

E n g l i s h

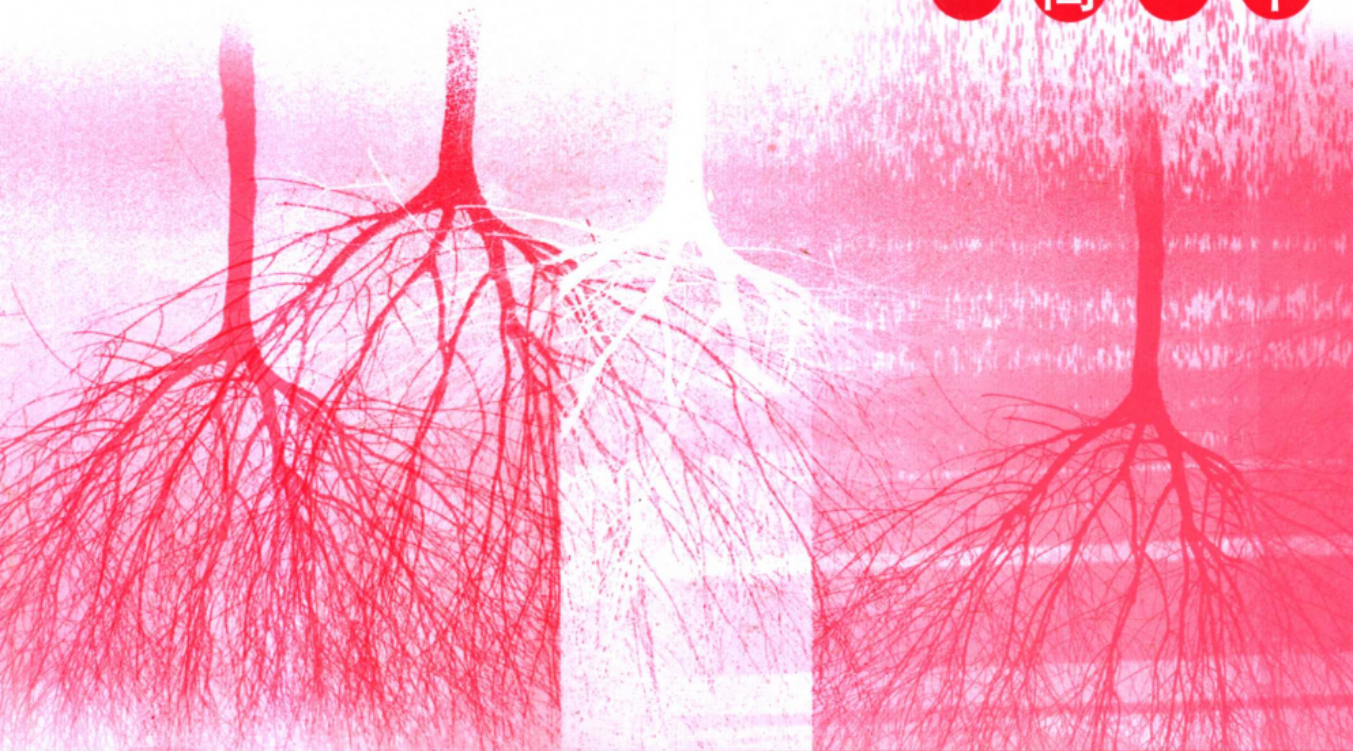
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# Fast Reading

for S1B

## 高中英语 快速阅读

● 高一 ● 下



华东师范大学出版社

## 使用说明

本丛书所选取的素材涉及国际政治、文化、经济、科技、文娱、体育及社会生活等多个方面。内容丰富、选材新颖、具有时代感，为广大学生所喜闻乐见。本丛书还引进了2006年高考的最新题型。

丛书的装订灵活别致：在页面的内侧打有一行针孔，便于撕取。既适合在老师指导下集体使用，也适合学生个别使用。本丛书的高一和高二4个分册，各有54篇阅读材料；高三2个分册各有14个单元，每单元有5篇阅读材料。在每篇材料的题目下方，印有空格供学生填写姓名、答案以及便于老师批改、评分。每篇材料后均标有“建议阅读时间”，老师可利用课前几分钟让学生做此阅读练习。这样既能使老师及时了解学生的阅读水平，又节省时间；学生个人使用时也可根据“建议阅读时间”来测试自己阅读水平的提高情况。

