

高级英语水平考试指导丛书

完形填空的设计与解题技巧

(修订版)

吴玮翔 主编

河海大学出版社

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Cloze — Designing and Cracking

(修 订 版)

主 编：吴玮翔

编 著：吴晓妹 莫楚荣 吴玮翔

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前 言

完形填空是国内外现行英语考试中非常流行的一种综合能力测试题,大学英语入学考试(MET)、大学英语四级考试(CET4)、研究生入学英语考试、出国人员水平考试(EPT)及美国密执安考试中,完形填空都是主要的几大题项之一。

完形填空就其内容而言,不外乎结构和词汇两种填空,但又不同于单一的结构和词汇填空。一篇设计科学合理的完形填空试题要求应试者在对全文充分理解(且只有在此)的基础上才有望选得正确的答案,它集阅读理解、句法结构和词汇语义的测试于一题,故又称“综合填空”。考生普遍认为,这类测试题难度大、失分多、无把握,原因即在于此。

完型填空作为知识和能力的综合题,又不同于任何其它形式的知识题和能力题。它虽然比阅读理解、书面表达等单纯的能力题更难以把握,但如果操练得法,这类题型又能很好地把考生的语言知识和语言能力融会贯通,使之相得益彰,在语言运用能力方面获得质的飞跃,大大促进考生的阅读理解能力和书面表达能力的提高。

本书从完形填空的命题设计谈其解题诀窍,结合笔者多年语言测试教学的经验,从对完形填空的特点和命题意图的剖析入手,从命题人的角度介绍了命题中完形填空难易度的调控、完形填空的测试题型和测试标的,以及完形填空对考生语言知识、语言能力和应试技巧的要求,并提供了相当于四种不同难度级别的模拟完形填空题,以帮助考生循序渐进地熟悉答题技巧,领会命题意图,理顺答题思路,悟出解题真谛,达到所需级别。所有试题全部在实验班通过常规模拟考试进行了难易度测定,因此,具有相当高的可信度和可比度。

本次修订充实了大量研究生入学英语考试中有关完形填空部分的命题参数和82年至96年历年考研完形填空的真题。

除了80篇模拟试题,前七章里的50多篇完形填空希望考生先将之作为练习题,自己做过后再参阅对照后面的答案和题解。

编 者

1996年春于南京

目 录

第一章	完形填空的题型特点和命题意图	(1)
第二章	完形填空的难度分析	(4)
第三章	完形填空的题型分类	(12)
第四章	完形填空的测试标的	(21)
第五章	各标准化水平考试完形填空命题参数	(34)
第六章	完形填空对考生语言知识和能力的要求	(45)
第七章	完形填空的应试技巧	(58)
第八章	完形填空模拟题(MET/CET1-2 难度)	(66)
第九章	完形填空模拟题(CET3-4 难度)	(91)
第十章	完形填空模拟题(EPT 难度)	(112)
第十一章	82—96 年硕士研究生入学考试完形填空真题	(133)
附 录	参考答案	(148)

第一章 完形填空的题型特点和命题意图

完形填空(Cloze Test)又称短文填空或综合填空,是用以测试考生语言知识及其语言运用能力的一种题型,它不仅考查学生的语法结构和词义搭配知识,还考查他们阅读理解文章和语言综合运用的能力。这类试题初见于50年代,在我国用于英语考试则是从70年代开始的。近年来,我国各级各类英语考试几乎都把完形填空作为一项不可缺少的测试题项(内容)。从1978年以来每年的高考英语试题中,都有这一题项,并且占分比重与年俱增。1989年开始的全国高校入学英语标准化考试(MET),把完形填空作为语言知识综合应用题(Knowledge and Use 简作KU),共25题,占卷面总分的25%,仅次于阅读理解。1987年开始的另一项全国大规模标准化水平考试——全国大学英语(非专业)四级考试(CET4),把完形填空作为五大题项之一,共20题;1980年开始的出国人员英语水平考试(EPT,包括1985—1986年的访问学者考试VST)虽几经修改,完形填空也一直是五大题项之一,共20题。

