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英语时文精选

(第2册)

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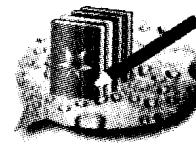


UNIT 1

Will Your Problems Be Diagnosed by a Computer

你有难言之隐吗，且看我计算机的

您也许有过这样的遭遇：晚上彻夜难眠，而白天呢，学习、工作、生活等诸事也都不遂人意。可以说您这时正处在人生的低谷之中，怎么办？听之任之，还是向朋友、医生倾诉这一切？会不会有哪位口无遮掩的仁兄义妹抑或医生把自己的隐私给抖出去呢？很难说。要是有件东西既能绝对地替自己保守秘密，又能为自己出谋划策，指点迷津，那该多好。没错，本文谈到的装有 CASPER 系统的电脑就能做到这一点。

Words to Watch

diagnose *vt.* 诊断

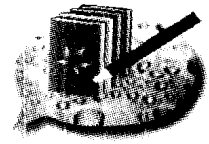
self-effacing *a.* 避免抛头露面的，谦卑的

ethics *n.* 道德观
scenario *n.* 剧情说明,方案
interaction *n.* 相互作用
assessment *n.* 估价,评价
specific *a.* 特定的
disconcerted *a.* 不安的,惊慌的
client *n.* (私人医生的)病人
far-fetched *a.* 牵强的
demographic *a.* 人口统计的
veer *vi.* 改变方向
pertinent *a.* 有关的

* *

Imagine yourself seated in a comfortable chair in a room with a computer as we enter the new millennium. The computer has powerful voice-recognition software and asks for your name. Not wanting to offend, you pronounce your name carefully. The computer says "Thank you" and prints your name on the screen. "Did I get it right?"[1] the computer says self-effacingly.[2] "Yes," you respond. In the same way, you provide your address, telephone number, and personal identification number. The computer then says, "I'm now going to ask you some questions so that I can learn more about you. Whatever you tell me will only be shared with a psychologist who is bound by professional ethics[3] to keep it confidential. May I begin?" Without thinking, you nod your head yes. "Do I take that for a yes?" the computer asks. You realize that you hadn't spoken aloud and that the computer's body-language-recognition software picked up your head nod and is seeking confirmation. "Yes," you say again. "Let's get on with it."

This scenario presupposes that you have been having some personal problems and have finally decided to go for help. The helping professional asked if



you would have a dialogue with her computer as a way of learning more about your problems. Living in a world of computers, you assumed that the interaction would be worthwhile. So here you are.

Sound far-fetched? Actually, primitive computers have been interviewing people for more than 20 years. One current system is named CASPER, which stands for Computerized Assessment System for Psychotherapy Evaluation and Research.[4] A CASPER interview lasts about 30 minutes. It covers a wide range of topics, such as demographic information, family relations, social activities, life satisfaction, and problems connected with physical and psychological disorders. Questions and response options, such as the following, are shown on the screen:

"About how many days in the past month did you have difficulty falling asleep, staying asleep, or waking too early (include sleep disturbed by bad dreams)?" "During the past month, how have you been getting along with your spouse/partner? (1) Very satisfactory; (2) Mostly satisfactory; (3) Sometimes satisfactory, sometimes not; (4) Mostly unsatisfactory; (5) Very unsatisfactory."

The person presses a numeric keypad to respond. CASPER is a branching program that produces additional questions to follow up on problems suggested by people's responses. If the person reports difficulty sleeping, CASPER delves into whether sleep has become a key problem — "something causing you great personal distress or interfering with your daily functioning". If the person responds yes, the computer will investigate still more deeply. People may also add or drop complaints; that

is, people can change their minds.

Research has shown that people are generally capable of completing CASPER interviews with little difficulty, and most respond favorably to the interview. People also appear to report a greater number of problems to CASPER than to a live clinician. Perhaps the computer helps identify problems that the person would be unwilling to report to another person. Or perhaps the computer seems more willing to take the time needed to record all complaints.

Computer diagnostic programs apparently offer some advantages over traditional human interviewers:

1. Computers can be programmed to ask specific sets of questions in definite order, whereas people sometimes omit important questions or allow the interview to veer off course into less critical issues. [5]

2. As with CASPER, people may be less disconcerted about reporting personal matters to a computer because computers do not respond emotionally or judgmentally.

3. Use of the computer for purposes of diagnosis also frees clinicians to spend their time more productively in direct clinical services.

