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Invisibility Ring Scientists can't yet make an invisibility cloak like the one that Harry Potter uses. But, for the first time, they've constructed a simple cloaking device that makes itself and something placed inside it invisible to microwaves. When a person "sees" an object, his or her eye senses many different waves of visible light as they bounce off the object. The eye and brain then work together to organize these sensations and reconstruct the object's original shape. So, to make an object invisible, scientists have to keep waves from bouncing off it. And they have to make sure the object casts no shadow. Otherwise, the absence of reflected light on one side would give the object away. Invisibility isn't possible yet with waves of light that the human eye can see. But it is now possible with microwaves. Like visible light, microwaves are a form of radiant energy. They are part of the electromagnetic spectrum, which also includes radio waves, infrared light, ultraviolet rays, X rays, and gamma rays. The wavelengths of microwaves are shorter than those of radio waves but longer than those of visible light. The scientists' new "invisibility device" is the size of a drink coaster and shaped like a ring. The ring is made of a special material with unusual ability. When microwaves strike the ring, very few bounce off it. Instead, they pass through the ring, which bends the waves all the way around until they reach the opposite side. The waves then return

to their original paths. To a detector set up to receive microwaves on the other side of the ring, it looks as if the waves never changed their paths as if there were no object in the way! So, the ring is effectively invisible. When the researchers put a small copper loop inside the ring, it, too, is nearly invisible. However, the cloaking device and anything inside it do cast a pale shadow. And the device works only for microwaves, not for visible light or any kind of electromagnetic radiation. So, Harry Potter's invisibility cloak doesn't have any real competition yet. 词汇：

invisibility/invɪzəbɪlɪti/n. 看不见，无形 spectrum/spektrəm/n. 光谱
cloak/klɔːk/ 斗篷，披风 infrared/ɪnfrəred/adj. 红外线的
microwave/maɪkrəweɪv/n. 微波 ultraviolet ray 紫外线
reconstruct/riːkɒnstrʌkt/v. 重建 gamma ray 伽马射线
radiant/ˈreɪdɪənt/adj. 辐射的 wavelength/ˈweɪvlɛŋθ/n. 波长
electromagnetic/ɪlektromæɡnɪtɪk/adj. 电磁

的coaster/ˈkɔːstə(r)/n. 托盘，垫子 练习：1. Harry Potter is mentioned in the passage, because scientists can now make an invisible cloak of the same kind as he uses. B try to make an invisible cloak of the same kind as he uses. C try to invent a device similar in idea to the invisible cloak he uses. D know that it is possible to make an invisible cloak of the same kind. 2. What is true of microwaves? A Their wavelengths are shorter than those of visible light. B Their wavelengths are longer than those of visible light. C They are different from visible light as they are a kind of radiant energy. D They are visible to the human eye. 3. What is NOT true of the invisibility device? A It is made of a special material with unusual ability.

B Microwaves bounce off it when they strike it. C Microwaves pass through it when they strike it. D It bends the microwaves all the way around until they reach the opposite side.

4. What does the word "coaster" mean in the passage?
A A disk or plate placed under a drinking glass to protect a table top.
B A vessel engaged in coastal trade.
C A roller coaster.
D A resident of a coastal area.

5. Harry Potter's invisibility cloak doesn't have any real competition yet, because scientists have not found out how his cloak works.
B the cloaking device is a total failure.
C the cloaking device works only for microwaves.
D the cloaking device works only for visible light.

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