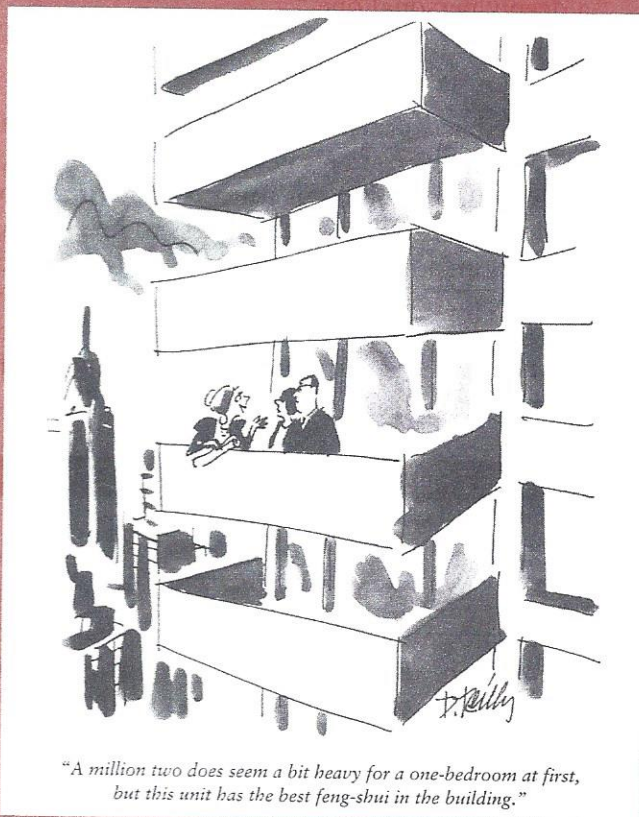


Feng Shui: Ancient Wisdom Travels West



1 Focus on the Topic

A PREDICTING

Look at the cartoon. A New York City real estate agent admits that \$1,200,000 is a very high price for a one-bedroom apartment. However, she suggests that good *feng shui* increases the value a great deal. If you have never heard of feng shui (pronounced fung shway), can you guess what it might be? How might good feng shui increase the value of an apartment?

B SHARING INFORMATION

Working in a small group, read the following quotes that discuss the relationship between people and place (our homes, communities, environment). Paraphrase each quote, and comment on it. What does it mean? How do you feel about it? How does the environment in which you live, study, or work affect you?

“As places around us change—both the communities that shelter us and the larger regions that support them—we all undergo changes inside. This means that whatever we experience in a place is both a serious environmental issue and a deeply personal one.”

—Tony Hiss, *The Experience of Place*

“The basic principle that links our places and states is simple: A good or bad environment promotes good or bad memories, which inspire a good or bad mood, which inclines us toward good or bad behavior. The mere presence of sunlight increases our willingness to help strangers and tip waiters, and people working in a room slowly permeated by the odor of burnt dust lose their appetites, even though they don’t notice the smell. On some level, states and places are internal and external versions of each other.”

—Winifred Gallagher, *The Power of Place*

C PREPARING TO LISTEN**BACKGROUND**

- 1** *Divide into groups of five. Each person should choose one section of the background information. Read your section, taking brief notes on a separate piece of paper. Then close your books, and use your notes to summarize your paragraph for the group.*

Introduction

More and more Western architects, real estate developers, and interior designers are using the principles of feng shui in their life and work. Previously, Westerners dismissed feng shui as mere superstition. Now, however, feng shui is becoming more accepted in the United States and many other countries in Eastern and Western Europe, and Central and South America.

The Meaning of Feng Shui

Feng shui, meaning “wind” and “water” in Chinese, is an ancient form of geomancy, or the art of arranging the physical surroundings to create harmony and good luck. An art and a science, feng shui is concerned with creating both physical and psychological comfort. Practitioners believe that the arrangement of the elements in our environment can affect many aspects of our lives such as health, happiness, and fortune.

The Theory of Feng Shui

The theory behind feng shui is that there is an invisible life force or energy, called *ch'i* (“chee”), that flows through all things—rooms, buildings, people, hills, rivers, power lines. If *ch'i* flows smoothly and freely, then things go well for people. If *ch'i* is blocked, then the people in that space may feel discomfort or unhappiness. Sharp corners, narrow openings, poor lighting, and clutter are some of the many factors that can create blocked or unfavorable *ch'i*. Relying on tools and knowledge that are centuries old, trained feng shui experts give advice on the design and placement of objects in certain ways that promote the flow of *ch'i*. They consider the shape, size, and location of objects as well as materials, colors, and numbers.

