

常春藤英语考试研究组

英语专业八级

作文指南

**A Guide to the
Writing
in TEM 8**

8



上海交通大学出版社

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常春藤英语考试研究组 编 著

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内 容 提 要

本书是根据《英语专业八级考试大纲》，专门为参加英语专业八级考试的考生编写的一本作文考试应试书。书中分析了考生作文中常见的错误，讲解了写作技巧，提供了历年实考作文、八级作文套路及八级模拟作文 120 多篇。本书具有很强的针对性及可操作性，可使广大考生在短时间内迅速提升自己的作文水平和作文得分。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语专业八级作文指南/常春藤英语考试研究组编
著. —上海:上海交通大学出版社, 2004
ISBN 7-313-03491-1

I. 英… II. 常… III. 英语—写作—高等学校—水平考试—自学参考资料 IV. H315

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 081040 号

英语专业八级作文指南

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上海交通大学出版社出版发行

(上海市番禺路 877 号 邮政编码 200030)

电话:64071208 出版人:张天蔚

上海交大印务有限公司印刷 全国新华书店经销

开本:880mm×1230mm 1/32 印张:7.75 字数:217 千字

2004 年 1 月第 1 版 2004 年 1 月第 2 次印刷

印数:3051~6100

ISBN 7-313-03491-1/H·707 定价:11.50 元

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前言

英语专业八级考试(TEM8)是目前国内难度最大的英语水平考试。对多数考生来说,其中的作文项目是最大的难点之一。本书是专门为英语专业八级考生编写的一本有的放矢的作文应试书,具有很强的针对性和可操作性。水平高一些的同学可以通过阅读本书的范文,熟悉八级考试作文的要求和套路,在考场上超常发挥自己的水平;水平不太高的同学更是可以通过研读这些范文,在短时间内迅速提升自己的作文水平和作文得分。

本书主要包括:

1) 英语专业八级考试作文大纲要求、评分标准;针对英语专业八级考试作文的写作技巧概述。编者依据自己的教学经验,针对多数同学英文写作的弱点、难点,介绍了相关技巧,虽不面面俱到,但却有的放矢。

2) 历年英语专业八级考试作文真题及参考范文;符合考试要求的专业八级模拟作文范文 140 余篇。很多模拟作文题目提供了两篇甚至更多的范文,其观点、风格各异,更能开阔考生的思路,提高应试能力。这些范例与八级考试的要求完全一致,可供考生参考、模仿,以便在考场上发挥出自己的最高水平。

本书大部分参考范文承蒙与编者一起任教的多位外籍教师审阅,谨此一并表示真诚的感谢。虽经反复校阅,难免还有疏漏,望读者不吝赐教。

常春藤英语考试研究组

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第一部分 英语专业八级考试作文概述

一、英语专业八级作文考试大纲要求

① 能根据所给题目或阅读一篇发人深思的短文后,根据要求来完成短文。

② 写作速度为每小时 300 词左右,题目一般会给出,几乎全是议论文,而且紧密结合大学生的思想实际和社会的热点问题,如 The Impact of the Internet on People's Way of life/Competition or Cooperation/One Major Problem in the Process of Urbanization 等。

二、英语专业八级考试写作评分标准

1. 叙述文、描写文评分等级表

	优秀 (100~90 分)	良好 (89~80 分)	中等 (79~70 分)	及格 (69~60 分)	不及格 (59 分以下)
思想内容 (50%)	包含所有重要的、必不可少的内容,没有任何无关紧要的或不切题的内容	包含所有重要的内容,有些无关紧要的或不切题的内容,但无伤大体	遗漏了一些重要内容,有较多无关紧要或不切题的内容,但能反映问题或事物的全貌	遗漏了较多重要内容或有较多无关紧要或不切题的内容,但能勉强反映问题或事物的全貌	重要内容遗漏过多,或根本不切题,不能达到要求的交际目的

(续表)

