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最新

英语专业四级 考试指南

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PRACTICE LECTURES AND TESTS FOR ENGLISH MAJORS (Grade Four)



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前 言

《最新英语专业四级考试指南》是根据 2000 年 3 月教育部最新批准实施的《高等院校英语专业英语教学大纲》的精神和《高校英语专业四级考试大纲》的要求编写的。

21 世纪的英语专业人才必须具有扎实的语言基本功和过硬的英语技能,而全国范围内的统一考试是检测学生英语语言综合能力的必要途径。英语专业四级考试是检验各高校英语院系执行教学大纲情况、教学质量、学生水平的重要手段。为了帮助学生打好扎实的语言基本功,提高英语各项技能,在专业四级考试中取得较好的成绩,同时帮助非英语专业的大专院校学生在短时间内迅速提高英语听、说、读、写各项能力,我们精心编写了这本指南。

本书具有以下特点:

1. 对应试难点的分析透彻、全面、一针见血。本书结合学生在历届考试中出现的问题逐一进行总结,从中找出应试的诀窍和题型特点。

2. 对应试技巧的阐述独到新颖,实用性和针对性强,也有助于英语爱好者快速掌握英语学习的技巧,提高实战能力。

3. 模拟试题的设计题材广泛,材料新、题量足。

4. 编者水平高,本书由南开大学、南京大学、东南大学和解放军国际关系学院的教师共同编写完成。参加本书编写工作的教师都是全国综合性重点大学的英语专业骨干,他们具有丰富的本科教学经验、熟悉四级考试。他们兢兢业业,一丝不苟,历冬寒夏暑,始成此书。

本书是高等院校教师指导学生进行专业英语四级考试考前强化训练的理想教材,同时可供中、高级英语自学者学习参考之用。

本书的编写出版得到了南京大学出版社的大力支持,编者谨在此表示衷心的感谢。

编 者
2001 年 8 月

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第一章 写作应试指导

第一节 考试概述

一、考试大纲

(一) 教学大纲的写作要求

1. 能根据各种不同的听读材料笔头回答问题、复述内容、写摘要、写提纲和笔记。
2. 能根据题目列出写作提纲,在一小时内写出 200 ~ 250 词的短文。以上均要求做到内容完整、条理清楚、语法基本正确、语言通顺恰当。
3. 能写一般的书信、通知、便条、请帖,填写简单的表格,格式正确,语言得体。

(二) 四级测试的写作要求

1. 作文

要求根据所出的题目和列出的写作提纲或图表、数字统计表等(也附有写作提纲)写一篇 150 词左右的短文。能做到内容切题、完整、条理清楚、文章结构严谨、语法正确、语言通顺恰当。考试时间为 35 分钟。

2. 写摘要或便条

写摘要部分要求根据所给的约 500 词的材料写一篇 100 词左右的摘要。能用自己的话简明扼要地概括原文中心大意,做到语法正确、语言通顺。考试时间为 20 分钟。

写便条部分要求按提示内容写一通知、便条、请柬等。要求格式正确,语言得体。考试时间为 10 分钟。便条长度约 60 ~ 80 个单词。

以上两种方式每次选一种。

(三) 题型

本部分为主观试题,分两节:Section A 和 Section B。

Section A 是作文。题目主要属于记叙文、说明文或议论文的范围。Section B 是摘要或便条。每次考试只测试其中一个项目。

(四) 测试目的

按照教学大纲的要求测试学生在基础阶段末期用英语书面表达思想的能力。

二、评分标准

(一) 专业四级考试标准

专业四级的作文评分一般采用总体评分(Global Scoring)的方法。阅卷人就总的印象给出奖励分(Reward Scores),而不是按语言点的错误数目扣分。满分为15分,五个分数段的评分标准分别为:

- 15分: 文章内容切题,思想表达清楚,行文通顺流畅,连贯性好,论证严密,论据充分,基本上无语言错误。
- 14~12分: 文章内容切题,思想表达清楚,语言比较通顺,连贯性较好,有极少量语法错误。
- 11~9分: 文章内容切题,尚能表达中心思想,但说理不够清楚,文字连贯不够好,有少量语言错误。
- 8~6分: 基本切题,有些地方思想表达不够清楚,连贯性差,语言错误多。
- 5~3分: 文章条理不清、思路紊乱,语言缺乏连贯,句子错误很多,或语言虽通顺流畅,但完全偏题。

