

主编 苏世军 周宇

# 大学英语

## 作文宝典

College English Composition Handbook

● 中美英澳四国教师  
合作编著

河南人民出版社

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# 大学英语作文宝典

中美英澳四国教师  
合作编著

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# 序 言

中美英澳师生携手共同切磋大学英语四级命题作文,外籍师生与中国学生一样按考试要求提笔作文,并与中国教师一道对学生的作文进行修改评点,而他们的作文则由我们中国教师加注评点,这是一种新的尝试。“奇文共欣赏,疑义相与析。”

从这种合作中我们明显可以看出,中西方在文化价值取向和语言表达方面存在着巨大的差别,认识和了解这种差别对我们克服在英文写作中的中式思维习惯是不可或缺的,这种思维习惯是我国学生英语作文的天敌,时时在他们的头脑里作怪,阻碍着他们英语写作前进的步伐。许多学生的作文没有任何语法或词汇错误,我们中国老师能看得懂,但外籍教师却感到如坠烟海,不清不楚。中国学生英语作文中诸如此类的问题若对照修改文本、点评、外籍教师的作文及其点评加以比较,便昭然若揭,一清二楚了。对学生作文的修改我们并没有停留在改错和达意这个层面上,而是力求准确合体,臻于完善,比如把 a lot of 改成 many,是 their college life 还是 their college lives,类似的问题都已超出了四六级写作的要求。从这种意义上来讲,本书不仅是为四六级考生编写的,而且对托福考生、雅思考生和任何想提高自己英语作文水平的人都有实际意义。

我们一共收集了 32 个大学英语四级考试作文题,按考试出现的倒时顺序加以排列,每个文题下有十篇作文。前五篇是外籍教师写的,后五篇有三篇是从四六级模拟考试的作文答卷中抽选出来的,另两篇是由英语专业二年级和四年级学生写的。

前五篇的撰稿人有美籍教师 Nancy Cao 和 Pat Schlegel 女士、美籍学生 Jon Schramm 和 Craig Deputy 先生、美籍自由撰稿人 Heidi Zerbo 女士、英籍教师 Susan Daniel 女士、英籍传播学客座教授 Christian Green 博士、澳籍教师 Borys Borberg 先生。为了方便读者,我们对每篇作文加了生词表和评注,此外,第一篇附有中译文。后五篇中的前四篇我们不但加了评注,而且把改过的文章附在右边,只有最后一篇即第十篇的点评和修改稿附在了书后,旨在让读者通过对前些篇的浏览观察后,亲自动手做一次点评与修改练习。点评有七篇是用中文做的,有三篇是用英文做的。

第一篇出自 Borys Borberg 先生之手。正介于天命和花甲之年的他,一生中大部分时间是在学校度过的,依靠奖学金获得过多种硕士学位,包括地质学、文学、经济学、世俗哲

学、宗教哲学、政治学。西方把这种人称为职业学生 (professional student)。他早年曾任教于澳大利亚墨尔本工学院 (Melburn Institute of Technology) (MIT), 该学院在本国的地位相当于麻省理工学院 (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) (MIT) 在美国的地位, 澳大利亚人称其为自己的 MIT; 他还曾是澳大利亚几家报纸的特约撰稿人; 多年受聘于日本一家公司从事地质学研究, 由于一次心脏手术后健康一时不能恢复而被解聘, 2002 年来华前是澳大利亚教育学院半退休教师, 在此期间当过出租车司机, 他说开出租车的最大乐趣在于等乘客时你可以随心所欲地读书, 开车时你可以和乘客畅谈投机的话题。Borys Borberg 的作文富于哲理与思辨, 他善于旁征博引, 妙语连珠, 幽默诙谐, 洒脱自然。Nancy Cao 女士担心他的作文是阳春白雪, 不易为人所接受, 想为其配个简写本; 为了便于欣赏, 斟酌再三, 最后还是决定由周宇将其译成汉语。周宇虽然本科学的是数学、研究生学的是科技编辑, 但是很喜欢文学艺术, 他的译文与原文相比给人以一种对称之美, 这在他的诗歌翻译中体现得尤为明显, 如:

Slender and still the tall trees stand  
As if enchanted by  
Their lace-like fingers, elegantly spaced  
In wondrous designs of delicate thread  
Across a silver sky

