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考研英语辅导教材丛书

考研英语作文捷径闯关

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前言

为了帮助考生更好地准备考试,也为了使这本书发挥更大的效用,我们从两个方面向考生提出建议。

一、怎样有效地使用这本书

1. 如果你有三个月的准备时间,用一个半月练习写作的基本技巧。俗话说,熟能生巧。基本路子熟了,应用起来才能顺手,才有灵活变通的机会。如果有两个月,用一个月练习。如果只有一个半月,就只能把基础部分通读一遍。

2. 综合练习最好都做一遍。许多语言点上课都学过,心里好像也明白,但是一下笔就错。这都是练习不够的结果,所以要不厌其烦地练。

3. 考试策略部分的练习一定自己先做,再看参考范例。不可只看不练,看着似乎省了时间,但备战效果会大打折扣。

4. 如果你系统地学过写作,这本书是个总复习,巩固你的能力。如果你没有系统地学过写作,这本书正好帮你整体梳理,记住这句话:“纲举目张”。对写作的基本技巧和整体结构有了清楚、熟练的把握,任何一个具体的题目就都能对付。所以拿到这本书不要翻翻看看,动眼不动手。

二、以什么样的心态备战写作考试

1. 英语写作是英语各项技能中最具综合性的一项,考试中最

能体现考生能力的一项。此书是按照英语写作学习的规律和特点编写的,为考生提供了一条英语写作的最佳途径,因此考生在充分利用此书时,再按书中要求多多练习,写作能力会有质的飞跃。

2. 练习写短文的时候少查词典,别老想用难词,半天想不起来的词,尽量用自己熟悉的词、词组和表达方法,别怕平淡和不深刻,写作考试就 30 分钟,能清楚、通顺、完整地表达一个想法就是成功。

编 者
2002 年 7 月

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第一章 写作基本技巧的解析与练习

一、文章的结构

1. 谈文章的结构之前先说说段落,因为文章是由段落组成的。段落的结构一般分三部分:主题句,段落主体,结束句。主题句是点明这段话要说的什么问题 and 怎么说。这句话通常放在段落的开头,是个帽儿。段落主体是具体内容,结束句是对主要内容的小结。如果只写一个独立的段落,刚才说到的三个部分都要有,但是文章中的段落有时不一定要有结束句。

2. 文章的结构跟段落一样,也有开头、中间、结尾。开头的段落中有一句话,叫主旨句(thesis statement),点明文章的主题(thesis);中间部分可以是一个段落,也可以是多个段落;结尾的段落一般是对主体中讨论过的内容做个综述性的总结。各部分长度的安排最好是两头短,中间长。主体部分应占据主要篇幅。这里讲的是文章布局的基本规律,具体操作中要根据具体情况作出变化。比如研究生入学考试的写作题目经常有具体的要求,写的时候就要根据题目要求安排文章的结构。

二、文章的种类

文章主要分为四大类:

1. 叙述文:

叙述文讲述一个事件发生的过程。英文中的 narrative 可以是实际发生的事,也可以是凭空想象的故事。但我们说的“叙述文”一般是讲述真实的事件。叙述文的主要特点是以时间为线把一个个行为串联起来。因此正确适当地使用时间副词、连接词是

叙述文写作的一个基本要求。许多小说家喜欢用倒叙的方法写故事。在文学创作中倒叙是增加故事悬念的有效手段,但是在作文中,特别是考试的作文中,写叙述文的时候最好按照行为发生的顺序叙述,先发生的先说。叙述文一般描述的是过去发生的事情,因此用过去时态。

叙述文的另一个要素是,不能为讲故事而讲故事。叙述一件事要有目的,也就是我们常说的主题。叙述文的主题可以是说明一个道理,也可以是表达一种感受,甚至是逗人发笑。

考试的作文有时不要求考生写一篇纯粹的叙述文,而是举例说明一个问题。虽然不要求像叙述文那样完整,但对事件的描述也应按时间顺序组织。

例 1

Mrs. Egan, 68, shot her daughter, Mrs. Smith, in the neck in March after overhearing talk about putting her in a nursing home. Mrs. Smith was left paralyzed from the neck down. She can speak with some effort but is unable to swallow and needs a feeding tube. • She has no control over her bladder or bowels and runs a high risk of pneumonia, infections, ulcers and bedsores. Mrs. Smith's lawyers had asked the judge last week to let doctors disconnect the ventilator, saying she didn't want to go on living in her condition. The judge met with Mrs. Smith and studied her medical history to make sure that she was mentally competent to make the decision. Mrs. Smith would be removed from the ventilator keeping her alive after 5 p. m. Wednesday and her mother would face murder charges.

