

Примерные темы раздела «Говорение» заключительного этапа Олимпиады РГГУ для школьников по иностранным языкам (английский, немецкий, французский)

1. Образование.
2. Семья.
3. Экология.
4. Искусство и культура.
5. Спорт.
6. Путешествие.
7. Хобби.
8. Здоровый образ жизни.
9. Обычаи и традиции.
10. Деньги в нашей жизни.
11. Наша страна или страна изучаемого языка.
12. Источники информации.
13. Дружба.

Материалы заданий заключительного этапа Олимпиады РГГУ для школьников
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Вариант 1

READING

Do men and women understand the same things from the spoken word? Judging by the misinterpretation, misunderstanding and general mystification that can arise from a single simple sentence, there are grave reasons for doubt. In fact, I would put it even stronger. Do we even speak the same language?

First – and contrary to the general impression – men use language more. “Like everyone else, I used to believe that women were the talkative sex,” says Dale Spender, a sociolinguist. “But when I analysed the results of over one hundred and forty recorded conversations between men and women, the result was quite the opposite. Whether we’re talking about social gatherings or business meetings, one element never changes: in any conversation with a man, a woman who talks more than a third of the time is seen as talking too much.

Nowhere is this more obvious than on radio or TV talkshows. One host, Robert Robinson, once said, “It’s difficult to find the right kind of woman to participate in my programme. Most of them can’t stand up to me and so stay silent. They also find interrupting a bit tricky.” On one occasion, a well-known female thinker became so cross and unhappy at being what she regarded as “shouted down” that she remained silent for the last fifteen minutes of the programme. Even those women who are perfectly capable of holding their own are notably less talkative than their male counterparts.

Another female characteristic is the belief that conversation should be a reciprocal exchange rather than an attempt to dominate the other person. According to sociologist Jennifer Coates, “When a woman in a group raises a topic, the others will encourage, sympathise or elaborate. The next female speaker may enlarge on some point, add a personal anecdote, or simply make ‘Go on’ interjections. But one thing she won’t do is flatly contradict the previous speaker and abruptly change the subject. But men in a group with women often get bored with what they see as the slow build-up of a topic.” The tried and tested method of avoiding this hazard is by doing what most women hate: interrupting.

“The effect constant interruption has on women is that they become silent,” says Dr Coates. It isn’t solely that men regard conversation as a contest; there is also a clash of styles. “We all think we know what a question is. But with men and women it triggers different reactions. Men think questions are requests for information, whereas women think they are part of the way in which a co-operative conversation works. If a woman asks a man a question, she’s trying to keep the conversation going, while the man thinks this is request for information, so he gives her a lecture.” In social situations, this different view of the polite enquiry can often cause bad feelings. “The woman thinks, ‘What is he on about? I didn’t want a run-down on company accountancy,’ and the man thinks, ‘Why is she looking so cross? If she didn’t want to know, why did she ask?’”

Although women have much greater sensitivity to what the other person is feeling, it is equally true that, in situations where power is concerned, the male cut-and-thrust style is the norm. “Male language allows them to have clear goals, stick to decisions, answer directly without fudging and assert themselves,” says Natasha Josefowitz, author of *Paths to Power*. “Women say ‘I think I can’, where men say, ‘I can’. And though the woman may be right – who knows if she can carry out a particular task until she is doing it? – what employers go for is confidence.” In female conversation, this general tentativeness emerges in the use of ‘soft’ phrases such as ‘I wonder if I might...?’, and ‘Perhaps this isn’t the moment to disturb you but ...’ instead of the simpler expressions ‘Please may I ...?’ or ‘Can I come in?’.

Dr Coates believes female politeness involves other factors as well. "Partly it is a recognition that other people may not be imposed on. If I go next door, I say, 'I hope you don't mind, but could you possibly lend me a pint of milk, please?' not 'Can I have some milk?', which allows my neighbour the freedom to say 'Yes, of course' or 'I'm sorry, I haven't got one.' What it is doing is giving the other person a chance to get out of an obligation without losing face. Partly, too, it is a question of giving what Dr Coates calls 'positive face', which means reassuring others about their own value.

