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前 言

英文写作水平虽然很难一下子提高,但也用不着花好几年时间。这是因为:我们常犯的错误是比较容易总结的,是有规律的,而且在四、六级应试作文中需要表达的思想和内容也是有限的,掌握表达这些思想和内容的英语并不需要很长时间。因此,本书的前半部分详细介绍了同学们在段落、句子和选词三个方面常犯的错误。

除了分析、研究写作时常犯的错误,另一个提高写作水平的办法是练习写作,然后请人修改。但这很难做到,于是我在本书的后半部分收录了我修改的四、六级作文共40篇,供大家参考。

自己的错误被人纠正过就很难忘记。有一次我和老外一起去滑冰,其间我冰鞋的冰刀坏了。我说我的 knife 坏了,老外马上纠正说应该用 blade。我在国外上研究生时,曾经对系主任说我已选的课与她的课在时间上有冲突,我用了 contradict 这个词,她立刻纠正说要用 conflict。contradict 实际上是"矛盾"的意思(比如我说自己吃过饭了,过了一会儿又说没吃,So I contradicted myself.),我明明知道这对词的区别,但是用的时候却搞错了。会用一个词要比看懂这个词难多了,掌握一个词的用法最行之有效的办法就是在别人的帮助下不断纠正用词的错误。

有些同学为了备考作文,采取了背范文的笨办法。其实市场上 有许多作文指导书上的范文写得并不好,充满了中式英语,背了之 后,所获甚微,此其一;背了许多范文,不一定能用得上,此其二;

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背诵范文,过于辛苦,易产生对英语学习的怨恨情绪,此其三。

同学们感到写好英语作文最困难的是用词。大家平时掌握的都是能看懂意思的词汇(recognizable vocabulary),但对实际应用的词汇(working vocabulary)掌握不够,所以本书的前半部分关于用词的篇幅最多。在句子方面,大家常犯的错误是不够简洁,句式太呆板、缺乏变化。段落方面的问题主要是缺乏写出段落中心思想的主题句。

本书由较容易的问题讲起,逐步过渡到较难的问题,最后是习作评改。书中前半部分出现过的许多句子和用词的问题重新出现在习作评改具体的应用环境中。目前市场上四、六级的作文指导书多侧重结构、范文和语法,而侧重于句子和用词方面的书见得不多,关于作文修改的书也很罕见。希望本书能够填补这个空缺,给同学们提供实际的帮助。

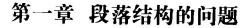
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目 录

<u>o</u> _	第一章	段落结构的问题	1
•	第二章	句子的问题	12
<u> </u>			
		需要使用从句的时候	
		忽视平行结构	34
		常用错的表达	36
		不能随意使用的几个词	39
		写作时应该尽量避免使用的词	41
		总结	41
ഉ_	第三章	急需掌握的表达	42
<u> </u>	第四章	习作评改	81
		四级作文	
		Passages 1 — 5	81
		Passages 6 — 10	92
		Passages 11 — 15	102
		Passages 16 — 20	112
		六级作文	
		Passages 1 5 A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A A	121
		Passages 6 10	129
		Passages 11 + 75	138
		Passages 16-20	

手把手教你四、六级作文



四、六级作文一般要求写三段,并且要求超过100词,因此每一段有三到五句话就可以了。虽然字数少,但是段落总体的质量取决于一定的构思和组织能力,必须要在每一个段落里有条理地、有依据地表达一个中心思想。段落的结构应当符合一定的模式和具有某些基本特征,并遵循一定的发展方向。

主题句和扩展句的重要性

段落的条理关键在于掌握主题句和扩展句的关系,这样的条理对议论文尤其重要。一个段落在结构上有三个主要的组成部分: 主题句(topic sentence)、扩展句(support sentence)和结尾句(conclusion),其中结尾句并不是绝对要求的。这几个句子是相互关联的,其中主题句是表达段落主题的句子,它阐明一个段落的中心思想,是段落的核心,段落中的其他各句都与它紧密相连并围绕它展开。

