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**3rd Edition  
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# EXPRESS YOURSELF 2

**15 Practical Topics 15 Dialogs**

**554 Questions to Make You Think  
30 Opinion Samples  
Plus 180 Captions  
Everything You Need to Learn Real English!  
Express Yourself & Improve Yourself**

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Duane Vorhees*



NEW: Something that is fresh. EXPRESS: Fast, direct. YOURSELF: The most important part of the title, actually. Like the "old" EXPRESS YOURSELF, the new one inspires you to be YOURSELF. Unlike the pre-programmed, robotic texts in common use, NEW EXPRESS YOURSELF encourages you to use English to express your own ideas, emotions, and opinions. It insists that you be YOURSELF, not just an anonymous cog in a wheel or a rat in a maze. Other books can provide **LIS KOREA** grammar, but NEW EXPRESS YOURSELF lets you actually use the language you've learned. If you are too self-consciously concerned about making minor syntactical or verbal mistakes, you will not be free to speak your mind freely. So, for real discussion of important issues in your own life and in the world around you, try NEW EXPRESS YOURSELF!

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# 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 diminished\* our values.
5. We have higher incomes but lower morals\*.
6. We have been all the way to the moon and back, several times, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor.
7. We've conquered outer space, but our inner space is still a mystery.
8. We have cleaned up the air but polluted the soul; split the atom but enlarged our prejudices.
9. We talk too much, listen too little, love too seldom, and hate too often.
10. These are times of steep\* profits and shallow\* relationships, more leisure and less fun, two incomes and more need.
11. It is a time when there is much in the show window and little in the stockroom\*; a time when technology can bring a message to you in seconds, and you can take it to heart\* or just hit "delete." The paradox is having simultaneously too much and too little.

- How can you talk to me like that?  
I'm a very successful man.
- You aren't as successful as you pretend to be.
- What do you mean? I have lots of money and nice things.
- Yes, but you don't know how to make your wife happy.
- I give you anything you want.
- But nothing that I need.



I don't know if they are unhappy because they are married or because they are rich, but I'm content being neither.

**paradox** : situation that seems strange because it involves two ideas or qualities that are opposite or very different  
**diminish** : cause (sth) to become less in size, importance, etc. **morals** : proper ideas and beliefs about how to behave in a way that is considered right and good by most people **steep** : very high  
**shallow** : not caring about or involving serious or important things **stockroom** : storage area for supplies and goods **take (sth) to heart** : listen carefully to what (sb) says, and try to do what they say

## C omprehension

1. Is the writer happy or unhappy? Justify your response.
2. What does “much in the show window and little in the stockroom” imply?
3. Why is it difficult to cross the street to welcome a new neighbor?



## E xpress

## Y ourself

1. Why are modern people so short-tempered?
2. Why are our viewpoints getting narrower?
3. If we save so much time with devices like washing machines, toasters, smart phones, and computers, why are we always in such a hurry?
4. In what ways do we lack common sense despite having advanced degrees?
5. If knowledge isn't necessary for good judgment, then what is? Are all kinds of knowledge equally useful for this purpose?
6. Is it true that as we make more money we lower our moral values?
7. Can any society be free from prejudice?
8. Do you think a double-income family runs a higher risk of divorce than a single-income one?
9. The government permits selling tobacco products while educating people about their harmful effects. Is that hypocrisy\*? What do you think?
10. Casinos and distilleries\* make lots of money and spend a small amount on treatment and rehab\*. Should they spend less or more?
11. It seems salaries go up every year but fail to keep up with inflation. Is your life in the red\*? What can you do about it?
12. People marry because they are in love but then divorce for love of someone else. What can be done about this?
13. People have babies for joy but then suffer for them. Is having babies worth the sacrifice in terms of worry and expense?
14. Some criminals are being released before their sentences are up\* simply because prisons are too crowded. What solution would you propose?
15. Prisons may have become the graduate schools for more effective criminal behavior. Do you believe prisons do a good job of rehabilitation\*? Are there any other options?
16. If the rich would only be a little bit more generous toward the poor, our world would be a much more enjoyable place to live. But they don't seem to be so. Why don't rich people help the poor more?

**hypocrisy** : practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that (sb) does not hold or possess   **distillery** : place where alcoholic drinks are produced   **rehab** : program for helping people who have problems with drugs, alcohol, etc.   **in the red** : spending and owing more money than is being earned   **up** : at an end; finished   **rehabilitate** : bring (sb/sth) back to a normal, healthy condition after an illness, injury, drug problem, etc.



## Opinion Samples

**1.** Governments often have competing interests\*. On the one hand, tobacco farmers, brewers, and smut peddlers\* provide legal products that are in public demand. If their activities became illegal, the demand would not simply disappear, but unemployment figures would rise and tax revenues would shrink\*. On the other hand, consumers have a need to get reliable information about health (and other) matters, and in the long run it is cheaper for society to try to treat and rehabilitate the people who use those products than to ignore them or litigate\* against them. Governments, typically, try to sustain\* the economy while also dealing with the negative effects of bad behavior, while also trying to promote public morality and decency, while also keeping the populace content\*. In my opinion, governments should permit most kinds of immoral behavior, such as prostitution, polygamy, and drug use, but impose high “sin taxes” and use the proceeds\* for educational, treatment and other restitutive\* programs.

