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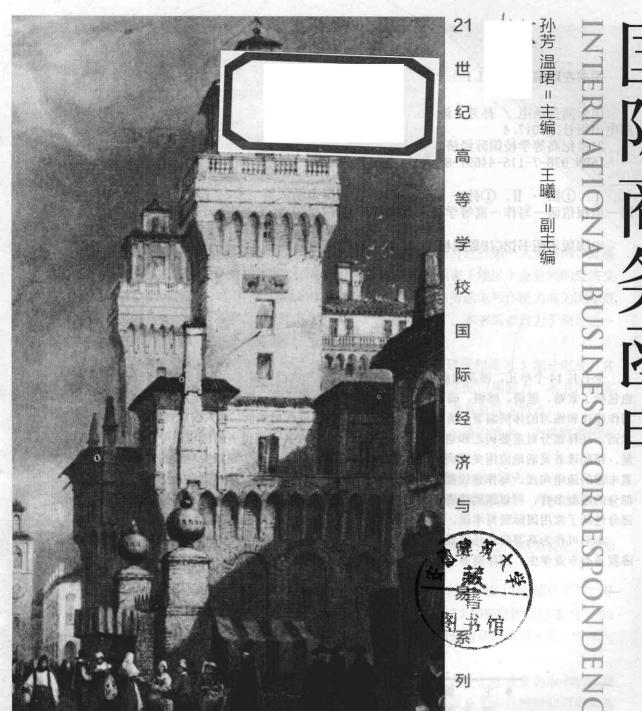
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内容提要

全书共14个单元,涉及询盘、发盘、还盘、订单和执行、装运、支付等商务交易的业务环节,也包括了索赔、邀请、感谢、确认等商务交易的一般沟通环节。每章按函电实例、注释、常用表达、写作建议和练习的体例编著。函电实例部分选用了简洁现代的案例,纳入国际商务常用字词、短语、术语。注释部分对重要词汇和语法点进行了详细的解释并补充了更多的例句,可以进一步丰富词汇量,帮助读者灵活地应用关键词汇。常用表达部分补充了各单元主题相关场景的表达,帮助读者积累丰富的函电句式。写作建议部分总结了各单元主题函电的结构安排和语言风格的写作要点。练习部分的题型多样,可以帮助读者巩固每章所学的商务函电写作要点,提高商务函电写作能力。附录部分包括了常用国际贸易术语、简洁英语、常用商务词汇、常用标点符号和常用缩略语等。

本书可作为高等院校经济贸易类专业的本科生及 MBA、硕士研究生的教材使用,也可作为非经济贸易类专业学生、国际商务人员及相关人员的自学和参考用书。

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前 言

国际商务活动的诸多环节均须通过双方函电来往进行。作为当前世界第一大贸易国、发展中国家中最大的引资国与对外直接投资国,中国企业与世界其他国家(地区)企业间的经济交往、贸易磋商、合同签订均离不开商务函电。因此,熟练的国际商务函电写作能力成为国际商务从业人员必须具备的首要技能之一。"工欲善其事,必先利其器",本书编者致力于满足这一需求,并力求为中国国际商务人才培养尽一份力量。

全书共 14 个单元,每章由函电实例、注释、常用表达、写作建议和练习 5 部分组成,各部分均侧重于某几个特定主题,便于读者提高自己国际商务函电的实际应用能力。本书内容实用、丰富,语言规范、活泼,信息量大,实用性强。概括而言,本书具有以下特点:

- (1)突出国际商务沟通特征。各部分内容围绕当今国际商务沟通的特点,力求跟进国际商务沟通中的最新实践。
 - (2)编写格式规范。本书按照语言规范、自然、简洁、现代和积极的原则选入相关范例。
- (3)注重学以致用。本书在收入国际商务实践中的实例作为范例的同时,力求借助实践中的案例加强练习,强调学以致用。
- (4)突出丰富实用。本书编写过程中收入了大量的国际商务常用词汇及相关表达,有助于读者吸收大量实用信息。

本书编写分工如下:孙芳承担了 Unit 1~Unit 5、Unit 7、Unit 9和 Unit 12的编写工作,并负责总体编纂,审阅了全部书稿。温珺承担了 Unit 6、Unit 8、Unit 13和部分附录的编写工作,对各章内容进行了增补和校阅;王曦承担了 Unit 10、Unit 11和部分附录的编写工作,并参与了书稿的校阅。

