
3. Do you always maintain a safe distance between you and the car ahead?
4. Do you yield to pedestrians?⁺
5. If the car in front of you runs a red light, do you follow as closely as you can so you can make it through too?
6. Do you sometimes use your horn to vent⁺ your frustration?
7. Are you aware of the speed limit on residential streets in your community?
8. Do you use your turn signal for all turns and lane changes?
9. Do you realize that your speed when passing should not exceed the posted speed limit?
10. Do you yield and move to the right for emergency vehicles as soon as you hear their sirens?
11. Do you often speed, run red lights, or weave⁺ in and out of traffic in order to make your appointments on time?
12. Do you sometimes react to other drivers' mistakes by shouting or making rude gestures?

→ **commitment** : a promise or an obligation to follow a certain course of action

→ **supervise** : direct, oversee, and manage (sb) or (sth)

→ **warrant** : guarantee; call for or justify (sth)

→ **transmit** : send or pass (sth) on from one person, place, or thing to another

→ **arbitrary** : based on impulse or chance, not on reason or law

→ **pedestrian** : a person traveling on foot, especially on city streets

→ **vent** : give forceful expression to (sth)

→ **weave** : make a path or way by going in and out or from side to side

Opinion Samples



1. Whether we like it or not, we are selectively altruistic.⁺ All of us would risk our lives under some circumstances, for example to save or protect our loved ones (children, spouses, parents), and perhaps even strangers. Many of us would behave heroically on behalf of our country, religion, or even abstract principles such as truth or justice. But we also have a strong sense of self-preservation, or we could not long survive. So, in practice,⁺ it is impossible to predict how any individual would actually behave in any given circumstance.

2. People who regularly and routinely volunteer their time to help others are fools. If some service absolutely needs to be performed, whoever is benefiting from it can always find some way to pay for it. But as long as some dolts⁺ are willing to do it for free, the service will never be adequately rewarded, and the beneficiary⁺ will continue to reap⁺ unearned⁺ and undeserved⁺ profits.

3. For some reason, my promises to myself are the hardest to keep. It seems like there is always some good reason for being unfaithful. If I promise to take some time off by myself to recharge my batteries, someone will always desperately need my help that week. If I vow to cut down on my caloric intake, someone always wants me to sample some new recipe⁺—and it would be impolite to refuse, wouldn't it?

→ **altruism** : concern for the welfare of others

→ **in practice** : used to say what really happens rather than what should happen or what people think happens

→ **dolt** : a foolish or stupid person

→ **beneficiary** : a person who receives benefit from (sth)

→ **reap** : gain (sth) as a result of effort

→ **unearned** : not gained by work

→ **undeserved** : not deserved

→ **recipe** : instructions for preparing foods

Useful Expressions



1. He is a fool who cannot get angry, but he is a wise man who will not.
→ _____
2. Draw from others the lesson that may profit yourself.
→ _____
3. Be strong enough to control your anger instead of letting it control you.
→ _____
4. Don't discuss yourself, for you are bound to lose: if you belittle yourself, you are believed; if you praise yourself, you are disbelieved.
→ _____
5. Character does not reach its best until it is controlled, harnessed, and disciplined.
→ _____
6. Self-control might be defined as the ability to carry a credit card and not abuse it.
→ _____
7. We first make our habits, and then our habits make us.
→ _____
8. At no time is self-control more difficult than in time of success.
→ _____
9. What chance can a man have to control his destiny when he can't control himself?
→ _____
10. Do not speak for other men; speak for yourself.
→ _____

Issue 43

Retirement



As people get grayer they become more interested in planning for their retirement. Once upon a time, old folks were taken care of by their children. But now, only a few want to spend their “second life” being coddled⁺ by their kids; instead many want to pursue their own interests without being burdened by their progeny⁺, maybe for the first time in their adult lives. But of course they think financial independence is necessary. As a result, a movement is afoot⁺ for the creation of more jobs for the elderly, and some aggressive oldsters are even demanding that the retirement age be lifted or made voluntary.

Experience and dependability⁺ are pointed to as good reasons for hiring older people. One problem with hiring or keeping additional old workers, though, is that fewer jobs then are available for the young, who possibly need them even more—or else they will continue to depend on their parents to support them until employed. It seems that, whichever course they pursue, the old ones just can't gain their independence from their offspring.



-coddle : treat too tenderly or too carefully; pamper

-progeny : descendants of a person; offspring

-afoot : in the process of happening

-dependable : trustworthy

Comprehension



1. What do you suppose "second life" refers to?
2. What special qualities do old people bring to the workplace?
3. How many synonyms for "old" can you find?

Express Yourself



1. What plans do you have for your retirement?
2. How are you preparing for your retirement?
3. Instead of living alone or with your kids, would you prefer to live in a retirement home?
4. Do you want to live with your grown-up children when you retire? Or do you want to live with your spouse only? Or by yourself?
5. Will you ask your children to give you money every month when you retire?
6. What do you think about a law which forces grown-ups to take care of their parents?
7. What do you think about extending the retirement age? To what age?
8. Do you think your savings will be enough to provide you with a cozy⁴ retirement? Or are you afraid of political or economic fluctuations?⁴
9. Do you believe the Social Trust Fund⁴ will fulfill its promises, as the government guarantees?
10. What would you do if the retirement fund went bust in the future?

- cozy : comfortable and warm

- fluctuate : change or vary irregularly

- Social Trust Fund : money set aside for investment in social problems

Opinion Samples



1. The issue of supporting one's parents is something no law can enforce. It is, however, a matter of ethics. If parents brought up their children well, their children should be "ready" to take care of them. Children have a moral obligation to take care of their parents. Children were not born of their own will, but by their parents' desire. If we make a law that forces them to take care of their parents, it would be an insult to our morality. It should be decided by morality and conscience, not by law.

2. I don't believe our Social Trust Fund will work as promised. The government has been managing it recklessly, without taking into consideration the needs of future pensioners. I know it will go bankrupt⁺ eventually, so I must develop other means of supporting myself during my retirement. For example, I buy stocks and bonds as a long-term investment, especially blue chips.⁺ And I save money in a sound bank. But the most useful way of sustaining myself later would be to have a part-time job. I'm sure that as long as I have some skill or knowledge that society needs, I can find work.

- go bankrupt : legally declared unable to pay one's debts

- blue chip : a common stock issued by a company with a reputation for secure financial strength

Useful Expressions



- 1.** Sixty-five is the age when a man acquires sufficient experience to lose his job.

→ _____

- 2.** Retirement can be a great joy if you can figure out how to spend time without spending money.

→ _____

- 3.** The key to a happy retirement is to have enough money to live on, but not enough to worry about.

→ _____

- 4.** We have reached the point where too many folks want to retire before they go to work.

→ _____

- 5.** The worst thing about retirement is having to drink coffee on your own time.

→ _____

- 6.** One wife's definition of retirement: "Twice as much husband, and half as much income."

→ _____

- 7.** One of the problems of retirement is that it gives you more time to read about the problems of retirement.

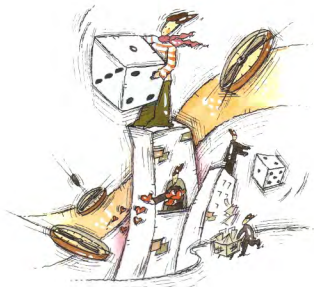
→ _____

Issue 44

Life & Destiny



None of us came here of our own will, but were put here by our parents. Since we were all born the same way, and are thus all equal, we should all do our best in life, but only a few of us actually achieve success. Some of us are satisfied with our current status and think we should be grateful for what we have. Others of us, who are never happy with our condition, see this world as a boundless sea of endless troubles. Is there some preordained⁺ destiny⁺ that controls our lives, or is it all just chance⁺? Only one thing is certain: it is useless to complain about fate. We can try to make our own fortune, or we can passively allow to happen whatever develops.



- **preordain** : ordain beforehand
- **destiny** : the fortune or fate of a person or thing
- **chance** : accidental

Comprehension



1. In what way is everyone the same?
2. According to the paragraph, there are two kinds of people. What are they?
3. What is the only certainty?

Express Yourself



1. Are you grateful for being born here?
2. What do you want to accomplish?
3. What do you think you need to do in order to achieve your life's goals?
4. Do you think a human's life is meaningful only if he or she is successful?
5. What do you think is the most important thing in life?
6. What is the most important thing in your everyday life?
7. Describe your daily life.
8. Do you believe in reincarnation?⁴ If so, what do you think your past lives were like?
9. Which is more important, today or tomorrow?
10. Do you think we were created, or are we the result of blind⁴ evolution?

⁴**reincarnation** : rebirth in another body or form

⁴**blind** : not characterized or determined by reason or control

Opinion Samples



1. I believe in reincarnation. Our life becomes meaningful only if we are sure there is a “next” world after our death. God gave us a conscience, but that’s not enough to discourage criminal acts. But the thought of reincarnation makes ordinary people live their lives honestly out of fear that they will be cursed^a by God.

2. I do believe we were created by God. We human beings are too different from other animals, and we have no clear evidence that there are living things on other planets. How can we compare humans with animals simply because our looks are similar? We were specially made by God, and all other living things were made by God for us.

^a-curse : wish evil or harm on (sb) with a curse

Useful Expressions



- 1.** Medical science is adding years to our lives, but it's up to us to add life to our years.

→ _____

- 2.** Your life can't go according to plan if you have no plan.

→ _____

- 3.** Laughter is the shock absorber that eases the blows of life.

→ _____

- 4.** Life allows us to ask for what we want, but usually gives us what we deserve.

→ _____

- 5.** Despite all the pain and trouble, life is still better than any alternative.

→ _____

- 6.** The trouble with life is that by the time you know how to play the game you're too old to make the team.

→ _____

- 7.** We keep trying to find new ways to improve the quality of life—while neglecting the ways we already know.

→ _____

- 8.** Fame is chiefly a matter of dying at the right time.

→ _____

Issue 45

Morality



We can use the scientific method to learn something about the nature of physical reality, but we have no accurate instruments to test morality. We have a moral compass, of course, called a conscience; but it has no external testability. We may have religious beliefs, laws, and social norms¹ to guide our behavior, and of course we learn correct attitudes from our parents, teachers, and friends—but none of these methods are universal. This diverse modern age we live in compounds² the problem further: the times seem to get increasingly ambiguous³ morally, and skepticism about everything is becoming more and more ordinary. Indeed, many people scoff⁴ at the very idea of moral certainty. They claim that all morality is situational, that the “right” behavior varies from time to time, place to place, and circumstance to circumstance. Others go even further, insisting that socially-imposed ethics are alien to the liberty of a free individual. Under this notion, we should all choose for ourselves what behavior is acceptable and honorable, and be accountable only to our own consciences.

However, morality cannot be merely a private code of conduct; it is also a matter of community standards of behavior and practice, with the purpose of promoting decent, harmonious relations among us all.



- norm : a standard or pattern that is considered to be typical of a group
- compound : add to (sth); increase
- ambiguous : unclear; vague
- scoff : express opinions in a mocking disrespectful way

Comprehension



1. Why are moral questions so controversial?⁴
2. Does there seem to be a clear definition of morality today?
3. Why do some people reject the notion of ethical standards?

