

2023 考研英语阅读基础课程-必刷 40 篇

主讲: KK 何凯文

Text 28

第一段

Being a man has always been dangerous. There are about 105 males born for every 100 females, but this ratio drops to near balance at the age of maturity, and among 70-year-olds there are twice as many women as men. But the great universal of male mortality is being changed. Now, boy babies survive almost as well as girls do. This means that, for the first time, there will be an excess of boys in those crucial years when they are searching for a mate. More important, another chance for natural selection has been removed. Fifty years ago, the chance of a baby (particularly a boy baby) surviving depended on its weight. A kilogram too light or too heavy meant almost certain death. Today it makes almost no difference. Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone.

重点词汇:

Maturity: 成熟

Variation: 变异

第一句

Being a man has always been dangerous.

第二句

There are about 105 males born for every 100 females, but this ratio drops to near balance at the age of maturity, and among 70-year-olds there are twice as many women as men.

第三句

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第七句

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A kilogram too light or too heavy meant almost certain death.

第九句

Today it makes almost no difference.

第十句

Since much of the variation is due to genes, one more agent of evolution has gone.

第二段

There is another way to commit evolutionary suicide: stay alive, but have fewer children. Few people are as fertile as in the past. Except in some religious communities, very few women have 15 children. Nowadays the number of births, like the age of death, has become average. Most of us have roughly the same number of offspring. Again, differences between people and the opportunity for natural selection to take advantage of it have diminished. India shows what is happening. The country offers wealth for a few in the great cities and poverty for the remaining tribal peoples. The grand mediocrity of today -- everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring -- means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.

重点词汇：

Fertile: 肥沃的

Roughly: 粗略的

Diminished: 消退

Tribal: 部落的

Grand: 壮丽的

Mediocrity: 平庸人

第一句

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第八句

The grand mediocrity of today -- everyone being the same in survival and number of offspring -- means that natural selection has lost 80% of its power in upper-middle-class India compared to the tribes.

第三段

For us, this means that evolution is over; the biological Utopia has arrived. Strangely, it has involved little physical change. No other species fills so many places in nature. But in the pass 100,000 years -- even the pass 100 years -- our lives have been transformed but our bodies have not. We did not evolve, because machines and society did it for us. Darwin had a phrase to describe those ignorant of evolution: they "look at an organic being as a savage looks at a ship, as at something wholly beyond his comprehension." No doubt we will remember a 20th century way of life beyond comprehension for its ugliness. But however amazed our descendants may be at how far from Utopia we were, they will look just like us.

重点词汇:

Organic: 有机食品

Savage: 凶猛的

Descendants: 后代、晚辈

第一句

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Text 29

第一段

Hunting for a job late last year, lawyer Gant Redmon stumbled across CareerBuilder, a job database on the Internet. He searched it with no success but was attracted by the site's "personal search agent." It's an interactive feature that lets visitors key in job criteria such as location, title, and salary, then E-mails them when a matching position is posted in the database. Redmon chose the keywords *legal*, *intellectual property*, and *Washington, D.C.* Three weeks later, he got his first notification of an opening. "I struck gold," says Redmon, who E-mailed his resume to the employer and won a position as in-house counsel for a company.

重点词汇:

Stumbled: 蹒跚、绊倒

Interactive: 交互的、互动的

Criteria: 标准、尺度

Resume: 恢复、重新开始

Counsel: 忠告、辩护律师

第一句

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第六句

“I struck gold,” says (that) Redmon, who E-mailed his resume to the employer and won a position as in-house counsel for a company.

第二段

With thousands of career-related sites on the Internet, finding promising openings can be time-consuming and inefficient. Search agents reduce the need for repeated visits to the databases. But although a search agent worked for Redmon, career experts see drawbacks. Narrowing your criteria, for example, may work against you: “Every time you answer a question you eliminate a possibility.” says one expert.

重点词汇:

Drawbacks: 缺点; 退税

Narrowing: 缩小、收缩

Criteria: 标准、尺度

Eliminate: 根除、淘汰、排除

第一句

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第四句

Narrowing your criteria, for example, may work against you: “Every time you

answer a question (that) you eliminate a possibility.” says (that) one expert.

