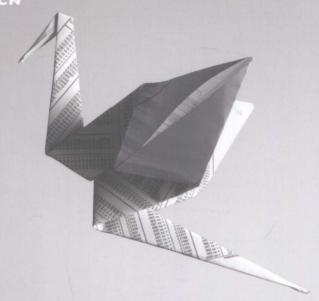
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Preface 序言

目前,中国英语学习者普遍使用的写作类辅导用书不外乎两类,一类是中国学者根据外国书籍写的,另一类是外国学者写的。而本书的作者谷约 (John Gu) 在美旅居多年,有从事跨国教育和培训的丰富经验,教授过商务英语写作和留学文书写作等课程,因此对汉语的语言结构给中国英语学习者的英语写作造成的负面影响有深入的研究和透彻的领悟,能针对中国英语学习者在写作时经常遇到的典型障碍、误区、不良习惯和文风等问题,指明修正和改善的有效途径。

本书作者结合多年的"实战"经验,提出了英语写作中应遵循的四大主要原则,即简洁明了、生动有力、错落有致和规范得体。依据这四大原则,作者进一步细化出了简单实用且易于掌握的 23 种写作技巧,并依照其重要性进行了排列。第 1 章、第 9 章、第 13 章、第 17 章分别从用词、组词及句式结构等方面指出了令写作简洁明了的具体途径;第 4 章、第 5 章、第 6 章、第 7 章、第 10 章、第 22 章叙述了通过转换词性以及善用从句、特殊句式结构和修辞方法等可使文章更加生动有力;第 2 章、第 3 章、第 8 章、第 15 章、第 16 章、第 18 章讲解了如何通过使用插入语、独立主格以及各种从句从而使句式错落有致;第 11 章、第 12 章、第 14 章、第 19 章、第 20 章、第 21 章、第 23 章则列举了规范得体的写作范例。每个章节下都配备了典型例句,从正、反两方面进行对比阐述,给读者最直观的印象,手把手教读者如何具体运用每一种美化句子的技巧。对中国英语学习者写作时不易把握的因素,如具体与抽象、非正式与正式、简洁与累赘、重复与强调等,作者更是进行了深入剖析,对提升

读者的英语写作水平具有实际性的指导意义。每个章节最后还配备中译英实例和 针对性练习,便于读者加深理解和巩固。最后,作者精心收集和整理了三大实用 附表,包括容易拼错的单词以及英式、美式英语单词拼写和表达差异对比,供读 者平时积累所用。

本书介绍的写作技巧对各类英语水平考试的备考,以及商业文书、学术论文、留学文书和演讲文稿的写作,都十分具有参考价值。本书对于不熟悉英语文体和写作规范的读者,尤其没有地道英语学习环境的中国英语爱好者来说,更是一本及时、有效的写作参考书。

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要写出漂亮的英文句子,首先且至关重要的一点就是简洁。一般来说,只有在强调或修饰句子时,才能重复使用某个或某些意义相近的单词和短语,否则句子就会显得啰嗦、冗余,应当"删繁就简"。许多人将简洁与简短混为一谈,其实两者有天壤之别:简洁是指简明扼要,没有多余的内容;简短则是指文字篇幅短、字数少。所以在删繁就简的过程中,不能只是一味追求简短,只要某个英文单词确实能起到一定的作用,它就应该留在句中。试比较以下几组句子,体会修改前后的效果差异。

例句点评

Wordy: Liu Bin is employed at a T.V. station working as a news reporter.

Better: ① Liu Bin works at a T.V. station as a news reporter.

- ② Liu Bin is a news reporter at a T.V. station.
- ③ Liu Bin is a T.V. news reporter.

