The World (November 16th-30th, 2023)

**1. *New Scientist* (18th November 2023 Page 14)**

1)Text Completion

High-speed cameras have revealed how hummingbirds fit through tiny gaps, \_\_\_\_\_\_ happens too quickly for the human eye to properly see.

Hummingbirds feed on nectar and often fly through small gaps in cluttered foliage as they flit from flower to flower. When one of the birds does this, “it looks like it literally just teleported”, says Marc Badger at the University of California, Berkeley. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (investigate) how it happens, he and his colleagues filmed at 500 frames a second as Anna’s hummingbirds (Calypte anna) passed through a gap between two compartments, \_\_\_\_ tracked the position of each bird’s bill and wing tips. The humming birds’ wingspans were about 12 centimetres and the gap could \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (shrink) to just 6 cm wide.The birds used two strategies. One was to approach the gap slowly, hover near and then travel through sideways. The other was to approach quickly, fold their wings back and shoot through like a spear, before \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (open) their wings again.

The slower strategy tended to give way to the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (speedy) approach as the birds became more familiar \_\_\_\_\_ the set-up. But a 6-cm aperture forced them to use the braver strategy immediately. Badger thinks the birds risk \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (injure) by hitting the edges of the hole with their wings while going sideways.With wings tucked in, this danger is reduced, so there is \_\_\_ incentive to use the faster technique if possible. “Their amazing wings make them good at hovering and good at flying fast, but that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mean) they have to cope in tight situations,” says Christopher J.Clark at the University of California, Riverside. “The manoeuvres these birds do to navigate through tight spaces put them in a class of their own.”

2)Translation

蝴蝶在花丛中飞来飞去。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

几乎或根本没有鼓励来采取这样的措施。

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**2. *The Observer* (26th November 2023 Page 2)**

1)Text Completion

The health and social care champion for England has warned that patients face a two-tier system, as a new poll revealed one in seven people \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (visit) by an NHS professional in the past year to consider \_\_\_\_\_\_ (pay) for private healthcare.

Healthwatch England, which gathers the views of health and social care users in England, says it is concerned that some health services are now only available to those \_\_\_\_\_ can afford it. It says more work \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (require) to overcome the barriers to care in deprived areas.

Louise Ansari, chief executive of Healthwatch England, said:“ With access to NHS care remaining the most significant challenge people report to us nationwide, we’re seeing a two-tier system emerge where \_\_\_\_\_\_ (time) access to services is often available faster to those with money to pay for it.

“Our polling shows that people who are more \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (financial) comfortable are much more likely to be able to access free or discounted private GP appointments through their work. “We know that many people, especially those \_\_\_\_ lower incomes, disabled people, carers and younger people, face real challenges accessing care. And, if they can access services, they sometimes choose not to attend GP or dental appointments or buy prescription medications \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (avoid) extra costs.”

Data from the Private Healthcare Information Network (PHIN), an independent \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (organize), shows there were 227,000 private healthcare admissions in the first three months of this year, the highest since the net-work started collecting data.There were 17,000 more private admissions than in \_\_\_\_ same quarter in 2022.

2)Translation

应当优先考虑贫困地区。

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这种新药不需要医生的处方。

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**3. *The Wall Street Journal (21st November 2023 B1 &B4)***

1)Text Completion

You’re feeling \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (distract) and can’t get your work done despite a looming deadline. Your headphones detect your lack of focus and suggest you take \_\_ break, while a headband beams signals to adjust your brain activity and energize you. Crisis averted.

That is the future technologists imagine, and a variety of devices are being developed to enhance the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (brain) performance in day-to-day life.

The market for devices that can read brain activity and translate it into actions \_\_\_(be) in its infancy. But, thanks in part to Elon Musk’s startup Neuralink, \_\_\_\_\_\_ is developing implantable brain-computer interfaces—or BCIs—that can record data from thousands of brain cells, investment and interest in these devices \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (soar) in recent years.

New wearable devices build on implantable BCIs used for medical interventions, as well as decades of research into \_\_\_\_\_ the brain works. Efforts on implantable devices focus on restoring function. Applications \_\_\_\_\_\_ (aim) at allowing communication and movement have been in development for decades to help paralyzed patients, and researchers have made major leaps with implantable devices in recent years. Implants are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (likely) to become blockbuster mass-market consumer products anytime soon because of medical-device \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (regulate), high costs and the inherent risks of brain surgery.

2)Translation

一个黑糊糊的影子隐隐出现在我们的前面。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

他的市场份额不断高涨。

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**4.*The Week* (17th November 2023 Page 21)**

1)Text Completion

We know the dinosaurs died out after a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (mass) asteroid smashed into Earth 66 million years ago, plunging the planet into a long winter \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ killed off 75 percent of all living species. \_\_\_\_ theories differ over what \_\_\_\_\_\_ (exact) blocked the sunlight, reports SmithsonianMag.com. Was it dirt from the asteroid impact, or sulfur aerosols? New research indicates it was dust. Scientists examined fine-grain samples from fossils created in the impact and \_\_\_ (run) the data through a computer climate model. They found that a huge plume of pulverized granite would have been hurled into the atmosphere, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (block) out sunlight for two full years and preventing plants from photosynthesizing. Plants died, the many animals that ate them starved \_\_\_ death, and so on up the food chain. Global temperatures plummeted by 27 degrees Fahrenheit. The researchers concluded that while soot and sulfur also played \_\_ part in blocking the sun, those particles didn’t float in the air for as long. “The dust-induced \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (disrupt) in photosynthetic activity is huge,” says co-author Cem Berk Senel. “Much larger than \_\_\_\_\_ we anticipated.”

2)Translation

一想到又要见到他，她的心情便直往下沉。\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

这个药可能使人昏昏欲睡。

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1. **BBC News 11/28/2023**

1)Text Completion

With the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ceasefire in Gaza into its fourth and final scheduled day, there are reports both Israel and Hamas have raised \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ over the lists of Israeli hostages and Palestinian prisoners set to be released on Monday. It comes amid indications the truce might be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Leaked documents obtained by the BBC suggest the United Arab Emirates has been using its role as host of this year’s UN \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ as an opportunity to strike oil and gas \_\_\_\_\_. The COP28 summit begins on Thursday in Dubai.

Officials in western India say at least 24 people have been killed in lightning strikes and rains during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in the state of Gujarat. Meteorologists say such heavy rains are not common in the state of winter and the fierce downpour \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The rains have damaged houses and killed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Health officials in Pakistan have launched a nationwide polio \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to immunize children under five. They expect to vaccinate about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ children during the next five days. Pakistan and Afghanistan are the two countries where the wild poliovirus is still endemic. Five cases have been reported in Pakistan so far this year.

2)Translation

经过3年的冲突，他们已经同意停火。

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疟疾(malaria)是许多气候炎热国家的流行病。

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