

ENGLISH COMPOSITION MADE READABLE

英文作文批改

附

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英文作文批改

編者：錢歌川・張易◇特價七十五元

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A POET IN THE THEATRE

(1) 原 作 稿

Once a poet enjoyed a play in theatre; behind him sitting a spectator, patted on his shoulder and said, "Please, get your hat off!"

But, the poet did not mind.

Waiting a while, the man sitting behind him said again: "Please, get your hat off, my friend."

Still, the poet did not mind.

On the screen the picture was splendid and magnificent; however, to that man his eye-sight was mostly hindered by the hat. He could not, actually, endure any more thus did he say: "Do get your hat off! my eye-sight was entirely hindered."

The poet stretching out, therefore, his right hand took off it. Pop! the damned long and disorderly hair stood straight there just like a bundle of straws.

The back spectator felt the change, by no means, to be better after all.

"Sorry! Beg you put on it again!"

(2) 講 解

上面登的這篇文章是一個中學生寫的。通篇沒有什麼文法上的錯誤，在現今的中學校裏，能够寫得出這樣的英文作文來的人，已經算是很不容易了。

這篇文章的毛病，就在用字不當。許多字句都不合英美人的習慣用法，所以即令造句於文法雖無不合，它還是不能達意，作文不論中西，惟一的要點，不外是孔夫子說的「辭達而已矣」。要達意就非用字恰當不可。

現在逐一說明如下：

中文的「觀賞」可以譯作 enjoy，如「賞花」enjoy the flowers，「賞月」enjoy the moonlight，「賞雪」enjoy the snow 之類；但「觀

劇」的「觀」字就不能用 enjoy 這個字，只可照字面譯作 see，有時也可用 do 字，如 do a cinema（看電影），「觀光」（sight seeing）也可以說 do a city，不過這是俗語的表現法。劇場的「觀眾」在英文中，只能說 audience（聽眾），至於 spectator 是街上看熱鬧的人，意思是「旁觀者」，例如 He remained an unconcerned spectator of our struggle.（他對於我們的掙扎，抱着漠不關心的旁觀態度）。但對於賽馬，賽球一類的「觀眾」，却可以用這個字，例如 a crowd of spectators at football match.（一大羣的看賽球的人）。spectator 重在「看」，audience 重在「聽」。在平劇的發源地，大家都說「聽戲」，而不說「看戲」，與英文的 audience 實有一脈相通之處。（拉丁文的 audire 即英文的 to hear，所以 audience=assembly of listeners）。play 是指 drama（劇本）或 dramatic performance（演劇），如說去觀劇，可說 go to the play，即指我們現在說的「話劇」，以別於「平劇」（Chinese opera）或「電影」。電影在美國說 motion picture（口語說 movies）在英國說 cinema，如說去看電影，可說 go to the movies（美），go to the cinema（英）。但是說 show 就無所謂，不僅話劇可用，電影可用，甚至廣播劇（radio show）也可用，不論用什麼方式，只要是表演或陳列出來給人看的東西都是 show 呢。

get off 意為「下車」，「下馬」，「免除」等，「脫帽」的「脫」字，英文應說 remove。

拍某人的肩，英文的表現法要說「在那肩上拍某人」，先要把整個的對象說出來，然後才加說那些細節，即 pat a person on the shoulder（拍別人的肩），strike him on the head（敲他的頭），take him by the hand（拿他的手），pull him by the sleeves（牽他的衣袖），kick him on the shin（踢他的腳脛），look him in the face（看他的臉，當面）等等。

mind 作動詞用，是留心不要忘記的意思，如說「沒有注意他說的話」，譯作 did not mind what he said 尚可，但單用一個 mind 是不好的，因為 don't mind 是對人家問你介意與否時的答詞，是說明你不介意人家的話語。take notice（不注意）才是這裡適當的字眼。

wait 作自動詞用，通常後面應加一個 for 字，不過像 wait for a moment 中的 for，在口語說時是可以省去的。

eye-sight 是「視力」，不是「視線」（the line of vision）。視力只有好壞（good or bad）或是衰退（failing），不說被阻住（hinder）。

no more 是表 measure（度量）的，要用 no longer 才可表 state

(狀態)。所以這兒的 not any more 應改為 not any longer.

