

Listening Comprehension

Part

Section A

News Report One

Kelly Swisher, an Arkansas woman, escaped injury and managed to safely stop her car after a four-foot long rat snake came out from under her car seat and slithered across her feet as she was driving down the highway. Rat snakes aren't poisonous or a threat to people generally. But the woman says the snake she encountered Thursday terrified her out of her wits. "It was rough with big scales," said Swisher, who was on her way to pick up her friend at the airport when it happened. "I don't know whether I had my hands on the steering wheel or not. I am not the most flexible person in the world, but I can guarantee my knees were up next to my ears." She said the snake first slipped back under the seat and she hoped it would stay there until she was able to get out of the highway and stop. "That didn't work out," she said. "Here he comes, and he wound up in my back seat before I could finally get off the road, stop and get out of the car." She called for help and Washington County animal control officers came and captured the snake.

阿肯色州一位名叫凯利·史伟莎的女性开车行驶在高速公路上时，一条四英尺长的食鼠蛇从车座下方钻出来，蜿蜒爬到她的脚上，后来她设法安全地把车停下来，并且没有让自己受伤。食鼠蛇通常是无毒的，也不会威胁到人类。但是，史伟莎说她周四遇到的那条蛇把她吓得魂飞魄散。“它的鳞片很大，全身粗糙不平。”史伟莎说道，她是在去机场接朋友的路上遇到的这件事。“我不知道当时我的手是否放在了方向盘上。我绝不是身体特别灵活的人，但当时（我害怕得）膝盖抬高得都快跟耳朵贴在一起了。”她说那条蛇一开始从座位下爬向了后方，她希望它可以一直在那里待着，让她可以从高速上下来并停车。“然而事情并非如我所愿，”她说道。“‘它’还是来了，我还没有下高速停车并从车上下下来，它就爬到我的车后座上。”她打电话求助，华盛顿郡动物控制中心的人员到了，抓住了那条蛇。

1. How did Kelly Swisher feel when she first came across the rat snake?

当凯利·史伟莎看到食鼠蛇的时候是什么感觉？

2. What does the report say about the snake?

关于那条蛇，新闻说了什么？

News Report Two

Fast food, it turns out, isn't quite as fast as it used to be. A new study finds that McDonald's posted its slowest drive-through times since this survey was first conducted 15 years ago.

At McDonald's, customers will spend on average 3 minutes and 9 seconds from the time they place their orders until they receive their food. That's about 10 seconds more than the industry average—and a lot slower than a decade ago, according to the study, which was commissioned by QSR, an industry trade publication.

And McDonald's wasn't alone in slowing down: Other chains also saw their drive-through performance slow down.

Among the reasons for the slower service: Today there are more choices on the menu, and the products themselves are more complex and take longer to prepare.

Speed, of course, is essential to the drive-through experience, and drive-throughs are hugely important to chains such as McDonald's, Burger King and Taco Bell.

"Usually the drive-through accounts for 60 to 70 percent of all business that goes through a fast-food restaurant," notes Sam Oches, editor of QSR.

Of course, consumers also want their orders prepared correctly and on that score, Oches says, "accuracy is still really high."

事实表明，快餐行业的速度并不像过去那么快了。一项新的研究发现，自从 15 年前首次进行这项调查以来，麦当劳发布了其最慢的“免下车取餐”服务时间。在麦当劳，从下单到取餐，顾客需要等待的平均时间为 3 分 9 秒。一家行业贸易刊物所做的调查显示，麦当劳的上餐时间比行业的平均服务水平多了大约 10 秒——比 10 年前慢多了。

