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英语回试

常用话题 **50** 例

50 Topics for
Oral English Practice

人民教育出版社

英语口语

常用话题 50 例

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代序

口语通常是学习者学习外语道路上的拦路虎。不少学习者通过了“四级”、“六级”，甚至于“托福”、“GRE”等考试，获得高分，但却发现自己不能与来自英、美国家的人流畅地交流。这种现象也发生在“英语口语译资格考试”中。不少学生通过了第一阶段（笔试），但在第二阶段（口试、口译）考试中却功亏一篑。人们常将此归于缺少语言环境，词汇量小，语法、句型掌握不够等。这些都是造成这些现象的因素。然而，笔者认为造成这些现象的重要因素是思维方式和演讲内容。我十分同意上海外国语大学英语学院院长梅德明教授的观点：口才表面上看似口之才，而实际上是心之才，是心在说话，是心才的展现。心若枯竭，则思绪贫庸，言之无物；心若奔放，则思如泉涌，口若悬河。美国一位前总统曾说过：“我不是最伟大的交流者，但我交流伟大的内容。”好的演讲内容总是纯粹得让人忘却语言本身这一载体，给人留下深刻的印象。

那么如何才能使自己的谈话、演讲内容充实呢？注重内容也就是你所要传达的思想观点及运用各种阐述方法支持自己的观点。考官、评委看重有意义的观点和睿智的分析。他们关注的是谈话、演讲的内容。在构思过程中，确认两三个想要交流的主要观点，尽量清楚地表达这些观点，并辅以有力的例证。例证通常包括：一、实例。生动、真实的事例会对听众产生很强的冲击力。没有实例支撑的观点往往显得含糊、抽象、呆板；反之，有实例支撑的观点就会显得明确、亲切、生动。二、数据。研究表明，有数据支持的事例的说服力明显增强。数据常被引用以阐明或支持某个观点，显示某一问题的重要性或严重性。数据的引用使论证清晰、具有说服力，论点更加明确、可信。三、证词。证词可用来支持你的观点。证词指那些对你所阐述的题目有着特殊知识或经历的人所作的陈述。援引备受尊崇的名人的观点可以很好地为你的阐述增添可信度，证明你的观点是被有思想、有学识的人所拥护的。

另一个重要因素是必须训练自己换位思考，要跳出就事论事的狭隘圈子，摆脱以个人为中心的思维模式，要在分析问题时提出解决问题的办

法。笔者在各种场合进行过测试，发现目前不少学生的思路相当狭窄。笔者曾要求不同口语班的学生就电脑的利与弊发表观点。几乎所有的同学只对电脑对某个人的影响进行了阐述，而忘却了电脑不仅对个人，而且对家庭、社区、社会及国家甚至整个世界都有深远的影响。

一些学生在阐述中往往思绪比较乱，整个阐述缺少一个合理的组织结构，因此一紧张、一“卡壳”就不知如何是好。我们说口语的阐述实际上是一篇 oral composition。像作文一样，它也需要合理严谨的组织结构。口语阐述一般包括三部分：引言、主体与结论。口语阐述开始时所设定的基调对整篇讲演都有影响。一般引言需要达到两个目的。一、引言要阐明所阐述的问题与论点。二、引言要激起观众的兴趣，吸引住听众的注意力。主体对主要论点进行论述，结构须清晰。论点不宜过多，一般最多两至三个主要论点。结论要追求一种强有力的结尾，再次重申所阐述的中心论点并暗示阐述即将结束。

口语的训练需要长期的努力。有人说口语好是天生的，这也许有几分道理。但经验告诉我们，后天的训练也不可小觑。通过每天的强化训练，渐渐习惯于边思维、边阐述，语言也变得越来越流利，甚至会在阐述中不时冒出精彩之语。我们需要拥有清醒而敏捷的头脑，并习惯用英语思维。

口语的阐述一般可分为描述、记叙、论述三种手法：

一、描述。描述是口语表述的一种手法，是指用生动形象的语言描绘人物、地方、程序或者情感，让听众能够很容易地在脑海中浮现出所描绘的情景。成功的描述有几个突出的特点。首先，描述的语言一般都要要求具体精确、生动形象，所以如何正确选词是描述是否确切的关键。比如，描写路上的一辆车，我们应该避免用 car 这种语义笼统的词，而应该用更为详细、所指范围更窄的词，像 sports car 或者 limousine。其次，为了让听众更易于联想，可以使用有关感官体验的语言，通过对视觉、听觉、触觉、嗅觉、味觉的细节描述，使读者或听众有如身临其境，对所描述的场景感同身受。这一类语言可以包括对事物的大小、形状、质地、颜色、气味等的描述。此外，你还可以适当地应用修辞手法来引发听众的想象，较常用的有明喻、暗喻等。不管描述的是哪一类事物，都需要有一些指示时间、位置或其它逻辑关系的词来引导听众的思维从一个细节到另一个细节，从一个位置到另一个位置，从一个步骤到下一个步骤。这些词包括

above, beside, farther, inside, next to, outside, and under 等空间指示词, 和 before you begin, first, next, also, then, after, now, during, finally and last 等时间指示词。

