

《英语十句作文法》续篇

WRITING WRITING

英语五段
作文法

蔡基刚 编著

复旦大学出版社

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前 言

托福考试中写作部分的时间是 30 分钟,要求写出一篇 250—300 词的议论文。

雅思考试中写作部分的时间是 60 分钟,要求写出共 400 词的两篇文章。其中一篇议论文规定不少于 250 词。

研究生入学考试的议论文文体的要求自 2000 年起从 150 词提高到了 200 词。

大学英语四、六级考试的作文有增加词数的趋向。

这对于一个习惯于写 100—120 词的四、六级考试作文的考生来说是一个难题,是一种挑战。怎样才能同样短的时间里写出两倍以上词的文章?是单纯词数上的增量,还是在结构上有所变化?此外,在语言上要求是否相同?

本书就是针对读者这些疑问和要求而编写的。

如果说写 100—150 词的文章可以用《英语十句作文法》的模式,那么写 200—300 词的文章就需要用新的模式。《英语五段作文法》就是这样的一种模式,它是《英语十句作文法》的高一级作文模式,因此可以说它们是姐妹作。

这里需要说明的是:《英语五段作文法》决不是《英语十句作文法》简单的重复。它无论从内容方面(篇章结构,语言要求等),还是从安排方面都有所不同。本书共分三大部分:第一部分是篇章篇,主要介绍五段作文的五种基本结构的写法;第二部分是段落篇,重点阐明五段作文的开头、正文和结尾的写法;第三部分是语言篇,着重从用词、用句到修辞方面来谈如何提高文章的质量。

我们希望本书对要写较长并且有一定语言质量的英语作文的

读者有所启迪,同时能对参加高层次英语考试,如大学英语四、六级考试,硕士、博士入学考试,托福、雅思、MBA 或 MBP 考试以及国外留学课程论文的读者有较大帮助。

参加本书编写的还有竹君、荷子、苡兰、郑和、晓华、鲍萍、谢蕙、于芳、李春。

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导 论

五段英语写作是美国大学写作课上普遍向学生推荐的一种写作法。它的特点是结构严谨合理,段落层次分明,观点阐述充分,语言变化生动。特别适合于较高一级的 250 到 350 词的论述文写作。

五段作文,顾名思义,是由五个段落组成的文章。它的基本写法是:

Introduction of Topic Thesis Statement

Topic Sentence Supporting Sentences
--

Topic Sentence Supporting Sentences
--

Topic Sentence Supporting Sentences
--

Conclusion

Restatement of the Thesis

第一段是引言部分。主要是引出文章要讨论的主题,并在段尾写出文章中心思想句(thesis statement),且尽可能点出各段的中心思想和文章发展的方法(the way to develop the essay)。

第二段到第四段是文章的正文部分。这一部分一般分三段(三个方面)来阐述第一段提出的中心思想,每一段以段落主题句(topic sentence)开头,它既说明 thesis statement,本身又被本段 Supporting Sentences 所说明。

第五段是结尾部分。主要是对文章进行归纳和总结。

以下是一个美国大学生用五段作文法写成的 essay:

Living in the Present

About one of humanity's frailties Thomas Wolfe wrote, "He talks of the future and he wastes it as it comes." This observation is related to a principle by which I try to live. **I believe in living in the present because it is futile to dwell on the past, to worry about the future, or to miss anything in the only reality I know.**

It is futile to dwell on the past. What existed or happened in the past may have been beautiful or exciting and may now bring profound and precious memories; but the past is dead, and it is not healthy for living spirits to linger over a world inhabited by ghosts. The past may also be a place of horror, of regret, of spilled milk. However, it is painful and pointless to fixate on a period that cannot be relieved or repaired. It is unproductive self-punishment. The past must be kept in its place, out-lived and outgrown.

It is also useless to worry about the future. People may envision the horrible mushroom cloud; the overpopulated, abused earth gone dead. They may imagine their own lives going away; advancements given to someone else; their houses burned to the ground; everything in their lives, as in a nightmare, slipping away. There is no end to the disasters, people can worry about when focusing anxiously on the future. There are events in the future, including their own deaths, over which they have little or no control, but which can ruin their lives if they worry about them. The only way out is to live well in the present, not simply by worrying about the future.

The present moment is the only reality I know, and I don't want to miss it. The wild cherry cough drop dissolving in my mouth is sweet and soothing. Even my sore throat and backache have meaning. The cool night air, the crackling noises of my furnace, my cat yawning and stretching—these are the tangible realities I can recognize. They exist in this moment, together with my own breathing, and the warm lamp overhead. Along with these are the realities of other people and of all life on this earth, which matter to me now, not at some past or future time.

Everyone needs a sense of history, I think, particularly a feeling for his or her own roots, but history needs to keep its distance to be appreciated. It is also vital to have some sense of direction, which means making plans for the future but not becoming preoccupied with them. **What is most important, I believe, is living in the present,** that is, being alive now.

