

新编大学英语四级考试

过关丛书

ENGLISH  
WRITING

# 写作指南

彭晓虎 主编

湖南大学出版社

新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书

——写作指南

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《新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书》

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## 前 言

《新编大学英语四级考试过关丛书》是参照教育部高教司1999年5月新颁发的《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》的基本要求以及相关的词汇表而编写的,由长期从事大学英语教学、经验丰富的英语教师集体完成。本丛书主要面向准备全国大学英语四级考试的在读大学本、专科学生和同等水平的读者。目的是帮助他们尽早了解《大学英语教学大纲(修订本)》在语言基础和应用能力上的新要求,尽快熟悉四级考试中的各种题型,提高考前学习效率,顺利通过四级考试。

《写作指南》是本套丛书之一。本书集编者多年来英语写作实践和执教英语作文的经验,针对部分中国学生在英语写作时单词不会用、思路打不开、文句不得体、表达欠完整等问题逐一详细分析,并提出相应的解决方法。本书既着重书面语言表达能力整体提高,又具体讨论用词与造句、段落的各种变化和有效的拓展方式。书中提出的诸如怎样打开思路,如何把握开头和结尾、主题句的句型变化、段落问答式写作模式和不同类型应考作文的写作方法等,读者如细加揣摩和认真训练,在短期内即可有不同程度的收获和进步。本书各章均配有针对性较强的练

习,以巩固和增强学习效果。为便于读者自我对照检查,本书还编排了数十篇参考作文,以供借鉴。相信使用本书者在通过一段时间的练习后,定能写出有特色的好作文,不仅为顺利通过包括四级统考在内的各类英语考试的作文关打下坚实的基础,而且能真正做到用书面英语交流信息,开阔视野,加深对世界的了解,进一步提高语言运用和思想表达的能力。

本书从中外书刊中选用了一些图画和文字片段,恕未一一注明出处,谨向有关作者致谢。

限于水平,难免有错误和疏漏之处,敬请读者和同仁不吝指正。

编 者

1999年7月

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# 第一章 万事开头难

英语作文真不好写——这是很多英语学习者在实践后发出的感慨。对部分四、六级和同类型考试的考生而言,试卷的客观题部分可以做得很出色,但作文得分却令人沮丧。虽然作文题大都不难,可是想要表达的内容和纸上出现的文字往往相去甚远。特别是在写作过程中,那种笔不听使唤,想写又写不出,想说又说不清楚的窘境真叫人气恼。是什么原因使单词记了数千个、英语学了好几年的人在做作文时如此难受呢?只有弄清楚原因,才可能找到解决问题的有效途径。

## 一、有话说不出

初练英语写作的人,动笔时往往感到文意无法顺畅表达,心里憋得难受。脑子里一会儿用英语思考,一会儿又不得不借助汉语把思路理清楚。思路理顺后,又苦于找不到恰当的词语和句型。甚至想好了某个词语,可拼来拼去又拿不准拼得对不对。一篇短短一两百字的作文,写得非常辛苦。但写完一读,常常连自己也不明白写的是什么。

其实,在学写英语作文的最初阶段,大多数人都多少有过这种经历。因为难以用英语进行连贯的思维,只好用汉语来接续。再从汉语的概念出发,设法找到“相应”的英语词句来翻译表达。这种不由自主的汉英混杂、交叉翻译式的思维,不仅比较痛苦,而且往往导致表达失误。较强的翻译能力无疑有助于语言的转

换。但写作并不等于翻译,更不是硬译、死译。例如,英语的 like, enjoy, take pleasure in, be fond of, fancy, love, be keen on, adore, be mad about, be crazy about, be attached to, have a passion for, be partial to, can't resist, get a taste for 等均可表示“喜欢,喜爱”,但每个词语的含义并不完全相同,用什么词语表达,取决于作者的观点和态度以及具体的上下文。另外,英语的 You cannot expect the man in the street to enjoy Beethoven's music(不能期望常人能轻易欣赏贝多芬的音乐), He is anything but a teacher(他绝不是教师), We cannot be too careful in doing experiments(我们做实验必须格外小心), Both of the books are not helpful(这两本书并非都有益)等习惯表达法和句式,与汉语表达方式有较大的差别。倘若想当然地翻译式写作,必定难以准确、地道地表达意思,甚至会不知所云。不妨看看一篇用中文写的短文:

## 广 告

随着我国经济的发展,广告日趋繁荣。报纸上登着各种各样的广告,电视节目中也时常穿插五颜六色的广告。甚至公共汽车,路边的电线杆和人们的住宅区也备受广告商的青睐。可以说广告已成为人们生活的一部分。

