

Unit 1



Section A

Passage 1

Where There's Muck There's Bitcoins

Never has the old English 1 “where there’s muck there’s brass” been more true.

For those of you not familiar with those wise words: They come from the northern county of Yorkshire, where “brass” is slang for money, and “muck” is, well, muck. Dirty work can 2 riches.

That’s the task facing James Howell from the Welsh city of Newport, after he threw out a computer hard drive forgetting that it was full of bitcoins 3 are now worth around \$7.5 million, the BBC reports.

The 7,500 4 coins—which are a form of digital currency—were 5 at around \$20 when he first “obtained” them in 2009, the story notes.

I’m a bit fuzzy on how one 6 bitcoins, but my understanding is you don’t 7 just purchase them. Rather, you can apply some computer wizardry involving algorithms (算法), searches and data mining, and if you’re successful, you are the proud new owner of the things.

For Howell, then, bitcoins have perhaps been a case of not-so-easy-come, but 8.

He’ll be lucky if he ever gets them back. The hard drive is now 9 as much as five feet deep in a Newport landfill that’s the size of a football field. Howell chucked 10 the hardware sometime over the last year, and only recalled its contents when recent press reports about bitcoins’ surging value jogged his memory.

It sounds like a business opportunity for a bitcoin divining rod.

(275 words)

Select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| A) easy-going | I) acquires |
| B) yield | J) necessarily |
| C) out | K) virtual |
| D) real | L) buried |
| E) that | M) introduction |
| F) expression | N) off |
| G) pursue | O) valued |
| H) easy-go | |

Passage 2

How to Detect Lies

- A) Have you ever had the experience of talking to someone and you think they are lying? Well, you are not alone. We've all had that feeling. But do you know that there are several things you can look for to see if you are being lied to.
- B) Sometimes you can tell if a person is lying by observing what they do with their body. When people are lying they tend not to move their arms, hands or legs very far from their body. They don't want to take up very much space because they don't want to be noticed. Sometimes a person who is lying will not look you in the eyes. Other times people who lie try to look at you in a strong way because they want to convince you they are telling the truth. If someone does either of these two things they might be lying.
- C) Liars may also touch their face, ears or the back of their neck. Another thing a liar might do is turn their head away from you when talking. They also might put objects, such as glasses, books, or papers in front of themselves.
- D) Liars also use deflection (拐弯抹角). This means they will not answer a question directly. For example, if you ask a liar the question "Did you steal Fatima's bag?", they may answer with something like "Fatima is my friend. Why would I do that?" In this situation the person is telling the truth, but they are also not answering the question. They are trying to deflect your attention. This can mean they are lying.
- E) Other things liars might do with language is to not use contractions. For instance, they will say "I did not do it", instead of "I didn't do it". Liars may also give too many details. They may try to over-explain things. They do this because they want to convince you of what they are saying.
- F) Often when a person is lying, they do not want to continue talking about their lie. They will be happy to change the subject. If you think someone is lying, quickly change the subject. If the person is lying, they will appear more comfortable because they are not talking about their lie any longer. A little later, changed the subject back to what you were talking about before. If the person seems uncomfortable again, they may be lying.
- G) Just because a person is showing these behaviors, it does not mean they are lying. They might be shy or nervous. But, if you think someone is lying, you might want to

use some of these techniques. Hopefully, you won't need to very often.

(480 words)

Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

- () 1. A liar often dare not look you in the eyes.
- () 2. Almost all of us have the experience of talking to someone who we think is lying.
- () 3. Liars don't like to answer your questions directly.
- () 4. A liar will feel comfortable if you don't talk about his lie all the time.
- () 5. When someone talks to you with some objects, such as glasses, books, or papers in front of him, you shall be alert whether he is lying.
- () 6. Sometimes when someone shows such behaviors, it doesn't mean that he must be a liar.

Passage 3

Tuesday Is the Most Productive Workday

It looks as though the workweek will be all downhill (每况愈下) from here, at least when it comes to workplace productivity.

A new survey says Tuesday is the best day for getting things done. Accountemps, a staffing agency, commissioned the survey to ask human resource managers in the United States which day they thought workers in their company were the most productive.

Tuesday was thought to be the most productive day by 39 percent of HR managers, while Thursday and Friday tied as the least productive days with three percent each (Monday received 24 percent and Wednesday received 14 percent).