纤纤高树悄然立  
美妙着人迷  
疏密有枝如素手  
宛如刺绣借天机  
青空做衬底

这是澳籍教师 Margarret Wilcox 女士为赞美她在中国从教的校园所写的一首抒情诗的第一阙, 这里用音形意的诗歌审美标准来衡量, 就不难看出译文完全可以与原文相媲美。

Nancy Cao 女士获得过文学和理学准学士学位、英语语言学学士学位, 曾多年在纽约从事文秘工作。她的年龄与 Borys Borberg 相仿, 但文风却相差甚远, 她的语言平白如水, 质朴无华。“我是为中国学生写的, 用普通的词汇来表达复杂的思想是语言艺术的魅力所在, 用通俗易懂的文笔来引导他们写作从而增强他们的自信心和能力是我最大的心愿。” 她的作文确实有 VOA 特别节目语言的那种简朴的魅力。

英籍教师 Susan Daniels 刚过不惑之年, 师范院校毕业后又获得过编织艺术文凭, 多年在德国、加拿大、韩国等地从事英语作为外语的教学工作。她的文章语汇丰富, 句式多变, 简洁准确, 具有鲜明的逻辑力量。我们不曾与 Heidi Zerbo 女士见过面, 她是通过她母亲

Pat Schlegel 老师的介绍才为本书撰稿的,她自己是一位刚过而立之年的母亲,她的文章立意新颖,生动细腻,具有浓厚的生活气息和奇特的想像力,娓娓道来,给人以耳目一新的感觉。其他三位美国人和另一位英国人的作文或多或少都有上述的某些特色,读者自有评说,在此就不一一赘述了。

我们给每一篇文章所加的评注都有不同的侧重点,这不仅取决于文章本身的内容,而且还要注意避免与前面的评注相雷同。比如说某种语法或语义或修辞问题在前面的评注中谈过了,再遇到时就不重评了,而是找一个以前的点评未提起过的又符合该篇作文特点的话题来展开评论。虽然对每篇作文的评点在内容上都不一样,但其范畴都不外乎以下几个方面,即文化背景、思想内容、文章立意、思维方式、篇章结构、遣词造句、文体风格、逻辑推理、标点符号。

在作文的评点和修改的过程中,我们更加切身地感到,写作在大学英语教学中仍是一个薄弱环节,需要从一个更广泛的角度来加以正视,需要通过改革和创新使其得到加强和提高。西方从小学到大学的各种写作活动多不胜数。所有的学生几乎每周都写读书报告,几乎各种考试都有用 essay 回答的问题,学期论文、课程论文更是家常便饭;美国许多小学要求每个学生毕业前要出版自己的作文选集;余秋雨先生在他的《文化苦旅》一书的自序中提到纽约大学著名教授 Richard Schechner 赠送他一本书,“是他与还在小学读书的小儿合著的,父子俩以北冰洋的企鹅为话题,痴痴地编着一个又一个不着边际的童话。我把这本书插在那厚厚一叠名扬国际的学术著作中间,端详良久,不能不开始嘲笑自己”。

在西方,写作课从小学到大学贯穿于整个学校教育的始终。“写作课不仅可以讲授妙手著文章的方法,而且还是对创造性和批判性思维的有力启迪。”\* 我们衷心地希望本书在这些方面能对读者有所裨益,因为我们深信这种能力的提高对当今高度发达的网络时代的各种交流和发展都具有不可估量的意义。

作 者

2004 年 8 月 23 日

于北京南郊兴华北路 25 号

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\* Rise B. Axelrod, Charles R. Cooper: *The Saint Martin's Guide to Writing*. New York: ST. Martin Press, 4th ed., 1994, p. iii

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## 1. It Pays to Be Honest

### Directions:

- a. 当前社会上存在许多不诚实的现象。 *There are many dishonest phenomena in society.*  
 b. 诚实利己利人,做人应该诚实。 *To be honest is beneficial to both oneself and others. To be human one should be honest.*

### 1.1

The assertion that “honesty is a truly human quality” is incorrect. Animals can not be dishonest—only people can. Animals do not deceive members of their own species. Animals practice deception only against other species, and only in order to survive: either as the predators or the prey. Homo hominem lupus is not an insult to mankind; it is a libel on the wolves. Only “man” can enrich himself by deceiving fellow-men.