评析 原句中的is employed为被动语态,且与working as意义重复,可进行合并。一般情况下,主动语态表意更为直接和清晰,因此这里使用主动语态更好,具体修改见句①。如果调整语序,先表明"a news reporter"的身份,则可以省去动词work,使句子进一步简化,详见句②。进一步看,"at a T.V. station (在电视台工作)"和"as a news reporter (做新闻记者)"在意思上还有重合的部分,可进一步"删繁就简",合并为"a T.V. news reporter",详见句③。

Wordy: Sun Hong is determined in her mind to lose weight.

Better: Sun Hong is determined to lose weight.

评析 原句中的determine—词本身已经有"下定决心"的意思,不需要再加in her mind。类似的还有postpone our meeting until later,postpone—词本身就有"延后"的意思,不需要再加until later。还有在句子"My car is a foreign import, not home-made."中,import—词表示"进口,引进",那么肯定是从国外引进,所以这个词本身已经包含了foreign的意思,故改为"My car is an import, not home-made."

Wordy: This book will help you master the basic elements of good writing.

Better: This book will help you master the basics of good writing.

评析 同上组例句一样,原句中的问题在于basic elements这两个词意义有重合之处,直接简化为basics即可,类似的还有fundamental principles和essential components,可分别改为名词fundamentals和essentials。

Wordy: Dr. Sun Yat-sen went to Japan by means of a big boat.

Better: Dr. Sun Yat-sen went to Japan by boat.

评析 原句中的词组by means of意为"用,依靠",在表达"使用某种交通工具"的意思时,等同于介词by,因此by means of a big boat可简化成by boat,类似表达还有by car、by bus等。

Wordy: It makes me feel painful to think that she has to work 12 hours a day and seven days a week.

Better: It pains me to think that she has to work 12 hours a day and seven days a week.

评析 短句结构 "it makes sb. feel +形容词"中,形容词可用其动词形式来替换,表达为 "it +及物动词+ sb.",即原句中的it makes me feel painful可表达为it pains me,以使句式更为简洁。类似的结构还有很多,如it makes me sad/cheerful,分别可表达为it saddens/cheers me。

Wordy: It will be our aim to ensure proper health care for each and every one of the Chinese people.

Better: Our aim is to ensure proper health care for all Chinese.

评析 原句中有两处不够简洁的地方,一是it will be our aim没有必要使用将来时态,"aim (目标)"本身就隐含了将来的意义,因此直接用一般现在时即可,而且our aim可以直接作主语,没必要再使用it作形式主语,因此可将此部分改为our aim is。类似这种表达还有it is our position,可改为our position is; it is my proposal that可改为my proposal

is that,或者直接将名词转换为动词形式,如I propose that。二是each and every one表示 "每一个人、全体"时多用于强调,而此处并不需要这种强调效果,反而显得冗余,可用表示整体的all来代替,使句式更为简洁。

Wordy: The search of the forest that they conducted was entirely complete.

Better: 1 The search of the forest was complete.

2 They conducted a complete search of the forest.

评析 原句存在两个问题,一是the search of the forest不需要再加动词conducted;二是修饰词entirely多余,complete本身已经含有"完全的"之意,再加entirely则意思重复了。有两种改法,一是删去这两处多余的部分,如句①;二是将被动语态改为主动语态,如句②。类似的句子还有the task that they performed was completely finished,可改为the task was complete或they finished the task。

Wordy: He has no sense of principles, whether he is in public or in private.

Better: He has no principles, public or private.

评析 一提到"……感"或"……意识",大多数中国学生的第一感觉就是将其译为"sense of …",如原句中的no sense of principles (没有原则)。事实上,要想句子更加简洁,我们可以去掉sense of,直接表达为no principles。另外,原句中的后半句whether he is in public or in private可进行简化,直接表述为public or private。类似这样的结构还有whether in white or in black,可简化为black or white;或whether in theory or in practice,可简化为in theory or in practice。

Wordy: In a cautious manner the car went around the corner.

Better: ① The car went around the corner cautiously.

② The car **negotiated** the corner.

