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考研英语

看阅读背单词

主编：**康建刚 唐启明**

精选素材配翻译

核心词汇巧记忆

模拟试题强练笔

考研英语经典图书

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Foreword

这是一本颇具特色、实用性超强的考研必备书。

研究表明，主动记忆的效果大大优于机械背诵，这本《考研英语看阅读背单词》在提高记忆效果方面有很大的突破，书中包含40篇阅读短文，内容应涉及社会生活、人物传记、科技教育、历史政治、经济文化（即自然、社会、人文科学）等多个方面。这些精选文章的内容几乎涵盖了西方社会生活的方方面面，学生通过阅读短文记忆单词，不但可以变机械记忆为主动记忆，克服死记硬背、缺乏语境的弊病，大大提高记忆的效率 and 准确率，而且可以在做阅读背单词的同时全面接触原汁原味的西方世界，潜移默化，从思维方式、语言习惯方面挑战传统英语学习。

本书所选的短文趣味性强，可读性强，语言地道，原汁原味，可保证学生在使用本书时始终保持高昂的学习情绪，杜绝让许多同学常常后悔的“一本词汇书前半部分翻旧后半部分还崭新”的现象，帮助考生在考试之前尽量复习到最大量的有用词汇。

本书所选文章主题均可当作主题作文的范文进行模仿学习，平时多读常记经典段落、句子，养成良好的阅读习惯，写作时自然水到渠成。因此本书除了可以帮助学生快速高效地记忆单词外，还可以让学生在潜移默化中提高阅读理解的能力和写作能力，这是以往的词条式的词汇手册无法比拟的。

本书具有以下特点：

一、精选素材

本书精选了40篇文章，所选文章部分来自于考研英语历届真题，部分来自于最新的英美报刊，无论从体裁上还是题材上都接近于考研真题，难度略高于或接近于真题，既能帮助考生提高阅读能力，又能使考生在词汇记忆中居高临下、游刃有余。

二、大纲词汇

本书选词精准，重点明确，完全遵照《全国硕士研究生入学统一考试大纲》。由于考虑到考生的实际交际需要，我们还列举了与个人喜好、生活习惯、宗教信仰以及个人工作或专业等方面的特殊词汇。每篇文章选出十个左右的词汇进行详细的讲解，其中包括同义辨析、反义词/组、习惯搭配和例句等项目，内容全部来自国内外的权威性字典，例如《高级牛津双

解字典》和《柯林斯字典》，而且大部分例句都是来自英语语料库，所以排除了编纂人工语言的可能性。还有同义辨析部分可以帮助考生在写作中用词确切得体，能有效表达作者意图，正确运用丰富的词汇，并随心所欲地转换用词。

三、模拟考题

每个单元最后都有试题部分，即一个完形填空，难度与考研真题相似，可以帮助考生进一步熟悉考研题型并得到相应的练习。

脱离了语境的单词就像离开了大海的水滴，我们的《考研英语看阅读背单词》将带您畅游单词海洋，使您在词汇记忆的质量和数量上迅速提高。希望我们精心打造的这本《考研英语看阅读背单词》能为您考研助一臂之力，我们相信只要方法得当，用完此书，您的词汇量和阅读、写作水平都会有显著的提高。

编者

2007年2月于北京

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UNIT ONE

Passage One

In spite of “endless talk of difference,” American society is an amazing machine for homogenizing people. There is “the democratizing uniformity of dress and discourse, and the casualness and absence of deference” characteristic of popular culture. People are absorbed into “a culture of consumption” launched by the 19th-century department stores that offered “vast arrays of goods in an elegant atmosphere. Instead of intimate shops catering to a knowledgeable elite.” these were stores “anyone could enter, regardless of class or background. This turned shopping into a public and democratic act.” The mass media, advertising and sports are other forces for homogenization.

