

## 2023 考研英语阅读基础课程-必刷 40 篇

主讲：KK 何凯文

### Text 20

#### 第一段

When it comes to the slowing economy, Ellen Spero isn't biting her nails just yet. But the 47-year-old manicurist isn't cutting, filling or polishing as many nails as she'd like to, either. Most of her clients spend \$12 to \$50 weekly, but last month two longtime customers suddenly stopped showing up. Spero blames the softening economy. "I'm a good economic indicator," she says. "I provide a service that people can do without when they're concerned about saving some dollars." So Spero is downscaling, shopping at middle-brow Dillard's department store near her suburban Cleveland home, instead of Neiman Marcus. "I don't know if other clients are going to abandon me, too," she says.

重点词汇：

Manicurist: 美甲师

Polishing: 抛光

Clients: 顾客

Indicator: 指示物

Downscaling: 买或卖低廉的商品

Suburban: 郊区

#### 第一句

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So Spero is downscaling, shopping at middle-brow Dillard's department store near her suburban Cleveland home, instead of Neiman Marcus.

第八句

"I don't know if other clients are going to abandon me, too." she says (that) .

第二段

Even before Alan Greenspan's admission that America's red-hot economy is cooling, lots of working folks had already seen signs of the slowdown themselves. From car dealerships to Gap outlets, sales have been lagging for months as shoppers temper their spending. For retailers, who last year took in 24 percent of their revenue between Thanksgiving and Christmas, the cautious approach is coming at a crucial time. Already, experts say, holiday sales are off 7 percent from last year's pace. But don't sound any alarms just yet. Consumers seem only mildly concerned, not panicked, and many say they remain optimistic about the economy's long-term prospects, even as they do some modest belt-tightening.

重点词汇:

Lagging: 落后

Retailers: 零售商

Temper: 使缓和

第一句

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Consumers seem only mildly concerned, not panicked, and many say (that) they remain optimistic about the economy's long-term prospects, even as they do some modest belt-tightening.

第三段

Consumers say they're not in despair because, despite the dreadful headlines, their own fortunes still feel pretty good. Home prices are holding steady in most regions. In Manhattan, "there's a new gold rush happening in the \$4 million to \$10 million range, predominantly fed by Wall Street bonuses," says broker Barbara Corcoran. In San Francisco, prices are still rising even as frenzied overbidding quiets. "Instead of 20 to 30 offers, now maybe you only get two or three," says John Tealdi, a Bay Area real-estate broker. And most folks still feel pretty comfortable about their ability to find and keep a job.

重点词汇:

in despair: 绝望的

despite: 尽管

gold rush: 淘金热

predominantly: 主要地

frenzied: 疯狂的

overbidding: 出价过高的

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第六句

And most folks still feel pretty comfortable about their ability to find and keep a job.

第四段

Many folks see silver linings to this slowdown. Potential home buyers would cheer for lower interest rates. Employers wouldn't mind a little fewer bubbles in the job market. Many consumers seem to have been influenced by stock-market swings, which investors now view as a necessary ingredient to a sustained boom. Diners might see an upside, too. Getting a table at Manhattan's hot new Alain Ducasse restaurant used to be impossible. Not anymore. For that, Greenspan & Co. may still be worth toasting.

重点词汇:

silver linings: 一线希望

interest rates: 利率

bubbles: 气泡

stock-market swings: 股票市场波动

ingredient: 成分、因素

toasting: 为...举杯祝酒、取暖

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## Text 21

### 第一段

In recent years, railroads have been combining with each other, merging into supersystems, causing heightened concerns about monopoly. As recently as 1995, the top four railroads accounted for under 70 percent of the total ton-miles moved by rails. Next year, after a series of mergers is completed, just four railroads will control well over 90 percent of all the freight moved by major rail carriers.

重点词汇:

Railroads: 铁路

combining with: 与...结合

merging into: 结合、并入

supersystems: 超系统的

monopoly: 垄断

ton-miles: 吨英里

mergers: 兼并

freight: 货物

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## 第二段

Supporters of the new supersystems argue that these mergers will allow for substantial cost reductions and better coordinated service. Any threat of monopoly, they argue, is removed by fierce competition from trucks. But many shippers complain that for heavy bulk commodities traveling long distances, such as coal, chemicals, and grain, trucking is too costly and the railroads therefore have them by the throat.