Express Yourself



1. Is capital punishment moral? Explain your answer.
2. Is suicide moral?
3. Is war moral?
4. Is it wrong to steal food if your children are starving?
5. Is a lottery just another form of gambling and therefore immoral?
6. In what circumstances would a love affair be acceptable?
7. What (if any) responsibility do the rich have to help the poor? Why?
8. Is euthanasia⁴ moral?
9. Is assisted suicide moral?
10. Should victimless crimes like prostitution be tolerated, especially if the practitioners are licensed and medically inspected?
11. What is wrong with giving up an unwanted baby for adoption?
12. Why is birth control a controversial issue?
13. Is it just to impose a sin tax?⁴
14. Should rich people be taxed at the same rate as others?
15. Should we arrest beggars? What about aggressive panhandlers?⁴
16. How can we tolerate the condition of homelessness?

⁴-controversial : causing argument or debate

⁴-euthanasia : the act of ending the life of a person who is suffering from an incurable illness or injury; mercy killing

⁴-sin tax : higher taxes on legally permissible but "immoral" substances, i.e., alcohol and tobacco

⁴-panhandle : beg for money on the street or in a public area

Opinion Samples



1. In a sense, all property is theft. Wealth may be acquired by violence or guile,⁺ but it nonetheless accrues⁺ into a few hands at the expense of the many. Rich people of course want to hold onto their ill-gotten gain, so they invest part of it into governments that will guard it for them by passing laws that justify their possession of it and by raising armed forces to preserve it. But there are higher laws. Perhaps the highest is the law of self-preservation, but the protection of our spouses and children, and the aiding of our brothers in need, are nearly as important.

2. Prostitution is sometimes called "the oldest profession." The implication is that it has been practiced in every society throughout history, despite legal and moral prohibitions. Perhaps it serves an important social purpose by making sex available to the lonely, the frustrated, the single, the inexperienced. From a Freudian point of view, sexual repression is among the most damaging of all forms of control. Perhaps the wisest thing is to allow the government to regulate the industry, impose strict health standards, protect the young, and collect taxes that can be used for the good of all.

3. As anyone can attest,⁺ having and raising a child costs a lot of money for many years, in addition to imposing a tough parental burden in terms of attention, care, and restricted activity. Some people are simply not financially or emotionally equipped to do an adequate job of parenting. Adoption is certainly one solution to part of the problem, and many would claim it ethically far superior to abortion. In a perfect society, perhaps no one would ever have children that they don't want, can't afford, or can't take care of; but such a world has never existed. We need to deal with the problems that exist rather than worry about irrelevant issues like bloodlines⁺ and such.

- **guile**: dangerous cunning; skillful deceit

- **accrue**: come to (sb) as a gain or an addition

- **attest**: declare (sth) to be true, correct, or genuine; give evidence or proof of (sth); prove

- **bloodlines**: a direct line of descent

Useful Expressions



1. A good deed gets about as much attention these days as a homely face.
→ _____
2. Don't call it education unless it has taught you life's true values.
→ _____
3. With money you can buy all the friends you want, but they are never worth the price.
→ _____
4. The things in life that count the most are the things that can't be counted.
→ _____
5. There's nothing wrong with men possessing riches. The wrong comes when riches possess men.
→ _____
6. One thing can be said about values—they're not to be found in the supermarkets.
→ _____
7. Rejecting things because they are old-fashioned would rule out the sun and the moon—and a mother's love.
→ _____
8. A sense of value, not of what we have - that makes us rich.
→ _____
9. The trouble with teaching a child the value of money is you have to do it every week.
→ _____
10. The things of greatest value in life are those that multiply when divided.
→ _____

Issue 46

Recipe for a Successful Life



Just as people enjoy various cuisines,⁺ so too, lifestyles. What one person would consider a successful life might hold very little interest for someone else. The ingredients to choose from in the Cookbook of Life might be broadly similar—honesty, thrift, patience, diligence, ambition, knowledge, status, affection, etc.—but their proportions⁺ differ depending on the kind of dish that is desired. One person may want to prepare a recipe leading to financial success, another to acquire celebrity,⁺ while yet a third may prefer self-satisfaction. One focus may be on family, another on athletics. And, of course, tastes—and desires—also change over time and altered circumstance. So the would-be chef needs to have a well-thought out plan for the entire course before he actually starts to do the cooking.



→ **cuisine** : a style of cooking or preparing food

→ **proportion** : the size, amount, or extent of one thing compared with that of another thing

→ **celebrity** : fame

Comprehension



1. What two subjects are metaphorically⁺ combined throughout the essay?
2. The first sentence is elliptical⁺—instead of certain key words being repeated in the structure of the sentence, they are merely left out. What would the missing words be in this case? Do you see other examples?
3. What is the main ingredient⁺ in the recipe of life?

Express Yourself



1. What is your definition of “a successful life”?
2. Based on your definition, what ingredients should you combine to become a success?
3. What would your recipe be for getting rich?
4. Sometimes people with obvious handicaps achieve more than their “normal” fellows—why do you think this is so?

→ **metaphor** : a way of describing something by comparing it to something else that has similar qualities

→ **elliptical** : having words or phrases left out

→ **ingredient** : an element in a mixture

**More
Talking Points**

Discuss the following ingredients in terms of their importance in creating a successful life:

- | | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| a. love | b. self-esteem | c. openness |
| d. forgiveness | e. ethics/morality | f. patience |
| g. flexibility | h. responsibility | i. courage |
| j. honesty | k. travel | l. listening ability |
| m. imagination | n. careerism | o. philosophy of life |
| p. money | q. hobbies | r. humor |
| s. luck | t. religion | u. diligence |
| v. carefree attitude | w. family/ancestry | x. nationality |
| y. foresight | z. trust | |

Opinion Samples



1. Anyone who does better than expected is a success. If a high school dropout operates a business on his own, he is a success even if he is not rich. But if a man with inherited wealth and a good education merely holds his own without adding to the family inheritance, he is an economic failure even if he is the richest person in the world. On the other hand, if his goal is to use his money to improve the position of the less fortunate, and in the process he goes bankrupt, can we really call him a failure? As with most other human situations, the answer is often subjective and hard to evaluate in a clear-cut manner.

2. It is hard to believe, but some of the most prominent athletes in history have had to overcome serious physical disabilities—asthma, heart trouble, polio, cancer—that would inhibit the ability of ordinary people to lead even regular lifestyles. And, some of the richest people on earth have had to overcome grinding poverty; geniuses⁺ have emerged from an absolute lack of educational opportunity. The great composer Beethoven was deaf, the great painter Matisse nearly blind. How can it be? The answer must be that the desire to overcome a serious barrier⁺ in life is so strong that people devote their entire existence to that single object; they will allow nothing to stand in their way, and the discipline and skill they acquire in the process are then harnessed⁺ in pushing themselves even further.

-genius : a person of extraordinary mental ability or creative power

-barrier : something that blocks; an obstacle

-harness : bring under control and direct the force of (sth)

3. Courage does not have to be heroism on the battlefield. It may be the refusal to be cowed⁴ by natural limits. A stutterer may be afraid of being laughed at when he speaks in public, but if he is courageous enough, that will not be a barrier to speaking out when necessary. But more than anything else, it is a refusal to recognize defeat as a permanent condition. Everybody who makes an effort to accomplish something fails part of the time—perhaps most of the time; but the only ones who cannot fail are the ones who never try.

4. Choosing a career may be as important as choosing a spouse. In both cases, it is possible to change one's mind—repeatedly—but each wrong choice is enormously costly in terms of time lost and emotional anguish. I don't want to get involved in giving advice about your love life, but in terms of careers I can make some suggestions. The key to genuine success is desire: do what will make you happiest, find an occupation that will keep you mentally engaged in it for a long time—ideally, the rest of your life. Do not make your decision based entirely on potential income—but also, don't choose a profession that can't support your financial needs. For example, if you can't make enough money teaching at high school, consider the further educational preparation necessary for teaching college students. On the other hand, if you really are not interested in college, get a high school job and scale back your economic expectations.

Useful Expressions



1. If you are not afraid to face the music, you may someday lead the band.
→ _____
2. Many of life's failures are the men who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.
→ _____
3. The reason many people in high positions are so lonely is because they sacrificed too many friends on the way up.
→ _____
4. Good luck is a lazy man's estimate of a worker's success.
→ _____
5. No man is really successful until his mother-in-law admits it.
→ _____
6. It's easier to climb the ladder of success if your daddy made the ladder.
→ _____
7. Behind every successful man stands a proud but surprised wife.
→ _____
8. Success is a matter of luck. Ask any failure.
→ _____
9. Many people would have been a tremendous success long ago if they had used the advice they gave to others.
→ _____
10. Formula for success: When you start a thing, finish it.
→ _____

Issue 47

Future Society



The world changes so quickly that it's hard to keep up. Inventions and innovations alter the way we live. People's values, attitudes, and beliefs keep changing. And the pace of change keeps accelerating, making it difficult to prepare for tomorrow. No one knows exactly what will happen in the future. But by considering what might happen, people can more rationally decide on the sort of future that would be most desirable. The future doesn't just happen; people create it through their action or inaction today. Opportunity as well as danger lies ahead, so people need to make far-sighted decisions. The process of change is inevitable;⁺ it's up to you to make sure that the change is constructive.⁺



- **inevitable** : impossible to avoid or prevent; certain to happen

- **constructive** : serving a useful purpose or helping to improve (sth)

Comprehension



1. Can we know the future?
2. Who creates the future?
3. How can we maximize the future's desirability?

Express Yourself



1. How will sex roles change?
2. How will the family change?
3. How far can we extend human life expectancy?
4. What will happen if we can make robots that think like us?
5. How will the role of government change?
6. Do you think schools will exist in the future? How will they be different?
7. Do you think Big Brother⁴—intrusive, totalitarian⁴ government—is inevitable?
8. Will the future be heaven or hell?

- **Big Brother** : any person, organization, or system that seems to want to control people's lives and restrict their freedom

- **totalitarian** : relating to a centralized government that does not allow differing opinion

Opinion Samples



1. Right now robots cannot think. They merely process information very quickly—basically, they are only able to determine if something is yes or no, based on preprogrammed parameters set up by humans. But if they ever can think, humans may become extinct. The robots would be much faster than humans and never make mistakes. They could do anything we can do, only better. And once they started to replicate⁺ other machines just like themselves, and to repair themselves, we would not have any function anymore, from their perspective.⁺ We would have lost the battle for the survival of the fittest.

2. Even democracies have a tendency toward tyranny,⁺ in the interests of efficiency and security. If the citizenry⁺ is not constantly vigilant,⁺ they will lose their rights. But modern democratic governments are subtle and indirect in their move toward despotism,⁺ rather than overt.⁺ Reasonable excuses are provided to “explain” the “necessary” encroachment⁺ on liberty, so that often most people don’t even notice it is gone or has been put under severe restraints. The advent⁺ of electronic media and computers has made this trend even more secure, unfortunately.

3. The future will be heavenlike to some people because it will meet their needs, and like hell to others because it will violate them. This is always true, for every future. Some groups and individuals “win” but others “lose.” Sometimes the winners of the future are the same as today’s—they have the means to perpetuate⁺ their privileged position—but sometimes, especially in a revolutionary turn of events, they will be ousted from power and replaced by some other group. So I can’t say if your future will be good or bad for you, only that it will not be utopian—not everyone will benefit in the same ways.

