

一位 21 岁的年轻人利用人工智能读出了 维苏威火山掩埋的具有 2000 年历史的 纸莎草纸卷轴上的第一个单词,从而赢得 了 4 万美元的奖金

A 21-year-old won \$40,000 for using Al to read the first word on a 2,000-year-old papyrus scroll buried by Mount Vesuvius

中文导读:

一位 21 岁的大学本科生法里托利用人工智能读出了维苏威火山掩埋的具有 2000 年历史的纸莎草纸卷轴上的第一个单词 "πορφυρας"(紫色染料/紫色布料),从而赢得了 4 万美元的奖金。该挑战赛仍在继续,奖金高达 70 万美元。

Luke Farritor, a 21-year-old undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska, just won \$40,000 for a breakthrough discovery in science.

卢克·法里托(Luke Farritor),是一名来自内布拉斯加大学 (University of Nebraska) 的 21 岁本科生,他刚刚因一项突 破性的科学发现赢得了 4 万美元奖金。

■ 重点词汇:

undergraduate: n. 本科生; adj. 本科的

breakthrough: n. 突破性的发现; adj. 突破性的

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■ 固定搭配:

undergraduate student: 本科生

Luke is an undergraduate student at the University of Nebraska. (Luke是内布拉斯加大学的本科生。)

breakthrough discovery: 突破性的发现

His breakthrough discovery in science earned him \$40,000. (他在科学领域的突破性发现为他赢得了4万美元。)

Farritor was the first to read a word from one of the ancient Herculaneum scrolls as part of the Vesuvius Challenge — a competition with \$1,000,000 in prizes for people who can unlock the secrets of these ancient scrolls using modern technology.

作为维苏威火山挑战赛的一部分,法里托是第一个读出古代赫 库兰尼姆古卷中的一个单词的人。维苏威挑战赛的奖金为 100 万美元,奖励给那些能够利用现代技术解开这些古卷秘密的 人。

■ 重点词汇:

ancient: adj. 古代的; 古老的

Herculaneum: n. 赫库兰尼姆(古罗马城市)

scroll: n. 卷轴; 纸卷

competition: n. 竞赛; 比赛

unlock: v. 揭示;解锁 secret: n. 秘密;机密

■ 固定搭配:

as part of: 作为一部分; 作为……的一部分

He contributed to the project as part of a larger team. (他作为一个更大团队的一部分为这个项目做出了贡献。)

using modern technology: 利用现代技术
They achieved great success using modern
technology. (他们利用现代技术取得了巨大的成功。)

↔ 长难句分析:

Farritor was the first to read a word from one of the ancient Herculaneum scrolls as part of the Vesuvius Challenge — a competition with \$1,000,000 in prizes for people who can unlock the secrets of these ancient scrolls using modern technology.

这句话虽然较长,但结构相对简单,主要包括以下要素:

- 1. "Farritor was the first to read a word from one of the ancient Herculaneum scrolls": 这部分表明 Farritor 是第一个读到古代赫库兰尼姆古卷上的单词的人。这是一个主句,描述了他的成就。
- 2. "as part of the Vesuvius Challenge": 这部分说明了他的行为发生在"维苏威挑战"(Vesuvius Challenge)的框架下。这是一个附加信息,用来解释 Farritor 的行动背景。
- 3. "a competition with \$1,000,000 in prizes for people who can unlock the secrets of these ancient scrolls using modern technology": 这部分进一步解释了"维苏威挑战",即这是一个竞赛,为那些能够利用现代技术揭示这些古代卷轴的秘密的人提供了 100 万美元的奖金。这是主句的后续信息,描述了竞赛的性质和奖励。

Why the Herculaneum scrolls can't be read like normal

为什么赫库兰尼姆古卷不能像普通卷轴那样阅读?

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, Pompeii wasn't the only town it obliterated. Mudslides and immense heat reached all the way to the

prosperous city of Herculaneum, in what is now Italy.