(二) 根据国内外各类英语水平考试的作文评分标准,高分作文应具备以下要素:

1. 内容切题。
2. 阐述充分,观点鲜明,论据充分,有较强的说服力。
3. 意思连贯,条理清楚,文字通顺,段落衔接紧密,过渡自然,逻辑性强。
4. 句与句之间的连接顺畅,句式灵活多变,句法结构正确。
5. 用词得体、恰当,词汇丰富。
6. 拼写、标点符号正确。

三、全真命题作文题目荟萃(Section A)

1990年: **Is Money Everything?**

1991年: **What I Usually Do After Class?**

1992年: **My View on Reading Extensively**

1993年: **My Idea of Becoming a Teacher in the Future**

1994年: **TV: a Good Thing or a Bad Thing**

1995年: Nowadays it has become fashionable for college students to take a part-time job in their spare time. **Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.**

1996年: **The Main Difference Between My College Life and My Middle School Life**

1997年: **More Pressure from Academic Studies Does Good (or Does No Good) to Us**

1998年:

It is now generally accepted that vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) are a major source of air pollution in cities. You are to suggest only **ONE Way to Solve the Problem.**

You are to write in three paragraphs. In the first paragraph, state what your suggested way is. In the second paragraph, state one or two advantages of your suggestion. In the last paragraph, bring what

you have written to a natural conclusion.

1999 年:

We see advertisements on television every day. Some people think that TV advertising brings us benefits, but others don't think so. What is your opinion?

Write on Answer Sheet One a composition of about 150 words on the following topic:

A Major Advantage/Disadvantage of Advertising on TV

In the first paragraph, state just one major advantage or disadvantage of TV advertising. In the second paragraph, give one or two reasons to support your point of view. In the last paragraph, bring what you have written to a natural conclusion.

2000 年:

College life should be varied and colourful. And extracurricular activities are an important aspect of it. However, at present, there is much room for improvement in this regard. Write an article to the university radio entitled: **The Importance of Extracurricular Activities**

In the first part you should clearly present your view, and in the second part you should support your opinion with appropriate details. In the last part you should bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or summary.

2001 年:

Travel has become part of our life. And more and more of us have come to know the significance of travel through our own experience. Write on Answer Sheet One a composition of about 150 words on the following topic: **Travel Broadens the Mind**

You are to write in three parts. In the first part, state what the topic actually means to you. In the second part, give one or two examples to illustrate your ideas. In the last part, bring what you have written to a natural conclusion or a summary.

四、全真便条题目荟萃 (Section B)

1991 年:

Directions: your friend wants to go downtown to buy some Chinese folk music tapes and a jacket. You also want to go into town to do two things. Write a note of about 60 ~ 80 words to him/her, suggesting some arrangements.

1992 年:

Write in your Answer Booklet a note of about 80 words to a friend of yours based on the following situation: Your friends want to make a trip to . . . and you intended to join them in their trip. But now for some reasons you can't go with them. Please state your reasons.

1993 年:

Write in your Answer Booklet a note of about 60 words to a friend of yours based on the following situation: You, Wang Ling, have just received a note from Zhou Wei, a close friend of yours, inviting you to her birthday party on the coming Saturday. Now write to inform her of your acceptance of the invitation.

1994 年:

Write on your Answer Sheet One a note of about 60 words based on the following situation:

You were supposed to hand in your book report for the Extensive Reading Course on Monday, but you are two days late. Now you are outside Professor Lin's office as you want to hand in your assignment, but he is not in. Write a note to him, apologizing and explaining why you did not give him your work on time. Marks will be awarded for appropriacy.

1995 年:

Write on your Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

Before you leave university you want to sell your bike. Write a note of about 50 ~ 60 words describing the condition of your bike, how much you'd like for it, and where you can be contacted.

1996 年:

Write on your Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

Your friend has just won the first prize in the provincial English Speech Contest. Write a note of congratulations.

1997 年:

Write on Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

You are Peter/Mary. You had a party at your home recently, but you unintentionally neglected to invite a close friend of yours—Victoria. Write her a note of apologizing for this and explaining how the mistake came about.

