

# 优+英语阅读

A+ ENGLISH READING

主编 陈光学



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湖北教育出版社

前言

FOREWORD



# 英语阅读



A+ ENGLISH READING

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## 能力训练

1

### A

The Chinese-born American architect Ieoh Ming Pei is one of the most creative architects of our times. He has incorporated both eastern and western ideas into his designs.

Ieoh Ming Pei was born in Guangzhou, China on April 26, 1917. His father was a famous banker. In 1935, at the age of 17, he came to the United States to study architecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1942, he entered the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

In 1964, Jacqueline Kennedy selected Pei to design the Kennedy library. After that he became well-known all over the world. People named it one of the Ten Best Buildings in the United States. In 1968, Pei started to work on the East Wing of the National Gallery of Art, in Washington D. C. Over one million people visited the building during its first 50 days in existence.

Following the East Wing project Pei's fame has continued to grow widely. In 1983, French President commissioned (委任) Pei to help make the Louvre more modern. Ten years later, the completion of Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre created a new historic landmark for Paris. Pei described it as, "the greatest challenge and greatest accomplishment of my career." At Fragrant Hill, a 300-room hotel in the Chinese capital, Pei has attempted to bring to his native China his often-quoted "third way of making buildings." Avoiding both a complete copying of traditional Chinese motifs (特色) as well as the modernism of the West, Pei has managed, at Fragrant Hill, to make one of his most eloquent (有说服力的) statements.

Pei has designed nearly 50 projects in the United States and abroad. About half of these projects have won major awards. Pei has been awarded the highest honors from nations over the world. In 1990, Pei was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President George Bush for his contributions to world peace and service to the US government.

- ( ) 1. The underlined word "incorporate" can be replaced by \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. divide                      B. combine                      C. separate                      D. part
- ( ) 2. It was \_\_\_\_\_ that Ieoh Ming Pei became world-famous.  
A. after the completion of Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre  
B. after he designed East Wing of the National Gallery of Art, in Washington DC  
C. after he designed the Kennedy library  
D. after he designed the Fragrant Hill
- ( ) 3. \_\_\_\_\_ is an excellent building that shows both the traditional Chinese motifs and the modernism of the West.



- A. Fragrant Hill
- B. Pei's glass pyramid at the Louvre
- C. The East Wing of the National Gallery of Art
- D. Kennedy library

- ( ) 4. We can infer that about \_\_\_\_\_ of Ieoh Ming Pei's projects have won major awards.
- A. 50                      B. 15                      C. 25                      D. 35

### 词汇拓展

1. creative *adj.* 创造性的,有创造力的

- 用法举例: He came up with a really creative solution to the problem.

他想出了一个很有创造性的解决这个问题方案。

- 派生词: create *vt.* 创造,创建

creation *n.* 创造,创建

2. work on 致力于;努力影响/说服某人做某事

- 用法举例: Kent worked all night on the article.

Kent 整夜在写那篇文章。

My parents spent the weekend working on me to go on holiday with them.

我爸妈用一个周末来说服我和他们一起度假去。

- 常用词组: work out 计算出(答案,数量,价值等);理解,弄懂

3. attempt *n. vt.* 试图,尝试,企图

- 常用搭配: make an attempt to do sth. 做努力,做尝试

in an attempt to do sth. 试图,尝试

attempt to do sth. 试图,企图

- 用法举例: He made one last attempt to break the world record.

他为破世界纪录作了最后一次努力。

The prisoners were caught in an attempt to escape from the prison.

囚犯在企图越狱时被抓住了。

Every time I've attempted to convince her, I've failed completely.

每一次我试图说服她,但全然不起作用。

4. manage *vt.* 设法完成;经营,管理

manage to do sth. 想方设法完成

- 用法举例: David managed to borrow the enough money that he needed.

大卫想办法借到了足够的所需的钱。

- 派生词: manager *n.* 经理,管理者

management *n.* 经营,管理

## B

Liefhebber, a Canadian architect(建筑师) has designed a completely different kind of city house—it's independent of the electricity grid (net), the water system, and sewage(污水) lines. "We wanted a house that could remain independent of the city utilities(效用)," explains Toronto architect, Martin Liefhebber, "So we will heat it with an efficient(有效的) wood stove, provide electricity from solar panels(太用能电池板), and recycle all waste with



the help of a self-made toilet and greenhouse.”

