

目 录

Test 1	Pub Talk and the King's English.....	1
Test 2	The Sad Young Men	11
Test 3	Loving and Hating New York	23
Test 4	The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas (Excerpts)	35
Test 5	The Future of the English	45
Test 6	The Loons	57
Test 7	The Discovery of What It Means to Be an American	67
Test 8	Four Laws of Ecology (Part I)	77
Test 9	Four Laws of Ecology (Part II)	87
Test 10	The Mansion: A Subprime Parable (Excerpts)	97
Test 11	Faustian Economics	107
Test 12	Disappearing Through the Skylight (Excerpts)	117
KEY		127

Test 1

Pub Talk and the King's English

I. Text Comprehension

A. Choose the BEST answer based on your comprehension of the text.

1. What are the best conversationalists prepared to do according to the author?
 - A. To find time for their best anecdotes.
 - B. To share their arguments with others.
 - C. To give in to others' views in arguments.
 - D. To be convinced to accept others' views.
2. What is the unique charm of bar conversation according to the text?
 - A. People are well prepared to lose in arguments.
 - B. Personal life is not the concern of the conversation.
 - C. Focal subjects often occur suddenly in conversations.
 - D. The conversation does not need a focal subject.
3. What does the Australian mean by saying that "the King's English" is a term of criticism?
 - A. People in Australia resist "the King's English."
 - B. "The King's English" shows a cultural dominance.
 - C. Common people do not speak "the King's English."
 - D. There does not exist a model English for all people.
4. Why does the author introduce the conversation at the salons of Mme. Deffand in Paragraph 19?
 - A. To criticize those who always ask authors to talk as they write.
 - B. To prove that "the King's English" may slip and slide sometimes.
 - C. To exemplify the conversation of the great minds in the 18th century.
 - D. To argue that the great minds may not talk as they are supposed to.
5. The author's attitude toward "the King's English" can be best described as _____.
 - A. positive
 - B. negative
 - C. neutral
 - D. critical

B. Are the following statements true or false? Mark “T” for true and “F” for false.

1. Although bar friends are intimates, they do not delve into each other’s lives. ()
2. People in the pub feel indignant at the definition of “the King’s English” as a term of criticism. ()
3. “The King’s English” became widely used by the Elizabethans in the 16th century. ()
4. The author does not agree with Auden’s remark that all a writer needs is a pen, plenty of paper and the best dictionaries he can afford. ()
5. Even the most educated and literate people do not use standard, formal English all the time in their conversations. ()

II. Words & Expressions

Choose the one that BEST explains the underlined part.

1. Yet far from being overstretched, the hospital most days feels desultory, with nurses lingering in near empty wards because people cannot afford to pay for care.

A. disoriented	B. disordered
C. discouraged	D. disorganized
2. Medieval-looking stonewalls still guard Old Quebec. Tourists are the primary invaders nowadays, as they meander among ancient churches, monasteries and plazas.

A. patrol	B. bustle	C. stroll	D. shuttle
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3. Tuesday’s debate presents a rare chance to delve into the candidates’ mindsets on key issues for a discussion that more thoroughly explains their positions.

A. evolve	B. probe
C. plunge	D. extend
4. Marketing survey shows that the lucrative marriage between sports and the corporate world is on the rocks when some companies cut their spending by as much as 50 percent.

A. in dispute	B. under suspicion
C. in question	D. under threat
5. Facebook’s inclusiveness has broadened its appeal, but the alchemy of the Web is converting eyeballs to dollars via the “click-throughs” that advertisers crave.

A. popularity	B. sensation
C. invisibility	D. fascination
6. When doors swing wide at 7:30 a.m., thousands of shoppers scamper from aisle to aisle, heaping carts with spinach, cooking oil, whatever they can grasp.

