



# 精选英语快速阅读教程

- TOEFL 600分阅读理解进阶
- CET (大学英语四级统考)快速阅读速成

ENGLISH READING PASSAGES

FOR

TOEFL & CET

肖 澜 敬少平 刘巨洋  
李金荣 唐树成 轩 友 编

四川科学技术出版社

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## 编者的话

英语快速阅读历来是我国学生在TOEFL、EPT和CET考试中感到困难的一个部分。在进行快速阅读训练时，教师们又常常感到难于选到一本文章多、富于快读特色的教材。针对这些问题，我们汇编了这本《精选英语快速阅读教程》，力图为广大师生提供一本使用方便，内容翔实的教材或自学参考书。

本教程收录文章170篇，精选自 Reading Laboratory 之3A, 3B (中低难度)，4A (高难度)的快速阅读文章以及近年TOEFL试题的阅读理解选段。

该书具备两大特色，适合作快速阅读教材：

一、所有文章(除TOEFL阅读理解选段外)按一定“坡度”编排，即：文章内容由浅入深，篇幅由短到长，以期使学员阅读理解能力能循序渐进，逐步提高，同时能让读者从适合自己水平的段落开始阅读，不会感到开始文章困难而丧失信心，也不会感到后面文章简单而平淡无味。

二、每篇文章连同选择题，无论长短，均在同一页上，使用十分方便；版面接近TOEFL真实试题，有助于学员适应正式考试状态。

本教程是按一个学期的教材用量篇写的，若快读课周学时为2，每周平均使用8篇，该书可使用20周。除作教材外，书末附有词汇表和答案，还适合TOEFL考生和CET学生自学。

下述使用方法，可供读者参考：

一、第1—100篇文章：每篇的选择题数目减1或2，为该篇的阅读、做题时间(以分钟计，下同)。

二、第101—170篇文章：每篇的选择题数目为该篇的阅读做题时间。

所有文章在规定时间内完成，正确率达到75%以上为合格。

附带说明：文中的斜体用在下方加横线的方式表示；选择题中的大小写忠实于原文，本书没有进行统一。

由于编者水平有限，书中谬误在所难免，欢迎批评指正。

编者

1989. 10. 于四川大学

Key to All the Passages

题 段	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	C	A	A	B	B					
2	C	A	B	B	B					
3	C	C	B	B	A					
4	C	B	A	B	C					
5	D	C	A	C	B					
6	B	C	C	A	A					
7	D	A	D	B	D					
8	B	D	D	B	A					
9	C	A	D	A	C					
10	C	C	B	B	B					
11	B	A	A	D	A					
12	D	B	D	B	C					
13	B	D	B	D	C					
14	D	B	C	C	D					
15	C	D	C	D	B					
16	A	D	B	C	A					
17	C	B	A	D	B	C				
18	C	C	D	C	A	D				
19	D	A	C	C	D	B				
20	C	D	B	B	C	A				
21	A	C	B	B	D	B				
22	C	C	B	A	B	A				
23	D	C	C	A	C	C				
24	C	A	D	B	D	C				
25	D	B	D	A	D	C	B			
26	C	C	D	D	D	A	B			
27	B	B	D	C	C	A	B			
28	B	C	C	A	B	C	D			
29	A	C	C	B	D	D	B			
30	C	D	B	C	C	D	D			
31	D	D	B	A	B	D	A			
32	B	C	B	C	A	C	B			
33	B	A	C	A	B	C	C			
34	A	D	B	C	A	C	A			
35	B	C	B	A	D	A	C			
36	B	D	B	B	A	A	B			
37	B	A	C	D	C	A	C			
38	A	B	A	A	B	C	A			
39	B	D	A	D	A	B	C			
40	D	B	A	D	C	C	C			
41	B	C	B	D	B	B	C			
42	B	D	B	D	D	A	A			