公元 **79** 年维苏威火山爆发时,庞贝城并不是唯一被夷为平地的城镇。泥石流和酷热一路蔓延到繁荣的城市赫库兰尼姆(位于今天的意大利内)。

■ 重点词汇:

erupt: v. 爆发; 喷发

Pompeii: n. 庞贝(古罗马城市)

obliterate: v. 抹去; 毁灭

mudslide: n. 泥石流

immense: adj. 巨大的; 庞大的

heat: n. 热; 炎热

prosperous: adj. 繁荣的; 富裕的

■ 固定搭配:

all the way to: 一直到; 一直达到

The road stretches all the way to the coast. (这条道路一直延伸到海岸。)

in what is now: 在现在(指示位置)

The ancient ruins stand in what is now a modern city. (古代废墟位于现在的一个现代城市。)

↔ 长难句分析:

When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE, Pompeii wasn't the only town it obliterated. Mudslides and immense heat reached all the way to the prosperous city of Herculaneum, in what is now Italy.

这句话虽然包含多个分句,但结构相对简单,主要包括以下要素:

- 1. "When Mount Vesuvius erupted in 79 CE": 这是一个时间状语从句,引导了整个事件的时间背景。
- 2. "Pompeii wasn't the only town it obliterated": 这部分指出庞贝并不是火山喷发摧毁的唯一城镇。这是一个简单的陈

述句。

- 3. "Mudslides and immense heat reached all the way to the prosperous city of Herculaneum": 这一部分描述了火山爆发的影响,包括泥石流和巨大的热量一直延伸到了富裕的城市赫库兰尼姆。这也是一个简单的陈述句。
- 4. "in what is now Italy": 这是一个介词短语,用来指示现在的地理位置,即意大利。

The heat was so intense, it instantaneously transformed hundreds of papyri scrolls into fossilized chunks of carbon. Those ancient scrolls then lay buried in mud for 1,700 years until they were finally excavated in 1752.

温度极高,瞬间将数百份莎草纸卷变成了大块碳化石。这些古卷随后在泥土中埋藏了整整 1700 年,直到 1752 年才最终被发掘出来。

■ 重点词汇:

intense: adj. 强烈的; 剧烈的

instantaneously: adv. 瞬间地;即刻

fossilized: adj. 化石的

chunk: n. 块; 大块

carbon: n. 碳

papyri: n. (papyrus 的名词复数) 纸草卷轴

bury: v. 埋藏

excavate: v. 挖掘; 发掘

■ 固定搭配:

so intense: 如此强烈

The storm was so intense that it caused significant

damage.(风暴如此强烈,导致了重大破坏。)

instantaneously transformed: 瞬间变化

The magic spell instantaneously transformed the frog

into a prince. (魔法咒语瞬间将青蛙变成了王子。)



be excavated in: 在...中挖掘出

The archaeological site was excavated in 1752. (这个

考古遗址于 1752 年被挖掘出来。)

Any attempts to unfurl the Herculaneum scrolls, which now resemble charcoal logs, would damage them beyond repair.

任何试图展开赫库兰尼姆古卷(现在的这些古卷就像木炭一样)的行为都会对他们造成无法修复的损坏。

■ 重点词汇:

attempt: n. 尝试; 企图

unfurl: v. 展开; 打开

resemble: v. 类似; 像

charcoal: n. 木炭 **log**: n. 原木; 木块

damage: v. 损害; 毁坏

beyond repair: 无法修复的

● 固定搭配:

beyond repair: 无法修复的

The old car was damaged beyond repair. (这辆旧车已

经损坏得无法修复。)

"These are such crazy objects. They're all crumpled and crushed," Federica Nicolardi, a member of the academic committee that reviewed Farritor's findings, told Nature.

