

大学英语高级读写教程

A Course for Advanced
College English
Reading and Writing



Essential and Effective
English Sentences

英语句式精要

董宁 编著

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Essential and Effective English Sentences

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前言

*Teaching writing without teaching reading
is not teaching at all.* —Kroll, 1993

英语阅读与写作不仅在国内外各种英语测试中占有很大的分数比例,而且作为最基本的交流技能之一,不受时间、地点和空间的限制,对于国内广大学生来说,比面对面的口头交流更具有实用性。

在英语读写的过程中,学生们普遍遇到的困难不是文章结构和文体特点的理解和把握。这些知识在各种语言中基本相通,对母语该方面的掌握,能够被自然、便当地应用在英语文章的理解和写作中。我国大学生经过中学的语文学习,已经奠定了良好的文章文体基础。他们学习英语书面语的难点主要是:在英语写作中,如何流畅自如地用规范、地道和耐读的语言表达自己的思想;在英语阅读中,如何正确并快速地理解,尤其是理解有难度的、富有表现力的表达。

根据中国大学生学习英语的难点和特点,在学校教改提供的平台上,本人开设了旨在提高学生英语读写能力的课程,并以在教学中使用的教案为基础,编写了《大学英语高级读写教程》。本教程以加强语言功底为中心,强调读与写的相辅相成作用,通过大量的、有针对性的学习,既可提高阅读能力,同时又可积累丰富的写作语言素材。

本教程的讲授对象是山东大学快班学生,是供他们完成大学英语四级学习后的更高阶段学习使用。同样适用于具有一定英语水平并希望进一步提高自己的读写能力的学习者,也能为教师的读写教学提供参考。

该教程分为两册:第一册:英语句式精要(Essential and Effective English Sentences)。旨在加强学生英语读写的语句功底。句子是表达语义的最基本单位。阅读不过关,大多是英语难句读不懂,而作文写不好,往往是句子写不好。对重要句式的掌握,是读写的重要基础。对精美句子的理解和仿用,是高水平读写的重要基础。第二册:欣赏与摹写(Comprehension and Composition)。以语篇为主,精选多种文体文质兼美文章,以读导写。引导学生在读写过程中,了解各种文体和措辞的特点,掌握不同文体文章的阅读和写作方法,进行准确快速的阅读和规范、流畅的写作。使英语真正成为获得信息和表达思想的手段。

本书是教材的第一册。主要包括三部分内容:句子结构、修辞句式和句子技巧。第一部分对大学英语阶段的书面语句法知识进行全面梳理和概括,突出规范性、系统性和实用性,解析要点难点,提高学生读写的准确度和速度,为其课外和毕业后的独立读写夯实基础,也能为考研的学生建立后发优势。第二部分和第三部分是建立在句法基础上的高级

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语言现象——修辞句式和句子技巧。阐述句子的修辞功能、特点、造句技巧和段落组织技巧,引导学生赏识、掌握和运用多种富有表现力的表达形式,以求达到理解和表达的最佳效果。书中还分类列举了大量作文中常用的实用例句,方便学生掌握和运用。指正中国学生普遍性的写作错句、病句,引为鉴戒。提供有针对性的练习,通过有效读写练习,逐步提高阅读能力和语言表达水平。精选多位著名作家和知名人物的精彩之笔和大量蕴涵人生感悟与智慧的隽句、谚语等,以供欣赏、诵读,也助于陶冶情操,拓宽视野,提高文化素养。

在本教材编写成书的过程中,担任山东大学博士生英语教学工作的外籍教师 Harmony Downs 对该书提出了宝贵意见,并对部分内容进行了修改;在本人赴美访学期间,美国加州大学圣·马科斯分校的几位老师就本书编排、内容诸方面给予了建设性指导;山大东区诸年级快班学生积极参与、配合,并提出许多有益、有创意的建议;山东大学出版社的王桂琴老师在付梓前精心策划、设计;山东大学傅晓华老师自始至终地给予了热情关怀和大力支持;另外,编者曾参阅多种国内外教材、文选和译文,并引用一些著者和译者的语句作为例句。在此一并真情致谢。