A. dash	B. pace	C. scurry	D. wander
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7. Micky Ward is trapped in a web of obligation—to his tart mother who manages him and to his new girlfriend who thinks he has to disentangle himself from his family.
A. austere B. harsh C. skeptical D. arrogant
8. The United States and Israel stepped back on Tuesday from their rift in decades over new Jewish homes in a traditionally Arab part of Jerusalem.
A. gap B. separation C. conflict D. distrust
9. A jaywalker immediately sized him up as a formidable witness. Then he moved to intercept him before he made it to the courtroom.
A. divert B. interrupt C. detain D. stop
10. More recently, due to the pejorative connotation of the term “half-breed,” many English people of mixed blood have come to prefer the term “métis.”
A. subjective B. derogatory C. ambiguous D. obscure
11. Though she has trouble finding friends who appreciate her facetious approach to life, her family is more attuned to her wavelength than they used to be.
A. unpleasant B. impractical C. humorous D. playful
12. By the end of that session Randall gave Lena an ultimatum, and now she shudders under the urgency to make a decision.
A. a deadline B. a threat C. a demand D. a challenge
13. Justine got into an open tussle with her publisher to ensure that on *Liar*'s cover the character's skin be visibly dark, so that it is clear to buyers that she's of color.
A. bargain B. discussion C. dispute D. brawl
14. Even in music sound does not come into its own, but surrenders to rhythm, harmony and melody.
A. dominate B. prevail C. survive D. happen
15. While there is no carved-in-stone edict about what it means to be middle class, it's the term that Americans hang their dreams on.
A. creed B. decree C. verdict D. statute

III. Proofreading & Error Correction

The passage contains TEN errors. Each indicated line contains a maximum of ONE error. In each case, only ONE word is involved. You should proofread the passage and correct it in the following way:

For a wrong word, underline the wrong word and write the correct one in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For a missing word, mark the position of the missing word with a “^” sign and write the word you believe to be missing in the blank provided at the end of the line.

For an unnecessary word, cross the unnecessary word with a slash “/” and put the word in the blank provided at the end of the line.

The grammatical words which play so large a part in English grammar are for the most part sharply and obviously different from the lexical words. A rough and ready difference seems the most obvious is that grammatical words have “less meaning,” but in fact some grammarians have called them “empty” words in opposed to the “full” words of vocabulary. But this is a rather misleading way of expressing the distinction. Although a word like “the” is not the name of something as “man” is, it is far away from being meaningless. There is a sharp difference from meaning between “man is vile” and “the man is vile,” yet *the* is only vehicle of this difference in meaning. Moreover, grammatical words differ considerably among themselves in the amount of meaning they have, even in the lexical sense.

Another name for the grammatical words has been “little words.” But size is by no means a good criteria for distinguishing the grammatical words of English when we consider that we have lexical words as *go*, *man*, *say*, and *car*. Apart from this, however, there is a good deal of truth in what some people say: We certainly do create a great number of confusion when we omit them. This is illustrated not only in the poetry of Robert Browning but also in the prose of telegrams and newspaper headlines.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

IV. Translation

Section A

Translate the following paragraphs into English and then compare your translation with the original paragraphs in the text.

人类的一切活动中，闲聊最宜于增进友谊，而且这是人类特有的一种活动。动物之间的交流，不论其方式何等复杂，都称不上交谈。

闲聊引人入胜之处就在于它没有一个事先定好的话题。它时而迂回婉转，时而起伏

跳跃，时而火花四射，时而热情洋溢，话题最终会扯到什么地方去谁也拿不准。要是有人觉得“有些话要说”，那定会大煞风景，使闲聊无趣。闲聊不是为了提出观点。闲聊中常常会有争论，不过其目的并不是为了说服对方。闲聊之中不存在什么输赢胜负。事实上，真正善于闲聊的人往往是随时准备让步的。也许他们偶然间会觉得该把自己最得意的奇闻轶事选出一件插进来讲一讲，但一转眼大家已谈到别处去了，插话的机会稍纵即逝，他们也就听之任之了。

Section B

Translate the following paragraph into English.