- **replicate** : duplicate; copy; reproduce, or repeat

- **perspective** : a view

- **tyranny** : a government in which a single ruler has absolute power; absolute power, especially when exercised unjustly or cruelly

- **citizenry** : citizens thought of as a group

- **vigilant** : aware of what is happening

- **despotism** : the rule of a despot; the exercise of absolute authority; tyranny

- **overt** : not secret or hidden; open

- **encroach** : take another’s possessions or rights gradually

- **advent** : the coming or arrival of a new person or thing

- **perpetuate** : cause (sth) to continue indefinitely

Useful Expressions



1. If we all said to people's faces what we say behind their backs, society would be impossible.
→ _____
2. Society is always taken by surprise by any new example of common sense.
→ _____
3. In today's society you have to be a little crazy to keep from going insane.
→ _____
4. Society judges you not by what you stand for, but by what you fall for.
→ _____
5. By improving yourself the world is made better.
→ _____
6. If nations began telling each other nothing but the truth, peace would immediately vanish from the earth.
→ _____
7. Why not take the world as it is, not as it should be?
→ _____
8. Nothing is certain in this world except death, taxes, and teen-agers.
→ _____
9. The world isn't getting smaller—just some of the people who inhabit it.
→ _____
10. The trouble with the world is that so many people who stand up for their rights fall down miserably on their duties.
→ _____
11. Some people look at the world and wonder "why," while others look at it and ask "why not?"
→ _____

Issue 48

Is Life Fair?



Everyone has a different life, under different conditions. Some are happy, others suffer misfortune. For example, people who are not near their society's ideal norms may be treated unfairly because of their minority positions. Due to lack of money or a physical condition, a lot of capable people are denied an opportunity to go to school or get a particular job. The deprived, quite understandably, insist the situation is unfair, that society is skewed⁴ in favor of existing standards of income, status, or appearance.

On the other hand, opponents argue that the existing system is indeed "fair" as long as the same rules are applied to everyone. Nobody is perfectly fitted for every position in society, everyone has particular strengths and weaknesses. In the long run, the fairest societies are the ones that maximize opportunity for success, while the unfair societies, that apply irrelevant notions of "fitness," tend to disappear over time.



-skew : slant; distort (sth) in meaning or effect

Comprehension



1. What causes some people to be treated differently?
2. How are minorities⁴ discriminated against?
3. Why isn't discrimination unfair, from one point of view?

Express Yourself



1. Is life fair in your case?
2. Is life worth living, even if not fair?
3. What determines the fairness of any given situation?
4. Why can't we free ourselves from an unfair environment?
5. When life is not fair, who is responsible?

More Talking Points

Are the following conditions fair or unfair? Why?

- a. Poor people suffer from famines, but the rich eat.
- b. Some countries are still dictatorships,⁴ but a few are democracies.
- c. Ex-convicts are never allowed to forget their past.
- d. Students without money have to drop out of school.
- e. Haves make more money than have-nots.
- f. The gorgeous⁴ people make more money, get promoted faster, and have more socially desirable marriages than the plain.⁴
- g. The handicapped have difficulty finding jobs even in areas where their disability is irrelevant.
- h. Everyone pays the same sales tax and indirect tax regardless of means.
- i. Women are not conscripted.
- j. Married women are treated worse by their employers than are men or single women.

- **minority** : a racial, religious, political, or other group different from the majority of people in a country

- **dictatorship** : a state or government under the rule of a dictator; absolute control or power

- **gorgeous** : incredibly beautiful or magnificent

- **the plain** : homely people

Opinion Samples



1. Fairness is a consensual or social determination. Left to our own devices,⁴ we would all describe as inherently unfair whatever negatively impacts us, and whatever favors our advancement as being fair. People without an education claim that diplomas do not measure true ability, while graduates insist that the degrees are just a convenient recognition of the hard work that went into acquiring the skills needed to accomplish the tasks set for them.

2. No one is responsible for failure except the one who has not succeeded. The ones who make something of themselves are usually the ones who have the biggest hurdles⁴ to overcome. Through intelligence, skill acquisition, determination, practical activity, hard work, and constant effort, the methods of getting ahead are universal.⁴ No one knows how strong an obstacle really is until it is breached.⁴

3. The haves make more money than the have-nots because they “have” the skills, the connections, the background and the character needed for success. The have-nots do not have—or do not yet have—the necessary requisites.⁴ That does not mean that they can’t attain these qualities, through application and planning ahead, but by then they won’t be “have-nots” any more.

4. Some good-looking people are unfairly accused of getting ahead because of their appearance rather than whatever intelligence, or education, or training, or people-skills, or other qualities they may possess. All of these are talents that can be developed by anyone, and all of them are far more important over the long haul⁴ than just “looks,” which, in any case, have a short shelf life anyway. But even “ugly” people can improve the way they look, with cosmetics, hair styles, clothing choices, hygiene, or even perhaps surgery. So the distinction between “beautiful” and “plain” is actually a false dichotomy.⁴ Like anything else in this life, good looks are partly the product of constant care and attention, not just accident.

- **leave to one's own devices** : allow (sb) to do as he or she pleases

- **hurdle** : an obstacle or a problem

- **universal** : present or existing everywhere

- **breach** : break through

- **requisite** : something that is essential; a necessity

- **long haul** : a long period of time

- **dichotomy** : division into two parts, especially into two parts that are opposed

Useful Expressions



1. Remember that life is neither pain nor pleasure; it is serious business, to be entered upon with courage and in a spirit of self-sacrifice.
→ _____
2. The art of living is more like that of wrestling than of dancing; the main thing is to stand firm and be ready for an unforeseen attack.
→ _____
3. You can't do anything about the length of your life, but you can do something about its width and depth.
→ _____
4. The art of living lies not in eliminating troubles but in growing through them.
→ _____
5. Live your life so that you won't be afraid to have your phone tapped.
→ _____
6. Life is tragic for those who have plenty to live on and nothing to live for.
→ _____
7. Man has learned to fly like a bird and swim like a fish—now all he needs to do is learn to live like a man.
→ _____
8. Have you seen anybody lately who wants to stop living on account of its cost?
→ _____
9. Believe that life is worth living and your belief will help create the fact.
→ _____
10. Living without faith is like driving in a fog.
→ _____

Issue 49

Science & Religion



Science and religion are two windows that people look through, trying to understand why we are here. The two windows give different views, but they look out at the same universe. Both views are one-sided, neither is complete. But both are worthy of respect.

Trouble arises when either science or religion claims universal jurisdiction,⁴ when either religious dogma or scientific formula claims infallibility.⁴ Religious creationists⁴ and scientific materialists⁴ are equally dogmatic and insensitive. Through their arrogance, they bring both science and religion into disgrace. And the media exaggerate⁴ their numbers and importance. Media people should tell the public that the great majority of religious people belong to moderate denominations⁴ that treat science with respect, and the great majority of scientists treat religion the same way—so long as religion does not claim jurisdiction over scientific questions or science over religious issues.

The great question for our time is this: How do we make sure that the continuing scientific revolution brings benefits to everybody rather than widening the gap between rich and poor? To lift poor countries—and poor people in rich countries—up from poverty, to give them a chance for a decent life, technology alone is not enough.



Technology must be guided and driven by ethics if it is to do more than provide new toys for the rich. Science and religion should work together to abolish the gross inequities that prevail in the modern world.

- **jurisdiction** : authority or control

- **infallible** : absolutely sure

- **creationism** : the doctrine or belief that the creation of the universe occurred in exactly the same way as told in the Bible

- **materialism** : too much emphasis on material objects, comforts, and considerations, as opposed to spiritual or intellectual values

- **exaggerate** : speak or write about (sth) as if greater or more important than is really the case

- **denomination** : an organized religious group with a common faith and name

Comprehension



1. When does trouble develop between science and religion?
2. What is the responsibility of the media in this matter?
3. What is the fundamental question for today?
4. Which do we need more—technological or theological⁴ development?

Express Yourself



1. Do you believe in God?
2. What religion do you have?
3. What do you think is the difference between religious people and atheists⁴ (other than their belief in God)?
4. What benefits do you think religion gives us?
5. Do you think religious people are happier than the non-religious?
6. Do you think religion is for our current life or for our next one?
7. What would happen if science advanced without any guidance?
8. How should religion and technology go hand in hand?
9. Do you think religion can solve our current problems?
10. Can science solve them?
11. Talk about the positive, and the negative, aspects of religion.
12. Discuss the positive and negative effects of science.
13. Is cloning a curse or a godsend?⁴

- **theology** : the study of the nature of God and religious ideas

- **atheism** : disbelief in or denial of the existence of God

- **godsend** : something wanted or needed that comes or happens unexpectedly

Opinion Samples



1. For most people, when they are happy they feel little or no need for religion. Perhaps, in a perfunctory⁺ manner, they say grace before a meal; maybe they attend religious services regularly. But, usually, it is when people are faced with difficult times and hard choices that religion becomes a central concern.

2. It is a mistake to think that life and afterlife are unrelated. The way we live today determines how we will spend eternity. Whether we go to Heaven or Hell, or whether we are reborn again (in what condition), is a function of the moral choices we make right now.

3. Technological advance, in and of itself, is value-neutral. If we have the ability to do something, right or wrong, we generally want to exercise our power. Many of the scientists who developed the atomic bomb were horrified when it was actually used in World War II, and some of them became antiwar activists as a result. Today, the large moral questions seem to be concentrated on the ethics of biological capability. To clone or not to clone? To breed⁺ genetically controlled life, or not? To create new, artificial, species? Do the expected advantages outweigh the possible risks?

- **perfunctory** : done or acting routinely and with little interest or care

- **breed** : produce; raise

Useful Expressions



1. If medical science has made so much progress, why do we feel so much worse than we did twenty years ago?
→ _____
2. Science is only a tool. The harm or good it does depends on how men use it.
→ _____
3. Science can predict an eclipse of the sun many years in advance but cannot accurately predict the weather over the weekend.
→ _____
4. Science has never come up with a better office communication system than the coffee break.
→ _____
5. Science can tell us how to do many things, but it cannot tell us what ought to be done.
→ _____
6. True religion is the life we live, not the creed we profess.⁴
→ _____
7. Arguing about religion is much easier than practicing it.
→ _____
8. A lot of people are interested in a religion that makes them look good without having to act that way.
→ _____
9. Religion is the best armor a person wears, but it is the worst cloak.⁴
→ _____
10. Religion is like a bank—neither pays a dividend⁴ unless we make deposits.
→ _____

- **profess** : declare faith in a religion; claim

- **cloak** : something that covers or hides

- **dividend** : a benefit or an advantage

Issue 50

Lessons in Practical Happiness



To enjoy our lives we need to understand some basic rules. To do so may require more than a little time, patience, and experience on our part, but the eventual payoff is well worth it. Discuss the following situations.

Lesson 1

After winning an argument with his wife, the wise man will apologize.

1. Do you agree with this? Why or why not?
2. What do you think would happen if he did not apologize?
3. Who is more likely to apologize, men or women?

Lesson 2

"He's the kind of friend you can depend on—always around when he needs you."

1. Is the man referred to a good friend, do you think?
2. Do you have any friends like that?
3. How should we deal with this kind of friend?

Lesson 3

When I was in line to buy something at the department store, the woman in front of me was rummaging⁴ through her wallet. When she finally found her credit card and took it out, a slip of paper drifted to the floor. As I picked it up to return it to her, I saw what was written on it: "Sue, Do you think this purchase is really necessary? — Bob".



1. Who do you think wrote the note?
2. What was the purpose of the note?
3. Does a credit card in a woman's purse give too much stress to a man?
4. How is it different from a credit card in a man's wallet?

Lesson 4

What is Charity?

Silence—when your words would hurt.

Patience—when your neighbor is curt.*

Deafness—when scandal flows.

Thoughtfulness—for others' woes.

Promptness—when duty calls.

Courage—when misfortune falls.