服务速度变慢的并不只有麦当劳：其他（快餐）连锁店的“免下车取餐”服务速度也变慢了。

服务速度变慢的原因如下：如今菜单上有更多食品可供选择；食品本身变得更加复杂，需要更长的时间去准备。

当然，速度对于“免下车取餐”体验非常重要，而“免下车取餐”服务对于诸如麦当劳、汉堡王和塔可钟等快餐连锁店至关重要。

“一般来说，‘免下车取餐’占整个快餐店所有营业额的 60%-70%。”QSR 的编辑萨姆·奥其斯写道。

奥其斯称，消费者当然还想让快餐店别弄错自己的订单，在这个问题上，快餐店的“准确率依然是非常高的”。

3. What is the news report mainly about?

本篇新闻主要报道了什么？

4. What has slowed down McDonald's drive-through service?

什么使麦当劳的“免下车取餐”服务速度变慢？

News Report Three

The first private mission outside of Earth's orbit is closer than many of us think. U.S. government officials are set to approve a mission by privately-held space company Moon Express to travel outside of Earth's orbit in late 2017. Moon Express's mission involves plans to land a suitcase-sized package of scientific equipment on the moon for ongoing exploration and commercial development. The decision involved months of lobbying and coordinated conversations between a number of federal agencies. Under international treaties, the U.S. is responsible for the cargo of both public and private spacecraft. This makes commercial space travel a complex legal issue not just domestically, but abroad. A Moon Express representative declined to comment on the story, but noted that the company is very optimistic about its proposal. Moon Express is not the only company seeking for the right to travel to outer space. Elon Musk's Space X aims to send an unmanned aircraft to Mars by 2018.

首次私人探索地球外太空之旅越来越近，超出了我们当中很多人的想象。美国政府官员准备批准私营航天企业 Moon Express 申请的一项任务——2017 年末实现外太空之旅。

Moon Express 的任务是计划让一个手提箱大小的科学设备着陆月球，以进行持续探索和商业开发。

这个决定涉及为期数月的游说以及在许多联邦机构之间不断进行协调沟通。根据国际条约，美国负责公共宇宙飞船和私人宇宙飞船的载货量。这使得商业太空旅游成为国内外复杂的法律问题。

针对此事，Moon Express 的一名代表拒绝发表评论，但这名代表指出公司对这项提议保持非常乐观的态度。

Moon Express 并不是唯一一家申请外太空旅游权利的公司。埃隆·马斯克的 Space X 的目标是到 2018 年之前向火星发射无人驾驶飞机。

5. What is the news report mainly about?

本新闻主要报道了什么？

6. What is Moon Express planning to do?

Moon Express 计划做什么？

7. What does Moon Express think of its mission?

Moon Express 对它的（太空）任务持有什么态度？

Section B

Conversation One

M: Hey, Sophia, how are you doing?

W: Hi, Bob. I'm good, thanks. Actually, I'm on holiday with my family in Thailand at the moment, although I wish it were with my friends instead.

M: Real? You never said you are going to Thailand. How I envy you!

W: I've only been here a week.. but you know, Thailand's an amazing place. I'm having a great time here. In fact, I'm now lying on the beach in Phuket. I've been in the sun for around 15 minutes only, and I'm already getting sun burnt. Have you been here before?

M: No, I wish I had. What else have you been doing in Thailand besides enjoying the sun?

W: Well, I met a guy from Germany yesterday. He showed me around the orphanage he works at. There, I met many volunteer teachers who are mainly young people from Europe.

M: Ah, that's interesting.

W: Yes. I also made a new little friend, Sarah. She was so cute. I was so sad when I had to leave at the end of the day. If I ever come back to Thailand, I'd definitely visit this place again, as a volunteer.

M: Well, you can tell me all about it when you get back. My phone battery is almost dead now. Remember to get something from the souvenir shops. I like to collect bits and pieces from different parts of the world. Bye now, enjoy yourself, Sophia

W: Bye.