A “man” yes but not a gentleman.

It is unconceivable for a gentleman to benefit from dishonesty. This is not a dogma of class mythology but a pivotal concept of being a gentleman, irrespective of social or ethnic origin. Being a gentleman is above all a moral attitude. If you cheat it is you who has to live with the knowledge that you failed as a gentleman. For some, this knowledge is a punishment worse than any which the law or the society may inflict.

Trust is a value which holds universally; hence we assume that those with whom we deal are honest. We assume that all men

### 【译文】

### 诚实核算

“诚实是一个人的根本素质”这话不对。动物不会不诚实,只有人才会不诚实。动物不会骗它们的同一种类,行骗也只是对其他种类,而且只是为了求生:无论是作为捕食者还是被捕食者。“人狼星座”不是对人类的蔑视,而是对狼的诽谤。只有“人”才会骗人肥己。

他是人但不是君子。

对于君子来说从不诚实中获利是不可思议的。这不是经典神话中的寓义,而是君子的基本原则,它不会考虑你的社会地位如何,也不考虑你来自于哪个种族。做君子最重要的是道德态度。你如果骗人的话,你就会意识到自己不配做君子。对某些人来说,这种思想上的折磨比法律或社会的惩罚更为严厉。

信任具有普遍的价值,所以我们认为和我们打交道的人是诚实的,所有的人都是君子,直到看出他不是那么回事。

但是君子也不是被人能够愚弄的。君子一旦被人出卖,他的信任受到羞辱,他就

are gentlemen—until proven otherwise.

But gentlemen need not be fools either. Once a gentleman is betrayed and his trust abused, he will be reluctant to continue his interaction with the deceiver. In this way, those who do not hold honesty as a key value will be left to deal among themselves. They will get what they deserve.

### Notes:

1. predator *n.* 捕食者
2. prey *n.* 被捕食者
3. homo *comb. form* 相同
4. hominem *a.* 人的
5. lupus *n.* 天狼星座
6. libel *n.* 诽谤
7. mythology *n.* 神话
8. irrespective *a.* 不考虑的
9. inflict *v.* 处罚

跟骗子绝交。这样那些不把诚实当回事儿的人只能跟自己的同类交往了,他们会得到报应的。

### 【点评】

作者首先通过对动物不欺骗同一种类的举例反驳了“诚实是一个人的根本素质”这句话,从而引出了“君子”的话题,过渡自然,富有新意,本文的开题起到了不同凡响的效果。

人有君子和小人之分,而这一区分正是以诚信作为标准的,“亲君子,远小人”,这是人类不同文化中的共同之处。读了这篇文章,会联想到我国古代先贤的论述,感到亲切、可信。曾子曰:“吾日三省吾身……与朋友交而不信乎?”子夏曰:“与朋友交,言而有信。”子曰:“人而无信,不知其可也。”(不讲诚信怎么能可以呢?)从中我们可以看出中西方文化在诚信方面的观念有着惊人的相似之处,同时也感受到作者的语言具有厚重的哲学张力。

## 1.2

It is generally accepted in society today that 'honesty pays'. While, I think there are a few exceptions, I agree with this belief. On most occasions one should be honest.

When applying to enter a university or college or when looking for a new position, it is important to be truthful about one's accomplishments, abilities, and qualifications. If not, when an exaggeration or a falsehood becomes obvious later, the person will lose all credibility. Also, it is necessary to cite the

source from which information was found when writing papers or a thesis, otherwise it is plagiarism, a serious offence at this level.

Money also requires honesty: stealing from a single person or from an organization can result in serious consequences when the perpetrator is caught.

There are occasions, however, when it is not so easy to decide how honest one should be. If a friend asks for an opinion about a meal, or new clothes, or a different hairstyle, there is a fine line between the truth and

tactfulness.

I do believe that one should be honest, but, at times, tactfulness will appear to be more important.

