

The background of the cover is a complex, abstract pattern of red lines. These lines form a series of overlapping, curved shapes that resemble a stylized, elongated 'V' or a series of nested, flowing lines. The lines are of varying thickness and density, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall effect is a modern, artistic design that complements the scientific theme of the book.

Reading
on Science for



CET-4

科普阅读

■ 主编/高凤平

世界图书出版公司

CET-4 科普阅读

Reading on Science for CET-4

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世界图书出版公司

西安 北京 广州 上海

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

CET-4 科普阅读/高凤平主编.—西安:世界图书出版西安公司,2006.6

ISBN 7-5062-8079-5

I. C... II. 高... III. 英语—阅读教学—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2006)第 052904 号

CET-4 科普阅读

主 编 高凤平
责任编辑 刘学武
封面设计 范晓荣

出版发行 世界图书出版西安公司

地 址 西安市北大街 85 号

邮 编 710003

电 话 029-87214941 87233647(市场营销部) 029-87232980(总编室)

传 真 029-87279675 87279676

经 销 各地新华书店,外文书店

印 刷 陕西省史志印刷厂

开 本 787×1092 1/16

印 张 19.5

字 数 400 千字

版 次 2006 年 7 月第 1 版 2006 年 7 月第 1 次印刷

书 号 ISBN 7-5062-8079-5/H·729

定 价 24.80 元

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前言

FOREWORD

科普文章的题材分为一般科技类、生命科学类两部分，旨在为读者提供一个有针对性的选择阅读、欣赏科普英语原文的机会，从而扩大知识面，提高鉴赏能力。

1. 一般科技类文章的内容特点

科技类文章主要涉及信息技术、电子、通讯、航空、天文、军事、新技术和新发明等方面。本书所选文章从不同角度向读者介绍这类学科中新的观点、发明、各种现象及某些领域的研究发展动态，使读者在语言学习的同时，也能掌握一些相关的知识，把二者有机地结合起来。我们认为，丰富的背景知识有助于阅读理解，如果读者能通过此书的阅读扩大自己的知识面，那么对以后的阅读理解则会有一定的促进作用。正是出自于这样的目的，本书选材都出自于国外的各种原版杂志，既保证了内容的丰富多彩，又保证了语言的真实，而真实资料的使用也是语言学习的关键之一。学生可以借此体会到语言在真实交际情景中的使用情况，这同从专门为语言学习而编写的教科书不同，读者从中接触到的语言形式和语料都经过一定的加工，有一定的限制。在国内，读者很少有机会接触真实的语言交际场合及所学语言的社会和文化，而要获得此方面的知识，只有通过大量的阅读。阅读提供了让读者了解世界其它国家的历史、文化、社会现状及在文学艺术科学技术和经济各方面的发展，多样的题材、新颖丰富的内容，既可激发学生的阅读兴趣，又可促进语言学习的动力。此外，文章前面的内容简介，文章后面的词汇、短语注释，都便于读者脱离教师自己进行学习；而专业知识背景的注释，如学科或领域的奠基人、开拓者或做出杰出贡献的人物，不断出现的新科技，自然现象及重大科学发现和进展等的注释，都有助于拓宽读者的知识面。

2. 一般科技类文章的体裁特点

英语科技类文章多采取说明文的写作形式，其主要目的是说明某个领域的发展动态、现

状及取得的成果等，文中有时体现作者的态度及看法。说明文多以事实性的说明为主，而无华丽修饰的词藻。科技类的文章多采取描写解释及说明的形式，这与文章内容有关，因为说明文是直接传播知识的一种文体，它的内容必须有很强的科学性。科学性主要表现在两个方面：(1) 它所反映的应是客观事物的本质特征，真实面貌，而不是歪曲了的事实，或主观臆想；(2) 它的语言应准确无误，因此说明文中常避开含糊的词语。

