



寂天雲

Mebook 互動學習 APP

隨時隨地，就是要學英語！
沉浸式全方位英語閱讀聽說學習！

1



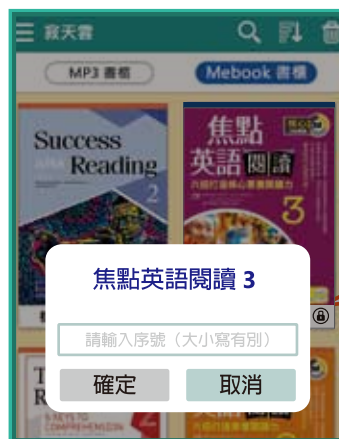
立即掃描下載
寂天雲 APP

2

註冊登入，點 **Mebook 書櫃**



3



搜尋本書，輸入下方 APP 序號，
即可使用互動學習 APP！

★ 序號輸入大小寫有別，請儘早啟動序號使用。

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD

APP
序號

請
刮
開

焦點英語 閱讀

六招打造 核心素養閱讀力

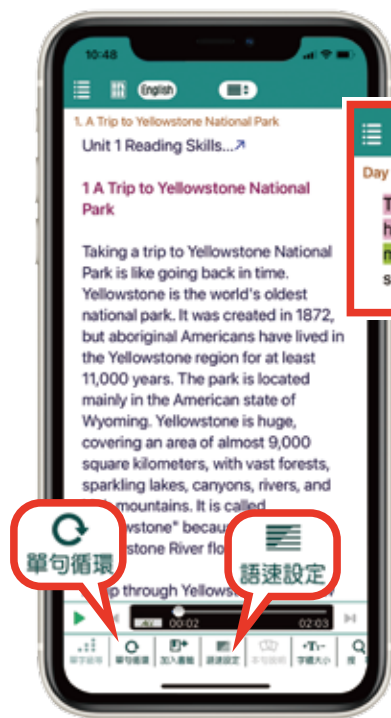
3

三版 作者 Owain Mckimm / Zachary Fillingham / Laura Phelps / Richard Luhrs

譯者 黃詩韻 / 林育珊 / 邱佳皇

全英文學習訓練英文思維及語感
可調整語速 / 播放 / 複誦模式訓練聽力

快速查詢字義
理解文章內容



← 全文閱讀

← 單句閱讀色底
表示單字級數

← 單句閱讀

- 標示高中字彙、全民英檢、多益字級，掌握難度，立即理解文章
- 設定自動 / 循環 / 範圍播放，訓練聽力超有感
- 設定 7 段語速、複誦間距及次數，扎實訓練聽力
- 設定克漏字比率學習，提高理解力、詞彙量及文法
- 睡眠學習，複習文章幫助記憶