1. Why is it difficult for most people to hold their tongue?
2. Who says patience is hard? Do you think so?
3. How hard is it not to pay attention to gossip?
4. Do you really think you are thoughtful to others? Give examples.
5. In advance of the time it is needed, can anyone count on having courage?

Lesson 5

When none of my children managed to drop by my house for weeks, I was more than a little miffed.* Eventually, though, a visit was arranged. My husband admonished* me not to cause hard feelings by complaining about their lack of attention, so I didn't say a word. I just had them fill out name tags when they entered.

1. Why was she annoyed?
2. What was her husband worried about?
3. Was her behavior appropriate?

Lesson 6

That man will pat you on the back, and then charge you for a massage.

1. What is being implied about that man?
2. Is there anything that's free?

Lesson 7

The self-made tycoon* was expounding* on the secret of his success. "I came to the conclusion that doing one's job

-**curt** : rudely brief in speech, or too quick in manner

-**miff** : offend or annoy

-**admonish** : advise, warn, or caution (sb)

-**tycoon** : a wealthy and powerful person in business or industry

-**expound** : explain (sth) in detail

wholeheartedly, to the best of one's ability, brings more satisfaction than the money one earns."

"So you became rich after you convinced yourself of that?" he was asked.

"No," interrupted a rival businessman, "he got rich after he convinced his employees."

1. Is anyone really "self-made"?
2. What adjective would you use to describe the tycoon's character?
3. Do you think the rival was being jealous or truthful?

Lesson 8

My father doesn't tell me how to live; he just lives and lets me watch him do it.

1. What is Dad's teaching method?
2. What did your parents teach you? How?
3. Do you think being a good role model is easy?

Lesson 9

Though my mother never finished high school, she always placed a high value on education. When I got tired of school and thought about quitting the "rat race," she reminded me that life itself is just one big rat race—but college teaches us which rat to bet on.

1. According to the speaker, why is education important?
2. Have you ever been tired of studying and wanted to quit?
3. Is getting a university degree the only valid kind of education?

Lesson 10

Disability is a matter of perception. Even if you can do only one thing well, and nothing else, someone somewhere needs you.

1. Do you have to be the best at something to do it well?
2. If your talent is very ordinary, do you still have value to others?
3. Which is better, to be "a jack of all trades and master of none"⁴ or to concentrate on one skill and fail at everything else?

Useful Expressions



1. We believe in life, liberty, and the purchase of happiness.
→ _____
2. If you don't enjoy what you have, how could you be happier with more?
→ _____
3. People whose main concern is their own happiness seldom find it.
→ _____
4. To be happy, do not add to your possessions but subtract from your desire.
→ _____
5. It's a pity that happiness isn't as easy to find as trouble.
→ _____
6. Real happiness is cheap enough, yet how dearly we pay for its counterfeit.*
→ _____
7. A lot of happiness is overlooked because it doesn't cost anything.
→ _____
8. No one can define happiness. You have to be unhappy to understand it.
→ _____
9. It's pretty hard to tell what brings happiness; poverty and wealth have both failed.
→ _____
10. The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles.
→ _____
11. The cost of an education is high—but not as expensive as ignorance.
→ _____

*counterfeit : an imitation intended to be used as genuine; forgery

25

Topical
Dialogues

EXPRESS

YOURSELF (2)

PART (2)

Issue
26

Paradox of Our Times



M : Look at these figures! Our divorce rate is skyrocketing.

F : What's going on, do you suppose? What has happened to our society's values?

M : The problems seem to be related to how rich we've become, collectively.*

F : But what's the connection?

M : It seems pretty straightforward to me. As more and more women work, they spend less time keeping the house clean. They don't pay as much attention to the kids. But, especially, they ignore their husbands. And so they become like strangers to each other.

F : That might be part of it. But I don't think that's the whole story.

M : Okay, then what do you think?

F : Well, if a woman doesn't have any income of her own, then she's completely dependent on somebody else. Her husband.

M : So?

F : So she's trapped. No matter how bad her situation is at home, it would be even worse on her own.



* collective : forming a whole; combined

- M : But with her own money, she can afford to abandon her wifely responsibilities?
- F : Why should cleaning up and taking care of children be solely the responsibility of a woman? If the wife works, why can't the husband share in the division of labor at home?
- M : Then why doesn't she just stay home and do her traditional duties?
- F : Why doesn't he stay at home and let her bring home the bacon?⁴ What difference does it make who does what?
- M : You might be right in the abstract,⁵ but in the real world men make more money than women doing the same job, so it doesn't make much economic sense for the family's well-being for the least productive family member to shoulder the financial burden. Women should accept the conditions as they are and make the best of them.
- F : And lead a lonely, boring life at home? And then dote⁶ on her husband when he finally deigns⁷ to show up, no matter how late it is or how drunk—or even just tired—he is? Don't you think she deserves some kindly, caring attention from him? This attitude you are displaying at this very moment is exactly the one that women want to escape from if they have the means to do so.

Questions



1. How are divorce rates related to social wealth?
2. Does one's answer to #1 depend on one's perspective? In what way?
3. What is the economic argument for women staying at home and playing a traditional role?

-bring home the bacon : support oneself and one's family
 -in the abstract : in theory but not necessarily in reality
 -dote : show a great or foolish amount of love or attention
 -deign : lower oneself in terms of status or position

Issue
27

Stress



- M : You look tired.
- F : No, I'm fine. Just a bit busy is all. I'm under a real pressing deadline⁺ and I still have lots to do. But then I'll be okay.
- M : That's what you said last week and the week before. Why don't you take a little break for a while?
- F : Because I'm under a real pressing deadline and I still have a lot to do.
- M : That's why you need to take a break. If you just keep going at it like this, you'll just become less efficient. Your every effort will be counterproductive,⁺ and the harder you work the further behind you'll get, and of course even more frustrated and more tired.
- F : I know what you're saying, but I can't stop now. I've got to finish this. When it's all done, maybe I can relax then. But not now.
- M : Why don't you just take a little walk with me and we can talk about something else except business? It'll do you a world⁺ of good.
- F : Look, it's late and I'm tired, and I have too much to do tonight to waste any more time. I know you mean well, but I'm really terribly busy, if you don't mind.



→ **deadline** : a set time by which (sth) must be finished; a time limit

→ **counterproductive** : producing the opposite effect from what was intended

→ **world** : a large amount

M : You're doing exactly the wrong thing, you know. You can't just ignore the problem.

F : You are the problem at the moment, and I'm trying to ignore it as politely as I can.

M : That's just what I mean. You're not being sensitive enough to your inner needs. You're under a lot of pressure, and it's making you testy.⁴ What you need to do is stop for 15 minutes, take your mind off work for a while, do something else that's interesting, clear the cobwebs,⁵ and then get a fresh start. You'll feel better and the job won't be as hard.

F : Look, I'm clearly wasting my time at the moment. If that's what it takes to get you off my back⁶ for the rest of the night, I'll do it, okay?

M : Great. You'll be glad you did.

F : Yeah, right.

Questions



1. What is the cause of her stress?
2. Why is it necessary to do something about stress?
3. What is the proposed treatment? Do you think it will work in this case?

- **testy** : easily angered; touchy or impatient

- **cobwebs** : confusion or indistinctness

- **get you off my back** : relieve myself of the burden of caring for or being criticized by you

Issue
28

Generation Gap



M : I'm trying to remember what Mark Twain said. It was something like, when he was 17 he thought his father was the stupidest man on earth, and at 21 he was amazed at how much his dad had learned in just four years!

F : That's pretty good! These days we don't find many people who can express such deep truths in such a clever way.

M : Probably not very many could do it then either. "Common sense" is an uncommon trait.

F : Even so, it seems every generation goes through the same process, follows the same learning curve.

M : Yeah. The young learn from their parents what values the world ought to possess and then are puzzled why their own folks so often fall so far short.⁴

F : It all seems so simple to them, doesn't it? As though Right should always triumph over Evil, just as a matter of course.

M : They don't know about life's gray⁴ areas yet, they think it's all either black or white.

F : At the same time, though, as they grow older too many people lose their idealism and their will to force positive change. They became tired and complacent.⁴

→ **fall short** : fail to reach a specified amount or degree; be inadequate

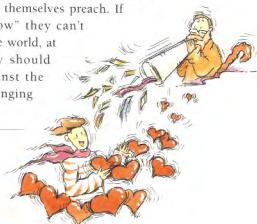
→ **gray** : not clearly one thing or the other

→ **complacent** : self-satisfied

M : They're too busy trying to keep up with their jobs and taking care of their families to have much time or energy fighting a losing battle against forces they can't control.

F : In the long run, idealistic youth needs to learn more wisdom, but that's just a function of age and experience, I guess.

M : But old people also need to try to remember their own moral enthusiasm, and try to practice what they themselves preach. If they "know" they can't change the world, at least they should fight against the world changing them.



Questions



1. What makes the Mark Twain remark "clever"?
2. What are "life's gray areas"?
3. Which group seems to have more control over narrowing the generation gap, the young or the old?

Issue
29

Computer & Internet



F : I thought a computer language was just a simple form of communication, without the ambiguity⁴ usually embedded⁵ in human tongues.

M : Huh?

F : I mean, basically you program the computer to determine either Yes or No for any given circumstance and to do one thing if it's Yes and something else if it's No.

M : That's right.

F : And there's no voice inflection⁴ or body language, or even poetry, so instructions have to be very direct.

M : Yeah. So?

F : Well, I'm being haunted⁴ by another form of computer language.

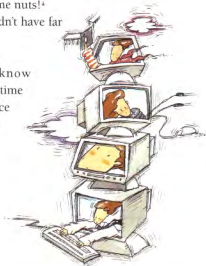
M : Which is?

F : Acronyms!⁴ ROM. URL. LAN. And dot-com-this and dot-come-that! It's driving me nuts!⁴

M : It's a good thing you didn't have far to go.

F : What?

M : Oh, nothing. But I know what you mean. Every time I try to buy a new device or program, the specs are so confusing I never know what I'm doing.



- **ambiguous** : unclear; vague

- **embed** : fix (sth) firmly

- **inflection** : a change in the tone or pitch of the voice

- **haunted** : distressed

- **acronym** : a word or name formed from the first letters or syllables of other words

- **driving me nuts** : driving me crazy

F : Or any other time either.

M : Huh?

F : Never mind. And the little funny-face punctuation—:) and the like. Sometimes it takes 5 or 6 strokes just to try to indicate how serious your remarks are supposed to be taken.

M : And don't forget the constant addition of abbreviated⁴ remarks. You know, like IMHO. What's that supposed to mean, anyhow?

F : In My Humble Opinion.

M : Oh. I'm glad someone could finally tell me.

F : I could go on and on.

M : I thought the whole idea was to simplify our lives, not confuse us unmercifully.⁴

Questions



1. Give other examples of computer-related acronyms. Do you know what the letters stand for?
2. How many other kinds of funny-face punctuation are you familiar with? Why has it come into existence?
3. What other abbreviated remarks do you know about?

⁴ **abbreviate** : reduce (a word or group of words) to a shorter form

⁴ **unmercifully** : excessively; extremely

Issue
30

Man's Desire—Enough Is Never Enough!



