

1.

Based on some studies, people in their forties, on average, laugh less often each day than children under age 7 and adults over age 65. That's kind of sad for middle-aged men. If it's been awhile since your father has let out a good belly laugh, here are some ideas that you can do to get your father back on the road to joy.

A joke book can be helpful. The Dilbert series by Scott Adams is quite funny if you're into office humor. The Far Side series by Gary Larson came out twenty years ago, but it still works even for today's people. In fact, you don't even have to buy a book. You can go online and find comic strips, lists of jokes and so on.

On DVD, Netflix, Hulu, Amazon or however you get them, you can find funny movies and shows that can make a difference in your life. Teen movies are particularly funny when done well. Mean Girls, 10 Things I Hate About You and She's All That are bound to bring a smile to your father's face. Screwball comedies might be your father's cup of tea. Some comedies from the 1930s, 40s and 50s have stood the test of time and are still amusing. Also, there are a number of channels where people can watch comedians in high spirits.

If your father already has close friends to exchange jokes with, it's to his great advantage. But your father can also seek out new friends who have a lighter, cheerier and more mirthful way to life.

People are often in humorous situations at work, at home and in life, but to what degree do we take note of them? You can encourage your father to note humorous situations all around him. If he begins to notice this, soon enough, he begins to actively seek them. Before he knows it, his search for a humor-filled life becomes a significant part of his day.

【1】What do the Dilbert series and The Far Side series have in common?

- A.They're in the form of short stories. B.They have many jokes about office life.
C.They can bring much laughter to people. D.They became popular soon after publication.

【2】The underlined word "mirthful" in Paragraph 4 means _____.

- A.colorful B.joyful C.puzzling D.regular

【3】What's implied in the last paragraph?

- A.Humorous situations can be easily ignored.
B.Humorous situations can be created actively.
C.People should spend time with positive people.
D.People should learn to discover the humorous moments.

2.

It's easy to check the sell-by dates when you go shopping, so that you know how long you can store and use the food you are buying. But did you know that the best sell-by dates on food packaging don't really tell you if the food is safe to eat? Food can last longer or on the other hand, the food may not last as long as it says if it wasn't stored correctly at any point of the distribution chain (分销连锁店). Now there is a food packaging that works well to solve the problem.

Americans waste 103 pounds of spoiled food, which has gone bad, out of their refrigerators every year. The new smart packaging from Primitives Biodesign — a company that is mainly concerned with biotech in San Francisco — can help to reduce this huge waste of food.

This all-female team of scientists, engineers, and bio-designers of Primitives Biodesign spent months developing this new bio-based smart packaging that responds to environmental and safety changes in the food. It will respond by changing colors to tell you that food is no longer safe. Since it is made from a natural substance, it can also break down in nature.

Making the packaging smart is the difficult part. They put much manpower and fund into it. Here the team used a process that acts as the way nature responds to changes in the environment. According to the company, it responds like the way a pinecone responds to wet air by releasing seeds or the way flowers send compounds (混合物) to change colors.

The company has proven in lab tests that the technology works and now they are working on how to develop commercial (商业的) uses for it. The added safety features of the smart packaging will come out later, which will help control food waste in products like meat or cheese which have high greenhouse gas emissions (排放量) so as to help reduce the impact on climate change.

【1】What can we know from Paragraph 1?

- A.Few products show dependable sell-by dates.
B.Food is surely safe to eat within the use-by dates.
C.Storing food correctly is important for their safety.
D.People can know about food safety from their appearance.

【2】What's the current use of the new smart packaging?

- A.Making food stay fresh longer.
B.Reminding people of spoiled food.
C.Recording the amount of wasted food.
D.Adjusting food temperature by changing colors.

【3】According to the last paragraph, what is Primitive Biodesign doing now?

- A.Finding buyers for the smart packaging.
B.Raising money for environmental protection.
C.Doing experiments to test the new technology.
D.Making the smart packaging practical and greener.

3.

It's not unusual for a person to help someone else but without getting anything in return. But this behavior is thought to be rare among animals. Up to now, that kind of behavior hasn't been seen in birds. So scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Ornithology created an experiment to test whether African grey parrots could behave that way.

The first step in the experiment was to teach the parrots how to trade "token" for food. The tokens were small metal rings about the size of coins. When the parrots gave these tokens back to the researchers, the parrots were given walnuts, which they enjoyed.

Once the parrots knew how to trade tokens for walnuts, the scientists began the next part of the experiment. Two parrots were put in clear plastic cages next to each other, with a connecting window between the two cages. There was a feeding window in both cages, which allowed the scientists to give walnuts to the parrots. Then the feeding window was closed for one of the parrots that had been given ten tokens.

The results showed that most of the time, the parrot that couldn't trade for walnuts would pass a token, beak to-beak, to the bird in the next cage that could then trade it for a walnut. The parrots that passed the tokens got nothing. They simply watched as the other parrots got food. Still, seven out of the eight parrots tested passed the tokens over and over again. And it wasn't because they liked passing tokens. If the parrot with the tokens saw that their partner's feeding window was also closed, they