**2.** I can't afford to pay all at once\* for tuition, medical care, health club membership, counseling, rent, food, and entertainment. But if I am convicted of a crime and sent to prison, I can get all of these — plus personal armed security! — for free. I would lose my good reputation and a few years of freedom, but the investment would pay off: I would have a degree, or at least college credits and certification of skills, and I would be in improved physical condition, and I would not have had to pay anything for rent and food, so I would still have whatever money I had in savings. But, even though my earning potential would have improved dramatically, I wonder if rehabilitation would be worth the effort. After all, the longer I stayed in prison, the longer I would enjoy the benefits, and I would not have to worry about being laid off or evicted\*. Maybe recidivism\* is the smart thing.

## Dialog

### Are We Happier Than We Were 100 Years Ago?

**Harold** : What's this world coming to?

**Maud** : I don't know.

**Harold** : A hundred years ago, people were kinder toward one another. They had genuine personal relationships, not cyber contacts between fraudulent\* avatars\*.

**Maud** : A century ago, people abused\* each other on a regular basis. The social media we have now allow people to expand their circle of relationships beyond their immediate family, neighbors, and colleagues.

**Harold** : Families were a lot closer then.

**competing interests** : two or more interests that cannot all be right or accepted at the same time

**smut peddlers** : sellers of “soft” pornography    **shrink** : become smaller in amount, size, or value

**litigate** : make (sth) the subject of a lawsuit    **sustain** : provide what is needed for (sb/sth) to exist, continue, etc.

**keeping the populace content** : keeping the people satisfied    **proceeds** : money obtained from an event or activity

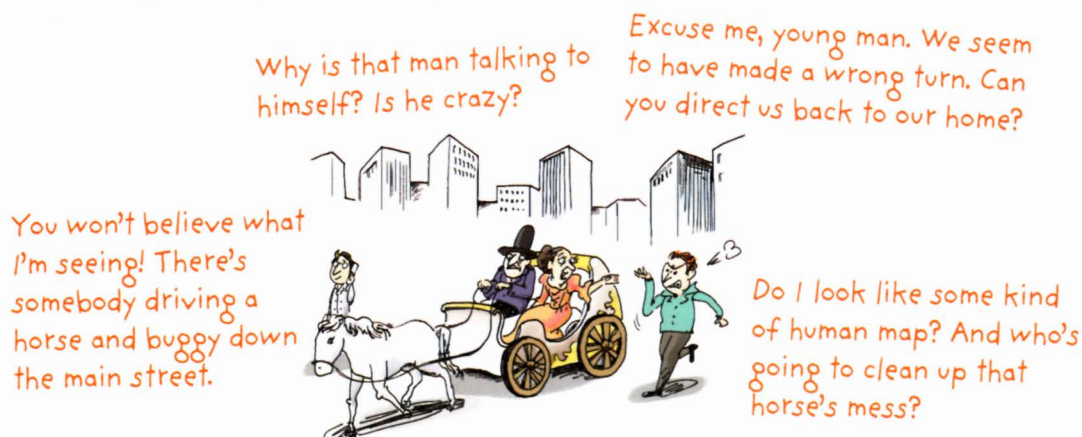
**restitutive** : giving back (sth) that was lost or stolen to its owner    **all at once** : at the same time

**evict** : legally force (sb) to leave the house they are living in    **recidivism** : act of doing illegal things again, even after they have been punished

**fraudulent** : intended to deceive (sb) illegally, in order to gain money, power, etc.

**avatar** : (sth) that represents a type of person, an idea, or a quality    **abuse** : treat (sb) in a harsh or harmful way

- Maud** : They were “closer” because they had less freedom and fewer choices. Marriages were arranged; personal feelings were irrelevant\*. Divorce was almost impossible. There were lots of children, but they were regarded mostly as economic assets.
- Harold** : But today they are economic hindrances\*!
- Maud** : But if so, they are voluntary hindrances. People are free to abstain\* from having kids if they so desire, with very little social pressure to conform\*. So, if they have children, they understand the economic burden they impose and decide to have them anyway. So they probably love and cherish them all the more despite the financial hardship.
- Harold** : My grandparents and great-grandparents were a lot more religious than people now, and society was more moral as a result.
- Maud** : I agree that religion has some impact on morality, but it’s certainly not a one-to-one\* relationship. I know lots of atheists\* who are among the most ethical people on the planet, while religious fanatics\* are killing thousands of innocents.
- Harold** : Will you at least agree that people had more privacy then?
- Maud** : Yes. They certainly did. But one side effect of that was that crooked\* public officials could better hide their corruption from the public.
- Harold** : People didn’t go to psychiatrists for “therapy” then, like they do now.
- Maud** : There weren’t many psychiatrists available then, but that doesn’t mean that people didn’t need their services just as much as now.
- Harold** : A hundred years ago, a man could speak his mind freely without being contradicted\* by a woman!
- Maud** : So, the last century has seen good progress for women’s rights and a diminution\* of patriarchy\*. Is that what you mean?



