

第一部分 阅读的理论篇： 阅读理解的技巧与考官出题的技巧研究



第一章 阅读技巧

第一节 自上而下的阅读

——阅读是理解，不是翻译

阅读理解的过程是个“自上而下”的阅读过程，也就是说是个理解过程而不是一字一句的翻译过程。

例1. It would be difficult to overpraise this book.

如果问你这句话是什么意思？你回答说：“过分表扬这本书会是很难的。”这句话从语法翻译的角度看是正确的，但在做阅读理解题的情况下，这种理解是不及格的。因为从阅读理解的角度看，这句话的意思不止一个。

以下列出5个句子，其中有的是这句话的另一种说法，有的也可能是这句话的引申。请你指出哪句符合上述句子的意思？想好后再看解析。

- A. This is a difficult book.
- B. This book deserves much praise.
- C. It is difficult not to overpraise this book.
- D. It is difficult to praise this book.
- E. The author of this sentence thinks this is an excellent book.

解析：从理解句意的角度来看，这5句话里面只有两句符合上述那句话的意思。这就是B. This book deserves much praise.（这本书值得大加赞扬。）和E. The author of this sentence thinks this is an excellent book.（作者认为这是一本最优秀的书。）（引申）

这种理解方法就是我们说的“阅读是理解”而“不是翻译阅读”。也就是说，一字一句地翻译出来的东西，是字面意思，还不能说是作者想表达的意思。这一点，在做阅读理解时是十分重要的。我们有些同学，特别是那些很久以前学英语的人，他们受翻译的影响很深，不善根据上下文理解原意。

以上是对一句话的理解，让我们再看看对一段话的理解。我们同样也提供5句话，请指出符合这一段的意义的句子或者可理解为引申意思的句子。也请想好后再看解析。

例2. The dusty book room whose windows never opened, through whose panes the summer sun sent a dim light where gold specks danced and shimmered, opened magic windows for me through which I looked out on other worlds and times than those in which I lived. The narrow shelves rose halfway up the walls. Their tops piled with untidy layers that almost touched the ceiling. The piles on the floor had to be climbed over, columns of books flanked the window, falling at a touch.

(注: Pane, *n.* 镶嵌在窗框里的玻璃; dim, *a.* 昏暗的; speck, *n.* 斑点, 星点; shimmer, *v.* 闪烁; flank, *v.* 在.....旁边)

- A. The room is dusty and shadowy, filled with books from floor to ceiling.
- B. The sun never enters the room.
- C. The author spent time in this room as a child.
- D. The author did not like the room.
- E. Through the windows in the room, the author saw worlds other than those in which he lived.

解析: 从这一段的意思看, 所提供的5句话中只有C. The author spent time in this room as a child的意思可以理解为是这一段意思的引申。因为一个积满灰尘、堆满书籍的房间, 一般成年人在没有必要的时候是不会去的, 所以把这一段话理解为作者“在他的儿童时代”的事, 这是有可能的。书中又描述说: “... opened magic windows for me through which I looked out on other worlds and times than those in which I lived... (.....那从来没有打开的窗户、布满灰尘的装满书籍的房间, 给我打开了一扇扇奇异的窗户, 让我看到了我生活以外的世界和时代.....)”这说明, 作者在这里看过书, 而且不止一次, 而是多次, 不然不会有“看到另外的世界、另外的时代”的体会。所以这5句话里只有答案C可以理解为对原文的意思引申。而其他的4句话的意思都与原意不符。答案A说shadowy, filled with books from floor to ceiling 是与原意不符的, 原文是说almost touched the ceiling (几乎够到天花板) 而不是from floor to ceiling。答案B说The sun never enters the room, 而原文说through whose panes the summer sun sent a dim light。答案D说The author did not like the room.这不符合作者当时的心情。如果不喜欢, 就不在里面看书了。答案E说Through the windows in the room...这个意思是透过真实的窗户, 而不是作者说的through magic windows, 这与原文完全不一样。

以下我们再举一例, 希望大家看后, 找出5个答案中符合原意的答案来。还是先自己选好之后再看解析。

例3. Often people who hold higher positions in a given group overestimate their performance, while people in the lowest levels of the group underestimate theirs. While this may not always be true, it does indicate that often the actual position in the group has much to do with the feeling of

personal confidence a person may have. Thus, members who hold higher positions in a group and feel that they have an important part to play in the group will probably have more confidence in their own performance.