Liefhebber estimates(估计) that the two-storeyed, 992-square-foot home could be built for less than \$100,000, and nothing will be wasted. The roof catches snow and rainwater which will be treated for drinking water. The toilet will use only a cup of water per flush(冲洗). The wall will be built of concrete(混凝土) mixed with cellulose(纤维素) fibers—light but expensive, yet a very good insulator(隔热材料) to produce fertilizer(肥料) for the green house garden lying on the home's roof. Liefhebbers has named his house the Codicile. “The name reflects the philosophy(哲学) that if we use less resources, we'll have more to pass on to future generations,” he says.

Toronto's laws have so far prevented the house from going up, but Liefhebber is hopeful that his new idea will have wide appeal(吸引力) and plans to build one later this year.

- ( ) 5. Drinking water comes from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. roof B. snow and rain  
C. piped water D. both B and C
- ( ) 6. The blocks of which the walls will be built are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. semi-conductors B. light but expensive  
C. not only lightweight but cheap D. both A and C
- ( ) 7. The architect designed the house in order to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. save resources B. recycle all the waste  
C. want more from nature D. both A and B

### 词汇拓展

1. independent *adj.* 独立的

- 常用搭配: be independent of 独立于……
- 用法举例: The materials can help the students be independent of the teacher.

这些材料有助于学生自学。

- 派生词: independence *n.* 独立, 自主
- 反义词: dependent *adj.* 依靠的, 依赖的

2. provide *vt.* 提供, 给予

- 常用搭配: provide sb. with sth. / provide sth. for sb. 提供某人某物/为某人提供某物  
The company provides the citizens of the city with drinking water.

这家公司向该市市民供应饮用水。

- 常用搭配: supply sb. with sth. / supply sth. to sb. 提供某人某物/为某人提供某物

3. prevent sb. from (doing) sth. 阻止某人做某事

- 用法举例: Nobody can prevent her from getting what she wants in her life.

没有任何人可以阻止她得到生命中想要的一切。

- 相似短语: stop sb. from doing sth.

keep sb. from doing sth.

hold sb. back from doing sth.





Bushwick is a tough place to grow up. This part of Brooklyn, in New York City, has a lot of crime. More than half of its 100,000 residents rely on aid from the government. Only 50% of students at Bushwick High School graduate in four years.

Some people might say, "We should help these poor kids who have so many challenges." But Malaak Compton-Rock looks at the teens in Bushwick and says, "Go to help kids who have even bigger challenges than you do." She believes that once young people see the power they have to make things better, they can handle their own problems more easily. So her service group, the Angel Rock Project, took 30 Bushwick kids to Soweto, in South Africa, to help poor families there. Soweto is a township outside the city of Johannesburg. The effort, called Journey for Change, aims to show that any kid can change the world.

"Kids in Bushwick face pressure to drop out of school or become involved in gangs and drugs." Says Compton-Rock. "We want them to live a life of purpose and service."

In Soweto, many parents have died of AIDS, a deadly disease. When that happens, a grandparent or a child must lead the family. The Bushwick volunteers helped such families. They tended vegetable gardens, cared for babies and bought groceries.

"The saddest thing was when we visited an orphanage(孤儿院) and I helped a little boy who had been abandoned because he had HIV, the virus that causes AIDS," says Queen Clyde, 12. "It's been good to be on this trip. But what's also important is what we do when it's finished. That's what counts." "I never appreciated what I had until I saw some people who had nothing," says Sadara Lewis, 12. "It's really changed my attitude. I want to make a difference."

The trip was two weeks long. But the kids, aged 12 to 15, will spend all year speaking about their experience, fund-raising and more.

