

英文作文借鉴手册

(修订版)

Models of English Compositions

(Revised Edition)

姜保华 主编

上海交通大学出版社

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刘昌香 王爱玲 张剑 编

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内 容 简 介

本书针对学生在英文作文方面可供借鉴的范例少的现状编写了适应各种考试要求的 600 多篇范文。这些范文内容丰富,风格各异,难易适度。每篇范文后附有单词注释。本书信息量大,实用性强,可供各类院校大学生、研究生、TOEFL 及各类英语应试者、中学生使用,也可供教师及英语写作爱好者使用。

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前 言

《英文作文借鉴手册》一书于 1996 年出版后,已多次印刷,成了读者喜爱的一本畅销书。为了更好地满足英语写作从“应试教学”到“素质教育”的需要,针对考试题目以议论文为主的趋势,对原书大部分文章进行了修改,新编写了 300 多篇范文,同时增加了一些应用文。本书增强了时代气息,更加贴近学生的现实生活,从多方面、多角度和多层次给学生提供思想性、趣味性、实用性强的 600 多篇范文。

全书按内容分 60 多个专题,如: New Era, Social Issues, On Virtues 等等。每个专题由几篇至十几篇文章组成。这些文章和中国的国情以及当前社会问题有关,因此在考试中碰到类似内容的题目的可能性极大。范文题材广泛,题目新颖,思想健康,真挚感人,结构严谨,语言流畅。风格各异的文章能使学生开阔视野,启迪思路,有事可写,有感可发。学生能在阅读涵盖广阔、形式多样的范文中得到启迪,积累知识,领悟妙机,丰富文采。通过对范文的揣摩和模仿掌握各种写作技巧及方法,写出切题、结构完善、条理清楚的文章,从而提高书面交际能力。

书中文章与广大学生感情相通,写作水平贴近,易懂好学,是英语写作考试和提高写作技能的一本实用参考

书。相信,通过阅读此书,加之实践,我们手中的笔一定会描绘出时代潮流的朵朵浪花,人民崇高的精神品格,我们美好的理想,同学们丰富多彩的生活,祖国百花盛开的春天。

编 者

2001年3月于青岛

目 录

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 Love 爱 | 21 Discipline |
| 1 What Is Love? | 22 Beating Children |
| 2 On Love | 22 Too Many Essentials for Children to Learn |
| 3 Love | 23 Flowers of Our Motherland |
| 3 Campus Love | 24 Reluctance to Have Children |
| 4 New Era 新纪元 | 24 Family 家庭 |
| 4 New Millennium | 24 My Mother |
| 5 The 21st Century | 25 Ordinary but Great |
| 6 Problems in New Century | 25 Motherly Love |
| 6 The Information Age | 26 My Father |
| 7 The World Is Getting Smaller | 27 A Happy Family |
| 8 Desire 愿望 | 28 Families Are Forever |
| 8 The Drive of Desire | 28 My Family Tree |
| 9 Competition and Cooperation | 29 On Friends 论交友 |
| 10 Competition | 29 Friendship |
| 11 Be Realistic | 30 Seeking Friendship |
| 12 Be Realistic and Romantic | 30 Friends |
| 13 Imagination | 31 Making Friends |
| 14 Youth 青年 | 32 Similar or Different Friends |
| 14 Youth | 32 Social Issues 社会话题 |
| 14 Modern Youth | 32 Communication |
| 15 A Natural Phenomenon | 33 Influence |
| 15 Generation Gap | 34 Live Separately |
| 16 Gap | 35 Growing in a Big Family |
| 16 Women 妇女 | 36 Stop Wasting |
| 16 Women | 36 Suicide |
| 17 Equality | 37 Myth |
| 18 Women's Position | 37 Buddhism and Christianity |
| 18 Women's Goal | 38 Perspectives 视点 |
| 19 Children 儿童 | 38 Praise |
| 19 The Raising of Plants and Children | 39 The Eyes Have It |
| 20 Hard Life Is Good for Children | 40 Beauty |

40	About Faces	61	How to Succeed in Life
41	Making Decision	62	Opportunity and Success
41	Depend on Ourselves	62	Perseverance
42	Intelligence	62	The Importance of Confidence
43	More Haste, Less Speed	63	Diligence and Success
43	Moon Power	64	Diligence
44	Thrift	64	On Virtues 论修养
45	Temptation	64	Politeness
45	Laziness	65	Common Courtesy
46	Rumor	66	Honesty
46	Emotion 情感	66	Good Manners
46	Showing Feelings	67	Humor
47	Laughter	68	Natural Beauty
48	Facial Expressions	69	To Live a Moral Life
49	Being Shy	69	Teaching and Learning 教与学
49	Mood	69	Teaching Profession
50	Dealing with Tension	70	Successful Language Learning
51	Happiness 幸福	71	Make Learning Enjoyable
51	How to Be Happy	71	Reduction of Frustration in Learning
51	Happiness	72	Handwriting
52	A Pleasant State of Mind	73	Teacher 教师
53	Wealth and Happiness	73	An Ideal Teacher
53	How to Obtain Happiness	74	A Tribute to the Conductor
54	True Happiness for Me	75	College Teacher
54	Time 时间	75	A Preschool or Kindergarten Teacher
54	The Value of Time	76	A Negative Doubt
55	Time Never Waits for Us	78	My English Teacher
55	Punctuality	79	English Instructor
56	To Be Punctual	80	Math Teachers
56	Willpower and Success 毅力和成功	80	A Wise Man
56	Value in Life	81	Group Discussions
57	To Be Master of One's Own Fate	82	The Teacher-Student Relationship
58	Fate	82	Student 学生
58	The Meaning of Life	82	New Criteria for Good Students
59	Life Is a Struggle	83	Model Students
60	Rome Was Not Built in a Day	84	Students
60	Where There Is a Will, There Is a Way	84	Different Groups
61	The Way to Achieve Success		