A. If people have confidence in their own performance, they will achieve high positions in a group.

B. If we let people know they are an important part of a group, they will probably become more self-confident.

C. People who hold low positions in a group often overestimate their performance.

D. People in positions of power in a group may feel they do better work than they really do.

E. People with higher positions in a group do better work than other group members.

解析：符合原意的答案有B. If we let people know they are an important part of a group, they will probably become more self-confident.这句话是原文“身居高位的人常常过高地估计自己的工作表现”的意思的引申。其中“... probably become more self-confident”证明该句作为引申理解的可能。另一句是D. People in positions of power in a group may feel they do better work than they really do.这是本段整体意思的另一种陈述，即“身居高位的人能感到他们比其他干得好。”

而其他的话都是不对的，如A. If people have confidence in their own performance, they will achieve high positions in a group.这句话说“有信心就可以做高官”不是原文的意思。C. People who hold low positions in a group often overestimate their performance.这句话与原意相反，原话是underestimate，不是overestimate。E. People with higher positions in a group do better work than other group members.这句话说“职位高的人就比其他干得好”的意思太肯定了，这与原文不符，原文讲的是一种feeling。

以上所讲的“理解”是一种在阅读理论上称之为“自上而下”的阅读理解，实际上它是对原文的字面意思的深化理解，也是读者在阅读的过程中综合了自己的一切知识：语言的、专业的、常识的等各种知识，对所读的文章做出的综合理解。这和“由字到句，再由句到段和再由段到全文”的“自下而上”的翻译阅读理解过程完全相反。“自下而上”的理解一般是英语学习者在基础阶段所必然要用的方法，然而，在现阶段，即考试阶段应当是“自上而下”的阅读理解。

这种阅读理解的核心是“阅读不是一对一地翻译”。

练习：以下有两种练习，一种是难句或长难句的练习；另一种是段落的理解练习。请在列出的5个句子中选出与原文意思一致的复述，或是引申的答案来。

练习一：难句与长难句理解练习

(1)

Heavy smokers and drinkers run a fifteen times greater risk of developing cancer of the mouth and throat than nonsmokers and nondrinkers.

Statements:

- A. Cancer of the mouth and throat is more likely to occur in heavy smokers and drinkers.
- B. People who never drink and smoke will not get mouth or throat cancer.
- C. Heavy drinkers who run have a greater risk of developing cancer than nondrinkers.
- D. This might be a warning to those who smoke and drink heavily.
- E. People would probably be healthier if they did not drink and smoke too much.

(2)

Nine out of ten doctors responding to a survey said they recommend our product to their patients if they recommend anything.

Statements:

- A. Nine out of ten doctors recommend the product.
- B. Of the doctors who responded to a survey, nine out of ten doctors recommend the product.
- C. If they recommend anything, nine out of ten doctors responding to a survey recommend the product.
- D. Most doctors recommend the product.
- E. We don't know how many doctors recommend the product.

(3)

When there is an absence of reliable information about drugs, the risks involved in using them are greatly increased.

Statements:

- A. There is no reliable information about drugs.
- B. Using drugs is more dangerous when we don't know what effects and dangers are involved.
- C. The risks involved in using drugs have increased.
- D. People should try to find out about drugs before using them.
- E. There are no risks involved in using drugs if we have reliable information about them.

(4)

This organization may succeed marvelously at what it wants to do, but what it wants to do may not be all that important.

Statements:

- A. The organization is marvelous.
- B. The organization may succeed.
- C. Although the organization may reach its goals, the goals might not be important.
- D. What the organization wants is marvelous.
- E. The author questions the goals of the organization.

