

簡明・實用・易讀  
英文寫作技巧

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# 英文寫作技巧



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# 1

The flowers of plants and trees bloom almost everywhere on earth. Some flowers grow on high mountains at the edges of snow fields and glaciers. Others live in the shallow parts of oceans. Even hot, dry deserts have many bright blossoms during and after the rainy season. Most flowers need soil in which to grow<sup>1</sup>, but some can grow on tree branches. Others<sup>2</sup> float on lakes and streams. About the only places flowers do not grow are in the ice-covered parts of the Arctic and Antarctic and in the open seas.<sup>3</sup> Man depends completely on flowers and flowering plants for his food. Flowering plants include almost all of our grains, fruits, and vegetables. There are about 200,000 known kinds of flowers. They range in size<sup>4</sup> from water blossoms so small they can be seen only with a microscope, to<sup>5</sup> tropical flowers that are three feet wide. The smell of flowers ranges from pleasant to unpleasant—from delightful fragrance of the lily to that<sup>6</sup> of the pelican flower of South America, which smells like rotting meat.

( from Harold Norman Moldenke, "Flower" )

## ■ 字 彙

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snow field [ˈsnoˌfild] n. 雪原。

glacier [ˈgleɪʃə] n. 冰河。

shallow [ˈʃælo] adj. 淺的。

Arctic [ˈɑːktɪk] n. 北極地區。

Antarctic [æntˈɑːktɪk] n. 南極地區

花草與樹木的花在地球上各處都能開放。有些花朵會在雪原與冰河邊緣的山上生長，有些生存在海洋的淺處。甚至炎熱乾燥的沙漠也有許多鮮艷花朵在雨季中和雨季後開放。大多數花朵需要泥土來生長，但有些可以在樹枝上生長。其他的花朵能漂浮在湖面上。大約花朵不生的唯一地方就是在北極南極冰覆的地方及大洋之中。人類完全依賴花朵與開花植物爲食。開花植物幾乎可包括我們所有的穀類、水果、蔬菜。已知的花共有大約二十萬種。它們的面積從小到只能用顯微鏡才能看見的水生花朵，至寬達三呎的熱帶花朵不等。花的氣味也有宜人與不宜人的差別——從百合的可愛芳香到南美洲塘鵝花如腐肉般的臭味。

(花)

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range [readʒ] v. 在…範圍之內。

microscope ['maɪkrə,skop] n. 顯微鏡。

tropical ['trɒpɪkl] adj. 熱帶的。

pelican flower ['pelɪkən-] n. 塘鵝花。

## ■ 註 釋

1. need soil in which to grow，語中的 which 是指 soil，可以簡略寫成 need soil to grow in，原來的句法結構是：need soil in which they (the flowers) are to grow。
2. 此種以代名詞 others 爲句首的用法必須配合前句以 some 或 many 或 most 爲主詞的句型，如本文第二、三句，以及本句與前一句。
3. open sea 指沒有陸地或峽地環抱的空闊大海，亦可指非屬任何國家領域的公海區。
4. in size：在體積上；在尺寸上。
5. to 乃是與動詞 range 聯用的介系詞，range 指遍及某種範圍之內，所以應該用 from 和 to 表明所括及的範圍爲何。本句所敘是尺寸的範圍，下句仍用 range from...to...敘述氣味差距之大。
6. that 是指 the smell。

## ■ 閱讀測驗

1. Flowers bloom almost everywhere except
  - a. in deserts.
  - b. on mountains at the edges of glaciers.
  - c. in the ice-covered Arctic and Antarctic.
  - d. on South American islands.
  
2. Most flowers grow
  - a. in shallow soil.
  - b. in soil.
  - c. on tree branches.
  - d. near rivers or lakes.
  
3. Desert flowers bloom
  - a. during rainy seasons.
  - b. after dry seasons.
  - c. before rainy seasons.
  - d. on trees.

## 2

Tigers are the largest and most powerful members of the cat family. In fact, there are tigers in Siberia, in northern Asia, that reach 4 meters in length<sup>1</sup> and a weight<sup>2</sup> of 290kg—the biggest of all ‘big cats’. But most tigers are about the same size as<sup>3</sup> lions—about 2.8m. from the nose to the tip of the tail and weighing 190kg.

Lions and tigers are very similar internally, but their external appearance differs greatly. Tigers do not have the thick mane of the male lion. They have smooth, glossy fur, thicker than a lion’s body hair. Tigers are light brown with many irregular dark stripes.