二、记叙。记叙是对一件事或一系列相关事件的有目的、有重点的叙述。它主要讲述“发生了什么”，经常在日常对话、讲故事、发表演讲等形式中广泛应用。

值得注意的是，讲故事的人并不是为讲故事而讲，不是报流水账，而是带有目的的讲述，通常是为了说明一个道理，传递一个思想，强调一个观点，或是为了证明什么，亦或是为了触动听者的感情而引起共鸣，等等。例如，当我们讲述上学第一天的故事时，当然不能报流水账般地讲述那一天我们做过的每一件事，而是应该有选择地重点讲解一些重要细节，不至于使听众听得枯燥乏味。

正是出于这个原因，记叙法与其他口语表述形式混合起来共同产生作用，达到出奇制胜的效果。例如，在论述克隆技术的重要性时，可以用一个真实的故事，举例说明濒危动物的确已经被克隆技术挽救了生命，其实证效果是不言而喻的，这样比单纯的论述更令人信服。与之类似，熟练掌握记叙法的特点和技巧也会使我们更容易地运用描写这一手法，去描述一件工作的步骤以及这些步骤之间的因果关系。

成功的记叙法必须具备以下几点：

1. 快速并流畅地切题，并力求生动，以抓住听众的注意力；
2. 突出重点，删去所有不相关的、对主题意义不大的细节；
3. 基本遵循时间顺序，有条理地安排每一细节，尤其注意不同状态的运用以突出不同事件的前后顺序；
4. 变换句型句式并交替使用长短句才能令人印象深刻；
5. 正确并有效运用不同过渡词或过渡句，使整个篇章结构更紧凑；
6. 适当使用对比、比较、排比、夸张等修辞手法，以求达到记叙的最佳效果。

对于以上记叙法要点的掌握不能一蹴而就，一定要平时多注意体验生活，观察生活，搜集素材，这样才能真正做到言之有物。

三、论述。如何表达你的观点和想法？

现在你的任务不再是叙述一件事或描述你的所见所闻，而是就某一

话题发表你的意见。通常这些话题与你的日常生活和社会环境相联系。作为一个成年人,你应当具备独立思考和判断的能力。现在你需要学习如何有逻辑地令人信服地表达自己的看法。通常我们遵循以下的顺序来进行。

1. 审题

同一话题可以从不同的角度分析,比如关于毒品可以有如下的题目:

- a. 你认为在中国吸毒是少年犯罪的一个原因吗?
- b. 打击贩毒需要国际合作,你同意吗?
- c. 在中国毒品犯罪的原因是什么?
- d. 可以采取哪些措施打击毒品犯罪?

通常,这些话题可分为两类。第一类:你需要首先明确自己的态度——同意还是反对,如 a、b 两题;第二类:你的任务是分析原因、后果和解决方法等,如 c、d 两题。

2. 思维准备

快速搜索有关的论点。在日常练习中,你可以采取图示的方法以便使自己的观点清晰、富有逻辑。

3. 阐述

如是第一类问题,你需要首先阐明观点,然后用论点支持。一个较好的方法是首先给出每一部分的中心论点,最终引导听者得出结论,即你的观点。第二类题目相对简单,你只需阐明原因、后果或解决方法即可。

本书的作者均为英语教学中颇有经验的教师和中、高级口译的考官。因此编者将该书分为五十个单元,就当前的一些热门话题进行分析、论述。五十个单元分为四个篇章。第一至第十二单元强调描述法;第十三至二十四单元集中分析、训练记叙法;第二十五至第三十六单元训练、归纳论述法;第三十七至第五十单元为综合训练。

No Pains, no gains. 口语水平的提高非一朝一夕所能达到。这需要长期不懈的努力。口语学习者要不断学习、自我完善。只有持之以恒、不断进取,才能持续提高;只有努力奋斗,才会有丰硕的成果。

