



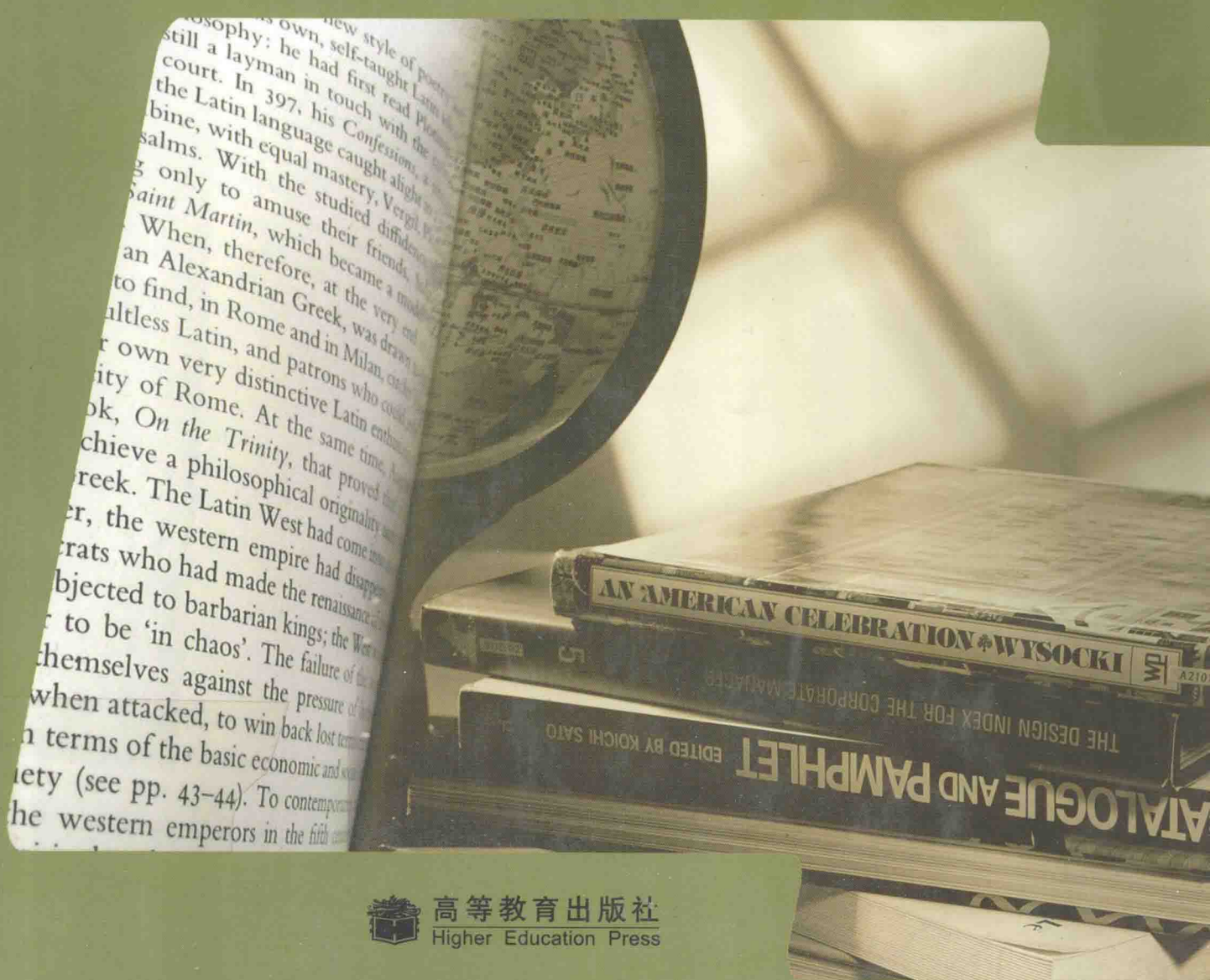
普通高等教育“十一五”国家级规划教材
大学英语自主系列教材

College English Writing

大学英语自主写作

An Autonomous Learning Edition

主编 蔡基刚



高等教育出版社
Higher Education Press



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前言

本教材与传统的写作教材比较有以下不同点:

