

英语写作范例

ENGLISH MODELS OF COMPOSITION

姜保华 主编

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English Models of Composition

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内 容 提 要

本书系根据《大学英语教学大纲》对写作的要求及中国学生的实际需要而编写的。其特点为：寓教于学、理论简明、归纳性强、示例广泛、难易适度、练习多样、配有答案、并附录个人简历、校改符号等内容。本书能启迪思想、丰富知识、培养能力、提高技能，使学生树立起写作的信心，较快地提高写作水平。

本书可以作为高等院校学生英语写作课的教材，也可供英语自学者参考。

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前 言

本书是根据《大学英语教学大纲》对写作的基本要求及中国学生对英语写作的实际需要而编写的。其主要特点如下：

一、集德育、智育为一体。本书不但始终贯彻教育学生爱祖国、爱人民、讲道德，为社会主义事业的繁荣昌盛而刻苦学习的宗旨，而且系统简洁地阐述了英语作文的特征、基本结构和几种常用文体的写作方法。

二、理论简明扼要，归纳性强。针对学生在英语写作中易犯的错误及感到困难的问题，本书深入浅出地论述了写作理论和技巧。对写作中常见的表达方式、短语及词汇加以总结，鲜明具体，便于掌握。

三、示例广泛，难易适度。针对大纲中所规定的各种写作形式，如段首句、关键词、情景、图表、标题以及英文书信等各类作文题型，提供了一百多篇典型的、规范的，富于思想性、趣味性的范例。

四、练习多样，配有答案。在各种写作理论及范例后，均有练习，并在练习后直接配有答案。旨在使学生运用所学知识，参照所给范例，进行写作实践，提高写作技能，特别是使学生通过大量的语篇水平上的段落写作练习，着重解决如何写的问题。

本书由姜保华主编，刘仁德教授主审。参加编写工作的有孙翠兰、郑福和、许金英、宋海燕、刘燕和乔爱玲，并由美籍教师Shelly A. Lesikar 详细审阅。在编写过程中，田桂荣老师给予了热情的支持和帮助。在此谨致谢忱。

由于编者水平有限，经验不足，难免有错误与疏漏之处，至希广大读者及同行专家不吝赐教，俾得于再版时，修正补充，更臻完善。

编者

1992年2月于青岛

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To the Learner

一、大学英语四级统考对作文的要求

大学英语四级考试大纲要求考生在 30 分钟内写出一篇 100—120 个词的短文(提示性的段首句以及结论句中的词数不计在内)。试卷上可能给出题目,或规定情景,或要求看图作文,或给出段首句要求续写,或给出关键词 要求写成短文。要求能正确表达思想,意义连贯,无重大语法错误。写作的内容主要包括一般常识和日常生活等,其目的在于测试学生运用英语表达思想的初步能力。

二、写作注意事项

在考试中,考生要受到时间和篇幅的限制,写作的自由度不能超过提示的范围。要写好作文,提高分数,通过四级统考,考生必须注意以下事项。

1、要看清题目的要求

仔细阅读作文的题目和要求,注意篇幅、文体及篇章结构。如词数为 100—120,你写的短文长度就不能少于这个数字;如果要求写议论文,就要观点明确,按逻辑顺序写;如果要求写记叙文,就要按事情发生时间的先后来写;如果规定写三段,就不能写两段,更不能一段到底。总而言之,要严格遵循作文题目的要求去做。

2、认真审题

不要见题就写,而应认真审题。仔细构思,拟出提纲,拟订各段的主题句,想好用什么事实或细节来支持主题句中的观点。这样写出的文章语言通顺、逻辑严密、观点明确、错误较少。

3、有效地运用过渡词语

恰当地使用过渡词,把事情发生的时间、空间、因果、转折等关系表示出来,使句子更加紧凑,段落更加连贯,文章更为流畅。

4、尽量避免语言错误

在写作时,如对复杂的句子结构没有把握,还是用通俗易懂,

结构较简单的句子为好。避免出现冗长的句子和多余的词。这样既可减少语言错误,又使文字简洁、准确。但也不要都用简单句去写,要适当注意句型变换和多样化。

5、结束语要紧扣主题

结束语的好坏是写作成败的关键。它应对文章作出归纳和总结,或指出方向,或得出结论,使主题更加鲜明,结构更为完美。

6、通读与修改

作文写完之后应通读并改正错误。检查拼写,标点符号及字母大小写有无错误;是否误用了口语缩写形式,如 I'll, He's, She'd 等;句子中的主谓语是否一致;词序、时态和语态是否正确;题目的第一个词和每一个重要词的词首字母是否大写,如 Some Advice on Writing;以及每段开头是否向右缩进 5 个字母的距离。在卷面上作一些改动是免不了的,但整洁的卷面能给阅卷教师——你作文的第一个读者——一个良好的印象。

7、时间安排

由于写作的时间只有 30 分钟,合理安排时间是十分必要的。一般来说:审题、构思约占 7 分钟;写作约占 20 分钟;修改、定稿约占 3 分钟。

Generalization of Writing

Composing Processes

Be sure that you understand the requirements of the composition.


