

minutes, the train travels towards the north through a winter wonderland of small villages and farmland. With a top speed of 50 kilometers per hour, it's much slower than Japan's ultra-fast Shinkansen. But that's the charm. The stove train is a trip through time, offering passengers a sense of nostalgia (怀旧) that's hard to find in a country known for its technological advances and modern cities.

Onboard, customers can taste Aomori food and culture. After collecting the 1,250 Yen (roughly \$11) fare for the ride, conductors grill squid on top of the warm iron stoves. Attendants also pass through the single car pushing an old metal cart to sell plastic bags of dried squid and locally produced rice wine. Yutaka Takahashi, a self-described train enthusiast, traveled nearly five hours by high-speed rail to Aomori just to experience the short ride aboard the stove train. "This is really unique," he says. "You can enjoy riding with strangers. And it's fun."

The Tsugaru Railway Line opened in 1930 to connect Aomori's less-populated northern communities with the larger cities in the south. But the number of passengers has declined steadily in the past few decades, due to increased motorization (机动化) and the construction of new highways in Aomori. There's one reason why the seasonal stove train is still in service — to attract new riders. The number of tourists taking the train each year is on the rise, according to officials at Tsugaru Railway Line.

At the end of the line, most visitors get off on the sleepy platform, take a few pictures, and get right back on board for another ride as the stove train begins its return journey.

23. The attraction of "stove train" travel lies in the fact that _____
- A. the scenery is beautiful along the way B. it helps locals survive the cold winter
C. travelers can enjoy the old tradition D. it runs at an extremely slow speed
24. What can we infer about Yutaka Takahashi?
- A. He enjoyed traveling by train. B. He loved the food on the train.
C. He was good at amusing strangers. D. He has any amount of leisure time.
25. What is the main function of the stove train now?
- A. To promote a slow lifestyle.
B. To develop the tourism industry.
C. To bring back people's good memories.
D. To establish links between remote cities.

C

A study of almost 500 mammalian (哺乳动物的) species has revealed the fact that parents' care for their offspring (后代) helps provide the condition in which bigger brains — and therefore greater intelligence — can evolve. The larger the brain is in relation to the body size, the more intelligent a creature is, generally speaking. However it comes at a price — maintaining a larger brain requires greater energy and therefore more food.

The females of many large-brained animal species cannot bear the energetic costs of raising offspring on their own. Previously, it was thought immaterial whether it is the father or other members of the group who assisted the mother in caring for offspring. But a detailed study by extraordinary biologist Sandra Heldstab and her colleagues from the University of Zurich's department of anthropology (人类学) has proved for the first time that it does matter who helps the mother. Help from other group members is much less impactful to the evolution of a large brain than help from the father, their results show.

In their study, the researchers compared brain sizes and the extent and frequency of paternal(父亲的) and alloparental (non-direct parent) care in 480 mammalian species.

"Fathers help consistently and dependably with the raising of offspring, while assistance

from other group members, such as elder sisters, is far less reliable,” Dr Heldstab said.

The researchers said in the case of wolves and African wild dogs — two mammal species with large brains — elder siblings often help out less and they look out for themselves first when food is not enough. Sometimes they even steal the prey (猎物) that parents bring for the young. The father, in contrast, has greater willingness to help his young offspring when environmental conditions worsen. Moreover, the quality of the paternal help is usually superior to help provided by other group members, who are often young and inexperienced.

If the assistance that the female receives for raising her young is inconsistent, evolution takes an alternative path. In mammalian species where males do not provide support, mothers do not give birth to few offspring with large brains, but instead to many with small brains. If there is plenty of help in caring for the young, the entire group survives. If the female receives little support, some of the young die. The researchers said this is evolution’s way of making certain that at least some of the young survive even in the event of insufficient help and ensuring that the female doesn’t needlessly invest energy in an offspring with a large brain that will die in the absence of dependable helpers.

26. What do we know about a larger brain?
- A. It comes from one’s father. B. It is the result of mother’s care.
C. It is often considered abnormal. D. It has both advantages and disadvantages.
27. The underlined word "immaterial" in Paragraph 2 means “_____”.
- A. Unimportant B. impossible C. unreliable D. irregular
28. How did Heldstab get the result of the study?
- A. By observing the differences between wolves and dog.
B. By comparing the sizes of brains and the care received.
C. By measuring the frequency of help female animals got.
D. By doing lots of experiments on elder sisters and fathers.
29. What does the new research about the brain size reveal?
- A. Females with larger brains tend to be more productive.
B. Offspring with larger brains tend to have a longer lifespan.
C. Fathers play a crucial role in the formation of a large brain.
D. Elder siblings are unwilling to offer help for lack of experience.