85	Pupils	108	On Studies 论读书
86	School Life 学校生活	108	Books
86	My First Day at College	109	On Book
87	Long or Short Vacations	110	Reading Good Books
88	Dorm Life	110	Inexhaustible Nutrition
89	With Roommates or Living Alone	111	How to Read
89	Sundays Are Still Necessary for Us	111	Effective Reading
90	University Life	112	Intensive Reading
91	My College Life	113	Seeds of Knowledge
91	Days in the Middle School	114	A Wonderful World
92	Holidays at seaside	114	How to Choose Good Books
92	Summer Vacation	115	Fiction or Textbook
93	Education 教育	116	Textbooks
93	Why Study Abroad?	117	Examination 考试
94	Studying Abroad	117	Examination
94	Decrease the Load on Pupils	118	Tests
95	A Small University	119	Cheating
96	On an Educated Person	119	Solution to Test Anxiety
97	Adult Education	120	On Objective Examination
98	Hope Project	121	A Strong Feedback
99	High Education	122	Feelings Towards Examinations
99	College Education	122	The Night Before an Examination
100	The Value of Education	123	Preparing for Final Examinations
101	Morality and Education	124	China 中国
101	On Self-Education	124	China
102	An Introduction to Qingdao University	124	The Domain of China
102	English Studying 英语学习	125	The Reform in China
102	Work Hard at English	126	China's Reform
103	Speaking English	126	Developing Western China
104	Speaking	128	On Open Policy
104	Keeping a Diary in English	128	Homecoming of Hong Kong
105	The Ability to Write	129	Beijing
105	Studying Tools 学习工具	130	Tian'anmen Square
105	English Dictionary	130	The National Flag
106	Maps	131	Population 人口
107	Libraries	131	Population Control
107	How to Use a Library	131	Key to China's Development
		132	One-Child Policy

132	Land Is Limited	154	Space Exploration
133	Housing Problem	155	Exploring Space
134	Work 工作	156	Should Space Shuttles Be Developed?
134	Work	157	Network Epoch 网络时代
134	Dignity of Labor	157	Computers for Students
135	Physical Labor	158	The Wonderful Computer
135	Interview	158	The Computer Application
137	Job Problems for College Graduates	159	Disadvantages of Computers
137	On Working Mother	160	Internet
138	The Profession I Like to Follow	161	E-mail
139	Favor for Doing Part-Time Work	161	Telephone
139	Demerits of Doing Part-Time Jobs	162	The Telephone
140	On Part-Time Job	162	Telephone and Letter
141	Five-Day Week	163	Economy 经济
141	Bad Factors in Work	163	Foreign Trade and Investment
142	City and Country 城市和乡村	164	The Stock Market
142	Country Life Versus City Life	165	Stock Investment
143	City Life	166	Shopping for Bargains
143	A Beautiful City	166	Which Brand Is Best?
144	Living in a Small Town	167	A Market Scene
144	No Night City	168	Trade of Goods
145	Enjoyment of the Farm Life	168	Money 货币
146	Full of Charm	168	Money
146	Life Is Longer in the Country-side	169	Functions of Money
147	A Pleasant Experience	170	Is Money Very Important or Not?
148	Farmers' Virtues	171	The Right Use of Money
148	Country Life Is More Beneficial	171	Credit Cards
149	Science and Technology 科学和技术	172	Advertisement 广告
149	Science: Good or Evil	172	Advertisement
150	Bad Effects of Science	172	A Medium
151	Cloning	173	Advertising
152	The Study of Science	174	Billboard Advertising
152	The Scientific Attitude	175	Pollution 污染
153	Inventions	175	Benefits and Costs
154	Disadvantages of Technology	176	Preserving the Environment
		176	Water Shortage
		177	Water Pollution
		178	Noise Pollution

178	Noise	200	Physical Exercise and Social Advantage
179	Protect Forest	200	Situation of Physical Training
180	How Man Threatens the Survival of Wildlife	201	Sports 运动
180	Air Pollution	201	Win
181	Make Our Cities Greener	202	Voice of a Soccer Fan
181	Man Is to Survive	203	Sports in Our Country
182	Man and Environment	203	Sportsmanship
183	Environment Pollution	204	Friendship First, Competition Second
183	On Health 论健康	204	A Football Match
183	Your Health	205	The Basketball Game
184	Most Valuable Asset	205	I Like Baseball
185	A Human Body	206	My Favorite Sport
186	Condition to Fulfill Ambitions	207	Swimming
186	Make Yourself a Little Fitter	207	The Game I Like Best
187	How to Keep Healthy	208	Food and Health 食品与健康
188	Good Health	208	Food and Health
188	Staying Healthy	209	Eating and Illness
189	Poor Health	210	A Proper Diet
189	Cleanliness and Health	210	Changing in Diet
190	On Hygiene and Health Care	211	Habit and Hobby 习惯和嗜好
190	Health or Wealth, Which to Prefer?	211	Form Good Habits
191	Medical Service 医疗服务	212	Ways to Organize Your Life
191	Health Field	213	Habit
192	Examining and Treating a Patient	213	Thinking Deeply
193	First Aid	214	Force of Habit
193	Treating Frostbite	214	Get Rid of Bad Habits
193	Catching a Cold	215	Early Rising
194	Emotional Reaction to Illness	215	Hobbies
195	The Grief Cycle	216	My Hobby
196	Physical Culture 体育	217	Smoking 吸烟
196	Physical Exercises	217	Give a Gift of Love!
197	Stay in Shape	218	Cigarette Smoking
197	Good Health Relies on Sports	218	Smoking
198	Sports and Health	219	Ban Smoking
199	Physical Exercise and Health	220	Television 电视
199	Physical Exercise and Mental Advantage	220	Television
		221	The Wonder of Electronics
		221	Violent TV Programs

