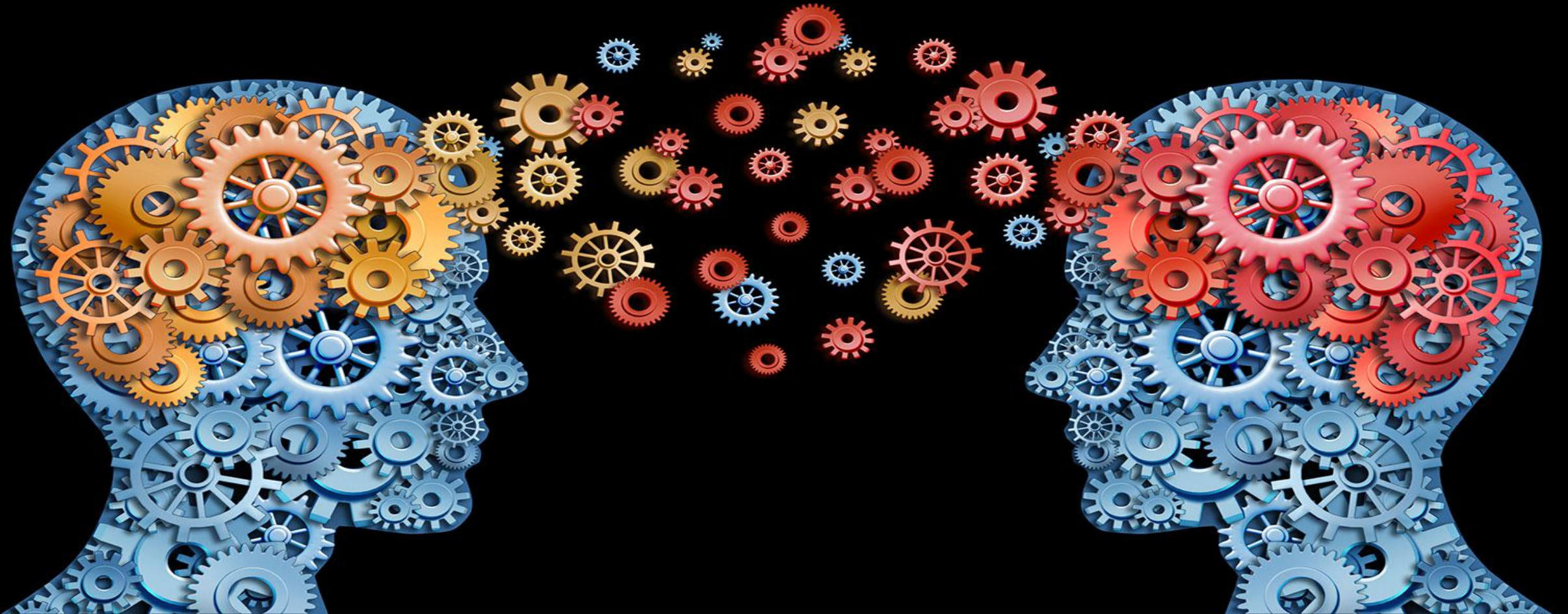


Unit 3 Inventors and inventions

THE PROBLEM OF THE SNAKES

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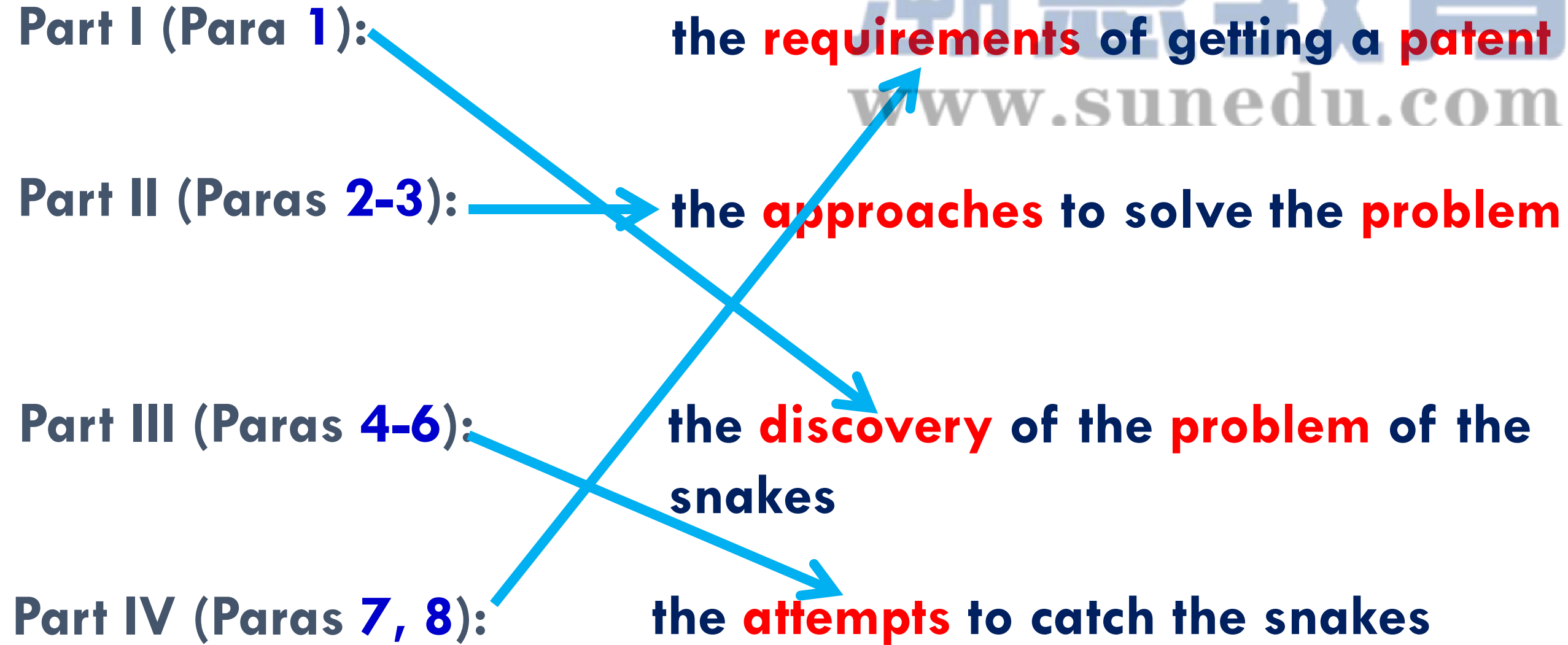
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cool bowl
snakes

patent
decided




I. Read for structure




II. Read for details

THE PROBLEM OF THE SNAKES

1 When I called up my mother in the countryside on telephone she was very  "There are some snakes in

Confident, brave, creative, kind, eco-friendly...

you get rid of them please?" I felt very . Here was a chance for me to distinguish myself by inventing something merciful that would catch snakes but not harm them. I knew my parents would not like me to hurt these living creatures

1. **How** did "my mother" feel when I called her up?

2. **Why** did "my mother" feel upset?

3. **How** did "I" feel about mother's asking for help?

4. **Why** did "I" feel proud?

5. **What** kind of person of "me" can we infer from the reason?

6. But **how**?

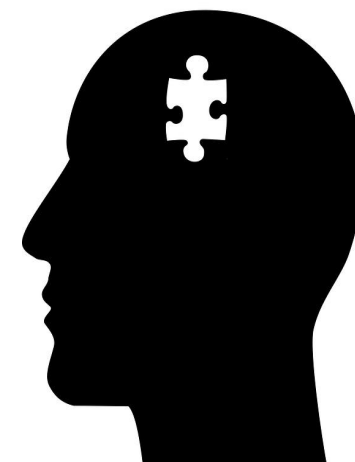
2 The first thing I did was to see if there were any products that might help me, but there only seemed to be powders designed to kill snakes. A new approach was clearly needed. I set about researching the habits of snakes to find the easiest way to trap them. Luckily these reptiles are small and that made the solution easier.

2. So what is the solution?

Do Snake Repellents Work?



1. Because “I” promised “my” parents only to use merciful solutions in order not to hurt the snakes.



1. So **what** is the **solution**?

3

Prepared with some research findings, I decided on **three** possible approaches: **firstly** removing their habitat; **secondly**, **thirdly** **cooling** them so use the **last one**. I bought an ice-cream maker which was made of **stainless steel**. Between the outside and the inside walls of the bowl there is some **jelly**, which **freezes** when **cooled**. I put the bowl into the fridge and waited for 24 hours. At the same time I prepared some **ice-cubes**.

2. **What** are the words and expressions about the **preparation** of “**cooling**”?



4

The next morning I got up early before the sun was hot. I placed the frozen bowl over the snakes' habitat and the ice-cubes on top of the bowl to keep it cool. Finally I covered the whole thing with a large bucket. Then I waited. After two hours I removed the bucket and the bowl. The snakes were less active but they were still too fast for me. They abruptly disappeared into a convenient hole in the wall. So I had to adjust my plan.

