

A

Concise Book on the Study of College English Writing

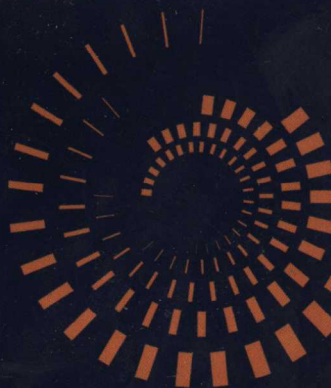
# 简明大学英语

## 写作实务

金 荆◎著

A Concise Book  
on the Study of  
College English  
Writing

沈阳出版社



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## 前 言

大学英语写作是《大学英语课程教学要求》(由教育部颁发)中规定的培养大学生英语的五种能力之一。大学英语写作不同于专业英语写作,它具有自己的特点,也应有一部比较适合大学英语学生学习和掌握的写作教材。

目前市场上的大学英语写作的书籍大概两种,一种是理论性太强和例子多的大块文章的教材。这种教材对于大学生学英语来说有两大缺陷:一是学术语言太重,作例子的文章过长,学生看不太懂,一时很难学会。二是内容多,有些根本不适合普通学生学习的大学英语,却较适合英语专业的学生。另一种是纯粹为适应四、六级考试的一些写作书。这些书基本都是教学生按套路作文或背考试模版。现在的学生对这类书已感到厌倦和腻烦了。经过这些年的了解,一些学生认识到按照套路写出的作文不仅不耐看、限制了自己真实情感的表达,而且背了那么多的模式作文,到头来还是没有真正学会写作。可见,学生迫切需要一本适合他们学习的通俗易懂又能在有限的时间内掌握英语的基本写作的一本好教材,以适应将来工作和出国继续学习的需要。因此,本人决定编写一本长度适当、内容难易程度适中、例证丰富、语言简洁易懂的写作教材,它尤其适合学公共英语的大学生学习和使用。本人正是本着这样的原则开始的写作。

本书共分七章,第一章如何用词;第二章如何写出好的句子;第三章如何写出好的段落;第四章如何写出一篇好文章;第五章如何使你的文章生动、形象、优美……;第六章如何写摘要和读书报告;第七章如何写一些应用文。每一章节后都配有针对性的写作练习,让学习者有更多的



实践的机会。

本书的特点是:语言简洁易懂、例证丰富、内容难易程度适中、实用易学。

最后,由于本人的水平有限,书中难免有纰漏之处,敬请专家和读者批评指正。

著者 金荆

2006年12月

# 目录(Contents)

前言 .....	1
第一章 如何用词(How to Choose and Use Words) .....	1
一、如何正确用词(How To Use Words Correctly) .....	1
1. 克服中国式英语(Overcome Chinglish) .....	1
2. 避免词性的误用(Avoid Wrong Part of Speech) .....	5
二、如何准确地用词(How To Use Words Accurately) .....	6
1. 一般词汇与具体词汇(General and Specific words) .....	7
2. 具体词汇与抽象词汇(Concrete and abstract words) .....	9
3. 词的涵义(connotation of words) .....	9
三、如何恰当地用词(How To Use Words Appropriately) .....	14
1. 正式的词(Literary words) .....	15
2. 一般的词(common words) .....	15
3. 口语词(colloquial words) .....	16

四、如何有效、地道地用词(How To Use Words Effectively and	
Idiomatically) .....	18
1. 尽可能地使用动词(Use verbs whenever possible) .....	18
2. 习语(idioms) .....	18
第二章 如何写出好的句子(How To Write Good Sentences) .....	23
一、英语中有哪些句子类型(Types of Sentences) .....	23
1. 陈述句(Declarative sentences)、疑问句(Interrogative sentences)、	
祈使句(Imperative sentences)和感叹句(Exclamatory sentences) 23	
2. 简单句(Simple sentences)、并列句(Compound sentences)、复合句	
(Complex sentences)和并列复合句(Compound-complex sentences 23	
3. 松散句(Loose sentences)、圆周句(Periodic sentences)和对偶句	
(Balanced sentences) .....	24
4. 长句(Long sentences)和短句(Short sentences) .....	26
5. 完整句(Complete sentences)和不完整句(Incomplete sentences) 27	
二、如何写出好的句子(How to Write Good Sentences) .....	31
1. 完整(Unity) .....	31
2. 连贯(Coherence) .....	31

