

UNIT

1

The way to success

Passage A

Preview

Read the title and scan the passage. Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- _____ 1 Kitty was a poor parentless girl who did odd jobs in the poorhouse.
- _____ 2 Kitty had a strong wish to go to the local Cattle Show.
- _____ 3 Kitty failed to go to the Cattle Show because she was too young.
- _____ 4 Some kind-hearted people offered Kitty care and help.
- _____ 5 Kitty brought her cows to the show and won the prize.
- _____ 6 Kitty was very happy for realizing her dream.



Kitty's Cattle Show

1. droll *adj.* 古怪有趣的

1 Little Kitty was an orphan, and she lived in the poorhouse, where she ran errands, tended babies, and was everybody's servant. A **droll**¹, happy-hearted child, who did her best to be good, and was never tired of hoping that something pleasant would happen.

2 She had often heard of Cattle Shows, but had never been to one, though she lived in a town where there was one every year.

3 As October came, and people began to get ready for the show, Kitty was seized with a strong desire to go, and asked endless questions about it of old Sam, who lived in the house.

4 "Did you say anybody could go in for nothing if they took something to show?" she asked.

5 "Yes; and them that has the best fruit, or cows, or butter, or whatever it is, they get a premium," said Sam, chopping away.

6 "What's a primmynum?" asked Kitty, forgetting to pick up chips, in her interest.

7 "It's money; some gets a lot, and some only a dollar, or so."

2. frisk *vi.* 欢跃, 跳蹦

8 "I wish I had something nice to show, but I don't own anything but puss," and the little girl stroked the plump, white kitten that was **frisking**² all over her.

9 "Better send her; she's pretty enough to fetch a prize anywheres," said Sam, who was fond of both Kittys.

10 "Do they have cats there?" asked the child, soberly.

11 "Ought to, if they don't, for, if cats aint cattle, I don't see what they be," and old Sam laughed, as if he had made a joke.

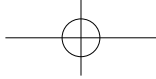
12 "I mean to take her and see the show, anyway, for that will be splendid, even if she don't get any money! O, puss, will you go, and behave well, and get a primmynum for me, so I can buy a book of stories?" cried Kitty, upsetting her basket in her sudden skip at the fine plan.



- 13 Puss turned a **somersault**³, raced after a chicken, and then rushed up her mistress' back, and, **perching**⁴ **demurely**⁵ on her shoulder, peeped into her face, as if asking if pranks like these wouldn't win a prize anywhere.
- 14 "You are going to take Mr. Green's hens for him; can't I go with you? I won't be any trouble, and I do so want to see the fun," added Kitty, after thinking over her plan a few minutes.
- 15 Now, Sam meant to take her, but had not told her so yet, and now, being a **waggish**⁶ old fellow, he thought he would let her take her cat, for the joke of it, so he said soberly, -
- 16 "Yes, I'll **tuck** you **in**⁷ somewheres, and you'd better put puss into the blackbird's old cage, else she will get scared, and run away. You stand it among the **chicken-coops**⁸, and folks will admire her, I aint a doubt."
- 17 Innocent little Kitty was in **raptures**⁹ at the prospect, though the people in the house laughed at her. But she firmly believed it was all right, and made her preparations with solemn care.
- 18 The old cage was scrubbed till the wires shone, then she trimmed it up with **evergreen**¹⁰, and put a bed of scarlet leaves for snowy puss to lie on. Puss was washed, and combed, and decked with a blue bow on the grand day, and, when she had been persuaded to enter her pretty prison, the effect was charming.
- 19 A happier little lass was seldom seen than Kitty when, dressed in her clean, blue **check frock**¹¹, and the old hat, with a faded ribbon, she rode away with Sam; and behind, among the hen-coops, was Miss Puss, much excited by the clucking and fluttering of her fellow travelers.
- 20 When the show grounds were reached, Kitty thought the **bustle**¹² and the noise quite as interesting as the cattle; and when, after putting his poultry in its place, Sam led her up into the great hall where the fruit and flowers were, she began to imagine that the fairy tales were coming true.
- 21 While she stood staring at some very astonishing **worsted**¹³-work pictures, a lady, who was arranging fruit nearby, upset a basket of fine peaches, and they rolled away under tables and chairs.
- 22 "I'll pick 'em up, ma'am," cried Kitty, who loved to be useful; and down she went on her hands and knees, and carefully picked up every runaway.
- 23 "What is your name, my obliging little girl?" asked the lady, as she brushed up the last yellow peach.
3. somersault *n.* 跟斗, 筋斗
4. perch *vi.* 暂栖, 停留
5. demurely *adv.* 端庄地
6. waggish *adj.* 滑稽的, 诙谐的
7. tuck ... in 把……藏入
8. chicken-coop 鸡笼
9. rapture *n.* 狂喜
10. evergreen *n.* 常绿植物
11. check frock 格子连衣裙
12. bustle *n.* 喧闹, 忙乱
13. worsted *n.* 精纺毛料