对于本书中的疏漏之处,敬请使用者不吝指正。

编者

2006年3月于上海外国语大学

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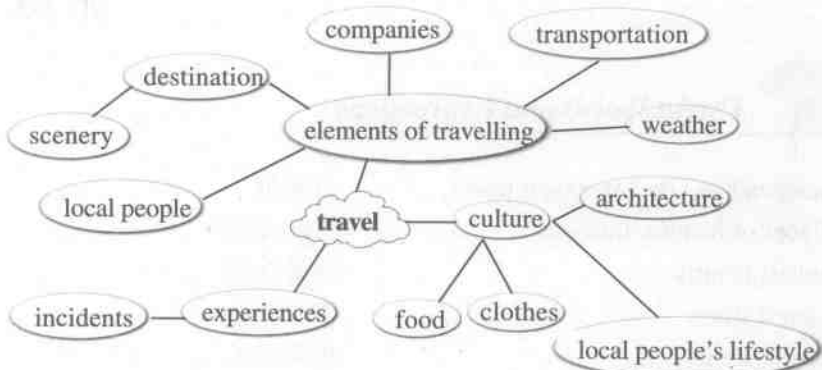
Unit 1 Travel

旅游

Useful Words and Expressions

independent / do-it-yourself travel	自助游
places of historic interests	名胜古迹
tourist resorts	旅游胜地
sacred sites	宗教圣地
idyllic scenery	田园风光
peak / low tourist season	旅游旺季 / 淡季
world heritage sites	世界遗产保护地
famous mountains and great rivers	名山大川
sheer cliffs and overhanging rocks	悬崖峭壁
high mountains and swift torrents	高山急流
compete with...	与……媲美
in memory of...	纪念……
come in an endless stream	络绎不绝
too many beautiful things to be appreciated at once	美不胜收
linger on and forget to return	流连忘返
of antique beauty	古色古香
be loftily precipitous	雄伟险峻
nestle among the mountains	群山环抱
deserve more than one travel	值得多游几次

Brainstorming



Guided Practice

1. When did you travel last time? Was it a business trip or a vacation tour? Were you alone or with your friends or parents?
2. What did you see and hear on the way? Was there something so beautiful and unusual that surprised you a lot? What did you appreciate most?
3. What are the characteristics of local culture? Did you see something of particular cultural meanings? Was there a story or legend about it?
4. Are local people kind, hospitable, friendly, honest or simple? Do they wear special accessories of particular cultural meanings? Were you able to understand and communicate with them?
5. What are the customs there? Do they bear special cultural meanings? What souvenirs did you buy for your friends or parents?
6. What was the weather like when you travelled there? Was there something unexpected taking place?

Sample Paragraph

When I was a junior student in university, I went to Nanjing with two other girls from my class on a weekend in the early summer. In my impression, Nanjing was but a city which was the capital of many dynasties in history and it was such a long time ago that I didn't expect that I could see many relics of it. In a word, I didn't expect much from that trip, but it turned out to be a very unusual one.

When we got off the train, we found it was late at night. Soon we felt panic as all the hotels we went to were fully occupied and we had no friends or relatives in Nanjing. Just then, a young couple looked like university teachers offered help to us and brought us to a small inn near Nanjing University. There was no vacant room left, but the inn-keeper said we could stay in the attic for the night. We had no other choice but to accept that. It was a terrible experience. The attic looked dark and shabby. We spent the whole night with our eyes widely open to watch for any possible danger. When the dawn came finally we were exhausted.

The first thing we did the next morning was to go and find a hotel for the following two days. After we settled down, we became excited again. We went to the tomb of Sun Yat-sen, the forerunner of the democratic revolution, the Xuanwu Lake, the Mochou Lake and some other scenic spots. I especially liked the night view of the Qinhuai River among all the natural and historic sceneries in Nanjing. When the moon was shedding its light over the buildings of ancient style and the river water, we sat on the bridge, enjoying the breeze and appreciating the charming view of traditional Chinese red lanterns reflected on the river. You would feel as if the prosperous old days on the Qinhuai River had come to life again. You could even hear the enchanting songs of those days and see the girls' graceful figures.

During our stay in Nanjing, the weather was very nice, comfortably

warm. We wore our beautiful dresses at that time and took a lot of great pictures. We could feel the breath of the early summer while walking beside the lake. The people in Nanjing were very friendly and nice to us. The one in a camera shop, who repaired our camera, refused to accept the money we paid him just because we were students. The taxi driver who sent us to the railway station kind-heartedly reminded us of watching our luggage. You see, our trip to Nanjing started with something unpleasant but as a whole it remained an interesting experience to us.

Practice More

Talk about a travelling experience that you enjoy most

Sample Paragraph

Last winter vacation, instead of celebrating the Spring Festival at home as we always did, my parents and I went to Hainan Island, China's second largest island after Taiwan, to enjoy sunshine of the south.

The moment we stepped on the land, we were amazed by the distinct tropical scene that Hainan presented: comfortable sunshine, warm seawater, white beaches and luxuriant coconut trees. What an ideal tourist destination for visitors in winter!

Hainan Island has a long coastline along the South China Sea, so we went to the natural beaches in Sanya first. The sky was bright and blue, and the air was pure and fresh. We had a wonderful time there in the natural swimming site, in winter!