3. 简洁(Conciseness) .....	35
4. 强调(Emphasis) .....	37
5. 多样(Variety) .....	43
第三章 如何写出好的段落(How to Write a Good Paragraph) .....	47
一、什么是好的段落(a Good Paragraph) .....	47
1. 完整(Unity) .....	47
2. 连贯(Coherence) .....	51
二、段落的展开法有哪些(Ways of Developing Paragraphs) .....	60
1. 按时间展开(Development by Time) .....	60
2. 按过程展开(Development by Process) .....	65
3. 按空间展开(Development by Space) .....	67
4. 举例和归纳(Development by Example or Generalization) .....	69
5. 比较和对比(Development by Comparison and Contrast) .....	74
6. 原因和结果(Development by Cause and Effect) .....	80
7. 分类(Development by Classification) .....	84
8. 定义(Development by Definition) .....	88
9. 几种方法的结合(Development by a Combination of Methods) .....	91



第四章 如何写出一篇好文章(How to Write a Good Essay) .....	93
一、描写文(Description) .....	96
1. 描写人(Description of a Person) .....	96
2. 描写物品(Description of an Object) .....	99
3. 描写地方(Description of a Place) .....	101
4. 描写情景(Description of a Scene) .....	103
二、记叙文(Narration) .....	106
1. 场合(Context) .....	106
2. 细节的选择(Selection of Details) .....	106
3. 组织结构(Organization) .....	107
4. 叙述角度(Point of View) .....	107
5. 目的(Purpose) .....	107
三、说明文(Exposition) .....	112
1. 什么是说明文(What is Exposition Essay) .....	112
2. 说明文的方法有哪些(What are the Ways of Developing an Exposition Essay) .....	114
四、议论文(Argumentation) .....	138

1. 什么是议论文(What is an Argumentation Essay)?	138
第五章 如何使你的文章生动、形象、优美……(How to make your essay vivid, visual, beautiful…)	147
一、明喻(Simile)	147
二、隐喻(又名暗喻)(Metaphor)	149
三、借代(换喻,转喻)(Metonymy)	150
四、提喻(Synecdoche)	152
五、拟人(Personification)	153
六、婉言(Euphemism)	154
七、反语/反话讽刺(Irony)	155
八、层进法(Climax)与渐降法(Anti-climax)	156
九、夸张(Hyperbole)	157
十、曲言法(Litotes)	159
十一、反义法/矛盾修饰法(Oxymoron)	160
十二、移位修饰(Transferred Epithet)	160
十三、头韵(Alliteration)	160
十四、双关(Pun)	163

十五、重 复(Repetition) .....	163
第六章 如何写摘要和读书报告(How to Write a Summary and a Book Report) .....	173
一、如何写摘要(How to write a summary) .....	173
1. 什么是摘要(What is a summary)? .....	173
二、如何写读书报告(How to Write a Book Report) .....	181
第七章 如何写一些应用文(How to Write Some Practical Essays) .....	183
一、如何写求职信(How to Write an Application Letter) .....	183
二、如何写履历表(C.V.) .....	186
三、如何写感谢信(Thank-you Letter) .....	190
四、如何写贺信(Letter of Congratulation) .....	192
五、如何写慰问信(Letter of Sympathy) .....	193
六、如何写介绍信(Letter of Introduction) .....	195
七、如何写推荐信(How to Write a Recommendation Letter) .....	197
八、如何写邀请信(How to Write an Invitation Letter) .....	200
答案 .....	209
参考书目 .....	213

# 第一章 如何用词

## (How to Choose and Use Words)

词是语言的基石。词对于一篇文章来说就好比一栋建筑的砖块或者是组成物质的分子。词虽小,但依然重要。如果一篇文章没有正确、准确和恰当的用词,就不可能给人深刻印象。笔者在多年的教学实践中发现大学英语的学生对词的了解还是很模糊,因此在写作中不会选词和用词。普遍的问题是文章看起来没有语法错误,但读起来却不地道,像是中国式的英语。这是用词不正确的原故。还有,在比较正式的文体中使用小词或刚刚学会的一两句俚语,使本应正式严肃文章显得不严肃或好笑。这主要是不懂词的文体使用上的三个层次,结果用词不恰当。有时想赞扬一个人的品质,结果却用了贬义词,这种用词的不准确主要是不太了解词的涵义,即词所暗含的感情和想法。没有很好地区分同义词。看来,学生们有时会误用一些词,但他用的词往往并不全错,只是不恰当、不准确、不地道或不生动有趣。因此,我们这一章要讨论和解决的问题就是如何正确、准确、恰当并有效地选词、用词?但是我们探讨此问题的前提学习写作者已是掌握了基本语法,会使用至少 3000~4000 个最常见的词汇。特别是词汇量越大,可选词的面越宽,否则,选词无从谈起。

[讨论]如何正确、准确、恰当并有效地选词、用词?(How to choose and use words to express the intended meaning correctly, accurately, appropriately and effectively?)

