

第一部分 英语专业四级 作文写作技巧

TIPS FOR THE WRITING PART OF TEM 4

一、英语专业四级考试写作测试要求及题型

1. 测试要求

(a) 作文

要求根据所出的题目和列出的写作提纲或图表、数字统计表等(也附有写作提纲)写一篇 150 词左右的短文。能做到内容切题、完整、条理清除,文章结构严谨,语法正确,语言通顺恰当。考试时间 35 分钟。

(b) 写便条

要求根据提示写大约 50-60 词的通知、便条、请帖等。要求格式正确、语言得体。考试时间 10 分钟。

2. 题型

本部分为主观试题,分两节:Section A 和 Section B。

Section A 作文 (Composition)

本节是作文,题目主要属于记叙文、说明文和议论文的范围。

Section B 写便条 (Note-writing)

本节是写便条。

二、英语专业四级作文常见错误与分析

经过了接近两年的专业训练之后,大多数英语专业的二年级同

学都具备了相当的书面表达能力,但是也有不少同学的基本功欠佳,在英语专业四级考试(TEM 4)的作文中主要表现为:

1. 不一致 (Disagreements)

所谓不一致不仅仅指主谓不一致,它还包括了数的不一致、时态不一致及代词不一致等。例如:When one have money, he can do what he want to.从句中的主语 one 是单数第三人称,因而本句中的 have 应改为 has;同理,want 应改为 wants。本句是典型的主谓不一致。改为:Once one has money, he can do what he wants (to do).

2. 修饰语错位 (Misplaced Modifiers)

英语与汉语不同,同一个修饰语置于句子不同的位置,可能引起句子含义的变化。考生对于这一点往往没有足够的重视,因而造成了不必要的误解。例如:I believe I can do it well and I will better know the world outside the campus.这个句子中的修饰语 better 位置不当,应置于句末。

3. 句子不完整 (Sentence Fragments)

在口语交际中,双方可借助手势、语气、上下文等,不完整的句子完全可以被理解。可是书面语就不同了,句子结构不完整会使意思表达不清,这种情况常常在主句写完以后,考生又想加些补充说明时发生。例如:There are many ways to know the society. For example by TV, radio, newspaper and so on.本句后半部分“for example by TV, radio, newspaper and so on.”是一个不完整的句子,仅为一些不连贯的词语,不能独立成句,改为:There are many ways to know society, for example, by TV, radio and newspaper.

4. 悬垂修饰语 (Dangling Modifiers)

所谓悬垂修饰语是指句首的短语与后面句子的逻辑关系混乱不清。例如:At the age of ten, my grandfather died.这句中 at the age of ten 并没有说明“谁十岁时”,而按一般推理,不可能是 my grandfather,如果我们把这个悬垂修饰语表达得明确一些,全句就不那么费解了。改为:When I was ten, my grandfather died.又如:To do well

in college, good grades are essential.句中不定式短语 to do well in college 的逻辑主语不清楚,可以改为:To do well in college, a student needs good grades.

5. 词性误用 (Misuse of Parts of Speech)

词性误用常表现为:介词当动词用,形容词当副词用,名词当动词用等。例如:None can negative the importance of money. 剖析:negative 是形容词,在这个句子里误用为动词,可以改为:None can deny the importance of money. 又如:I want to creation a great website so that I can becoming wealth. 这句话里的 creation 应该改为 create, becoming 应该改为 become.

6. 指代不清 (Ambiguous Reference of Pronouns)

指代不清主要讲的是代词与被指代的人或物关系不清,或者先后所用的代词不一致。例如:Mary was friendly to my sister because she wanted her to be her bridesmaid. 读完上面这一句话,读者无法明确地判断两位姑娘中谁将结婚,谁将当伴娘。如果我们把易于引起误解的代词的所指对象加以明确,意思就一目了然了。这个句子可改为:Mary was friendly to my sister because she wanted my sister to be her bridesmaid.