		优秀 (100~90分)	良好 (89~80分)	中等 (79~70分)	及格 (69~60分)	不及格 (59分以下)
组织段落 (10%)		细节安排有条理,叙述层次清楚,段落之间联系自然,句子连贯	细节安排有条理,叙述层次较清楚	细节安排尚有条理,叙述层次基本清楚	细节安排较乱,叙述层次不很清楚,但读者尚能勉强看明白大意	细节安排混乱,读者不得要领
语言	语法 (20%)	偶有个别句子结构等重大错误,但不造成误解,拼写、标点、大小写等正确或有个别错误	有少量句子结构错误,但不造成误解,拼写、标点、大小写有些错误,但无伤大体	句子结构错误较多,但能表达主要内容,拼写、标点、大小写错误多,使读者理解内容有些困难	句子结构错误多,但能勉强表达主要内容,拼写、标点、大小写错误多,使读者感到写作者的英语水平较差	句子结构受汉语影响,或缺乏基本的英语句法概念。拼写、标点、大小写错误很多,使读者看不明白内容
	用法 (15%)	用词(包括习惯语)确切、恰当	有些词用得不正确或不恰当,但尚能表达内容	少量词用得不够确切,表达不清楚	较多词用得不够确切,表达不清楚,有的造成误解	用词不正确,生硬地从汉语出发找对应词,使读者不得其解
	得体 (5%)	语言得体,能用恰当的文体表达思想,达到预期的交际效果	语言较得体,能用较恰当的文体表达思想,达到较好的交际效果	语言不很得体,文体不甚恰当,基本达到交际效果	语言不很得体,文体不甚恰当,勉强达到交际效果	语言不得体,文体不恰当,不能达到交际效果

2. 说明文、议论文评分等级表

	优秀 (100~90分)	良好 (89~80分)	中等 (79~70分)	及格 (69~60分)	不及格 (59分以下)
思想内容 (50%)	观点清楚,前后不矛盾,并有充分、恰当的例证说明自己的观点	观点清楚,前后无矛盾但例证不足,有个别不恰当的例证	观点大体清楚,但前后有些矛盾之处,例证不足或不恰当	观点大体清楚,但前后有些矛盾之处,有观点,无例证,或有事例,无观点,或列举事例无说服力,不能说明自己的观点	看不清或没有观点,列举事例不清或与论点无关
组织结构 (10%)	细节安排有条理,叙述层次清楚,段落之间联系自然,句子连贯	细节安排不够有条理,但无伤大体	细节安排较乱,但读者能看明白大意	细节安排较乱,读者能勉强看明白大意	细节安排混乱,读者不得要领
语言 (20%)	没有句子结构上的重大错误。拼写、标点、大小写等正确或有个别错误。引用原文适度,不超过作者文章的10%	句子结构基本正确,错误之处并不造成误解。拼写、标点、大小写有些错误,但无伤大体。引用原文适度,不超过作者文章的15%	句子结构错误较多,但能表达主要内容。拼写、标点、大小写错误较多,使读者理解内容有些困难。引用原文略多,达作者文章的25%~30%	句子结构错误较多,但能勉强表达主要内容。拼写、标点、大小写错误多,使读者感到写作者英语水平较差。引用原文较多,达作者文章的30%	句子结构受汉语影响,或缺乏基本的英语句法概念。拼写、标点、大小写错误很多,使读者看不明白内容。引用原文过多,达作者文章的30%以上

(续表)

	优秀 (100~90 分)	良好 (89~80 分)	中等 (79~70 分)	及格 (69~60 分)	不及格 (59 分以下)
用 词 (15%)	用词(包括习惯用语)确切、恰当	有些词用得 不正确或不恰当,但尚能表达内容	用词不确切,表达不清楚	用词不正确,表达不清楚,有的造成误解	用词不正确,生硬地从汉语出发找对应词,使读者不得其解
得 体 (5%)	语言得体,语气恰当,以理服人,有说服力	语言较得体,语气也较恰当,有一定说服力	文章语气不够恰当,说服力稍差	文章语气不恰当,含糊其词,缺乏说服力	语气生硬,有失分寸,没有说服力

3. 评分标准实例

Topic:

Some intensive English programs in the United States offer a foreign student the option of living with an American family while he or she is studying abroad. Many students feel that such a home-stay program is a valuable part of their total learning experience. However, others may feel that such a plan offers little value. Write a composition of about 300 words, expressing your views on this issue.

