

1.

Peter Huszcz once taught in an agricultural (农业的) college. In the 1990s, he moved to Canada. Peter started out washing dishes in a restaurant in downtown Ottawa. When the manager asked him to help out rolling meatballs in the kitchen, he soon learned how to do the job very well. But it was boring and Peter suggested that the manager should buy a meatball-making machine. When the manager told him there was no such thing as a meatball maker, Peter was quick to notice that something was missing in the market. Putting his engineering knowledge to good use, he quickly came up with a simple method—the Magic Meatball Maker.

He was sure there was a market for his machine, but it took him ten years of hard work to find it. He had to take risks, but he believed in his idea, and he managed to persuade other people to believe in him too. A local manufacturer (制造商) offered to produce the first 1,000 units in return for a share in the profits (收益), local shops offered to keep his meatball makers and a friend's daughter helped him out with his first sales.

But his lucky break came when he managed to persuade a TV shopping channel to help sell the Magic Meatball Maker. The channel broadcast a program about how the invention worked in the studio kitchen. Within minutes, they had sold more than 4,000 units.

This was just the start. Peter had been right. He had said his meatball maker would bring him great wealth, and it has: more than two million dollars so far and it's still selling to thousands of American housewives all across the USA.

1. Working in the restaurant, Peter _____.

- A. was chosen to be the manager B. found a chance to make money
C. broke a meatball-making machine D. was poor at making meatballs by hand

2. Which of the following helped Peter's business take off?

- A. A local shop. B. A friend's daughter
C. A local manufacturer D. A TV shopping channel

3. What's the right order to describe Peter's life?

- A. Teacher→dish washer→inventor→businessman
B. Dish washer→teacher→inventor→businessman
C. Businessman→dish washer→inventor→teacher
D. Inventor→businessman→dish washer→teacher

4. What can we learn from the story?

- A. Better late than never
B. A friend in need is a friend indeed
C. Where there is a will, there is a way.
D. In time of danger, one's mind works fast.

2.

"Hello, Earth! Can you hear me?" That's voice more than 400,000 people received recently. It was from Philae, a space vehicle that landed on a comet (彗星) in 2014. However, its transmissions (传输信号) back home went silent since then.

It took a long time for Philae to make its way across the solar system (太阳系) and reach comet 67P/C-G. The space vehicle got there aboard the Rosetta probe (探测器), which has been circling around the comet since Philae separated from it in November, 2014.

Philae's job was to collect materials to study the comet's composition. And for about two and a half days after landing, it did just that, sending the information back to scientists on Earth. But Philae's landing on the comet's icy surface had not been smooth. While touching down, it jumped up and ended up in the shadow of something like a huge rock. Philae runs on solar power, but there was no light in the place where it landed. In the end, it failed to work.

However, as comet 67P/C-G moved closer to the sun, more sunlight reached the space vehicle, allowing it to power up and come back online. Philae then sent something to Rosetta, which passed on the information back to Earth.

"We only received the information for about 85 seconds, but that's enough to let us know it is alive and well," says Stephan Ulamec, who works for the European Space Agency. "We hope to work out where it landed exactly on the 4-kilometer-wide comet. Now we plan to change how Rosetta moves so that Philae can keep on communicating and receiving instructions."

5. Hearing Philae's voice, those people must have felt _____.

- A. afraid B. calm
C. excited D. worried.

6. According to the text, Philae _____.

- A. was damaged when it landed