

2024 年 4 月高等教育自学考试全国统一考试

英语阅读（一）

（课程代码 00595）

注意事项：

1. 本试卷分为两部分，第一部分为选择题，第二部分为非选择题。
2. 应考者必须按试题顺序在答题卡（纸）指定位置上作答，答在试卷上无效。
3. 涂写部分必须使用 2B 铅笔，书写部分必须使用黑色字迹签字笔。

第一部分 选择题

一、仔细阅读理解：本大题共 20 小题，每小题 2 分，共 40 分。仔细阅读下列短文，从每小题给出的 4 个备选项中选出最佳选项，并在答题卡相应位置上将该项涂黑。

Passage 1

阅读下面短文，回答 1~5 小题。

Education is not an end, but a means to an end. In other words, we do not educate children only for the aim of educating them. Our purpose is to fit them for life. Life is varied; so is education. As soon as we realize the fact, we will understand that it is very important to choose a proper system of education.

In some countries with advanced industries, they have free education for all. Under this system, people, no matter whether they are rich or poor, clever or foolish, have a chance to be educated at universities or colleges. They have for some time thought, by free education for all, they can solve all the problems of a society and build a perfect nation. But we can already see that free education for all is not enough. We find in such countries a far larger number of people with university degrees than there are jobs for them to fill. As a result of their degrees, they refuse to do what they think is “low” work. In fact, to work with one’s hands is thought to be dirty and shameful in such countries.

But we have only to think a moment to understand that the work of a completely uneducated farmer is as important as that of a professor. We can live without education, but we should die if none of us grew crops. If no one cleaned our streets and took the rubbish

away from our houses, we should get terrible diseases in our towns. If there were no service people, because everyone was ashamed to do such work, the professors would have to waste much of their time doing house work.

On the other hand, if all the farmers were completely uneducated, their production would remain low. As the population grows larger and larger in the modern world, we should die if we did not have enough food.

In fact, when we say all of us must be educated to fit ourselves for life, it means that all must be educated: firstly, to realize that everyone can do whatever job is suited to his brain and ability; secondly, to understand that all jobs are necessary to society and that it is bad to be ashamed of one’s own work or to look down upon someone else’s; thirdly, to master all the necessary know-how (技能) to do one’s job well. Only such education can be called valuable to society.

1. According to the passage, what is our purpose of educating children?
  - A. To accustom them to varied life.
  - B. To choose a proper system of education.
  - C. To educate them only for the aim of educating them.
  - D. To make them intelligent citizens.
2. The author thought that free education for all is not enough because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. people with degrees fail to solve all the problems of a society
  - B. people with degrees lack necessary skills to do their jobs
  - C. people with degrees consider themselves superior to those working with their hand
  - D. people with degrees look for the jobs with high payment
3. The work of a completely uneducated farmer is as important as a professor because \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. we would live a better life with the farmers’ help
  - B. we would grow crops by ourselves as farmers
  - C. without farmers we would create more physical jobs for educated people
  - D. without farmers we would die of food shortage
4. According to the passage, which of the following statements is **CORRECT**?
  - A. Farmers also need to receive education to increase their production.
  - B. The professors could waste much of their time doing housework.
  - C. We couldn’t live without education.
  - D. Service people feel ashamed of their jobs.

5. Education should be various because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. life is varied
  - B. free education for all is possible
  - C. people have different professional backgrounds
  - D. some jobs are not necessary

### Passage 2

阅读下面短文, 回答 6~10 小题。

American football, not to be confused with the football called soccer, is the American national sport. It developed from the British game of rugby and, although it is played in no other country in the world (except Canada), it excites tremendous enthusiasm.

The method of scoring (计分) in American football is the same as in rugby. Player try to carry the ball over the opponents' line, and then to earn more points by kicking the ball between the upright goal posts above the bar. But that is where the likeness between the two games ends.

American football has a reputation for being a brutal and dangerous game. This reputation is not really deserved. The players hurl themselves at each other fiercely, but today their uniforms and helmets (fitted with visors to protect their faces) are so skillful to protect them that there are few serious injuries. By comparison, the rugby player is almost naked, having only a thin jersey (紧身套衫) and a pair of shorts to protect him from his opponents' boots and tackling (阻截铲球).

