

高等院校财经类教材

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS
CORRESPONDENCE IN ENGLISH

新编 国际商务英语 函电

主 编 谢金领 徐以敬

副主编 杜江萍 吴易明



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内容简介

本书系统地介绍了国际商务过程的各个主要环节及在每个环节中所涉及的代表性英文函电。全书共十六章，按业务环节的先后顺序编排。其中第一章简要而系统地介绍了国际商务函电的基础知识，第二至第十四章为业务环节专题章节，每章都由五部分组成：（1）专题基本介绍，掌握要点，写作特点；（2）信函实例；（3）注释；（4）常用例句；（5）练习。第十五章概要介绍了当今国际商务中常用的各种电子商务函电，包括传真、电子邮件（E-mail）和电传等。第十六章特别推出了商务活动中所涉及的其他一些主要信函，包括便函、报告、个人简历、求职函、面谈后的感谢函、接受职位函和谢绝职位函等，并提供了大量翔实的信函实例，以供读者求职和工作时参考。书后的附录中提供有综合自测题和参考答案方便读者、特别是自学者了解对本书的掌握情况，此外还附有精选常用商业术语和缩略语。全书简明通俗，内容翔实，体例新颖，语言规范，版面独特，颇具实用价值，不但可供高等院校作财经类教材，也同样适用于自学考试考生和其他有志于从事国际商务的读者作自学参考之用。

前 言

1-11C85/26

国际商务英语函电作为国际商务往来经常使用的联系方式，是开展对外经济贸易业务和有关商务活动的重要工具。正确地掌握国际商务英语函电的基本知识，并能熟练地加以应用，是国际商务工作者必须具备的专业技能。

随着国际经济贸易的发展、社会的进步和我国对外开放的进一步扩大，国际商务函电通信从内容到方式都发生了巨大的变化，对人才的培养也提出了新的要求。为适应这一社会发展需要，我们在多年从事国际商务函电教学的基础上，广泛参阅国内外有关文献，力取众家之长，对我们的原《国际商务函电》教材进行了根本修订，重新编写了这本《新编国际商务英语函电》，旨在帮助学生系统地学习和掌握国际商务英语函电的格式、专业术语、行文方法、写作特点和常用例句，并了解和掌握国际商务函电通信的最新发展成果，以提高他们在国际商务活动中正确地使用英语的能力和对外进行各种通信活动的能力。

本书共十六章，全部用英语编写，其中第一章简要而系统地介绍了国际商务函电的基础知识，包括商业信函的格式、结构组成、文体特点和拟写原则等。第二至第十四章为业务环节专题章节，基本按业务过程的先后顺序编排，每章都由五部分组成：（1）专题基本介绍，掌握要点，写作特点；（2）信函实例；（3）注释；（4）常用例句；（5）练习。这些环节包括建立业务关系、资信调查、询盘、报盘、还盘、定货及确认、包装和标志、装运、保险、信用证支付、其他方式支付、索赔和理赔、以及促销等。此外还介绍了常见的贸易方式。第十五章概要介绍了当今国际商务中常用的各种电子商务函电，包括传真、电子邮件（E-mail）和电传等。第十六章特别列举了商务活动中所涉及的其他一些主要信函，包括便函、报告、个人简历、求职函、面谈后的感谢函、接受职位函和谢绝职位函等，并提供了大量翔实的信函实例，以供读者求职和工作时参考。书后的附录中提供有综合自测题和参考答案方便读者、特别是自学者了解对本书的掌握情况，此外还附有精选常用商业术语和缩略语，以便记忆检索。

本书由谢金领、徐以敬担任主编，杜江萍和吴易明担任副主编。具体分工为：谢金领担任第一、二、三、四、十六章及附录A、B的编写；徐以敬负责第五、七、九、十章的编写；杜江萍负责第六、十一、十三、十五章的编写；吴易明负责第八、十二、十四章的编写；史烜负责附录C、D的编写。全书由谢金领负责总纂定稿。荣获荷兰阿姆斯特丹大学博士学位的陈绵水教授在百忙之中审阅了书稿，对本书的出版提出了认真的推荐意见并予以积极的支持。我校国际学术交流中心主任林勇教授对本书给予肯定的评价和积极的推荐。我校教务处的领导也对本教材的建设给予关心和支持。在此我们一并表示诚挚的感谢。

全书简明通俗，内容翔实，体例新颖，语言规范，版面独特，颇具实用价值，不但可供高等院校作财经类教材，也同样适用于自学考试考生和其他有志于从事国际商务的读者作自学参考之用。