例 2

Anthrax Trace Found at FCC Mail Center in Maryland

The US Federal Communications Commission's mail processing facility in Capitol Heights, Maryland, outside Washington, DC, was tested as a routine precaution on Friday, February 1, 2002 and a "scant amount of anthrax contamination" was found and the mail

deliveries there were halted until final test results were available the next week. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said, "the amount of contamination was too small to deliver an infectious dose." FCC spokesman David Fiske said eight contract employees worked at the mail facility. As a precaution, arrangements were made for them to receive antibiotics but "there was no indication of any health problems," he said. The mail facility was undergoing decontamination procedures to make sure there are not any more traces, the FCC said, adding that it will conduct future tests at the facility.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) Friday February

[点评]

例1和例2虽然是叙述体裁,但与我们要写的叙述文不一样。这两个段落属于新闻写作,特点是对客观事实做客观报道,客观陈述某一个事件:发生了什么,怎么发生的,目前事情处在什么样的状况。新闻报道的目的是传播最新的消息,叙述文则是要通过一件事说明一个问题。如果叙述文只简单罗列事实,就成了我们常说的流水账。叙述文一般都要有一个中心思想,或叫主题,整篇文章都围绕着这个主题转,不是为写事而写事,写事为的是讲一个道理、一种观点、一个信念等等。

例3

Before going to Europe on business, Mr. Williams drove his Rolls Royce to a downtown New York City bank and went in to ask for an immediate \$ 5,000 loan. The loan officer requested collateral and so Mr. Williams said, "Well, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce." The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank's underground parking for safekeeping and gave him \$ 5,000. Two weeks later Mr. Williams walked into the bank and asked to settle up and get his car back. The loan officer told him he owed the \$ 5,000 plus \$ 15.40 interest. Mr. Williams gave him a check and started to walk away. "Wait sir," the loan officer said, "you are ob-

viously a millionaire. Why would you borrow \$ 5, 000?" Mr. Williams smiled, "Where else could I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan and pay only \$ 15. 40?"

[点评]

例 3 是一个以情节取胜的幽默故事, 开头和中间部分平铺直叙, 没有悬念, 因此意想不到的结尾就产生了特殊的效果。在纽约市区停车场一小时可收费七八美元, 甚至更多, 而威廉姆斯两周却只花了 15. 40 美元。但是这个故事不是典型的叙述文, 因为它没有作者的声音和评论, 只有叙述没有议论。我们把它做个改动:

I had always been thinking of myself as a shrewd businessman until I met Mr. Williams. One day last summer Mr. Williams walked into my bank in downtown New York City and asked for an immediate \$ 5, 000 loan. I requested collateral and he said, "Well, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce." I promptly had his car driven into the bank's underground parking for safekeeping and gave him \$ 5, 000. Two weeks later Mr. Williams came back to the bank. He said he had just spent two weeks in Europe for his vacation. He asked to settle up and get his car back. I told him that he owed the \$ 5, 000 plus \$ 15. 40 interest. Mr. Williams gave me a check and started to walk away. He was obviously a millionaire and I wondered why he borrowed \$ 5, 000. So I asked him why. He smiled, "Where else could I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan and pay only \$ 15. 40?" I looked speechlessly at Mr. Williams who had turned my bank into a cheap parking lot.