本丛书在编写过程中，得到了加拿大老师 Larry White 的指导和帮助，在此谨向他表示诚挚的谢意！

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## Tie a Knot in the Equator

One September, Ted, a young geography teacher, was having his first lesson with a class of boys and girls. And to start with, he decided to ask them some general questions, so that he could see how much they already knew. He found that this was about the average for their age and that some of the boys and girls had obviously heard that he enjoyed jokes and were ready to have some fun with him.

"Where's Turkey?" Ted asked the first boy.

"Turkey?" the boy answered. "You'll find it on the Christmas dinner table, sir."

"Do you really know where it is?"

The boy did, in fact, know. "Part of it is in Southeast Europe and part in Asia, sir," he said.

"Good," said Ted. The next few pupils also had funny answers to Ted's questions. But they all knew the correct answers too.

Ted knew that there was one girl in the class who was very clever. She had entered the school on a scholarship that term.

"Well," he said, "now let's see if there's at least one of you who doesn't talk nonsense. What is the equator?"

"It's an imaginary line drawn round the earth equally distant from the North Pole and the South Pole, sir," the girl answered at once.

"Good," Ted said. "Very good." But it sounded to him as if the girl had learnt this by heart, so he asked her another question to see whether he was right or not.

He asked. "Could you, for example, tie a knot in the equator?"

The class laughed, but she answered, "Yes, sir."

"Oh, really?" Ted said with a smile.

"Yes, sir," the girl said, "as the equator's an imaginary line, you could tie an imaginary

knot in it."

Words: about 300

Suggested reading time: 4 min.

**Choose the best answer for each of the following questions**

1. Why did Ted like geography very much?
  - A. He had traveled a lot.
  - B. He could make a lot of money.
  - C. He had always wanted to travel.
  - D. He is a geography teacher.
2. Why did the first boy give that answer at first?
  - A. He wanted to laugh at Ted.
  - B. He didn't know the correct answer.
  - C. He wanted to make everyone laugh at him.
  - D. He wanted to have some fun with Ted.
3. Look at the underlined sentence. Why did Ted smile?
  - A. He was quite satisfied with the answer.
  - B. The girl's answer was very funny.
  - C. Ted thought maybe the girl didn't really understand the definition of equator.
  - D. Ted was very kind and always wore a smiling face.
4. Which of the following sentences is TRUE?
  - A. This is Ted's first lesson after his graduation from college.
  - B. The students had known of him before this lesson.
  - C. The first answer given by the girl was wrong.
  - D. Ted's favorite subject was biography.
5. Why did the class and Ted burst into laughter in the end?
  - A. The girl had given a very intelligent answer.
  - B. The girl's answer was wrong but funny.
  - C. The other students wanted to make fun of the girls.
  - D. The girl had learnt the definition of equator by heart but actually she didn't understand it.

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_





## “Alive and Well”

On a Christmas Eve a few years ago, an English couple received a very special telephone call. It was only a twenty-second call but it was very important. The Haydens' fifteen-year-old daughter had disappeared six months before. On Christmas Eve she rang them. “I’m phoning to wish you happy Christmas,” she said, “and I love you.”

Ronald and Edwina Hayden were so happy that they started a special telephone service called “Alive and Well”. The service helps parents to keep contact with children who have run away from home.

Young people can phone “Alive and Well” and leave a message to their parents. The phone calls are answered by automatic answering machines. So no one can speak to the child or make him return home. Since parents of runaway children who are under eighteen can ask the police to bring their children home, children do not want to tell their parents where they are. Through “Alive and Well” they can telephone their parents without worrying about this or giving their address.

The Haydens and their helpers write down the tape-recorded telephone messages and contact the address given. Many of the 30,000 British teenagers who have left home are probably in London. For only two pence they can go into a telephone coin box and call their parents. They can dial the number and stop the parents' biggest worry: Is he dead or alive?

Words: about 250

Suggested reading time: 3.5 min.