Pop 是說爆發，此處應該用 (Good) Heavens!

dammed 是鄙野的字，宜儘量避免。

sorry 即 I am sorry 之略，意為「抱歉」或「惋惜」，用在此處之不當，是很容易看得出來的。

本文主要用得不得當的字，都已指出來了。讀者不難明白，寫英文不僅是文法不錯就夠了的。用字的恰當與否，實極為重要，因為一字之差，意思大變，同時中國語法與英文語法也不大相同，不可就中文直譯，一定要用英文的成語表現出來，才是好英文。

現在特就原文的意思，加以修正潤色，使成為一篇像樣的英文，即 make it readable，希望對於原作者及其他讀者，有所助益。

(3) 改 正 稿

A poet once went to see a show in a movie theatre. A man sitting behind him patted him on the shoulder and said, "I say, will you please remove your hat?"

But the poet did not take any notice of him.

Having waited for a while, the man sitting behind repeated the request. Still the poet did not move.

On the screen a very splendid and magnificent picture was being shown, but, to the regret of the man sitting behind, very little could be seen, as his view was mostly obstructed by the poet's hat.

Being unable to endure any longer, he roared to the poet: "Can't you remove your hat?"

At this, the poet took off his hat without saying a word. Heavens! what luxuriant and unkempt locks of hair that stood up straight on the poet's head just like a bundle of straws!

The man behind the poet felt the change by no means better, so he said to the poet:

"If you don't mind I would prefer that you put on your hat again."

MY BEST FRIEND

(1) 原 作 稿

I knew a friend whom I became acquainted with firstly when I attend school. He went along my house and became my best friend. Since then, he and I have been going to school altogether rain or shine.

Not only he himself knows many things, but also he teaches other people who want to learn. He gives a whole book of knowledge to everybody, sometimes he explained very clear and sometimes he says things rather hard to understand.

He is speechless. I seldom hear his voice. Whenever I ask him questions he can not directly answer useful his mouth, but shows me the answers on his body.

All students and all people who learn are to be best friends with him. He is especially intimate with students who study hard in library, that is his office. He helped we learn many things of every side. If we have no him, we will be out of knowledge. You know my best friend's name? I tell you. His Chinese name is "shu", English name is "book".

(2) 講 解

說到現在為止還認識的人，應該用完成式的 have known，以代替過去式的 knew。前面既用了 knew，後面就不要再用 became acquainted with，因為這樣就重覆了。

attend 應該用過去式。

同去或前去，不應該用 went along，應說 came to。

altogether 和 together，雖同是副詞，但意義不同，前者作「總共」「全然」解，後者才是「共」「同」「互相」的意思。

not only 用在句首是加重的說法，應將述語移到主語的前面，才合慣用語法。

a whole book of knowledge 嫌生硬，如用 from cover to cover 這個成語，則既含有書的意味（因 cover 是指書的封面），又作「充分

」「透徹」解，可以雙關。說 I know him from cover to cover, 意即我充分地知道他。

things rather hard to understand 是通的，不過最好是把與書有關的成語嵌進去，所以不如改為 read between the lines (言外之意，弦外之音)。

speechless 意為「不能言的」，「啞的」，未免說得太顯明了，改用 quiet and gentle, 要含蓄些。

answer useful his mouth 是不通的，至少也要說 answer with his mouth, 但不如說 answer by word of mouth, 係現成的字句。又 answer on his body 也是不通的，應以別的方法表出。

all students and all people who learn. 意思是說在校的學生以及校外的學人，可說 every student in or out of school, 因為 student 是 somebody who studies, 並不限於在校的學生，社會上的好學的人士都可以用此字。

He helped we learn 應說 He helped us to learn 才是。「各方面」應說 in every way, 不要說 of every side.

If we have no him 不合英文語法，如說 But for him, 既簡單而又明瞭，實為最恰當的一個成語。

out of knowledge 為 in knowledge 之對，二者都不是這裡所需要的，「無知」可說 ignorant, 但「愚昧」，「無學」就可說 benighted.

I tell you 應作 I'll tell you 或 Let me tell you.

原作小部分是文法不通，大部分是不合慣用語法，所以批改時雖盡量想保存原文，但有時仍不得不將全句重新寫過。作文最好充分利用成語，簡明恰當，讀時容易上口，而不至有中國英文的毛病。

(3) 改正稿

I have known him since I first attended school. He came to my home with me and we made friends with each other. I have never been able to go to school without his company since the day we first met.

