Lesson 37 The process of aging

likelihood ['laɪklihʊd]

n. 可能性

There is every likelihood that he will run for president next year. There is little likelihood that he will run for president next year. There is little likelihood of his attending the wedding.

There is every likelihood of the prophecy failing. in all likelihood = very likely

in all probability = very probably in all honesty = very honestly

in all frankness = very frankly

in all seriousness = very seriously

in all eagerness = very eagerly in all sincerity = very sincerely

History does not relate whether his friend accepted his medical help, but in all probability he did.

John Dewey has said in all seriousness that the part played by custom in shaping the behaviour of the individual, as against any way in which he can affect traditional custom, is as the proportion of the total vocabulary of his mother tongue against those words of his own baby talk that are taken up into the vernacular of his family.

Liu Bei made three personal calls at the thatched cottage to solicit Zhuge Liang’s help in all sincerity and eagerness.

Dear Edward: I’ve gone back and forth the last few days trying to decide whether or not I should even write this. In the end, I realized I would regret it if I didn’t. So, here goes. I know, the last time we saw each other, we weren’t exactly hitting the sweetest notes.

It certainly wasn’t the way I wanted our trip to end. I suppose I’m responsible, and for that I’m sorry. But in all honesty, if I had the chance, I'd do it again.

Good afternoon. My name is Edward Cole. I do not know what most people say on these occasions, because in all honesty I've tried to avoid them.

vulnerable ['vʌlnərəbl]

adj. 脆弱的，易受伤害的

vulnerable adj. weak or easy to hurt physically or mentally 脆弱的，易受伤害的

We should help the vulnerable groups in society. be vulnerable to sb. / sth.

Young birds are vulnerable to predators. The wound is vulnerable to infection.

Pesticides can cause an amphibian's skin to dry out.

Pesticides kill the insects that amphibians depend on for food.

Dissolved pesticides can easily enter amphibian's bodies.

Amphibians may eat plants that have been treated with pesticides.

Many pesticides that farmers applied to their crops are eventually washed away by the rain and end up in ponds or other bodies of water where amphibians live.

Amphibians are especially vulnerable to pesticides dissolved in the water because of their moist skins. Water can pass through an amphibian’s skin allowing toxins dissolved in the water to enter the amphibian’s body.

Many pesticides that farmers applied to their crops are eventually washed away by the rain and end up in ponds or other bodies of water where amphibians live. Amphibians are especially vulnerable to pesticides dissolved in the water because of their moist skins. Water can pass

through an amphibian’s skin allowing toxins dissolved in the water to enter the amphibian’s body.

Q: According to the speaker, why do pesticides pose a threat to amphibians?

Answer: (C) Dissolved pesticides can easily enter amphibian's bodies. be susceptible to sth.

Children are particularly susceptible to the disease. Some officials are susceptible to corruption.

paper tiger

US imperialism is a paper tiger. All reactionaries are paper tigers.

Achilles heel

Achilles: the hero of Homer’s Iliad, the son of Peleus and Thetis, the slayer of Hector

John’s Achilles heel is his vanity.

Official corruption remains the government’s Achilles heel. imperceptible

[7ɪmpə'septəbl]

adj. 感觉不到的，难以觉察的

imperceptible perceptible

tangible intangible

visible / in sight

invisible / out of sight

audible / within earshot

inaudible / out of earshot

John is too far away to hear.

John is out of money.

John hasn't left yet.

John doesn't hear well.

M: Hey, John! John!

W: Save your breath. He's out of earshot. Q: What does the woman mean?

Answer: (A) John is too far away to hear. ageing ['eɪdʒɪŋ]

n. & adj.

老化（的），老龄化（的）

aging / ageing

the process of aging the aging process the aging problem

China’s aging population graying / greying

the graying of the world the graying problem China’s graying population An idle youth, a needy age.