1. 突出自主学习。一般人认为写作学习尤其是作文的修改没有教师的指导是无法进行的,但是本教程力图在此方面有所突破。本教程在写作技巧的介绍和练习的编排方面都充分考虑有利于学生自学和互学。例如,我们提供了自我诊断的练习,设计了具体的作文检查内容和评估内容,学生可以通过自评和互评发现问题,提高写作能力。

2. 力求针对性强。一般大学英语写作教材编成2到4册,从写句子开始,过渡到段落教学,最后才写文章,包括了描写文、叙述文、说明文、议论文和应用文等多种体裁的作文教学。考虑到大学英语选修课课时有限,我们只编写一册,供2个学分的写作课使用。全书共8个单元,适合18周教学。因此,编者在内容的设计上突出针对性强,力求短、平、快。即在内容上只介绍和托福、雅思、考研、四、六级考试以及学术论文写作相关的写作体裁和技巧,在方法上直接从写文章开始,句子和段落等的写作技巧都结合在学习写文章中介绍。

3. 贯彻以内容为主线。传统的写作教材是以技巧为主线的,如从句子到段落再到文章等。我们尝试改变这样的编法,采取以内容为主线(content-based)的编写原则。整个教程设计了8个主题,涉及教育、技术、家庭、伦理等学生感兴趣的内容。每个话题有几篇相关的文章,要求学生在阅读这些文章后,发表感想,写得越长越好。技术的介绍和练习的安排都围绕这些主题和内容进行。编者认为只有学生感兴趣的内容,才能激发他们的写作热情,并能写出较长且内容丰富的作品。

4. 强调语言提高。根据编者的经验,中国学生写作的难点不仅是对结构技巧的学习,如主题句、段落连贯、体裁写作等,更难的是对语言表达,尤其是地道的英语表达的学习,因为这是一种需要长期锻炼才能获得的能力。针对中国学生作文词汇贫乏,句子单调的通病,编者从词的选择到句子的构造进行详细的分析和比较,并列出一一些相关的固定表达法,帮助学生选择更合适的词和更地道的句子结构来写作。

5. 侧重外语写作。对中国人来说,英语写作是外语写作。根据编者的观察和研究,中国学生在写作过程中,受母语的迁移影响是很大的,中国式英语表现在词汇、结构和修辞等诸多层面上。根据这些问题,我们在技巧的介绍和练习的编写中十分注重分析各种形式的中式英语,提供具体的解决方法。

6. 配合在线写作。写作课程的趋势是网络化(标志是键盘输入)。托福等考试已实行了网络写作,四、六级考试也将在2009年改为网考。网络写作特点是在线性,学生通过键盘输入实时发表自己的文章,并可以在自己约定的小组内互相进行阅读、讨论和评改。他们不仅可以读到同伴的评论,也可以读到教师的批改意见,并随时提出疑问,得到解答。本教材就是考虑到网络写作的特点进行编写的,并推出网络版和配套的在线自主写作平台。

本教程已经在复旦大学《议论文在线写作》的课程中试用了两个学期,取得了较好的教学效果。贺灿文和郑丽琦两位教师参加了本教材部分编写工作,在此表示感谢。

编者

2008年4月

Contents

Chapter 1 The Effect of Modern Technology	1
Goals	1
Topic	2
Stress and Technology	2
Link	3
The Highs of Low Technology	3
Overload: More Time Is Less Time	4
Response	5
About the theme	5
About the rhetoric	5
Organization	5
Unity	5
Topic Sentence (TS)	5
Supporting Sentence (SS)	7
Writing Strategy	10
Coherence	10
Transitional Words	13
Language Awareness	17
Common Errors	17
Formality	21
Tasks	24
Revision	24
Revise	24
Edit	25
Evaluation	26
Chapter 2 Goodness and Courtesy	27
Goals	27
Topic	28
Unwritten Rules	28
Link	29
The Rules of Polite Behavior	29
Accountability	29
On Behalf of Common Courtesy	30
可怕的秩序	30
欧洲评选最佳游客	30