Then we went diving, which no tourist would miss in Hainan. Through its uncontaminated water we could admire some colorful coral meters under water and see octopuses and sea cucumbers more than 20 meters deep. It gave me the experience of returning to the embrace of nature.

Then we went to Tianya Haijiao, the remotest promontory landscape area. On one of the huge stones on the beach, there inscribed four Chinese characters Tianya Haijiao. According to the legend, two lovers from two hostile clans once escaped here, and were pursued by the troops from both clans, so they had to leap into the sea from this spot. People believe that this couple later changed into two huge rocks, which stand there facing the sea. That was why we saw many couples coming there to announce their love. What a romantic place!

Other places we visited were Hai Rui's Tomb, Mazu's Temple, the Wanquan River, Wuzhi Mountain, the seawater pearl farm, just to name a few.

Hainan deserves more than one time travel. I couldn't exhaust all the beautiful landscapes, unique ethnic customs and abundant historic sites in one travel, so I will go back to the most enchanting place in China again one day.



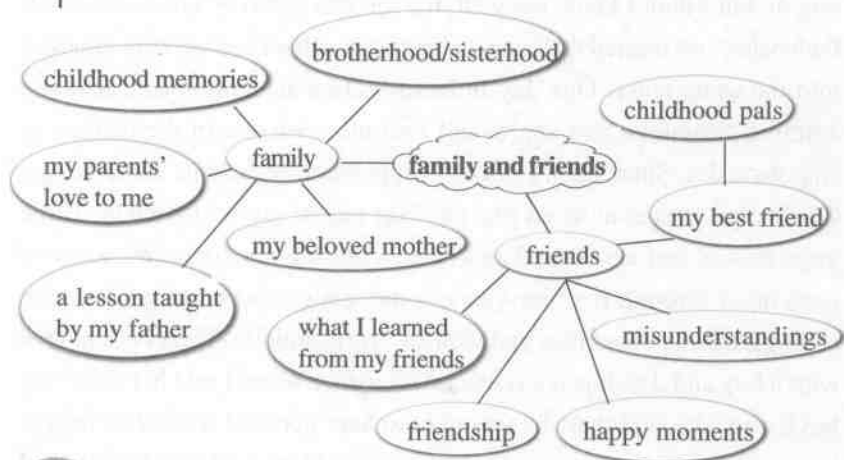
Unit 2 Family and Friends

亲朋好友

Useful Words and Expressions

tolerance	容忍, 宽容
prejudice and bias	偏见
accommodating	乐于助人的, 随和的
gracious	亲切的; 高尚的
hostility and misunderstanding	敌意与误解
solitude	孤独
unbalanced state of affection	感情起伏不定
intimate friend	密友
an old pal of mine	我的一个老朋友
boyhood chums	男孩时代的好友
keep one's company	陪伴某人
stay loyal to sb	对某人保持忠诚
entrust sth to sb	将某事委托给某人
stick to one's promise	遵守某人的诺言
make friends with sb	与某人成为朋友
get acquainted with sb	开始认识某人
be hostile to sb	对某人怀有敌意
betray one's friends	背叛朋友
bear to do sth	忍心做某事
go on as usual	继续像平时那样
hurt sb all over	使某人浑身难受

Brainstorming



Guided Practice

1. Was there something really special in your friendship, because of which you always remember the person?
2. When did it take place and where? If the date or the place was special in some way, tell it in details.
3. How did the person's reaction change with the event moving on?
4. How did the story end? Can you make some connection between the ending and the opening of the story?

Sample Paragraph

I have a wooden box in which I keep all the gifts I have received from my friends. Some sunny afternoons when I am not busy with my work, I will take them out and recall the stories behind each of them. There is a small ivory comb in the box, which I treasure with affection, as

it was from one of my childhood pals.

She was my schoolmate at elementary school and junior middle school, but I didn't know her well, for she was not very active at school. Fortunately, we entered the same senior middle school and we were arranged into the same class. One day in history class she announced that she admired Napoleon and she would become someone in the history as Napoleon did. Since then, I began to appreciate her talents and courage. Gradually I was convinced that she was one of my best friends. Three years passed and we entered universities in different cities. We wrote to each other through the four years in university, exchanging ideas and feelings, talking about men and women, world and life. Then I fell in love with a boy and developed a stable relationship. When I told her about my boyfriend, she said that she was glad to hear that and wished us happy. Several months later, my former classmate Mary told me that she had gone to the United States to further her study and asked Mary to bring me a small gift. That was an ivory comb. She had bought it for some time but couldn't find time to give it to me somehow.

Although it looks a bit out of date in design, the comb symbolizes all the happy moments we shared in the past years. When I think of her, I will take out the comb and smile at it, recalling her words and her image.

Practice More

Tell a story which can show the bond and love of your family.

Sample Paragraph

In our old family calendar special dates are noted, like a birth, a