评析 原句中的介词短语in a cautious manner可用一个介词cautiously代替,意思相同且更为简洁。另外,"went around ... cautiously"可进一步简化,用一个词negotiated代替。这个词除了常见的"谈判、协商"之意外,口语中还可表示"顺利通过"之意。

Wordy: Another important aspect is good health. It is one of our great blessings. It may be achieved through proper diet and exercise. Rest is also desirable.

Better: The great blessing of good health may be achieved through proper diet, exercise, and rest.



评析 分析原句的句子结构可以发现,原句中多个单句其实相互之间关系十分紧密,完全可以用从句来连接,省去it is、it may be等,不仅使句子更加简洁,逻辑关系也更为紧凑。

Wordy: Whenever anyone telephoned her to ask her for help with their homework she obliged right away.

Better: She immediately obliged anyone who telephoned for help with homework.

评析 一般情况下,由whenever/when之类引导的状语从句往往可以简化,办法之一是直接删去从句,将主语提至句首,如修改后的句子。另一个办法就是保留引导词when/whenever,但省略从句的主语,如 "When the watermelons are fully grown, they can weigh ten pounds"可改为 "When fully grown, the watermelons can weigh ten pounds",也能达到简化句子的效果。

Wordy: If the government agency finds that an individual has received a payment to which the individual was not entitled, whether or not the payment was due to the individual's fault or misrepresentation, the individual shall be liable to repay to the government the total sum of the payment to which the individual was not entitled.

Better: If the government agency finds that you received a payment that you weren't entitled to, you must pay the entire sum back.

评析 原句使用了过多的从句,看起来非常冗长,且要点不清晰。仔细分析句子结构之后我们发现,原句的要点是"政府部门会错发钱,而这笔钱必须全部上缴,不得私吞",因此结合这个要点,我们可以将句子简化,详见修改后的句子。

删繁就简的技巧

看完上述句子修改前后的对比,相信大家都体会到了句子简化之后的妙处。但是 "化繁为简"具体该如何操作呢?下面笔者就为大家介绍几种常见的技巧。

■ 用介词(短语)替代从句

很多情况下,一个简单的介词往往比一个从句显得更简洁、有力。学会恰当使用介词是将句子化繁为简的最实用技巧之一。

Wordy: While they were playing tennis, she started an argument that lasted all morning.

Better: During tennis, she started an argument that lasted all morning.

评析 原句中的从句while they were playing tennis意为"打网球的时候", while doing sth.可直接用表示"在……期间"的介词during代替。依此类推, when引导的时间状语从句也可用介词during来代替, 如when/while they were negotiating均可改为during negotiation。

Wordy: When you come to the second traffic light, turn right.

Better: At the second traffic light, turn right.

评析 需要注意的是,原句中的when you come to the second traffic light虽是由when引导的从句,但从意思上来看,"当你到达第二个红绿灯时"表达的实际上是一个地点,因此在选择替代的介词时需用表地点的at。类似的还有"When you turn to page 120, you will see two historical pictures of pre-1920 Shanghai."可改为"At page 120, you will see two historical pictures of pre-1920 Shanghai."

用过去分词形式替代从句

一般情况下, "which/that + be动词"引导的定语从句通常都能简化为过去分词形式,使句子更简洁。

Wordy: The novel, which is written in three parts, told a story that is set in the Middle Ages.

Better: ① Written in three parts, the novel told a story set in the Middle Ages.

2 The three-part novel told a story set in the Middle Ages.

评析 原句中的定语从句which is written in three parts可直接用过去分词形式written in three parts替换,详见句①。如果想进一步简化句子,可直接用three-part替换written in three parts,作novel的前置修饰语,详见句②。另外,that is set也可以用set的过去分词替代。

■ 用前置修饰语替代who/that从句

通常情况下,用短的定语从句去修饰"某人"或"某物"时,可以考虑弃用定语从句,将修饰信息以形容词的形式置于被修饰的词之前。

Wordy: A neighbor who would like to help others will get certain help in return.

