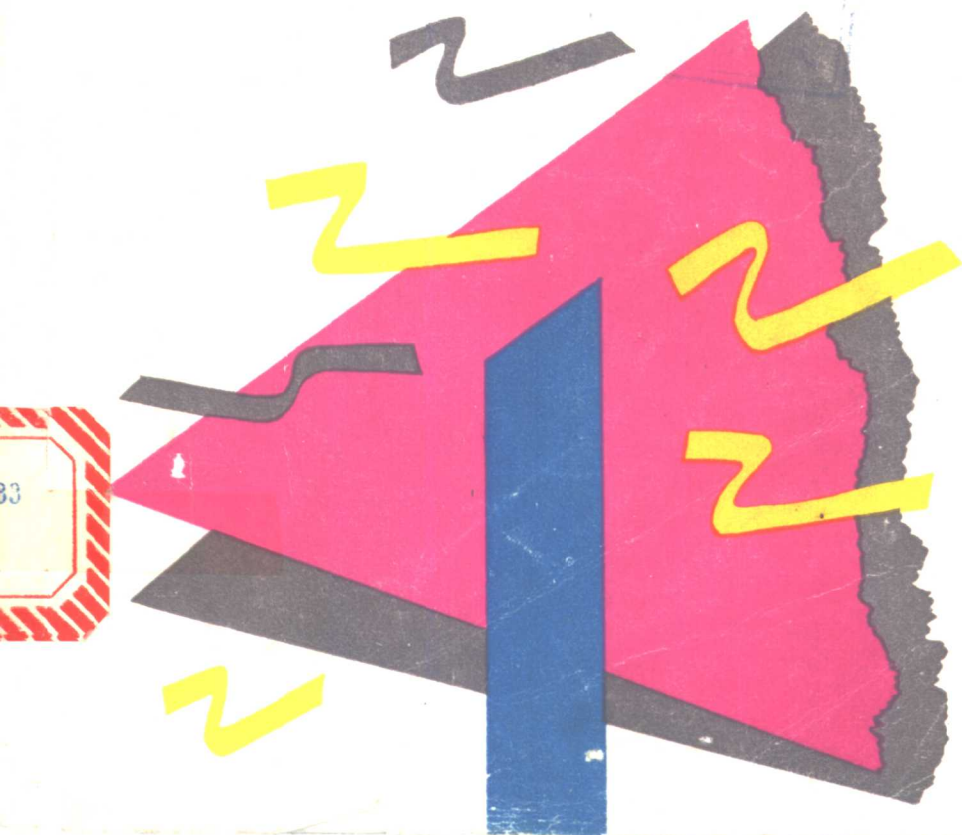


现代英语散文 读写教程 上册

翟福金 潘永樑 编

上海译文出版社

MODERN ENGLISH ESSAYS
A Reading and Writing Course



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Book I

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前 言

《现代英语散文读写教程》在1990年6月经国家教委高等学校外语专业教材编审委员会英语编审小组审定通过,推荐为高等学校外语专业试用教材。出版前,编者又参照国家教委高等学校英语专业高年级英语教学大纲(试行本)的有关规定和审稿专家的建议,对教程进行了修订。

这套教材的课文都选自现代英美作家的英语散文,题材较广泛,体现了现代英语散文的各种风格和写作技巧。每课都有一定的难度,供分析讨论;长度大多在1200至1500字之间,适合在分析阅读课中使用。对课文中的语言难点及有关的背景知识和文体修辞要点都作了较详细的注释,这对有些手头缺乏必要参考书的学生和自学者尤其适用。

大量的练习是这套教材的一个特色。每课都有五种练习:

(1)课文理解分析练习:包括对课文内容的提问和对课文结构、风格和修辞要点的分析及难句的解释。学生可以把这些问题当作练习要点和复习依据,教师亦可选其中一些问题 in 讲课时提问或让学生讨论。

