

新东方学校出国考试丛书

# GRE

## 阅读剖析及全真题解读



杨继 著

世界知识出版社

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# 自序

本书早在1998年初就已开始筹划,过程长达一年多,几经周折,终于成就。不禁想起某友人的一句话:“方今之世,想做一点儿自己想做的事真是不易,特别是如果这件事不是为了得到房子、汽车和女人的话。”

两年多以来,忝居于新东方阅读教师之列,在如此特定的环境下,本着敬业而又自由的愿望,过着平静而又幸福的生活。人也慵懒了,本书的进展也停滞了,幸赖周围师友的敦促,终于振作,将工程完毕。

新东方学校校长俞敏洪先生,英明神睿,允文允武。在当前同类著述早已有问世的情况下,仍激励笔者莫言放弃、矢志不渝。

北大高等教育研究所靳军小姐,温良贤淑,天资聪慧。协助笔者做了大量本人最不擅长的整理稿件及校对文字工作。

北大理科各专业同窗,功底深厚,学业有成。审阅了第二部分的相关题材文章,使得我的专业不足得以弥补。

没有他们的协助,本书就无以问世。

同学们,当你们抱定求索之心,走上艰难而又漫长的留学申请之路时,我们曾在(或将在)你这条路刚刚走上时相见。祝你一如既往地走下去,不管是“礼失,求诸野”,还是“道不行,乘桴浮于海”,只要进行下去,就有希望,只要有希望,生活就是幸福的。

对于在这道上行进的同学们,笔者不能相助其他,只好以此书为献,惟愿它能带来你复习时的简便、快速与条理。还是那句话:

不敢妄言权威经典,但求不费一番苦心。

是为序。

作者  
于1999年夏

# 目 录

## 第一部分 GRE 阅读方法详述

第一节 GRE 考试及其阅读理解部分概述 .....	1
第二节 总 论(一) .....	3
一、GRE 阅读理解的文章分类	
二、文章的主要结构类型和主题句的基本找法	
三、考试现场阅读部分的基本原则和注意事项	
第三节 文中常考的起承转合词和语言现象 .....	12
一、文章的起承转合现象	
二、文中其他重要语言点	
第四节 现场及时做完题目的惟一突破口 ——快速阅读和进行取舍 .....	15
一、题材、句式的繁难和出题点的非繁难	
二、速读和取舍的几个原则	
附论：英语阅读考试和“英语阅读能力”	
第五节 主题题型 .....	22
一、两种出题形式及其基本解题思路	
二、关于主题题型的几点注意事项	
第六节 具体细节题型 .....	27
一、几种常见的错误方式	
二、4 种主要题型	
三、关于细节定位	
四、两点注意事项	
第七节 作者态度题型 .....	37
一、通过语言来判断作者态度	
二、让步语气	
三、和作者态度有关的一些词汇	
第八节 其他题型 .....	42
第九节 阅读文章中的一些固定套路 .....	46
一、题材和作者态度的套路	

二、作者谋篇上的套路	
第十节 补充技巧——文字对应法 .....	50
第十一节 总 论(二) .....	51
一、再谈文章结构和典型文章	
二、题型总述和难度分级	
三、GRE 阅读题发展前景预测及课下自学建议	
四、阅读中一些常见词汇的熟词僻义和精确词义	
第十二节 计算机化考试后 GRE 阅读部分的注意事项 .....	56
一、认清改换考试形式的实质	
二、几个新的原则	

## 第二部分 国内真题译文、背景、题目详解

1990 年试题译解 .....	61
1991 年试题译解 .....	81
1992 年试题译解 .....	114
1993 年试题译解 .....	142
1994 年试题译解 .....	173
1995 年试题译解 .....	201
1996 年试题译解 .....	220
1997 年试题译解 .....	246
1998 年试题译解 .....	263

# 第一部分 GRE 阅读方法详述

## 第一节 GRE 考试及其阅读理解部分概述

GRE(Graduate Record Examination)是美国各大学研究生院招收学生和给学生提供财政资助的参照考试。它不是学校决定是否录取和提供资助的惟一依据(甚至不能说是最重要的依据),也不像我国研究生入学考试那样有统一的分数线标准。然而,中国学生在申请美国学校时,在诸如名人推荐、学校知名度及 GPA 绝对分数计算等条件上,大部分要吃亏不少,所以, GRE 的分数对中国考生(尤其是本科毕业的学生)就具有独特的重要性。这也是 90 年代初以来,国内 GRE 考试人数呈几何级数增长,辅导班一再火爆的原因。

