## 13 | 导读: 如何逐渐培养阅读习惯, 快速抓住文章大意?

2020-06-08 陈亦峰

互联网人的英语私教课

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讲述: 陈亦峰

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你好,我是陈亦峰,欢迎你和我一起学英语。

今天我们开始阅读一篇新的文章,题目叫做 *②* Successful Remote Working。这篇文章主要探讨如何成功地进行远程工作。

### 文章背景

IT 行业应该是远程工作得到最广泛普及的行业之一。根据去年的一项调查,66%的企业允许员工在家远程办公,其中 16%的企业实现全员远程办公(66% of companies allow remote work and 16% are fully remote)。当然,类似这样的调查很多,不同的行业情况也千差万别。有报告指出,对于那些员工已经习惯于"不用天天上班"的行业,如果要求员工全都退回到"规定时间、规定地点"上班的状态,无异于变相裁员。

展望未来,远程工作的发展势不可挡,根据 Gartner 的一项调查,随着"95 后"进入劳动力市场,到 2030 年远程工作的需求将进一步增加 30%。而新冠肺炎疫情的爆发,似乎为未来将要出现的远程工作大趋势提前在全球各国进行了一场范围广泛的深度社会试验。

远程办公有利有弊,有利的方面比较显而易见,而弊端往往是一段时间之后逐渐显现的。如何趋利避害,通过设计一套合理的制度,使得远程办公成为一种成功的企业运营模式,正是我们这篇文章探讨的主题。

在开始讲解这篇文章之前,我们来比较一下 work from home 和 work at home 这两个短语的区别。从某种意义上讲,这两个短语的区别其实就是远程工作和自由职业(selfemployed)之间的区别。

work from home 给人的感觉是,工作的中心仍然还是公司,但出于各种原因我在家完成工作,但最后还是汇聚到公司这个中心去的。而 work at home 表示,我平时常态的工作地点就是家里,我的家就是我工作的中心。大部分没有固定工作的自由职业者基本就是这种状态,比如,自媒体作家、网红主播、翻译等等。

当然, work at home 也可以指,我有私人的一些事情,要在家干一些活。例如我打电话给朋友说: "Sorry dude, I cannot accompany you. I have work at home.",指的就是"我没法陪你了,我在家有活要干"。这一语境下一般指临时性的一些 work,例如修水管、打扫卫生之类的。

### 学习目标

我们在阅读第一篇文章的过程中,主要强调了词汇的学习方法,第二篇文章我们侧重句法结构的分析,在接下来阅读的第三篇文章里,除了继续关注词汇和句法这两个方面,**我们要逐渐开始培养以整个段落为单位的阅读习惯,快速抓取整段乃至全篇的大意**。

所以,从这篇文章开始,在我和你一起逐段精读之前,我会有重点地带你把整篇文章快速浏览一遍,了解段落乃至篇章大意后,再深入学习每一句话。在这个过程中,我也会和你分享我自己读书的一些心得。

当然,阅读文章的过程中,我们仍然要继续关注重点词汇,并进一步巩固句法分析的技能。 这些是我们一直都要做的事情。

#### 全篇通读

第三篇文章的全文我都放在下面了,面对这样一篇千字左右的短文,我们应该怎样开始阅读呢?除了从第一个字看到最后一个字以外,有没有效率更高的阅读方法呢?这个问题涉及我们的阅读习惯。我相信每个人肯定都有自己读书的心得和方法,平时我们也能找到不少介绍阅读方法的文章和著作。我这里讲讲我的方法。

首先,我们可以借鉴检索阅读 (inspectional reading) 中的略读法 (pre-reading or skim, 也可以叫粗读法),来了解这篇文章的梗概。

不管哪个国家、哪种文化或语言,大部分作者在写文章时通常都会遵循一定的结构,比如总分总、总分、分总。所以,无论段落还是篇章,好好关注文章首尾,一般都不会错过重点。按照这个方法,我们来读一下这篇文章的第一段、最后一段以及每一段的第一句话。

首先我们来看一下题目, Successful Remote Working (成功的远程工作)。作者非常直白地告诉了我们文章的主题。看到这样的题目,我们可以提前问自己一些问题。例如,预测一下文章的内容是什么?可能会讲哪些方面的观点?会不会讨论远程工作的优缺点?你认为要使远程工作的模式获得成功,需要具备哪些要素?

在思考这些问题的过程中,你可以通过**关键词搜索**的方式,去网上找一些背景资料,拓宽一下自己的思路和视野。借助现代信息技术,获取知识已经非常廉价和方便,而我们缺少的往往是主动思考的习惯。所以说,找答案已经不是问题,难能可贵的是提出问题的能力。历史学家许倬云曾说:"我们现在的知识分子是网络知识分子,是检索机器,不是思考者。"

题目思考完之后,我们需要快速浏览一下正文。在浏览的过程中,我们还可以根据自己的理解,挑出其中的关键字词。那你可能要问了,何为"关键"啊?不同的人理解肯定会有不同,我觉得并没有所谓的准确答案。我把我理解的关键都标在文章里了,你可以和你标的对照着看一看,感受一下不同人在思维上的差别。

For both **employees and employers**, remote work requires **intentional design** and implementation to be effective. People find remote work challenging because the **established mindset** says that being in an office is how work gets done. Remote workers also need to prioritize their **mental health**, by taking breaks, getting exercise, and having a social life. Despite the challenges, when remote work is done well, the **advantages** to employees and employer are sufficient to make it worthwhile.