由于编者水平有限和某些语言点存在争论,难免有错误或不同观点,恳请同行和读者指正。

编著者

2008年5月

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Part One

Essential Sentences

Unit 1 Types of Sentence Structures

Pre-reading

1. Such large, impersonal manipulation of capital and industry greatly increased the numbers and importance of shareholders as a class, an element in national life representing irresponsible wealth detached from the land and the duties of the landowners; and almost equally detached from the responsible management of business. (GET1996)
manipulation *n.* management, operation, or control with skill
detach *vt.* separate; unfasten and take apart (from)
2. In the past our own blocks of flats have been associated with the lower-income groups and they have lacked the obvious provisions, such as central heating, constant hot water supply, electrically operated lifts from top to bottom, and so on, as well as such details, important notwithstanding, as easy facilities for disposal of dust and rubbish and storage places for baby carriages on the ground floor, playgrounds for children on the top of the buildings and drying grounds for washing. (CET4. 1996. 6)
3. Alternative fuels such as natural gas, burned in internal-combustion engines, could be introduced at relatively low cost, but they would lead to only marginal reductions in pollution and greenhouse emissions especially because oil companies are already spending billions of dollars every year to develop less polluting types of gasoline. (CET6. 2000. 6)

combustion *n.* process of burning; destruction by fire

4. We the peoples of the U. N. determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold suffering to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom, and for these ends, to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbors, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims. —*The Charter of the United Nations*
5. The United States Government attaches great importance to its relations with China, and reiterates that it has no intention of infringing on Chinese sovereignty and territorial integrity, or interfering in China's internal affairs, or pursuing a policy of "two Chinas" or "one China, one Taiwan". The United States Government understands and appreciates the Chinese policy of striving for a peaceful resolution of the Taiwan question as indicated in China's Message to Compatriots in Taiwan issued on January 1, 1979 and the Nine-Point Proposal put forward by China on September 30, 1981.

—*Sino-U. S. Joint Communiqué*

reiterate *vt.* say or do again

infringe *vt.* break (a rule, etc.), transgress, violate, encroach upon

sovereignty *n.* sovereign power; highest power without limit (of a nation, state, or ruler)

compatriot *n.* person who was born in, or is a citizen of, the same country as another; fellow-countryman

1.1 Classification of Sentences

Sentences can be classified in several different ways: grammatically, functionally, or rhetorically. Grammatical classification groups sentences according to how many and what types of independent statements they contain. Functional classification groups them according to whether they make a statement, ask a question, give a command, or express an exclamation. Rhetorical classification groups them according to where in the sentence the main idea is located.

1.1.1 Classified by Structures (Grammatically)

Classified by structures, sentences are of four kinds: simple sentence, compound sentence, complex sentence and compound-complex sentence.

1) Simple sentences

A simple sentence is a sentence that contains only one subject and one predicate though either or both of which may be co-ordinate.

- (1) Sun also rises.
- (2) True love never grows old.
- (3) Time and tide wait for no man. (co-ordinate subjects)
- (4) Marriage makes or mars a man. (co-ordinate predicates)
- (5) True excellence requires a worthy dream, a good ideal of how to realize it, and the courage to risk failure to achieve it. —Bill Clinton

2) Compound sentences

A compound sentence is a sentence that contains two or more independent clauses which are coordinate and closely related in thought. The clauses of a compound sentence are usually connected by coordinate conjunctions; but if the relation between the clauses is clearly implied, the semicolon can be used instead.

- (1) Love asks faith and faith asks firmness.
- (2) The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet. —Aristotle
- (3) A person should have a strong will, or he will achieve nothing. —Marie Curie
- (4) A body with a lingering disease makes the brightest future covered with shadow, while a strong vigor makes the unfortunate adversity shining golden light.
—Edmund Spenser
- (5) Young men make great mistakes in life; for one thing, they idealize love too much.
—John Ray

3) Complex sentences

A complex sentence is a sentence that consists of a principle clause and one or more subordinate clauses, the functions of which are similar to those of the parts of a simple sentence. Accordingly, subordinate clauses are classified into three kinds: noun clause, attributive clause and adverbial clause.