**Choose the best answer for each of the following questions**

1. The title “Alive and Well” probably means \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the runaway children are in good health condition
  - B. a service through which the parents know their runaway children are alive and well
  - C. the Haydens' fifteen-year-old daughter is alive and well
  - D. the runaway children's parents are in good health condition
2. Why did the Haydens start the service?
- A. They lost their daughter.
  - B. Their daughter came back home with others' help.
  - C. They were very happy to hear from their runaway daughter.
  - D. They found out that they could earn a lot of money by doing so.
3. Why don't children want to tell their parents where they are?
- A. They are afraid of their parents.
  - B. Their parents can ask the police to bring them home.
  - C. Their parents will take them to the police.
  - D. They think the telephone costs too much.
4. What does the phrase "automatic answering machines" mean?
- A. Machines that answer the phone calls automatically.
  - B. Operators who answer the phone calls.
  - C. A kind of machine that can find out who is calling.
  - D. Answering system in a car.
5. How does this service help the runaway children's parents?
- A. It helps the parents to find their children.
  - B. It helps to know how many British teenagers have left home.
  - C. The parents will know their children are still alive and well.
  - D. It helps the runaway children to find their parents.

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Internet

We are all busy talking about and using the Internet. But how many of us know the history of the Internet?

Many people are surprised when they find that the Internet was set up in the 1960s. At that time, computers were large and expensive. Computer networks didn't work well. If one computer in the network broke down, then the whole network stopped. So a new network system had to be set up. It should be good enough to be used by many different computers. If part of the network was not working, information could be sent through another part. In this way a computer network system would keep on working all the time.

At first, the Internet was only used by the government, but in the early 1970s, universities, hospitals and banks were allowed to use it too. However, computers were still expensive and the Internet was difficult to become cheaper and easier to use. Scientists had also developed software that made "surfing" the Internet more convenient.

Today it is easy to get on-line and it is said that millions of people use the Internet every day. Sending e-mails is more and more popular among students.

The Internet has become one of the most important parts of people's life.

Words: about 250

Suggested reading time: 3.5 min.

**Choose the best answer for each of the following questions**

1. The Internet has a history of \_\_\_\_\_ years.

A. about 40

B. less than 30

C. more than 60

D. nearly 35

2. Scientists set up a new network system to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. make the computer cheaper                      B. use the computer widely  
C. make the computer go well                      D. develop new softwares
3. The Internet began to be widely used in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. 1960s                      B. 1970s                      C. 1980s                      D. 1990s
4. The word "get on-line" means "\_\_\_\_\_".  
A. connect the line                      B. get hooked to the Internet  
C. buy a computer through the Internet                      D. go on to the line
5. Which of the following is NOT true?  
A. In the 1960s a computer network system went wrong easily.  
B. Computers are much cheaper than before.  
C. Today the Internet is used everywhere.  
D. People had enough softwares to get on-line fifteen years ago.

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## Where Is God?

A couple had two little boys, aged 8 and 10, who were excessively mischievous. They were always getting into trouble. And their parents knew that. If any mischief occurred in their town, their sons were probably involved.

The boys' mother heard that a clergyman in town had been successful in disciplining children, so she asked if he would speak with her boys. The clergyman agreed, but asked to see them individually. So the mother sent her 8-year-old first in the morning, with the older boy to see the clergyman in the afternoon.

The clergyman, a huge man with a booming voice, sat the younger boy down and asked him sternly, "Where is God?" The boy's mouth dropped open, but he made no response, sitting there with his mouth hanging open, wide-eyed. So the clergyman repeated the question in an even sterner tone, "Where is God!?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer. So the clergyman raised his voice even more and shook his finger in the boy's face and shouted, "WHERE IS GOD!?"

The boy screamed and ran directly home and rushed into his closet, slamming the door behind him. When his older brother found him in the closet, he asked, "What happened?"

The younger brother, gasping for breath, replied, "We are in BIG trouble this time, dude. God is missing, and they think WE did it."

Words: about 250

Suggested reading time: 3.5 min.