The Americans now have a new craze, a game which most other countries call "football", but which they call soccer. Soccer is spreading like wildfire through all the States and gaining in popularity on baseball. It is being run by big business and TV advertisers, who are doing everything they can to sell it to the public. They are employing famous fashion designers to design novel (新奇的) uniforms for the players. They have introduced a musical background to the games, and there is a big screen in the stadium which explains to spectators (观众) what is happening. Most important, they have hired, at enormous expense, famous coaches and players from Europe and South America. They have also changed some of the rules, including the offside (越位) rules to make the game more exciting.

Soccer games can now draw crowds of over 70 thousand in cities where baseball attracts a mere 20 thousand spectators. The soccer stadiums are much more luxurious than the vast majority of European and South American League grounds. There is a seat for everyone and a parking lot for 25 thousand cars. Soccer is being brilliantly promoted, like any other promising American product.

6. According to paragraph 1 of this passage, which of the following statements is **CORRECT**?

- A. American football is no longer played in this world.
- B. American football is played only in America and Canada.
- C. American football is played only in the United States.
- D. American football is played only in Britain.

7. American football and rugby are alike in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the method of playing
- B. the method of scoring
- C. the degree of brutality
- D. the degree of danger

8. American football has become less brutal and dangerous in recent years because \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. it failed to attract more spectators
- B. it is not as famous as before
- C. the football coaches have laid down new rules on this game
- D. the players have equipped with special uniforms and helmets to protect themselves from few serious injuries

9. Big business and TV advertisers are doing everything to "sell" soccer to the public EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. designing novel uniforms for the players by employing famous fashion designers
- B. broadcasting popular soccer games on social websites
- C. changing some of the rules to make the soccer games more excited
- D. introducing a musical background and explaining what is happening in the game on a big screen in the stadium

10. It can be inferred from the passage that \_\_\_\_\_ is a most promising game in America.

- A. the national sport of baseball
- B. British rugby
- C. soccer
- D. American football

### Passage 3

阅读下面短文, 回答 11~15 小题。

English is now the international language for airline pilots, scientists, medical experts, businessmen and many others. Consequently, more and more people are learning it. The BBC's English teaching programmes are broadcast daily to four continents and supplied to radio stations in 120 countries. Films and videos are on the air or used in institutions in over 100 countries. All this helps to add more speakers to the estimated 100 million who used English as a second language. The rush to learn English has reached even China. The main

reason for the upsurge (上升) in interest is recent increase in China's contacts with the outside world.

Unlike many other widely used languages, English can be correctly used in a very simple form with less than one thousand words and very few grammatical rules. This was pointed out in the 1920's by two Cambridge scholars, Ogden and Richards, who devised a system called "Basic English". Another reason for the popularity of English is that English-speaking countries are spread throughout the world. An estimated 310 million people in Britain, the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, South Africa, etc. use English as their mother tongue. Also in former British colonial areas in Africa and Asia where many local languages are spoken, no common language has been found which would make a suitable substitute for English.

In Delhi, although nationalists would prefer to phase out (逐步停止) the use of English, the man from South India finds English more acceptable than Hindi, while the northerner prefers English to any of the southern languages. Turning from India to Africa, a similar problem exists. However reluctant African nations are to use English and, as it were, subject themselves to a kind of "cultural imperialism", there seems to be no alternative language which will do the job of communication effectively.

The view that spreading the use of English is entirely beneficial has its opponents. Some teachers who have returned from overseas consider it creates a wider gap between those who are educated and those who have little or no education. Nevertheless, in many parts of the world, the technical and people's living conditions, is just not available in the mother tongue. A second language opens the door to the worldwide sharing of skills and discoveries in science, engineering and medicine.

As for the future, it seems certain that English in one form or another will be spoken by far more people than it is today. It will doubtless continue to change and develop—as a living language always does.