又如:And we can also know the society by serving it yourself. 句中人称代词 we 和反身代词 yourself 指代不一致,可以改为:We can also know society by serving it ourselves.

7. 不间断句子 (Run-on Sentences)

什么叫 run-on sentence? 请看下面的例句:There are many ways we get to know the outside world. 剖析:这个句子包含了两层完整的意思:“There are many ways.” 及 “We get to know the outside world.”, 简单地把它们连在一起就不妥当了。改为:There are many ways for us to learn about the outside world. 或:There are many ways through which we can become acquainted with the outside world.

8. 措词毛病 (Troubles in Diction)

diction 是指在特定的句子中如何适当地选用词语的问题。不少考生在写作中没有养成良好的推敲、斟酌的习惯,所以作文中用词不当的错误比比皆是。例如: *The increasing use of chemical obstacles in agriculture also makes pollution.* 显然,考生把 *obstacles* (障碍,障碍物) 误作 *substance* (物质) 了。另外 *the increasing use* 改为 *abusive use* 更为妥当,所以这句话可以改为: *The abusive use of chemical substances in agriculture also causes/leads to pollution.*

9. 累赘 (Redundancy)

英语以简洁为贵:写句子没有一个多余的词,写段落没有一个无必要的句子,能用单词的不用词组,能用词组的不用从句或句子。例如: *In spite of the fact that he is lazy, I like him.* 本句的 *the fact that he is lazy* 系同谓语从句,我们按照上述“能用词组的不用从句”的原则,这句话可以改为: *In spite of his laziness, I like him.* 又如: *For the people who are diligent and kind, money is just the thing to be used to buy the thing they need.* 整个句子可以大大简化为: *Diligent, caring people use money only to buy what they need.* 再如: *Personally, I believe what the newspaper prints.* 此句中的 *personally* 完全没有必要。

10. 不连贯 (Incoherence)

不连贯是指一个句子前言不对后语,或是结构上不流畅,这也是考生常犯的错误。例如: *The fresh water, it is the most important things of the earth.* *The fresh water* 与逗号后的 *it* 不连贯。 *It* 与 *things* 在数方面不一致。改为: *Fresh water is the most important thing in the world.*

11. 严重汉化的英语——中式英语 (Chinglish)

中式英语是考生作文中最常见的问题。不少考生对汉英两种语言在表达习惯、思维方式等方面的差异没有足够的认识,不能在英语写作中有意识地避免自己的母语汉语对英文写作的不良影响,

常常写出严重汉化的英语来,比如:“Man can live happiness.”,“Man is iron, and food is steel.”,“Women are half side sky.”,“My roommate is such a noisy person that he often opens party in our dorm on weekends.”等。

12. 综合性语言错误 (Comprehensive Misusage)

所谓“综合性语言错误”是指除了上述十种错误以外,还有诸如时态、语态、标点符号、大小写等方面的错误。不少考生的作文存在大量的语法错误。这些语法错误,如果被挑出来,他们很快知道错在哪里。如果将这些语法错误编写成正误判断题,考生本人也能作出正确的判断。“粗心语法错误”的存在,说明考生平时虽然花在英语学习上的时间比较多,但缺乏足够的笔头练习,而且对语言形式的敏感性 (sensitivity to linguistic forms) 不够。下面的错误例句均属于典型的“粗心语法错误”:

误: A beautiful American girl is in traditional Chinese costume is smiling.

正: A beautiful American girl in traditional Chinese costume is smiling.

误: With the wide pace of globalization, cultures differences are shrinking.

正: With the globalization, differences between cultures are shrinking.

误: In the past we are stranged to see a person in other countries' costume.

正: In the past we would feel strange to see a person in other countries' costume.

误: With the development of economy, people in all over the world interact deeply.

正: With the economic globalization, people all over the world interact with each other more widely.