222	Adverse Influence	242	An Air Flight
223	My Most Favorite Program	242	Marriage 婚姻
223	Video Games	242	Love and Marriage
224	Movies 电影	243	Divorce
224	Moving Pictures	244	How to Choose a Spouse
224	The Effects of Movies	245	Ideal Consort
225	Diversity of Movies	245	The Choice of a Wife
226	Movie Impressions	246	Death 死亡
227	Newspapers 报纸	246	The Control of Death
227	The Function of a Newspaper	247	Euthanasia
227	Newspapers	247	Remaining Days of the Dying
228	Why I Like to Read Newspapers?	248	To Tell the Truth or Not
229	Human Communication	249	War and Patriotism 战争和爱
229	Music and Art 音乐和艺术	249	Patriotism
229	Music	250	Being a Patriot
230	Classical Music and Popular Music	250	War
231	Music Is Part of Me	251	Evils of War
231	Music Appreciation	252	Crime 罪行
232	Noise or Music	252	Ways to Cope with Crime
233	Life Full of Music	253	Fighting Against Fake Commodities
233	Art	254	Laws
234	Social Concerns in Modern Literature	254	Fighting Criminals
234	Pastime 消遣	255	Food 食品
234	Recreation	255	Preference for Food
235	Ways People Spend Leisure Time	255	Some Advice on Food Shopping
235	The Wonderful Show	256	Bread
236	An Introduction to Conjuring	257	The Food in Eggs
237	Travel 旅行	257	Sugar
237	Travel	258	Tea
237	Read or Travel	258	Drinks
238	Prefer Travel to Read	259	Making Dumplings
239	Traveling with Friends	259	Energy 能源
240	Tourism	259	Electricity
240	Tour to China	260	Energy Resources
241	Traveling on Foot	261	Water and Human Life
241	Air Travel	261	Energy
		262	Coal
		262	Petroleum

263	Our Forest	285	Marie Curie
264	Nuclear Power Station	286	A Little Girl
264	Transportation 交通	286	My Grandmother
264	Riding Bicycles	287	My College Idol
265	Automobiles	288	Anecdote 轶事
266	Owning a Car	288	Good Deeds
266	Controlling Vehicles	288	A Potent Magic
267	Winter Driving Tips	289	The Lonely Autumn
268	Railways	290	Why I Don't Drink Beer Any More?
268	Railways and Automobile Roads	290	In Hot Water
269	On Safety 论安全	291	A Bad Accident
269	A Car Accident	292	Fishing with My Father
269	An Unforgettable Traffic Accident	292	Place 场所
270	Foggy Weather	292	At a Barbershop
270	On Safety	293	Backyard
271	Obedying the Traffic Laws	293	An Open-Air Cafe
272	Fire 火	294	My Bedroom
272	The Fire	294	The Department Store
273	Fire! Fire!	295	Playground
273	Fire Accidents in Big Cities	295	Jinjiang Paradise
274	Forest Fires	296	Seasons 季节
274	Fire, Water, and Air	296	The Four Seasons
275	Natural Phenomena 自然现象	297	An Annual Cycle
275	Color	298	The Chinese Calendar
276	Deserts	298	Spring
277	Air	299	Springtime
278	Sounds	300	I Like Spring
278	Waves	300	The Changes of spring
279	Earthquake	301	A Countryside Morning in Spring
279	Hometown 家乡	302	An Early Pleasant Summer
279	My Childhood	302	My Favorite Month
280	Beautiful Recall	303	A Dull Long Summer
281	Changes in Wangzhuang	304	Autumn
281	My Hometown	304	Fall Season
282	I Love Liaocheng	305	Winter
283	Characters 人物	305	The Sleeping Nature
283	Karl Marx	306	The Winter in the North
284	Confucius	306	New Year 新年
284	Einstein		

306	The Lunar New Year	331	A Woodpecker
307	Spring Festival	332	Spiders
308	New Year's Celebrations	332	Animals' Tails
309	New Year's Resolutions	333	Beautiful Insects
310	A Party of the New Year's Eve	333	Ants
310	Festivals 节日	334	Flowers and Trees 花卉草木
310	Christmas	334	Flowers
311	Christmas-Time	335	Flowers and Grasses
311	Christmas Day	335	The Plum Blossom
312	Merry Christmas	336	Forest Scenery
313	Easter	336	A Wood
313	Thanksgiving Day	337	Nature 雨雪风云
314	On Mother's Day	337	Climate
315	Honoring Mothers	338	Rainstorm
316	Qingming Festival	339	A Thunder Storm
316	The Mid-Autumn Festival	339	A Drizzle
317	The Lantern Festival	340	The Morning Dew
318	Landscapes 山水	340	Rainbow
318	The Landscape of Guilin	341	A Snowfall
319	Yaolin Wonderland	341	The First Snow
319	The Yangtze River	342	Summer Clouds
320	Virgin Mountains	342	The Wind
321	Magnificent Gorge	343	Universe 日月星辰
321	A pond	343	The Sun
322	The Little Stream	343	Seeing Sunrise
322	The Beautiful Seas	344	The Rising Sun
323	Animals 动物	345	Sunrise at Sea
323	The Dog	345	The Moon
324	Keeping Dogs	346	The Star
324	Our Dog	346	A Still Night
325	Lion — the King of Beasts	347	A Moonlit Night
326	The Tiger	347	Autobiography 自传
326	My Little Cat	347	Autobiography (1)
327	Squirrel	348	Autobiography (2)
328	Whether to Have Chickens or Ducks	349	Regular Correspondence 日常信函
328	My Goat	349	Personal Letter (1)
329	Cattle	350	Personal Letter (2)
330	The Elephant	351	Personal Letter (3)
331	Dolphins	351	Business Correspondence 事务