D

About 10 years ago, when Lenore Skenazy let her 9-year-old son take the New York subway home by himself, you would have thought from the reactions that she’d committed a crime. In some places, she would have. Now Skenazy is the founder of Free Range (放养的) Kids, a movement to bring up safe and independent children. Recently, Utah became a free-range state, changing its law to protect parents from being charged with neglect (疏忽) for letting their kids walk alone, or wait in a car for them.

As summer arrives, parents will again worry about what outdoor liberties to allow their children to enjoy. Skenazy argues that the risks of giving them some freedom are exaggerated (夸大) and that there is much advantage in that freedom. Most of adults grew up free range. Skenazy’s mother sent her outside at 5 to walk to school. That was just normal back then. And suddenly we hear stories about parents getting arrested for letting their 10-year-old play outside. A woman was arrested a couple of years ago for letting her 11-year-old wait in the car for a little while. What happened is that we decided that any time a child is unsupervised(无人看管的), he is automatically in danger.

However, there’s no connection between that and reality. The crime rate was higher in the

past, and nobody screamed at parents, "How dare you let your child walk to school?" In fact, letting our kids walk a couple of blocks in a quiet neighborhood is certainly safer than driving our kids anywhere. Driving is the No. 1 way causing kids death as car passengers in crashes. And yet we imagine that the second they step outside house without a parent, they're going to be hurt.

We get used to not knowing our neighbors, not saying hello, and not letting our kids walk to school, or play outside, or go to the park, and nowadays, kids are either in a car or in the backyard, and they don't get to know the neighborhood. In this case, Skenazy has been carrying out the Let Grow project in schools, where the teachers tell the kids to go home and do one thing on their own that they feel ready to do — when they talk to their parents, their parents agree. It can be walking the dog, going to the bus stop on their own, or buying food in a store alone. Any of those things are going to get our kids back outside. We just have to realize that kids are part of the world. They're not vases to be put behind glass and kept inside.

We almost have no tolerance (容忍) for risks. Part of it is due to the idea that if something bad happens, it's because of somebody being not responsible. The world has become safer and more controllable. We have the technological devices that can keep track of almost everything our kids do. And so you think that you can control, you must control, and that your child is something that has to be tracked like a package. A parent might say, "What's wrong with me knowing where my kid is all the time?"

The textbook case for many parents was the Etan Patz case in 1979. The boy was 6 years old, living in New York. His parents gave him permission for the first time to walk the blocks to the bus stop. And then he was murdered. The story is so awful that we remember it two generations later. And we forbid our kids to walk alone because of one horrible thing that happened 39 years ago. We don't say, "want to drive you to the dentist, but what if we get in a car accident? Think of those people who died in a car accident 39 years ago. I don't want to be like them." And we recognize that that would be funny to think that way.

30. What do we know about Lenore Skenazy?

- A. She used to have full control of her son.
- B. She was in favor of Utah's previous law.
- C. She insists kids be allowed more freedom.
- D. She was once punished for neglecting her son.

31. The examples in Paragraph 2 are mentioned to show that nowadays _____.

- A. parents know very little about laws
- B. people are very sensitive to kids' safety
- C. kids are more fragile than those in the past
- D. parents have a high opinion of outdoor liberties

32. What does the underlined part in Paragraph 3 mean?

- A. All those stories above are made up.
- B. That doesn't well reflect people's view.
- C. The opposite of the examples is the case.
- D. It's hard to witness the examples in real life.

33. Which of the following is a reason why kids are kept at home nowadays?

- A. Neighbors remain distant.
- B. The crime rate is slightly increasing.
- C. Their teachers tell them to stay home.
- D. Kids have many household chores to do.

34. What might the author think of parents' keeping track of their kids?

- A. Reasonable.
- B. Fashionable
- C. Tiring.
- D. Annoying

35. What is the main purpose of the last paragraph?

- A. To prove car accidents are really terrible. B. To point out the real danger to children.
 C. To warn parents about a terrible crime. D. To argue against some parents' worry.

二. 七选五阅读填空

Choosing the right job is probably one of the most important decisions we have to make in life, and it is frequently one of the hardest decisions we have to make. One important question that you might ask yourself is: "How do I get a good job?" ____36____.

There are people who can answer an insignificant advertisement in the local paper and land the best job in the world; others write to all sorts of places all over the country, and never seem to get a reply at all. Still others believe that the in person, door-to-door approach is by far the best way to get a job; and then there are those who, through no active decision of their own, just seem to be in the right place at the right time. ____37____. He used to spend a lot of his free time down by the sea watching the tall ships, but never thinking that he might one day sail one of them. His father was a farmer, and being a sailor could never be anything for the boy but an idle dream. One day, on his usual wandering, he heard the captain of the ship complaining that he could not sail because one member of his crew was sick. Without stopping to think, the lad (少年) offered to take his place. ____38____.

____39____. If the lad had gone home to consider about his decision for a week, he may have missed his chance. It is one thing to be offered an opportunity; it is another thing to take it and use it well.