完形填空是连贯的短文层次上的填空,要求考生在通篇考虑、掌握文章大意的基础上,综合运用所学过的词汇和语法结构知识,选择或推知最佳答案填进空缺,使短文的意思和结构恢复完整。

完形填空的设计和应用,是基于完形心理语言学的这样一种理论:在语言交际中,总有一些多余信息,这些信息的多少和有无,并不影响交流信息实际效果。另一方面,作为一个整体的一个语段(短文),在内容、组织结构和语言运用上,都是个整体,独具特色,空去一些词(信息),仍能呈现一种闭合整体(closure),提供足够信息。这样通过对剩余部分的分析,可以推知空去的信息,也即可以在空档处填上正确的词,使该语段保持原文内容、结构和语言特色。一个人的语言水平越高,理解能力越强,所容许缺少的信息就越多。

命题人就是根据这一理论,在一篇短文中去掉一些信息,留出空缺,让考生根据自己的理解能力和语文水平把空缺补上,以此来测试考生的语言知识和语言运用能力,特别是语篇层次上的交际能力。

完形填空题的设计有定量比率法和随机比率法(即标准型和修改型)。定量比率法每隔一定数量的词就空去一个词或短语,不论是什么类型的词或短语(但数字、日期专有名词、术语一般很难填上,通常顺延一词);随机比率法则根据测试命题意图,在间隔相对固定的前提下有选择地空去与命题意图相应的词,间隔词数不尽相同。如美国密执安考试采用的是定量比例法,一律间隔6个单词,空去第7个词:

There is no question but that Newton was a highly competent Master of the Mint. It was mainly through his efforts 1 the English currency was put on 2 satisfactory basis at a difficult time. 3 discovered a relationship between prices and 4 amount of money in circulation, which 5 later formalized in the so-called "quantity 6" of money; if the amount of 7 in circulation is doubled, other things 8 the same then prices also will 9 double. This is a simple application 10 the principle that it is impossible 11 get something for nothing, but apparently 12 took someone like

Newton to discover it. There 13 an obvious comparison with Copernicus, who 14 the Polish government on currency questions 15 in doing so discovered another important 16 (usually known as Gresham's Law). When 17 money is accepted as legal tender, 18 money will be driven out of 19. Copernicus anticipated Gresham in the formulation 20 this law.

- | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|
| 1. A. to | B. that | C. why | D. for |
| 2. A. a | B. something | C. very | D. most |
| 3. A. It | B. Was | C. He | D. They |
| 4. A. an | B. the | C. their | D. big |
| 5. A. too | B. will | C. was | D. for |
| 6. A. theory | B. thesis | C. theme | D. theorem |
| 7. A. coins | B. bills | C. currency | D. gold |
| 8. A. stay | B. remaining | C. much | D. be |
| 9. A. come | B. multiply | C. seem | D. approximately |
| 10. A. for | B. to | C. of | D. by |
| 11. A. our | B. for | C. to | D. we |
| 12. A. they | B. it | C. had | D. he |
| 13. A. is | B. be | C. come | D. by |
| 14. A. talked | B. formed | C. advised | D. created |
| 15. A. from | B. and | C. but | D. by |
| 16. A. true | B. theme | C. legend | D. law |
| 17. A. much | B. bad | C. foreign | D. lawful |
| 18. A. good | B. bad | C. much | D. some |
| 19. A. work | B. function | C. circulation | D. marketing |
| 20. A. for | B. of | C. by | D. to |

(参考答案: 1. B, 2. A, 3. C, 4. B, 5. C, 6. A, 7. C, 8. B, 9. D, 10. C, 11. C, 12. B, 13. A, 14. C, 15. B, 16. D, 17. B, 18. A, 19. C, 20. B.)

而较多的时候,完形填空则采用随机比率法,因为这样能很好地将测试纳入命题意图的轨道。如:

One day a mother rat and her babies were out in an open field. They were playing and having a good time when 1 a hungry cat came on the scene! It hid 2 a big tree and then 3 forward through the tall grass 4 it could almost hear them talk, 5 the mother rat and her babies knew 6 had happened, the cat 7 from its hiding-place and started to run 8 them.