- M : Do you have enough to eat?
- F : Well, usually. Why? Are you hungry?
- M : No. But I don't just mean are you eating enough to stay alive and healthy, but do you have a varied mix of tastes and a feeling of satisfaction when you eat?
- F : Sure. Usually.
- M : Are you warm enough in the winter? Cool enough in the summer?
- F : Most of the time.
- M : Healthy?
- F : Most of the time. Why are you asking all of these questions?
- M : I don't know. I think I have everything I need—a nice home, an interesting job, a reasonably new car that doesn't give me any trouble. I'm healthy, I have friends and a great family, and a very manageable⁺ debt. But sometimes I'm just not satisfied. Even though I have everything I probably need to be happy for the rest of my life, I keep thinking I have to have more. A little bigger house, a little newer car, a little more money in the bank—just a little, and then I'd be truly happy!
- F : It sounds like Zeno's paradox, in a way.
- M : What's that?
- F : You set out on a journey of 50 kilometers, let's say. If you covered half the distance on the first day, and half the remaining distance on the second day, and so forth, how long would it take you to get there?
- M : I don't know.
- F : You'd never get there, because you'd always have another half to go, even though the "half" keeps getting smaller and smaller.
- M : And you think that's what my life is like, that there's no level of affluence⁺ that could ever satisfy me, that I always have to have more?

⁺manageable : capable of being handled or controlled

⁺affluence : a plentiful supply of goods or money

- F : Sounds like it to me. But that's pretty normal, I guess.
- M : So it isn't just midlife crisis?
- F : I don't know what that is.
- M : Well, sometimes when people aren't young anymore, but they don't feel old yet, and they've had a pretty happy, successful life, but they start thinking about all the other things they wanted to do, the other interests they didn't pursue. So they quit their jobs to try something completely different, they move far away, they get married to a much younger person, that sort of thing.
- F : Is that what you want to do?
- M : No, not really. But I'm just not as happy with what I have as I think I should be. If I don't really need anything more, what's the point of working so hard to get more?
- F : I suppose that they're just the visible signs of your success, both for yourself and for other people. It's just a way of verifying⁴ that you are a valuable, viable⁴ human being.
- M : So you don't think I'm just a money slave?
- F : No, not really. Just an ambitious, hard worker.
- M : Well, thanks. I'm glad I talked to you.
- F : Want to just sit here and talk a little more?
- M : No, I guess I need to get busy.
I've got a lot of work to do.



Questions



1. Explain how Zeno's paradox is similar to this situation.
2. If people are suffering from a midlife crisis, how old do you think they are?
3. Is one person in the dialogue a money slave or not?

- **verify** : prove the truth of (sth) by presenting evidence

- **viable** : capable of continuing to live, grow, or develop; capable of success

Issue
31

Pollution



- F : You know, driving into the city from my vacation yesterday made me realize for the first time just how bad the pollution is.
- M : Why do you say that?
- F : Well, while I was still several kilometers away I could see the air overhead. It was like a dark cloud hovering^a over the city, gray and ominous.^a
- M : Yes, I know that feeling.
- F : And the closer I came, the more I was able to smell the city as well. And pretty soon I could, well, just...feel it. Kind of a prickling,^a dirty sensation.
- M : Yes, I know that feeling too. Pretty dreadful, isn't it?
- F : Yeah. And then it hit me: this is the stuff that I have to breathe every day. My lungs must look like I have a five-pack-a-day habit.
- M : I'm sure it's not just the lungs. Our livers and stomachs—our whole bodies—must be affected.
- F : You must be right. It's terrible! Can't we do something?
- M : We can move.
- F : Where? The other cities are just as bad. And there's no work in the countryside.
- M : Well then, we can all buy gas masks.
- F : No, I'm serious.



^a **hover** : stay floating in the air

^a **ominous** : being a sign of trouble or danger

^a **prickling** : feeling a tingling or pricking sensation

M : I am too, in a sense. In some cities they issue pollution warnings, and especially old people with serious breathing difficulties make sure they have an oxygen supply available.

F : But can't we do anything else?

M : Not unless we're willing to pay a lot more money for new clean-up equipment and for stronger enforcement of tougher regulations, while giving up a lot of our creature comforts.⁺ Things like electrical appliances, computers, TVs, phones, air conditioners, stereo equipment, Automobiles.

F : Wow! No wonder it's so hard to solve the problem. No one wants to give up the comforts of modern life, even if they're slowly killing us.

Questions



1. To clean up our environment, are you willing to halt⁺ further technological progress?
2. If the UN were to resolve⁺ a moratorium⁺ on the number of cars, factories, and so forth (so no new ones could be added), would that be fair to societies that are late in developing modern economies?
3. Poor, technologically backward societies are trying to exploit their natural resources in order to raise their standards of living. They feel they can never catch up to the advanced nations unless they do so. However, the natural habitat⁺ is already under severe strain. Is its further destruction in the interest of all of humanity?

-> **creature comforts** : things that contribute to bodily comfort and ease, as food, warmth, a comfortable bed, hot water for bathing, etc.

-> **halt** : stop

-> **resolve** : make a firm decision

-> **moratorium** : a temporary ban or pause

-> **habitat** : the area or natural environment in which an animal or a plant normally lives or grows

Issue
32

Insurance



M : You know, it's odd.⁴ I finally broke down and bought some life insurance, and it's strange knowing that I'm now worth more dead than alive.

F : What do you mean?

M : Well, it seems that, alive, everything I earn is just barely enough for the family to get by on. But if I died tomorrow, even after funeral⁵ and hospital expenses, there would be a nice piece of change⁶ left. It's almost like winning a lottery.

F : Well, if you say so. But the way you put it, you win by dying and you lose as long as you live.

M : Exactly!

F : But you shouldn't look at it that way. Your life is worth more than money can buy. But what would happen to your family if something disastrous happened to you? In addition...

M : I know, that's why I got the insurance.

F : And the losses would continue indefinitely. It's not just a case of the immediate expenses, but also the continuous loss of income.

M : Yes, I know.

F : Everything you've worked so hard for your whole life could be destroyed.



-odd : unusual; peculiar; strange

-funeral : the ceremonies for a dead person before burial or cremation

-change : the money returned when the amount offered in payment is larger than the amount owed

Issue
32

Insurance



M : You know, it's odd.⁺ I finally broke down and bought some life insurance, and it's strange knowing that I'm now worth more dead than alive.

F : What do you mean?

M : Well, it seems that, alive, everything I earn is just barely enough for the family to get by on. But if I died tomorrow, even after funeral⁺ and hospital expenses, there would be a nice piece of change⁺ left. It's almost like winning a lottery.

F : Well, if you say so. But the way you put it, you win by dying and you lose as long as you live.

M : Exactly!

F : But you shouldn't look at it that way. Your life is worth more than money can buy. But what would happen to your family if something disastrous happened to you? In addition...

M : I know, that's why I got the insurance.

F : And the losses would continue indefinitely. It's not just a case of the immediate expenses, but also the continuous loss of income.

M : Yes, I know.

F : Everything you've worked so hard for your whole life could be destroyed.



- odd : unusual; peculiar; strange

- funeral : the ceremonies for a dead person before burial or cremation

- change : the money returned when the amount offered in payment is larger than the amount owed

M : Yes.

F : So you shouldn't take the attitude that you're worth more dead than alive. You should regard yourself as a wise man who's looking into the future and taking care of your family then as well as you do now. Everybody dies some time—but not everybody is ready for the inevitable.

M : You know what?⁺

F : What?

M : You're right. I feel much better about it now.

F : Good.

M : You know what else?

F : No, what?

M : I think you'd make⁺ a great insurance salesperson! Have you ever thought about a new career?

Questions



1. What is the traditional antipathy⁺ towards insurance?
2. What are the reasons for having insurance?
3. How does one know if he has too much (or too little) insurance?

⁺**You know what?** : used to start talking about something, or make someone listen

⁺**make** : become

⁺**antipathy** : a deep, habitual dislike

Issue
33

Love



M : Do you remember the first time you were in love?

F : Of course! Doesn't everybody?

M : How old were you?

F : I was about 10. The handsomest boy in class smiled at me in the cafeteria one day, and I never got over it. I used to go out of my way just to "accidentally" get close to him. But he never paid me any more attention, and eventually the romance ended.

M : No. I mean really in love, not just a childhood crush.⁴

F : Oh, there were other crushes, too. It seems like every week or two there was some new boy that I was madly in love with. But the first genuine relationship was when I started college.

M : Oh?

F : Yes. A shy boy. He kept staring at me from a distance, but never had the courage to come up and talk to me. But I got a mutual friend to set us up on a blind date. Once the ice was broken,⁴ he couldn't stop talking!

M : How long did that last?

F : Up until our senior year. But the last several months were terrible. He couldn't make up his mind about getting married right away or waiting until we graduated and had jobs. Actually, I think he was just afraid of getting married, period.⁴ But we seemed to be fighting constantly. Eventually I just couldn't take it any longer and broke it off. I always thought he'd crawl back to me, but he didn't. I guess, in the end, he was just relieved that it was all over.

M : Did you ever see him again?

F : Well, sure, I saw him around. But we never again said anything more than "Hi how are you?" to each other. What about you? What was your experience?

M : The first time I fell in love, I couldn't think straight. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. All I wanted was to be with my girl. It was like some kind of disease—I got bit by some

- **crush** : a strong, often foolish and brief liking for (sb)

- **break the ice** : act in a friendly way, as by overcoming awkwardness or formality

- **period** : a completion or conclusion

virus and couldn't find a cure. It felt both great and terrible at the same time.

F : And what happened?

M : Well, we got married.

F : And?

M : Well, the original craziness eventually got replaced by another kind of insanity. I felt like I had to work, work, work all the time to support her so she'd be happy. We saw less and less of each other, and then when the kids came we couldn't even get out of the house anymore. At least not in any sort of romantic way.

F : It doesn't sound very happy to me.

M : No, it wasn't. We had years of bad times: fights, violent outbreaks, a lot of anguish and despair. But somehow we persevered,⁴ out of stubbornness I guess. It took us a long time to adjust, far too long, but eventually we reached some sort of equilibrium.⁴ And we started to enjoy each other's company again. Today, we are truly happy together, almost like at the beginning. But I wish we hadn't lost so much time.

F : But I guess the most important thing is that you found true love at last.



Questions



1. What is the difference between a crush and being in love?
2. In your own words, describe the woman's first real loving relationship.
3. In your own words, describe the man's experience in marriage.

- **persevere** : persist in a course of action, a belief, or a purpose, in spite of opposition or discouragement

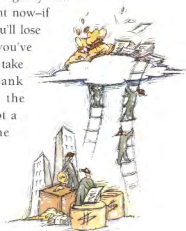
- **equilibrium** : a condition of balance or stability

Issue
34

Stock Market



- M : Oh boy! Did you see the newest market news?
- F : No. What happened?
- M : The index⁺ went up by 5%!
- F : That doesn't seem like a big deal.
- M : But that's just in one day. That's close to what I'd get in a bank in a year.
- F : But this won't happen every day. Tomorrow the price may go down 10%, couldn't it?
- M : Sure, it goes up and down all the time. But in the long term it tends upward. So in twenty years, unless there's a serious financial crisis, I should make a lot of money.
- F : If I put my money in the bank and just collected interest, I'd make a lot of money too. But I'd be able to predict how much and make real plans about how to live. It seems to me that you could lose just as much as you win.
- M : Not historically. Most stocks gain in the long run.⁺
- F : But some lose and never recover. What if you buy into a firm that goes bankrupt? What if there's a personal emergency and you need money right now—if the market's down you'll lose a lot of the money you've put in, but if I have to take funds out of my bank account I only lose the projected interest—not a huge amount in the scheme of things.⁺



→ **index** : a system by which prices can be compared to those of a previous date

→ **in the long run** : not immediately but eventually

→ **in the scheme of things** : part of the way things generally happen, or are organized

M : But you can't ever get rich that way.