#### Notes:

1. falsehood *n.* 说谎, 欺骗
2. credibility *n.* 信誉, 信誉度
3. plagiarism *n.* 剽窃
4. perpetrator *n.* 罪犯, 犯错误的人
5. tactfulness *n.* 策略

#### 【点评】

作者对诚实的理解概括起来说就是“抓大放小”,在绝大多数重要场合、时间、事情上要诚实,尤其指出学生在入学、找工作、包括做论文中都要诚实,前者需要你如实地反映自己的能力、资格等,后者要求你如实指明论文中他人的成果。这些都可以说是“抓大”。“放小”则是作者认为在朋友咨询你有关服装、发型的意见时,你的回答可以聪明地变通一些,这可能比你实话实说效果好。我想我们在生活中都会有类似的切身体会。

### 1.3

To be a totally honest person in today's society marks one as being very hard and unthinking of others for the most part. I prefer to call honesty tactful criticism that is never to be given lightly.

One must be very careful when you answer a person with total honesty. More often than not, the person who is asking you the question does not desire this. He or she is looking for acceptance or approval for whatever reason. You can state your opinion keep-

ing in mind the effect of the criticism. Do not be unnecessarily harsh or judgmental. Think of the person's feelings at the same time. If you think first, you can always find kind words to state an opinion that may be less pleasing to the receiver. Remember that what you say to someone is never forgotten and may be gone over later in his or her mind. To be objective and find good points about the situation leaves that person the impression that he or she is still valuable as a person.

#### Notes:

1. for the most part: 大部分, 大多数

2. More often than not: 经常

3. unthink *vi.* 不想, 停止考虑4. judgmental *a.* 苛刻的

5. go over 审查, 考虑

## 【点评】

本文从一个独特的视角来处理命题: 说大实话的人在今天的社会被认为是很少为他人着想, 简直是无情无义; 作者认为诚实是讲究策略的批评——它是不可信口而言的。他在这个问题上的观点是力主三思而后言 (If you think first, you can always find kind words to state an opinion that may be less pleasing to the receiver), 要考虑他人的感情 (Think of the person's feelings at the same time), 要讲究批评的效果 (State your opinion keeping in mind the effect of criticism), 要从正面着想, 既要客观批评又要给人留下他依然大有可为的印象。为了诚实的目的, Be tactful. Be careful. Don't be unnecessarily harsh or judgmental. 像一条红线贯穿文章的始终, 不禁使人感到诚实的回报实在是来之不易呀。

## 1. 4

In today's world, honesty is quantitative. You must be very careful how honest you are in various situations. Being too honest can be very harmful as well as instructive. You must weigh the factors at hand before speaking honestly.

To be too honest can also cause great pain to people. You must be sensitive and tactful when giving criticism. When you cause hurt, the purpose of the direct honesty and correction are counter-productive. You will only bring about resentment from the person being criticized and not solve the problem.

To be too honest can also create panic in some situations such as epidemic out-

breaks or disasters. You can report numbers and situations as needed until enough information is known definitely while instilling confidence that the situation will be relieved and looked into. We presently are in such a situation with SARS. Once accurate numbers and procedures for handling the problems were worked out, the panic lessened considerably. Widespread panic proved to be only more harmful to the situation as a whole.

Simply think the matter over carefully before giving your honest thoughts.

## Notes:

1. counter-productive 起相反作用的

2. resentment *n.* 愤恨3. epidemic *a.* 流行病的4. instill *vt.* 灌输

## 【点评】

本文的观点与上文有不少相似之处,旨在论证如何避免我们常言所谓的好心当做驴肝肺的现象,惟独如此诚实才会得到回报。作者开宗明义:诚实是可以量化的,对不同的人 and 事、不同的场合和地点诚实是个变量,否则既害人也达不到目的,甚至会把事情弄得更糟。所言防“非典”情形虽是一个很好的论据,但是读者未必同意其观点,如在没有确切掌握足够的信息之前,根据需要报道病例数目和形势,同时要宣传战胜“非典”信心,以免引起恐慌。

## 1.5

“Honesty is the best policy” is a phrase often quoted by teachers, or by parents in the home, so I will consider the implications of this phrase in the area of education.

Students sometimes start to think that they can cut corners by cheating in an examination, and spend a great deal of time working out ways to smuggle the answers into an examination. This is a waste of time for three reasons:

Firstly, the amount of time and effort spent on finding ways to cheat is time which

could be spent studying.

