大学 英语写作 渐进

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前　言

　　在国际交往日益频繁的今天,运用英语进行交际的能力越来越受到社会各行各业的重视。这种交际能力不仅指口头能力,还指书面语,即英文写作能力。英国哲学家培根说:"阅读使人广博,写作使人精深。"写作是较难掌握却又日渐重要的一种综合语言技能。无论是全国性的四、六级考试,还是专业英语四、八级考试,写作都是必备项目,占较重分值,甚至其成败关系到考试的成败,所以写作教学历来为大家重视。在英语学习中,中国人因受母语思维与表达方式的影响,对英语写作尤感困难。多年的教学实践告诉我们,英语写作技能是可以传授与培养的,重要的在于加强基础,突出实践。

　　本书即为配合英语写作课教学而编写,是教学辅助书籍,也可作为自学的读物。本书从词、句、段、文一步一步入手,把铺写段落及整体谋篇布局作为重点、难点,对学生进行循序渐进的训练,逐步提高学生的写作水平。在编写过程中,我们参阅了大量国内外写作方面的书籍,注意到大部分写作方面的书籍,把描写文、叙述文、说明文和议论文作为四种英语作文常用文体做了介绍,而忽略了一种对大学生来说重要而实用的文体——应用文的写作。本书将应用文作为独立的一章纳入其中,不可不为耳目一新。它将同学们引向怎样书写商业信函、自传、求职信、简历、申请信的一席天地,为同学们习作求职答谢、咨询索赔助一臂之力,对学生有实用价值。本书后附有可供学生引用的英语写作常用词语、句型以及写作中常见句式错误分析。我们希望同学们通过阅读此书增进语法知识、重视词的运用、熟悉写作技巧、明了篇章结构,用所学的理论指导自己的写作实践。同时扩大词汇,进一步深刻地认识句子,留心英语的表达习惯,坚持平时多写多练,用踏踏实实的学习来提高自己的英语水平,提高自己的英语写作能力。

　　全书共分六章:第一章及第二章1～3节由白建霞编著;第二章4～6节和第五章1～2节由安洁编著;第三章及第四章1～3节由马慧编著;第四章第4节、第五章第3～5节由刘烨编著;第六章及附录部分由李晓江编著。最后,我们对在编写此书过程中给予我们大力支持帮助和关心的人文学院院长姚文振教授表示深深的谢意。

　　由于我们水平有限,书中欠妥与谬误之处在所难免,敬请读者不吝指正。

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马　慧

二零零六年元月十六日

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目　　录

第一章　遣词篇

遣词,就是平常说的"斟酌字句"或"斟词酌句"中所指的对词汇中词语的考虑与选配,也就是措辞(词)或选词。

词汇(vocabulary)是指词的总汇,是语言的建筑材料。语言学家斯威特(Henry Sweet)说,词是语言中的特殊事实,每个词都是独一无二的。英语词汇则包括着英语语言中所有的全部单词和熟语(words and idiomatic phrases),是由单词和熟语构成的一个庞大而繁杂的符号系统。为了使人类彼此间的思想感情和信息得到最为恰切的交流和传递,必须首选弄清这些表达思想感情和信息的媒介(medium)——词汇中的每一个词的词义以及它和其他词在各方面的异同等问题。因此,对语言词汇的学习与研究是说话艺术和写作技巧中第一需要着手完成的任务。

英语中的单词和熟语数以 10 万计。根据巴拉德(P. B. Ballard)在 Thorndike English Dictionary 的序言里所说,英语大约不下 50 万个词;《英汉大词典》(陆谷孙主编,上海译文出版社 1991 年出全两卷)收词达 20 万条。《英汉词海》(王同亿主编译,国防工业出版社 1987 年出版)收词有 52 万条。要掌握词汇,即能够熟练自由地选用每一个词全部词义——按照英国语言学家利奇(Geoffry Leech)在他所著《语义学》(Sematics)里的说法,词义有 7 种主要类型,即概念意义(conceptual meaning)、内涵意义(connotative meaning)、风格意义(stylistic meaning)、感情意义(affective meaning)、联想意义(reflective meaning)、搭配意义(collocating meaning)和主题意义(thematic meaning),显然不是轻而易举,甚至是难以做到的事,但是我们有必要,也完全有可能找到一个既简便又合理的用词方法,以使我们在词汇的汪洋大海里所驾驭的语言之舟不致于迷航。