Immigrants are quickly fitting into this common culture, which may not be altogether elevating but is hardly poisonous. Writing for the National Immigration Forum, Gregory Rodriguez reports that today’s immigration is neither at unprecedented level nor resistant to assimilation. In 1998 immigrants were 9.8 percent of population; in 1900, 13.6 percent. In the 10 years prior to 1990, 3.1 immigrants arrived for every 1,000 residents; in the 10 years prior to 1890, 9.2 for every 1,000. Now, consider three indices of assimilation—language, home ownership and intermarriage.

The 1990 Census revealed that “a majority of immigrants from each of the fifteen most common countries of origin spoke English ‘well’ or ‘very well’ after ten years of residence.” The children of immigrants tend to be bilingual and proficient in English. “By the third generation, the original language is lost in the majority of immigrant families.” Hence the description of America as a “graveyard” for languages. By 1996 foreign born immigrants who had arrived before 1970 had a home ownership rate of 75.6 percent, higher than the 69.8 percent rate among native-born Americans.

Foreign-born Asians and Hispanics “have higher rates of intermarriage than do U. S born whites and blacks.” By the third generation, one third of Hispanic women are married to non-Hispanics, and 41 percent of Asian American women are married to non-Asians.

Rodriguez note that children in remote villages around the world are fans of superstars like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Garth Brooks, yet “some Americans fear that immigrant living within the United States remain somehow immune to the nation’s assimilative power.”

Are there divisive issues and pockets of seething anger in America? Indeed. It is big enough to have a bit of everything. But particularly when viewed against America’s turbulent past, today’s social induces suggest a dark and deteriorating social environment. (2006年真题)

词汇

homogenize[hə'mɒdʒənaɪz]v. 使均匀;使均质;使性质相同

【同义辨析】homogenize 使平均化或性质相同,尤其指带有不好的倾向。

average 一般用语,指平均分配,通常指数量。

【反义词/组】heterogenize 多相化;非均一化

【习惯搭配】homogenized milk 均质牛乳

【例句】Even bureaucrats can't homogenize national cultures and tastes. 即使是官僚也不能使国家的文化和喜好均质。

launch[lɔ:ntʃ, la:ntʃ]v. 发射;起飞;下水;投入;开始 n. 发射;下水;上市;发起

【同义辨析】launch 经常指开始很重要的活动,例如军事袭击;此外经常表示“发射”。而 start 属于一般用语,可用于开始做任何事情。

【反义词/组】conclude 结束,终止

【习惯搭配】launch (out) into 开始从事,投身于
launch out 出航,乘船去

【例句】Heavy fighting has been going on after the guerrillas had launched their offensive. 游击队开始进攻就一直在进行激烈的战斗。

elegant[ˈelɪɡənt]a. 文雅的,端庄的,雅致的

【同义辨析】elegant 指某人的行为或事物的风格是优美的并且令人愉悦的。

cultured 有教养的,讲究的,有修养的

【反义词/组】inelegant 不雅的,粗俗的,笨拙的

【习惯搭配】an elegant woman 优雅的女人

【例句】Patricia looked beautiful and elegant as always. 帕特丽夏总是看起来漂亮且优雅。

cater[ˈkeɪtə]v. 满足(需要),投合,备办食物

【同义辨析】cater for 指提供所需的东 西,或指特意满足、迎合,在美语里也可用 cater to。

satisfy 一般用语,指满足、使满意,后

面一般接介词 with。

【反义词/组】dissatisfy 使不满意;使不满足;令人不愉快

【习惯搭配】cater for (the need of the customers) 迎合(顾客的需求)

【例句】This is the restaurant catering only to the Muslims. 这是专门招待穆斯林的饭店。

unprecedented[ʌn'presɪdəntɪd]a. 空前的,史无前例的;无比的

【同义辨析】unprecedented 指以前从未发生过的。unparalleled 指种类或质量方面独一无二的,也指比以前的同类事物程度更深。

【反义词/组】general 普遍的,一般的

【习惯搭配】an unprecedented success 空前的成功

【例句】The early 90's finds an unprecedented tide of rural workers flooding into big cities in China. 90年代初期,一股历史上从未有过的农民工的潮流涌进了中国的大城市。