11. People have become more interested in learning English recently in China because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. China's opening up to the outside world has enhanced.  
B. people in China are interested in English films and videos.  
C. BBC is promoting English teaching programmes.  
D. English is the second official language in China.
12. The international popularity of English is due to the following facts EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. English can be correctly used in a very simple form  
B. English is the local language in many countries  
C. English is promoted by radio stations in more than one hundred countries  
D. English helps people to communicate each other with some words and very few grammatical rules

13. "Basic English" refers to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. English used by non-native speakers  
B. a system of teaching developed in England  
C. the simplicity of the English language  
D. the thousand English words most commonly used
14. Many of the Third World people oppose the use of English in their countries because \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. they consider it a form of cultural imperialism  
B. the English language is not easy to learn  
C. other languages are more beneficial  
D. they hope to remain their local culture
15. According to this passage, what is the author's view of the spread of English?  
A. positive  
B. negative  
C. neutral  
D. impressive

#### Passage 4

阅读下面短文, 回答 16~20 小题。

We have all had to work and do things that we did not especially enjoy. Usually, some chirpy (活泼的) person would tell us to be more enthusiastic. "You'll have more fun," they would say. Well, they were partly right. Being enthusiastic about something means being excited about a given project. Enthusiasm entails having a strong interest in the task at hand. If you decided to learn a new language, which is not easy by any account, you would have to dedicate yourself wholehearted to the cause. Anything less would result in failure.

**What is real enthusiasm?** In your quest for success, enthusiasm means that you believe deeply in what the company is doing. You also believe that your job is important and contributes to the cause. It means that you're willing to work your butt off (努力做某事) to achieve the company's goals. Real enthusiasm is when you leap out of bed in the morning and attack your day with gusto (热忱). You have zeal for the work you do and the people you work with. This pushes you to improve and become a better person. Enthusiasm means that you are stimulated by your work, and are able to find new challenges and keep growing professionally. Furthermore, most jobs have some elements that are less fun and more difficult to carry out. This is where passion really comes into play. When you love what you do, it isn't too difficult to get psyched up and get the job done. The hard part is performing equally well in those less interesting tasks.

**Passion helps you get ahead.** Enthusiasm about a job or project usually translates into positive energy. That is, if you are excited about a project, you will be anxious to get started and get results. The mere fact of looking forward to your work will help make you more productive and effective. You will plan more effectively and pay careful attention to detail. You will carry out your plan more carefully and aim for the best results possible. Another important point is that passionate people are usually those that are thrust into positions of leadership. A leader must have zest if people are to follow him and achieve the corporate mission. A leader must inspire his troops. To inspire them, he needs to exude enthusiasm. In leaders, this translates into charisma (领袖人物的超凡魅力). Being fervent about your work shows a willingness to do more and learn more. This will definitely help you stand out from the crowd and get top management's attention.

**Increasing your enthusiasm.** Most men aren't born great—they become great. Similarly, not everyone is the enthusiastic type that falls in love with their work. However, do not despair; there are ways to become more passionate. One good way to boost your gusto is by reading about successful people, it will help you realize that you too can make it happen. Reading about real success stories often illustrates that people much like yourself have become business leaders. In most cases, they all share one trait: enthusiasm. If you want to succeed, you should be excited about your work, your life and your co-workers.

16. According to the passage, the interpretation of real enthusiasm included the following statements **EXCEPT** \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. showing much interest in the task at hand
  - B. trying to avoid challenges in the project
  - C. going to work with great zeal every morning
  - D. your true belief in the company's aim
17. Enthusiasm about a job or project does **NOT** mean that you \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. will make a plan and implement it effectively
  - B. must overwork everyday
  - C. will become more productive
  - D. will be anxious to get started and obtain the best results possible
18. Why do we need to do our work with enthusiasm?
- A. Because this can help us make a fortune.
  - B. Because this can distinguish us from the rest of the people and become a leader.
  - C. Because our colleagues may appreciate this.
  - D. Because this puts us in a good mood when working.

19. A leader must have zest because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. he wants to show his charisma
  - B. he needs to inspire his men
  - C. he wants to earn more attention
  - D. he needs to survive in his mission
20. What can we infer from the last paragraph of this passage?
- A. Enthusiasm is the common factor of being successful shared by many business leaders.
  - B. Enthusiasm is a born talent that can help us obtain inspirations from other people.
  - C. Reading about successful people can make us love our work at hand.
  - D. Reading about successful people helps us become less excited about life.