Response	31
About the theme	31
About the rhetoric	31
Organization	31
Introduction	31
Thesis Statement	34
Writing Strategy	37
Anecdotes	37
Language Awareness	39
Word Variety	39
Tasks	46
Revision	47
Revise	47
Edit	47
Evaluation	48
Chapter 3 Freedom and Discipline	49
Goals	49
Topic	50
The Fifth Freedom	50
Link	51
Young Students Need Discipline Along With Kindness	51
Response	52
About the theme	52
About the rhetoric	52
Organization	53
Body Paragraphs	53
Writing Strategy	60
Examples	60
Language Awareness	63
Reduction of Verbs	63
Tasks	69
Revision	69
Revise	69
Edit	70
Evaluation	70
Chapter 4 Success and Failure	71
Goals	71
Topic	72
Turning Failure into Success	72
Link	73
Real Failure Comes from Not Trying	73

What Winners Know	74
Response	75
About the theme	75
About the rhetoric	75
Organization	76
Conclusion	76
Language Awareness	84
Parallelism	84
Dashes	89
Tasks	93
Revision	94
Revise	94
Edit	94
Evaluation	95
Chapter 5 Marriage and Family	96
Goals	96
Topic	97
The Art of Flying Solo	97
Link	99
Divorce Declining, But So Is Marriage	99
Driving the Divorce Rate: Who's Teaching the Women?	99
“高收入职业女性独身多”原因揭秘	100
Response	101
About the theme	101
About the rhetoric	101
Organization	102
Cause Analysis	102
Patterns for Cause Analysis	110
Writing Strategy	111
Statistics	111
Quotations	115
Language Awareness	118
Subordination	118
Tasks	121
Revision	122
Revise	122
Edit	122
Evaluation	123
Chapter 6 Chinese Versus Americans	124
Goals	124
Topic	125

Learning, Chinese-Style	125
Link	126
“Bad” Student in China Now Genius in U.S.	126
East Meets West: Facts and Innovation of Education in China	127
American Values and Assumptions	129
Response	130
About the theme	130
About the rhetoric	130
Organization	131
Comparison and Contrast	131
Subject-to-Subject	131
Point-by-Point	132
Informativeness and Persuasiveness	135
Language Awareness	138
Specific Words	138
Forceful Verbs	139
Tasks	141
Revision	141
Revise	141
Edit	142
Evaluation	142
Chapter 7 Modern Dilemma	143
Goals	143
Topic	144
To Lie or Not to Lie—The Doctor’s Dilemma	144
Link	145
Euthanasia: For and Against	145
Response	146
About the theme	146
About the rhetoric	146
Organization	147
A Pro/Con Essay	147
Writing Strategy	148
Rhetorical Questions	148
Language Awareness	150
Variety in Sentence Beginning	150
Impersonal Subjects	152
Tasks	155
Revision	156
Revise	156
Edit	156
Evaluation	157

Chapter 8 Career Education	158
Goals	158
Topic	159
Career Education vs. General Education	159
Link	160
What Is College for?	160
No Ivory Tower: College Students Focus on Careers	161
College Pressure	162
Response	164
About the theme	164
About the rhetoric	164
Organization	164
Argumentation	164
Writing Strategy	166
Reason and Emotion	166
Analogy	167
Language Awareness	169
Variety in Sentence Structure	169
Variety in Sentence Length	176
Tasks	178
Revision	178
Revise	178
Edit	179
Evaluation	179
Key to Practices	181
Bibliography	192

Chapter 1

The Effect of Modern Technology

GOALS

While people are enjoying the development of modern technology, its negative impact is increasingly felt in every field. It is said that advanced technology deprives man of genuine relaxation and erodes the quality of life. In this chapter we are going to discuss the issue. In writing, we will learn how to

- i) write a unified paragraph;*
- ii) write a topic sentence,*
- iii) write supporting sentences;*
- iv) achieve coherence in writing;*
- v) avoid mechanical mistakes.*

TOPIC

Read the following text.

