



# TOP WAY

## 淘金高阶

## 6级考试

# 巅峰训练

破译命题规律，灵机一动猜答案！

上海交通大学

潘晓燕 主编

技巧+实力



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版

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第3版

强化抢分技巧

时间不够，会做也没用；  
灵机一动猜答案，  
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- 480 分达标考点突破
- 550 分优良应试技巧
- 610 分高分突击训练
- 710 分考前巅峰训练

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TOPWAY

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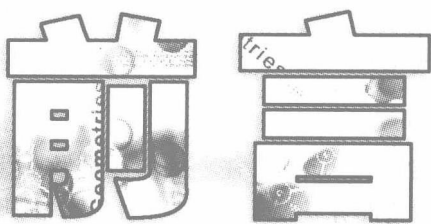
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《淘金高阶 6 级考试巅峰训练》是专供 CET-6 考生考前冲刺使用的“一本通”型参考书。

## 特色 破译 710 分新题型命题规律

### 一、命题规律破译

本书的作者团队是上海交通大学的精英教师。他们具有多年的教学、应试辅导和阅卷的经验,对 6 级考试的改革方向和命题精神了如指掌。

本书一共有十个部分——快速阅读理解、听力理解、篇章阅读理解、短句问答、改错、完型填空、中译英、写作、篇章词汇理解和 710 分考前冲刺。作者在深入研究了每种题型的命题手段、考查角度、考点范围与难点设置之后,归纳出科学、严密的命题规律。这些理论全面剖析出题者的考查目的、出题心理和陷阱设计方法,考生读后往往会恍然大悟。这对在试题迷宫中晕头转向、苦苦摸索的考生来说,无异于“一语道醒梦中人”。

### 二、答题技巧总结

针对出题者的各种命题手段和规律,本书以图表框的形式为考生总结应对技巧、指明解题捷径。与其他同类图书说得天花乱坠、华而不实的所谓“技巧”不同,本书的图表框只是寥寥数语,却又字字珠玑。这些图表框有的言简意赅地说明某个命题规律的解题方法,有的罗列解题关键词汇,还有的传授在考试中屡屡应验的“应急一招”——不仅巧妙,而且实用。

### 三、典型题目设计

为了帮助考生进行有效的复习备考,本书根据 6 级考试的命题规律设计了大量有针对性的训练题。这些训练题与真题相比,不仅难度吻合、考查形式类似,而且考法一致。考生运用学到的解题技巧进行训练,能够培养敏锐的“题感”,迅速提高应试水平。

## 编排 分阶突破的复习冲刺

### 一、480 分达标考点突破

本书每部分的第一章集中阐述该部分题型的考试要点。以历年试题和考纲分析为基础总结出来的考试要点,能让考生对考试最常考、最主要的“基本面”有一个清晰的了解。同时,配置的“专项扫雷训练”能够帮助考生巩固基础知识,积累考试经验。

### 二、550 分优良应试技巧

在掌握了考试要点的前提下,考生往往只要善于运用一些技巧就可以大幅度地提高考试成绩。有



的学生在考试中经常成为“黑马”,就是善于运用技巧的结果。本书每部分的第二章点破了应试高手常用“手筋”的内容:急中生智巧猜答案、灵机一动猜答案等,帮助考生达到事半功倍的应试效果。另外,本章还设置了相应的“历年典型真题突破训练”,供考生生活学活用。

### 三、610 分高分突击训练

每部分的第三章贯彻本书宗旨:突击训练。在考试前适量做一些题目、保持活跃的应试思维,历来被认为是行之有效的热身。本书这部分是精心设计的模拟题,集强化训练、查漏补缺等多种功能于一体。