What's the theory for why Tuesday is the workweek peak?

“Many workers spend Monday catching up from the previous week and planning the one ahead,” said Max Messmer, Accountemps chairman. “On Tuesday, employees may begin to have time to focus on individual tasks and become more productive. The goal should be to maintain the positive momentum established on Tuesday throughout the week.” To help make that happen, Accountemps offers five tips, which I've paraphrased below, for making every day like Tuesday:

- 1) **Axe (削减) the excess:** Give yourself realistic goals and focus on your most important tasks. To do this, make a to-do list and cut it in half.
- 2) **Aim for quality, not quantity:** Avoid multitasking and focus on one task at a time.
- 3) **Know your prime time:** Work on your most difficult tasks during the time of day you're at your peak (like probably not right after lunch).
- 4) **Dodge derailers:** That means turning off your phone, closing the email tab, and getting rid of other distractions to help increase your productivity.
- 5) **Explore apps:** Take advantage of apps aimed to increase productivity and keep you on task. (Just make sure they don't end up doing the opposite and distracting you—see number 4.)

(333 words)

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. Why is Tuesday the best day for getting things done?
 - A. Because workweek will be all downhill from here.
 - B. Because all human resource managers think so.
 - C. Because the number of the new survey shows that.
 - D. Because workers like working on Tuesday.
2. What is the goal of company's managers?
 - A. To maintain employees' positive momentum.
 - B. To ask employees not to focus on individual tasks.
 - C. To ask employees to begin their tasks.
 - D. To maintain employees' honesty.
3. Everyone could make every day like Tuesday following the tips below EXCEPT _____.
 - A. focusing on realistic goals
 - B. avoiding multitasking
 - C. no talking with others while working
 - D. taking advantage of apps
4. The word "prime" in tip 3 probably means _____.
 - A. mysterious
 - B. difficult
 - C. striking
 - D. golden
5. What's the main idea of the passage?
 - A. If you want to keep your productive condition, you must work all day long on Tuesday.
 - B. Tuesday-spirit should be announced in all companies.
 - C. A new survey shows the most productive workday and you can keep this spirit if you follow all tips.
 - D. Managers think the workweek will be all downhill from Tuesday.



Section B



Passage 1

How Ants Look for Food

You can see them 1 along the ground. They are very small, walking in lines, or following others. Ants make maps out of 2 to find food. They work together to support each other.

Ants are 3 insects that live together in a large colony. There are many jobs inside the colony. Worker ants are 4 for the colony. These ants have jobs like foragers and soldiers. They look for food, help to build the ant home, and 5 the ant colony.

When ants look for food an ant will leave the colony and begin to scout for food. As the ant walks it 6 a trail. It leaves scent on the trail to mark the path. This will help the ant return to the colony. The scent also helps other ants find and follow the 7 that have food. Ants can forage for miles and miles looking for food. When they find they follow the trail 8. Walking along the same trail increases the scent. As more ants use the trail the scent gets stronger and stronger.

Ants use scent for 9. The scent helps ants return to the colony. The 10 time you see ants looking for food think about how they make a scent map to remember their way.

(219 words)

Select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage.

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| A) responsible | I) back |
| B) communication | J) social |
| C) scents | K) protect |
| D) private | L) return |
| E) trails | M) creates |
| F) first | N) next |
| G) crawling | O) make |
| H) roads | |

Passage 2

How to Manage Time

- A) Since the moment my daughter entered this world, I constantly feel like I do not have time to accomplish anything. I knew that after a year of running around completely unorganized, I had to figure out how to manage time better. I'm an excellent procrastinator (拖延者), so I knew that it would not be an easy task or happen overnight.
- B) I decided to do some research on how to manage time more efficiently in order to get some helpful hints. While the articles and information that I found was very helpful, it opened the gateway for me to realize on my own how to manage time more effectively. The first thing I need to do in figuring out how to manage time, was to become more organized.
- C) It is almost impossible to get things accomplished when I can barely find anything in my house and don't plan ahead. The best idea on how to manage time is to prepare the evening before. Instead of waiting until the morning to pack my daughter's bag for daycare, I should pack it the night before. I needed to pack lunches the night before as well.
- D) A friend of mine said that she learned how to manage time better by doing simple things that may only take a few seconds but could save the hassle (困难). When I asked her what she meant by that, she said that she puts extra trash bags underneath the current one. That way, when she pulls the full trash bag out, there is another one waiting to be used. She doesn't have to spend the extra minute fumbling around for a new one.
- E) While that seems petty, it is a great suggestion for how to manage time. There are quite a few chores that can be done in that manner. In my household, we have started to keep an extra roll of toilet paper within reach. That way, we don't have to go out to the hallway if we find ourselves out during a time of need. It saves a few moments and works out very smoothly.
- F) In looking for ways on how to manage time, I decided that I would keep a small tablet on the table by my front door. On that tablet I would write what needed to be done when I returned home that night. That way, when I walked in the front door, I didn't forget anything of importance and waste time by wandering aimlessly until I