- 24 “Kitty; and I live at the poorhouse; and I never saw a Cattle Show before, ’cause I didn’t have anything to bring,” said the child, feeling as important with her cat as a whole agricultural society.
- 25 “What did you bring, – patchwork?”
- 26 “O, no, ma’am, a lovely cat, and she is downstairs with the hens, – all white, with blue eyes and a blue bow,” cried Kitty.
- 27 “I want to see her,” said a little girl, popping her head up from behind the table, where she had bashfully hidden from the stranger.
- 28 The lady consented, and the children went away together.
- 29 While they were gone, Sam came to find his little friend, and the kind lady, amused at the cat story, asked about the child.
- 30 “She aint no friends but me and the kitten, so I thought I’d give the poor little soul a bit of pleasure. The quarter I’ll get for fetching Green’s hens will get Kitty some dinner, and a book maybe, or something to remember Cattle Show by. Shouldn’t wonder if I earned a trifle more doing chores round to-day; if so, I shall give it to her for a premium, ’cause I fetched the cat for fun, and wouldn’t like to disappoint the child.”
- 31 As Sam laughed, and rubbed his rough hands over the joke of surprising Kitty, the lady looked at his kind old face, and resolved to give him a pleasure, too, and of the sort he liked.
- 32 She was rich and generous, and, when her little girl came back, begging her to buy the lovely kitten, she said she would, and put five dollars into Sam’s hands, telling him that was Kitty’s premium, to be used in buying clothes and comforts for the motherless child.
- 33 Kitty was quite willing to sell puss, for five dollars seemed a splendid fortune to her. Such a happy day as that was, for she saw everything, had a good dinner, bought *Babes in the Wood* of a peddler, and, best of all, made friends.
- 34 Miss Puss was brought up by her new mistress, and put on a table among the flowers, where the pretty cage and the plump, tricky kitten attracted much attention, for the story was told, and the little girl’s droll contribution much laughed over.



- 35 But the poorhouse people didn't laugh, for they were so surprised and delighted at this unexpected success that they were never tired of talking about Kitty's Cattle Show.

(1,137 words)

Exercises

Reading skills

1 Learning vocabulary in context

Using the contextual clues in the text is a good way to understand unfamiliar words and phrases. Choose the best meaning for the underlined word or phrase in each of the following sentences.

- "Yes; and them that has the best fruit, or cows, or butter, or whatever it is, they get a premium," said Sam, chopping away. (Para. 5)

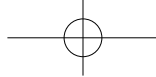
A a compliment	B a reward
C an honor	D a gift
- Puss turned a somersault, raced after a chicken, and then rushed up her mistress' back, and, perching demurely on her shoulder, peeped into her face, as if asking if pranks like these wouldn't win a prize anywhere. (Para. 13)

A friendly remarks	B strange behavior
C silly tricks	D violent attitude
- The old cage was scrubbed till the wires shone, then she trimmed it up with evergreen, and put a bed of scarlet leaves for snowy puss to lie on. (Para. 18)