方兴未艾的广告,表明商品在我国已进入了激烈竞争的时代。为扩大影响,打开销路,商家总是费尽心机将商品的优点集于广告之中。广告给商家带来了可观的利润,也给消费者提供了购物信息和方便。

然而,某些吹得天花乱坠的广告却玩弄骗人的勾当。“进口彩电”进家不久就没了图像。“名牌皮鞋”穿

上不久便掉了鞋跟。“高档压力锅”可能炸得人魂飞魄散。某些“灵丹妙药”甚至使人病情恶化。因此,我们必须小心,切勿轻信上当。

### Advertisement

With the development of the economy, advertising has become a common sight in China. Newspapers and TV programs frequently give way to various advertisements. Shop windows, street electrical poles and even our living quarters are favored by advertisers. Undoubtedly, advertisements have become part of our life.

The ever-increasing advertising indicates that commodities in our country have now developed into a competitive time. In order to promote sales, manufacturers try to appeal the consumers by putting together all advantages of their products into advertisements. Not only does advertising enable manufacturers to gain great profits, but also provide people with various market information.

However, some eye-catching advertisements turn out to be misleading. Some “imported color TV” will refuse to produce pictures shortly after people have bought them. “Fine leather shoes” tend to loss heels. Some “pressure cooker” may frighten people to death. More worse is that some “wonderful medicine or remedy” almost kills patients. Therefore, we should not be fooled into thinking that all advertisements will live up

to what they demonstrate.

这两篇短文的主题思想和内容大至相同,但英文决不是逐词逐句翻译过来的。仔细比较一下,就可看出英语作文中的词句与中文作文中的词句和表达手段并非一一对应。尤其是“方兴未艾”、“天花乱坠”这类汉语常见的四字句。倘若拘泥于这些字眼或死扣中文的文句结构,英语作文就没法流畅地表达。再看一篇习作:

### **Books**

There are various kinds of books. History books can tell people about the development and civilization of human society. Books about science and technology make people understand the world unknown and beautify their life. Books about art and literature help us enjoy and love nature and people.

Books are beneficial to us. Almost all the knowledge of human beings can be learned from books. By reading books we are able to get to know things we are not clear. We can learn the valuable experiences and knowledge passed down by our forefathers. It is no doubt that books are our best friends that will accompany us in our lifetime.

However, some books are harmful. Books that tell people to do bad things will certainly do great harm to us. Especially, some yellow books will ruin the young generation. These books are of no good. Therefore, we

must be careful not to be cheated by those books and choose good books to read.

“make people understand”, “it is no doubt” 是受中文影响的表达。“bad books” 概念模糊, 大约是指 “pleasure-seeking”, “things are decided by God”, “money is everything” 之类的书。而“黄色书刊”的英文表达是 “pornographic books and periodicals”, “blue books and periodicals” 或 “filthy books”。而 “yellow books” 显然是按中文硬译的。英美人读了会不知所以然。如果变通一下, 用 books about sex and violence 来表达, 就没那么离谱了。另外, 初学者常有这种感觉, 中文越“漂亮”, 英文越难表达出来。这就需要平时多多练习和揣摩, 并有意识地吸收地道的表达方式, 逐步养成写作时基本用英语思维和表达的习惯。否则, 就难免会因为语言表达障碍而“只可意会, 难以言传”。

诚然, 要能在写作时用英语进行思维并非易事。但是, 我们不能因为思维过程中偶尔出现的某个汉语词语或句子而中断思考。正如爬山一样, 有时需借助一下拐杖才能顺利地到达顶峰。写作时稍稍借助汉语进行过渡是初学阶段很自然的现象。经过一定的实践训练, 对汉语的依赖会逐渐减少。为加快这一过程的实现, 除日常英语课程的各类练习外, 还可以采用两种比较有效的辅助训练方法。

1) 段落汉英翻译练习 文章是由段落构成的, 段落翻译练习不但训练了学习者遣词造句的能力, 更重要的是通过一定的上下文加深了对汉英词语意义的体会, 增强了语感, 锻炼了篇章表达能力。由此而逐步形成整体思考的习惯。开始练习时, 可翻译些文字浅显、内容不太复杂的段落, 循序渐进, 逐渐加大难度。为了便于自我检查, 最好是利用一些有英汉对照的段落或有译

文的课文来练习。例如：

从小时候起到后来长大，我一直对爱因斯坦的个性惊叹不已。我所认识的人中，惟有他能恰当地把握自己和善待他人。他知道自己想要什么，而他想要的是：在他作为一个人的能力范围之内了解宇宙的性质以及宇宙运行的内在联系和本质。他知道有许多问题的答案非他智力所能及。但他并不为此而灰心丧气。只要在能力许可的范围内取得最大的成功他就心满意足了。

As a boy and then as an adult, I never lost my wonder at the personality that was Einstein. He was the only person I knew who had come to terms with himself and the world around him. He knew what he wanted and he wanted only this: to understand within his limits as a human being the nature of the universe and the logic and simplicity in its functioning. He knew there were answers beyond his intellectual reach. But this did not frustrate him. He was content to go as far as he could.