All that is in my mind when I meet a young person. He may be conceited, ill-mannered, presumptuous or fatuous, but I do not turn for protection to dreary clichés about respect of elders —as if mere age were a reason for respect.

I'll give you everything I can

I'll build your dreams with these two hands We'll hang some memories on the wall And when just the two of us are there

You won't have to ask if I still care 'Cause as time turns the page

My love won’t age at all

As we age, our skin becomes less elastic. She has aged well.

odds [ɒdz]

n. 可能性；困难，逆境

the odds are (that) …

The odds are (that) you're going to fail. the odds are in favor of …

the odds are against …

The odds are in favor of his winning. The odds are against his winning.

There are heavy odds in favor of his being married this year. There are overwhelming odds against an Argentinean victory. against (all) the odds

Against (all) the odds she achieved her dream of becoming a ballerina. beat / overcome the odds

fight / battle / struggle against the odds

If they had only had one more child, the fact would have passed unnoticed. They would have continued to struggle against economic odds and would have lived in obscurity.

fight / battle / struggle against the elements

Men accustomed to struggling for survival against the elements and Indians were bewildered by politicians, bankers and businessmen, and unhorsed by fences, laws and alien taboos.

thermodynamics [7θɜ:məʊdaɪ'næmɪks]

n. 热力学

thermodynamics n. a branch of physics dealing with the relations between

heat and other forms of energy 热力学“therm(o)” = heat thermometer thermos / Thermos

thermos / Thermos mug

thermal thermal energy

thermal spring thermal underwear

“dynam” = power dynamic dynamite dynamics

thermodynamics hydrodynamics

at most at least

at best at worst

at one’s + 形容词最高级处于某人最……的状态When are you at your best?

When are you at your worst?

When are you at your most effective? When are you at your most vulnerable? The garden is at its most beautiful in June.

Caesar was at his most powerful when he conquered Gaul. He was constantly on the move.

He is always on the go.

The patient is on the recovery.

The program is on the air at 7 o’clock. Crimes are on the rise.

The dog is on the alert. The workers are on strike. Today I’m on duty.

The nurse is on call. I’m here on business. I’m here on vacation. The car is under repair.

The castle is under attack.

The subject is under discussion. The matter is under consideration. You are under arrest.

The patient is under observation. The case is under investigation. The bridge is under construction. The building is under renovation.

It has yet to reach its full size and strength, and its owner (has yet to reach) his or her full intelligence; but *at this age* the likelihood of death is least. have yet to do 还没有……；有待于……

I have yet to make a decision.

The bank has yet to respond to our letter.

The Da Vinci Code, starring Tom Hanks, has yet to open next month.

… and we have only to turn to that extraordinary discovery of echo-location in bats to see a case in which the voice plays a strictly utilitarian role.

have only to do … to do …

只需……就可以……

You have only to press the button to call the nurse.

… and its owner (has yet to reach) his or her full intelligence.

Spiders are not insects, as many people think, nor even nearly related to them.

Spiders are not insects, as many people think, nor (are they) even nearly related to them.

Such inns as there were were generally dirty and flea-ridden; the food simply local cheese accompanied by bread often twelve months old, all washed down with coarse wine.

Such inns as there were were generally dirty and flea-ridden; the food (was) simply local cheese accompanied by bread often twelve months old, all washed down with coarse wine.

During these tests she was able to read a newspaper through an opaque screen and, stranger still, by moving her elbow over a child's game of

Lotto she was able to describe the figures and colours printed on it; and, in another instance, wearing stockings and slippers, to make out with her foot the outlines and colours of a picture hidden under a carpet.

During these tests she was able to read a newspaper through an opaque screen and, stranger still, by moving her elbow over a child's game of Lotto she was able to describe the figures and colours printed on it; and, in another instance, wearing stockings and slippers, (she was able) to make out with her foot the outlines and colours of a picture hidden under a carpet.