第三段

For any job search, you should start with a narrow concept—what you think you want to do -- then broaden it. “None of these programs do that,” says another expert. “There’s no career counseling implicit in all of this.” Instead, the best strategy is to use the agent as a kind of tip service to keep abreast of jobs in a particular database; when you get E-mail, consider it a reminder to check the database again. “I would not rely on agents for finding everything that is added to a database that might interest me,” says the author of a job-searching guide.

重点词汇：

Concept: 概念

Broaden: 变宽、扩大

Counseling: 咨询服务、劝告、商讨

Implicit: 含蓄的、固有的

Abreast: 并排、并列；了解

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第五句

“I would not rely on agents for finding everything that is added to a database that might interest me,” says (that) the author of a job-searching guide.

第四段

Some sites design their agents to tempt job hunters to return. When CareerSite's agent sends out messages to those who have signed up for its service, for example, it includes only three potential jobs -- those it considers the best matches. There may be more matches in the database; job hunters will have to visit the site again to find them -- and they do. “On the day after we send our messages, we see a sharp increase in our traffic,” says Seth Peets, vice president of marketing for CareerSite.

重点词汇：

Tempt: 引诱、诱惑

Vice: 副的

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第五段

Even those who aren't hunting for jobs may find search agents worthwhile. Some use them to keep a close watch on the demand for their line of work or gather information on compensation to arm themselves when negotiating for a raise. Although happily employed, Redmon maintains his agent at CareerBuilder. Working with a personal search agent means having another set of eyes looking out for you.

重点词汇:

Compensation: 补偿金

Arm: 武装、提供

Negotiating: 谈判

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第一段

Why do so many Americans distrust what they read in their newspapers? The American Society of Newspaper Editors is trying to answer this painful question. The organization is deep into a long self-analysis known as the journalism credibility project.

重点词汇:

Distrust: 不信任

Credibility: 可靠性

第一句

Why do so many Americans distrust what they read in their newspapers?

第二句

The American Society of Newspaper Editors is trying to answer this painful question.

第三句

The organization is deep into a long self-analysis known as the journalism credibility project.

第二段

Sad to say, this project has turned out to be mostly low-level findings about factual errors and spelling and grammar mistakes, combined with lots of head-scratching puzzlement about what in the world those readers really want.

重点词汇:

factual errors: 事实错误

第一句

Sad to say, this project has turned out to be mostly low-level findings about factual errors and spelling and grammar mistakes, combined with lots of head-scratching puzzlement about what in the world those readers really want.

第三段

But the sources of distrust go way deeper. Most journalists learn to see the world through a set of standard templates (patterns) into which they plug each day's events. In other words, there is a conventional story line in the newsroom culture that provides a backbone and a ready-made narrative structure for otherwise confusing news.

重点词汇:

Templates: 模板、范本

Newsroom: 新闻编辑部

Narrative: 记叙文的

ready-made: 现成的

第一句

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第二句

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第三句

In other words, there is a conventional story line in the newsroom culture that provides a backbone and a ready-made narrative structure for otherwise confusing news.

第四段

There exists a social and cultural disconnect between journalists and their readers, which helps explain why the "standard templates" of the newsroom seem alien to many readers. In a recent survey, questionnaires were sent to reporters in five middle-size cities around the country, plus one large metropolitan area. Then residents in these communities were phoned at random and asked the same questions.

重点词汇：

Disconnect: 切断、分离

alien to: 与...相反

questionnaires: 问卷

metropolitan: 大都市的

第一句

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第三句

Then residents in these communities were phoned at random and asked the same questions.

第五段

Replies show that compared with other Americans, journalists are more likely to live in upscale neighborhoods, have maids, own Mercedeses, and trade stocks, and they're less likely to go to church, do volunteer work, or put down roots in a community.

重点词汇：

Upscale: 高消费阶级的、高档的

第一句

Replies show that compared with other Americans, journalists are more likely to live in upscale neighborhoods, have maids, own Mercedeses, and trade stocks, and they're less likely to go to church, do volunteer work, or put down roots in a community.

第六段

Reporters tend to be part of a broadly defined social and cultural elite, so their work tends to reflect the conventional values of this elite. The astonishing distrust of the news media isn't rooted in inaccuracy or poor reportorial skills but in the daily clash of world views between reporters and their readers.

重点词汇:

Astonishing: 惊人的

Clash: 争执、冲突

第一句

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第二句

The astonishing distrust of the news media isn't rooted in inaccuracy or poor reportorial skills but in the daily clash of world views between reporters and their readers.