1998 年:

Write on Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

You are Mark or Sally. You have got a ticket to a computer fair, but you now find that you are unable to go. Write a note to your friend, George, explaining why you are sending the enclosed ticket to him and telling him briefly how to get there.

1999 年:

Write on Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

You've learned that your friend Jimmy is ill these days. Write him a note expressing your concern, asking after his health and giving your best wishes.

2000 年:

Write on Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation:

You've read on the notice board that the university library is looking for a part-time library assistant who can work at weekends. You think that your classmate, George, is a suitable person for this vacancy. Write him a note, telling him what you know about the vacancy and trying to persuade him to go for an interview.

2001 年:

Write on Answer Sheet One a note of about 50 ~ 60 words based on the following situation: Yesterday you failed to turn up for the appointment with your teacher, Professor Wang. Write him a note of apology and make a request for another meeting. You should also suggest the time for the requested meeting.

第二节 解题难点及举例

讨论应试作文的难点,我们不能不考虑到应试作文的特殊性,即考生必须在有限的时间就规定的题目完成一定字数限制以内的短文,这不亚于为翻译界所津津乐道的译事强人所难之处——“戴着脚镣跳舞”。其实,正如俗语所说,应试作文“麻雀虽小,五脏俱全”,应该包括开头、正文和结尾,要求开头观点鲜明贴切,正文论证有理有据,结尾处结论合情合理。写作过程呢,下笔之前要审题,规划布局,动笔时需注意论点展开层次要分明,论述中逻辑要清晰,同时还要语言顺畅,词句炼达。这样看来,在各种条件的限制下正常发挥出自己的写作水平来,这是应试作文对考生提出的最大挑战,而应试作文的所有难点也就由此应运而生了。下面我们就以近几年专业四级考试的作文真题和考生临场完成的写作范文为例,将考生在应试作文完成过程中通常会遇到的困难一一列举出来并结合应试作文本身的特殊性略加分析。

一、审题布局难点

在拿到考试题目之前,考生普遍被一种先入为主的焦虑心理所困扰,有些考生甚至惊慌地发现自己暂时丧失了正常思维的能力。一旦看到考题,考生又会骤然产生情况各异的心理波动现象:有的见到不熟悉或者由于生词障碍而不知所云的题目,最初数分钟大脑一片空白,待到稍稍冷静下来便提笔仓促应战,围绕题目将头脑中所能想到的与题目相关的尽数倒出;有的见题窃喜,或者考前练过类似的题目,或者感觉题目熟悉,不愁没有话说,于是下笔生风,一泻千里;有的倒也很快平静下来,既无大悲也无大喜,但是思路很不顺畅,硬着头皮勉强往下写,写写停停。可以说,以上这三种情况都不是理想的应试状态。我们在这里首先要提醒考生的是,应试作文在很大程度上打的是心理战,要想在应试作文中正常发挥自身的水平,平时必须练就良好的应试心理素质。

(一) 审题

专业四级考试中,命题作文是每年固定的一种写作测试形式,占写作部分 75% 的分值比例。命题作文要求考生按照题目所指定的内容范围,确定中心思想,并采用恰当的文体在规定的 35 分钟内完成 150 字的作文。由此可见,审题作为关键的一步,对考生来说构成了拿到作文题之后的首要难点,稍有不慎就会造成“差之毫厘,失之千里”的遗憾。个别考生在拿到题目的最初慌乱中,匆匆扫一眼题目便仓促下笔,待写了几分钟后心情平静下来时才发现审题有误。我们说,正是由于考场上的每一分钟甚至每一秒钟都是很珍贵的,拿出一分钟左右的时间弄清题目的意思和后面的要求才显得更有必要。下面以 1998 年的考题为例作一简要分析:

It is now generally accepted that vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) are a major source of air pollution in cities. You are to suggest only ONE way to solve the problem.

One Way to Solve the Problem

You are to write in three paragraphs. In the first paragraph, state what your suggested way is. In the second paragraph, state one or two advantages of your suggestion. In the last paragraph, bring what you have written to a natural conclusion.

Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriacy. Failure to follow the instructions may result in a loss of marks.