課後閱讀測驗檢驗理解力

強力口說練習

單字分析掌握單字力



錄下發音和原音比對辨識，精進口語能力。

提供全書總單字量及單字表，掌握單字難易度，針對不熟單字加強學習。

Contents

Introduction 本書簡介……6

How to Use This Book 使用導覽……7

Week 1



Day 1

Animals 01 **The Sweetest Poison** 10

Day 2

Business 02 **The Barons Who Built America** 12

Day 3

Culture 03 **Growing Up Around the World** 14

Day 4

Business 04 **Cradle to Cradle** 16

Day 5

Entertainment 05 **Where Giants Walk the Earth** 18

Day 6

Arts & Literature 06 **The World of Criminal Graffiti** 20

Week 2



Day 1

Animals 07 **Mini Mind Control** 24

Day 2

Arts & Literature 08 **Struggle and Genius** 26

Day 3

Culture 09 **When the Streets Turn Red** 28

Day 4

People 10 **Making His Mark** 30

Day 5

Technology 11 **The Magic Mirror** 32

Day 6

Animals 12 **The Animal That's Also an Environment** 34

Week 3



Day 1

Entertainment 13 **And the Worst Actor Goes To** 38

Day 2

Geography 14 **A River of Fire in the Sky** 40

Day 3

Animals 15 **The Soft Glow of the Natural World** 42

Day 4

History 16 **The Realm of the Khans** 44

Day 5

Mystery 17 **The City Lost Under the Sea** 46

Day 6

Culture 18 **Celebrating in Color** 48

Week 4



Day 1

Geography 19 **Windows Into the Underworld** 52

Day 2

Animals 20 **Small but Deadly** 54

Day 3

Business 21 **The Bigger They Are the Harder They Fall** 56

Day 4

Entertainment 22 **Dancing in the Moonlight** 58

Day 5

Geography 23 **A White Ocean** 60

Day 6

Health & Body 24 **Hearty French Feasting** 62

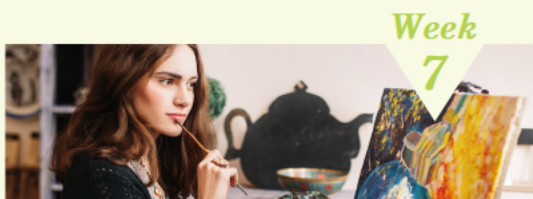
© COSMOS CULTURE LTD



Day 1	Science	25	Not the Only You?	
				66
Day 2	Language	26	Permanent Tongue Twisters	68
Day 3	People	27	The Electric Henry Ford	70
Day 4	Health & Body	28	Facing the Future	72
Day 5	Science	29	The Dark Mystery of Deep Space	74
Day 6	Arts & Literature	30	Cows, Sharks, and Spots	76



Day 1	Animals	31	Forever Young	80
Day 2	History	32	The War That Never Ends	82
Day 3	Environment	33	The Next Atlantis?	84
Day 4	Arts & Literature	34	Japan's Literary Superstar	86
Day 5	Business	35	Rare Earth Elements	88
Day 6	Sports	36	The Artful Imparting of Enthusiasm	90



Day 1	Culture	37	A New You?	94
Day 2	Arts & Literature	38	Becoming the Sculpture	96
Day 3	Business	39	Money-Making Mimicry	98
Day 4	Technology	40	The Adventure of Books	100
Day 5	Environment	41	The End of Ink?	102
Day 6	Arts & Literature	42	A Method in the Madness	104



Day 1	Geography	43	Walking on the Moon	108
Day 2	Culture	44	Say It With Your Fingers—Carefully!	110
Day 3	Business	45	Profit for a Cause	112
Day 4	Nature	46	A Beautiful Menace Under the Ice	114
Day 5	Technology	47	The Eyes Have It!	116
Day 6	Sports	48	Learn to Fight Like an Israeli	118



**Week
9**

Day 1
Health & Body 49 **An Oil to Go Nuts For** 122

Day 2
Geography 50 **Towering Beauties** 124

Day 3
Culture 51 **A Mystical, Magical Soup** 126

Day 4
History 52 **Gold Fever** 128

Day 5
Environment 53 **Building a Greener Future** 130

Day 6
Health & Body 54 **Hidden Dangers** 132



**Week
10**

Day 1
Environment 55 **Is It Getting Darker in Here?** 136

Day 2
Technology 56 **Building the Future** 138

Day 3
Language 57 **The Great Absorber** 140

Day 4
Environment 58 **A Floating Landfill** 142

Day 5
Technology 59 **Water for Everyone** 144

Day 6
Health & Body 60 **Old Ways, New World** 146



**Week
11**

Day 1
Geography 61 **Witness the Strange and Wonderful** 150

Day 2
Mystery 62 **Paranormal Activity** 152

Day 3
Health & Body 63 **Listen to Your Heart** 154

Day 4
Geography 64 **The Siege of Beijing** 156

Day 5
Health & Body 65 **The Food Poisoner** 158

Day 6
Sports 66 **The Sport of CEOs** 160



**Week
12**

Day 1
Language 67 **In Danger of Falling Silent** 164

Day 2
Health & Body 68 **Doctor, Doctor!** 166

Day 3
Mystery 69 **Gone and Back Again** 168

Day 4
People 70 **An African Hero** 170

Day 5
Entertainment 71 **Come Watch Me Play** 172

Day 6
People 72 **Dancing Queen** 174



Week 13

Day 1	Technology	73	People Power	178
Day 2	Language	74	Communication Breakdown	180
Day 3	Mystery	75	The Skull and Bones Society	182
Day 4	Nature	76	The Cold-Blooded Collapse	184
Day 5	Arts & Literature	77	Writing the Unexpected	186
Day 6	Geography	78	Something in the Wind	188
Day 7	Culture	79	Tears for Hire	190