三、正确、准确用词

在 *The Right Word at the Right Time* 的“序言”中,编者对词语选用的重要性作了一个很好的比喻:“Using the right word at the right time is rather like wearing appropriate clothing for the occasion; it is a courtesy to others, and a favor to yourself—a matter of presenting yourself well in the eyes of the world.”由此可见,写作时正确用词是多么重要。

在英语写作中学会选择准确的词来表达自己的思想对多数英语专业的二年级同学来讲都是一个大问题。英语专业四级考试的考生在写作时会用错词,但更多的时候是选词不全错,而是不够准确、地道,导致词不达意甚至误解。

一般来说,要把握选词的准确性,可以从下面五个方面入手:

1. 选词要符合英语语言习惯

要有广泛的阅读积累,才能了解英语单词与社会、历史、文化及政治因素的关系,选词时才能符合语言习惯。例如,英美人对 *landlord* 和 *peasant* 两词的理解与中国人截然不同。英美人对前者的理解首先是“房东”,然后才是“地主”,而 *peasant* 一词对他们来说意味着“粗俗”与“无知”,此词多少带有贬义色彩。再如, *propaganda* 词在中国并不带有西方人所理解的贬意,而 *First Lady* (第一夫人) 绝不能理解为汉语的原配夫人。因此,在写作中应特别注意这类词,否则会导致冒犯和误解。

由于中西方社会历史文化的差异,许多词所引申或代表的内容也大相径庭。*phoenix* 在西方象征“复活”、“再生”,而汉语的这个词却表示“祥瑞”。*peach* 在汉语中象征“长寿”,而在英语中却用以指代“特别讨人喜爱的人或物”。又比如,在表示色彩的词中, *green* 是青春的颜色,常表示“希望”或“活力”,但在英语中, *green* 又与“妒忌”(to be green with envy, green-eyed) 联系起来。

如果没有广泛的阅读积累,养成经常查字典,特别是英文原版词

典的良好习惯 单凭想当然地选词 势必会词不达意。

2. 注意区分同义词

在英语写作中特别要注意区分同义词 选词时要考虑主题、对象及情景(**subject, audience, situation**)。由于历史的原因, 现代英语除本族语外, 还包括大量的法语和拉丁来源的词, 这就使英语的同义词相当丰富。总的来讲, 英语本族语大多是短词、小词, 听起来朴素、亲切, 大量用于口头表达和非正式文体; 法语来源的词庄重文雅, 多与行政、宗教、军事、服饰等有关; 拉丁来源的词, 书卷味浓, 如 **ask, question, interrogate** 这三个不同来源的同义词在不同的主题、对象、情景下, 用法就不一样。

同义词除了来源的不同会影响措词的选择外, 它们在程度、感情色彩上也有不同。比如“瘦”可以用 **slender, slim, lean, thin, underweight, gaunt, lanky, skinny** 等来表达, 而 **slender** 表示“苗条”是褒义的, **skinny** 却是贬义的, **underweight** 则是中性的词。

即使同是褒义词, 表达的感情色彩也不同。比如 **little** 和 **petite** 两个同义词当用来描绘女子时, 意思都是“个子小”的, 但 **petite** 同时还有“匀称”的意义, 而 **little** 更强调“可爱的”或“可怜的”。根据不同的上下文, 它还有“纤小”、“娇小”或“弱小”等不同意义。因此, 在选词表达思想时, 一定要分清主题、对象及情景。由此可见, 在英语写作实践中, 区分同义词的用法是相当重要的。

3. 词语选择的三项标准

准确、鲜明、生动是三个公认的用词标准。当然, 某词语用得是否符合要求, 不可孤立地从词语本身的含义上着眼, 还要看具体的使用场合, 包括同其他词语搭配等。

(1) 用词的准确性

准确性, 就是要根据使用场合选用确切的语言形式。著名美国作家马克·吐温说: “用词准确与用词几乎准确, 这两者之间的差异就如闪电与萤火虫之间的差异”。(**The difference between the right word and the almost-right word is as great as that between lightning**

and the lightning bug.)