(5)

This book contains a totally new outlook that combines the wisdom of the past with scientific knowledge to solve the problems of the present.

Statements:

- A. Problems of the past and present are solved in this book.
- B. In this book, current knowledge and past wisdom are combined to solve current problems.
- C. Only by using knowledge of the past and present can we solve problems.
- D. None of today's problems can be solved without scientific knowledge.
- E. This book is different because it combines the wisdom of the past with scientific knowledge.

(6)

Like other timeless symbols, flags have accompanied mankind for thousands of years gaining ever-wider meaning, yet losing none of their inherent and original force.

Statements:

- A. In spite of losing some of their original force, flags are a timeless symbol that has accompanied mankind for thousands of years.
- B. Flags have existed for thousands of years.
- C. Timeless symbols typically gain wider meaning while not losing their inherent force.
- D. Thousands of years ago flags accompanied mankind but through time they have lost their force.
- E. Because flags are considered a timeless symbol, they have gained continually wider meaning without losing their inherent and original force.

(7)

The project of which this book is the result was first suggested in the summer of 1992 in the course of some leisurely conversations at the foot of and (occasionally) on top of the Alps of western Austria.

Statements:

- A. This book was written in 1992.
- B. This book was written in Austria.
- C. This book is a collection of conversations held in 1992.
- D. This book is the end result of a project.
- E. This book is about western Austria.

(8)

Los Angeles' safety record with school buses is generally a good one, but of course this record is only as good as the school bus drivers themselves.

Statements:

- A. In spite of a generally good safety record for their school buses, Los Angeles school bus drivers are not very good.
- B. If school bus drivers are not very good, the town's school bus safety record will not be very good either.
- C. If cities wish to maintain good safety records with school buses, they should hire good school bus drivers.
- D. With better school buses, drivers will be able to maintain better safety records.
- E. Los Angeles' safety record with school buses has improved because better bus drivers have been hired.

(9)

According to the definition of Chinese traditional medicine, acupuncture is the treatment of disease — not just the alleviation of pain — by inserting very fine needles into the body at specific points called loci.

Statements:

- A. The author believes some people do not know that acupuncture can be used to treat illness.
- B. Finely pointed needles called loci are used in acupuncture.
- C. In Chinese traditional medicine, acupuncture is known to treat disease and alleviate pain.

- D. Those using acupuncture treat disease by placing needles into the body at specific points.
- E. Only those who practice traditional Chinese medicine use acupuncture.

(10)

A favorite definition of joking has long been the ability to find similarity between dissimilar things — that is, hidden similarities.

Statements:

- A. Joking is the ability to find similarity in dissimilar things.
- B. It takes a long time to develop the ability to tell good jokes.
- C. This definition of joking is a new one in literary theory.
- D. Many people define joking as the ability to find similarity in dissimilar things.
- E. The author agrees with this definition.

(11)

Since the Romantic period, most modern theory has dealt with the peculiar act of the poet rather than his product or its effect on the audience.

Statements:

- A. Most modern theory does not deal with the poem itself or its effect on the audience.
- B. Most modern theory of poetry deals with the act of the poet.
- C. Since the Romantic period, literary theory has dealt with the effect of poetry on the reader.
- D. The author believes that literary theory should only deal with the peculiar act of the poet.
- E. Modern theory is considered to begin at the Romantic period.

(12)

Although housewives still make up the majority of volunteer groups, male participation is reported on the rise nationwide as traditional distinctions between men's work and women's work begin to fade.

Statements:

- A. As traditional societal roles change, more men are becoming members of volunteer groups.
- B. Most members of volunteer groups are women.
- C. In the past, volunteer work was done mainly by women.
- D. Male participation in volunteer groups is increasing in all cities.
- E. the author believes there is a relationship between the changing societal roles and the increasing willingness of men to do work previously done by females.

(13)

Only a small number of scholars can be named who have entered at all deeply into the problems of jokes.

