

2023 考研英语阅读基础课程-必刷 40 篇

主讲：KK 何凯文

Text 16

第一段

When I decided to quit my full time employment it never occurred to me that I might become a part of a new international trend. A lateral move that hurt my pride and blocked my professional progress prompted me to abandon my relatively high profile career although, in the manner of a disgraced government minister, I covered my exit by claiming “I wanted to spend more time with my family”.

重点词汇：

Lateral: 同级的、侧面的

Disgraced: 失宠的

Covered: 掩护

第一句

When I decided to quit my full time employment it never occurred to me that I might become a part of a new international trend.

第二句

A lateral move that hurt my pride and blocked my professional progress prompted me to abandon my relatively high profile career although, in the manner of a disgraced government minister, I covered my exit by claiming “I wanted to spend more time with my family”.

第二段

Curiously, some two-and-a-half years and two novels later, my experiment in what the Americans term “downshifting” has turned my tired excuse into an absolute reality. I have been transformed from a passionate advocate of the philosophy of “having it all,” preached by Linda Kelsey for the past seven years in the page of *She* magazine, into a woman who is happy to settle for a bit of everything.

重点词汇：

Curiously: 好奇地

Passionate: 狂热的

Preached: 传道

第一句

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第二句

I have been transformed from a passionate advocate of the philosophy of “having it all,” preached by Linda Kelsey for the past seven years in the page of *She* magazine, into a woman who is happy to settle for a bit of everything.

第三段

I have discovered, as perhaps Kelsey will after her much-publicized resignation from the editorship of *She* after a build-up of stress, that abandoning the doctrine of “juggling your life,” and making the alternative move into “downshifting” brings with it far greater rewards than financial success and social status. Nothing could persuade me to return to the kind of life Kelsey used to advocate and I once enjoyed: 12-hour working days, pressured deadlines, the fearful strain of office politics and the limitations of being a parent on “quality time”.

重点词汇：

Resignation: 辞职信

Alternative: 可供选择的

social status: 社会地位

advocate: 拥护、提倡

fearful: 害怕的

strain: 焦虑

第一句

I have discovered, as perhaps Kelsey will after her much-publicized resignation from the editorship of *She* after a build-up of stress, that abandoning the doctrine of “juggling your life,” and making the alternative move into “downshifting” brings with it far greater rewards than financial success and social status.

第二句

Nothing could persuade me to return to the kind of life Kelsey used to advocate and I once enjoyed: 12-hour working days, pressured deadlines, the fearful strain of office politics and the limitations of being a parent on “quality time”.

第四段

In America, the move away from juggling to a simpler, less materialistic lifestyle is a well-established trend. Downshifting -- also known in America as “voluntary simplicity” -- has, ironically, even bred a new area of what might be termed anti-consumerism. There are a number of best-selling downshifting self-help books for people who want to simplify their lives; there are newsletters, such as *The Tightwad Gazette*, that give hundreds of thousands of Americans useful tips on anything from recycling their cling-film to making their own soap; there are even support groups for those who want to achieve the mid-'90s equivalent of dropping out.

重点词汇:

Juggling: 重新安排、改动、杂耍

Materialistic: 享乐主义的

well-established: 确立已久的

consumerism: 反消费主义

newsletters: 时事通讯

cling-film: 保鲜膜

equivalent: 对应的人或事物

第一句

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第二句

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第五段

While in America the trend started as a reaction to the economic decline -- after the mass redundancies caused by downsizing in the late '80s -- and is still linked to the politics of thrift, in Britain, at least among the middle-class downshiftingers of my acquaintance, we have different reasons for seeking to simplify our lives.

重点词汇:

Redundancies: 冗余

Thrift: 节俭

第一句

While in America the trend started as a reaction to the economic decline -- after the mass redundancies caused by downsizing in the late '80s -- and is still linked to the politics of thrift, in Britain, at least among the middle-class downshiftingers of my acquaintance, we have different reasons for seeking to simplify our lives.

第六段

For the women of my generation who were urged to keep juggling through the '80s, downshifting in the mid-'90s is not so much a search for the mythical good life -- growing your own organic vegetables, and risking turning into one -- as a personal recognition of your limitations.

重点词汇:

Juggling: 杂耍

Downshifting: 降低速度

Mythical: 神话的、虚构的

第一句

For the women of my generation who were urged to keep juggling through the '80s, downshifting in the mid-'90s is not so much a search for the mythical good life -- growing your own organic vegetables, and risking turning into one -- as a personal recognition of your limitations.

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第一段

Since the dawn of human ingenuity, people have devised ever more cunning tools to cope with work that is dangerous, boring, burdensome, or just plain nasty. That compulsion has resulted in robotics -- the science of conferring various human capabilities on machines. And if scientists have yet to create the mechanical version of science fiction, they have begun to come close.