Stress and Technology

Bruce A. Baldwin

Stress-and-pressure-filled days have become an almost normal part of contemporary life, due to the ever-growing demands of careers, home maintenance (生活费用, 扶养), parenting (父母对子女的养育) responsibilities, and community involvement. Because of this, there is a general consensus (一致同意, 多数人的意见) that just doing all that daily needs to be done in an emotionally intense and complex process. In fact, a wit once commented, "living these days is like a grammar lesson: the past is perfect; the present is tense."

Resulting complaints are familiar: "Everything I try to do these days gets so complicated that I can't stand it. I want to run away and live back in the woods"; "There are so many little problems that interfere every day that I never get done what needs to be done. It's so frustrating, and I blow up (失去耐性) constantly." "It's really strange. Even when I'm relaxing, I have trouble doing just one thing at a time." These statements could easily be explained by the numerous responsibilities of modern middle-class lifestyles. However, a subtle and increasingly pervasive (普遍的) source of stress is the sophisticated (复杂的; 精致的) technology that has become so much a part of our lives.

While new technology and information systems have been tremendous pluses (优点) in areas such as communications and health care, the catch (难题) is that they are also beginning to impact negatively on human functioning (机能), especially emotional well-being (康乐, 安宁). This influence is at once elusive (难捉摸的) and powerful in its psychological effect. With the passage of time, and as sophisticated technology becomes even more a part of life at work and at home, the potential (潜在性, 可能性) for its negative impact increases.

The marvellous communication system made possible by technology, though beneficial in many ways, has caused a lot of strain (过度的疲劳, 紧张) on all career-bound people. No matter what our career paths are, we are constantly overloaded with new and relevant information. The days are gone when virtually (实质上) any professional could feel comfortably "up to date" on what is already known. A nagging (吹毛求疵的) guilt about not spending more time "keeping up" professionally, the pressure to constantly adapt skills and ways of doing things in light of (按照, 根据) new knowledge, and the consequent erosion (侵蚀) of stability in life are some of the negative effects of this "ever-changing" and "ever up to date" information system.

The Information Age brought in by advanced technology like electronic mail, electronic data processing, cellular telephone, miniature (微型的, 缩小的) recorders, and portable computers, has made polyphasic (同时做几件事的) activity possible, because we can get more done in a given time. However, when polyphasic activity becomes no longer able to psychologically "let go" to enjoy just one activity. Instead we are plagued (折磨, 使……苦恼) by distractions that stem from the learned habit of constantly splitting our focus (折中, 分裂焦点). As a result, genuine relaxation becomes difficult.

Modern technology intrudes (侵入) into modern man's fun and relaxation. As the saying goes,

“nothing is simple anymore,” and this complexity has increasingly extended into leisure (闲暇) activities. Take for example, fishing, a pastime (消遣, 娱乐) that many people enjoy. The “advances” are amazing: sophisticated fish finders, sonar (声纳, 声波定位仪) devices, and so on. The story is similar in virtually every other sport or leisure activity these days. However, the “gadgets” all require maintenance and can easily fail, leading to frustration and anger.

Technology makes it more difficult to separate ourselves from work. In times past, it was possible to leave a stressful workplace, go home, and relax. Since less work was mental and more was physical, it was relatively easy to remove oneself — physically and mentally — from it. The sophisticated communication technology available today was not yet developed. In contrast to “the good old days,” it is no longer possible for busy men and women to go home or go on vacation and truly “get away from it all.” It becomes difficult to relax when you are carrying a beeper that may go off (发出声响) any minute. The result is higher levels of stress in men and women because technology enables others to “find them anywhere.”