	信函	368	Invitation to a Dinner
351	Enquiry	368	Accepting Invitation to a Dinner
352	A Letter to a Distributor	368	Declining Invitation to a Dinner
353	Reply	369	Letter of Invitation
353	Insurance	369	Acceptance of Invitation
354	Proposal for Joint Venture	369	Declination of Invitation
354	Tender	370	Thanks for Hospitality
355	Tender Accepted	370	Thanks for Flowers
355	Order	371	Sympathy for a Sick Friend
355	Buyer's Counter-Offer	371	Sending a Dictionary for a Gift
356	Letter of Applying for Scholarship	371	Thanks for the Gift
357	Letter of Applying for M. A. Degree	372	Thanks for Money
358	Letter of Applying for PH. D. Degree	372	Letter of Apology
358	Applying for the Job	372	Apology for Breaking an Appointment
359	Letter of Inquiry	373	On Death of a Friend's Father
359	Letter of Introduction	373	A Reply to Condolence (1)
360	Letter of Recommendation	374	On Death of a Friend's Mother
361	Applying for a Job	374	A Reply to Condolence (2)
361	Asking for Leave	375	Inform of a Death
362	Letter of Complaints	375	Resume and Others 履历与其他
362	Letter of Applying for Passport	375	Diploma
363	Letter of Applying for Visa	376	Transcript (1)
363	Letter of Applying for Information	377	Transcript (2)
364	Submitting Manuscript	378	Resume (1)
364	Invitation to an Academic Conference	379	Resume (2)
365	Reservation of Plane Tickets	380	Statement of Academic Goals
365	Social Correspondence 社交信函	380	Announcement 通告
365	Season's Greeting (1)	380	Academic Report
366	Season's Greeting (2)	381	An English Evening Party
366	Merry Christmas	381	Notification
366	Wedding Congratulation	381	Announcement of a Meeting
367	Warmest Wishes on Your Birthday	381	Announcement of a Death
367	Congratulation on Graduation	382	Announcement of Changing Time
		382	Pictures and Charts 图片与图表
		383	The National College English Test

- | | |
|--|---|
| 384 The Elimination of Smallpox | 393 The Zoo |
| 385 Movies Are Giving Way to TV | 393 At a Meeting |
| 386 Car Accidents Declining in
Qingdao City | 394 Traffic Accident |
| 387 The Average Family Expenses | 395 Fire |
| 388 The Problem of Human Popula-
tion | 396 How Acid Rain Develops,
Spreads and Destroys |
| 389 Changes in People's Diet | 397 Space Adventure |
| 389 Automobile Accidents | 399 The United Kingdom |
| 390 Ways of Feeding | 400 The Size of the United States |
| 391 From Ugliness to Beauty | 400 A Television Set |

Love

爱

What Is love?

Love is mom's kiss and dad's pat.

Love is sweet roses to a lover and tender caresses to a child.

Love is the tree of friendship.

Love is mutual understanding and support.

Love is forgiveness and sacrifice.

Love is the never-setting sun in the sky.

Love is the spring of the inspiration.

Love is a panacea that cures spiritual wounds.

Love is the candle in the dark and the fireplace in the cold.

Love is a key to opening the door of a closed heart.

Love is an oasis in a boundless desert which gives a tired walker strength and hope.

Love is a harbor in a turbulent sea which makes a weary seaman safe and sound.

Love is balmy wind that soothes pain and anxiety from the tempests of the life.

Love is the teacher's persisting in giving lectures when he is ill.

Love is passing a cup of tea to teachers during the break.

Love is sending postcards to parents on their birthdays.

Love is a kind of subtle and precious sensation among human beings.

Love is all!

Maternal love, paternal love, and fraternal love make us all a global family today. Love is indispensable to us all. No one can live on this earth without love.

Without love, there is no birth; without love the happiest marriage would perish; without love the strongest family would break; without love the integrity of the world would depart.

Only love justifies life. Only love honors life. Only love sanctifies life.

Only love at the core of each life brings satisfaction, brings warmth, and brings meaning to life.

caress 爱抚, 拥抱
oasis 绿洲
balmy 温和的
sensation 感觉; 知觉
fraternal 兄弟的

panacea 治百病的灵药
turbulent (水流) 汹涌的
subtle 微妙的; 敏感的
paternal 父亲的
sanctify 使神圣; 使圣洁

On Love

Love is one of the precious feelings of human being, which is known as the immortal theme of literary works. True love cannot happen, develop and last without sincerity, understanding, sacrifice, tolerance and time-endurance.

Love is neither a trade to make nor a game to play; love is not kiss plus caress or money plus position. Love is a process of exchanging subtle feeling of affection with absolute sincerity in the collision of two hearts. The young couple may fall in love at first sight. But mature love is like a tree; only with irrigation and proper care, can it grow, blossom, fruit from the seed to a big canopy.

Understanding, sacrifice and tolerance are the channels on which love is originally created and travels. Deep and mutual understanding is the spring for vast sea of love. In the flow of divine love, ego dies. The more one sacrifices, the more one gets back. Love is the acceptance of others' strengths and tolerance of others' weaknesses. A wife will care for, help, share every minute of happiness and wretchedness with her husband. And meanwhile, the husband will make all his effort to give his wife and the family love protection.

Moreover, people need time to deepen their affection, to tolerate to one another's differences, and to share each other's joy and grief. Youth, beauty, sexual appeal and romance will vanish as time passes. But love in marriage will become purer, more passionate, more attractive and more beautiful with the passage of time. In the mind's eye of a devoted lover, his spouse is, though old and acts like a candle guttering in the wind, still lovely and full of vitality.

The existence and continuity of human being depend on love. Everyone should give his love to others and receive love from them. It can make people closer and feel the beauty of life. To love and to be loved is the true happiness in life.

immortal 不朽的, 流芳百世的; 永久的 irrigation 灌溉; 水利
divine 神的, 神性的; 非凡的 wretchedness 可怜; 悲惨

vitality 生命力; 活力

continuity 继续, 连续

Love

Of all our feelings, love is the strongest. There are different kinds of love such as the love between parents and children, between friends, between lovers and so on.

As we know, mother's love is the greatest love in the world. Every mother loves her child best. She always gives all fine things to her child but asks for nothing. This kind of love is unique.

The love of parents is a great support in their children's lives. With it, children can always share their happiness and sadness with their parents.

The children's love for their parents is an exceptionally special love. The most precious thing the parents expect to get is the children's love, which is the parents' best reward for returning their deepest love.

Between friends, one should care for and encourage the other when he is ill or in trouble. This kind of love makes the relationship between people close. In the society, it is the most necessary love.

