

周雷 主编

考研英语

阅读真题语言注释与 难句突破

- 详尽解释词汇与难句
- 变历年真题为精读范本
- 全面提升阅读水平
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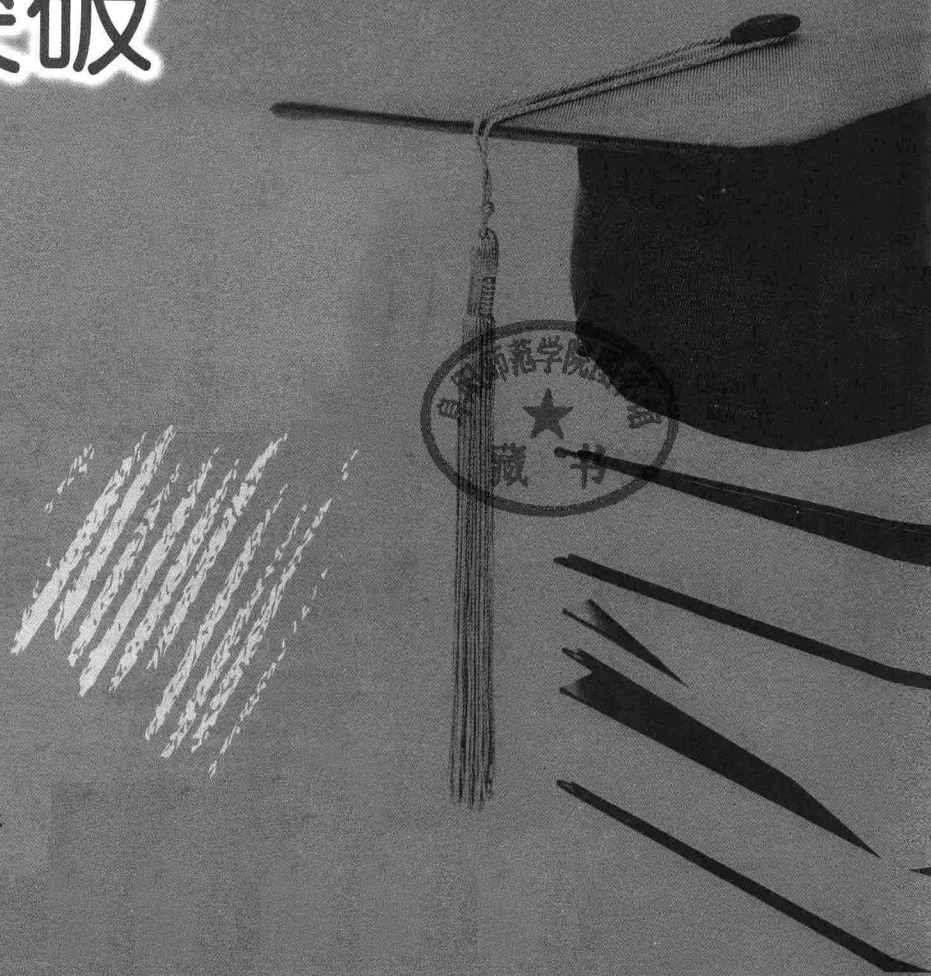
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前言

《考研英语阅读真题语言注释与难句突破》一书自 2002 年出版以来,广受众多考研学子的青睐,而书中提倡的“细读”复习方法和解题思路,不仅成为全国各新东方学校考研英语教学体系的基石,也越来越被其他众多授课教师和学校所认可。

在一片赞誉声中,我们的头脑是清醒的。读者的厚爱对作者来说,既是动力,更是压力。虽然每次我们都尽量将校勘不力和理解有误的地方进行修订,但错误之处仍然存在。

在新东方的课堂上,在大学的讲座现场,在书店的咨询会上,每当有学生手捧本书找我们签名的时候,内心的喜悦与惶恐并存。毕竟,在面对广大学生和读者的时候,“如坐针毡,如履薄冰”是一名教师兼作者的起码心态。

