



历届大学英语四级作文考试

范文与习作

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北京理工大学出版社

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内 容 简 介

本书共收集 26 个大学英语四级考试作文题,由中美师生共同写出作文 208 篇,每个文题 8 篇。美国师生的作文加有评注以便于理解欣赏;中国教师的作文力求展示写作技巧;中国学生的作文加了修改以标明其典型错误。从比较来看,同一文题下的各篇作文的立意各有千秋,有的直白,有的深刻,不同的视角给人以不同的启示。其表达方式也千差万别,有的幽默诙谐,有的朴实无华,有的啰嗦累赘,有的词不达意,由此勾画出四级写作由低级向高级乃至完美的磨练过程。

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前 言

创造之声往往自言自语,而不是马上考虑正确甚至清晰与否,但是学校的严格训练往往使我们感到难以摆脱对逻辑、语法、拼写等方面的考虑。

——[美]温山特·莱恩·鲁吉欧

我们一共收集到 26 个大学英语四级考试作文题,按考试出现的倒时顺序加以排列,由于手头缺乏翔实资料,个别之处未免失之准确,因此也没有标出文题出现的日期。在有限的考前复习时间内,考生做题总是按时间顺序由近及远,以便首先把握住考试的龙头,这就是我们按倒时排序的理由。

在每个文题下都写有 8 篇作文,依次为美籍教师 2 篇、美籍学生 1 篇、中国教师 2 篇、中国学生 3 篇。头两篇分别为 Heidi Zerbo 硕士和 Pat Schlegel 学士所写;第三篇大多数为俄亥俄大学二年级教育专业学生 Jon Schramm 所写,少数为宾州大学二年级教育专业学生 Craig Deputy 所写;第四、五篇由中国教师所写;第六、七、八篇分别由刚参加过四级考试的中国大二学生所写,全书共收入 216 篇作文。

美国师生的作文的一个鲜明特色在于立意新颖,想象丰富,给人以出奇制胜的感觉。例如关于停电的命题,考生几乎都千篇一律地写突然停电会使现代生活和工作陷入种种不可思议的混乱局面,然而似乎厌倦了美国现代电气化社会的 Heidi Zerbo 女士却大书特书日出而作,日落而息的宁静的田园生活,远离尘嚣,悠哉游哉,真可谓“陶令不知何处去,桃花园里可耕田”。关于考试,Heidi Zerbo 女士呼吁考试太好了,考试太少了,考试的惟一不可

取之处在于给老师增加了大量负担。类似的立意在美国师生的作文里随篇可见,的确让人耳目一新。

不囿于文题的形式结构是美国师生作文的另一特色。四级考试作文一般为三段式议论文或说明文,第一段从正面来论证或说明,第二段从反面来论证或说明,第三段得出结论。现以 1997 年 6 月的作文考题为例:

文题:体育

提纲:1. 体育运动的好处

2. 体育运动的坏处

3. 我的观点

这是一个最具典型的四级写作篇章结构模式,要求先从正面再从反面论述体育运动,最后表述作者的观点。我们从大量的学生习作中发现他们的正反两方面的阐述差不多占了相同的篇幅。然而现实中的体育运动的好处与坏处是不可以等量齐观的。内容决定形式,美国教师 Heidi Zerbo 的这篇作文完全打破了上述的结构模式,全文只有一个段落,极力歌颂体育运动给身心带来的益处,对其不利作用只是轻描淡写,一笔带过,冲破了一种八股文式的思想牢笼,直抒一种勃勃向上的生机,洋溢着奥林匹克那种“更快、更高、更强”的精神,字字句句都生动地表达了作者的观点。

强烈的幽默感,浓厚的生活气息,详略得当的例证,贯穿美国师生作文的字里行间;质朴无华的语言把复杂的心态或事物描写得惟妙惟肖,读来给人一种莫大的享受。

中国教师的作文无论从形式和内容都是较严格地按四级作文的要求来写的,语法结构、遣词造句力求简单达意,内涵和外延力求思想清楚、连贯切题、合乎逻辑,充分展示四级作文的写作技巧,旨在起到一种模范作用。