## 解析 一针见血,远胜废话连篇

### 一、全文翻译

为了帮助考生进一步深入地理解和学习,本书对所有的阅读文章都给出了准确、流畅的译文,让考生更加顺利地学习提高。

### 二、划线点评

本书在听力原文和阅读理解译文里,给解题的关键句加上了下划线,并标明其对应的题号,帮助考生迅速剔除无关信息,沙里淘金,萃取答题精华。

### 三、化繁为简

题目的解析并不是越长越好。要做到冗长并不难,难的是要“到位”。一大堆无关紧要的东西往往会湮没重点,读完了还是令人迷惑不已。本书的解析力求短小精悍、一针见血,把重点放在“到位”二字上。

### 四、化英为中

在使用英语应试图书时,很多考生都有这种感觉:解析常常大量引用英语原文,解释是中英文夹杂的长篇大论,考生读起来苦不堪言。本书摒弃了这一得不偿失的解析方法,杜绝大量引用英语原文的做法,而是用精练的中文进行解析,只保留原文中的英文关键词/词组。考生读起来感觉思路清晰,能够更加透彻地理解题目。

### 五、画龙点睛

考生进行强化训练,目的不只是学会解答这些题目,还要学会解这类题的方法。本书概括总结每一类题的性质、解答方案,或者剖析这类题的命题陷阱。让考生能够触类旁通,在学会解答一道题的同时,也学会解答一类题。

## 冲刺 710 分巅峰训练

本书通过再现各项命题规律,设置了4套巅峰训练题,让考生进行模拟考试,考查自己对解题技巧的掌握情况。一方面,考生在学完理论之后,可以借助完整的试题训练来检验学习成果,看看是否已经融会贯通;另一方面,他们还可以通过实战演练积累应试经验,让自己的临考状态达到巅峰。

编者

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# Part 1

## 第一篇

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### 快速阅读理解

# 第一章

## 稳拿480分快速阅读考点突破

新六级中的快速阅读要求考生在15分钟内快速阅读一篇约1300个单词的文章,并完成相应的考题。考查的文章以说明文为主,议论文次之,较少出现记叙文。阅读考题有3种题型,共10道题:判断题、选择题及完成句子题。其中判断题要求判断所给句子是正确的(Y)、错误的(N)还是未提及的(NG)。

与新四级相比,虽然新六级中有的快速阅读题不是在文中某一处就能找到,而需要考生综合若干处的相关信息进行作答,但是,快速阅读旨在考查考生对特定或关键信息的快速提取能力以及对阅读材料内容进行快速把握的能力,因此,新六级的快速阅读仍然较为强调速度,故对理解的深度要求并不是很高,一般来说更注重字面意思的理解。

### 快速阅读解题步骤

- (1)快速浏览文章开头、结尾部分及各个小标题,弄清文章的大体结构和主要内容。
- (2)快速浏览考题,正确理解题目所表述的内容,找出考点所在——题眼,特别要关注诸如因果、比较、目的、方式、数字、时间等细节。
- (3)把每题题眼与文章各部分小标题的内容进行对比,初步确定每题会在哪个部分被提及。
- (4)阅读与每题相关的内容,准确定位和解题。

## 第一节 常考考点及命题手段

快速阅读包含两种阅读方法或考查方式:略读和寻读。略读是对文章或段落整体结构、主题等的全局性把握,寻读则主要是对具体细节、事实等局部性的寻找和定位。针对这两方面进行考查的题目分别是主旨题和细节题。

### 一、主旨题

快速阅读的文章通常先简要地介绍文章的总体内容、写作目的或引出文章主题,然后再具体介绍细节(通常用小标题把各部分进行概括和隔离开来),因此,考生只需阅读文章开头的段落及各个小标题,就可以判断考题是否只是概括了部分内容还是过于宽泛。如果文中没有小标题,则需快速浏览文章开头和结尾几段,结合文章标题综合考虑。主旨题在快速阅读中最多只会出现一题,而且不会有NG的情况出现。

下面以四级样题中的快速阅读文章为例。

【例1】标题:Landfills

...

小标题:How Much Trash Is Generated?

...

