

**HUE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH**

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SPEAKING 4



HUE - 2007

Chapter 1: PERSONAL ISSUES

Unit 1 : PERSONALITY TYPES

Reading:

Everyone has his own personality, as well as his unique looks. Psychologists often divide people into two groups: Type A and Type B. A Type-A person is competitive, time-conscious, active, and often cynical. He gets angry easily.

By contrast, a Type-B person is non-competitive, easygoing, laid-back, and generally optimistic. He does not get angry easily. He accepts life as it is. He rolls with the punches and doesn't worry.

Almost 75% of successful American businessmen are Type-A. They are hardworking, driven by the desire to be number one. They do not accept defeat easily. As a result, Type-A people tend to have more heart attacks than Type-B people.

Another system for typing people is the enneagram (pronounced "any-a-gram"). It is a Greek word meaning "nine drawings." It divides people into nine types: 1. the Perfectionist; 2. the Giver; 3. the Performer; 4. the Romantic; 5. the Observer; 6. the Questioner; 7. the Epicure (cheery and childlike); 8. the Boss; and 9. the Mediator. Which type are you?

Opposing Views: Study the opinions below.

Type-A advocates

1. Competitive people are most successful.
2. Extroverts get more accomplished.
3. Time is money, so be time-conscious.
4. Life is best when well planned in advance.
5. Cynicism means you're a realist.
6. Anger shows power.
7. Type-B people are boring.

Type-B advocates

- Competitive people become stressed out.
Introverts are deeper intellectually.
Time is to be used for whatever you
decide to do.
Life should be taken day by day, step by step
Optimism means you're an idealist.
Anger shows immaturity.
Type-A people are overbearing.

Substitution Practice:

A: What sort of person is Brenda?

B: She's quiet and shy.

A: Do you like girls that are quiet and shy?

B: No. I prefer outgoing girls.

1. Debbie/ cute and funny/ serious
2. Masako/ drop-dead gorgeous/ normal looking
3. Peggy/ smart and clever/ average
4. Tomoko/ excitable and emotional/ analytical

Check (V) One:

Are you afraid of . . . ? **yes, a lot** **yes,** **a little** **not at all**

1. loneliness
2. enclosed spaces
3. insects
4. snakes
5. airplanes
6. meeting people
7. speaking in public
8. losing your job
9. not being popular
10. what people think of you
11. heights

Paired Practice: Give your own opinion in the blanks below.

A: Do you know _____ ?

B: Yes. Why do you ask?

A: What do you think of him/ her?

B: I think he's/ she's _____ .

Conversation :

Misato: Have you seen Doug lately?

Greg: Yeah. He has a new sports car, a convertible

Misato: He sure has a nice life.

Greg: Yes, but I don't envy him. He's always on the go-a real playboy.

Misato: You don't like partying and discos, do you, Greg?

Greg: No, I'm a home person. I like reading and watching TV.

Misato: So do I. I like to spend my evenings quietly at home.

Greg: Is Doug still dating Carol?

Misato: No, they broke up. He's now seeing Sally Rogers.

Topics for Discussion :

1. The kind of person I would like to date
2. It is better to be a realist than an idealist.
3. My phobia

Unit 2:**SPORTS & MUSIC****Vocabulary:**

Match similar expressions.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| 1. fans | a. shown |
| 2. displayed | b. for the purpose of raising money |
| 3. boob tube <i>[slang]</i> | c. those who are enthusiastic about sports |
| 4. quarterback | d. with sounds in the form of numerical digits |
| 5. nope <i>[slang]</i> | e. musical work |
| 6. digital | f. a position in football |
| 7. trend | g. TV |
| 8. composition | h. worth nothing |
| 9. charity | i. style, vogue |
| 10. waste of time | j. no |

Reading:

Sports are popular in all countries, but not all sports. Baseball is popular in Japan and the United States but not in Europe. Soccer is popular in Latin America and Europe but not much in the States.

Some who criticize sports do not like the violence in boxing and American football. They do not like the high salaries paid to professional American players. They do not like the superstar status of certain players. Nor do they approve of the emotionalism displayed by fans at European soccer games and American basketball games. They find sports lacking in intellectual content. Sports fans, on the other hand, say that sports are fun and relaxing.

Opposing Views:

Study the opinions below.

Those favoring sports

1. Sports are fun.
2. Most people like sports.
3. Sports require great skill.
4. Certain sports are graceful
5. Many people watch sports on TV.
6. People will pay big money to watch sports.

