

● 名校大学生英语习作系列

南京大学 学生优秀英语作文 选评

Model Compositions
by Students
of Nanjing University

南京大学大学外语部 编

北京大学出版社

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Preface

When Peking University Press inquired if we would be interested in contributing a collection of model compositions by students of Nanjing University, we responded enthusiastically. Our motivation is manifold. But mainly there are four. First, when viewing our students' weekly written assignments, we are often deeply impressed by their wide knowledge, power of creative thinking and personal charm. It is our long wish that more people would have an opportunity to enjoy all this in their writing. Second, we have taught our students to write with an audience in mind instead of their professors only. Now, having maneuvered over a year or two, they eventually have real readers of their own. Writing for authentic readers will make a world of difference in their writing processes and written products and give them invaluable experience in writing. Third, such a collection is a good source of encouragement to other learners, especially those who are more or less of the same age as our students. The rich bank of topics, different writing techniques and varied writing styles are surely to provoke new thoughts and new ambitions on the part of the readers. Last but not least, our country has attached great importance to College English teaching. As a result, the flowers in the garden of College English teaching bloom. It is our responsibility and pride to show ours among them.

All the compositions in the collection are contributed by non-English major undergraduates except two from first year English majors. They were all written in answer to the call for articles for this collection. In spite of the extremely inconvenient deadline for

the papers—just before the beginning of their midterm examination period, the final drafts rolled in. A range of general topics were provided for students to narrow down to their own topics, but they were well welcome to go beyond the boundary and bring up an entirely new topic.

There are two additional principles for our selection to the general principle of choosing the best ones: 1) The composition that adds to the variety of topics will first be considered; 2) The one that opens a new perspective for an existent topic has the priority. Therefore, the readers will not only find a great variety of general topics in the collection, but also see how the same topic is explored by different writers.

Although it is hard for any comments to be free from a commentator's subjective view, we have tried to be as objective as possible in our comments on each composition and offer maximum help to the readers. We have also preserved a few imperfections, both global and local, in the original compositions and given suggestions on how they can be fixed in an effective way. Readers will find that the little touch sometimes suggested in the comments will do wonders to a composition.

In a project of this kind, many people deserve thanks. The primary persons to be singled out are the contributors themselves. Special thanks should be given to Prof. Chen Hai, vice-chair of the Department of Applied Foreign Language Studies, for proof-reading the whole collection. I would also like to acknowledge the full support given to me in the project by all my colleagues in the department and my former colleague Ms. Sun Yuexiu.

Wang Xueli

Department of Applied Foreign Language Studies
Nanjing University

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Watermelon without Seeds

“Diploid watermelon and tetraploid watermelon hybridize and then we’ll get the triploid watermelon without seeds.” I was trying to remember the points of biology. Before the July College Entrance Examinations, I had to review the lessons all day long. But biology was too difficult for me to learn by heart. Though it was very hot during this very period, I dared not turn on the air-conditioner for I was afraid of catching a cold. So I felt hotter and hotter and became so upset that I wanted to tear the biology book into half and throw it into the garbage can.

Just at that time, my mother brought me a large plate of watermelon “without seeds”. She patted me on the back and said, “Have a rest and eat some watermelon. I’ve already eliminated all the seeds for you.” After saying that, she left quietly and let me stay alone. I stared at the slices of watermelon. So many of them and so many small holes in them, and there were no seeds left. During the passed several days after I started the final preparation for the coming examinations, I would lose my temper easily when I came across something difficult. I knew I was out of sorts. But she silently tolerated