assimilation[ə,sɪmɪ'leɪʃən]n. 同化,同化作用,消化

【派生】assimilate v. 吸收,消化,彻底了解

【同义辨析】assimilate 除含 absorb 意思外,还指将被吸收者变成了吸收者的一部分。absorb 指使被吸收者失去其特点,或使其特点不复存在。

【反义词/组】dissimilate (使)变得不同

【例句】America has assimilated many outstanding people from all corners of the world. 美国吸收了许多来自世界各地优秀的人。

immune[ɪ'mju:n]a. 有免疫力的;豁免的;有影响的

【同义辨析】immune 一般指通过某种手段不被某种疾病感染,也可引申用于其他方面。

resistant 指有抵抗能力的。

【反义词/组】infect 传染, 感染

【习惯搭配】immune against /from /to 对……免疫

【例句】The criminal was told he would be immune from punishment if he helped the police. 罪犯被告知说, 如果他协助警方, 就可以免受惩罚。

seethe [si:ð] *v.* 沸腾, 翻腾, 滚动; 激昂, 大发雷霆; 充满, 挤满(人), 遍布

【同义辨析】seethe 在表示生气的时候, 通常指导常生气但是并不表现出来; 在意为充满, 挤满(人或动物)时, 强调流动或移动性。

load 装, 装满, 载满, 常与 of 连用, 表示大量的。

【反义词/组】drain 排出, 流掉; 弄干, 变干

【习惯搭配】seethe with anger 大发雷霆

【例句】She took it calmly at first but under the surface was seething. 她表面上很平静地接受了, 但实际上心里波涛汹涌。

turbulent [ˈtɜ:bjulənt] *a.* 骚动的; 汹涌的; 猛烈的, 湍动的

【同义辨析】turbulent 指水或空气中充满水流或气流而突然改变流动的方向。在修饰其他事物时, 指充满骚动、混乱的状态。

blustering 狂风大作的, 狂暴的
riotous 暴动的, 或吵闹的, 经常用于修饰人。

【反义词/组】calm 平静的, 镇静的, 沉着的

【习惯搭配】a turbulent flow 湍流

【例句】The turbulent world of Middle Eastern politics defies prediction. 无法预测中东地区的动荡局势。

deteriorate [di'tiəriəreit] *v.* 使恶化; 变糟

【同义辨析】deteriorate 表示比以前的情况更坏, 也可指败坏风俗, 使品质变坏。
worsen 强调变得更困难和不可接受。

【反义词/组】ameliorate /improve 改善, 改进

【例句】There are fears that the situation might deteriorate into full-scale war. 恐怕这种局势会继续恶化转变为全面战争。



译文

尽管人们不断谈论着差异性, 美国社会却是一台能同化人民的神奇机器, 美国的民主化使人们的衣着和谈吐风格趋于一致, 人们漫不经心, 不拘礼节, 没有强制的顺从, 这些都是大众文化的特点。人们融入一种“消费文化”中去, 这种文化是由 19 世纪的百货商店发起的。这些百货商店在高雅的氛围中向消费者提供各种各样的商品。这不是为了迎合; 这些商店“任何阶级, 背景的人都可以进出。购物已经成为公共的民有知识的精英阶层并反对他们有亲和力的商店主的行为”。大众传媒、广告和体育运动是其他一些“均质化”的推动力量。

移民可以很快地融入这一大众文化中, 这个文化也许并不都能起到积极作用但起码不是有害的。Gregory Rodriguez 在为《国家移民论坛》撰稿时报道说, 今天的移民既没有达到空前的规模也不会反对同化。1998 年移民占总人口的 9.8%; 1900 年占 13.6%。1990 年之前的 10 年间每 1000 人中有 3.1 个移民; 1890 年之前的 10 年间每 1000 人中有 9.2 个移民。现在, 想想同化的三个标志: 语言、房屋所有权和通婚。