Week 14

Day 1	Health & Body	80	A Challenging Diagnosis	194
Day 2	Nature	81	Synthetic Signal Blockers	196
Day 3	Mystery	82	Can the Future Really be Known?	198
Day 4	Social Behavior	83	Breaking the Habit	200
Day 5	Environment	84	The Stolen Hour	202
Day 6	People	85	The Heroes Who Heal	204
Day 7	Sports	86	En Garde!	206



Week 15

Day 1	Mystery	87	Speaking Spooks	210
Day 2	Social Behavior	88	The Magic Social Number	212
Day 3	People	89	Education Where It's Needed Most	214
Day 4	Sports	90	Korean Combat!	216
Day 5	Animals	91	A Tale of Two Chimps	218
Day 6	Social Behavior	92	Trapped in a Small Space	220
Day 7	Science	93	Journey to the Center of the Earth	222



Week 16

Day 1	Language	94	Humanity's First Words	226
Day 2	Nature	95	Troubled Waters	228
Day 3	Social Behavior	96	Part of the Herd	230
Day 4	Science	97	The Hobbit	232
Day 5	Social Behavior	98	On Human Kindness	234
Day 6	Sports	99	Loose Your Arrows!	236
Day 7	Science	100	Cracking the Case	238

Introduction

This book is the third volume of a series of books concentrating on training reading skills. Each article is accompanied by six essential questions to help readers understand the article. These questions are within the framework of the following categories:

◆ **Main Idea** ◆ Readers will have to ask themselves, “What point is the writer trying to make?” By asking this question, they will be aware of looking for an answer during the reading process.

◆ **Subject Matter** ◆ The subject matter question can help readers focus on the articles they are reading. After reading the first few lines of the article, readers should ask themselves, “What is the subject matter of this article?” They will start concentrating instantly.

◆ **Supporting Details** ◆ The article is made up of details that support the main idea. Supporting details come in various forms, such as examples, explanations, descriptions, definitions, comparisons, contrasts, and metaphors.

◆ **Inference** ◆ Inference questions ask the readers to find the inferences and assumptions made in the article. The main goal of the question is to train readers’ abilities of critical and logical thinking.

◆ **Words in Context** ◆ Words in Context are important in understanding an article. Mistaking the meanings of some Key Words or phrases can lead to a gross misunderstanding of the author’s message.

◆ **Others** ◆ Other reading skills include:

Clarifying Devices The author might use similes and metaphors to capture readers’ attention and spark their imaginations. The most widely used clarifying devices are signal words (*first, second, next, last, finally*), and transitional words or phrases (*in brief, in conclusion, above all, therefore*). Organizational patterns are also clarifying devices, including the chronological pattern, in which events are ordered by the time at which they occurred.

Text Form A text form refers to a type of writing such as fantasy, autobiography, or newspaper article. Knowing the text form can help readers achieve a better understanding of the purpose of the article and determine how to interpret the article.

Cause and Effect Cause and effect questions are concerned with why things happen (causes) and what happens as a result (effects). Understanding cause and effect relationships can guide readers to understand how one event or action caused another to occur. Words like *so, because, and as a result*, are good clues that help readers recognize a cause-and-effect relationship.

Fact or Opinion A fact is something that is true and is supported by evidence. An opinion is something you believe or feel. Being able to identify facts and opinions can help readers differentiate between what is real and what is someone’s point of view or thought, and explore their knowledge or opinions on a topic.

Author’s Tone An author’s tone is the attitude the author takes on the subject he or she is writing about. It gives readers clues as to how the author feels about his or her subject. This type of

question is usually described using an emotion word such as *serious, humorous, or hopeful*.

