



辅助用书系列

TOP 10 SECRETS

TO EXPRESS OPINIONS
IN THE IELTS EXAM



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编著

Nicholas Krippendorf

卢小萍

翻译

雅思备考 成功秘诀

表达篇

北京语言大学出版社

**Top 10 Secrets
to Express Opinions in the IELTS Exam**

雅思备考成功秘诀

——表达篇——

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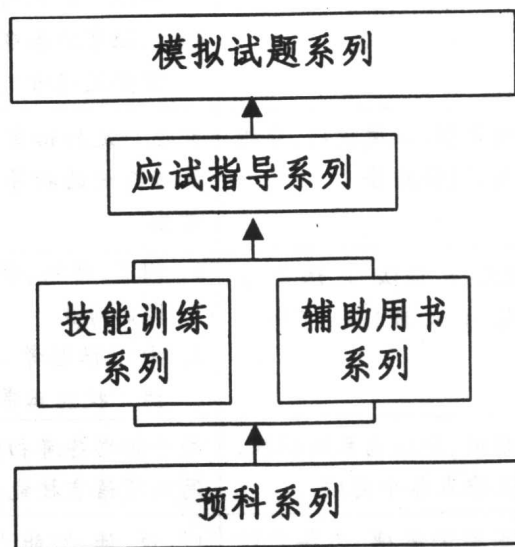
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致雅思考生

自1992年北京语言大学出版社出版了中国第一本雅思辅导教材迄今已有十多个年头了。为了适应雅思考生急剧增长的形势,十余年来北语社雅思精品迭出。如今北语社雅思图书已达几十种,分为五大系列,形成了相当的规模;品种齐全,适合不同英语基础、不同需求的雅思考生。“北语雅思”已经成为雅思界的知名品牌和首选图书,被专家和考生誉为雅思图书之精品。

北语雅思方阵



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4. **质量优秀**——北语社雅思图书的编写、编校,音带的制作、出版质量上乘,受到广大读者的好评。

为了便于考生选用我社的雅思图书,下面对北语社雅思用书各系列的主要功能及适用对象作一个简要的说明。

北语社雅思用书功能及适用对象

	系列	功能	适用对象
1	模拟试题	模拟测试,实战演练	1. 想了解自己目前水平以及哪些方面存在差距的考生 2. 已经掌握各项语言技能及应试技巧,需要进行考前实战演练的考生
2	应试指导	剖析题型,点拨技巧,分析错误,提供指导	经过一定的语言技能训练,但由于缺乏正确有效的指导,训练效果不够理想的考生
3	辅助用书	(词汇 + 语法 + 语音 + 表达 + 心理) × 辅导	1. 词汇、语法、语音、表达等方面比较薄弱的考生 2. 由于雅思考试造成的心理压力影响语言技能正常发挥的考生
4	技能训练	分题型、分技能系统训练,重点难点各个突破	处于雅思备考初级阶段,英语听、说、读、写四项语言技能缺乏系统训练的考生
5	预科系列	提高英语基础,为备考雅思做好准备(雅思入门书)	听、说、读、写能力与雅思考试基本要求存在一定差距的高中生、大学低年级学生等

希望考生根据自己的特点和实际情况选择适合自己的雅思用书。相信“北语雅思”定能成为广大雅思考生的良师好友,帮助考生加快走向成功的步伐!

北京语言大学出版社

Preface

You hate tests! We know that—but isn't it a great feeling when you do well or better than you expected on them?

The reason you fear the IELTS, actually any test for that matter, is because you don't understand it. Madame Currie once said, "Nothing is to be feared—only to be understood". Once you understand something you need not fear it any longer. We want to help you understand this test and fear it a whole lot less.

This book is titled "Top 10 Secrets to Express Opinions in the IELTS Exam". I know, the word 'secrets' seems over-sensational, but all skills contain secrets—table tennis, computer games, business—you name it! They are secrets because you are not told them in the beginning. For example, people tell you lots about how to hit different shots in table tennis and how to hold your racket, but no one tells you the really psychological skills that make the difference. The professionals learn them along the way and sometimes you do too, but it sure helps when you come across people who share tips that allow you to learn just a little faster. That is merely what this book is meant to do.