为了用词准确，必须熟悉词语的多义性。例如 depression 对心理学家、经济学家或地质学家来说，含义各不相同：

He is in a state of deep depression as a result of his setback in latest experiment.

The depression first hit almost all the small and medium-sized enterprises.

Transportation was at a standstill caused by the depressions in the highways after the earthquake in that area.

反之，也常常有几个词语可以表示类似的含义，如心理学上的 depression 也能用 melancholia, the blues, the dismal, in the dump 等词语表示。

要做到准确选择，有必要注意词语的两种意义：“基本意义”(denotation) 和“引申意义”(connotation)。前者指该词的本身，或客观的固有含义；后者指该词在一定搭配或上下文中出现的其他意义，往往比较含蓄，带有词语使用者的主观态度或感情色彩。如 inexpensive 和 cheap 都表示便宜的基本意思，如顾客问营业员：“May I have some thing cheaper?”，意思是希望要价钱便宜一点的，当然并不是说质量可以不好，但 cheap 在其他句式或使用场合可引出“低劣”、“平庸”、“吝啬”、“卑鄙”等多种意思，这类意思正是修辞上的“敏感地带”。

(2) 措辞的鲜明度

准确性是鲜明度的前提，也是提高鲜明度的基础。然而，鲜明与简练相关。莎士比亚的名言“Brevity is the soul of wit”相当于汉语的“言贵简洁”。为此，应从两个方面加以注意：

A. 在可以运用较简短的常见词语表达意思时，不要用复杂而少见的词语。如：do something for 不用 perform, accomplish) 用 end/finish a letter (不用 terminate, conclude)。

B. 多余的或转弯抹角的词语都不利于明白地表达思想，因而下

列短语中加括号的部分都应省去: mutual aid (to each other), (an entirely) complete confidence, repeat the question (again), return (back) from abroad, etc.

(3) 措辞的生动感

生动感也可以叫做优美感 (gracefulness) 它是建立在准确性和鲜明度的基础上的 否则 单纯追求生动或优雅 就会出现辞藻华丽 (flowery) 而内容空洞的文风 这是应当避免的。

4. 措词应把握好英语和汉语词汇无法对应的部分

不是所有的英语词汇都有相应的汉语表达, 一些不同的 英语词汇也有可能用同样的汉语来表达, 这就使我们在用英语来表达思想时面临更多选择上的困难。比如 family 和 home 两词都可译成汉语的“家”但它们却不是同义词。family 主要指家庭成员 与人有关, 而 home 主要指所居住的地点、住宅。except 和 besides 有时都译成同样的汉语“除了”但他们的意思却是相反的。因此我们不能依赖于单纯的汉语译意, 否则我们可能会被误导。尽管许多英语对应的汉语词汇都能表达它们真正的意思, 但往往有些英语词汇没有准确的汉语对应词, 所以只有在不同的上下文中才能确定它们真正的意思 比如 send 一词 如果单把它理解成汉语的“送”的话 这样的句子“她送信给我”也许会被写成 She sent me the letter. 而英语准确的表达应是 She brought me the letter. 再如“他将送朋友去机场”如果写成 He will send his friend to the airport 就又错了, 正确的表达应该是 He will go to the airport with his friend to see him off. 实际上 send sth. to a place 应该是请别人送去 自己不去。因此 要保证我们所用的词是准确、恰当的 不仅在写作时要有上下文意识 更重要的是平常应该通过大量的语言实践来逐渐领会、掌握单词的正确用法。

5. 注意学习掌握一些英语修辞手法

许多考生平时阅读习惯只注重单词的学习, 忽略学习积累一些修辞手法 并认为英语修辞在考试作文中没有用武之地。殊不知 只

要我们留心，英语修辞在平日的阅读材料里还是俯拾皆是的。如下面的句子看似简单，但都使用了排比结构。

Before Christmas, I made fruitcakes, decorated the house, and wrapped dozens of toys.

