写作●

中国学生在学习英语单词时,大都只注意单词的表意,对词的潜在之意,特别是词的重量、词的精神以及词在不同语境中产生的不同语意等知识了解甚少,这加剧了写作的难度。

**COLLEGE COMPOSITION WRITING: LANGUAGE AND SKILLS** 

# 大学英语作文

# 语言与技巧

汪福祥教授 著北京第二外国语学院

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坦率地说,中国学生的词汇量 不小,但因对词义理解和把握的范 围有限,运用水平也就十分有限。 吃不透词义,把握不准词义,是影 响同学们语言基本功的重要因素。





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# 大学英语作文

汪福祥教授 著



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# 前言

中国学生用英语写作所面临的困难,大体可归为以下三个方面:一是语言功底和语言意识,二是知识的广度和思想的深度,三是写作意识和语用技巧。谈到语言基本功,李赋宁教授的一句幽默倒很有意思:"不是我们中国学生无能,而是英语太'狡猾'。"

首先来谈谈英语单词的"狡猾"。仅以 develop 和 nurse 两词为例。这两个词的语意范围很广,然而,这两个词让大多数中国学生拿到手的只不过是"发展"和"护士"之意。再以 communicate 或 snake 这样的熟悉词为例。学生们很难写出诸如 He is able to communicate all his ideas to his boss. 或 The river snakes down the valley and joins the other rivers on the other side of the mountains. 等的语句。坦率地说,中国学生的词汇量不小,但因对词义理解和把握的范围有限,运用水平也就十分有限。总之,吃不透词义,把握不准词义,都是影响学生语言基本功的重要因素。

在语言基本功方面,时态、句子结构也是学生不易掌握的难点。仅以现在进行时为例,在其功用的六个范围内,中国学生最多也只能用上一两个。至于其他时态的正确使用,学生仍存在程度不同的困难。英语的句子结构也是使人感到头疼的事。纵观大学生的英语作文,通篇的语句基本上是简单句,有的甚至把简单句都写错了。诸如主谓结构的"残疾"、谓语动词和宾语的搭配不当等现象也是随处可见。

除语言基本功外,拥有丰富的思想内容也是一件大事。我们假设让学生就 Disadvantages of Modern Advertisements 这样一个题目列出一个论据的详单,相信很多学生列出的论据仍很有限,有的举了一大堆的例子而缺乏严谨的归纳。"我不知道写什么"是学生常说的话。这表明,学生尚缺乏丰富的思想和知识。

当然,有了语言功底和思想内容,还得有良好的写作意识。所谓写作意识,实指思想的表达能力和表达技巧,其中包括:(1)句子的结构及结构变化,(2)句子与句子的有效衔接,(3)论点和论据的有机配合,

(4) 段落构思与设计, (5) 篇章总体结构的设计, (6) 思想或信息的组织, 等等。特别是有关论点和论据的配合, 学生尚敏乏应有的意识。

为了帮助学生解决上述三大问题,我们编写了这本《大学英语作文语言与技巧》。近四年来,笔者一直在辅导学生进行八级写作的模拟写作练习。从学生被辅导前和被辅导后水平提高的幅度来看,写作意识的培养是不可忽视的。笔者所在学校学生的作文平均分数从11.2%(1999年)增加至12.3%(2000年)和13.6%(2001年),排除学生的自身因素,写作技能的辅导和写作意识的培养是有明显收效的。这大概也就是笔者宁可牺牲有关学术论文的写作而坚持要使此书与学生见面的主要原因之一。

本书有以下三方面的特点:一是可操作性,二是引导性、启发性和实用性,三是重选材的广度和内容的充实。首先,本书具有很强的操作性。以第一章的内容编排为例。其中的"范文总览"不但为教师提供了较新的思路,而且也为学生自学提供了层次清楚的引导。除此之外,每章每节中都有相关的"提示"和"练习"。学生可以根据这些"提示"进行自研、自习,教师则可以根据练习内容做出自己的选择。第二,本书具有很强的引导性和启发性。书中每节内的"提示"主要用以启发和指导,而每节中的"范文"都具有某个方面的引导性。第三,本书内容较新、选材较广。书中绝大多数的范文都紧扣时代脉搏。以上这些对学生信息量的提取无疑都是大有益处的。

