

1.

Listed here are four of the thousands of impressive museums around the world.

The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao in Bilbao, Spain

Built in 1997, the Guggenheim Museum Bilbao is one of the newest in the world. It has transformed the industrial city of Bilbao into a travelers' desired destination. The beautiful architecture of the museum has provided a dramatic background for movies and commercials.

The Louvre in Paris, France

Probably the most famous Louvre also holds the most famous painting in the world, the Mona Lisa by Leonardo da Vinci. Crowds can be found any day surrounding the small, but mysterious painting of the smiling woman. But, the Louvre is much more than a home to the Mona Lisa. The Louvre is visited by ~~Z-x-x-k.com~~ more people each year than any other museum in the world.

The Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia, America

Just opened in its new downtown location in 2012, the Barnes Foundation is unique in that it is a completely reproduced display from one man's private collection. Dr. Albert C. Barnes started collecting art in the early 20th century and collected, among others, the largest number of original Renoir paintings in the world.

The Uffizi Gallery in Florence, Italy

Walking on the marbled floors feels like stepping back in time. The building itself is a beautiful palacelike structure with frescoes (湿壁画) decorating the ceilings and walls. Viewers are bowled over (印象深刻) by the works by Botticelli, such as The Birth of Venus. Classic artworks from nearly 1,000 years ago describe religious events of the time.

21. Which of the following is the most popular?

- A. The Louvre. B. The Guggenheim Museum Bilbao.  
C. The Barnes Foundation. D. The Uffizi Gallery.

22. What makes the Barnes Foundation particular?

- A. Its structure. B. Its collection.  
C. Its location. D. Its history.

23. What type of writing is this text?

- A. An activity poster. B. An exhibition announcement.  
C. An art show review. D. A travel guide.

2.

My shoe lesson number one.

Back in my days as a salesman, I was on my way to deliver a speech in Newfoundland. Sitting comfortably in the airplane seat, I suddenly broke out in a cold sweat as I realized I had left my dress shoes at home. I was wearing running shoes for an important speech.

I knew I could buy a new pair when I landed. Too late; the stores were already closed. What about in the morning? No, the next day was Sunday and my speech was scheduled for 9:00 a.m. Ninety seconds later, however, my cold sweat has been replaced with a single idea.

The next morning, I began my speech, "You might be wondering why I am wearing running shoes today. Well, it's about this request here. When I'm done speaking, I'll be running door to door and I want every one of you to come running with me, too." My little "goof-up" became a clever demonstration (示范) of action speaking louder than words.

My shoe lesson number two.

My brother was getting married. We had just witnessed the signing of the papers at their house, and they were rushing over to another place for the ceremony. As we locked up their house, my wife's shoes broke. So off to the nearest shoe store we flew. We knew they would wait for us before starting the ceremony. What we did not know was how long they would wait.

That day, my wife performed a miracle (奇迹) that no other woman had done before or since. She went into the store and came out just five minutes later with the perfect pair of shoes.

Perhaps the most important lesson here is that, contrary/opposite to popular belief, the shoe does not make the man/woman. But the lack (缺乏) of shoes can surely build character.

24. Upon thinking of his shoes on the plane, the author felt \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. proud B. delighted C. panicky and tense D. encouraged

25. What does the underlined part "goof-up" probably mean?

- A. Image B. Mistake C. Success D. Present