1. Could you sort out the **sequence** of the “cooling” approach?

2. Did the “cooling” approach **work**?

3. What might be the **causes** of the **failure**?

4. But **how**?



30 **5** For the second attempt I froze the bowl and the ice-cubes again **but** placed them over the snakes' habitat in the evening, as the temperature was starting to cool. Then as before, I covered the bowl with the bucket and left everything

1. What adjustments were made?

2. Did the adjusted approach work or not? It. **This time** with great caution I bent down to examine the snakes and I found them very sleepy. **But** once picked up, they tried to bite me. **As they were poisonous snakes, I clearly needed to improve my design again.**

3. If you were "me", would you choose to give up or to make some improvement then?

4. But how?



6

My third attempt repeated the second procedure. The next morning I carried in my hand a

small net used for catching

But monitored carefully, the snakes proved to be no trouble and all went according to plan. I

collected the passive snake

1. **What** was the **newest change**?

2. Did the **improved approach** **work in the end**?

3. **Why** didn't the story **end** here? back into the wild.



7 Pressed by my friends and relations, I decided to seize the opportunity of my successful idea by sending my invention to the patent office. Only a

1. What was the reason to continue the story?

The criteria are so strict that it is difficult to get new ideas accepted unless they are truly novel. In addition, no invention will get a patent unless it is

- a discovery
- a scientific idea or process

3. What does “novel” mean here?

not like anything known before, and unusual

E.g., novel idea/approach/method

2. Is it EASY to get a patent?



8 Nor will you receive a patent until a search has been made to find out that your product really is different from everyone else's. There are a large number of patent examiners whose only job is to examine whether your claim is **valid** or not. If it passes all the tests, you may have filed my patent application with the Patent Office. Now it's a matter of waiting. You'll know if I succeed by the size of my bank balance! Wish me luck!



Do you think “I” can get the patent approved?