男：你好，索菲亚，最近怎么样？

女：你好，鲍勃，我一切都好，谢谢问候。我现在实际上跟我的家人在泰国度假，尽管我更希望是跟我的朋友一起来的。

男：真的吗？从没听你说过你要去泰国。真羡慕你！

女：我才在这里待一周，但是你知道的，泰国是个神奇的地方。我在这里度过了愉快的时光。事实上，我现在正躺在普吉岛的海滩上呢。我只是在太阳下待了 15 分钟左右，就已经被晒伤了。你以前来过这里吗？

男：没有，我希望我去过。你在泰国除了享受阳光还做了什么呢？

女：嗯，昨天我通见了一个德国人。他带我参观了他工作的孤儿院。在那里，我见到了许多志愿者教师，他们大部分都是来自欧洲的年轻人。

男：哇，那很有意思。

女：是的。我还交了一个年纪小的新朋友，她叫萨拉，非常可爱。当那天结束我不得不离开的时候，我感到非常难过。如果我还有机会到泰国，我一定要重回这个地方做志愿者。

男：嗯，你回来的时候可以把一切经历告诉我。现在我的手机电池马上就没电了。记得从纪念品商店帮我带点东西回来。我喜欢收集不同国家的零碎小物件。再见，好好玩，索菲娅。

女：再见。

8. What does the woman say she is doing now?

女士说自己现在在做什么？

9. What did the woman do yesterday?

女士昨天做了什么？

10. Why does the man have to end the conversation?

男士为什么不得不结束对话？

11. Why does the man ask the woman to bring him something from Thailand?

男士为什么让女士从泰国帮他带些东西？

Conversation Two

W: Hi David, there is a new gym opening in town today. Would you like to go with me this afternoon?

M: Yes, more than glad to. I haven't been to a gym for ages. I need to do some exercise to tone up.

W: Then this is a good chance. They sent me an invitation with a note saying I could take a friend for free on the first day. Also, if we both sign up before Friday, we can get a discount on a six-month membership.

A: Great, count me in. I really want to lose some of these belly fat and turn it into muscle, but I'm not sure which of the gym equipment would best help.

W: Well, I'm no expert of that, but I think you can try lifting weights and do at least 200 sit-ups twice a day.

M: I've never tried weight-lifting before. Is it dangerous?

W: No, not at all--if you know some of the basics. Don't worry. I'll show you the ropes. I used to practice this at another gym before my membership ended. I'll be your personal trainer.

M: Thank you. What other equipment do they have?

W: Well, like all gyms, they have all sorts of things to help build up muscles in different parts of the body, like upright bicycles, chest stretching machines, and running machines. You could use any of these to suit your purpose. Now the gym opens at noon, so can we meet up in town at 1:30 p. m.?

M: Perfect, see you there, coach.

女：你好，大卫，今天镇上新开了一家健身房。你今天下午想跟我一起去看吗？

男：好啊，非常乐意。我好久没去健身房了，我需要一些锻炼来增强体魄。

女：那这是个好机会。他们给我发了一份邀请函,上面写着开业第一天我可以免费带一位朋友去。而且，如果我们都在周五之前报名，就能享受六个月会员折扣。

男：太好了，算我一个。我真想把腹部赘肉练成肌肉，但是我不知道哪种健身器材最有效。

女：呃，我在这方面也不专业,但是我认为你可以尝试举重，每天做两次仰卧起坐，每次至少做 200 个。

男：我以前从未尝试过举重。危险吗？

女：不，根本不危险——只要你知道一些基础知识的话。不用担心，我会告诉你其中的窍门。会员卡到期之前我曾在其他健身房练习过这项运动。我会当你的私人教练。

男：谢谢你。他们还提供其他的什么健身器材？

女：呃，和所有健身房一样，他们有各种各样的器材，可以帮你练就身体不同部位的肌肉，比如直立式健身车、胸部伸展机以及跑步机。你可以选用任何一种去满足你的健身需求。目前这家健身房中午开门，所以我们下午一点半在镇上集合好吗？

男：太好了，在那儿见，教练。

12.What are the speakers talking about?

讲话者在谈论什么？

13.What does the gym offer at its opening?

这家健身房在开业之际提供什么？

14.What is the man concerned about?