负责审查法里托研究结果的学术委员会成员费代丽卡·尼科拉迪 (Federica Nicolardi)告诉《自然》杂志。"这些物体太夸 张了。它们都皱巴巴的,被压得粉碎。"

■ 重点词汇:

crazy: adj. 疯狂的; 荒谬的

object: n. 物体; 对象

crumpled: adj. 皱巴巴的; 弯曲的

crushed: adj. 压碎的;压坏的

academic: adj. 学术的; 学院的

committee: n. 委员会 review: v. 审查;评审

■ 固定搭配:

academic committee: 学术委员会

The academic committee discussed the research

findings. (学术委员会讨论了研究成果。)

That's where modern-day technology comes in.

这就是现代技术的用武之地。

■ 重点词汇:

modern-day: adj. 现代的; 当代的

technology: n. 技术;科技

Instead, researchers have used X-rays and machine learning to read a word from one of the scrolls for the very first time.

相反,研究人员利用 X 射线和机器学习技术,首次读出了卷轴中的一个单词。

■ 重点词汇:

researcher: n. 研究人员

X-rays: n. X射线

machine learning: 机器学习

read: v. 阅读;读取

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▶ 固定搭配:

for the very first time: 首次;第一次

He visited Paris for the very first time last year. (他去年首次访问了巴黎。)

As part of the Vesuvius Challenge, the University of Kentucky recruited citizen scientists to use AI to parse out words from the X-ray images of the still-rolled scrolls.

作为维苏威斯挑战赛的一部分,肯塔基大学招募了民间科学家,利用人工智能来解析尚未展开的卷轴的 X 射线图像上的文字。

■ 重点词汇:

recruit: v. 招募; 招聘

citizen scientists: 民间科学家

AI: 人工智能

parse out: 分析;解析

still-rolled: adj. 仍然卷起的

■ 固定搭配:

as part of: 作为一部分; 作为……的一部分 She participated in the project as part of a larger team. (她作为一个更大团队的一部分参与了这个项目。)

citizen scientist: 民间科学家

Citizen scientists play a crucial role in collecting data for the project. (民间科学家在为该项目收集数据方面发挥了关键作用。)

Farritor was the first to read a word from the scroll and was awarded \$40,000 from the Vesuvius Challenge at a press conference announcing the finding on Thursday.

法里托是第一个读出卷轴上的一个字的人,在本周四宣布这一 发现的新闻发布会上获得了维苏威火山挑战赛的 4 万美元奖 励。

■ 重点词汇:

award: v. 授予; 颁发

press conference: 新闻发布会

announce: v. 宣布; 宣告 finding: n. 发现; 结果

■ 固定搭配:

at a press conference: 在一次新闻发布会上
The CEO made an important announcement at a press conference. (首席执行官在一次新闻发布会上做了重要公告。)

Purple cloth

紫色布料

To win the prize, Farritor needed to detect at least 10 legible letters on the scroll. Working on a region that was less than a square inch, Farritor's algorithm detected several letters, including a complete word.

要想获奖,法里托需要在卷轴上检测出至少 10 个清晰的字母。在不到一平方英寸的区域内,法里托的算法检测到了多个字母,包括一个完整的单词。

■ 重点词汇:

detect: v. 探测; 检测 legible: adj. 清晰可读的 region: n. 区域; 地区 square inch: 平方英寸 algorithm: n. 算法

● 固定搭配:

at least: 至少

You should have at least two servings of vegetables a day. (你每天至少应该吃两份蔬菜。)

a complete word: 一个完整的词语

She found a complete word hidden in the crossword puzzle. (她在填字游戏中发现了一个完整的词语。)

Farritor was the first person to submit enough legible letters to win the prize.

法里托是第一个提交足够清晰的字母以获奖的人。

■ 重点词汇:

submit: v. 提交

● 固定搭配:

the first person to: 第一个; 首位

She was the first person to arrive at the event. (她是第一个到达活动现场的人。)

"I saw these letters and I just completely freaked out," he said during the press conference. "I freaked out, almost fell over, almost cried."