重点词汇:

cost reductions: 降低成本

shippers: 运货商

grain: 谷物

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## 第三段

The vast consolidation within the rail industry means that most shippers are served by only one rail company. Railroads typically charge such “captive” shippers 20 to 30 percent more than they do when another railroad is competing for the business. Shippers who feel they are being overcharged have the right to appeal to the federal government’s Surface Transportation Board for rate relief, but the process is expensive, time-consuming, and will work only in truly extreme cases.



重点词汇:

Consolidation: 巩固、合并

Captive: 被俘虏的

Overcharged: 要价过高的

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第四段

Railroads justify rate discrimination against captive shippers on the grounds that in the long run it reduces everyone’s cost. If railroads charged all customers the same average rate, they argue, shippers who have the option of switching to trucks or other forms of transportation would do so, leaving remaining customers to shoulder the cost of keeping up the line. It’s a theory to which many economists subscribe, but in practice it often leaves railroads in the position of determining which companies will flourish and which will fail. “Do we really want railroads to be the arbiters of who wins and who loses in the marketplace?” asks Martin Bercovici, a Washington lawyer who frequently represents shippers.

重点词汇:

Discrimination: 歧视、区别对待

on the grounds: 由于...的原因

subscribe: 订阅

flourish: 繁荣



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## 第五段

Many captive shippers also worry they will soon be hit with a round of huge rate increases. The railroad industry as a whole, despite its brightening fortunes, still does not earn enough to cover the cost of the capital it must invest to keep up with its surging traffic. Yet railroads continue to borrow billions to acquire one another, with Wall Street cheering them on. Consider the \$10.2 billion bid by Norfolk Southern and CSX to acquire Conrail this year. Conrail's net railway operating income in 1996 was just \$427 million, less than half of the carrying costs of the transaction. Who's going to pay for the rest of the bill? Many captive shippers fear that they will, as Norfolk Southern and CSX increase their grip on the market.

## 重点词汇:

Surging: 激增

Transaction: 交易、买卖

Grip: 掌握

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## Text 22

### 第一段

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-minute surgical procedure. Such advances offer the aging population a quality of life that was unimaginable when I entered medicine 50 years ago. But not even a great health-care system can cure death -- and our failure to confront that reality now threatens this greatness of ours.

重点词汇:

life expectancy: 平均寿命

cataracts: 白内障

第一句

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confront that reality now threatens this greatness of ours.

## 第二段

Death is normal; we are genetically programmed to disintegrate and perish, even under ideal conditions. We all understand that at some level, yet as medical consumers we treat death as a problem to be solved. Shielded by third-party payers from the cost of our care, we demand everything that can possibly be done for us, even if it's useless. The most obvious example is late-stage cancer care. Physicians -- frustrated by their inability to cure the disease and fearing loss of hope in the patient -- too often offer aggressive treatment far beyond what is scientifically justified.

重点词汇:

Disintegrate: 崩溃、瓦解

Perish: 猝死、毁灭

Shielded: 隔离的、防护的

Frustrated: 懊恼的、沮丧的

late-stage: 晚期的

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In 1950, the U.S. spent \$12.7 billion on health care. In 2002, the cost will be \$1,540 billion. Anyone can see this trend is unsustainable. Yet few seem willing to try to reverse it. Some scholars conclude that a government with finite resources should simply stop paying for medical care that sustains life beyond a certain age -- say 83 or so. Former Colorado governor Richard Lamm has been quoted as saying that the old and infirm "have a duty to die and get out of the way," so that younger, healthier people can realize their potential.

## 重点词汇：

Reverse: 彻底改变

finite resources: 有限资源

sustains: 支撑

infirm: 体弱多病的

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Former Colorado governor Richard Lamm has been quoted as saying that the old and infirm “have a duty to die and get out of the way,” so that younger, healthier people can realize their potential.

## 第四段

I would not go that far. Energetic people now routinely work through their 60s and beyond, and remain dazzlingly productive. At 78, Viacom chairman Sumner Redstone jokingly claims to be 53. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor is in her 70s, and former surgeon general C. Everett Koop chairs an Internet start-up in his 80s. These leaders are living proof that prevention works and that we can manage the health problems that come naturally with age. As a mere 68-year-old, I wish to age as productively as they have.