说明文是科技专业人员最常用的一种文体，它解释或探讨某个自然现象的起因，介绍新技术和新发明或某个问题的解决方法。在说明解释过程中，作者多采用定义、分类、比较及对照、解释或分析因果关系等方法，为使说明更加清晰，文章又多使用细节及例子，使读者能顺利理解抽象的讨论；作者在展示事实及现象时，常根据主题的特征，采取时间顺序或合乎逻辑的方式，词语及句子力求准确、清晰，说明力求思想性、科学性、条理性、完整性及通俗性和趣味性。这类文章的语篇结构常包含如下几个方面：(1) 背景；(2) 问题；(3) 为解决问题而推荐使用的工具或必要条件；(4) 为达到预期的解决问题的效果，提供至少一个尝试性的程序建设；(5) 指出用什么手段来检测问题是否已解决；(6) 结束语。尽管说明文并不是必须包括所有这些因素，但其中的主要方面如问题、程序和解决方法都应涉及到。说明类文章有其表面结构线索，因它常基于某个暗含的逻辑结构，所以常以 *thus*, *because* 和 *since* 等词语把文章组织起来，一般是先给出证据，然后给出结论。

科技类文章中常穿插着空间顺序、时间顺序及逻辑顺序等。在阅读时，读者应注意以下几个因素：*what*, *why*, *how* 等。作者介绍的目的可能是为了说明事情的原由和过程，向读者传递信息。也就是说，说明文的目的在于对所写事物进行解释，从而给人以知识。

3. 一般科技类文章的练习特点

练习采取多项选择、简答题、判断对错题的形式，这样可满足学生需要进行大量练习的目的，便于检测速度和核对答案，与一些国内外主要考试的阅读理解形式基本一致，使本书可适合于考试前的集中准备，学生可以从答案及注解中快速评估出自己的阅读理解水平，发现理解中的不足之处，因为文章后的选择题可分为主题大意类、细节类、推理类、词汇类、文章结构、文体及作者的态度等几类，从所错的题项中，读者可看出自己哪方面较差，需要在练习中加以注意，找出自己做选项题的特点及做题的速度等，这些都有助于考试，又使学生在不知不觉中提高了阅读速度、解题技巧及这类文章的阅读理解水平。总之，阅读理解练习的最终目的是为了让学生在独立的语言学习中，对自己的阅读理解进行检查，因此，同扩大背景知识一样，都是围绕着提高阅读理解这一中心而设计的。

综上所述，同其它类的阅读理解一样，本书也是围绕着文章结构形式（体裁），题材（内

容) 类型及练习题类型这三方面来编排的。在阅读理解时, 应针对科技类型的文章作出不同的分析与理解。在科学领域中, 广泛使用的说明文可以说明客观事物的特点和性能, 介绍某种操作程序, 也可用于解释抽象概念, 阐明科学道理和自然现象。相应地我们应以此决定我们把握文章的方式, 从而找到问题的正确选项。多样的体裁, 丰富的题材及全面的理解练习体现出本书的独特性及价值。

编者

2006 年 2 月

Dr. Tichauer's New Design

提肖博士的新设计

Introduction

要想了解一种新工具是否更先进,需要分别对使用传统工具和新工具的同一受试者的工作状态进行测试,得出相关数据,通过对比判断新工具是否更具优势。提肖博士的新设计就是通过这样的测试证明比传统的工具更省力,从而使工人们避免了身体某个部位由于长期过度劳累而受损。

Design of all the new tools and implements is based on careful experiments with electronic instruments. First, a human "guinea pig"^① is tested using a regular tool. Measurements are taken of the amount of work done, and the buildup of heat in the body. Twisted joints and stretched muscles can not perform as well, it has been found, as joints and muscles in their normal positions. The same person is then tested again, using a tool designed according to the suggestions made by Dr. Tichauer. All these tests have shown the great improvement of the new designs over the old.

One of the electronic instruments used by Dr. Tichauer, the myograph^②, makes visible through electrical signals the work done by human muscle.

Another machine measures any dangerous features of tools, thus proving information upon which to base a new design. One conclusion of tests made with this machine is that a tripod stepladder^③ is more stable and safer to use than one with four legs.

This work has attracted the attention of efficiency experts and time-and-motion-study engineer, but its value goes far beyond that. Dr. Tichauer's first thought is for the health of the tool user. With the repeated use of the same tool all day long on production lines and in other jobs, even light manual^④ work can put a heavy stress^⑤ on one small area of the body. In time, such stress can cause a disabling disease. Furthermore, muscle fatigue is a serious safety hazard^⑥.

Efficiency is the by-product of comfort, Dr. Tichauer believes, and his new designs for traditional tools have proved his point.