经过一段时期的练习，具备了一定的表达能力后，可尝试翻译一些有一定难度的段落。例如：

我在八九岁时，第一次写了一首诗。几年以后，我把那首诗再看了一遍，觉得那首诗实在写得太糟糕。过了些日子，我鼓起勇气给父亲看我的一篇新作，是一个稚气的短篇故事，自认为是仿效俄国阴郁的笔调写

的。父亲认为我写得过于花哨,但并非完全不可救药。我开始知道重写的重要了,母亲也开始意识到批评并不会使我沮丧。可以说我们都在进步。那时我快满12岁了。

When I was eight or nine years old, I wrote my first poem. A few years later, I took a second look at that first poem: it was a pretty lousy poem. After a while, I worked up the courage to show my father something new, a primitive short story written in what I fancied to be the dark Russian manner. My father thought it was overwritten but not hopeless. I was learning to rewrite. And my mother was learning that she could criticize me without crushing me. You might say we were all learning. I was going on 12.

段落汉译英练习可有效增强笔头表达能力。不过这种练习是在汉语的基础之上进行的,未能完全脱离汉语。为进一步过渡到用英语直接思考,可尝试另一种练习。

2) 改写或缩写 改写是以英语原文为依据,用自己的话来表达原文的内容。缩写则是结合原文的体裁和语言特点,用自己的语言概括出原文所含的主要内容。做这类练习,原文不宜太长,语言结构也不能太复杂,否则会因表述困难而放弃。例如:

The number of speakers of English in Shakespeare's time is estimated to have been about five million. Today it is estimated that some 260 million

people speak it as a native language, mainly in the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand. In addition to the standard varieties of English found in these areas, there are a great many regional and social varieties of the language, as well as various levels of usage that are employed both in its spoken and written forms.

It is virtually impossible to estimate the number of people in the world who have acquired an adequate working knowledge of English in addition to their own language. The purpose for which English is learned and the situations in which such learning takes place are so varied that it is difficult to define and still more difficult to assess what constitutes an adequate working knowledge for each situation.

可改写为:

Today it is estimated that people who speak English as a native language are far more than those in Shakespeare's time. In English spoken countries such as the United states, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand, there are standard varieties as to the use of the language. Moreover, the spoken and written forms of English have a number of varieties and levels of usage in different regions and societies.

Actually it is impossible to tell that how many peo-

ple in the world have obtained a satisfactory working knowledge of English apart from their own languages. As the objectives in learning English and learning situations are not the same, it is hard to describe and still more difficult to evaluate what makes up an adequate working knowledge for each situation.

《大学英语精读(修订本)》的每篇课文后都新增一项有关课文的短文完型填空练习。不少学习者仅将其作为单纯的填空作业来完成,甚为可惜。殊不知,这正是对课文很精彩的总结和摘要。如果能在学完课文后,自己写出摘要,再与课文后的摘要进行对比,不仅可增进对课文的理解和记忆,更重要的是能锻炼自己的笔头表达能力。

## 二、不知写什么

有的人在作文时每每愁眉苦脸,望着作文题发呆。左思右想,搜索枯肠拼凑出作文之后,第一件事不是认真检查,而是数写了多少字,看有没有达到规定的字数要求。这实在是折磨自己。实际上四级考试的作文命题均未超过一般常识,如电视的作用、计算机的普及、环境保护的重要性、现代交通等。但为什么有的人总感到无话可说或不知说什么呢?其原因是多方面的。部分学习者自高中进入大学或大学毕业走上工作岗位后,因专业课学习紧张,工作繁忙等客观因素,很少动笔正儿八经地写作文。虽然英汉语言均有各自不同的表达形式,但人们对事物的认识和感受基本是相通的。中文写作的荒废不可避免地影响到英语写作。此外,由于现代通讯手段的飞速发展,有的人连书信都不想写,有事打个电话聊一聊,特别场合寄几张明信片表