

2023 考研英语阅读基础课程-必刷 40 篇

主讲：KK 何凯文

Text 12

第一段

Stratford-on-Avon, as we all know, has only one industry -- William Shakespeare -- but there are two distinctly separate and increasingly hostile branches. There is the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), which presents superb productions of the plays at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre on the Avon. And there are the townsfolk who largely live off the tourists who come, not to see the plays, but to look at Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace and the other sights.

重点词汇：

Hostile: 敌对的

Superb: 极佳的、非同一般的

第一句

Stratford-on-Avon, as we all know, has only one industry -- William Shakespeare -- but there are two distinctly separate and increasingly hostile branches.

第二句

There is the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC), which presents superb productions of the plays at the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre on the Avon.

第三句

And there are the townsfolk who largely live off the tourists who come, not to see the plays, but to look at Anne Hathaway's Cottage, Shakespeare's birthplace and the other sights.

第二段

The worthy residents of Stratford doubt that the theatre adds a penny to their revenue. They frankly dislike the RSC's actors, them with their long hair and beards and sandals and noisiness. It's all deliciously ironic when you consider that Shakespeare, who earns their living, was himself an actor (with a beard) and did his share of noise-making.

重点词汇:

Revenue: 收入

Frankly: 坦率地

Ironic: 讽刺的

第一句

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第二句

They frankly dislike the RSC's actors, them with their long hair and beards and sandals and noisiness.

第三句

It's all deliciously ironic when you consider that Shakespeare, who earns their living, was himself an actor (with a beard) and did his share of noise-making.

第三段

The tourist streams are not entirely separate. The sightseers who come by bus -- and often take in Warwick Castle and Blenheim Palace on the side -- don't usually see the plays, and some of them are even surprised to find a theatre in Stratford. However, the playgoers do manage a little sight-seeing along with their playgoing. It is the playgoers, the RSC contends, who bring in much of the town's revenue because they spend the night (some of them four or five nights) pouring cash into the hotels and restaurants. The sightseers can take in everything and get out of town by nightfall.

重点词汇:

Sightseers: 观光者

Contends: 声称、竞争

Playgoers: 戏迷

Nightfall: 傍晚、黄昏

第一句

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第二句

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It is the playgoers, the RSC contends, who bring in much of the town's revenue because they spend the night (some of them four or five nights) pouring cash into the hotels and restaurants.

第五句

The sightseers can take in everything and get out of town by nightfall.

第四段

The townsfolk don't see it this way and local council does not contribute directly to the subsidy of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Stratford cries poor traditionally. Nevertheless every hotel in town seems to be adding a new wing or cocktail lounge. Hilton is building its own hotel there, which you may be sure will be decorated with Hamlet Hamburger Bars, the Lear Lounge, the Banquo Banqueting Room, and so forth, and will be very expensive.

重点词汇:

Council: 地方委员会

Subsidy: 津贴、补助金

Nevertheless: 然而、不过

Lounge: 等候室、休息室

Decorated: 装饰

第一句

The townsfolk don't see it this way and local council does not contribute directly to the subsidy of the Royal Shakespeare Company.

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Nevertheless every hotel in town seems to be adding a new wing or cocktail lounge.

第四句

Hilton is building its own hotel there, which you may be sure will be decorated with Hamlet Hamburger Bars, the Lear Lounge, the Banquo Banqueting Room, and so forth, and will be very expensive.

第五段

Anyway, the townsfolk can't understand why the Royal Shakespeare Company needs a subsidy. (The theatre has broken attendance records for three years in a row. Last year its 1,431 seats were 94 percent occupied all year long and this year they'll do better.) The reason, of course, is that costs have rocketed and ticket prices have stayed low.

重点词汇:

Rocket: 快速增长

第一句

Anyway, the townsfolk can't understand why the Royal Shakespeare Company needs a subsidy.

第二句

(The theatre has broken attendance records for three years in a row.

第三句

Last year its 1,431 seats were 94 percent occupied all year long and this year they'll do better.)

第四句

The reason, of course, is that costs have rocketed and ticket prices have stayed low.

第六段

It would be a shame to raise prices too much because it would drive away the young people who are Stratford's most attractive clientele. They come entirely for the plays, not the sights. They all seem to look alike (though they come from all over) -- lean, pointed, dedicated faces, wearing jeans and sandals, eating their buns and bedding down for the night on the flagstones outside the theatre to buy the 20 seats and 80 standing-room tickets held for the sleepers and sold to them when the box office opens at 10:30 a.m.

重点词汇:

Clientele: 顾客群

Lean: 瘦的

Sandals: 凉鞋、拖鞋

Flagstones: 铺石路

第一句

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第一段

If you were to examine the birth certificates of every soccer player in 2006's World Cup tournament, you would most likely find a noteworthy quirk: elite soccer players are more likely to have been born in the earlier months of the year than in the later months. If you then examined the European national youth teams that feed the World Cup and professional ranks, you would find this strange phenomenon to be even more pronounced.