## 重点词汇：

Dazzlingly: 耀眼地、令人赞叹地

Former: 以前的

surgeon general: 卫生局局长

prevention: 预防

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These leaders are living proof that prevention works and that we can manage the health problems that come naturally with age.

第六句

As a mere 68-year-old, I wish to age as productively as they have.

第五段

Yet there are limits to what a society can spend in this pursuit. As a physician, I know the most costly and dramatic measures may be ineffective and painful. I also know that people in Japan and Sweden, countries that spend far less on medical care, have achieved longer, healthier lives than we have. As a nation, we may be overfunding the quest for unlikely cures while underfunding research on humbler therapies that could improve people's lives.

重点词汇:

Pursuit: 追求

第一句

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## Text 23

### 第一段

The Supreme Court's decisions on physician-assisted suicide carry important implications for how medicine seeks to relieve dying patients of pain and suffering.

重点词汇:

Implications: 暗示、含义

physician-assisted suicide: 安乐死

第一句

The Supreme Court's decisions on physician-assisted suicide carry important implications for how medicine seeks to relieve dying patients of pain and suffering.

### 第二段

Although it ruled that there is no constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide, the Court in effect supported the medical principle of "double effect," a centuries-old moral principle holding that an action having two effects -- a good one that is intended and a harmful one that is foreseen -- is permissible if the actor intends only the good effect.

重点词汇:

Foreseen: 预见的

Permissible: 允许的

第一句

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### 第三段

Doctors have used that principle in recent years to justify using high doses of morphine to control terminally ill patients' pain, even though increasing dosages will eventually kill the patient.

重点词汇:

terminally ill: 末期的疾病

morphine: 吗啡

dosages: 剂量

第一句

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### 第四段

Nancy Dubler, director of Montefiore Medical Center, contends that the principle will shield doctors who "until now have very, very strongly insisted that they could not give patients sufficient medication to control their pain if that might hasten death."

重点词汇:

Contends: 声称、主张

Sufficient: 充足的

Hasten: 促进

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## 第五段

George Annas, chair of the health law department at Boston University, maintains that, as long as a doctor prescribes a drug for a legitimate medical purpose, the doctor has done nothing illegal even if the patient uses the drug to hasten death. "It's like surgery," he says. "We don't call those deaths homicides because the doctors didn't intend to kill their patients, although they risked their death. If you're a physician, you can risk your patient's suicide as long as you don't intend their suicide."

重点词汇:

Prescribes: 开药方

Risked: 担风险

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## 第六段

On another level, many in the medical community acknowledge that the assisted-suicide debate has been fueled in part by the despair of patients for whom modern medicine has prolonged the physical agony of dying.

重点词汇:

Agony: 痛苦

Despair: 绝望

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## 第七段

Just three weeks before the Court's ruling on physician-assisted suicide, the National Academy of Science (NAS) released a two-volume report, *Approaching Death: Improving Care at the End of Life*. It identifies the undertreatment of pain and the aggressive use of "ineffectual and forced medical procedures that may prolong and even dishonor the period of dying" as the twin problems of end-of-life care.

重点词汇:

Released: 免除、释放

Undertreatment: 处理不足

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## 第八段

The profession is taking steps to require young doctors to train in hospices, to test knowledge of aggressive pain management therapies, to develop a Medicare billing code for hospital-based care, and to develop new standards for assessing and treating pain at the end of life.

重点词汇:

Hospices: 济贫院

Therapies: 治疗方法

Assessing: 评估

第一句

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## 第九段

Annas says lawyers can play a key role in insisting that these well-meaning medical initiatives translate into better care. "Large numbers of physicians seem unconcerned with the pain their patients are needlessly and predictably suffering," to the extent that it constitutes "systematic patient abuse." He says medical licensing boards "must make it clear... that painful deaths are presumptively ones that are incompetently managed and should result in license suspension."

重点词汇:

Con stitutes: 构成、组成

Presumptively: 假设地

license suspension: 吊销驾照

incompetently: 无能力地、不胜任地

第一句

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