The love between lovers is the most romantic one. The boy and the girl know and love each other. Both of them contribute their whole lives to one another.

Our world is full of love. Since we are born in love and loved by so many people, we should learn to love others. Love alone can awaken love. Paternal love can awaken the love within the child, who will plant the seed of love in his heart and love the parents. Likewise, a student loved by his teachers will in turn show loving feelings towards his teachers. The same is true with all people. Embracing our world with love, we feel a home of the world.

unique 独一无二

romantic 浪漫的

Campus Love

Nowadays, campus love is popular. Some college teachers argue that students should give up love for the sake of learning. They maintain that love is time consuming and influences one's learning. Some students, however, hold that a student who falls in love will study harder and will make greater progress. They don't believe that a person in love lags behind in his studies.

There are different kinds of love on campus. Some students regard love as killing time or adding color; some are pragmatic, thinking it's difficult to find a better partner after graduation; the purpose of others is for seeking the impetus of study. Anyhow, far away from home and alone, seeking

friendship, understanding and love, the boys and girls easily find comfort and appreciation from one another.

As a matter of fact, love is a sharp double-bladed knife. Having it will make you very happy; while losing it, you always feel disappointed and depressed. When the bond of love is broken, going on studying as usual or sinking lament or even being crazy depend on us. We will not let romantic entanglement interfere with our studies.

Love is natural and quiet. During the process of love we will experience romantic love, frustrating and critical love, and real love. True love will overcome our pain and dismay, warm our heart, and spark our spirit with delight. We'll grow up from our love. Love is important, but it should be driving forces but not resistance.

lags behind 落后

impetus 动力;促进,激励

lament 悲哀的表现

dismay (使)灰心;(使)沮丧

pragmatic 实际的;重实效的

blade 刀刃

entanglement 纠缠;纠缠物

New Era 新纪元

New Millennium

The new millennium is once in a blue moon. We are lucky to see it. New millennium brings us both new challenges and opportunities.

In the new millennium, the science and technology will advance by leaps and bounds. There will be breakthroughs in many fields; agriculture, medicine, chemistry, physics, etc. The genetic riddle will be decoded, many hopeless, horrible diseases like cancer and AIDS will be cured, and people will live a longer life. Tomorrow's achievements in biotechnology and artificial intelligence will produce a similar wave of dramatic changes. The fantastic scientific techniques will bring miniature computer, digital communications and even robots to us at home. People's lives will be made more comfortable and convenient and they have more time to smell the flowers. Further, the

exploration of space will make more progress. People will probably be able to live in the moon and travel in the universe.

And there will be a lot of changes in China. The sustained growth of economy will benefit all Chinese. People will enjoy more high-quality goods and better education. China starts its great strategy — developing the western areas. The gap between western and eastern parts will become small. China will become a member of the WTO, which will give a great impetus to trade. The expansion of market capacity and maturing economic reforms will create boundless prospect for trade and investment. Furthermore, since Hong Kong and Macao have come back to China, it is reasonable to believe that Tai Wan will come back, too. Nothing can stop the wheel of history. The unification between Taiwan and mainland is bound to realize.

All in all, the new millennium will be a remarkable era in the history of human development.

millennium 一千年,千年期

by leaps and bounds 飞跃地;极迅速地

decode 译(电报、码等)

biotechnology 生物工程学

once in a blue moon 千载难逢的

AIDS 艾滋病

unification 统一

The 21st Century

Life in the 21st century will be very interesting. All modern conveniences will drop into their places to form the pattern of tomorrow's world. Perhaps we can go on a holiday to the Moon and may live under the sea. Maybe we will have video telephones in every home. When we talk over the phone, we'll be able to see the person at the other end of the line.

The rich and colorful future should grow out of the very discoveries that people dream most from nuclear energy, automation and biological advance. Nuclear energy will be essential in the growing of food on a world scale. If energy is cheap, it is possible to make a substitute for any material we need, from industrial diamonds to vitamins. Automation will provide the means to create a social revolution. I am not the first prophet, or the first dreamer, to hope that the monstrous cities of today, like glaciers of an industrial ice age, will begin to melt away. In addition, the biological development will let us know more about the secret of the mankind.

In a word, the 21st century will make us richer, healthier and freer to enjoy our lives.

prophet 预言家

monstrous 怪物般的

Problems in New Century

In the new century, human beings will be filled with hope and live more advanced life. However, man will also have to confront with some problems that will curtail human being of existence.

Living in the present way, mankind will completely destroy the environment. Pollution of all forms such as land pollution, noise pollution, air pollution and water pollution are worsening with each passing day. People complain all over the world that it is becoming harder to breathe and water is turning undrinkable. Also forests are being cut down at a very fast rate. The pollutions are getting so terrible that in some countries we can't find limpid rivers and white clouds in the sky! We'll leave such an earth to following generations. When the children draw a picture of their surroundings. They paint the green tree in gray, the red sun in gray, everything in gray, and they can't find a clear and clean environment except in the books.

Additionally, the explosion of population is increasing at an incredible speed every year. Human populations will have outgrown their resources, and people will run a high risk of starvation and diseases resulting from overcrowding.

What is more, in the past century, we had many disastrous wars. But there is still potential possibility that the atomic bomb will be used by some politicians. If it happens, the explosion could easily lead to the destruction of the planet.

More seriously, the depersonalization of human relationships and the weakening of spiritual values are aggravating due to the stress caused by the busy schedules and the extreme pursuit of money. This will further contribute to man's isolation and loneliness.

We have only one earth and it is our home. In the new century, we must heal the world and make it a better place for you, for me and for the children who will come to this world.

confront 使面对, 面临

limpid 清澈的

heal 治愈

curtail 剥夺...的权利; 缩短

aggravate 加剧

The Information Age

"Knowledge is power." This is more obviously true with the advent of the Information Age. With the rapid development of science and technology,

man's knowledge is increasing very quickly. More and more books and scientific papers are published every year. It is said that the total of man's knowledge doubles every ten years. Besides, information spreads very quickly through television and computer networks, and people in different countries can share their knowledge and information in a fantastic short period. Like population explosion, information explodes in our times.