The Origin of Feng Shui

Feng shui grew out of the practical experience of farmers in southern China over 3,000 years ago. Those who built their huts facing north were battered by the wind and dust from the Gobi Desert in Mongolia. In contrast, those who built their huts facing south enjoyed the warmth of the sun and protection from the wind. As a result, south became the favored direction. Over the years, south came to be associated with fame, fortune, summer, the color red, and the number nine.

The Spread of Feng Shui

Today the work of feng shui masters is in great demand among Chinese populations in Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and the Philippines. It is estimated that nearly 85 percent of Hong Kong residents apply feng shui principles when choosing an apartment or business. Now the ancient art of feng shui has migrated to the West. In the United States, for example, dozens of books on feng shui are published each year. In New York City, several major buildings have recently been constructed with the advice of a feng shui master. The influence and popularity of feng shui is no doubt the result of an increasing number of Asian immigrants, as well as the result of an ongoing fascination with ancient Eastern practices.

- 2 Working with a partner, decide if each aspect of the environment listed on the chart creates favorable or unfavorable feng shui. Check (✓) your choice, and discuss the reason for your decision.

ASPECTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT	FAVORABLE FENG SHUI	UNFAVORABLE FENG SHUI	REASON
clutter (things piled up in a messy way)			
an aquarium			
plants and flowers			
the colors red and purple			
mirrors			
a desk facing a view			
living near a cemetery			
living on a quiet dead-end street			
an odd number of dining room chairs			
pictures of bats on the walls			

- 3 Discuss the environmental aspects with your partner. Which ones seem like good common sense? Which ones seem like superstitions?

VOCABULARY FOR COMPREHENSION

Read the following sentences. Circle the letter of the word or expression that has the same meaning as the underlined words. Then compare your answers with those of another student.

- Donald Trump, a well-known New York real estate developer, always consults an expert feng shui practitioner. To begin, the expert determines if the building is aligned in relation to the environment and to the principles of feng shui.
 - parallel to other buildings
 - positioned properly

2. The feng shui expert did not get to the point right away. He made digressions. Finally, he returned to the topic.
 - a. talked about another topic
 - b. took a long time
3. Some modern Chinese frown upon feng shui, claiming that it is superstitious and unscientific.
 - a. disapprove of
 - b. get angry about
4. Many feng shui books are filled with anecdotes about people whose lives were changed after implementing feng shui principles.
 - a. personal stories
 - b. folktales
5. Reputed to be a hard-bitten manager—conservative, focused on the bottom line—she reluctantly agreed to attend a lecture on feng shui.
 - a. overly negative
 - b. tough, experienced
6. Feng shui practitioners instruct people not to sit with their backs to the door because they can be caught off guard, and most people don't like to be surprised.
 - a. startled
 - b. hurt
7. For centuries, people have explored the reasons for the success of feng shui. Expert practitioners offer explanations that are both scientific and transcendent.
 - a. within the limits of ordinary experience
 - b. beyond the limits of ordinary experience
8. The feng shui expert told his client that the ch'i was not circulating properly because the staircase was too close to the door. The staircase was blocking movement.
 - a. flowing freely
 - b. blowing
9. According to feng shui, fish in an aquarium symbolize abundance, as in the saying, "There are always more fish in the sea."
 - a. a large quantity
 - b. food
10. Although feng shui is gaining acceptance in the West, there are still many architects and designers who view the practice skeptically.
 - a. with doubt
 - b. with sarcasm
11. A well-known feng shui expert was recently quoted in a major newspaper. She recommends that all schools paint the wall behind the teacher's desk in bright colors. According to feng shui, bright colors will capture students' attention.
 - a. repeated precisely
 - b. mentioned often
12. On entering a room, a geomancer, or feng shui master, can sense immediately if the ch'i is circulating properly.
 - a. analyze and study
 - b. feel and know

2 Focus on Listening

A LISTENING ONE: *Interview with a Feng Shui Expert*

Sedge Thomson, the radio host of *West Coast Live* from San Francisco, interviews Kirsten Lagatree, author of the book *Feng Shui: Arranging Your Home to Change Your Life*. At the end of the interview, Thomson asks Lagatree how favorable feng shui makes you feel.



Working with another student, predict how favorable feng shui might make a person feel. Write your predictions on the lines below. Then listen to an excerpt from the interview to check your answers.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LISTENING FOR MAIN IDEAS



Listen to the interview, and then complete the chart on page 105 by writing a brief explanation of the main idea. Share your answers with a partner.