Generating Material

Narrow the subject to a topic that:

- will interest your audience

- you know about

- you can successfully develop

Collect ideas about your topic 

- observation

- personal experience

Generate details about your topic through:

- brainstorming

- listing

- clustering

- treeing

- outlining

- flow-charting

Select the most important, most interesting ideas

Organizing Material

State the main idea of the composition in a thesis statement:

- statement of opinion and/or

- statement of intent

Develop paragraphs of support for your thesis statement:

- topic sentence

- supporting sentences

 - facts

 - examples

 - physical description

personal experience

Decide on methods of development to present your ideas:

process

comparison/contrast

classification

cause-effect

Drafting

Introduction:

give adequate background information about the topic

thesis statement focuses on the topic

direction of the essay is clear

Body paragraphs:

topic sentences directly related to thesis statement

information (facts, examples, etc.) is adequate

details explain, define, clarify, illustrate the controlling
ideas in the topic sentence

overall, each paragraph is complete and convincing

Conclusion:

end emphatically, with focus on the main idea

offer a prediction, a solution, or a recommendation

Editing

Coherence:

Is all your information directly related to the thesis statement?

Is the information in each paragraph directly related to the
topic sentence?

Have you used transitions?

Have you used paragraph hooks?

Organization:

Is the sequence of ideas clear and strong?

Should some information be reordered? (from most important to least important? least to most?)

Is the thesis statement narrow enough to support successfully?

Development:

Is your detail credible? strong? sufficient?

Is some information more important?

Should some information be eliminated? (too simple? reader already knows it? not directly related?)

Should some detail be added?

Should some information be simplified?

Mechanics: Check

vocabulary: clear? correct? precise?

sentence structure: correct? varied?

Are some sentences combined?

Are some sentences short and emphatic?

grammar: correct? Look at

verb tenses

subject-verb in concord

spelling: correct?

punctuation: correct?

Below is an example that shows the process of writing a paragraph.

Suppose you are asked to write a paragraph about a Means of Transportation.

(1) ~~Narrow~~ or limit your subject to a topic that will interest your audience.

Examples:

Riding a Bicycle is the Best Means of Transportation
Advantages and Disadvantages of Riding a Bicycle
Riding a Bicycle is Preferable to Riding a Motorcycle

(2) Collect some ideas about your topic.

Examples:

Being inexpensive to buy
Easy maintenance
Good for health
Nonpolluting
Safer

(3) List details about some of your ideas that will interest your audience.

Examples:

health; more exercise, less pollution
maintenance; costs less, easy to do

(4) State the main idea of the paragraph in your topic sentence.

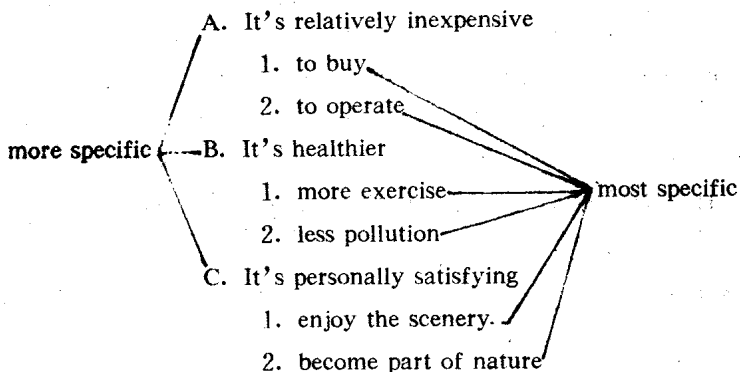
Example:

Riding a bicycle is better than riding a motorcycle.
(controlling idea)

(5) Outline the paragraph.

Example :

Topic sentence: Riding a bicycle is better than riding a motorcycle.



Concluding Sentence: In a word, the bicycle is a pleasurable means of transportation.