随着考研热的不断升温,考研大军的不断扩大,考研英语的复习也有“低年级化,低起点化”的趋势。现在的同学更愿意用更多的时间,从大三甚至大一就开始考研准备,随之带来的就是英语学习起点的降低。以前,准备考研的考生大多通过了大学英语六级考试,而现在,许多还没有参加过四级考试的同学就开始准备考研英语。面对新的变化,我们更要强调真题细读的重要性。因为惟有如此,基础薄弱的同学才能真正提高英语的基础能力,而这正是参加任何一个英语考试能够取得满意成绩的关键。当然,同时辅以一定量的泛读也是必要的,但必须牢记的是:在提高英语基础能力方面,泛读与精读相比是第二位的,居从属性地位。

由于时间仓促,错误在所难免,希望读者朋友斧正。

编者



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第一单元

1998 年阅读真题及语言点、难句详解

Text 1

Few creations of big technology capture the imagination like giant dams. Perhaps it is humankind's long suffering at the mercy of flood and drought that makes the ideal of forcing the waters to do our bidding so fascinating.^① But to be fascinated is also, sometimes, to be blind. Several giant dam projects threaten to do more harm than good.

The lesson from dams is that big is not always beautiful. It doesn't help that building a big, powerful dam has become a symbol of achievement for nations and people striving to assert themselves.^② Egypt's leadership in the Arab world was cemented by the Aswan High Dam. Turkey's bid for First World status includes the giant Ataturk Dam.

But big dams tend not to work as intended. The Aswan Dam, for example, stopped the Nile flooding but deprived Egypt of the fertile silt that floods left—all in return for a giant reservoir of disease which is now so full of silt that it barely generates electricity.^③

And yet, the myth of controlling the waters persists. This week, in the heart of civilized Europe, Slovaks and Hungarians stopped just short of sending in the troops in their contention over a dam on the Danube.^④ The huge complex will probably have all the usual problems of big dams. But Slovakia is bidding for independence from the Czechs, and now needs a dam to prove itself.

Meanwhile, in India, the World Bank has given the go-ahead to the even more wrong-headed Narmada Dam. And the bank has done this even though its advisors say the dam will cause hardship for the powerless and environmental destruction. The benefits are for the powerful, but they are far from guaranteed.

Proper, scientific study of the impacts of dams and of the cost and benefits of controlling water can help to resolve these conflicts.^⑤ Hydroelectric power and flood control and irrigation are possible without building monster dams. But when you are dealing with myths, it is hard to be either proper, or scientific. It is time that the world learned the lessons of Aswan. You don't need a dam to be saved.

1. The third sentence of paragraph 1 implies that_____.

- [A] people would be happy if they shut their eyes to reality
- [B] the blind could be happier than the sighted



- [C] over-excited people tend to neglect vital things
[D] fascination makes people lose their eyesight
2. In para. 5, “the powerless” probably refers to _____.
[A] areas short of electricity
[B] dams without power stations
[C] poor countries around India
[D] common people in the Narmada Dam area
3. What is the myth concerning giant dams?
[A] They bring in more fertile soil.
[B] They help defend the country.
[C] They strengthen international ties.
[D] They have universal control of the waters.
4. What the author tries to suggest may best be interpreted as _____.
[A] “It’s no use crying over spilt milk”
[B] “More haste, less speed”
[C] “Look before you leap”
[D] “He who laughs last laughs best”

文章背景



【内容分类】时文——自然科学——生态学

本文主要论述了人类在水利方面的主要成就，大型水坝的利与弊，作者分析了人类热衷于这一事业的自然和社会原因，而作者对不考虑生态环境和社会后果的建坝行为提出了批评。

语言点详解



capture the imagination 令人神往

【大纲词汇】capture *v./n.* 捕获，俘虏 *v.* 夺得，攻占

【经典例句】The huge poster on the wall captured his attention.

