

1. 阅读理解

Four Free Mobile Apps to Help You Learn English Faster

Have you realized that you can put your smartphone to really good use for learning English? Here are 4 free mobile apps that will help you do just that.

Hello English

It covers all the aspects of language learning, including vocabulary, translation, grammar, spellings, spoken and reading skills. It uses interactive games to teach different English lessons and offers new audiobooks, latest news, and books. However, you should already understand basic English structures and alphabets, for the app can't help you learn English from scratch(从零开始).

Duolingo

If you want to learn English from scratch, then this is the app you are looking for. Duolingo uses interactive games to help you learn English. For beginners, the app focuses on helping you learn verbs, phrases and sentences.

Lingbe

If you are ready to practice your spoken skills in the real-world, you'll need Lingbe. It's a community-based app where people help each other and share their native languages. It connects you with real people on call who are native English speakers.

HelloTalk

HelloTalk is similar to Lingbe as it connects you with native speakers to help improve your language skills. However, it adds a few extra functions that might interest you. You can view the information about users to find a match that interests you. Additionally, you can also send text and audio messages, and even do video calls with other people.

If you are a beginner, start from Duolingo and then use Hello English to take full command over the language. For fluent spoken English learners, you can try out Lingbe or HelloTalk.

【1】What should you already understand to use Hello English?

- A. Good reading and writing skills.
- B. Basic listening and speaking tips.
- C. Different English lessons and books.
- D. English letters and basic structures.

【2】Which app is the best choice for an English beginner at first?

- A. Hello English.
- B. Duolingo.
- C. Lingbe.
- D. HelloTalk.

【3】What can you do on Lingbe?

- A. Read the latest news.
- B. Enjoy the interactive games.
- C. Practice your spoken English.
- D. Talk with native speakers in the flesh.

2. 阅读理解

When talking about the two sexes, people often say that men are from Mars and women are from Venus. Undeniably, men and women have great differences in many ways.

However, these contrasts in character could all be down to supposed differences between the male and female brain.

For example, a study led by British psychologist Stuart Ritchie in 2012 found that men's brains are on average 10 percent bigger than women's.

And another study led by Israeli psychologist Daphna Joel at Tel Aviv University in 2015 further claimed that differences exist in male and female brains, although each individual's brain has a "mix of features", as *New Scientist* wrote.

But Lise Eliot, a professor of neuroscience (神经学) at the Chicago Medical School, begs to differ. She recently said that the brain "is a unisex organ".

Through analyzing brain data of several different men and women, Eliot found that the statistics about brain differences mean nothing. According to her findings, male and female brains are not much more different from each other than male or female hearts or kidneys. And more importantly, these differences don't show that male and female brains work differently.

So, if it's not in the brain, what makes males and females behave differently? The answer may lie in socialization, according to *The Atlantic*.

In the past, many gender studies ignored the effects of a person's social background and upbringing, instead relying on other data. Take former Harvard University president Lawrence Summers for example. He used a 1970 study that showed men outperformed women 13-to-one on the math part of the SAT to argue that males are more suited to science subjects.

However, another study found that if females were given better opportunities to study science subjects, the ratio would drop to three-to-one.

Eliot's study "contributed in an important way to the conversation," neuropharmacologist Margaret McCarthy at the University of Maryland School of Medicine in Baltimore, US, told *Science* magazine.

Yet, at the same time, McCarthy believes that classing males and females as essentially the same is going "too far".

【1】Why were Ritchie and Joel's studies mentioned in the article?

- A. To explain the causes of behavioral differences in men and women.
- B. To show how men and women differ in character.
- C. To explain the differences between male and female brains.
- D. To explore the features of male and female brains.

【2】What did Eliot's study find?

- A. Male and female brains are exactly the same.
- B. Male and female brains do not differ in function.
- C. Brain data is not useful for conducting gender studies.
- D. Male and female brains have fewer differences than other organs.

【3】What causes the differences in behavior between men and women, according to *The Atlantic*?

- A. Brain size. B. Intelligence.
- C. Social environment. D. Learning ability.

【4】Which statement would McCarthy probably agree with?