题目中有三个关键之处:其一,关键词“the problem”指的是“vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) are a major source of air pollution in cities”;其二,题目中提醒考生注意的是“suggest only ONE way”;其三,文章的重点在于“one or two advantages of your suggestion”,而不是“description of the suggested solution”,更不是“the problem itself”。明白了这三点,考生就绝对不会写出文不对题的文章来了。而由于审题不到位,考生往往犯这样的错误:只知“THE PROBLEM”大概指的是“air pollution”,忽略了其限定条件和场合,即“vehicles”和“in cities”;花很多篇幅讲述“THE PROBLEM”如何严重,危害性有多大以及多么有必要解决,而没有按题目要求对此一笔带过;把论述重点放在了解释如何解决的具体细节上,而不是详细讨论如此解决的好处。最极端可笑的例子是:一名考生甚至没有看清“THE PROBLEM”具体是什么,直接对着黑体字“One Way to Solve the Problem”苦思冥想,写出一篇如何通过与人沟通来解决生活中可能遇到的难题,比如人际争端、个人困惑等等,待她发现审题偏差却为时已晚。

另外的例子还有:1996年的考题为“The Main Difference Between My College Life and My Middle School Life”,只要求考生选择大学和中学生活的诸多不同点之一,然后围绕这一点论述其中一方的优越之处;但是,由于审题偏差,有些考生逐一列举了大学和中学生活的种种不同。1999年考题“A Major Advantage / Disadvantage of Advertising on Television”与1995年考题“Nowadays it has become fashionable for college students to take a part-time job in their spare time. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of this trend.”属同类题型,但两者明显不同的是:前者限定考生只考虑有利或不利一面,选择其中一点来展开论述;而后者范围比较宽,既考虑有利一面又考虑不利一面,对两方面各自论述几点也不加限制。有时,题目中增加了场合和对象的限定条件,例如,在上面提到的1996年考题中,还有这样一个前提:“you have been asked by the Students' Union to write [the passage] as part of an introduction programme for new students coming in September”;同样,2000年考题也提到了类似的条件:“Write an article to the university radio”,对于这样的附加条件,考生在审题过程中也不能完全忽略。

(二) 布局

一般说来,专业四级考试中命题作文的固定模式是“三段式”作文,题目后面紧接着就是针对每一段提出的具体写作要求,因此,只要考生静下心来仔细阅读这部分说明,作文的布局并不是很难:尽管题目迥异,文章在布局上无非是提出论点——展开论述——总结结论这三个层次。考试中经常出现的布局失误有以下几个方面:

(1) 结构不完整(比如开头缺少铺垫,结尾缺少总结段——一般为时间不够所致)。

(2) 比例失调。最常见的是,第一段不够概括,导致篇幅过长;第二段过于简略;第三段继续阐述某些观点,因而过长。

(3) 第一段没有明确地提出主题(如赞成什么,或反对什么,或对某个问题有什么看法),导致观点不鲜明,中心思想不突出。

(4) 主题句没有对段落的内容进行明确的、适当的限定,结果段落内容不能紧扣主题。

(5) 由于没有把握住主题,导致三段的内容、侧重点或观点不一致。

另外,这里我们需要强调的是:审题后,论述角度的选取,即立论,是否得当会极大地影响到文章的构思及整体布局;可以说,这是布局的主要难点所在。以1998年考题为例,对于

如何解决机动车造成的城市污染现象,据统计,某班考生基本上有以下几种思路:使用太阳能代替汽油 (to use solar energy as fuel),明令规定限制机动车数量 (to limit the number of vehicles by law),改善城市公交系统以减少机动车数量 (to promote and encourage the use of public transportation system),鼓励市民走路或骑自行车 (to encourage citizens to walk or cycle)。比较这几种思路,我们不难看出,思路狭窄的考生必然会在展开论述其选择的解决方案的优点时遇到困难,寥寥数语便再也无话可说,或者用尽各种句型反复解释的不过是同样的内容;由于选取论点角度不当,有些考生甚至难以自圆其说,只得牵强附会,于是很容易出现我们前面提到的思路不畅,写写停停的尴尬局面。再以 1999 年考题“A Major Advantage / Disadvantage of Advertising on Television”为例,请比较以下两篇例文:

[例文 1]

A Major Advantage of Advertising on TV

Everyday [Every day] when we turn on TV, we may find a lot of colorful advertisement[s]. Though there are some disadvantages of it [advertising], in my view, advertising on TV is a good method of entertainment.