The reason for such discrepancies is something that frequently makes male English a rather different language from the female version of English: most men use language to conceal their feelings whereas women see it as means of revealing their emotions.

- 1) Before Dale Spender undertook her research, she
 - A. intended to show what made women aggressive.
 - B. thought she knew what the outcome would be.
 - C. realised men tended to speak more than women.
 - D. wanted to discover the situations where women spoke most.

- 2) When women appeared on his chat show, Robert Robinson
 - A. was delighted they had agreed to appear.
 - B. provided special support.
 - C. found their behaviour inappropriate.
 - D. thought they were impolite.

- 3) According to Dr Coates, in a mixed group of speakers
 - A. men tend to contradict.
 - B. women concentrate on talking about themselves.
 - C. women discuss boring topics.
 - D. men experience feelings of frustration.

- 4) Dr Coates considers that questions can cause bad feeling if
 - A. the reason behind the question is misunderstood.
 - B. a sensitive subject has been raised.
 - C. there is a desire to hide the truth.
 - D. an uninteresting topic has been introduced.

- 5) Dr Coates thinks that the politeness of female language
 - A. works against women.
 - B. is helpful to other people.
 - C. could easily be modified.
 - D. allows others to be assertive.

USE OF ENGLISH

Choose the correct word.

- 18) Adam is a really cold-hearted man who wouldn't help anyone out, however desperate they
 A. are B. will be C. had been D. were
- 19) There was hardly enough food for everyone at the wedding, ... ?
 A. was there B. wasn't there C. was it D. wasn't it
- 20) The government demanded that the ambassador ... recalled.
 A. be B. will be C. would be D. has been
- 21) No sooner had he put the phone down ... it started ringing again.
 A. that B. so C. when D. than
- 22) It's strange that we can sometimes see the moon in ... daylight.
 A. broad B. full C. bright D. real
- 23) My plans to travel around the world have ... through because I couldn't save enough money.
 A. dropped B. given C. put D. fallen
- 24) If Fleming ... penicillin, there ... far more fatalities every year than there actually are.
 A. hadn't discovered; would be C. wouldn't have discovered; have been
 B. hadn't discovered; would have been D. wouldn't discover; are
- 25) You can tease him as much as you like – he won't rise to the
 A. fight B. insult C. challenge D. bait
- 26) It should be safe to climb as long as you sensible precautions.
 A. make B. do C. put D. take
- 27) ... simply, the accident has affected his mind.
 A. Placed B. Put C. Told D. Said
- 28). He has received several scholarships
 A. not only because of his artistic but his academic ability
 B. for both his academic ability as well as his artistic
 C. because of his academic and artistic ability
 D. as resulting of his ability in the art and the academy
- 29) There are some strange noises coming from Jane's room. What on earth can she ...?
 A. be up to B. look down on C. make up for D. put up with
- 30) We've been waiting five hours and we still don't know when the plane is going to leave. Do you think it'll be tonight?
 -- I'm sorry, sir. We're as much in the dark as you. As soon as we hear anything, we'll make an announcement.
- A. It's all up in the air. C. It's a foregone conclusion.
 B. It's touch and go. D. It's anyone's guess.

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Вариант 2

READING

If you think that we are the only creatures on Earth with a moral sense, then you're in good company. Most experts in behaviour believe that morality is a uniquely human trait, without which our complex social life would never have emerged - yet I'm convinced that many animals can distinguish right from wrong. Decades spent watching wild and captive animals have persuaded me that species living in groups often have a sense of fair play built on moral codes of conduct that help cement their social relationships. The notion of Nature being naturally ruthlessly and selfishly competitive doesn't hold true for those of us who have observed and analysed animal relationships.