We encourage our children to be competitive, to get ahead, to make money, to acquire possessions.

The human being longs for a sense of being accomplished, of being able to do things, with his hand, with his mind, with his will.

而且 要在考试中拿高分 也要注意恰当地使用修辞手段。如下面一段文章的作者通过三次使用介词 in 引出的补语短语 构成一系列排比结构 句式结构富于变化 (作文高分标准之一) 而且达到很好的修辞效果 语言地道、优雅 行文流畅。

So when you see someone in difficulty or in distress and in need of help, don't hesitate to give your love to him. I believe then the relationship between people will be harmonious and our society will be a better place for us to live in.

四、句式富于变化

不少英语专业四级的考生，由于对写作没有信心，通常不敢大胆地使用自己已经掌握的语言基础知识，包括英语句法知识，结果整篇文章都是以主语、谓语、宾语句式为主的简单句子 文章因此显得刻板，毫无生气。实际上，同汉语一样，英语的句子结构也是丰富多彩、变化多样的，同样的一个意义可以用多种句子结构来表达。如：Most metals are good conductors, and silver is the best./Most metals are good conductors, silver being the best./Most metals are good conductors, with silver in the lead.

一篇好文章的条件很多。除了内容丰富和组织紧密之外，词汇的运用和句子的处理，也起着决定性作用。

句子可长可短 同一件事 可以用不同的句式表达。如果句子清

一色是简单句，文章必定很单调乏味。如果全篇充满了冗长的复杂句，读起来也很费力。最好的方法是以简单句为基础，配合适当的并列句和复杂句。简单句可长可短，通常要加些附属成分，如分词短语、介词短语、副词短语和不定式动词短语。

总之，考生可根据实际情况，使句子多样化，使文章灵活多姿。例如下列五个句子的基本概念一样，但是句式不同，内容重点也有些差别：

(1) The goats grazed peacefully in the farm and were unaware of the approaching hunter. (并列分句)

(2) Grazing peacefully, the goats in the farm were unaware of the approaching hunter. (现在分词短语 + 简单句)

(3) In the farm, the goats grazed peacefully and were unaware of the approaching hunter. (副词短语 + 并列分句)

(4) There were goats grazing peacefully in the farm, unaware of the approaching hunter. (简单句 + 形容词短语)

(5) As the goats grazed peacefully in the farm, they were unaware of the approaching hunter. (原因从句 + 主句)

(1)和(5)的句式最常见。考生如果能熟练运用其他三种形式，句子形式、结构不是更多样化吗？

最后，看看这两个句子如何多样化：

(6) The young pilot was on his first overseas training.

(7) He felt very uneasy.

适当地运用英语的各种句式，这两个句子可以改写成：

(a) The young pilot on his first overseas training felt very uneasy.

(b) The young pilot felt very uneasy during his first overseas training.

(c) The young pilot's first overseas training made him feel very uneasy.

(d) Extreme uneasiness seized the young pilot on his first overseas training.

(e) The young pilot was on his first overseas training, feeling very uneasy.

(f) It being his first overseas training, the young pilot felt very uneasy.

(g) Being on his first overseas training, the young pilot felt very uneasy.

(h) The young pilot was on his first overseas training and felt very uneasy.

(i) The young pilot, who was on his first overseas training, felt very uneasy.

(j) When the young pilot was on his first overseas training, he felt very uneasy.

(k) As the young pilot was on his first overseas training, he felt very uneasy.

(l) The young pilot was on his first overseas training, so that he felt very uneasy.