最后再强调一下使用本书的要点。第一,由于本书高度重视写作思路的引导性和启发性,因此,读者应特别注意书中"提示"部分的内容。第二,本书所提供的"范例"或"范文"均可用来进行模仿写作。若是读者能根据书中的提示深入领悟"范例"的写作方法,相信一定会有所"顿悟"。第三,本书所提供的"练习"是强化写作意识的必要途径,因此,读者应根据书中的"提示"静下心来把规定的练习做完、做好。

最后需要指出的是,本人原准备用英文撰写书中的所有内容,但考虑到我国读者的习惯还是"忍痛割爱",把很多说明性的文字用中文表达。对于本人来说,这仍是个不小的遗憾。此外,尽管本人尽力使本书更完美,但书中仍不可避免地会存在这样或那样的问题。在此,笔者希望大家对此书中所存在的不足之处给予指正。

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# 大学作文写作概览

根据心理学有关视觉的研究理论,人类视觉对物体信号的接收往往是从整体感知到局部感知。心理语言学有关信息提取的研究也表明,心理词汇的提取与信息场或"语境"密切相关。出于此因,我们在本章内首先向读者介绍作文全貌,加之每篇范文之后的分析,使读者对作文的轮廓获得一个总体印象,然后再通过相关的章节把有关的细节介绍给大家。



# 1.1 作文范文总览

#### ◇ 范文 1 ◇

下面这篇题为 A Vote Against Computers 的作文是一篇较有代表性的大学作文。该文在论点的组织、句子的递进、段落的设计和整体的构思四个方面成功地论述了作文的主题并圆满结束了全文的讨论。请注意每段后面的"学习指导",认真体会文中黑体字部分的语句在全文中各自发挥的作用。

#### A Vote Against Computers

# 开篇段

I was excited when my English composition instructor announced that computers would be a major part of our writing course. I was even thrilled while touring the new computer lab to see all the magical-looking machines with their glowing green screens. The machines hummed as if they were alive. I thought to myself excitedly, "We're living in the middle of the computer revolution, and here's my chance to get on board. " But three months later, I've had some second thoughts. I now believe that computers are by no means a good idea in the writing classroom. It does not help me plan a paper, it requires too much time and trouble to use, and it has changed our instructor from a teacher to a mere technician.

#### 学习指导

注意此段中 But three months later... 一句在全段中的作用以及在该句之前和之后的语言内容。特别注意该段结尾的三句话并体会这三句话与下面正文段的关系。

# 正文段1

To begin with, the computer does not help me plan a paper. When I start an essay, I like to use a yellow pad and scribble out my ideas. I may write a couple of sentences, scratch them out, and then write a few more. I may make a couple of outlines, and then cross out parts of them, and then combine those leftover parts to make a third outline. I may go back to some

idea I rejected at first and write another idea in the margin. I may circle something from one part of the page and join it with something on another part. At any one time, I want to see everything I am doing in front of me. With a computer, however, I can't do all that. If I delete something, I can't look back al it later. If I write too much. I have to scroll back and forth, since not everything can fit on the screen at once. There's no room in the margin for questions. And I can't circle things on the computer screen and connect them the way I can on a sheet of paper. Our first impressions are sometimes very valuable and I can always use what I first write later in the writing process. But the computer deprives me of almost all the advantages, and a computer does not allow us to replan.

体会该段第一句与开篇段的连接及在此段中的作用。

# 正文段2

Next, the mechanics involved in using a computer are complicated and time consuming. Before I can get down to some honest-goodness writing, I have to show the computer lab technician my student ID card and sign out the appropriate software. Then I have to find an open terminal, turn on my computer and monitor, insert the proper disks, create or find a file, and set the required format. When the writing is finished. I have to make sure that my work is properly saved, that there's paper in the printer, and that the printer is on-line. And at any point, when I have mechanical problems or questions about the computer, I have to wait five or ten minutes or more for the teacher or a student technician to come to help me. Worse of all. I am not a good typist. I spend half of my time hunting and pecking for the proper letters on the keyboard. If I had wanted to get a lot of typing practice, I would have taken a typing course, but this is supposed to be a writing course.

