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[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/497/2021\\_2022\\_\\_E8\\_AF\\_8D\\_E6\\_B1\\_87\\_E8\\_BE\\_85\\_E5\\_c84\\_497900.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/497/2021_2022__E8_AF_8D_E6_B1_87_E8_BE_85_E5_c84_497900.htm) Unit Four Waiting in Line The British queue up and the Americans wait in line , except for New Yorkers , who wait on line. No one seems to know the reason for this local idiom. It is something to ponder while waiting in/on line. Another thing to ponder : It is estimated that Americans spent up to five years of their lives in that tedious , weary but unavoidable process known as waiting. Studies show that otherwise rational people act irrationally when forced to stand in line or wait in crowds , even becoming violent. Queues are a grim reality of city life. While there seems to be no consensus on the city's worst line , the ones mentioned most often in talks here and there were lunchtime lines at banks and post offices and , among younger people , movie lines and college-registration lines. "Bank lines , " said Mark Sloane , an investor. "No matter what time of day you bank , the number of tellers is inadequate to the number of patrons. Even when the bank is open you see long lines in front of the money machines outside." "Supermarkets , " said Ed Frantz , a graphic artist , who once abandoned a full shopping cart in the middle of a long checkout line. It was not a political act. "The line was filled with coupon clippers and check writers , " he recalled. "And suddenly I had to walk away. Food no longer mattered." In any line the fundamental rule is first come , first served , or what social scientists call "distributive justice." Exceptions may be made , say ,

in fancy restaurants where the headwaiters have their favorites , but , in general , the rule prevails. If misery loves company , so do sports fans. Dr. Leon Mann documented this several years ago when , as a Harvard professor , he studied the long overnight queues for tickets to ball games in his native Australia. "Outside the stadium something of a carnival atmosphere prevails , " he wrote in The American Journal of Sociology. "The devotees sing , sip warm drinks , play cards and huddle together." Like the teams they had come to watch , the fans in line took timeouts. Some worked in shifts , with certain members leaving to take naps or eat meals , while others saved their places in line. Some staked claims in line with items of personal property such as sleeping bags and folding chairs. "During the early hours of waiting , " Dr. Mann noted , "the queues often consisted of one part people to two parts inanimate objects." Nobody has ever seriously studied Helen Quinns Saturday morning line for Metropolitan Opera tickets , but perhaps someone should Miss Quinn is not an official at the Met. For 15 years standees at the opera have been doing just that , thanks to Miss Quins ticketing system. She makes , dates and numbers her tickets one for each of the 175 standing room spots available and dispenses them to early birds. Assured of a place , ticket holders then leave and return shortly before 8 A.M. to line up for the real tickets.

idiom n. 1. 习语, 成语 2. 风格, 特色 ponder v. 思索, 考虑, 沉思 [联想词] contemplate vt. 1. 盘算, 计议 2. 思量, 周密考虑 3. 注视, 凝视 weary a. 1. 疲劳的, 疲倦的 2. 使疲劳的, 令人厌倦的 vi. 厌倦的, 不耐烦 [联想词] tiresome a. 令人疲劳的, 令人厌倦的 grim a. 1. 讨厌的, 糟糕的 2.

严厉的 3.严酷的,无情的consensus n. [单](意见等)一致,一致同意patron n. 1.资助人,赞助人 2.老主顾,顾客resent vt. 对...表示忿恨,怨恨graphic a. 1.生动的,形象的 2.绘画的,文字的,图表的coupon n. 1.礼券,优惠券 2.配券,票证clip n. 1.夹子,回形针,别针 2.弹夹,弹仓 3.剪,修剪 4.剪报,电影片断 vt.(clipped.clipping) 1.夹住,扣住 2.剪,修剪 3.削减,缩短[联想词]clamp n.夹头,夹具,夹钳 vt.(用夹具等)夹紧,固定prevail vi. 1.流行,盛行 2.获胜,占优势 3.说明,劝说,诱使prevalent a.流行的,普遍的misery n. 1.痛苦,苦恼,苦难 2.悲惨的境遇,贫苦carnival n. 1.表演会 2.庆祝,欢宴 3.狂欢节[联想词]feast n. 1.盛宴,筵席 2.节日sociology n. 社会学sip v.(sipped,sippig)小口地喝,抿,呷 n. 小口喝huddle vi. 1.聚集在一起 2.把身子蜷成一团 vt.使聚集在一起n.挤在一起的人,一堆杂乱的东西inanimate a. 1.无生命的,非动物的 2.无生气的,单调的metropolitan a.大城市的,大都会的dispense vt. 1.分配,分发 2.配(药),发(药) 3.实施,执行[联想词]disperse vi. 1.分散,散开 2.消散,消失 vt. 1.使分散,赶散 2.使消散,驱散 100Test 下载频道开通, 各类考试题目直接下载。 详细请访问 [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com)