## QUESTIONS

1. In what ways do you think the world is a better place now than it was a century ago?
2. In what ways do you think we have lost ground\* compared to 100 years ago?
3. What do you think our grandchildren will have to say about our attitudes and behavior when they look back on it a century from now?

**irrelevant** : not important    **hindrance** : (sb/sth) that makes a situation difficult    **abstain** : choose not to do or have (sth)    **conform** : do what other people do    **one-to-one** : matching each other exactly  
**atheist** : (sb) who believes that God does not exist    **fanatic** : (sb) who has extreme ideas about politics, religion, etc.    **crooked** : not honest    **contradict** : not agree with (sth)    **diminution** : act or process of becoming less    **patriarchy** : family, group, or government controlled by a man or a group of men  
**lose ground** : fall behind; not do well



## Can the Problems of Poverty Be Solved?

Poverty and national wealth grow at nearly the same pace. That means that while society has more money overall\*, it is increasingly possessed by the ones at the top of the economic scale; it is not evenly\* divided between the rich and the poor. Maybe the poor are not any poorer than they were, and perhaps are even marginally\* better off, but in relative terms they are farther behind their wealthy cohort\*. And the gap between the rich and poor continues to widen. But what is to be done? Confiscatory\* taxes have the desired redistributive effect in the short term, but the privileged simply move their assets elsewhere, or find more effective tax shelters\*, or use their economic power to get legislators elected who are more sympathetic to their financial interests. Another solution is to provide government support for health, education, housing, and other programs to create a social safety net and improve conditions for the poor. In many ways, this seems to be the best policy, but the ones in the middle and higher classes tend to grow tired of having their taxes go to the benefit of others, so extensive programs of this nature are hard to sustain. As critics of these programs point out, resources are always limited, while demand is infinite.

Well, of course the government has an obligation to help the poor, but we must also protect the nation's assets and promote everyone's freedom to improve themselves by succeeding in business. Taxes are a job-killer. Only rich people can hire poor people. The government wastes too much of its income on programs that don't actually work. Too many able-bodied poor people just play\* the system on their own behalf and collect unnecessary welfare. People need to make good choices in life and stop blaming everyone else for their bad choices. People must be self-sufficient and should not expect a handout\*.

As the spokesperson for the poor in this country, I'm telling you both that the only way to lift us out of poverty is by giving us a good education and better jobs and that means investing in the future. That means higher taxes, especially on the richest ones.



The poor people demand government support, and the politicians pretend to listen to them while never actually doing anything but make excuses. I've heard it all a million times before, and I'm a bit bored by the whole conversation. But everyone knows the politicians are just doing the jobs we rich people hire them to do—protect our wealth.

### QUESTIONS

1. Do disadvantaged groups have any right to special favors or programs? Should they be left to fend for themselves\*?
2. Does society gain (or lose) anything by trying to close the gap between the rich and poor?
3. What kinds of programs are most beneficial, or most deserving, in terms of providing relief to low-income or other needy people? (Retirement pensions, subsidized health care or housing, special education for the handicapped, job training, intervention in domestic violence or substance abuse\*, etc.)

## Consumers Tight\* with Their Money

**Reporter:** Consumers are tightening their belts\* as the economy continues to slump\*. What will happen if they continue to resist spending?

**Economist:** Business activity will shrink even more.

**Reporter:** How can we get people to open their wallets again?

**Economist:** I don't know. We must seek professional advice from pickpockets\*.



### QUESTIONS

1. Should governments increase their own indebtedness in order to stimulate\* the economy?
2. Is theft ever excusable\*? To feed a hungry family, for instance?
3. Should we do more to find good jobs for the undereducated or for the ones with advanced degrees?

**overall** : as a whole; in general    **evenly** : with equal amounts or numbers of (sth)    **marginally** : to a small extent or degree; slightly    **cohort** : friend or companion    **confiscatory** : excessive    **tax shelter** : financial arrangement made to avoid or minimize taxes    **play** : use or control (sb/sth) in a clever and unfair way    **handout** : money or goods that are given to (sb), for example because they are poor    **fend for yourself** : do things without help    **substance abuse** : overindulgence in or dependence on an addictive substance, esp. alcohol or drugs

**tight** : not spending money freely    **tighten (sb's) belt** : begin to spend less money    **slump** : undergo a prolonged period of abnormally low economic activity, typically bringing widespread unemployment    **pickpocket** : thief who steals money and other things from people's pockets and purses    **rube** : (sb), usually from the country, who has no experience of other places and thinks in a simple way    **stimulate** : encourage (sth) to develop    **excusable** : easy to forgive



## Points to Ponder

1



Many people don't do anything on time, except buy.

2



Constructive criticism is when I criticize you. Destructive criticism is when you criticize me.

3



Be big enough to admit and admire the abilities of people who are better than you are.

4



Time is what we want the most, and what we use the worst.