GRE 考试分为综合(General)和专项(Subject)两种,本书只讨论综合考试。

综合考试分为三部分:语文(Verbal),量化数据(Quantitative,俗称数学),分析(Analytical,俗称逻辑),本书只讨论 Verbal 部分。

Verbal 部分分成 4 种小题型:填空、类比、阅读、反义词,本书只讨论阅读理解部分。

在笔答考试中,每一个语文考试单元(Section)共含两篇阅读文章,长文章 45~50 行,短文章 15~20 行(1996 年以后的最新题长度)。长文章每篇文章 7 道题,短文章 4 道题。整套考试一共 4 篇文章 22 道题。

GRE 的阅读理解是大家公认的最难的一部分。经过几个月的复习,往往事倍功半,这令某些人的信心丧失殆尽。不仅如此,由于自己感觉阅读成问题,所以在解逻辑单题、填空题甚至某些数学题时,也迟迟不能进入到实质性阶段,只是望题兴叹。

现在,我们承认这个难度。既然不能坐以待毙,我们就只有共同努力,攻克这一难关。

请大家做一个区分:GRE 考试中阅读理解部分的阅读要求和逻辑、填空等部分的要求完全不是一回事;后者凭此书的内容解决不了,需要你长期积累和精细阅读,前者才是我们试图在后文中解决的。

试读下面两篇小文和后面题目:

### 例文 1-1:

The organizers of tomorrow's outdoor concert announced that it will go on tomorrow on schedule unless bad weather is forecast or too few advance tickets are sold. If the concert is canceled, refunds will be made to ticket holders. Since some ticket holders have already

been issued refunds even though more than enough advance tickets were sold; it must be the case that bad weather is forecast.

Which of the following is an error of reasoning contained in the argument?

(A) It proceeds as if a condition, which by itself is enough to guarantee a certain re-



sult, is the only condition under which that result would occur.

- (B) It bases a conclusion that is known to require two conditions on evidence that bears on only one of those conditions.
- (C) It explains one event as being caused by another event, even though both events must actually have been caused by some third, unidentified event.
- (D) It treats evidence for the absence of one condition under which a circumstance would occur as conclusive evidence that circumstance will not occur.
- (E) Evidence given to support the conclusion actually undermines it.

**例文 1-2:**(译文见 66 页)

Scholars often fail to see that music played an important role in the preservation of African culture in the United States. They correctly note that slavery stripped some cultural elements from Black people—their political and economic systems—but they underestimate the significance of music in sustaining other African cultural values. African music, unlike the music of some other cultures, was based on a total vision of life in which music was not an isolated social domain. In African culture music was pervasive, serving not only religion, but all phases of life, including birth, death, work, and play. The methods that a community devises to perpetuate itself come into being to preserve aspects of the cultural legacy that that community perceives as essential. Music, like art in general, was so inextricably a part of African culture that it became a crucial means of preserving the culture, during and after the dislocations of slavery.

- 1. The primary purpose of the passage is to
  - (A) analyze the impact that slavery had on African political and economic systems
  - (B) review the attempt of recent scholarship to study the influence of African music on other music
  - (C) correct the failure of some scholars to appreciate the significance of music in African culture
  - (D) survey the ways by which people attempt to preserve their culture against the effects of oppression
  - (E) compare the relative importance of music with that of other art forms in culture

2. In line 11, the phrase “isolated social domain” refers to

- (A) African music in relation to contemporary culture as a whole
- (B) music as it may be perceived in non-African cultures
- (C) a feature of African music that aided in transmitting African cultural values
- (D) an aspect of the African cultural legacy
- (E) the influence of music on contemporary culture

3. Which of the following statements concerning the function of African music can be inferred from the passage?

- (A) It preserved cultural values because it was thoroughly integrated into the lives of the people.
- (B) It was more important in the development of African religious life than in other areas of culture.
- (C) It was developed in response to the loss of political and economic systems.
- (D) Its pervasiveness in African culture hindered its effectiveness in minimizing the

impact of slavery.

- (E) Its isolation from the economic domains of life enabled it to survive the destructive impact of slavery.

