

二十一世纪素质教育
21ST-CENTURY QUALITY EDUCATION

how to write ENGLISH COMPOSITIONS EDITOR WAYNE ZHANG

怎样写英文作文

张 伟 主编
郑方顺 审订

时代文艺出版社

怎样写英文作文

HOW TO WRITE ENGLISH COMPOSITIONS

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内 容 提 要

本书由三部分组成：第一部分首先由中国作者根据要求写出短文，然后由澳大利亚专家进行点评，最后由一位美国专家进行改写。中国作者的短文暴露了中国人写作英文的常见错误，具有一定的典型性；澳大利亚专家的点评，恰倒好处，鞭辟入里；美国专家的改写，生动严谨，意味深长。第二部分是英文写作常见错误及解决方法。第三部分是英文写作技巧。本书是一部不可多得的帮助中国人学习英文写作的好书。

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前 言

随着我国的进一步对外开放,英文写作也变得越来越重要了。提高英文写作能力不仅是涉外工作之必须,也是从事三资企业工作、考研和出国留学,甚至是在国外开拓事业的最基本的技能之一。每年高考、大学英语四、六级测试、雅思和新托福等英语考试中,英文写作也占有很重要的位置。

《怎样写英文作文》一书的编写特点是:英文写作实践,外国专家评点,解释常见疑难,理论指导全面。本书由三部分组成。第一部分的短文,很多中国人看了以后就会感到好似自己写的一样。看了澳大利亚和美国专家的点评与改写就豁然开朗,原来英文写作是这样的简单和有趣,而且本书所提供的短文体例广泛,题材多样。第二部分是“英文写作常见错误及修改方法”,是编者根据多年从事英文写作教学与研究所作的积累和总结。第三部分是“英文写作技巧”,是对英文写作技巧与实践相结合的阐述。因此本书不仅是学习英文写作不可或缺的教材也是教师进行英文写作教学颇具实用价值的参考书。

本书的阅读对象是高中各年级学生、大学专科本科生、研究生和社会各界英语学习者,等等。

在本书的编写过程中,得到了澳大利亚 TIME4ENGLISH 网站的热情帮助,在此表示衷心的感谢。尤其是辽东学院郑方顺教授,时时提携,为本书的编写和出版多方指导,并亲自邀请澳大利亚专家 Charles Smith 教授和英国专家 Sheila Ayshford 教授一起对本书审订。美国专家 David John Lee 教授、澳大利亚专家 Melinda Gleeson 女士参与了本书的部分编写并提供了建设性意见和写作素材,对他们也表示衷心的感谢。本书封面设计是由澳大利亚 Richard Haywood 先生精心完成、慷慨帮助;本书的编务人员郑万钧、王传国、郑飒等辛勤工作,也向他们表示谢意。

本书在出版和印刷中得到了时代文艺出版社和丹东翰锋印刷有限公司的鼎力帮助,在此特向他们表示深深的感谢。

编者在成书过程中尽了最大努力,但限于经验和水平,不当之处在所难免恳请中外专家和广大读者不吝赐教,以便订正。

张 伟 田 杰

2005年7月 于丹东

PREFACE

Throughout “How to Write English Compositions”, a variety of strategies, tips, and models offers guidance about how to write. These special features result in a friendly tone that makes learning fun. The book, which is divided into three parts, presupposes that it may help students learn how to write English compositions.

Part One is extraordinarily unique. Firstly, a Chinese learner of English wrote a draft according to the writing task assigned by [www.time4english](http://www.time4english.com). Secondly, an Australian expert made the correction of and comment on the draft writing. Thirdly, an American professor offered the sample revision of the draft writing. So it is quite likely that Chinese English, Australian English, and US English would turn up in the same part.

Part Two identifies the most common student writing errors and provides many examples of them. This special part also offers strategies for correcting errors and provides model revisions of incorrect examples. The problem solver is a practical resource for students when they need to understand teacher comments concerning grammatical constructions.

Part Three provides English writing skills both theoretically and practically, such as the writing process, paragraph workshops, sentence structure, language workshops, kinds of writing, rhetorical devices, and other activities. At the same time, this part also offers various exercises with keys.