改动之后, 这个故事变成了一个个人经历, 通过叙述这段被人巧妙利用的经历, 作者表达了这样的主题: "我一直以为自己是精明的生意人, 没想到有人更精明。" 这篇文章既有了明确的中心思想, 又有具体的内容, 成为一篇完整的叙述文。

叙述文还有一个不能忽视的问题, 就是适当地使用时间副词或词组。例 3 中作者使用的时间副词有 before, two weeks later,

and。before 和 two weeks later 两个词是必不可少的,指明故事发展的两个阶段。其他的行为主要用 and 连在一起。and 虽然不是时间副词,但在故事中它实际上就是“然后”、“接着”的意思。我们把这段话做点改动,看看时间用语的变化对文章的流畅性有什么影响。

(1) Before going to Europe on business, Mr. Williams drove his Rolls Royce to a downtown New York City bank and went in to ask for an immediate \$ 5,000 loan. The loan officer requested collateral and so Mr. Williams said, “Well, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce.” The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank’s underground parking for safekeeping and gave him \$ 5,000. Two weeks later Mr. Williams walked into the bank and asked to settle up and get his car back. The loan officer told him he owed the \$ 5,000 plus \$ 15.40 interest. Mr. Williams gave him a check and started to walk away. “Wait sir,” the loan officer said, “you are obviously a millionaire. Why would you borrow \$ 5,000?” Mr. Williams smiled, “Where else could I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan and pay only \$ 15.40?”

(2) Before going to Europe on business, Mr. Williams drove his Rolls Royce to a downtown New York City bank. He went in to ask for an immediate \$ 5,000 loan. The loan officer requested collateral. Mr. Williams said, “Well, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce.” The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank’s underground parking for safekeeping. He gave him \$ 5,000. Two weeks later Mr. Williams walked into the bank. He asked to settle up and get his car back. The loan officer told him he owed the \$ 5,000 plus \$ 15.40 interest. Mr. Williams gave him a check. he started to walk away. “Wait sir,” the loan officer said, “you are obviously a millionaire. Why would you borrow \$ 5,000?” Mr. Williams smiled, “Where else could I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan and pay only

\$ 15.40?”

(3) Before going to Europe on business, Mr. Williams drove his Rolls Royce to a downtown New York City bank. Then he went in to ask for an immediate \$ 5,000 loan. The loan officer requested collateral. Mr. Williams said, “Well, here are the keys to my Rolls Royce.” The loan officer promptly had the car driven into the bank’s underground parking for safekeeping. After that, he gave Mr. Williams \$ 5,000. Two weeks later Mr. Williams walked into the bank. He asked to settle up and get his car back. The loan officer told him he owed the \$ 5,000 plus \$ 15.40 interest. Mr. Williams gave him a check. Then he started to walk away. “Wait sir,” the loan officer said, “you are obviously a millionaire. Why would you borrow \$ 5,000?” Mr. Williams smiled, “Where else could I park my Rolls Royce in Manhattan and pay only \$ 15.40?”

改动后的第(2)段只保留了 before 和 two weeks later, 把 and 去掉; 改动后的第(3)段不用 and 而是用其他时间副词来表明动作的先后顺序。(1)段中 before 和 two weeks later 保证了故事的整体情节不乱, 但中间的细节没有 and 做连接, 显得零碎, 不紧凑。而第二种改动用其他副词代替 and 虽然突出了两个行为之间的先后关系, 但显得重复啰嗦。为什么用五六个 and 不觉得啰嗦, 而多加三两个 then、after 就感觉啰嗦呢? 主要是故事本身很短, 里面的句子也都比较短, 描述的动作也很简单, 在这样的情况下用 and 连接两个动作比较自然, 因为 and 是个常用的、不起眼的小词, 不会分散读者的注意力。同时作为连词它使作者不用重复同一个主语, 只把动作描述出来, 使文章读起来连贯顺畅。但是 then 和 after 这样的副词, 一般需要用逗号或句号把它与前面或后面的句子分开, 结果造成较长时间的停顿。在这个小故事里 then 和 after 制造了不必要的停顿, 使句子变得很细碎, 给人啰嗦的感觉, 自然也破坏了文章的流畅性。由此可见, 时间副词的使用要适当, 没有或过多都会影响文章的质量。