英语写作中每一个段落只能有一个中心思想,并且要由一个主题句提出。中心思想提出以后,作者接下来的任务就是解释或者说明这个中心思想,扩展句起的就是这个作用。这几个句子包括证据(evidence)、事例(examples)或者是逻辑论证 (further arguments)。

主题句的形态和功能

主题句通常由主题(a topic)和作者的观点(an opinion or a



statement)两部分构成。它必须是一个完整的句子,而且要包含一个完整的主题思想。请看下面几个从历年考题的作文中 摘取的句子:

The benefits of participating in sports are numerous. My favorite program is "Friend".

I enjoy the programs about real people and real experience.

其中, sports, Friend, programs about real people and real experience 都是主题。have numerous benefits, is my favorite, I enjoy 则都是用来表达作者的观点或意见的。

对写作结构的要求其实来自于人们的思维习惯。主题句起到的一个作用就是提示读者这一段的主要写作目的是什么。主题句除了让读者明白这一段的主题和作者的观点外,还要能够让读者根据这个句子产生预感,知道作者在其后大致上将要涉及什么样的内容。上面举的例子中的第一个句子"运动有很多好处"的后面一定要列举具体的好处,比如保持健康、提供与人交往的机会等等。"我最喜欢的节目是'朋友'"会让读者期待作者对这个节目特点的介绍。"我喜欢讲真人真事的节目"会让读者期待作者阐明他的理由。我们再举几个例子:

People view money differently.

Some people consider money the root of all evil.

第一个句子的后面一定要讲人们对钱到底有哪几种态度。 第二个句子的后面一定是介绍这些人为什么会有这样的观点, 或者是有这样观点的人会有什么样的行为。

🌼 主题句要有概括性而扩展句要具体

主题句是起提示作用的,因此它要具备一定的概括性,不能太具体了。而扩展句的功能是详细解释和论证,因此必须要具体。例如:

手把手教你四、六级作文

Each program will focus on a particular friend who can be either a celebrity or an everyday person.

这句话是说一个电视节目的特点:每次专注于一个人物, 而这个人物可能有名气,也可能只是一般人。这句话很具体, 适合作扩展句。

"Friend" is a very interesting talk show.

这句话就可以当主题句。这句话的意思很完整,但它没有说访谈节目为什么有意思。具体的原因应该用扩展句去说明。

The cost of making fake products is usually lower than that of real ones.

伪劣商品的制造成本通常低于真货。这句话说了一个具体 的事实,适合作扩展句。

We have to wonder why fake products are so prevalent.

真不知道为什么会有这么多伪劣商品。这句话提出了问题,但是没有说具体原因,所以适合用于主题句。

主题句的位置

主题句在多数情况下位于段落的开端,它开门见山地点出主题,使作者自始至终紧扣主题,也使读者一开始就能抓住整个段落的主题思想。

Drug use is so widespread that it is part of the daily life of almost every person. From birth to death, drugs ease our pain and suffering. For many, drugs serve such utilitarian purposes as keeping us awake, helping us sleep, or eliminating our stress. Recreational drugs increase our pleasure or sociability at festive or informal gatherings.



主题句说药物的广泛使用是日常生活的一部分。随后的扩展句通过日常生活中人们使用药物的场合和情景——止痛、催眠、兴奋以及助兴娱乐——来证实主题句提出的论点。

We Americans are incredibly lazy. Instead of cooking a simple, nourishing meal, we pop a frozen dinner into the oven. Instead of studying a daily newspaper, we are content with the capsule summaries on the network news. Worst of all, instead of walking even a few blocks to the local convenience store, we jump into our cars.