How Is Trash Disposed Of?

...

What Is a Landfill?

...

Proposing the Landfill

...

Building the Landfill

...

What Happens to Trash in a Landfill?

...

How Is a Landfill Operated?

...

【题目】The passage gives a general description of the structure and use of a landfill.

【解析】原文一共有 7 个小标题,其中第 3 至第 7 个小标题都提到了 landfill,综合这五个小标题的内容侧重点可以知道,这五部分应该分别介绍了 landfill 的构成与用途等,这正是题目所表达的内容,因此可断定本题答案为 Y。

## 二、细节题

快速阅读的命题比较有规律,主要考查与数字、因果关系、目的(方式、条件)、对比或类比、专有名词等有关细节。

### 命题规律 1 与数字有关的细节

数字在文章中通常以阿拉伯数字的形式出现,比较容易定位。在解题时,可以充分利用这些数字进行定位,即使该数字并不是考点。

【例 2】From steel mills to paper factories, industry eats up about a third of the world's energy. The opportunities to save are vast. In Ludwigshafen, German chemicals giant BASF runs an interconnected complex of more than 200 chemical factories, where heat produced by one chemical process is used to power the next. At the Ludwigshafen site alone, such recycling of heat and energy saves the company €200 million a year and almost half its CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Now BASF is doing the same for new plants in China. "Optimizing (优化) energy efficiency is a decisive competitive advantage," says BASF CEO Jürgen Hambrecht.

【题目】German chemicals giant BASF saves € 200 million a year by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) recycling heat and energy
- B) setting up factories in China
- C) using the newest technology
- D) reducing the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions of its plants

[2007.12/T6]

【解析】在定位本题的信息源时,以€200 为题眼,将信息源定位于上文第 4 句,根据句子的内容可确定本题答案为 A。

### 命题规律 2 与因果关系有关的细节

这类考题经常含有 because, reason, due to, owing to, for, since, so that, therefore 等表示因果关系的词或词组。考题中的表述可能跟原文有所不同,因果关系可能会以不同的形式表现出来,如把“因”和“果”颠倒过来,或者换一种表达方式。但是,只要通过题干中的“因”或“果”确定题眼,定位信息源,进而确定原文中的因果关系,答案就不难找到。

【例 3】Lance Bass of 'N Sync was supposed to be the third to make the \$20 million trip, but he did not join the three-man crew as they blasted off on October 30,2002, due to lack of payment. Probably the most incredible aspect of this proposed space tour was that NASA approved of it.

【题目】Lance Bass wasn't able to go on a tour of space because of health problems.

[2006.12/T1]

【解析】题目中的 because of 表明本题需要验证因果关系的正误,在定位信息源的时候,以专有名词 Lance Bass 和原因 health problems 为题眼,将信息源定位于上文的第 1 句可以发现该句句末 due to 引出的原因是 lack of payment,而非题目中的 health problems,可见本题应判定为 N。

### 命题规律 3 与目的(方式、条件)有关的细节

目的或方式、条件也是快速阅读常考的细节。这类考题可能有诸如 in order to, so as to, for (the purpose of), by





等比较明显的信号词,题眼可在条件或目的中寻找,并结合其他命题规律的定位技巧定位信息源之后,再针对条件与目的的关系进行答题。

【例 4】Most new residential buildings in Sweden are already heated with ground-source heat pumps. Such systems consume almost no conventional fuel at all. Several countries have used subsidies to jump-start the market, including Japan, where almost 1 million heat pumps have been installed in the past two years to heat water for showers and hot tubs.

