

大学英语六级阅读冲刺班

第9讲

主讲人：Agnes

37. The author admits using technology as an escape from the task at hand.

38. Checking phones at dinners is now accepted as normal but not belching.

[1] Now, imagine the same dinner, but instead of checking their phone, the person *belches* (打嗝) —loudly. Everyone notices. Unless the meal takes place in a beer house, this is considered bad manners. The impolite act violates the basic rules of etiquette. One has to wonder: why don't we apply the same social norms to checking phones during meals, meetings and conversations as we do to other antisocial behaviors? Somehow, we accept it and say nothing when someone offends.

细节推断题

39. The increasing differences in child rearing between rich and poor families reflect growing social inequality.

41. Higher-income families and working-class families now tend to live in different neighborhoods.

【O】 Children were not always raised so differently. The achievement gap between children from high- and low-income families is 30-40% larger among children born in 2001 than those born 25 years earlier, according to Mr. Reardon's research. People used to live near people of different income levels; neighborhoods are now more segregated by income...

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[O] ...More than a quarter of children live in single-parent households—a historic high, according to Pew—and these children are three times as likely to live in poverty as those who live with married parents. Meanwhile, growing income inequality has coincided with the increasing importance of a college degree for earning a middle-class wage.

37. This year's electronics show featured the presence of many officials from the federal government.

39. One analyst suggests it is necessary to accept both the positive and negative aspects of innovative products.

[L] Curran, the Accenture analyst, said that increased government interest in the show makes sense as technology becomes a larger part of our lives. "There is an incompatibility in the rate at which these are advancing relative to the way we're digesting it," he said. "Technology is becoming bigger and more aspirational, and penetrating almost every aspect of our lives. We have to understand and think about the implications, and balance these great innovations with the potential downsides they naturally carry with them."

42. Physical punishment is used much less by well-educated parents.

45. Some socioeconomic differences in child rearing have shrunk in the past ten years.

[K] Another example is reading aloud, which studies have shown gives children bigger vocabularies and better reading comprehension in school. 71% of parents with a college degree say they do it every day, compared with 33% of those with a high school diploma or less. White parents are more likely than others to read to their children daily, as are married parents. Most affluent parents enroll their children in preschool or day care, while low-income parents are more likely to depend on family members. Discipline techniques vary by education level: 8% of those with a postgraduate degree say they often beat their children, compared with 22% of those with a high school degree or less.

36. Consumers are often hesitant to try smart-home devices because they are worried about compatibility problems.

38. The market demand for electronic devices is now either declining or not growing as fast as before.

[D] For instance, new technologies that are building upon existing technology have not found their footing well enough to appeal to a mass audience, because, in many cases, they need to work effectively with other devices to realize their full appeal. Take the evolution of the smart home, for example. Companies are pushing it hard but make it almost overwhelming even to dip a toe in the water for the average consumer, because there are so many compatibility issues to think about....

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41. Fewer innovative products were found at this year's electronic products show.

[A] Scan the highlights of this year's Consumer Electronics *Show* (CES), and you may get a slight feeling of having seen them before. Many of the coolest gadgets this year are the same as the coolest gadgets last year—or the year before, even. The booths are still exciting, and the demos are still as crazy. It is still easy to be dazzled by the display of *drones* (无人机), 3D printers, virtual reality *goggles* (眼镜) and more “smart” devices than you could ever hope to catalog. Upon reflection, however, it is equally easy to feel like you have seen it all before. And it is hard not to think: Are we in an innovation *lull* (间歇期)?

关键词组**未直接出现**。关键词组本身经过归纳推断。

1. 具体——概括
2. 论据——论点
3. 指代
4. 比较（好坏，先后，多少，大小等）
5. 前提
6. 焦点

长篇阅读真题精讲3—2018年6月第2套

- Grow Plants Without Water

- [A]Ever since **humanity** began to farm our own food, we've faced the **unpredictable** rain that is both friend and enemy. It comes and goes without much warning, and a field of **lush** (茂盛的) leafy greens one year can dry up and blow away the next. Food **security** and fortunes depend on **sufficient** rain, and nowhere more so than in Africa, where 96% of farmland depends on rain instead of the irrigation common in more developed places. It has consequences: South Africa's ongoing **drought**-the worst in three decades-will cost at least a quarter of its **corn** crop this year.