F : How many people do you know who get "rich" on the market? A few insiders who already have lots of capital, and a few lucky gamblers. Most people do okay I guess, but any disaster is likely to be the one they can never recover from. Especially if it's in their old age, when they don't have any time for long term trends to help. I prefer the slow-but-steady approach. I may not get wealthy, but I'll always know where I stand. And I won't be standing in quicksand,⁴ either.

M : Okay, do it your way. But I bet in twenty years I'll have a lot more to show for my market investments than you will with your savings account. Just wait and see.

F : Twenty years is a long time.

Questions



1. Summarize the two investment philosophies discussed.
2. What are the advantages of each one?
3. What are the disadvantages?

⁴ **quicksand** : wet sand that is dangerous because it pulls you down into it if you try to walk on it

Issue
35

Prejudice



M : I just can't stand those people!

F : Which people?

M : You know who I mean.

F : Oh. Them. But I don't understand your attitude toward them. What have they ever done to you?

M : It's not what they did to me, personally. It's just the way they are.

F : Could you be just a little more specific, maybe?

M : Sure. You know how they are. They're not trustworthy. The first chance they get, they'll take advantage of you. Everyone knows that.

F : But I don't know that. I've known a lot of them for a long time, and most of them seem as honest as anyone else. It's like everyone else, some are good and some are bad. So what?

M : But you miss the point. I know some that I think are okay too, as individuals. But it's the group as a whole⁴ that you can't trust. It's always been like that.

F : How do you know that?

M : I've always known that. My father, my family, all my friends have always told me that. It's in everything I've ever read. This is common knowledge. How can you be so ignorant about this?

F : I guess I've read different books and been around different people. You can't go around judging a whole group of individuals because of what "everybody" knows. People are just people, like us. Some of us are smart and some of us are dumb, and some are honest and some aren't. But, mostly, we're all somewhat intelligent and somewhat crooked.⁴ None of us are perfect, you know, but we're all different.

M : Sure, I agree that not all individuals are alike. But I also think we share group characteristics, that's what makes different peoples different from each other. Otherwise, it

⁴ **as a whole** : all parts or aspects considered; altogether

⁴ **crooked** : not straight; bent or curved; dishonest

doesn't make any sense to talk about "the Koreans" or "the Americans" or "the Hindus" or "the poor." Broadly speaking, they share certain traits.* It's as simple as that.

F : Well, you're pretty simple, I guess. That's just a shorthand⁺ way of talking. But there's only one human race, and we're all members of it. And we all share the same, human characteristics, but we each have a different psychological and emotional make-up. There aren't any "traits" as you call it that any one group has some kind of monopoly on.

M : Maybe we should change the subject. I think you're getting kind of personal,⁺ and I'm liable⁺ to say something to you that I may regret.

F : Yes, I think you're right. If I said something to offend you, I apologize. But I still think you need to rethink your ideas about this. If you said these things to someone who didn't know you as well as I do, he'd think you're a vicious bigot—and I know you aren't!

M : Thank you. I think.

F : Oh, forget it. Let's have a cup of coffee and talk about something else.

M : OK, that's a good idea.



Questions



1. Who is being talked about in such a prejudicial⁺ manner? Can you tell? How?
2. What is the evidence used by either person to support their respective positions?
3. What do you think about these two people, on the basis of this conversation?

- **trait** : a distinctive feature, as of a person's character; a genetically determined characteristic or condition

- **shorthand** : shorter way of expressing (sth)

- **getting kind of personal** : intruding upon one's privacy

- **liable** : likely

- **prejudicial** : harmful; detrimental

Issue
36

Conscience



F : I can never forgive him.

M : Who?

F : The boy in college who promised he'd always love me, no matter what. We were supposed to get married as soon as he graduated. But instead he went into the army and got engaged to someone else.

M : How long ago was that?

F : What difference does that make? I'll never forget or forgive his lies.

M : Do you think he was lying to you deliberately? Was he just trying to use you? Or do you think he was merely wrong—that he thought he loved you but was mistaken?

F : I don't care if he was villainous^a or merely foolish, he hurt my pride terribly. He destroyed my entire future.

M : Did he? Hasn't he been replaced in your affections by others? Haven't you had a rich, loving life?

F : Yes, well, don't I deserve one?

M : Doesn't everyone? Didn't he deserve one too? If he truly did not love you, weren't you both better off when he left you. You could have spent many years in an unhappy, loveless match.



^a **villain** : an evil person, especially the person opposite the hero in a drama

- F : That's what happened to him anyway. He married a woman for her money and social position.
- M : Then maybe he got what he deserved after all. But maybe he really loves her for herself, and the money and so on are just nice added benefits to the relationship. Who knows? In either case, it's over between you and him. What's done is done, you can't go back and change anything. You might as well get on⁺ with your life.
- F : That's easy for you to say. But can you apply the same uncaring attitude to the wrongs done to yourself?
- M : Not always. I guess it depends on the circumstances. But I try.
- F : And, in this case, I can't forgive him and I don't even bother trying. It still hurts too much.

Questions



1. Does time heal all wounds, in your experience? Should there be an emotional statute of limitations?¹
2. Can injustice ever be rectified?² Explain your position.
3. Is the woman being overly sensitive to past slights,³ or is she just being honest? Why do you think so?

-get on : continue, proceed or progress

-statute of limitations : a time limit on punishing certain acts

-rectify : set (sth) right; correct

-slight : an instance of treating (sb) as unimportant

Issue
37

Optimism & Pessimism



M : Are you an optimist or a pessimist?

F : Well, I think we live in the best of all possible worlds.

M : So, you're an optimist.

F : Not necessarily. Maybe I think that things are really bad, and that they can't ever get better.

M : Oh. But which are you?

F : I would describe myself as a realist, I guess.

M : What do you mean by that?

F : I think that I have some opportunity to control what happens. I can avoid doing things that will probably have bad consequences, and I can engage in activities that should produce good results. And to a certain extent I can prepare for likely bad accidents, by taking out insurance⁴ for instance. But I also know that some things happen that are completely unexpected; some are good, and some are bad. And, ultimately, we cannot be in complete control of our lives.

M : And?

F : And if things turn out better than we plan, we should be grateful. And if worse, not bitter. There are no guarantees.⁴ We should just do as well as we can and hope for the best.



- **insurance** : coverage under a contract in which one party agrees to compensate another for a loss.

- **guarantee** : something that assures a particular condition or outcome

M : Okay, you've given me your philosophical answer. Now answer my question : are you a pessimist or an optimist?

F : You sure are persistent, aren't you?

M : Don't change the subject. Which one are you? Would you say your glass is half full or half empty?

F : I'd say that it depends on the glass. If you pour the water in a smaller container, you could fill it up; if you put it in a larger one, it will seem emptier. But it's still the same amount of water.

M : So. You aren't going to give me a straight answer to my question, are you?

F : Don't be so pessimistic—I might!

Questions



1. Why is "we live in the best of all possible worlds" an ambiguous statement?
2. Is it implied that realists can't be optimists?
3. Can they be pessimists?

Issue
38

Disease



F : I don't feel very well.

M : What's wrong?

F : It's hard to describe. I get fierce headaches, and I just feel tired all the time.

M : Maybe you just need to take some vitamins and relax more.

F : No, I don't think so. I get plenty of sleep, and I already take vitamins. It must be something else.

M : Have you seen a doctor?

F : No, and I don't want to.

M : Why not?

F : It's not that serious. I don't want to spend the money. And I don't trust doctors.

M : Why not?

F : Every time I see one, he tells me the same thing. "Get more rest." "Drink more juice." "Get some exercise." "Stop smoking." I don't need to pay money for this advice—you can give it to me for free.

M : Well, then, what do you do when you're sick?

F : Usually I just grin and bear it* and wait for it to pass. It always does, sooner or later. What do you do?

M : It depends on what it is. But if I feel I'm coming down with a serious cold or the flu or something like that, I just go to bed early and drink lots of vodka and orange juice. When I wake up the next day, I always feel better.

F : It's a wonder you can feel anything at all, except maybe a hangover. Are you sure you don't just feel numb?⁴

M : Numb, maybe, but not in pain.



Questions



1. How do you cope with the flu or a cold?
2. How often do you see a doctor?
3. Do you always follow medical advice? Give examples.

Issue
39

Emergency



M : The idea behind "heroes" is a bunch of bunk.⁺

F : What do you mean?

M : I mean that people under life-threatening stress behave in very strange, unpredictable ways. If they thought they could do so safely, they would just run away. But if they can't run, they may have to resort to extreme measures to try to stay alive.

F : You mean the "flight or fight" syndrome.

M : Exactly. Self-survival is the basic law of nature. "Heroic" action is either just stupidity or desperation.

F : What about people who voluntarily risk their own lives to save somebody else? It may be a friend or loved one, or even a perfect stranger.

M : Sure. But the principle is the same. Either they are panicked or they have some feeling that they can overcome the risk. Maybe they have had some special training that gives them the edge.⁺ But if they were sure they'd lose their own lives, they wouldn't take the chance.⁺



-a bunch of bunk : a lot of empty talk; a lot of nonsense

-edge : an advantage

-take the chance : risk or gamble

- F : I find that hard to believe. I read about such occurrences all the time.
- M : Not so often, actually. But almost always, brave rescues are conducted by trained professionals who know how to minimize the danger. Sometimes they miscalculate and pay the price. And sometimes regular people also underestimate the situation and get lucky.
- F : Well, I don't know what I'd do if I saw someone in trouble I didn't know. I'd try to help somehow. I guess it would depend on the circumstances. But if it were my children or parents—or even you!—I hope I would do whatever it took to save them.
- M : Sure, we all hope that. And most of us never even have the opportunity, fortunately. But if it came right down to it, your life or theirs, I know how you'd act. You might feel guilty later, but it's not a conscious decision—it's entirely instinctual.*

Questions



1. Is everything we do based on calculations of selfish benefit, or are we capable of genuine altruism?† Explain your answer.
2. What is the “flight or fight” syndrome?
3. How far does our duty to others extend? Should we only help if it is convenient to do so? Should we risk our lives and/or property to save a stranger?

*instinctual : instinctive

†altruism : concern for the welfare of others

Issue
40

Issue 40 **Studying English**



F : English is so infuriating!

M : Why do you say that?

F : The spelling is not phonetic⁴ at all—

M : Well, maybe a little bit—

F : Okay, but certainly it isn't consistently phonetic. Why don't "through" and "enough" and "though" sound the same? They all look the same.

M: I know what you mean. You can't even look up a word you're not sure of, since you have to be able to spell it to look it up in a dictionary.

F : And relative pronouns! How can we make any sense of them?

M: And articles! "A," "an," "the"—we can't even get native speakers to agree among themselves when to use them and when to omit them altogether.

F : And all those funny sounds to make-you have to do facial contortions⁴ to make them properly!

M: And our tongues have to perform oral gymnastics⁴ inside our mouths.

F : And people complain that Korean is supposed to be the hardest of East Asian languages to master. They must be crazy to think so.

M: It sure would be easier



- **phonetic** : representing the sound of speech

- **contort** : twist or bend

- oral gymnastics : difficult movements of tongue, lips, etc

if everyone around the world used some less-difficult language. Global communication and understanding sure would be easier then.

F : But it'll never happen, not for a long time at least. The Brits⁺ and the Americans have been in control of too much money and too many other countries for too long, not to mention⁺ their movies and television and music. No one else has a chance these days.

