

英语写作系列丛书
ENGLISH WRITING

第三版

英语五段作文法

大学英语高级写作教程

蔡基刚 编著

复旦大学出版社

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内 容 提 要

本书是《英语十句作文法——大学英语中级写作教程》的姊妹篇。也是大学英语四级测试后高一层次的作文教科书。读者对象是:考研、考博、托福、雅思及相当水平考试的应试者。

全书共分八章,65篇参考范文巧插其中。前六章是篇章结构,主要介绍五段作文的六种基本结构及其写作方法。第七章是段落与结构,重点阐明五段作文的开头、正文和结尾的一般写法与技巧。第八章为语言和修辞部分,着重从用词、句子结构和修辞等方面来说明如何提高文章的质量,以期能给读者启迪。

前 言

今天,英语说写的交际能力比以往任何时候更受到社会的重视。因此,以前没有作文项目的英语考试纷纷增添写作,如 GRE,而原来英语考试中已设写作项目的,对作文也提出了更高的要求。

大学英语六级考试的作文从 2002 年起已经增加到 150 词,而且还有继续增加词数的趋势。

硕士研究生入学考试的议论文作文从 2001 年起就已经从 150 词提高到了 200 词。

托福写作考试要求在 30 分钟内写出一篇 250—300 词的议论文。

雅思写作考试的时间是要求在 60 分钟内写出共 400 词的两篇文章。其中一篇议论文规定不少于 250 词。

这对于在大学里习惯于写 100—120 词的四、六级英语作文的考生来说是一个难题,是一种挑战。试想,怎么可能在 30 到 40 分钟时间里写出两倍以上词的文章?是不是只是单纯在词数上增加,还是在结构上有所变化?语言上要求又是否相同?

本书就是针对读者这些疑问和要求而编写的。

如果说 100—150 词的文章可以用“英语十句作文”模式,那么 200—300 词的文章就需要有新的模式。本书所介绍的“英语五段作文”就是这样的模式,它是一种高一层次的英语作文模式,适合于写 250 或以上词数的文章。

“英语五段作文”决不是“英语十句作文”在词数上的简单增加,或段落的增加。这个模式无论从篇章结构,语言要求,还是从内容安排方面都提出了较高的要求。本书根据国内外几种著名的

英语考试写作要求、特点和命题形式,归纳出它们的共性,分八个章节设计并介绍这种新模式。前六章是篇章结构,主要介绍五段作文的六种基本结构及其写作方法。第七章是段落结构,重点阐明五段作文的开头、正文和结尾的一般写法与技巧。第八章为语言和修辞,着重从用词、句子结构和修辞等方面来说明如何提高文章的质量。

本书的宗旨是希望对已通过大学英语四级作文考试、意欲参加高一级英语作文考试的读者有所启迪。因而对参加大学英语六级、硕士、博士研究生入学考试,托福、雅思考试, GRE 或 MBA 考试,或渴望到国外留学,要求尽快适应国外课程、论文写作的读者有较大帮助。

参与本书编写的还有竹君,荷子,苡兰,郑和,晓华,鲍萍,谢蕙,于芳,李春等老师。

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导 论

五段英语写作是美国大学写作课上普遍向学生推荐的一种写作法。它的特点是结构严谨合理,段落层次分明,观点阐述充分,语言变化生动。特别适合于较高一级的 200 到 300 词的议论文写作。正因为如此,它可作为雅思、托福考试极力推荐的写作模式。

五段作文,顾名思义,是由五个段落组成的文章。它的基本写法是:

Introduction of Topic

Thesis Statement

Topic Sentence

Supporting Sentences

Topic Sentence

Supporting Sentences

Topic Sentence

Supporting Sentences

Conclusion

Restatement of the Thesis

第一段是引言部分,主要引出文章要讨论的主题,并在段尾写出文章的中心思想句(thesis statement),且尽可能点出各段的中心思想和文章发展的方法(the way to develop the essay)。

第二段到第四段是文章的正文部分,这部分一般分三段(三个方面)来阐述第一段提出的中心思想,每一段以段落主题句(topic sentence)开头,它既说明 thesis statement 本身,又被本段 Supporting Sentences 所说明。

第五段是结尾部分,主要是对文章进行归纳和总结。

以下是一个美国大学生用五段作文法写成的 essay:

Living in the Present

About one of humanity's frailties Thomas Wolfe wrote, "He talks of the future and he wastes it as it comes. " This observation is related to a principle by which I try to live. **I believe in living in the present because it is futile to dwell on the past, to worry about the future, or to miss anything in the only reality I know.**

It is futile to dwell on the past. What existed or happened in the past may have been beautiful or exciting and may now bring profound and precious memories; but the past is dead, and it is not healthy for living spirits to linger over a world inhabited by ghosts. The past may also be a place of horror, of regret, of spilled milk. However, it is painful and pointless to fixate on a period that cannot be relieved or repaired. It is unproductive self-punishment. The past must be kept in its place, outlived and outgrown.

It is also useless to worry about the future. People may envision the horrible mushroom cloud; the overpopulated, abused earth gone dead. They may imagine their own lives going away; advancements given to someone else; their houses burned to the ground; everything in their lives, as in a nightmare, slipping away. There is no end to the disasters, people can worry about when focusing anxiously on the future. There are events in the future, including their own deaths, over which they have little or no control, but which can ruin their lives if they worry about them. The only way out is to live well in the present, not simply by worrying about the future.

The present moment is the only reality I know, and I don't want to miss it. The wild cherry cough drop dissolving in my mouth is sweet and soothing. Even my sore throat and backache have meaning. The cool night air, the crackling noises of my furnace, my cat yawning and stretching—these are the tangible realities I can recognize. They exist in this moment, together with my own breathing, and the warm lamp overhead. Along with these are the realities of other people and of all life on this earth, which matter to me now, not at some past or future time.