Ad on TV is not only an introduction of products but also a kind of art. It combine[s] photograph [y], technique, acting, [and] language together. A good ad can refresh people a lot, especially when we are tired of boring TV series. In addition, with the development of advertising, more and more instructive ads appear. Such as [For example] many public ads give people entertainment, [;] at the same time, they teach people to be true, kind and beautiful.

All in all, advertising on TV is an inevitable trend in modern society. What we should do is to develop and promote it. [注:文中方括号及其内容均为编者所加,为补充或更正,下同]

[例文 2]

A Major Disadvantage of Advertising on Television

Nowadays, when watching TV, we cannot enjoy ourselves as much as before. Advertisements on TV are the destroyer of our entertainment.

Firstly, before watching a wonderful program, we have to bear watching lots of advertisements. That often makes people impatient. Yet what's worse is that advertisements often break in during a wonderful program. People get angry, but they have no choice. Furthermore, some advertisements are not very healthy, which cast a dark shadow over our entertainment. For example, there are horrible and sexual scenes in some advertisements. During the entertainment, parents must be nervous and careful to prevent their children from watching them.

From what has been discussed above, we have seen clearly the disadvantage of advertisements on TV. Therefore steps must be taken to deal with TV advertising strictly.

通过比较,我们可以看出例文 2 明显优于例文 1。当然,原因是多方面的,比如语言功力。但是,这里我们权且忽略布局构思以外的其它因素,分析一下角度选取对于展开论述成败的重要性。例文 1 作者认为“advertising on TV is a good method of entertainment”,原因有二:电视广告的艺术性和教育意义。首先,电视广告的教育意义和其娱乐功能在概念上很难归为同一范畴,因此,第二个原因未免牵强。其实,论述展开在很大程度上受考生的立论本身

制约,例文1选取的角度暴露了作者思路的偏狭,明显不利于布局构思,最终导致文章内容贫乏,缺乏逻辑性的后果。例文2作者同样从“entertainment”入手,选取的角度却恰恰相反,立论为“Advertisements on TV are the destroyer of our entertainment”并从两个方面加以证明:令人扫兴,使人担忧,同样破坏了电视本身应有的娱乐功能。这样的立论充分考虑到论述的效果,为论述的展开留下了收放自如的余地,因此在整体布局上取得了良好的效果,不失为一篇高分作文。

在此,我们需要提醒考生注意的是:平时应有意识地拓宽知识面,丰富想象力;考前训练乃至平时练习中,注意集思广益,打开思路,对任何题目都应该练习多角度思考并确定能够取得最有力论证的立论;同时,在考试实战中,立论应该充分考虑到整体布局构思的效果,避免仓促选定角度而下笔才发现难以展开论述的情况发生。

二、组段成篇难点

应试作文不同于平时作文的特点之一在于作文评卷人的评分方法。具体到应试作文来说,评卷人要在短时间内阅读大量的作文并迅速作出判断,这样的工作可谓艰苦,同时最终分数中人为因素占了很大的成分,因此,在分数公布后,往往有细心的考生惊讶地发现个别考场全部考生总体分数明显低于其它考场。一般情况下,评卷人的脑子里有一些条条框框,他们可以在极短的时间内将一篇应试作文往框框里套,再根据套入框中的采分点的数目下意识地给出一个分。按顺序从高到低排列,评卷人的兴奋点分别是:

A. 脉络(Organization):一定要清晰,层次分明;

B. 细节及论据(Details & Examples):必须充分,紧扣论题;

C. 行文(Facility in the Use of Language and Appropriate Word Choice):应该流畅,显示出一定的语言功底。

由此看来,考生在确定了论点之后,遇到的下一个难点就是如何把握文章的脉络,合理地组织细节来支持论点。

组段成篇的难点首先在于东西方思维模式存在的差异所造成的中国人与英美人在写作中谋篇布局的习惯差异。有些中国学生运用外语的能力已经很纯熟,又积累了丰富的语汇和其他语言知识,能想到哪里写到哪里,就认为自己有了用外语思维的能力,其实不尽然——英语的组段谋篇在很大程度上受着英美人的思维模式的影响。英语语篇思维中占主导地位者当属直线型,其特征可归纳为三个步骤:1. Say what you're going to say. 2. Say It. 3. Then say what you've said. 英美人惯用主题句段落模式。他们写作时,开宗明义第一句话往往概括主题思想,然后再引出具体的事例或细节对其进行发展。而中国人的思维模式属曲线型,其特征可用成语“画龙点睛”来概括,即大量的笔墨用在铺垫、陈述上,最后才摆出自己的观点。汉语写作是用迂回法(approach by indirection),往往不是从主题入手,却倾向于先围绕着主题外围阐述评论,然后再以反复而又发展的螺旋型形式对某一思想加以展开。具体到专四作文上,有的考生在语法结构和用词上没什么大问题,但作文分数很低,原因就在于他们的作文建立在典型的中式思维模式上,归纳起来主要表现在“重点不突出”和“缺乏连贯性”两个方面。

(一) 重点不突出

先来看一下1999年的一篇应试作文:

[例文 3]

A Major Advantage of Advertising on Television

Nowadays, advertisements have already been an indispensable part of TV program. Advertising on television is a most effective way to make products well-known to the public.

As we know, TV set is one of the (most) greatest invention[s] in 20th century. Now it becomes a main channel through which people can obtain all kinds of information of outside world. On average, each family holds a TV set, and people spend certain time (on) watching television everyday [every day]. Therefore, advertising on television can make products very familiar to the audience. What's more, manufacturers can design the advertisements vividly, to appeal to the consumer. To introduce their products, manufacturers must be creative and imaginative while making advertisement, just like creating a piece of art work. Those impressive advertisements often appear in consumer's [consumers'] mind when they choose what to buy.

In brief, advertising on television is of great use for manufacturers while making products popular. Generally speaking, the more money you invest on advertisement on television, the more commercial benefit you'll get from increasing sales volume. [注:文中圆括号为编者所加,内容应略去,下同]

这篇作文表现的间接的、曲线式思维模式非常典型,其中第二段尤为明显。该段第一个层面开头三句话完全没有涉及到题目的关键词“Advertising”,而是大谈“television”的重要性(importance)和普及性(popularity)。显然,按照中式思维,其目的在于作好铺垫,以引出观点之一“advertising on television can make products very familiar to the audience”。同样,第二个层面提出的下一个观点“Those impressive advertisements often appear in consumer[s'] mind when they choose what to buy”也是“千呼万唤始出来”;而且观点句之前的两个句子所陈述的都是作者本人的观点——她认为广告设计应该是生动(vivid),富于创造力和想象力(creative and imaginative),有艺术感染力(like...a piece of art work),其论点构建在个人观点而非事实的基础上。这些都同英美人依赖于逻辑观念,从前提到结论进行讨论的习惯大相径庭。

(二) 缺乏连贯性

东西方不同的思维模式在语篇连贯上也表现出明显的差异。连接性差也是中式思维在英文写作中的一个集中体现。中国学生的作文表现出的症状为全篇组织结构松散,究其原因不外乎两种:第一种正如例文 3 所示,思维跳跃发散,思想的内在关联性差;第二种是考生中更为普遍的问题,即思想的外在表现形式不够严谨,具体反映在句子间协调一致不够,不衔接以至缺乏逻辑关系,尤其是代词和关联词的使用不当。请看以下例文:

[例文 4]

A Major Advantage of Advertising on Television

Advertising is an important part of our commercial society, and TV advertising is its most popular form. In my opinion, advertisements on TV bring great convenience to one [us customers] when he does [we do] shopping.

To start with, TV advertising tells us almost all kinds of information about a commodity, such as

color, size, function, etc. Customers [We] do not have to feel confused in face of thousands of brands when they [we] go to the market. You [We] just turn on the TV set, watch and decide which particular brand can satisfy your [our] needs best. In this way, customers [we] can save a great deal of time and energy. Moreover, other forms of advertising can by no means match TV advertising in that it can show you [us] the appearance of the commodity vividly and the way it functions effectively.

In conclusion, TV advertising does good to us. Though some advertisements on TV are designed to cheat customers, I believe, with the development of our legal system, TV advertising will surely have a bright future.

