

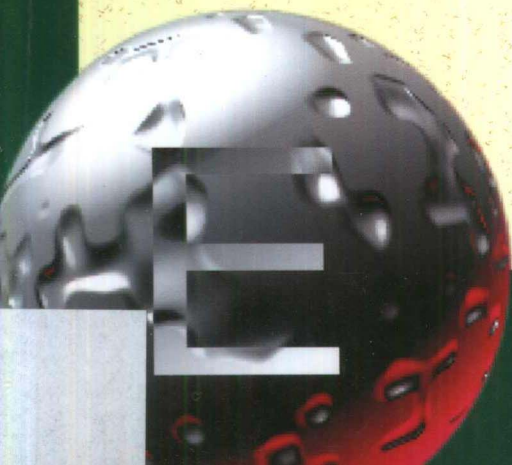
● 全国高等教育自学考试指定教材辅导用书

英语写作

Success in Teach-Yourself
Advanced College Composition

主编 章启平

辅导教材



天津大学出版社
TIANJIN UNIVERSITY PRESS

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Success in Teach-Yourself Advanced College Composition

主 编 章启平

副主编 张 文 刘凡群 狄红秋

主 审 张金桐

天 津 大 学 出 版 社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语写作辅导教材/章启平主编. —天津:天津大学出版社, 2002.5 (2003.1 重印)

ISBN 7-5618-1579-4

I. 英… II. 章… III. 英语—写作—高等教育—自学考试—自学参考资料 IV. H315

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 020224 号

出版发行 天津大学出版社
出 版 人 杨风和
地 址 天津市卫津路 92 号天津大学内(邮编:300072)
电 话 发行部:022-27403647 邮购部:022-27402742
印 刷 天津大学印刷厂
经 销 全国各地新华书店
开 本 148mm×210mm
印 张 10.25
字 数 306 千
版 次 2002 年 5 月第 1 版
印 次 2003 年 1 月第 2 次
印 数 4 001—5 000
定 价 16.00 元

前 言

参加全国高等教育英语专业自学考试的学生，最苦恼的问题就是没有教师批改作文，不知自己写的作文是否达到要求。在写论文阶段，大学图书馆由于各种条件制约，一般不能向自学考试学生提供借阅服务，自考学生苦于找不到论文资料。针对自考生的困难，特编撰本书，其特点为：

1. 提供全部参考答案：严格按照全国高等教育英语专业自学考试大纲的要求，提供了指定教材《英语写作》（杨俊峰主编）的全部作文练习的参考答案，例如，在指定教材《英语写作》的练习中如规定学生从五个题目中选择一个练习写作，为了便于同学参考，我们提供了全部五个题目的作文参考答案；
2. 提供技巧提示：针对在教学中发现的学生们学习的难点，按照自学考试大纲中规定的考核知识点及能力层次，提供 tips（技巧提示）；
3. 单元测验：在每一章节的后面，按照大纲和考试题型编写了考试标准预测试卷并提供了答案；
4. 在第三部分，针对学生们找不到论文资料的问题，笔者特意推荐适用于在互联网搜索英文资料的搜索引擎，使学生们可以在短时间内搜索到所需材料，并根据 MLA（Modern Language Association 现代语言协会）1999 年的规定，对从互联网上引用的所有材料提供了详细的解释。

本书适用于高自考学生与本科英语专业学生，使之通过实践练习提高应试能力及英语写作水平，达到触类旁通的目的。对于学生深入学习指定教材，深刻领会考试大纲和教材的重点内容，掌握重点难点，正确解答各种考试题型，具有指导意义。参考答案的编写主要考虑到目前学生写作水平与写作考试大纲规定的作文要求。建议同学们首先认真阅读《英语写作》所规定的题目，自选一篇文章，写完后再与参考答案比较。

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Part One

The Book Report

Tips

Can my book report be clearly divided into three parts – information about the writer, summary of the book and comments on the book?