重点词汇:

Dawn: 破晓

ingenuity: 聪明才智、动手能力

cunning: 狡猾的、灵巧的

nasty: 危害、恶毒的

compulsion: 强烈的欲望、强制力

robotics: 机器人学

science fiction: 科幻小说

第一句

Since the dawn of human ingenuity, people have devised ever more cunning tools to cope with work that is dangerous, boring, burdensome, or just plain nasty.

第二句

That compulsion has resulted in robotics -- the science of conferring various human capabilities on machines.

第三句

And if scientists have yet to create the mechanical version of science fiction, they have begun to come close.

第二段

As a result, the modern world is increasingly populated by intelligent gizmos whose presence we barely notice but whose universal existence has removed much human labor. Our factories hum to the rhythm of robot assembly arms. Our banking is done at automated teller terminals that thank us with mechanical politeness for the transaction. Our subway trains are controlled by tireless robot-drivers. And thanks to the continual miniaturization of electronics and micro-mechanics, there are already robot systems that can perform some kinds of brain and bone surgery with submillimeter accuracy -- far greater precision than highly skilled physicians can achieve with their hands alone.

重点词汇:

Gizmos: 新物件

Barely: 几乎不

automated teller: 自动柜员机

tireless: 不知疲倦的

continual: 多次重复的

accuracy: 准确性

第一句

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第三段

But if robots are to reach the next stage of laborsaving utility, they will have to operate with less human supervision and be able to make at least a few decisions for themselves -- goals that pose a real challenge. "While we know how to tell a robot to handle a specific error," says Dave Lavery, manager of a robotics program at NASA, "we can't yet give a robot enough 'common sense' to reliably interact with a dynamic world."

重点词汇:

Laborsaving: 省力气的

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第四段

Indeed the quest for true artificial intelligence has produced very mixed results. Despite a spell of initial optimism in the 1960s and 1970s when it appeared that transistor circuits and microprocessors might be able to copy the action of the human brain by the year 2010, researchers lately have begun to extend that forecast by

decades if not centuries.

重点词汇:

transistor circuits: 晶体管电路

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第五段

What they found, in attempting to model thought, is that the human brain's roughly one hundred billion nerve cells are much more talented -- and human perception far more complicated -- than previously imagined. They have built robots that can recognize the error of a machine panel by a fraction of a millimeter in a controlled factory environment. But the human mind can glimpse a rapidly changing scene and immediately disregard the 98 percent that is irrelevant, instantaneously focusing on the monkey at the side of a winding forest road or the single suspicious face in a big crowd. The most advanced computer systems on Earth can't approach that kind of ability, and neuroscientists still don't know quite how we do it.

重点词汇:

human perception: 人感知

irrelevant: 不相干的

instantaneously: 突如其来地

neuroscientists: 神经系统科学家

第一句

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第一段

To paraphrase 18th-century statesman Edmund Burke, “all that is needed for the triumph of a misguided cause is that good people do nothing.” One such cause now seeks to end biomedical research because of the theory that animals have rights ruling out their use in research. Scientists need to respond forcefully to animal rights advocates, whose arguments are confusing the public and thereby threatening advances in health knowledge and care. Leaders of the animal rights movement target biomedical research because it depends on public funding, and few people understand the process of health care research. Hearing allegations of cruelty to animals in research settings, many are perplexed that anyone would deliberately harm an animal.

重点词汇:

Paraphrase: 释义、改述

Biomedical: 生物医学的

Thereby: 因此

Allegations: 指控

Perplexed: 迷茫的

Deliberately: 故意地

第一句

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第五句

Hearing allegations of cruelty to animals in research settings, many are perplexed that anyone would deliberately harm an animal.

第二段

For example, a grandmotherly woman staffing an animal rights booth at a recent street fair was distributing a brochure that encouraged readers not to use anything that comes from or is tested in animals—no meat, no fur, no medicines. Asked if she opposed immunizations, she wanted to know if vaccines come from animal research. When assured that they do, she replied, “Then I would have to say yes.” Asked what will happen when epidemics return, she said, “Don’t worry, scientists will find some way of using computers.” Such well-meaning people just don’t understand.

重点词汇：

Booth: 小亭

Brochure: 小册子

Immunizations: 免疫接种

Assured: 使确信、保证

第一句

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第五句

Such well-meaning people just don’t understand.

第三段

Scientists must communicate their message to the public in a compassionate, understandable way—in human terms, not in the language of molecular biology. We need to make clear the connection between animal research and a grandmother’s hip replacement, a father’s bypass operation, a baby’s vaccinations, and even a pet’s shots. To those who are unaware that animal research was needed to produce these treatments, as well as new treatments and vaccines, animal research seems wasteful at best and cruel at worst.