**Choose the best answer for each of the following questions**

1. The underlined sentence means \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. their sons were probably beaten
  - B. their sons were probably hurt
  - C. their sons probably played a part in it
  - D. their sons were happy
  
2. The clergyman promised to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. frighten the children
  - B. beat the children
  - C. talk to the two children at the same time
  - D. talk to the two children one by one
  
3. According to the passage, which of the following sentences is TRUE?
  - A. The two children always obey their mother.
  - B. Their father didn't know that their children were naughty.
  - C. The clergyman was very rich.
  - D. The two children liked to play tricks.
  
4. By asking "Where is God?", the clergyman wanted to tell the child \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. they should behave themselves
  - B. he was angry, for they have had stolen God
  - C. that God is missing
  - D. to find God
  
5. At last, when the younger child rushed home, he was \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. happy
  - B. frightened
  - C. ill
  - D. angry

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_





## “Computer Crime”

Read the following passage and then choose the most suitable heading from this list for each paragraph of the passage. Note that there is one extra heading.

- A. Computer criminals are all low-paid but intelligent people.
- B. Computers don't have human's emotions.
- C. Police are worrying about computer crime.
- D. Computers have been used to steal money.
- E. Computer crimes are difficult to track down.
- F. Exemplification of computer crime.

1.

In many businesses, computers have largely replaced paperwork, because they are fast, effective, and do not make mistakes. As one banker said, “Unlike humans, computers never have a bad day.” And they are honest.

2.

Many banks advertise that their work is “untouched by human hands” and therefore safe from human attack. Obviously, computers have no reason to steal money. But they also have no sense, and the growing number of computer crimes show they can be used to steal.

3.

Computer criminals don't use guns. And even if they are caught, it is hard to punish them because there are no witnesses and often no proof. A computer cannot remember who used it and simply does what it is told. The head teller at a New York City Bank used a computer to steal more than one and a half billion dollars in just four years. No one noticed this because he moved the money from someone else's account. This man was caught only

because he was a gambler. When the police broke up a gambling operation, his name was in the records.

4.

Some clerks use the computer's power to get revenge on bosses whom they consider unfair. Recently, a large company fired its computer-tape assistant for reasons that were connected with her personal rather than her professional life. She was given thirty days' notice. In those thirty days, she got rid of all the company's computerized records.

5.

Most computer criminals have been clerks in low position. Now police wonder if this is "the tip of the iceberg". As one of the officials says, "I have a feeling that there are more crimes out there than we are catching. What we are seeing now is all so poorly done. I wonder what the real experts are doing — the ones who really know how a computer works."

Words: about 350

Suggested reading time: 4 min.

Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_



## The Bridge

There was a river with a small town on either side of it. The towns were linked by a bridge. One day, a hole appeared in the bridge. Both towns agreed that the hole should be mended. However, disagreement came up as to who should mend it. Each town thought that it had a better reason for the other to mend the hole. The town on the right bank said that it was at the end of the road, so the left-bank town should mend the hole. The town on the left bank, on the other hand, insisted that all the traffic came to the right-bank town, so it was in their interest to mend the bridge. The quarrel went on and on, and so did the hole. The more it went on, the more the hostility between the two towns grew.

One day a man fell into the hole and broke his leg. People from both towns questioned him closely about whether he was walking from the right bank to the left or from the left bank to the right, in order to decide which town should be blamed for the accident. But he could not remember, since he got drunk that night.

Some time later, a car was crossing the bridge and broke an axle because of the hole. Neither town paid any attention to the accident, as the traveler was not going from one to the other, but was merely passing through. The angry traveler got out of the car and asked why the hole was not mended. On hearing the reason, he declared, "I'll buy this hole. Who's the owner?" Both towns at once declared that they owned the hole. "One or the other, whoever owns the hole must prove it." "How shall we prove it?" asked both sides.

"That's simple. Only the owner of the hole has the right to mend it. I'll buy the hole from whoever mends the bridge." People from both towns rushed to do the job while the traveler smoked a cigar and his driver changed the axle. They mended the bridge in no time and asked for the money for the hole. "What hole?" The traveler looked surprised. "I can't see any hole. I've been looking for a hole for several years now. I'm prepared to pay a good price for it, but there's no hole here. Are you pulling my leg or what?"