Better: A helpful neighbor often receives help from others in return.

评析 原句中的who would like to help修饰主语neighbor,可考虑将从句转换成形容词形式helpful,置于被修饰的主语neighbor之前,使句式更加简洁。

Wordy: The couple that has just married plans to visit Chengdu in southwestern China.

Better: The newly-wed couple plans to visit Chengdu in southwestern China.

评析 将短定语从句that has just married改为前置形容词newly-wed (新婚的),修饰couple。

Wordy: I want to thank people who are associated either in the past or at the present with the Shanghai International Studies University, such as Margaret Wang, Vivian Yang, Professor Li Guan-yi and Miss Marion Baillie.

Better: I want to thank people associated with the Shanghai International Studies University,
past and present: Margaret Wang, Vivian Yang, Professor Li Guan-yi and Miss
Marion Baillie.

评析 将定语从句who are associated with简化为过去分词形式associated with; either in the past or at the present可简化为past and present并后移; such as可直接用冒号代替。

删除意义重复的单词或短语

Wordy: Two joint partners will present their views over a long-distance telephone call.

Better: Two partners will present their views over a long-distance call.

评析 two partners已经包含了joint (共同合作)的意思, call指的就是telephone call, 所以原句中的joint和 telephone都可以删去。

Wordy: We sometimes make choices that put our lives in jeopardy where death can occur.

Better: We sometimes make choices that put our lives in jeopardy.

评析 原句中的to put one's life in jeopardy意为"将某人的生命置于危险之中",而 jeopardy一词本身就包含where death can occur之意,因此这个从句实属语意重复,可删去。

Wordy: He sometimes gets so angry that he would like to take someone else's life and murder them.

Better: Sometimes he becomes angry enough to contemplate murder.

评析 原句中的两个词组take someone else's life和murder them表达的意思相同,没必要重复,且so ... that结构可用表意相近但更为简洁的介词enough to代替。

学会使用含否定意义的词

英语中很多词本身就具有否定意义,如lack、rarely、barely等。也就是说,与no或not等否定词连用的词组可使用意义相同或相近的含否定意义的词来代替,以使句式更简洁。以下面的几个句子为例。

Wordy: College students who *do not have* sufficient financial backing can apply needs-based scholarship.

Better: College students who lack sufficient financial backing can apply needs-based scholarship.

评析 单词lack意为"缺乏",等同于do not have sth., 因此可以直接替换。

Wordy: I find that I do not have a lot of leadership skills.

Better: I find my leadership skills lacking.

评析 同上,原句中的do not have sth.也可用find sth. lacking来替换。

Wordy: The side effects were not often experienced by the patients.

Better: The patients rarely experience the side effects.

评析 原句中的were not often (不经常)就是rarely的意思,因此用rarely一个词替换原句的词组were not often,更为简洁,且主动语态比被动语态更直接。

Wordy: Susan almost finished talking on the phone, but did not, when her baby woke up.

Better: Susan had barely finished talking on the phone when her baby woke up.

评析 原句中的 "almost ... but did not"表示 "几乎要……但却没有"的意思,可直接用意思相同的barely (几乎不)替换。

常见赘语及其简化表达

赘语	简化表达	中文释义
at that point in time	then	(过去的)那个时候,那个时间段/点
at this point in time	now	现在

at your earliest convenience	soon	尽快,务请从速
due to the fact that for the reason that the reason why is that	because	由于,因为
despite the fact that notwithstanding the fact that regardless of the fact	although, even though	虽然,尽管
as regards concerning the matter of in reference to regarding the issue of with reference to	about	关于
for the purpose of	for	为了
in connection with in relation to	with	与有关
in order to	to	为了
in the event that on the occasion	if	如果;万一;在情况下
has the ability/capability to be in the position to	can	能够,有能力和资格做某事
it is probable that there is a possibility that	may, might	有可能
it is crucial that	must	必须; 至关重要的是
as a usual rule	as a rule	通常,一般来说
has proved itself to be	has proved, is	证明了
modern factories of today	modern factories	现代化工厂
next step to take	next step	下一步
puzzling in nature	puzzling	使莫名其妙的; 让人困惑的
total effect of all this	total effect	整体效果;总体效应

简洁优美的英语名句

That's one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind.