Those against

- Sports are boring.
- Most women don't like sports.
- Most players are not very bright.
- Ballet is graceful, not sports
- The "boob tube" is generally without merit.
- Sports have been corrupted by the big money paid to players.

Substitution Practice:

A: Who's Andre Agassi?

B: You really don't know who he is?

A: Nope, I don't.

B: He's a famous American tennis player.

1. Alexi Lalas/ Italian soccer player
2. Norihiro Komada/ Japanese baseball player
3. John Friesz/ American football quarterback
4. Masashi Ozaki/ Japanese golfer

Check (V) One:

Do you like ... ? **yes, a lot** **yes,** **a little** **not at all**

1. country and western
2. Vietnamese folk songs
3. pop music
4. Bach and Vivaldi
5. Italian opera
6. disco music
7. New Age music
8. jazz
9. musicals
10. classical music
11. rock and roll
12. karaoke

Paired Practice: Give your own opinion in the blanks below.

A: What kind of music do you like?

B: I like _____ .

A: Who's your favorite singer?

B: _____ is.

A: I like _____ .

Conversation:

Seitaro: Jo Ann, do you collect cassette tapes or compact discs?

Jo Ann: I switched to CDs two years ago.

Seitaro: I did, too. I like the clear sound of CDs.

Jo Ann: Some new songs can't even be found on cassette now.

Seitaro: Yeah. The trend is toward digitalization.

Jo Ann: I think our lives are going to be controlled by computers one day.

Seitaro: I hope not. Say, Jo Ann, what's that CD on your desk?

Jo Ann: It's Takio Ito. Do you like him?

Seitaro: Yeah. But I prefer Yukari Kaneko.

Reading 2 :**PROFESSIONAL SPORTS**

There are two kinds of sports, "amateur" and "professional." Amateur athletes do not receive money for competing in sports. Olympic athletes, for example, are amateurs. They do not receive money. Professional athletes, on the other hand, do earn money. Some professional athletes earn a million dollars (\$1,000,000) or more a year.

Professional athletes need money to support themselves. Professional sports give great athletes the opportunity to play sports to earn their living. They earn enough money to support themselves and save money for their future. We, the spectators, have the opportunity to watch wonderful performances by our favorite athletes for the price of an admission ticket.

There is a bad side to professional sports, however. Sports are supposed to encourage good character and "sportsmanship." In other words, sports are supposed to make a contribution to society. Professional sports and professional athletes do not always do this, however. In fact, sometimes they cause very serious problems for society.

In 1985 and 1986, the newspapers and magazines in the United States were full of articles about professional baseball and basketball players. They were using illegal drugs. A lot of young people looked up to professional athletes as heroes. When athletes use drugs, they set a bad example for young people.

In addition, there is sometimes an atmosphere of violence in professional sports. In other words, spectators may get into fights and hurt each other at a professional sports event. For example, on May 29, 1985, a terrible tragedy occurred at Heysel Stadium in Brussels before the European Cup Finals. An English soccer team was playing an Italian soccer team for the European championship. The English fans started a fight with the Italian fans. One of the stadium walls collapsed. More than 50 people were killed. Why did this happen? What caused this terrible violence? We still do not completely understand the answers to these questions.

Professional sports are more like businesses than sports for pleasure. Everything is money, money, money. Teams have to win a lot of games to keep their fans happy, or the fans won't come to their games. Then, the team can't earn enough money to pay its expenses. This causes a lot of pressures on the players. They have to win, win, win. Winning becomes more important than anything else. In sports, there is an old saying: "It is not important if you win or lose; what is important is the way you play the game." In professional sports, this saying is not true. Winning is the most important thing in professional sports.

Discussion Questions :

Discuss these questions in small groups..

1. Are you a sports fan? What is your favorite sport and what is your favorite team? Why do you like this team? Win or lose, do you like your team? Explain.
2. Some athletes have trouble with drugs. Do you know about an athlete who had a drug problem? Who was this person? What sport did she or he play?

Reading 3 : **PEOPLE AND PLACES IN SPORTS**

As we said before, sports are popular everywhere in the world. Most people know about their country's most famous athletes and teams. Some athletes are world famous. People all around the world know these athletes.

PELE

Soccer (*football*) is the most popular team sport in the world. When we think of soccer, we must think of Pele, the world's greatest soccer player. Pele was born in Brazil in 1940. His real name is Edson Arantes do Nascimento, but nobody calls him by this name. Everywhere in the world, he is "Pele."

