



New Practical English Writing



新编实用英语写作



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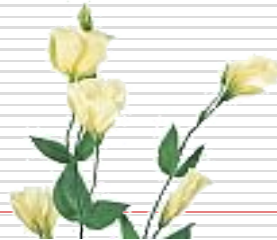
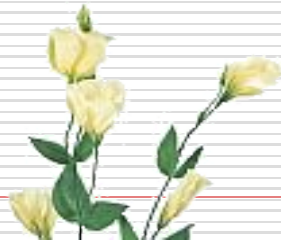
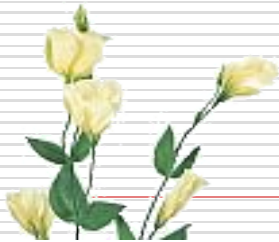
Project I

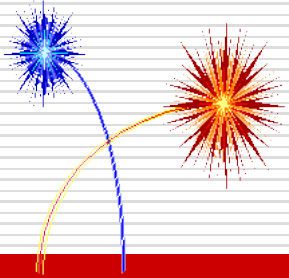
Basic Knowledge of Essay Writing



Unit 1

Comparison between English & Chinese Writing

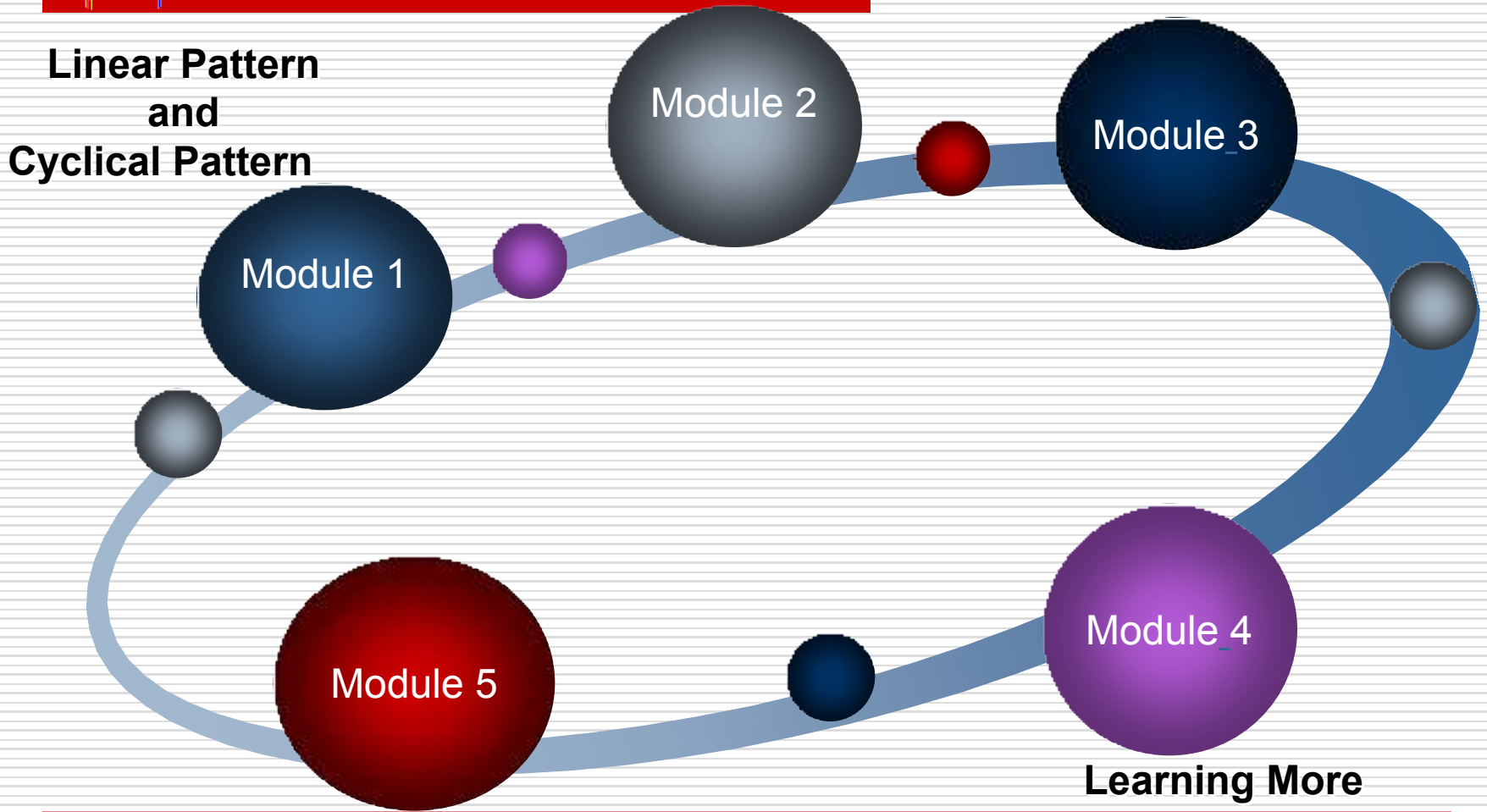




**Sentence Focus
in Different Places**

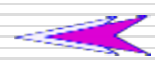
Complex and Simplex

**Linear Pattern
and
Cyclical Pattern**



Simulating Operations

Learning More



Unit 1

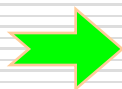


Learning Focus

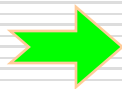
After learning this Unit, you will be able to:



know the different organizational patterns between Chinese and English writing;



understand sentence focus in different places between Chinese and English writing;



learn about complex and simplex in Chinese and English writing.



We often consider writing as a process by which one records his thoughts and ideas into a written message that can be shared with others. That is to say, the writer encodes information in words, which is then decoded by the reader. As writing is thought that the writing of different cultures will reflect the differences in thought patterns used by those cultures. However, many Chinese students believe that writing an essay in English is the same as writing an essay in Chinese, so they write their essays in Chinese and translate them into English, and then they always wonder why their teacher gives them low marks. The fact is that writing in English is quite different from writing in Chinese. Many of the differences are rooted in the differences between the two cultures. In order to be able to write well in English, it is very important for Chinese students to be aware of these differences. In this unit we will discuss some differences between English and Chinese writing.





Module 1

Linear Pattern and Cyclical Pattern



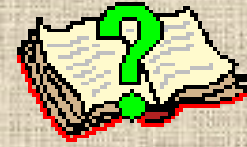
Module 1 *Linear Pattern and Cyclical Pattern*

It is generally accepted that Chinese thought pattern is circular. The idea is introduced as it is developed or the conversation proceeds. In contrast, English thought pattern is linear. An English writer is unlikely to spend much time in setting up a background for the main point. He comes to the point immediately and develops his idea along a straight line. He often expresses his thesis or central idea at the beginning of the article.