题 段	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
43	B	A	C	C	D	B	D	A		
44	D	C	B	C	A	D	C	A		
45	B	D	B	A	C	A	D	C		
46	D	B	B	D	C	A	B	A		
47	B	B	D	A	C	B	B	C		
48	C	B	C	A	B	D	A	D		
49	B	C	C	D	A	B	A	C		
50	A	B	A	D	A	B	D	A		
51	D	C	B	D	D	B	A	B		
52	D	B	A	D	C	A	B	C		
53	A	B	B	C	D	B	C	B		
54	B	C	B	A	A	B	C	D		
55	B	B	C	B	D	D	D	C		
56	B	C	D	B	A	C	D	C		
57	B	C	D	B	A	B	A	D		
58	C	C	C	C	B	C	D	B		
59	C	D	C	A	B	C	D	D		
60	C	C	B	B	A	B	A	B		
61	D	D	C	B	A	B	B			
62	B	C	A	D	D	D	C	B		
63	D	B	C	B	B	C	B	A		
64	B	A	D	C	B	B	C	D		
65	C	D	A	B	A	C	C	D		
66	A	C	B	A	A	B	C	C		
67	D	C	C	D	D	B	B	C		
68	D	A	C	A	C	B	D	C		
69	B	B	A	B	D	D	C	B		
70	B	A	D	C	C	A	B	C		
71	C	A	A	D	B	D	B	D		
72	A	D	D	B	A	A	D	B		
73	C	D	C	D	B	D	A	C		
74	D	B	B	D	C	B	G	D		
75	B	C	A	C	D	A	D	C		
76	B	A	B	A	C	D	C	B		
77	A	B	A	C	A	B	B	B		
78	B	B	C	D	B	C	B	A		
79	D	B	C	B	D	C	C	B		
80	B	A	C	B	A	C	B	C		
81	C	D	A	D	C	A	C	C		
82	A	B	C	B	A	A	C	C		
83	B	A	A	B	B	C	C	C		
84	D	A	B	A	C	D	A	A		

TOEFL 试题阅读理解选段答

题 段	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
85	D	D	D	C	C	A	C	B		
86	B	D	A	C	A	B	C	D		
87	A	D	B	D	D	C	D	A		
88	B	D	C	A	C	C	B	D		
89	D	A	C	A	B	C	D	B		
90	C	C	B	B	B	D	C	B		
91	D	C	B	A	D	D	D	B		
92	D	A	A	A	C	C	A	A		
93	B	B	A	B	D	D	C	D		
94	C	B	D	C	C	D	A	A		
95	A	D	B	A	B	A	A	A		
96	C	C	D	A	B	B	A	C		
97	B	C	A	B	D	A	B	C		
98	C	B	D	C	D	D	A	C		
99	C	C	B	D	B	C	C	B		
100	A	B	A	B	B	B	C	B		
101	B	B	A	B	C	D	B	B		
102	D	B	A	D	C	D	C	C		
103	B	B	B	A	C	D	C	C		
104	D	C	B	A	D	C	A	D		
105	<del>A</del>	<del>E</del>	<del>B</del>	<del>A</del>	<del>D</del>	<del>C</del>	<del>A</del>	D		
106	B	D	A	D	B	R	A	A		
107	A	A	D	D	A	C	C	C		
108	C	D	B	A	B	C	B	D		
109	A	C	C	B	A	B	D	C		
110	A	C	B	A	C	D	A	C		
111	A	D	D	C	D	A	B	B		
112	A	D	A	B	A	B	D	C		
113	B	D	D	C	B	D	D	B		
114	B	A	A	C	A	D	B	A		
115	B	A	C	B	A	C	B	A		
116	B	B	A	A	C	B	A	A		
117	B	D	A	D	B	C	C	D		
	B	D	A	D	C	C	A	C		
	A	C	D	B	B	B	D	B		
120	B	C	D	B	B	B	C	C		
121	A	A	A	B	B	A	D	B		
122	C	D	D	A	C	D	B	D		
123	D	B	C	E	B	C	D	E		
124	B	A	C	C	E	B	B	D		
125	E	C	C	E	A	C	A	C		
126	D	E	C	A	A	C	E	E		
127	A	A	C	C	C	B	E	C		
128	B	A	A	C	D	D	E	E		
129	A	D	B	B	C	B	A	B		
130	A	D	E	B	A	C	C	A		