在上述 12 个句子中, (a)~(g) 是简单句; (h) 是并列句; (i)~(l) 是复杂句。简单句除 b) 和 g) 之外, 其他五种形式用的人并不多。考生一般最喜欢使用复杂句, 尤其是 j) 和 k) 这两个句式, 接着便是并列句 (h)。大多数人的句式只限于 b), (g), (h), (j) 和 (k) 这五种。如果考生在自己的作文里适当地运用其他句式, 肯定能给自己的作文增光添彩。

五、增强英语语句表现力的有效方法

1. 避免使用语意弱的 be 动词

(1) 把句中的表语转换为不同的修饰语。例如:

Weak: The trees are bare. The grass is brown. The landscape

seems drab. Revision: The brown grass and bare trees form a drab landscape./The landscape, bare and brown, begged for spring green.

(2)将作表语用的形容词或名词变为行为动词。例如:

① Weak: The team members are good players. Revision: The team members play well.

② Weak: One worker's plan is the elimination of tardiness. Revision: One worker's plan eliminates tardiness.

(3)在以 here 或 there 开头的句子中,把 be 动词后的名词代词变成改写成句子的主语。例如:

① Weak: There is no opportunity for promotion. Revision: No opportunity for promotion exists.

② Weak: Here are the books you ordered. Revision: The books you ordered have arrived.

2. 多用语意具体的动词,保持句意简洁明了

(1) Poor: My supervisor went past my desk. Better: My supervisor sauntered (= walked slowly) past my desk.

(2) Poor: She is a careful shopper. Better: She compares prices and quality.

3. 尽量运用主动语态

(1) Weak: The organization has been supported by charity. Better: Charity has supported the organization.

(2) Weak: The biscuits were stacked on a plate. Better: Mother stacked the biscuits on a plate.

4. 防止使用语意冗长累赘的词语

(1) Wordy: My little sister has a preference for chocolate milk. Improved: My little sister prefers chocolate milk.

(2) Wordy: We are in receipt of your letter and intend to follow your recommendations. Improved: We have received your letter and

intend to follow your recommendation.

(3) Redundant: We had a serious crisis at school yesterday when our chemistry laboratory caught fire. Improved: We had a crisis at school yesterday when our chemistry laboratory caught fire.

(4) Redundant: My sister and I bought the same, identical dress in different stores. Improved: My sister and I bought the same dress in different stores.

5. 杜绝滥用陈旧词语或难懂的专业术语

(1) Weak: They will not agree to his proposals in any shape or form. Improved: They will not agree to any of his proposals.

(2) Weak: I need her financial input before I can guesstimate our expenditures next fall. Improved: I need her financial figures before I can estimate our expenditures next fall.

六、怎样开头

一篇文章通常可分为三个部分 即开头、正文和结尾。这三个部分安排是否得体，直接影响到文章的质量。

文章的开头一般来说应尽量做到开门见山，用简单明白的叙述引出文章的话题 使读者了解文章要谈论什么，一下子引起读者的兴趣。

作文常见的开头形式大致有以下几种：

1. 开门见山 揭示主题

文章一开头，就交待清楚文章的主题是什么。如 *How I Spent My Vacation* 我怎样度假 的开头是：

I spent my last vacation happily.

下面是题为 *On Honesty*(谈诚实)一文中的开头：

Honesty is one of the best virtues. An honest man is always trusted and respected. On the contrary, one who tells lies is regarded as a "liar", and is looked down upon by honest people.

2. 交代人物、事情、时间或环境开头

在文章的开头,先把人物、事件和环境交待清楚。例如“A Trip to Jinshan”(去金山旅游)的开头:

The day before yesterday my class went on a bus trip to Jinshan. The bus ride there took three hours. The long trip made us very tired, but the sight of the beautiful sea refreshed us.

3. 回忆性的开头

用回忆的方法来开头。例如 A Trip to the Taishan Mountain(泰山游)的开头是:

I remember my first trip to the Taishan Mountain as if it were yesterday.

4. 概括性的开头

即对要在文章中叙述的人或事先作一个概括性的介绍。如 The Happiness of Reading Books(读书的快乐)的开头:

People often say that gold and silver are the most valuable things in the world. But I believe to read books is more valuable than anything else, because books give us knowledge and knowledge gives us power.