第一节　丰富词汇

《马克思主义与语言学问题》指出:"词汇反映着语言发展的状态,词汇越丰富,越纷繁,那么语言也就越丰富,越发展。"这就是对语言本身而言的。如何可以使写作中使用的词汇更加丰富多彩呢? 从根本上说,还是得通过阅读与写作实践大量摄入英语词汇与表达方式,经过长期的积累,扩大自己头脑中的词库。当然,有的词典也能帮助扩大选择词汇的范围,这就是各种英语同义词字典,其中特别是被称为意海词典的 Roget's International Thesaurus (3rd edition, 1960 Crowell)。这部历史悠久,又有多次新扩大版的词典,英、美作家几乎是人手一册。使用语言的人掌握了丰富的词汇,在表达思想时就能得心应手,运用自如了。古今中外的语言大师们所掌握的词汇都是极为丰富的。一个词汇贫乏的人要想运用词汇得当,写出生动有力的文章来,是不可能的。毛泽东讲过:"如果一篇文章,一个演讲,颠来倒

去,总是那么几个名词,一套'学生腔',没有一点生动活泼的语言,这岂不是语言无味,面目可憎,像个瘪三吗?"下面的一段话就是一个十分突出的例证。

"I got on horseback within ten minutes after I got your letter. When I got to Canterbury I got a chaise for town, but I got wet through before I got to Canterbury, and I got such a cold as I shall not be able to get rid of it in a hurry. I got to the Treasury about noon, but first of all, I got shaved and dressed. I soon got into the secret of getting a memorial before the Board, but I could not get an answer then. However, I got intelligence from the messager that I should most likely get an answer the next morning. As I got back to my inn, I got to bed. It was not long before I got to sleep when I got up in the morning, I got myself dressed, and got my breakfast, that I might get out in time to get an answer to my memorial. As soon as I got it, I got into the chaise and got to Canterbury by three, and about teatime I got home, I have got nothing more to say."

这短短的一封信中使用各种形式的"get"共达28次。可见,"语言无味,像个瘪三"。如果使用更多变换词语,此文就不至于如此,笔者将文章重新改写:

"I mounted on horseback within ten minutes after I received your letter. When I reached Canterbury I procured a chaise for town, but I had become wet through before I arrived at Canterbury, and I have taken such a cold as I shall not be able to recover from in a hurry. I went to the Treasury about noon, but first of all, I took care to be shaved and dressed. I soon learned the secret of bringing a memorial before the Board, but I could not secure an answer then. However, I obtained intelligence from the messenger that I should most likely receive an answer next morning. As soon as I returned to my inn, I had my supper, and went to bed. It was not long before I fell asleep. When I arose in the morning, I dressed and ate my breakfast, that I might go out in time to obtain an answer to my memorial. As soon as I received it, I got into the chaise and arrived at Canterbury by three, and about teatime I reached home. I have nothing more to say.""我收到你的信后10分钟就上了马。到坎特伯雷市后换乘了一辆轻便马车到了城里。但是我在到达坎特伯雷之前,就被雨水淋透了。由此感冒得很厉害,不能很快康复。大约中午时分,我去了财政部。但在此之前,我得刮刮胡子,换换衣服。我很快了解到把请愿书带给委员会的秘密,可是我不能当时就得到答复。信使告诉我,很有可能我要在第二天上午得到答复,我一回到小酒店就吃了晚饭,然后上床睡觉,不一会就睡着了。第二天早晨,我起床,穿衣,吃早饭,以便及时出门去得到有关请愿书的答复。我一得到答复,便上了轻便马车,三点钟就到达了坎特伯雷。下午喝茶时分我就到了家。我没有什么更多的东西要说了。"

文章修改之后变得生动了,给人以新鲜感。由此可见用词的重要性。据统计,智利一位教授在他书的前言中提到英语词汇量大约有300万左右,英籍作家韩素英女士指出英语词汇有400万个,确实难以全部掌握。但尽力多掌握,以丰富自己的英语词汇是很必要的。英国语言大师莎士比亚的作品中出现的词汇约1.5万以上;密尔顿(Milton)作品中出现的词汇约2万以上。由此可见,掌握万字左右的作家是为数不多的,一般受过良好教育的英国知识分子经常运用的词汇不过是三四千个。由此可见,熟练掌握几千个词汇是完全必要的。