- (1) He who hesitates is lost.
- (2) What he got is what he deserved.
- (3) A consensus politician is someone who does something that he doesn't believe is right because it keeps people quiet when he does it. —John Major
- (4) Unlike other lawbreakers, who must leave the country, commit suicide, or go to jail, computer criminals sometimes escape punishment, demanding not only that they not be charged but that they be given good recommendations and perhaps other

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benefits. (CET6. 1997. 1)

- (5) I believe that the most important forces behind the massive M&A wave (mergers and acquisitions) are the same that underlie the globalization progress: falling transportation and communication costs, lower trade and investment barriers and enlarged markets that require enlarged operations capable of meeting customers' demands. (GET2001)

4) Compound-complex sentences

A compound-complex sentence is a sentence that is made up of two or more simple sentences and one or more dependent clauses, presenting more intricate relationship than do other kinds of sentences and is often used to improve the compactness and smoothness of the writing.

- (1) Many in our country do not know the pain of poverty, but we can listen to those who do. —George W. Bush: *First Inaugural Address* (January 20, 2001)
- (2) A wise woman will marry one who loves her while a foolish woman will marry one whom she loves.
- (3) When a person with money meets a person with experience, the person with the experience winds up with the money and the person with money winds up with the experience.
- (4) Americans are proud of their variety and individuality, yet they love and respect few things more than a uniform, whether it is the uniform of an elevator operator or the uniform of a five-star general. (CET4. 2000. 6)
- (5) Russians have a deep love for their own language and carry large chunks of memorized poetry in their heads, while Italian politicians tend to elaborate speech that would seem old-fashioned to most English-speakers. (GET2005)

1.1.2 Classified by Use (Functionally)

According to different functions, sentences may be divided into four major syntactic classes: declarative sentences (statement), interrogative sentences (question), imperative sentences (command) and exclamatory sentences (exclamation).

1) Declarative sentences (Statement)

A declarative sentence is a sentence used to make an assertion or a statement in the affirmative or negative.

(1) Affirmative sentences

- a) Method will teach you to win time.
- b) The landscape belongs to the man who looks at it. —R. W. Emerson
- c) Now in our society there has sprung up a heated discussion as to whether to hold the examination.

(2) Negative sentences

- a) The handsomest flower is not the sweetest.
- b) One swallow does not make a summer.
- c) Time lost never returns.
- d) Have no fear of perfection—you'll never reach it. —Salvador Dali
- e) Life has taught me to think, but thinking hasn't taught me to live. —Alexander Herzen

2) Interrogative sentences (Questions)

An interrogative sentence is a sentence used to express lack of information on a specific point, and to request the listener to supply the information verbally. There are four forms according to the type of the answer they expect. In “wh-questions” the normal statement order of elements is upset not only by the initial lacing of the Q-element, but also by the inversion of subject and operator in all cases expect that in which the Q-element is subject, where the rule of initial Q-element takes precedence over the rule of inversion.

(1) General questions (Yes-no questions)

The general question is a question normally used to seek a “yes” or “no” response relation to the validity of an entire prediction.

- a) Have you ever been to Beijing? Yes, many times.
- b) Are all friends who speak us fair? No, not all.
- c) Will you take this woman as your wife?

(2) Special questions (Wh-questions)

The special question is a question used to elicit information on particular parts of a sentence and to be formed with the aid of interrogative word (Q-word).

- a) Which is the best way to solve the heavy traffic problem?
- b) What does loving someone mean? It means feeling pleased for his happiness, doing whatever to make him happier and having the pleasure in doing all this.

(3) Alternative questions (Or-questions)

The alternative question is a question used to indicate the choice between two (sometimes among more than two) different things.

- a) What do you prefer, tea or coffee?
- b) Would you like to go for a walk or stay at home?
- c) Are you coming or not?

