

1 ① When she was 36 years old, Agatha Christie left home one \*foggy night and **disappeared**. The next morning her car was found \*halfway down a \*grassy **bank** with its hood **stuck** in the **bushes**. The **police** found her **fur** coat in the car, but there was no sign of her.  
5 What they **suspected** was **attempted suicide** because her **marriage** was **seriously** troubled at the time.

② **Despite** the **extensive** police **search** of the **whole** area, there were no **clues** to her \*whereabouts. But then, eleven days after her **disappearance**, the head waiter at a hotel in North Yorkshire **noticed**  
10 that one of the female **guests** looked **similar** to the newspaper **photos** of the **missing** novelist. (114 words)

- 1 ① He **rang** the police, and her husband **rushed** to see her. To his surprise, however, Agatha **acted** like a **completely** different person and didn't seem to **recognize** her husband. He thought she had suffered a **memory loss** due to stress.
- 5 ② In fact, it was a \*distressful **incident** for Agatha, and was **followed** by their **divorce**. But **ironically**, the incident made her a best-selling novelist. Her next novel, *The Big Four*, sold 9,000 **copies**, more than twice as many as any of her previous books. (84 words)

1 Have you ever thought about what skin does for us? Most of us are **aware** that skin **protects** us from liquid, heat, cold, **dirt**, and **bacteria**. But that is not its only job. For instance, the skin is where our bodies make the vitamin D that we need. Another **function** has

5 to do with the **sense** of touch. Without that sense, we could not feel any difference between **rough** and **smooth surfaces**. Skin can even help us **determine** if someone is sick. The wrong color — slightly gray or very **pale** — may be a sign of **disease**. Skin may reflect a person's **mental state**, too. Unusual **sweating**, for example, may be a sign that

10 a person is nervous or under stress. (120 words)

1 **Genes**, the **basic parts** of **cells** which are **passed** down from  
parents to children, may have something to do with **human behavior**.  
In an experiment, scientists put flies into a **glass tube** and placed a  
light at the **end** of it. Some of the flies began flying **toward** the light,  
5 some began walking, and some did not move at all. On the **basis** of the  
flies' actions, they were separated into different groups: flies that love  
light, flies that like light, and flies that like the dark. The **researchers**  
found that these three groups of flies had **variations** in a **particular**  
set of genes. This **suggested** to the researchers that the variations  
10 in these genes might explain the differences in the flies' behaviors. If  
genes **influence** behaviors in flies, why not in humans too? (134 words)

1 There are many **benefits** of reading books **aloud** to young children. First, reading aloud is a wonderful **opportunity** for parents to spend time in **close** contact with their children. After a busy day, reading a book can be a **relaxing** way for a family to **slow** down and  
5 **communicate**. Another important **feature** of reading aloud is that many books have thoughtful ideas or **moral** messages. Parents and children can **explore** these **concepts** together. In addition, listening to stories helps a child learn **vocabulary** and **sentence structure**. Moreover, some researchers believe that reading aloud to a child  
10 **actually stimulates** learning and benefits **brain development**. Studies have shown that children do better in school when their parents have read to them **frequently**. Psychologists, doctors, teachers, and librarians **encourage** parents to read aloud on a **regular** basis to **assist** the development of the child and build strong family  
15 relationships. (146 words)

1 ① Every day millions of people in **offices**, supermarkets, and **factories**  
**worldwide** hear **background** music. For most background music, the  
soundtracks have been carefully **selected** to change human behavior.  
According to research, fast music will not change human behavior  
5 as much as slow music. Slow music, for instance, will make **customers**  
shop more slowly. The longer they shop in a store, the more they will  
buy.

② Background music has also been used with great **success** in many  
factories. Fast music does not make **employees** work faster as some  
10 had **expected**, **nor** does slow music make them work slower. The  
**main** effect of background music is that it **reduces** work-related **stress**  
and helps employees stay interested in their work. This **necessarily**  
reduces on-the-job **accidents** and **saves companies** money.

③ Next time you hear background music, listen carefully and try to  
15 guess which of your behaviors it is trying to change. **Chances** are that  
you too are somehow being influenced by background music.

(159 words)

1 ① Have you ever noticed the different **approaches** people use to **deal**  
with problems? Some people, “\*individualists”, **generally** try to work  
through problems on their own. Other people, “\*cooperators”, **tend**  
to approach problem-solving as a group matter. Each approach has  
5 **positive** and **negative** points.

② Individualists may often be the **quickest** to find an answer to a  
problem, and they tend to be **willing** to take **responsibility**. However,  
this approach is not perfect. They may be too **committed** to a  
particular **position** to be able to change their **opinions**. In this way,  
10 the individualists’ approach may **result** in **difficulties** later.

③ Cooperators are valued as team members — in sports or school or  
work. They tend to be **flexible enough** to recognize the **importance**  
of other points of view when problems **arise**. This approach, however,  
can take a long time, which may lead to **delays** in **solving** problems.  
15 Such difficulties sometimes cannot be avoided with the cooperators’  
approach.

④ We should learn to recognize the different approaches to dealing  
with problems. This **knowledge** can help us build smoother relations  
between people with different approaches to problem-solving.

(181 words)

1 **Although** cats **appear** to **perform** most actions **instinctively**, they  
also seem to react to human behavior and **adapt** themselves to it. For  
instance, some cats behave as if they understood their **owners'** feelings.  
One cat owner told of the time when she **lay** crying and **exhausted** on  
5 her bed, and her cat put its front legs around her head and **comforted**  
her. Cats also sometimes appear to be able to understand the function  
of many of the things human beings use. For example, some cats, when  
they bring a captured bird or mouse into the house, put it on a **plate** or  
in a **dish**. There are also cats who know how to open a door by turning  
10 the **handle**. **Furthermore**, a lot of cats seem to understand what their  
owners say. A writer tells a story of her cat who used to sleep on **top**  
of her word processor. At first, when the cat's **tail** \*got in the way of  
the screen, the owner would push its tail away and say, "Move your tail,  
please." **Eventually**, she didn't have to push the tail but only had to tell  
15 the cat to move it. (194 words)

1 ① English is a language with an **enormous** number of words, but how many English words are there? Most dictionaries used by **college** students have about 200,000 words, while most full-length dictionaries have about 300,000 to 600,000. **Meanwhile**, an **organization** called the Global Language **Monitor** positively claims that there are **exactly** 5 1,019,729 English words.

② But counting the number of words in English is not an easy **task**. First of all, many words that we use in English today were **originally** words in other languages. Should the words *sushi* or *tsunami* be 10 **considered** English words now that they are frequently used? Then there is the question of words that were used **centuries** ago but are no longer used today. Should they be counted too? What about words that are only used in **certain regions** of a country? (135 words)



1 ① And the **list** of questions goes on. Should we count the **verb**, the adjective, the noun, and other **forms** of a word as separate words? In other words, would **drive**, **driving**, and **driver** be counted as separate words? Should a **compound** word be counted as one word or should  
5 each of the words in it be counted separately? How about the **huge** number of **technical** and **scientific terms**? **Finally**, to **add** to the difficulties of counting words, we need to consider new words that are being **created** all the time.

10 ② The **constantly** changing **nature** of language is **frustrating** for anyone trying to count words. But this is also what makes language so interesting. English, like other languages, always offers something new to learn!  
(123 words)