But, if this world is not merely a bad joke, life a vulgar flare amid the cool radiance of the stars, and existence an empty laugh braying across the mysteries; …

But, if this world is not merely a bad joke, life (is not merely) a vulgar flare amid the cool radiance of the stars, and existence (is not merely) an empty laugh braying across the mysteries; …

It is said that in England death is pressing, in Canada inevitable and in California optional. Small wonder. Americans’ life expectancy has nearly doubled over the past century. Failing hips can be replaced, clinical depression controlled, cataracts removed in a 30-minutes surgical procedure.

It is said that in England death is pressing, in Canada (death is) inevitable and in California (death is) optional. Small wonder. Americans’ life

expectancy has nearly doubled over the past century. Failing hips can be replaced, clinical depression (can be) controlled, cataracts (can be) removed in a 30-minutes surgical procedure.

Vegetables are best when they are fresh. We are busiest on Mondays.

… but at this age the possibilities of death are fewest.

*Earlier*, we were infants and young children, and consequently more vulnerable; *later*, we shall undergo a progressive loss of our vigour and resistance which, though imperceptible at first, will finally become so

steep *that we can live no longer, however well we look after ourselves, and however well society, and our doctors, look after us*.

Earlier, we were infants and young children, and (we were) consequently more vulnerable;

Although mankind has undergone no general improvement in intelligence or morality, ……

progressive progressive ideas a progressive party

progressive decline / reduction / increase / loss

One prominent symptom of the disease is progressive loss of memory.

… though (the loss is) imperceptible at first, …

It is one of the most unpleasant discoveries *which we all make* that we

must decline in this way, that *if we escape wars, accidents and diseases*

we shall eventually 'die of old age', and that this happens at a rate *which differs little from person to person, so that there are heavy odds in favour*

*of our dying between the ages of sixty-five and eighty*. decline v. deteriorate

His health has been declining / deteriorating progressively for several months.

decline an invitation

“ if ”引导让步状语从句1、= even if …

If he noticed the fact, he didn’t care.

… even their sagas, if they had any, are forgotten.

This result merely confirms earlier American and British studies: if there is any effect of noise upon mental health, it must be so small that present methods of psychiatric diagnosis cannot find it.

2、= although perhaps

Donald's essays are always interesting, if sometimes poorly written. She understood his meaning, if not his words, and took his advice. differ little

differ a little

differ greatly / significantly / enormously

vary from person to person

improve from day to day read sth. from cover to cover sell sth. from door to door

There are heavy / overwhelming odds in favor of / against … life expectancy

But the chances are against it, and there is a virtual limit on how long we can hope to remain alive, *however lucky and robust we are*.

The following day, however, the doctor consoled him by telling him that his chances of being able to leave hospital in time for new year celebrations were good.

As she is not rich, the chances that she will ever be able to afford such purchases are remote; but she is never sufficiently strong-minded to be able to stop the practice.

one’s chances of doing …

the chances that … are good / high.

are small / slight / remote.

造句：他赢得这次比赛的可能性很小。

His chances of winning the game are remote.

The chances that he will win the game are remote. there is a virtual limit / restriction on …

There is a virtual limit on how fast we can run.

There is a virtual restriction on the rate of economic growth in a specific country.

There are strict limits / restrictions on presidential power.

Normal people tend to forget this process unless and until they are reminded of it.

No credits will be awarded unless and until we receive official notification from the testing service.

Some people believe that a society has to place its overall success before the well-being of its members to achieve prosperity, whereas others believe that the only benchmark of the well-being of a society is the general welfare of all its people. Admittedly, a society should pursue its overall success, but from my perspective this goal will never be attained unless and until the well-being of all its individual citizens is properly respected.

We are so familiar with the fact that man ages, that people have for years assumed *that the process of losing vigour with time, of becoming more*

*likely to die the older we get, was something self-evident, like the cooling*

*of a hot kettle or the wearing-out of a pair of shoes*. I play the piano (the) better the more I practice.

