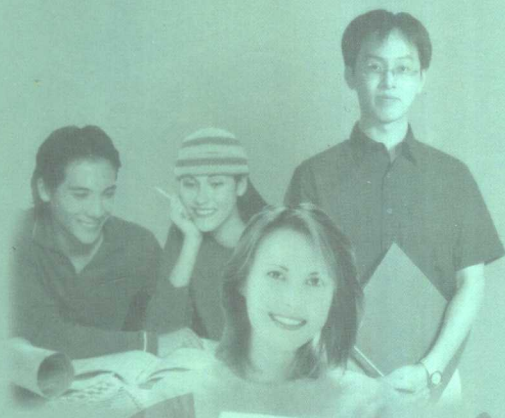


大学英语

大学英语选修课系列教材

写作教程

蔡基刚 编著



高等教育出版社

大学英语

写作教程

COLLEGE ENGLISH WRITING

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编写和使用说明

写作课是大学英语基础阶段后英语提高阶段中的一门重要课程。随着我国加入 WTO, 社会及用人单位对毕业生的英语实用交际能力越来越看重。写作和口语等便成了许多大学生首选的选修课程。本写作教程有以下特点:

1. 着重语言训练。现有的许多写作教材比较重视写作结构的教授。如段落如何写, 开头结尾如何写, 叙述文、说明文如何写等等。实际上除了结构外, 对中国学生来说, 学习英语写作最大的困难是表达, 是语言的运用。因此, 本教程除了用三章篇幅专门讨论词和句子的使用和表达外, 在每章后还另辟了一个“语言”板块, 用以比较英汉语言不同的表达特点并讨论如何学会地道的英语表达。
2. 倾向于实用性。本教程除了介绍英语写作基本理论和各种文体作文的写法外, 另外还有三章介绍命题写作、图表写作和信函写作。分析了大学英语四、六级考试作文、硕士研究生入学考试作文、托福考试作文、爱普考试作文和雅思考试作文等的命题题型、特点以及应试技巧。并且考虑到学生在学习和工作中的需要, 还介绍了常用的英语书信写法。
3. 注意教材连贯性。考虑到大多数学生在选修写作课前已经学完了大学英语精读或综合教程, 对其中的课文比较熟悉。因此在选用范文和具体例子时, 尽可能选择这些教材里的课文来分析, 这样给学生有一种亲切感, 也便于讨论。这是我们把写作教材和精读教材结合起来的一种尝试。

本教程共 18 章, 可供一个学期 36 课时使用。一般按章的顺序实施教学。但也可以根据需要进行选择。尤其是第 5 章“词的变化”, 第 10 章“句型变化”和第 15 章“修辞运用”, 可先可后。各章中对“语言”部分的讲授更是可以结合讲评学生习作, 穿插进行。

在编写过程中, 我们参考了有关文献, 在此谨向这些作者致以谢忱。同时, 由于编者的水平所限, 书中的疏漏在所难免, 恳请专家和读者指正。

蔡基刚

2003 年 3 月

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Our Changing Lifestyle: Trends and Fads

1. These days lifestyles seem to change fast. It is more than just clothing and hairstyle that are in style one year and out of date the next; it's a whole way of living. One year people wear sunglasses on top of their heads and wear jeans and boots; they drink white wine and eat sushi at Japanese restaurants; for exercise they jog several miles a day. However, the next year they notice that everything has changed. Women wear long skirts; people drink expensive water from France and eat pasta at Italian restaurants; everyone seems to be exercising at health clubs.

2. Almost nothing in modern life escapes the influence of fashion: food, music, exercise, books, slang words, movies, furniture, places to visit, even names go in and out of fashion. It's almost impossible to write about specific fads because these interests that people follow can change very quickly.

3. In the United States, even people can be "in" or "out". Like people in any country, Americans enjoy following the lives of celebrities: movie stars, sports heroes, famous artists, politicians, and the like. But Americans also pay a lot of attention to people who have no special ability and have done nothing very special. In 1981, for example, an unknown elderly woman appeared in a TV commercial in which she looked at a very small hamburger and complained loudly, "Where's the beef?" These words made her famous. Suddenly she appeared in

magazines and newspapers and on TV shows. She was immediately popular. She was “in”. In 1987 an exterminator in Dallas, Texas decided that he would be very happy if he could find more customers for his small business; he needed more people to pay him to kill the insects and rats in their houses. He put an unusual advertisement in a Dallas newspaper: He offered to pay \$1,000 to the person who could find the biggest cockroach. This strange offer made him suddenly famous. There were stories about him nationwide — from New York to California. He was “in”. However, this kind of fame doesn’t last long. **Such people are famous for a very short time. They are fads.**

