



# 研究生英语阅读与写作

*Graduate English Reading and Writing*

主 编 / 孙云波

副主编 / 段 虹



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# 前 言

随着中国经济的不断发展,国际交流日益频繁,英语的广泛使用有目共睹。学习并掌握英语是我国英语学习者的目标。在英语听、说、读、写等基本技能中,写作是产出性、应用性技能,要求学习者具有宽广的知识面及整合知识的能力,因此,写作是训练难度较大的技能之一。然而,在长期的英语学习中,写作一直未得到充分、有效的训练,是中国学生的弱项。要提高英语写作能力,不仅要掌握写作的基本知识,还要大量地阅读以拓宽知识面。有了输入的保证,输出才能成为可能;学习者才能通过多种多样的感官刺激以及记忆、联想、构思等认知心理过程从潜意识中提取信息。

由此可见,阅读与写作密切关联,写作应与阅读紧密地结合起来。用母语写作尚且如此,那么对于语言功底不够扎实的外语学习者来说,要想写好英语作文更需要从阅读中丰富思想内容,借鉴写作技巧,识别英汉语言形式系统的差异,学习相关的表达方式。通过模仿,熟悉外语特有的篇章结构模式,掌握扎实的词汇、语法及修辞方面的语言基本功,为独立创作打下基础。

其实,写作的过程,尤其是对学习者而言,就是模仿—熟练—创新的过程。在模仿中激发写作灵感,激活创新思维。因此,阅读与写作相结合是实现这一过程的最佳途径,它为写作提供各种各样的情境,让学习者去感知,体会和熟悉,并创新。

长期以来,阅读教学与写作教学几乎是完全分离的。阅读是训练的重点,阅读的目的是理解、获取知识。而写作一直未得到应有的重视。只读不写或少写、考试前搞几篇命题作文进行强化训练的突击写作教学并不罕见。这样一来,学生缺少练笔的机会,老师也无从下手指导他们改进。其结果是英语写作一直是中国学生的弱项。针对这个问题,我们编写了一本适合研究生自主学习的英语读写教材,该书在培养读者读、写能力方面具有以下特色:

纯正性:本书所选文章均选自英语原文,语言地道,表达纯正。

时效性：本书大部分文章选自最新的英语报刊杂志，时效性极强。

多样性：本书所选文章涵盖面广，涉及政治、经济、文化、教育、科技等领域，试图拓宽学习者的阅读面，丰富阅读内容，激发阅读兴趣。

针对性：写作部分系统完整。针对中国学习者的写作问题，既有对理论知识的全面介绍，又有丰富的例子及大量的写作练习，为他们自主学习提供了一个很好的平台。

本书共分十二个单元，每个单元由阅读和写作两部分组成。阅读部分包括三篇文章。每篇文章由预读问题、正文、回答问题组成。阅读理解不采用选择的形式，试图通过回答问题加强学习提取信息、整合信息、表达语言的训练。写作从学习者容易忽视的基本原则开始，到词汇、句子、段落及全文，描述其本质特征，针对常见错误进行分析，阐述写作的基本步骤，辅以丰富翔实的例子，力求为学习者写好英语文章打下扎实的基础。在此基础上展开论文写作的讨论，尤其是论文撰写的一些要领，如引用、转述、总结以及摘要的写作。每一部分均提供了丰富的实例，为自主学习提供了很好的训练机会。

在本书使用过程中，建议读者针对自己写作中存在的问题，有目的地、选择性地使用相关内容，从而有效地改进写作能力的不足。通过静心研读、实际操练，感悟阅读、写作的乐趣。

本书在编写过程中参考了大量国内外有关专家、学者的论著、专著、教材等，并使用了其中的一些观点和表述。在此，谨向有关作者表示诚挚的谢意。本书由昆明理工大学外国语言文化学院研究生英语教育系老师编写：写作部分第一、二、九、十、十一、十二单元由孙云波编写，第三、四单元由段虹编写，第五单元由梁庆峰编写，第六单元由蒋倩昱编写，第七单元由任朝迎编写，第八单元由李桂丽编写。阅读部分由以上老师及李静燕老师共同完成。

由于编者水平有限，加之时间仓促，书中难免有疏漏，不妥之处，望外语界专家、同仁及读者批评指正。

编 者

2013 年 3 月

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# Unit One

## Reading for Comprehension

### Passage One

#### Pre-reading Questions

1. How much do you know about the computer and the Internet?
2. How often do you surf the Internet? What do you usually do when surfing the Internet?
3. What kind of influences does the computer have on you? Is it positive or negative?