感谢国内外诸多学者的研究成果,感谢诸多网络资源的贡献者,他们的成果为本书的编撰 提供了非常有价值的帮助。同时,感谢南京理工大学经济管理学院以及尤宏兵教授和刘卓林教 授的出谋划策和全力支持。

尽管本书编著者力求内容新颖、翔实广泛、语言准确、规范实用。但恐难免疏漏,敬请专 家和读者不吝指正。

> 编 者 2017年2月

1. A Purchased and Company of State of

CONT 4 PLACING ORDERS DAINGHE DAA BARNAA

Uni	t 1	BASICS OF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE	1
	Th	e Importance of Business Correspondence Writing	2
	Ch	allenges Faced by Business People Who Use English as a	
	Sec	cond Language Jodhorf with an arms 10.2	2
	Th	ings to be Noted by Business People Who Use English	
	as	a Second Language Tyler Service Historian On the Service Servi	2
		mponents of Business Emails	8
Uni	t 2	ENQUIRIES AND REQUESTS	16
	1.]	Making an Enquiry	17
	2.]	Responding to Customer's Interest	17
	3.	Sending a Price List with the last of the	18
	4.	Request for the Catalogue and Samples (Notation Of the Ca	18
	5.	Reply to the Above Enquiry	18
	6.	Asking for Quotations	19
	7.	Reply to an Enquiry on a Specific Model	19
	8.	Enquiry about Air-Conditioning Service Conditioning Service	20
	9.	Reply to the Enquiry on Air-Conditioning Service	20
	10	Looking for Prospective Buyers	20
Uni	it 3	QUOTATIONS AND OFFERS	27
	1.	Giving a Quotation for Poster Paper	-28
62	2.	Giving a Quotation for Medically Used Machines	28
	3.	Asking about a Requote SALI as 1990 of Proupe R. 2	29
	4.	Giving a Price Cut	29
	5.	Recommending the Purchase District briefly of Paragraph 7	30
	6.	Offering a Discount for Regular Customers On Manhaman 8	30
	7.	Declining an Offer Commental Subminish or viga 4.0-	30
	8.	Declining the Buyer's Request 1990 and	31
	9.	Making a Counter-Offer	31
	10	. Declining a Counter-Offer	32

Unit	4 PLACING ORDERS	38
	1. A Purchase Order	39
	2. Enclosing an Order Form	39
	3. Placing an Order	40
	4. Declining an Order	40
	5. Acknowledgement of an Order	40
5.	6. Confirming a Repeat Order	41
	7. Confirming an Order Walquad security of bestell asymptotics	41
	8. Offering an Alternative Product	42
	9. Final Confirmation of an Order annual yellolold and arragaid?	42
	10. Confirming Order Details	42
Unit	Components of Busine's Leiters Components of Busine's Leiters Components of Business Emails	49
16	1. Promote a New Product Range	50
	2. Sales Recommendation Letter	50
	3. After-sales Follow-up	50
71	4. Sustaining a Business Relationship	51
	5. Strengthening Customer Relationships	51
83	6. Contacting Customers with Inactive Accounts 1990 1990 1990	52
	7. Follow-up after a Sales Demonstration and an advantage of the sales	52
	8. Follow-up on a Sales Exhibition	52
	9. Letter to Win back a Lost Customer an englassical	53
	10. A Sales Letter of Hotel Service of the Local Amount of the Service of the Ser	53
Unit	6 CREDIT AND PAYMENT	60
27	1. Inquiry about Credit Information	61
	2. A Favorable Reply to the Above	61
	3. An Unfavorable Reply to the Above 101 notation U is grifted.	61
	4. Request for a Line of Commercial Credit (1980) (1997) (1997)	62
	5. Request to Open an L/C	62
	6. Request to Amend an L/C	62
	7. Request to Extend an L/C	63
	8. Reminding an Overdue Payment of an incident the appropriate to the second of the se	63
	9. Reply to a Reminder Letter	63
	10. Request to Make an Overdue Payment and add add an included. 8	64
	V. Malong a Counter-Offer	