It is ironic that much technology is designed to make work easier and faster, and this will make life easier for those who must operate the technology, but such is not the case. Witness the prophetic (预言式的) words of the great philosopher John Stuart Mill (1806—1873): “It is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day’s toil of any human being”. How true this is despite the promise of “miraculous” new machinery ranging from a “new and more efficient” vacuum cleaner (真空吸尘器) to the most sophisticated computer. The solution to living well lies not in new and better technology, but in the selective disuse of it so that life can be enjoyed in a more emotionally fulfilling way.

LINK

Following are some articles related to the topic we are discussing about. You may make your contribution, and add articles of the similar topic you find on the Internet or from other sources.

The Highs of Low Technology

Johanne Mednick

I have a wonderful bicycle. My family refers to it as “that piece of junk”—an ancient piece of metal, the likes of which can be found in the dump or, if you’re lucky, at garage sales (现场旧货出售). But I have confidence in my bike. It gives me power, and I cherish its simplicity.

What intrigues (激起……的兴趣) me, in this age of technological innovation is the number of people who stop me and comment on my bike. “Where did you get that thing?” “I haven’t seen one of those in ages.” “What a great bike.”

But really, what is it that people are admiring? Perhaps my bike is representative of a world gone by: the world before gadgets (小器具). A time when people thought in terms of settling into a cushioned seat, stopping the movement with their heel and traveling a bit slower than we are traveling now. My bike is certainly not built for speed, but who needs speed when I can coast (靠惯性滑行) along the streets, hold my head high and deliciously feel the wind on my face? My bike is built for taking time. It makes people feel relaxed.

When I’m riding my bike, I feel as though I have control. And I don’t feel that way about most

things these days. I don't deny that my computer and my microwave make my life a lot easier. I use these things, but they also make me feel rather small and, in a strange way, inadequate. What if I press the wrong button? What if something goes wrong? Maybe if I learned to understand these appliances I'd feel better—more secure about my relationship with technology. But frankly, I'm not comforted by manuals and how-to courses. Of course there are always “experts” I could go to, who seem to know everything about anything. I hunger for simplicity and I have a sneaking (暗地的) suspicion that many people feel the same way. That's why they admire my bike. It comforts them and gives them a sense of something manageable, not too complicated.

Overload: More Time Is Less Time

A. Kent MacDougall

So you think you have some of the good things in life. You've got a video tape recorder and a device that answers the phone for you. And there's a gadget that turns on the lights when you're out. There are all goodies in the kitchen: the electric knife, the coffee maker, the ice maker.

Feel good about having all that stuff? Or do you wonder whether the gadgets are running you instead of you are running them? Americans apparently feel more harried (折磨) than ever these days.

Part of the reason is trying to keep up with the demands on their time to purchase, store, service, repair, replace, and protect all those “time-saving” machines. Add to them the problems of the extra car and the bigger house. “Americans are eating up their leisure time by overloading themselves with all kinds of gadgets...” says one expert in marketing.

“Labor-saving” appliances may lighten the housework. But they save little time. Looking for the right electric knife or other new gadget and getting it ready for use often can take more time than our grandparents did. Vacuum cleaners have raised standards of cleanliness. But they tempt people to spend more time than with a broom or dust rag (抹布). Power-mowing takes as long as mowing by hand. It takes longer if you add the extra hours of work to keep the power mower in repair.

Cars are another time gobbler (狼吞虎咽者, 贪食者). One expert says that tires and batteries last longer than they used to. But, there are more gadgets on them to go wrong. The growing complexity of the car means most owners can no longer play with a screwdriver and wrench (扳手) under the hood (引擎罩) to fix things themselves.

Another problem we face more and more is dealing with computers in place of people. Impersonal, cold, and error-prone (易出错的) machines are replacing clerks. So fixing errors in bills and other problems with a product of service often is a slow and maddening process.