### 一、如何正确用词(How To Use Words Correctly)?

不能正确表达想要表达的意思有两个主要原因:一是词性的误用;二是使用中国式的英语表达法和句式。因此要达到正确用词这个目标就必须避免词性的误用和克服中国式的英语。

[讨论]Why sometimes can't we express the intended meaning correctly? And how to solve this problem? Give examples.

#### 1. 克服中国式英语(Overcome Chinglish)

正确用词意味着我们中国学生能够像说英语的人那样用词。



读下面二则笑话并找出造成笑话的原因:

It has been said that once a Chinese scholar studying in America was asked as to what he did the weekend before. He answered without hesitation "I played." It was hard to associate a middled-aged scholar with a word usually so used for children only.

Another such case is that of a Chinese man showing a photo of his wife to some American friends. Out of courtesy, they all said, "She is very beautiful!" Also out of courtesy, the man replied with what he would have done in Chinese under the circumstance, "Where! Where! Quite taken aback, nobody said anything for a moment, until the most ingenious one among them, taking another look at the photo, said, "Oh, everywhere!" A westerner would very likely have said simply, "thank you," probably adding, "I think she is quite pretty."

下面是一些词的误用(中国式的英语)的具体例子:

Wrong: I sent my friend to the station yesterday.

Correct: I went to the station with my friend to see him off.

Wrong: I'm not afraid of the hot weather.

Correct: I don't mind the hot weather.

Wrong: I felt the room rather cold.

Correct: I found the room rather cold.

Wrong: She felt the blanket soft.

Correct: The blanket felt soft to her.

Wrong: His level of English has been promoted.

Correct: His English has improved.

Wrong: We must foster the ability of listening.

Correct: We must develop our listening ability.

Wrong: We must train our ability of fast reading.

Correct: We must cultivate our ability to read fast.

Wrong: Students must pay good attention to what the teacher says.

Correct: Students must pay close attention to what the teacher says.

Wrong: Our teacher explains the texts deeply.



Correct: Our teacher explains the texts fully.

Wrong: He received the fourth place in the exam.

Correct: He came out the fourth in the exam.

Wrong: Prof. Chen gives a literature lessons to the postgraduates.

Correct: Prof. Chen gives a literature course to the postgraduates.

Wrong: The facts have proved that they are effective measures to heighten our power of expression.

Correct: These measures have been proved effective in improving our ability to express ourselves.

Wrong: He only spoke a few sentences.

Correct: He only spoke a few words.

为了确保我们能够正确地用词, 我们应多读英语国家大作家的作品和受过教育的人的讲话。这样才能逐渐摆脱中国式英语。

### [练习]

1. The following expressions invented by some Chinese learners of English are not understandable. Try to guess what they want to say and offer your versions of translation.

- A. three lengths and two shorts
- B. have a beginning and ending
- C. four sides, eight directions
- D. have new face and eyes
- E. unacquainted with each other without fighting
- F. not up, not down
- G. a person not three and not four
- H. something coming from nothing
- I. mouth yes and heart no

2. You are supposed to resort to your vocabulary, grammar, Chinese-English dictionary or any other reference resources to translate the following Chinese expressions and sentences into good English.

- A. 恰如其分 B. 金鸡独立 C. 爱财如命 D. 黯然失色 E. 自强不息  
F. 品学兼优 G. 是可忍, 孰不可忍? H. 有朋自远方来, 不亦乐乎 I. 塞翁



### 失马,安知非福?

3. Revise the following sentences, correcting the Chinese English sentence patterns.

- A. There are more and more students will pursue postgraduate studies.
- B. In their opinion people have a high degree may be more capable than those who haven't.
- C. Why there are many college students take up part-time jobs?
- D. I realized that there were six persons, both old and young, had been asked the same questions.
- E. Many directors only hire those employees have high degrees.
- F. There are a great number of students take part in these activities.
- G. In summary, a growing number of students pursue postgraduate studies is caused by the rapid development of science and technology.
- H. With the entrance of china into the World Trade Organization, there will be splendid opportunities occur to us.
- I. From what has been discussed above, we may safely reach the conclusion that we are not lack of opportunities but often lack of the abilities to catch them.