这是由于代词使用不当而造成全篇论述松散凌乱的一个典型例子。从头到尾,作者不断地变换人称,交叉使用了四个系列:I—us—our, you—your, one—he, customers—they。如果将它们一概统一到其中一个系列(比如,[]里以第一人称为主的系列),叙述效果就会清楚得多。

英语属“形合法”语言,语言本身起连接过渡作用的词语特别多,且这类词语在语段中出现的频率也相当高。相反,汉语属“意合法”语言,往往强调思维的连贯,强调上下层次的衔接和前后的照应。这种连贯方式在许多情况下并不需要一定的语法手段或其他语言手段(相当于英语中的过渡词语)来表现。故此,许多中国学生很少注意过渡词语的运用,导致语义或逻辑关系不清,篇章缺乏连贯性、一致性和整体性。如下文所示,关联词的巧妙使用给人一种全篇一气呵成的流畅感。

[例文 5]

A Major Disadvantage of Advertising on Television

With the development of advertising, our television programs are flooded with numerous advertisements every day, which, indeed, make our TV screen extremely colorful. However, I believe advertising on television is doing great harm to the relationship between TV and its audience.

For one thing, since advertisements enable TV stations to earn a lot of money, some TV stations manage to arrange as many advertising programs as possible, which will surely annoy the vast majority of the audience. In this sense, advertisements can affect the general impression of TV. For another thing, unsuitable time for advertisements also has a bad effect on the audience. For instance, nowadays a wonderful TV serial is always interrupted by advertisements three or four times only in a period of fifty minutes! In many cases, advertisements are really a great nuisance.

As television has almost become indispensable in our daily life, we hope advertisements can increase the value of television as a source of entertainment, instead of decreasing its value. [注:文中下划线为编者所加,以突出关联词的使用。]

可以说,缺乏英美人所要考虑的逻辑连贯性的约束,阐述时不从主题入手而是用各方面的情况和问题以暗示或明示,在文章中提供的往往是自己的主张而不是证据——这些都是中国学生作文常见的毛病。中国学生这种迂回曲线型的思维模式是中国社会历史文化的产物,由来已久。人们认为这种方式含蓄委婉,使人容易接受。然而,当这种思维模式以英语篇表达出来、进行跨文化交际的时候,则会形成障碍。正如林语堂所云,中国人写出的文章让英美人读起来感觉是“English meat with Chinese bones”,虽然句法修辞无懈可击,但以英语为本族语的人总觉得这样的英文笨拙别扭,废话太多。

写作是思维模式的集中体现,用母语写如此,用外语写也是如此。一个民族如何认识世界,如何用语言表达对世界的认识,都有各自的特点,这就是思维模式问题。中国学生用英语作文,要让英美人看了感到比较满意,那就要学会像英美人那样认识世界,那样用语言表达认识的结果,也就是我们常说的要学会用英语思维。我们必须认真考虑我国学生的语篇思维特点,有效排除思维模式差异引起的干扰。下面我们在例文3的正文段基础上作一些改动,以此演示一下如何将英美人普遍的一般—特殊型思维模式运用到语篇结构组织上。概括起来,一般—特殊(General—Particular Pattern)有两种表现形式:(1)先概括后举例(Generalization—Example), (2)先讲整体轮廓,后说诸多细节(Preview—Detail)。通常两种形式可以结合起来使用。

[例文3正文段]

For one thing, as TV has become a main channel through which people can obtain all kinds of information of the outside world, advertising on television can make products very familiar to the audience. On average, each family holds a TV set, and most people spend certain time watching television every day. Therefore, advertisements on TV can prove effective by reaching a large number of people. For another thing, with the vivid pictures on the screen, the attractive melodies and slogans, the creative and imaginative way of conveying messages, advertisements on television are specially designed to exert a great influence on consumer behavior. In fact, many consumers admit that those impressive advertisements often appear in their mind when they choose what to buy.