男士担忧什么问题？

15.What do we learn about the woman from the conversation?

我们从对话中可以了解到女士的什么信息？

Section C

Passage One

In today's job market, it's not uncommon for job seekers to submit applications for many positions. That involves lots of time and lots of work to organize. Certainly, you don't want to waste your precious hours on following the developments in a disorderly fashion, and miss important deadlines, confuse interview times or forget to

follow up as a result. Accordingly, managing your job search properly is just as important as identifying job opportunities and submitting your applications. If you are familiar with Microsoft Excel or a similar program, creating a table is a simple and effective way to keep track of your job applications. If Excel isn't quite your cup of tea, don't worry. You can create a table in Microsoft Word or a similar word processor. Google is another tool to help you get organized effectively. If you have a G-mail account, you can create, save and send tables in addition to written documents like your cover letter and resume. You can also link up with Google calendar to make sure you stay on top of important dates. Clearly, there are plenty of ways to keep track of your job search and making the effort to simplify your job search will pay off. Nevertheless, you should always focus on quality, not quantity. Only apply for positions you're qualified for, and make each application count, personalizing each cover letter and updating and editing your resume.

在如今的就业市场上，求职者申请多个职位的情况并不少见。这需要花费大量的时间，做大量的规划工作。当然，你一定不希望浪费宝贵的时间而以混乱的方式关注事态的发展、错过重要的截止日期、搞混面试时间或最后忘记跟进。于是，在求职期间，合理规划工作与发现工作机会和提交申请同等重要。如果你熟悉微软的 Excel 软件，或类似程序，创建表格是记录工作申请的一个简单、有效的方法。如果你不喜欢用 Excel 也不用担心。你可以用微软的 Word 软件或其他类似的文字处理软件创建表格。谷歌是另一个可以帮你有效保持条理性的工具。如果你有谷歌邮箱的账户，除了求职信和简历等书面文件，你也可以创建、保存和发送表格。你还可以连接到谷歌日历，确保重要的日期置顶。很显然，有很多方法可以记录求职过程，而且，尽量简化你的求职过程，也是值得的。然而，你应该始终关注质量而不是数量。只申请你能胜任的职位，每个申请都要算数，每封求职信都要个性化，更新并编辑你的简历。

16. What does the speaker say about today's job seekers?

关于现在的求职者，讲话者说了什么？

17. What can job applicants do with the help of Google?

使用谷歌，求职者可以做什么？

18. What does the speaker suggest job seekers do?

讲话者建议求职者做什么？

Passage Two

Some people say if kids didn't have to go to school they'd all be out in the streets. My reply is "No, they wouldn't." First, even if schools stayed just the way they are,

children would spend at least some time there because that's where they'd be likely to find friends. Second, schools wouldn't stay the way they are, they'd get better, because we would have to start making them what they ought to be right now. Last, if we stirred up our brains and gave children a little help, those who did not want to go to school could find other things to do, things many children now do during their holidays. There's something easier we could do. We need to get kids out of the school building, give them a chance to learn about the world at first hand. In Philadelphia and Portland, Oregon, plans are being drawn up for public schools that won't have any school buildings at all. That will take the students out into the city and help them to use it and its people as a resource. In other words, students perhaps in groups, perhaps independently, will go to libraries, museums, exhibitions, coach rooms, radio and TV stations, meetings, businesses and laboratories to learn about their world and society at first hand. A small private school in Washington is already doing this. It makes sense. We need more of it.