体会该段第一句与开篇段论点的关系及在该段中的作用。

# 正文段3

Finally, when we meet in the computer lab. the teacher spends most of the class walking around and helping students log on and off the computer, handing out and collecting software, and trying to locate and retrieve lost documents. I sat here the other day watching the class trying to write on computers, and my impression was that 75 percent of what the teacher did involved computers rather than writing. I've had other writing courses, before computers, where the teacher spent a lot of time going over students work on a one-on-one basis or in a class discussion. It was in this workshop setting that 1 believe my writing improved the most. Now, my professor has much less time to devote to individual help and feedback. She's too busy being a computer trouble-shooter.

• 学习指导

体会该段第一句与开篇段论点的衔接以及在该段中的作用。

### 结尾段

In conclusion, it may be wise to take another look at the use of the computer in college writing courses. At first glance the computer offers excitement and a world of promise, but I think there's a serious question about whether it actually improves students' writing.

学习指导・・・・

注意黑体字部分的内容与该文主题的关系。

总分析: 首先,该文在开篇段用 I was excited 的语句引导出一个背景,然后用 But three months later 的语句作为转折,引导出该文的主题。但是,由于开篇段 谈到了 It does not help me plan a paper,it requires too much time and trouble,it has changed our instructor from a teacher to a mere technician 三个方面的问题,所以作者用了三个正文段分别论述这三个论点。第二,正文段对论点的论述是按照开篇段三个论点所出现的顺序依次安排的,而每段的主题句均出现在段首,其后的论据也是较详实的。第三,该文的结尾段有明显的结束提示(In conclusion),最后一句是对全文讨论的总结,也是作者最后提出的个人见解。无论是从篇章结构的设计,还是从论点和论据的有机结合,或是思想组织和语言表达等方面讲,该文基本上达到了大学作文的写作要求。



#### ◎ 范文2 ◎

下面的范文也分了五个自然段:第一段为开篇段,第二、三、四段 为正文段,第五段为结尾段。请仔细阅读全文,注意作者在开篇段中引 出全文论点的写作方法,然后体会三个正文段与开篇段论点的关系。最 后注意各段黑体字部分的语句以及作者结束全文讨论的方法。

#### The Benefits Of Television

# 开篇段

We hear a lot about the negative effects of the television on the viewer. Obviously, television can be harmful if it is watched constantly to the exclusion of other activities. It would be just as harmful to listen to records or to eat too much. However, when television is watched in moderation, it is extremely valuable, as it provides relaxation, entertainment, and education

学习指导

注意第一句和由 however 一词引出的句子在全段中所发挥的作用,然后找出该段的论点。

# 正文段1

First of all, watching TV has the value of sheer relaxation. Watching television can be soothing and restful after an eight-hour day of pressure, challenges, or concentration. After working hard all day, people are looking forward to a time when they can truly relax by doing something totally different. And watching TV can just help people attain that end. Of course, watching TV also helps reduce stress in some people. The benefit of television is just beginning to be recognized. One doctor, for example, advices his patients with high blood pressure to relax in the evening with a few hours spent in watching TV.

• 学习指导 • • • • • • •

注意段首句与开篇段的衔接和该句在全段中所发挥的作用。



# 正文段2

In addition to being relaxing, television is entertaining. Along with the standard operas, dramas, and games shows that provide enjoyment to viewers, television offers a variety of movies and sports events. Moreover, viewers can select a different channel and there are more than 30 channels now. And if the viewer does not like the TV program, he can also switch on his video player, insert a disk and watch a film he prefers. All in all, television gives much fun, as there are sufficient programs that can entertain people with different likes.

