

2010年12月英语四六级考试阅读提高练习(33) PDF转换可能丢失图片或格式，建议阅读原文

[https://www.100test.com/kao\\_ti2020/645/2021\\_2022\\_2010\\_E5\\_B9\\_B412\\_E6\\_c84\\_645754.htm](https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/645/2021_2022_2010_E5_B9_B412_E6_c84_645754.htm) [导读]阅读理解在大学英语四级考试中占有很大比重，提高阅读速度和效率是决胜英语四级考试阅读理解的关键。为了帮助广大考生有效提高阅读速度，百考试题特整理了以下资料，供考生复习。

Putting the Sun to Work  
Its a hot summer day, and you, your family, and friends decide to drive to the beach for a cookout. When you get to the beach, the sand and the rocks are so hot that they hurt your bare feet. You put on sneakers in a hurry. The water is so bright and shining in the sun that you can hardly look at it. While the charcoal (木炭) fire is starting to burn in the cookout stove, every one goes for a swim. The water feels good warm at the top, but cooler down around your toes. A little wind is blowing when you come out. The fire isnt quite ready for cooking yet, so you play tag (儿童捉人游戏) or read. For lunch there are hot dog, corn, salad and rolls, sodas, fruit, and coffee for the adults. By the time the coffee water boils and the corn and hot dogs are cooked, all the bathing suits are dry. So are the towels spread out on the rocks, in the sun. Lunch is good. Just as you are finishing, it starts to rain so you pack up and run. But nobody minds the rain. It will cool things off. At the same time you were having fun at the beach, work was being done. Energy from the sun was doing work. Energy, in one form or another, does all the work in the world. Heat energy from the sun dried the towels. It heated the sand and the rocks, the water and the air. It even made the rain and the wind. Heat

from the sun does small work and big work, all over the earth. Light energy from the sun was working on the beach too. It supplied the daylight. It lit the earth and made the sand bright and the water sparkling. The sun also supplied the energy that grew the food you ate. Plants use light energy from the sun to make food for themselves. The food is a kind of sugar. It is also a kind of energy called chemical energy. Green plants change light energy from the sun into chemical energy. Plants use some of that energy for everyday living and growing. They store the rest in their leaves and seeds, in fruit, roots, stems, and berries. The salad and the corn, the rolls, fruit, and coffee all came from plants. You and all animals depend on plants for food. The charcoal you used for cooking began as a plant too. Once, that charcoal was a living tree that used sunlight to make food and then stored part of the food it made. The energy in this stored food remained, even after the tree died. You used that energy when you burned the charcoal. The gasoline you used for driving to the beach began with energy from the sun, too. It was made from oil. Oil was formed from the remains of plants and animals that lived on earth millions of years ago. The remains of ancient living things are called fossils. This is why oil is called a fossil fuel. Coal and natural gas are fossil fuels, too. Now fossil fuels are beginning to be used up. That's why people worry about running out of energy. But as long as the sun shines, the earth will not run out of energy. The sun pours more energy on earth than we can ever use. Most of that energy comes to us as heat and light. Energy from the sun is called solar energy. Solar energy is a safe kind of energy. It doesn't make pollution or have

dangerous leftovers. That is why scientists and inventors are experimenting with ways of harnessing the sun to do some of the jobs fossil fuels have been doing. But to make the sun do work like that, they have to solve some problems. They have to collect the sun's energy. Collecting sunshine isn't easy, unless you are a plant. Sunshine isn't easy to store, either. You can't fill a tank with it or put it in the wood box. You can't move it through a pipe or a wire. You can't turn it on. Still, people have been using solar energy to help do their work for a long time. There are old ways and new ways of catching sunshine and putting it to work. Suppose you were living in a cold place and going to spend the winter in a cave. Would you choose a cave that faced the winter sun or a cave that faced away from it? You might make the same choice if you were building a house in a cold place. You would probably build the house, so the winter sun would pour in the windows to warm it. People have been building houses that way for a long time. Is it possible to catch still more of the sun's heat in a house? Yes, Some houses also collect heat on the roof, move it indoors, store some, use some to make hot water and the rest for heating. A house like that is called a solar house. People who build solar houses have learned how to do those things by observing how the earth itself uses solar energy. Remember the beach? Remember the hot sand and the hot rocks? Some materials take in heat energy from the sun and hold it. They absorb the heat. Sand and rocks do this. So do some other solid materials, such as metals. Water absorbs the sun's heat too. Color can also be important. Dark, dull colors absorb heat. Light-colored, shiny

surfaces reflect heat. They bounce it back. That's why dark clothes are warmer in the winter and light colored clothes are cooler in the summer. The longer it takes something to heat up, the longer that thing holds the heat. Materials that heat up fast cool off fast. If you go back to the beach in the evening after sunset, the sand and the rocks, which heated up fast, will be cool. But the water, which heated up slowly, will still be warm. It takes a long time for the sun to heat the water in a big lake or ocean. But by the end of summer, a large body of water will have caught and stored enough heat from the sun to last for a good part of the winter. Water stores heat very well. That's why land near a large body of water never gets quite as cold in the winter as land far away from the water. The stored heat in the water keeps the land around it warm.来源：考试大

Slowly, all winter long, heat from the water moves out into the cold air. Heat always moves that way from a warmer place or thing to a cooler one. Once you know which way heat moves, you understand how things get hot and how they lose heat.

1. All the work in the world is done by energy coming from the sun in one form or another.
2. As we humans depend on plants for food, plants live on chemical energy converted from light energy.
3. Unless the sun dies, it will supply endless energy on earth.
4. It has been a long time since people began to use solar energy because sunshine can be stored in houses.
5. The advantage of the solar house is that it has hot water and heating.
6. A solar house doesn't have to use electricity when it makes a good use of solar energy.
7. The passage gives a brief account of how solar energy is employed.
8. We can understand how things get hot or lose heat as

long as we know\_\_\_\_\_. 9. Most of the energy the sun supplies to us is in the forms of\_\_\_\_\_. 10. People like to use fossil fuels to get almost all kinds of energy because they are\_\_\_\_\_. 1. Y 2. Y 3. Y 4. N 5. N 6. NG 7. N 8. which way heat moves 9. heat and light 10. easy to use

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