at the mercy of 在…的支配下

【大纲词汇】mercy *n.* 仁慈，怜悯，宽恕 at the mercy of 在…的支配下

【经典例句】The captives were left at the mercy of their enemies.

drought [draut] 旱灾

【大纲词汇】drought *n.* 旱灾，干旱

【经典例句】Many people were forced to flee home by the drought.

do our bidding 听我们的命令

【大纲词汇】bid

【衍生词汇】bidding *n.* 命令，请求；召唤，邀请；出价 do the bidding of sb. 听命于某人

【经典例句】He did the bidding of his father without questioning his purpose.

fascinating [ˈfæsineɪtɪŋ] 迷人的

【大纲词汇】fascinate *v.* 迷住，强烈吸引

【衍生词汇】fascinating *a.* 迷人的



【经典例句】His description of the future is fascinating.

do harm 造成损害

【大纲词汇】harm *n./v.* 伤害, 损害, 危害

【经典例句】Smoking does great harm to people's health.

strive to 努力

【大纲词汇】strive *v.* 奋斗, 努力

【经典例句】He always sets up a higher goal for himself and strives to attain it.

assert themselves 显示他们的权威

【大纲词汇】assert *v.* 断言, 宣称

【扩充词义】assert oneself 坚持自己的权利, 显示自己的权威

【经典例句】By 1206 Genghis Khan had asserted himself as overall chief of the Mongol tribes.

cement [si'ment] 巩固

【大纲词汇】cement *v.* 胶合; 巩固, 加强 *n.* 水泥; 胶泥, 胶接剂

【经典例句】Their marriage has cemented the friendship of the two families.

bid for 企图获取…

【大纲词汇】bid *v.* 祝愿; 命令, 吩咐; 报价, 投标 *n.* 出价, 投标

【扩充词义】bid *n.* 企图, 努力, 争取

【经典例句】The senators were hostile to his bid for power.

deprive of 剥夺

【大纲词汇】deprive *v.* 夺去, 使丧失

【经典例句】The traitor was deprived of his citizenship.

silt [silt] 淤泥

【扩充词义】silt *n.* 泥沙, 淤泥

in return for 作为回报

【大纲词汇】return *v./n.* 返回, 回来; 归还, 送还; 回答 in return (for) 作为回报, 作为报答

【经典例句】What can I do in return for your kindness?

short of 差一点就

【大纲词汇】short *a.* 短的, 矮的; (of) 缺乏, 不足 *n.* [pl.] 短裤

【扩充词义】short of 少于, 不及, 未达到

【经典例句】I met Mary just short of the door.

send in 派出

【大纲词汇】send in 呈报, 提交, 送来

【经典例句】They sent in the police to break up the demonstration.

in their contention over 在他们争夺…中

【大纲词汇】contend *v.* 斗争, 竞争; 坚决主张

【衍生词汇】contention *n.* 争夺, 竞争; 口角, 争吵

【经典例句】The companies mobilized all kinds of resources in their contention over the project.

give the go-ahead to 准许做…

【扩充词汇】go-ahead *n.* 许可; 前进; 有进取心 give the go-ahead to sth. 准许做某事

【经典例句】The manager didn't give the go-ahead to recruit new workers.

wrong-headed 判断错误的

【扩充词汇】wrong-headed *a.* 判断错误的; 坚持错误的, 执迷不悟的

【构词方法】-headed 后缀, 表示“有…头的”, “…头脑的”

【联想记忆】cool-headed *a.* 头脑冷静的

【经典例句】He never realized that his judgement was wrong-headed.

hardship ['hɑ:dʃɪp] 困苦

【大纲词汇】hardship *n.* 艰难, 困苦

【构词方法】-ship 后缀, 表示“性质”, “状态”, “地位”, “权利”

【联想记忆】friendship *n.* 友谊 partnership *n.* 伙伴关系 leadership *n.* 领导

【经典例句】Their company has gone through economic hardship.