重点词汇：

Compassionate: 有同情心的

Molecular: 分子的

Cruel: 残酷的

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第四段

Much can be done. Scientists could “adopt” middle school classes and present their own research. They should be quick to respond to letters to the editor, lest animal rights misinformation go unchallenged and acquire a deceptive appearance of truth. Research institutions could be opened to tours, to show that laboratory animals receive humane care. Finally, because the ultimate stakeholders are patients, the health research community should actively recruit to its cause not only well-known personalities such as Stephen Cooper, who has made courageous statements about the value of animal research, but all who receive medical treatment. If good people do nothing, there is a real possibility that an uninformed citizenry will extinguish the precious embers of medical progress.

重点词汇：

Lest: 以免

Deceptive: 欺骗性的

Uninformed: 无知的

Embers: 余烬

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第六句

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Text 19

第一段

Americans today don't place a very high value on intellect. Our heroes are athletes, entertainers, and entrepreneurs, not scholars. Even our schools are where we send our children to get a practical education -- not to pursue knowledge for the sake of knowledge. Symptoms of pervasive anti-intellectualism in our schools aren't difficult to find.

重点词汇:

Entrepreneurs: 企业家

Sake: 利益、好处

Pervasive: 弥漫的、散布的

anti-intellectualism: 反智主义

第一句

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Even our schools are where we send our children to get a practical education -- not to pursue knowledge for the sake of knowledge.

第四句

Symptoms of pervasive anti-intellectualism in our schools aren't difficult to find.

第二段

“Schools have always been in a society where practical is more important than intellectual,” says education writer Diane Ravitch. “Schools could be a counterbalance.” Ravitch’s latest book, *Left Back: A Century of Failed School Reforms*, traces the roots of anti-intellectualism in our schools, concluding they are anything but a counterbalance to the American distaste for intellectual pursuits.

重点词汇：

Practical: 实践课、实际应用考试

Distaste: 反感

第一句

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第二句

“Schools could be a counterbalance.” Ravitch’s latest book, *Left Back: A Century of Failed School Reforms*, traces the roots of anti-intellectualism in our schools, concluding they are anything but a counterbalance to the American distaste for intellectual pursuits.

第三段

But they could and should be. Encouraging kids to reject the life of the mind leaves them vulnerable to exploitation and control. Without the ability to think critically, to defend their ideas and understand the ideas of others, they cannot fully participate in our democracy. Continuing along this path, says writer Earl Shorris, “We will become a second-rate country. We will have a less civil society.”

重点词汇：

Vulnerable: 易受攻击的、易受影响的

Exploitation: 剥削

second-rate: 二流的

第一句

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第二句

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第三句

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第五句

We will have a less civil society."

第四段

"Intellect is resented as a form of power or privilege," writes historian and professor Richard Hofstadter in *Anti-Intellectualism in American Life*, a Pulitzer-Prize winning book on the roots of anti-intellectualism in US politics, religion, and education. From the beginning of our history, says Hofstadter, our democratic and populist urges have driven us to reject anything that smells of elitism. Practicality, common sense, and native intelligence have been considered more noble qualities than anything you could learn from a book.

重点词汇:

Resented: 不满、怨恨

Privilege: 特权

Historian: 历史学家

Democratic: 民主的

Populist: 平民主义的

Elitism: 精英主义

Noble: 高尚的

第一句

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第五段

Ralph Waldo Emerson and other Transcendentalist philosophers thought schooling and rigorous book learning put unnatural restraints on children: "We are shut up in schools and college recitation rooms for 10 or 15 years and come out at last with a bellyful of words and do not know a thing." Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* exemplified American anti-intellectualism. Its hero avoids being civilized -- going to school and learning to read -- so he can preserve his innate goodness.

重点词汇:

Rigorous: 严密的、严苛的

Restraints: 禁止

recitation rooms: 教室、课堂

第一句

Ralph Waldo Emerson and other Transcendentalist philosophers thought schooling and rigorous book learning put unnatural restraints on children: "We are shut up in schools and college recitation rooms for 10 or 15 years and come out at last with a bellyful of words and do not know a thing."

第二句

Mark Twain's *Huckleberry Finn* exemplified American anti-intellectualism.

第三句

Its hero avoids being civilized -- going to school and learning to read -- so he can preserve his innate goodness.

第六段

Intellect, according to Hofstadter, is different from native intelligence, a quality we reluctantly admire. Intellect is the critical, creative, and contemplative side of the mind. Intelligence seeks to grasp, manipulate, re-order, and adjust, while intellect examines, ponders, wonders, theorizes, criticizes and imagines.

重点词汇:

Reluctantly: 不情愿地

Contemplative: 沉思的

Manipulate: 操纵、使用

Ponders: 沉思、仔细思考

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Intelligence seeks to grasp, manipulate, re-order, and adjust, while intellect examines, ponders, wonders, theorizes, criticizes and imagines.

第七段

School remains a place where intellect is mistrusted. Hofstadter says our country's educational system is in the grips of people who "joyfully and militantly proclaim their hostility to intellect and their eagerness to identify with children who show the least intellectual promise."

重点词汇:

in the grips of: 受控制

militantly: 好战的

eagerness: 渴望

第一句

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