【题目】Some countries have tried to jump-start the market of heat pumps by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A) upgrading the equipment
- B) encouraging investments
- C) implementing high-tech
- D) providing subsidies

[2007.12/T5]

【解析】题干中的 by 表明本题考点是“方式”,这时,我们可以先以题干中的 jump-start, heat pumps 等为题眼,定位信息源于上文末句,可发现句中开头的... to...表明一种“方式—目的”关系,to 前的内容为方式,to 后的内容为目的。本题需要查找的是“方式”,因此答案应与 to 前的 subsidies 等内容对应,由此可见,本题应选选项 D。

#### 命题规律 4 与对比或类比有关的细节

两个或多个事物之间的比较也非常容易成为快速阅读考查的对象。这类考题一般有形容词或副词的比较级或最高级等较为明显的特征,或者有一些信号词如 contrary to, by contrast, unlike, like 等。在此类考题里,除了可将形容词、副词及其比较级、最高级当作题眼外,两个比较的对象也可成为题眼。

【例 5】Will space be an exotic retreat reserved for only the wealthy? Or will middle-class folks have a chance to take their families to space? Make no mistake about it, going to space will be the most expensive vacation you ever take. Prices right now are in the tens of millions of dollars. Currently, the only vehicles that can take you into space are the space shuttle and the Russian Soyuz, both of which are terribly inefficient. Each spacecraft requires millions of pounds of fuel to take off into space, which makes them expensive to launch. One pound of payload (有效载重) costs about \$10,000 to put into Earth's orbit.

【题目】What makes going to space the most expensive vacation is the enormous cost involved in \_\_\_\_\_.

[2006.12/T8]

【解析】题目中的 most 表明本题需要查找与对比关系有关的细节内容填空,要点是 the most expensive vacation,以此为题眼定位原文后,可发现原文该段第 3 句提到了 expensive vacation,接下来作者用了隐含的因果关系说明太空旅行“最昂贵”是因为 expensive to launch(倒数第 2 句)。该句中的 expensive 与题目中的 enormous cost involved 意思相同,原文 expensive 之后为动词不定式,而本题空白处前为介词 in,故初步确定答案为 launching;但又因为本题题干中没有作为 launch 的逻辑主语、宾语的名词,故需在 launching 后加上 the spacecraft,完整答案为 launching the spacecraft。

#### 命题规律 5 与专有名词有关的细节

专有名词,如地名或人名一般首字母大写或以引号等方式加以突出,故如果题目中有专有名词,那么无论该题考查的重点是否是该专有名词,都可以充分利用其进行定位。

【例 6】The Mir crash did cancel plans for a new reality-based game show from NBC, which was going to be called Destination Mir. The Survivor-like TV show was scheduled to air in fall 2001. Participants on the show were to go through training at Russia's cosmonaut (宇航员) training center, Star City. Each week, one of the participants would be eliminated from the show, with the winner receiving a trip to the Mir space station. The Mir crash has ruled out NBC's space plans for now. NASA is against beginning space tourism until the International Space Station is completed in 2006.

【题目】The prize for the winner in the fall 2001 NBC TV game show would have been \_\_\_\_\_.

[2006.12/T5]

【解析】题目中的 NBC TV 是专有名词,这个大写字母的组合在原文中显得尤为突出,以此为题眼定位上文该段后,再以 winner 和 prize 等词准确定位于上文第 3 句末,对比题目与原文的内容可确定答案为 a trip to the Mir space station。

## 第二节 考点突破专项扫雷训练



## Passage One

## Google Earth

Most of us have been using one online mapping program or another for years now. They're a godsend for those of us who get lost within a 3-mile radius of our homes, and they're just plain fun for people who enjoy figuring out where stuff is. With this in mind, imagine how amazing Google Earth must be for it to elicit awe from the online community and cause South Korea to demand changes to the program.

## What Is Google Earth?

Google Earth is currently available for download as a desktop application, although you need to be connected to the Internet to use it. Every time you open Google Earth, it automatically connects to Google's servers, giving you access to *terabytes* (千兆) of geographical, political and social data. For instance, you can view a city with certain "layers" turned on, including topographical information, population data and crime statistics for the area. The layers and all of the map navigation buttons, including zoom, tilt and rotate, are all located in the Google Earth frame.