The mother rat and her babies all 9 at once. They hurried towards 10 home, which under a pile of large stones. 11 the baby rats were 12 scared that they could not run very 13. Closer and closer the cat came. In no time the cat would be upon 14. What was to be done!

The mother rat stopped running, 15 round and faced the cat, 16. "Bow!

Wow! Bowow!" just like 17 angry dog. The cat was so surprised and 18 that it ran away.

The mother rat turned to her babies, "Now you see 19 important it is to learn 20 second language!"

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|
| 1. A. naturally | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. suddenly | C. nearly | D. certainly |
| 2. A. on | B. between | C. by | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. behind |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. crawled | B. jumped | C. looked | D. climbed |
| 4. A. before | B. when | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. until | D. while |
| 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Before | B. After | C. Unless | D. Otherwise |
| 6. A. where | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. what | C. which | D. when |
| 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. jumped | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. started | C. jumping | D. starting |
| 8. A. over | B. through | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. after | D. against |
| 9. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. fled | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. fled | C. flied | D. flee |
| 10. A. to | B. for | C. its | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. their |
| 11. A. Because | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. But | C. Therefore | D. Although |
| 12. A. as | B. much | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. so | D. very |
| 13. A. freely | B. hardly | C. soon | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. quickly |
| 14. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. ahead | B. down | C. that | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. then |
| 15. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. turned | B. walked | C. jumped | D. ran |
| 16. A. saying | B. said | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. shouting | D. shouted |
| 17. A. a | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. an | C. their | D. that |
| 18. A. pleased | B. excited | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. frightened | D. worried |
| 19. A. so | B. why | C. what | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. how |
| 20. A. out | B. their | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. a | D. an |

(参考答案: 1. B, 2. D, 3. A, 4. C, 5. A, 6. B, 7. A, 8. C, 9. B, 10. D, 11. B, 12. C, 13. D, 14. D, 15. A, 16. C, 17. B, 18. C, 19. D, 20. C.)

这里,最长的间隔达 14 词,最短的只有 4 词。

我国各级各类标准化水平考试中,均按随机比率法有选择地去词留空。同时,为了评分的客观统一性,均采用多项选择型完形填空形式,每空格对应 4 个(或 5 个)选择项,除一个是正确答案外,其余几个均为干扰项,干扰形式有意义的干扰、结构的干扰、词形的干扰和词的曲折变化的干扰等。

完形填空是检查考生多种语言知识和语言能力的综合性试题,设计科学的试题能比较准确地反映考生以语言知识和能力为主体的实际语言水平。

判断空档所缺,捕获正确答案,要求考生运用语法词汇知识以及已有的常识,根据上下文内容进行判断,寻找信息和信号词(包括固定搭配、习惯用法和特定句型)。考生既需要充分运用自己在平时学习、观察和使用语言时所获得的语言知识进行语法和语义上的综合考虑,同时又必须建立语言的整体感,从整个语段的内容、篇章结构、句法和语言词汇特点等方面结合自己的常识进行全面的分析。

第二章 完形填空的难度分析

完形填空作为一种多功能的综合性测试形式,为求得较高的测试标准的可信度和测试结果的可比性,命题人对具体试题的难度控制十分严格,他经常采用多种方法对其难度进行调整。对决定完形填空难度诸因素的分析,有利于考生对完形填空命题意图和答题技巧的深入了解,也有利于教师自己设计考题时正确把握试题难易的尺度。所以在这一章我们对能调整完形填空难易度的诸因素作一简要的归纳分析。

一、短文本身的难易决定试题的难度

完形填空以考生能理解所选短文为前提,如果考生不能理解短文,则难以选取正确的答案(至少对三分之二的空档是如此),因此,也就意味着他未达到应该达到的语言水平,更谈不上语言运用能力。