第二节　选词

一、词语选择的重要性

在 The Right Word at the Right Time 的"绪言"中编者对词语选用的重要性作了一个很好的比喻："Using the right word at the right time is rather like wearing appropriate clothing for the occasion; it is a courtesy to others, and a favor to yourself——a matter of presenting yourself well in the eyes of the world."显然，说话或写文章时用词适当比穿着适当难度大得多，因而也具有更大的重要性。在我国，古人写文章时常为一个词语的选用冥思苦想，因而有"语不惊人死不休"的说法。类似中国古代诗人贾岛把"推"字改为"敲"字的典故在英语里也不乏其例。据说英国诗人 Thomas Gray 写好《乡村墓地挽歌》初稿后继续进行修改，直到 8 年后才发表。试以该诗第 9 节为例：

The boasts of heraldry, the pomp of power,

And all that beauty, all that wealth e'er gave,

Awaits alike th'inevitable hour,

The paths of glory lead but to the grave.

上例第三行的 Awaits 在诗人的初稿上是 await，改成第三人称单数谓语动词形式后，主语也由原来的 boast, pomp, all that…等改成 th'inevitable hour，从而确切地表明了诗人的意思。

成语"一字值千金"也说明了选择词语的极端重要性。有时"一字之差"造成令人遗憾的败笔，或招致成千上万元的经济损失，据悉美国总统克林顿在联大讲话时照秘书的讲稿信口开河，未发现原稿有误，结果把"反恐怖活动训练"说成"恐怖活动训练"。在英语中仅少了个前缀 anti-，意思却完全相反了。这些反面教训也告诉我们必须重视词语选用的问题。

二、词语选择的可能性

在写作过程中，不要满足于脑子里首先出现的词语，应当再想想有没有更好的说法。实际上，我们每个人的脑子里都有了一个或大或小的词库，只要我们肯去发掘，往往可以得到更好的表达方式。这是我们做好词语选用的主观条件。

从客观条件上看，我们有各种类型的词典和参考书，在这方面英语学生可以说是得天独厚，因为英语的工具书在外语中最多最全，只要我们平时多翻阅，写作时勤查考，就会在词语选用上不断进步。

我国改革开放以来，随着"外语热"升温，也出现了"词典热"。无论你走进哪家书店，都会看到各种各样的双语词典。这是好事，又是麻烦事：品种繁多，有挑选余地，这固然好，但质量参差不齐，不仔细挑选就会上当。当然，一部好词典也不会毫无缺点，更难以面面俱到，不可能解决读者碰到的所有问题。这里我们应记住著名英国作家、评论家和辞书编撰家 Samuel Johnson 的话：

Dictionaries are like watches: the worst is better than none, and the best cannot be ex-

pected to go quite true.

第三节　用词

一、用词准确

著名美国作家马克·吐温说："用词准确与用词几乎准确，这两者之间的差异就如同闪电与萤火虫之间的差异。"（The difference between the right word and the almost right word is as great as that between lightning and the lightning bug）用词的目的在于表达思想。为了准确地表达思想，我们必须选择恰当的词语。所谓词不达意，或晦涩含糊，就是由于用词不当所产生的。

文艺复兴时期英国著名散文家 F·培根（F·Bacon）（1561—1626）的 Of Studies：Reading makes a full man；conference a ready man；and writing an exact man.（读书使人充实；讨论使人机智；写作使人准确。）这已成为脍炙人口的名言。

Writing makes an exact man. 不仅从正面告诉我们写作的积极意义，而且也从反面提醒我们：exact（准确）是写作之魂。换言之，写作水平不断提高的过程即遣词造句不断趋于准确的过程。对于初学英语写作的人而言，落笔的准确性再强调亦不为过。

莱夫科维茨（Lefcowitz）在其《写作手册》中例举了一组实例。

a. I met a writer who is related to a politician.

我见过一位与政治家有关的作家。

b. I met a newspaper writer who is related to a senator.

我见过一位与参议员有关系的新闻撰稿人。

c. I met a columnist who is related to a senator from New York.

我见过一位与纽约的一个参议员有关系的专栏作家。

d. I met the columnist Willian F. Buckley, Jr. , who is related to Senator James L. Buckleg of New York

我见过威廉·F·小巴克利专栏作家，他与纽约的詹姆斯·L·巴克利参议员有关系。

e. I met the colomnist William F. Buckley, Jr. , who is the brother of Senator James L. Buckley of New York.