This book is not meant as a way of feeding you with model questions and answers. There are lots of books out there that do a good enough job of doing that already and, to tell you the truth, we really wonder whether it works that well. The IELTS is a skill-based test. Topics always change but the basic skills tested are pretty stable. It is like an old saying in Chinese "Huan Tang bu huan yao". The soup changes but the medicine doesn't.

The approach we take is to tell you the most important secrets in the simplest and most entertaining way possible. We know you've been told, "No pain no gain"—but do you really need so much of it? We believe you don't need to confuse people to impress them,

nor do you need to scare people to death to motivate them. Our insights into the IELTS are from experience and observation. We've tested and taught people and know what the major problems and obstacles are. This book communicates with you as if you were one of our students in one of our lectures.

There are 4 books in our skill series, each focusing on a specific skill loaded with sub skills. The book you have in your hands right this very moment is designed to help you express opinions in both the speaking and writing IELTS exams.

We would like to thank all the students and examiners who contributed information. As well we would like to give special thanks to our editor, Gu Wentong, who helped do an admirable cleanup job on the book, as well as our fine translator, Lu Xiaoping, who did a remarkable job of putting it into Chinese in a way that made sense.

We wish you joy as you read along.

Authors,

Nevin Blumer

Nicholas Krippendorf

前言

你讨厌考试！你不说，我们也知道——但是，当你考得不错或者考得比预计的要好的时候，那种感觉是不是很美妙？

你害怕雅思考试，事实上，你害怕所有此类考试，究其原因，还是你对此类考试不了解。居里夫人曾说过，“凡事只要了解了，也就没有什么可怕的了。”一旦了解了，你就不会再害怕。正因为如此，我们想帮助你了解雅思考试，大大减少你的恐惧感。

本书的书名是《雅思备考成功秘诀·表达篇》。我知道使用“秘诀”这个词似乎有点耸人听闻，但不管哪项技能，打乒乓球也好，玩电子游戏也好，做生意也好，只要你能想得到的，都有各自的秘诀。之所以称其为秘诀，是因为开始时没有人告诉你这些信息。例如，打乒乓球时，人们会告诉你许多不同的抽球的方法，以及如何握拍的技巧，但没有人从心理学的角度教你如何打好乒乓球，而这却会影响最后的成败。职业运动员心理素质的训练与技术训练是同时并进的，有时你也许会进行同样的训练，但如果有人能与你分享一些小窍门，使你学得更快，这不无裨益。这也正是本书的宗旨。

本书的目的不在于给你填灌大量的试题和答案。市面上尽是这样的书籍，完全能够满足这方面的需求。说句实话，我们还真不知道那些书籍是否确实像所说的那样有用。雅思考试是一项注重技能的考试，考试的题目永远在变，但需要考查的基本技能却是不变的，这就像中国的一句老话所说的：“换汤不换药”。

我们所采取的方法是，尽量以一种简单明了、寓教于乐的方式把最重要的秘诀告诉你。我们知道，你学过“没有耕耘，就不会有收获”这句格言，但确实需要那么辛苦吗？我们认为既没有必要通过把考生弄糊涂来引起他们的重视，也

没有必要通过吓唬考生来激发他们的积极性。我们对雅思考试的深刻了解来自于丰富的经验与细心的观察。我们测试过考生,教过考生,知道他们的主要问题和障碍是什么。在本书中,我们和你就像是和自己的学生那样进行着交流。

这套技能训练丛书共含四册,每册书分别针对一种具体技能以及更进一步细化的许多技巧。你现在手上拿着的这本书旨在帮助你在雅思口试和写作试题中表达观点。

我们感谢为本书的编写提供信息的所有学生和考官。我们还要特别感谢本书的编辑顾文同,对本书的文稿进行了令人钦佩的编辑加工,以及本书的翻译卢小萍,出色地完成了本书的中文翻译。