At the beginning of the Industrial Revolution, a country's comparative advantage depended largely on the natural resources endowed by Nature. Then, people experienced several phases in industry revolution: the primary industry (agriculture), the secondary industry (manufacturing), and the tertiary industry (services). Now, we are in the fourth industry stage — the information industry.

It is argued that in future people should no longer be classified as white collars or blue collars, but rather as knowledge or non-knowledge workers. The knowledge workers can not only read and write, and perform rote tasks, they must meet the basic requirements of computer literacy and constantly conceive new ways to match the changing demands of increasing productivity.

It is people mastering the most advanced knowledge who will take the lead. Systems developers, computer scientists and programmers, management analysts and inventors are in most demand in the industrialized countries.

The challenge facing every country is to resuscitate its investment and training. The only way to get greater knowledge is through education and training. Knowledge, like capital and material resources, has become an essential factor of production. Therefore, the educational system of a society ought to enable its members to make a rapid transition to adapt to the knowledge-based war. Otherwise, that society will inevitably lag behind.

advent 出现, 到来

phase 阶段

rote 死记硬背; 机械地做事

resuscitate (使)复活; (使)复兴

endow 赋予

tertiary 第三的; 第三位的

conceive 设想; 想象

The World Is Getting Smaller

The moment we mention someone else, during our leisure talking with friends, they would say they know that person. At that time, we always cry out, "What a small Qingdao!"

With the progress of science and technology, more and more modern forms of transportation appear nowadays. Buses, trains and ships have come into use for nearly a century, and traveling by air is getting common in our

days. We are able to get to Washington by air from Beijing in hours. A hundred years ago, the trip would take us two months. The times when man could only travel by foot is gone for good. In addition, vehicles can carry goods to and from every corner of the world. So, wherever you go now, you can find the commodities more or less similar.

Communication between people is becoming more convenient and frequent in this great era full of information. Now, people can call each other with visual telephones. Besides, the Internet is amazing for people to contact each other. In a minute, the event happens in any country will be known by the whole world. You can stay at home and work for the company at the same time with the help of fax, telephone and e-mail. Although in urgent need of learning advanced technology, many people cannot study abroad because of limit income and time. Now, they can take courses through the Internet. They have classes on line; they graduate at any time available. Moreover, people can inquire the doctors on Internet. A lot of the Internet citizens have already visited web sites of medicine for information related to health.

In conclusion, with the development of the science and technology, the world will be getting smaller and smaller.

for good 永远

visual 可视的

Desire 愿望

The Drive of Desire

In Jane Austin's *Pride and Prejudice* we all have read that, "It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a large fortune must be in want of a wife." This testifies that people are never satisfied with what they have and always strive for something new and different seems to be a propensity inherent in human nature.

In fact, it is the spirit of dissatisfaction that constitutes the very force propelling human civilization forward. Stimulated by the thirst for knowledge and challenged by the harsh environment, man has evolved triumphantly from

primitive to advanced and sophisticated. If our ancestors had been satisfied to dwell in caves or to lead their nomadic life, they would have remained vagabond creatures, living in the inhospitable forests or the hostile wilderness, forever on the alert so as not to be prey of ferocious predators.

In the modern world, this insatiable desire of man's has given rise to the most spectacular development of science and technology. For instance, people with a small house want to live in bigger houses and people with cheap cars want better, faster and more expensive ones. They are happy to get something new through work more.

Likewise, markets have flourished because we want more and better goods. Science and technology has been developing at an alarming rate because of our desire to discover more. And social and political organizations have been improved constantly owing to our endless demand for a better living atmosphere. Furthermore, we undertake perilous expeditions to the South Pole with the hope of discovering alternative energy sources, and we travel into the unknown depths of the universe to explore all mysteries.

If everybody was satisfied with what they have, and everybody stayed where they are, then there was no incentive for anyone to get ahead. No doubt, the need for something different and new is an important part of people's nature, and without it, life would not be worth living.

propensity 倾向;嗜好

nomadic 游牧的;游牧生活的

prey 被捕食的动物;牺牲品

insatiable 不能满足的

constitute 构成;指定

vagabond 流浪的;漂泊的

predator 捕食其他动物;食肉者

perilous 危险的;冒险的

Competition and Cooperation

Cooperation and competition are both important. They are attributes which are equally necessary for a person to achieve success in his life.

Learn to be cooperative. No one likes a selfish, greedy, or arrogant individual. However, everyone likes a considerate and cooperative person. Everything we do today, whether in doing business or making friends, depends upon our ability to get along with one another. In our society, most tasks demand the cooperation of many individuals so that they can be accomplished efficiently. In this situation, we must be supportive and cooperative. Each person is like a small part of a machine. If only one part is out of order, the machine can't be running well. Besides, transportation and communication systems are rapidly developing and people all over the world can get in touch with each other more easily. It is hard for a person who is isolated

from the society to have a deep understanding of the world he lives in and to accomplish a feat in his career. Cooperation is becoming more and more important for a person to earn a good life.

Being competitive also has a place in life. If you want to achieve more success and be better than others, you must work harder, study more diligently, and adapt yourself to competition. The desire to succeed and do better than others inspires us to work harder. If there were no competition, a sports meet would never be exciting and successful, and we could never have champions.

No doubt, we often find there is an inseparable relationship between competition and cooperation. In a football match, either team is competing with the other. But each member of the team is cooperating with his teammates.

We cooperate with others to be more competitive; we compete to earn a better environment for cooperation. Thus we can make progress continuously. Only competition together with cooperation leads us to realize our goals and satisfy our needs.

attribute 属性;特征
feat 功绩;壮举

arrogant 自大的

Competition

Competition is a common phenomenon in our social life. We compete when we play games and when we try to do better than others in our study. There is constant competition for academic degrees, jobs, customers, money and so forth. In a sense, competition is one of the motive forces to the development of society.