A fixed up in detail	B decorated with paints
C rubbed hard and cleaned	D taken place by another
- "I want to see her," said a little girl, popping her head up from behind the table, where she had bashfully hidden from the stranger. (Para. 27)

A fearfully	B carefully
C strangely	D timidly
- Miss Puss was brought up by her new mistress, and put on a table among the flowers, where the pretty cage and the plump, tricksy kitten attracted much attention, for the story was told, and the little girl's droll contribution much laughed over. (Para. 34)

A playful	B doubtful
C skillful	D delightful



2 Understanding examples

The author provides specific examples to help readers understand the main idea expressed in the general statement. Fill in the blanks in the following table which shows how examples are used to support the main idea.

General statement	Specific examples
But she firmly believed it was all right, and made her preparations with solemn care. (Para. 17)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitty scrubbed 1) _____ and decorated it with evergreen and scarlet leaves. • Kitty washed and combed 2) _____, and decked it with a blue bow. • Kitty dressed 3) _____ in clean, blue check frock, and the old hat, with a faded ribbon.
“She aint no friends but me and the kitten, so I thought I’d give the poor little soul a bit of pleasure ...” (Para. 30)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sam wanted to buy Kitty a dinner, a book, or something for her to 4) _____ the Cattle Show. • Sam wanted to give Kitty some money as a 5) _____ for her cat.

Reading and discussion

3 Discuss the following questions with your classmates.

- 1 This passage shows little Kitty’s unexpected success at the Cattle Show. How do you think about such a success?
- 2 Do you have such happy memories about your childhood? Share them with your classmates.



Passage B

Preview

Read the title and scan the passage. Then go through the following list of ideas. Check (✓) each one that could be part of this passage.

- 1 Steve Jobs' education
- 2 the Apple Inc. and its products
- 3 life of Steve Jobs' business partner
- 4 Steve Jobs' hard-working experience
- 5 products of Apple's competitors
- 6 Steve Jobs' achievements

Steve Jobs

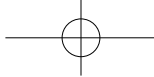
1 Steven Paul Jobs was born on February 24, 1955, to two University of Wisconsin graduate students who gave their unnamed son up for adoption. His father, Abdulfattah Jandali, was a Syrian political science professor and his mother, Joanne Simpson, worked as a speech therapist. Shortly after Steve was placed for adoption, his biological parents married and had another child, Mona Simpson. It was not until Jobs was 27 that he was able to uncover information on his biological parents.

2 As an infant, Steven was adopted by Clara and Paul Jobs and named Steven Paul Jobs. Clara worked as an accountant and Paul was a Coast Guard veteran and machinist. The family lived in Mountain View within California's Silicon Valley. As a boy, Jobs and his father would work on electronics in the family garage. Paul would show his son how to take apart and reconstruct electronics, a hobby which **instilled**¹ confidence, **tenacity**², and mechanical **proWess**³ in young Jobs.

3 While Jobs has always been an intelligent and innovative thinker, his youth was **riddled with**⁴ frustrations over formal schooling. In elementary school he was a **prankster**⁵ whose fourth grade teacher needed to bribe him to study. Jobs tested so well, however, that administrators wanted to skip him ahead to high school – a proposal his parents declined.

4 After he did enroll in high school, Jobs spent his free time at Hewlett-Packard. It was there that he befriended computer club **guru**⁶ Steve Wozniak.

- 1. instill *vt.* 灌输, 注入
- 2. tenacity *n.* 坚持, 执著
- 3. prowess *n.* 非凡的技能, 高超的技艺
- 4. riddle with 充满, 充斥
- 5. prankster *n.* 顽皮的人
- 6. guru *n.* 专家, 领袖



was a brilliant computer engineer, and the two developed great respect for one another.

- 7. recount *vt.* 讲述
- 8. calligraphy *n.* 书法
- 9. typography *n.* 版面设计

5 After high school, Jobs enrolled at Reed College in Portland, Oregon. Lacking direction, he dropped out of college after six months and spent the next 18 months dropping in on creative classes. Jobs later **recounted**⁷ how one course in **calligraphy**⁸ developed his love of **typography**⁹.