从安排上看文章结构严谨,条理清楚。第一段以文章中心思想结束:**I believe in living in the present.**而最后一段再次重复:**What is most important, I believe, is living in the present,**这就形成了首尾呼应。第一段又同时点出了下面正文三段的思想:**it is**

futile to dwell on the past, to worry about the future, or to miss anything in the only reality I know. 而下面每一段的第一句主题句又与之呼应。

从语言方面来看文章词汇丰富,句式多变,语言成熟老练。这是一篇写得相当成功的典型的五段作文。

再看一篇一个留美日本大学生经过五段作文法训练后写成的作文:

Japan: The New Superpower

With the breakup of the Soviet Union and the U. S. economy just coming out of a recession, Japan is in line for superpower status. In the world market, even in the American domestic market, "Made in USA" has been replaced by "Made in Japan" as a mark of a quality product. **Japanese high-tech consumer products are able to dominate the world market because the Japanese are hard working, technologically oriented, and diligent in their efforts to improve products.**

First of all, we know that the Japanese work very hard, often sacrificing their free time to their jobs. According to one report, the Japanese work an average of 42 hours per week while Americans work an average of 35 hours a week. These extra hours certainly increase Japanese productivity and gain an competitive advantage. It is the hard work that contributes significantly to the incredible growth of their industries,

Secondly, the Japanese labor is technologically oriented. For example, many Japanese work as engineers, technicians, or scientists rather than social workers. Most Japanese students choose to major in high-tech fields instead of the humanities. By contrast, the U.S. is less materialistic than Japan. A sizable percentage of Americans work in the areas of humanities and social work. Many college students pursue their

dreams instead of profits, majoring in the fine arts, history, and philosophy.

Finally, the Japanese attach much importance to research in an effort to improve their products. For example, well-known Japanese companies finance research work both at home and abroad. Many projects in the American universities like MIT, Stanford, and Cal Tech are funded by Japanese companies who intend to use the research to produce more high-quality products.

In summary, the Japanese can dominate the world market, including the American domestic market, because of their work ethic, technological orientation and their emphasis on research. As a result, high-quality Japanese products have taken the place of American ones to spread to every corner of the world.

仔细分析这两篇外国人写的五段作文,我们不难看到这种模式的作文对篇章结构和语言运用都有较高的要求。

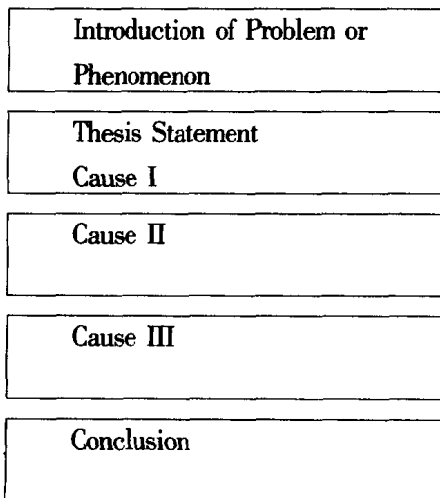
一、篇章篇

五段作文只是一个统称,而具体的写法因写作的目的、要求不同,可有不同的篇章结构。根据英语托福、雅思、研究生入学和大学英语六级等命题形式,一般有下面这些结构:1)解释原因,2)分析影响,3)对比比较,4)评论事物,5)介绍方法等等。

1. 解释结构

1.1 解释原因

解释现象,分析原因是英语写作中常见的结构。这种作文主要是对某种社会(自然)现象,问题的出现或发生原因进行解释。在五段作文模式中,它的基本结构如下:



可见这种结构主要有两大部分。第一部分也就是引言段,即把要解释的问题或现象描写和表示出来;第二部分也就是正文段,解释和分析问题或现象出现的原因。

如:

P.I Phenomenon: Some big changes in people's diet have taken place in the last twenty years.

P.II Cause I: People now enjoy a higher standard living.

P.III Cause II: There are a rich variety of foods available everywhere.

P.IV Cause III: People come to believe that a balanced diet is important.

PV Conclusion: Changes in people's diet will be greater in the future.

我们来看下面一篇作文:

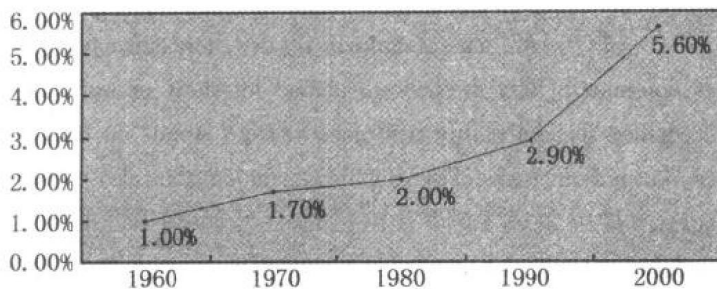
Task 1

You are allowed 40 minutes to write an essay about 250 words on the following topic.

Since 1980, divorce rate in China has increased rapidly as shown in the following graph.

What are the causes for it?

Percentage of People Who Got Divorced During the Years between 1960 to 2000



Sample Answer

Divorce in China

- 1) In recent years China has experienced a dramatic increase in the divorce rate. According to the chart given, during the last decade, the divorce rate in some big cities has increased as much as it had in the entire previous thirty years. In 1960 there were only one divorced person for every 100 married people, and thirty years later the rate was 2.9 percent. But by 2000 the rate jumped to 5.8 percent. (第一段是通过对图表数据的描写把近十年来离婚率大幅度上升的现象表示出来)
- 2) The upward trend in divorce reflects three important changes in our society. (这一句是文章的中心思想句,对造成离婚率上升的原因总的概括,然后用 three important changes 交代了随后的正文发展方向) The most significant one is the change in social attitude towards the divorced people. (主题句) In the past the act of divorce itself was considered a social stigma. Even if a couple had already lived separately, they dared not to seek divorce. Now that divorce has become socially acceptable, you won't be looked down upon just because you are a divorced person. (原因 1:人们对离婚观念的转变)
- 3) Second, the change in personal economic activities also facilitate divorce. (主题句) Millions of farmers flooded into cities to seek jobs, and thousands of city dwellers go abroad for study or work. The unprecedented social mobility has placed severe strains on married couples, not only in terms of geographic separation, but also psychological change. (原因 2:民工潮和出国热的社会流动对家庭的压力)
- 4) Finally, legal changes have greatly simplified divorce procedures. (主题句) In the past suing for a divorce was the most difficult thing ever