

総合英語 読解問題演習

Read the following passage and answer the questions below.

Undoubtedly one of the most important contributions to the formation of culture was discovering the means to control fire. We are sure that some cave dwellers used fire as long as 750,000 years ago, and we are relatively certain that humans acquired it at an even earlier date. Fire extended humans' geographical boundaries by allowing them to travel into regions that were previously too cold to explore. In so doing, they could expand their knowledge as well as find new resources to exploit.

Before learning to control fire, humans probably slept in trees in order to avoid the attack of ground-dwelling predators. However, with a campfire to keep the predators away, they could sleep soundly and securely on the ground. This new physical arrangement for sleeping allowed group members to sleep closer to one another, encouraging interaction that contributed to the cohesion and solidarity of the group.

Fire was used for a number of purposes, from cooking to aiding in the hunting of animals. Probably the most important effect of learning to control fire, though, was the way it changed the rhythm of life. Before fire, the human daily cycle coincided with the rising and setting of the Sun – roughly twelve hours of activity and twelve hours of rest. But fire lengthened the day. It allowed the human more time to think and talk about the day's events and to prepare strategies for coping with tomorrow. The campfire afforded the opportunity to exercise the mind in a relaxed atmosphere, away from the routine daily pressures of survival. This new opportunity to think and discuss plans – often regarding events not immediate in time or place – created pressure for a more structured communication system than had existed until that time. Some anthropologists, in fact, associate the advent of grammar with the nighttime conversations made possible by fire. Learning to control fire, then, contributed significantly to the formation of culture.

QUESTIONS

1. With which of the following topics is the passage primarily concerned?

- (A) the history of fire
- (B) human culture before the discovery of fire
- (C) the contribution of fire to human culture
- (D) how fire is used today

2. The author implies that which of the following was the predators' reaction to fire?

- (A) indifference
- (B) boredom
- (C) fear
- (D) curiosity

3. In paragraph 3, the word roughly could best be replaced by which of the following?

- (A) unevenly
- (B) approximately
- (C) crudely
- (D) irregularly

4. Which of the following can be most reasonably concluded on the basis of the passage?

- (A) Fire allowed early humans to consume their prey over longer periods of time.
- (B) The invention of fire marked the advent of humankind.
- (C) The use of fire was responsible for the development of certain patterned racial differences.
- (D) Fire may have aided in the development of human language.

5. In paragraph 1, the phrase find new resources to exploit indicates that early humans were able to

- (A) create fireworks as a source of entertainment
- (B) use fire to take advantage of their surroundings
- (C) utilize the light provided by fire to find people who were lost
- (D) find sources of knowledge through reading by candlelight

Each sentence below has a blank indicating that something has been omitted. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

6. Some species of wild boars are capable of building _____ shelters from leaves and grass.

- (A) biased
- (B) man-made
- (C) edible
- (D) primitive

7. In Southern Mexico, the Mixtec language has so many _____ that two people from adjacent villages sometimes have difficulty communicating with one another.

- (A) biases
- (B) dialects
- (C) oaths
- (D) obstacles

8. Many Quakers, unwilling to imply that they might be dishonest under any circumstances, refuse to take _____.

- (A) dialects
- (B) oaths
- (C) refreshments
- (D) obstacles

9. The conservative-dominated Supreme Court proved an insurmountable _____ to the presidential aspirations of Al Gore.

- (A) oath
- (B) bias
- (C) dialect
- (D) obstacle

10. Chimpanzees, when left without more appetizing options, will _____ upon ants.

- (A) exploit
- (B) prey
- (C) dominate
- (D) elaborate

SAMPLE

ANSWER KEY FOR TOEFL QUIZ #3

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|------|-------|
| 1) C | 6) D |
| 2) C | 7) B |
| 3) B | 8) B |
| 4) D | 9) D |
| 5) B | 10) B |

SAMPLE