In the first part of your writing you should present your thesis statement, and in the second part you should support the thesis statement with appropriate details. In the last part bring what you have written to a natural conclusion with a summary.

Marks will be awarded for content, organization, grammar and appropriacy. Failure to follow the above instructions may result in a loss of marks.

Sample 1 (优秀)

A foreign student who plans to come to the United States must have some definite goals in mind. For the student who wants to improve his English quickly and learn about American customs firsthand, there is often an opportunity to live with an American family. There may be one or two disadvantages to this living arrangement; however, I believe that there are far more advantages.

By taking part in a home-stay program, the student has an excellent opportunity to learn about American customs. He will find out how to behave in different social situations such as parties and serimonies (ceremonies) and how to dress (dress on) these occasions. Also, he will learn about many other aspects of the American way of life, such as the way schools are run in the United States. He can ask questions about attendance rules and school costs. The family will make certain that he becomes acquainted with this new way of life, and soon he will feel at home.

Another advantage to living with an American family is that the student is in an ideal environment to improve his English. For example, each time he has a conversation with someone in the family, this native speaker can help him with his pronounciation (pronunciation) and grammar. Maybe the younger children in the family can help the student with his homework, too. But the most important thing is that he will be surround (surrounded) by English most of the time during his stay in the United States.

In a home-stay program, the student can learn about American customs in the most natural way. In addition, he will find himself in an atmosphere in which his English will certainly improve. In my opinion, these are the two most important goals for him to consider, and living with an American family is the best way to achieve them.

Sample 2(良好)

Every year, many foreign students go to America to study English. Some of this (them) will participate in a home-stay program and live with an American family. However, others will take (make) a different decision. They will live with friends from their own country. I believe that if a foreign student looks at both possibilities, he will decide to live with an American family. Even though there are one or two drawbacks to the home-stay way (option), there are far more benefits.

By living in American (an American) home, the student has (has an) opportunity to become familiar with American customs and culture. For instance, he will learn how important the (the importance of) family closeness is (closeness). He can see how the children communicate with their parents and how the parents educate their children. He will not feel like a stranger because the American family will help him adjusting (adjust) to a new life.

In an American home, he can learn English fast. Family members can help him with his homeworks (homework). When he speaks English, they can point (point out) his errors. In this way, he can learn English naturally.

Although there are some disadvantage (disadvantages) to living with an American family, there are heavier (greater) benefits. If the foreign student at first realizes the values of learning about a new culture and improving his English at the same time, he will definitely choose to experience a home-stay in the United States. With an American family, he will find studying there a very big (rewarding) experience.

Sample 3(中等)

After a foreign student has decided to come to the United States

to study English, he must think about where (where he) is going to live and with whom. I believe that he should live with (an) American family if he can because (because) they can give him the support (that) he needs. They can help him improve his English, too.

To begin with, the foreigner who inhabits (lives) with an American family can rely on them for support (support) as he adjusts to a complete (completely) new way of life. Suppose that (This is especially helpful if) he becomes homesick.

Another advantage to living with an American family is (that) the student can improve his English quickly (quickly). He will meet (meet) friends who come (come) to visit. He will be forced (be forced) to use English whether he wants to or not.

As far as disadvantages are concerned, I see only one (one;) he may be treated like a baby. The family (family will) want to protect him from danger (dangerous) situations.

I will conclude by saying that even if the student has to put up (with) being treated like a child sometimes, he will find kindness and support when he is new in the country. Also, he will speak English most of the time.

Sample 4(及格)

A foreign (foreign) student studying in America is wise to live with an American family because when a foreign (foreign) student comes (comes) to the United States he must make many important adjustments (adjustments). A foreign (foreign) student must change to survive in this new environment (environment). A foreign (foreign) student also learns how to take on responsibilities concerning his new family, he (she) adapts (adapts) to their American life style (lifestyle) as they adapt (adapt) to his. It is a learning experience on both parts.

You have a (A student has an) advantage when living (he lives) with an American family. Because they would (he will) learn the american (American) ways and customs better with an American family than if they would live (he lived) with there (his) own homeboys (countrymen).