Statements:

- A. Only a few scholars have studied jokes.
- B. The area of jokes is so complex that only a small number of people have been able to study it.
- C. Few scholars have studied the problem of jokes at all deeply.
- D. The author cannot remember the names of scholars who have studied jokes.
- E. It is not possible to name all those who have studied jokes at all deeply.

(14)

The overall picture of this very early settled Peruvian population is that of a simple, peaceful people living in a small cultivable oasis by the sea, fishing, raising a few food crops, living in small, simple, non-masonry houses and making the objects necessary for their economic and house-hold life, with slight attention to art.

Statements:

- A. This early Peruvian population had all the basic necessities of life available to it.
- B. We can assume that art only exists in very advanced societies.
- C. This society moved many times during the year.
- D. Because the people worked so hard they had no time for art.
- E. The author believes this society provides nothing of interest for historians.

练习二：段落的理解练习

(1)

Like any theory of importance, that of social or cultural anthropology was the work of many minds and took on many forms. Some, the best known of its proponents, worked on broad areas and attempted to describe and account for the development of human civilization in its totality. Others restricted their efforts to specific aspects of the culture, taking up the evolution of art, or the state, or religion.

Statements:

- A. Social anthropology concerns itself with broad areas while cultural anthropology concerns itself with specific aspects of culture.

B. Cultural anthropology, also known as social anthropologists, may work in either broad or restricted areas.

C. Cultural anthropology is a new field of study.

D. Any important area of study requires the work of many minds and is therefore likely to have different approaches.

E. The best-known people in cultural anthropology attempted to describe the development of human civilization.

(2)

I saw by the clock of the city jail that it was past eleven, so I decided to go to the newspaper immediately. Outside the editor's door I stopped to make sure my pages were in the right order, I smoothed them out carefully, stuck them back in my pocket, and knocked. I could hear my heart thumping as I walked in.

Statements:

A. The teller of this story has just left the city jail.

B. He has been carrying his papers in his pocket.

C. We know that the storyteller is a newspaper writer by profession.

D. We might infer that the storyteller is going to show his papers to the editor.

E. The meeting is important for the storyteller.

(3)

The Incas had never acquired the art of writing, but they had developed a complicated system of knotted cords called quipus. They were made of the wool of the alpaca or llama, dyed in various colors, the significance of which was known to the officials. Thus an important message relating to the progress of crops, the amount of taxes collected, or the advance of an enemy could be speedily sent by trained runners along the post roads.

Statements:

A. Because they could not write, the Incas are considered a simplistic, poorly developed society.

B. Through a system of knotted cords, the Incas sent important messages from one community to another.

C. Because runners were sent with the cords, we can safely assume that the Incas did not have domesticated animals.

D. Both the color of the cords and the way they were knotted formed part of the message of the quipus.

E. The quipus were used for important messages.

(4)

There was a time when scholars held that early humans lived in a kind of beneficent anarchy, in which people were granted their rights by their fellows and there was no governing or being governed. Various early writers looked back to this Golden Age but the point of view that humans were originally *children of nature* is best known to us in the writings of Rousseau, Locke, and Hobbes. These men described the concept of social contract, which they said had put an end to the *state of nature* in which the earliest humans were supposed to have lived.

Statements:

A. For Rousseau, Locke, and Hobbes, the concept of social contract put an end to the time of beneficent anarchy in which early humans lived.

B. According to the author, scholars today do not hold that early humans lived in a state of anarchy.

C. Only Rousseau, Locke, and Hobbes wrote about early humans as children of nature.

D. The early writers referred to in this passage lived through the Golden Age of early humans.

E. We can infer that the author of this passage feels that concepts of government have always been present in human history.

(5)

It was the weekend before the exam. We were at the Walkers' house and it was pouring rain. Jack came in late, drenched to the skin. He explained that a car had broken down on the road and he had stopped to help push it onto the shoulder and out of the traffic. I remember thinking then how typical that was of Jack. So helpful, so accommodating.