How to Use This Book

Contents	
Introduction 本誌簡介	6
How to Use This Book 使用須知	7
Week 1	
Day 1	01 The Sweetest Poisons 10
Day 2	02 The Barons Who Built America 32
Day 3	03 Growing Up Around the World 14
Day 4	04 Cradle to Cradle 16
Day 5	05 Where Giants Walk the Earth 18
Day 6	06 The World of Criminal Graffiti 20
Week 2	
Day 1	07 Mini Mind Control 24
Day 2	08 Struggle and Genius 26
Day 3	09 When the Streets Turn Red 28
Day 4	10 Making His Mark 30
Day 5	11 The Magic Mirror 32
Day 6	12 The Animal That's Also an Environment 34
Week 3	
Day 1	13 And the Worst Actor Goes To 38
Day 2	14 A River of Fire in the Sky 40
Day 3	15 The Gift of Olfaction of the Natural World 42
Day 4	16 The Realm of the Khamsa 44
Day 5	17 The City Lost Under the Sea 46
Day 6	18 Celebrating in Color 48
Week 4	
Day 1	19 Windows Into the Underworld 52
Day 2	20 Small but Deadly 54
Day 3	21 The Bigger They Are the Harder They Fall 56
Day 4	22 Dancing in the Moonlight 58
Day 5	23 A White Ocean 60
Day 6	24 Hearty French Feasting 62
Week 5	
Day 1	25 Not the Only You? 66
Day 2	26 Permanent Tongue Twisters 68
Day 3	27 The Electric Henry Ford 70
Day 4	28 Facing the Future 72
Day 5	29 The Dark Mystery of Deep Space 74
Day 6	30 Cows, Sharks, and Spots 76
Week 6	
Day 1	31 Forever Young 80
Day 2	32 The War That Never Ends 82
Day 3	33 The Next Atlantis? 84
Day 4	34 Japan's Literary Superstar 86
Day 5	35 Rare Earth Elements 88
Day 6	36 The Artful Imparting of Enthusiasm 90
Week 7	
Day 1	
Week 8	
Day 1	

In our reading plan, the 100 articles are divided into 16 weeks. Readers should read 6–7 articles each week. By following the plan, the readers will make steady progress in mastering English reading skills.

Walking on the Moon

Cappadocia has a **landscape** unlike anything you've seen before. Located in central Turkey, this region is famous for its natural rock **formations**. Some visitors say that visiting Cappadocia is like visiting the moon.

How did Cappadocia become so **exceptional**? Both nature and **humanity** had a **hand in it**. Take the "lairy chimneys" that the region is famous for. These are **pillars** of rock that have been **eroded** by thousands of years of wind and rain. They can stand as high as 40 meters tall. Some of them have a cone of harder rock at the top. It can look a bit like a hat sometimes. This cone taken longer to erode than the softer rock **underneath**.

Now, here's where **humanity comes in**.

▼ fairy chimneys

▼ housing cave in Cappadocia

Tourists can take a 1-2 hour ride and **soak** in the sights from high in the sky. These tours can be very **fancy**. Some even offer **buffets** and **champagne** toasts. If you want something more private, there are tours focusing on special occasions like honeymoons or marriage proposals. Wouldn't it be romantic to have such a great surprise up in the air?

Questions


- Which sentence is closest in meaning to the main point?
 - Cappadocia was once on the ancient Silk Road.
 - Several natural wonders can be found in Cappadocia.
 - Cappadocia is a desert like landscape without any trees.
 - Fairy chimneys are pillars of rock with cones on top.
- What's another possible title for this article?
 - Traveling Turkey in a Balloon
 - Erosion—Nature's Sculptor
 - An Unforgettable Landscape
 - My Life in a Cave
- Why did settlers in Cappadocia build their homes in caves?
 - There were no building materials available.
 - It was the only way to beat the desert heat.
 - For protection against passing soldiers.
 - There was fresh water in the caves.
- Which of the following is probably true about Cappadocia?
 - Hot air balloon rides are popular with tourists there.
 - It will disappear within the next 10 years.
 - It's a very dangerous place to live.
 - There is no electricity there.
- What does the phrase **have a hand in** mean in the second paragraph?
 - To delay something.
 - To contribute to something.
 - To know something.
 - To shrink something.
- Which of the following statements is a fact?
 - Cappadocia has a landscape that's truly jaw-dropping.
 - Cappadocia is unlike anything you've seen before.
 - Cappadocia was located on the ancient Silk Road.
 - Fairy chimneys can look a bit like a hat sometimes.

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD

The articles are written about various kinds of topics: culture, mystery, business, people, arts & literature, and more. Readers will learn English as they explore their world.


Week 7 Day 1

Culture



► The streets are flooded with hurled tomatoes.

▲ La Tomatina in Buñol, 2013



▲ La Tomatina workers preparing the greasy pole for the participants.