4. According to the author, scholars would err in drawing which of the following conclusions?

- I. Slavery stripped the slaves of their political and economic systems.  
II. African music was similar to all other traditions of music in that it originated in a total vision of life.  
III. Music was a crucial part of the African cultural legacy.

- (A) I only  
(B) II only  
(C) I and II only  
(D) II and III only  
(E) I, II, and III

例文 1-1 是一道逻辑单选题, 1-2 是一篇阅读短文章。两者难度不相上下, 读过一遍之后, 读者的理解程度也差不多。但是做了题目就会发现, 1-1 解起来很费思索, 要反复推敲, 甚至得反复重读原文, 而 1-2 的解题过程却比较顺利。这就说明, 阅读理解考试现场的要求和其他各项中对你阅读基本功的要求, 不是一个概念。

## 第二节 总 论 (一)

### 一、GRE 阅读理解的文章分类

4 篇文章在一套笔考题中, 有两种分类的方法。

#### (一) 按照文章的题材分类

GRE 文章有 4 种类型:

**人文学科类:** 早期以文学评论型为主, 对于中国考生来说难度偏高, 主要是因为中国考生缺乏相应的人文背景和对英语叙述句式的不习惯。1993 年以后, 文学评论型文章的难度有极其明显的下降, 1996 年以后, 这种类型的文章更是基本趋向消亡, 取而代之的是大量的人文学科中的艺术和人文综合类文章, 而且多以短文章出现, 叙述简单, 题目难度正常, 已经不再是中国考生的一块心病。

**社会科学类:** 历史、法律、社会学和政治学都有可能涉及, 有两点需注意:

1) 近年少有纯学术研究文章, 多数谈的是实际的社会问题, 如民族、女权问题等。

2) GRE 文章几乎不涉及经济制度和商业管理, 这是为了和 GMAT 文章明确分工。

**生命科学类:** 在早期的 GRE 考试中, 这类文章被文科考生视为“洪水猛兽”。好在 1994 年后, 生命类型的文章逐步舍弃了诸如无氧代谢、基因遗传和人体微循环这样微观而抽象的题材。现在出现的一般是宏观生物学的题材, 如动植物习性、生态群落与环境的关系、人类活动与生物圈等。

**其他自然科学类:** 除生命科学之外的自然科学题材, 如地质、气象、物理、化学、天文等。请注意两点:

1) 一般文章所谈及的现象, 不具备专业知识也可以看懂。如果所谈专业比较高深, 像核物理和宇宙生成说之类, 题目往往会偏离主题, 改为主要就学科发展史或科学家生平提问。

2) 近年来, 纯理科内容趋少, 关心当前科学实用热点的文章比较多。如环保、新型发明和新型材料等。

从题材来为 GRE 文章分类,看起来很整齐,4 篇文章,每篇各占其一,永无例外。但此种外表的美感对我们做题的帮助不大。我们也不能指望把某种题材的背景特意加以复习就可以上场不惧,一劳永逸。这是永无可能的事情,因为,题材的细节几乎不会重考。对于题材的讨论,本书到此为止,以后我们强调的是——

## (二) 按写作方式分类

形形色色的 GRE 文章,绝大多数可分为两种基本写作类型。

1. Presentation,即立论型的文章。在此类文章中,作者阐明一个自己提出的观点、理论、解释,没有对立面;或者文章后半段稍有不同意见,但都被作者反驳掉,不足为据。

### 例文 2-1:(译文见 93 页)

The recent, apparently successful, prediction by mathematical models of an appearance of El Niño—the warm ocean current that periodically develops along the Pacific coast of South America—has excited researchers. Jacob Bjérknes pointed out over 20 years ago how winds might create either abnormally warm or abnormally cold water in the eastern equatorial Pacific. Nonetheless, until the development of the models no one could explain why conditions should regularly shift from one to the other, as happens in the periodic oscillations between appearances of the warm El Niño and the cold so-called anti-El Niño. The answer, at least if the current model that links the behavior of the ocean to that of the atmosphere is correct, is to be found in the ocean.