- 10. psychedelic *adj.* 引起幻觉的
- 11. duo *n.* 搭档
- 12. entrepreneurial *adj.* 企业家的

6 In 1974, Jobs took a position as a video game designer with Atari. Several months later he left Atari to find spiritual enlightenment in India, traveling the continent and experimenting with **psychedelic**¹⁰ drugs. In 1976, when Jobs was just 21, he and Wozniak started Apple Computer. The **duo**¹¹ started in the Jobses' family garage, and funded their **entrepreneurial**¹² venture after Jobs sold his Volkswagen bus and Wozniak sold his beloved scientific calculator.

- 13. democratize *vt.* 使民主化
- 14. intuitive *adj.* 易于理解和使用的

7 Jobs and Wozniak are credited with revolutionizing the computer industry by **democratizing**¹³ the technology and making the machines smaller, cheaper, **intuitive**¹⁴, and accessible to everyday consumers. The two conceived a series of user-friendly personal computers that they initially marketed for \$666.66 each. Their first model, the Apple I, earned them \$774,000. Three years after the release of their second model, the Apple II, sales increased 700 percent to \$139 million. In 1980, Apple Computer became a publicly traded company with a market value of \$1.2 billion on the very first day of trading. Jobs looked to marketing expert John Sculley of Pepsi-Cola to help fill the role of Apple's President.

- 15. flaw *n.* 缺点, 缺陷
- 16. surpass *vt.* 超过

8 However, the next several products from Apple suffered significant design **flaws**¹⁵ resulting in recalls and consumer disappointment. IBM suddenly **surpassed**¹⁶ Apple sales, and Apple had to compete with an IBM / PC dominated business world. In 1984 Apple released the Macintosh, marketing the computer as a piece of a counter culture lifestyle: romantic, youthful, creative. But despite positive sales and performance superior to IBM's PCs, the Macintosh was still not IBM compatible. Sculley believed Jobs was hurting Apple, and executives began to phase him out.

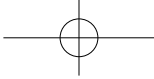
- 17. net *vt.* 净赚

9 In 1985, Jobs resigned as Apple's CEO to begin a new hardware and software company called NeXT, Inc. The following year Jobs purchased an animation company from George Lucas, which later became Pixar Animation Studios. Believing in Pixar's potential, Jobs initially invested \$50 million of his own money into the company. Pixar Studios went on to produce wildly popular animation films such as *Toy Story*, *Finding Nemo* and *The Incredibles*. Pixar's films have **netted**¹⁷ \$4 billion. The studio merged with Walt Disney in 2006, making Steve Jobs Disney's largest shareholder.



- 10 Despite Pixar's success, NeXT, Inc. **floundered**¹⁸ in its attempts to sell its specialized operating system to mainstream America. Apple eventually bought the company in 1997 for \$429 million. That same year, Jobs returned to his post as Apple's CEO.
- 11 Much like Steve Jobs **instigated**¹⁹ Apple's success in the 1970s, he is credited with revitalizing the company in the 1990s. With a new management team, altered stock options, and a self-imposed annual salary of \$1 a year, Jobs put Apple back on track. His **ingenious**²⁰ products such as the iMac, effective branding campaigns, and stylish designs caught the attention of consumers once again.
- 12 In 2003, Jobs discovered he had a **neuroendocrine**²¹ tumor, a rare but operable form of **pancreatic**²² cancer. Instead of immediately opting for surgery, Jobs chose to alter his **pescovegetarian**²³ diet while weighing Eastern treatment options. For nine months Jobs postponed surgery, making Apple's board of directors nervous. Executives feared that shareholders would pull their stocks if word got out that their CEO was ill. But in the end, Jobs' confidentiality took precedence over shareholder disclosure. In 2004, he had a successful surgery to remove the pancreatic tumor. **True to form**²⁴, in subsequent years Jobs **disclosed**²⁵ little about his health.
- 13 Apple introduced such revolutionary products as the MacBook Air, iPod, and iPhone, all of which have dictated the evolution of modern technology. Almost immediately after Apple releases a new product, competitors **scramble**²⁶ to produce comparable technologies. In 2007, Apple's quarterly reports were the company's most impressive statistics to date. Stocks were worth a record-breaking \$199.99 a share, and the company boasted a staggering \$1.58 billion profit, an \$18 billion surplus in the bank, and zero debt.
- 14 In 2008, iTunes became the second biggest music retailer in America – second only to Walmart. Half of Apple's current revenue comes from iTunes and iPod sales, with 200 million iPods sold and six billion songs downloaded. For these reasons, Apple has been rated No. 1 in America's Most Admired Companies, and No. 1 amongst *Fortune* 500 companies for returns to shareholders.
- 15 Early in 2009, reports circulated about Jobs' weight loss, some predicting his health issues had returned, which included a liver transplant. Jobs had responded to these concerns by stating he was dealing with a **hormone imbalance**²⁷. After nearly a year out of the spotlight, Steve Jobs delivered a keynote address at an invite-only Apple event September 9, 2009.
- 16 On October 5, 2011, Apple Inc. announced that co-founder Steve Jobs had died. He was 56 years old at the time of his death.

