

Unit 2, Tape 1, Review Dialogue

At the entrance to Lauinger Library at Georgetown University, Lǐ Píng (B) encounters Tom (A).

- B: Èi! Tāngmǔ, nǐ hǎo a! Hey! Hi, Tom!
- A: Nǐ hǎo, Lǐ Píng! Lái kàn shū ma? Hi, Lǐ Píng. Did you come here to do some reading?
- B: Chīle wǎnfàn, chūlai zǒuzou, dào túshūguǎn kànkān xīn dào de zázhi. After dinner I went out for a walk and came to the library to read through some of the new magazines.
- A: Nǐ zuì xǐhuande Yīngwén zázhi shì shénme? What's your favorite English magazine?
- B: Ng, Xīnwén Zhōukān. Um, Newsweek.
- A: Wèishenme ne? Why?
- B: Xīnwén Zhōukān hěn hǎo, duì xué Yīngwén hěn yǒu bāngzhu. Newsweek is very good. It's a big help in learning English.
- A: Duì, kàn zhèige zázhi, yìfāng-miàn keyi xué Yīngwén, yìfāng-miàn keyi zhīdao Měiguó shèhuì de qíngkuàng, shì bú cuò. Zhèige xīngqī yǒu shénme yǒu yìside wénzhāng ma? Right. When you read it, you can study English at the same time you learn about conditions in American society; it is good. Are there any interesting articles in it this week?
- B: Yǒu, yǒu yìpiān guānyú nánǚ píngděngde wénzhāng hěn yǒu yìsi. Yes, there's an article about equality of the sexes that's very interesting.
- A: Òu, "nánǚ píngděng"...wǒde nǚpéngyou duì zhèige tímu hěn yǒu yánjiū. Zěnme? Nǐ yě duì zhèige wèntí yǒu xìngqu ma? Oh, "equality of the sexes"...My girl friend is an expert on the subject. Don't tell me--are you interested in that issue too?
- B: Yǒu, wǒ yǒu xìngqu, érqiě xiǎng zhīdao nǐmende kànfǎ. Wǒ keyi wèn jǐge wèntí ma? Yes, I am, and I'd also like to know your views on it. Can I ask a few questions?
- A: Dāngrán, qǐng wèn ba! Sure. What would you like to know?
- B: Zhèipiān wénzhāng shuō, zài hěn duō dìfāng yuè lái yuè liú-xíng nánǚ tóngjū le. E, duì-

*tímu, "subject, topic" (see Unit 5)

- buqǐ...^{*} me...
- A: Méi shenme, nǐ shuōxiāqu. Not at all, go on.
- B: Zhèipiān wénzhāng hái shuō zhèizhōng shì hé fùnǚde dìwei yǒu guānxi. Zhèi yidiǎn wǒ zhēnshì bù dǒng le. Zhōngguó rénde chuántǒng guānniàn shì, fùnǚ méiyǒu jiéhūn, bù yīnggāi hé tāde nán péngyou zhù zài yìqǐ. It also said in the article that this is related to the status of women. I really don't understand that point. The traditional Chinese idea is that a woman should not live with her boyfriend before they get married.
- A: Wǒmende guānniàn bú tài yí-yàng. Yìxiē fùnǚ, tèbié shì zhīshi fùnǚ, tāmen bú yào kào xiānsheng shēnghuó, tāmen yào yǒu dúlìde jīngjì hé shèhuì dìwei. Xiàng wǒde nǚ péngyou, tā jiù yǒu zhèiyàngde kànfǎ. Èrqiě wǒ xiǎng, tóngjūde wèntí hé hěn duō shìqing yǒu guānxi, bù zhǐ shì fùnǚde dìwei wèntí. We have a somewhat different concept. Some women, especially women intellectuals, don't want to depend on their husbands in order to live; they want to have independent economic and social status. Like my girlfriend-- that's the way her view is. But also, I think that living together has to do with a lot of things. It's not just a question of the status of women.
- B: Rúguǒ kéyǐ tán de huà, nǐ gěi wǒ jiǎngjiāng zěnmeyàng? If it's all right to talk about it, would you tell me more?
- A: Hǎo, zhèiyàng ba, wǒ gěi nǐ tántan wǒde shì, nǐ jiù zhīdao wǒmen zěnmeyàng xiǎng le. Wǒde nǚ péngyou, tā shì xué yīde. Xué yī bú shì yíjiàn róngyìde shì. Tā hái yào zài dàxué xuéxí liùnián. Okay, how about this. I'll tell you about my situation, and then you'll know the way we think. My girlfriend is studying medicine. Studying medicine isn't the easiest thing. She still has six more years of university.
- B: Nà nǐmen shénme shíhou jiéhūn ne? Then when are you getting married?
- A: Xiànzài wǒmen hái bù xiǎng jiéhūn. We don't want to get married just yet.
- B: Wèishénme? Nǐmen juéde jiēle hūn, yǒule hái zi huì hěn máfan, shì bu shì? Why not? You think that once you get married and have children it'll be a lot of trouble, right?
- A: Bú shì zhèige yìsi. Jiùshì wǒmen jiéhūnle, yě bù yíding mǎshàng yào hái zi. Zhòngyào de shì wǒmen zhèi yí bèizi yào zuò shénme, hái méiyǒu hǎohāo xiǎng-guó ne, yīnggāi xiān xiǎng nèige That's not the point. Even if we get married, we won't necessarily have children right away. The important thing is that we haven't even thought out well what we want to do in our lives. We should think about