remember it. At first, I thought that it was an odd and silly idea for how to manage time, but I tried it and it works pretty well. Plus, once it is written down, it seems like I feel more obligated to get that task accomplished.

- G) If you're looking to learn how to manage time more productively, simply look around. How to manage time can be something much simpler than you realize. If you can shave a few moments off of your morning routine, you may not be so rushed. If you can make less trips and be better organized when running errands, then you have figured out how to manage time pretty well. Just think ahead. That's the key.

(546 words)

Identify the paragraph from which the information is derived. You may choose a paragraph more than once.

- () 1. Getting things prepared ahead of time is helpful in managing time well.
- () 2. I keep a tablet to remind myself of things to be done.
- () 3. It's not easy for me to manage time well overnight because I always procrastinate.
- () 4. We may not be in such a hurry if we know how to manage time in the morning.
- () 5. My friend taught me to manage time by doing simple things that could save some extra time.
- () 6. Writing things of importance done, which seems silly and odd, makes me feel obligated to finish the task.

Passage 3

What Can We Get from Good Books?

From good reading we can derive pleasure, companionship, experience, and instruction. A good book may absorb our attention so completely that for the time being we forget our surroundings and even our identity. Reading good books is one of the greatest pleasures in life. It increases our contentment when we are cheerful, and lessens our troubles when we are sad. Whatever may be our main purpose in reading, our contact with good books should never fail to give us enjoyment and satisfaction.

With a good book in our hands we need never be lonely. Whether the characters described are taken from real life or are purely imaginary, they may become our companions and friends. The people we meet in books may delight us either because they resemble human friends who we hold dear or because they present unfamiliar types whom we are glad to welcome as new acquaintances. Our human friends sometimes may bore us, but the friends we make in books need never weary us with their company. By turning the page we can dismiss them without any fear of hurting their feelings. When human friends desert us, good books are always ready to give us friendship, sympathy, and encouragement.

One of the most valuable gifts best owed by books is experience. Few of us can travel far from home or have a wide range of experiences, but all of us can lead varied lives through the pages of books. Whether we wish to escape from the seemingly dull realities of everyday life or whether we long to visit some far-off place, a book will help us when nothing else can. Through books the whole world is ours for the asking. The possibilities of our literary experiences are almost unlimited. The beauties of nature, the enjoyment of music, the treasures of art, the triumphs of architecture, the marvels of engineering, are all open to the wonder and enjoyment of those who read.

(330 words)

Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. The main idea of the first paragraph is that _____.
 - A. we should know how to read good books
 - B. we are often forgetful when we read a good book
 - C. reading good books is very important in human life
 - D. reading good books gives us enjoyment and satisfaction
2. When we read good books we never feel lonely because _____.
 - A. the books become our companions
 - B. the characters become our companions
 - C. purely imaginary characters are more friendly
 - D. some of the characters are taken from real life
3. People like their new acquaintances in books because _____.
 - A. they resemble human friends exactly
 - B. they are unfamiliar types we like
 - C. they never desert us
 - D. they never hurt our feelings
4. Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - A. Good books can provide us with immense literary knowledge and experiences.
 - B. Good books can help us to escape from the dull realities of everyday life.
 - C. Good books can give us encouragement.
 - D. Good books can provide everything we need for a happy life.
5. In the last paragraph, the sentence “Through books the whole world is ours for the asking.” implies that _____.
 - A. the world is more accessible to us when we read books
 - B. the world in books may become real
 - C. we can ask to go anywhere in the world
 - D. the world described in books is more interesting than the world we live in