

高二英语第十六期 • 语法填空自测

注意：限时 8 分钟

Section A

Directions: After reading the passages below, fill in the blanks to make the passages coherent and grammatically correct. For the blanks with a given word, fill in each blank with the proper form of the given word; for the other blanks, use one word that best fits each blank.

We are such an anxiety-ridden society that we worry about problems that haven't happened, and, almost certainly, won't. Robots are an example. Even McKinsey and Co., the high-powered management consulting firm, professes to be concerned. We imagine hordes of robots __1__ (destroy) jobs, leaving millions of middle-class families without work and income. Relax. __2__ we adopt self-destructive policies, this is one doomsday we'll avoid.

One thing that the U.S. economy excels at is __3__ (create) jobs. You might doubt this listening to Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, who promise personally to create millions of high-paying jobs. This is misleading. The overwhelming share of jobs are created by the private market, not government or politicians.

Yes, there are recessions. Two of them in the post-World War II era were quite severe. We had scary levels of unemployment. But eventually the job creation machine reasserts __4__. In 2015, employment totaled 149 million, up from 99 million in 1980 and 137 million in 2000.

What about the robots? In truth, they are not a new problem. There have always been new technologies and products that eliminate entire industries and occupations. But lost jobs and destroyed industries give way, over time, __5__ new industries and jobs. Cars replaced buggies; smartphones are replacing landlines.

Robots are simply the latest chapter in this narrative. Sure, some jobs will vanish. But others will materialize. Often, increases occur so silently and slowly __6__ they're only noticed when they've become a major part of the labor force.

The same logic applies to robots. Someone has to design the robots, program them, sell them, service them and fix them. These people buy homes, send their kids to college, take vacations and have health-care costs. The economy is a circular process, __7__ one person's costs are another person's income. If robots cut costs, the savings have to go somewhere — lower prices, higher wages, higher profits or more business investment.

There are two dangers for the future. One is that the new jobs created by new technologies will require knowledge and skills that are in short supply, leaving unskilled workers without income and the economy with skill scarcities.

__8__ second danger is that government will damage or destroy the job creation process. We live in a profit-making economic system. Government's main role is to maintain the conditions that make hiring profitable.

If we make __9__ too costly for private firms to hire (through high minimum wages, mandated costs and expensive regulations) --- or too difficult to fire --- guess what? They won't hire. That's __10__ ought to worry us, not the specter of more robots.

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