Notes

1. guinea pig 供做科学实验的人
3. stepladder *n.* 活梯
5. stress *n.* 压力

2. myograph *n.* 肌动记器
4. manual *adj.* 体力的
6. hazard *n.* 危险

**Exercise**

- What are involved in the design of a new tool according to the passage?
 - Electronic instruments and a regular tool.
 - A human "guinea pig" and a regular tool.
 - Electronic instruments and a human "guinea pig".
 - Electronic instruments, a human "guinea pig" and a regular tool.
- From the passage we know that joints and muscles perform best when _____.
 - they are twisted and stretched
 - they are in their normal positions
 - they are tested with a human "guinea pig"
 - they are tested with electronic instruments
- A "myograph" (Para. 2, Line 1) is an electronic instrument that _____.
 - is able to design new tools
 - measures the amount of energy used
 - enable people to see the muscular movements
 - visualizes electrical signals
- It can be inferred from the passage that _____.
 - a stepladder used to have four legs
 - it is dangerous to use tools
 - a tripod is safer in a tool design
 - workers are safer on production lines
- Dr. Tichauer started his experiments initially to _____.
 - improve efficiency
 - increase production
 - reduce work load
 - improve comfort

Keys

1. D 2. B 3. C 4. A 5. D

Computer Crimes

计算机犯罪

Introduction

计算机越来越多地被贸易公司、政府部门及金融机构等用于内部管理。因而，一旦计算机中的重要或机密信息被窃取，损失往往是惨重的。然而，计算机犯罪却很难被察觉，那些败露的计

算机犯罪常常是自己碰巧撞到了枪眼上,实属偶然。而且,与其他犯罪分子不同的是,计算机罪犯一般多能逃脱法律的制裁。

More and more, the operations of our businesses, governments, and financial institutions are controlled by information that exists only inside computer memories. Anyone clever enough to modify this information for his own purposes can reap big reward. Even worse, a number of people who have done this and been caught at it have managed to get away without punishment ①.

It's easy for computer crimes to go undetected if no one checks up on what the computer is doing. But even if the crime is detected, the criminal may walk away not only unpunished but with a glowing recommendation ② from his former employers.

Of course, we have no statistics on crimes that go undetected. But it's disturbing to note how many of the crimes we do know about were detected by accident, not by systematic inspections or other security procedures. The computer criminals who have been caught may have been the victims of uncommonly bad luck.

Unlike other lawbreakers, who must leave the country, commit suicide, or go to jail, computer criminals sometimes escape punishment, demanding not only that they not be charged but that they be given good recommendations and perhaps other benefits. All too often, their demands have been met.

Why? Because company executives are afraid of the bad publicity that would result if the public found out that their computer had been misused. They hesitate at the thought of a criminal boasting in open court of how he juggled ③ the most confidential ④ records right under the noses of the company's executives, accountants, and security staff. And so another computer criminal departs with just the recommendations he needs to continue his crimes elsewhere.

Notes

1. punishment *n.* 惩罚

2. recommendation *n.* 推荐

3. juggled *v.* 诈骗

4. confidential *adj.* 保密的

Exercise

- It can be concluded from the passage that _____.
 - it is still impossible to detect computer crimes today
 - people commit computer crimes at the request of their company
 - computer criminals escape punishment because they can't be detected
 - computer crimes are the most serious problem in the operation of financial institutions
- It is implied in the third paragraph that _____.
 - most computer criminals who are caught blame their bad luck
 - the rapid increase of computer crimes is a troublesome problem



- C. most computer criminals are smart enough to cover up their crimes
D. many more computer crimes go undetected than are discovered
3. Which of the following statements is mentioned in the passage?
- A. A strict law against computer crimes must be enforced
B. Companies usually hesitate to uncover computer crimes to protect their reputation
C. Companies will guard against computer crimes to protect their reputation
D. Companies need to impose restrictions on confidential information
4. What may happen to computer criminals once they are caught?
- A. With a bad reputation they can hardly find another job.
B. They may walk away and easily find another job.
C. They will be denied access to confidential records.
D. They must leave the country to go to jail.
5. The passage is mainly about ____.
- A. why computer criminals are often able to escape punishment
B. why computer crimes are difficult to detect by systematic inspections
C. how computer criminals manage to get good recommendations from their former employers
D. why computer crimes can't be eliminated