Everyone needs a sense of history, I think, particularly a feeling for his or her own roots, but history needs to keep its distance to be appreciated. It is also vital to have some sense of direction, which means making plans for the future but not becoming preoccupied with them. **What is most important, I believe, is living in the present,** that is, being alive now.

从安排上看,文章结构严谨,条理清楚。第一段以文章中心思想结束:**I believe in living in the present.**而最后一段再次重复:**What is most important, I believe, is living in the present,**这就

形成了首尾呼应。第一段又同时点出了下面正文三段的主题思想:**It is futile to dwell on the past, to worry about the future, or to miss anything in the only reality I know.** 而下面每一段的第一句主题句又与之呼应。

从语言方面来看,文章词汇丰富,句式多变,语言成熟老练。这是一篇写得相当成功且典型的五段作文。

英语作文教学专家证明,英语作为外语的学习者,经过训练后是能够掌握这种写作技巧的。请看下面一篇由一个留美日本大学生经过五段作文法训练后写成的作文。

Japan: The New Superpower

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the U. S. economy just coming out of a recession, Japan is in line for superpower status. In the world market, even in the American domestic market, "Made in USA" has been replaced by "Made in Japan" as a mark of a quality product. **Japanese high-tech consumer products are able to dominate the world market because the Japanese are hard working, technologically oriented, and diligent in their efforts to improve products.**

First of all, we know that the Japanese work very hard, often sacrificing their free time to their jobs. According to one report, the Japanese work an average of 42 hours per week while Americans work an average of 35 hours a week. These extra hours certainly increase Japanese productivity and gain an competitive advantage. It is the hard work that contributes significantly to the incredible growth of their industries,

Secondly, the Japanese labor is technologically oriented. For example, many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists

rather than social workers. Most Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. By contrast, the U. S. is less materialistic than Japan. A sizable percentage of Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. Many college students pursue their dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history, and philosophy.

Finally, the Japanese attach much importance to research in an effort to improve their products. For example, well-known Japanese companies finance research work both at home and abroad. Many projects in the American universities like MIT, Stanford, and Cal Tech are funded by Japanese companies who intend to use the research to produce more high-quality products.

In summary, **the Japanese can dominate the world market, including the American domestic market, because of their work ethic, technological orientation and their emphasis on research.** As a result, high-quality Japanese products have taken the place of American ones to spread to every corner of the world.

仔细分析这两篇外国人写的五段作文,我们不难看出,这种模式的作文对篇章结构和语言运用都有较高的要求。

第一章 解释性作文

1.1 解释原因

解释现象,分析原因是英语写作中常见的结构。这种作文主要是对某种社会(自然)现象,问题的出现或发生原因进行解释。在五段作文模式中,它的基本结构如下:

Introduction of Problem or
Phenomenon

Thesis Statement
Cause I

Cause II

Cause III

Conclusion

可见这种结构主要有两大部分。第一部分也就是引言段,即把要解释的问题或现象描写和表示出来;第二部分也就是正文段,

解释和分析问题或现象出现的原因。

比如一篇关于分析饮食习惯变化的文章：

- P. I Phenomenon: Some big changes in people's diet have taken place in the last twenty years.
- P. II Cause I: People now enjoy a higher standard living.
- P. III Cause II: There are a rich variety of foods available everywhere.
- P. IV Cause III: People come to believe that a balanced diet is important.
- P. V Conclusion: Changes in people's diet will be greater in the future.

请看下面一篇作文：

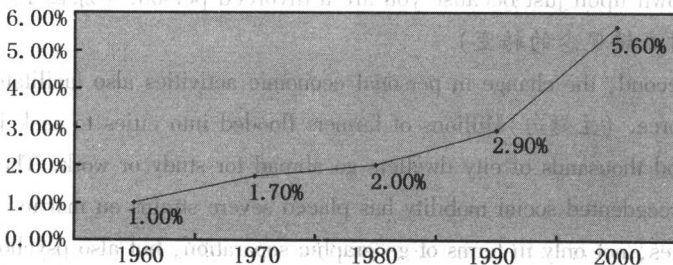
Task 1

You are allowed 40 minutes to write an essay about 250 words on the following topic.

Since 1980, divorce rate in China has increased rapidly as shown in the following graph.

What are the causes for it?

Percentage of People Who Got Divorced During the Years Between 1960 to 2000



Sample Answer

Divorce in China

- 1) In recent years China has experienced a dramatic increase in the divorce rate. According to the chart given, during the last decade, the divorce rate in some big cities has increased as much as it had in the entire previous thirty years. In 1960 there were only one divorced person for every 100 married people, and thirty years later the rate was 2.9 percent. But by 2000 the rate jumped to 5.8 percent. (第一段是通过对图表数据的描写把近10年来离婚率大幅度上升的现象表示出来)
- 2) The upward trend in divorce reflects three important changes in our society. (这一句是文章的中心思想句,对造成离婚率上升的原因作出总的概括,然后用 three important changes 交代了随后的正文发展方向) The most significant one is the change in social attitude towards the divorced people. (主题句) In the past the act of divorce itself was considered a social stigma. Even if a couple had already lived separately, they dared not to seek divorce. Now that divorce has become socially acceptable, you won't be looked down upon just because you are a divorced person. (原因1:人们对离婚观念的转变)
- 3) Second, the change in personal economic activities also facilitate divorce. (主题句) Millions of farmers flooded into cities to seek jobs, and thousands of city dwellers go abroad for study or work. The unprecedented social mobility has placed severe strains on married couples, not only in terms of geographic separation, but also psychological change. (原因2:民工潮和出国热的社会流动对家庭的压力)