5. 介绍环境式的开头

即开头利用自然景物或自然环境引出要介绍的事物。如 An Accident (一场事故)的开头是:

It was a rainy and windy morning. The sky was gloomy, the temperature was low, and the street was nearly empty. I was on my way back to school. Suddenly, a speeding car came round the corner.

七、怎样写好段落

首先,一个段落必须有一个中心即主题思想,该中心由主题句特别是其中的题旨来表达。整个段落必须紧扣这个主题(stick or hold

to the topic) 这就是段落的统一性 (unity)。其次,一个段落必须有若干扩展句,使主题思想得到充分展开,从而给读者一个完整的感受,这就是完整性 (completeness or adequateness)。再者,一个段落不是杂乱无章的,而是有机的组合,句子的排列顺序必须合乎逻辑,从一个句子到另一个句子的过渡必须流畅,这就是连贯性 (coherence) 下面我们就对这三个标准分别加以说明。

1. 统一性

一个段落内的各个句子必须服从于一个中心,任何游离于中心思想之外的句子都是不可取的。请看下例:

Joe and I decided to take the long trip we had always wanted across the country. We were like young kids buying our camper and stocking it with all the necessities of life. Bella bakes the best rhubarb pie. We started out in early spring from Minneapolis and headed west across the northern part of the country. We both enjoyed those people we met at the trailer park. Joe received a watch at his retirement dinner. To our surprise, we found that we liked the warm southern regions very much, and so we decided to stay here in New Mexico.

本段的主题句是段首句,controlling idea(中心思想)是 take the long trip across the country. 文中出现两个 irrelevant sentences,一个是 Bella bakes the best rhubarb pie 这一段是讲的是 Joe and I 中间出现一个 Bella 是不合适的。还有,Joe received a watch at his retirement dinner 这一句更是与主题句不相关。英语专业四级考生的作文卷上常常因为造出 irrelevant sentences 不相关语句而丢分,值得引起注意。再看一个例子:

My name is Roseanna, and I like to keep physically fit. I used to weigh two hundred pounds, but I joined the YMCA for an exercise class and diet program. In one year I lost eighty pounds. I feel much better and never want to have that much weight on my five-foot

frame again. I bought two new suitcases last week. Everyday I practice jogging three miles, lifting twenty-pound weights and playing tennis for one hour. My mother was a premature baby.

本段的 controlling idea 是 like to keep physically fit, 但本段中有两个 irrelevant sentences, 一个是 I bought two new suitcases last week, 另一个是 My mother was a premature baby.

从上面两个例子可以看出, native speakers 同样会写出 irrelevant sentences。卷面上如果这种句子多了, 造成偏题或离题, 那问题就更严重了。

2. 完整性

正像我们前面说的那样, 一个段落的主题思想靠扩展句来实现。如果只有主题句而没有扩展句来进一步交待和充实, 就不能构成一个完整的段落。同样, 虽然有扩展句, 但主题思想没有得到相对圆满的交待, 给读者一种意犹未尽的感觉, 这样的段落也不能完成其交际功能。例如:

Physical work can be a useful form of therapy for a mind in turmoil. Work concentrates your thoughts on a concrete task. Besides, it is more useful to work—you produce something rather than more anxiety or depression.

本段的主题句是段首句。本段的两个扩展句均不能回答主题句中提出的问题。什么是 a mind in turmoil(心境不平静)? Physical work 又如何能改变这种情况? 为什么它能起 therapy 的作用? 读者得不到明确的答案。

由于英语专业四级考试的作文部分只要求写一篇 150 个词左右的三段式短文, 每一段只有大约 50 个词左右, 因此要达到完整, 就必须尽可能地简明。例如:

It is not always true that a good picture is worth a thousand words. Often writing is much clearer than a picture. It is sometimes difficult to figure out what a picture means, but a careful writer can