题 段	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	C	A	D	D						
2	C	D	B	A	B	C	C			
3	B	B	C	B	A	D				
4	C	D	A	B	C	A				
5	<del>D</del>	<del>A</del>	A	C	B	D	C			
6	D	A	B	C	D					
7	D	C	B	C	<del>B</del>	A	A			
8	C	D	B	D	B	A				
9	D	C	D	A	C	C				
10	C	B	<del>B</del>	A	<del>A</del>	D				
11	B	D	A	D	A	A	C	B		
12	C	B	A	B	D					
13	C	B	D	A	<del>B</del>					
14	B	C	D	B	B	A	D			
15	B	D	A	C	B					
16	A	C	D	B	A	B	C			
17	B	C	A	D	D	B				
18	D	C	A	C	B	D	A			
19	B	D	D	A						
20	C	A	A	A	B	C				
21	A	B	C	D	C	A	B	D		
22	A	D	C	D						
23	C	A	B	A	D					
24	D	A	C	D	B	D	B			
25	C	D	C	D	A	A				
26	C	B	A	D						
27	A	A	C	C	B	C				
28	C	B	C	A	D	C	C			
29	D	C	C	D	B	A	A			
30	A	B	D	C	A	C				
31	B	A	C	A	D	D				
32	D	A	C	D	C	B				
33	A	D	D	A	B					
34	B	C	D	C	C	A	C			
35	A	B	C	B	C	D				
36	A	D	B	A						
37	C	D	C	A	B	D	C	D		
38	B	A	C	D						
39	B	D	A	D	C	B	C			
40	D	C	A	D	B	A				

Rickets: 15/12/70

Passage 1

Three men once went hunting bears. They spent the night in a cabin. Each was boasting how good a hunter he was.

Early the next morning one of them slipped quietly out of the cabin. Soon he met a huge, hungry-looking bear. For a moment he just stood there. Then he dropped his gun. He ran to the cabin with the bear after him. He opened the door. The bear lunged at him. The hunter dodged and the bear fell through the open door.

Thinking fast, the hunter shut the door from the outside, shouting, "There's the first one, boys. You skin him. I'll go get another."

lunged dive

- All three men thought they were
  - sound sleepers
  - fast runners
  - good hunters
- The man who slipped out early probably
  - hoped to shoot the first bear
  - felt too hungry to sleep
  - wanted to return home
- Which did the hunter do second?
  - He dropped his gun.
  - He saw a bear.
  - He ran to the cabin.
- Which did the bear do second?
  - It fell through the cabin door.
  - It lunged at the hunter.
  - It chased the hunter.
- The hunter showed that he was
  - brave
  - clever
  - Both A and B

Passage 2

Vitamin D is important for health and growth. It is used by the body to form strong bones and teeth. That is why growing children need it.

Vitamin D is called the sunshine vitamin. It forms when the skin is bared to the sun. Long before people knew what vitamin D was, they learned that sunshine was important. Poor children lived in crowded slums. And they were often ill with rickets. In England a tax was once placed on windows. Builders put few windows in houses. Rickets became so common that it was called the English disease.

- Vitamin D is important for
  - healthy bones
  - strong teeth
  - Both A and B
- Vitamin D is called the sunshine vitamin because it
  - can be formed by sunlight
  - throws off rays like the sun
  - is orange in color
- Because adults have reached full growth, they probably
  - need as much vitamin D as children
  - need less vitamin D than children
  - need more vitamin D than children
- One good way to get vitamin D is to
  - sleep with your windows open
  - play in the sunshine
  - eat plenty of fresh vegetables
- An increase of rickets in England was once caused by
  - windows
  - a tax
  - fog

M 8002  
Edelweiss

Passage 3

Edelweiss is the Swiss national flower. The blooms are small and white. They are shaped like stars.

In the Alps edelweiss grows wild. But it is hard to pick. It grows high up in the mountains, near the area where the snow stays all year long. Most of the plants are found in steep rock crevices.