Keys

1. D 2. D 3. B 4. B 5. D

Equal Rights and Equal Responsibility

权利平等, 责任共担

Introduction

在一个家庭中, 如果夫妻平等, 双方共同分担家务劳动的话, 那么在这种环境中成长的孩子会更易于接受平等的观念, 并且善于合作。长期以来, 人们一直强烈地反对歧视妇女, 于是, 妇女的地位在一天天攀升, 但是, 我们不能不警惕会走向另一个极端, 造成另一种性别歧视。因为, 与“大男子主义”一样, “大女子主义”同样不利于孩子的成长。

In a family where the roles of men and women are not sharply separated and where many household tasks are shared to a greater or lesser extent, notions of male superiority are hard to

maintain. The pattern of sharing in tasks and indecision makes for equality and this in turn leads to further sharing. In such a home, the growing boy and girl learn to accept equality more easily than did their parents and to prepare more fully for participation^① in a world characterized by cooperation rather than by the “battle of the sexes”.

If the process goes too far and man's role is regarded as less important-and that has happened in some cases-we are as badly off as before, only in reverse.

It is time to reassess the role of the man in the American family. We are getting a little tired of “Momism” -but we don't want to exchange it for a “new-Popism”. What we need, rather, is the recognition that bringing up children involves a partnership of equals. There are signs that psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, and specialists on the family are becoming more aware of the part men play and that they have decided that women should not receive all the credit-nor the blame. We have almost given up saying that a woman's place is in the home. We are beginning, however, to analyze man's place in the home and to insist that he does have a place in it. Nor is that place irrelevant^② to the healthy development of the child.

The family is a co-operative enterprise for which it is difficult to lay down rules, because each family needs to work out its own ways for solving its own problems.

Excessive authoritarianism^③ has unhappy consequences, whether it wears skirts or trousers, the ideal of equal rights and equal responsibilities is pertinent^④ not only to a healthy democracy^⑤, but also to a healthy family.

Notes

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. participation <i>n.</i> 参与 | 2. irrelevant <i>adj.</i> 不相关的 |
| 3. authoritarianism <i>n.</i> 命令主义 | 4. pertinent <i>adj.</i> 相关的, 切题的 |
| 5. democracy <i>n.</i> 民主政治; 民主主义 | |

Exercise

- The ideal of equal rights and equal responsibilities is _____.

A. fundamental to a sound democracy	B. not pertinent to healthy family life
C. responsible for Momism	D. what we have almost given up
- The danger in the sharing of household tasks by the mother and the father is that _____.

A. the role of the father may become an inferior one'
B. the role of the mother may become an inferior one'
C. the children will grow up believing that life is a battle of sexes
D. sharing leads to constant arguing
- The author states that bringing up children _____.

A. is mainly the mother's job



B. belongs among the duties of the father

C. is the job of schools and churches

D. involves a partnership of equals

4. According to the author, the father's role in the home is .

A. minor because he is an ineffectual parent

B. irrelevant to the healthy development of the child

C. pertinent to the healthy development of the child

D. identical to the role of the child's mother

5. With which of the following statements would the author be most likely to agree?

A. A healthy, co-operative family is a basic ingredient of a healthy society.

B. Men are basically opposed to sharing household chores.

C. Division of household responsibilities is workable only in theory.

D. A woman's place in the home now as always.

Keys

1. A 2. A 3. D 4. C 5. A

Teaching Beginning Reading

初级阅读教学

Introduction

小学阶段是培养孩子们阅读能力的重要时期,然而,许多学校在这方面做得并不成功。戴克斯车认为,建立在语音学基础上的阅读方法更有效。这能使孩子们在阅读的初期掌握字母及字母组合的发音,而不只是单纯地记忆几个有限的词汇。这种训练对孩子们是非常必要的,同时也是培养阅读能力的基础环节。

Teaching children to read well from the start is the most important task of elementary schools. But relying on educators to approach this task correctly can be a great mistake. Many schools continue to employ instructional methods that have been proven ineffective. The staying power of the "look-say" or "whole-word" method of teaching beginning reading is perhaps the most flagrant ^① example of this failure to instruct effectively.