二、快速阅读理解：本大题共 10 小题，每小题 1 分，共 10 分。快速阅读下列短文，从每小题给出的 4 个备选项中选出最佳选项，并在答题卡相应位置上将该项涂黑。

### Passage 5

阅读下面短文，回答 21~25 小题。

Annie was born in a poor family, on April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1866. Her mother died when she was eight years old. Two years later, her father disappeared never to be heard from again. Annie and her brother were sent to children's home. There the boy died.

Four years later, she left the children's home and entered an institution for the blind, where she learnt Braille. This is a kind of printing that blind people can read by touching groups of raised points that are printed on paper. Later, an operation helped her to get back part of her sight, but she remained at the institution for six years more. There she studied the teaching of deafblind children.

One day a letter from my father arrived at the school, asking for a teacher for me. Annie considered this was just the kind of demanding job she wanted. That is how Annie came to be with us.

Annie was among the first to realize that blind people never know their hidden strength until they are treated like normal human beings. She never pitied me; she never praised me unless what I did was as good as that of the best of a normal person. And she encouraged me when I made up my mind to go to college.

During my years in school, Annie sat beside me in every class. She spelled out for me the things that the teachers taught. And, because most books were not printed in Braille, she herself read them to me by spelling into my hand what was written in the books.

It took great imagination as well as patience for Annie to teach me to speak. Putting both my hands on her face when she spoke, she let me feel all the movements of her lips and throat.

Together we repeated and repeated words and sentences. My speech was ill-formed and not pleasant to hear. But I was delighted to be able to say words that my family and a few friends could understand. To Annie I owe thanks for this priceless gift of speech. It has helped me to serve others.

My teacher's gifted instruction lived on after her death. She had believed in me. I must always keep on trying to do my best. "No matter what happens," she often said, "keep on beginning. Each time you fail, start all over again. You will grow stronger each time, until you can do and finish what you started out to do." Who could count the times Annie tried, failed, and then succeeded? What a great teacher! What a great person!

21. When was Annie born?  
A. In 1856. B. In 1859.  
C. In 1866. D. In 1869.
22. What is Braille?  
A. It's a kind of printing for blind people.  
B. It's a kind of sign language.  
C. It's a kind of points.  
D. It's a kind of equipment.
23. Where did Annie study the teaching of deafblind children?  
A. In the children's home.  
B. In an institution for blind people.  
C. In a university.  
D. In a training school.
24. How did Annie help me know my hidden strength?  
A. She always praised me.  
B. She often pitied me.  
C. She disagreed on my decision to go to college.  
D. She treated me like a normal girl.
25. How did I feel when I was able to say words that my family and a few friends could understand?  
A. comfortable B. happy  
C. proud D. shy

### Passage 6

阅读下面短文, 回答 26~30 小题。

There was a time in the early history of man when the days had no names! The reason was quite simple: Man had not invented the week.

In those days, the only division of times was the month, and there were too many days in the month for each of them to have a separate name. But when men began to build cities, they wanted to have a special day on which to trade, a market day. Sometimes these market days were fixed at every tenth day, some every seventh or every fifth day. The Babylonians decided that it should be every seventh day. On this day they didn't work, but met for trade or religious festivals.

The Jews followed their example, but kept every seventh day for religious purposes. On this day the week came into existence. It was space between market days. The Jews gave each of the seven days a name, but it was really a number after the Sabbath day(which was Saturday) For example, Wednesday was called the fourth day(four days after Saturday).

When the Egyptians adopted the seven-day week, they named the days after five planets, the sun and the moon. The Romans used the Egyptian names for their days of the week: the day of the sun, of the moon, of the planet Mars, of Mercury, of Jupiter, of Venus, and of Saturn.

We get our names for the days not from the Romans but from the Anglo-Saxons, who called most of the days after their own gods, which roughly the same as the gods of the Romans. The day of the sun became Sannandaeg, or Sunday. The day of the moon was called Monandaeg, or Monday. The day of Mars became the day of the *Tiw*, who was their god of war. This became Tiwesdaeg, or Tuesday. Instead of Mercury's name, that of the god Woden was given to Wednesday. The Roman day of Jupiter, the thunder, became the day of the thunder god Thor, and this became Thursday. The next day was named for Frigg, the wife of their god Odin, and so we have Friday. The day of Saturn became Saeterndaeg, a translation from the Roman, and then Saturday.

