

2009年6月英语六级阅读冲刺倒计时(倒数10天)英语六级考试
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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/621/2021_2022_2009_E5_B9_B46_E6_9C_c84_621447.htm Look at the keyboard of any standard typewriter or computer. "Q," "W," "E," "R," "T" and "Y" are the first six letters. Who decided on this arrangement of the letters? And why? People tried for centuries to invent the typewriter. In 1714 in England, Henry Mill filed a patent for a machine called An Artificial Machine or Method for the Impressing or Transcribing of Letters, Singly or Progressively one after another, as in Writing, whereby all Writing whatsoever may be Engrossed in Paper or Parchment so Neat and Exact as not to be distinguished from Print. That machine probably didn't sell because no one could remember its name! The first practical typewriter was patented in the United States in 1868 by Christopher Latham Sholes. His machine was known as the type-writer. It had a movable carriage, a lever for turning paper from line to line, and a keyboard on which the letters were arranged in alphabetical order. But Sholes had a problem. On his first model, his "ABC" key arrangement caused the keys to jam when the typist worked quickly. Sholes didn't know how to keep the keys from sticking, so his solution was to keep the typist from typing too fast. Sholes asked his brother-in-law to rearrange the keyboard so that the commonest letters were not so close together and the type bars would come from opposite directions. Thus they would not clash together and jam the machine. The new arrangement was the QWERTY arrangement typists use today. Of course, Sholes claimed

that the new arrangement was scientific and would add speed and efficiency. The only efficiency it added was to slow the typist down, since almost any word in the English language required the typist's fingers to cover more distance on the keyboard. The advantages of the typewriter outweighed the disadvantages of the keyboard. Typists memorized the crazy letter arrangement, and the typewriter became a huge success. By the time typists had memorized the new arrangement of letters and built their speed, typewriter technology had improved, and the keys didn't stick as badly as they had at first.

Questions 1 to 5 are based on the passage above. 1. We know from the passage that the inventor of the first practical typewriter is_____.

A. Henry Mill B. Christopher Latham Sholes C. Sholes' brother-in-law D. Albert Einstein

2. The author thinks the machine invented by Henry Mill could not be sold because_____.

A. it was difficult for people to accept new things B. there were great disadvantages of the keyboard C. the machine could not be distinguished from print D. the name of the machine was too long

3. Sholes decided the QWERTY arrangement of the keyboard in order to_____.

A. arrange the letters in alphabetical order B. cause the keys to jam when the typist worked quickly C. solve the problem of the keys jamming D. compete with "ABC" key arrangement

4. It is inferred that the QWERTY arrangement of the keyboard_____.

A. is the most scientific arrangement B. adds speed and efficiency of typists C. keeps the typist from typing too fast D. is easy for typists to memorize

5. Which of the following can be the best title of the passage?

A. The Arrangement of The Letters on Keyboard B. The

Story of Christopher Latham Sholes C.How to Invent The
Typewriter D.The First Practical Typewriter文章精要 说明文。本
文主要介绍了键盘上QWERTY这种字母排列顺序的来由。
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