Secondly, there is always a risk of being discovered in the act, and punished as a result.

Finally, and most importantly, there is the real problem that you are not discovering if you have learnt anything, and the whole purpose of the examination is to discover if you have learnt about the subject.

## Notes:

1. implication *n.* 意义
2. cut corners: 投机取巧
3. smuggle *vt.* 偷带, 偷运
4. in the act 正在做的时候, 当场

## 【点评】

本文开门见山地提出老师家长经常引用“诚实至上”(Honesty is the best policy.) 的箴言,不言而喻是说给学生和孩子听的,因此自然而然地提出从教育的角度来论证这种观点。学生有时费尽心机,不把时间用在学习上,而是用在考试作弊方法的设计上,机关算尽太聪明,结果会被监考老师抓住,得不偿失,不但没有学到东西,而且使考试失去了意义,使家长和老师的心血付诸东流,害人害己。本文快言快语,单刀直入,切中欺骗的要害,不禁使读者感到诚实的可贵。

## 1.6

There are common dishonest phenomena in modern society. Students cheat in the examinations. Employees cheat to their boss. Children cheat to their parents. Restaurants cheat their customers, etc. Although it only happens sometimes in some cases, the virtue of being honest is considered to be difficult to carry out. Some people say that it pays to be honest. In their point of view, a person who tries to be honest will certainly eat unfairness and suffer losses since other people may benefit from their "little" lies. If an employee does something wrong or make a great mistake during his work and he tell the truth to his boss, then his boss may dismiss him. In contrast, his other colleagues may have made the same mistakes but they conceal it from the boss and remain on their position. In this case, to be honest seems to pay honest people a lot.

However, I don't agree that it pays to be honest. Being honest is the mainstream of the society. Even though the employee lost his job for being honest, he didn't lose his dignity and virtue as being a human being. He will learn from the lesson and avoid the same mistakes in his later part of career. It is worthy to be honest.

## 1.6R (rewrite, 以下简称 R)

There are common dishonest phenomena in modern society; Students cheat in their examinations, employees cheat their bosses, children cheat their parents, restaurants cheat their customers, etc. The virtue of being honest is considered to be difficult to carry out. Some people say that it costs to be honest. In their opinion, a person who tries to be honest will certainly be treated unfairly and suffer losses, while other people may benefit from their "little" lies. If an employee does something wrong or makes a mistake during his work and he tells his boss the truth, he may be dismissed. In contrast, a colleague who has made the same mistake, but conceals it, remains in his position. In this case, to be honest seems to cost a lot.

However, I believe that it pays to be honest. Being honest is considered to be conventional behavior in our society. Even though the employee lost his job for being honest, he didn't lose his dignity and virtue as a human being. He will learn from the lesson and avoid the same mistakes in future. It is worthy to be honest.



## 【点评】

This essay is very difficult to be understood by anyone else but a Chinese person. The wording is completely without fail, Chinese-English. There is little or no effort to write in Standard English. Another thing that makes this essay boring to read is the lack of variety in sentence type. Most of the sentences begin with an adverb clause. To hold a reader's attention, the writer should vary sentence type and structure. There are also many grammar mistakes, especially in the separation of complete thoughts when combining them to make compound sentences.

## 1.7

Time and time again, we are told that to be human one has to be honest. But the fact is that dishonest phenomena never disappear in our daily life.

In schools, students cheat in their examinations for good marks; in companies, employees lie to their employers for promotion; in families, husbands or wives deceive their life partners for the so-called "personal pleasure". When dishonesty fills our life, something is missing. What is missing isn't lower marks, pimpling positions, or personal pleasure but the cheater's, liar's and deceiver's own self and their own conscience. A dishonest person would go nowhere but end up finding that they betray themselves, while an honest person is always his or her own real self and, sooner or later, benefit from it.

To sum up, dishonesty is no good for human being. It doesn't matter to what level you have fulfilled yourself; what does matter is to what level you have been true to yourself.

## 1.7R

Time and time again, we are told that to be human one has to be honest.