It has long been known that during an El Niño, two conditions exist: (1) unusually warm water extends along the eastern Pacific, principally along the coasts of Ecuador and Peru, and (2) winds blow from the west into the

warmer air rising over the warm water in the east. These winds tend to create a feedback mechanism by driving the warmer surface water into a “pile” that blocks the normal upwelling of deeper, cold water in the east and further warms the eastern water, thus strengthening the wind still more. The contribution of the model is to show that the winds of an El Niño, which raise sea level in the east, simultaneously send a signal to the west lowering sea level. According to the model, that signal is generated as a negative Rossby wave, a wave of depressed, or negative, sea level, that moves westward parallel to the equator at 25 to 85 kilometers per day. Taking months to traverse the Pacific, Rossby waves march to the western boundary of the Pacific basin, which is modeled as a smooth wall but in reality consists of quite irregular island chains, such as the Philippines and Indonesia. When the waves meet the western boundary, they are reflected, and the model predicts that Rossby waves will be broken into numerous coastal Kelvin waves carrying the same negative sea-level signal. These eventually shoot toward the equator, and then head eastward along the equator propelled by the rotation of the Earth at a speed of about 250 kilometers per day. When enough Kelvin waves of sufficient amplitude arrive from the western Pacific, their negative sea-level signal overcomes the feedback mechanism tending to raise the sea level, and they begin to drive the system into the opposite cold mode. This produces a gradual shift in winds, one that will eventually send positive sea-level Rossby waves westward, waves that will eventually return as cold cycle-ending positive Kelvin waves, beginning another warming cycle.

此文中,作者始终在说当前预测厄尔尼

诺的一个模型是如何地好, 优于以前的同类理论, 见不到一点其他人的评价。

#### 例文 2-2: (译文见 134~135 页)

The intensive work of materials scientists and solid-state physicists has given rise to a class of solids known as amorphous metallic alloys or glassy metals. There is a growing interest among theoretical and applied researchers alike in the structural properties of these materials. When a molten metal or metallic alloy is cooled to a solid, a crystalline structure is formed that depends on the particular alloy composition. In contrast, molten nonmetallic glass-forming materials, when cooled, do not assume a crystalline structure, but instead retain a structure somewhat like that of the liquid—an amorphous structure. At room temperature, the natural long-term tendency for both types of materials is to assume the crystalline structure. The difference between the two is in the kinetics or rate of formation of the crystalline structure, which is controlled by factors such as the nature of the chemical bonding and the ease with which atoms move relative to each other. Thus, in metals, the kinetics favors rapid formation of a crystalline structure, whereas in nonmetallic glasses the rate of formation is so slow that almost any cooling rate is sufficient to result in an amorphous structure. For glassy metals to be formed, the molten metal must be cooled extremely rapidly so that crystallization is suppressed.

The structure of glassy metals is thought to be similar to that of liquid metals. One of the first attempts to model the structure of a liquid was that by the late J. D. Bernal of the University of London, who packed hard spheres into a rubber vessel in such a way as to obtain

the maximum possible density. The resulting dense, random-packed structure was the basis for many attempts to model the structure of glassy metals.

Calculations of the density of alloys based on Bernal-type models of the alloys metal component agreed fairly well with the experimentally determined values from measurements on alloys consisting of a noble metal together with a metalloid, such as alloys of palladium and silicon, or alloys consisting of iron, phosphorus, and carbon, although small discrepancies remained. One difference between real alloys and the hard spheres used in Bernal models is that the components of an alloy have different sizes, so that mode based on two sizes of spheres are more appropriate for a binary alloy, for example. The smaller metalloid atoms of the alloy might fit into holes in the dense, random-packed structure of the larger metal atoms.

One of the most promising properties of glassy metals is their high strength combined with high malleability. In usual crystalline materials, one finds an inverse relation between the two properties. Whereas for many practical applications simultaneous presence of both properties is desirable. One residual obstacle to practical applications that is likely to be overcome is the fact that glass metals will crystallize at relatively low temperatures when heated slightly.

此文, 始终在说玻璃金属很好, 有优越性。末尾说了一些缺点, 但并不能撼动主体态度。

2. Argumentation, 即评论类型的文章。此类文章中, 作者针对一个业已存在的主张提出自己的评价, 不同意或不完全同意该主张, 或者对已存在的主张做较大的补充, 还要

给出替代方案。评论的态度以反驳或攻击性的负评价较为多见;但是,正评价或正负评价都有的复杂态度也并不罕见。

**例文 2-3:**(译文见 67~68 页)

Traditionally, pollination by wind has been viewed as a reproductive process marked by random events in which the vagaries of the wind are compensated for by the generation of vast quantities of pollen, so that the ultimate production of new seeds is assured at the expense of producing much more pollen than is actually used. Because the potential hazards pollen grains are subject to as they are transported over long distances are enormous, wind-pollinated plants have, in the view above, compensated for the ensuing loss of pollen through happenstance by virtue of producing an amount of pollen that is one to three orders of magnitude greater than the amount produced by species pollinated by insects.