MAIN IDEA	EXPLANATION OF THE MAIN IDEA
<p>Part One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. definition of feng shui 2. popularity of feng shui in other countries 3. Donald Trump's attitude toward feng shui 4. basic design of Lagatree's home office <p>Part Two</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. role of mirrors 6. Lagatree's overall attitude toward feng shui 7. who can sense good feng shui 	<p><i>System of arranging things around you to create harmony and balance and to make you feel better.</i></p>

LISTENING FOR DETAILS



Read the following questions. Then listen to the interview again, and write short answers. Compare your answers with those of a partner. Complete the questions with as much detail as possible.

Part One

1. Lagatree doesn't think feng shui is a way to keep out evil spirits. Why not?

2. Thomson says that feng shui is very important in Asia. What three examples does he give to support this statement?

3. What two countries make up part of Lagatree's background? How?

4. Why do some Chinese people living in San Francisco ask to have one-way street signs removed?

5. Why didn't Lagatree put her desk facing the window?

6. How does she feel about the impact of feng shui on the design of her home office?

Part Two

7. What two reasons does Lagatree give for not putting mirrors in the bedroom?

8. What three reasons does she give for putting mirrors in other rooms?

9. As a journalist, how did Lagatree feel about feng shui at first?

10. When Lagatree's skeptical friends asked her if she believed in feng shui, how did she respond?

11. You don't have to be a feng shui expert to know if a place has good feng shui. Why not?

REACTING TO THE LISTENING



- 1** *In the interview, Kirsten Lagatree's and Sedge Thomson's opinions and attitudes about feng shui are not readily apparent just from their words; attitudes are also shown in their tones. Listen to the excerpts, paying attention to the speakers' tones and choices of words. Then work in pairs, and discuss the answers.*

Excerpt One

1. Thomson probably feels that feng shui is _____.
2. Lagatree may feel that Thomson's question is _____.

Excerpt Two

3. Lagatree mentions Donald Trump to emphasize that _____.
4. Thomson's quick response, "a famous feng shui expert, as we all know," implies that he thinks Donald Trump is _____.

Excerpt Three

5. Lagatree told her friends, "Don't quote me." She probably said this because _____.

- 2** *Work in a small group, and discuss the answers to these questions.*

1. What is the most interesting thing you have learned so far about feng shui?
2. Would you be interested in applying feng shui principles to make changes in your home? If so, what changes would you like to make? If not, why are you skeptical?
3. Does feng shui remind you of any practices from other cultures? Which ones?
4. What do you suppose leads Westerners to adopt Eastern practices, such as yoga, feng shui, and so on? Does a traditional Eastern practice change when it becomes Westernized? In what ways?

