

English Corner: Suggested Article of Discussion

1. Article 3-2: The List (清单)

A man and his girlfriend were married. It was a large celebration (庆祝). All of their friends and family came to see the lovely ceremony (婚礼) and everyone could tell that the love they had for each other was true.

A few months later, the wife came to the husband with a proposal (建议). “I read in a magazine a while ago about how we can strengthen (加强) our marriage.” She offered. “Each of us will write a list of the things that we find a bit annoying (令人烦恼) with the other person. Then, we can talk about how we can fix (改正) them together and make our lives happier together.”

The husband agreed, so each of them went to a separate room in the house and thought of the things that annoyed them about the other. They thought about this question for the rest of the day and wrote down what they came up with. The next morning, at the breakfast table, they decided that they would go over their lists.

“I’ll start,” offered the wife. She took out her list. It had many items on it, enough to fill three pages. As she started reading the list of the little annoyances, she noticed that tears were starting to appear in her husband’s eyes. “What’s wrong?” she asked. “Nothing,” the husband replied, keep reading your list.” The wife continued to read until she had read all three pages to her husband. She neatly placed her list on the table and folded her hands on top of it. “Now, you read your list and then we’ll talk about the things on both of our lists,” she said happily.

“I don’t have anything on my list. I think that you are perfect (完美, 理想) just the way that you are. I don’t want you to change anything for me. You are lovely and wonderful and I wouldn’t want to try and change anything about you.”

The wife, touched (感动) by his honesty (诚实) and the depth of his love for her and his acceptance (接受) of her, turned her head and wept.

In life, there are enough times when we are disappointed (失望), depressed (忧伤)

and annoyed. We don’t really have to go looking for them. We have a wonderful world full of beauty, brightness and hope. Why waste time looking for the bad, disappointing or annoying things, when we can look around and see the wondrous things before us?

2. Discussion:

1. What list did the newly-weds decided to write each other?
2. Which one was more helpful? more correct? more honest? more realistic?
3. What are the suggestions in the final paragraph? How can these attitudes be applied in today’s relationship?

3. Remember Seven Phrases a Week:

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| 99. I don't mean it. | 我不是故意的。 |
| 100. I'll fix you Up. | 我会帮你打点的。 |
| 101. It sounds great! | 听起来很不错。 |
| 102. It's a fine day. | 今天是个好天。 |
| 103. So far, So good. | 目前还不错。 |
| 104. What time is it? | 几点了? |
| 105. You can make it! | 你能做到! |

4. It's your Character that counts!:

Character is who we really are. It's what we do when no one is looking. It's the accumulation (聚集) of thoughts, values, words and actions. These become the habits that comprise (组成) our character. That character shapes our own destiny (命运) and the destiny of our country.