Young men sometimes bring edelweiss back for their girl friends. The girls think of the flowers as a proof of true love. Mountain climbers, guides, and hunters pick edelweiss too. They wear it on their hats. To them it is a sign of courage and daring.

1. Edelweiss is the national flower of
  - A. Austria
  - B. the Alps
  - C. Switzerland
2. The flowers are
  - A. white
  - B. star-shaped
  - C. Both A and B
3. The plants are found in
  - A. snowdrifts
  - B. rock crevices
  - C. Both A and B
4. Edelweiss is hard to pick because it
  - A. has tough stems
  - B. grows in high, steep places
  - C. is protected by Swiss law
5. Edelweiss given to a girl stands for
  - A. love
  - B. beauty
  - C. truth

Passage 4

chef [etc] / [etc]

There was trouble in Greece. Some Greeks fled to monasteries for safety. Among them were a number of famous chefs.

Living as monks, the chefs were safe. And they could carry on their art. They began to cook for their fellow monks. But there was one thing wrong. The chefs didn't like looking the same as all the other monks. So they asked if they could wear tall white hats instead of the tall black ones Greek monks usually wore.

The idea soon spread. Greek cooks outside the monasteries began wearing tall white chef's hats too. Today chefs all over the world wear them.

1. A chef's art is
  - A. painting
  - B. sewing
  - C. cooking
2. The chefs in the story went to monasteries to find
  - A. food
  - B. safety
  - C. work
3. At first the chefs dressed like
  - A. the other monks
  - B. chefs of today
  - C. Greek soldiers
4. Then the chefs asked for hats of a different
  - A. shape
  - B. color
  - C. Both A and B
5. Use of the new type of hat spread through
  - A. Greece only
  - B. Europe only
  - C. the world



Passage 5

Ben Jonson is one of the few men ever to be buried standing up.

As the story goes, King Charles I once made him a promise. The king told the great writer that he would be buried in England's famous Westminster Abbey. But that wasn't all. Jonson could choose any place he liked for his grave.

Jonson died in 1637. Then it was found that the spot he had picked was already filled. The ground space left in it was just eighteen inches square. But Charles kept his word. He had Jonson's coffin placed on its end in the small space. That's the way it would just fit.

1. Ben Jonson was a great
  - A. king
  - B. leader
  - C. artist
  - D. writer
2. Which probably happened first?
  - A. Jonson picked a place in the Abbey.
  - B. Jonson died.
  - C. Jonson received Charles's promise.
  - D. Jonson told the king of his choice.
3. Charles found out that the place was filled after
  - A. Jonson's death
  - B. Jonson's burial
  - C. the reading of Jonson's will
  - D. 1638
4. Jonson's coffin was placed upright so that it would
  - A. face the east
  - B. look bigger
  - C. take less room
  - D. reach the floor
5. The story shows that Charles tried to
  - A. rule Britain well
  - B. keep his promises
  - C. learn about art
  - D. write poems and stories

*qwerty keyboard*  
Passage 6 *jour*

Most typewriters have "qwerty" keyboards. The name comes from the first six letters on the board's second line. The "qwerty" board was set up by C. L. Sholes. Sholes was the first man to make a really good typewriter.

Some letters, such as S and T, are used together a great deal in English. Sholes placed such pairs of letters far apart on his keyboard. This made it harder for typists to learn the keyboard. But it helped keep typewriters from jamming. On early machines the bars holding the letters often caught on each other when moving quickly.

Sholes made the name of his machine easy to type. He placed on the same line all the letters of the words type and writer.