Unit 7 PACKING AND SHIPPING	70
1. Stating Marking Requirements 1/2/21 m bront A in molinium 1	71
2. Modifying Marking Requirements 2004 160 8 of nollation 1.5	71
3. Inquiry about Flower Pot Packaging with the antique of A	72
4. Describing Export Carton Instructions	72
5. Requesting Earlier Shipment	72
6. Responding to a Shipment Request individual of the wolfest of	73
7. Requesting Shipping Documents and an absolute of the state of the s	
8. Shipping Advice services 18th I militarhound services A. 8	74
9. Shipper Authorization 1984 Butgolintal was a supplement of	74
10. Describing a Container Service and a second service of the ser	75
Unit 8 COMPLAINTS AND CLAIMS	82
1. Complaining about a Faulty Products	83
2. Responding to the Complaint	83
3. Declining a Claim	84
4. Complaining about Poor Quality	84
5. Responding to a Claim on Poor Quality	85
6. Claim for Short Weight	85
7. Reply to the Claim on Short Weight	85
8. Complaining about Late Delivery	86
9. Responding to the Complaint about Late Delivery	86
10. Claim on Replacements for Damaged Products	86
Unit 9 CONTRACTS AND AGREEMENTS MEMORIANA ST	93
1. On Sales Agreement was vollog to spand a guidanour A. I	94
2. On Purchase Agreement Resolved To agree D a golomoon A C	94
3. On Sales Representative Agreement	- 94
4. Amendments to the Sales Representative Agreement	95
5. On Consortium Agreement	95
6. On Service Agreement	96
7. Contract Renewal Mac pomount me to require a gaighted of	96
8. On Terms of a Proposed Contract	97
9. Suggesting a Change in a Contract	97
10. Extension of a Contract Contract Contract Of the International Contract	
11 Amouncing a Business Takeover	

Uni	t 10 INVITATIONS AND INTRODUCTIONS A DMDDAG	105
17	1. Invitation to Attend an Exhibition region of animal ani	106
77	2. Invitation to a Car Expo remember 2 gabbald gaighbold 5	106
72	3. Accepting an Invitation to an Event of reword mode virupal.	106
72	4. Accepting an Invitation to a Meeting and mount and meeting and an invitation to a Meeting and mount and an invitation to a Meeting and a meeting a meeting and a meeting and a meeting and a meeting a meeting a meeting and a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting and a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting and a meeting and a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting and a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a meeting a	107
72	5. Postponing an Invitation to a Factory Tour	107
73	6. Follow-up to an Invitation areas Invitation as a submodes A	107
73	7. Self-Introduction Business Letter pool galagida galazagas A	108
74	8. A Business Introduction Letter	108
74	9. Introducing a New Catalog and moltastrodus reggid?	109
75	10. Introducing a New Product Service Service of a guidasse C. O.	109
Uni	t 11 THANK-YOU AND WELCOME QUARTINAJ9MOD \8	115
83	1. Thanks for Arrangements bend vilued a mode annielemed.	116
83	2. Meeting Thank-you Note and an appropriate and appropriate a	116
158	3. Thanks for Payment	116
84	4. Referral Thank-you Note	117
85	5. Sales Thank-you Letter 10 1009 to mist a sale sale and sale sales and sales and sales are sales as a sale sale sale sale sales and sales are sales as a sale sale sale sale sale sa	117
85	6. Welcome Letter to a New Account and a self-of the Co.	117
	7 . Welcome Letter on the Website and anomal D and of legal.	118
	8. Welcome Letter to an Exponential and made aministration	118
	9. Welcome Letter to a Trade Show Mario Dedicate gailbroges A	118
98	10. Welcome Letter to a New Shareholder (2009) 4 no min 10.0	119
Uni	it 12 ANNOUNCEMENTS AND NOTIFICATIONS	126
p.Q	1. Announcing a Change of Policy Inamang A salas nO	127
94	2. Announcing a Change of Business Address Address	127
	3. Announcing a Holiday Closing A Bythalassangs Resined and	127
	4. Announcing a Change of Email Address	128
-26	5. Announcing a New Product	128
96	6. Announcing a Rate Increase Inspect Appropriate Appr	128
- 96	7. Notifying a Shipper of an Incorrect Order was a residual.	129
	8. Informing Customers of a Misprint Language of a linear state of a Misprint Language of the surface of the su	129
	9. Announcing a New Website and a missing a gridesign of	129
7.0	10. Informing a Customer of an Incorrect Payment Amount	130
	11. Announcing a Business Takeover	130