选入的中国学生的习作大体可分为优、良、可、劣四个等级,大多数在四级作文 6~13 这个分数段上,我们并没有按所谓的理想模式来加以修改,主要是改动了不改就可能丢分的地方,比如把

a lovely heart 改成 a loving heart (一颗爱心), 把 My Most Favorite TV Program (为一次四级作文标题, 与提纲还有相悖之处, 请参看 115 页正文) 改成 My Favorite TV Program, 把 Nowadays you can hardly find a student on the campus with a Walkman 改成 Nowadays you can hardly find a student on campus without a Walkman, 当然有时也顺便把个别可改可不改之处稍加改动, 使之略显更加地道一点儿, 这里把 a student on the campus 中的 the 去掉就是其中的一个例子, 此类问题书本上很少谈及, 我们以为值得一改。可以说这种改动占了一个极小的比例, 而重点则放在修改达意、切题、惯用法等问题上。

由于中西方在文化传统、现代生活、价值取向、语言表达方式等方面存在着巨大的差别, 我们对四位美国作者的作文从文化背景、写作风格、篇章结构、遣词造句等方面作了点评, 旨在说明人们生活的外部环境对人们的思想认识有着多么根深蒂固的影响; 语言是思维工具, 语言的形式取决于思想内容。与中国学生的习作相对照, 读者还可以从中看到对于同一观念的表达, 讲母语的人往往来得简明扼要, 一语中的, 可谓妙手著文章; 而非讲母语的人可能会弄得娇柔造作, 声色晦涩, 弄巧成拙, 有时甚至达到让人不知所云的地步。“妙极了, 语言比什么都有力量, 语言比什么都没有力量。”

达到四级作文的上限水平是粗浅的、基本的写作要求, 这些要求可从我们对学生作文的批改中显现出来。其实作文水平往往最能表现一个学生的思想创新意识与逻辑语法知识, 寻求这两个切入点之间的平衡是在作文考试中取得高分的最佳途径。从这种意义上讲, 中国教师和美国师生在本书中做了一个尝试, 不过切入点有所不同罢了。

实际上, 本书不但是为中、低层次的四级考生编写的, 而且也适合于高层次的四级考生、六级考生、托福考生和有志于在英文写作方面赶上以英语作为母语的大学生的水平。我们深知我们这个

泱泱大国的不同地区甚至同一地区的众多考生在水平上是千差万别的,要想用同一尺度来要求他们从而满足他们的需要又谈何容易,我们必须不懈努力,大胆探索,勇于创新。

本书的编写过程中我们得到了孙茂、刘小栋、闫培培、郑子华等许多同学的参与,弄清他们作文的思想风貌、词语搭配、篇章结构、达意程度,是我们的初衷,也是归宿。与他们讨论切磋如同与美国师生一样,启迪我们的思想,开阔我们的眼界,避免了不少不该犯的错误,使我们再一次感到教学相长的真谛。没有他们此书就会成为无水之源,无本之木。在此我们谨向他们表示最诚挚的谢意。

我们中美师生都为这次合作而感到特别高兴,我们双方正在积极地筹划一个新的有趣的合作项目。

作 者

2000年5月于北京南郊

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1. How I Finance My College Tuition

- a. 上大学的费用可以通过多种途径解决。College tuition can be covered in a variety of ways.
- b. 哪种途径适合于我? Which way is appropriate for me?