重点词汇:

Certificates: 出生证明

Tournament: 锦标赛

Noteworthy: 值得注意的

Quirk: 奇事

Ranks: 队伍

Pronounced: 明显的、显著的

第一句

If you were to examine the birth certificates of every soccer player in 2006's World Cup tournament, you would most likely find a noteworthy quirk: elite soccer players are more likely to have been born in the earlier months of the year than in the later months.

第二句

If you then examined the European national youth teams that feed the World Cup and professional ranks, you would find this strange phenomenon to be even more pronounced.

第二段

What might account for this strange phenomenon? Here are a few guesses: a) certain astrological signs confer superior soccer skills; b) winter-born babies tend to have higher oxygen capacity, which increases soccer stamina; c) soccer-mad parents are more likely to conceive children in springtime, at the annual peak of soccer mania; d) none of the above.

重点词汇:

Astrological: 占星的、星座的

Confer: 赋予

Stamina: 耐力、持久力

Mania: 狂热

第一句

What might account for this strange phenomenon?

第二句

Here are a few guesses: a) certain astrological signs confer superior soccer skills; b) winter-born babies tend to have higher oxygen capacity, which increases soccer stamina; c) soccer-mad parents are more likely to conceive children in springtime, at the annual peak of soccer mania; d) none of the above.

第三段

Anders Ericsson, a 58-year-old psychology professor at Florida State University, says he believes strongly in “none of the above.” Ericsson grew up in Sweden, and studied nuclear engineering until he realized he would have more opportunity to conduct his own research if he switched to psychology. His first experiment, nearly 30 years ago, involved memory: training a person to hear and then repeat a random series of numbers. “With the first subject, after about 20 hours of training, his digit span had risen from 7 to 20,” Ericsson recalls. “He kept improving, and after about 200 hours of training he had risen to over 80 numbers.”

重点词汇:

Nuclear: 核能的

Conduct: 实施、带领、指挥

switched to: 转变成、切换成

series: 一系列、一连串

digit span: 数字广度

第一句

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第五句

“He kept improving, and after about 200 hours of training he had risen to over 80 numbers.”

第四段

This success, coupled with later research showing that memory itself is not genetically determined, led Ericsson to conclude that the act of memorizing is more of a cognitive exercise than an intuitive one. In other words, whatever inborn differences two people may exhibit in their abilities to memorize, those differences are swamped by how well each person “encodes” the information. And the best way to learn how to encode information meaningfully, Ericsson determined, was a process known as deliberate practice. Deliberate practice entails more than simply repeating a task. Rather, it involves setting specific goals, obtaining immediate feedback and concentrating as much on technique as on outcome.

重点词汇：

Cognitive: 认知的

intuitive: 直觉的

exhibit: 表现出

deliberate: 故意的

swamped: 淹没、泥沼状的

第一句

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Rather, it involves setting specific goals, obtaining immediate feedback and concentrating as much on technique as on outcome.

第五段

Ericsson and his colleagues have thus taken to studying expert performers in a wide range of pursuits, including soccer. They gather all the data they can, not just performance statistics and biographical details but also the results of their own laboratory experiments with high achievers. Their work makes a rather startling assertion: the trait we commonly call talent is highly overrated. Or, put another way, expert performers – whether in memory or surgery, ballet or computer programming – are nearly always made, not born.

重点词汇：

Overrated: 评价过高的

第一句

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第一段

In the early 1960s Wilt Chamberlain was one of only three players in the National Basketball Association (NBA) listed at over seven feet. If he had played last season, however, he would have been one of 42. The bodies playing major professional sports have changed dramatically over the years, and managers have been more than willing to adjust team uniforms to fit the growing numbers of bigger, longer frames.

重点词汇:

Frames: 框架

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第三句

The bodies playing major professional sports have changed dramatically over the years, and managers have been more than willing to adjust team uniforms to fit the growing numbers of bigger, longer frames.

第二段

The trend in sports, though, may be obscuring an unrecognized reality: Americans have generally stopped growing. Though typically about two inches taller now than 140 years ago, today's people – especially those born to families who have lived in the U.S. for many generations – apparently reached their limit in the early 1960s. And they aren't likely to get any taller. "In the general population today, at this genetic, environmental level, we've pretty much gone as far as we can go," says anthropologist William Cameron Chumlea of Wright State University. In the case of NBA players, their increase in height appears to result from the increasingly common practice of recruiting players from all over the world.

重点词汇:

Apparently: 显然、似乎

第一句

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第二句

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第四句

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第五句

In the case of NBA players, their increase in height appears to result from the increasingly common practice of recruiting players from all over the world.

第三段

Growth, which rarely continues beyond the age of 20, demands calories and nutrients – notably, protein – to feed expanding tissues. At the start of the 20th century, under-nutrition and childhood infections got in the way. But as diet and health improved, children and adolescents have, on average, increased in height by about an inch and a half every 20 years, a pattern known as the secular trend in height. Yet according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, average height – 5'9" for men, 5'4" for women – hasn't really changed since 1960.