Unit 13 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND	CONFIRMATIONS 136
1. Acknowledging an Order	137
	m 137
3. Acknowledging a Payment	137
2. Acknowledging a Payment 3. Acknowledging a Payment 4. Acknowledging a Job Application 5. Acknowledging a Compensation Request 6. Confirming an Oral Agreement 7. Confirming a Meeting 8. Confirming a Promotion 9. Confirming the Receipt of a Bid 10. Confirming a Travel Arrangement Unit 14 OTHER BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE 1. Leasing Terms 2. Rental and Cash Deposit 3. Invitation to Bid 4. Declining a Bid 5. Producing with Supplied Drawings 6. Requesting Open Cover Insurance 7. Clarifying Insurance Terms 8. Seeking Distributors 9. Buyer's Request for Goods on Consignment 10. Seller's Acceptance of the Above APPENDICES A. International Trade Terms B. Plain English C. Positive Vocabulary for Business Writing D. Common Marks of Punctuation E. Abbreviations for Business Vocabulary F. Main Ports	138
5. Acknowledging a Compensation Re-	ledging an Order ledging the Return of an Item ledging a Payment ledging a Payment ledging a Job Application ledging a Compensation Request ling an Oral Agreement ling a Meeting ling a Promotion ling the Receipt of a Bid ling a Travel Arrangement lato let BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE lato Terms lato lato Cash Deposit lato lato Bid lag a Bid lag with Supplied Drawings ling Open Cover Insurance lang Insurance Terms log Insurance Terms loss Distributors loss Request for Goods on Consignment lato ledging an Order lato ledging a Payment lato lato ledging a Payment lato lato lato lato lato lato lato lat
6. Confirming an Oral Agreement	138
7. Confirming a Meeting	139
8. Confirming a Promotion	139
9. Confirming the Receipt of a Bid	139
10. Confirming a Travel Arrangement	140
Unit 14 OTHER BUSINESS CORRESPO	NDENCE 146
1. Leasing Terms	147
3. Invitation to Bid	148
4. Declining a Bid	148
5. Producing with Supplied Drawings	149
6. Requesting Open Cover Insurance	149
7. Clarifying Insurance Terms	150
8. Seeking Distributors	150
9. Buyer's Request for Goods on Cons	ignment 151
10. Seller's Acceptance of the Above	151
APPENDICES	158
A. International Trade Terms	158
B. Plain English	162
C. Positive Vocabulary for Business W	riting 164
D. Common Marks of Punctuation	167
E. Abbreviations for Business Vocabul	ary 168
G. Currencies of the World	171
References	173

Unit

1

BASICS OF BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE

对于英语非思神机的意思人士不同。通过各国的电影通问如果大名称社。相互在与任证的中 会类别形式表示的多数。不少人想觉世里增加了部外的程序,这种设计是 出来的文本可能会不写音及文语多面电的特点。这文的主题和关本也是和全人是自我现代通过工 英文的各种电文本会互长不像证实;此外。可能会实际的多词对。正规的指数特别。是种间多多的 就是代语师的是。

L Structure messages logically 價值結构安基恰当

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The Importance of Business Correspondence Writing

网络技术使得商务人士能够便捷地与世界各地的合作伙伴洽商业务,人们面对面沟通的次数减少,而越来越依靠电子邮件、公司网站、在线贸易平台、社交媒体等网络工具来进行商务沟通。同时更多的商务人士参与到商务函电写作中来,和国外的商务同行直接联系,用国际商务通用语言英语在社交媒体和网络平台上发布信息。因此,商务写作的任务不再局限于特定的业务人员或者语言工作人员,比如公司的专职翻译人员。

处于信息资讯发达的 21 世纪,人们有大量的信息要选择性阅读。在商务交往中,发给客户的函电必须能获取客户短暂的注意力。信息时代也影响着商业伙伴相处的方式,客户也许都居家办公,商业伙伴也许都未曾谋过面,商业伙伴之间面对面谈判的次数、打电话的次数在减少,越来越依赖各种网络渠道的文字沟通,商务函电写作技能的重要性凸显。

Challenges Faced by Business People Who Use English as a Second Language

对任何人来说,如何成功地将自己要表达的意思传递给他人都是巨大的挑战。以书面形式沟通传递信息时面临更大的挑战,因为无法通过提问、解释、观察等当面沟通的技巧来判断阅读者是否如写作者所期望的那样理解了书面沟通的内容。