4. **What cause such fads to come and go?** And why do so many people follow them? Although clothing designers and manufacturers influence fads in fashion because they want to make a profit, this desire for money doesn’t explain fads in other areas, such as language. For example, why have teenagers in the past twenty-five years used — at different times — the slang words groovy, or awesome, in conversation instead of simply saying wonderful? According to Jack Santino, an expert in popular culture, people who follow fads are not irrational; they simply want to be part of something new and creative, and they feel good when they are part of an “in-group”. Fads are not unique to the United States. Dr. Santino believes that fads are common in any country that has a strong consumer economy, e. g., Britain, Japan, and Germany. However, in the United States there is an additional reason for fads: Most Americans seem to feel that something is wrong if there isn’t frequent change in their lives.



写作分析



1.1 段落的组成

写作首先是段落写作。从篇章角度来讲,段落是文章的基本单位。一篇文章根据其长短,可以由几个到十几个段落组成。因此段落写作成功与否直接关系到

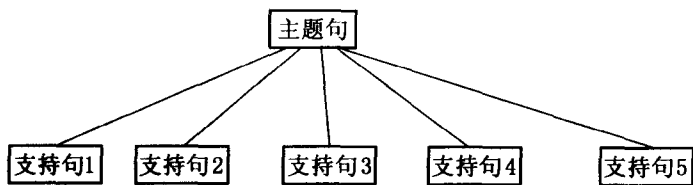
整篇文章的好坏。段落一般由若干句子组成。但从功能来说,尤其是说明文、论述文,段落里面的句子只有两类:主题句和支持句。

英语段落和汉语段落有所不同。它既是全文的一个组成部分,又自成一体,有自己相对独立的主题思想。为了能使这个主题思想得到阐述和发展,英语段落往往用一个句子来概括这个主题,并置于段落中的显著位置,如段首或段尾,这个句子就被称为主题句(topic sentence)。段落内的其他句子都围绕它展开,对它进行叙述、说明或论证,这些句子被称为支持句(supporting sentences)。根据统计,在英语的说明文、议论文中,“主题句+支持句”的英语段落占 60%~70% 以上。

英语写作专家 Brooks 是这样论述英语段落的:

A well-conceived and well-constructed paragraph is a unit, and often this unity is indicated by a key sentence — what is called the topic sentence. The topic sentence states the central thought, which the rest of the paragraph develops. We can think of the topic sentence as a kind of backbone, a spine, which supports the body of the paragraph and around which the rest of the structure is formed.

英语主题句和支持句之间的关系如下:



上面这篇范文的四个段落主题句都放在段首,段落内的其他句子都是围绕它展开论述的。如第一段:

主题句: These days lifestyles seem to change fast.

支持句 1: It is more than just clothing and hairstyle that are in style one year and out of date the next; it's a whole way of living.

支持句 2: One year people wear sunglasses on top of their heads and wear jeans and boots; they drink white wine and eat sushi at Japanese restaurants; for exercise they jog several miles a day.

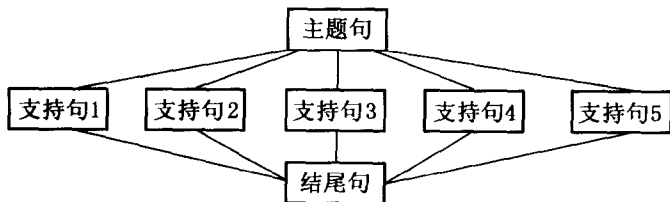
支持句 3: However, the next year they notice that everything has changed.

支持句 4: Women wear long skirts; people drink expensive water from France and eat pasta

at Italian restaurants; every one seems to be exercising at health clubs.

以上 4 个支持句从不同方面来说明和发展主题句。

较长的段落,在结尾还有结尾句(concluding sentence),通过归纳,和主题句形成首尾呼应,有时还同时起到引出下一个段落的作用。在这种情况下,它们的关系可以用下图来表示:



如范文第三段:

主题句: **In the United States, even people can be “in” or “out”.**

结尾句: **Such people are famous for a very short time. They are fads.**

说法不同,但表达同一主题,同时引出了下一段:

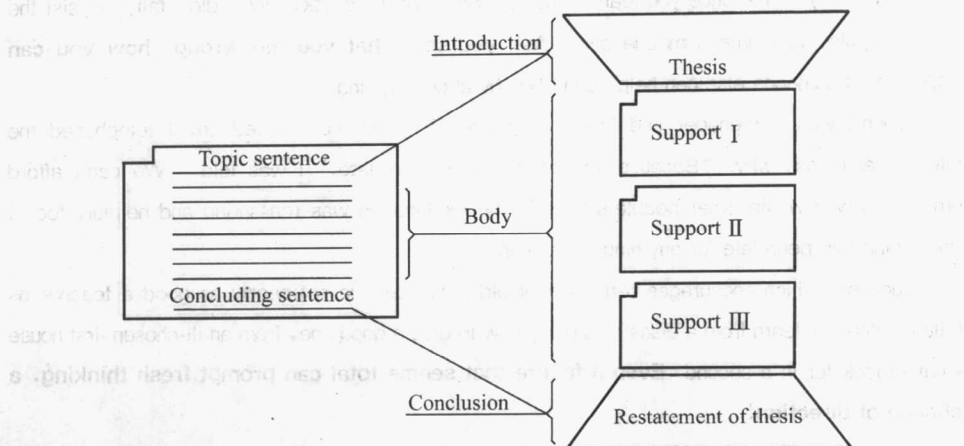
What cause such fads to come and go?

再如:

Good manners are important in all countries, but ways of expressing good manners are different from country to country. Americans eat with knives and forks; Japanese eat with chopsticks. Americans say “Hi” when they meet; Japanese bow. Many American men open doors for women; Japanese men do not. On the surface, it appears that good manners in America are not good manners in Japan, and in a way this is true. But in any country, the only manners that are important are those involving one person’s behavior towards another person. In all countries it is good manners to behave considerately toward others and bad manners not to. **It is only the way of behaving politely that differs from country to country.**

无论是从结构,还是从内容上来看,上面段落可以认为是微型文章:开头有主题句,最后有结尾句,当中有支持句予以阐述。

这样,一个段落在结构上就等于是一篇缩小了的文章(A well-developed paragraph is “a composition in miniature” or good paragraphs are really good essays written small.),如下图所示:



1.2 主题句



1.2.1 主题句的位置

绝大多数的主题句是出现在段首的,这是因为句首的位置比较显著,容易吸引读者,也容易给人留下深刻印象。比较汉语段落而言,英语段落大多演绎性地阐述,即从一般到具体,以观点开头进行论证说明。范文中的四个段落就都是以主题句开始的。当然,也有些英语段落是归纳式的,即主题句出现在段尾,或段落当中的。如:

School children used to know the story of how Abraham Lincoln walked five miles to return a penny he'd overcharged a customer. It's the kind of story we think of as myth. But in the case of Lincoln, the story is true ... unlike the story of George Washington and the cherry tree. Washington's first biographer invented the tale of little George saying to his father, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my ax." **What is important in both stories, however, is that honesty was seen as an important part of the American character.** (《大学英语》第二册)

当然也有整段内没有一个明显的主题句的段落,这种情况常见于描述性文章。英语中有一种段落块的情况,即两个以上段落组合在一起,共同说明一个主题意义。这样除了一个段落有主题句外,其他几个段落就没有主题句。而这些段落往往是叙述或描写,是通过举例子来说明主题思想的辅助性段落。如:

Failure is never pleasant. It hurts adults and children alike. But it can make a positive

contribution to your life once you learn to use it. Step one is to ask, "Why did I fail?" Resist the natural impulse to blame someone else. **Ask yourself what you did wrong, how you can improve.** If someone else can help, don't be shy about inquiring.

When I was a teenager and failed to get a job which I'd counted on, I telephoned the interviewer to ask why. "Because you came ten minutes late," I was told. "We can't afford employees who waste other people's time." The explanation was reassuring and helpful, too. I don't think I've been late for anything since then.

Success, which encourages repetition of old behaviour, is not nearly as good a teacher as failure. You can learn from a disastrous party how to give a good one, from an ill-chosen first house what to look for in a second. **Even a failure that seems total can prompt fresh thinking, a change of direction.**

A friend of mine, after 12 years of studying ballet, did not succeed in becoming a dancer. She was turned down by the ballet master, who said, "You will never be a dancer. You haven't the body for it." In such cases, the way to use failure is to take stock courageously, asking, "What have I left? What else can I do?" My friend put away her toe shoes and moved into dance therapy, a field where she's both competent and useful. (《21 世纪大学英语》第二册)

这是一篇文章中连着的四个段落,其中的第二、四段都没有主题句,都是具体的例子,但它们分别说明前面一段的主题思想"Ask yourself what you did wrong, how you can improve."和"Even a failure that seems total can prompt fresh thinking, a change of direction."再如:

Carolyn was fortunate to encounter women who, in person, were much the same as they were online. That is often not the case. Most Net users are more likely to project aspects of the person they wish they could be so that they can impress others to befriend them. As a result, the voice speaking through the other side of the line can be used to disguise aspects of a user's personality. Sociologists have called this phenomenon "selective lying" and "playing out our other selves". **Either way might bring an unpleasant and damaging outcome.**

Christine started a Net relationship with a man she knew as "My PalJoey". She felt she could be very frank and honest with him, and he was able to respond truthfully, too. They kept in frequent contact for three months and decided to have their first face-to-face (F2F) encounter, which was brief but delightful. About six months later Christine got a job transfer to be near "My PalJoey" and was planning to marry him. However, as the couple got more opportunities to be with each other in real life, their relationship went downhill because of conflicting schedules and personalities. Soon they broke up. (《精读英语教程》)

这两段中,后一段只不过是个具体例子,没有哪一句是主题句。但从内容来



看,是说明前一段最后一句:“Either way might bring an unpleasant and damaging outcome.”再如:

Some are deceived into thinking that people like to store up energy, to rest and save themselves as much as possible. Just the opposite. **It is energy expenditure that is satisfying.**

Just watching an employee who must deal with countless other people because his or her job is at some central point in a communications network: a salesman at a busy counter, a stock broker on the phone, a customer representative. They will tell you how much skill and experience it takes to answer countless questions and handle various kinds of personalities every hour of the day. Not everyone can interact with such persistence and over long hours, but those who do, pride themselves on a distinctive ability that contributes mightily to the running of the organization. (《大学英语》第四册)

同样,这里后一段是具体例子,没有主题句,整个段落是说明前一段的最后一句:“It is energy expenditure that is satisfying.”



1.2.2 主题句的写法

主题句对于段落写作至关重要。主题句必须是观点明确,但不能太具体,也不能过于笼统。一个好的主题句应当包括两个部分:主题(topic)和主题思想(controlling idea)。

主题是向读者表明这个段落讨论什么方面的,而主题思想则是表明作者对这个方面的看法。也就是说,同一主题,由于看法不同,会有不同意思的主题句。如:

☛ Television commercials (主题) are often very misleading (主题思想).

☛ Television commercials (主题) are often very imaginative (主题思想).

显然主题思想使主题具体化、观点化了,使讨论有方向,有话可说。我们再举一些例子:

☛ Women are more sensitive (主题思想) to changing fashions (主题).

☛ A visit to a foreign country (主题) is always filled with surprise (主题思想).

☛ It is not easy (主题思想) to find the right kind of off-campus housing (主题).

☛ People in big cities (主题) should ride bicycles instead of cars (主题思想).

我们可以归纳如下:

a. 主题句不能是一个具体事实,它应当是一种观点,可以讨论,可以对此发表看法。

如上面的几个主题句,无论是关于电视广告,还是在校外找住宿,都是可以引出讨论的。相比较而言,下面的主题句就很难有话可说:

✎ Students often ride to school.

✎ Many citizens begin to learn English.

它们本身不能作为一个主题句被其他句子来证明、阐述。但如果改成:

✎ Students often ride to school **for various reasons**.

✎ Many citizen **find it useful** to learn to speak English.

就符合主题句的条件了,因为这样有话可说:叙述骑车上学的原因,学习英语的原因。

b. 主题句不能过于笼统。

✎ Work creates human beings.

“劳动创造人类”,范围太大,可以写整整一本书,从各方面来论述。这样的主题句过于笼统,很难写出东西。

✎ Knowing how to find a good place and learning how to budget time are important for college students.

这个主题句包括两个主题思想,显得笼统。一般来说,一个段落只适宜讨论一个主题。

c. 写好主题句,要注意一些关键词的运用,如 **some, different, several, various** 等。

✎ Most successful movies have a few qualities in common.

✎ College graduates can look for a job in several different ways.

✎ Society is trying many different approaches to discourage people from smoking.

2

第 二 章



动态动词的使用

写作初学者最常用的动词莫过于 **be** 动词和 **make** 动词,有时甚至滥用。而现代英语倾向于使用短小、有力的动态动词来表达。如第 8 章的“1.3 综合性结构”部分的 *El Niño* 这篇范文中“**inflicted ... claimed ... turned ... blanketed ... devastated ... wiped out**”一连串短小有力的动词的使用给文章带来了生气和力量,读着它使人感到厄尔尼诺正在发威。