As such computer diagnostic programs become capable of handling vastly increased amounts of information, they are also likely to become more accurate at diagnosis and more capable of identifying unusual problems. They may also readily connect the person's complaints to similar cases in the literature, indicating what course of treatment has been most effective. On the other hand, it may be that computerized psychological testing will not be for everyone. Research shows that younger, bet-

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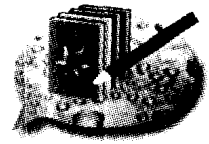


ter-educated people who are experienced with computers react more favorably to computerized assessment.

Yet a review of the research literature suggests that some computer programs are as capable as trained clinicians of obtaining pertinent information from a client and arriving at an accurate diagnosis. Is the scenario sketched at the outset of this feature a foregone conclusion? [6]

Notes

1. Did I get it right? 我打印得对吗? get: 理解。

2. self-effacingly: 避免抛头露面地;谦卑地。

3. professional ethics: 职业道德。

4. which stands for Computerized Assessment System for Psychotherapy Evaluation and Research. 它指的是对心理疗法进行评价及研究的计算机化评估系统。

5. allow the interview to veer off course into less critical issues 让这次交谈改变方向,去问些无关紧要的问题。

6. Is the scenario sketched at the outset of the feature a foregone conclusion? 本篇特写一开始就已勾画出的方案是不是一个预料中必然的结局呢? at the outset: 在开头时。 feature: 特写。 a foregone conclusion: 预料中必然的结局。

Exercises

1. Reading Comprehension.

1) According to the first paragraph, which of the following statements is NOT true?

A. A computer equipped with powerful voice-recognition software and body-language recognition soft-

ware is indispensable for the diagnosis to be performed by the computer.

B. You have to follow the vocal instructions given by the computer step by step.

C. You are not required to offer your real personal information such as address, telephone number, marital status, etc.

D. You have to respond positively to all the questions asked by the computer.

2) Who is most likely to resort to computer for the diagnosis of his or her ailment?

A. The person who has been living in a world of computers.

B. The person who has some knowledge about CASPER system.

C. The person who has been suffering from some personal matters.

D. The person who is too shy to be interviewed by a live clinician.

3) It is implied in the passage that ____.

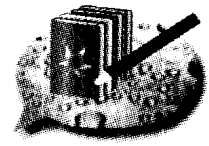
A. a client seems to be more willing to reveal his or her personal trouble to a computer than to a face-to-face doctor in that the former tends to be more confidential than the latter.

B. questions raised by a computer are offhand, depending on the interviewee's responses.

C. computers can tackle some unusual illnesses that are beyond a doctor's capability by referring to the medical database in the literature.

D. computers may write out a prescription indicating the most effective course of treatment.

4) The word "scenario" (Line 1, Para. 2) probably means "____".



A. scenery B. script

C. description D. interpretation

5) The purpose of this passage is to ____.

A. encourage persons with indescribable personal problems to have an CASPER interview

B. expose the disadvantages of computerized psychological testing

C. make an objective appraisal of diagnoses performed by computers

D. point out the orientation of the further development of computerized assessment of some personal matters

2. Choose the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the italicized word (s) in each sentence.

1) Whatever you tell me will only be shared with a psychologist who is bound by professional ethics to keep it *confidential.*

A. confident B. secretive

C. a secret D. a confidant

2) Living in a world of computers, you assumed that the *interaction* would be worthwhile.

A. interrelation B. interchange

C. reaction D. effect on each other

3) It covers a wide range of topics, such as *demographic* information, family relations, social activities, etc.

A. democratic B. statistics of population

C. background D. census

4) Computer diagnostic programs *apparently* offer some advantages over traditional human interviewers.

A. obviously B. agreeably

C. vaguely D. hesitantly

5) As such programs become capable of *handling* vastly increased amounts of information, they are also likely to become more accurate at diagnosis.

A. carrying B. treating with hand

C. dealing with D. transforming

3. Choose the best answers to complete the following sentences.

1) A number of spy planes were ____ by the radar installations and shot down in no time.

A. picked out B. picked up

C. picked over D. picked on

2) We must be ____; We have to be back home by 6 p. m.

A. getting on B. getting away

C. getting round D. getting over

3) No sooner had he reached home than was asked to ____ a vet.

A. go on for B. go in for C. go out for D. go for

4) The pilot was termed a ____ son of the people for his bravery during the war.

