



Unit 6

The etiquette in Funeral Ceremony

Part 1 Lead-in Exercises

Vocabulary building: Match the Chinese words on the left column with their appropriate English expressions on the right.

1. 国葬

2. 献花圈仪式

3. 向遗体告别

4. 追思礼拜

5. 墓地

6. 挽歌, 哀乐

7. 吊唁, 慰问

8. 棺材

9. 公墓

10. 逝者, 亡人

1. cemetery

2. Memorial service

3. condolence

4. dirge

5. Wreath laying ceremony

6. Departed saint

7. Final rest place

8. coffin

9. To pay final respect

10. State funeral



Part 2 Funeral Etiquette

The funeral serves several purposes

To commemorate the life of the deceased.

To offer emotional support to the bereaved.

To offer an opportunity for friends and family to pay tribute to their loved one.

To help the family come to terms with the fact that a death has occurred.

There's certain etiquette to be followed when someone passes away. It's best to know what is expected to avoid acting in an inappropriate manner.

1. Paying a Visit

Upon learning of a passing, it's proper to pay your respects to the grieving family in the form of a visit, offering sympathy and asking if you can help.

At home

At the funeral home

Generally, people prefer to visit the latter, because that setting may be more comfortable for guests and the family, as they are prepared for visitors.

The visit doesn't have to last long. 15 to 30 minutes or so is just enough to express sympathy and let the family know you care.

2. Expressing Sympathy

Brief, simple expressions of sympathy are usually the best. While most people find themselves at a loss for words, the family will appreciate a sincere expression of condolence-however brief.

I'm sorry.

I'm so sorry to hear of your loss.

I always regarded ... as a good friend.

...will be missed by everyone.

Let me know if there is anything I can do to help.

If the family want to talk about the deceased, lend an ear and a few minutes of your time. Share your memories of the deceased.

3. Offering Help

Sudden, or tragic deaths, may be so emotionally draining, your thoughtful gestures are valuable and will be long remembered and appreciated.

What help you can offer?

You can help with childcare, or food gifts, or picking up out-of-town relatives, or just running some errands.

4. Dressing Properly

The basic rule remains that the dress should be black. Nevertheless, you can add a few variations depending on the prevalent style and your relationship with the deceased.

Women

She should always stick to the traditional style. The best is a black suit where both trousers and skirt can be used.

Be particular about not wearing open-toe shoes at a funeral ceremony. If you plan to wear a hat, it would be one with very wide brim and always black.

Men

Men, too, will have to follow the basic funeral dress code. It is expected of men to wear black suit and white shirt with a plain black tie. For footwear, men should wear black socks and black shoes. Avoid sneakers at all costs. Because they will look loud and disrespectful among the sea of black dresses usually found at the funerals.

5. Mourning at the Funeral

The funeral is held according to the family's choice which may be a few days after the time of death, allowing family members to attend the service.

A member of the clergy will probably conduct the ceremony, but it isn't at all uncommon for friends and family to say a few words about the deceased or read poems or even sing a song, which details happy memories and accomplishments,


Sometimes the delivering of the eulogy is done by the clergy. Church bells may be tolled both before and after the service.

6. Other Means to Express Sympathy

If you can not attend the funeral, there are many other ways to express the sympathy.

E-mail: it is appropriate from those who are not intimate with the family such as a business associate or a former neighbor.

Phone Calls: If you live out-of-town, you should telephone as soon as possible to offer your sympathy. Keep the call brief, since others will probably be trying to call as well.



Flowers: Flowers can be a great comfort to the family and may be sent to the funeral home or to the residence. When ordering flowers, it is important to have an appropriate selection—certain flowers (particularly chrysanthemums or white lilies) are given specially at funerals.

Food for the Family: The most welcome gift at this time is food. During the days immediately following the death, substantial dishes that require little preparation other than reheating are appropriate.

Memorial Gifts: A memorial gift is always appropriate. Usually the family will designate a specific organization or charity. Remember to provide the family's name and address to the charity so they can send proper notification.

Sympathy Card: Sending a card of sympathy, even if the deceased is only an acquaintance, is good practice and is meaningful to the family.





Thank you!