- ( ) 8. What's the main idea of the first paragraph?
- A. Bushwick is the poorest place in New York City.
  - B. Bushwick still needs more care from the government.
  - C. It is children who suffer most in New York City.
  - D. Children in Bushwick are living in a bad situation.
- ( ) 9. In Compton-Rock's opinion, the Bushwick kids \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. have few challenges
  - B. are living much better than people in Africa
  - C. can learn to deal with their own problems by helping others
  - D. should be kept out of schools
- ( ) 10. Compared to Bushwick kids, some children in Soweto \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. may have bigger challenges
  - B. receive no care from the government
  - C. are much more independent



- D. are able to lead the family
- ( ) 11. According to the passage, "Journey for Change" can be best seen as the saying "\_\_\_\_\_".
- A. God helps those who help themselves
- B. Saying and doing are two things
- C. One stone kills two birds
- D. A friend in need is a friend indeed
- ( ) 12. From the passage we know that \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. there are few students in Bushwick High School
- B. the trip to Soweto will have a long influence in spite of its short time
- C. most children are suffering from AIDS in Soweto
- D. kids with HIV will be abandoned in Soweto

### 词汇拓展

#### 1. rely on 依靠, 依赖, 指望

- 常用搭配: rely on sb./sth. to do sth. 指望/信赖某人/某事做某事

rely on sth./sb. for sth. 依赖/依靠某事/某人得到……

- 用法举例: I think we can rely on Dick not to tell anyone.

我认为我们可以信赖迪克不会告诉任何人。

They have to rely on the river for their water.

他们用水只能依靠这条河。

- 派生词: reliable *adj.* 可靠的, 可信赖的

unreliable *adj.* 不可靠的, 靠不住的

reliability *n.* 可靠性

#### 2. care for 照顾, 照料; 喜欢

- 用法举例: She cared for her father all through his long illness.

她在父亲久病期间一直照顾他。

Would you like to care for a drink?

你想喝一杯吗?

- 同/近义词组: take care of 照顾, 照料

#### 3. appreciate *vt.* 欣赏, 鉴赏; 感激; 充分理解

- 用法举例: Her abilities are not fully appreciated by her boss.

她的才能没有老板的充分赏识。

I appreciated his help when we moved.

我很感激他在我们搬家时给予的帮助。

I don't think you appreciate the difficulties his absence will cause.

我认为你完全不了解他缺席会造成什么困难。

- 派生词: appreciation *n.* 欣赏, 鉴赏; 感激; 充分理解

appreciative *adj.* 赞赏的, 有欣赏力的; 感激的

#### 4. make a difference 有影响; 使不一样

- 常用搭配: make no difference (对事物) 根本没影响

with a difference 与众不同

- 用法举例: Having a good teacher has made all the difference for Tom.



汤姆有了好老师后情况大不一样了。

It doesn't make any difference to me whether you come or not.

你来不来对我都无所谓。

That was a meal with a difference!

那顿饭就是不一样啊!

## D

Ballet is a precise and beautiful form of dancing that is performed in a theatre. A kind of ballet first appeared in Italy in the 1400s, but ballet as it is danced today began in France. During the reign of King Louis XIV, in the 1600s, it was officially recognized as a form of art. The French Royal Academy of Dance was founded in 1661 to promote ballet.

Traditional, or classical, ballet follows strict rules and traditions. There are standard positions for the arms, legs and hands, and special movements that make the dance flow smoothly.

Classical ballet uses orchestras(交响乐团), fine scenery and splendid costumes. Many ballets tell a story, but the dancers do not speak any words. They act out the story, using their bodies. The person who arranges the dance movements is called the choreographer(舞蹈指导).

Some ballets are very famous. They have been danced for many years. Giselle, a story of a tragic young village girl who dies in love-stricken grief, was first performed in 1841. Two other long-time favourites are Swan Lake and Sleeping Beauty. These two ballets are as famous for their music as for their dancing.

Modern ballets often look very different from classical ones. They include freer, more modern dance steps. Sometimes, instead of telling a story, they dwell on certain moods or themes. Special effects may be produced with lighting, rather than scenery.

( ) 13. Ballet first turned up in \_\_\_\_\_ and it was officially thought of as a form of art in \_\_\_\_\_.

A. Italy in the 1600s; in France in 1400

B. Italy in the 1400s; in France in 1400

C. Italy in the 1400s; in France in 1600

D. Italy in the 1600s; in France in 1600

( ) 14. Which statement is not true according to the passage?