destruction [dis'trʌkʃən] 破坏

【大纲词汇】destruction *n.* 破坏, 消灭 destructive *a.* 破坏性的





【经典例句】The earthquake caused serious destruction to the city.

far from 远非

【大纲词汇】far from 远非，远离

【经典例句】The world is far from perfect.

impact ['impækt] 影响

【大纲词汇】impact v./n. 冲击，碰撞；效果，影响

【经典例句】Currency depreciation has great impact on foreign trade.

hydroelectric ['haɪdrə'lektrɪk] 水电的

【构词方法】hydro- 表示“水”，“液体”

【联想记忆】hydrobiology n. 水生生物学
hydrocooler n. 水冷器 hydroscope n. 水中望远镜

irrigation [ɪrɪ'geɪʃən] 灌溉

【扩充词汇】irrigate v. 灌溉

【经典例句】Irrigation is needed to make crops grow in dry area.

monster ['mɒnstə] 巨大的

【大纲词汇】monster n. 怪物，妖怪

【扩充词义】monster a. 巨大的，庞大的

【经典例句】The region was attacked by a monster storm a few days ago.

fertile ['fɜ:təɪl] 肥沃的

【大纲词汇】fertile a. 肥沃的，富饶的；能繁殖的

【经典例句】The tribe moved to an area of fertile land.

难句解析



1. Perhaps it is humankind's long suffering at the mercy of flood and drought that makes the ideal of forcing the waters to do our bidding so fascinating.

【结构剖析】这个句子中包含了一个强调句型，基本结构是 it is...that...，强调部分的关键词是 suffering，这个词就是后面 that 引导的从句的主语，因而这个句子的核心句其实就是 Suffering makes the ideal so fascinating。suffering 加上前后的修饰、限定成分是 humankind's long suffering at the mercy of flood and drought (人们倍受洪水和干旱的摆布)；ideal 后面跟了一个 of 引导的分词短语：forcing the waters to do our bidding (驾驭洪水的想法)；suffering 使得这个 ideal 如何呢？即 so fascinating。在掌握了这个整体框架之后，这个句子就很清楚了。

【阅读重点】通过分析结构我们知道此句强调的是 suffering 这个使得 ideal 如此 fascinating 的这个因果关系。一旦给 that 引导的从句找到了真正的主语 suffering，这个句子的基本结构就出来了。

【参考译文】也许是人们倍受洪水和干旱摆布，所以驾驭洪水的想法特别强烈。

2. It doesn't help that building a big, powerful dam had become a symbol of achievement for nations and people striving to assert themselves.

【结构剖析】这个句子中第一个单词 it 指代的是文章中上面的一句话，即“从巨型水坝中得到的



教训是不一定大的就是好的”。help 后面是一个从句，在这个从句中，主语是一个现在分词短语，核心句是 Building a dam had become a symbol of achievement。分词短语 striving to assert themselves 修饰 nations and people。

【阅读重点】注意 it doesn't help 的意思，此处意为“无法阻止”。

【参考译文】这并没有阻止建立巨大而强劲的大坝，它们已经成为国家成就和人们努力表现自己的象征。

3. The Aswan Dam, for example, stopped the Nile flooding but deprived Egypt of the fertile silt that floods left—all in return for a giant reservoir of disease which is now so full of silt that it barely generates electricity.

【结构剖析】这个句子首先要注意的是有两个谓语，stopped 和 deprived，然后可以找出这个句子的核心句：The Aswan Dam stopped the Nile flooding but deprived Egypt of the silt。第一个 silt 后面有一个 that 引导的从句 that floods left，修饰 silt；破折号后面的 all 代替的是破折号前面所说的 the fertile silt，介词短语 in return for 后面的宾语带了一个 which 引导的从句，修饰的是这个宾语：a giant reservoir of disease，同时这个从句中还有一个 so...that 的结构。如果把这个 which 引导的从句分解开来就是 The reservoir is now full of silt, so it barely generates electricity。