In information about the writer, have I mentioned the writer's name, the major works he has published, the years of his birth and death, and the publisher of the book?

In summary of the book:

Have I written my summary in my own words or copied some sentences from the book?

Is my summary self-contained, clear, and easy to understand?

Is my summary of a novel or a play written in the present tense? Or,

Is the past tense used for a history and the present tense used for a scientific work?

Have I focused on the main idea? Or mistakenly focused on examples?

Have I stuck to the original book or put my own opinion in the summary?

In comments on the book:

What is my own idea about the book?

What are the strong points and weak points of the book?

Is the book important in historical or social aspects?

Translation of Sample 1

《卡斯特桥市长》是托马斯·哈代的一部长篇小说。最初由麦克米兰于 1886 年在伦敦出版。

故事发生在 19 世纪的英国，书的主人公是亨查德。

亨查德年轻时是个干草工。一次喝醉了，卖掉了妻子和女儿。后来做生意成功了并成了一名不错的市长。当他决定娶他的情人露丝特时，他的前妻出现了。他重新娶了他的前妻。他的前妻死后，他意外地发现他的女儿伊丽莎白不是他的亲生女。他为此感到很烦恼。同时他生意上的伙伴法弗雷遗弃了他。破产和耻辱搞得他一团糟，他的有伤风化的行为也开始流传开来。由于在伊丽莎白的婚礼上遭到了冷遇，他离开了卡斯特桥市并悲惨地死去了。

亨查德的生活经历很复杂并充满意想不到的事件。他的悲剧可以说是因他性格引起的。他的冲动和嫉妒使他疏远了妻子、女儿和朋友。他孤独无助注定要吞下自己酿造的苦果。根据他的观点，我们可以断定他是 19 世纪英国典型的旧式农民的代表。他体现了日益没落的农村社会和经济。他诚实、正直，但却保守、思想狭隘。他精于捆草，但缺乏现代科学知识和管理才能。所有这些都是他那一代农民的显著特征。

另一方面，他先前的合作伙伴也是他后来的竞争对手法弗雷，则代表了农村的新生力量。他聪明、有知识、并善于接受新思想。亨查德和法弗雷之间的竞争反映了传统的和现代的生产方式的竞争。他们之间的冲突反映了两代人之间的冲突。亨查德的失败和死亡标志着传统农村生活和落后的生产模式的终结。

Key to Exercises in Advanced College Composition

Practice 1

Read the following book report and find out if it contains information about the author, a summary of the story and comment on the story.

1. The author's information is in the first paragraph.
2. The summary is in the second paragraph.
3. From Paragraph three to the end is the evaluation of the student writer.

Practice 2

Read the following passage of nonfiction carefully and write a summary.

In addition to a physical boundary, every living thing has a non-physical boundary which is called “organisms’ territory”. And the act of laying claim to and defending a territory is termed territoriality. We are familiar with the way a dog handles space. He knows the limits of his master’s “yard” and will defend it against encroachment. He also has certain places to sleep. Territoriality is more clearly presented in a female dog with puppies. She reacts differently when an intruder is at different distances from her and her puppies. The same phenomenon can also be found in other vertebrates — fish, birds, and mammals. However, human’s territoriality is the most complex. Though he has the idea of territoriality, he has to keep his real feeling about space due to our culture which has tended to play down or cause us to repress and dissociate the feeling we have about space.

Practice 3

Select a book you have read and write a report of about 300-400 words. Make sure your report should include information about the author, a summary of the story and some comments on the story.

Sinclair Lewis (1885-1951), the author of *Main Street*, is a famous American novelist. He is the first writer who wins the first Nobel Prize of Literature in the U.S.A.

Main Street is a satirical portrait of a typical mid-western small town in the first half of the twentieth century. Lewis sees small town American life as unrelieved boredom.

