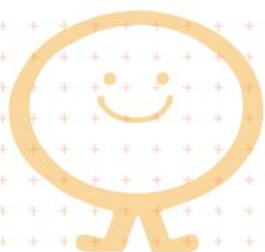


2026 年度

# 英文精読

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STUDY COLLABO.



1.

Green tea has a long history in Japan and strong ties with Japanese culture. Because of this, one might think that green tea comes from a plant unique to Japan. However, all tea, no matter what its color or taste, comes from the same plant. Then what causes the differences in taste and color? They are, in fact, the result of different ways of growing the tea and treating it after it is picked.

2.

Wolves have an interesting way of raising their young. When a female wolf is ready to give birth, she digs a hole. Within this hole, she has her babies. While she is taking care of these babies, other wolves bring her food. After they get a little older, the mother can leave them while she goes off to hunt with other members of the group. Then, instead of the mother, another female will stay behind to guard the young wolves.

3.

Vitamin C plays an important role in keeping us healthy. Most mammals produce it in their livers, so they never suffer from a lack of it. Curiously, however, some mammals, such as humans and apes, cannot do so. What happens when you lack this important vitamin? You might see black-and-blue marks on your skin. Your teeth could suffer, too: the pink area around them might become soft and bleed easily. These are just a couple of good reasons to eat plenty of fresh fruit.

4.

Western clothes have buttons on the right for men. This is convenient because the majority of men are right-handed. It is easier for them to use the right hand when buttoning up. Why, then, do women's clothes have buttons on the left, even though most women are also right-handed? Is this a kind of discrimination? In fact, there is a reason why women's buttons are on that side. In the past, buttons were quite expensive and only very rich people could afford them. Women in such wealthy families had servants who dressed them. Therefore, to make it easier for the servants, buttons were put on the left.

5.

The word "drug" means anything that, even in small amounts, produces changes in the body, the mind, or both. This definition, however, does not clearly separate drugs from what we usually think of food. The difference between a drug and a poison is also unclear. All drugs become poisons in large amounts, and many poisons are useful drugs in carefully controlled amounts. Is alcohol, for instance, a food, a drug, or a poison? It can be any of the three, depending on how we use it.

6.

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, 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 in these genes might explain the differences in the flies' behaviors. If genes influence behaviors in flies, why not in humans too?



7.

The smile may no longer be an effective way to mask one's true feelings. Some psychologists have claimed that true smiles and false smiles use different muscles. For example, in the true smile, the muscles surrounding the eyes tighten, while the cheek muscles pull the corners of the lips upward. On the other hand, in the false smile, the muscles between the eyebrows move slightly, while the muscles around the mouth pull the corners of the lips downward. If the psychologists' claim is proven to be true, perhaps people will worry less about what they say and more about which muscles to use when they smile.

8.

Gender bias is deeply rooted in culture, and it is sometimes amazing how fixed children's views are, even at an early stage of their lives. We tend to find more boys than girls who wish to be professional athletes. Doctors and scientists are often more popular as future occupations among boys, though more girls have similar goals in these fields than a decade ago.

Gender bias is also rooted in perceptions. One day at a British school, four professionals – a firefighter, a scientist, a ballet dancer, and a nurse – were invited to meet the students. This was an occasion to challenge the gender bias held by the children. They were excited to learn that a strong, muscular man was a ballet dancer, and a rather short, slim woman was a courageous firefighter.

9.

Some children seemed puzzled at the gap between what they were seeing and what they had in mind before the event.

Gender bias has a great impact on our perception, and it might seem difficult to change. However, the story of Michelle Wu suggests otherwise. Michelle became the mayor of Boston in 2021, the first woman to hold that position. On the day of her election, her little son asked, "Mom, can a boy become a mayor, too?" Just one instance was enough for him to form a bias that is completely the opposite of what society had shared for a long time. With a wider range of role models, children will be able to pursue their dreams more freely and gender bias can be overcome.

10.

Ben Hemmens is the father of three children, including four-year-old Sophie. According to medical experts, it is normal for kids around this age to catch colds four to five times a year. In adults, the ratio is about two to three times a year, for reasons that are not completely clear. However, says Dr. Ranit Mishori of Georgetown University Hospital, many people believe that it is possible to become immune to the common cold so that one gets fewer and fewer colds as he ages. "There are about 200 types of virus that cause the common cold, yet people think that once you get infected one time, you develop immunity for the rest of your life. This is entirely wrong," she claims. There are simply too many different viruses, many of which change in slight ways as they pass from person to person.