Some say it was just a playful fight between friends, while others claim it began as an attack on city council members. Some even say it began after a lorry accidentally spilled its produce on the street, and people just couldn't contain themselves.

- The festival has become so popular that other nations have even tried to hold **identical** events. Some governments, however, are a little stricter than the fun-loving Spanish. The Indian version of the event in Bangalore was **banned** after tomato growers complained that throwing such a large amount of produce would be an unacceptable waste of food.

09

When the Streets Turn Red

■ On the last Wednesday in August, the streets of Buñol, Spain, **run red with ... tomato juice**. It's the world's biggest annual food fight, and it involves 160 tons of squashed tomatoes being thrown by 22,000 very messy participants. In previous years up to 50,000 people, mostly tourists, took part! Nowadays, to control numbers, tickets must be bought in advance.

■ At 10 a.m., anxious shopkeepers **frantically** cover their storefronts. Fire trucks are at the ready with **hoses** to wash away the slippery tomato **residue** that will soon cover everything in sight, and the **immense** crowd dances and cheers in **anticipation**.

■ They are waiting for the "palo jabón"—the **greasy** pole. Unlike most events, La Tomatina does not start with a **pistol** shot. A long pole is **erected** in the town and a ham is placed on the very top. Members of the crowd then race to climb the pole, **scrambling** over each other, **desperate** to be the first one to the top. When the ham is knocked to the ground, the tomato throwing can begin.

■ Trucks empty the mass of **overripe** vegetables into the town square, and the frantic food fight explodes into action. In no time at all, the streets are flooded with the soft, wet guts of thousands upon thousands of **hurled** tomatoes.

■ After an hour, exhausted, **soaked** from head to toe, and glowing bright red, the crowd slowly begins to **disperse**. The battered food fighters make their way down to the river to wash the seeds out of their hair and the slime from their faces.

■ No one knows quite when or why La Tomatina began. It's usually dated to the mid-1940s, and there are many theories about what started off the first tomato fight.

Key Words

- frantically 狂怒的 (adv.)
- hose 水管 (n.)
- immense 巨大的 (adj.)
- anticipation 预期 (n.)
- greasy 油腻的 (adj.)
- pistol 手枪 (n.)
- erect 竖立 (v.)
- scramble 攀登 (v.)
- desperate 绝望的 (adj.)
- overripe 过熟的 (adj.)
- hurled 抛; 丢 (v.)
- soak 浸透 (v.)
- disperse 驱散; 散开 (v.)

Questions

- Which of the following best summarizes the article?
 - How to take part in La Tomatina.
 - The future of La Tomatina.
 - The history of La Tomatina.
 - The spectacle of La Tomatina.
- What is the subject of this passage?
 - Festivals in India.
 - A Spanish food fight.
 - Tomato growing worldwide.
 - The problem of wasting food.
- Which of the following statements is NOT true?
 - La Tomatina starts with a pistol shot.
 - The food fight lasts for one hour.
 - La Tomatina has been copied in other countries.
 - The origins of the festival are uncertain.
- Why is La Tomatina still celebrated to this day?
 - It attracts food lovers from all over the world.
 - It's an opportunity to exhibit Spanish culture.
 - It's fun and attracts many tourists to the town.
 - It tells the history of the town of Buñol.
- What does the word **residue** in the second paragraph mean?
 - Remains.
 - Fertilizer.
 - Produce.
 - Dirt.
- The phrase **run red with ... tomato juice** in the first sentence is a deliberate play on the phrase "run red with blood." Why did the writer use the phrase in this way?
 - To offend the reader.
 - To frighten the reader.
 - To calm the reader.

Each article is followed by six essential questions to help readers understand the content.

Damien Hirst and His Works



▲ The Golden Calf by Sir Damien Hirst



▲ Damien Hirst presents his new exhibit, Requiem



▲ In the name of the Father



▲ Sixty Squares, Exquisite Pain at Wallace Collection



▲ The Promise of Money



▲ Sample

Week 7 Day 1

Animals

01

The Sweetest Poison

■ When it comes to chocolate **addictions**, dogs are no different from humans. They love the sweet and delicious taste. But did you know that chocolate can be a death sentence for man's best friend? Chocolate contains **caffeine** and **theobromine**. These two ingredients are what it's almost impossible to tell when it comes to whether your dog is safe.