However, a number of features that are characteristic of wind-pollinated plants reduce pollen waste. For example, many wind-pollinated species fail to release pollen when wind speeds are low or when humid conditions prevail. Recent studies suggest another way in which species compensate for the inefficiency of wind pollination. These studies suggest that species frequently take advantage of the physics of pollen motion by generating specific aerodynamic environments within the immediate vicinity of their female reproductive organs. It is the morphology of these organs that dictates the pattern of airflow disturbances through which pollen must travel. The speed and direction of the airflow disturbances can combine with the physical properties of a species' pollen to produce a species-specific pattern of pollen collision on the surfaces of fe-

male reproductive organs. Provided that these surfaces are strategically located, the consequences of this combination can significantly increase the pollen-capture efficiency of a female reproductive organ.

A critical question that remains to be answered is whether the morphological attributes of the female reproductive organs of wind-pollinated species are evolutionary adaptations to wind pollination or are merely fortuitous. A complete resolution of the question is as yet impossible since adaptation must be evaluated for each species within its own unique functional context. However, it must be said that, while evidence of such evolutionary adaptations does exist in some species, one must be careful about attributing morphology to adaptation. For example, the spiral arrangement of scale-bract complexes on ovule-bearing pine cones, where the female reproductive organs of conifers are located, is important to the production of airflow patterns that spiral over the cone's surfaces, thereby passing airborne pollen from one scale to the next. However, these patterns cannot be viewed as an adaptation to wind pollination because the spiral arrangement occurs in a number of non-wind-pollinated plant lineages and is regarded as a characteristic of vascular plants, of which conifers are only one kind, as a whole. Therefore, the spiral arrangement is not likely to be the result of a direct adaptation to wind pollination.

文章首段老观点讲风媒植物大造花粉弥补损失,第二段开始做了转折,不过作者并没有完全否定老观点,只是认为它很不全面,并且做了重大补充。

再请回看例文 1-2。

本文是鲜明的驳论。一开始就指出有些学者忽略了黑人音乐的重要性,作者的主要

观点,我们其实已经心知肚明。到末尾,他正式说出,黑人音乐在保存文化上具有不可替代的作用。

按写作方式来为 GRE 文章分类的方法,在后文中有重大应用。主题题型的把握和它有密切的联系。

## 二、文章的主要结构类型和主题句的基本找法

GRE 的文章虽然千奇百怪、题材繁多,但绝大多数都可以划分到以下几个结构大类中。而且,不管属于哪种,作者都会通过文中的一句话表达出对文章关注对象(也可称作 focus)的态度,这句话说出了本文的中心思想,因此,我们可以将其称为主题句(topic sentence),以下一律简称 TS。

下面分别进行叙述:

### 1. 结论说明型

文章开始时(往往就是首句)给出明确结论,后面全是对它做出解释说明。TS: 文章开端的结论处。这种类型在 GRE 文章中占有很大分量。

**例文 2-4:**(译文见 61 页) *Question P22*  
Because of its accuracy in outlining the Earth's subsurface, the seismic-reflection method remains the most important tool in the search for petroleum reserves. In field practice, a subsurface is mapped by arranging a series of wave-train sources, such as small dynamite explosions, in a grid pattern. As each source is activated, it generates a wave train that moves downward at a speed determined uniquely by the rock's elastic characteristics. As rock interfaces are crossed, the elastic characteristics encountered generally change abruptly, which causes part of the energy to

be reflected back to the surface, where it is recorded by seismic instruments. The seismic records must be processed to correct for positional differences between the source and the receiver, for unrelated wave trains, and for multiple reflections from the rock interfaces. Then the data acquired at each of the specific source locations are combined to generate a physical profile of the subsurface, which can eventually be used to select targets for drilling.