That's not all. I suspect that herein lies the origin of our own virtue. Biologists have had real problems trying to explain why people are frequently inexplicably nice to each other. It just doesn't make sense in evolutionary terms, unless there are ulterior motives behind our seemingly altruistic actions. Perhaps we expect a payback somewhere down the line, or maybe our good deeds are directed only towards kin, with whom we share a biological heritage. Nobody has really considered the possibility that being considerate to your neighbours might sometimes be the best way to survive. But I'm starting to find evidence that a well-developed sense of fair play helps non-human animals live longer, more successful lives. I'm particularly interested in social play amongst youngsters because it has its own special rules of engagement, allowing participants to reinterpret acts that might otherwise seem aggressive. My studies of infant dogs, wolves and coyotes reveal that they use a special signal to prevent misinterpretation of playful actions. They perform a 'bow' - which entails crouching on the forelimbs while keeping the rear upright - when initiating play, or in association with aggressive actions such as biting, to modify their meaning. And role reversal is common, so that during play a dominant animal will often allow a subordinate to have the upper hand. Such behaviours reduce inequalities in size, strength and dominance between playmates, fostering the co-operation and reciprocity that are essential for play to occur. Indeed, on the rare occasions when an animal says 'Let's play' and then beats up an unsuspecting animal, the culprit usually finds itself ostracised by its former playmates.

My belief is that a sense of fairness is common to many animals, because there could be no social play without it, and without social play individual animals and entire groups would be at a disadvantage. If I'm right, morality evolved because it is adaptive. It helps many animals, including humans, to survive and flourish in their particular social environment. This may sound like a radical idea, particularly if you view morality as uniquely human and a sort of mystical quality that sets us apart from other animals. But if you accept my argument that play and fairness are inextricably linked, you're halfway there. The challenge then is to show that individual animals benefit from these behaviours. It's hardly radical to suggest that play is essential food for the brain - it hones an individual's cognitive skills, including logical reasoning and behavioural adaptability. The more we learn about how play affects the brain, the more apparent it becomes that the activity is far from idle time-wasting.

Here I am not putting the case forward for a specific gene for fair or moral behaviour. As with any behavioural trait, the underlying genetics is bound to be complex, and environmental influences may be large. No matter. Provided there is variation in levels of morality among individuals, and provided virtue is rewarded by a greater number of offspring, then any genes associated with good behaviour are bound to accumulate in subsequent generations. And the observation that play is rarely unfair or uncooperative is surely an indication that natural selection acts to weed out those who don't play by the rules.

What does this tell us about human morality? First, we didn't invent virtue - its origins are much more ancient than our own. Secondly, we should stop seeing ourselves as morally superior

to other animals. True, our big brains endow us with a highly sophisticated sense of what's right and wrong, but they also give us much greater scope for manipulating others - to deceive and try to benefit from immoral behaviour. In that sense, animal morality might be 'purer' than our own. We should accept our moral responsibility towards other animals, and that means developing and enforcing more restrictive regulations governing animal use. While animal minds may vary from one species to another, they are not so different from our own, and only when we accept this can we truly be moral in our relations with nature as a whole.

- 1) In paragraph 1, what does the writer state about morality?
 - A. Humans are the only creatures that demonstrate true emotional behaviour.
 - B. A well-developed moral code is not the main reason for civilisation.
 - C. Humans and animals share the same selfish instincts for survival.
 - D. There is a common misconception that animals are not moral.

- 2) What has the writer deduced about social play from his observation of animals?
 - A. It provides an opportunity for physically weaker animals to develop their survival skills.
 - B. It allows animals to prove who is dominant in the group without using real aggression.
 - C. It requires animals to abide by the rules or they will be excluded from the rest of the group.
 - D. It demonstrates that certain animals possess the same range of emotions as humans do.