A day, by the way, used to be counted as the space between sunrise and sunset. The Romans counted it as from Midnight, and most modern nations use this method.

26. In the early history of man, the days had no names because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. man had no idea of time  
B. man had not invented the week  
C. man had no concept of time  
D. man had no time to figure out names for the days

27. In those days, man divided times only by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the month                      B. the minute  
C. the year                         D. the hour
28. How did the Jews name each of the seven days?
- A. They named each day after the gods.  
B. They named each day for religious purposes.  
C. They gave each day a number after Saturday.  
D. They gave each day a specific name.
29. The Romans named the days after some planets EXCEPT \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Mars                                B. Mercury  
C. Venus                               D. Pluto
30. The Roman day of Jupiter, the thunder, became \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Monday                            B. Tuesday  
C. Wednesday                        D. Thursday

## 第二部分 非选择题

三、完形补文：本大题共 10 小题，每小题 1 分，共 10 分。下面短文选自教材，阅读下面短文，根据短文内容选出能填入空白处的最佳选项（只需用到其中 10 个选项），并将其写在答题卡相应的位置上。

We are now prepared to look briefly at the Constitution itself. What are its leading principles? What are its leading provisions?

First of all, the Constitution is based on the principle of delegation of powers. This means that (31) \_\_\_\_\_. Before it can act in a matter the federal government must find the power to do so in the Constitution. Powers not granted to the United States by the Constitution (32) \_\_\_\_\_. The states thus have powers that the federal government does not have. The federal government, for example, has no power to pass laws regulating marriage and divorce in the states. Each state makes its own laws on these matters.

Next, the Constitution provides for a federal government based on the principle of the separation of powers. It provides for three distinct departments of government: legislative, executive and judicial. All legislative power granted by the Constitution is given to Congress; the executive power is given to the President; and (33) \_\_\_\_\_. The Constitution has many provisions intended to keep each department independent and strong. (34) \_\_\_\_\_. In this way no department can become all-powerful. The President is Commander-in-Chief of the

army and navy, but (35) \_\_\_\_\_. The Supreme Court has power to declare a law passed by Congress and approved by the President unconstitutional and without effect, (36) \_\_\_\_\_, and they may be removed from office by Congress if they do not behave as they should.

The powers granted to the federal government by the Constitution are great enough to make it strong and able to act vigorously in matters relating to the nation as a whole. Congress has the power to levy taxes, maintain an army and navy, declare war, regulate commerce among the states and with foreign nations, admit new states into the Union, and to do many other things. (37) \_\_\_\_\_. The federal courts try all cases arising under the Constitution and under federal laws and treaties. (38) \_\_\_\_\_, the state constitution or law must give way. The United States Constitution and the laws and treaties made under it are the Supreme Law of the Land.

The Constitution is the defender of the rights of the individual. It upholds the principles of (39) \_\_\_\_\_. It provides for a fair trial for persons accused of crimes, and forbids cruel and unusual punishments. It protects the home against unlawful search by authorities. It forbids any state to (40) \_\_\_\_\_.

(From *The Constitution of the United States*)

- A. Each department has ways of exerting some control over the others  
B. nor denied by it to the state are reserved to the states or to the people themselves  
C. If any state constitution or state law is in conflict with the federal Constitution or with any laws or treaties made in accordance with it  
D. but the President appoints Supreme Court justices with the consent of the Senate  
E. The President's powers include the making of treaties with foreign nations with the consent of the Senate  
F. the judicial power is given to the Supreme Court and other federal courts  
G. it provides for a national government that has only those powers granted to it in the Constitution by the people  
H. freedom of religion, freedom of the press, and freedom of speech  
I. all the money for supporting an army and navy must be appropriated by Congress  
J. deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law, or to deny to any person equal protection of the laws  
K. because the colonies had grown stronger and were in less need of British support  
L. The makers of the Constitution had no choice but to continue the dual system of government

四、单词填空：本大题共 10 小题，每小题 1 分，共 10 分。用括号内所给单词的适当形式填空，并将答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