Last of all, we would like to employ this opportunity to thank the following experts, who helped to evaluate and revise, to correct and comment, to check and proofread, and to prepare materials for this book: Professor Sheila Ayshford (British expert), Professor Charles Smith (Australian expert), Professor Zheng Fangshun of Liaodong University, China, Ms. Melinda Gleeson (Australian expert), and Mr. Richard Haywood (the designer of the book cover, Australian). Without their kind help and great support, we almost certainly would not have been able to publish this book.

Wayne Zhang

Diana Tian

July 2005, Dandong, China

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PART ONE

Writing and Revising a Draft

Part One gives 20 sample compositions, each of which consists Sections A, B, C and D. Section A is the writing task. Section B is a draft writing according to Section A; Section C is the correction of and comment on Section B. Section D is the sample revision of Section B.

1 MY FAMILY

1A The Writing Task

Tell us about your family.

(10 - 100 words)

1B Draft — written by Wayne(a Chinese learner of English)

I have a happy family with three people, my wife, my son and me. I am a teacher of English. my wife is a nurse and my son is a student studying in south Korea. my wife and me were? both born in 1956 and we were married in 1983. After two years we had my son. We live in China where there are more than 1.3 billion populations.

1C Correction and Comment — by Melinda Gleeson(Australian expert)

1C - 1 Letter in Response

Hi Wayne

Your level is around intermediate or possibly higher.

(Topic One cannot measure higher than Intermediate level.)

You've made a few mistakes, but they are minor. Most are with punctuation. Your other mistakes are with pronouns and the word 'population.' I've commented on your mistakes below.

I was born in the same year as you and your wife. It seems that we are all monkeys!! Happy New Year.

Best wishes,
Melinda.

1C - 2 Correction-

I have a happy family with three people(,>>); my wife, my son and me.(1) I am a teacher of English(,my>>). My wife is a nurse and my son is a student studying in (South Korea my>>) South Korea. My wife and me (1) were both born in 1956 and we were married in 1983.After two years we had my son. We live in China where there are more than 1.3 billion (populations>>) people (2).

1C - 3 Comments

1) When we have a list of pronouns, we always put ourselves last. You did that.

The next thing to look at is in a list should we use 'me' or should we use 'I?' The test is to take the other people out and see what the grammar should be.

The first sentence would be 'a happy family with me.'

'Me' is correct in this sentence.

2) The next one is 'I was born in 1956.' We can't say 'me was born in 1956.' So in the next example, you need to say, 'My wife and I were both born in 1956.'

(1) My friends and (me / I) went to the beach.

(The correct word is 'I' because we would say 'I went to the beach.')

(2) Jane and (me / I) love ice-skating.

(The correct word is 'I' because we would say 'I love ice-skating.')

(3) He gave the money to Paul and (me / I).

(The correct word is 'me' because we would say 'He gave the money to me.')

3) more than 1.3 billion people OR a population of more than 1.3 billion.

1D Revision — by David John Lee(American professor)

My Family

I have a happy family of three people: my wife, my son and me. I am a teacher of English; my wife is a nurse, and my son is a student studying in South Korea. My wife and I were both born in 1956, and we were married in 1983. After two years we had our son. We live in China, which has a population of more than 1.3 billion.

2 MY ILLNESS

2A The Writing Task — from www.time4english.com

You are going to read a story about someone who had a sickness a few years ago.

When you finish reading, answer these questions.

- 1) What sickness did the writer have?
- 2) What were the symptoms?
- 3) What was the treatment.
- 4) How did the writer feel when she started to recover?
- 5) What kind of treatment will she seek next time?

A few years ago I was quite sick. I had bronchitis.

My throat hurt and my chest hurt. I felt like a very heavy person was sitting on my chest! It was really hard to breathe. I had a headache too. I didn't feel like eating anything. I spend ten days in bed. When I got up again I had lost several kilos and I was very weak.

My doctor gave me antibiotics. If I ever get bronchitis again, I think I'll see an acupuncturist. I think maybe it would be more useful than seeing a western doctor.

1) Look at the structure of the writing.

Paragraph 1 - the name of the sickness and when the writer had it.

Paragraph 2 - the symptoms

Paragraph 3 - treatment & what will happen next time

2) Now think about a sickness you have had.

What was it called? What were the symptoms? What was the treatment? How would you treat it next time?

THE TASK

Write about a sickness you have had. Include the name of the sickness, the symptoms and the treatment you had.