我见过威廉·F·小巴克利专栏作家，他是纽约的詹姆斯·L·巴克利参议员的兄弟。逐句细读，不难发现这五个句子的措辞一个比一个更准确、更具体，读者所获取的信息也越来越精细丰富，虽然句子也逐句趋长，却无拖沓累赘感，句中的每一个词必不可少，末句堪称准确具体的典范。

英语语言中，按照语义可将英语词汇分为两类——表示概念的词（genus）（又称上义词、支配词）与表示种概念的词（species）。以上五句的若干措辞中也存在着由类概念词向种概念过渡的规律。如：writer → newspaper writer → columnist，居中的 newspaper writer 既是 writer 的种概念词，又是 columnist 的类概念词；politician → senator → a senator from New York → Senator James L. Buckley of New York 也同样存在着类似由类概念词向种概

念词过渡的规律。

由上可见,思想表达的准确与否在很大程度上取决于用词。一般说来,类概念词泛指一般,而种概念词较明确具体,因为抽象概括性的词汇表达普遍模糊的概念,而准确具体的词汇传达清晰明确的思想,试比较以下两句:

a. Trees sourround the water near our summer place.

b. Old elms surround the lake near our summer cabin.

句 a 的意思如雾中观花,不好琢磨;而句 b 呈现给读者的宛如一幅近景画,一切都详有交待——我们的避暑小屋坐落在老榆树环抱的湖边。细究其因,我们发现句 a 用类概念词,而句 b 则用其种概念词。如:

(上义)trees →(下义) elm (榆树), pine (松树),oak (橡树), maple (枫树)……

(上义)water →(下义)lake (湖) , river (江、河), sea (海), pond (塘), stream (溪)……

(上义)place (根据上下文可理解为"住处")→(下义)cabin (小屋),building (大厦),hut (棚), tent (帐篷),trailer (活动房)……两相对照,可见 trees,water 和 place 虽有较高的概括性,但在写作中用多了此类类概念词,会令读者茫然。注意选用种概念词及其他若干手段,表达即会发生变化。

1. 由一般(general)趋于特定(specific)

(1) a. She loves flowers.

  b. She loves roses and chrysanthemums.

(2) a. A few houses were destroyed yesterday.

  b. Fine houses were burnt down yesterday.

(3) a. If a person is reading his love letter,you must not lean over his shoulders to read it.

  b. If a person is reading his love letter,you must not lean over his shoulders to share it .

(4) a. It grew dark before seven o'clock. The wind was strong and the rain was heavy.

  b. It grew dark before seven o'clock. Wind and rain whipped the house.

(5) a. An elderly man had collapsed while crossing the street,and an ambulance took him to a hospital.

  b. An elderly man had collapsed while crossing the street,and an ambulance rushed him to a hospital.

以上五组的句 b 用笔精细,其可读性较之句 a 大为增强。第一组句 b 的 roses and chrysanthmums 则是句 a flowers 的种概念词;第二组的动词 burnt down 也可视为是 destroyed 的"下义";第 3 组与第 5 组值得玩味,其变化仅在一词:to read it → to share it;took him to→rushed him to,句子顿时生色不少。我们虽不能说后者为前者之"下义",但是有一点可以肯定,即前者为泛指意义词,而后词词义明显缩小,趋向特定化和具体化;第 4 组的改变较多,由 the wind was strong and the rain was heavy (9 字) → wind and rain whipped the house. (6 字),措辞更简洁,而且形象准确,"功"在具有特定意义的 whipped 一词。

2. 由抽象（abstract）趋于具体（concrete）

1) a. Mr. Bonney looked at the vegetables before him.

   b. Mr. Bonney gazed dismally at the vegetables before him

2) a. The man was standing under a tree.

   b. Jim Jones, our village postman, was walking under a large oaktree.

3) a. The cable consists of many wires.

   b. The cable consists of 100 strands of very fine copper wires.

4) a. He had a misfortune while swimming.

   b. A shell fragment ripped open his right arm while he was swimming.

5) a. Tom is a lazy boy.

   b. Tom usually sleeps late in the morning and does little work after he gets up.