Week 7 Day 1

Science

25

Not the Only You?

■ You've just sat down and opened your textbook. It's time to improve your English reading ability and learn some new vocabulary. But maybe there's...

Week 7 Day 1

Nature

46

A Beautiful Menace Under the Ice

■ While exploring the Canadian north, photographer Paul Zizka came across a wonderful sight. It wasn't the snow-capped mountains, the pine trees, or the tranquil lakes. Rather it was some bubbles that caught Paul's eye. These bubbles were visible just under the icy surface of a lake. They looked like strange sea creatures, maybe even alien life.

■ What the photographer had discovered is actually a gas called **methane**. Methane is a **greenhouse** gas that's far more powerful than carbon dioxide. By some estimates, it's 25 times more powerful. It's also highly **flammable** and can explode when burned. Methane bubbles form by bacteria's way of life. These bacteria consume plain water and release methane as part of their digestion process. You might say it's a gas that's not as friendly as it seems. But when the water is frozen, the bubbles are released into the atmosphere. But when the water is frozen, the bubbles are released into the atmosphere. But when the water is frozen, the bubbles are released into the atmosphere.

Bountiful pictures that provide additional information related to the articles will enhance readers' pleasure in reading.

Week 1



Day 1 Animals

01 The Sweetest Poison

10

Day 2 Business

02 The Barons Who Built America

12

Day 3 Culture

03 Growing Up Around the World

14

Day 4 Business

04 Cradle to Cradle

16

Day 5 Entertainment

05 Where Giants Walk the Earth

18

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD

Day 6 Arts & Literature

06 The World of Criminal Graffiti

20

01

001

The Sweetest Poison



▲ Dogs can have serious reactions to chocolate.

- 1 When it comes to chocolate **addictions**¹, dogs are no different from humans. They love the sweet and delicious taste. But did you know that chocolate can be a death sentence for man's best friend?
- 2 Chocolate contains **caffeine**² and **theobromine**³. These two ingredients are why it's almost impossible to fall asleep if you eat a candy bar before bedtime. Although they can make our hearts race, they aren't particularly harmful to us. A person would have to eat a lot of chocolate before he or she got seriously sick.
- 3 Dogs on the other hand are a completely different story. Their bodies cannot **metabolize**⁴ theobromine as quickly as we can. This means that it stays in their system for a very long time. While our chocolate **buzz**⁵ lasts for about 20 to 40 minutes, theobromine can remain in a dog's system for days.



▲ Caffeine and theobromine can create a chocolate buzz.

- 4 The **symptoms** of chocolate poisoning are very serious. Early symptoms include **vomiting**⁶, **excessive**⁷ **urination**⁸, and the inability to sit still. As the theobromine continues to **be absorbed into**⁹ the dog's bloodstream, more serious symptoms begin to appear. These include **dizziness**¹⁰, muscle **twitching**¹¹, and **seizures**¹². If the dog doesn't get to a **veterinarian**¹³ quickly, it could fall into a **coma**¹⁴ and eventually die.

- 5 Obviously, all chocolate is toxic to dogs. However, some types of chocolate are more dangerous than others. White chocolate has very low levels of theobromine. A 20-pound dog would have to eat 55 pounds of it to cause serious symptoms. Baking chocolate on the other hand is far more **toxic**¹⁵. It only takes two ounces of baking chocolate to cause serious symptoms

Key Words

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD

1 addiction 成瘾 (n.) 2 caffeine 咖啡因 (n.) 3 theobromine 可可碱 (n.) 4 metabolize 代谢 (v.)

5 buzz 興奮 (n.) 6 vomit 嘔吐 (v.) 7 excessive 過度的 (a.) 8 urination 排尿 (n.)

9 be absorbed into 被……吸收 10 dizziness 暈眩 (n.) 11 twitch 抽搐 (v.) 12 seizure 癲癇 (n.)

10 13 veterinarian 獸醫 (n.) 14 coma 昏迷 (狀態) (n.) 15 toxic 有毒的 (a.) 16 suffering 受苦 (n.)

► White chocolate is relatively less toxic for dogs to eat.