Not only does he possess profound knowledge but he imparts it to whoever wants it. He likes supplying everybody with useful information from cover to cover. Sometimes he tells things very explicitly; sometimes you have to read his messages between the lines.

He is very quiet and gentle. I have never heard him speak with a raised voice. As a matter of fact, he has never answered a question by word of mouth, but none the less he makes you understand just as well.

Every student in or out of school is on good terms with him. Those who study hard enjoy the closest intimacy with him and remain in his office—the library—all day long. He helps us in every way to improve in knowledge. But for him, we should have been benighted. Do you know what he is called? His name is “book”.

BUYING A NEW PAIR OF SHOES

(1) 原 作 稿

My shoes was ragged. It looked ugly and unsuitable. My mother suggested that I should have a pair of new shoes instead of the old ones. I was very glad to hear that. But suddenly I felt sad because my mother told me that I could not buy them at once. She had no enough money in hand to go shopping. So I must wait till my father got his salary of the next month.

One month seemed to be a long time for me to wait for a pair of new shoes. I just dreamt day after day. What kind of shoes should I buy? Of what style and in what color? I hoped the day would come.

My dream became true after all. One day my father came home and handed to my mother his salary. I jumped up and ran to my mother. She patted my head and told me that I could buy my shoes immediately. I ran to wash my face, change clothes and comb my hair. All things delighted me. I got in the bus with my mother together.

We went from shop to shop and could not buy a pair of suitable shoes. We wanted to buy a pair of shoes which was cheaper and good looking. But what on earth could we buy the shoes? A person who is not rich, cannot buy things which are good and beautiful. We went along the street. At last we found out a shop.

There was a pair of shoes in yellow color in the glass. They fitted my feet perfectly, but not the shoes I had dreamed to buy. My mother urged me to buy them. She consoled me that she would buy me a pair of much prettier shoes than this we had bought already. I said not thing. I felt tired when I returned home.

Now this pair of yellow shoes is on my feet. I like the shoes very much because they were bought by using my fathers salary.

(2) 講 解

「一雙鞋」雖是說 a pair of shoes, 但「一隻鞋」却要說 a shoe, 單說 shoes, 至少是一雙, 應該用複數。ragged 是說「衣裳襤褸」, 不可用來說破鞋。ugly 是指人醜, 鞋子的難看, 應說 ungainly 或 unpresentable. 這一段除第一句外, 都沒有文法上的錯誤, 只是說出來的句子, 不是嫌累贅, 就是欠熟練, 讀起來不那末順口, 所以批改時, 就不得不把某些句子顛倒換置, 以符英美人造句的習慣。

在 seem 一字後, 最普通是接不定詞, 例如 I seemed to hear a voice in the distance. (我好像聽見遠處有人聲), 不過不定詞後如再有形容詞時, 就可把這不定詞略去, 如 He seems (to be) quite happy. (他好像很快樂)。「期待」應該說 expect. 不要說 hope.

「夢想實現」普通都說 My dream has come true. 不說 become true. 說「薪水袋」(pay-envelope) 比直說「薪水」salary 來得含渾一點。「拍我的頭」與其直譯為 patted my head, 不如說 patted me on the head, 比較更合乎英美語法。太瑣碎的事如洗臉, 梳頭, 更衣, 一一說出來, 頗嫌囉嗦, 近乎寫流水帳, 故改為 to get ready for going out (收拾好以便出去)。既已出門。又乘上公共汽車了, 是應併入下一段才合。

單說 suitable shoes 意思不完全, 應改為「適合我穿的皮鞋」(shoes which suit me). 「比較便宜又好看」譯成 cheaper and good looking, 未免太中國式了。「便宜」應該說 reasonable price, 即合理的價錢。good-looking 或 bad-looking 都是指人的相貌而言, 如 a good-looking person = a handsome person, one with a face that is admired. 再說 She is not at all bad-looking. = She is rather pretty. (她一點也不難看, 還相當漂亮)。我們到底能够買什麼皮鞋呢? 寫成 But what on earth could we buy the shoes? 有點詞不達意, 現連下一句(即沒有錢的人買不到美好的東西的)改為 what can you do with a light

purse? 因為上面已經說過要貨色好，又要價錢便宜這是很難的。錢不夠，當然買不到好的皮鞋。在玻璃窗中，不可說 in the glass，應說 in the show window。「我什麼也沒有說」不可說 I said not thing。應說 I said nothing.