完形填空短文在 MET 中“与中学教材大致相当”,通常理解为与高中教材,特别是高二、三教材的课文难度相当;CET4 中“难度适中、题材熟悉”一般与三、四级教材中的课文难度相近;EPT 考试大纲对文章难度未作规定,但可理解为具有与阅读理解部分的短文相当的可读性。短文难度太小,自然无法体现考生(特别是优秀考生)的真实水平;难度过大,考生对文章的理解困难,便影响答题,容易出现盲目猜题,也就影响了测试的客观性和可信度。

试比较下列二篇题材相同、难度不同短文的答题难易程度。

A

Major David Simons went up alone 1 a balloon until he was 100,000 feet above our earth. At this height he could see all of Lake Michigan; the curve of the earth's 2 and several thunderstorms raging 3 him. He watched the sun set in clear glory and the stars shine 4 it was dark.

Awakening from 5, the major saw the sudden, brilliant green flash of the sunrise. 6 was high time, he thought, to return to earth. As he 7 down, he saw that he was running into thunderstorms. He 8 some heavy substances and the balloon climbed again. Later, 9 a big hole in the clouds he let gas out of the balloon and started down once more. Nearly forty-three hours after he had started up, Major Simons 10 in a South Dakota field.

- | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|--------------|------------|
| 1. A. on | B. by | C. in | D. with |
| 2. A. seas | B. lands | C. mountains | D. surface |
| 3. A. below | B. with | C. in | D. from |
| 4. A. before | B. since | C. if | D. though |
| 5. A. asleep | B. sleepy | C. sleep | D. slept |
| 6. A. This | B. That | C. It | D. He |

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|
| 7. | A. walked | B. broke | C. ran | D. floated |
| 8. | A. took away | B. threw out | C. put together | D. let in |
| 9. | A. looking | B. to look at | C. to see | D. seeing |
| 10. | A. stopped | B. landed | C. ended | D. crashed |

B

Major David Simons went up alone 1 a balloon until he was 100,000 feet above our earth with 99 per cent of the earth's atmosphere below him. Had his plastic balloon burst he would have fallen 2 19 miles. If a valve(阀门) had stuck 3 he could not let gas out of the balloon, he could not have 4 to earth.

At this height Major Simons could see all of Lake Michigan, the curve of the earth's 5 and several thunderstorms raging 6 him. He watched the sun set in clear glory and the stars 7 before it was dark.

Awakening from 8, the major saw the sudden, brilliant green flash of the sunrise. 9 was high time, he thought, to return to earth. As he 10 down, he saw that he was running into thunderstorms. He 11 some heavy substances and the balloon climbed again. Later, 12 a big hole in the clouds, he let gas out of the balloon and started down once more. But heat from the sun caused the balloon to 13 again. This frightened the major. He continued letting gas out of the balloon 14 at last it began a steady descent. Nearly forty three hours after he had started up, Major Simons 15 in a South Dakota field.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. | A. on | B. by | C. in | D. with |
| 2. | A. to | B. about | C. until | D. as |
| 3. | A. so that | B. then | C. even | D. therefore |
| 4. | A. been | B. returned | C. gone | D. stayed |
| 5. | A. seas | B. lands | C. mountains | D. surface |
| 6. | A. below | B. with | C. in | D. from |
| 7. | A. shine | B. shone | C. rise | D. invisible |
| 8. | A. asleep | B. sleepy | C. sleep | D. slept |
| 9. | A. This | B. That | C. It | D. He |
| 10. | A. walked | B. broke | C. ran | D. floated |
| 11. | A. took away | B. threw out | C. put together | D. let in |
| 12. | A. looking | B. to look at | C. to see | D. seeing |
| 13. | A. rise | B. raise | C. fall | D. sink |
| 14. | A. before | B. after | C. when | D. until |
| 15. | A. stopped | B. landed | C. ended | D. crashed |

(参考答案:短文 A: 1. C, 2. D, 3. A, 4. A, 5. C, 6. C, 7. C, 8. B, 9. D, 10. B。短文 B: 1. C, 2. B, 3. A, 4. B, 5. D, 6. A, 7. A, 8. C, 9. C, 10. D, 11. B, 12. D, 13. A, 14. D, 15.