A. Classical ballet follows strict rules and traditions.

B. Many ballets tell a story, and the dancers sometimes need to speak on the stage.

C. Many ballets tell a story, but the dancers do not speak any words.

D. The ballets always use their bodies to act out the story.

( ) 15. \_\_\_\_\_ are as famous for their music as for their dancing.

A. Swan Lake and Giselle

B. Sleeping Beauty and Swan Lake

B. Sleeping Beauty and Giselle

D. Traditional and modern ballets



( ) 16. The underlined phrase “dwell on” in the last paragraph might mean “\_\_\_\_\_”.

- A. tell sth. in detail      B. live in  
C. live on      C. tell sth. in general

### 词汇拓展

#### 1. perform vt. 表演; 做, 执行

- 用法举例: The play will be performed in public next week in our school.

这部戏剧下周将在我们学校公开演出。

Doctor Lee will perform the operation on her mother.

李医生将为她的母亲做手术。

- 派生词: performer n. 表演者, 演员

performance n. 演出; 执行

- 常用搭配: make / put on a performance 做一场表演

perform miracles 创造奇迹

perform well/badly 表现好/差

#### 2. arrange vt. 安排, 筹划; 整理, 安排

- 常用搭配: arrange to do sth. 安排好做某事

arrange for sb. to do sth. 安排某人做某事

arrange for sth. 安排某事

- 派生词: arrangement n. 安排, 张罗, 整理

- 用法举例: His parents are arranging his wedding.

他的父母在为他张罗婚礼。

Have you arranged to meet Mark this weekend?

你安排好了周末同马克的会面吗?

I've arranged for the window cleaner to come on Monday.

我已安排好一个窗户清洁工周一来。

#### 3. be famous for 因为……而出名

- 同/近义词组: be well-known for 因为……而出名

- 易混词组: be famous/well-known as 作为……而出名

## E

There is a wonderful story about a young girl who had no family and no one to love her.

One day, feeling very sad and lonely, she was walking through a grassland when she noticed a small butterfly caught in a thorn (荆棘) bush. The young girl carefully released the butterfly. Instead of flying away, the little butterfly changed into a beautiful fairy. The young girl rubbed her eyes in disbelief.

“For your wonderful kindness,” the good fairy said to the girl, “I will give you any wish you would like.” The little girl thought for a moment and then replied, “I want to be happy.”

The fairy leaned toward her and whispered in her ear. Then the fairy disappeared.

As the little girl grew up, there was no one in the land as happy as she. Everyone asked her the secret of happiness. She would only smile and answer, “The secret of my happiness is



that I listened to a good fairy when I was a little girl.”

When she was very old and on her deathbed, the neighbors all gathered around her, fearing that her unbelievable secret of happiness would die with her. “Tell us, please,” they begged, “Tell us what the good fairy said.” The lovely old woman simply smiled and said, “She told me that everyone, no matter how secure they seemed, no matter how old or young, how rich or poor, had need of me.”

- ( ) 17. \_\_\_\_\_ the girl felt sad and lonely.
- A. There were many friends but      B. There was nobody to love her so
- C. There was nothing to do      D. Seeing the butterfly was caught
- ( ) 18. Noticing the butterfly was caught by the thorn, the orphan girl \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. helped the butterfly escaped from the thorn
- B. felt sorrow, but she didn't go up to help it
- C. fell down on it too
- D. failed to help it release from the thorn
- ( ) 19. The only thing that the little girl wanted was \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. to be rich      B. to have her own parents
- C. to have a lot of friends      D. happiness
- ( ) 20. The neighbors all gathered around the old happy woman when she was dying, because \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. they loved this woman deeply and they didn't want her to die
- B. the woman had lots of money to be shared as soon as she died
- C. they wanted to know the secret of her lifetime happiness
- D. they wanted to pray for her after her death

## 词汇拓展

### 1. release vt. 释放; 公布; 释放(感情)

- 用法举例: The man will be released by the police next month.

那个人将在下月被警方释放。

The new trade figure will be released at the conference.

新的贸易数字将会在会议上公布。

Physical exercise is a good way of releasing your tension.

体育锻炼是释放压力的办法。

- 常用搭配: release sb. 释放某人

release sb. from sth. 使某人从某事中解脱, 使某人不做某事

### 2. no matter how 无论如何

- 常用搭配: no matter who/where/when/which... 无论谁/哪里/什么时候/哪一个

- 用法举例: No matter who breaks the rule, he will be punished.

