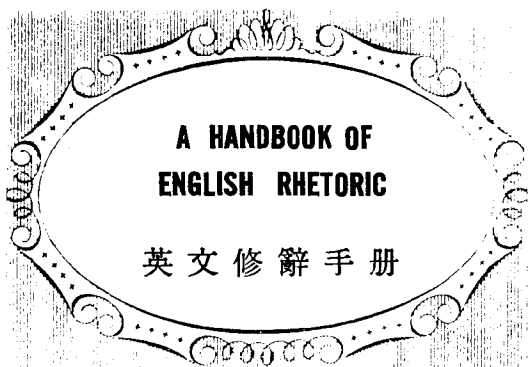


A Handbook of
English Rhetoric
英文修辭手冊

· 香港萬里書店出版 ·

by Helen Ng

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前 言

學英語的人，都有這樣的要求：怎樣把文章寫得更好，把詞句寫得更美麗動人？——這關係到修辭的問題了。

談到修辭，有人會給“修辭學”這個名詞所嚇退。但我們並不提倡先讀修辭學而後學寫作，也不需要把修辭問題搞得那末專門化。我們談的是一般修辭的方法。

有一位學者說得好：

“Grammar is the law of the language, considered as language; rhetoric is the art of language, considered as thought. Grammar tells what is correct; rhetoric tells what is effective and pleasing.”

（文法是語言的法則，是從語言本身來說；修辭是語言的藝術，則是從思想方面來說。文法告訴我們什麼是“對”與“不對”的問題，修辭學則告訴我們怎樣更有效果和使人好感。）

可見修辭是一種藝術，也是寫作的一種技巧。如果我們把它簡要地、通俗地介紹出來，使讀者易

於掌握這些知識，那末，對於提高寫作能力，是很有幫助的。而這也就是本書編寫時的一個嘗試。

爲了方便閱讀起見，本書編爲一本手冊，篇幅不多，只分爲字法和句法兩部分。字法部分介紹怎樣選字，怎樣使文字簡潔、生動，怎樣運用比喻、成語等。句法部分介紹修辭的原則，怎樣使句子完整，怎樣運用修飾語等等。除分類外，本書着重示例，指出哪些例句爲什麼寫得不好，哪些句子才算完美。還有習題可供自學者練習。總之，我們希望這個小冊子有實用的價值。能否達到這個要求，只有請讀者們見證了。

本書編寫時間匆迫，錯漏難免，還望讀者多多指正。

伍海倫

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字 法 (DICTION)

我們做文章，總是積字成句，積許多句而成段，積許多段而成文。文章的好不好，要看字用得好不好。英國一個文學家說過：“什麼是很好的句子呢？不過是適當的字擺在適當的地方罷了。”我們談修辭的第一步，先從用“字”談起，而用字、選字，我們有下列幾個原則。

1. 簡 潔 (Conciseness)

注意用字簡潔，相同意思的字，應當刪掉。

例 一：

There were three of us who had cars.

我們每濫用“there is……”。因為中文口語裏慣用一個“有”字。這句話，很容易說成“我們當中有三個人有汽車。”其實，只要改成下列的樣子，便詞簡意清了。

Three of us had cars.

例 二：

John caught sight of a dog. It was a small dog. It was also a pug. It was barking at him. He disliked dogs. More than any other dog, he disliked a small pug dog.

這句子提到的“dog”(狗)很多，冗贅得很。

較 佳：

John caught sight of a pug that was barking at him. He disliked dogs, especially a pug.

約翰瞥見一隻鬆毛狗，正向他吠着。他不喜歡狗，尤其是鬆毛狗。

怎樣才可以達到簡潔的目的？下面各點可供參考。

(1) 生 動 (Vividness)

選擇恰當的字，給人以生動的印象。

例 一：

The audience got up because the theatre was on fire.

劇場起火，觀眾站起來。

較 佳：

The audience rushed for the doors because the theatre was on fire.

劇場起火了，觀眾都湧向門口去。

劇場起火，觀眾斷不會只是站起來，那是不符合事實的。給換上了“*rushed for the doors*”，便給人一個鮮明、生動的感覺了。

例 二：

This washing powder will be a delight to your soul forever.

這種洗粉永遠使你精神上愉快。

除非是誇張了的廣告術語，否則這種話是使人作嘔的。

較 佳：

You will always be pleased with this washing powder.

你會常常喜用這種洗粉。

(2) 經 濟 (Economy)

要簡潔，那便要注意用字的“經濟”原則，換言之，要避免冗贅的、多餘的文字。

例 一：

The plot of the story was a very exciting one.

這個故事的情節是一個很緊張的情節。

較 佳：

The plot of the story was very exciting.