(1,064 words)



Notes

Silicon Valley: 硅谷，位于美国加利福尼亚州北部，是 20 世纪 60 年代后发展形成的高科技产业聚集区。

Hewlett-Packard: 惠普公司，是一家全球性的资讯科技公司。

Atari: 雅达利公司，1972 年成立的一家美国电脑公司。

Walt Disney: 华特迪士尼公司，美国一家娱乐媒体公司，成立于 1923 年，也是世界上第二大传媒娱乐企业。

Walmart: 沃尔玛公司，美国一家跨国零售企业。

Fortune: 美国《财富》杂志，每年以营业额为依据评选美国最大的 500 家公司，通常称为“财富 500 强”。

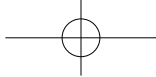
Exercises

Reading skills

1 Reading for details

Understanding the structure of the text can help you quickly locate and focus on the details. Read the passage carefully to find the details. Choose the best answer to each of the following questions.

- 1 As a boy, Steve Jobs was taught by his father to work on _____ in the family garage.
A political science B speech therapy
C accountancy D electronics
- 2 Jobs met and became friends with Steve Wozniak in _____.
A high school B Reed College
C Hewlett-Packard D Apple Computer
- 3 Which of the following animation films was not produced by Pixar Studios?
A *Toy Story* B *Finding Nemo*
C *The Lion King* D *The Incredibles*
- 4 Jobs had a successful operation to treat the pancreatic cancer in _____.
A 2003 B 2004
C 2009 D 2011



5 Apple ranked top in the list of the Most Admired Companies in America partly because of the successful sales of its _____.

- A iMac and MacBook
- B iPod and iTunes
- C iPhone
- D iPad

2 Understanding signal words

Signal words give hints about what is going to happen, inform you of changes so that you can follow the author's ideas and improve your comprehension. Fill in the missing signal words or their functions.

Sentences with signal words	Functions of signal words
In elementary school he was a prankster whose fourth grade teacher needed to bribe him to study. Jobs tested so well, 1) _____, that administrators wanted to skip him ahead to high school – a proposal his parents declined. (Para. 3)	Change of thought
In 1974, Jobs took a position as a video game designer with Atari. 2) _____ he left Atari to find spiritual enlightenment in India, traveling the continent and experimenting with psychedelic drugs. (Para. 6)	Time sequence
IBM suddenly surpassed Apple sales, <u>and</u> Apple had to compete with an IBM / PC dominated business world. (Para. 8)	3) _____
<u>Despite</u> Pixar's success, NeXT, Inc. floundered in its attempts to sell its specialized operating system to mainstream America. (Para. 10)	4) _____
5) _____ Steve Jobs instigated Apple's success in the 1970s, he is credited with revitalizing the company in the 1990s. (Para. 11)	Comparison
Apple introduced such revolutionary products 6) _____ the MacBook Air, iPod, and iPhone, all of which have dictated the evolution of modern technology. (Para. 13)	Illustration

Reading and discussion

3 Discuss the following questions with your classmates.

- 1 Like some successful people, Steve Jobs did not finish his college study. How do you think about the functions of higher education in a person's life?
- 2 What do you think are the key factors for Apple's success?