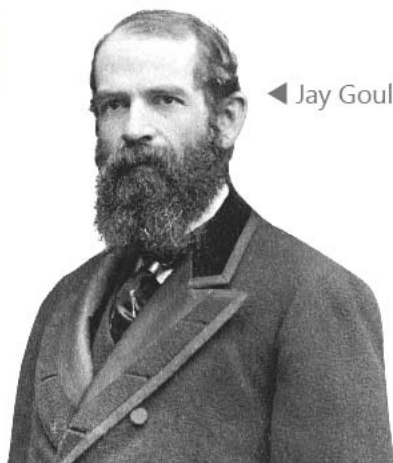


in a 20-pound dog. Generally speaking, the darker the chocolate, the more dangerous it is for dogs to eat.

- 6 You would think that dogs would stay away from something so harmful, but that is not the case. Dogs love eating chocolate as much as we do. They don't seem to care too much about the pain and **suffering**¹⁶ that come afterward. That's why it's extremely important to make sure that your dog never eats even the smallest amount of chocolate. It doesn't take much for it to develop a taste for chocolate.

Questions

- ___ 1. What would you say is the main topic of the article? ♦Main Idea♦
- a A food that is safe for humans is deadly for dogs.
 - b Tips on maintaining a good diet for pet dogs.
 - c Reasons why dogs love to eat sweet foods.
 - d Symptoms of food poisoning in dogs.
- ___ 2. What is this article about? ♦Subject Matter♦
- a Dogs.
 - b Chocolate.
 - c Caffeine.
 - d Theobromine.
- ___ 3. Which of the following is true? ♦Supporting Details♦
- a Chocolate is harmless for dogs to eat.
 - b Dogs hate the taste of chocolate.
 - c Chocolate contains caffeine and theobromine.
 - d White chocolate is the most harmful kind of chocolate for dogs.
- ___ 4. According to the article, which of the following is probably true? ♦Inference♦
- a Dogs used to be able to eat chocolate.
 - b White chocolate is less harmful to dogs.
 - c It's better to have some chocolate before bedtime.
 - d Most dogs are not interested in chocolate.
- ___ 5. What does the word **symptom** in the fourth paragraph most likely mean? ♦Words in Context♦
- a A sign that you are sick.
 - b A natural talent.
 - c Something that interests you.
 - d A physical activity performed outside.
- ___ 6. What tone does the author take in this article? ♦Author's Tone♦
- a A mocking tone.
 - b A concerned tone.
 - c A tragic tone.
 - d An indifferent tone.



◀ Jay Gould (1836–1892)

02 The Barons¹ Who Built America

- 1 Imagine an era when people went from **rags**² to riches and then back to rags in mere weeks. Imagine politicians that could be bought and sold like **stock**³. This was America's **Gilded**⁴ Age of the 1870s and 1880s. It was the age of the robber barons.
- 2 Robber barons were American businessmen who became incredibly wealthy in the period following the American Civil War. They made their fortunes building the railroads, oil fields, banks, steel mills and ports that eventually helped America become a global economic power. As the "robber" in their name suggests, some of them were willing to **bribe**⁵, steal, and cheat in order to **squash**⁶ all of their **competitors**⁷ and establish **monopolies**⁸.
- 3 Jay Gould is one of the more **notorious**⁹ examples of a robber baron. He was born in 1836 and worked as a small-time businessman until his father-in-law **appointed**¹⁰ him manager of a struggling railroad. This opportunity marked the beginning of a career that was **characterized** by buying and selling railroad companies, often at the expense of the public. Mr. Gould was known to bribe public officials whenever his companies needed certain **legislation**¹¹ passed. In 1869, he and his notorious partner, Jim Fisk, **triggered**¹² a market panic by attempting to establish a monopoly on American gold. He was even involved in a **conspiracy**¹³ to **kidnap**¹⁴ a **shady**¹⁵ investor who had once accepted a bribe from him and then fled to Canada. According to a 2009 list on a popular American business Web site, Jay Gould is the eighth worst CEO in American history.



oil fields

Key Words

© COSMOS CULTURE LTD

1 baron 大亨，巨頭 (n.) 2 rag 破布 (n.) 3 stock 股票 (n.) 4 gilded 鍍金的 (a.) 5 bribe 行賄 (v.)

6 squash 壓扁 (v.) 7 competitor 競爭者 (n.) 8 monopoly 壟斷 (n.) 9 notorious 惡名昭彰的 (a.)