例 4

My life in the first five years of my immigration into the United States changed my character. I had been working in a factory, which was the worst period of my life. It wasn't because the job was difficult or strenuous; it wasn't because of the low salary; it wasn't because of the long working hours. It was because of the atmosphere of the factory. Every day from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. , I would sit next to my mother and do simple handiwork. At first, picking out loose threads and puncturing button holes in blouses was fun. But after days and days of performing exactly the same operation, I found it tedious and horrible. In addition to my weariness with the job, I was lonely. Unlike the other workers who were much older than I, I had very little in common with them. Therefore, I seldom spoke with them. Gradually, I became silent and somewhat solemn. Even though I no longer work in that terrible factory, and I've managed to learn and to speak English, I'm still much quieter than I once was.

[点评]

例 4 是一个人回顾自己移居美国后的一段经历。文章不是简单地罗列自己先做了什么工作,后做了什么工作。她讲这段经历的目的非常清楚,就是要说明这几年的生活改变了她的性格。短文的第一句话就点明了主题“移居美国后第一个五年的生活改变了我的性格。”性格是一个综合性的概念,包含多个方面,短文只重点谈到一个方面,作者由爱说话变得比较沉默、严肃。中间部分写了这个变化是怎么发生的,主要有两点:(1)工作单调乏味;(2)与别人年龄差距较大,难以交流,因而很少讲话。最后一句话是对主题的重复,但是把主题更具体化了,也使得中心意思更明晰。注意段落中间有这样一句话:It wasn't because the job was difficult or strenuous; it wasn't because of the low salary; it wasn't because of the long working hours. 如果把这句话划掉,并不影响整篇短文的意思,但是有了这句话后面的“单调”、“孤独”就更突出了。另外,

这句话是个排比句,就有加重语气的作用,强调不是工作难度大、工资低和工时长改变了作者的性格,而是工作的单调和无人交流影响了她。

例4还有一个值得注意的地方是概括的叙述和具体的说明交错合理。首先主题句是一个笼统的句子,后面的其他部分是细节的展开。谈到具体原因的时候又有一句较概括性的话, *It was because of the atmosphere of the factory.* *the atmosphere of the factory* 是抽象的,后边跟着具体的说明直到 *I found it tedious and horrible.* *tedious and horrible* 为 *the atmosphere of the factory* 定性,使这个抽象的概念有了具体的意思,但是 *tedious and horrible* 如果没有具体的内容支撑也是模糊不清的,因为这两个词可以修饰不同的东西,还因为它们表达的是人的主观情感,一个人觉得 *tedious and horrible* 的东西另一个人不一定有同样的感觉。因此加在 *the atmosphere of the factory* 和 *tedious and horrible* 之间的两句话非常重要。最后一个抽象和具体的组合是 *I was lonely* 与后边的解释。*I was lonely* 听起来具体但实际上模糊,没有具体的内容,谁也不知道这是一种什么样的 *lonely*,怎么造成的。抽象的概念和具体说明的组合使文章内容充实,观点鲜明,两个方面缺哪个都达不到这个效果。下面我们把这个段落做些改变,看看会产生什么结果。

(1)

My life in the first five years of my immigration into the United States changed my character. I had been working in a factory, which was the worst period of my life. It wasn't because the job was difficult or strenuous; it wasn't because of the low salary; it wasn't because of the long working hours. It was because of the atmosphere of the factory. I found it tedious and horrible. In addition to my weariness with the job, I was lonely. I seldom spoke with other people. Gradually, I became silent and somewhat solemn. Even though I no longer work in that terrible factory, and I've managed to learn and

to speak English, I'm still much quieter than I once was.

(2)

My life in the first five years of my immigration into the United States changed my character. I had been working in a factory, which was the worst period of my life. It wasn't because the job was difficult or strenuous; it wasn't because of the low salary; it wasn't because of the long working hours. Every day from 9:00 a. m. until 5:00 p. m. , I would sit next to my mother and do simple handiwork. My work was to pick out loose threads and puncture button holes in blouses. Unlike the other workers who were much older than I, I had very little in common with them. Therefore, I seldom spoke with them. Gradually, I became silent and somewhat solemn. Even though I no longer work in that terrible factory, and I've managed to learn and to speak English, I'm still much quieter than I once was.