【阅读重点】此句理解的关键有三个：一是找到两个谓语：stopped 和 deprived；二是要明白 all 指的是前面所说的 the fertile silt；三就是 which 引导的从句修饰的是 the reservoir of disease 这个名词短语。

【参考译文】例如，阿斯旺大坝阻止了尼罗河的洪水泛滥，但也使埃及失去了洪水带来的肥沃的淤泥——这些损失的所有回报仅仅是一个充满了病患的大水库，它现在沉积了如此多的淤泥，以致于发不出电了。

4. This week, in the heart of civilized Europe, Slovaks and Hungarians stopped just short of sending in the troops in their contention over a dam on the Danube.

【结构剖析】这个句子理解上的困难可能出现在短语上。撇开前面的时间状语和地点状语不看，这个句子的核心句其实是 Slovaks and Hungarians stopped sending in troops。这里有两个短语需要理解：short of 差一点就；send in 派遣。后面的 in their contention over a dam 说的是他们 sending in the troops 的原因。再加上前后的状语短语，就有了一个完整理解。

【阅读重点】这个句子的短语和介词非常重要，除了结构分析中所说的两个短语之外，in the contentions, over a dam, on the Danube 都对句子理解非常重要。

【参考译文】本周，在文明的欧洲的中心，斯洛伐克与匈牙利差点在多瑙河一座大坝问题上互动干戈。

5. Proper, scientific study of the impacts of dams and of the cost and benefits of controlling water can help to resolve these conflicts.





- 【结构剖析】这个句子的核心句是 Study can help to resolve conflicts。但是理解的重点却在 study 后面的修饰成分，因为 study 后面有两个并列关系的 of，说明了 study 的内容：study of the impacts of dams 和 study of the cost and benefits of controlling water。第三个 of 修饰的是 the cost and benefits 两个名词，of 后面是个动名词短语。这个修饰成分解决了，后面的句子就好理解了。此外还须注意 help to do sth. 的用法。
- 【阅读重点】主要是四个 of 的用法，注意哪两个 of 是并列关系（of the impacts 和 of the cost and benefits）。
- 【参考译文】对大坝造成的影响和控制洪水的成本和收益进行恰当而科学的研究才能帮助解决这些冲突。

Text 2

Well, no gain without pain, they say. But what about pain without gain? Everywhere you go in America, you hear tales of corporate revival. What is harder to establish is whether the productivity revolution that businessmen assume they are presiding over is for real.^①

The official statistics are mildly discouraging. They show that, if you lump manufacturing and services together, productivity has grown on average by 1.2% since 1987. That is somewhat faster than the average during the previous decade. And since 1991, productivity has increased by about 2% a year, which is more than twice the 1978-87 average. The trouble is that part of the recent acceleration is due to the usual rebound that occurs at this point in a business cycle, and so is not conclusive evidence of a revival in the underlying trend.^② There is, as Robert Rubin, the treasury secretary, says, a “disjunction” between the mass of business anecdote that points to a leap in productivity and the picture reflected by the statistics.^③

Some of this can be easily explained. New ways of organizing the workplace — all that re-engineering and downsizing — are only one contribution to the overall productivity of an economy, which is driven by many other factors such as joint investment in equipment and machinery, new technology, and investment in education and training.^④ Moreover, most of the changes that companies make are intended to keep them profitable, and this need not always mean increasing productivity: switching to new markets or improving quality can matter just as much.

Two other explanations are more speculative. First, some of the business restructuring of recent years may have been ineptly done. Second, even if it was well done, it may have spread much less widely than people suppose.

Leonard Schlesinger, a Harvard academic and former chief executive of Au Bon Pain, a rapidly growing chain of bakery cafes, says that much “re-engineering” has been crude. In many cases, he believes, the loss of revenue has been greater than the reductions in cost. His colleague, Michael Beer,



says that far too many companies have applied re-engineering in a mechanistic fashion, chopping out costs without giving sufficient thought to long-term profitability.^⑤ BBDO's Al Rosenshine is blunter. He dismisses a lot of the work of re-engineering consultants as mere rubbish — “the worst sort of ambulance-chasing.”