第七段

This is an explosive situation for any industry, particularly a declining one. Here is a troubled business that keeps hiring employees whose attitudes vastly annoy the customers. Then it sponsors lots of symposiums and a credibility project dedicated to wondering why customers are annoyed and fleeing in large numbers. But it never seems to get around to noticing the cultural and class biases that so many former buyers are complaining about. If it did, it would open up its diversity program, now focused narrowly on race and gender, and look for reporters who differ broadly by outlook, values, education, and class.

重点词汇:

Explosive: 易爆的、一触即发的

Sponsors: 赞助商、主办单位

class biases: 阶级快乐

第一句

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第一段

Many things make people think artists are weird. But the weirdest may be this: artists' only job is to explore emotions, and yet they choose to focus on the ones that feel bad.

重点词汇:

Weird: 奇怪的

第一句

Many things make people think (that) artists are weird.

第二句

But the weirdest may be this: artists' only job is to explore emotions, and yet they choose to focus on the ones that feel bad.

第二段

This wasn't always so. The earliest forms of art, like painting and music, are those best suited for expressing joy. But somewhere from the 19th century onward, more artists began seeing happiness as meaningless, phony or, worst of all, boring, as we went from Wordsworth's daffodils to Baudelaire's flowers of evil.

重点词汇:

Onward: 从...以后

Phony: 伪造的、假的

Daffodils: 水仙花

第一句

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第二句

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第三句

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第三段

You could argue that art became more skeptical of happiness because modern times have seen so much misery. But it's not as if earlier times didn't know perpetual war, disaster and the massacre of innocents. The reason, in fact, may be just the opposite: there is too much damn happiness in the world today.

重点词汇:

Misery: 痛苦

Perpetual: 长期的

Massacre: 屠杀

Innocents: 无辜人士

第一句

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第二句

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第三句

The reason, in fact, may be just the opposite: there is too much damn happiness in the world today.

第四段

After all, what is the one modern form of expression almost completely dedicated to depicting happiness? Advertising. The rise of anti-happy art almost exactly tracks the emergence of mass media, and with it, a commercial culture in which happiness is not just an ideal but an ideology.

重点词汇:

Dedicated: 献身于

Depicting: 描绘、描述

Emergence: 出现

Ideology: 空想

第一句

After all, what is the one modern form of expression (that) almost completely dedicated to depicting happiness?

第二句

Advertising.

第三句

The rise of anti-happy art almost exactly tracks the emergence of mass media, and with it, a commercial culture in which happiness is not just an ideal but an ideology.

第五段

People in earlier eras were surrounded by reminders of misery. They worked until exhausted, lived with few protections and died young. In the West, before mass communication and literacy, the most powerful mass medium was the church, which reminded worshippers that their souls were in danger and that they would someday be meat for worms. Given all this, they did not exactly need their art to be a bummer too.

重点词汇:

Eras: 时代

Exhausted: 精疲力竭的、耗尽的

Literacy: 识字、专业知识

Worshippers: 礼拜者

be meat for worms: 终有一死

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第四句

Given all this, they did not exactly need their art to be a bummer too.

第六段

Today the messages the average Westerner is surrounded with are not religious but commercial, and forever happy. Fast-food eaters, news anchors, text messengers, all smiling, smiling, smiling. Our magazines feature beaming celebrities and happy families in perfect homes. And since these messages have an agenda -- to lure us to open our wallets -- they make the very idea of happiness seem unreliable. "Celebrate!" commanded the ads for the arthritis drug Celebrex, before we found out it could increase the risk of heart attacks.

重点词汇:

Surrounded: 被...环绕着的

Religious: 宗教的

Commercial: 商业的

Beaming: 照耀、发出

Lure: 诱惑

Arthritis: 关节炎

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第五句

"Celebrate!" commanded the ads for the arthritis drug Celebrex, before we found out (that) it could increase the risk of heart attacks.

第七段

But what we forget -- what our economy depends on us forgetting -- is that happiness is more than pleasure without pain. The things that bring the greatest joy carry the greatest potential for loss and disappointment. Today, surrounded by promises of easy happiness, we need art to tell us, as religion once did, *Memento mori*: remember that you will die, that everything ends, and that happiness comes not in denying this but in living with it. It's a message even more bitter than a clove cigarette, yet, somehow, a breath of fresh air.

重点词汇:

Potential: 潜在的

Religion: 宗教

Clove: 丁香

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