B LISTENING TWO: Feng Shui in the Newsroom

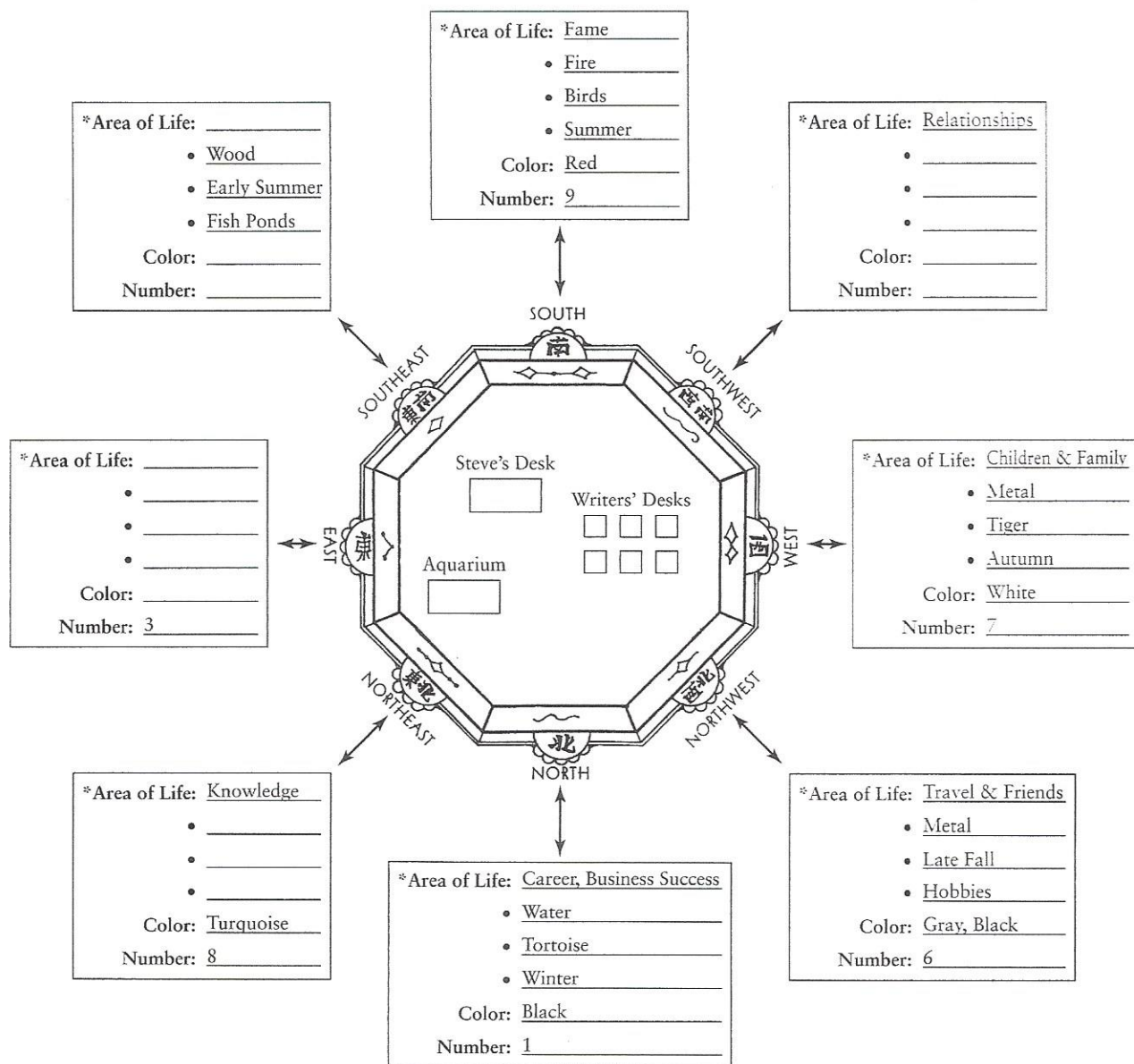
First, look at the bagua chart on page 108. It is an octagonal grid used in feng shui to determine which parts of the house or room relate to various areas of one's life. The feng shui master places the bagua over the floorplan of the room or house to see how to arrange the areas to promote the flow of "good ch'i." The bagua chart is used like a compass. Unlike Western compasses, in this Chinese compass, south is placed on the top, the most important direction. The components of the bagua include: five basic elements (fire, earth, water, metal, and wood), colors of nature, numbers, animals, and areas of life (health, wealth, relationships, wisdom, business, and so on).

Lagatree visits a radio newsroom to record this interview. She suggests changes in the newsroom based on feng shui principles.



Listen to the interview with host Steve Scher. Then listen again, and fill in the missing information on the bagua chart. Also, draw arrows from the desks (both Steve Scher's and the news writers') and the aquarium to where Lagatree suggests placing them.

Bagua Chart



C LINKING LISTENINGS ONE AND TWO

Follow the steps below to apply the feng shui principles you studied in the listenings.

- Step 1:** Choose a space (a room in your house, your office, your classroom) to redesign according to feng shui principles. Draw the space on a sheet of paper. Include as many details as possible.
- Step 2:** Review the principles of feng shui you have learned so far in this unit. Use the bagua chart on page 108. Working with a partner, discuss your drawing, and brainstorm changes that you'd like to make according to feng shui principles. Draw the new plan on another piece of paper.
- Step 3:** Implement the changes in your "real life." Draw the new space, and present the results to the class. Describe the space before and after. Describe any other life changes that may have occurred.

3 Focus on Vocabulary

- 1** Work with a partner. Take the role of Kirsten Lagatree (the author) or Donald Trump (the famous New York City real estate developer). Complete the imaginary interview with the appropriate forms of the words from the box below. Then read the interview aloud, with drama, interest, and expression.

align	hard-bitten	make a move	scare the heck out of
can't hurt	huge	peppy	sharp
clean	in the midst of	quote	talk [someone] into
get into	keep out	rise or fall	work around

LAGATREE: Mr. Trump, ever since I heard you _____ feng shui, as
 1. (became interested in)
 a journalist, I've been dying to meet you. I often _____
 2. (repeat)
 you when I do interviews or speak on book tours.