「用我父親的薪水買來」譯成 bought by using my father's salary. 完全是中國語法，尤其是 by using one's salary 用在這裡很不習慣，use money 還可以說，use salary 就不大好說了。

(3) 改正稿

My shoes were wearing out and looked so unpresentable that I was very happy when my mother suggested that I should buy another pair. But she told me that I had to wait till father got his next month's pay as she had not ready money to buy them with.

One month seemed such a long time for me to wait. I dreamed of my new shoes every night. What kind of shoes should I buy? Of what style and color? I expected the day would come soon.

My dream came true at last. One day when father came home he handed his pay-envelope to mother. I jumped at the news and ran to my mother, who patted me on the head and consented to buy my shoes at once. I rushed to get ready for going out with mother.

The bus took us to the business quarter in less than half an hour. We went from shop to shop but could not get a pair of shoes which would suit me. We wanted to buy a pair of beautiful shoes at a reasonable price. But what can you do with a light purse? We walked along the street for a long time, and at length came to a shop, in whose show window we saw a pair of brown shoes. They fitted me so well that they seemed made to order. These, however, were not the shoes I had dreamed of. But my mother urged me to buy them, and promised to get me another pair later. So we went home with the pair of brown shoes. I felt very tired after that long walk.

Now I wear this pair of brown shoes everyday. I like them very much because they were bought with the hard-earned money of my father.

MEI-LI

(1) 原作稿

It is the first anniversary of Mei-li's death. She was a charming beautiful girl, she was bright and cheerful, lively and sweet. She was my neighbor. I have known her since my childhood.

We were friends from childhood. I worked, studied and played with her. She became a great friend of mine. Two years ago, in the summer, she left me and went to Taipei to study, so we sadly parted.

On her departure, I found her crying, she said nothing, I couldn't say something consoling her. At last I bid her farewell reluctantly, and she went. It was sad.

I often wrote to her, and she often wrote to me, too. So long as we remain fast friendship between us, our spirits were close together.

Last winter she wrote me that she was sick, fearing that she would die of pneumonia, I wrote her for consolation; but I didn't dare tell her what was really in my heart for fear of losing her love forever. To my horror, death seized her and my heart was broken.

Each time when I return home I think of her. Though she died, she lives in my memory as real as before.

(2) 講解

這是臺南一中一位名叫 Chang Hsu-cheng 的同學的作文，現除字面上的修正外，再加以意義上的補充，所以第一段的改正稿，似乎與原作有些出入了。原作第二句，作者似乎想要把世界上所有美好的形容詞統統拿來讚美這位小姐，這當然是可以不必的，而且在文法上講，兩句 *she was* 連在一塊兒又無接續詞，也不大妥當。

第一段的尾上和第二段的開頭，連用 *since my childhood* 及 *from childhood*，未免重複，現將第二段併入第一段。

原作第三段的字句也略有調動。否定後應該用 *any* 代替 *some*，所

以 couldn't say something 要改爲 couldn't say anything, 後面的 participial (consoling) 也應改爲 infinitive (to console)。最後一句 It was sad. 的主語 it, 前無先行的名詞, 不知它代表的是什麼, 所以這句至少應改爲 It was a sad parting. 或 The parting was a tug.

作「精神」解的 spirit 不宜加複數, spirits 是指「妖精」,「精靈」, 又指「心境」如高興就說 in high spirits.

I wrote her for consolation. 意爲寫信求她給我安慰, 與作者原意不符, 應改爲 I wrote to console her. 又 I didn't dare tell 應改爲 I didn't dare to tell, 因 dare 在此非助動詞, 而是一個正動詞, 所以應接不定詞的 to tell, 又 for fearing of losing her love 應改爲 for I was afraid of losing her love 或 for I feared that I should lose her love. 現稿上用 I had a presentiment of losing her.

Every 有全體的意思, 而 each 則只能指單獨的, 所以 each time 改爲 every time, 意爲次次如此。

(3) 改正稿

I cannot help thinking of Mei-li today as it is the first anniversary of her death. I am as thankful to have known Mei-li since her childhood as I am grieved to lose her in her teens. She was a charming girl, bright and vivacious. We were playmates while we were very young, and schoolmates while attending school. As we were close neighbors, we had not parted company for a single day till one summer morning about two years ago, she came to tell me that she was going to attend a school in Taipei. So we parted in sorrow for the first time and forever.