The big deal right now is that the basic version of Google Earth is completely free, and there aren't even any ads. Of course, this could change in the future.

## Google Earth Data

The photographic maps available on Google Earth come primarily from two sources: satellites and aircraft. Google gets this imagery and other digital mapping information from sources such as TeleAtlas and EarthSat, both of which compile photographs and maps into digital form for commercial applications. Because the data comes from different sources, it's provided at different *resolutions* (清晰度), which is why some areas of the globe appear crisp even at street level while others are vague from a great distance. When you use Google Earth, you are not viewing the imagery in real-time. According to Google, the information is no more than three years old and is continually updated as new data becomes available.

Google Earth has the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom covered to street level, meaning you can zoom in and view road names and local businesses and get directions from here to there. The database has a good amount of information on Western Europe, as well, but the rest of the world is hit or miss. While you can zoom in and get a pretty good look at the Egyptian pyramids, you can't see street names or find a grocery store in the area.

This brings us to another source of Google Earth's data: the Google search engine. Part of what makes Google Earth so addictive is its collaboration with Google search. When you're viewing a city, you can search for coffee shops, restaurants, grocery stores, bars and tens of other businesses in the vicinity, and you can click on them to get detailed information from the Google search engine. Users can also add a business location to a map by clicking on "Add/Edit a Business Listing" in the Google Earth toolbar.

## "I Can't Believe You Can Do That" Functions

## ● Video Flyovers

One of the most amazing aspects of Google Earth is the flyover. When you're looking at Atlanta, GA, and you do a search for "Nepal," you don't just blink and end up in Nepal. The program flies you there, so you can see the terrain and all of the countries beneath you as you make your way to your destination. This video flyover feature is great when it comes to getting driving directions. At the bottom of the screen with your turn-by-turn directions, there's a "play" button. If you click it, Google Earth will fly you over the route, turning right and left and veering as required, so you can see exactly what it's going to look like when you drive it.



### ● 3-D Views

Google Earth has created 3-D buildings for many major U.S. cities. For the most part, they're not detailed *replikas* (复制品)—they're simple, gray 3-D drawings—but you do get a very good feel for the city when you turn on this layer. And in Version 4 Beta, Google Earth supports textured (real looking) 3-D drawings. Some are built into the application, but mostly Google is now letting users create and import 3-D drawings themselves using the free Google SketchUp program. As with any other view, you can use the “tilt” and “rotate” buttons in the navigator panel to get the full 3-D view.

### ● Sightseeing

If you haven't had time to travel the globe just yet, Google Earth is your new best friend. You can zoom in on global landmarks just by clicking on a location in the “Sightseeing” box, which lists the most popular destinations, including the Eiffel Tower in Paris, Arizona's Grand Canyon and Vatican City in Rome.

### ● Customizing

One of the factors that makes Google Earth stand out from other mapping programs is the level of customization it offers. You can easily insert placemarks of locations you want to return to or overlay your own images on a map you create. It's all right there in the toolbar. And if you want to get really fancy, you can import your own files into Google Earth to display routes, points of interest, boundary data, etc.. Much in the way an Internet browser reads HTML, Google Earth reads a language called KML. You can open your own KML file in the Google Earth application and see your data displayed on the Google Earth imagery.

Google Earth is arguably the greatest free download available right now, and most people are thrilled with what it offers—most, but not all.

### Concerns about Google Earth

Google Earth makes aerial photographs of every square inch of the globe readily available to anyone with a computer. People have raised concerns about this fact on a couple of different fronts.

Google Earth evokes powerful responses from people the first time they use it. One common response is sheer awe and joy at the dramatically increased access to the world. While most people love the idea of viewing the world on their computer, they don't love the idea of the world viewing them. Could someone use Google Earth to more effectively approach a target? Could burglars use Google Earth to spot an area?