"我看到这些字母,我完全吓坏了," 他在新闻发布会上说 道。"我吓坏了,差点摔倒,差点哭了。"

■ 重点词汇:

freak out: 突然感到极度兴奋或恐慌

fell over: 摔倒

■ 固定搭配:

freak out: 突然感到极度兴奋或恐慌

She freaked out when she saw the surprise party. (她

看到惊喜派对时感到非常兴奋。)

Niccolardi, a professor of classics at the University of Naples Federico II, read the ancient Greek word, " $\pi o \rho \phi \upsilon \rho \alpha \varsigma$ " which means either "purple dye" or "cloths of purple."

那不勒斯费德里科二世大学的古典学教授尼科拉迪 (Niccolardi) 读到了古希腊词"πορφυρας",意思是"紫色染料"或"紫色布料"。

■ 重点词汇:

classic: n. 古典学; 经典著作 **Greek**: adj. 希腊的; 希腊人的

While she noted that there isn't enough context to understand what the scroll is saying, she said she's confident scholars will soon be able to read more of the document. "I think this will be a great revolution" in the field of papyrology.

她指出,虽然目前尚无足够的上下文来理解这份卷轴的内容,但她相信学者们很快将能够读到该文件的更多内容。她表示:"我认为这将是纸莎草学领域的一场伟大革命。"

■ 重点词汇:

note: v. 注意到;指出

context: n. 上下文; 背景

confident: adj. 有信心的; 确信的

scholar: n. 学者; 专家 **document**: n. 文档; 文件

revolution: n. 革命;变革 papyrology: n. 纸草学

● 固定搭配:

there isn't enough context: 缺乏足够的上下文 Without enough context, it's difficult to interpret the meaning. (缺乏足够的上下文,解释意义很困难。)

be able to: 能够

I will be able to attend the meeting tomorrow. (我明天能够参加会议。)

a great revolution: 一场伟大的革命

The Industrial Revolution was a significant turning point in history. (工业革命是历史上的一个重要转折点。)

She noted that these are unknown texts, making their unraveling of great interest to literary scholars as well.

她指出,这些都是未知的文本,因此文学学者也非常有兴趣揭 开它们的神秘面纱。

■ 重点词汇:

unknown: adj. 未知的

unraveling: n. 解开;拆散 literary: 文学的,文学上的

When they do get the full picture of what the scroll contains, Brent Seales, a computer scientist at the University of Kentucky, expects it to contain familiar themes.

肯塔基大学计算机科学家布伦特·西尔斯(Brent Seales)预计,当他们得到卷轴内容的全貌时,卷轴中会出现我们熟悉的

主题。

■ 重点词汇:

contain: v. 包含

expect: v. 期望; 预计 **theme**: n. 主题; 主旨

● 固定搭配:

get the full picture of: 得到完整的了解

We need more information to get the full picture of the situation. (我们需要更多信息来完整了解情况。)

"What I expect is writing that expresses what it means to be human, speaking of love and of war and of the things that still matter to us because we are human, just like they were human."

"我期望的是表达人类本质的文字, 谈论爱、战争以及对我们仍然重要的事情, 因为我们和他们一样都是人类。"

■ 重点词汇:

expect: v. 期望; 预计

writing: n. 写作; 文学作品

express: v. 表达

matter: v. 重要; 有关

■ 固定搭配:

what it means to be human: 作为人类的含义 Exploring what it means to be human has been a central theme in literature. (探讨作为人类的含义一直是文学中的一个中心主题。)

speak of: 谈论; 提到

The book is speaking of the challenges faced by the

characters. (这本书谈到了角色们面临的挑战。)

just like: 就像

He looks just like his father. (他看起来就像他父亲。)

↔ 长难句分析:

这句话是一个复杂的复合句,包含多个并列的子句。现在来分析其结构和要素:

