

1.

Mr. Brown had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work. One day he was walking along the beach when he saw a human figure moving like a dancer. So he began to walk faster to catch up. As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man and he wasn't dancing, but instead he was reaching down to the shore, picking something up and very gently throwing it into the sea. As he got closer he called out, "Good morning! What are you doing?"

The young man stopped, looked up and said, "Throwing starfishes(海星) into the sea."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfishes into the sea?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out. If I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles and miles of beach, and starfishes all along it. You can't possibly make a difference!"

The young man listened politely. Then he bent down, picked up another starfish, threw it into the sea, and said, "It made a difference for that one." "There is something special in each and every one of us. We have all been gifted with the ability to make a difference. And if we can know that gift, we will gain the power to shape the future."

The young man was right. Each of us should find our starfish. And if we throw our starfish wisely and well, the world will be better.

21. One day, Mr. Brown found a young man \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. dancing along the beach
- B. walking with a dancer on the beach
- C. gathering some starfishes on the beach
- D. picking up starfishes and throwing them into the sea

22. The underlined phrase "something special" in Par. 6 refers to \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. the ability to make a difference
- B. the power to shape the future
- C. the gift given by God
- D. the small starfish

23. What can we learn from the last two paragraphs?

- A. Mr. Brown thought it useless to throw starfishes into the sea.
- B. The young man thought he had the ability to make the world better.
- C. Mr. Brown realized each small good deed could make a difference.
- D. If everyone follows the young man's example, all the starfishes will be saved.

2.

My name is Luca Lamoariello. People always ask me how I learned 11 languages. Here I would like to answer this question, taking English, French and Dutch (荷兰语) as examples.

English

English was already a world language by the time I turned 10 in 1991. I struggled at first. Grammar explanations confused me, and the material was boring. Then my parents hired a private English tutor(家庭教师). She set me on the right path to learning and, most importantly, learning to love language. My aunt bought me The Hardy Boys for my birthday and after that there was no looking back. I started reading a lot of books in English. The combination of reading books, watching movies every day and talking to my teacher once a week for two years worked wonders. By the age of 15 I was fluent in English.

French

I started learning French around the same time as I started learning English and faced many of the same problems. That all changed when I found that I could watch French TV. I started watching two hours every day after dinner. By the age of 15 I was fluent in French. A few hours of television a day did more than the previous three years in middle school.

Dutch

I met Lotte, a Dutch girl, while camping in Northern Sardinia. She didn't speak much English and we both became frustrated at our inability to communicate, so I decided to learn Dutch. Lotte and I lost touch later, but the language stayed with me. People insisted that Dutch was a completely useless language—they all speak English – but I stuck to it. I read books and magazines that my friends would bring back from the Netherlands. I knew I would use the language sooner or later. Now I speak Dutch every day with my Dutch housemate. Speaking Dutch has become easy, effortless and interesting.

To those who ask me why I like learning so many languages I always reply: "I don't live to learn languages; I learn languages to live a better life".

24. What was the most important effect of the private English tutor on the author?

- A. She explained the rules of English.
- B. She often talked to him in English.
- C. She led him to love language.
- D. She taught him how to learn English.

25. Who inspired the author to read books in English?

- A. His English tutor.
- B. His friend.
- C. His parents.
- D. His aunt.