本文首句讲“地震波反射法仍为探测石油资源时的最佳工具”。后面没有任何转折,都是对首句的解释。所以 TS 就是首句。

### 2. 新老观点型

开始为老观点,后面作者给出与之对立的新观点。老的是错的,新的是对的。TS: 新观点给出之处。

**例文 2-5:**(译文见 75~76 页)

It is frequently assumed that the mechanization of work has a revolutionary effect on the lives or the people who operate the new machines and on the society into which the machines have been introduced. For example, it has been suggested that the employment of women in industry took them out of the household, their traditional sphere, and fundamentally altered their position in society. In the nineteenth century, when women began to enter factories, Jules Simon, a French politician, warned that by doing so, women would give up their femininity. Friedrich Engels, however, predicted that women would be liberated from the “social, legal, and economic subordination” of the family by technological developments that made possible the recruitment of “the whole female sex... into public industry.” Observers thus differed con-

cerning the social desirability of mechanization's effects, but they agreed that it would transform women's lives.

Historians, particularly those investigating the history of women, now seriously question this assumption of transforming power. They conclude that such dramatic technological innovations as the spinning jenny, the sewing machine, the typewriter, and the vacuum cleaner have not resulted in equally dramatic social changes in women's economic position or in the prevailing evaluation of women's work. The employment of young women in textile mills during the Industrial Revolution was largely an extension of an older pattern of employment of young, single women as domestics. It was not the change in office technology, but rather the separation of secretarial work, previously seen as an apprenticeship for beginning managers, from administrative work that in the 1880's created a new class of "dead-end" jobs, thenceforth considered "women's work." The increase in the numbers of married women employed outside the home in the twentieth century had less to do with the mechanization of housework and an increase in leisure time for these women than it did with their own economic necessity and with high marriage rates that shrank the available pool of single women workers, previously, in many cases, the only women employers would hire. Women's work has changed considerably in the past 200 years, moving from the household to the office or the factory, and later becoming mostly white-collar instead of blue-collar work. Fundamentally, however, the conditions under which women work have changed little since before the Industrial Revolution: the segregation of occupations by gender, lower pay for women as a group, jobs

that require relatively low levels of skill and offer women little opportunity for advancement all persist, while women's household labor remains demanding. Recent historical investigation has led to a major revision of the notion that technology is always inherently revolutionary in its effects on society. Mechanization may even have slowed any change in the traditional position of women both in the labor market and in the home.

本文开始讲“过去人们普遍认为机械化对妇女有革命性好处”。但第二段给出新观点“机械化没有造成妇女地位的任何变化”(第二段第二句),这里就是 TS 所在。

### 3. 现象解释型

开始是一个现象,并且往往很古怪,作者在后面一定会给出解释。TS: 解释出现之处。

#### 例文 2-6:(译文见 178~179 页)

The two claws of the mature American lobster are decidedly different from each other. The crusher claw is short and stout; the cutter claw is long and slender. Such bilateral asymmetry, in which the right side of the body is, in all other respects, a mirror image of the left side, is not unlike handedness in humans. But where the majority of humans are right-handed, in lobsters the crusher claw appears with equal probability on either the right or left side of the body.

Bilateral asymmetry of the claws comes about gradually. In the juvenile fourth and fifth stages of development, the paired claws are symmetrical and cutterlike. Asymmetry begins to appear in the juvenile sixth stage of development, and the paired claws further diverge toward well-defined cutter and crusher claws during succeeding stages. An intriguing

aspect of this development was discovered by Victor Emmel. He found that if one of the paired claws is removed during the fourth or fifth stage, the intact claw invariably becomes a crusher, while the regenerated claw becomes a cutter. Removal of a claw during a later juvenile stage or during adulthood, when asymmetry is present, does not alter the asymmetry; the intact and the regenerate claws retain their original structures.

These observations indicate that the conditions that trigger differentiation must operate in a random manner when the paired claws are intact but in a nonrandom manner when one of the claws is lost. One possible explanation is that differential use of the claws determines their asymmetry. Perhaps the claw that is used more becomes the crusher. This would explain why, when one of the claws is missing during the fourth or fifth stage, the intact claw always becomes a crusher with two intact claws, initial use of one claw might prompt the animal to use it more than the other throughout the juvenile fourth and fifth stages, causing it to become a crusher.

To test this hypothesis, researchers raised lobsters in the juvenile fourth and fifth stages of development in a laboratory environment in which the lobsters could manipulate oyster chips. (Not coincidentally, at this stage of development lobsters typically change from a habitat where they drift passively, to the ocean floor where they have the opportunity to be more active by burrowing in the substrate.) Under these conditions, the lobsters developed asymmetric claws, half with crusher claws on the left, and half with crusher claws on the right. In contrast, when juvenile lobsters were reared in a smooth tank without the oyster chips, the majority developed two

cutter claws. This unusual configuration of symmetrical cutter claws did not change when the lobsters were subsequently placed in a manipulatable environment or when they lost and regenerated one or both claws.