(4) Disjunctive questions (Tag-questions)

The disjunctive question is a question used to request confirmation.

- a) You have English lessons every Friday, don't you?
- b) He has got nothing, has he?

3) Imperative sentences

An imperative sentence is a sentence without the subject “you” used to express a command or a request.

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(1) Affirmative imperative sentences

- a) Do it well or not at all.
- b) Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing. —Benjamin Franklin
- c) Be reading your book when your parents come back.

Note: Rarely the progressive form occurs to make stress.

- d) You mind your own business, and leave mine to me.

Note: The subject “you” is retained to express strong irritation here.

- e) Let early education be a sort of amusement; you will then be better able to find out the natural bent. —Plato

(2) Negative imperative sentences

- a) Don't waste life in doubts and fears. —R. W. Emerson
- b) Don't take me for a fool.
- c) Don't trouble troubles until trouble troubles you.
- d) Never despair. But if you do, work on in despair. —Edmund Burke
- e) Don't be too timid and squeamish about your actions. All life is an experiment.

—R. W. Emerson

squeamish *adj.* too modest, scrupulous, or proper

4) Exclamatory sentences

An exclamatory sentence is a sentence introduced by “what (a)” or “how” without inversion of subject and operator and used to express a strong feeling or emotion, such as surprise, pain or joy.

- (1) What a fuss I made!
- (2) How short our happy days appear!
- (3) How I longed for the power to unsay my tactless words!
- (4) Love your life earnestly! How good life is, so let's live a thousand times. —Beethoven
- (5) How nice!

What a shame!

Terrible!

Note: Exclamatory sentences are often so abbreviated that only the complement with or without the exclamatory word remains.

1.2 Reading and Writing Activities

1.2.1 Common Mistakes in Writing

1) The comma fault

A sentence is a complete statement made up of a group of words that begins with a capital letter and ends with a period, a question mark, or exclamation point. In every sentence the first letter of the first word should be capitalized and at the end of all sen-

tences, except questions and exclamations, the full stop (period) is used. There must be a punctuation mark after the last word.

The comma fault is a mistake that Chinese students often make. Because in Chinese two complete sentences can be joined merely by a comma, students often forget that in English there has to be a conjunction in addition to the comma if a semicolon, a colon, or a dash is not used. There are many options available for correcting such comma splice, such as inserting an coordinating conjunction after the comma between clauses, using a semicolon between clauses, turning the clauses into separate ones, turning one clause into adverbial, or subordinating one clause to the other. The option you choose depends on the relation you want to establish between the clauses.

Faulty: The weather was clear, everything was going on well in the trip.

Revised: (1) The weather was clear, and everything was going on well in the trip.

(2) The weather was clear; everything was going on well in the trip.

(3) The weather was clear. Everything was going on well in the trip.

(4) As the weather was clear, everything was going on well in the trip.

(5) The weather was so clear that everything was going on well in the trip.

(6) The weather being clear, everything was going on well in the trip.

2) Run-on sentences

Run-on sentences (Fused sentences) are sentences which are ran together with no punctuation. They can rarely be understood on first reading, and are never acceptable in standard written English. Such sentences can be corrected either by inserting the right punctuation in between them or by putting in a conjunction proceeded by a comma.

Faulty: The runner put every bit of his energy into the race as he crossed the finish line the crowd roared.

Revised: (1) The runner put every bit of his energy into the race. As he crossed the finish line, the crowd roared.

(2) The runner put every bit of his energy into the race; as he crossed the finish line, the crowd roared.

(3) The runner put every bit of his energy into the race, and as he crossed the finish line, the crowd roared.

3) Fault of questions

(1) Faulty: Why many people fail to say "No" when they should?

Correct: Why do many people fail to say "No" when they should?

(2) Faulty: The old saying "Clothes make a man" is right?

Correct: Is the old saying "Clothes make a man" right?

1.2.2 Reading and Writing Exercises

I. Classify each of the five sentences in Pre-reading as compound, complex, or compound-complex sentence, and find out the basic sentence patterns of them (See Page 1).