世界上现存约6700种语言。但在全球化和信息化的背景下，其中约40%的语言濒临消亡。濒危语言问题已经引起国际社会的高度重视。中国是世界上语言资源最丰富的国家之一。但是，在现代化和城镇化的快速进程中，我国的语言和民族文化正以前所未有的速度发生变化，不少使用人数较少的语言或方言也在以前所未有的速度走向消亡。如何及时有效地保存和保护语言和民族文化，已经成为当今中国社会一个亟待解决的问题。

V. Reading Comprehension

Section A Multiple Choice Questions

Read the passage and then choose the BEST answer to each question.

1. But if language habits do not represent classes, a social stratification into something as bygone as “aristocracy” and “commons,” they do still of course serve to identify social groups. This is something that seems fundamental in the use of language.
2. As we see in relation to political and national movements, language is used as a badge or a barrier depending on which way we look at it. The new boy at school feels out of it at first because he does not know the right words for things, and awe-inspiring pundits of six or seven look down on him for not being aware that *rack* means “dilapidated,” or *hairy* “out first ball.” The miner takes a certain pride in being “one up on the visitor or novice” who calls the cage a “lift” or who thinks that men working in a warm seam are in their “underpants” when anyone ought to know that the garments are called hoggars. The “insider” is seldom displeased that his language distinguishes him from the “outsider.”
3. Quite apart from specialized terms of this kind in groups, trades and professions, there are all kinds of standards of correctness at which most of us feel more or less obliged to aim, because we know that certain kinds of English invite irritation or downright condemnation. On the other hand, we know that other kinds convey some kind of prestige and bear a welcome cachet.
4. In relation to the social aspects of language, it may well be suggested that English speakers fall into three categories: the assured, the anxious and the indifferent. At one end of this scale, we have the people who have “position” and “status,” and who therefore do not feel they need to worry much about their use of English. Their education and occupation make them confident of speaking an unimpeachable form of English: No fear of being criticized or corrected is likely to cross their minds, and this gives their speech that characteristically unselfconscious and easy flow which is often envied. At the other end of the scale, we have an equally imperturbable band, speaking with a similar degree of careless ease, because even if they are aware that their English is condemned by others, they are supremely indifferent to the fact. The Mrs. Mops of this world have active and efficient tongues in their heads, and if we happened not to like their ways of saying things, well, we “can lump it.” That is their attitude. Curiously enough, writers are inclined to represent the speech of both these extreme parties. On the one hand, “we’re

goin' huntin', my dear sir"; on the other, "we're goin' racin', mate."

5. In between, according to this view, we have a far less fortunate group, the anxious. These people actively try to suppress what they believe to be bad English and assiduously cultivate what they hope to be good English. They live their lives in some degree of nervousness over their grammar, their pronunciation, and their choice of words: sensitive, and fearful of betraying themselves. Keeping up with the Joneses is measured not only in houses, furniture, refrigerators, cars, and clothes, but also in speech.
6. And the misfortune of the "anxious" does not end with their inner anxiety. Their lot is also the open or veiled contempt of the "assured" on one side of them, and of the "indifferent" on the other.
7. It is all too easy to raise an unworthy laugh at the anxious. The people thus uncomfortably stilted on linguistic high heels so often form part of what is, in many ways, the most admirable section of any society: the ambitious, tense, inner-driven people, who are bent on "going places and doing things." The greater the pity, then, if a disproportionate amount of their energy goes into what Mr. Sharpless called "this shabby obsession" with variant forms of English—especially if the net result is (as so often) merely to sound affected and ridiculous. "Here," according to Bacon, "is the first distemper of learning, when men study words and not matter...It seems to me that Pygmalion's frenzy is a good emblem...of this vanity: For words are but the images of matter; and except they have life of reason and invention, to fall in love with them is... to fall in love with a picture."

1. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the underlined word "stratification" in Paragraph 1?

A. separation	B. division
C. breakup	D. divorce
2. What do the first two paragraphs focus on in terms of language?

A. Its variation.	B. Its evolution.
C. Its social aspects.	D. Its linguistic aspects.
3. What can we infer from Paragraph 4?
 - A. Those belonging to the indifferent category don't care how they speak.
 - B. Good English should be natural, fluent and careless.
 - C. Those belonging to the assured category are cautious about their use of words.
 - D. Education plays a vital role in speaking perfect English.