Recreation has changed from the simple pleasures that take time. We don't read, stroll, and visit with friends much now. We're on to complicated, costly things. But to own computers with the Internet is a mixed blessing. Not only do people work more hours to pay for such costly toys, but they have less free time to enjoy them. And repair chews up a lot more time than they bargained for (预料)—time spent calling repair people and waiting for them to show up.

As people crowd their lives with things that eat up so much of their time, they come to feel that time is short. They feel they are in danger of wasting it. In the end, then, the possessions we consume end up consuming us.

RESPONSE

About the theme.

Write as long as possible to answer the following questions.

1. What do you think of the development of modern technology?
2. Do you agree that sophisticated technology has its negative impact on men's psychological well-being? Use your personal experience to illustrate.
3. What other negative effects does advanced technology have on humans apart from stress and pressure?
4. Are you willing to accept its negative effect while enjoying the benefits of modern technology? Why or why not?

About the rhetoric.

Reread paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and answer the following questions.

1. Does each paragraph express a single thought? What are they?
2. Is there a sentence in each paragraph which summarizes the thought?
3. What's the relationship between the sentence and the rest of the sentences in the paragraph?

ORGANIZATION

An effective essay will discuss a topic from different angles. To express your ideas in a logical and clear order, therefore, it is important that a typical essay be divided into several paragraphs. How to write an effective paragraph?

Unity

The concept of an English paragraph differs from that of the Chinese one. It places much emphasis on unity, a single thought expressed by a topic sentence and developed by a group of supporting sentences.

Topic Sentence (TS)

To ensure unity, we may include a topic sentence in a paragraph. A topic sentence is a complete sentence (rather than a phrase) that expresses the main idea of the paragraph. It can be put anywhere in a paragraph, or be implied—not written out at all. But usually, a topic sentence does appear and most often at the very beginning of a paragraph, for this position tells the reader from the very start what the paragraph is about and also reminds the writer constantly what he is going to write. A long paragraph contains a concluding sentence as well as a topic sentence.

- **Nutritional deficiency is a major problem of elderly Americans.** They have little access to nutritional information or education. They lack motivation or

the energy required to prepare meals. Those who need special diets may be unable to afford or to prepare the correct foods. Rising food prices too often erode the ability of those on fixed incomes to maintain even past standards of nutrition and food intake. The elderly who live alone are less likely to provide hot, nutritious meals for themselves.

- **Indeed, the fastest growing industry in America today may be the continuing professional education of highly schooled adults.** Much of it takes place outside the education establishment—through companies, hospitals and government departments that run courses for managerial and professional employees; or through management associations and trade associations. In the meantime, many numbers of private enterprises are organizing courses, producing training films and tapes and otherwise taking advantage of growth opportunities that universities shy away from.

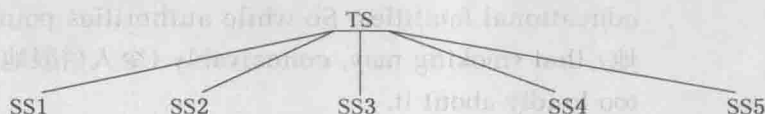
- School children used to know the story of how Abraham Lincoln walked five miles to return a penny he'd overcharged a customer. It's the kind of story we think of as myth. But in the case of Lincoln, the story is true unlike the story of George Washington and the cherry tree. Washington's first biographer (传记作者) invented the tale of little George saying to his father, "I cannot tell a lie. I did it with my ax." **What is important in both stories, however, is that honesty was seen as an important part of the American character.**

- **Good manners are important in all countries, but ways of expressing good manners are different from country to country.** Americans eat with knives and forks; Japanese eat with chopsticks. Americans say "Hi" when they meet; Japanese bow. Many American men open doors for women; Japanese men do not. On the surface, it appears that good manners in America are not good manners in Japan, and in a way this is true. But in any country, the only manners that are important are those involving one person's behavior towards another person. **In all countries it is good manners to behave considerably toward others and bad manners not to. It is only the way of behaving politely that differs from country to country.**