• 学习指导 • • • • • • • •

注意段首句和全段内容与开篇段论点的衔接方法。

# 正文段3

More important, television is educational. Preschoolers learn colors, numbers, and letters from public television programs, like Sesame Street, that use animation and puppets to make learning fun. Adults, too, can get education from courses given on television. Also, television widens our knowledge by covering important events and current news. Viewers can see and hear important people's speeches, state conferences, natural disasters and important events that are happening either at home or abroad. Finally, a television set hooked up to a home computer can help its owner learn how to manage the household budget, invest in the stock market, or master a foreign language.

• 学习指导 • • • • •

注意段首句与开篇段论点的衔接以及段首短语的变化。

# 结尾段

Perhaps because television is such a powerful force, we like to criticize it and search for its flaws. However, the benefits of television should not be ignored. We can use television to relax, to have fun, and to make ourselves smarter. This electronic wonder, then, is a servant, not a master.

• 学习指导

注意该段结尾的方法,特别要注意转折词 however 之后的内容。

**总分析**: 第一,该文在开篇段用转折词 however 引出了三个论点,即:relaxation,entertainment,education,但在该论点的提出之前,作者用 Obviously 一词交待了 "看电视"的弊端,这便是该段提出论点所采用的有效方法之一。第二,第一个正文段用 First of all 这样一个指示词引出该段的主题,relaxing,然后围绕这个主题用实例对此进行阐述。第二个正文段使用指示词 in addition to 引出该文的第二个论点,entertaining,而全文的论据有力地证实了看电视的"娱乐性"。第三个正文段一开始,作者用 More important 这样一个不同的指示词引出该段的论点,education,并用足够的论据论述了这一主题。该文正文段的成功主要取决于三个段落段首词的安排以及各段提出的具体论据。第三,该文的结尾段除了与开篇段三个论点的遥相呼应,而且还使用了一个广为人知的谚语变异句结束全文的讨论。应该说,该文在"立论"方面,其思路是清晰的,其结构是严谨的,其构思的层面也是成功的。

#### ◎ 范文3 ◎

并非所有的大学作文都必须有五个自然段,正文也不一定必须有三个。一篇文章自然段的多少主要取决于论点的数目以及文章论点所需论据的多少。下面这篇作文是一篇由三个自然段组成的文章。尽管该文的正文段只有一个,但其中的论据仍是围绕三个论点进行论述的。请注意每段划线部分的语句在各段或全文中所起的作用。

### Problems of My Adolescence

# 开篇段

In the unreal world of television situation comedies, teenagers are carefree, smart, funny, wisecracking, secure kids. In fact, most of them are more "together" than the adults on the shows. This, however, isn't how I recall my teenage years at all. As a teen, I suffered. Every day, I battled the terrible physical, family, and social troubles of adolescence.

找出该段论点,体会该段论点提出的背景与范文1和范文2的区别。

# 正文段

For one thing, I had to deal with a demoralizing physical problemacne. Very often. I would wake up in the morning with a red bump on my nose. Since I worried constantly about my appearance anyway, acne outbreaks could turn me into a crying, screaming maniac. I had to endure the pains of realizing this problem. In addition to fighting acne, I constantly had to fight my family. As a teenager, I needed to be independent. At that time, the most important thing for me was to be close to my friends and to try quite new, more adult experiences. Unfortunately, my family always seemed to get in the way. My elder brother, for instance, turned into my enemy. And my father kept nagging about what I did. The pressure was too high and I didn't seem to have the liberty to do what I liked. But worst of all. I had to face the social traumas of being a teenager as well. Things that were supposed to be fun, like dates and dances, were actually horrible. When I came back home from an enjoyable date or dance, my neighbors kept looking at me in a very strange way. Adults seemed to be abhorrent of us kids' doing all this.

学习指导 · · · ·

注意该段中三个论点开头语的提示词以及该段在构思和写作方法方面与范文1和范文2的异同。

# 结尾段

Fortunately, all this is passed. And I'm glad I'm not a teenager anymore. I wouldn't ever want to feel so unattractive, so confused, and so insecure again! I'll gladly accept the crow's — feet and stomach bulge of adulthood in exchange for a little peace of mind.