(2)语言点练习:包括运用课文中典型语法结构和表达方式的练习,以及辨认和解释课文中的文体和修辞手段的练习,目的在于帮助学生熟练掌握这些语言点。

(3)写作练习:包括大致与课文内容和形式相联系的作文练习,目的在于使学生能在规定的时间内用英语完成有一定难度的作文。

(4)写作模式介绍:系统介绍英语段落发展的主要方法。每一种方法都有简短的说明和实例分析练习,目的在于帮助学生掌握

英语段落及短文的形式和结构,并在自己的作文中应用。

(5) 复习练习: 包括大量有一定难度的语法和词汇练习, 帮助学生温故而知新, 巩固和发展英语的基本能力, 提高熟练掌握的程度。除了一般的复习内容外, 每段还突出一个复习重点, 引导学生钻研一些语言问题。

这套教材体现了编写《现代英语散文读写教程》的三个目的:

(1) 给英语专业高年级学生提供合适的现代英语散文, 指导他们掌握要点, 分析结构, 欣赏文体和修辞的特色, 学会其中典型的句子结构和表达方式, 从而使学生在高年级进行大量阅读的同时, 有机会在教师的指导下继续细读一些语言材料, 提高阅读、分析和欣赏英语散文的能力。

(2) 介绍英语散文的基本写作模式和段落发展的方法, 通过适当的作文练习, 使学生学会用英语叙事、描写、阐述和论证及学会修改自己的英语作文, 逐步做到英语行文结构清楚、语句合乎规范。

(3) 提供大量难度较大的、各种形式的英语语法和词汇练习, 使学生进一步掌握有一定深度和广度的英语知识, 提高运用英语的熟练程度, 从而打好扎实的英语基础。

本教程分上下两册, 共20课。每课教学时间可以安排如下:

教师讲课3小时;

学生课堂讨论和做练习2小时;

短文写作2小时。

如果教学进度为每两周一课, 那末这两册教材可以满足英语高年级两个学期读写课程所需。教材另外配有一本教师手册, 对教程中所有的练习都提供详尽的解答, 可供使用者参考。

我们在这套书的编写和教学过程中, 得到了许多同事和学生的支持和合作。英语系的冯翠华教授一直热心鼓励和支持这套教材的编写。薛汉荣教授曾与我们一起教这门课程, 在教学中对教材

编写提出了许多有用的建议。我们对他们的帮助表示衷心的感谢。我们深深感激上海外国语学院英语系李观仪教授和西南师范大学外文系江家骏教授,他们受国家教委高等学校外语专业教材编审委员会的委托,在百忙之中审阅了这套教材,提出了许多修改意见和一些值得进一步考虑的问题。我们参照他们的建议,在出版前对教材作了修订。但编者学力有限,现在这个本子中不当和疏漏之处肯定还不少,均由编者自己负责,并望使用者多加指教。两位编者在几年的合作中对教程的编写负有同等的责任;在最近修订时,翟福金负责上册,潘永樑负责下册。教师手册的编写情况亦同。

编 者

1992年1月于洛阳

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Lesson One

My Friend, Albert Einstein

*Banesh Hoffmann*¹

1. He was one of the greatest scientists the world has ever known, yet if I had to convey the essence of Albert Einstein in a single word, I would choose *simplicity*. Perhaps an anecdote will help. Once, caught in a downpour, he took off his hat and held it under his coat. Asked why, he explained, with admirable logic, that the rain would damage the hat, but his hair would be none the worse for its wetting. This knack for going instinctively to the heart of a matter was the secret of his major scientific discoveries—this and his extraordinary feeling for beauty.

2. I first met Albert Einstein in 1935, at the famous Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.² He had been among the first to be invited to the Institute, and was offered *carte blanche*³ as to salary. To the director's dismay, Einstein asked for an impossible sum: it was far too *small*. The director had to plead with him to accept a larger salary.

3. I was in awe of Einstein, and hesitated before approaching him about some ideas I had been working on. When I finally knocked on his door, a gentle voice said, "Come" — with a rising inflection that made the single word both a welcome and a question. I entered his office and found him seated at the table, calculating and smoking his pipe. Dressed in ill-fitting clothes, his hair characteristically awry, he smiled a warm welcome. His utter naturalness at once set me at ease.

