英语读写技巧训练

Training of English Reading & Writing Skills

刘军利 著

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Introduction

Training of English Reading and Writing Skills《英语读写技巧训练》consists of two parts: the reading session and the writing session; each part consists of 16 topics. The training is aimed at improving students' reading and writing skills by doing reading and writing exercises. The reading session focuses mainly on reading skills with writing intermingled; the writing session focuses mainly on writing skills with reading intermingled.

The reading skills to be trained are about

1. Establishing the correct reading conceptions and habits;
2. Reading to write;
3. Dealing with new words;
4. Reading long complicated sentences fast and accurately;
5. Getting the main ideas of a paragraph;
6. Getting the main ideas of an essay;
7. Identifying parallel ideas;
8. Understanding the differences between the thinking mode of English-speaking people and that of Chinese;
9. Sorting out ideas we get from different sources and collecting fragment ideas;
10. Reading critically.

The writing skills to be trained are about

1. Establishing the correct writing conceptions and understanding our goals:
   What type of essay we are to write;
   What good English sentences and essays are like.
2. Understanding the New TEM-4 Writing.
3. Understanding the right writing process:
   Getting ideas;
   Grouping and selecting ideas;
   Outlining;
   Drafting;

Editing;

4. Writing effective Topic Sentence or Thesis Statement;

5. Improving logic by means of parallelism;

6. Narrowing down the writing topic to make sure of essay unity.

The intended readers of the book are English majors at the lower level and English learners with similar proficiency.

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The Reading Session

Reading 1
Understanding reading

I. Fill in the blanks.

1. Purposes of reading

We read a lot. Then why do we read?

1) Reading in daily work and life

The purposes of everyday reading is to _____ by reading newspapers, emails, or get pleasure by reading novels, humorous stories or other funny stuff. We may also read to study.

2) Reading on tests

The purpose of reading on tests is to understand (part of) the reading materials in order to _____.

3) Reading in academic studies

Reading in academic studies is actually a way of learning. The purpose of reading in such a context is to _____, _____, and _____ _____ as well as to _____.

2. Procedures for "Reading in academic studies"

Reading as a way of learning is different from daily reading for ordinary people. It involves the following steps:

Step 1: Read only for getting information.

In this step, you should make good use of your EXTENSIVE reading skills.

1) Focus all of your attention on _____— only on _____ _____, ignoring or partially ignoring the new words. In this step, no dictionary use is allowed. Even if no one watches you or stops you from using dictionaries, you must develop a habit of keeping on reading without consulting the dictionary, because constantly looking up new words in the dictionary will interrupt the continuity of information.

2) Always exercise your curiosity and logic, and after you finish reading one sentence or paragraph, make a guess what the writer will say in the next sentence

or paragraph, what is the point the writer intends to make in a certain group of sentences, in a certain paragraph, and in a certain long passage.

3) Use your writing knowledge to help you read better:

A. Ideas should be arranged in _____.

B. Two neighboring sentences or paragraphs are intimately related. 相邻的两个句子、两个段落一定有密切联系;

C. Between the idea blocks there should be transitional expressions, or connecting sentences.

Step 2: Look up new words in the dictionary so that you can understand the passage better, to get rid of the language barriers for further studies.

Step 3: Sort out the information and enrich your storage of information.

Step 4: Learn the language points such as NIR words, classical collocations, sentence patterns and so on.

II. The term "NIR" (non-initial response) word comes from the website of New Oriental. When we wish to express the idea "做实验", the first or initial response of English beginners is to "make" an experiment; to "conduct" an experiment is his or her non-initial response word to use. "Make" is a cliché which is being abused in our writings while use of the NIR word "conduct" in place of "make" will instantly improve the quality of our expression. Now please read the following examples of "NIR" words and "My new sentences" containing these words. Make a list of the characteristics of "my new sentences".