The novel resolves around Carol Millfird, a young woman from Minneapolis. Carol is a college student with a vague dream of doing something important. She imagines, “I’ll get my hands on one of those prairie towns and make it beautiful... I’ll make them put in a village green cottages, and a quaint

Main Street!" Several years later she marries Dr. Will Kennicott, a physician from Gopher Prairie, and sets off to fulfill her vague dream. Kennicott is a practical, hard working man who wants to accumulate wealth, hunt and fish, and have an adoring wife to make his home his castle. He is a "booster", constantly describing Gopher Prairie as "up and coming", populated with "the best people on earth". The citizens of Gopher Prairie are motivated by "the desire to appear respectable" and controlled by fear of gossip. Above all, they are self-satisfied. Carol is dissatisfied, bored, and bewildered by the town's complacency. She wants to change things, to reform the town. She wants to make it prettier, more democratic, more sophisticated, and more cultured. But Carol is not an effective reformer. She backs away from the slightest criticism and retreats into self-pity.

Carol finally leaves Gopher Prairie to work two years in Washington, D.C. But even there she is unhappy and unable to fulfill her romantic dreams of doing something important. Finally she returns to Gopher Prairie, where nothing had changed, not even she.

Besides the well-organized plot and setting, *Main Street* is an interesting novel because of Lewis's detailed description of the community. The virtue of the book lies in its packed and brilliant detail. It is an attempt, not to solve the American cultural problem, but simply to depict with great care, a group of typical Americans. The image of the American village that Lewis created through details remains pretty. Much the image of the village, most of us still hold today. Though the vivid details of the novel, the characters sometimes seem flat. They are more like caricatures than actual people. Lewis has populated Gopher Prairie with types.

In conclusion, *Main Street* is a successful satire of small-town America. But in his attempt to satirize, Lewis has created types, not characters that hold the reader's attention as real people. Finally, the reader is as bored with Carol as Carol is with Gopher Prairie.

Test and Key

Read the following passages carefully, and write a summary for each one. Then, compare your version with the version given below.

1. Ordinary Aspirin is Truly a Wonder Drug

Americans this year will swallow 15, 000 tons of aspirin. The most popular medicine in the world today, it is an effective pain reliever. Its bad effects are relatively mild, and it is cheap.

For millions of people suffering from arthritis, it is the only thing that works. Aspirin, in short, is truly the 20th century wonder drug. It is also the second largest suicide drug and is the leading cause of poisoning among children. It has side effects that, although relatively mild, are largely unrecognized among users.

Although aspirin was first sold by a German company in 1899, it has been around much longer than that. Hippocrates, in ancient Greece, understood the medical value of the leaves and tree bark which today are known to contain salicylate, the chemical in aspirin. During the 19th century, there was a great deal of experimentation in Europe with this chemical, and it led to the introduction of aspirin. By 1915, aspirin tablets were available in the United States.

A small quantity of aspirin (two five-grain tablets) relieves pain and inflammation. It also reduces fever by interfering with some of the body's reactions. Specially, aspirin seems to slow down the formation of the acids involved in pain and complex chemical reaction that cause fever. The chemistry of these acids is not fully understood, but the slowing effect of aspirin is well known.

Aspirin is very irritating to the stomach lining, and many aspirin takers complain about upset stomach. There is a right way and a wrong way to take aspirin. The best way is to chew the tablets before swallowing them with water,

but few people can stand the bitter taste. Some people suggest crushing the tablets in milk or orange juice and drinking that.

Summary:

Because of its good effect and low price, aspirin, the pain and fever reliever, has become the 20th century wonder drug. It was introduced and spread at the turn of this century. But it has existed for a thousand years. Ancient Greeks cured some disease with certain tree leaves and barks which is known today to have the chemistry of aspirin. Aspirin produces its effects by slowing down the chemical reactions which cause pain and fever. Aspirin also has some side effects, which are usually mild but sometimes dangerous. They can be avoided by right way of taking it.

2. How to Give a Good Speech

So, you have to give a speech — and you're terrified. You get nervous, you forget what you want to say, you stumble over words, you talk too long, and you bore your audience. Later you think, "Thank goodness. It's over. I'm just no good at public speaking. I hope I never have to do that again."