• 学习指导 ••••••

注意该段段首词的用途以及该段结尾的方法。

# 第一章 大学作文写作概览 Chapter I

**总分析**: 第一,该文开篇段的构思与范文 1 和范文 2 的构思基本相同,也是用转 折词引出全文的三个论点。这三个论点分别是: physical, family, social troubles。第二,与范文 1 和范文 2 有明显区别的是,该文只用了一个正文段。但与 前两篇作文相同的是,正文段也论述了三个论点,而且三个论点都是由一个指 示词引出的。第三,该文的结尾段很有独到之处: 一是用三个不同的形容词 unattractive, confused, insecure 概括了全文对开篇段中提出的三个论点的总结: 二 是段首的开头词 fortunately 有力地提示结尾段的开始; 三是该段的最后一句有力 地结束了全文的讨论,其观点果断鲜明,给读者留下了很深的印象。请再细读 全文,体会该文的总体构思和写作技巧。

### △范女4○

如范文3的提示所述,大学作文的长度和段落的数目与作文的性质和论点的要求紧密相关,因此,有些作文可能需要五段或更多的段落来完成,而有的作文也许只需一两段就可以把论点讲述清楚。下面的这篇作文只有一段,但其论据对论点的支持仍是充分的。请仔细研读下文并注意全文论据和论点的遥相呼应。

#### Fog in London

Many people who have never been there still believe that London is permanently blanketed by fog. Yet those who spend a winter in London are often disappointed at the non-appearance of this horror. That fogs do form is undeniable. And although a journey through an invisible muffled world may at first seem exciting, this enjoyment is short-lived: smog, that filthy mixture of smoke and fog, brings suffocation to the asthmatic, violent death to the roaduser and discomfort to everybody. But fogs of this kind are rare in London. During the average winter, day follows cloudy day without obscuring even the more distant landmarks. It is true that London is often sunless, damp and raw, though the occasional sunny day seems all the more attractive by contrast. With its infinite possibilities for hauntings, terror and sudden death, fog is the novelists' delight and it is they who are mainly responsible for the legend of a city eternally submerged in sulphurous vapour.

**总分析**: 该文虽然没有像前面的范文中那样明显的论点,但该文的主题 the incidence of fog in London 仍很明确。在该主题下,作者用 often disappointed at the non-appearance of this horror 这样一个鲜明的论证,不仅说明伦敦不再有以往人们所能遇见的浓雾,而且通过最后一句向读者交待了造成一些可怕想象的原因。尽管该段的语言难度适于高年级学生,但该文对主题的论述方法及构思仍值得读者仔细揣摩。请再读此文,注意语句的衔接和语言层面的展开。



注意黑体字部分的语句及功用,体会这些语句在全文中发挥的作用。

#### Reactions to Disappointment

Ben Franklin said that the only sure things in life are death and taxes. He left something out, however: disappointment. No one gets through life without experiencing many disappointments. Strangely, though, most people seem unprepared for disappointment and react to it in negative ways. They feel depressed or try to escape their troubles instead of using disappointment as an opportunity for growth.

One negative reaction to disappointment is depression. A woman trying to win a promotion, for example, works hard for over a year in her department. She is so sure that she will get the promotion and she has already decided on the car she is to buy when she gets the salary increase. However, the boss names one of her colleagues to the spot. Deeply depressed, the lady decides that all her goals are doomed to defeat. She then tells herself that doing a good job just isn't worth the work.

Another negative reaction to disappointment, and one that often follows depression, is the desire to escape. Mark, for instance, fails to get into the college his brother is attending, the college that was the focus of all his dreams, and decides to escape his disappointment. Why worry about college at all? Instead, he covers up his real feelings by giving up on his schoolwork and getting completely involved with friends, parties and "good times."

The positive way to react to disappointment, however, is to use it as a chance for growth. This isn't easy, but it's the only useful way to deal