4. As I began to explain my ideas, he asked me to write the

equations on the blackboard so he could see how they developed. Then came the staggering — and altogether endearing — request: "Please go slowly. I do not understand things quickly." This from Einstein! He said it gently, and I laughed. From then on, all vestiges of fear were gone.

5. Einstein was born in 1879 in the German city of Ulm.⁴ He had been no infant prodigy; indeed, he was so late in learning to speak that his parents feared he was a dullard. In school, though his teachers saw no special talent in him, the signs were already there. He taught himself calculus, for example, and his teachers seemed a little afraid of him because he asked questions they could not answer. At the age of 16, he asked himself whether a light wave would seem stationary if one ran abreast of it. From that innocent question would arise, ten years later, his theory of relativity.

6. Einstein failed his entrance examinations at the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School, in Zurich, but was admitted a year later. There he went beyond his regular work to study the masterworks of physics on his own. Rejected when he applied for academic positions, he ultimately found work, in 1902, as a patent examiner in Berne, and there in 1905 his genius burst into fabulous flower.

7. Among the extraordinary things he produced in that memorable year were his theory of relativity, with its famous offshoot, $E=mc^2$ (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared), and his quantum theory of light. These two theories were not only revolutionary, but seemingly contradictory: the former was intimately linked to the theory that light consists of waves, while the latter said it consists somehow of particles. Yet this unknown young man boldly proposed both at once — and he was right in both cases, though how he could have been is far too complex a story to tell here.

8. Collaborating with Einstein was an unforgettable experience. In 1937, the Polish physicist Leopold Infeld and I asked if we could work with him. He was pleased with the proposal, since he had an idea about gravitation waiting to be worked out in detail. Thus we got to know not merely the man and the friend, but also the professional.

9. The intensity and depth of his concentration were fantastic. When battling a recalcitrant problem, he worried it as an animal worries its prey. Often when we found ourselves up against a seemingly insuperable difficulty, he would stand up, put his pipe on the table, and say in his quaint English, "I will a little tink" (he could not pronounce "th"). Then he would pace up and down, twirling a lock of his long, graying hair around his forefinger.

10. A dreamy, faraway and yet inward look would come over his face. There was no appearance of concentration, no frowning of the brow — only a placid inner communion. The minutes would pass, and then suddenly Einstein would stop pacing as his face relaxed into a gentle smile. He had found the solution to the problem. Sometimes it was so simple that Infeld and I could have kicked ourselves for not having thought of it. But the magic had been performed invisibly in the depths of Einstein's mind, by a process we could not fathom.

11. When his wife died he was deeply shaken, but insisted that now more than ever was the time to be working hard. I remember going to his bouse to work with him during that sad time. His face was haggard and grief-lined, but he put forth a great effort to concentrate. To help him, I steered the discussion away from routine matters into more difficult theoretical problems, and Einstein gradually became absorbed in the discussion. We kept at it for some two hours, and at the

end his eyes were no longer sad. As I left, he thanked me with moving sincerity. "It was a fun," he said. He had had a moment of surcease from grief, and then groping words expressed a deep emotion.

12. Although Einstein felt no need for religious ritual and belonged to no formal religious group, he was the most deeply religious man I have known. He once said to me, "Ideas come from God," and one could hear the capital "G" in the reverence with which he pronounced the word. On the marble fireplace in the mathematics building at Princeton University is carved, in the original German, what one might call his scientific credo: "God is subtle, but he is not malicious." By this Einstein meant that scientists could expect to find their task difficult, but not hopeless: the Universe was a Universe of law, and God was not confusing us with deliberate paradoxes and contradictions.

13. Einstein was an accomplished amateur musician. We used to play duets, he on the violin, I at the piano. One day he surprised me by saying Mozart⁵ was the greatest composer of all. Beethoven⁶ "created" his music, but the music of Mozart was of such purity and beauty one felt he had merely "found" it — that it had always existed as part of the inner beauty of the Universe, waiting to be revealed.