- 1. "What I expect": 这是主句的开始,表达了期望的内容。
- 2. "is writing that expresses what it means to be human": 这部分是主句的核心,说明了期望的内容。其中包括以下要素:
- "writing": 名词, 指的是文学作品。
- "expresses": 动词,表示表达或展示。
- "what it means to be human": 这是一个名词性从句,用来详细说明表达的内容,即作为人类的含义。
- 3. "speaking of love and of war and of the things that still matter to us": 这是并列的三个不定式短语,用来进一步描述期望的内容。它们包括以下要素:
- "speaking of":表示谈论或提到。
- "love and of war and of the things": 这是名词短语,列举了要谈论的主题,包括爱、战争和对我们仍然重要的事物。
- "that still matter to us": 这是一个从句,用来说明这些主题之所以重要,因为它们仍然关乎我们。
- 4. "because we are human, just like they were human": 这是最后一个并列的从句,用来进一步解释为什么这些主题对我们重要。它包括以下要素:
- "because": 引导原因状语从句,表示原因。
- "we are human": 说明我们是人类。
- "just like they were human": 用来强调我们和过去的人 类一样也是人类。

总的来说,这句话表达了对文学作品的期望,希望它们能够表达人类存在的含义,谈论爱、战争和对我们仍然重要的事物,因为我们和过去的人类一样都是人类。这句话采用了并列结构,使表达更加丰富和生动。

The future of unwrapped scrolls

解读卷轴的未来

■ 重点词汇:

unwrapped: adj. 解开的; 打开的

With so many of the scrolls unread, there's still a grand prize, worth \$700,000, on the line. To win, a team will have to read four passages from the two scanned scrolls.

虽然还有很多卷轴未被解读,但仍有价值 70 万美元的大奖在 等着我们。要想获胜,一个团队必须从两卷扫描卷轴中读出四 个段落。

■ 重点词汇:

grand: adj. 壮丽的;宏伟的

on the line: 在竞争中; 在考验中 scanned: adj. 扫描的; 扫描过的

■ 固定搭配:

with so many of: 有这么多的...

With so many of the guests arriving late, the event was delayed. (由于有这么多的客人迟到,活动被推迟了。)

on the line: 在竞争中

The athletes put everything on the line to win the championship. (运动员们为了赢得冠军冒一切风险。)

to win: 赢得

She worked hard to win the competition.(她努力工作以赢得比赛。)

Seales said it's not just ancient texts that could

benefit from the techniques the university is using.

西尔斯(Seales)说,不仅仅是古籍可以从大学正在使用的技术中受益。

■ 重点词汇:

ancient: adj. 古代的; 古老的

benefit from: 受益于; 从...中获益

technique: n. 技术; 技巧

■ 固定搭配:

benefit from: 受益干; 从...中获益

Children can benefit from regular exercise. (孩子们可

以从定期锻炼中受益。)

He noted that the Franklin papers, damaged documents that were part of an expedition to the Arctic, are a candidate.

他指出, 弗兰克林文件, 这些曾是北极探险的一部分的受损文件, 也是潜在的候选者。

■ 重点词汇:

damaged: adj. 损坏的; 受损的

document: n. 文件; 文档 expedition: n. 远征; 探险 Arctic: n. 北极地区; 极寒地区 candidate: n. 候选人; 候选者

▶ 固定搭配:

part of: 作为一部分

This task is part of our project. (这项任务是我们项目的一部分。)

"It's unclear what's written on those papers," he said. Virtual unwrapping might be the thing that could reveal it.

"不清楚那些文件上写了什么," 他说。虚拟展开可能会揭示真相。

■ 重点词汇:

unclear: adj. 不清楚的;不明确的

virtual: adj. 虚拟的;模拟的 **unwrapping**: n. 解开;打开

■ 固定搭配:

it's unclear: 不清楚

It's unclear whether the event will be postponed. (目前

不清楚是否会推迟活动。)

reveal it: 揭示它

The investigation aims to reveal the truth about the

incident. (调查旨在揭示事件的真相。)