41. (dark) A young voice started to sing in the \_\_\_\_\_.
42. (society) Certain other forms of politeness are observed on \_\_\_\_\_ occasions.
43. (produce) Many resources are consumed in the \_\_\_\_\_ of cars.
44. (wild) Frampton \_\_\_\_\_ seized his hat and stick.
45. (attract) The display in the window was \_\_\_\_\_.
46. (rob) It had been with them when they made their big \_\_\_\_\_ on the Coast.
47. (friend) Neither Rube nor I were married and we soon became very \_\_\_\_\_.
48. (surprise) Swain and Koppel were so \_\_\_\_\_ that they could not say a word.
49. (advantage) It is not \_\_\_\_\_ for individuals to drive everywhere.
50. (major) The \_\_\_\_\_ of his customers came after six p.m.

五、选词填空：本大题共 10 小题，每小题 1 分，共 10 分。下面短文选自教材。根据短文内容，从方框中选择恰当的单词，并用其正确形式填空（只需用到其中 10 个单词），将答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

growing	made	begun	much	into	because
too	stopped	friends	managed	united	purpose

In the late nineteenth century Britain kept out of foreign politics as (51) \_\_\_\_\_ as possible. Europe was divided (52) \_\_\_\_\_ two camps: France and Russia in one, Germany, Austria and Italy in the other. Britain favoured the second group so long as France threatened her interests in Africa and the Russians threatened her Indian border. But Germany was growing (53) \_\_\_\_\_ strong. The various German states had been (54) \_\_\_\_\_ under the King of Prussia after his conquest of France in 1870. He was now Emperor of all Germany. He was Queen Victoria's son-in-law, but his ambitions took no account of such a tie. Britain watched him with (55) \_\_\_\_\_ mistrust.

The Germans already had the best army in Europe. By 1901, when Victoria died, they had (56) \_\_\_\_\_ to build a very large navy, which was not needed to protect their trade. It could only have one (57) \_\_\_\_\_, to fight its British rival. Edward had never shared his mother's faith in the Emperor's goodwill, and Britain now openly made (58) \_\_\_\_\_ with France. She would not make a defence treaty, but she showed that her sympathy would be with the French if the Germans attacked them. Plans were (59) \_\_\_\_\_ for an army of 150 000 men which would be ready to cross the Channel at a moment's notice. When war

came in 1914, this force (60) \_\_\_\_\_ to arrive just in time to save Paris.

(From *The World at War*)

六、简答题：本大题共 2 小题，每小题 5 分，共 10 分。请再次阅读前面第 4 篇短文 (Passage4)，根据短文内容用英文简要回答下列问题，将答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

61. How can we learn a new language with enthusiasm?
62. According to paragraph 2, what are the benefits that we can obtain from real enthusiasm about our work?

七、英译汉：本大题共 5 小题，每小题 2 分，共 10 分。下面短文选自教材。阅读下面短文，将文中划线句子翻译成中文，并将答案写在答题卡相应的位置上。

It was twenty years ago and I was living in Paris. (63) I had a tiny apartment in the Latin Quarter overlooking a cemetery and I was earning barely enough money to keep body and soul together. She had read a book of mine and had written to me about it. (64) I answered, thanking her, and presently I received from her another letter saying that she was passing through Paris and would like to have a chat with me; but her time was limited and the only free moment she had was on the following Thursday; she was spending the morning at the Luxembourg and would I give her a little luncheon at Foyot's afterwards? (65) Foyot's is a restaurant at which the French senators eat and it was so far beyond my means that I had never even thought of going there. But I was flattered and I was too young to have learned to say no to a woman. I had eighty francs (gold francs) to last me the rest of the month, and a modest luncheon should not cost more than fifteen. (66) If I cut out coffee for the next two weeks I could manage well enough.

I answered that I would meet my friend—by correspondence—at Foyot's on Thursday at half past twelve. She was not so young as I expected and in appearance imposing rather than attractive. She was, in fact, a woman of forty, and she gave me the impression of having more teeth, white and large and even, than were necessary for any practical purpose. (67) She was talkative, but since she seemed inclined to talk about me I was prepared to be an attentive listener.

(From *The Luncheon*)