- 3) What does the writer say may be difficult for his readers to accept?
 - A. Individual animals benefit from social play.
 - B. Humans with moral responsibility are able to succeed.
 - C. Spirituality and morality are inseparable.
 - D. Moral codes depend on specific circumstances.

- 4) What does the writer state about the evolution of morality?
 - A. There may be a particular gene responsible for morality.
 - B. Moral development depends on physical hardships.
 - C. There is little point seeking the origin of moral behaviour.
 - D. Animals that behave fairly are more likely to breed.

- 5) In the final paragraph, the writer concludes that people
 - A. must treat animals on equal terms with humans.
 - B. should be less arrogant in their view of themselves.
 - C. are more advanced as they use immorality to their advantage.
 - D. should discriminate between which animals display morality and those that don't.

USE OF ENGLISH

Choose the correct word.

- 6) The prince power on the death of his father.
A. assumed B. consumed C. presumed D. resumed

- 7) Ms Curious is doing into the spread of Mesopotamian culture.
A. an examination B. a poll C. research D. a survey

- 8) The ambassador presented his to the Queen.
A. credentials B. depositions C. documentations D. references

Find the restatement of the original sentence.

9) 'Often people who hold higher positions in a given group overestimated their performance, while people in the lowest levels of the group underestimate theirs.'

- A. People who hold low positions in a group often overestimate their performance.
B. People in positions of power in a group may feel they do better work than they really do.
C. People with higher positions in a group do better work than other group members.

Circle the letter of the underlined portion which is not correct.

10) The doctor told Mr. Anderson that(A), because of (B) severe cramps, he should lay (C) in bed for a few (D) days.

11) Despite Martha's attempts (A) to rise (B) her test score, she did not receive a high enough (C) score to be accepted (D) by the law school.

In each headline, replace the word or words underlined with one of the "headline" words:

- A. boost B. set C. bid D. toll

12) ' Number of people killed rises to six.'

13) ' Newspapers and union going to clash over pay claim.'

Complete each sentence with a colour.

- A. red B. green C. white D. blue

14) We decided to celebrate by going out and painting the town

15) Tina never comes here now. We only see her once in a ... moon.

Choose the correct answer to complete each sentence.

16) David was upset when he lost his job but he must look ... and think positively.

- A. in front B. ahead C. forward D. for

17) Maria has two sisters, but she doesn't speak to ... of them.

- A. both B. any C. either D. neither

18) We were ... stiff as we walked through the deserted streets at night.

- A. scared B. frightened C. feared D. terrified

19) He has ... sunstroke after spending too much time on the beach.

- A. a B. the C. some D. -

20) It's been pretty lonely around here without Tom, but we're all ... a brave face.

- A. making up B. putting on C. setting up D. turning on

- 21) You shouldn't walk on a field that's just been ...
A. sown B. sewn C. sewed D. sew
- 22) Suppose a complete stranger ... you a lot of money in their will!
A. will leave B. left C. leaves D. have left
- 23) No one will be able to steal the jewels unless they ... the secret code.
A. will know B. don't know C. won't know D. know
- 24) The book was really funny – it had me ... stitches.
A. in B. on C. at D. to
- 25) He looked as though he ... some bad news.
A. gave B. was given C. has given D. had been given
- 26) Throw it to me! Oh, I've dropped it! I am ...
A. a butter-fingers C. nuts
B. full of beans D. the cream
- 27) For a team to be successful, all members have to ... their weight.
A. take B. make C. get D. pull
- 28) I'm sorry we had to cancel the party, but to ... it let's all go to the cinema.
A. make up for B. put up with C. do away with D. go back on
- 29) Sorry I haven't been able to ring you earlier, but my phone hasn't stopped ringing since I got in this morning. It's been ...!
A. all along B. all being well C. all go D. all told
- 30) No sooner had she put her foot on the first stair ... she heard a muffled voice call out, 'Is that you, Helen?'
A. than B. when C. that D. then