*The reason Lǐ Píng is being so careful here is that he knows Tom and his girlfriend are living together.

wèntí. Èrqiě wǒmen dōu yuànyì zài jiēhūn yǐqián qīngchǔde zhīdao zìjǐ xǐhuande nèige rén shì yíge shénmeyàngde rén. Zhèi yě xūyào shíjiān.

that problem first. What's more, we each want to have a clear idea of of what kind of person the other is before we get married. And that takes time.

B: Kěshi yǒu rén huì juéde nǐmen zhèiyang zuò shì yīnwei nǐmen juéde tóngjū bǐ jiēhūn zìyóu.

But some people will think you are doing this because you feel that living together is freer than marriage.

A: Yǒu rén zhème shuō, kěshi wǒ xiǎng tāmen méi dǒng wǒmende zìyóu shì shénme.

Some people say that, but I don't think they have understood what our freedom is.

B: Shì shénme ne?

What is it, then?

A: Měiguó rén juéde zìjǐ kényì jìhua zìjǐde shēnghuó shì zuì zhòngyàode zìyóu. Rúguo Měiguó méiyǒu zhèizhǒng zìyóu, jiù bú huì yǒu nàme duō rén xiǎng lái Měiguó le, nǐ shuō wǒ shuōde duì bu duì?

Americans feel that to be able to plan their own life is the most important freedom. If America didn't have that kind of freedom, there wouldn't be so many people who want to come here. Don't you think I'm right?

B: Nǐ shuōde yǒu diǎnr dàoli. Òu . . . Wǒ hái wàngle wèn ni, jīnnián xiàtiān, nǐde nǚpéngyou néng péi ni dào Xiānggǎng qu ma?

There's something to what you say. Oh . . . I forgot to ask you something else: Will your girlfriend be able to come with you to Hong Kong this summer?

A: Bù xíng. Tā jìhua dào Déguó qu niàn shū. Shǔjiàde shíhou tā yào zài Déguó zhù sāngē yuè, nà duì tāde Déwén yíding hěn yǒu bāngzhu.

No. She's planning to go to school in Germany. During summer vacation she's going to live in Germany for three months. I'm sure that will help her German a lot.

B: Duì.

That's right.

A: Zěnmeyàng, nǐ duì Xīnwén Zhōukān zhèipiān wénzhāng hái yǒu shénme biéde kànǎ ma?

So what about it, do you have any other opinions about that article in Newsweek?

B: Kànǎ yǒu. Zhèige tímu hěn dà, wǒmen yǐhòu mànman zài tán.

Yes, I have other opinions about it. But it's a big topic. We can talk all about it later.

A: Hǎo, yǐhòu zài tán.

Okay, we'll talk about it later.