

大学英语六级阅读冲刺班

第4讲

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选词填空真题精讲 (2) -- 2019年6月

- A) abruptly B) additives C) approach D) ardently
- E) besieged F) channel G) comparable H) components
- I) cracked J) fractures K) hollow L) relevant
- M) reshuffled N) strived O) violent

Steel is **valued** for its **reliability**, but not when it gets cold. Most forms of steel __26__ become **brittle** (脆的) at temperatures below about -25°C unless they are mixed with other metals. Now, though, a **novel** type of steel has been developed that resists __27__ at much lower temperatures, while **retaining** its and **toughness**—without the need for expensive __28__.

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Steel's **fragility** at low temperatures first became a **major concern** during the Second World War. After German U-boats torpedoed (用鱼雷攻击) **numerous** British ships, a 2,700-strong fleet of cheap- and-**cheerful** "Liberty ships" was introduced to **replace** the lost **vessels**, providing a lifeline for the __29__

—
British. But the steel shells of hundreds of the ships __30__ in the icy north Atlantic, and 12 broke in half and sank.

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Brittleness remains a problem when building steel structures in cold conditions, such as oil rigs in the Arctic. So scientists have __31__ to find a **solution** by mixing it with expensive metals such as nickel.

Yuuji Kimura and colleagues in Japan tried a more physical __32__. Rather than adding other metals, they developed a **complex mechanical** process involving repeated heating and very **severe mechanical** deformation, known as tempforming.

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The resulting steel appears to **achieve** a **combination** of strength and **toughness** that is __33__ to that of modern steels that are very rich in **alloy** content and, therefore, very expensive.

Kimura's team intends to use its tempformed steel to make ultra-high strength parts, such as bolts. They hope to reduce both the number of __34__ needed in a **construction** job and their weight—

by replacing solid supports with __35__ tubes, for example. This could reduce the amount of steel needed to make everything from automobiles to buildings and bridges.