Unlike lions, tigers live alone. They generally sleep during the heat of the day<sup>4</sup> and hunt when it is cooler, or at night. They attack and eat almost any but the biggest animals, and their main food supply is antelope and wild cattle. They rarely attack man unless<sup>5</sup> frightened or very hungry. The female tiger gives birth to<sup>6</sup> two to six cubs. They begin to hunt at 7 months, but do not reach maturity until they are three years old.

( from “Tigers,” *The New Junior World Encyclopedia* )

### ■ 字 彙

mane [men] n. 鬃。

glossy [ˈɡlɒsɪ] adj. 有光澤的。

antelope [ˈæntl,əp] n. 羚羊（多數可加可不加S）。

## ■ 中 譯

虎是貓科之中最大也最凶猛的動物。事實上，在西伯利亞和北亞洲有身長達四公尺，體重 290 公斤的虎——是「大貓」中最大的。但是大多數的虎約與獅一樣大——自鼻部至尾端長 2.8 公尺，體重 190 公斤。

獅與虎內部構造很近似，但外表大不相同。虎沒有雄獅的厚鬃毛。牠們有平滑而帶光澤的毛皮，比獅的體毛厚。虎毛淺棕，帶許多不規則黑色條紋。

與獅不同的是，虎是獨自生活。牠們通常在白天炎熱時睡覺，在較涼爽或夜間時獵食。牠除了最大獸類之外，幾乎任何動物牠們都捕獵，而以羚羊和野生獸羣為主食。牠們除了恐懼或極飢餓之外是極少攻擊人類的。雌虎一胎產二至六隻幼虎。幼虎於七個月大時開始獵食，但至三歲才算長成。

（老虎）

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cub [kʌb] n. 小獸。

maturity [mə'tjʊərəti] n. 成熟。

## ■註 釋

1. in length：長度有…。凡長度、高度、重量、體積，都用 in 爲介系詞。如：3 feet in width.（寬3呎。）
2. 4 meters 與 a weight 同爲動詞 reach 的受詞，指長度與重量可達於某種程度。
3. 通常述說尺寸體積時是寫爲 of…size，如：It is of vast size.（它體積巨大。）此處用介系詞 about 時，則不重覆用 of，如：  
It is about the size of a basketball.  
（它約有籃球那麼大。）
4. the heat of the day：一天中最熱的時候，比較 the cool of the evening（晚間涼爽之時）。
5. 接連詞 unless 之後原爲條件子句，此處省略了 they are 兩字。
6. give birth to：生下；產下。

## ■ 閱讀測驗

1. In what way are tigers different from lions?
  - a. Tigers have thicker manes.
  - b. Lions hunt big animals.
  - c. Tigers live alone.
  - d. Lions belong to the cat family.
  
2. Tigers attack man only when they
  - a. need extra food.
  - b. are frightened.
  - c. are mad.
  - d. are over three years old.

### 3

When Ernie went down to breakfast in the morning, his father was already at the table<sup>1</sup>, drinking a cup of coffee and reading the newspaper. Mr. Smith glanced up and immediately noticed a troubled expression on Ernie's face. "What's wrong, son?" he asked. "You look as if you've seen a ghost." "I have. The ghost was me<sup>2</sup> when I'm grown up."<sup>3</sup> "What do you mean?" "I mean I don't want to grow up, Father. I don't want to go into business<sup>4</sup> and make money. Last night I dreamed I did, and it was really terrible. I dreamed I was a cruel money-grubber who yelled mean things at<sup>5</sup> people to make them work harder and harder so I would have more money. I don't want to grow up and be like that. Please, can't I just play ball and have fun?"

( from Lewis Lazare, *Ernie Discovers Excellence* )

#### ■ 字 彙

money-grubber [ˈmʌnɪˈɡrʌbər] n. 貪財奴。

yell [jel] v. 叫罵。

mean [min] adj. 卑劣的。

爾尼早上下樓去吃早飯時，他父親已經坐在飯桌那兒，邊喝著咖啡邊看報。史密斯先生抬眼一看就立刻看出爾尼臉上不安的表情。「怎麼啦，兒子？」他問，「你好像見了鬼似的。」「我的確見了鬼，那鬼就是長大以後的我。」「這話怎麼說？」「爸，我是說我不想長大。我不想去做事賺錢。昨晚我夢到我長大了，真是可怕。我夢到我是殘酷的貪財鬼，叫罵人家拼命努力工作，好讓我多賺錢。我不想長大變成那樣。拜託，我可不可以只管打球過日子？」

（歐尼發現卓越）