Passage C

Preview

The following sentences are some quotes on failure and success. Do you agree with them? Why or why not?

“I’ve failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.”

— Michael Jordan

“Success is the ability to go from failure to failure without losing your enthusiasm.”

— Winston Churchill

“Failure is only the opportunity to begin again, only this time more wisely.”

— Henry Ford

“No man is ever whipped, until he quits – in his own mind.”

— Napoleon Hill

1. formula *n.* 方案, 准则

The formula¹ for failure and success

2. cataclysmic *adj.* 突发的

1 Failure is not a single, **cataclysmic**² event. We do not fail overnight. Failure is the inevitable result of an accumulation of poor thinking and poor choices. To put it more simply, failure is nothing more than a few errors in judgment repeated every day.

2 Now why would someone make an error in judgment and then be so foolish as to repeat it every day? The answer is because he does not think that it matters.

3 On their own, our daily acts do not seem that important. A minor oversight, a poor decision, or a wasted hour generally doesn’t result in an instant and measurable impact. More often than not, we escape from any immediate consequences of our deeds.

3. drastic *adj.* 激烈的, 突然的

4 If we have not bothered to read a single book in the past 90 days, this lack of discipline does not seem to have any immediate impact on our lives. And since nothing **drastic**³ happened to us after the first 90 days, we repeat this error in judgment for another 90 days, and on and on it goes. Why? Because it doesn’t seem to matter. And herein lies the great danger. Far worse than not reading the books is not even realizing that it matters!



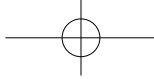
- 5 Those who eat too many of the wrong foods are contributing to a future health problem, but the joy of the moment **overshadows**⁴ the consequence of the future. It does not seem to matter. Those who smoke too much or drink too much go on making these poor choices year after year after year ... because it doesn't seem to matter. But the pain and regret of these errors in judgment have only been delayed for a future time. Consequences are seldom instant; instead, they accumulate until the inevitable day of reckoning⁵ finally arrives and the price must be paid for our poor choices – choices that didn't seem to matter.
- 6 Failure's most dangerous attribute is its subtlety. In the short term those little errors don't seem to make any difference. We do not seem to be failing. In fact, sometimes these accumulated errors in judgment occur throughout a period of great joy and prosperity in our lives. Since nothing terrible happens to us, since there are no instant consequences to capture our attention, we simply drift from one day to the next, repeating the errors, thinking the wrong thoughts, listening to the wrong voices and making the wrong choices. The sky did not fall in on us yesterday; therefore the act was probably harmless. Since it seemed to have no measurable consequence, it is probably safe to repeat.
- 7 But we must become better educated than that!
- 8 If at the end of the day when we made our first error in judgment the sky had fallen in on us, we undoubtedly would have taken immediate steps to ensure that the act would never be repeated again. Like the child who places his hand on a hot burner despite his parents' warnings, we would have had an **instantaneous**⁶ experience accompanying our error in judgment.
- 9 Unfortunately, failure does not shout out its warnings as our parents once did. This is why it is **imperative**⁷ to refine our philosophy in order to be able to make better choices. With a powerful, personal philosophy guiding our every step, we become more aware of our errors in judgment and more aware that each error really does matter.
- 10 Now here is the great news. Just like the formula for failure, the formula for success is easy to follow: It's a few simple disciplines practiced every day.
- 11 Now here is an interesting question worth pondering: How can we change the errors in the formula for failure into the disciplines required in the formula for success? The answer is by making the future an important part of our current philosophy.