Statements:

A. Jack came in late because it was raining.

B. Jack came in late because his car had broken down.

C. The narrator thinks Jack is typical.

D. The narrator bases his opinion of Jack on this one experience.

E. Jack often helps other people.

(6)

The illustrations in books make it easier for us to believe in the people and events described. The more senses satisfied, the easier is belief. Visual observation tends to be the most convincing evidence. Children, being less capable of translating abstractions into actualities, need illustration more than adults. Most of us, when we read, tend to create only vague and ghostlike forms in response to the words. The illustrator, when he reads, must see. The great illustrator sees accurately.

Statements:

- A. Illustrations help us to believe events described in words.
- B. When most people read, they do not picture events as accurately as can a great illustrator.
- C. Children are less able than adults to visualize events described in books.
- D. The author believes illustrators are especially able to imagine visual details described with words.
- E. The author believes all illustrators see accurately.

(7)

Surveys reveal that most adults consider themselves “well informed about the affairs of the nation and the world”. Yet a regularly taken Roper poll that asks, “From where do you obtain most of your information about the world?” has found the percentage of people who reply, “Television” has been increasing steadily over the past decade. The latest questionnaire found that well over 60 percent of the respondents chose television over other media as their major source of information. These two facts are difficult to reconcile since even a casual study of television news reveals it is only a headline service and not a source of information enabling one to shape a world view.

Statements:

- A. Most adults obtain most of their information about world affairs from the newspaper.
- B. The author of this passage does not believe that television provides enough information to make people well informed.
- C. The number of people answering the questionnaire has increased.
- D. Sixty percent of the people questioned get all their news from television.
- E. Most adults are well informed about the affairs of the nation and the world.

(8)

By voting against mass transportation, voters have chosen to continue on a road to ruin. Our

interstate highways, those much praised golden avenues built to whisk suburban travelers in and out of downtown, have turned into the world's most expensive parking lots. That expense is not only economic — it is social. These highways have created great walls separating neighborhood from neighborhood, disrupting the complex social connections that help make a city livable.

Statements:

- A. Interstate highways have created social problems.
- B. Highways create complex social connections.
- C. By separating neighborhoods, highways have made cities more livable.
- D. The author supports the idea of mass transportation.
- E. The author agrees with a recent vote by the citizens.

(9)

In recent years there have been many reports of a growing impatience with psychiatry, with its seeming foreverness, its high cost, its debatable results, and its vague, esoteric terms. To many people it is like a blind man in a dark room looking for a black cat that isn't there. The magazines and mental health associations say psychiatric treatment is a good thing, but what it is or what it accomplishes has not been made clear.

Statements:

- A. Even mental health associations haven't been able to demonstrate the value of psychiatry.
- B. The author believes that psychiatry is of no value.
- C. People are beginning to doubt the value of psychiatry.
- D. In recent years psychiatry has begun to serve the needs of blind people.
- E. Only magazines and mental health associations believe that psychiatry is a good thing.

练习答案 (Keys to the Reading Comprehension Exercises)

练习一

- 1. A、 D、 E
- 2. C、 E
- 3. B、 D
- 4. B、 C、 E
- 5. B、 E
- 6. B、 E

- 7. D
- 8. B、C
- 9. A、C、D
- 10. D
- 11. A、B
- 12. A、B、C、E
- 13. C
- 14. A

练习二

- 1. B、D、E
- 2. B、D、E
- 3. B、D、E
- 4. A、B、E
- 5. E
- 6. A、B、C、D
- 7. B
- 8. A、D、
- 9. B、C

第二节 判断词义

阅读过程中，尤其在考试阅读中，出现生词往往是妨碍做好阅读理解的一大障碍，因此学习、研究如何处理考试过程中出现的生词的方法是非常重要的。

一、判断单个词义

1. 根据构词法判断词义

判断词义的方法有多种，其中常用的方法是利用构词法，根据单词的词根、前缀、后缀等判断词义，如考试大纲附录中的例词：由动词 *satisfy* 加上后缀或前缀可以构成 *satisfaction*,