14. It was this very Mozartean simplicity that most characterized Einstein's methods. His 1905 theory of relativity, for example, was built on just two simple assumptions. One is the so-called principle of relativity, which means, roughly speaking, that we cannot tell whether we are at rest or moving smoothly. The other assumption is that the speed of light is the same no matter what the speed of the object that produces it. You can see how reasonable this is if you think of agitating a stick in a lake to create waves. Whether you wiggle the stick

from a stationary pier, or from a rushing speedboat, the waves, once generated, are on their own, and their speed has nothing to do with that of the stick.

15. Each of these assumptions, by itself, was so plausible as to seem primitively obvious. But together they were in such violent conflict that a lesser man would have dropped one or the other and fled in panic. Einstein daringly kept both — and by so doing he revolutionized physics. For he demonstrated they could, after all, exist peacefully side by side, provided we gave up cherished beliefs about the nature of time.

16. Science is like a house of cards, with concepts like time and space at the lowest level. Tampering with time brought most of the house tumbling down, and it was this that made Einstein's work so important — and controversial. At a conference in Princeton in honor of his 70th birthday, one of the speakers, a Nobel Prize-winner, tried to convey the magical quality of Einstein's achievement. Words failed him, and with a shrug of helplessness he pointed to his wristwatch, and said in tones of awed amazement, "It all came from this." His very ineloquence made this the most eloquent tribute I have heard to Einstein's genius.

17. Although fame had little effect on Einstein as a person, he could not escape it; he was, of course, instantly recognizable. One autumn Saturday, I was walking with him in Princeton discussing some technical matters. Parents and alumni were streaming excitedly toward us, they paused in sudden recognition, and a momentary air of solemnity came over them as if they had been reminded of a different world. Yet Einstein seemed totally unaware of this effect and went on with the discussion as though they were not there,

18. We think of Einstein as one concerned only with the

deepest aspects of science. But he saw scientific principles in everyday things to which most of us would give barely a second thought. He once asked me if I had ever wondered why a man's feet will sink into either dry or completely submerged sand, while sand that is merely damp provides a firm surface. When I could not answer, he offered a simple explanation.

19. It depends, he pointed out, on *surface tension*, the elastic-skin effect of a liquid surface. This is what holds a drop together, or causes two small raindrops on a windowpane to pull into one big drop the moment their surfaces touch.

20. When sand is damp, Einstein explained, there are tiny amounts of water between grains. The surface tensions of these tiny amounts of water pull all the grains together, and friction then makes them hard to budge. When the sand is dry, there is obviously no water between grains. If the sand is fully immersed, there is water between grains, but no water *surface* to pull them together.

21. This is not as important as relativity; yet there is no telling what seeming trifle will lead an Einstein to a major discovery. And the puzzle of the sand does give us an inkling of the power and elegance of his mind.

22. Einstein's work, performed quietly with pencil and paper, seemed remote from the turmoil of everyday life: but his ideas were so revolutionary they caused violent controversy and irrational anger. Indeed, in order to be able to award him a belated Nobel Prize, the selection committee had to avoid mentioning relativity, and pretend the prize was awarded primarily for his work on the quantum theory.

23. Political events upset the serenity of his life even more. When the Nazis came to power in Germany, his theories were officially declared false because they had been formulated by a Jew. His property was confiscated, and it is said a price was

put on his head.

24. When scientists in the United States, fearful that the Nazis might develop an atomic bomb, sought to alert American authorities to the danger, they were scarcely heeded. In desperation, they drafted a letter which Einstein signed and sent directly to President Roosevelt. It was this act that led to the fateful decision to go all-out on the production of an atomic bomb — an endeavor in which Einstein took no active part. When he heard of the agony and destruction that his $E=mc^2$ had wrought, he was dismayed beyond measure, and from then on there was a look of ineffable sadness in his eyes.

25. There was something elusively whimsical about Einstein. It is illustrated by my favorite anecdote about him. In his first year in Princeton, on Christmas Eve, so the story goes, some children sang carols outside his house. Having finished, they knocked on his door and explained they were collecting money to buy Christmas presents. Einstein listened, then said, "Wait a moment." He put on his scarf and overcoat, and took his violin from its case. Then, joining the children as they went from door to door, he accompanied their singing of "Silent Night" on his violin.