B.)

二、空缺间隔决定试题的难度

空缺越密,要求考生添补的信息越多,对短文的透彻理解越难,对考生原有语言水平的要求也就越高。初级阶段的各类考试,空缺的间隔一般不会太密,通常每句或每两行二至三个,根据文章本身的难易又有所不同;MET 试题约每一分句或 10 个左右单词留一空缺;CET4 和 EPT 试题约 8 至 10 个单词一个空缺。

下面二篇完形填空空缺间隔相差较大,试比较其答题难度:

A

On Wednesday afternoons Annie took the bus into town to shop in the market. For an hour or 1 she would walk up and down between the stalls looking at everything, buying here and there, and 2 a sharp lookout for the bargains that were sometimes to be had, and then with all the things she needed 3, she would leave the market for the streets of the town to spend another hour 4 she liked best, looking in furniture-shop windows.

One Wednesday she found a new shop full of the most delightful things, with a notice inviting anyone to walk in and look 5 without feeling they had to buy something. Annie hesitated for a moment before stepping through the doorway where, almost at once, she stopped 6 before a green armchair. There was a card on the chair which said: "This fine chair is yours 7 less than a pound a week," and very small at the bottom, "Cash price eighty-nine pounds fifty." A pound a week... 8, she could almost pay that out of her housekeeping money and never miss it!

A voice at her shoulder made her 9. "Can I help you, Madam?" She looked round at the assistant who had come softly to her 10.

"Oh, well, no," she said. "I was just looking."

"We've chairs of all kinds in the showroom. If you'll just come up, you will find something to suit you."

Annie, worried at the thought of being persuaded to buy something she didn't need, left the shop hurriedly.

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|-------------------|
| 1. A. so | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. more | C. else | D. another |
| 2. A. taking | B. making | C. fixing | D. keeping |
| 3. A. buy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. bought | C. buying | D. to have bought |
| 4. A. in a way | B. by the way | C. in the way | D. on the way |
| 5. A. behind | B. round | C. back | D. on |
| 6. A. doubted | B. wondered | C. puzzled | D. delighted |
| 7. A. at | B. for | C. with | D. in |
| 8. A. Why | B. When | C. How | D. What |

- | | | | | |
|-----|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| 9. | A. jump | B. leap | C. laugh | D. wonder |
| 10. | A. place | B. back | C. side | D. front |

B

Influenza is currently 1 both temperatures and tempers. A new 2, thought to have spread from Asia, has 3 in this country and immunising 4 are being 5 by a few firms. 6 is technically difficult and commercially risky. To make a 7 the firms must not leave themselves with 8 stock, 9 they prefer to sell in 10. Demand is 11 12 certain large industrial companies 13 a serious winter 14 in production resulting 15 sickness absence. Accordingly they have 16 17 flu-vaccine in quantity direct from the manufacturers, offered it to their workers and in one case 18 not to 19 employees who 20 immunisation.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|--|
| 1. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. raising | B. rising | C. lifting | D. hovering |
| 2. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. variable | B. variety | C. diversity | D. variance |
| 3. | A. landed | B. reached | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. appeared | D. get |
| 4. | A. agencies | B. reagents | C. cures | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. agents |
| 5. | A. made out | B. created | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. put forth | D. manufactured |
| 6. | A. Productivity | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. Productiveness | C. Procuction | D. Produce |
| 7. | A. profit | B. gain | C. win | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. benefit |
| 8. | A. out-dated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. up-dated | C. in-dated | D. up-to-date |
| 9. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. hence | B. thence | C. nevertheless | D. however |
| 10. | A. retail | B. bulk | C. amount | D. quantities |
| 11. | A. gross | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. enormous | C. ample | D. towering |
| 12. | A. although | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. while | C. but | D. since |
| 13. | A. foresighted | B. foresaid | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. forecast | D. forethought |
| 14. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. drop | B. movement | C. campaign | D. move |
| 15. | A. in | B. with | C. for | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. from |
| 16. | A. begged | B. required | C. ordered | D. booked |
| 17. | A. ante- | B. anti- | C. contra- | D. counter- |
| 18. | A. warned | B. suggested | C. threatened | D. beg |
| 19. | A. retain | B. dismiss | C. detain | D. reject |
| 20. | A. declined | B. relinquished | C. justified | D. requested |