这是我个人的一小步, 却是人类的一大步。

——美国宇航员尼尔·阿姆斯特朗(Neil Armstrong)

The only reward of virtue is virtue; the only way to have a friend is be one.

对美德的回报是美德,获得友谊的唯一途径是给人以友谊。

——美国作家拉尔夫·瓦尔多·埃默生(Ralph Waldo Emerson)

To err is human, to forgive, divine. 凡人多舛误, 唯神能见宥。

Too much rest becomes a pain. 休憩过度,亦成疲劳。

——英国诗人亚历山大·波普(Alexander Pope)

Animals are such agreeable friends—they ask no questions, they pass no criticisms.

动物是令人心仪的朋友,它们从不提问,更不批评。

——英国小说家乔治·艾略特(George Eliot)

Great men are but life-sized. Most of them, indeed, are rather short.

伟人亦是凡胎,而且大多都是五短身材。(寓意:伟人和凡人一样有不足之处)

——英国批评家马克斯·比尔博姆(Max Beerbohm)

Loyalty comes from love of good government, not fear from a bad one.

忠诚源自对良政的爱戴,而非对暴政的恐惧。

——美国法官雨果·布莱克(Hugo Black)

中译英实例

1. 她的眼睛闪闪发亮,透出智慧的灵气,同时又有责备人的锋芒。

不合格译文: Her eyes are glittering, with *cleverness of wisdom*, also *display talent of blame*.

评析 斜体部分不符合英文表达习惯,且不够简洁。

基本合格译文: Her eyes are twinkling with the glamour of wisdom as well as the *ability* of reproaching.



评析 说眼睛透出glamour of wisdom不错,但是说眼睛透出ability of reproaching ("责备的能力")显然不符合中文的表达习惯,令人费解且啰嗦。

合格译文: Her eyes are glittering with wisdom and reproach.

评析两个名词wisdom和reproach就能解决问题,既精炼又准确地表达了原意。

最佳译文: Her eyes were bright, intelligent, and accusatory/reproaching.

评析 译文将中文原文里的三个动宾结构"闪闪发亮"、"智慧的灵气"和"责备人的锋芒"用形容词形式表达,不仅句式简洁,而且十分工整。另外,accusatory和reproaching是同义词,可以互换。

2. 老张已是69岁的老人,心脏不好,又患有相当严重的关节炎,他已不再是跳迪斯科的料了。

不合格译文: Due to poor heart and rather terrible arthritis, 69-year-old Zhang can do anything but disco.

评析 斜体部分的意思是 "69岁的老张什么都能做,就是不能跳迪斯科了",和原句意思相去甚远,又和前文的 "due to poor heart …"存在逻辑上的冲突。

基本合格译文: With slight heart trouble and serious arthritis, 69-year-old Old Zhang is not a fiend with disco anymore.

评析 is not a fiend with/at表示 "热衷于(某项活动)"或 "(在某项活动方面)非常在行",用在此处非常可取。译文唯一不足的是把两个old 放在一起,读起来有点拗口。

最佳译文: Lao Zhang is a 69-year-old man with a bad heart and a fairly serious case of arthritis. Disco dancing is not for him anymore.

评析 译文将原文分解为两个独立的句子,且将后半句"他已不再是跳迪斯科的料了"转换成"迪斯科已不再适合他了",句意没变,但英文表达"Disco dancing is not for him anymore."显然更言简意赅、更地道。

练习

1. If you want to change the outline of your story as you go along, that is fine. (提示: 简化of 短语结构以及that is结构)