

1.

With the Chinese language growing in popularity, the UK government plans to invest(投资) 10 million pounds to help more kids learn Mandarin(普通话). Do you think it is necessary for the UK pupils to learn Mandarin? Some people share their opinions online.

Ted(UK): The learning of any language can be valuable and rewarding, but it is not suitable for everyone. Chinese is a difficult language to learn and the UK has a poor reputation for teaching foreign languages. Why should they learn Chinese when most people in the world speak English?

Mark(US): I studied French for 2 years in high school and German for 4 years in college. I studied Mandarin informally for about 4 months before moving to China. Now I speak Mandarin every day as my wife doesn't speak English. But it is far from being fluent. Learning additional languages is a great thing, which offers a different perspective on the world around us. Nowadays, it's almost necessary to be able to speak more than just your native tongue.

George (UK): No, unless they're taught from a very early stage of childhood. Mandarin is so difficult. If China really is going to dominate the world, it'll have to do so by speaking the world's dominant language---English.

Sam (UK): I don't think Chinese will become as widely spoken throughout the world as English. It is too difficult to learn as a second language. To learn Chinese you completely have to devote yourself to learning how to write and read it. If you have to learn it besides other subjects you can't be good at it. But Chinese will become more popular, and that is a good thing.

1. What is probably Mark's main motivation (动机) for learning Chinese?

- A. Further education. B. Effective communication  
C. His frequent travel D. The official policy

2. What does Sam think of learning Chinese?

- A. It's necessary. B. It's of little use.  
C. It takes too much time. D. It's not popular.

3. What seems to be the major problem when foreigners try to learn Chinese?

- A. Its difficulty as a language B. Misunderstanding about China  
C. The great popularity of English D. A lack of learning resources.

2.

Sure, human dads can play games with their kids and help with homework, but can they give birth? Daddy sea horses can! This Father's Day, while you're praising your daddy, you may also

remember that some of the best dads in the world can be found in the animal kingdom:

Sea horses: The "Mr. Moms" in the sea, male sea horses, carry up to 2,000 fertilized eggs in small bags in their stomachs until they hatch. Even after the babies are born, they stay inside the bag until they are ready to live by themselves.

Darwin's rheas: Thought your dad was overprotective? Darwin's rheas, also known as South American ostriches (鸵鸟), are so protective of their children that they have even been known to attack small airplanes on the ground if they get too close to their home!

Marmosets: These little monkeys do everything but give lectures on how to give birth! Devoted dads assist during their babies' birth. They also let Mom get some rest by taking care of the kids when she's not nursing them.

Sand grouse: These pigeon-like birds live in areas where water is rare, so fathers fly as many as 50 miles to get water for their kids. After they dip their breast feathers in the water, they fly home and let their chicks suck the water from their bodies.

Fathers in the animal kingdom are not that different from our own beloved dads. This Father's Day, when you are honoring your dad, honor animal dads, too, by practicing kindness toward all

animals.

4. The underlined "they" in paragraph 2 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. fertilized eggs B. their stomachs C. male sea horses D. baby sea horses

5. According to the passage, which animal is the most protective?

- A. A sea horse B. A Darwin's rhea C. A marmoset D. A sand grouse

6. The passage mainly tells readers \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. how clever and brave animals are  
B. how to honor animal dads on Father's Day  
C. animal dads are different from human dads  
D. some interesting facts about male animals

3.

It's been just over a year since 9-year-old Zion Harvey received a double-hand transplant(移植), and now, what he really wants to do is playing football. "I feel happy about my new hands, and I don't feel different. I like that now I can throw a football further than when I didn't have hands," he said.

The nation's youngest hand-transplant patient has been working hard to learn how to use his new hands. He lost his hands and his feet 7 years ago after suffering from a serious infection. In August, the boy showed off his new abilities by throwing out the first ball at a baseball game. Dr. Scott Levin, team leader of Zion's operation, said