具体本身即孕含了准确性，上列五组中的句 b 即可为例。第 1 组中的 looked at 相对于 gazed dismally 就显得空泛抽象。初学者尤不可死守这样的思维模式：看＝look at；看见＝ see。同样是"看见"，应择用不同的动词。如：

（1）She spotted him immediately among the people in the railway station, because he was wearing his yellow hat.（spot 指认出，看出，发现，尤指在人群中。）

（2）The men in the boat sighted land.（sight 指看见，发现，尤指首次。）

（3）They were observed entering the bank at 8:32.（observe 指观察，注意到，看到。）

（4）Several possible buyers is coming to view the house.（view 指仔细察看，尤指检视。）

（5）He scanned the pages of the book to see what it was about.（scan 指浏览，匆匆过目，草草翻阅。）

（6）He witnessed the accident himself he saw it all.（witness 指目睹，目击，为……作证。）

（7）She glanced down the list of names.（glance 指匆匆一瞥）

（8）Stop eyeing me like that!（eye 指盯着看，实含贬义。）

（9）She peered through the mist, trying to find the right path.（peer 指凝视，尤指难以辨明而欲辨明。）

（10）He gaped at her in surprise.（gape 指张嘴呆看。）

3. 由模糊（vague）趋于明确（definite）

请看以下形容词：

awful, beastly, dreadful, fine, frightful, grand, heavenly, horrible, lovely, marvellous, nice, simple, swell, terrible, terrific, tremendous, wonderful, etc.

D. M. Thomson 在《写作技巧》(The Craft of Writing)中称以上形容词为"模糊形容词"（vague adjectives），而当今的英美人士戏称它们为"懒散形容词"（lazy adjectives），因为以上形容词意义太泛，太概括，太笼统，太抽象，以致人人都可脱口而出，使用过度，在许多场合已实际上失去了其活力，乃至生命力。在英语写作的过程中应当慎用，取而代之以其他鲜活的形容词。如：

（1）a. It was a dreadful journey.

b. It was a tiring, tedious and dangerous journey.

(2) a. Although the commander had an awful temper and a terrible voice, he showed wonderful care for his men.

b. Although the commander had a fiery temper and a gravely voice, he showed fatherly care for his men.

以上两组中的句 a 均使用了"模糊形容词",句义显得懒散苍白,这例真是应了伏尔泰(Voltaire)的一句名言:"这种脱口而出的,不起作用的形容词是名词的敌人。"与之构成鲜明对照的是两句 b,由这些新鲜的形容词修饰名词,给读者一种"货真价实"之感,而不是虚华浮夸的堆砌徒有形式的词藻。就实质而言,上列形容词的修饰效果已荡然无存,它们仅表示"赞成"(approval)或"不赞成"(disapproval)的意思而已。再读第 2 组中的句 a, awful, terrible 和 wonderful 已根本无法令读者想象这位司令员的脾气坏到什么程度,嗓音又响到什么程度,他对部下又好到什么程度;句 b 只改三个字而一词不增,其形象即趋鲜明,一位个性粗犷、严格而又慈爱的司令员呼之欲出。

请看以下副词:

absolutely, awfully, dreadfully, terribly, terrifcally, frightfully, horribly, desperately, fiercely, badly, hugely, simply, wildly, jolly, right, pretty, precisely, mighty, marvelously, tremendously, wonderfully, etc. 以上副词也常常被英美人士称为"懒散副词"(lazy adverbs),它们已失去了原来的意思,仅用作加强语气词(intensives),充其量不过是 very 的替代词。初学写作者若对此缺乏充分认识,频频使用,反而会因矫作累赘而减弱语气,令行文"疲软"。

(1) a. dreadfully unhappy	(2) a. awfully thin
b. deeply unhappy	b. pitifully thin
(3) a. absolutely handsome	(4) a. very critical
b. strikingly handsome	b. sharply critical
(5) a. terribly hot	(6) a. a wildly cold night
b. burning hot	b. a freezing night

以上六组中的句 a 因均使用"懒散副词",读后即忘。以 dreadfully, awfully, terribly 为例,它们实际上已失去了其原来所含的 cause dead, cause awe, cause terror 的意义,词意模糊,无新意可言。与这种老生常谈的副词相比,句 b 中的词值得模仿学习,它们或揉人作者的主观感觉(如:pitifully, strikingly);或旁借某种形象(如:burning-fire, freezing-ice);或运用常见但又实在的概念,(如:deeply-deep, sharply-sharp)。读者的直接感爱是,与句 a 相比,句 b 多了点真诚,少了点浮华,故更令人喜闻乐见。