The more I practice, the better I play the piano.

All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

— Arthur Schopenhauer Declaration of Independence

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that

they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable rights, that

among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

― Thomas Jefferson

… as a hot kettle cools down or a pair of shoes wears out.

They have also assumed that all animals, and probably other organisms

such as trees, or even the universe itself, must *in the nature of things*

'wear out'.

in the nature of things 必然，理所当然

It is in the nature of things that time wrecks all love. in the nature of … = similar to …

His speech is in the nature of an apology.

The statement is in the nature of an ultimatum. of a … nature 某一种类的

treaties of a political nature

questions of an academic nature dangers of the most perilous nature

Most animals we commonly observe do in fact age as we do, *if given the chance to live long enough*; and mechanical systems *like a wound watch,*

*or the sun*, do in fact run out of energy in accordance with the second law

of thermodynamics *(whether the whole universe does so is a moot point at present)*.

run out of …= use up = exhaust in accordance with …

in line with …

Pensions will be increased in line with inflation. in compliance with ..

In compliance with your wishes, we have withdrawn our suggestion. in (the) light of …

It has been said that everyone lives by selling something. In the light of this statement, teachers live by selling knowledge, philosophers by selling wisdom and priests by selling spiritual comfort.

Reading is thought to be a kind of conversation between the reader and the text. The reader puts questions, as it were, to the text and gets answers. In the light of these he puts further questions, and so on.

He explores such problem consciously, articulately, and frankly, first by

asking factual questions, then by asking moral questions, finally by

suggesting action which seems appropriate in the light of the factual and

moral information which he has obtained.

I am afraid that you have to alter your views in light of the tragic news that has just arrived.

(A) indifferent (B) distressing

(C) optimistic (D) pessimistic the first law of thermodynamics

the law of the conservation of energy a moot point

悬而未决的问题；有争议的问题

It’s a moot point whether building more roads reduces traffic congestion. be open to question / debate

……尚有争议

It’s open to question / debate whether the new government is any better than the old one.

But these are not analogous to what happens when man ages. be analogous to …

= be similar to …

Hypnotism is in a sense analogous to drunkenness.

His function is analogous to that of a judge, who must accept the

obligation of revealing in as obvious a manner as possible the course of

reasoning which led him to his decision.

be comparable to / with …

The threat it poses is comparable to / with smoking just one cigarette every year.

be akin to …

What he felt was more akin to pity than love.

be equivalent to …

The volcanic eruption had an explosive power equivalent to 20,000 tons of TNT.

An old watch, *by contrast*, becomes so worn and unreliable that it eventually is not worth mending.

by / in contrast

by / in comparison be worth doing

require / need / want *doing / to be done*

The watch requires / needs / wants *mending / to be mended*.

If it is not a question of resting the body, then perhaps it is the brain that needs *resting*?

But a watch could never repair itself—it does not consist of living parts, only of metal, which wears away by friction.

We could, *at one time*, repair ourselves—well enough, *at least*, to overcome all but the most instantly fatal illnesses and accidents.

all but adv. = almost

The research was all but forgotten. His left arm is all but useless.

Between twelve and eighty years we gradually lose this power; an illness which at twelve would knock us over, at eighty can knock us out, and into our grave.

knock sb. over

= knock sb. down

A car knocked him over.

He was knocked over by fever. knock sb. out

Tyson knocked out his opponent in round 2.

He was arguing with his girlfriend and she knocked him out with a frying pan.

The three drinks knocked him out.

have … get …

come down with…

catch … pick up …

Luke has measles. He must have picked it up at school. I hope I don’t catch it.

develop

develop lung cancer / diabetes

contract

contract pneumonia / AIDS

If we *could* stay as vigorous as we are at 12, it *would* take about 700 years for half of us *to die* and (it *would* take) another 700 for the survivors *to be reduced by half again*.

be reduced by …

be reduced by half / 20%

be reduced to … be reduced to 20%