There are a couple of things to note when considering personal privacy concerns. First, the information on Google Earth is already available elsewhere; and second, the imagery is up to three years old. No one is viewing satellite data in real-time using this application. Three-year-old data is arguably not very useful to a stalker.

Other worries about the program focus on national security. Officials in numerous countries have voiced concerns over the level of detail available in the Google Earth application, including Australia, Britain and the United States. After all, terrorists could arguably make use of an application that supplies detailed satellite imagery of the globe. But the most vocal opponent of Google Earth by far is South Korea. South Korea is technically still at war with North Korea and so is very upset that any North Korean Tom, Dick or Harry can view South Korean military installations with the click of a button and a little zoom.

Realistically speaking, if Google can get its hands on this data, then North Korea probably already has it. In any event, it's worth noting that any South Korean Tom, Dick or Harry can zoom in on North Korea's nuclear research facilities. Google Earth makes spying child's play.

The imagery offered by Google Earth is nothing new—Google gets its data from other sources, after all. But the packaging is revolutionary. It no longer takes intensive research to track down a satellite image of the Egyptian pyramids or of the White House. It takes no research at all. All you have to do is download Google Earth and you've got a bird's-eye view of the world.

1. Which of the following information is provided by Google Earth?

- A) Environmental protection.
- B) Geographical data.
- C) Weather forecast.
- D) Entertainment news.

2. What is true about the future of Google Earth?
  - A) There will be advertisements on Google Earth.
  - B) Google Earth will no longer need Internet support.
  - C) Google Earth will become the biggest Internet server.
  - D) The complete version of Google Earth will still be free.
3. The data is provided by Google Earth at different resolution \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) because the data comes from various sources
  - B) because some data is more than three years old
  - C) so that it will fit different types of computers
  - D) so that the users can view the imagery in real-time
4. Google Earth misses the street names in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) the United States
  - B) Canada
  - C) Egypt
  - D) the United Kingdom
5. When you are looking for driving directions, you should turn to the \_\_\_\_\_ function.
  - A) 3-D Views
  - B) Flyover
  - C) Customizing
  - D) Sightseeing
6. The Google SketchUp program can be used to facilitate the \_\_\_\_\_ function.
  - A) Sightseeing
  - B) Customizing
  - C) 3-D Views
  - D) Flyover
7. The passage indicates that Google Earth can read files in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A) HTML format
  - B) KML format
  - C) JPG format
  - D) BMP format
8. When people use Google Earth for the first time, they may usually feel very \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Terrorists might make use of the Google Earth as it is available to get \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Though Google Earth offers relatively old imagery, it is innovative in \_\_\_\_\_.

## Passage Two

### Fire

Fire can destroy your house and all of your possessions in less than an hour, and it can reduce an entire forest to a pile of ash and charred wood. It's also a terrifying weapon, with nearly unlimited destructive power. Fire kills more people every year than any other force of nature.

But at the same time, fire is extraordinarily helpful. It gave humans the first form of portable light and heat. It also gave us the ability to cook food, forge metal tools, form pottery, harden bricks and drive power plants. There are few things that have done as much harm to humanity as fire, and few things that have done as much good. It is certainly one of the most important forces in human history. But what is it, exactly?

#### What Is Fire?

The ancient Greeks considered fire one of the major elements in the universe, alongside water, earth and air. This grouping makes intuitive sense: You can feel fire, just like you can feel earth, water and air. You can also see it and smell it, and you can move it from place to place.

But fire is really something completely different. Earth, water and air are all forms of matter—they are made up of millions and millions of atoms collected together. Fire isn't matter at all. It's a visible, tangible side effect of matter changing form—it's one part of a chemical reaction.

Typically, fire comes from a chemical reaction between oxygen in the atmosphere and some sort of fuel (wood or gasoline, for example). Of course, wood and gasoline don't spontaneously catch on fire just because they're surrounded by oxygen. For the combustion reaction to happen, you have to heat the fuel to its ignition temperature.