dissatisfaction, unsatisfied。然而，这是最常用的方法，也是广大学生都知道的，此处不必多说。本书将提供一些范例，作为附录放在书后。

实际上，考生在临考时所遇见的生词，往往不是构词法能解决的，因此必须研究判断词义的其他方法。从考试的角度来讲也是十分重要的方法，也是应当得到训练的方法。

2. 根据上下文判断词义

依靠上下文判断词义是我们在做阅读理解时最常用的方法。从理论上讲，“词义来自于上下文”，所以在通常的情况下读者的判断是十分准确的。一般来讲，一个词的出现不是孤立的，它与上下文有内在联系。首先是有文章所表达的意思上的联系，一个词，固然有它自身的构词，但决离不开上下文。例如下面有几句，要求读者将句中的斜体字的意思猜出来。

(1) The boy was ordered to make full **restitution** to the owner of the damaged car. He had no other choice and swiftly made full payment for the damages to **the auto** he had hit.

在这句话中，restitution的意思是十分明显的。从The boy was ordered ... 可知这个男孩“被命令做……”，所以“不能不做……”。再从第二句中的...made full payment for the damages to the auto he had hit. (全额赔偿他撞了汽车而造成的损坏费用)可见 restitution必然是“赔偿费、赔款”之类的意思。及至于the auto由于有定冠词the的确认可知auto是上面提到过的the damaged car。如果你能记起来automobile，就不需再查字典了。

(2) The Gobi Desert was **arid** and unproductive in the past. But now the dry place is full of many kinds of plants.

如果能意识到这句话中的Gobi Desert 是戈壁滩，想到戈壁滩就会联想到不毛之地。看一看第二句中的 now... 和第一句的in the past的对比，再想想，现在是 full of many kinds of plants (充满各种植物)，那么过去呢？自然可知过去不是 full of many kinds of plants而与此相对的自然是不长东西的、荒芜的。而arid后面的unproductive是“不生产、不长东西”的意思，那么arid该是什么意思呢？只能是“不毛之地、荒芜光秃”的意思。

(3) Unlike her **gregarious** sister, Catherine is a shy person, who does not like to go to parties, or to make new friends.

这句话中的gregarious 的意思由Unlike... Catherine is a shy person ... (不像……那样，是一个腼腆的人……) 便可知道 gregarious的意思应当是“善于社交的、愿意与人交往的”。我们不能将它理解为“不知羞耻、不要脸面的人”呢？当然不可以。为什么？因为从后面的定语从句看，只说明“她不愿意参加聚会，不愿交新朋友”而已，这和“不知羞耻，不要脸面的人”毫不相干。

(4) We watched as the cat came quietly through the grass toward the bird. When it was just a few feet from the victim, it gathered its legs under itself, and **pounced**.

凡是有人见过猫捕捉猎物的动作都会马上想到 pounced 就是“扑上去”的意思。

练习：以下的练习，由大家自己猜，此处只提问题帮助大家猜。

(1) At the age of sixty-six, Harland Sanders had to **auction** off everything he owned in order to pay his debts. Once **a proprietor** of a large restaurant, Sanders saw his business suffer from the construction of a new freeway that bypassed his **establishment** and rerouted the traffic that had passed.

思考问题：1) 一个人为了还债，他将如何处理他的财产？那么 auction 应当是什么意思？2) 他是不是做过买卖，当过老板？文中有 Once a proprietor of a large restaurant，这在语法上是说明 Sanders 的头衔的，那么“昔日的一家大旅馆的 a proprietor”应当做何理解呢？3) 既然知道大旅馆是 Sanders 的，那么有一条新路绕过他的 establishment，此时的 establishment 是指什么而言呢？

(2) With an income of only \$105 a month in Social Security, he packed his car with a pressure cooker, some chickens, and sixty pounds of the **seasoning** that he had developed for frying chicken. He stopped at restaurants, where he cooked chicken for owners to **sample**. If they liked it, he offered to show them how to cook it. Then he sold them the seasoning and collected a **royalty** of four cents on each chicken they cooked. The rest is history. Eight years later, there were 638 Kentucky Fried Chicken **franchises**, and Colonel Sanders had sold his business again — this time for over two million dollars.