(80 - 150 words)

2B Draft — written by Wayne(a Chinese learner of English)

When I was four years old, I got a disease which made me feel cold and I had a headache. My parents brought me to see the doctor and he gave me some medicine at first. Things got worse and worse, the doctor tried the injections. About 15 days past the illness had gone, but I could not walk normally like before. My left leg became thinner and shorter as time went on. I became a disable man! Such phenomenon was so popular at that time that many people had the same suffering like me.

Some people said it was a bacterium making? the disease; some people said the problem was the medicine the doctor used. Now I

know it is called infant paralysis. Anyway there is no such disease nowadays. The babies after birth eat a kind of medicine to avoid it to happen.

The life is not fair to me, but I don't lose my confidence. I have tried my best to work and study. Now I have a happy family.

2C Correction and Comment — by Melinda Gleeson (Australian expert)

2C - 1 Letter in Response

Hello again Wayne

Another good piece of writing. Your meaning is clear. I hope my comments are useful.

Best wishes,
Melinda.

2C - 2 Correction

When I was four years old, (1) I got a disease which made me feel cold and I had a headache. My parents brought me to see the doctor and he gave me some medicine at first (2). Things got worse and worse, the doctor tried the injections(3). (About 15 days past>>) After about 15 days the illness had gone, but I could not walk normally like before. My left leg became thinner and shorter as time went on. I became a (disable>>) disabled man! Such (4) phenomenon was so popular (5)? at that time that many people had the same (suffering like>>) condition as (6)?me.

Some people said it was a bacteria making (7)? the disease; some people said the problem was the medicine the doctor used. Now I know it is called infant paralysis. Anyway there is no such disease nowadays. (The babies after birth eat>>) After birth babies are given a kind of medicine (to avoid it to happen>>) prevent it happening.

(The life>>) Life is not fair to me, but I (don't lose>>) haven't lost (8) my confidence. I have tried my best to work and study. Now I have a happy family.

2C - 3 Comments

- 1) Always leave a space after a comma or a full stop (period).
- 2) Delete 'at first'. It isn't necessary in this sentence.
- 3) Delete 'the'? in this sentence. If you say 'the' then you are talking about a particular kind of injections or you have mentioned injections before. In this sentence the meaning is more general. Don't use 'the'.
- 4) You need 'a' here. 'phenomenon' is a singular noun (phenomena is the plural). You need an article.
- 5) 'popular' is the wrong word here. 'popular' implies something that people like. American movies are popular. The Chinese movie 'Hidden Tiger, Crouching Dragon' was very popular. Junk food is popular.
Pollution is widespread (not popular). Maybe your condition was common (not popular).
- 6) I'm not sure here if you want to talk about your condition or the suffering you endured. 'Many people had the same condition as me', OR 'Many people suffered like me'?
- 7) The noun 'disease' collocates with the verb 'cause'. That means that they are often seen together. So something causes a disease (not makes). 'It was a bacterium causing the disease.'
- 8) I'd use the present perfect tense here. You are talking about something that started in the past and continues today.

2D Revision — by David John Lee (American professor)

When I was four years old, I came down with a disease which made me feel chills and I had headaches. My parents took me to see the doctor and he first gave me some medicine to take. Things got worse and worse, and so the doctor tried injections. After about 15 days the symptoms were gone, but I could not walk normally as before. My left leg became thinner and shorter as time went on. I became disabled! Such a phenomenon was so prevalent at that time that many people suffered the same as me.

Some people said it was a bacterium that caused the disease; others said the problem was the medicine the doctor used. Now I know it is called "infantile paralysis" or polio. But there is no such disease nowadays, since babies after birth are vaccinated to prevent it from happening.

Although life has not been fair to me, I have not lost my confidence. I have tried my best to work and study. Now I have a happy family.

3 SNOW

3A The Writing Task — from www.time4english.com

You are going to read a story about a natural phenomenon* in Australia.

When you finish reading, answer these questions.

- 1) How are people in cities affected by bushfires?
- 2) What example does the writer use to explain how a fire can be started by human carelessness?
- 3) How do fires help plants?
- 4) The fire was very close to the writer's house. Why couldn't she smell smoke?

***Note:**

phenomena is plural

phenomenon is singular

Droughts, floods and typhoons are natural phenomena.

An earthquake is a natural phenomenon.

Every summer in Australia we experience bushfires. 'Bush' means forest. So the fires are mostly in the forest. However, our cities are expanding. Now some suburbs are on the edges of the bush. Sometimes the fires reach the outer suburbs and houses are destroyed.