该段的中心思想十分明确:我们美国人特别懒。在这样一个主题句之后,几个扩展句用具体的事实说明了美国人是懒惰的。

主题句也可以在句尾, 其特点是可以帮助读者总结全段的内容, 从而加深读者的印象。

We are constantly being talked at, by teachers, salesmen, public officials, and motion picture sound tracks. The cries of advertisers pursue us into our very homes. Our daily papers amount to thirty to fifty pages of print. We go out and get more words at bookstores and libraries. Words fill our lives.

前面讲的是事实, 是例证, 最后才点明主题。

下面几篇学生的四、六级习作,语言已经修改过, 我们暂且把重点放在审查段落结构上。

1995年1月真题

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic *Can Money Buy Happiness*. You should write no less than 150 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1. 有人认为金钱是幸福之本。
- 2. 也有人认为金钱是万恶之源。
- 3. 我的看法。.

Can Money Buy Happiness?

Some say that society today is based on money. There is no question that money is important in our lives. People view money differently. Some people consider money a source of happiness. To them, money is everything. They dream of luxury homes, clothes, jewelry, etc. In other words, they dream of a luxurious lifestyle. They cannot imagine life without money and material things.

Some people consider money the root of all evils. They believe some people even become criminals because of their want for money. As a result, they have a negative attitude toward money. They refuse to talk about money or make friends with people who are interested in money.

I believe the opinion that money is neither happiness nor evil. Money is a tool. We need money to insure our quality of life. However, money cannot buy happiness. There are more important things than money such as love. Money is a necessity but should not be the focus of our lives.

评析: 这篇三段的文章的第一段问题比较严重。题目已经规定了第一段的主要内容,要根据这个要求确定中心思想。这一段的第四句话(Some people consider money a source of happiness.)比较像主题句。当然,最好用 the only source of happiness 更符合题目的要求。前面的三句话都有问题,它们



不像是用来支持主题句的扩展句。比如第一句话,"有人认为这个社会是基于金钱的",意思不清楚。社会是基于金钱的,这是"有人"的观点,那么自己是什么态度呢?但意思不清楚还不是最严重的问题。这个句子看上去也是个主题句,而且与第四句意思有差别。我在前面已经讲过,每一段只能有一个中心思想,而且只能用一个主题句来表达这个中心思想。第二句话说金钱无疑是重要的,也像是个主题句。按照逻辑,他下面应该讲金钱为什么重要。但是根据题目要求这一段不应该写这个内容。第三句话说人们对金钱的态度是不一样的。这句话像是起转折作用的,但是位置明显不对。

我们在写作的时候要先按照题目的要求写好主题句。或者 把题目的要求看作是一个指导范围,先按照方向,写出有具体 例证的扩展句。写完扩展句之后再根据扩展句的内容确定主题 句。但不管是什么样的顺序,我们要记住两点。第一,不能在 一段话里写一个以上的主题句。第二,每一段话的内容必须符 合题目的要求。

6666666666666666666666666666666

1997年6月真题

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic *Getting to Know the World Outside the Campus*. You should write no less than 150 words and you should base your composition on the outline (given in Chinese) below:

- 1. 大学生了解社会的必要性。
- 2. 了解的途径。
- 3. 我打算怎么做。

Getting to Know the World Outside the Campus

As a student, I agree that students should have a well-rounded background that comes not only from a<u>cademic studies</u> but also from everyday life. For instance, the growth of one's personality depends on many factors beyond academic learning. In addition, we can learn many things in society beyond campus we cannot learn in a campus setting. These skills will help us once we leave university to pursue a career.

Today, students have many avenues to pursue outside learning. There are many ways to learn more about the world outside of campus such as via media and part-time jobs. For example, we can work at part-time jobs to learn new skills such as effective communication skills. In addition, we can learn more through TV, radio, magazines, and the Internet.

I plan to take on a part-time job to learn more about society. It is the most direct method to learn about outside society. Additionally, it allows me to learn new skills. It is important to learn about society beyond campus and there are many ways to do this.

