

Q Reading and Writing 2 Midterm Test

Name: _____

Date: _____

Who Is in Your Family?

1 If someone asked, "Who is in your family?" what would you say? When someone says *family* do you think of all of your relatives? Or do you think only about your parents and your brothers and sisters?

2 An old Chinese saying is, "True happiness is three generations living together under one roof." That means that children, parents, and grandparents all live together. In Chinese society, older people are very respected. Adult children should take care of their parents when they get old. And there is another advantage. If grandparents live in the same house, they can help take care of the young children, especially when the parents need to work.

3 However, in the United States and in many western countries, there is a different idea. In the west, people like to be independent and self-sufficient. That means that they are uncomfortable if they need to depend on another person. They like to be independent and to live by themselves. For this reason, most older Americans live by themselves in houses and apartments. Sometimes, they may move to a special place for older people. These are called retirement homes or retirement communities. Many people do not want to live in the same house as their children or grandchildren. They might feel that they are in the way.

4 So how do you decide who is in your family? One way to look at the family is in what is called the *nuclear family*. A nuclear family is a father, a mother, and their children. All members of a nuclear family live together in the same house or apartment. In the west, the nuclear family is the basic family unit.

5 Another way to look at the family is in what is called an *extended family*. An extended family also includes father, mother, and children. But it also includes grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, and cousins. It is unlikely that all members of an extended family live together. The extended family is the basic family unit in many Middle Eastern, Asian, and Latin American countries.

6 So the idea of who is included in the word *family* is different in different parts of the world. What does it mean for you?

Choose the best response.

- Who is most respected in China?
 - children
 - parents
 - grandparents
- In which culture do people live by themselves?
 - Latin
 - American
 - Middle Eastern
- Who is the "nuclear family"?
 - parents and children
 - parents and grandchildren
 - parents, children, and grandparents
- Where is the extended family considered the basic family unit?
 - the Middle East
 - the United States
 - Europe

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Politeness in American Culture

1 In every country there are rules about how to behave. But most of these rules are not written down. Some of these unwritten rules have to do with the space around you. For example, what is a comfortable distance to stand when you are talking to another person? In the United States, the distance is about the length of one arm. But in some countries, the distance is much closer. This makes Americans uncomfortable.

2 People in the U.S. like to think that they have an invisible "personal space" around them. If you come into their personal space, they will be unhappy. Even on crowded buses, subways, or elevators, people in the U.S. try not to touch people that they don't know. If you get on a bus or train and there are many empty seats, you shouldn't sit right next to someone.

3 In a public place like a library, the personal space gets even bigger. There it includes a person's books, papers, and other personal items. Another person should not come into the space where those things are. Another person should not touch those items without being told that it is OK. This feeling about personal items is also true of roommates. If you live with an American roommate, you should not use their things without asking.

4 Another idea about personal space has to do with noise. It is not polite to be very loud in a public place. You should be careful not to be too noisy in a place like a restaurant. It can even be rude to be noisy outside, especially if it is late at night or early in the morning. This includes talking loudly or shouting, playing loud music, or make loud noises with a car.

5 Other countries may have different ideas about politeness and personal space. But if you visit the U.S., be sure to give other people lots of room!

Read the sentence. Is it a main idea or a detail? Choose A or B.

5. Another person should not touch those items without being told that it is OK.
 - A. main idea
 - B. detail
6. In every country there are rules about how to behave.
 - A. main idea
 - B. detail
7. Another idea about personal space has to do with noise.
 - A. main idea
 - B. detail
8. You should be careful not to be too noisy in a place like a restaurant.
 - A. main idea
 - B. detail

Match each word with the correct definition.

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| _____ 9. ban | A. easy to see, hear, or understand |
| _____ 10. clear | B. ways of doing things that have existed for a long time |
| _____ 11. expand | C. to officially say that something is not allowed |
| _____ 12. traditional | D. to become bigger, or to make something bigger |

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Complete the sentence. Choose A or B.

13. I don't have a good Internet _____. Sometimes I can't get online.
A. connect
B. connection
14. Jake likes numbers and business, so he decided to study _____.
A. finance
B. financial

Read the dictionary entry. Then choose the best response.

suc•cess noun

1 [noncount] the fact that you have achieved what you want; doing well and becoming famous, rich, etc.: *Hard work is the key to success.* ♦ *Her first novel achieved great commercial success.*

2 [count] the thing that you achieve; something that becomes very popular: *You should try to make a success of your marriage.* ♦ *The school carnival was a huge success.* ♦ *I'm sure she'll be a success, no matter what career she chooses.* [OPP] FAILURE

15. Is the word *success* count or noncount?
A. count
B. noncount
C. both

Read the dictionary entry. Then write the answer to the question.

re•spon•si•bil•i•ty noun (pl. re•spon•si•bil•i•ties)

1 [count, noncount] **responsibility (for sb/sth)** a duty to deal with something so that it is your fault if something goes wrong: *I refuse to take responsibility if anything goes wrong.* ♦ *It is John's responsibility to make sure the orders are sent out on time.*

2 [noncount] the fact of something being your fault; blame: *A terrorist group claimed responsibility for planting the bomb.*

16. What is the plural form of *responsibility*?
- _____

Correct the error in the sentence.

17. I am getting up at 6 a.m. every day.
- _____

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18. I can speak English well but, I can't read it.

19. My sisters travels to another city for work once a month.

20. Chinese is most difficult language to learn.

Read the paragraph. Choose the best topic sentence for the paragraph.

21. More and more things are being done by computer these days. Job applications, banking, and travel reservations can all be done by computer. Most jobs require a person to know how to use a computer. Also, people are using computers more and more to socialize and connect with other people. Email, instant messaging, and social networking sites like Facebook are all examples of how people are using computers to connect.

- A. It is very important to learn how to use a computer.
- B. You can download and play music and videos on the computer.
- C. Most people know how to use a computer today.

Read the paragraph. Then choose the best response.

FREEWRITING TOPIC: What is your favorite color? Why?

Purple is my favorite color. I think it is an interesting color. You don't see it every day. When I was a child I had my favorite purple shirt. I wore it almost every day! I also had a dog when I was a child. When I see purple, it makes me think of mysterious and exciting things.

22. Which of the following sentences can be added to the paragraph?
- A. My favorite flower, the iris, is purple, too.
 - B. I think green is a very pretty color, too.
 - C. One mysterious thing I think of is dreams.

Read the main idea. Then choose the best supporting sentence for the main idea.

23. Each culture has specific rules for gift-giving.
- A. In every culture, gift-giving is an important way to show appreciation and love for others.
 - B. In China, you should open a gift after the person is gone.
 - C. Rules for gift-giving vary from culture to culture.

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Choose the best response.

24. Which sentence would be a strong concluding sentence in a paragraph about college sports players?
- A. In my opinion, college sports players should have good grades to play sports.
 - B. For these reasons, I feel college sports players should focus more on their grades than on their sports.
 - C. Second, they are representing the college or university when they play.
25. Which is an example of the heading of a personal letter?
- A. What are you doing this summer? Do you have any travel plans?
 - B. Hi Carolyn,
 - C. 4811 W. Argyle St.
Chicago, IL 60640
August 26, 2009