第(1)段去掉了一些细节,虽然主调没有变,但读起来有些空洞。第(2)段保留了细节,去掉了总结性的、观点性的句子,文章的层次没有鲜明地突出出来。从整体质量上说这两段改过的段落明显不如例4。

例 5

My Automobile Accident

On July 21, 1984, I experienced something I will never forget. I was in a car accident which was all my fault. It was raining and the roads were slippery. I was on my way to see my boyfriend when I decided to stop at a Burger King to get something to eat. Leaving the parking lot, I had to wait until the traffic was clear. A car in the first lane heading northbound had stopped and signaled that it was clear to go. As I started to turn onto the southbound lane, I never saw the stationwagon *speeding toward me. The car's backend hooked my car's front and pulled my car around.* The stationwagon then proceeded down the road and hit a third car.

I just sat in my car and started shaking. It took a few seconds before I realized what had just occurred. I got out of my car and headed towards the front of the car. I couldn't believe what I saw. The car's whole front fender was lying on the ground. The police arrived and wrote up an accident report. The officer lectured me about listening to other people. I should never have pulled out just because the other driver signaled for me to go.

I still think of so many "ifs": if I hadn't stopped to eat, if I had only looked. I learned you shouldn't be in a hurry when you're driving and you shouldn't trust other people's advice.

[点评]

例5叙述了一次撞车事故。这篇短文与例3相似,也是以叙事为主,具体地描写了撞车的过程。短文的最后一小段点明主题“开车不能着急,不能听别人的指挥”。短文的整体结构比较完整,如果跟例3比较一下,我们会看到这篇短文中表达行为先后顺序的用语更为丰富一些。比如:

I was on my way to see my boyfriend when I decided to stop at a Burger King to get something to eat.

Leaving the parking lot, I had to wait until the traffic was clear.

As I started to turn onto the southbound lane, I never saw the stationwagon speeding toward me.

It took a few seconds before I realized what had just occurred.
表示时间关系的常用表达方法。

(1) 从句:

While/As Tom is reading, his brother is watching TV

When /After the water was warm, he turned off the gas.

Before he left the house, he locked the door.

Do not drink the coffee until it cools down a bit.

(2) 分词:

While waiting for his parents, the kid fell asleep.

Having received his BA degree, Jack is now looking for a job.

One must take the test before applying for the job.

(3) 短语:

From 7:00 to 7:30, Mr. Smith would read his morning paper; during this period/at the same time/meanwhile, his wife prepared for the breakfast.

He cleaned every window of the house; afterwards/after that then, he made himself a cup of tea.

2. 描述文:

描述文是通过文字描写向读者再现一个事物。这类文章还可以细分为人物描写、景物描写、物品描写。

(1)人物/动物描写:人物描写可包括面貌长相、衣着穿戴、行为举止、语言谈吐、脾气性格等;动物描写一般要包括身体特征、性情特点、生活习性等。描写过程中各个细节的安排没有固定的模式,但也不是东一榔头,西一棒子。比如描写外部特征一般遵循从上到下或从下到上、从左到右或从右到左等诸如此类的顺序。或者先描写长相、衣着,再描写性格脾气。好的人物描写并不是面面俱到,而是围绕主题有重点地描写。因此为了突出主题,有的时候文章只描写相貌,有时候只描写性格。描写相貌的时候也可能只写眼睛或其他某一部位,描写性格也会聚焦在某一点上。

例 6

They rose when she entered—a small, fat woman in black, with a thin gold chain descending to her waist and vanishing into her belt, leaning on an ebony cane with a tarnished gold head. Her skeleton was small and spare; perhaps that was why what would have been merely plumpness in another was obesity in her. She looked bloated, like a body long submerged in motionless water, and of that pallid hue, her eyes, lost in the fatty ridges of her face, looked like two small pieces of coal pressed into a lump of dough as they moved