NIR words	**My cliché**
1. *enduring* influence 长远的影响	= *everlasting* influence
2. *achieve* political power 取得政治权利	= *get* political power
	— "**Confucius**", 《美语路路通: 阅读通 3》
3. *impressive* population growth	= *fast* population growth
4. most of this *surging* growth	= most of this *rapid* growth
5. *held back marriages*	= *prevent people from getting married*
6. *produce* a population increase of nearly fifteen percent	= *lead to* a population increase

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7. *support* a growth in the population = *result in* a growth in the population
8. *the expansion* (of the population) = *the increase* (of the population)
9. *derive from* a trend toward earlier marriages = *come from* a trend toward earlier marriages

—"**Population Growth of Canada**", TOEFL readings

My new sentences:

1. No other philosopher in China has had more enduring influence on us than Confucius.

Or: Family education has an enduring influence on the way we think and live.

2. The impressive population growth of Beijing derives from people's desire to live in the metropolis.
3. The serious housing problem in China is one of the factors that hold back marriages.

Characteristics of "my new sentences":

1. The sentences are about _____. So every sentence has a specified context and every person, place, city etc. has a _____ _____ name. For example,

   1) No other philosopher in China has had more enduring influence on us than Confucius.

   Cf: No other philosopher in China has had more enduring influence on us than him.

   2) Family education has an enduring influence on us.

   Cf: Family education has an enduring influence on the way we think and live.

   3) The impressive population growth of Beijing derives from people's desire to live in the metropolis.

   Cf: The impressive population growth of the city derives from people's desire to live in the metropolis.

   4) The serious housing problem in China is one of the factors that hold back marriages.

   Cf: The serious housing problem is one of the factors that hold back marriages.

2. The expressions we pick to learn are phrases or collocations containing NIRs rather than _____.

III. Discuss how to choose English reading materials.

1. If you wish to read a book, you should choose one that is relatively more _____

_____ (important, interesting) to you. You like the _____ (value, topic) of the book and appreciate the _____ (prestige, style) of the author. If you hate Charles Dickens' bitter style, don't choose to read "Tales of Two Cities" even if it is a classical masterpiece.

2. If you are reading from the Internet, then you must make sure the administrator of the website has reliable qualifications and the articles at the website are written by _____ _____ (English, educated) native speakers.

3. Good reading materials are not necessarily formally-published writings. We should read every English word we catch sight of, for example, signs, posters, instructions on products made in English-speaking countries, in the way toddlers and kindergarteners pick up _____ (their mother tongue, a foreign language).

Reading 2
Reading to learn
— to get information and to learn the language

I. Read the passage, group the ideas, add a label to each group, and see how many groups of ideas you can get from it.

Population Growth of Canada

Basic to any understanding of Canada in 20 years after the Second World War is the country's **impressive population growth**. For every three Canadians in 1945, there were over five in 1996. In September 1966 Canada's population passed the 20 million mark. Most of this **surging growth** came from natural increase. The depression of the 1930's and the war had **held back marriages** and the catching-up process began after 1945. The baby boom continued through the decade of the 1950's, **producing a population increase** of nearly fifteen percent in the five years from 1951 to 1956. This rate of increase had been exceeded only once before in Canada's history, in the decade before 1911, when the prairies were being settled. Undoubtedly, the good economic conditions of the 1950's **supported a growth in the population**, but the **expansion** also **derived from** a trend toward earlier marriages and an increase in the average size of families. In 1957 the Canadian birth rate stood at 28 per thousand, one of the highest in the world.

After the peak year of 1957, the birth rate in Canada **began to decline**. It continued falling until in 1966 when stood at the lowest level in 25 years. Partly this decline reflected the low level of births during the depression and the war, but it was also caused by changes in Canadian society. Young people were staying at school longer, more women were working, young married couples were buying automobiles or houses before **starting families**, rising living standards were cutting down the size of families. **It appeared that** Canada was once more **falling in step with the trend** toward smaller families that had occurred all through the Western world since the time of the Industrial Revolution.

Although the growth in Canada's population has slowed down by 1966 (the increase in the first half of the 1960's was only nine percent), another large population wave was **coming over the horizon**. It would be composed of the children who were born during the

period of the high birth rate prior to 1957.

Labels of the idea groups: _____

II. The most effective way for writers to present their ideas clearly is putting the ideas in blocks. Are the ideas in "Population Growth of Canada" presented in blocks?

III. Read the following outlines and discuss how to present the ideas in a clearer or more reader-friendly way.

Outline 1:

TS: Canada in 20 years after the Second World War (Sept. 1, 1939 – Sept. 2, 1945) witnessed the country's impressive population growth.