1990 人口普查显示“来自 15 个最常见国家来的移民中大多数人在居住 10 年后英语都能说得好或者很好。”移民的孩子一般都是双语而且精通英语。“到第三代移民, 大多数移民家庭中母语都会被遗忘。”因此, 美国被描述为语言的“坟墓”。到 1996 年, 1970 年前的外国移民已经拥有了 75.6% 的房屋所有权, 高于土生土长的美国人, 他们之中房屋所有权占有率只有 69.8%。

国外出生即移民来的亚洲人或拉美人的“异族通婚率比本国的美国黑人与白人之间的通婚率还

高。”到第三代移民,三分之一的拉美裔女性与非拉美裔人结婚,41%的亚裔美国女性与非亚裔结婚。

Rodriguez 指出世界上很多遥远地区的孩子是像阿诺德·施瓦辛格和葛斯·布鲁克斯这些超级明星的热情崇拜者,但“一些美国人却担心住在美国的移民由于某种原因不受这个国家同化力量的影响。”

美国存在分裂和骚动问题吗? 没错,这个国家足够大以至于样样东西都会存在一点儿。但是当我们审视美国过去的动乱时,今天的各项社会指标表明情况并未变得更坏。

Passage Two

Many things make people think artists are weird and the weirdest may be this: artists' only job is to explore emotions, and yet they choose to focus on the ones that feel bad.

This wasn't always so. The earliest forms of art, like painting and music, are those best stands for expressing joy. But somewhere from the 19th century, more artists began seeing happiness as meaningless phony or, worst of all, boring as we went from Wordsworth's *daffodils*, to Baudelaire's *flowers of evil*.

You could argue that art became more ^{怀疑} skeptical of happiness because modern times have seen so such ^{苦难} misery. But it's not as if earlier times didn't know perpetual war, disaster and the massacre of innocents. ^{无辜} The reason, in fact, may be just the opposite: there is too much damn happiness in the world today.

After all, what is the one/modern form of expression almost completely ^{致力于} dedicated to depicting happiness? Advertising. ^{不幸} The rise of anti-happy art almost exactly tracks ^{大众传媒} the emergence of mass media, and with it, a commercial culture in which happiness is not just an ideal but an ideology. ^{商业文化} ^{明确} ^{结合}

People in earlier eras were surrounded by reminders of misery. They worked until exhausted, lived with few protections and died young. In the West, before mass communication and literacy, the most powerful mass medium was the church, which reminded worshippers that their souls were in peril and that they would someday be meat for worms. Given all this, they did not exactly need their art to be a bummer too.

Today the messages your average Westerner is surrounded with are not religious but commercial, and forever happy. Fast-food eaters, news anchors, text messengers, all smiling, smiling, smiling. Our magazines feature beaming celebrities and happy families in perfect homes. And since these messages have an agenda—to lure us to open our wallets they make the very idea of happiness seem unreliable. "Celebrate!" commanded the ads for the arthritis drug Celebrex, before we found out it could increase the risk of heart attacks.

But we forget—what our economy depends on is forgetting—is that happiness is more than pleasure without pain. The things that bring the greatest joy carry the greatest potential for loss and disappointment. Today, surrounded by promises of easy happiness, we need art to tell us, as religion once did, *Memento mori*: remember that you will die, that everything ends, and that happiness comes not in denying this but in living with it. It's a message even more bitter than a clove cigarette, yet, somehow, a breath of fresh air. (2006年真题)

词汇

weird [wiəd] *a.* 怪异的,超自然的,神秘的,不可思议的,超乎事理之外的

【同义辨析】weird 非正式用语,表示奇怪的。等同语 strange 和 bizarre。

bizarre 来自法语,指态度、容貌、款式等方面的奇怪。

strange 一般用语,可用于各种场合。

【反义词/组】plain 平常的,普通的,朴素的

【习惯搭配】weird clothes 奇装异服

the Weird Sisters(希神)命运三女神

【例句】Drugs can make you do all kinds of weird things. 毒品可以使你做很多令人吃惊的事情。

phony ['fəʊni] *a.* 假冒的; *n.* 假冒者

【同义辨析】phony 非正式用语,一般用于口语当中。fake/false 等词既可用于书面语,也可用于口语。

【反义词/组】genuine 真实的,真的

【习惯搭配】a phony war 虚张声势的战争

a phony writer 空头作家

【例句】He'd telephoned with some phony excuse she didn't believe for a minute. 他打电话来编了些假话作为借口,但是她根本不相信。