由于水平有限，时间仓促，难免有错误或不妥之外，敬请读者、同仁批评指正。

编 者

1999年6月于南昌

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CHAPTER 1

BUSINESS CORRESPONDENCE BASICS

1.1 Strong Communication Skills: Required for Success in Business

Communication plays a major role in business. It facilitates business action and is regarded as the oil that lubricates business machinery. When communication breaks down, business activities are hurt. Therefore, strong communication skills are required for success in business. You will be expected to use strong business communication skills in any job you hold. Survey results show that communication skills---written, oral, and nonverbal---are among those that employers find most attractive in potential employees. By acquiring these skills, you will learn how to organize and use your ideas to get what you want from others. You will present your messages with confidence, and these messages will say what you want them to say.

The total communication package, not just the words you use, conveys your message. Strong communication skills enhance the way others view you and make you a more valuable employee. They open the door to other opportunities, both inside and outside the firm for which you work.

1.2 Written Business Correspondence

We transmit most messages through verbal or nonverbal media. Verbal communication consists of messages transmitted through words, both written and spoken. Nonverbal communication consists of messages transmitted in ways other than by words.

Written business communication can be categorized as either reports or correspondence. External written correspondence--correspondence sent to people outside the organization--usually takes the form of a letter, which is one of the main forms of writing you will do on the job. In this book we will focus on written business correspondence in the context of international business. *Learning how to write international business correspondence in English is an important theme of this book.*

1.3 Formatting Your Business Letters

The way a message is formatted sends a favorable or unfavorable impression to recipients. A pleasing format invites the recipients to read the message right away. A less pleasing format might have a negative effect on readers and cause them to delay reading. The formats suggested here will give your correspondence a professional look that reflects positively on you and your company.

You may have noticed that business letters come in many formats. Of these formats, some are more acceptable and commonly used than others. They have become acceptable

because they make messages easy to read and understand. In this part of the chapter, you'll see the three basic styles of letters that are commonly used today in the United States and many other countries: block style, modified block style, and simplified style.

You will use the following nine elements of letters in almost all letter styles. The first two styles include all nine, in the following order:

1. Return address
2. Date
3. Inside address
4. Salutation
5. Letter body
6. Complimentary close
7. Signature
8. Typed name and title
9. Reference information

The third letter style eliminates the need to use the salutation and the complimentary close. However, it does use the other seven elements. Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2, and Figure 1.3 illustrate the three types of letter styles. The body of each letter describes its particular style and format features and shows the appropriate vertical spacing for various elements.

Block Style. Block style is the easiest style to use because every letter feature begins at the left margin. Because it's easy to key, it's also one of the most widely used. However, block style can give the letter a left-heavy appearance. You may want to avoid this minor flaw by using modified block style.

Modified Block Style. The modified block style letter uses the basic block format. However, the following parts of the letter begin at the horizontal center of the page: the return address, the date, the complimentary close, the signature, the sender's typed or keyed name, and the sender's official title. (Do *not* center these on the page, just use the center as the left margin for these items only.)

Using the center at a left margin for these elements gives the letter a more balanced look. Writers can also use blocked paragraphs, as in block-style letters, or indent the first line five spaces if you are using a word processor. Usually a letter with short paragraphs looks better blocked. A letter with longer paragraphs looks better indented.

Simplified Style. The simplified style lets writers drop traditional letter parts such as the salutation and complimentary close. Instead of using a salutation to open the letter, the simplified style letter opens with a subject line. The subject line serves as a title to the letter.

LETTERHEAD

-- or --

- - Return Street Address
 - City, State/Province ZIP
 - Country
 - Date

- - Addressee's Name
 - Street Address
 - City, State/Province ZIP
 - Country

→
Salutation:

→
SUBJECT: THIS LETTER EXPLAINS THE BLOCK STYLE.
(The subject line in this style is optional and often not included.)

→
This letter-style example is presented using block style.
→

In the block style, every letter part used begins at the left margin. This feature makes the block-style letter one of the easiest and quickest to produce.
→

You will generally prepare business letters in block style on letterhead stationery. Typing or keying in the return address is not necessary if the business letterhead stationery has the return address preprinted. For those cases, the date line begins the letter. Present paragraphs in a single-spaced format. A double space separates the paragraphs.
→

Because of its easy-to-produce features, the block style is among the most widely used letter styles.
→

Complimentary close,
→

→(Signature)
→

Sender's Typed Name
Sender's Official Title
→

Reference Information

Figure 1.1 Block-Style Letter (• Equals variable spacing depending on letter length;→ Equals one blank space)

LETTERHEAD

-- or --

Return Street Address
City, State/Province ZIP
Country
Date

*

Addressee's Name
Street Address
City, State/Province ZIP
Country

→

Salutation:

→

SUBJECT: THIS LETTER ILLUSTRATES THE MODIFIED BLOCK STYLE. (The subject line in this style is optional and often not included.)