In the natural world, the weak will be replaced by the strong and the fittest can live; therefore, the only way to survive is to be competitive. Growing in a competitive environment is important for a child because future adult life is difficult. Finding a good job, for example, is an extremely competitive activity. Today, most people obtain knowledge through various ways and a large number of people get good education. There are also many people who have higher degrees in their special fields. The quality of people is rapidly increasing. Competition is more violent than what we thought it should be. The potentially successful job applicant has to be prepared in a stronger position by gaining more qualifications and experience. In the sports contests, the strongest will come out as winners. They become our heroes and they are glorified. In the business world, to beat your competitors, you must be better

than the other employees. Otherwise you will be defeated.

In fact, the only way our world rewards people is to give laurels to the winners, not to the losers. What is more, by attempting to compete at different activities, we learn to win and lose, gain experience and know our strengths and weaknesses. Competition prepares us for the tough things in life.

To go ahead, to acquire possessions, we should be competitive. To us, industriousness and ambition are positive values.

Whether in games, in study or in business alike, the aim is to win the game, the degree, the trophy, and the contract. Learning to be competitive is clearly the best preparation for life.

qualification 资格
glorify 褒扬,赞美

laurel 桂冠
trophy 战利品

Be Realistic

All children are born romantics; every child fantasizes about intergalactic battles among computerized aliens. Although an adult should never completely lose his childhood imagination, he has to knuckle down to reality.

I have every reason for being realistic. Take the reality of a career for example. Since not every student is exceedingly good in academic achievement, it might be wise to make the best out of limited circumstances, that is, try to find a job compatible with your competence. Likewise, the imperfection of career systems often access some people to good jobs but they are not truly suited to their positions. In fact, examinations, education systems, job interviews, and career guidance are, too, imperfect. If students were reminded of this reality, there would be fewer disappointed faces when results are published.

Many young romantics stubbornly attempt to live as the fantasy images of TV soap operas and romantic comedies. Even worse, such youngsters are completely confused as to why they do not have an apartment like the one they saw in a magazine, or a car shown on the television commercial.

Supremely, of course, romanticism gets young couples into the most trouble when it comes to love and marriage. Again, the chief reason is that the romantic persons do not sufficiently understand the centrality of work. Marriage is plain and the glamour of the honeymoon soon gives way to years in which the newlyweds must corporately work hard. In today's society, the divorce rate is skyrocketing. You know why? It's simply because that people today are never satisfied, expecting unrealistic perfect marriage.

It is an earnest thing to be alive in this world. With competition, with war, with disease, poverty, misfortune and death oncoming, who but fools will give serious attention to what is not significant to the business?

intergalactic 星系际的
knuckle 屈服; 承认失败
centrality 中心地位

alien 外侨; 外人
supremely 最重要地; 最高地
corporately 共同的

Be Realistic and Romantic

Young people tend to think that real life is as dramatic, romantic and fascinating as it is in novels, movies, and dramas. The typical instances in their minds are like "Romeo and Juliet" and "LiangShanbo and ZhuYingtai". But more experienced adults disregard this opinion. Adults believe this kind of naive daydream will be destroyed by later experiences and every one should learn to get used to tedious life. In fact, Realism is necessary, but idealism is also indispensable.

It goes without saying that the great influence of realism and idealism in literature is significant. There have been many great realistic works. These books not only shocked the world of their times, but also have been staying in people's hearts for centuries. Among them, for example, are "David Copperfield" and "How the Steel Is Made". But many romantic stories gain high popularity as well, such as short lyrics "My Heart Leaps Up" and "Lines Written in Early Spring" by romantic poet Wordsworth. We can see his deep love for nature runs through them. As a great romantic poet of nature, Wordsworth found the words for the most elementary sensations of man. These sensations are universal and old but, once expressed in his poetry, become charmingly beautiful and new. The literature will lose its glamour without either kind of works.

The same is true in our life. In order to support ourselves, we should learn working hard to have a decent career and to earn a living. It's realistic. But everyone can imagine what life would look like if we could not enjoy our favorite music, if all the gardens were filled with fruit trees instead of red roses and golden tulips, if going fishing was not for relaxing but for earning money. That is a gray and dull picture of life. No one likes the world like that. So it is clear that romance is as important as reality.

All of us enjoy the blue of cloudless sky; enjoy the harmony of a violin, enjoy love feeling and enjoy the fruit of work. But I understand thoroughly things like marriage — the most potentially romantic matter — will boil down to changing diapers and working overtime. True romance is found only in the

reality of hard work.

Be realistic and Romantic.

disregard 不理; 无视
lyric 抒情诗
boil down to 归结起来是

tedious 枯燥的; 乏味的
tulip 郁金香
diaper 尿布

Imagination

Everyone says, "There is always a gap between imagination and reality, the former is always more ideal than the latter." Although most people know that we cannot equate imagination with reality, people still find it hard to resist the temptation of imagination, for it is so sweet and wonderful, especially for me when I was working hard for my university dream in high school.

Endless homework, heavy pressure couldn't prevent me from drawing a fascinating picture of the university life in my mind. Students are sitting leisurely on the green lawn, playing romantic songs with the guitar, or walking along the tree-lined pathways, talking and laughing heartily... I imagined a large and beautiful campus, bright, clean classrooms, and cheap, tasty food. Reality is, on most occasions, inferior to imagination.

When I was a university student, I found what I had imagined was far beyond reality. Instead of sitting on the lawn singing songs, the students were seen reciting English texts aloud; instead of walking cheerfully along the small paths, they were walking hurriedly with books under their arms. I never expected to live on the sixth floor, the highest story. Every day I had to drag myself to my room after class, out of breath. And the meals disappointed me, too.

When imagination and reality were naked before each other, I couldn't deny a kind of complex feelings in my heart. How could I put the English books aside to read pastime books? How could I play while others were studying hard? So the lake saw me reading early in the morning; the library found me leaving late in the evening.