有些人说，如果孩子们不用去上学的话他们就都会出来在街上玩。我的答复是：不，他们不会的。首先，即使学校还是老样子，孩子们也会在学校至少待一段时间，因为在那里他们可能会找到朋友。第二，学校不会一直是老样子，它们会变得越来越好，因为我们现在必须开始把学校变成它们应该成为的样子。最后，如果我们开动脑筋给孩子们一点帮助，那些不想去学校的孩子就可以找到其他事情来做——很多孩子现在在假期里做的事情。我们还能够做一件更容易的事。我们必须把孩子们从教学楼里解放出来，给他们直接了解世界的机会。在费城和俄勒冈州的波特兰，人们正在拟定计划开办没有任何教学楼的公立学校。这将使得学生们走出学校，走进城市，帮助他们将城市和城市里的人当作资源来利用。也就是说，学生们将会（或许成群结队，或许独自一人）去图书馆、博物馆、展览馆、教练室、广播电台和电视台、会议中心以及企业和实验室直接了解他们的世界和社会。华盛顿的一所小型私立学校已经在这样做了。这很有意义，需要更多的学校行动起来。

19. What are some people worried about according to the speaker?

讲话者认为一些人在担心什么？

20. What does the speaker think we could do for kids who dislike school?

讲话者认为对于不喜欢学校的孩子们，我们可以做什么？

21. What does the speaker say is the easier thing we can do?

讲话者称我们能够做到的更容易的事是什么？

Passage Three

Before there was the written word, there was the language of dance. Dance expresses love and hate, joy and sorrow, life and death, and everything else in between. Dance in America is everywhere. we dance from Florida to Alaska, from horizon to horizon and coast to coast. We dance at weddings, birthdays, office parties or just to fill the time. “I adore dancing,” says Lester Bridges, the owner of a dance studio in a small town in Iowa. “I can’t imagine doing anything else with my life,” Bridges runs dance classes for all ages. “Teaching dance is wonderful. My older students say it makes them feel young. It’s marvelous to watch them. For many of them, it’s a way of meeting people and having a social life. So why do we dance? I can tell you about one young couple,” says Bridges. “They arrive at the class in a bad mood and they leave with a smile. Dancing seems to change their mood completely.” So, do we dance in order to make ourselves feel better, calmer, healthier? Andrea Hillier, a dance teacher says, “Dance, like the rhythm of a beating heart, is life. Even after all these years, I want to get better and better. I keep practicing even when I’m exhausted. I find it hard to stop! Dancing reminds me I’m alive.”

在书面语出现之前，舞蹈可以表达爱与恨，喜与悲，生与死，以及二者之间的一切。在美国，舞蹈无处不在。我们从佛罗里达舞到阿拉斯加，从天涯舞到海角。我们为婚礼、生日聚会以及商务宴请而舞，又或者仅仅为了消遣而舞。莱斯特·布里奇斯是爱荷华州一个小镇上一家舞蹈工作室的老板。他说：“我喜欢跳舞，我不能想象除此之外我这一生还能做些什么。”布里奇斯为各年龄段的人开设舞蹈班。“教别人跳舞是一件美妙的事情。一些年龄稍大的学生说舞蹈使他们感觉年轻。看着他们（跳舞）感觉棒极了。对于他们中的许多人来说，跳舞是一种结交朋友的社交生活方式。那么我们为什么跳舞呢？我可以给你讲讲一对年轻夫妻的事儿。”布里奇斯说道。“他们情绪很差地来上课，之后是笑着离开的。跳舞似乎完全改变了他们的情绪。”所以，我们跳舞是为了让我们感觉更好，更平静或者更健康吗？舞蹈教师安德烈亚·希利尔说：“舞蹈就是生命，它有如心脏跳动的节律。甚至在这么多年之后，我仍然希望越跳越好。我坚持练习舞蹈，甚至当我疲惫不堪的时候也不懈怠。我发现真的很难停下来。是舞蹈提醒我，我还活着。”

22. What does the passage say about dance in America?

关于美国舞蹈，短文中说了些什么？

23. What do we know about Lester Bridges’ dance studio?

关于莱斯特·布里奇斯的舞蹈工作室，我们知道些什么？

24. What happened to the young couple after they attended Lester Bridges’ class?

那对年轻的夫妻上完莱斯特的课之后发生了什么？

25. What did Andrea Hillier say about dancing?

安德烈亚·希利尔如何评价舞蹈？