TRUMP: Kirsten, the pleasure is mine. I've read your handbook on feng shui
 and have always thought you were a _____,
 3. (quick, smart)
 intelligent writer.

LAGATREE: Why, thank you, Mr. Trump. Now, I understand that you absolutely
 do not _____ in business without consulting your
 4. (take action)
 feng shui master, Mr. Tin Sun. Is that true?

TRUMP: Absolutely. I am currently _____ complicated
5. (involved in)
 negotiations involving some highly valued property on the Hudson
 River in New York City. However, Master Sun has informed me that
 the windows and doors are not _____ properly and
6. (positioned)
 the views are not that great. I thought about selling the property, but
 Master Sun _____ me _____ keeping
7. (convinced)
 it. He said it is very valuable and, by applying feng shui principles,
 we can easily _____ the problems. Fortunately, the
8. (compensate for)
 overall design of the building is _____.
9. (simple)

LAGATREE: How did such a _____ businessman like yourself get
10. (tough, experienced)
 into feng shui?

TRUMP: I've been doing business in Asia for years and am well aware of the
 fact that feng shui is _____ there. In Hong Kong, you
11. (very popular)
 know, business deals _____ on feng shui.
12. (succeed or fail)

LAGATREE: Have you used feng shui in your home as well?

TRUMP: Yes, Kirsten, I have. Master Sun started working on my house
 five years ago. I must admit that when he first came over, he
 _____ me. He connected many of my personal and
13. (frightened)
 physical problems to the poor circulation of ch'i in my house. After
 many adjustments and a great deal of money, I was finally able to
 _____ the unfavorable ch'i.
14. (prevent from entering)

LAGATREE: I'm sure. I know there are many skeptics out there. However, I do
 believe that if you live in a house with good feng shui, you feel
 _____ and more energetic.
15. (livelier)

TRUMP: Of course. Anyway, I always tell those hard-bitten businessmen who
 tease me, "Try feng shui. It _____."
16. (can do no harm)

2 *Work with a partner.*

Student A: Cover the right column. Ask questions 1 through 5.

Student B: Cover the left column. Answer each question, using the key word or expression in parentheses. Then switch roles after question 5.

Student A

1. After learning about feng shui, how would you talk a skeptic into using it?
2. Do you really believe that feng shui can affect people's moods and feelings?
3. What other Eastern practices would you be interested in getting into?
4. What is your favorite way of keeping out unfavorable ch'i?
5. Why do you think feng shui has become so popular recently?

Now switch roles.

6. Do you prefer simple, clean designs or more complicated, cluttered arrangements?
7. What kind of ch'i did you sense when you first walked into your current home?
8. Can you describe a place you know with good feng shui?
9. If your classroom had poor lighting and immovable desks that faced the wall, what would you do to create good feng shui?

Student B

1. I guess . . . (couldn't hurt)
*I guess I'd say that it's been around for thousands of years, so it must work. At the very least, it **couldn't hurt**.*
2. Hmmm . . . (sharp, peppy)
3. Perhaps . . . (get into)
4. Let me see . . . I think . . . (keep out)
5. I imagine it . . . (huge) . . .
6. Actually, I think . . . (clean)
7. I'm not sure I remember, but . . . (sense)
8. Sure, I felt like I was . . . (in the midst of) good feng shui when I . . .
9. Wow. That's a tough one. I guess . . . (work around) . . .

4 Focus on Speaking

A PRONUNCIATION: Reductions with the Auxiliary *have*



Listen to the following statements. Then read the explanation.

- And I was going to put my desk facing out the window, and . . . uh . . . but I would have had my back to the door . . .
- I've got a better floor plan than I would have figured out for myself.

In spoken English, the auxiliary **have** is reduced when used with **could, might, must, should,** and **would** in the unreal conditional tense as well as in modal perfect forms. It is pronounced /əv/, like the preposition *of*, and joins to the preceding word. The main verb is stressed.



Listen to these modal perfects:

- could have done, would have done, should have done, might have done, must have done
- couldn't have done, wouldn't have done, shouldn't have done, mustn't have done



1 Read and listen to the story told by a feng shui master. As you listen, fill in the verbs in the blanks. Listen again, and put a stress mark (ˈ) over the stressed word in the verb phrase. Make a line through the **h** of **have**, and join it to the preceding word. Use () to join the words. With a partner, practice pronouncing the sentences using the reduced form.