On departure she said nothing, but I found her crying. I was so stupefied that I couldn't say anything to console her. I had but to bid her farewell reluctantly when her train moved along. The parting was a tug.

Since we were no longer together, we could do nothing but resort to writing to each other very often. So long as we kept in touch with each other through correspondence, we should remain close friends.

It was last winter that she wrote to me saying she had fallen ill. She was afraid that she would die of pneumonia. I tried to

console her in every way, but in the depths of my heart I had a presentiment of losing her forever. Unfortunately it turned out to be true; and my heart was broken.

Every time when I pass her house I cannot but think of her. She is alive spiritually, though bodily dead; and it seems as if I can hear her voice and laughter.

MY FACE

(1) 原 作 稿

Every one has a face, though it to be delicate, plain or ugly. And we usually recognize a person just because we are familiar with his face. So face means much importance than any part of our body, especially to girls. A girl with a beautiful face is always prouder than a heiress to a million dollar property.

But my face means nothing to me.

I dislike my eyes, for they are not black enough. And people say that yellow-eyed person is cunning. I have hatred for my nose, though it is not an aquiline one, it has no bridge. So people often sneer at my lacking in persistence. As for my mouth, it is ridiculous in shape. My lower lip is thicker than my upper one. And there has never been a loud and tragic voice coming from my mouth. It is why people call me a coward.

I was once blamed by a teacher in the university because of my gazing at him when he had wrongly explained lessons to us. He said that it was very impolite for a student to look at the teacher in that way. Besides, as a teacher of biology, he stated that most murders were yellow-eyed people. His words made my classmates laugh heartily.

It is clear enough that a plain and ugly face is convenient to me. My plain face has told people that I am a mean fellow, so that authorities will put no attention to me. My ugly face has told girls that in my frame there dwells no beautiful soul, so that they will not mistake me as a poet and fall in love with me.

(2) 講 解

Every one 表示「人」的時候，應該寫成一個字。though 是一個表示轉折或矛盾的字，這裡說「面孔有美有醜」，與前面的「人人都有一副面孔」並無矛盾，只是一種說明句子，所以不宜用 though 作接續詞。because 是表示直接真正的原因的，用在此地似乎太重，這裡只要一個「由於」的意思就够了，即我們由面孔而認識人，much 不能和 than 相接，要用 more 才行。aquiline 當係 aquiline (=accipitrine=eagle) 之誤，既沒有鼻梁 (bridge)，當然就不直了。persistence (不是 persistence) 是堅忍或持久的意思。因缺乏堅忍為人嘲笑，這句話放在此不知什麼意思？ridiculous 用來形容 shape 是不當的，單說 not well-shaped 也就够了。用 tragic 來形容 voice 也不好，而且此句邏輯上也不合，我不懂為什麼下唇比上唇厚，就不能發出大聲，就使聲音變成悲劇的了？說話的聲音小，是表示斯文，並不是表示膽怯，而大聲膽怯也不能表示大膽，只能表示粗暴呢。blame 是非難，不是呵責，以改為 scold 為佳。murder 是殺人，謀殺，至於殺人犯則應說 murderer。

最後一段，嫌囉嗦，也未能把作者的意思完全表達出來。convenient 用在此地不妥，應是不惹人注目，而非給予方便。其貌不揚，也並不一定就是卑賤的人。that is my frame there dwells no beautiful soul 一句，文法欠通，應作 that in such a frame as mine would not be able to dwell any beautiful soul 又 mistake 後應接 for，不宜接 as。行文句子要簡單明瞭，拉得太長，則嫌拖沓了。

(3) 改 正 稿

Everyone has a face which may be handsome or ugly. Generally we know a person by his face. So the face is the most prominent part of a person. A girl with a beautiful face is always prouder than those who possess a large fortune.

But my face means nothing to me.

I dislike my eyes which are not black enough, for people say that yellow-eyed persons are cunning. I hate my nose for it seemingly has no bridge. As for my mouth, I find it not well shaped. My lower lip is thicker than the upper one. So people often sneer at me for my facial defects.

While studying in the university, I was once scolded by a