开始就指出龙虾两螯不一样大小这一有趣现象,后面开始研究;到了 L34 给出解释,原来是使用的多少决定了哪个螯粗,哪个螯细。此句为 TS。

#### 4. 问题回答型

开始给出一个问题,可以是明确的设问,也可以是给出一个困难(difficulty)或者任务(task),后面会对此做出解答。

#### 例文 2-7:(译文见 81 页)

As Gilbert White, Darwin, and others observed long ago, all species appear to have the innate capacity to increase their numbers from generation to generation. The task for ecologists is to untangle the environmental and biological factors that hold this intrinsic capacity for population growth in check over the long run. The great variety of dynamic behaviors exhibited by different populations makes this task more difficult: some populations remain roughly constant from year to year; others exhibit regular cycles of abundance and scarcity; still others vary wildly, with outbreaks and crashes that are in some cases plainly correlated with the weather, and in other cases not.

To impose some order on this kaleidoscope of patterns, one school of thought proposes dividing populations into two groups. These ecologists posit that the relatively steady populations have "density-dependent" growth parameters; that is, rates of birth, death, and migration which depend strongly on population density. The highly varying populations have "density-independent" growth parameters.



ters, with vital rates buffeted by environmental events; these rates fluctuate in a way that is wholly independent of population density. This dichotomy has its uses, but it can cause problems if taken too literally. For one thing, no population can be driven entirely by density-independent factors all the time. No matter how severely or unpredictably birth, death, and migration rates may be fluctuating around their long-term averages, if there were no density-dependent effects, the population would, in the long run, either increase or decrease without bound (barring a miracle by which gains and losses canceled exactly). Put another way, it may be that on average 99 percent of all deaths in a population arise from density-independent causes, and only one percent from factors varying with density. The factors making up the one percent may seem unimportant, and their cause may be correspondingly hard to determine. Yet, whether recognized or not, they will usually determine the long-term average population density. In order to understand the nature of the ecologist's investigation, we may think of the density-dependent effects on growth parameters as the "signal" ecologists are trying to isolate and interpret, one that tends to make the population increase from relatively low values or decrease from relatively high ones, while the density-independent effects act to produce "noise" in the population dynamics. For populations that remain relatively constant, or that oscillate around repeated cycles, the signal can be fairly easily characterized and its effects described, even though the causative biological mechanism may remain unknown. For irregularly fluctuating populations, we are likely to have too few observations to have any hope of extracting the signal from the overwhelming

noise. But it now seems clear that all populations are regulated by a mixture of density-dependent and density-independent effects in varying proportions.

第2句提出任务:生态学家要确定长期控制种群生长的因素。第二段给出了一个方案,作者不同意。第三段以后,又给出了一个新方案,也就是密度因素(DD)和非密度因素(DI)以不同比例决定种群密度。TS:末句较好。

注意:3、4两种结构类型没有本质的区别,有的文章不能做截然划分。此外,对现象的解释或对问题的回答有时不止一个,如例文2-8,这时,一般先给出的是错误的,最后给出的是正确的。

**5. 有些文章在层次划分上比较特殊。**前半部分可以划分为刚才4种中的一类,但后半部分(有时所占比例还相当大)讲了一些与前面无关、离题的内容。这时要从前不从后,以前面的套路结构、内容为主题。

见前面的例文2-3。

文章前两部分是很典型的老观点对应。而第三段没有再讲新观点,而是离题谈到这一观点中所列举的结构特征是不是由进化造成的。这一叙述不能撼动文章主题,主题句还是第二段首句。不要把文章末尾therefore引导的句子当作主题。

以上讲了5种结构类型及相应的主题句确定方法。实践中,要确定一篇文章的主题句,光凭这些还是有一定困难的,所以,我们还要提供一些思路:以下这些语言现象经常是(并非总是)提示主题句就要出来的重要标志。

1. 一段叙述后(尤其是在第二段开始),出现了转折词。这种词类型很多。第三节中有详细总结。

见例文2-3,第二段开始的However显然应该引起我们的警觉,主题句就在其后。