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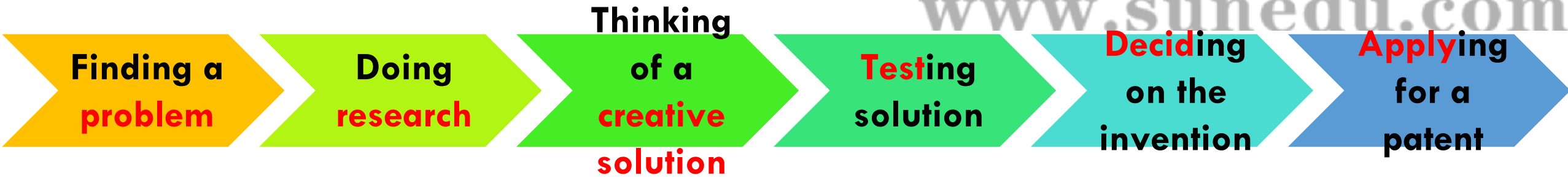
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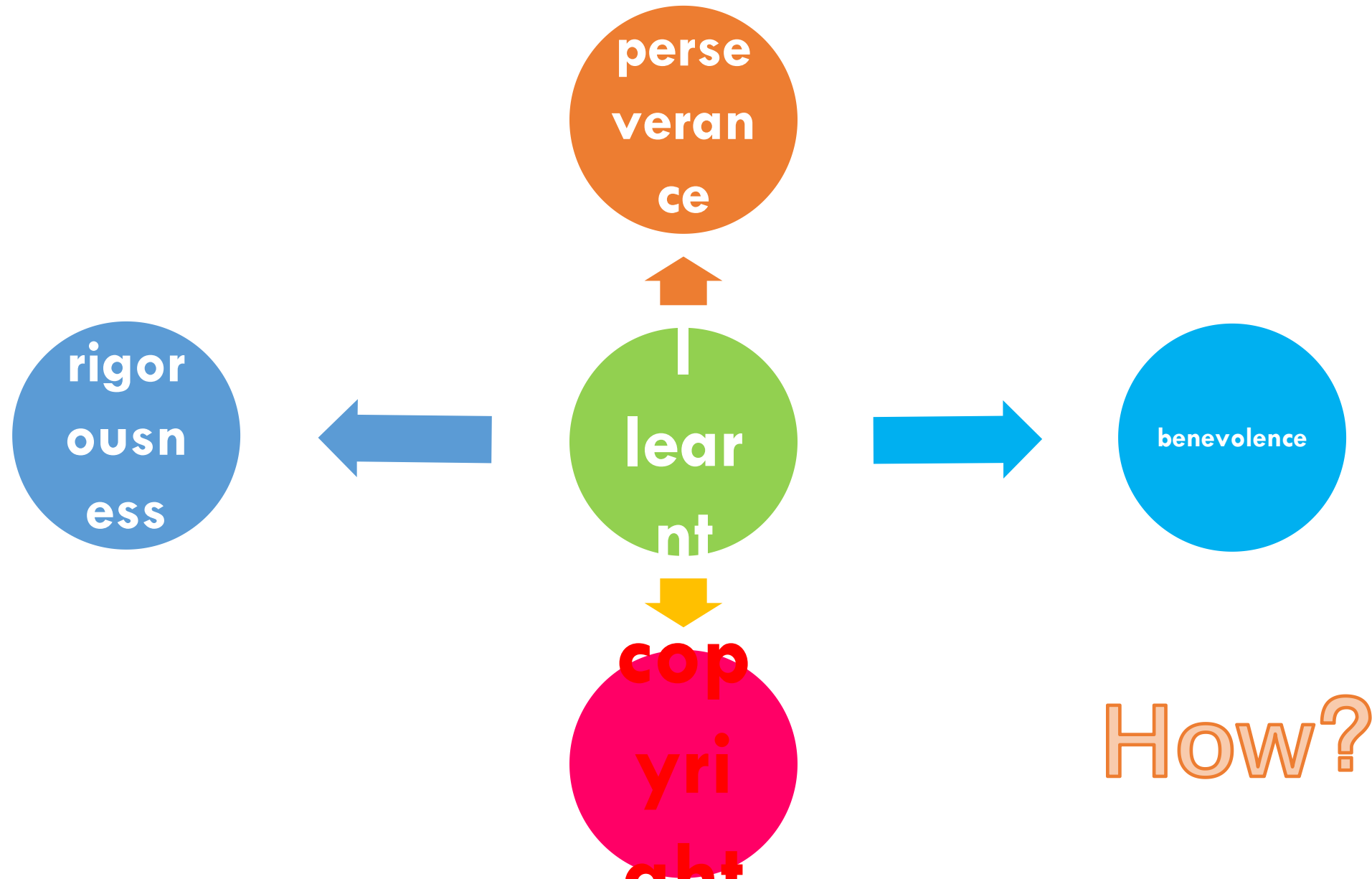
 <h3>Patent basics</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Patent process step-by-step> Search patents> Frequently asked questions (FAQs)> Procedures (MPEP) and guidance	 <h3>Apply for a patent</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Register and easier filing resources> Check application status> Filing fees and payment> Forms	 <h3>Application assistance</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Contacts for application questions> Advanced application resolution> Petitions> Appeals and proceedings (PTAB)
 <h3>Maintain your patent</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> Maintenance fees and payment> Calculate expiration date	 <h3>Helpful resources</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> CARES Act deadline waivers> International patent filing	 <h3>Independent inventors</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none">> File a patent application on your own> Legal assistance and resources

Do you know the stages every inventor must go through before they can have their invention approved?
Inventing is a scientific activity and so follows similar stages to those used in scientific research. Look at the list and work out a suitable order.

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III. Discussion: What did you learn from the passage?



Patent in US for my invention a guideline on cost, procedure and timeline to get patent in US

Hc



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Patent is a secure way to protect your copyright.

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How can I get patent in US for my invention, product, software or concept?

Stage 1: invention disclosure

Stage 2: Novelty search / Patentability search

Stage 3: Opinion about patentability

Stage 4: Decide whether to file patent application

Stage 5: Patent writing or patent drafting

Stage 6: Filing Patent application

Stage 7: Patent Examination

Stage 8: Office action

Stage 9: Grant of Patent

Stage 10: Renewal of patent fees

drafting Provisional Patent application in US:

Simple invention	Complex invention	Very complex invention
\$2000	\$3000	\$5000

drafting Non-Provisional (or a complete) Patent application in US:

Simple invention	Complex invention	Very complex invention
\$5000	\$8000	\$10000

Inventor required to pay a maintenance fees periodically


3.5 years after patent date: \$800

7.5 years after patent date: \$1,800

11.5 years after patent date: \$3,700

"patent date" means the date on which the Patent is granted

Stage 1: invention disclosure



this is initiation phase where you
inventor disclosure invention to the

[For more information, please go to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= oTJ4LOXAYE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oTJ4LOXAYE)

The way to invention requires us to ...



➤ 创造

➤ 革新

➤ 启发

➤ 参与

Enjoy learning. Enjoy homework.

1. Review and find out the golden expressions in the passage.