4. overshadow *vt.* 掩盖, 遮蔽

5. day of reckoning 清算日, 报应的日子

6. instantaneous *adj.* 瞬间发生的, 即刻的

7. imperative *adj.* 紧要的, 紧迫的



8. *impending* *adj.* 即将发生的，
迫在眉睫的

9. *amend* *vt.* 改正，修正

10. *settle for* 勉强接受，将就

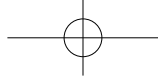
12 Both success and failure involve future consequences, namely the inevitable rewards or unavoidable regrets resulting from past activities. If this is true, why don't more people take time to ponder the future? The answer is simple: They are so caught up in the current moment that it doesn't seem to matter. The problems and the rewards of today are so absorbing to some human beings that they never pause long enough to think about tomorrow.

13 But what if we did develop a new discipline to take just a few minutes every day to look a little further down the road? We would then be able to foresee the **impending**⁸ consequences of our current conduct. Armed with that valuable information, we would be able to take the necessary action to change our errors into new success-oriented disciplines. In other words, by disciplining ourselves to see the future in advance, we would be able to change our thinking, amend⁹ our errors and develop new habits to replace the old.

14 One of the exciting things about the formula for success – a few simple disciplines practiced every day – is that the results are almost immediate. As we voluntarily change daily errors into daily disciplines, we experience positive results in a very short period of time. When we change our diet, our health improves noticeably in just a few weeks. When we start exercising, we feel a new vitality almost immediately. When we begin reading, we experience a growing awareness and a new level of self-confidence. Whatever new discipline we begin to practice daily will produce exciting results that will drive us to become even better at developing new disciplines.

15 The real magic of new disciplines is that they will cause us to amend our thinking. If we were to start today to read the books, keep a journal, attend the classes, listen more and observe more, then today would be the first day of a new life leading to a better future. If we were to start today to try harder, and in every way make a conscious and consistent effort to change subtle and deadly errors into constructive and rewarding disciplines, we would never again **settle for**¹⁰ a life of existence – not once we have tasted the fruits of a life of substance!

(1,014 words)



Exercises

Reading skills

1 Drawing inferences

Authors don't always express all their thoughts directly. We may discover their implied meaning by using contextual clues, common sense, and our knowledge of the world, by connecting ideas and drawing conclusions. This process is called drawing inferences. Use the contextual clues in the passage to decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- _____ 1 Failure is the result of the accumulation of many errors throughout a certain period of time.
- _____ 2 People repeat the same error every day because they don't realize they are wrong.
- _____ 3 Without seeing the future consequences, people sometimes enjoy the process of carrying out the wrong deeds.
- _____ 4 People shouldn't be so caught up in the current moment; instead, they must look a little further into tomorrow.
- _____ 5 Little errors don't make any difference in the short term, therefore they will not cause failure.
- _____ 6 Disciplines can change people's way of thinking and their attitude toward life.

2 Reading for the main idea

The main idea is what the author tries to get across to the reader. It can be found out by analyzing the topic sentences or the conclusion, or by summing up the author's major points. Work out the main ideas of the following paragraphs.

Paragraphs	Topics	Main ideas
1	Cause of failure	1) _____
2-5	Reason for error repetition	2) _____
6-9	Main features of failure	3) _____
10-13	Way to success	4) _____
14-15	Results of daily disciplines	5) _____



Translation

3 Translate the following sentences into Chinese. The sentences are underlined in the passage.

1 If we have not bothered to read a single book in the past 90 days, this lack of discipline does not seem to have any immediate impact on our lives. (Para. 4)

2 Consequences are seldom instant; instead, they accumulate until the inevitable day of reckoning finally arrives and the price must be paid for our poor choices – choices that didn't seem to matter. (Para. 5)

3 If at the end of the day when we made our first error in judgment the sky had fallen in on us, we undoubtedly would have taken immediate steps to ensure that the act would never be repeated again. (Para. 8)

4 Now here is an interesting question worth pondering: How can we change the errors in the formula for failure into the disciplines required in the formula for success? (Para. 11)

5 In other words, by disciplining ourselves to see the future in advance, we would be able to change our thinking, amend our errors and develop new habits to replace the old. (Para. 13)