- **Everywhere man is altering the balance of nature.** He is facilitating (帮助, 促进) the spread of plants and animal into new regions, sometimes deliberately, sometimes unconsciously. He is covering huge areas with new kinds of plants, or with houses, factories, slag-heaps (矿渣场) and other products of his civilization. He exterminates some species on a large scale, but favors the multiplication of others. **In brief, he has done more in five thousand years to alter the biological aspect of the planet than has nature in five million.**

Supporting Sentence (SS)

As evidenced above, a well-written paragraph has a topic sentence which is fully developed or supported by other sentences. Hence the name of supporting sentences. Look at the following diagram:



Make an analysis of each supporting sentence of the following paragraph, and you will find they are all related to the topic sentence in one way or another:

• **TS:** These days lifestyles seem to change very fast. **SS1:** It is more than just clothing and hairstyles that are in style one year and out of date the next; it's a whole way of living. **SS2:** One year people wear sunglasses on top of their heads and wear jeans and boots; they drink white wine and eat sushi at Japanese restaurants; for exercise they jog several miles a day. **SS3:** However, the next year they notice that everything has changed. **SS4:** Women wear long skirts; people drink expensive water from France and eat pasta (意大利面食) at Italian restaurants; everyone seems to be exercising at health clubs.

Obviously, supporting sentences are facts, examples or reasons that contribute to the unity of a paragraph. That is, all supporting sentences should explain a single thought and stay with it throughout the paragraph. Discussion not properly related to the main idea should be left out. More examples:

• **Modern technology intrudes into modern man's fun and relaxation.** As the saying goes, "nothing is simple anymore," and this complexity has increasingly extended into leisure activities. Take for example, fishing, a pastime that many people enjoy. The "advances" are amazing: sophisticated fish finders, sonar (声纳) devices, and so on. The story is similar in virtually every other sport or leisure activity these days. However, the "gadgets" all require maintenance and can easily fail, leading to frustration and anger.

• **The lecture system ultimately harms professors as well.** It reduces feedback to a minimum, so that the lecturer can neither judge how well students understand the material nor benefit from their questions or comments. Questions that require the speaker to clarify obscure points and comments that challenge inadequately constructed arguments are indispensable to scholarship (学问). Without them, the liveliest mind becomes dull. Undergraduates may not be able to make good contributions very often, and by lecturing alone a professor fails to attract the beginner's naive question that could have triggered a fruitful line of thought.

- The reason for the government's lukewarm (冷淡的) attitude toward the campaign against smoking is money. Tobacco is a wonderful commodity to tax. It's almost like a tax on our daily bread. In tax revenue alone, the government of Britain collects enough from smokers to pay for its entire educational facilities. So while authorities point out ever so discreetly (谨慎地) that smoking may, conceivably (令人信服地), be harmful, it doesn't shout too loudly about it.

Practice 1 Read the essays in this unit and identify the topic sentence of each paragraph.

Practice 2 Find 3 paragraphs with a clear topic sentence and good supporting sentences in the English material you have read.

1)

2)

3)

Practice 3 The topic sentence is missing in each of the following paragraphs. Add one according to what supporting sentences express. The first one is done for you.

1) Doing part-time jobs is helpful for Chinese students to have a better understanding of life.

Chinese students are mostly the only child in the family, and their demands are normally accommodated whatever they are. They take it for granted that their parents can buy anything they want. But now in doing part-time jobs, they come to realize how hard it is to earn money. This helps them form a correct viewpoint of life.

2) _____.

The robots are often seen loading and unloading hot heavy metal in steel factories. Used in nuclear power plants, the robots handle the radioactive materials, preventing human personnel from being exposed to radiation.

3) _____.

For example a cat can teach us a valuable lesson about how to be contented, how to be serene (平静的) and at ease, how to sit and contemplate (沉思). A dog can teach us lessons of loyalty and devotion though his or her constant pleas for attention become, sometimes, a bit too much.