重点词汇:

Nutrients: 营养

Infections: 传染病、感染

Notably: 明显地、特别是

Tissues: 组织

Secular: 长期趋势

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第四段

Genetically speaking, there are advantages to avoiding substantial height. During childbirth, larger babies have more difficulty passing through the birth canal. Moreover, even though humans have been upright for millions of years, our feet and back continue to struggle with bipedal posture and cannot easily withstand repeated strain imposed by oversize limbs. "There are some real constraints that are set by the genetic architecture of the individual organism," says anthropologist William Leonard of Northwestern University.

重点词汇:

Substantial: 大量的、可观的

Canal: 管、道

Upright: 直立

Bipedal: 两足动物的

Withstand: 顶住、经受住

Strain: 压力

Limbs: 四肢

Constraints: 约束

Architecture: 遗传结构

Anthropologist: 人类学家

第一句

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第二句

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第五段

Genetic maximums can change, but don't expect this to happen soon. Claire C. Gordon, senior anthropologist at the Army Research Center in Natick, Mass., ensures that 90 percent of the uniforms and workstations fit recruits without alteration. She says that, unlike those for basketball, the length of military uniforms has not changed

for some time. And if you need to predict human height in the near future to design a piece of equipment, Gordon says that by and large, “you could use today’s data and feel fairly confident.”

重点词汇：

Recruits: 新成员

Alteration: 改变、改动

Fairly: 相当地

第一句

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And if you need to predict human height in the near future to design a piece of equipment, Gordon says that by and large, “you could use today’s data and feel fairly confident.”

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第一段

Americans no longer expect public figures, whether in speech or in writing, to command the English language with skill and gift. Nor do they aspire to such command themselves. In his latest book, *Doing Our Own Thing: The Degradation of Language and Music and Why We Should, Like, Care*, John McWhorter, a linguist and controversialist of mixed liberal and conservative views, sees the triumph of 1960s counter-culture as responsible for the decline of formal English.

重点词汇:

Aspire: 渴求、渴望

Linguist: 语言学家

Controversialist: 争论者

第一句

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第二句

Nor do they aspire to such command themselves.

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In his latest book, *Doing Our Own Thing: The Degradation of Language and Music and Why We Should, Like, Care*, John McWhorter, a linguist and controversialist of mixed liberal and conservative views, sees the triumph of 1960s counter-culture as responsible for the decline of formal English.

第二段

Blaming the permissive 1960s is nothing new, but this is not yet another criticism against the decline in education. Mr. McWhorter's academic speciality is language history and change, and he sees the gradual disappearance of "whom," for example, to be natural and no more regrettable than the loss of the case-endings of Old English.

重点词汇:

Permissive: 放任的、纵容的

Gradual: 逐渐的

第一句

Blaming the permissive 1960s is nothing new, but this is not yet another criticism against the decline in education.

第二句

Mr. McWhorter's academic speciality is language history and change, and he sees the gradual disappearance of "whom," for example, to be natural and no more regrettable than the loss of the case-endings of Old English.

第三段

But the cult of the authentic and the personal, "doing our own thing," has spelt the death of formal speech, writing, poetry and music. While even the modestly educated sought an elevated tone when they put pen to paper before the 1960s, even the most well regarded writing since then has sought to capture spoken English on the page. Equally, in poetry, the highly personal, performative genre is the only form that could claim real liveliness. In both oral and written English, talking is triumphing over speaking, spontaneity over craft.

重点词汇:

Cult: 异教、迷信

Authentic: 传统的、逼真的、真实的

Modestly: 谦逊地、简朴地

Elevated: 高的、高尚的

Performative: 表述行为的

Genre: 体裁、类型

Oral: 口语的

Spontaneity: 自发的、自发行为

Tone: 语气、强调

第一句

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Equally, in poetry, the highly personal, performative genre is the only form that could claim real liveliness.

第四句

In both oral and written English, talking is triumphing over speaking, spontaneity over craft.

第四段

Illustrated with an entertaining array of examples from both high and low culture, the trend that Mr. McWhorter documents is unmistakable. But it is less clear, to take the question of his subtitle, why we should, like, care. As a linguist, he acknowledges that all varieties of human language, including non-standard ones like Black English, can be powerfully expressive -- there exists no language or dialect in the world that cannot convey complex ideas. He is not arguing, as many do, that we can no longer think straight because we do not talk proper.

重点词汇:

Unmistakable: 确定无疑的

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He is not arguing, as many do, that we can no longer think straight because we do not talk proper.

第五段

Russians have a deep love for their own language and carry large chunks of memorized poetry in their heads, while Italian politicians tend to elaborate speech that would seem old-fashioned to most English-speakers. Mr. McWhorter acknowledges that formal language is not strictly necessary, and proposes no radical education reforms -- he is really grieving over the loss of something beautiful more than useful. We now take our English "on paper plates instead of china." A shame, perhaps, but probably an inevitable one.

重点词汇:

Elaborate: 复杂的、详尽的

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Mr. McWhorter acknowledges that formal language is not strictly necessary, and proposes no radical education reforms -- he is really grieving over the loss of something beautiful more than useful.

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We now take our English “on paper plates instead of china.” A shame, perhaps, but probably an inevitable one.