愿本书带给你无穷的乐趣。

作者:奈文·布鲁默
尼古拉·克里品朵夫

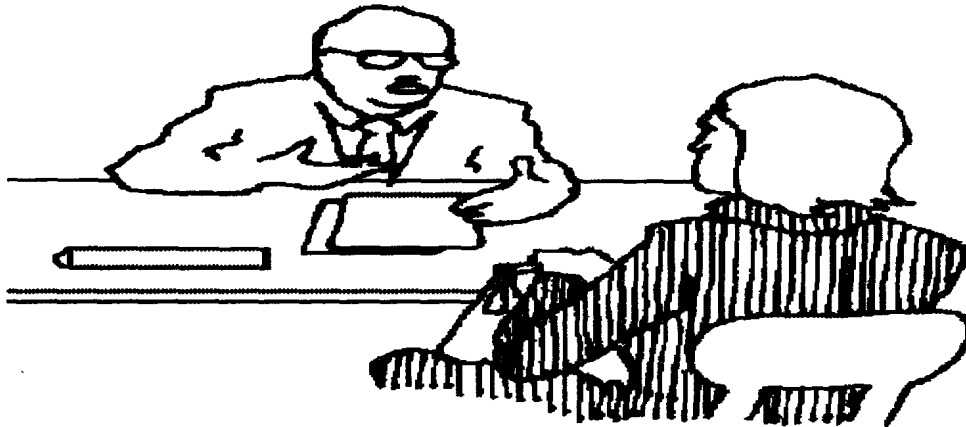
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Introduction



I know you wish that the interviewers wouldn't ask you for opinions or explanations. You wish the writing topic was a story or personal statement.

I think the IELTS test should focus on the topics that Chinese can relate to. I think it is unfair to be asked the things we haven't thought about before.

Justin, 23, Beijing

I've heard this argument a lot. I understand that IELTS may ask certain issues that may be more popular in the West. But think of the big problem that university professors might have when they hold an interactive discussion.

Professor: Ok, class. I would like to ask you what do you think some possible reasons are for the economic decline that occurred during the early 80s in America. Anyone cares to give me your ideas?

[Long pause]

Professor: Anyone?

[Long pause]

Professor: Please!

[Another long pause]

Professor: How about you in the red shirt sitting in the front row?

Student: I have no idea.

Professor: Can you at least guess?

Student: No.

You can imagine how frustrated a professor would be after realising that no one could express his or her ideas or thoughts. A future employer hiring an immigrant may feel the same way. So it is necessary for IELTS to focus on your ability to express ideas and opinions. We do not just want people who can express facts and wishes—we want people to engage in higher order thinking.

Think, think, think!



Well, I do sympathise with people who feel frustrated. After all, I have seen my students make wonderful arguments in Chinese and display all the rhetorical skills of a philosopher and a lawyer. However, when they speak English they may “clam up”. Why?

Here is an e-mail I received from a student.

Hi Nevin,

I hope you are well. I am fine but I am still afraid of my IELTS exam. It is next month. My biggest fear is Stage 3 and the writing part, especially the second section.

I think I have many opinions to offer but I can only do it in Chinese. What can I do?

Thanks.

Patty

The problem is that opinions and explanations require more challenging forms of English. Unfortunately, many students have not had enough practice and experience using that kind of English.

The answer to your problem lies in getting the right practice. If it were as simple a matter of going out and getting as much practice as you can then you wouldn't need to even read this book. However, the question is how to express and what to express and that takes a little bit of guidance, especially since you don't have that much time.

By the way, I did answer Patty's letter.

Hi Patty,

I understand your worries but that won't change the fact that you are going to get lots of these kinds of questions. Your skills will improve the more you practice them.

Opinions and explanations are emphasized because these are the skills that you will find important. I would suggest that you focus your preparation on expressing opinions and explanations on a variety of topics and learn how to handle unfamiliar topics.