Pele grew up with soccer. His father was a soccer player. At the age of ten, Pele stopped going to school, and he began to play soccer seriously. At the age of 15, he was playing for a professional soccer team in Santos, Brazil.

When Pele was only 18, he became famous throughout the world. He led Brazil to the World Cup championship in 1958. Pele developed his own special playing techniques. He was able to score goals against every team. Pele and his Brazilian team won several more world championships. Pele played for his Santos team until his retirement in 1974. He had a record of more than 1,200 goals in his professional career. In 1975, Pele came out of retirement to play for the New York Cosmos of the North American Soccer League. The Cosmos paid Pele \$7 million dollars to play for their team for three years. Pele again set a new world record when he became the highest paid athlete in the world!

SAN PEDRO DE MACORIS

San Pedro de Macoris? What's that? If you are a serious baseball fan, you know the answer. San Pedro de Macoris is a town in the Dominican Republic, and it has produced more professional baseball players than any other city or town in the world.

San Pedro de Macoris has a population of 80,000. The town is in the area of the Dominican Republic that produces sugar cane. What do the boys in San Pedro de Macoris do every day? They play baseball for at least five hours a day from Monday through Friday. The sugar cane companies in San Pedro de Macoris hire baseball instructors to teach the boys how to play baseball. More than 10,000 boys play baseball in San Pedro de Macoris. All of these boys have one dream: they want to become professional baseball players in the United States.

We can see how important San Pedro de Macoris is by looking at professional baseball in the United States. In the United States, there are two levels of professional baseball-the major leagues and the minor leagues. The major leagues are the highest level for the top baseball players, and the minor leagues are the second level. In 1985, there were 14 major league and more than 250 minor league players from San Pedro de Macoris! Boys in San Pedro de Macoris watch their heroes playing professional baseball in the United States. They think, "Someday I'll be there too!"

KORBUT AND COMANECI

In the 1970s, gymnastics became one of the most exciting sports in the world. People were able to see the sport so clearly on television. They could see the great technical skill, grace, and beauty of the performers and the performance for the first time.

Olga Korbut of the Soviet Union was the first great female gymnast of the 1970s. Girls all over the world loved Olga Korbut. They dreamed of being like her. Millions of people around the world admired her performances. Partly because of Olga Korbut, gymnastics soon became one of the most popular sports in the world.

Olga Korbut was extremely popular around the world, but she was never an Olympic champion. The champion of the Olympic gymnastics was Nadia Comaneci from Romania. In 1976 at the Montreal Olympic Games, Nadia Comaneci became the overall Olympic Champion at the age of 14. Nadia was European gymnastics champion three times before she retired in 1984.

Nadia Comaneci had a tremendous effect on the hopes and dreams of young girls around the world. Remember, women did not participate in the early Olympic Games. They didn't watch the early Games as spectators. Think how thrilling it was in 1976 to see a young girl-only 14 years old-win the Olympic championship in Montreal! Nadia Comaneci's message was clear: You do not have to be the biggest to be the best. And more important, Nadia Comaneci sent a powerful message to girls around the world: *Girls can be champions, too!*

Discussion Questions:

Discuss these questions in small groups.

1. What athlete do you admire most? What sport does this person play, and why do you admire her or him?
2. Do you think it is important for people to have sports heroes to look up to? Why or why not?
3. What can people learn from athletes?
4. This passage says that Nadia Comaneci had a great effect on millions of girls around the world. She showed them that girls could win, too. Who has had a strong influence on you? Who encouraged you to do something difficult? Who was this person, and what did you learn from this person?
5. What effect do you think television has on sports? What are the advantages of watching a sports event on television?

QUOTATIONS :

Read these quotations and explain what they mean.

"I always believe in my heart that through sport one day all the people will be together. Through the political way we can never come together. I always felt that if I were on the political side I could never get the same treatment in Russia or Red China or in Japan or South America. But as I was involved in soccer I had the open door -everyplace."

Pele

"Football today is far too much a sport for the few who can play it well; the rest of us, and too many of our children, get our exercise from climbing up the steps in stadiums, or from walking across the room to turn on our television sets. And this is true for one sport after another."

John F. Kennedy

"I do not think that winning is the most important thing. I think that winning is the only thing."

Bill Veeck, Chicago White Sox President

Topics for Discussion :

1. My favourite kind of music
2. The Olympics are (not) important.
3. Sports and music are (not) a waste of time.