4. Translate the following sentences into English, paying special attention to the differences between English and Chinese.

- A. 有人认为有钱能使鬼推磨。
- B. 很多人都知道学无止境。
- C. 不少事实证明,有所不为才能有所为。
- D. 近来有不少统计资料表明,有越来越多的孩子因沉溺于电脑游戏而辍学。
- E. 不久以前有一些公司宣称他们发现一种简便的学习方法。
- F. 从因特网上获取的所有资料来看,学习没有平坦大道可走。
- G. 学生希望掌握先进科学技术是他们攻读硕士或博士学位的原因。
- H. 为什么有那么多人经过十几年的正规教育仍在继续学习?

[小结]克服中国式英语。

对于中国学生来说,没有比克服中国式英语再重要的事了。中国式



英语就是按照中国式的思维习惯,用汉语的方式和模式使用英语。

为达到这一目标,我们应做到以下几点:

A. 仔细观察在阅读中遇到的词的用法(pay close attention to the usage of words in our readings)。

B. 学习说英语本族人的讲话(包括印刷出来的演讲稿)。Learn to speak from speeches (including the printed ones) by native speakers.

C. 当我们遇到一些词,不敢确定它的用法时,我们应作进一步的调查或查询一本好的词典,找到地道的用法。

## 2. 避免词性的误用(Avoid Wrong Part of Speech)

下面是本人从大学英语一年级的一次作文中所采摘的一些词性使用错误的例子。仔细观察找出词性是如何被误用的。

①He was actively in the sport game. His bravely struggle—

②He looked very anger.

③Honest is very important to a person's life.

④Many years past.

⑤The formal perform was very success. Because of the require of master. —in study and live.

⑥People want to anniversary him. It is a good choice for me to success in other fields.

①副词误做形容词用②名词误做形容词用③形容词误做名词④形容词误做动词⑤动词误做名词⑥名词误做动词:

### [练习]

Examine the following sentences taken from student compositions. Each sentence contains at least one problem or mistake belonging to different categories listed above. Discuss the sentences with your classmates, locate the problem areas, and then suggest a better version.

A. I can sure that you will see a much better final composition. (assure)

B. I am most ready, my paper is near finished.

C. Late the son has been staying out lately.

D. They learned to do these things through their hardworking.





E. I don't think the root cause of his poor performance at school was his stupor.

### [小结]

就目前的学生作文情况看,词性的误用是比较常见的问题。学生的问题是知道但不准确。目前最好的办法是利用大学英语精读课。在学习词汇时,不要孤立地记一个词,而要掌握它的一切变形,充分利用大学英语精读教材上的词汇转换练习,如由浙江大学编著的《新编大学英语》上就有大量的词汇转换练习。多做这方面的练习可强化词性意识,达到正确使用词性的目的。

## 二、如何准确地用词(How To Use Words Accurately)?

读下面两段轶事,找出问题所在,体会什么是准确地用词。

An officer working in the Department of the Chief of General staff of the British Army during the Second World War said, once he reported that his troops had been fighting with the Germans at a small village in Italy. Back came Churchill's copy, annotated (评注) in purple ink: "We do not fight with the Germans. We fight either for or against them." This is an example of Churchill's stress on accuracy.

It has been reported that once an American teacher told her Chinese students that she would give back their compositions corrected within two days. The Chinese students were quite surprised at the speed. They said: "Are you lying?" That, of course, got the teacher quite upset. What they meant to say is something like: "Are you kidding?" This shows the importance of differentiating the shades(细微的差别) of meaning.

第一段轶事是丘吉尔强调准确的例子;第二段轶事反映出区分词义的细微差别的重要性。

另外,英语中的一些词汉语意思相同,但英语中它们却不同。例如, eagle and hawk 在汉语中都是“鹰”的意思,但在英语中, eagle 是在高空翱翔,因此看得远的一种鸟。to have an eagle eye 的意思就是意味着有极佳眼力;而 hawk 是一种掠食的鸟,象征残酷、无情,因此人们称 the hard-line politicians(强硬路线的政客)为“the hawks(鹰派人物)”; dove and pigeon 在汉语中都是“鸽子”的意思,但人们说“peace dove”从来