1. This article is mostly about a
  - A. pair of letters
  - B. keyboard
  - C. language
  - D. man's life
2. The "qwerty" board is named for the
  - A. man who set it up
  - B. company that sold it
  - C. order of six of its letters
  - D. letters used the most in English
3. The "qwerty" board was first set up
  - A. with thirty-six letters
  - B. in six lines
  - C. by C. L. Sholes
  - D. All of the above
4. Sholes put S and T far apart because
  - A. he hoped to prevent jamming
  - B. they are seldom used together
  - C. neither is a vowel
  - D. there wasn't room for them together
5. The keyboard might be easier to learn if the letters were
  - A. placed in a different order
  - B. made to catch on each other
  - C. reduced in size
  - D. written upside down

Passage 7

Is your name William? If so, you have company. After John, William is the most common boys name in English. History is full of Williams. There's William of Normandy, who conquered England in 1066. There's writer William Shakespeare. There's William Cody, a hero of the Wild West. He's better known as Buffalo Bill.

The girl's name Frances isn't so common. But it's just as interesting. It means free woman. One of the first women named Frances lived long ago in Rome. She was a very good person.

The song "Frankie and Johnny" tells of another Frances, who wasn't good. This Frances, nicknamed Frankie, took a gun and shot her sweetheart Johnny because, as the song explains, "He was her man, but he done her wrong."

- The story suggests that William was
  - in use as a name before 1066
  - a name given to many famous men
  - seldom used after 1960
  - Both A and B
- The most common boy's name in English is
  - John
  - Frank
  - William
  - Bill
- The short form for William given in the article is
  - Will
  - Willie
  - Liam
  - Bill
- The names William and Frances are both
  - very common
  - old
  - Roman
  - Welsh
- The meaning of the name Frances has to do with
  - love
  - strength
  - goodness
  - freedom

Passage 8

Most Americans think that ice cream is as American as baseball and apple pie. But ice cream was known long before America was discovered.

The Roman emperor Nero may have made a kind of ice cream. He hired hundreds of men to bring snow and ice from the mountains. He used it to make cold drinks. Traveler Marco Polo brought back recipes for chilled and frozen milk from China.

Hundreds of years later, ice cream reached England. It is said that King Charles I enjoyed that treat very much. There is a story that he bribed his cook to keep the recipe for ice cream a royal secret.

Today ice cream is known throughout the world. Americans alone eat more than two billion quarts a year.

- The selection says that most Americans
  - think that ice cream is very new
  - think that ice cream was an American idea
  - know that ice cream is very old
  - do not know what ice cream is
- The Roman emperor Nero hired men to
  - make ice cream for him
  - bring ice cream from China
  - guard the secret of ice cream
  - bring ice to cool his drinks
- Marco Polo is known as
  - a Roman emperor
  - the inventor of ice cream
  - a royal cook
  - a traveler to China
- Charles I of England wanted to
  - make ice cream popular
  - keep the secret of ice cream for himself
  - develop new kinds of ice cream
  - bring ice cream recipes from China
- More than two billion quarts of ice cream have been eaten
  - by Americans in one year
  - all over the world in one year
  - since the time of Nero
  - since America was discovered

Passage 9

The hognose snake, sometimes called the puff adder, is one of nature's clowns. Some people think that he is deadly poisonous. Actually, he's just a harmless fellow who spends most of his time hunting toads.

The puff adder gets his name from being a terrific bluffer. He will swell up, hiss and strike viciously to frighten you away. If that doesn't work, he will flatten out, making his head look like a cobra's.

He has one more trick—playing dead. He goes limp, opens his mouth wide, and rolls over on his back so that he couldn't possibly look more dead.

Unfortunately, this trick is spoiled by his one-track mind. If you pick him up he lies still. But turn him over and he will thrash about wildly, trying to turn himself belly up again.

1. The hognose snake is  
A. poisonous  
B. dangerous  
C.  harmless  
D. both A and B
2. It is called the puff adder because he  
A.  swells up  
B.  makes a puffing noise  
C. hunts toads  
D. is vicious
3. He does his tricks in order to  
A. attack his enemies  
B. get exercise  
C. amuse people  
D.  protect himself
4. When the puff adder flattens his head, he is trying to  
A.  frighten you  
B. play dead  
C. get away unnoticed  
D. catch his food
5. This snake has a "one-track mind" because he  
A. tries to play dead  
B. lies perfectly still  
C.  tries to turn belly up if you turn him over  
D. acts dead even when you pick him up

## Passage 10

A tornado can do a lot of damage. The wind of a tornado rushes at great speed around a funnel-shaped cloud. It travels in a path a few hundred feet wide and about twenty-five miles long. As the wind circles counterclockwise, the funnel spirals higher and higher. The force of the wind sucks up water, dirt, and objects, and carries them along with it. It may drop them again many miles away. Houses and huge trees have been drawn into tornado funnels. At sea, ships have been nearly sunk by tornadoes dropping water on them.