### Here Come the Supertaskers

*New technologies and social media are training up the next generation of super-brains , but are young people emotionally all here?*

By John Naish

Young people today are dangerously self-obsessed, over-cosseted and computer-added—or so the media would have us believe. Recent science stories seem to confirm popular concerns about the feckless brains of Generation Whatever (to use the latest label). But we are not getting the whole story.

On 29 May, British newspapers rushed to report on a study by Sara Konrath, a University of Michigan researcher, showing that current college students are lacking in empathy compared to their predecessors. The study concludes that “college kids today are about 40 percent lower in empathy”. The biggest fall came after the year

2000—the advent of mass connectivity—according to the survey of 14, 000 personality tests over the past three decades. Konrath says that modern students are far less likely to agree with lines such as “I sometimes try to understand my friends better by imagining how things look from their perspective” and “I often have tender, concerned feelings for people less fortunate than me”.

Presenting their findings on 27 May, Konrath and her colleague Edward O'Brien told the US Association for Psychological Science that the rise of social media seemed to be a factor: “The ease of having ‘friends’ online might make people more likely to tune out when they don’t feel like responding to others’ problems—a behavior that could carry over offline.” Thus, “many people,” Konrath said, “see the current group of college students as one of the most self-centered, narcissistic, competitive, confident and individualistic in recent history.”

It is a popular impression. Not only is Generation Whatever accused of unprecedented selfishness, but we are told that it is getting increasingly stupid. Again, technology is blamed. In June, for example, a study in Duke University found that having home computers and broadband lowers students’ scores in reading and maths—particularly if they don’t have the sort of middle-class parents who nag them to lay off the messaging and gaming.

## Techy Teens

But are these concerns new? “I see no hope for the future of our people if they are dependent on the frivolous youth of today, for certainly all youth are reckless beyond words . . . and impatient of restraint.” That was the poet Hesiod<sup>[1]</sup> in 8th century BC.

The human basics may have changed very little—but that does not make headlines. In March, the British media ignored a University of Western Ontario study of 477, 380 high-school seniors in 1976 and 2006, which found that Generation Whatever looks very similar to youth from the mid-1970s. The main difference is that the new generation of young people has higher expectations of its education and is less trustful of government. So perhaps it cares more.

Jeroen Boschma, creative director of the advertising firm Keesie, based in Rot-

terdam, believes as much. He told the Spanish newspaper *El País* the story of how he interviewed a 17-year-old for a job and asked him a tough technical question to see how he would react. The candidate did not know the answer, but requested a minute to find out, consulted an online forum and got more than 100 informed responses from across the world.

In 2006, Boschma published the book *Generation Einstein: Smarter, Faster and More Socially Aware*, to louder media buzz. He believes that rapid-paced technology has imbued these so-called “digital natives” with new qualities: they challenge authority and are highly pragmatic in dealing with information. “This sets them apart from any other generation and has consequences that are by no means trivial.”

Certainly, young people are politically engaged on a scale unseen since the 1960s, thanks to their ability to clamber on to the internet’s global soapbox. For example, when Farouk Olu Aregbe, a recent graduate in the US, set up the One Million Strong for Obama Facebook group, it rapidly gained 820, 000 members. And in Britain, pressure from a 5, 000-strong Facebook group forced HSBC to stop charging interest on graduates’ overdrafts.

The laptop revolutionaries can also be altruistic. Twitter and Facebook were still primarily driven by college students when these networks overwhelmed the Red Cross with millions of texted \$10 gifts to Haitian Earthquake Relief. Digital networking, far from merely fostering passivity, has created a generation that can engage vigorously and fast. Empathy has not disappeared—it is simply taking different forms.

And it’s not just empathy that is changing. The idea that the human population is developing a different kind of intelligence is another common idea. Studies by James Flynn, a professor of political studies at Otago University, New Zealand, who specializes in measuring intelligence, show a consistent rise in global IQ performance of roughly 3 percent per decade, in some cases going back to the early 20th century. This implies that, over the past 100 years, the IQs of people (predominantly in the west) have risen by about 30 points, an observation known as the “Flynn effect”.