评析:这篇习作的结构很好,每一段的内容都符合题目的要求,而且都有主题句和扩展句。第一段的第一句话点明该段的主题,即大学生应该了解社会,全面培养自己。后面的扩展句说明了理由:一是这样做有利于个性的发展;二是能学到技能,对毕业以后有用。第二段的主题句写了解社会有多种途径,后面的扩展句介绍了具体的途径,比如打工、上网以及通过媒



体等等。最后一段按照要求写了自己的打算,而且跟了一句话解释了原因——这是所有的方法中最直接的。全文最后一句话是对整个短文的总结。

模 拟 题

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic *Books*. The first sentence of each paragraph has been written for you. You should write at least 150 words and the sentences given to you will not be included.

- 1. There are different kinds of books.
- 2. Books can not only bring us knowledge, but also enrich our lives.
- 3. However, not all books are good.

Books

There are different kinds of books. Scientific books help us learn about the laws of nature. History books teach us about our forefathers. Art books increase our understanding of music, paintings, architecture, etc.

Books not only increase our knowledge but also enrich our lives. Reading novels is a favorite pastime because of the vivid descriptions and plots. People also read biographies to learn about other people. There are magazines catering to different tastes and interests such as economics, sports, etc. In addition, these magazines are frequently published and provide us with a great amount of information.

Not all books are appropriate. Some contain explicit and adult materials, which can lead to neglect of one's duties. It is

手把手教你四、六级作文

important to pay attention to the contents of books.

评析: 这道模拟题每一段的首句已经写好,因为过去的真题有这样的形式。第一段的首句作为主题句有一点问题,因为它的内容太宽泛了。但这不是本文讨论的内容。这位同学对这个主题句的扩展句写的不错,具体阐述了几类书的不同的作用。第二段的扩展句介绍了各种书籍给人们提供了娱乐,满足了多种兴趣爱好。第三段具体说明了哪一类图书是不健康的,读了这样的书会对读者造成什么样的危害。

2004年6月真题

Directions: For this part, you are allowed 30 minutes to write a composition on the topic: *A Brief Introduction to a Tourist Attraction*. You should write at least 120 words.

Your role: a tour guide

Your audience: a group of foreign tourists

Your introduction should include:

- 1. some welcoming words
- 2. the schedule for the day
- 3. a description of the place the tourists will be visiting

(e.g. a scenic spot or a historical site)

You should make the introduction interesting and the arrangements for the day clear to everybody.

Hi, folks. I am going to be your tour guide and it's a great pleasure. I know it's unfair to ask you to get up at 5 in the morning since you might still be suffering from jet lag and probably did not get enough rest last night. But let me assure you that this is the only way to circumvent Beijing's traffic



congestion and to make it to so many landmark sites in a single day. You will not hate me, I hope, when you find that you have made the most of your single-day trip to Beijing.

After breakfast, the bus now parked outside the hotel will take us to the Badaling section of the Great Wall, our first leg of the tour. We will get there before most of the local folks hit the road. I recommend that you take the cable car, which will give you a bird's eye view of the entire landscape. We will head back downtown to the Forbidden City in the afternoon. We are already booked for dinner at this same restaurant.

The Great Wall, as you might know, was an ancient defense built against nomads who threatened the Chinese agricultural civilization. But fortunately or unfortunately, it never worked. Mongols and Mandarins, among others, easily crossed the wall and conquered China. As a result, China has become a country with diverse cultures and peoples. The wall we are seeing today was reinforced in the Ming Dynasty. The Mandarins who destroyed the Ming Dynasty chose to build a great wall of flesh and blood. The royal family married Mongol princesses to forge a military alliance in the north. And that proved to be more effective than the wall. However, the Great Wall, straddling canyons and stretching thousands of miles, does indeed impress tourists. It is a permanent structure that will continue to generate tourist income. Our ancestors would never in their wildest dreams have anticipated that this structure would become China's main attraction to foreigners, whom they were determined to keep out.



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