遣词造句务求精确,这不是目的,而是一种手段,其目的是为了更有效地表情达意。Brooks 和 Warren 在 Modern Rhetoric 一书中说:具有特指意义的词有声有色,又能唤起想象力。他们认为,He saw a ship on the horizon. 这样的句子并不能使读者在看到句子的瞬间产生丰富的想象。其原因就在于 ship 这个泛指词缺乏生动的图像。他们进而认为,如果用诸如 liner, schooner, brig, tanker 或 junk 等其他一些具有特指意义的词来取代 ship 这个词,读者的想象即易展开。

尤·奈达(U·Nida)在论述词语所表示的意义时说,泛指词比较抽象,因而其意义又往

往难于确定,因此在一般文化的领域里,如果使用泛指意义的词往往会使所用的言词显得很不确切。在题材允许的范围内,应尽量使用具有特定意义的词。

二、用词精炼

我国伟大作家鲁迅说过:"写完后至少看两遍,竭力将可有可无的字、句、段删去,毫不可惜。"英国文豪莎士比亚的名言"Brevity is the soul of wit"相当于汉语的"言贵简洁"。我们说话,写文章都要以"言简意赅"四字为目标,要用词精炼,反对累赘拖沓。

试比较以下各组的句子,孰优孰劣,不言自明。

1)First of all, I would like to state the theme of this play. It is the idea of love, false and true. (22 words)

First, the theme of the play is one of true and false love. (13 words)首先,这部戏的主题是有关真假爱情的。

2)Judy was a very sweet-looking girl. She was thin. Her eyes were big and full. Her hair was cut short and she wore bangs. She was dressed plainly, and she looked like every other girl in the orphanage. (38 words)

Judy was a sweet-looking, thin girl, with big and full eyes and short-cut hair. Like every other girl in the orphanage, she was dressed very plainly in bangs. (28 words). 朱迪是一个相貌甜甜的女孩。她瘦瘦的长着一双大而圆的眼睛,留着短发。她像孤儿院的其他孩子一样,梳着刘海,衣着朴素。

3)The calculator, which is made of durable plastic, is of a size which will fit into anyone's shirt pocket. (19 words)

The calculator, made of durable plastic, fits into a shirt pocket. (11 words)用耐磨塑料做成的记算器,大小正好放入衬衫口袋。

4)In case that you find the problem is of a difficult nature, try to solve it along the line of the example presented on this page. (26 words)

If you find the problem difficult, try to solve it by following the example given on this page. (18 words)如果你觉得这道题困难,试试按照这页上的例题去解答它。

5)It seems inevitable that he will lose. (7 words)

He seems certain to lose. (5 words)他似乎肯定要输。

6)If there were a uniform condition with reference to the distribution of population it would be necessary to move forward to a recognition of the desirability of such a readjustment. (30 words)

If population could be distributed uniformly, doubtless it should be done. (11 words)如果人口能够均衡地分布,毫无疑问应该做到这一点。

显然,上述 6 组中的第一句都不够简洁,应采用第二句为宜。

三、避免重复

1. 避免意义重复

英语作文讲究言简意赅,应避免重复和冗长,下面都是一些累赘重复的例子:

kill him dead	杀他
food and substance	食物
blood and gore	血
trouble and annoyance	麻烦
weak and feeble	虚弱
new and novel	新奇的
brave and daring	勇敢的
sure and certain	肯定
final end	最后
first beginning	最初
abundant wealth	财富
many in number	许多
circular in form	圆形
perfectly correct	正确
entirely monopoly	垄断
big in size	大
fellow playmates	玩伴
mental thought	思想
repeat again	重复
new creation	创造
unexpected surprise	意外
meet up with	遇见
final result	结果
autobiography of my life	自传

以上凡是意义上重复的词,都应删去。但是有些成语(idioms)是由意义重复的词构成的,已成了习惯,可以运用。如:

hue and cry	喧嚷
end and aim	目的
act and deed	契据
safe and sound	安然无恙
ways and means	方法
over and done with	已经结束
free and clear	无任何负担的
purpose or end	意图,目的
goods and chattels	动手
without let or hindrance	顺畅地

2. 避免同一词的重复

初学写作者惟恐表达不周而有所疏漏,往往不恰当或不必要地重复某一个词或短语,redundancy 的现象甚至会造成读者的思维混乱,读上数遍方略知其意。如:

(1) This interesting instructor knows how to make an uninteresting subject interesting.