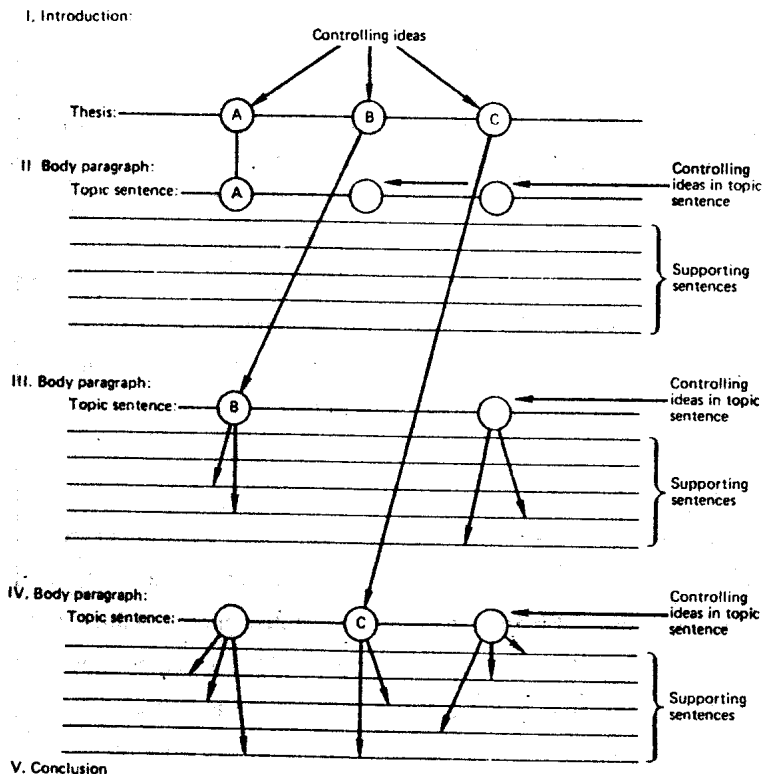
(6) Write the paragraph, using the details you have listed.

Riding a bicycle is better than riding a motorcycle. First of all, a bicycle is relatively inexpensive to buy and to maintain. While a motorcycle may cost thousands of yuan to buy and hundreds of yuan annually for maintenance, a good bicycle will cost only two hundred yuan or so, and its annual maintenance cost is very small. Biking is also healthier. Not only does the biker get more physical exercise than the motorcyclist, but bicycles are nonpolluting, so they keep the environment clean. Finally, bicycling is, unlike motorcycling, personally satisfying. Instead of being a robot inside a machine, the biker pedals along, enjoying the scenery, becoming a part of nature. In a word, the bicycle is a pleasurable means of transportation.

The Form of Good Writing

In a composition, the thesis statement is directly related to the topic sentences in the body paragraphs. Each topic sentence relates to and deals with one or more of the controlling ideas in the thesis. Each set of supporting sentences that follow a topic sentence relates directly to that topic sentence. In this way, the composition will be unified and complete.

The following is a sample of the form of good writing.



Example :

Staying Healthy

(Title)

Good health is the most important possession a person can have. There are three things a person can do to stay in good shape. One should eat the right food, get enough sleep, and exercise regularly.
(Topic or Introductory Paragraph)

Proper nutrition is important for good health.
(Supporting Paragraph)

Getting the proper amount of sleep is important.
(Supporting Paragraph)

Finally, get plenty of exercise.
(Supporting paragraph)

If everyone were to eat the right foods, get plenty of sleep, and exercise regularly, there would be much less complaining about poor health.
(Concluding Paragraph)

Completed sample composition:

Staying Healthy

Good health is the most valuable possession a person can have. There are three things that a person can do to stay in good shape. One should eat the right foods, get enough rest, and exercise regularly.

Proper nutrition is important for good health. Avoid foods with lots of sugar and fat. Eat plenty of high protein foods, vegetables, and fruits. But do not overeat because it is not healthy to be overweight.

Getting the proper amount of sleep is also important. Without enough sleep, you feel tired and irritable. So allow yourself eight hours of sleep each night.

Finally, get plenty of exercise since it improves your heart and lungs, and prevents you from gaining weight. Swimming, basketball, bicycling, and running all provide good exercise.

If everybody were to eat the right foods, get plenty of sleep, and exercise regularly, there would be much less complaining about poor health.

Practice

Use the topic How Chinese Celebrate the New Year. Write a thesis statement. Then write topic sentences and supporting details for the body paragraphs of your composition.

Answers to Practice Exercises

Topic: How Chinese Celebrate the New Year.

Thesis: We Chinese have many traditional customs for celebrating the New Year.

Body Paragraph 1 Topic Sentence: First of all, many days before our new year, we are busy shopping

and cleaning our houses.

Supporting Details: go to the flower market

clean thoroughly all rooms

Body Paragraph I Topic Sentence: On the New Year's Day, we usually get up early and dress up beautifully.

Supporting Details: put on new clothes and new shoes

women make up their faces and men shave off their beard.

Body Paragraph II Topic Sentence: During the first days of the new year, families go to visit each other, wishing good luck and good health.

Supporting Details: greet one another with "Good luck"

give red packets stuffed with "lucky money"

Conclusion: We get more pleasure out of this festival than any other.