10 appoint 任命 (v.) 11 legislation 立法 (n.) 12 trigger 引起 (v.) 13 conspiracy 陰謀 (n.)

14 kidnap 綁架 (v.) 15 shady 不正當的；非法的 (a.) 16 disgrace 丟臉 (v.) 17 donate 捐獻 (v.)

T RANSLATION

01 最甜美的毒藥 (P. 10)

說到巧克力成癮，狗跟人類沒有什麼分別。狗兒也愛巧克力的甜美可口。但是你知道嗎？巧克力對我們人類最好的朋友來說不啻於死刑。

巧克力含有咖啡因與可可鹼。這兩種成分使得睡前吃一條糖果棒，會讓你幾乎無法成眠。巧克力雖然會讓我們的心跳加速，卻不至於有害人體健康。除非吃上大量的巧克力，才可能因此生病。

但對狗而言則大大不同。狗的身體無法如人一般快速地代謝可可鹼，所以可可鹼會長時間停留在狗的體內。在人體內，巧克力帶來的興奮感大約維持20至40分鐘，但是在狗的體內卻會持續好幾天。

巧克力中毒的症狀非常嚴重。初期包括嘔吐、尿量過多、躁動。當狗的血液吸收更多可可鹼，會出現更嚴重的症狀，包括暈眩、肌肉抽搐以及癲癇發作。如果無法迅速送獸醫救治的話，狗有可能會陷入昏迷，最後死亡。

顯然，所有的巧克力對狗來說都有毒。然而某些種類的巧克力尤其危險。白巧克力的可可鹼含量很低，一條重20磅的狗，要吃55磅的白巧克力才會引起嚴重的症狀。而烘焙用巧克力則毒性較強，只要兩盎司的烘焙用巧克力，就會讓重20磅的狗出現嚴重的中毒症狀。一般而言，顏色愈深的巧克力，對狗的危害愈大。

你或許會認為，狗應該會自己遠離這麼危險的東西，但事實並非如此。狗跟我們一樣愛吃巧克力，牠們似乎不太在乎隨之而來的疼痛與痛苦。這也是為何你要小心不要讓你的狗有任何機會嘗到巧克力，即使只是一小口，狗也可能會因此愛上這個最甜美的毒藥。

02 建設美國的大亨 (P. 12)

想像在某個時代，人們在短短幾個星期內，從赤貧一躍成為鉅富，然後又一貧如洗。想像一個政客如股票可以被買賣的時代。這是美國在1870至1880年間的「鍍金時代」，亦是「強盜大亨」的時代。

強盜大亨是指一群在美國內戰後，突然暴富的商人。這些商人靠建設鐵路、油田、銀行、鋼鐵廠和港口而發財致富，最後也讓美國成為世界經濟強國。他們稱號中的「強盜」也表示了這群人中，某些為做生意巧取豪奪的手段，包括賄賂、偷竊、欺騙，以便擊垮競爭對手，進而壟斷市場。

傑·古爾德是其中一個聲名狼藉的強盜大亨。他出生於1836年，受岳父任命，擔任一家經營不善的鐵路公司的經理前，他一直是個做小生意的商人。這機會是他事業的開始，他事業起飛的手法，是買賣鐵路公司，並犧牲大眾的利益。眾所周知，每當古爾德先生的公司需要通過某些法條時，他便會賄賂政府官員。1869年，他與其惡名昭彰的合夥人吉姆·菲斯克企圖壟斷美國的黃金市場，進而引發了市場恐慌。他甚至涉嫌密謀綁架某位聲名狼藉的幕後金主，該金主收賄後逃逸至加拿大。根據2009年某個頗受歡迎的美國商業網站公布的名單，傑·古爾德名列美國史上第八的惡劣總裁。

並非所有的強盜大亨都像傑·古爾德這般惡名遠揚。事實上，當中有些人利用他們的財富造福社會。安德魯·卡內基在鋼鐵業發跡致富，被視為美國史上的第二大富豪。然而，卡內基先生相信，「亡於富者，亡於恥焉」。這樣的理念促使他在死前將大部分的財富捐給社會公益。卡內基先生不僅在美國，也在加拿大、愛爾蘭、澳洲等國興建公立圖書館。他還捐了大筆財富給美國各地的學校與大學。