#### A Typical Wood Fire

Here's the sequence of events in a typical wood fire:

(1) Something heats the wood to a very high temperature. The heat can come from lots of different things—a match, focused light, friction, lightning, something else that is already burning...





(2) When the wood reaches about 300 degrees Fahrenheit (150 degrees Celsius), the heat decomposes some of the *cellulose* (纤维素) material that makes up the wood.

(3) Some of the decomposed material is released as vaporizable gases. We know these gases as smoke. Smoke is compounds of hydrogen, carbon and oxygen. The rest of the material forms *char* (木炭), which is nearly pure carbon, and ash, which is all of the unburnable minerals in the wood. The char is what you buy when you buy charcoal. Charcoal is wood that has been heated to remove nearly all of the volatile gases and leave behind the carbon. That is why a charcoal fire burns with no smoke.

(4) The actual burning of wood then happens in two separate reactions:

- When the volatile gases are hot enough (about 500 degrees F (260 degrees C) for wood), the compound molecules break apart, and the atoms recombine with the oxygen to form water, carbon dioxide and other products. In other words, they burn.

- The carbon in the char combines with oxygen as well, and this is a much slower reaction. That is why charcoal in a BBQ can stay hot for a long time.

A side effect of these chemical reactions is a lot of heat. The fact that the chemical reactions in a fire generate a lot of new heat is what sustains the fire.

(5) As they heat up, the rising carbon atoms (as well as atoms of other material) emit light. This “heat produces light” effect is called *incandescence* (炽热), and it is the same kind of thing that creates light in a light bulb. It is what causes the visible flame. Flame color varies depending on what you’re burning and how hot it is. Color variation within a flame is caused by uneven temperature. Typically, the hottest part of a flame—the base—glows blue, and the cooler parts at the top glow orange or yellow.

The dangerous thing about the chemical reactions in fire is the fact that they are self-perpetuating. The heat of the flame itself keeps the fuel at the ignition temperature, so it continues to burn as long as there is fuel and oxygen around it. The flame heats any surrounding fuel so it releases gases as well. When the flame ignites the gases, the fire spreads.

On Earth, gravity determines how the flame burns. All the hot gases in the flame are much hotter (and less dense) than the surrounding air, so they move upward toward lower pressure. This is why fire typically spreads upward, and it’s also why flames are always “pointed” at the top. If you were to light a fire in a microgravity environment, say onboard the space shuttle, it would form a sphere!

### Fire Variables

In the last section, we saw that fire is the result of a chemical reaction between two gases, typically oxygen and a fuel gas. The fuel gas is created by heat. In other words, with heat providing the necessary energy, atoms in one gaseous compound break their bonds with each other and recombine with available oxygen atoms in the air to form new compounds plus lots more heat.

Only some compounds will readily break apart and recombine in this way—the various atoms have to be attracted to each other in the right manner. For example, when you boil water, it takes the gaseous form of steam, but this gas doesn’t react with oxygen in the air. There isn’t a strong enough attraction between the two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom in a water molecule and the two oxygen atoms in an oxygen molecule, so the water compound doesn’t break apart and recombine.

The most flammable compounds contain carbon and hydrogen, which recombine with oxygen relatively easily to form carbon dioxide, water and other gases.

Different flammable fuels catch fire at different temperatures. It takes a certain amount of heat energy to change any particular material into a gas, and even more heat energy to trigger the reaction with oxygen. The necessary heat level varies depending on the nature of the molecules that make up the fuel. A fuel’s piloted *ignition* (强制点燃) temperature is the heat level required to form a gas that will ignite when exposed to a spark. At the unpiloted ignition temperature, which is much higher, the fuel ignites without a spark.

The fuel’s size also affects how easily it will catch fire. A larger fuel, such as a thick tree, can absorb a lot of heat, so it takes a lot more energy to raise any particular piece to the ignition temperature. A toothpick catches fire