M : You're right, of course. But what brought this tirade⁺ on?

F : I have to study for a big test tomorrow.

M : Oh, I see. Well, good luck.

Questions



1. What kinds of problems are mentioned that make English so hard to learn?
2. What is a relative pronoun, and why is it a difficult concept for Koreans to master?
3. What would be the advantages of having an easy global language?

- Brits : the abbreviation of British

- not to mention : in addition to

- tirade : a long, angry speech

Issue
41

Marriage & Divorce



F : Oh, sometimes I wonder if it's all worth it.

M : What's that?

F : This marriage thing—I wonder if it's really worth it.

M : Why? What do you mean?

F : I mean that I work hard all day, doing the same boring things every day. But I never have any time for myself, and I never get adequate thanks for the good job I do.

M : There are other rewards, surely?

F : Well, what are they then? They sure aren't financial. If I did all the work for someone else that I do here for free, I'd be a rich woman.



- M : I mean psychological rewards. The satisfaction of knowing you're a good wife and mother. That sort of thing.
- F : But it's not as if my husband and kids ever tell me that. How should I know if I'm doing a good job if nobody ever says anything? But they certainly know how to complain!
- M : Maybe you're a little stressed out⁴ right now. Why don't you take a little break?
- F : A little break? What, you think I work in an office or something? This is a 24-hour-a-day, 7-day-a-week job, there isn't any break time available. What I need is a new life, where I can get myself together again.

Questions



1. What is this woman's complaint about marriage?
2. What do men complain about in terms of marriage?
3. If marriage is such an unhappy situation, why does it continue to exist? Do you think it will ever disappear from society?

Issue
42

Self-Evaluation



F : I just don't know what to do.

M : About what?

F : I don't know whether I should keep the job I have now or go out on my own.

M : Hmmmmm. That's a tough one, all right. The answer really depends on who you are and what you want, you know.

F : OK. Who am I?

M : Not just your name, of course. But you need to carefully evaluate what your goals and pleasures and abilities are before you can adequately decide.

F : Well, my goal is to be my own boss.

M : Why? Because of ego satisfaction, or do you feel unappreciated⁴ or bored where you are now?

F : Once in a while I'm bored, but certainly I feel underappreciated. No matter what I contribute to the company, my reward is always very limited. If I struck out on my own,⁴ I would get exactly what I worked for, not any more or any less.

M : Are you willing to give up your free time and devote yourself 100% to your own business 24 hours a day, with no certainty of success? Or do you like to know that you can go home at the same time every day, without taking your work home with you?

F : It seems to me that my boss just hires me to do all the hard work, pays me as little as possible, threatens to fire me if I don't do whatever needs to be done—for his benefit—and goes home the same time I do. Or, actually, he can afford not to go home—he can eat out or do whatever he wants to.

M : So?

F : Well, if he can do that, why can't I? I should be able to find some skilled person to exploit just as well as he.

⁴ **unappreciated** : not appreciated

⁴ **strike out on one's own** : start doing something new or living by oneself, without other people's help

M : But do you think you could fire somebody or make him work overtime when necessary? Or would you feel sorry for him and let him cut corners⁴—to the detriment⁴ of your own success—rather than confront him? Could you fire him if business were bad, even if you knew he was a hard, dependable worker?

F : Sure. In a heartbeat⁴—just like my own boss would do to me!

M : I can't tell if you're really serious about this or if you just had a bad day at work. Why don't you take one of those professional tests to see if you have the aptitude⁴ to run a successful business, and then make up your mind? There's no need to rush into something like this if you aren't equipped to handle it properly.

F : No, just talking to you has cleared it all up for me. I know exactly what I want. Thanks!

M : Don't be overeager. "Look before you leap."

F : "He who hesitates is lost." I'm going to quit tomorrow. But not before I give my boss—my ex-boss!—a piece of my mind!⁴

M : Maybe you should reconsider.



Questions



1. What advice is given here? What would you do?
2. What are the implied benefits of working for someone else?
3. Why are the two sentences near the end in quotation marks?

- **cut corners** : do (sth) easily and quickly, usually by ignoring common practice or eliminating steps

- **detriment** : damage, harm

- **in a heartbeat** : with great speed; quickly

- **aptitude** : a natural ability or talent

- **a piece of my mind** : my opinion

Issue
43

Retirement



F : What are the "golden years"?

M : That's a euphemism⁺ for old age. It's an attempt to counter the negative connotations⁺ of most expressions we use to describe the elderly.

F : What's wrong with being old?

M : It's certainly better than the alternative.

F : Huh?

M : The only way to stop aging is to die.

F : Oh, I see. But seriously, what's wrong with being old? Isn't that supposed to be a sign of great wisdom and experience?

M : Oh, I don't know. I've met a lot of old men who don't seem to know much. Age alone doesn't automatically give us an insight into life's problems.

F : But to get that old is the mark of being a real survivor, don't you think?

M : It's more the result of genes and modern medicine. And the older they get, the more senile⁺ they're likely to become! Instead of being old sages⁺ they're more like mewling⁺ infants.

F : You're terrible.



- euphemism** : an inoffensive or indirect word or expression used instead of another expression that is considered offensive or too direct
- connotation** : a secondary meaning of a word or expression that comes to mind
- senile** : showing a decline of physical strength or mental functioning as a result of old age or disease
- sage** : a person who is highly respected for wisdom, experience, and judgment
- mewl** : cry as a baby or young child

- M : No, I mean it! And the way they look! All wrinkled and bent over. Toothless. Bald or at least balding. And either as skinny as a cucumber or as fat as an apple. How gross!⁴
- F : Be careful what you say. Remember what you said about alternatives.
- M : I know. Neither choice appeals to me much, but I'd rather be old than dead, I guess.
- F : It's like the epitaph⁴ on the tombstone of W. C. Fields.
- M : Who?
- F : He was a famous American comedian in the early films. He grew up in Philadelphia and hated it—the first opportunity he got, he ran away and never went back.
- M : So? What was his epitaph?
- F : "I'd rather be in Philadelphia."
- M : Ha! That's a good one! I guess mine would say, "I'd rather be older."

Questions



1. How can one age gracefully?
2. Who has the advantage—young people or old? Explain your answer.
3. What is better, a short healthy life or a long infirm⁴ one? Why do you think so?

→ **gross** : offensive; disgusting

→ **epitaph** : writing carved on a tombstone or monument in memory of the person buried there

→ **infirm** : weak in body, as from old age or sickness

Issue
44

Life & Destiny



M : I was talking to one of my co-workers today at lunch, and it turns out that she is a firm believer in reincarnation.*

F : Really? Is she Buddhist?

M : No, I don't think so. But you don't have to be a Buddhist to believe in the transmigration* of souls.

F : I know that. Sometimes I'm drawn to* similar ideas myself. In many ways, the notion of karma* seems the perfect solution to the dilemma of justice. We just keep trying to lead just lives until we get it right, and meanwhile all of our deeds, good and bad alike, are perfectly recorded. And at the end everything is added together, and our score tells us what we do next.

M : You make it sound like double-entry bookkeeping!*

F : I thought it was more like a multi-level video game. But, anyway, what did she say?

M : Who?

F : Your co-worker.

M : Oh. Her! She said she had memories of other lives. She insists that she used to be Non-gae, and before that Cleopatra.

F : That's interesting.

M : I suppose so. But I always wondered why only famous people are reincarnated. Nobody ever seems to recall being just an ordinary person. "I used to be Tom the Barber."

F : Maybe the ordinary people are better than the famous ones and get to end their series of rebirths sooner. Most of the really



-reincarnation : rebirth in another body or form

-transmigration : reincarnation

-drawn to : attracted to

-karma : in Hinduism and Buddhism, the effect of a person's conduct, which is believed to determine a person's destiny

-double-entry bookkeeping : an accounting method in which gains and expenses are recorded

famous people in history were pretty monstrous and would have a lot of negative karma they'd have to overcome.

M : That makes sense, I guess. But the woman at work is the second or third I've met who claimed to have once been Cleopatra. They can't all be right, can they?

F : Who knows? Maybe you can be reincarnated within more than one body at the same time. Especially since there are far more people alive today than the entire population of humans throughout history. So maybe we were all Cleopatra at one time.

M : That's an interesting thought. But then that would upset the whole idea of karma, wouldn't it? If we are all equally responsible for everyone's actions and not just our own, we would all just keep being reincarnated until everyone was perfect, wouldn't we?

F : What a profound idea that is! In that case, we'd all have to work for the moral betterment of all mankind instead of just selfishly pursuing personal salvation.

Questions



1. Do you remember a past life? Do you know anyone who does?
2. Can dreams tell the future? Do you have any experiences you can relate to us?
3. Is the future a definite⁴ course, or does it change every instant⁴ based on what you (and others) do? Explain your belief.

⁴**definite** : clearly defined; precise and exact

⁴**instant** : a brief period of time

Issue
45

Morality



- M : What's happening to the kids today? They don't have any respect for anybody anymore.
- F : They do whatever they want to do with no thought for anyone else, or even for their own future. Instant gratification⁺ is all that matters.
- M : We weren't like that when we were growing up.
- F : Our parents were much stricter. They taught us right from wrong at an early age and made sure we behaved properly.
- M : They spent more time on us and not just money, like they do nowadays.
- F : That's right. Kids today have too much free time and too much money—and too many bad things to spend both time and money on.
- M : The media have poisoned their minds with ads and too much sex and violence. There is no moral absolute anymore.
- F : Anything goes—as long as it's glamorous⁺ and fun.
- M : We have provided them with too many alternatives⁺ and not enough wisdom to choose well between them.
- F : It was a lot simpler when we were young. Everybody knew how to behave.



-gratify : please or satisfy (sb)

-glamorous : fascinating

-alternative : a choice between two or more possibilities

M : We might have been poor, but as a society we were better people.

F : I think so too.

M : I wish we could do something about it.

F : Me too. But the problem is too big and too pervasive.⁴ I'm afraid it's already too late.

M : Probably so.

F : Let's buy some beer and rent a video. We don't have to worry about this problem tonight.

Questions



1. What has happened to society in recent years? Who is at fault?
2. How valid are these complaints? Give examples of how they are justified, or counter-examples of why they are not.
3. Do you think this is a generational response—that grown-ups have always felt this way about the younger people?

Issue
46

Recipe for a Successful Life



F : I've decided to become a lawyer.

M : Why this sudden interest in the law?

F : It's not so sudden, actually. I've always considered the possibility, but just couldn't commit myself. You know, it takes so much time and money to get through law school and pass the bar.⁴

M : Oh, I don't know. I've seen you pass by lots of bars—not all of them, though.

F : Not that kind of bar! The test to get your license to practice law.

M : Oh. That bar.

F : Yes, that bar. But I finally made up my mind.

M : What precipitated⁴ this decision on your part?

F : Well, in the past I was always attracted by the amount of money I could make.

M : Certainly.

F : But that doesn't seem so important anymore. What really happened was reading in the paper how so many people get screwed⁴ by the system because they don't understand their legal rights.

M : So you want to be the people's champion?

F : Right. Take the regular cases to support myself, but take as many public service ones as I can to help ordinary people. Even pro bono.⁴

M : Pro bono?

F : For free.

M : No money? Sounds very unlawyerly to me.