26. How shall I sum up what it meant to have known Einstein and his works? Like the Nobel Prize-winner who pointed helplessly at his watch, I can find no adequate words. It was akin to the revelation of great art that lets one see what was formerly hidden. And when, for example, I walk on the sand of a lonely beach, I am reminded of his ceaseless search for cosmic simplicity — and the scene takes on a deeper, sadder beauty.

NOTES

1. Banesh Hoffmann: a scientist who once worked under

Einstein in Princeton and wrote a biography of him in 1972. This article is taken from 1968 *Reader's Digest*. Einstein is known for the formulation of the relativity theory. His early work on the special theory of relativity (1905) dealt with systems or observers in uniform (unaccelerated) motion with respect to one another. It demonstrated, among other things, that two observers will disagree about measurements of length and time intervals made in each other's systems, that the speed of light is the limiting speed of all bodies having mass, and that mass and energy are equivalent. In 1911 he asserted the equivalence of gravitation and inertia, and about 1916 he completed his mathematical formulation of a general theory of relativity that included gravitation as a determiner of the curvature of a space-time continuum. Einstein is also known for his contributions to the development of the quantum theory. For his work in theoretical physics, notably on the photoelectric effect, he received the 1921 Nobel Prize in Physics.

2. Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.: The institution is situated at Princeton, N.J., chartered 1930, opened 1933. It is not connected with Princeton University. It differs from a university in that it offers no curriculum or examinations, and confers no degrees. Founded with a gift from Louis Bamberger and Mrs. Felix Fuld as a center for graduate study, it subsequently became a research center for advanced study in mathematics and the natural and social sciences. One of its first members was Albert Einstein.
3. ... offered *carte blanche*: (French) given full power. The sentence means that Einstein was given full power to

decide the amount of his own salary.

4. Ulm: a city in SW Germany, on the Danube River. It is an active river port, rail junction, and industrial center.
5. Mozart: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756 — 1791) was an Austrian composer. He represents one of the great peaks in the history of music. His works, written in almost every conceivable genre, combine luminous beauty of sound with classical grace and technical perfection.
6. Beethoven: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770 — 1827) was a German composer. His works crowned the classical period and also effectively initiated the romantic era in music.

EXERCISES

ANALYSIS

I. Questions on content:

1. Why does Hoffmann think that "simplicity" can convey the essence of Albert Einstein?
2. What does the anecdote in Paragraph 2 reveal about Einstein's character?
3. How did the author meet Einstein? And what was the author's first impression?
4. What were Einstein's major discoveries?
5. Why does the author say that the intensity and depth of Einstein's concentration were fantastic?
6. What did Einstein mean by his scientific credo "God is subtle, but he is not malicious"?
7. Why did Einstein think that Mozart was a greater composer than Beethoven?
8. What did the Nobel Prize-winner mean by pointing to his wristwatch and saying "It all came from this" ?

9. How does the puzzle of the sand help to explain Einstein's methods?
10. What does the Christmas Eve anecdote show about Einstein's character?
11. Why does the author feel that the scene of the sand takes on a deeper, sadder beauty when he walks on a lonely beach?

II. Questions on appreciation:

1. This article is a profile. A profile is a short, vivid biography, briefly outlining a person's most outstanding characteristics: his abilities, personality, or career.
 - a) What does the title show about the subject of the profile and the author's attitude toward it?
 - b) How does the first paragraph epitomize the essential quality of a profile?
 - c) Why does the author spend so little time describing Einstein's physical appearance?
2. What major points does Hoffmann make about Einstein to demonstrate his simplicity?
3. At times Hoffmann's detail takes the form of anecdotes that reveal aspects of Einstein's character. Cite one example of such an anecdote.
4. Cite examples of concrete sensory detail the author uses to create a mental image.

III. Paraphrase:

1. ... but his hair would be none the worse for the wetting.
2. To the director's dismay, Einstein asked for an impossible sum: it was far too small.
3. ... a gentle voice said "Come" — with a rising inflection that made the single word both a welcome and a question.
4. ... and there in 1905 his genius burst into fabulous