However, the fact is that dishonest phenomena may never disappear from our daily lives. For example, in schools, students cheat in their examinations for good marks; in companies, employees lie to their employers for promotion; in families, spouses deceive their life partners for personal pleasures. When dishonesty fills our lives, something is missing: not lower grades, a delayed promotion, or less personal pleasure, but the cheater's, liar's, and deceiver's self-worth and good conscience. A dishonest person will go nowhere, but end up finding that he betrays himself, while an honest person is always true to himself and, sooner or later, will benefit from it.

To summarize, dishonesty is not good for human beings. It does not matter to which level you have fulfilled yourself; What does matter is to which level you have been true to yourself. Thus, learning to be honest will help

Thus, learn to be honest to make the world a truer and better place to live in.

make the world a better and more truthful place in which to live.

### 【点评】

The use of words in this essay is not too bad, but still lacks a great deal. The writer uses entirely too much Chinese-English, making the writer seem to be totally lacking in English writing skills. Grammar errors abound throughout the essay, in particular, the use of the semi-colon. There is an overuse of the adverb clause in too many sentences. This makes for boring reading. Sentences are too long, they should be broken up into smaller ones.

## 1.8

There are common dishonest phenomena in society. A lot of cheatings, deceives, hoax and the like appear to be household product for a great number of people in the world. Nearly every field of life contains false in themselves. That is a common phenomenon, yet an unusual demonstration of human nature.

Though they would surely feel disappointed, people seem to have been used to the appearance of such various forms of lies. Lies penetrate into even education field, where knowledge is trying to educate people to be sincere to self and others. Cheatings in the exams, in the sport meetings, in the emotions affairs remind students and teachers of unusual changes in personal quality. Frankly speaking, I disdain those cheaters. They are untrue to themselves. They generate negative affects in lives of themselves own and others. They have to make up continuous stories to make their words seemingly right or persua-

## 1.8R

There are common dishonest phenomena in society: such as cheats, deceptions, and hoaxes. These behaviors appear in all walks of life and some people seem unable to abstain from performing them.

Though they surely feel disappointed, people seem to have become used to the appearance of such various forms of lies. Lies penetrate even into the education field: cheating in exams, in sports meets, in emotional affairs. Frankly speaking, I despise those cheaters. They are untrue to themselves. They generate negative effects in lives of themselves and others. They have to continually make up stories to cover up the previous lies, causing yet more difficulties.

Honesty is a great tradition of human nature, which keeps us in a warm world of kindness. Cheating can only lead to further problems.



sive, causing more disaster in the following lies.

Honesty is a great tradition of human nature, which keeps us in a warm world of kindness. Cheatings could only lead to bad things.

### 【点评】

第一句话中的 common dishonest phenomena 就是多的意思,因此第二句中的 a lot of 就显得重复累赘。“欺骗”动词的同义词有 cheat, con, deceive, dupe, hoax, defraud, equivocate, fleece, swindle, 名词有 cheat, chicanery, con, deceit, deception, dupery, equivocation, fraud, hoax, trickery, swindle。cheat 为平常用语,用于某人骗取他人之物的任何场合,作为及物动词,后面常跟有受害者,从轻度的不公平到无耻的欺诈、诈骗,如: The boy cheated his friend out of the apple by insisting that it was rotten, if not poisonous. deceive 使人相信不真实的东西,误导,如: The magician deceived his audience into thinking that he had sawed the woman in half. hoax 与 deceive 的意思接近,但还有“戏弄”“愚弄”的含义,如: The television play hoaxed viewers into believing an invasion was imminent.

## 1.9

It is very common now to see dishonesty in the society. Lies exist in every inch of this world in twenty first century, when human beings evolve into a sophisticated period of brains.

Businessmen tend to create more and more false contrast with their partners; shops are selling unguaranteed goods of quality and brands; athletes ate plenty of pills to manually strengthen themselves ... such a spread is not to be omitted. We are afraid that human beings would turn to be totally contrasting to past beings!

## 1.9R

It is very common now to see dishonesty in society. Lies exist everywhere in our world. Businessmen tend to create more and more false contracts with their partners and clients; shops are selling fake brand-name goods of inferior quality; athletes take illegal drugs to make themselves stronger and faster; and the list goes on.

In my opinion, dishonesty is intolerable and I hate any false word or behavior. Dishonesty comes from an attempt to make things profitable, but, reality quite often changes this evil yet naive idea. It becomes