

1.

One of the hardest parts of planning a trip to Hawaii is deciding which of the major Hawaiian Islands you should visit. Each has its own personality and offers unique adventures and activities.

Oahu

Oahu has a bit of everything, packed in 597 square miles. You can hike into thick rainforests, and when you need a break, relax on powdery white sand beaches and stay at luxury resorts.

Oahu has become a great destination for families. The urban core (核心) of Honolulu and Waikiki has historic sites, museums and bustling (熙熙攘攘的) and nightlife scenes. The island lives up to its nickname of the Gathering Place.

Maui

Maui is a great island for honeymooners. The Valley Isle has top-class resorts and golf courses, adjacent (毗邻) to some of the state's best beaches. A large dormant (休眠) volcano in east Maui at sunrise or sunset is a serene experience, as well as driving the Road to Hana, famed for its thundering waterfalls.

Kauai

Kauai is the oldest of the main Hawaiian Islands. The island gets a lot of rain, but that's what makes it so lively, you'll come across flowers and plants you've never seen before. For some of the best views on the island, visit Waimea Canyon, known as the Grand Canyon of the Pacific, and the Na Pali coast, boasting some of the world's highest sea cliffs.

Big Island

The Big Island is the only Hawaiian island still growing. Witness the power of Pele, the Hawaiian goddess of fire, wind, lightning and volcanoes with a visit to the Hawaii Volcanoes National Park. It's one of the few spots in the world where you can see lava flow. In fact, the Big Island has 10 of the world's sub-climate zones, from the snow-covered mountain of Mauna Kea, green forests of Waipio Valley to stretches of barren desert.

【1】Which is young couples' favorite?

- A. Oahu. B. Maui.
C. Kauai. D. Big Island.

【2】How is Oahu different from the other places?

- A. It belongs to Hawaii. B. It offers the best beaches.
C. It has variety of plants. D. You can experience city life on it.

【3】What do Maui and Big Island have in common?

- A. They are both covered with snow. B. You can have a look at a volcano.
C. Weather is changeable. D. There is plenty of rain.

2.

I attended a party one night. During the dinner a man told a humorous story based on the quotation: "There's a divinity that shapes our ends, rough-hew them how we will."

The storyteller mentioned that the quotation was from the Bible. I knew he was wrong. There couldn't be the slightest doubt about it. To get a feeling of importance and display my superiority, I appointed myself as an unwelcome committee member to correct him. He stuck to his guns. "What? From Shakespeare? Impossible! Absurd! That quotation was from the Bible." And he knew it.

The storyteller was sitting on my right; and Frank Gammond, an old friend of mine, was seated on my left. Mr. Gammond had devoted years to the study of Shakespeare. So the storyteller and I agreed to submit the question to Mr. Gammond. Mr. Gammond listened, kicked me under the table, and then said, "Dale, you are wrong. The gentleman is right. It is from the Bible."

On our way home that night, I said to Mr. Gammond, "Frank, you knew that quotation was from Shakespeare." "Yes, of course," he replied, "Hamlet, Act Five, Scene Two. But we were guests at a happy time, my dear Dale. Why argue with the storyteller? Why prove to him he is wrong? Why not let him save his face? Always avoid your sharp angle." I learned a lesson I'll never forget. I not only had made the storyteller uncomfortable, but also had put my friend in an embarrassing situation. How much better it would have been had I not become argumentative.

Nine times out of ten, an argument ends with each of the contestants more firmly convinced than ever that he is absolutely right. You can't win an argument. You can't because if you lose it, you lose it; and if you win it, you lose it.

【1】What did the author do to get a feeling of importance at the party?

- A. Tell a humorous story. B. Show off his rich knowledge.
C. Teach the storyteller a lesson. D. Correct the storyteller's mistake.

【2】Why did Frank Gammond kick the author under the table?

- A. Because he didn't know much about the Bible.
B. Because he thought the author was really wrong.
C. Because he was thoughtful and wanted to stop the author.
D. Because he was humorous and played tricks on the author.

【3】How did the author feel about the event that happened at the party?

- A. Thankful. B. Regretful.
C. Satisfied. D. Confused.

【4】What can be the suitable title for the passage?

- A. You Can't Win an Argument B. You Can't Make Mistakes in Public
C. Do Have an Open Mind D. Mind Your Manners at a Party

3.

Have you ever spent an afternoon in the backyard, maybe grilling or enjoying a basketball game, when suddenly you notice that everything goes quiet? There is an old phrase "calm before the storm", often used in a situation—a quiet period just before a great activity or excitement. According to our own experience, we know there is actually calm before the storm. But what causes this calm? And is it always calm before the storm? Let's hear what scientists have to say.

A period of calm happens in a particular kind of storm, the simplest kind of storm—a single-cell thunderstorm. In this type of thunderstorm, there is usually only one main updraft, which is warm, damp air and drawn from places near the ground. Storms need warm and damp air as fuel, so they typically draw that air in from surrounding environment. Storms can draw in the air that fit their need from all directions—even from the direction in which the storm is traveling.

As the warm, damp air is pulled into a storm system, it leaves a low-pressure vacuum (真空) coming after. The rising air meets the cold dry air that has already existed in the storm clouds, thus the temperature of the warm, damp air drops, and the water vapour (水蒸汽) in it changes into tiny drops that are a precondition of rain.