Sometimes we hear stories about people who break all the rules and still seem to land plum jobs (美差). When you go for a job interview or fill out an application, you are expected to say nice things about the company to which you are applying. ____40____. And within a year this person had become general manger of the company.

- A. This story also illustrates the importance of seizing an opportunity when it presents itself.
 B. People find jobs in an infinite number of ways.
 C. it's almost impossible to find a good job by answering advertisement in newspapers
 D. Take for example the young man who wanted to be a sailor.
 E. But there was one person who landed an excellent job by telling the interviewer all the company's faults.
 F. He spent the rest of his life happily sailing the ships he had always loved.
 G. It is very important to seize an opportunity when it presents itself.

三. 完形填空

I came to know the jigsaw puzzle(拼图玩具) at the age of six. My sister placed a box with thousands of pieces of cardboard inside in front of me. She explained what we had to do — piece them together. ____41____ the pieces, we began doing the puzzle. It took a long time to ____42____. But the most disappointing part was the finished ____43____: a cat face, because I like dogs much more.

As I grew up, I realized that ____44____ are the puzzle pieces that shape a person's final "image". Each is important and deserves to be ____45____ seriously. Completing high school ____46____ a piece to my puzzle. After graduation, leaving the comfort zone of my life, I began another — spending a year ____47____ in a school in Germany.

The beginning of my new life was extremely ____48____. When at home in England, my parents were ____49____ there to support me and provide meals. All that ____50____ once I arrived in Germany. If I didn't cook or buy food, I wouldn't eat. Living alone, I had to adapt, ____51____ myself to learn to cook.

If 52 wasn't enough of a challenge, I would have had to adapt to speaking German 53. The first weeks were especially hard, because 54 I learned to speak German before, the dialect (方言) is completely 55 in the actual country. It was very hard for me to ask for directions without people looking at me 56. Those experiences only gave me more 57 to improve my German. I spoke with my language teacher as often as possible. Gradually, I 58 a difference in my speech.

This puzzle piece of my life — my year in Germany — has been a time of personal 59. In a new environment, we have to be adaptive and motivated to overcome difficulties. I will keep that 60 attitude for my future college and beyond.

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|----------------------|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 41. A. Throwing away | B. Holding up | C. Spreading out | D. Seeing through |
| 42. A. paint | B design | C. play | D. complete |
| 43. A. image | B. answer | C. task | D. cardboard |
| 44. A. lessons | B. experiences | C. stories | D. details |
| 45. A. remembered | B. showed | C. treated | D. researched |
| 46. A. added | B. linked | C. applied | D. limited |
| 47. A. traveling | B. working | C. teaching | D. studying |
| 48. A. disappointing | B. challenging | C. amazing | D. puzzling |
| 49. A. still | B. seldom | C. always | D. hardly |
| 50. A. continued | B. changed | C. recovered | D. mattered |
| 51. A. allowing | B. reminding | C. warning | D. willing |
| 52. A. cooking | B. graduation | C. purchase | D. loneliness |
| 53. A. occasionally | B. loudly | C. slowly | D. constantly |
| 54. A. if | B. although | C. once | D. after |
| 55. A. fluent | B. difficult | C. different | D. universal |
| 56. A. strangely | B. curiously | C. sincerely | D. anxiously |
| 57. A. ability | B. permission | C. opportunity | D. motivation |
| 58. A. noticed | B. stressed | C. explored | D. reflected |
| 59. A. survival | B. growth | C. discovery | D. struggle |
| 60. A. natural | B. responsible | C. positive | D. general |

四. 语法填空

There was a man who had four sons. Never 61 they stop quarrelling with one another. He was always telling them how much 62 (easy) life would be if they worked together but they took absolutely no notice of him. One day he decided to show them 63 he meant.

He called all the sons together and put a 64 (tight) tied bundle of sticks on the floor in front of them.

"Can you break that?" he asked the youngest son. The boy put his knee on the bundle but 65 he pressed and pulled with his arms he could not bend the wood.

The father required each son in turn 66 (try) to break the bundle, but 67 of them could do it. Then he 68 (tie) the string and scattered the sticks.

Now try," said the father. The boys broke the sticks easily in their hands.

"Do you see what I mean?" the father asked, "if only you stand together no one can hurt you. If you all disagree the whole 69 and insist on going your separate ways, the first enemy you meet will be able to destroy you." United we stand, 70 (divide) we fall.

期末复习（一）答案：

阅读理解

21-22 BC 23-25 CAB 26-29 DABC 30-35 CBBADD

七选五阅读填空

36-40 BDFAE

完形填空

41-45 CDABD 46-50 ADBCB 51-55 DADBC 56-60 ADABC

语法填空

61. did 62. easier 63. what 64. tightly 65. when/while/although/though

66. to try 67. none 68. untied 69. time 70. divided