這個故事的情節很緊張。

例 二：

Since most of my father's customers consist of those who are French and English, I acquired a knowledge of both languages.

由於我父親的顧客包括有那些人，他們是法國人和英國人，因此我獲得了兩種語言的知識。

較 佳：

Since most of my father's customers are French and English, I acquired a knowledge of both languages.

由於我父親的顧客，大部分是法國人和英國人，因此我獲得了兩種語言的知識。

運用短語 (Phrases) 代替子句 (Clauses)，達到簡潔的目的(含義一樣)。

例 三：

While I was playing tennis, I decided that I would go for a swim in the lake.

當我正在打網球的時候，我決定要到湖裏游泳去。

較 佳：

While playing tennis, I decided to go for a swim in the lake.

動詞被動語態 (Passive voice) 比主動語態

(Active voice) 累贅，如非必要，可以避免。

例 四：

Several times during the term he was asked by the professor whether the lesson had been prepared.

這學期內有好幾次他被教授提問他有沒有準備功課。

較 佳：

Several times during the term the professor asked him whether he had prepared his lesson.

這學期內好幾次教授問他有沒有準備功課。

有些不必要的引進句子的套語，可以畧掉。

例 五：

It is often the case that a man will spend more money than he makes.

常常會有這種情形，人們花錢比他收入爲多。

較 佳：

A man will spend more money than he makes.

人常入不敷出。

語氣含糊，不肯定，被動口氣用得太多。

例 六：

In general, it may be said under ordinary circumstances that it will be found safe to say that.

一般來說，在通常情形下，可以說這樣說是妥當的。

較佳：

It is probably safe to say that.

這樣說可能妥當些。

有些重複意義的字眼，應刪掉。

例 七：

He called me up on the telephone this morning.

今晨他用電話打電話找我。

較佳：

He telephoned me this morning.

例 八：

She is attractive in appearance, but she is rather a foolish person.

她外表雖很動人，却是一個相當愚笨的人。

較佳：

She is attractive, but rather foolish.

她雖很動人，却很笨拙。

例 九：

The doctor was a strong factor in

Joseph's recovery.

醫生是有力的因素使約瑟恢復健康。

此句不如改寫爲“醫生幫助約瑟恢復健康”更爲恰當。

The doctor aided Joseph's recovery.

例十：

In the circumstance of John returning, we must give up the money.

如果約翰回來，我們必須把錢財放棄。

此句改用“If”，就更簡單、自然。

If John returns, we must give up the money.

例十一：

He was conveyed to his place of residence in an intoxicated condition.

他飲醉被攙回家。

較佳

He was carried home drunk.

例十二：

The child's spirit gently released itself from the body.

孩子的靈魂靜悄悄地離開了他的身體。

此句用了這樣多的字來寫孩子死去，讀了不免使人厭煩，不如簡單地寫出來。

較佳：

The child died.

例十三：

The famous author was not altogether beloved by every inhabitant of the village.

這個著名的作家，不是每一個村民都愛他的。

這樣轉彎抹角地描寫，不如改寫簡單些。

較 佳：

Some villagers hated the famous author.

例十四：

In my case, the factor I had to consider was the tuition.

這句原意是“我必須考慮授課的問題”，用 “In my case”, “the factor” 等字，用得很不自然。

較 佳

I had to consider the tuition.

例十五：

He never could bring himself to tell an untruth.

他永不能說謊了。

較 佳

He never could tell a lie.

例十六：

Anderson passed away during the night.

安德遜在夜晚逝世。

較 佳：

Anderson died during the night.

例十七：

He selected a hat for his wife; by the way, it was a red one.

他爲他的太太選購一頂帽，這頂帽是紅色的。

較 佳：

He selected a red hat for his wife.

用字經濟，要多看多寫，才曉得怎樣才用得經濟，怎樣才用得好。這裏再舉出一些例子。

例十八：

The man walked very hastily down the street.

一男人急步在街道上。

較 佳：

The man hurried down the street.

比較之下，就知道下句比上句簡潔得多。

例十九：

People who have paralysis have received some relief from these springs.

患中風病者，利用這些溫泉，症狀得到減輕。

較 佳

Paralytics have received some relief

from these springs.

例二十：

A great per cent of stenographers lack the ability of being able to write well.

這些速記者，大多數寫字技能欠佳。

較 佳

A great per cent of the stenographers lack the ability of writing well.

原句中“ability”和“being able”是重複的，必須刪改才簡潔。

例廿一：

In comparison with the writing of compositions, the reading of literature was not as trying.

讀文學作品不比寫文章那麼困難。

較 佳：

Reading literature was not as trying as writing composition.

例廿二：

On more than one occasion during my basic training, the whole group was called together by the commanding officer for the purpose of giving us an opportunity to ask him questions pertaining to our problems.