改：The instructor knows how to make a dull subject interesting

原句连连出现 interesting (uninteresting)，令人如读绕口令。省略(第一个 interesting)并改动(uninteresting → dull)后，原句含义丝毫未变，表达明白而又干脆。

(2) The park was dark and gloomy, with gloom-filled trees in a darkening sky.

改：The park, with dark trees and deepening sky, was gloomy.

原句中重复出现 gloomy, gloom, 就如架梁叠屋, 稍经改动, 句中的 redundancy 现象即可消除。

Redundancy 现象并不局限于不恰当地重复使用某一个词或短语, 有时它是由随意重复同一个词根造成。如：

(1) I got the impression that his expression of sympathy was insincere.

改：I felt that his expression of sympathy was insincere.

(2) Even at the graveside service, the brothers kept quarrelling. It was a grave situation.

改：Even at the graveside service, the brothers kept quarrelling. It was a serious situation.

句(1)中的 impression 与 expression, 句(2)中的 graveside 与 grave 不宜接连出现于同一句。

其实, 英语中改变 redundancy 现象的手段十分丰富。

(1) 用替换词

We had problems solving those problems, →We had a hard time solving those problems. (以 a hard time 取代 problems)

(2) 用代词

His uncle is not like her uncle. Her uncle takes more chances than his uncle does. → Their uncles are different. Hers takes more chances than his. (以 hers/his 取代 her uncle/his uncle)

(3) 省略(括号中词为省略部分)

Prosperity is the goal for some people, fame (is the goal) for others, and complete independence (is the goal) for still others.

财富是某些人追求的目标, 另一些人则热衷于声望, 还有的人却崇尚完全的独立。

(4) 标点

Family life in my parents' home was based upon a cosmic order; Papa was the sun; Mamma, the moon; and we kids, minor satellites.

句中的两个逗号相当于 was 和 were。

四、用词丰富

为了使自己的用词比较丰富多彩, 了解一些修辞方法是必要的。属于英语修辞格的一些形象词语, 主要有下列几种：

1. 比喻

(1)明喻(Simile).

A simile is a figure of speech in which a similarity between two objects is directly expressed.（ H. Hdman, A Handbook to Literature) 明喻是把两个物的相似点直接表现出来的修辞格，往往用 like, as , as if 等来连接比喻部分。如：

The Assyrian came down like the wolf on the fold. 亚述人像饿狼一样跑过来。

The man over there is a pig. 那个家伙真像头猪。

As a stone strikes the body, so a thought makes itself perceptible to the mind. 就像石头击到身体上一样，有什么想法在心中也能觉察到。

Just as we sweep our rooms, so we should sweep backward ideas from our minds. 就像打扫房屋一样，我们也要扫除我们头脑中落后的东西。

A crowd of people were around him, touching his body, feeling his legs,... and bidding for him as if he had been a horse. 一大堆人围在他身边，摸着他的身体和大腿，出价买他，好像他是一匹马似的。

试比较下面两句：

a) Abstract   The sensation of touching the birds' feet was disagreeable to her. 触摸小鸟爪子令她感到讨厌。

b) Simile   "Or the feel of his feet, I won't be able to stand it. They'll be cold, naked, unbearable, like a sick thing's or a dying baby's fingers," 触摸他的脚会让我无法忍受。他们会是冰凉的，光光的，令人无法忍受，就像一件令人作呕的东西或者像一个快要死的婴儿的手指头。

第二句用了明喻就生动多了。

汉语中也有这种修辞方式，如：

君子之交淡如水，小人之交甘若醴。   （庄子）

人之有学也，犹木之有枝也。   （论语）

枯草枝枝直立，有如铜丝。   （鲁迅）

又如：

as stubborn as a mule	像骡子一样固执。
as mute as a fish	一声不响
as busy as a bee	极忙
as sure as fate	千真万确
as right as a trivet (or rain, nails)	十分正确
as timid as a hare	胆小如鼠
as hungry as a hunter (hawk, wolf)	十分饥饿
as poor as a church mouse	一贫如洗
as sharp as a razor	厉害的,机警的
as bold as brass	脸皮厚
as brave as a lion	勇猛如狮
as cold as charity	极其冷漠无情