massacre ['mæsəkə] *n. /v.* 残杀,大屠杀

【同义辨析】massacre 指大规模杀人时与 slaughter 近似,但是该词更强调对无防御能力的人们进行全体杀害和完全毁灭。

slaughter 主要指大量屠杀死人或动物。

carnage 尤指在战场上的残杀,大屠杀。

【反义词/组】rescue 援救,营救

【习惯搭配】a wholesale massacre of jobs 大批冗职裁员

【例句】They cruelly massacred all the people in

the village. 他们残酷地屠杀了村里所有的人。

perpetual [pə'petjuəl] *a.* 永久的,不断的;持续的

【同义辨析】perpetual 指感觉、状态或性质永久的、不会改变的,相当于 permanent, 或者指反复发生。e. g. perpetual chatter 没完没了的唠叨。

incessant 指“不停的”、“持续不断的”。e. g. the incessant rain 细雨连绵

constant 指始终如一的、不变的、持续地发生或反复地发生。

【反义词/组】temporary 暂时的,临时的,临时性

【习惯搭配】a perpetual lease 永久租地权

a perpetual calendar 万年历

【例句】He and his wife would be compelled to live perpetually as second-class citizens. 他和他的妻子将被迫永远成为二等公民。

depict [di'pikt] *v.* 描述,描写;画,刻画

【同义辨析】depict 指通过文艺手法进行描述或刻画,例如通过绘画或写作。

describe 一般用语,表示描写,记述或形容。

portray 一般指为人物画肖像,或者画风景画。

【习惯搭配】depict the horrors of war 描述战争的恐怖

【例句】Children's books often depict farmyard animals as gentle, lovable creatures. 儿童书籍经常把农场的动物描述成温顺可爱的家伙。

peril ['peril] *n. /v.* 危险,危险物;冒险

【同义辨析】peril 正式用语,语气比 danger 强,指接近更严重的危险。

hazard 指“变幻莫测、无法控制的危险”,带有“碰运气”的意思。

【反义词/组】safety 安全,保险,安全设备

【习惯搭配】at the peril of 冒……的危险

at sb's peril 由某人自担风险

【例句】All is not lost that's in peril. [谚] 危险不等于完蛋。

bummer ['bʌmə] *n.* 坏事; 无赖, 游民, 吸毒

【同义辨析】bummer 非正式用语, 一般用于口语中, 属于冒犯用语, 表示令人不愉快的或是讨厌的。在美语里, 也可指懒汉, 尤指经常靠借贷或敲诈勒索过活的人或游手好闲之徒。

【例句】I had a bummer of a day. 真是糟糕的一天。

agenda [ə'dʒendə] *n.* 议程

【同义辨析】agenda 如果指政治问题, 则意味着在某段时间非常重要的问题; 一般则指会议上需要讨论的事物。

【习惯搭配】place /put sth on the agenda 把某事

提到日程上来

【例句】There are signs that the Danish presidency will attempt to put environmental issues high on its agenda. 有迹象表明该届的丹麦政府会把环境问题提上重要议程。

lure [ljʊə] *v.* 引诱, 诱惑

【同义辨析】lure 指欺骗或哄骗某人做他们不该做的事情, 常与 away 或 into 连用。entice 同 lure 意义相近, 但是有怂恿的含义。

seduce 指很难摆脱的诱惑, 含有勾引的意思。

【习惯搭配】bring sb... to his [the] lure 引某人上钩

【例句】Many young Japanese engineers have been lured to the Middle East by the promise of high wages. 在给予高薪的允诺的引诱下, 许多年轻的日本工程师去了中东。