- **bar** : bar exam for the legal profession

- **precipitate** : cause (sth) to happen suddenly

- **screwed** : cheated

- **pro bono** : done without charge; free

- F : But that way I'd feel like I was actually accomplishing something worthwhile. The main reason I didn't go to law school sooner was the selfish immorality that I associated with the profession. Attorneys all seemed like hired guns, taking any case for money no matter what the issue was. Helping a lot of crooks get away with their ill-gotten gains. But I realize it doesn't have to be that way.
- M : Maybe it's like the medical profession: Do doctors really want to help people or do they just want to make money?
- F : Exactly. Although the same thing is probably true for most professions—politics, business, education, entertainment, whatever. But I've made my mind up. I'm going to start the application process today. Wish me luck.
- M : Certainly. Good luck! Maybe I'll need your services myself, some day. But meanwhile, how about dinner to celebrate your new career choice?
- F : Sounds great to me. Just let me get some of this paperwork finished first.



Questions



1. What are the two meanings here for “bar”?
2. Why has she decided to become a lawyer now rather than sooner?
3. How are lawyers like mercenaries?⁴ What expression is synonymous with “mercenaries”?

Issue
47

Future Society



F : Do you ever wonder about the future?

M : You mean what I'll be doing in 10 years or so?

F : No, not just your future—*THE* future.

M : Oh. Science fiction stuff.

F : Well, not entirely. Not just space adventures and new inventions and the like. But what life will be like. How cloning* will affect the traditional family. How longer lives will affect society in general. War and peace in the global village.

M : War and Peace in the Global Village—that sounds like the title of a bad sci-fi book!

F : Get serious, will you? If we don't start looking ahead now, the future will be upon us before we know it.

M : But what can we do about it? We're not fortune-tellers.

F : Maybe not, but there are professional futurists. They look at current trends and try to make reasonable extrapolations* from the data. So they know that certain events will take place later on and plan accordingly.

M : Such as?

F : Well, some treaties* call for such-and-such action to take place on a given date—like the recent American withdrawal from the Panama Canal Zone for instance—that was provided for by a treaty written 30 years earlier.

M : How would that matter?

F : Well, if you were Panamanian it might matter a great deal. But besides treaties there are also contracts and expiration dates for patents and so on. There are all sorts of preplanned, timed occasions that will affect us in our daily lives.

M : Okay, so I can make a list of almost-certain events that will happen—barring* some totally unexpected occurrence, right? And I can probably make good guesses about other things—economic cycles, maybe, or demographics. So what? What does it all mean?

F : Depending on how well you do your homework and which kinds of events you study, it might make the difference



→ **clone** : produce a copy of (sb) or (sth)

→ **extrapolate** : guess or estimate (sth) unknown using known information

→ **treaty** : a formal agreement, especially between two or more countries

→ **bar** : block or close; keep (sb) or (sth) out

between being rich or poor in the future. But even short-term things like the best time to travel or when to arrange a vacation within the next six months, and planning a budget or itinerary⁺ for it meanwhile, are highly predictable and controllable. So is preparing the best time to have a child, even the most likely day of the month.

M : But I thought you didn't mean these specific, personal affairs—I thought you meant the large-scale macro-happenings like wars and such, or cultural trends—I thought you were talking about history before it happens.

F : Actually, I was, but you got me off-track.⁺ Nevertheless, the principle is the same. The future doesn't just have to be an accident, an awful lot of it can be engineered and prepared for now, with just a little study and effort.

M : Well, you might be right. But I sort of⁺ like being surprised. It's like knowing in advance whether or not your baby will be a boy or a girl. I can understand why that might matter to some people, but basically I'd rather not know ahead of time. I like surprises, I don't want my whole life planned out beforehand. I guess I prefer the improvisational⁺ style of jazz to the mechanical monotony of techno.

F : I guess my point is, I'd rather plan my own life ahead of time than have someone else do it for me. Not all surprises are good!

Questions



1. Often, words, even if they are not found in the dictionary, can be understood from their context or by knowing a few simple root words or prefixes and suffixes. For example, how would you define the probable meaning of "macro-happenings"?
2. What would you like to know about ahead of time? (For instance, would you like to know when you will die?)
3. What would you not want to know in advance?

→ **itinerary** : a schedule of places to be visited during a journey

→ **off-track** : misguided

→ **sort of** : somewhat; rather

→ **improvise** : perform (sth) without preparation

Issue
48

Is Life Fair?



M : Wouldn't it be nice if we all had the same opportunities and rewards?

F : Hmm. It might be kind of boring if we were all alike. But yes, I think society could be more fair.

M : One way to do that would be to get rid of all the irrelevant¹ questions on job applications.

F : Such as?

M : Well, first, the name should not matter. Give every applicant a random number.

F : And eliminate blanks for gender, age, and birthplace, address, marital status, and where one went to school.

M : And include only absolutely essential qualifications. If a Master's degree in engineering truly is necessary to the work, then it's a legitimate question; otherwise, it's not important and shouldn't be on the application.

F : Right. Then an objective scale should be applied by preset criteria,² and the form should be scored by a computer.

M : Sure. Then, a preselected number of the very highest scores should be given a face-to-face interview.

F : But wouldn't that just reintroduce all those irrelevancies we eliminated? On sex, age, and so on?



¹-irrelevant : not relevant

²-criteria : rules or standards on which a judgment can be based

- M : Maybe, but the interview should also have a predetermined percentage of the total score, so only in close cases would it matter. But, I feel, in the real world, character and personality also count as much as formal background and need to be evaluated.
- F : This all sounds like the way a beauty contest is scored, doesn't it?
- M : What's wrong with that, as long as it is fair and efficient?
- F : There's another way of bringing about equality, of course.
- M : What's that?
- F : Give everybody an objective score. Then handicap* them.
- M : The way you do golfers?
- F : Sort of. If someone scores a "perfect 10" on the beauty scale, then force him or her to wear ugly make-up to distort his or her features.*
- M : Or for the ones who can run a mile in 3 1/2 minutes, make them carry around a heavy iron ball.#
- F : Yeah, and keep adjusting these relative handicaps until everyone is precisely equal.
- M : Then, when the playing field is perfectly level,† we would have completely fair competition.

Questions



1. Would the first proposal work, do you suppose? Why or why not? What further refinements need to be made in it?
2. What, in your view, is wrong with the second detailed proposal? Or is it fine the way it is?
3. In the sentences marked * and #, what is the main effect of whether the plural or the singular is used?

*handicap : cause (sb) to be at a disadvantage

†level : equal

Issue
49

Science & Religion



M : If effective medicine is available, should I have to expect a miracle to save my sick son?

F : What are you talking about?

M : If my prayers haven't worked, can I still hope for modern science to provide a cure?

F : What are you mumbling⁺ about? Really, you look quite ridiculous with your forehead all wrinkled up like that.

M : Huh? Were you talking to me?

F : You're the only one here, aren't you? Weren't you talking to me just now?

M : Oh, I'm sorry. I must have been talking to myself.

F : What are you doing, anyway?

M : I'm just thinking out loud. I'm trying to figure out how science and religion complement⁺ each other, or if one is sufficient without the other.

F : What conclusion have you reached?

M : None, so far.

F : Maybe that's because there isn't any answer.

M : No. I think there's always an answer. I just haven't found it yet.

F : Well, maybe it's a trick question. You know, like when the tests have "All of the Above"⁺ as an answer.



→ **mumble** : speak in an unclear manner

→ **complement** : form a complement to

→ **All of the Above** : common test answer indicating no incorrect answers provided

M : Well, then, what do you think?

F : I think the question is too big and complicated for me to ever answer thoroughly. But since that's true, I have a very practical solution.

M : Which is?

F : Don't take chances. Provide yourself with all available services. See your physician and your priest regularly, and maybe the local shaman⁴ too. If none of them can help, you haven't lost very much, but if you pick the wrong one you might lose everything. So it's better to cover all your bases⁴ just in case.

Questions



1. What is the central dilemma of this dialogue?
2. How is the problem like a trick question?
3. What is the "practical solution"? (Why might it really be a bad idea after all?)

- **shaman** : in certain societies a person who acts as an intermediary with the spirit world and who heals people and foretells future events

- **cover all the bases** : anticipate all the possible results

Issue
50

Lessons in Practical Happiness



M : If you were a philosopher, what do you think you would give as the most valuable lesson in life?

F : That's a hard question. Our lives change, and so do our goals and circumstances, so maybe the lessons change as a result.

M : So, would you say that there are no constants¹ in life, that all is flux?²

F : No, I wouldn't go that far. Maybe there are some general principles, but that the details keep changing.

M : Okay, what are the general principles?

F : I'd like to think that character is more important than career, that "how we are" will get us further³ than "who we are."

M : I'd like to believe that too, but isn't it kind of naive?⁴ Aren't there too many people who get ahead by dishonest means, and too many honorable poor, to make a very convincing case of that being reality?

F : Yes. Any sort of moral "ought to be" is just that, an ideal rather than actuality. I guess you're looking for practical rules?

M : Exactly. How can we make life work for us, regardless of moral issues?

F : Hmmm. That's a tough one.

M : But you're so wise!

F : I'm glad you didn't say "old and wise."

M : But sometimes one follows the other, doesn't it?

F : But they're not mutually inclusive. I'd like to be one without being the other.

M : Ah, many people are. But not in the way they probably prefer.

F : Okay. Let me think. What is the most practical advice I could give anyone?

M : That's right. Take your time.

F : I guess it would be something like "take care of the little things in your life and let the big things take care of themselves."



- **constant** : something that never changes

- **flux** : continual change

- **get us further** : move us along towards (sth)

- **naive** : simple as a child; inexperienced

- M : What do you mean by that?
- F : Well, there are a lot of things I can't do anything about—death, disease, war, politics—so I might as well ignore them. But there are things that I have some control over or at least can influence, so I should concentrate on those things.
- M : Like getting enough exercise, cleaning up the house, dressing neatly—that sort of thing.
- F : Yes, that sort of thing. But not necessarily only that kind of personal maintenance. I guess it varies with the individual, but I think some people can expand their sphere⁺ of usefulness to something beyond the merely personal.
- M : To family?
- F : Sure. And friends.
- M : Neighborhood?
- F : Sometimes.
- M : Then why not the whole country? Or the whole of mankind?
- F : Why not, if it really is within the scope of your ability?
- M : That seems pretty far removed⁺ from “taking care of the little things and letting the big things take care of themselves.”
- F : Maybe so, but big and little are relative terms, aren't they?

Questions



1. Proverbs are often regarded as folk distillations⁺ of collective wisdom—rule-of-thumb⁺ advice. Which proverbs can you recite? How relevant do they seem to the real world?
2. What if proverbs give exactly contradictory opinions, such as “Look before you leap” and “He who hesitates is lost”—how does one decide what to do?
3. In a very short sentence, what advice would you give about living?

→ **sphere** : the extent of person's knowledge, interests, or social position

→ **removed** : emotionally distant; remote

→ **distillations** : essential elements of an experience

→ **rule of thumb** : a general rule based on experience, and not taken from scientific reasoning

EXPRESS YOURSELF(2)

초판 4쇄 인쇄 : 2005년 8월 1일 인쇄

초판 4쇄 발행 : 2005년 8월 5일 발행

지 은 이 : 리스 코리아 편집부 &
Duane Vorhees

그 림 : 일러스트레이터 박희정
(011-9883-0767)

편 집 디 자 인 : 전정애, 이명금, 고연화

퍼 낸 곳 : (도서출판) 리스코리아

퍼 낸 이 : 최승신

등 록 : 경기 남양주 제 17호

전 화 : (0502) 423-7947

팩 스 : (0502) 423-7948

www.liskorea.co.kr

All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission in writing of the Publisher.