East of Australia, people talk about a "rain of blood." This is caused by a tornado picking up red dust and mixing it with water to make red rain. There are even stories about a rain of fish and frogs caused by a tornado sucking them up and then dropping them.

1. A tornado is a
  - A. rainstorm
  - B. dust storm
  - C. great circling wind
  - D. huge funnel of water
2. The path of a tornado is usually
  - A. short and narrow
  - B. wider than it is long
  - C. longer than it is wide
  - D. both A and B
3. The wind in a tornado usually travels
  - A. straight up
  - B. up and around
  - C. down
  - D. down and around
4. Ships have nearly been sunk when tornadoes have
  - A. drawn them into the funnel
  - B. dropped water on them
  - C. blown them in the wrong direction
  - D. dropped trees on them
5. The "rain of blood" east of Australia is made of
  - A. fishes and frogs
  - B. red dust and water
  - C. rusty water
  - D. real blood

Passage 11

If George Washington were able to travel back and forth in time, he would feel much more at home in ancient Babylon, 3700 years before his time, than in our modern age, 200 years after he lived.

Torches, chariots, and rough streets, like those of Babylon in 2060 B. C., would not surprise him. He read by candlelight and rode in carriages on unpaved roads. He never saw a building more than four stories high. Electric lights, autos, highways, and skyscrapers would amaze him.

When Washington was ill, he might have expected to be cut and bled to let out the "bad blood" that was making him sick. He would not know what a modern doctor meant by serums, germs, and allergies.

~~What~~ If the Father of His Country could visit the United States now, he might think that he had landed on another planet!

另一个星球

1. To arrive in ancient Babylon, Washington would have to go
  - A. 200 years back in time
  - B. 3700 years back in time
  - C. 200 years forward in time
  - D. 3700 years forward in time
2. George Washington read by
  - A. candlelight
  - B. torchlight
  - C. firelight
  - D. gaslight
3. In George Washington's America, there were no
  - A. tall buildings
  - B. cities
  - C. unpaved roads
  - D. carriages
4. The doctor of Washington's time
  - A. were magicians 魔术师
  - B. did not try to cure illness
  - C. discovered allergies
  - D. bled their patients
5. The best title for this selection is
  - A. How Life Has Changed!
  - B. Washington, Father of His Country
  - C. George Washington in Ancient Babylon
  - D. 200 Years ago

## Passage 12

Licorice can be used for other things besides candy. Some of the powers of the licorice plant have been known since ancient times. The Egyptians used it to cure sore throats, and an old Chinese story tells how licorice cured a dragon whose throat was sore from breathing fire. The armies of Alexander the Great carried licorice root as medicine on all of their campaigns.

Modern medicine uses this old knowledge. Many of today's cough sirups contain licorice. It is good for both man and beast, and veterinarians give it to horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, and cats.

Licorice can put out fires, too. After the sweet juices have been taken out, the waste fiber of the root is used to make a fire-fighting foam. This foam smothers fire by keeping oxygen away from it. A licorice fire extinguisher is sold today.

- Licorice today can be used for
  - medicine
  - candy
  - fighting fires
  - all of the above
- Alexander the Great's men used licorice
  - to eat during battles
  - as medicine
  - to feed to their animals
  - to put out fires
- The part of the licorice used in extinguishing fire is the
  - leaf
  - stem
  - flower
  - root fiber
- The licorice fire extinguisher puts out fires by
  - spraying water
  - keeping oxygen away from them
  - giving them too much oxygen
  - melting
- The best title for this selection is
  - How Cough Sirup Is Made
  - A Good Fire Extinguisher
  - A Useful Plant
  - Licorice in History

Passage 13

Copper was the first metal that man learned to make. In some mountainous lands there were rocks streaked with green minerals. One day some rocks were accidentally heated by a roaring fire. When the fire burned low, little beads of copper were seen on the rock wall.