对于英语非母语的商务人士来说,通过英语函电沟通面临更大的挑战,因为在写作过程中,会受到母语表达方式的影响,不少人潜意识里增加了额外的翻译步骤,这种写作加翻译的过程写出来的文本可能会不符合英文商务函电的特点。英文商务函电文本的结构会无法有效地传递信息;英文商务函电文本会冗长不够简练;此外,可能会忽略商务词汇正确的搭配结构,影响商务函电意思的清晰传递。

Things to be Noted by Business People Who Use English as a Second Language

1. Structure messages logically 信函结构安排恰当

(1) Opening 开头

第一段陈述写信或邮件的原因,主要包括:告知收到来信,提及一次见面或者交流,以便引出本次要讨论的事情。

[Example]

- (a) Thank you for your email of March 14.
- (b) Meeting you and the other members of the product selection team last Friday was a pleasure.

(2) Body part 正文

函电的正文部分应提供收信人需要了解的所有信息以及你要求对方提供什么样的信息。每部分信息独立成段,细节陈述应清楚准确。

[Example]

- (a) We have shipped a replacement case of Humus Chips today at no charge. You should receive them within two days. There's no need to return the damaged product. You may dispose of the crushed chips anyway you wish.
- (b) Being a new company with a new product, we want you to know that we value your business and will do everything we can to make sure this doesn't happen again.

- (c) In addition, I am crediting \$155 to your account to reflect a 20% discount off your original order.
- (3) Conclusion (action or response) 结论(行动或回应) 这部分表达希望收信人采取何种行动,也可以包括你将采取的行动。

[Example]

- (a) Visit our website at www.xyz.com or call us at $\times \times \times$ to request a free quote. You'll find daily specials on our website and pictures of our latest offerings.
- (b) Attached is our pro forma invoice. Please stamp and sign back soon.
 - (4) Close 结尾

通常只是简单的一两句话。常用的有:

[Example]

- (a) Looking forward to hearing from you.
- (b) Please call me or email me if you have any questions.

2. Write for a positive effect 力求积极的写作效果

商务函电沟通的首要目的是传递信息,商务函电的文本需要清晰。此外,商务函电文本中传递出的友好积极的语气对维护合作关系很重要,沟通的一方或者双方如果英语都不是母语的话,对如何达到友好积极的写作效果尤其需要特别注意,因为英语和其母语的表达方式不同。

(1) Use positive language 积极的语言

所有词汇短语都传递出特定的情感情绪,有的表达褒义和积极情绪,比如 supportive, appreciate, helpful; 有的表达传递出不满和指责等负面的情绪,比如 failure, neglect, regret。当今的商务沟通和谈判中我们主张双赢的合作关系,强调杯子是半杯满,不是半杯空,积极肯定的语气有利于建立长久的商务关系。

因此,在商务函电文本中尽量避免负面的字眼,比如 problem, error, damage, destroy, failure, neglect。当然,也不是绝对不可以使用,有的沟通情形需要表达这样的意思,沟通中的强势方更有可能使用这样的字眼。

[Example 1]

- (a) I regret to inform you that we cannot refund your deposit unless you return the goods within a week.
- (a)句中斜体单词 regret 传递出负面情绪,此外, unless...的语法结构传递出负面、威胁的语气。 上句整体强调的是不友好的惩罚性的信息。试比较改成下面的表达方式,重点移到对方如果怎么做就能得到什么,语气变得积极。
 - (b) You will be able to receive a full refund of deposit if you return the goods within a week.

[Example 2]

- (a) This is the third time that you have made deliveries to our dissatisfaction.
- (a)句中显然在批评对方未交出满意的货物,如果写作者确实需要表达这样的情绪,未尝不可。如果写作者希望维持双方友好的业务关系,不妨弱化责怪的负面语气,试比较如下表达,告知坏消息时表达自己的情绪,从和对方一起解决问题的角度写作,沟通效果更积极。
 - (b) This is the third time that deliveries have been made in error. Is there anything wrong?
 - (2) Use a conversational style 会话体

商务函电中使用的英语侧重于表达清晰度和沟通的效果,特别是网络技术的发展使得商务人

士的沟通更为频繁, 更为迅捷, 商务的书面沟通也趋向于口语体, 犹如面对面的口头沟通。

[Example 1]

- (a) I shall be most pleased to avail myself of your kind suggestion when and if prices decline.
- (a) 句中的斜体词组 *avail...of* 表达正式,对于商务函电写作而言,强化了双方关系的正式程度,而不是拉近双方的关系。试比较下面的口语体的简洁的表达。
- (b) I will be happy to follow your suggestions if the price falls.