KUNG FU MASTER MEETS FENG SHUI DISASTER

Listen to my tale of a true tragedy that occurred in Hong Kong several years ago. Most people say Bruce Lee, the famous kung fu actor, (1) shouldn't have bought the house in the valley. The wind in the valley can destroy the ch'i. People didn't understand why he chose that particular area, since the wealthy actor (2) _____ anywhere in Hong Kong. Rumor has it, though, that in order to change his feng shui, he put a mirror on a tree in the backyard. This (3) _____ if there hadn't been an accident. The tree was destroyed in a storm, and he never replaced the tree or the mirror. If he had, most people say that he (4) _____. It is said

that the unfavorable feng shui (5) _____ his death. Replacing the tree and the mirror immediately (6) _____ his life.

2 Work with a partner.

Student A: Cover the right column. Make the statement, or ask Student B the question.

*Student B: Cover the left column. Respond to your partner using **would've, should've, could've, might've, must've**, or their negative forms. Use the appropriate forms of the words. Then switch roles after question 6.*

Student A

1. Kirsten Lagatree's interview was too long.
2. How do you think Lagatree felt when her friends questioned her interest in feng shui?
3. Thomson jumped when Lagatree entered the room.
4. I heard Thomson recently got married.
5. Do you think Lagatree consulted feng shui experts to help her write her book?
6. Do you think Thomson read Lagatree's book before interviewing her?

Now switch roles.

7. So, your sister lost 35 pounds last year on a diet of only brown rice, corn, oats, wheat, and barley. What diet was that?
8. Guess what: I tried acupuncture to help my leg heal, and it really worked.
9. What martial art were those people practicing on the grass in Central Park?
10. Did your doctor really get a license to practice acupuncture?
11. Did your sister really hire a feng shui master to decorate her house?

Student B

1. Uh-huh, I think so too. She should/not/digress.
Uh huh. I think so too. She shouldn't have digressed.
2. Hmmm . . . I'm not sure, but she must/be/embarrassed.
3. Hmmm . . . I know. His desk could/be facing/the wrong direction.
4. Uh-huh . . . right after he learned about feng shui. He must/move/his bed/to the southwest corner.
5. Absolutely! She must _____. Her book is filled with interesting anecdotes.
6. Let's see . . . No, he could _____. He knew nothing about feng shui.
7. I'm not really sure . . . it could/be/a macrobiotic diet. It's nicknamed "feng shui for the body."
8. Sure. I told you it would work. You should/try it earlier.
9. I have no clue. I didn't see them, but it might/be tai chi. Tai chi practitioners believe it helps to circulate ch'i throughout the body.
10. Well, I don't really know. He might _____. I heard he had spent two years in China studying acupuncture.
11. Uh-huh! She must _____. There are wind chimes, mirrors, and aquariums everywhere.

B GRAMMAR: Spoken Discourse Connectors

- 1 Working with a partner, examine this excerpt from Listening One, and discuss the questions that follow.

Before Sedge Thomson invited Kirsten Lagatree to be interviewed on *West Coast Live*, he asked his researcher, Robin Tennenbaum, about her qualifications.

THOMSON: Is Kirsten Lagatree a feng shui master?

TENNENBAUM: Well, Sedge, she doesn't claim to be a feng shui master. I mean, she hasn't studied in China or anything. But, she has done a great deal of research, especially on the spread of feng shui in the United States. On top of that, she's written a well-respected book on the subject, which has led to a number of positive book reviews and successful radio interviews. As a result, she's become known as somewhat of an expert on feng shui.

1. What purpose does each of the underlined phrases serve? Name all three.
2. What other words could substitute for them?

Spoken Discourse Connectors

Discourse connectors are words and expressions that can connect ideas in speaking and writing. They join ideas both within sentences and between sentences. In written English, we use formal connectors—***In contrast, moreover, furthermore, consequently, therefore***—to express the meaning of contrast, addition, and result. In spoken English, we use more informal connectors to express the same meaning.

Contrast (unexpected result)	Addition	Result
but	plus	so
however	in addition	as a result
on the other hand	on top of that	

- 2 Fill in the blanks in the story with the appropriate discourse connectors from the box above. There may be more than one correct answer. Then read the story aloud with drama, interest, and expression.