The American family becomes a second family to the foreing (foreign) student. At times a foreing (foreign) student may get homesick; but have (having) a trustworthy second family can give (gives) him the security and acceptance he (that he) needs. He is probably use (used) to having a family around him, so he will feel safe if he lives with an American family. Then he must consider that he will be in a strange place. Everything will be new to you (him).

His American family can help him learn his way around. So (Therefore) foreing student (a foreign student) is smart to live with an American family.

Sample 5(不及格)

My opinion about this subject is that it depends in (on) your level of comprehension regard (regarding) conversational english (English). In other word, (words,) if you understand a considerable amount of english (English) language, your best bet would be to chose (choose) living with an American family. But, if your comprehension level is so low, in which (that) a basic communication is not possible, then (it) would be wise to (for) you to choose living with people of your same country and (or) language.

三、英语专业八级历年作文实考题分析

历年的英语专业八级作文大多数为议论文。考题从出题思路上大致可分为三种类型:第一种为二选一型,即题目给出两种观点,问考生

倾向于哪一种观点。例如: While some people claim that a person's essential qualities are inherited at birth, others hold that the circumstances in which a person grows up are mainly responsible for the type of person he/she later becomes. Write a composition of 300 words on the following topic, expressing your views: ESSENTIAL QUALITIES: INHERITED OR NOT? 第二种题型是提出一个观点,问考生是否同意这一观点。例如: "Nowadays people spend too much of their spare time indoors." How far do you agree with this statement? Write a composition of about 300 words to state your view. 第三种题型是要求考生仅就事物的一个方面进行详细的论证。例如: Nowadays with the development of economy, existing cities are growing bigger and new cities are appearing. What do you think is ONE of the major problems that may result from this process of urbanization? Write an essay of about 300 words on the topic given below. A MAJOR PROBLEM RESULTED FROM URBANIZATION.

二选一型又有三种结构模式,一是一边倒的结构模式,即考生完全倾向于一种观点。这一模式又可分为两种,一边倒和修正型一边倒。一边倒是说考生在文章中完全同意一种观点,这种写法的优点在于思维单一,只需要列举几个理由,并展开讨论,不会由于内容复杂而产生逻辑上的混乱,而缺点在于相对单一的内容会使考生觉得没有太多话可写。修正型一边倒的写法是指考生既可以写赞成这种观点的理由,也可以谈反对它的理由,但由于赞成的理由多于反对的理由,所以最终考生还是同意这一种观点。第二种二选一题型的结构模式是折衷的写法。考生可以先写赞成一种观点的几点理由,接着写赞成另一种观点的理由,最后考生就自己的情况,明确表示最终赞成哪一种观点。

第二种题型的结构模式相对简单得多。针对提出的一种观点问考生是否同意这种观点,考生应在第一段里明确表态是同意还是不同意题目所给观点,然后用二到三个自然段举例来支持自己的态度,最后一段做一小结,并再次表明自己的态度。

第三种题型的总体构思也不复杂,但是考生应该记住仅仅限于对事物的一个方面进行论证。以专业八级作文题 A MAJOR PROBLEM RESULTED FROM URBANIZATION 为例。如果考生认为城市化的一个主要弊端是使住房问题更加突出,那么在文章的第二部分就应该紧紧围绕这个弊端进行详细的论述;如果考生认为城市化的一个主要弊端是造成更大的就业问题,同样,在文章的第二部分应该只论述城市化进程为什么使就业问题变得更加棘手,不要再涉及其他的弊端,如住房问题等。

四、英语专业八级考生作文常见问题

经过四年的专业学习,大多数英语专业学生都具有了相当的书面交际能力。但是,由于缺乏语言环境,更由于不少学生在英语学习上不肯下苦功夫,而在缺乏语言环境的情况下学习一门外语恰恰需要下很大的功夫才能有所进步,所以,相当一部分学生的英文作文写得很不理想,甚至很糟糕。在专业八级考试的作文里,除了思想内容贫乏,结构程式化,以及文体风格不恰当(本书第二部分有专门的论述)以外,最突出的问题体现在以下两个方面:

1. 中式英语

什么样的英语是“中式英语”? 美国人 Joan Pinkham 曾先后在外文出版社和中央编译局工作过八年,专门给中国翻译工作者的英语译文作修改和润色。八年中她积累了大量的中式英语实例,写了一本 *The Translator's Guide to Chinglish* (中文译为《中式英语之鉴》)。在这本书里,她给中式英语下了一个比较恰当的定义: Chinglish, of course, is that misshapen, hybrid language that is neither English nor Chinese but that might be described as “English with Chinese characteristics.” (当然,所谓的中式英语就是那种畸形的、混含的、既非英语又非汉语的语言文字,也可以称之为“具有中国特色的英语。”)。实事求是地讲,对以英语为外语的绝大多数中国人来讲,要在笔头、口

头交际中彻底消灭中式英语是不现实的。同样,要求所有的英语专业学生在八级考试作文里没有一句中式英语也是不可能的。但是,现在的问题是相当一部分英语专业八级考生在作文里出现了太多的中式英语,不少考生的作文可以说通篇都是“地道”的中式英语。先看下面的几个句子:

① *Some small thieves always steal people's money in supermarkets.*

这句话里的 small thieves 就是比较典型的“中式英语”。汉语里的“小偷”在英语里对应的说法是 petty thieves。

② *The tree by the windows of my house has four men height.*

这句话的大概意思是“我家窗户外的大树有四人那么高。”因为受到汉语的影响,作者把“有四人那么高”这个意思字对字地、生硬地“翻译”成了英文,使划线部分表达不清。根据英语的表达习惯,这句话可以改为: The tree by the windows of my house is four-men high/is of four-men height.

③ *The opportunity to be promoted is smaller for a woman who has a child.*

作者要表达的意思大概是“有孩子的妇女提升的机会不大。”汉语里的“机会不大”能不能用 small 这个词来表达? 作者显然是受到了汉语字面的影响,在写作时搞中文和英文的机械对应,写出了这样中式的英文。汉语里的“小”并不等于英语里的 small,“大”也并不等于 big。“大哥”不是 big brother,“小媳妇”也不是 small daughter-in-law。根据英语的表达习惯,这句话可以改为: The opportunity to be promoted is slimmer for a woman who has a child.

④ *We must improve our English level.*

这里的“英语水平”是不是“English level”? 这又是一个常见的中式英语表达。Joan Pinkham 在《中式英语之鉴》里提到了导致中式英语的一个常见原因:受汉语表达习惯的影响,在英文里使用没有必要的名词或动词,例如: Throughout this period there was a severe shortage

in the supply of a great variety of goods. 作者想表达的意思大概是“各种物资的供应严重缺乏”，但根据英语的习惯，划线部分里的 in the supply 是完全没有必要的。同理，这个句子可以改成：We must improve our English.

再看下面几段作文：

Second, peasants should broaden their thoughts and know the world. We could hardly think that a man living without any information outside. Reading newspapers and watching TV is a good way to know the world.

Third, peasants should raise their life standard through profound knowledge. Have knowledge does not mean use knowledge. They should put their knowledge into practice. On the basis of science, they could gain prosperity every year.

The new century requires knowledge. So I should make my hometown to create a habit of study every day. They could read newspapers and watch TV. They should study, study, and study to learn knowledge. With the help of knowledge, my hometown will be more prosperous.

这几段可以说语法上并没有多大的问题，但通篇都是“纯正”的中式英语，划线的部分尤甚。之所以会出现这么多的中式英语，简单地说就是因为作者在写这篇作文时根本没有考虑英语的表达习惯，而是按照中文表达习惯“直译”成了英语。

类似的中式英语可以说是英语专业八级考试作文里最大、最突出的问题。从这个角度出发，现在流行的学英语的笑话诸如 no three, no four(不三不四), see through the autumn water(望穿秋水)等虽然有些夸张，但并不是无中生有。要在自己的作文里尽量减少中式英语，考生首先需要在平时打下坚实的英语功底，在大量的阅读、写作实践中体会什么样的英语才是地道的英语，以及英语和汉语在表达形式、思维习惯等方面到底有什么区别。应对作文考试时，更应该在时间允许的