In the face of reality, imagination is beautiful, while reality can teach us much experience, which we cannot obtain from imagination.

equate 使...相等, 使...等同
inferior 劣等的; 差的

temptation 引诱, 诱惑

Youth 青年

Youth

Youth is a precious gift and a gold time in our life. It is not a matter of rosy cheeks, red lips and supple knees; it is a matter of the will, a quality of the imagination, vigor of the emotions; it is the freshness of the deep springs of life. It is the time for us to prepare to become responsible citizens.

Youth comes only once in a lifetime, so it is important not to waste those years in idleness or bad living. This is also the time when our memories are best. We are able to learn more during this time than when we become older. When we are young, we are strong and healthy. During our younger years, we have the enthusiasm to set high goals for ourselves. We have courage to overcome obstacles which are placed in our way.

If we realize how precious youth is, we will be fulfilled when we are young as well as when we are older. If we waste our youth, we will spend the rest of our lives wishing we could be young again.

supple 柔软的;易弯曲的

idleness 闲着

Modern Youth

Nowadays, quite a number of old people are not satisfied with the youth. They always connect the youth with fashionable dress, rock music and popular songs. They always shake their heads and say, "Ai, young men today..."

In fact, young men today have many good points, which are not seen by the old. They are more creative, more ambitious, and more independent. Most of them are not satisfied with the present situation, and are especially against traditional principles and beliefs. Therefore, they are trying to get rid of the restriction of these rules and do what they want to in the way they like. Maybe this is why the old are against the young.

There is no doubt that modern youths have shortcomings. They are usually eager to succeed without doing things one-step at a time. They often

set something high and out of reach, and pay no attention to the reality.

fashionable 时髦的
ambitious 有抱负的

rock music 摇滚乐
restriction 限制

A Natural Phenomenon

Nowadays, it is very natural for young people to be critical of their parents at times and blame them for misunderstanding between them.

The reason is that they have different likes and dislikes owing to their different age, experiences and way of thinking. Actually, children are active, energetic, curious, and desirable to learn. However, parents are practical and realistic. They prefer a peaceful and smooth environment.

Today's teenagers are more or less active in taking part in social life, more ready to voice their opinions on social and political phenomena and more confident in dealing with the outside world. Meanwhile, parents often underestimate their children and are afraid that they have no experience. Thus many parents maintain children are still young and want to take them under their wings. Thinking it is their duty to make decisions for their children, when children turn a deaf ear to their well-intentioned advice, they feel angry and depressed. On the contrary, children think parents' over-consideration unnecessary and they want independence. As a result, children feel caged, and regard parental protection as a burden. So both children and parents feel it is very difficult to communicate with each other.

Generation gap is a natural phenomenon. If parents talk with children on equal terms, and children give more understanding to their parents, they can cooperate and narrow the gap between them.

critical (of) 对...感到不满
cage 关在笼中
term 条件;地位

voice their opinion 发表意见
phenomenon 现象

Generation Gap

Generation gap refers to the distance and contradiction between the old and the youth. It's a common phenomenon that exists everywhere in the world and influences both the old and the youth.

Generally speaking, generation gap results in different understanding and appreciation of the great and constant changes of the world, different reaction to new things, and different attitudes to traditional principles and beliefs. Therefore, we may say where there are the old and the youth, there is the

generation gap.

Generation gap is natural, but very influential. If we cannot deal with it appropriately, the gap will be greater and greater and consequently affect the work and relation between the old and the young.

generation gap 代沟

contradiction 矛盾

reaction 反应

influential 有影响的

Gap

Despite various improvements in all aspects of social life, the generation gap between the grown-up and young remains large.

Nowadays, the young people do not blindly follow what their elders say. Owing to a higher level of education, the influence of western civilization, to some extent, gives them a new philosophy, which is completely different from that of their elders.

Modern youths tend to be more revolutionary. They have their own interpretation for different matters; they also have their own ideas. Their reluctance to learn old teachings and sayings causes constant friction between the two generations. They always introduce new changes. However, the old people, wedded to things of the past, are hostile to change. An invisible cold wall thus appears between the two generations and becomes wider and wider.

After all, the young generation, like the old one, needs being respected. And they are also skilful in modern techniques. In order to narrow the gap, both groups should respect each other, listen to the words of each other and discuss things patiently. Most probably, this may help to solve the problem.

blindly 盲目地

interpretation 解释;理解

friction 摩擦

be wedded to 墨守成规

hostile 敌对的;不友善的

invisible 看不见的

Women 妇女

Women

Women are playing an increasingly important role in society. Successful

women such as government officials, scientists, athletes, teachers and doctors are found everywhere. We can say that many jobs which were done only by men in the past can be done equally well by women now. Women are making their influence felt in all walks of life.

With the changes in their social roles, women's position in the family has been improved as well. The husband is no longer the only economic provider of family income and the wife is no longer economically dependent. They cope with problems of daily life together, and share happiness and sadness with each other.

In spite of these changes, women still face many difficulties and obstacles due to traditional roles and limited economic strength. In addition to fighting against the old ideas, the effort should be made to awake women to the prejudice, and encourage women to build their independent careers and realize their full potentials.

No doubt, women still have a long way to go in their struggle for complete equality with men.

all walks of life 各行各业

income 收入

obstacle 障碍

prejudice 偏见

Equality

"Should men and women be equal?" This is an issue much talked all over the world. China has made great effort to improve the legal status of women and put the principle of equality into practice. However, women are still denied the right to compete with men on equal terms in many fields.

In this enlightened age, there still exist a certain number of men who view women as second-class citizens. They maintain many things men do could not be done by women, who are inferior, unreliable, irrational and weak. Some men even say housework is the women's task and the wives' sacrifices are sure to set the husbands up for great success. So the former should have more rights than the latter.

Nevertheless, women have shown their excellence and superiority in any fields. As football players, doctors, professors, scientists and even presidents of countries, they are as good as men and have often put men to shame. They are so conscientious, industrious and persevering that they frequently succeed brilliantly in all walks of life in addition to bearing and rearing children.

It goes without saying that from the time when mankind first appeared on the earth, there have been men and women. Humanity could not have existed and progressed without either of them.