Cheer up! It doesn't have to be that bad. Here are some simple steps to take the pain out of speech making. First of all, it is important to plan. Do your homework. Find out everything you can about your subject. And at the same time, find out as much as you can about your audience. Who are they? What do they know about your subject? Do they have a common interest? Why are they coming to hear you speak? Put yourself in their shoes as you prepare your speech.

Ask yourself the purpose of your speech. What is the occasion? Why are you speaking? Are you introducing another speaker? Moderating a discussion? Giving a lecture? Convincing someone? There are many possible-speaking roles, and each one has its own special characteristics. Make sure you know into which category you fit. Don't spoil your speech by confusing one speaking

role with another.

Let us suppose that you have been asked to introduce the main speaker at a conference. First, find out the most important and interesting things about the speaker. Then, summarize this information in a few remarks. It is all right to tell a joke or an anecdote if it is in good taste and will not embarrass the speaker. And most important, be brief. Remember, you are not the main speaker; you are introducing the main speaker.

If you are a moderator, you should begin by giving a quick introduction of the people on the panel. After that, you should try to keep the discussion running smoothly, and you should try to focus on the connections between speakers. Keep yourself in the background. Don't talk too much, and don't interrupt the panelists. Be tactful and be considerate.

If you are giving a lecture or explaining an idea, gather as many facts as you can on your subject. Spend plenty of time doing your research. Then spend plenty of time organizing your material so that your speech is clear and easy to follow. Use as many examples as possible, and use pictures, charts, and graphs if they will help you make your points more clearly. Never forget your audience. Don't talk over their heads, and don't talk down to them. Treat your audience with respect. They will appreciate your thoughtfulness.

If you are trying to sell something, you will need to convince your audience. Do you want them to vote for Candidate A? Are you offering them a new improved toothbrush? This kind of speech is usually dramatic, but here too; you must do your research and know your facts.

When you are making your speech, try to relax. Speak slowly and clearly and look at people in your audience. Use simple vocabulary and expressions whenever possible. Pause for a few seconds now and then to give your audience a chance to think about what you have said. Make sure that everyone in the room can hear you. If it is a larger room or an auditorium, you will probably have to use a microphone.

Just remember: be prepared, know your subject, your audience, and the

occasion. Be brief. Say what you have to say and then stop. And be yourself. Let your personality come through so that you make person-to-person contact with your audience.

If you follow these simple steps, you'll see that you don't have to be afraid of public speaking. In fact, you may find the experience so enjoyable that you volunteer to make more speeches? You're not convinced yet? Give it a try and see what happens.

Summary:

To give a good speech, you should first have self-confidence and then make a good preparation. That is, you should know the purpose, the content of your speech and the occasion on which your speech is given. You should also know your audience: their purpose, interest and background.

What and how much you should say depend on what role you are to play. For example, if you introduce the main speaker or work as a moderator, you should be brief, just present the most important and interesting things about the speaker or try your best to keep the discussion running smoothly. If you give your lecture, you should find as many relevant materials as possible, have them well organized, have yourself fully understood and give the speech the way that the audience can follow you.

Part Two

The Whole Composition

II. Outline

Tips

An outline is an instrument for controlling the writing of a paper. Before you begin to write, you have to spend some time thinking through the order in which you intend to present your material. Outlining your material is one good way to determine its best organization. Three kinds of outlines are widely used: the scratch outline, the topic outline, and the sentence outline.

Scratch Outline

A scratch outline is a series of notes — single words or phrases — jotted down to refresh your memory as you write. An outline of this sort is useful when time is limited, as when you are writing examinations or brief papers in class. The following is a sample scratch outline.

Topic: The Value of Summer Jobs

Outline:

- I. Earning money for clothes and school
- II. Sense of responsibility
- III. Opportunity to learn about different kinds of jobs
- IV. Develop good work habits and maybe learn practical skills