不可预测的雨水在农业生产中既是朋友也是敌人，南非长期遭受旱灾。

- [B]Biologist Jill Farrant of the University of Cape Town in South Africa says that nature has plenty of answers for people who want to grow crops in places with **unpredictable** rainfall. She is hard at work finding a way to take traits from **rare** wild plants that **adapt** to **extreme** dry weather and use them in food crops. As the earth's climate changes and rainfall becomes even less **predictable** in some places, those answers will grow even more **valuable**. "The type of farming I'm aiming for is literally so that people can **survive** as it's going to get more and more dry," Farrant says.

生物学家说那些雨水不可预测的地区种植有多种方案，她想发展一种干旱型农业。

- [C]Extreme conditions **produce extremely** tough plants. In the rusty red deserts of South Africa, **steep-**sided **rocky** hills called inselbergs rear up from the plains like the bones of the earth. The hills are remnants of an earlier geological era, scraped bare of most soil and **exposed** to the elements. Yet on these and similar formations in deserts around the world, a few fierce plants have adapted to **endure** under ever-changing conditions.
- [D]Farrant calls them resurrection plants （复苏植物）. During months without water under a **harsh** sun, they **wither**, shrink and **contract** until they look like a pile of dead gray leaves. But rainfall can **revive** them in a matter of hours. Her time-lapse （间歇性拍摄的） videos of the revivals look like someone playing a tape of the plant's death in **reverse**.

C)极端条件孕育极端顽强的植物，在类似沙漠地区有一些特别顽强的植物。

D)这种植物叫复苏植物—缺水枯萎有水复苏。

- [E]The big difference between "**drought-tolerant**" plants and these tough plants: metabolism. Many different kinds of plants have developed tactics to weather dry spells. Some plants store reserves of water to see them through a **drought**; others send roots deep down to subsurface water

supplies. But once these plants use up their stored **reserve** or tap out the underground **supply**, they **cease** growing and start to die. They may be able to **handle** a **drought** of some length, and many people use the term "**drought tolerant**" to **describe** such plants, but they never actually stop needing to **consume** water, so

Farrant prefers to call them **drought resistant**.
耐旱植物与复苏植物的区别在于新陈代谢，复苏植物是抗旱的。

- [F]Resurrection plants, **defined** as those **capable** of recovering from holding less than 0.1 grams of water per gram of dry **mass**, are different. They lack water-storing structures, and their existence on rock faces prevents them from tapping groundwater, so they have instead developed the ability to change their metabolism. When they detect an **extended** dry period, they **divert** their metabolisms, producing sugars and **certain stress-**associated proteins and other materials in their tissues. As the plant dries, these resources take on first the properties of honey, then **rubber**, and finally enter a glass-like state that is "the most **stable** state that the plant can maintain," Farrant says. That slows the plant's metabolism and protects its dried-out tissues. The plants also change shape, shrinking to **minimize** the surface area through which their remaining water might **evaporate**. They can recover from months and years without water, depending on the **species**.

复苏植物没有储水结构，有改变新陈代谢的能力。哪怕是几个月或者几年没有水，也能复苏。

- [G]What else can do this dry-out-and-**revive** trick? Seeds- almost all of them. At the start of her career, Farrant studied "**recalcitrant** seeds (顽拗性种子)," such as avocados, coffee and lychee. While **tasty**, such seeds are **delicate**- they cannot **bud** and grow if they dry out (as you may know if you've ever tried to grow a tree
- from an avocado pit). In the seed world, that makes them **rare**, because most seeds from flowering plants are quite robust. Most seeds can wait out the dry, unwelcoming seasons until conditions are
- right and they sprout (发芽)
. Yet once they start growing, such plants seem not to **retain** the ability to hit the pause button on metabolism in their stems or leaves.

种子也有这种复苏能力，但种子一旦生长，就没有这种暂停新陈代谢的能力了。

- [H]*After completing her Ph. D. on seeds, Farrant began investigating whether it might be possible*
 - *to **isolate** the properties that make most seeds so **resilient** (迅速恢复活力的) and **transfer** them to other plant tissues.* What Farrant and others have found over the past
 - two decades is that there are many **genes** involved in resurrection plants' **response** to **dryness**.
 - Many of them are .the same that **regulate** how seeds become **dryness-tolerant** while still attached to their parent plants. Now they are trying to **figure** out what molecular signaling processes **activate** those seed-building **genes** in resurrection plants- and how to **reproduce** them in crops.
- "Most **genes** are **regulated** by a master set of **genes**," Farrant says,
"We're looking at **gene** promoters and what would be their master **switch**."