[Example 2]

- (a) We would like to draw your attention to the fact that we have closed the account specified as requested.
- (a)句中的同位语从句的运用使得沟通很正式,表达客套冗长,不妨改为下面简洁而且直接的句式。
- (b) Please note that we have closed the account specified as you asked.
 - (3) Use a you-view point "以对方为先"的态度 which is a second and a second an

"以对方为先"(you attitude, you view)的沟通方式的好处在于把关注的重点从自己移到读者。人们沟通时常常从自我为中心的角度出发,反映在商务函电写作中,就是通篇的 I 和 We 为开头的句式。如果进行商务函电写作时,能够着眼于读者的兴趣和利益,着眼于对方的视角,能产生积极的沟通效果。例如: You will receive your coupon(s) by email 72 hours after your order has been shipped. 在英语国家的购物网站上,经常可以看到这样的"以对方为先"的表达方式,重点放在顾客可以得到什么,而不是自己提供什么。不仅仅简单地用 you 开头的句式就意味着"以对方为先",更多地依据具体表达的情境选用适当的措辞。试比较下面各组中的表达效果。

[Example 1]

- (a) You will be happy to hear that your scholarship has been renewed.
- (b) Congratulations! Your scholarship has been renewed. 在此例中, (a)句的 you-attitude 反而显得高高在上, (b)句的会话式的开头自然。

[Example 2]

- (a) You failed to sign your check.
- (b) Your check was not signed.

在此例中的(a)句有怪罪别人的语气, (b)句用被动式不针对人, 只是针对事情, 就事论事。

3. Keep messages concise 保持文本简洁

(1) Use simple vocabulary 词汇的简洁

短词清晰而且容易被理解,大词难词提高了文本的正式程度。 比如,facilitate shipment 中的 facilitate 可以用更为简洁的词汇 speed 来表达。再比如,show 比 demonstrate 要简洁。

[Example]

- (a) Maintaining non-technical vocabulary simplification is not always a facile principle to pursue.
- (a)句中大词的堆积不利于信息的理解和接受。试比较用简明的词汇把句子改为:
- (b) Keeping non-technical words simple is not always an easy thing to do.
- (2) Reduce wordy phrases 冗长词组的删减 a svalid saves also said a multiplication and a multiplicat

冗长的词组延缓了信息传递的速度,并没有增加沟通的表达效果,不妨用更简洁的单词表达。 比如 for the reason that, due to the fact that, owing to the fact that, considering the fact that, on the grounds that 这些短语在商务性的写作中可以用 because, since 或者 that 来代替。短语 as regards, in reference to, with regard to 可以直接改用简洁的单词 about。一些名词化的词组同样地弱化了信息中提出或建议的行动,改用动词可以直接地表达意思。

[Example]

- (a) The stability and quality of our financial performance will be developed through the profitable execution of our existing business, as well as the acquisition or development of new businesses.
- (a)句中以-tion 和-ment 结尾的名词化结构使得句子的意思晦涩,不利于商务信息的迅速传递,试比较:
- (b) We will improve our financial performance not only by executing our existing business more profitably but by acquiring or developing new businesses.
 - (b) 句中的动词性结构直接明了地传递信息。
 - (3) Keep sentences short 句子的简短

长句会延长阅读时间,需要读者投入更长的注意力,而现今工作节奏的加快、注意力的碎片 化,使得很少有人愿意对长句一读再读。在商务性写作中,由于商务文件和合同等一些文本比较 正式,经常出现一些复杂的长句,这样的长句最好能够断成短句。

[Example]

- (a) The best thing to do in this situation is to remember not to input more data, which can cause the data already entered to be lost and can result in your having to re-enter the data, and possibly you may need to re-enter the data from the previous entries that could have been corrupted.
- (a)句过长。长句影响信息理解的速度,从而妨碍沟通的效率。这样的长句可以切成几个短句, 一个句子一件事,使得信息更加清晰,试比较修改后的句子。
- (b) The best thing to do in this situation is to stop inputting data. If you input more data, you may lose the data you have already entered. That may result in your having to re-enter the data you just entered and, possibly, the data from the previous entries that could have been corrupted.
 - (4) Use simple tenses 时态的简洁

