

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

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# 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
	<b>Appendix (Openers for Your Discussion!)</b>		<b>164</b>

# 25

Contemporary  
Issues

**E**XPRESS

**Y**OURSELF (2)

**P**ART (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 difference\* 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 contemporary<sup>4</sup> people getting narrower?
3. If we save so much time with gadgets<sup>4</sup> 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?

-contemporary : current; modern

-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<sup>4</sup> through our lives, in search of elusive<sup>4</sup> happiness.

**3.** Actually, money can be a very liberating tool. With it, we can travel, have enough leisure for contemplation,<sup>4</sup> free time to tinker<sup>4</sup> 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.  
→ \_\_\_\_\_