5. According to the author, the American economic situation is _____.
 [A] not as good as it seems [B] at its turning point
 [C] much better than it seems [D] near to complete recovery
6. The official statistics on productivity growth _____.
 [A] exclude the usual rebound in a business cycle
 [B] fall short of businessmen's anticipation
 [C] meet the expectation of business people
 [D] fail to reflect the true state of economy
7. The author raises the question “what about pain without gain?” because _____.
 [A] he questions the truth of “no gain without pain”
 [B] he does not think the productivity revolution works
 [C] he wonders if the official statistics are misleading
 [D] he has conclusive evidence for the revival of businesses
8. Which of the following statements is NOT mentioned in the passage?
 [A] Radical reforms are essential for the increase of productivity.
 [B] New ways of organizing workplaces may help to increase productivity.
 [C] The reduction of costs is not a sure way to gain long-term profitability.
 [D] The consultants are a bunch of good-for-nothings.

文章背景



【内容分类】社会科学——经济学——美国经济

本文讲述了当时的美国经济状况，并对经济持续增长的原因进行了分析，同时作者也批驳了流行的关于公司重组能提高生产力的说法。

语言点详解



corporate ['kɔ:pərit] 公司的

【大纲词汇】corporation *n.* 公司，企业，团体

【衍生词汇】corporate *a.* 公司的，法人的

【经典例句】The chairman of the directors proposed to reorganize the corporate structure.

revival [ri'vaivəl] 复兴

【大纲词汇】revive *v.* 恢复；（使）复苏

【衍生词汇】revival *n.* 恢复，复苏，复兴

【经典例句】The economic revival of the country didn't last long.

preside over 主持

【大纲词汇】preside *v.* (at, over) 主持

【经典例句】He has presided over a seminar for social psychologists.





for real 真正的

【大纲词汇】real *a.* 真的, 真实的; 实际的, 现实的 realistic *a.* 现实(主义)的 reality *n.* 现实, 实际; 真实

【经典例句】We will see whether the “save our city” campaign is for real.

statistics [stə'tistiks] 统计

【大纲词汇】statistics *n.* 统计(学) statistical *a.* 统计的, 统计学的

【经典例句】The economic growth slows down according to statistics.

lump [lʌmp] 把...归并在一起

【大纲词汇】lump *n.* 团, 块 *v.* (使)成团, (使)成块

【扩充词义】lump *v.* 把...归并在一起

【经典例句】He lumped the whole problem under the label of bureaucracy.

on average 平均

【大纲词汇】average *n.* 平均(数) *a.* 平均的; 通常的, 一般的 *v.* 平均, 均分 on (the/an) average 平均, 一般说来

【经典例句】He works ten hours a day on average.

acceleration [æk.sə'leiʃən] 加速

【大纲词汇】acceleration *n.* 加速(度) accelerate *v.* 加速, 促进

【经典例句】Acceleration of tooth decay is caused by lack of care.

rebound [ri'baund] 回升

【扩充词汇】rebound *n.* 弹回, 跳回; 回升, 回复 *v.* 跳回; 回升

【经典例句】Crude oil had a sharp rebound in price in the past three days.

conclusive [kən'klu:siv] 有说服力的

【大纲词汇】conclude *v.* 结束, 终止; 断定; 缔结, 议定

【衍生词汇】conclusive *a.* 决定性的, 有说服力的

【经典例句】The evidence is interesting, but cannot be considered conclusive.

underlying ['ʌndə'laɪɪŋ] 潜在的

【大纲词汇】underlying *a.* 含蓄的, 潜在的; 在下面的

【经典例句】She was still not aware of the underlying danger.

disjunction [dis'dʒʌŋkʃən] 分离

【扩充词汇】disjunction *n.* 分离, 分裂

【经典例句】It is a distinct disjunction between theory and practice.