After that, men heated the rock deliberately to see whether more copper would appear. They soon found a good way to make copper. They would build a trench on a hillside and fill it with charcoal and copper-bearing rock. They covered this furnace with flat stones.

They started a wood fire to heat the charcoal and the hot charcoal released copper from the rock. A hot red pool of melted metal formed at the mouth of the trench. When it was cool, the solid metal could be lifted out and cut and pounded into shapes.

1. The first copper was probably made by
  - A. experimenting
  - B. accident
  - C. someone deliberately building a fire
  - D. someone who knew that there was copper in the rock
  
2. Copper is found in rocks in
  - A. large pieces
  - B. lumps
  - C. small beads
  - D. streaks
  
3. Mineral copper is
  - A. black
  - B. green
  - C. silver
  - D. no color
  
4. The trench was filled with
  - A. copper-bearing rock
  - B. copper-bearing rock and wood
  - C. charcoal and flat stones
  - D. copper-bearing rock and charcoal
  
5. Men shaped the copper by
  - A. melting it
  - B. breaking it
  - C. pounding it
  - D. both B and C

Passage 14

Few animals other than monkeys have handlike paws. The monkey, like man, has an opposable thumb—that is, it can place its thumb opposite its other fingers. By pressing its first finger against its thumb a monkey can pick up things as tiny as a flea. Because other animals lack this thumb, it is difficult for them to pick up small things and carry them.

The monkey's ability to grasp rice with its paw often leads to its capture. Hunters bait a coconut with a handful of rice, leaving a hole in the shell of the nut. The monkey has no trouble sliding its paw through the hole. But it can't draw the paw out while it is holding a fistful of rice.

Since it is often too stupid or greedy to open its hand, the monkey is unable to free itself from this simple trap.

1. Not many animals have
  - A. fingers
  - B. hands
  - C. paws
  - D. handlike paws
2. An opposable thumb is a thumb that can
  - A. pick up things
  - B. be placed against the other fingers
  - C. press against the opposite thumb
  - D. press against anything
3. A monkey can pick up small objects by pushing its thumb against
  - A. its paw
  - B. its fingers
  - C. its forefingers
  - D. the objects
4. Hunters put rice in the coconut trap because monkeys
  - A. can get the rice out easily
  - B. have trouble picking up rice
  - C. must close their fists to hold rice
  - D. both B and C
5. The success or failure of a coconut trap depends on
  - A. what kind of rice is in the trap
  - B. how large the coconut is
  - C. how many holes are in the coconut
  - D. whether the monkey will give up the rice



Passage 15

The first English window was just a slit in the wall. It was cut long, so that it would let in as much light as possible, and narrow, to keep out the bad weather. However, the slit let in more wind than light. This is why it was called "the wind's eye." The word window itself comes from two Old Norse words for wind and eye.

Before windows were used, the ancient halls and castles of northern Europe and Britain were dark and smoky. Their great rooms were high, with only a hole in the roof to let out the smoke from torches and cooking fires.

As time went on, people wanted more light and air in their homes. They made the wind's eyes wider so as to admit air and light. They stretched canvas or tapestry across them to keep out the weather.

- The first window was a  
A. large hole in the wall.  
B. hole covered with canvas  
 C. slit in the wall  
D. slit with a piece of paper over it
- The word window meant  
A. opening to look through  
 B. light given  
C. wind  
 D. wind's eye
- The window got its name because it  
A. kept out the wind  
B. blew out the smoke  
 C. let in more wind than light  
D. let in mostly light
- In the ancient castles, smoke went out through  
A. the windows  
B. the doors  
C. the chimney  
 D. a hole in the roof
- It seems true that the larger, canvas-covered windows  
A. were not as good as the first windows  
 B. let in more light and kept out more wind  
C. did not let any air in  
D. were as good as today's windows