A feng shui master told this story:

One client told me that her business was doing very poorly and she needed to take some action. (1) _____, she was eager to revive her social life as well. (2) _____, she hired me and I spent several hours

assessing her home. At first glance, I sensed that the ch'i was flowing smoothly throughout the house. (3) _____, a few minutes later, I did notice an old armchair in her living room blocking the front door. I asked her where she had bought it. She told me it was from the set of a movie about a dangerous killer. (4) _____, she mentioned that she had only had the chair for about four months, and that this was the time when her business and social life began to fail. It was clear to me that the chair had negative energy, which was related to her bad luck. (5) _____, we moved the chair outside immediately. As soon as we did, the telephone rang. It was a friend asking her on a date. (6) _____, one month later, her business took off. (7) _____, she now understands the importance of bringing objects with only positive ch i into the house.

3 Working with a partner, take turns reading the following statements aloud. Select a discourse connector for the meaning given, and make additional statements.

1. Feng shui is an Eastern practice. [contrast]
But, it's becoming very popular in the West. In particular, Western corporations are using feng shui in business.
2. Some people say feng shui is just a superstition. [addition]
3. Placing a plant in a corner can help positive ch'i circulate. [result]
4. Many real estate developers in Western countries are consulting feng shui experts. [result]
5. In Hong Kong, feng shui is taken quite seriously. [contrast]
6. To create positive ch'i, you can put an aquarium in the southeast corner of the room. [addition]

C STYLE: Emphasizing a Point

When speaking informally to a skeptical listener, English speakers may use an emphatic speaking style. In Listening One, for example, Kirsten Lagatree knows that Sedge Thomson and many listeners may be skeptical of feng shui. As a result, she emphasizes her point by using certain expressions such as *boy* and *would no more do [this] than [that]*, and by using emphatic intonation.



Listen to the examples, and read the examples below as you listen. Then look at the explanation and examples in the box below before you do the second exercise.

- “Well, I wouldn’t say to keep out evil spirits. But I would say it’s a system of arranging all the objects around you at home or at work.”
- “He would no more start working on a building project without a feng shui master than he would without, you know, if it was L.A., without a seismologist.”
- “The new Regency Hotel in Singapore just opened with two beautiful fountains in the lobby. Talk about great feng shui! The hotel is booked solid for the next two months!”
- “Now, based on just simple things I’ve done, and also lots and lots of people I talked to for the book, I’d have to say it works . . . and at the very least it couldn’t hurt.”
- “We can’t see it, but boy is it there doing things.”

Expression	Explanation	Example
Boy ...	used as an exclamation followed by an inversion, auxiliary then main verb	<i>Boy, did Bruce Lee have bad luck!</i>
I wouldn’t say ..., but I would say ...	used to clarify the meaning	<i>I wouldn’t say feng shui is huge in the United States, but I would say it’s becoming popular.</i>
... would no more ... than ...	followed by something obviously unreasonable	<i>I would no more hire a feng shui expert to design my house than I would hire a palm reader to predict my future.</i>
Talk about ...	followed by an explanation	<i>Talk about a perfect location! The house was surrounded by lovely streams and beautiful gardens.</i>
I’d have to say ...	used to emphasize a strong point	<i>Well, since I moved my desk to the northeast corner, I’d have to say my writing has improved.</i>

2 *Work with a partner.*

Student A: Ask the question or make the comment.

Student B: Cover the left column. Respond emphatically or skeptically. Use an expression from the box on page 116 and appropriate intonation. Add further comments. Then switch roles after question 5.

Student A

1. You really hired a feng shui expert to boost profits? Did it work?
2. How about hiring a professional "Clutter Consultant" to clean the clutter out of your house? A trained professional will clear the "stuck energy" in your house and bring you instant luck.
3. Listen to this! You won't believe it! A Chinese American millionaire paid a feng shui expert \$50,000 to advise him on the alignment of his building.
4. I think feng shui practitioners are nothing more than superstitious fortune tellers with a compass.
5. Don't you think that feng shui is really more than just putting up mirrors or hanging wind chimes?

Now switch roles.

6. My friend Michael had robberies in his apartment. Then he used a feng shui expert, who advised him to set up an aquarium. He's had no robberies since.
7. Another friend added flowers, wind chimes, crystals, and mirrors in his house. Two days later, he got the biggest promotion of his life.
8. Would you buy a house near a cemetery?
9. What do you think of other Eastern practices like tai chi, macrobiotic diets, and so on?
10. Feng shui is just a passing fad in the West now. It'll fade in a few years.