(参考答案:短文A: 1. A, 2. D, 3. B, 4. C, 5. B, 6. D, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. C.短文B: 1. A, 2. B, 3. C, 4. D, 5. D, 6. C, 7. B, 8. A, 9. A, 10. B, 11. B, 12. D, 13. C, 14. A, 15. D, 16. C, 17. B, 18. C, 19. C, 20. A.)

三、空缺内容决定试题的难度

命题人常根据命题意图和要求对完形填空中功能词和实义词的比例进行调控。空缺处

为语法功能词,一般根据考生的语法结构知识和上下文的信号词,即能比较容易地确定答案;空缺处如为实义词,牵涉到的知识面就较广,难度也就增大,考生除了对文章的理解外,还需对空缺所在的句子作比较彻底的语义、语法分析,才能确定需填什么功能和什么含义的词,如为自由完形填空,答案可能不止一个,容易使考生举棋不定,如为多项选择完形填空,则还须对选择项中特定词作语义辨异和搭配方面的比较。同时,在语法功能词和实义词内部,也因具体内容不同而有难有易。

国内大规模水平考试都以测试考生的语言运用能力,特别是短文理解能力、篇章结构能力为主要目的,故都将实义词的比例相应提高。当然,在像 MET 这些较低难度层次的考试中,出现的实义词也较容易,一般是最常见的同义近义词或属于纯语义的理解型试题。

下面二篇短文中第一篇多为语法功能词或实义词的语法形式,第二篇多为实义词,试比较其难度。

A

The Hatfield Puffin is a modern aeroplane, but its designer, Mr. John Wimpenny is 1 it difficult to get it 2 the ground. The reason for this is 3 this plane is also a bicycle. Its pilot has to pedal hard to get it into the air. After Mr. Wimpenny had the plane built, it was tested thoroughly. In 1961, it was the first 4 aircraft to fly 5. While being flown by a famous cyclist in 1963, the plane crashed on an airfield. Since then, Mr. Wimpenny has had it rebuilt. He has had the length of the wings increased 6 that they now 7 93 feet. Many people have shown 8 in this new and unusual sport. But though air cyclists may learn 9 over short distances, and may, eventually, even get across the English Channel, it is 10 whether they will ever cycle across the Atlantic.

- | | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|---|
| 1. | A. sure | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. afraid | C. thinking | D. finding |
| 2. | A. on | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. off | C. down | D. in |
| 3. | A. how | B. because | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. that | D. why |
| 4. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. man-powered | | B. man-powering | |
| | C. engine-powered | | D. engine-powering | |
| 5. | A. over a mile half | B. for half mile | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. half a mile | D. half mile |
| 6. | A. for | B. in | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. in order | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> D. so |
| 7. | A. measure | B. are measured | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. count | D. are counted |
| 8. | A. interests | B. interest | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C. interested | D. interesting |
| 9. | A. flying | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> B. to flying | C. where to fly | D. how to fly |
| 10. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. no doubt | B. doubtless | C. doubtful | D. doubting |

B

Old Thompson was seventy-four the winter his wife died. She was sixty-nine. They

would have 1 their golden wedding the following summer and they were a quiet and fond 2. It was bronchitis that finished her, 3 by a week of November fog and Cressley's industrial dirt and smoke. In ten days she was dead.