So it is difficult for Chinese writers to be direct to express the point of view in the thesis statement at the beginning of the writing.

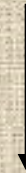


What's Linear Pattern ?



English thought pattern is linear.

English

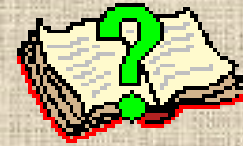


(straight line)

That's to say, an English writer is unlikely to spend much time in setting up a background for the main point. He comes to the point immediately and develops his idea along a straight line. He often expresses his thesis or central idea at the beginning of the article.

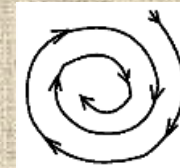


What's Cyclical Pattern?



Chinese thought pattern is circular.

Oriental (Chinese)



(spiral/ circular approach by indirection)

It is difficult for Chinese writers to be direct to express the point of view in the thesis statement at the beginning of the writing. The idea is introduced as it is developed or the conversation proceeds.

More to learn





Thinking

There are two letters here. Read them and decide:

1. Which one is written in Linear Pattern?
2. How does the Chinese writer develop his letter?



Dear Teacher:

How are you?

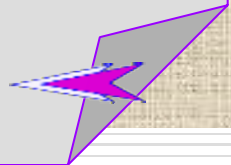
Now I am a college student. College life is quite different from that of middle school. It is new for me. I am trying to adjust myself to the new life.

Dear teacher, when I was at middle school you not only taught me a lot of knowledge, but influenced me in various ways. I am very grateful. You were very kind to me just as kind as a father might be. I still remember once you lent your umbrella to me whereas you were caught in the heavy rain as I learnt later. You were generous to me, too. Once you invited me over for dinner, I'll never forget what you have done for me, and I will keep grateful for what you have done for me.

Dear teacher, I'm busy with my study. But I am in bad need of an English-Chinese dictionary. I remember you have one. Would you like to let me have it? If you would, I will be very thankful.

Best wishes to you!

Yours sincerely,
Yang Lin



Module 1 *Linear Pattern and Cyclical Pattern*

Dear Mr. Jones,

As you know, I am now a student here at Zhengzhou University. I am enjoying my English classes very much, but I have a problem and I was wondering if you could help me. I am in need of an English-Chinese dictionary and I remember that you have one that you don't use. Would you be willing to lend it to me? I would really appreciate it.

College life is very different from that in high school, but I am having a great time. I've already make some good friends and I feel quite at home here.

Thank you very much for your help!

