

1.

With big handbags becoming a key fashion accessory(配饰) for working women, health experts are warning they can also become a key health concern.

Bags for women have become bigger and heavier as designers combine briefcases with handbags and straps have become longer, resulting in many users complaining of neck, shoulder and back problems.

"I see so many women with neck pains and headaches and what I usually do is look for their purse and pick it up," said Jane Sadler, a family practice physician at Baylor Medical Center in Garland, Texas. "We take it over to the scale and weigh it and usually they're anywhere from 7 to 10 pounds. We're really going to see women with more and more problems later on if we continue the big purse craze."

William Case, a physical therapist(临床医生) in private practice in Houston, Texas, urged designers "to place a cute, educational caution tag(标签) on all bags to inform buyers of potential neck and shoulder dangers." Above all, he suggested correct posture while carrying big purses, keeping the head and shoulders upright. Patients should also often change the size and weight of purses carried.

"The extra-large purses are quite extraordinary. They look beautiful when the women wear them, but I don't know how aware they are of the potential problems," Case said.

Placing objects on one shoulder was one of the least efficient(高效率的) ways of carrying a load, according to a professor from Cornell University in New York State. "This causes a great imbalance," he said. "If a big bag is a fashion accessory, then occasional and symbolic use is fine. If not, then keep it light."

1. Jane Salder would "look for their purse and pick it up" in order to see whether the purses

- A. contained enough
- B. were worth a lot of pounds
- C. were too heavy
- D. were too large

2. Which correctly explains the meaning of the underlined word "posture" in the 4th paragraph?

- A. The way you position your body.
- B. The part of your body where you place a weight.
- C. The strength you use to carry a weight.
- D. The height of the weight you carry.

3. None of the experts advised big bag users to

- A. be aware of the big-bag problems
- B. wear big bags in the right way
- C. avoid using big bags very often
- D. give up the fashion to keep fit

2.

BEIJING, China(CNN)—Chinese workers and army soldiers were racing to sweep snow-covered highways and railway routes for millions of travelers trapped by cold weather.

More than 67 million people have been affected by the weather and economic losses are expected to reach as much as \$3 billion, Chinese officials say.

In the past week, the snowstorms have hit the provinces in central, eastern and southern China—places that used to have mild winters.

"We've never seen such a cold weather lasting for such a long time," said Tang Shan, a man in his 70s Changsha, Hunan Province. "The last time we had one here was over 50 years ago, and not this bad."

The snow has blocked roads, railways and airports, leaving tens of millions of travelers stranded(滞留), officials say. Many of them are going home ahead of the traditional Lunar New Year, also known as the Spring Festival.

The Lunar New Year travel is China's busiest travel period of the year. But the snow is changing travel plans. Railway and highway routes have been brought to a pause, a situation in which all activity or movement has stopped and several regional airports have been closed.

In the southern city of Guangzhou, as many as 500,000 train passengers were stranded in the past few days when a power failure in neighboring Hunan seriously damaged the regular train services, local officials said. About 100,000 passengers crowded the square in front of the train station, while others found shelter in schools and other public buildings while waiting for their trains.

More terrible weather is expected. China's weather office on Monday issued a warning of more severe(恶劣的) snowstorms in the coming days. If so, the number of stranded travelers will surely increase.

4. What would be the best title for the passage?

- A. Travelers in China
- B. Snowstorms Cause Economic Losses
- C. Dealing with Terrible Weather
- D. Snowstorms Hit Parts of China