译文

很多事情让人们认为艺术家是怪异的, 最怪异的是: 艺术家的惟一工作是探索感情, 而且他们选择那些悲伤的事情作为他们的主题。

事情并不是总是这样。艺术最早的形式如绘画和音乐是最适合表现喜悦的。但是到了 19 世纪, 更多的艺术家开始把幸福看作是平淡的, 虚无的, 最糟糕的是, 令人厌烦的, 就如同从沃兹沃斯的《水仙花》发展到波特莱尔的《恶之花》一样。

你可能会说艺术之所以变得怀疑幸福是因为现代社会存在着很多苦难。但过去的人并不是不知道战争、灾难和滥杀无辜是永远存在的。事实上也许原因正好相反: 今天的世界有太多幸福了。

究竟, 现代表现形式中什么是完全致力于描述幸福呢? 广告。反幸福艺术形式的兴起正好为大众传媒的出现开辟了道路, 随着产生了一种商业文化, 幸福已经不仅是一种理想而是一种理念。

早期的人们被苦难的提示所包围。他们工作到筋疲力尽, 生活得浑浑噩噩, 而且死得很早。在西方, 在大众传媒和识字之前, 最强大的大众媒介是教会, 教会提醒他们的崇拜者他们的灵魂正面临着危险, 有一天会成为虫子的食物。有了这些, 他们需要艺术也变成描写不愉快的经历。

今天一个普通西方人所接受的信息不再是关于宗教而是商业和永久的愉快。快餐食客、新闻节目主持人和信息传递者都总是一脸微笑。我们的杂志把愉快的名人和完美幸福的家庭作为特写。因为这些信息有一个议程: 引诱我们打开钱包而幸福这个概念本身变得能让人不相信。一种治疗关节炎的药物 Celebrex 的广告在我们还没有发现它可能会提高心脏病的危险的时候就说“祝贺你!”

我们忘记了——我们的经济依靠的是遗忘——幸福不仅仅是没有痛的快乐。带来快乐的事情总是存在着潜在的失落和失望。今天, 被这些容易得到的幸福所包围, 我们需要有人像教会曾经做的那样来告诉我们死的象征: 记住你会死去, 所有的东西都会结束, 幸福不是来否认这一切苦难而是要和它生活在一起。这是一个比丁香烟, 甚至一口新鲜空气更痛苦的信息。

Passage Three

The answer to a scientific “who-done-it?” has revealed a chilling fact: We used to be bird food. Scientists announced on Thursday they had definitive proof that the “Taung child”, a 2-million year old ape-man skull famed as one of the most dramatic human evolutionary finds, was killed and eaten by an eagle.

“Birds used to eat us and in doing so they shaped our behaviour,” said Dr Lee Berger, a palaeoanthropologist at Johannesburg’s University of the Witwatersrand. “Birds of prey are one of the few things that some modern primates have special calls or alarms for,” he told Reuters. Berger said the child had probably been scooped up by an eagle and taken to its nest, where its eyes were ripped out for dinner. The child’s skull eventually fell out of the nest, only to be found almost 2 million years later.

Placing us on the eagle’s menu may also explain other aspects of human evolution, from walking upright, which could present a smaller target to an aerial attacker, to our tendency to live in groups. “These birds would have been after the most vulnerable members of the group,” Berger said, a scenario which may have triggered collective measures of protection.

This murder most foul occurred 2 million years ago but the culprit, an African crowned eagle—also known as the crowned hawk-eagle—still circles the skies and large eagles still prey on small primates in Africa. Unearthed in South Africa in 1924, the Taung child shook the scientific world when Raymond Dart suggested in 1925 that it was a higher form of primate which he dubbed *Australopithecus Africanus*, or “man-ape of southern Africa.”

Few in the scientific establishment were willing to accept then what has since become conventional wisdom: that humanity evolved in Africa. For decades it was believed that the famous Taung child had been slain by a leopard or a sabre-toothed cat.

But 10 years ago Berger and a colleague suggested that the child, who was about 3 or 4 years old when it died, was killed by a large bird of prey. This remained an educated guess until researchers at Ohio State University submitted a paper on primate remains from African crowned eagle kills which Berger was asked to review.