思考问题：1) 知道文中人往汽车上装载 (packed) 了压力锅、鸡之后，那么在看到 seasoning 的定语是 that he had developed for frying chicken (他是来开发炸鸡的)，那么 seasoning 应当是什么东西？炸鸡的味道是生鸡原有的吗？2) 从文字上看 to sample 是句子的目的状语，因此 to sample 自然是他炸鸡的目的。再从后面的句子 If they liked it, he offered to show them how to cook it. (如果他们喜欢，那就免费告诉他们如何炸鸡) 证明 to sample 应当是什么意思呢？我想最没有生活经验的学生也会想到超市里有人兜售食品，将他们的产品切成小块让人品尝的情景。3) 了解了教会人们炸鸡，并卖给他们 seasoning 后，那么他为每一只炸好的鸡收取一个 4 分钱的 royalty，我们从市场观点来看 royalty 该是什么呢？4) 在 8 年后他有了 638 个肯德基 franchise，而且再次卖出去，得了 200 万美元，这样 franchise 是个很值钱的东西，那么它应当是什么呢？

3. 只要根据上下文判断词的意思，不要追求它们的中文译文

以上基本上是可以直接判断出一个生词的词义的例子。但在临考时，多数情况是由于时间

紧和句子难，一时很难判断出确切词义，这时怎么办？

这时能从上下文，乃至从语法的角度猜出词在句子中的合理的意思。能理解它们意味着什么，就可以理解文章的意思，从而保证选出正确的答案。

以下的例子中有些词可能推测不出它们的中文译文是什么，但可以知道它们在句子中提到的具体环境下的合理意思，这就足以理解文章了。

试读以下各段，体会各段中的斜体字的意思。试体会，不说出它的具体中文译名，影响不影响你对全段话的理解？

(1) In the second half of each year, many powerful storms are born in the tropical Atlantic and Caribbean seas. Of these, only about a half a dozen generate the strong, circling winds of 75 miles per hour or more that give them *hurricane status*, and several usually make their way to the coast. There they cause millions of dollars of damage, and bring death to large numbers of people.

解析：这里的生词是 hurricane status，但是如果你仔细看懂了全句，了解这个词汇的意思是没有问题的。特别是以下这一句的结构能看懂就没有问题。“Of these, only about a half a dozen generate the strong, circling winds of 75 miles per hour or more (其中，大约只有六个左右的风暴产生强烈的旋风，时速75英里或75英里以上)。”that give them hurricane status这是个定语从句，that代表circling winds of 75 miles per hour or more，因而这个从句的意思是：这样的强风使这些风暴处于hurricane status状态。接下去的and several usually make their way to the coast (有几个通常会登陆)，以及There they cause millions of dollars of damage, and bring death to large numbers of people (在登陆之处造成千百万美元的损失和大批人的死亡)。

这样理解了原文，就不难理解 hurricane status是一种“强风态势”，一种飓风态势，也就是台风态势，即便这一切都想不到，那么你绝对应当想到“就是这样的时速75英里或75英里以上的风”就足够了。能做这样的推理理解就很准确了。

(2) At the Regal Restaurant, there are two menus. On one menu, an entire meal is listed for a single price. On the other, an *a la carte* menu, each dish is priced individually and may be ordered separately. In many cases, ordering from the first kind of menu is the cheapest way to get a complete meal. On such menus, however, if you order something that is not included in the meal, there is a surcharge, which makes the meal more expensive.

解析：这里的上下文是谈饭店的菜谱，当看到这个 a la carte menu 时，就知道这是个菜谱，对这个菜谱的解释是“each dish is priced individually and may be ordered separately”(意思是：每一种菜都是单列价格，并且可以单点这些菜)。自然我们就明白了：这显然是不同于套餐的菜谱，而是一个可以单点的菜谱，就称它为单点菜谱。以至于 a la carte 是什么语言，原意是什么意思