Flynn believes that our brains have changed in recent decades because TV,

computers and social networking challenge the brain in new ways and for far longer periods of time. Those challenges are developing quickly. The plotlines for *The Wire* are infinitely more complex than those of, say, *The Good Life* in the 1970s. Games such as *Civilization IV* recreate human economic and technological history, challenging teens to work out whether they should develop an agrarian capitalist society or a monarchy.

But Flynn argues that his “effect” does not show a genetic increase in intelligence per se. It is the product of a bias in IQ tests towards abstract-reasoning intelligence. Our brains are becoming more creative, but this is perhaps at the cost of older, everyday skills.

This theory is echoed by Gary Small, professor of psychiatry at the University of California Los Angeles. He believes the generation that has grown up using computers is having a harder time reading social cues. “Even though (they) are very good with the tech skills, they are weak with the face-to-face human contact skills.” he told the *New York Times* in April.

Such shifts in consciousness are not without peril. Two recently published studies—by the University of California and the University of Southern California—indicate that our constant diet of digital news is beginning to move faster than our ability to make moral judgments. Rapid info-bursts of stabbings, suffering and war are consumed but may not make us indignant, compassionate or inspired.

Yet there is evidence, too, that the human brain is advancing its ability to sift information quickly. We appear to be evolving rapidly under pressure from unprecedented demands, using evolutionary mechanisms we are just beginning to understand. One is called epigenetics—a frontier science that is revealing how the changes we experience in our brains during our lives do not simply go to the grave with us, but can be passed on to our offspring.

Scientists are also discovering that the brain retains high levels of plasticity throughout our lives, particularly if we keep challenging it with new learning.

## Speed-freaks

Tomorrow's people may already be buzzing away among us. They will include the

“supertaskers”. For most of us, multitasking is tough. Trials show that it tends to result in two things done poorly rather than one done well. But one in 40 people appears immune to this problem. These lucky speed-freaks can, for example, drive and talk on a mobile phone at the same time without loss of concentration on either task, according to tests on 200 people by the Utah University psychologist Jason Watson.

Supertaskers constitute only 2.5 percent of the population, Watson believes. But even that level is surprisingly high. “According to cognitive theory, these individuals ought not to exist,” he says in a paper soon to be published by the *Psychonomic Bulletin & Review*. Further research into supertaskers may reveal how the multitasking regions of their brains are different, due to some inherited variation. Watson predicts that employers in high-performance professions will want to screen for genetic markers of supertasking ability. Generation Whatever’s multi-mediated brains may be the key to our ever-faster future.

But even in a hyper-accelerated culture, someone is going to have to pay close attention to socially indispensable matters such as law, politics, academia and medicine—disciplines that demand conscientiousness and a gimlet eye for mono-tasking detail. Old-brainers, the over-thirties, aren’t out of business yet. So we should not be so snippy about welcoming the children of the network-minded generation, even if we don’t understand their ways.

From *New Statesman* Jul. 9, 2010

## Notes

[1] Hesiod: Greek poet whose existing works describe rural life and the genealogies of the gods and the beginning of the world (8th Century BC). (赫西奥德, 公元前8世纪希腊诗人, 牧人出身, 作长诗《工作与时日》, 劝诫其弟改恶从善, 歌颂劳动, 介绍农事知识, 另作长诗《神谱》, 叙述希腊诸神的世系与斗争。)

