

1.

I wandered into the small store where I usually buy milk, when the store owner received a call from a customer. The customer and his wife had shopped there several months earlier. He noticed that his wife really liked one thing in the store, so he wanted to buy it as a surprise.

But the customer was in Tennessee, far away from the store which was in Maine. What was more, he had been to the store several months earlier, and it was difficult to believe that the store owner would remember him, or what he was looking for.

The store owner took a few close-up photos with her camera, and e-mailed them to the customer on the computer. The customer looked at the photos, and decided which one he wanted. They talked and discussed a price over the phone. She took care of the credit card transaction (交易) online, and promised the gift would be shipped out that afternoon.

The store owner was really smart. She was willing to push herself to find new ways to make the transaction actually happen. And it did work. However, it was the first time she had ever done it.

I was amazed that the store owner discovered a creative solution that could lead to a new way of doing business. I was impressed by what she did--- so easily, but how difficult it is for many of us to make that leap(飞跃). I'm not just talking about technology, but about learning how to adapt to change. Most people hate or fear change unless they get to know exactly what change needs to be made. However, we should realize that challenge and opportunity go hand in hand.

21. According to the passage, which of the following is TRUE?

- A. The owner often did business by using her camera.
- B. The customer had ever been to the store before.
- C. The owner and the customer discussed the price on the computer.
- D. The gift was sent out by train that afternoon.

22. The author was impressed by the store owner because _____.

- A. she was always ready to help others
- B. she told the writer how to run a store
- C. she was a successful businesswoman
- D. she managed to find a new way when facing change

23. What's the correct order of the store owner's solution?

- a. e-mailing the photos to the customer on the computer
- b. taking care of the credit card transaction online
- c. taking a few close-up photos with her camera
- d. talking about the price of the gift with the customer

- A. bcda B. abcd C. cadb D. cabd

24. Which of the following words can best describe the store owner?

- A. Creative B. Humorous C. Confident D. Honest

2.

Danielle Steel, America's sweetheart, is one of the hardest working women in the book business. Unlike other productive authors who write one book at a time, she can work on up to five. Her research before writing takes at least three years. Once she has fully studied her subjects, ready to dive into the book, she can spend twenty hours nonstop at her desk.

Danielle Steel comes from New York and was sent to France for her education. After graduation, she worked in the public relations and advertising industries. Later she started a job as a writer which she was best fit for. Her achievements are unbelievable: 390 million copies of books in print, nearly fifty New York Times best-selling novels, and a series of "Max and Martha" picture books for children to help them deal with the real-life problems of death, new babies and new schools. Her 1998 book about the death of her work shot to the top of the New York Times best-selling list as soon as it came out. Twenty-eight of her books had been made into films. She is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records for one of her books being the Times best-seller for 381 weeks straight.