4. "The Mrs. Mops" underlined in Paragraph 4 probably refers to _____.
 A. the indifferent who speak English carelessly
 B. the assured whose English is unimpeachable
 C. writers who incline to depict these two extreme parties
 D. people who are good at criticizing and correcting others
5. What is the attitude of the assured category toward language?
 A. Cautious. B. Indifferent. C. Confident. D. Critical.
6. What does the author think of the efforts made by the anxious in their language use?
 A. Worthwhile. B. Irrational. C. Meaningless. D. Praiseworthy.

Section B Short Answer Questions

In this section there are four questions based on the passage in Section A. Answer each question in NO MORE THAN TEN WORDS.

7. According to the author, why do most of the people feel obliged to obey standards of correctness regarding language use?

8. Why are the anxious considered a less fortunate group?

9. What does the author mean by saying "a disproportionate amount of their energy" (Paragraph 7)?

10. Why does the author quote Bacon's words at the end of the passage?

VI. Writing

Read carefully the following two excerpts on the role of technology in language preservation, and then write your response in NO LESS THAN 300 WORDS, in which you should:

1. summarize the main messages in the two excerpts, and then
2. express your opinion on the issue, especially on whether technology can promote or threaten language preservation.

You can support yourself with information from the excerpts.

Pay attention to content relevance, content sufficiency, organization and language quality.

Excerpt 1

Technology Enhances Language Preservation

Although advances in modern technology are seen as a contributing factor of language loss, technology has been embraced by many developers, philanthropists and linguists in order to help preserve endangered languages across the globe.

Non-profit organizations who research and document endangered languages have naturally navigated to the Internet to release their research for easy access to the public. Organizations such as the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages publish scientific papers, conduct linguistic fieldwork, and even create online talking dictionaries to preserve indigenous languages.

The institute takes a unique approach to language acquisition by organizing digital workshops where local endogenous language activists are trained how to record and edit phrases in their language with the elders of local people.

Not only do these language activists gain additional technical skills, but many activists also become highly skilled researchers within their region while becoming local ambassadors for the institute. Since 2005, the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages has helped create more than one hundred talking dictionaries containing tens of thousands of words and images.

The Endangered Languages Project, another web-based platform, acts as a collaborative hub of language enthusiasts, linguists and industry partners all helping to preserve endangered languages. Users of the website act as contributors by uploading language samples in text, audio, link, or video format using a unique tagging system that allows for easy searchability.

By equipping locals with the resources to document indigenous languages, language experts are about to keep an accurate record of words and key phrases while allowing locals to gain sought-after technical and research skills.

Excerpt 2**Technology Threatens Language Preservation**

Although technology is levelling the playing field for language preservation, the Internet still plays a key role in snuffing out minority languages.

While AI and other exponential technologies present opportunities for the preservation of language, there are also inherent challenges to using these technologies to meaningfully revitalize these languages. Many indigenous languages are rooted in oral tradition. The act of transcribing them into a written form may alter or fail to capture the full meaning of these languages.

Also, the Internet is ruled by only a handful of dominant languages (such as English, Chinese, and French) and there's even evidence suggesting that only 5% of languages have a chance of surviving in the digital world.

According to Derrick de Kerckhove, “the alphabet allows the brain to rely on the succession of letters, without having to check its interpretation with reference to a context” and this “habit of breaking information into parts and ordering said parts in a proper sequence is metaphorically the beginning of artificial intelligence.”

As it stands, a majority of online content is stored in English and Chinese, with the top 10 languages representing over 80 percent of all online content. The absence of indigenous languages in the digital space can contribute to a lack of representation and a loss of indigenous knowledge.

As younger generations of indigenous peoples become more actively engaged online and use digital applications that prize propositional knowledge and Western tradition above indigenous language and culture, their behavior and understanding of the world are likely to be altered. Such an outcome could marginalize indigenous populations around the world by depriving them of their culture and identity.