His wife's 4 nearly finished Thompson too. He was a 5 man. Always active, 6 his years easily, and with red good 7 in his face, he now seemed to 8 overnight. He seemed to dry 9 and bend like a tree whose roots lack 10. His hands were suddenly uncertain and awkward, when they had 11 things surely before. The world 12 him seemed to lose interest for 13. He became silent and withdrawn. He sat for long hours in his tall wooden-backed armchair by the fire, and 14 he thought about in his 15 no one knew.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1. | A. held | B. made | C. celebrated | D. received |
| 2. | A. match | B. partner | C. people | D. couple |
| 3. | A. gone | B. lived | C. helped | D. increased |
| 4. | A. illness | B. conditions | C. pain | D. death |
| 5. | A. changed | B. weakened | C. dull | D. poor |
| 6. | A. carrying | B. living | C. taking | D. working |
| 7. | A. expression | B. smile | C. health | D. energy |
| 8. | A. weep | B. wake | C. lie | D. age |
| 9. | A. off | B. up | C. away | D. out |
| 10. | A. room | B. soil | C. supply | D. water |
| 11. | A. held | B. caught | C. lifted | D. found |
| 12. | A. to | B. about | C. for | D. in |
| 13. | A. itself | B. him | C. anything | D. others |
| 14. | A. why | B. how | C. what | D. which |
| 15. | A. life | B. way | C. hours | D. silence |

(参考答案:短文 A: 1. D, 2. B, 3. C, 4. A, 5. C, 6. D, 7. A, 8. B, 9. D, 10. C。短文 B: 1. C, 2. D, 3. D, 4. D, 5. A, 6. B, 7. A, 8. D, 9. B, 10. D, 11. A, 12. B, 13. B, 14. C, 15. D。)

四、完形填空形式决定试题难度

完形填空这种题型本身,还因填空形式的不同而有难易各异的多种试题形式(我们将在下一章专门对这些形式进行归类讨论)。填空形式的不同直接决定试题难度,一般没有提示的比另有提示的难;自由型比选择型难;空缺位置不标明比空缺位置明确难,等等。

试比较下列三种完形填空形式的难度(A 比 B 难, B 比 C 难)。

A

按短文意思填入适当的词:

Scientists hope that if we can discover how the brain works, the better use we will be

able to put it 1 . For example, how do we learn language? Man 2 most from all the other animals in his 3 to learn and use language, but we still 4 not know exactly how this is 5 . Some children learn to speak and read and 6 when they are very young compared to 7 children. But scientists are not sure 8 this happens. They are trying to find out 9 there is something about the 10 we teach language to children which in fact prevents children from learning sooner.

B

从方框中选择正确的词填入下面短文空缺：

prevents, how, able, willing, greatly, but, to, much, figure, this, children, his, works, they

Scientists hope that if we can discover how the brain 1 , the better use we will be 2 to put it to. For example, how do we learn language? Man differs 3 from all the other animals in 4 ability to learn and use language, 5 we still do not know exactly 6 this is done. Some children learn 7 speak and read and write when 8 are very young compared to average 9 . But scientists are not sure why 10 happens. They are trying to 11 out whether there is something about the way we teach language to children which in fact 12 children from learning sooner.

C

在短文后与空缺相应题号的 A, B, C, D 四个答案中选择正确答案填空：

Few can deny the strange coincidences 1 the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln. For example, Kennedy was elected in 1960 while Lincoln 2 the Presidency in 1860. Both men were assassinated 3 behind, on 4 Friday, and in the 5 of their wives. The two men were born exactly one hundred years 6 , as were their 7 , Lee Harvey Oswald and John Wilkes Booth. Perhaps the strangest coincidence is that Kennedy's secretary, whose name was Lincoln, advised him 8 Dallas where he was shot. Lincoln's secretary, whose name was 9 , advised him not to be present at the Ford Theater where he 10 his death.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. A. in | B. among | C. under | D. from among |
| 2. A. met | B. got | C. assumed | D. caught |
| 3. A. in | B. from | C. at | D. with |
| 4. A. the | B. a | C. that | D. particular |
| 5. A. absence | B. front | C. care | D. presence |
| 6. A. apart | B. spanning | C. ago | D. afterwards |
| 7. A. murders | B. opponents | C. assassins | D. slaughterers |
| 8. A. not to go to | B. to not go to | C. to go not to | D. not to go |