The scientists found several key features of bone damage which distinguished birds of prey kills from those of big cats. “These critical clues were puncture marks in the base of the eye sockets of primates, made when the eagles ripped the eyes out of the dead monkeys with their sharp talons and beaks. It was a marker that others hadn’t noted before, that linked eagles definitively to the kill,” Berger said.

Intrigued, Berger re-examined the Taung child skull, which is perhaps the most analysed hominid fossil in the world. “I almost dropped down when I looked into the eyes of the skull as I saw the marks... they were perfect examples of eagle damage. Thousands of scientists, including myself, had overlooked this critical damage,” Berger said. “It just shows that you can never stop looking. Just because

something has been studied for years doesn't mean that it can't still tell us new things," Berger said.

词汇

chilling['tʃɪlɪŋ] *a.* 令人恐惧的, 令人害怕的

【派生】chill *v. / n.* 使冷, 变冷, 冷藏; 寒意, 寒战

【同义辨析】chilling 使人惊恐的, 使人害怕的, 与 frightening 的含义相同。另外 chill 的本身含义为使变冷, 所以 chill 有使扫兴的含义。

【反义词/组】heating 上升的, 发热的

【习惯搭配】cast a chill over 使扫兴, 泼冷水, 使……寒心

a chill in the air 凉意

【例句】There was a chill in the air when I got out the house this morning. 今天早上我出门时有点寒气袭人。

scoop[sku:p] *v.* 掘, 挖, 舀; *n.* 铲子

【同义辨析】scoop 一般指舀东西, 把手或胳膊伸入某容器中然后掏出。

dig 一般指在某处挖一个洞, 往往旁边会有成堆的土、砂石等东西。

excavate 指自己挖掘以找到某物。

【反义词/组】bury 埋葬, 掩埋, 隐藏

【习惯搭配】to scoop out a hole 挖洞

scoop in 赚钱

【例句】She scooped flour out of the bag. 她从袋子里舀出面粉。

rip[rip] *v.* 撕, 剥, 劈, 锯, 裂开, 撕裂

【同义辨析】rip 指用手或工具, 例如刀, 用力撕扯, 相当于 tear。tear 常与介词 up 连用。

【反义词/组】stitch 缝, 缝合

【习惯搭配】let rip 让全速前进

rip off 敲诈, *e. g.* They ripped us off at that hotel. 那家旅馆敲了我们竹杠。

【例句】When Paul was climbing over the fence, he ripped his trousers on a nail. 当保罗爬围墙时, 他的裤子被一颗钉子划破了。

scenario[si'nɑ:riəu] *n.* 剧本, 剧情说明; 游戏的关卡, 或是某一特定情节

【同义辨析】scenario 指电影的某一特点的情节或发展趋势, scene 指戏剧一场, 或某一景; 电影、广播等一场。

【习惯搭配】a scenario writer 电影剧/脚本作者

【例句】In the worst-case scenario, you could become a homeless person. 在最坏的情况下你可能变成无家可归的人。

trigger['trɪgə] *v.* 引发, 引起, 触发; *n.* (枪的)扳机

【同义辨析】trigger 原意指扣动扳机, 所以也用来比喻引发某事, 相当于 cause。

【反义词/组】quench 熄灭, 平息

【习惯搭配】easy on the trigger[美] 易怒的, 性急的, 容易冲动的

pull the trigger 射击; 使发动起来

【例句】The odour of food may be a trigger for man's appetite. 食物的香味能引起人的食欲。

foul[faul] *v.* 弄脏, 妨害, 污蔑, 犯规 *ad.* 违反规则地, 不正当地; *a.* 污秽的, 邪恶的, 肮脏的

【同义辨析】foul 本文中指违反了大自然的普通规则的行为。另外还指因脏物、不卫生的东西或腐烂物引起强烈憎恶反应的。

filthy 指脏得令人难受的。

dirty 是常用词, 泛指“脏的”、“弄脏的”。

【反义词/组】fair 公平的, 公正的

【习惯搭配】call a foul 宣判犯规

be foul with 给……弄脏

【例句】Smith ran into Jones and fouled him. 史密斯冲到琼斯身上, 犯了规。

culprit['kʌlprɪt] *n.* 犯人; 罪犯; 被控犯罪者

【同义辨析】culprit 法律用语, 犯人罪犯, 也指刑

事被告,未决犯,嫌疑犯。

prisoner 普通用语,指被定了罪的人。

【反义词/组】innocent 无罪的,清白的。

【习惯搭配】main culprit 主犯,罪魁祸首

【例句】All the men were being deported even though the real culprits in the fight have not been identified. 所有的人都被放走了,因为斗殴中的真正犯人还没有确定。