Farrant研究是否可以隔离这种特性并移植到其他植物组织。他发现大多数基因有一组主控基因控制。

- [I]Once Farrant and her colleagues feel they have a better sense of which switches to throw, they
- will have to find the best-way to do so in useful crops.
"I'm trying three methods of breeding," Farrant says: **conventional**, **genetic modification** and **gene editing**. She says she is aware that plenty of people do not want to eat **genetically** modified crops, but she is pushing ahead with every **available** tool until one works. Farmers and consumers alike
- can choose whether or not to use whichever version prevails: "I'm giving people an **option**."

只要Farrant找到主控基因就会找到合适的方式移植，人们可以选择某种方式。

- [J]Farrant and others in the resurrection business got together last year to discuss the best **species**
- of resurrection plant to use as a lab model. Just like medical researchers use rats to test ideas for
- human medical treatments, botanists use plants that are relatively easy to grow in a lab or
- **greenhouse setting** to test their ideas for **related species**. The Queensland rock **violet** is one of the best studied resurrection plants so far, with a **draft genome** (基因图谱) published last year by a Chinese team. Also last year, Farrant and colleagues published a
- **detailed** molecular study of another **candidate**, *Xerophyta viscosa*, a tough-as-nail South African plant with **lily-** like flowers, and she says that a **genome** is on the way. One or both of these models will help
- researchers test their ideas-so far mostly done in the lab-on test plots.

Farrant和其他研究者试图找到最佳复苏植物类别作为实验样本，这些样本可以验证他们的想法。

- [K]Understanding the basic science first is key. There are good reasons why crop plants do not use **dryness** defenses already. For instance, there's a high energy cost in switching from a regular metabolism to an almost-no-water metabolism. It will also be necessary to **understand** what sort of **yield** farmers might expect and to establish the plant's safety.
"The **yield** is never going to be high," Farrant says, so these plants will be targeted not at Iowa farmers trying to **squeeze** more cash out of high-**yield** fields, but subsistence farmers who need help to **survive** a **drought** like the present one in
- South Africa. "My vision is for the subsistence farmer," Farrant says.
"I'm targeting crops that are of African value."

了解科学是基础， 稻谷不用抗旱机制是有原因的， Farrant 想研发出适合非洲的稻谷。

- A) 不可预测的雨水在农业生产中既是朋友也是敌人，南非长期遭受旱灾。
- B) 生物学家说那些雨水不可预测的地区种植有多种方案，她想发展一种干旱型农业。
- C) 极端条件孕育极端顽强的植物，在类似沙漠地区有一些特别顽强的植物。
- D) 这种植物叫复苏植物—缺水枯萎有水复苏。
- E) 耐旱植物与复苏植物的区别在于新陈代谢，复苏植物是抗旱的。
- F) 复苏植物没有储水结构，有改变新陈代谢的能力。哪怕是几个月或者几年没有水，也能复苏。
- G) 种子也有这种复苏能力，但种子一旦生长，就没有这种暂停新陈代谢的能力了。
- H) Farrant研究是否可以隔离这种特性并移植到其他植物组织。他发现大多数基因有一组主控基因控制。
- I) 只要Farrant找到主控基因就会找到合适的方式移植，人们可以选择某种方式。
- J) Farrant和其他研究者试图找到最佳复苏植物类别作为实验样本，这些样本可以验证他们的想法。
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- 36. There are a couple of plants tough and adaptable enough to survive on bare rocky hills and in deserts.
- 37. Farrant is trying to isolate genes in resurrection plants and reproduce them in crops.
- 38. Farmers in South Africa are more at the mercy of nature, especially inconsistent rainfall.
- 39. Resurrection crops are most likely to be the choice of subsistence farmers.
- 40. Even though many plants have developed various tactics to cope with dry weather, they cannot survive a prolonged drought.
- 41. Despite consumer resistance, researchers are pushing ahead with genetic modification of crops.
- 42. Most seeds can pull through dry spells and begin growing when conditions are ripe, but once the process starts, it cannot be held back.
- 43. Farrant is working hard to cultivate food crops that can survive extreme dryness by studying the traits of rare wild plants.
- 44. By adjusting their metabolism, resurrection plants can recover from an extended period of drought.
- 45. Resurrection plants can come back to life in a short time after a rainfall.