The whole-word approach to reading stresses the meaning of words over the meaning of letters,

thinking over decoding^②, developing a sight vocabulary of familiar words over developing the ability to unlock the pronunciation of unfamiliar words. It fits in with the self-directed, “learning how to learn” activities recommended by advocates^③ of “open” classrooms and with the concept that children have to be developmentally ready to begin reading. Before 1963, no major publisher put out anything but these “Run-Spot-Run” readers.

However, in 1955, Rudolf Flesch touched off what has been called “the great debate” in beginning reading. In his best-seller *Why Johnny Can't Read*, Flesch indicted^④ the nation's public schools for miseducating students by using the look-say method. He said—and more scholarly studies by Jeane Chall and Rovert Dykstra later confirmed—that another approach to beginning reading, founded on phonics^⑤, is far superior.

Systematic phonics first teaches children to associate letters and letter combinations with sounds; it then teaches them how to blend these sounds together to make words. Rather than building up a relatively limited vocabulary of memorized words, it imparts a code by which the pronunciations of the vast majority of the most common words in the English language can be learned. Phonics does not devalue the importance of thinking about the meaning of words and sentences; it simply recognizes that decoding is the logical and necessary first step.

Notes

1. flagrant *adj.* 不能容忍的
2. decoding *v.* 译码; 解码
3. advocates *n.* 倡导者
4. indict *v.* 控诉
5. phonics *n.* 语音学

Exercise

1. The author feels that counting on educators to teach reading correctly is _____.
 - A. only logical and natural
 - B. the expected position
 - C. probably a mistake
 - D. merely effective instruction
2. The author indicts the look-say reading approach because _____.
 - A. it overlooks decoding
 - B. Rudolf Flesch agrees with him
 - C. he says it is boring
 - D. many schools continue to use this method
3. One major difference between the look-say method of learning reading and the phonics method is _____.
 - A. look-say is simpler
 - B. Phonics takes longer to learn
 - C. look-say is easier to teach
 - D. phonics gives readers access to far more words
4. The phrase “touch-off” (Para 3, Line 1) most probably means _____.
 - A. talk about shortly
 - B. start or cause
 - C. compare with
 - D. oppose



5. According to the author, which of the following statements is true?

A. Phonics approach regards whole-word method as unimportant.

B. The whole-word approach emphasizes decoding.

C. In phonics approach, it is necessary and logical to employ decoding.

D. Phonics is superior because it stresses the meaning of words thus the vast majority of most common words can be learned.

Keys

1. C 2. A 3. D 4. B 5. C

The South Coast of England

英格兰南海岸

Introduction

海水对石灰岩崖壁的侵蚀一直是英格兰南岸的一大问题,但近几年以来,情况越发严重。由于海水不断向内陆蔓延,一些房屋已报废。专家对受海水侵蚀较严重的地区进行了考察,并绘制预测地图以提醒当地居民他们的房屋可能被海水吞食的时间,愤怒的居民曾呼吁政府筑堤防水,以保护他们的家园,但研究人员表示,堤坝并不能真正解决问题。

People living on part of the south coast of England face a serious problem. In 1993, the owners of a large hotel and of several houses discovered, to their horror, that their gardens had disappeared overnight. The sea had eaten into the soft limestone cliffs on which they had been built. While experts were studying the problem, the hotel and several houses disappeared altogether, sliding down the cliff and into the sea. Erosion^① of the white cliffs along the south coast of England has always been a problem but it has become more serious in recent years. Dozens of homes have had to be abandoned as the sea has crept farther and farther inland^②. Experts have studied the areas most affected and have drawn up a map for local people, forecasting^③ the year in which their homes will be swallowed up by the hungry sea. Angry owners have called on the Government to erect sea defenses to protect their homes. Government surveyors^④ have pointed out that in most cases, this is impossible. New sea walls would cost hundreds of millions of pounds and would merely make the waves and currents go further along the coast, shifting the problem from one area to another. The danger is likely to continue, they say, until the waves reach an inland area of hard rock which will not be eaten as limestone is.

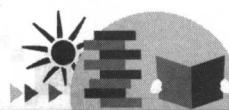
Meanwhile, if you want to buy a cheap house with an uncertain future, apply to a house agent in one of the threatened areas on the south coast of England. You can get a house for a knockdown^⑤ price but it may turn out to be a knockdown home.