You do not need special knowledge, and you just need to know how to guess. Haven't you ever given an explanation to someone even when you weren't really sure?

Take care and let me know if you have any more difficulties.

Nevin

Keep Things Simple



I can't say this enough—IELTS is a test of your skills not your knowledge. That means that when you are expressing yourself in the speaking or the writing exam you have to demonstrate your skills. If you are not able to express very complicated forms then keep your expressions simple.

Remember that you have a brilliant adult mind with a child's English. Compromise a bit. You cannot expect to translate complicated expressions in Chinese into English.

Does that mean you can only say simple sentences? Some students ask me "Won't that affect my score?" The answer is that you do not need to even think about simple and complicated sentences because this should never be an issue. The issue is instead about which structures you feel most comfortable with. If you feel comfortable with a particular grammatical structure then choose it over one that you don't.

I remember marking a student's mock IELTS writing exam and looking over 2 compositions a student had written. The first was done reasonable well. It was a written explanation for a graph. The second one was, in a word, terrible. There were countless horrible grammar mistakes but that wasn't the big problem. The biggest problem was that I just could not understand what she was trying to say. She had attempted to use a formula that she got from a school to write sophisticated adverbial terms and she was trying to overuse the passive and neutral tone in her writing. Below are some of her sentences and I will let you judge for yourself.

1. *In these current days, it is often mentioned that women's role is so strong and not to be in keeping with traditions that are binding upon the family structures.*

2. *It cannot be denied that women's progression is on the whole has benefit. On the other hand it is also be a fact that it carries with it some faults.*

3. *From what I have just mentioned, then it is clear that women must to do more and more of the traditional role which it has undertaken in the previous situation.*

Do you understand what she was trying to say? Well, I didn't at first, I must admit. I had to put on my decipher thinking cap and translate this into English.

I came up with this:

Sentence one: These days, many people say that women's stronger role challenges the traditional family structure.

Sentence two: Most people realize that women's progress is good but there are some bad elements.

Sentence three: I think it is clear that women should follow their traditional role more.

I didn't show her my own translations. Instead, I advised her first to write all her sentences in child's English. She protested and said that she had heard that if you wrote simple sentences you could not get more than a 5 in the IELTS test. Since I had heard that a billion times before I decided to ignore the comment.

She did and submitted an essay that was much clearer. She also admitted that as she was writing she was able to combine simple sentences into compound sentences. I actually knew that would happen because I had this instinct from experience that she would not feel comfortable only writing the most basic sentences. Even when she attempted to write simple sentences she ended up making reasonably long sentences.

It went something like this: (I have corrected some of the grammar mistakes.)

TOPIC: *Women's role has changed. Do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?*
Discuss.

Women's role has changed. We cannot deny this. Some say this is not a good thing. They think that it has damaged traditional family structures. I think they are right. These are my reasons.

There are some benefits of women working. These benefits may be important. However, they are not as important as our children. Women are the traditional caretakers of children. We used to be the only people looking after children. Now many mothers have careers. They spend less time with their children. They give the children to maids and relatives. This is not good for a child.

The second reason is that women are meeting other people and spending less time with their husbands. Husbands become jealous. When a husband feels powerless the relationship gets worse. I think women should devote their time to making the family happy. Working outside increases the chances of divorce because the women have more opportunities to meet others.

I think for the reasons I have discussed women should think about devoting more time to their families. They should give up their careers and stay home.

Her opinions were very old fashioned and I don't agree with them but that doesn't matter. What matters is that she wrote with much more clarity. I now understood her position.

She was surprised when I told her that this 'simple' essay would land her about a 6, while the previous, sophisticated essay would probably get a 4, if the marker was kind.

In writing and speaking, we communicate for practical reasons. Therefore, we use communication with which we feel comfortable. The reason that academics and intellectuals use more complex language when they speak and write is because they are more comfortable with it and they know how to use it effectively. It helps them express their thoughts better.