1.1 Frankly, I feel that College tuitions are extremely high and am *dreading* that aspect of college when my children are of age. While some parents are able to *foot* the whole bill for their children, most are not. A lot of students take out low interest Student Loans with the government or *credit agencies*. Yet when they graduate from college they are starting out in the world with a *hefty* debt. Academic and athletic scholarships are wonderful, a blessing really! Your college tuition is paid for in exchange for good grades and/or athletic team participation. A lot of students also have part time or fulltime jobs while they put themselves through college. Working and going to school at the same time may be difficult but if it helps your quality of life as an adult it is worth the hardship now. Personally I hope my children are very bright or great athletes so that they'll receive scholarships!

-
- 1. dread 怕, 畏惧
 - 2. foot 支付(账单或费用)
 - 3. credit agency 信贷机构
 - 4. hefty 重的, 沉重的

本文用了排他法:家长支付不起学费,贷款又使刚步入社会的大学生负债累累,这两种途径都不中用;学习奖金、体育奖金则是妙不可言的赞助(blessing),半工半读则喜忧参半,作者希望自己的孩子聪明过人或成为运动健将,惟此才可以解除她的后顾之忧(dreading)。这种写法层次分明,条理性强,重点突出,读之使人感到 scholarship 确实有无法抑止的诱惑力。

1.2 College fees and tuition can be covered in a number of different ways.

Upon graduating from high school, the first thing we think about is how we are going to finance such an expensive education. The fact is if we had begun preparing years ago, we would not be in this situation. The majority of colleges throughout the world offer scholarships ranging from one hundred dollars to a complete payment of your college education. They do this on the basis of your grades, athletic achievement, *community involvement*, and many other variables showing evidence of an outstanding citizen and student. If you are one of the few unlucky ones not to receive a scholarship, there are many other ways to finance your education, including loans, grants, *military benefits*, and working to put your way through college.

-
1. upon 后跟表示动态的行为。属正式用语,通常多用 on。
 2. community involvement 社区服务参与情况。在西方国家,居民经常利用节假日在自己所居住的地区自发地搞一些义务公益服务,如给无家可归者分发食品、衣服,为福利院募集资金等。

3. **variable** 可变量。这里指是否给某个学生提供奖学金要考虑的其他因素。

4. **military benefits** 退役军人享有的特殊待遇。

作者在这里列举了西方国家支付高等教育费用的渠道, 奖学金、贷款、助学金、军队服役后的待遇等。

1.3 College tuition and fees can be covered in a number of ways such as borrowing the money from a bank or a relative. Another way is to apply for scholarships. Some scholarships give you a small amount toward your tuition; others pay for everything. There are thousands of *scholarships available* and it is *to your advantage* to learn of their availability and the process for applying for them. Another common way is to work part time while you are going to college.

I would prefer not to have to borrow money for tuition as this would leave me with a debt waiting to be paid back when I graduate. I would *take advantage of* any scholarships I might be eligible for. *Barring* this, I would take a part-time job. This, of course, might take time from my studies, but I would rearrange my schedule to make sure I have enough time to do the class-work and study for each course. It is very common for college students in America to work part-time jobs while they are in college. Oftentimes, this is the only way they can get a college education.

1. **scholarships available** 可申请提供的奖学金。available 作定语时通常后置。

2. to one's advantage 对...有利

3. take advantage of: make use of 利用

4. barring: besides 除…以外

社会制度和生活方式的不同,人们思维方式和观念上的差异决定着中美两国大学生支付学费的方式以及学费来源的迥然不同。作者列举了三种最为普遍的学费支付方式:借贷、申请奖学金、打工赚钱,并分析各种方式的优劣,表明自己的倾向。其实,她的观点也正是大多数美国人对此问题持有的观点。

1. 4 There are various ways to *get funded for* college education. For most college students in China, their tuition is paid for by their parents who are more eager to have their children receive college learning. A small number of students outstanding for their *academic records* and moral behavior are awarded a scholarship enough to get through college. Some students are either bank loaners or part-time workers. A few lucky ones get support from their relatives or from private companies.

As I know myself, I am not brilliant enough for a scholarship. My parents are farmers and can not afford me tuition. They expect me to support them after I graduate from college, which is my obligation as their child. So I do not want to borrow any money and put myself deep in debt in a few years. The best way for me is to work part time in the field concerning my specialty to get myself supported for college life.