商务函电主要是传递和沟通信息,时态尽量简洁,确保符合商务函电沟通的清晰、直接和简洁的特点。

[Example 1]

- (a) Should this trial order prove satisfactory to our customers, we may place repeat orders.
- (a) 句中的虚拟语态暗含着发生的可能性小,在此语境中,使用虚拟语态隐含着对自己的货物信心不够,语气消极。不妨改用:
 - (b) If our customers are happy with this initial order, we may repeat our orders.
 - (b) 句为简洁的商务沟通中常用的条件从句。

[Example 2]

- (a) We had been aware that the argument could have been less confusing.
- (a) 句中的语法用了完成时态和虚拟语态,用在商务性的文本中较晦涩。试比较直接写:
- (b) We knew the argument was complicated.
- (b)句中的一般过去时直接表述事件发生的时间,句子简洁清晰。

4. Write Correct English 使用正确的英语

(1) Use words correctly 词汇正确

商务函电沟通时, 正确使用单词才能使句子的意思清晰, 避免歧义。

首先,拼写上容易混淆的词汇要拼写准确。比如, affect 和 effect, personal 和 personnel, principal 和 principle 等拼写不要混淆。

其次,意思上容易混淆的词汇要区别开来。比如,下面例子中的 infer 和 imply, formally 和 formerly 意思不要混淆。

[Example1]

- (a) I infer from your letter that conditions have improved.
- (a)句中的 infer 意思是 draw the conclusion, 我们可以说 Readers and listeners infer。
- (b) Do you mean to imply that conditions have improved?
- (b)句中的 imply 意思是 hint, 我们可以说 Speakers and writers imply。

[Example 2]

- (a) The award will be formally presented at tomorrow's convocation.
- (b) Tom formerly worked for the department of revenue.

此例(a)句中的 formally 意思是 in a formal manner。(b)句中的 formerly 意思是 at an earlier time。

另外,词汇的搭配也是母语非英语者应该特别要注意的一点。每个语言的词汇都有其特定的搭配习惯,英文中对于词语之间的搭配有很多约定俗成的规则,而这些规则与汉语中的搭配规则并不一致。比如,英文中的 knowledge 常常和 get, acquire, gain 搭配表示获取知识, 而如果说 learn knowledge 就是中式英语。

[Example 3]

- (a) In the past the prices of digital products were so expensive that most families could not afford them.
- (a)句中的 prices 只能与 high, low, moderate 等搭配, 而不能与 expensive 搭配, expensive 用来指物品本身而不是价格, 因此可以改为:
 - (b) In the past the prices of digital products were so high that most families could not afford them. 或者:
 - (c) In the past digital products were so expensive that most families could not afford them.
 - (2) Use grammar correctly 语法正确

正确运用语法是能够正确表达信息的重要一环。由于不同语言的语法差异很大,对英语非母语的商务函电写作者来说,掌握英语语法的正确使用方法需要尤其注意。

[Example 1]

- (a) The Board is pleased to announce the promotion of Jane Doe to Acting Manager.
- (b)The Board were split on the need for budget cuts.

此例(a)句中的集合名词是作为一个整体的意思,就作为单数使用,谓语就用"is"。(b)句中的Board 代表了董事会不同的声音和观点,谓语用动词"were"配合,这是主谓一致的例子。在中文语境中,这两个句子不会出现主谓一致的问题,因而商务函电写作时不要忽视这个语法点。

[Example 2]

[Example 2]

- (a) While reading the director's report, Gibbon's phone rang.
- (a)句中的语法意味着 reading 的逻辑主语是 Gibbon's phone,显然不合逻辑。需要改成语法正确的(b):
 - (b) While Gibbon was reading the director's report, the phone rang.
 - (3) Use punctuations correctly 标点符号正确

尽管网络的普及使用使得语言使用也发生了一些变化,拼写、标点和文法都变得不讲究了,但是在商务函电沟通中,正确地使用语言包括标点符号,也是商务人士专业形象的反映。例如所有格符号(apostrophe)的正确使用,词组 ten years' experience,two weeks' notice,today's schedule中的所有格符号能够放到正确的位置。但是 the 1920s,yours,ours 这样的用法中则不需要用所有格符号。