1. slow in the 1930's (Depression and the war) and faster after 1945
2. baby boom in the 1950's, a population increase of nearly 50% from 1951 to 1956
3. in 1957, birth rate 28 per thousand, one of the highest in the world
4. three Canadians in 1945 = over five in 1966
5. in September 1966, passed the 20 million mark

(after the peak year of 1957, began to decline)

(continued falling until in 1966)

(stood at the lowest level in 25 years)

Outline 2:

TS: The baby boom in Canada in 20 years after the Second World War can be attributed to three major reasons.

1. Most of this surging growth came from natural increase.
2. Undoubtedly, the good economic conditions of the 1950's supported a growth in the population, too.
3. The expansion of population also derived from a trend toward earlier marriages and an increase in the average size of families.

Outline 3:

TS: The decline of birth rate in Canada after the peak year of 1957 can be attributed to two major reasons.

1. Partly this decline reflected the low level of births during the depression and the war.

2. It was also caused by changes in Canadian society.

A. Young people were staying at school longer.

B. More women were working.

C. Young married couples were buying automobiles or houses before starting families; rising living standards were cutting down the size of families.

IV. Read the following list of NIR-word collocations. Choose 2 collocations you wish to learn and make up sentences. The ideas of your sentences must be related to your own experiences.

NIR words	**My own expressions**
1. *impressive* population growth	= *fast* population growth
2. most of this *surging* growth	= most of this *rapid* growth
3. *held back marriages*	= *prevent people from getting married*
4. *produce* a population increase of nearly fifteen percent	= *lead to* a population increase
5. *support* a growth in the population	= *result in* a growth in the population
6. *the expansion* (of the population)	= *the increase* (of the population)
7. *derive from* a trend toward earlier marriages	= *come from* a trend toward earlier marriages

Reading 3
Reading difficult sentences with new words

I. A survey:

Please fill in the table in response to the question: "What can be your reaction to the new words you come cross in a passage you are reading?"

	平时英语阅读	英语阅读考试
有点紧张		
查字典		
猜		
不管		

II. If you come across a new word in a passage, what should you do? It is recommended that for the first reading, you simply _____ the new word and focus all your attention on the ideas.

III. Underline the new word / words (including the proper noun) in each of the following sentences, and replace it with a word familiar to you or a category name or a label. If you are failing to do so, simply ignore it. Then cross out the modifier containing a new word.

1. "We have to totally change our attitude toward napping," says Dr. William Dement of Stanford University, the godfather of sleep research.
2. We all age at different rates. Heredity clearly plays an important part. But recent studies by gerontologists indicate that life style may be equally significant in determining who will remain youthful.
3. I remember Mother used to take me into town on some forgotten errand.
4. I have sought it, next, because it relieves loneliness — that terrible loneliness in which one shivering consciousness looks over the rim of the world into the cold unfathomable lifeless abyss. I have sought it finally, because in the union of love I have seen, in a mystic miniature, the prefiguring vision of the heaven that saints and poets have

imagined.

IV. Figure out the meaning of a new word with the help of its prefix, root and/or suffix.

1. Few can deny the strange coincidences in the lives and deaths of John F. Kennedy and Abraham Lincoln.

   co-(meaning "_____") + incident = coincidence (meaning "_____")

2. We all age at different rates. Heredity clearly plays an important part. But recent studies by gerontologists indicate that life style may be equally significant in determining who will remain youthful.

   gerontology + -ist = _____ who studies gerontology

V. Figure out the meaning of a new word with the help of our common sense.

1. The door was so low that I hit my head on the lintel.
2. My parents went out and got a new TV. That afternoon an antenna was put on the roof.
3. The snow was falling. Big flakes drifted with the wind like feathers.
4. The hot-air balloon took off. It was as buoyant in the air as a cork in water.

VI. Figure out the meaning of a new word with the help of our common knowledge of collocation.

1. Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart.
2. I long to alleviate this evil, but I cannot, and I too suffer.
3. The classroom is a man's world, where boys get two-thirds of the teacher's attention — even when they are in a minority, taunt the girls without punishment, and receive praise for sloppy work that would not be tolerated from girls.
4. As Mother stood talking with him, I would gaze rapturously at the display before my eyes.
5. Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a great ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair.

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