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题目阅读理解：第二篇 Listening to Birdsong A male zebra finch  
chirps away to himself. Suddenly he notices a female bird, nearby:  
He realizes he has an audience and immediately changes his song.  
Can the female tell the difference in his performance? According to a  
new study, the female zebra finch knows. And she prefers the special  
trills he creates when he sings to her. A male zebra finch changes his  
song when singing to a female in ways that people can barely detect.  
But the female finch can tell the difference. Scientists had noticed  
slight variations in the songs of male zebra finches based on whether  
they were singing alone or whether there was a female ( and potential  
mate) nearby. With an audience, the males sped up the pace of their  
songs and controlled the notes they used. For this Study, researchers  
Sarah C. Woolley and Allison Doupe at the University of California,  
San Francisco decided to focus attention on the listening females,  
which have not been well studied in the past.来源

: [www.100test.com](http://www.100test.com) In the study, Woolley and Doupe set up a long  
cage with a sound speaker at each end. One broadcast the sound of a  
male zebra finch singing to himself, like someone singing in the  
shower. The other speaker broadcast a male performing for a female  
audience, as if he was giving a concert. Female birds were placed  
between the two speakers. Some of the birds had mates, others didn  
' t. The females shifted around a bit, and then most of them hopped

over to sit beside just one speaker. All the birds that made a clear choice liked songs meant for a female audience, even if they 'd never met the male. Mated females also had a chance to listen to two different performance songs, one from an unknown male, and one from their mate. They spent more time listening, to the concert version of their mates ' songs. This suggests that after a while, females learn to recognize--and prefer the songs of their mates. Scientists then studied the brains of the females. They found certain areas of the brain perked up when the birds listened to the concert songs. These brain areas may be involved in recognizing and evaluating the songs, and storing the memories of them. This research deals with what ' s called directed communication, when the communicator, or sender, focuses the message for a specific audience. One example is the way moms speak to their babies. Mothers around the world use the same sort of high-pitched sing-song chatter, and the babies respond best to those sounds. Songbirds are one of the only other species known to learn their communication, in this case their songs.

36. What does the first paragraph say about zebra finches? A Male zebra finches like to sing to female zebra finches. B Male zebra finches sing louder than female zebra finches. C Male zebra finches change their songs in female zebra finches ' presence. D Male zebra finches like to listen to female zebra finches sing.

37. What did the researchers find in their study of female zebra finches? A Female finches liked songs male finches sang for them. B Female finches only liked songs male finches sang for their mates. C Female finches liked to listen to songs from

both speakers. D Female finches chose the best male singers as their mates. 38. What is meant by "concert songs" in the seventh paragraph? A Songs sung by zebra finches at a concert. B Songs sung by male finches for female finches. C Songs sung by female finches for male finches. D Songs sung by male finches to many female finches. 39. What is NOT true of directed communication? A The sender of a message has a specific audience. B Male zebra finches sing to female finches. C Mothers talk to their babies. D Male zebra finches sing to themselves. 40. Which of the following can best reflect the theme of the passage? A Chirping away. B Birdsongs as communication. C Zebra finches and their life. D Enjoying birdsongs.

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