To work while studying, in my case, will give me opportunities to *enhance* my social ability and *professional proficiency*. Early contact with the society will also help me understand its needs and in turn study accordingly. I am

healthy and energetic. To work part time will not hinder but improve my college study.

1. get funded for 得到资助
2. academic records 学习成绩
3. enhance 增强, 提高
4. professional proficiency 职业熟练程度

1. 5 In the past, in China it seems to have been absolutely the parents' responsibility to finance their children's college education. But things are changing. Today, there are several ways for college students to pay their tuition and fees: *taking loans* from government, finding a part-time job to earn the money, getting the money from parents, etc.

And for me, I would like to get through my education by taking loans. I choose this way for the following three reasons. Firstly, I don't want to depend on my parents, as they don't have extra money to pay my education. Secondly, it's not easy to find a proper and *steady* part-time job. Finally, taking loans can assure me to pay the school on time so that I don't always need to worry about whether I can pay the tuition next term; furthermore, I can spend more time and energy studying. So taking loans is the best way for me to finance my college education.

-
1. take loans 贷款
 2. steady 稳定的

1. 6 Nowadays, we should partly pay ^{for} of our college education ^{know} fees. So when we enter college, we must face the fact how to that how can we pay the tuition and fees of college education.

this problem
There are many ways to resolve it. First of all we can get the family family's financial support. Second, some families can partly for their children's college education these children pay of your college education fees, and we may do a part-time job to make money by through themselves to pay the fees. Third, a few of us don't need any of family They may needn't the family's financial support. we make necessary themselves for money all by ourselves to pay the whole tuition and fees of their college education.

As to me, I prefer the second one, because I have owned a of lot science knowledge, which is regarded as the capital of making money. a But I come from the rural area, my family don't have have not

enough money to pay all my college tuition and fees, so I can't get the whole financial support of my family. And I am a student, I must study hard, so I can't put all my energy to do this when I am studying. ^{So} ^{from my school work} Now what I can do is when I'm free, I may get a part-time job to earn money. So at least, I can pay ^{of} my college tuition and fees in part.

1.7 Nowadays in China receiving college education is an ideal ^{access to} ^{for} ^{from} of marching success, especially the students living in the ^{economy is underdeveloped} countryside where ^{economic development is out of date.}

With the development of society and technology, ^{requiring} college education is essential for us because we all have the ^{build} responsibility to ^a construct our motherland and make it more

prosperous country
beautiful and prosperity. Though the increased amount of the
tuition ^{is} and fees has been a difficult thing for us. Then the
it tuition and fees can be solved by all means. For instance, you
may earn a living by doing looking for a job in your free time, or getting
from help from your college. At the same time, you are able to get a
some scholarships offered
great deal of prize which is established to help and encourage
hard working
the students working hard at college

I'm a student from the countryside of Shan Dong province.
have done odd I have taught
At college, I look for a few jobs. For example, teaching home
has helped the first three years of my college
which help me to get through the three years' college lives
have also got a prize
Owing to my hard work, I also get prizes from time to time.
All this is a good help for me too
this help me complete my college study.

1 . 8 Nowadays , college students have to pay part of

their tuition and fees. But how can they afford that since they are not independent enough in finance? Some get ^{all the necessary} (the) support from their parents ⁶ (totally). Some make money by doing part-time jobs to pay part of their tuition and fees. Others devote much of their energy and time to earning money so that they can afford their college study all by themselves.

As far as I am concerned, the second way is more suitable for me. ^{① ②} Because I am a student whose principal task is to study hard. Thus I don't think it's better to put most of or even all my energy into making money. ^{However} (Besides), I come from a rural area and my family ^{do not have} (have no) enough money to support my college study. Furthermore, I have had a lot of knowledge which is the basis of earning money.