Notes

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|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Erosion <i>n.</i> 侵蚀 | 2. inland <i>adj.</i> 向内的 |
| 3. forecasting <i>v.</i> 预测 | 4. surveyors <i>n.</i> 检察院; 测量员 |
| 5. knockdown <i>adj.</i> 极低的 | |

Exercise

- What is the cause of the problem that people living on parts of the south coast of England face?
 - The rising of the sea level.
 - The experts' lack of knowledge.
 - The washing-away of limestone cliffs.
 - The disappearance of hotels, houses and gardens.
- The erosion of the white cliffs in the south of England _____.
 - will soon become a problem for people living in central England
 - has now become a threat to the local residents
 - can be stopped if proper measures are taken
 - is quickly changing the map of England
- The experts study on the problem of erosion can _____.
 - warn people whose homes are in danger
 - provide an effective way to slow it down
 - help to its eventual solution
 - lead to its eventual solution
- It is not feasible to build sea defenses to protect against erosion because _____.
 - house agents along the coast do not support the idea
 - it is too costly and will endanger neighboring areas
 - the government is too slow in taking action
 - they will be easily knocked down by waves and currents
- According to the author, when buying a house along the south coast of England, people should _____.
 - take the quality of the house into consideration
 - guard against being cheated by the house agent
 - examine the house carefully before making a decision



D. be aware of the potential danger involved

Keys

1. C 2. B 3. A 4. B 5. D

Stress

压力

Introduction

运动不但是对体力的挑战,也是对心理的挑战,教练、父母、队友的批评,以及求胜心切的压力都会引起过度焦虑。研究证明,无论是身体方面的压力、情感方面的压力、还是心理方面的压力,都会导致厌倦,即对从前乐于从事的活动产生厌恶感。因此,教练和家长应该学会表扬和鼓励孩子,因为这对孩子更具驱策力。

Sport is not only physically challenging^①, but it can also be mentally challenging. Criticism from coaches, parents, and other teammates, as well as pressure to win can create an excessive amount of anxiety or stress for young athletes^②. Stress can be physical, emotional, or psychological and research has indicated that it can lead to burnout. Burnout has been described as dropping or quitting of an activity that was at one time enjoyable. The early years of development are critical years for learning about oneself. The sport setting is one where valuable experiences can take place. Young athletes can, for example, learn how to cooperate with others, make friends, and gain other social skills that will be used throughout their lives. Coaches and parents should be aware, at all times, that their feedback to youngsters can greatly affect their children. Youngsters may take their parents' and coaches' criticisms to heart and find a flaw^③ in themselves. Coaches and parents should also be cautious that youth sport participation does not become work for children. The outcome of the game should not be more important than the process of learning the sport and other life lessons. In today's youth sport setting. Young athletes may be worrying more about who will win instead of enjoying themselves and the sport. Following a game many parents and coaches focus on the outcome and find fault with youngsters' performances. Positive reinforcement should be provided regardless of the outcome. Research indicates that positive reinforcement motivates^④ and has a greater effect on learning than criticism. Again, criticism can create high levels of stress, Which can lead to burnout^⑤.

Notes

1. challenging *adj.* 激起挑战兴趣的
2. athletes *n.* 运动员
3. flaw *n.* 缺陷
4. motivate *v.* 激发
5. burnout *n.* 燃尽

Exercise

1. An effective way to prevent the burnout of young athletes is ____.

- A. to reduce their mental stress
- C. to make sports less competitive
- B. to increase their sense of success
- D. to make sports more challenging

2. According to the passage sport is positive for young people in that ____.

- A. it can help them learn more about society
- B. it enables them to find flaws in themselves
- C. it can provide them with valuable experiences
- D. it teaches them how to set realistic goals for themselves

3. Many coaches and parents are in the habit of criticizing young athletes ____.

- A. believing that criticism is beneficial for their early development
- B. without realizing criticism may destroy their self confidence
- C. in order to make them remember life's lessons
- D. so as to put more pressure on them

4. According to the passage parents and coaches should ____.

- A. pay more attention to letting children enjoy sports
- B. help children to win every game
- C. train children to cope with stress
- D. enable children to understand the positive aspect of sports

5. The author's purpose in writing the passage is ____.

- A. to teach young athletes how to avoid burnout
- B. to persuade young children not to worry about criticism
- C. to stress the importance of positive reinforcement to children
- D. to discuss the skill of combining criticism with encouragement

Keys

1. A
2. C
3. D
4. A
5. C