A. worth B. worthwhile C. worthy D. worthless

5) In this mathematical equation X ____ an unknown number.

A. stands up for B. stands up to

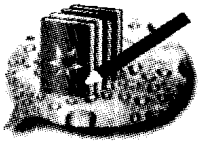
C. stands up D. stands for

6) The politician's statements were very much ____ his disadvantage if he wanted to win the presidential election.

A. at B. by C. for D. to

7) They are ____ the view that her arguments are well-founded.

A. assessing　　B. indicating
C. obtaining　　D. arriving at



Reading for Fun

A Knack

Two friends met on the street after not having seen each other for some time. One of them was using crutches.

"Hello! " said the other man. "What's the matter with you?"

"Street-car accident, "said the man on crutches.

"When did that happen?"

"Oh, about two months ago. "

"And you still have to use that?"

"Well, my doctor says I could get along without them, but my lawyer says I can't. "

Keys

1. 1) D　2) C　3) D　4) B　5) C
2. 1) C　2) D　3) B　4) B　5) A
3. 1) B　2) A　3) D　4) C　5) D　6) C　7) D

参考译文

当我们进入新千年的时候，请想像一下你自己坐在一间电脑房里的一把舒适的椅子上的情况吧。这台电脑拥有强大的声音识别软件，还在问着你的名字。因为你并不想冒犯电脑，所以就小心翼翼地报出自己的名字。电脑说声"谢谢你"，然后把你的名字打印在屏幕上。"我打印的对吗？"电脑谦卑地问。"对，"你回答说。同样，你提供你的地址、电话号码及个人身份证号码。电脑然后说，"为了我能够更多地了解你，我现在要问你一些问题。你给我讲的任何事情我只和一名有职业道德，能保守秘密的心理学家一起探讨。我可以开始了吗？"你未

加思考，点一下头。“我可以把你的点头视为认可吗？”电脑问道。你认识到你没有大声说，这是电脑的体语辨认软件在测知你点头的含义，并寻求确认。“是的。”你又说上一遍。“让我们继续吧。”

以上这个方案的制定是基于预先假定你一直被一些个人问题困扰着，并且最终决定来这里寻求帮助的。协助工作的专业人员就会问你是否愿意和电脑进行一次对话，以便更多地了解你的问题所在。因为生活在一个电脑世界里，所以你认为和电脑的交流会是值得的。因此，你就来到了这里。

以上的环节听起来是否有点离谱？实际上，原始电脑一直在和人进行着人机交流已有 20 多年了。目前有一个系统，名为 CASPER。它指的是对心理疗法的评价及研究的电脑化的评估系统。一次 CASPER 访问持续大约 30 分钟，覆盖的话题很广。比如人口统计方面的信息、家庭关系、社会活动、生活的满意程度以及与身体和心理不适有关的一些问题。比如下面的这些问题和答案选项就会显示在屏幕上：

“在过去的一月里，您大约有多少天难以入睡、难以处于睡眠状态或是醒得太早（包括被噩梦惊醒）？”“在过去的一个月里，您与您的配偶或伙伴相处得怎么样？（1）非常满意；（2）大多数情况下满意；（3）有时满意，有时不满意；（4）大多数情况下不满意；（5）非常不满意。”

由当事人按一下数字键来回答这些问题。CASPER 是个分支程序。它能生成一些附加问题以便对由当事人对问题的回答而出现的新的问题进行跟踪。如果病人回答说睡眠有问题，那么，CASPER 就会进行研究，以断定睡眠是否已成为病人的一个关键性问题——“给你个人带来极大痛苦并干扰了你的日常活动的事情。”如果病人回答说“是的”，那么，计算机就会进行更深入的调查。病人也可以添加或删掉一些诉说内容。也就是说，病人可以改变主意。

研究表明，人们一般不费多少事就能完成 CASPER 系统的访问，而且大多数人的回答都有利于这样的访问。人们也似乎对 CASPER 倾诉的问题比对一位活生生的临床医生倾诉的问题要多些。也许是因为电脑有助于识别当事人不愿向他人倾诉的问题。或者也许是因为电脑似乎更愿意花费要记录下所有这些诉说所需要的时间。

电脑里的病情诊断程序很明显提供了一些传统的面谈者无法比较的优势：

1. 可以给电脑编制一些程序，让它按照确定的顺序问一些特

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