无论谁违反规定, 都得受惩罚。

# 能力训练

2

## A

Many foreigners who have not visited Britain call all the inhabitants (居民) English, for they are used to thinking of the British Isles as England. In fact, the British Isles contain a variety of peoples and only the people of England call themselves English. The others refer to themselves as Welsh, Scottish, or Irish, as the case may be; they are often slightly annoyed (苦恼) at being classified as "English".

In Scotland the sound denoted by the letter "R" is generally a strong sound, and "R" is often pronounced in words in which it would be silent in southern English. In the Highlands and the Western Isles the ancient Scottish language, Gaelic, is still heard. The Scots are said to be a serious, cautious, thrifty (节约的) people, rather inventive (善于创造的) and somewhat mystical. All the Celtic peoples of Britain (the Welsh, the Irish, the Scots) are often described as being more "fiery" (暴躁的) than the English. They are often of a race that is quite different from the English.

The Welsh have protected their language to a remarkable extent. The English generally look upon the Welsh as an emotional (易动感情的) people who are, however, somewhat difficult to get to know easily.

Ireland is divided into two parts. The six countries of Northern Ireland are still part of Great Britain, though, in normal circumstances (环境), they have their own Parliament. The Irish are known for their charm and vivacity (活泼), as well as for the beauty of the Irish girls. Irish, often called Erse, is a form of Gaelic. It was in danger of dying out, but when the territory (地域) of the Republic became independent, Erse was received, and is now the official first language of the Republic, English being the second.

- ( ) 1. Why do many foreigners call the inhabitants English?
  - A. Because only English live on the British Isles.
  - B. Because only English plays a more important role than the others.
  - C. Because all the people are glad to be regarded as English.
  - D. Because they are used to thinking of the British Isles as England.
- ( ) 2. Today we still can hear Gaelic—the ancient Scottish language in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. both England and Scotland
  - B. both Wales and Ireland
  - C. both Highland and Western Isles
  - D. both Northern Ireland and England
- ( ) 3. According to the passage, which of the statements is true?





- A. "R" is often pronounced in words in which it would be silent in north English.  
 B. The Welsh, the Irish and the Scots are all the Celtic peoples of Britain.  
 C. The Celtic peoples are often of a race that is little different from the English.  
 D. The Welsh have not protected their language very carefully.

( ) 4. Irish is a form of \_\_\_\_\_, and is now the official \_\_\_\_\_ language of the Republic.

A. English; first

B. Gaelic; second

C. Gaelic; first

D. English; second

## 词汇拓展

1. be/get used to doing sth. 习惯于做……

- 用法举例: My old grandpa gets used to living in his old house.

我爷爷习惯于住在他的老房子里。

- 易混词组: used to do sth. 过去曾做过/过去常做某事

be used to do sth. 被用来做某事

2. a variety of 各种各样的, 品类繁多的

- 用法举例: He didn't come for a variety of reasons.

他因种种原因没来。

She made the children glad in a variety of ways.

她用各种方法使孩子们高兴。

- 易混词组: every variety of form 各种形式

for a variety of reasons 因种种理由

for variety's sake 为了不单调起见

in a variety of ways 用种种方法

3. refer to v. 查阅; 提到, 谈到; 打听; 涉及到

- 用法举例: The problem referred to at the meeting yesterday has already been solved.

昨天在会上所谈到的问题已得到解决。

What I have to say refers to all of you.

我要说的话涉及到你们大家。

- 常用搭配: refer oneself to 依赖, 求助于

refer to sb./sth. as 称某人/物为

4. in danger of 有……的危险

- 用法举例: These rare spices are in great danger of extinction.

这些珍稀物种处于灭绝的极大危险中。

- 易混词组: out of danger 脱离危险

run the danger of 冒……的危险

- 同/近义词: danger 系常用词, 指“目前的危险, 也可指今后的或不一定发生的危险”。

peril 语气比 danger 强, 指“接近更严重的危险”。

hazard 指“变幻莫测、无法控制的危险”, 带有“碰运气”的意思。

risk 指“风险”, 含有“主动冒险”的意思。

# B

American cities are similar to other cities around the world; in every country, cities reflect the values of the culture. American cities are changing, just as American society is changing.