Student B

1. Boy, did it! Profits are up 100 percent.
2. Are you kidding! I would no more hire a professional "Clutter Consultant" than I would _____ (add something unreasonable).
3. Talk about _____ (add an explanation)!
4. Well, I wouldn't say _____, but I would say _____.
5. Absolutely! I'd have to say _____.
6. That's amazing! Talk about _____, (add an explanation), but I don't think feng shui had anything to do with it.
7. Boy, _____ (use an inversion).
8. No, I would no more _____ than _____.
9. Well, I'd have to say _____.
10. I wouldn't say _____, but I would say _____.

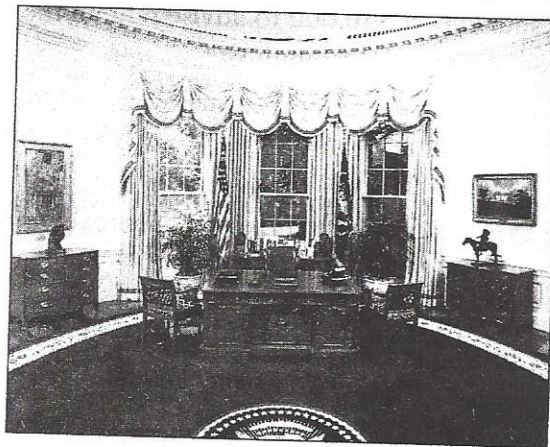
D SPEAKING TOPIC

Read this fictional article and do the activity that follows.

President Back from Hong Kong Plans to Implement Feng Shui in White House *First Lady Outraged!!*

Once again, there is trouble in the White House. The President is frustrated by his low approval ratings, rumors of scandals, and high staff turnover. As a result, he is choosing a radical approach: FENG SHUI. Back from a three-week Asian tour, the President has decided that redesigning the White House according to the principles of feng shui is just the thing he needs to rid the country of its recent problems, improve his relationships with his staff, and make his family life more harmonious. However, it is rumored that the First Lady is outraged by this suggestion and will do everything in her power to fight the changes.

What inspired him? After visiting many buildings in Hong Kong, the President became convinced that feng shui could be the key to creating peace and harmony at home and throughout the nation. His idea was to redesign both the public display and private living areas according to feng shui principles. Right away, he observed that the circulation of ch'i in the Lincoln Bedroom and the Oval Office could be vastly improved. On a philosophical level, he sees the United States as a country full of multicultural influences and would like



the White House to be a showplace celebrating this very multiculturalism.

In contrast, the First Lady envisions the White House as the symbol of American history, taste, and tradition. She wants to continue the work started by Jacqueline Kennedy, who filled the nation's first home with antiques and crafts representing different periods in American history. To the First Lady, feng shui has nothing to do with traditional American interior decorating. Moreover, she does not see any relationship between moving a desk or hanging a few crystals and solving the country's domestic problems.

1. Divide into two groups:
 - the President and his advisers
 - the First Lady and her advisers
2. Using the information in the news article, outline the arguments for each side.
3. Conduct the meeting in which both groups present their opinions. Use discourse connectors presented on page 114 and the emphatic style expressions presented on page 116.
4. Decide how the president will handle the feng shui incident.
5. Express your own opinion on the matter. Write a summary for the White House Press Secretary, who will then make a formal public announcement.

E RESEARCH TOPICS

EXPLORING OTHER ANCIENT TRADITIONS THAT HAVE TRAVELED WEST

Besides feng shui, other traditional Eastern practices have become popular in the West. Examples are tai chi, yoga, reiki, shiatsu massage, karate, and tae kwon do.

1. Conduct an interview. Try to find someone who practices one of these arts. Look for either a professional or an amateur. Ask friends or neighbors, or look in the telephone book or business directory.
2. Work with a partner. Brainstorm a list of questions that you would like to ask the practitioner. For example:
 - How did you get into this practice?
 - How and why did this art become popular in the West?
 - How is it practiced differently here?
3. Conduct the interview, and take notes.
4. Report your findings to the class.

WEB RESEARCH

In the past few years, the popularity of feng shui has skyrocketed all over the world. Many people are studying feng shui and applying its principles in order to improve their lives. However, some people think these principles are being exploited for commercial reasons. For example, a cosmetics company recently launched a new line of makeup called “feng shui makeup.” Company representatives claim that this new makeup contains the right “feng shui” balance of colors and texture to guide the user through a smooth or rocky passage as her face ages.

You can find many of these kinds of products on the Internet. Do research on the Web to find the most unusual applications of feng shui. What is your opinion of them? Take notes, and report your findings and opinions to the class.



For Unit 5 Internet activities, visit the NorthStar Companion Website at <http://www.longman.com/northstar>.