用逗号分隔流水句(run-on sentence)也是英语非母语的商务函电写作者容易犯的错误。流水句是指用逗号连接两个或多个不带关联词或连接词的独立句子,这在英语语法上是错误的。

[Example]

- (a) Huang is the most diligent employee, I would like him on my team.
- (a)句就是英文里的 run-on sentence,缺乏连接词来连接两个独立的句子。可以修改为下面的(b), (c), (d)或者(e),商务英语写作的关键是清晰简洁,所以下面中的(c)是最简洁的一种用法。
 - (b) Huang is the most diligent employee; (therefore,)I would like him on my team.
- (c) Huang is the most diligent employee. (As a result,)I would like him on my team.
 - (d) Huang is the most diligent employee, and I would like him on my team.
 - (e) Because Huang is the most diligent employee, I would like him on my team.

5. Do editing and proof-reading 修改校对文本

现今的商务函电沟通频率快,但是即使是一封简短的邮件也需要完成初稿后回头修改校对。 因为读者会一眼看出邮件的质量,看出写作者用英语来进行商务沟通的能力,也能清楚地看出写 作者是否有专业的工作态度。

修改校对时,检查拼写、缩写、语法等语言错误和格式不当之处,可以运用但不能完全依赖 计算机的自动拼写和语法检查功能,机器不可能识别所有的错误。

修改校对环节同样重要的是修改写作的内容,突出文本的重点,删减繁复的内容,调整信息 的位置,润色语言,使自己的商务函电信息完整、连贯、简洁、清晰和有说服力。

请注意两组例子是有关句子的修订。

[Example 1]

- (a) The featured speaker will address the chemical disposal problem and how his or her company is handling it.
 - (b) The featured speaker will address the chemical disposal problem and how to handle it.

此例(a)句中的 speaker 对应的代词是 his or her, 放在句中意味着演讲者还未选定, 有些繁复和不严谨。(b)句中换了个表达结构, 避开了性别的问题。在修改和校对文本时, 这样的修改往往被商务函电写作者所忽视。

[Example 2]

- (a) Each of the supervisors is qualified to lead his team.
- (b) All the supervisors are qualified to lead their teams.

此例(a)句中的 supervisor 如果碰巧都是男性,用 his 搭配不错。但是在女性活跃在职场上的今天,使用这样的性别歧视色彩的语言,显然不当。(b)句避免了这样的错误。

Components of Business Letters

1. Fully blocked style 完全平头式

完全平头式(Fully blocked style)在所有商务文书中使用最广泛。采用这种格式,每一行都靠左排列,每一段都不用缩进,标题不用居中,所有内容都从左排起,减少了文字输入空格的时间。

2. Main components of a business letter 商务信件的组成

有的信头上有档号(reference)一栏,是为了信件归档和处理信件的方便,比如有时是客户的客户号,有时是申请者的申请号。

(2) Date 日期

不同国家标示日期的习惯不同,不论是日月年,还是月日年的顺序,最好完整表示,保持一致。例如: August 18, 2017 或者 18 August, 2017。

(3) Inside address 封内地址 https://www.htmpselfile.com/htmpselfi

收件人的姓名和地址应分行打印,和信封上的排列一致。例如: 例如:

Dr. Alicia Lauderman of you no mid soll bloow I ben assistance unsoll bland and at growth to I

Department of Accountancy and said bloom I Associates to said beautiful sources (a)

College of Commerce

Illinois Institute of Trade

Ruston, IL 61272

(4) Salutation or greeting 称呼语

如果信写给具体的人, 称呼语根据双方关系的远近, 用名或者姓, 或者姓名的用法。例如:

Dear Mr Stout Dear Patt Dear Sue Farrelly Dear Dr. Sue

如果不知道具体的收件人的姓名,可用职务代替,比如: Dear Sales Manager,也可以用 Dear Sir or Madam。最好能确定具体的收信人,商务信件的沟通效果能显得比较人性化。

(5) Heading 标题

标题是信函内容的简要提示,通常放在称呼语下面,标题一般使用下划线,或者全部使用大写字母以便区别开。例如:

SUBJECT: OVERDUE BILL FOR JUNE 2016

Subject: Proposed Distribution Arrangement

(6) Complimentary close 结尾敬语

在商务信函的结尾处,人们常常使用客套语结尾,常见的结束语是 Yours faithfully, Yours truly, Yours cordially 等。Yours sincerely 的使用更为常见。

8