## Glossary

**feckless**/'feklɪs/*adj.*

inefficient; irresponsible 不负责任的; 懒

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>narcissistic</b> /ˌnɑː sɪˈsɪstɪk/adj.     | 惰的；无用的<br>think about oneself a lot and admire oneself too much 自我陶醉；孤芳自赏  |
| <b>nag</b> /næg/v.                           | keep asking sb to do something he has not done yet or do not want to do 唠叨；不停的抱怨                                   |
| <b>techy</b> /teki/ = techie n.              | be good at technology, especially the computer 科技通；科技迷；（尤指）电脑通，电脑迷   |
| <b>impatient</b> /ɪmˈpeɪʃnt/adj.             | unable to deal calmly with sth/sb or to wait for sth; easily irritated by sb/sth; not patient (对不愉快的事) 不能容忍的，不愿接受的 |
| <b>imbue</b> /ɪmˈbju/v.                      | fill or inspire sb/sth with (feelings, etc) 使充满；灌输；深深影响  |
| <b>clamber</b> /ˈklæmbə (r) /v.              | climb, especially with difficulty or effort, using the hands and feet 攀爬，攀登（尤指艰难地或费力地）                             |
| <b>soapbox</b> /ˈsəʊpbɒks/n.                 | improvised stand for a speaker (in a street, park, etc.) (街头、公园等处的) 临时讲演台  |
| <b>altruistic</b> /ˌæltruːˈɪstɪk/adj.        | unselfish person 利他主义者；无私的人  |
| <b>buzz</b> /bʌz/v.                          | move quickly and busily 忙碌，忙乱，急行   |
| <b>conscientiousness</b> /ˌkɒnʃɪˈenʃəsnɪs/n. | (of actions) done with great care and attention 认真；勤勤恳恳；全神贯注   |
| <b>gimlet</b> /ˈɡɪmlɪt/adj.                  | sharp eyes which seem to penetrate with their look 锐利的；有钻劲的  |
| <b>snippy</b> /ˈsnɪpi/adj.                   | be aggressive 尖利的，言语唐突的  |

## Phrases and Expressions

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>tune out</b>  | stop listening or paying attention to what is being said 不理睬；思想开小差    |
| <b>carry out</b> | extend a behavior from one field to another field 把…从一个活动范围扩大到另一个活动范围 |
| <b>lay off</b>   | stop doing sth 戒绝；停止  |

## Questions Based on the Passage

1. What kind of people does “Generation Whatever” look like? And what is the difference between the two groups?
2. What are the new qualities of theseo-called “digital natives”?
3. Give a general definition of the “Generation Whatever”.
4. What do the current group of college students look like according to “many people”?
5. What is “Flynn effect”?

## Passage Two

### Pre-reading Questions

1. What kind of media do you like best? TV? Newspaper? Internet? Why?
2. What kind of TV program do you like best?
3. Why do you think TV can become the most popular media?

## The Great Survivor

*TV has coped well with technological change. Other media can learn from it.*

Newspapers are dying; the music industry is still yelping about iTunes<sup>[1]</sup>;



book publishers think they are the next. Yet one bit of old media seems to be doing rather well. In the final quarter of 2009 the average American spent almost 37 hours a week watching television. Earlier this year 116 million of them saw the Super Bowl—a record for a single programme. Far from being cowed by new media, TV is colonizing it. Shows like *American Idol* and *Britain's Got Talent* draw huge audiences partly because people are constantly messaging and tweeting about them, and discussing them on Facebook<sup>[2]</sup>.

Advertising wobbled during the recession, shaking the free-to-air broadcasters that depend on it. But cable and satellite TV breezed through. Pay-TV subscriptions grew by more than 2 million in America last year. The explosive growth of cable and satellite TV in India explains how that country has gone from two channels in the early 1990s to more than 600 today. Pay-TV bosses scarcely acknowledge the existence of viewers who do not subscribe to multichannel TV, talking only of people who have “yet to choose” a provider. This is not merely bluster. As our special report this week explains, once people start paying for greater television choice, they rarely stop.

## The Advantages of Indolence

It helps that TV is an inherently lazy form of entertainment. The much-repeated prediction that people will cancel their pay-TV subscriptions and piece together an evening's worth of entertainment from free broadcasts and the internet “assumes that people are willing to work three times harder to get the same thing”, observes Mike Fries of Liberty Global<sup>[3]</sup>, a cable giant. Laziness also mitigates the threat from piracy. Although many programmes are no more than three or four mouse clicks away, that still sounds too much like work for most of us. And television-watching is a more sociable activity than it may appear. People like to watch programmes when everybody else is watching them. Give them devices that allow them to record and play back programmes easily, and they will still watch live TV at least four-fifths of the time.

Yet these natural advantages alone are not enough to ensure television's survival. The internet threatens TV just as much as it does other media businesses, and for similar reasons. It competes for advertising, offering firms a more measurable