这样一改动,虽然保留了原作者的基本观点和论述层次,重点却得以突出,逻辑连贯性也大大增强了,基本符合西方思维习惯。考生在短期内熟练掌握英语语篇思维模式的最佳途径便是通过大量的实战练习从根本上把语篇思维模式扭转过来,在遣词造句、谋篇布局方面多加斟酌,以适应英美人的思维模式。

三、遣词造句难点

写作测试中经常会见到两种较为典型的作文,一种是无重大语法错误,但内容平平,句子简单;另一种则内容新颖,句子有变化,但有语法方面的缺陷。调查表明,英美籍教师往往欣赏后一种类型的作文,而中国教师则对前一种类型作文整体印象较好。这说明我国教师在作文评分中对考生作文中的拼写、标点、大小写和语法错误这一类作文表层错误较为看重,认为这是考生语言功底的真实反映。尽管这种看法有点片面,但是对于想在专业四级这类中国组织的英语作文考试中取得高分的学生,必须十分注意这方面的提高。

按理说,一篇合格的作文应符合语法规则,拼写和标点符号的运用应正确无误,这是写作的最起码要求。但应该看到,学生中这方面的问题还是相当多的。这里既有受母语的影响,也与学生平时训练不够有关。我们的传统教学方法和标准化考试形式使学生平时较少考虑运用所学语言知识来表达自己的思想,所以当他们拿起笔来,把注意力集中在表达内容时,就忽视了语言的正确性,结果错误百出。基础语法、词汇、标点符号知识掌握不牢,导致大量的基本语言错误。而有些错误则是由于粗心大意造成的,或由于生疏不习惯造成的。我们下面就把专业四级作文中常见的遣词造句方面的错误列出,提起考生注意。

(一) 造句

句子是由单词按照语法规律组成的语言单位,表达完整而独立的思想;文章是一个个句

子的有机组合体,因而句子的正误和优劣直接影响到文章整体的质量。专四作文中的句法错误常常表现在以下几个方面:

1. 句子的完整性

(1) 缺少主谓成分

[例句 1] How to learn about these diverse products? TV advertising helps us.

[例句 2] Most people believe that TV advertisements are deceptive. Because they usually exaggerate the advantages of the products and intentionally ignore their disadvantages.

(2) 主语重复

[例句 3] Advertisements on TV, they provide a large quantity of information for consumers.

(3) 两个或两个以上整句出现在一个句号之内

[例句 4] Nowadays we can see lots of advertisements on TV every day, these advertisements provide us TV viewers with abundant information about the commodities in the market.

[例句 5] A new product will be advertised on television, then we can get to know the product soon.

需要提醒考生注意的是:however, nevertheless, nonetheless, therefore, thus, hence 等副词,不能在同一个句号内连接两个完整的句子,切勿将其同并列连词 and, but, nor, or 等混淆。

2. 句子的前后呼应,包括主谓一致、代词和先行词一致、人称和数的一致、主格和宾格的一致、时态前后一致等等

[例句 6] Advertising on television make businessmen face heated competition in the market.

[例句 7] The advertisements often appear in consumer's mind when they choose what to buy.

[例句 8] With the development of modern science, television has become an indispensable form of entertainment in our daily life, and TV advertising also became more and more popular.

另外,特别应该注意的是分词的逻辑主语要和句子的主语保持一致,避免悬垂分词现象产生;以及句中平行成分的结构要保持一致。

[例句 9] Having such an advantage over other forms of advertising, manufacturers should give TV advertisements first priority in their promotion of new products.

[例句 10] The effect of TV advertisements is far better than [that of] any other form of advertising.

3. 句子的语态

语篇中句子的语态一定要服从整体的需要,不能任意变换,一般来说应当尽量迁就论题的关键词。例如:在关键词为“advertising on television”的文章中,像“Most consumers are sometimes cheated by TV advertisements.”这样的句子很可能不如“Most consumers sometimes find TV advertisements deceptive.”或者“TV advertisements sometimes prove deceptive to most consumers.”更自然贴切一些;在题为“More Pressure from Academic Studies Does No Good to Us”的文章里,“Lots of exams have to be taken by students each term.”这种句子多半不如“Students have to take lots of exams each term”效果好。当然,具体情况还要视上下文而定。

4. 汉语式英语结构或翻译式表达方式

丰富的思想与有限的语言能力的反差很容易导致这种情况发生。在下面的例句 11 中,考生想到了“锦上添花”和“白璧微瑕”两个汉语成语并把它们直译过去,造成意象混杂。同样,“画蛇添足”一词的直译在例句 12 中取得的效果也并不是很好,恐怕让英美人看了不知所云,不如直接表意算了。例句 13 的句式显然完全是中式英语了。