II. Read the following sentences, classify each of them as compound, complex, or compound-complex sentence, and then identify the basic sentence patterns.

- 1) He who is of a calm and happy nature will hardly feel the pressure of age, but to him who is of an opposite disposition, youth and age are equally a burden. —Plato
- 2) We grudge no man a fortune which represents his own power and sagacity exercised with entire regard to the welfare of his fellows. —Theodore Roosevelt
- 3) An ideal makes the reality transparent and a beautiful aspiration makes the life full, so mankind will have something to pin the hope on and history will last forever with time.
- 4) When these elements are blended properly by a director and his actors, the result is a compelling theatrical experience, but when they are out of balance, that is, too much of one thing and not enough of the other, the production fails.
- 5) What is surely and identifiably unique about the human species is not its possession of certain faculties or physical characteristics, but what it has done with them—its achievement, or history, in fact.
- 6) To save precious space on the 80-column punch cards, the programmers of COBOL (common business-oriented language) used just six digits to render the day's date: two for the day, two for the month, two for the year.
- 7) What both students and teachers are experiencing is the recognition that the more complex structures one encounters in a language are not as vital to making oneself understood and so have a less immediate field of application.
- 8) The producers of packaged products argue strongly against changing sizes of packages to contain even weights and volumes, but no one in the trade comments unfavorably on the huge costs incurred by endless changes of package sizes, materials, shape, art work, and net weights that are used for improving a product's market position. (CET6. 1997. 6)
- 9) The economic situation of US is enshrouded with frequent fluctuation of stock market and dwarfing interest rate, the anxiety and expectation magnetized to a point of a man's centripetal force. The man is the chairman of US Federal Reserve.
—Alan Greenspan
- 10) I think the greatest satisfaction one gets is derived from the opinion that people have about you—people who have been around you your whole life—as to your character and your compassion and your fairness, and the way you deal with people, and the

way you do your job and whether you have tried to sacrifice other people for your personal benefit. —Admiral Thomas Moorer

III. Read the following famous sayings, paying attention to the sentence structure.

- 1) Revenge is dangerous; it may hurt you as well as your enemy. —Aesop
- 2) Good health and temperance prolong life. Intemperance often shortens life. —Cervantes
- 3) The greatest pleasure I know is to do a good action by stealth, and to have it found out by accident. —Charles Lamb
- 4) Hope is attached to existence. With existence, there will be hope; with hope, there will be brightness. —Lu Xun
- 5) The wisest man is he who does not fancy that he is so at all. —Nicolas Boileau
- 6) A man travels the world over in search of what he needs and returns home to find it.
—George Moore
- 7) He who seeks only for applause from without has all his happiness in another's keeping. —Oliver Goldsmith
- 8) Man will become better only when you will make him see what he is like.
—Anton Chekhov
- 9) As a well-spent day brings happy sleep, so life well used brings happy death.
—Leonardo da Vinci
- 10) I never found the companion that was so companionable as solitude. —H. D. Thoreau
- 11) I don't like work—no man does—but I like what is in the work—the chance to find myself. —Joseph Conrad
- 12) This is not a novel to be tossed aside lightly. It should be thrown with great force.
—Dorothy Parker
- 13) Laws are felt only when the individual comes into conflict with them.
—Suzanne La Follette
- 14) Creativity is like driving a car at night. You never see further than your headlights, but you can make the whole trip that way. —E. L. Doctorow
- 15) Literature is my Utopia. No barrier of the senses shuts me out from the sweet, gracious discourse of my book friends. —Helen Keller

IV. English-Chinese Translation (GET 1999)

Directions: Read the following passage carefully and then translate the underlined sentences into Chinese.

1) While there are almost as many definitions of history as there are historians, modern practice most closely conforms to one that sees history as the attempt to recreate and explain the significant events of the past. Caught in the web of its own time and place, each generation of historians determines anew what is significant for it in the past. In this search the evidence found is always incomplete and scattered; it is also fre-