anecdote ['ænikdəʊt] 轶事

【扩充词汇】anecdote *n.* 轶事, 趣闻

【经典例句】He told me an amusing anecdote of his father.

point to 表明

【大纲词汇】point (at, to) 指, 指向, 表明

【经典例句】The growth of unemployment rate pointed to an economic slow-down.

re-engineer 重新建造

【扩充词汇】re-engineer *v.* 再设计, 重新建造, 重新策划

【经典例句】The company tried to reengineer its image.

downsize ['daʊn.saɪz] 缩小规模

【扩充词汇】downsize *v.* 以较小尺寸设计或建造, 缩小规模

【经典例句】The only solution to the problem is to downsize the project.

switch to 转换

【大纲词汇】switch *v.* 转换; (off) 关断; (on) 接通 *n.* 开关, 电闸; 转换; 枝条, 鞭子

【经典例句】After several failures, he decided to switch to a new method.

speculative ['spekjʊlətɪv] 深思熟虑的

【大纲词汇】speculate *v.* (about, on) 推测, 推断; 投机

【扩充词汇】speculative *a.* 深思熟虑的



【经典例句】Government's estimate of economic growth is speculative.

restructuring [ri'strʌtʃərɪŋ] 调整

【扩充词汇】restructure *v.* 重建; 改组; 调整 restructuring *n.* 重建; 改组; 调整

【经典例句】The company was revitalized through restructuring.

ineptly [i'neptli] 不恰当地

【扩充词汇】inept *a.* 不合适的, 不恰当的; 不理智的, 愚蠢的; 无能的

【经典例句】She doesn't seem annoyed although he said something ineptly.

revenue ['revɪnju:] 收入

【大纲词汇】revenue *n.* 财政收入, 税收

【经典例句】The revenue did not meet the estimation this year.

in a mechanistic fashion 以机械的方式

【大纲词汇】fashion *n.* 流行式样, 风尚, 风气; 样子, 方式

【扩充词汇】mechanistic *a.* 机械的

【经典例句】The millionaire lives in an expensive fashion.

chop out 削减

【大纲词汇】chop *v.* 砍, 劈, 斩 *n.* 排骨, 肉块

【经典例句】The company chopped out salary of its employees under the pressure of great

losses recently.

sufficient [sə'fɪənt] 充分的

【大纲词汇】sufficient *a.* (for) 足够的, 充分的

【经典例句】Plants don't grow well without sufficient sunshine.

blunt [blʌnt] 直率的

【大纲词汇】blunt *a.* 直率的; 钝的 *v.* (使) 钝; (使) 迟钝

【经典例句】His blunt answer surprised all of us.

dismiss [dis'mɪs] 不接受

【大纲词汇】dismiss *v.* 免职; 解雇; 开除; 解散

【扩充词义】dismiss *v.* 不考虑, 拒绝接受

【经典例句】The manager dismissed his suggestion as inappropriate.

ambulance-chasing 怂恿事故受伤者起诉的

【扩充词汇】ambulance-chaser 怂恿事故受伤者起诉的律师 ambulance-chasing *a.* 怂恿事故受伤者起诉的

fall short of 达不到

【扩充词汇】fall short of 达不到, 不符合; 不履行

【经典例句】Supply fell short of demand.

good-for-nothing ['ɡʊdʃə.nʌθɪŋ] 没用的人

【扩充词汇】good-for-nothing *a.* 没有用处的 *n.* 没用的人或物

难句解析



1. What is harder to establish is whether the productivity revolution that businessmen assume they are presiding over is for real.

【结构剖析】这个句子的主语和表语都是从句。主语是 what 引导的名词性从句, 表语是 whether 引导的从句。在表语从句中, 主语是 the productivity revolution, 核心句是 Whether the productivity revolution is for real, 其中 productivity revolution 后面跟了一个 that 引导的定语从句, 这个从句中的主语是 businessmen, 谓语是 assume, 后面跟一个