puncture ['pʌŋktʃə] v. 刺穿;刺破 n. 小孔,小洞;刺伤

【同义辨析】puncture 强调刺破的结果,一般指车胎被刺破或人皮肤表面被尖锐物刺破的洞。

penetrate 指穿透渗透,并不定指刺破,暗含弥漫充满的含义。

perforate 打洞;穿孔。

【习惯搭配】tyre puncture 爆胎

【例句】He is in hospital, suffering from a punctured lung. 他因肺部穿孔而住院治疗。

socket ['sɒkɪt] n. 窝,穴,孔;插座;牙槽

【同义辨析】socket 一般指还有另一半可以吻合的洞或穴。

hollow 指“物体内凹陷处”,常指“洼地”、“洞穴”。

cavity 系科学或专门术语,指“坚硬物体表面上的洞穴”。

【反义词/组】bulge 凸出部分

【习惯搭配】the eye-socket 眼窝

【例句】Her eyes were sunk deep into their sockets. 他的眼睛深深的陷下去。

overlook [ˌəʊvə'lʊk] v. 俯瞰;耸出;远眺;没注意到

【同义辨析】overlook 指“由于粗心、放任而没看出或采取行动”。

neglect 强调“疏忽”、“忽略”。slight 强调“轻蔑,怠慢”。

【反义词/组】heed 注意到,留心到

【习惯搭配】overlook a fault 宽容过失

【例句】You have overlooked several of the mistakes in this work. 你忽略了这个工作中的几个错误。



译文

关于一个科学问题“谁干的?”的答案揭示了一个令人恐惧的事实:我们人类的祖先曾经是鸟类的食物。科学家们星期四宣布他们已有确切的证据证实“汤恩小孩”——具有 200 万年历史的古人猿头化石骨,该头盖骨被认为是有关人类进化的最戏剧性的发现——汤恩小孩是被老鹰杀死和吃掉的。

“鸟类过去曾经以人类为食,这样对我们的行为影响很大,”来自南非约翰内斯堡的威特沃特斯兰德大学古人类学家伯杰博士分析说,“猛禽是一些现代灵长类动物中能发出特殊的声音或警报的为数不多动物的其中一类,”他对路透社记者说。伯杰说老鹰很可能将“汤恩小孩”叼到鹰巢中为食,并啄出其眼睛吃掉;最后,“汤恩小孩”的头骨从鹰巢中掉出,200 万年后才被人发现。

鸟类以人类为食的历史也解释了人类的其他方面的进化发展,如直立行走和群居:直立行走的人在猛禽眼中变成更小的目标。“这些鸟可能会攻击群居团体中最容易受攻击的成员,”伯杰说,这种情景可能会激发集体防范措施。

这种残忍的谋杀发生在 200 万年前,但是,在非洲,一种非洲冕鹰也被称为冕秃鹰——仍然盘旋在天空,并且,大老鹰仍然以小哺乳动物为食。1924 年发现于南非的“汤恩小孩”震惊了科学界,1925 年 Raymond Dart 指出它是一种更高级的哺乳动物,他把它称为“南方古猿非洲种”或是“南非人猿”。

那时,科学界几乎没人愿意接受后来称为一种常识性知识的事实:人类起源于非洲。几十年来人们都认为著名的“汤恩小孩”是被美洲豹或锐利长犬齿猫科动物所杀的。

但 10 年前,伯杰博士和他的同事提出死时大约三到四岁的“汤恩小孩”是被一种大型猛禽所杀。但