→

This letter is presented using modified block style. The detail in the paragraphs explains some differences from the block style.

→

Letters using modified block style begin the return address and the date line at the horizontal center of the page. The complimentary close, sender's typed name, sender's signature, and sender's official title also begin at the horizontal center of the page. Vertical spacing is the same as for the block style.

→

In using the modified block style, the writer chooses either to indent the paragraphs or to use blocked paragraphs. This example shows the use of indented paragraphs.

→

Many letter writers choose the modified block style because of its more balanced appearance. However, beginning as many as six lines at the center and indenting paragraphs does take a little more time to produce.

→

Complimentary close,

→

→(Signature)

→

Sender's Typed Name
Sender's Official Title

→

Reference Information

Figure 1.2 Modified Block-Style Letter (• Equals variable spacing depending on letter length; → Equals one blank space)

LETTERHEAD

-- or --

- Return Street Address
City, State/Province ZIP
Country
Date

- Addressee's Name
Address
City, State/Province ZIP
Country

→

→

SUBJECT: USE THE LESS TRADITIONAL SIMPLIFIED STYLE.

→

→

This letter presents the use of the simplified letter style, a less traditional but more streamlined approach.

→

Two major features are missing in the simplified style when compared to the block or modified block styles. The simplified style uses no salutation, and it uses no complimentary close.

→

In the place of the salutation, it uses a subject line. The subject line serves as the "title" of the message being presented in the letter. Although the subject line is optional in block and modified block letters, the simplified style requires its use.

→

The simplified style uses a blocked format, and every feature begins at the left margin. This characteristic requires no tabbing to the center and no paragraph indentation.

→

Many people don't wish to call their message receivers "Dear," or feel that complimentary closes aren't sincere. Thus, they may prefer using this matter-of-fact, direct approach for formatting their letters.

→

→(Signature)

→

Sender's Typed Name
Sender's Official Title

→

Reference Information

Figure 1.3 Simplified Letter (• Equals variable spacing depending on letter length;
→ Equals one blank space)

1.4 The Functional Elements of a Business Letter

All the elements included in these sample letters have business functions that can help you clearly and concisely get your message across. In this section, we review these elements and explain their functions. Every letter does not need all these elements, and in writing your letters, you must choose those elements most appropriate to the situation.

Most often, when readers receive a letter, they quickly scan the parts of the letter that precede and follow the paragraphs. They want to know the company where the letter originated, whom the letter is from, if any enclosures are included, and who received a copy. The following elements give such information quickly.

1.4.1 Return Address

You will prepare most business letters on letterhead stationery that clearly identifies the return address of the sender. By using letterhead stationery, you do not have to key in your return address. For personal business letters that you send from home, place your return address at the top of the letter. Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2, and Figure 1.3 illustrate proper placement of the return address in the three letter styles.

1.4.2 Date Line

If the company's name and return address appears on the letterhead, the letter begins with the date. On personal business letters that include a return address, the date appears directly below the country line. Figure 1.1, Figure 1.2, and Figure 1.3 illustrate the placement of the date in the various letter styles.

Spell out the name of the month, and do not show the date in figure like 11/9/1997 to avoid confusion. That is because there are two ways in writing the date. In business letters, the correct date is vital.

1.4.3 Inside Address

Although it may seem unnecessary to include the addressee's address on the letter, it is appropriate and necessary to do so for two reasons: (1) it is expected practice by all parties in business practice, and (2) the inside address serves as a future reference on the copy the sender keeps.

The inside address usually consists of name of the person to whom the letter is sent, often with a social title and his or her company title, the name of the firm, and the mailing address of the firm.

An inside address should appear word for word as the address appears on the envelope, but not in all capital letters as on the envelope. Place the information included in the address in the standard order that the post office will need to deliver the letter. Examine the order of information in following address:

Ms. Georgia Dolton
Sales Manager
Potsdam Manufacturing Enterprises
145 South Airport Drive
Potsdam, New York NY 10435
USA

If you use window envelopes where the inside address shows through the window,