After World War II, the population of most large American cities decreased; however, the population in many Sun Belt cities increased. Los Angeles and Houston are cities where population shifts(转移) to and from the city reflect the changing values of American society. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, city residents(居民) became wealthier. They had more children so they needed more space, they moved out of their apartments in the city to buy their own homes. They bought houses in the suburbs(郊区).

Now things are changing. The children of the people who left the cities in the 1950s are now adults. Many, unlike their parents, want to live in the cities. They continue to move to Sun Belt cities and older ones of the Northeast and Midwest. Many young professionals are moving back into city. They prefer the city to the suburbs because their jobs are there; or they just enjoy the excitement and possibilities that the city offers.

This population shift is bringing problems as well as benefits. Countless poor people must leave their apartments in the city because the owners want to sell the buildings or make apartments for sale instead of for rent. In the 1950s, many poor people did not have enough money to move to the suburbs; now many of these same people do not have enough money to stay in the cities.

Only a few years ago, people thought that the older American cities were dying. Some city residents now see a bright, new future. Others see only problems and conflicts. One thing is sure: many dying cities are alive again.

- ( ) 5. What does the author think of cities all over the world?
- A. They are alive. B. They are hopeless.  
C. They are similar. D. They are different.
- ( ) 6. Why did American city residents want to live in the suburbs after World War II?
- A. Because older American cities were dying.  
B. Because they were richer and needed more space.  
C. Because cities contained the worst parts of society.  
D. Because they could hardly afford to live in the city.
- ( ) 7. According to the 4th paragraph, a great many poor people in American cities           .
- A. are faced with housing problems  
B. are forced to move to the suburbs  
C. want to sell their buildings  
D. need more money for daily expenses
- ( ) 8. We can conclude from the text that           .
- A. American cities are changing for the worse



- B. people have different views on American cities
- C. many people are now moving from American cities
- D. the population is decreasing in older American cities

### 词汇拓展

#### 1. be similar to: 与……相似; 类似于……

- 用法举例: My opinions on the matter are similar to Kate's.

我对这件事的意见和凯特差不多。

#### 2. reflect v. 反射; 反映; 表现; 反省, 细想

- 用法举例: The pavement reflects heat on a hot day.

在热天里, 人行道反射热气。

Many newspapers reflect the opinions of the children.

许多报纸都反映了儿童们的看法。

- 派生词: reflection n. 反射, 映象, 倒影; 反省, 沉思; 反映

reflectible adj. 可反射的, 可映出的

- 常用搭配: reflect on/ upon 仔细想, 考虑, 反省

You'd better reflect on what Mr. Lee's advice.

你最好仔细考虑一下李先生的建议。

#### 3. prefer... to... 喜欢……而不喜欢……, 喜欢……胜过……

- 常用搭配: prefer doing sth. to doing sth. 喜欢(做)……不愿(做)……

prefer... rather than 宁愿/愿意……而不愿

prefer to do sth. 更愿意做某事

prefer sb. (not) to do sth. 希望某人做/不做某事

would prefer to do sth. 更愿意做某事

- 用法举例: prefer coffee to tea. 喜欢咖啡胜于茶



She smiled at a sad stranger. The smile seemed to make him feel better. He remembered past kindness of a friend and wrote him a thank-you letter. The friend was so pleased with the thank-you letter and he left a large tip after lunch. The waitress, surprised by the size of the tip, bet the whole thing on a guess.

The next day she picked up her winnings, and gave part to a beggar on the street. The beggar on the street was grateful, for two days he had had nothing to eat. After he finished his dinner he left for his small dingy(肮脏的) room. He didn't know at that moment that he might be facing his death. He picked up a shaking puppy and took him to get warm. The puppy was very, grateful to be out of the storm.

That night, the house caught fire. The puppy barked in alarm. He barked till he woke the whole household and saved everybody. One of the boys he had rescued grew up to be president. All these were because of a simple smile. That smile didn't cost her a cent.

( ) 9. Why did the friend leave a large tip after lunch?

- A. Because the waitress smiled at him.