Yours sincerely,
Jimmy





Module 2

Sentence Focus in Different Places





We often say that an English sentence is end-weight while Chinese one is head-weight. The reason is that the Chinese sentence centre is usually at the end of the sentence, but the English sentence centre is at the beginning of the sentence. Although both the semantic cores (sentence centers) are put in the main clauses, their places are different. English main clause is often before the subordinate clause, while Chinese one is often after its subordinate clause. When we translate the English sentences into Chinese, we should change their order.

Here are some examples:



It is a truth universally acknowledged that smoking is harmful to health.

Version 1:

有一条举世公认的真理，那就是，吸烟有害身体。

Version 2:

吸烟有害身体，这是一条举世公认的真理。

The two versions are both loyal to the original sentence, but *the second one* is more idiomatic in Chinese. More examples:



The government is determined to keep up the pressure
whatever the cost it will pay in the end.

不论最终将付出什么代价，政府决心继续施加压力。

These economic facts cannot merely be dubbed “inflation”
as unemployment begins to rise, as profits start to fall, as
interest rates soar, and as the cost of living is at record levels.

如果失业人数开始上升，利润开始下降，利率扶摇直上，
生活费用空前高涨，那么经济领域的这些现象就不能仅仅
以“通货膨胀”来加以解释了。

More to learn





From above examples we know the English sentence core is at the beginning of the sentence, but Chinese sentence core is at the end of the sentence.



In the point of structure, the English sentence is end-weight which needs main elements of the sentence at the beginning; the complicated modifiers (such as adverbial, attributive, clause and prepositional phrases) should be after them (at the end of the sentence) called right-branching. The Chinese sentence is head-weight for its modifiers often put at the beginning of the sentence. It belongs to left-branching.



一个人被车压死了。
昨晚一个人被车压死了。
昨晚南京路上一个人被车压死了。
昨晚南京路上一个30多岁男人被车压死了。
昨晚南京路上一个骑着自行车的30多岁男人被车压死了。
昨晚南京路上一个骑着自行车上街买东西的30多岁男人被车压死了。

This is a cat.

This is a cat that killed the rat.

This is a cat that killed the rat that ate the cake.

This is a cat that killed the rat that ate the cake that lay in the house.

This is a cat that killed the rat that ate the cake that lay in the house that Jack built.





For this reason, the orders of the following sentences should be changed. now let's compare the sentence orders of each pair.

Poor

Those who receive marvelous news after a long silence **are happy** indeed.

Better

Happy indeed are **those who receive marvelous news after a long silence.**

Poor

He has proved **the forecasts made by the country's leading** economic experts wrong.

Better

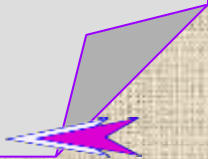
He has proved wrong **the forecasts made by the country's leading** economic experts.

Poor

About 85 papers reporting the results of the experiment were published.

Better

About 85 papers were published **reporting the results of the experiment.**





Poor

Whether they will send any delegation to attend the conference which is to be held next month in Hawaii is not yet known.

Better

It is not yet known **whether they will send any delegation to attend the conference which is to be held next month in Hawaii.**

Poor

That I should do my best to help children who cannot afford to go to school is my duty.

Better

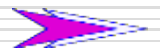
I consider it my duty that I should do my best to help children who **cannot afford to go to school.**





Module 3

Complex and Simplex





The English sentence is extremely plastic (easily formed into various shapes). It can be enlarged, combined, adjusted with almost any degree to fit the writer's thought. As we have learned, it has many long-winded sentences. They are very complicated in structure with clauses, phrases embedded one another.



Chinese sentences are loose, various, flexible and have more minor sentences or simple sentences.



When we translate an English sentence into Chinese, we often break it into several small and simple ones.



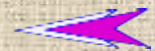


- Do you share the view that too many people are talking too much about China?

现在谈中国问题的人太多了，说中国问题的话也太多了，你同意这看法吗？

- These mistakes should be corrected by educating them and not by simply dressing them down.

这些都应该对他们进行教育，给以纠正，而不是简单地进行斥责。



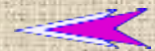


- They must stop all their provocations at once, which create tensions.

他们进行挑衅活动，制造紧张局势，必须马上停止。

- China has rich water, grassland and sloping land resources which have great potential for exploitation.

中国水域，草原，山地资源丰富，开发潜力巨大。



More Example

There are many wonderful stories to tell about the places I visited and the people I met.

Better

我访问了一些地方，遇到了不少人。
要谈起来，奇妙的事儿可多着哩。

关于我所访问的一些地方和遇见的
不少人有许多奇妙的故事可以讲。

Poor

More to learn



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