无论对于**雇员**还是**雇主**,要想使远程工作有效,需要双方**有心的设计**和实施。人们感觉远程工作很有挑战性,是因为**固有的思维模式**都认为,去办公室上班才是完成工作的方式。远程工作者还需要通过休息、锻炼和社会生活,来优先保障他们的**心理健康**。尽管存在挑战,但只要安排得当,远程工作给雇员和雇主带来的**好处**都足以使其值得一试。

第一段往往是文章的总起段落,通常会概述整篇文章的核心思想。我理解的关键思想包括下面 5 点:

远程工作是老板和员工两方面的事情;

需要专门的设计;

要打破固有思维模式;

要关注心理健康问题;

利大于弊。

我们接着来看下一段。这一段一看有那么多首字母大写的单词,就知道充满了专有名词。很多人一看到这样的词就"害怕",其实这类词一般都是交代时间、地点、人物、活动、公司这些信息的。

These were some of the key takeaways expressed by Charles Humble during his presentation at QCon London 2020, titled "Remote Working Approaches That Worked (and Some That Didn't)." Humble's opinions are based on his experience working at C4 Media, a remote-only company, and the parent organization of InfoQ and QCon.

看完这段我们可以知道,这篇文章是一个叫 Charles Humble 的人,在今年伦敦 QCon 软件开发大会上的一篇演讲,题目叫《远程工作好方法(和坏方法)》。接着,这段话还专门

介绍了演讲者依据的是他在 C4 Media (InfoQ 和 QCon 的母公司)的工作经验提出的观点,而 C4 Media 又是一家全员远程工作的组织。

我们继续看下一段。这段讲了现在疫情要保持社交距离,使得更多人在家工作。

Because many additional people are working from home due to social distancing, QCon has made the video recording of the presentation immediately available on InfoQ.

我们可以看到,以上两段都是实用信息,不是文章的观点和内容。接下来,每段我们只看第一句,然后我们来猜测一下各段的大意。我这里给你放了译文,你可以先盖住,尽量自己去读一读。

The first starting point for remote employees is to have clear separation between home and work. This can be done through physical separation, by having a dedicated home office, or even working at a shared-work facility, such as Regus or WeWork. It is also helpful to have a transition point, something to replace a commute, that delineates the shift from being at home to being at work. Some people have found taking their dog for a walk, or simply going out the front door and coming in the back door of their house is enough to make the mental shift and start focusing on work.

员工在家工作,第一要务就是把家和工作分开。

联系第一段里讲远程工作的挑战来自传统观念,即家不是工作的地方,所以远程工作者需要想办法把日常家庭生活和工作分开。后面的内容应该是这一问题的展开。

Successful remote work is not just up to the employees. Companies and managers must make extra effort to exhibit transparency and establish trust, because you don't have benefits of casual conversation and body language like you would working in the same location. Psychological safety is needed for remote working, and this means managers must be prepared to be vulnerable. Once a manager shows they are comfortable sharing something difficult, then employees will be more comfortable reciprocating. Humble said, "You have to

fundamentally trust people because you can't see what they do. They have to tell you."

远程工作要想成功,不仅仅靠员工。

不仅靠员工,那就还要靠老板、靠公司。这段应该讨论公司的管理层在这个问题上应该怎么做,要扮演什么角色。

Establishing a high level of trust among remote managers and employees starts with having good meeting rituals. Meetings should be conducted on video if at all possible, and start with a "check in" for each team member. The check in lets people state how they are feeling that day, and what else is going on that may be affecting their mood or productivity. Managers must lead by example, because what you do is more important than what you say. For more suggestions on meeting rituals, Humble recommended the High-Performance Teams mini-book by Richard Kasperowski, author of The Core Protocols.

经理和员工之间的高度信任,始于一套好的会议仪式。

这句话字面意思听着有点翻译腔,你可以猜一下这段的内容:首先要开会,尽管人在家不去公司了,但远程会议还是要开的;第二,开会要有仪式感,不能太随意。大方向应该逃不出这些内容。

An established calendar of regular meetings also helps create structure for distributed teams. A daily huddle takes the place of a "standup." Because remote teams build a higher level of independence than co-located teams, this may only need to occur twice per week to keep everyone aligned.

定期的会议日程安排有助于为分散的团队建立结构。

整个团队都在办公室,每天按部就班比较容易碰头和安排工作,很有组织感,但分散在各处自家办公,队伍容易散漫,日子也容易过糊涂,所以需要通过一些定期的安排来建立这种组织秩序。我猜这段是在讲这个意思。

One-on-one meetings between employee and manager are extremely important, and must be treated as sacrosanct. These meetings are for the employee, with discussions about their career and other personal concerns.

Humble had two absolute rules: The one-on-one is not a status meeting, and managers should never be allowed to cancel the meeting.

员工和经理一对一的会议也很重要。

前面两段讲的开大会,这段应该讲经理和员工一对一开小会。有效沟通是管理的核心,私密的沟通机制当然也是其中的重要一环。

Strategic discussions are very challenging to have remotely, so these will usually occur when everyone involved can meet in person, which is every four months for C4, and coincides with QCon scheduling. C4 has an annual "all hands" meeting that lasts for four days, which also involves flying everyone into one location. This is obviously very expensive and a logistical challenge, but is extremely valuable. While everyone does not need to be colocated all the time, there are some situations which are only really effective when a team is all together. These include strategic discussions and just help reenforce the bonds between team members. 战略性的讨论很难远程进行,通常需要见面开会。

前面几段说的都是日常管理,但特别重大的会议用视频的方式就不够了,需要专门安排正式的会议。这是很自然的,即使是远程工作,也不会一年都不见一次面的。

**Humble shared a list of tools he and C4 have used.** Slack for IM; Zoom for video conferencing; Workplace for "water cooler" -like chats; Google Docs for remote collaboration; and 15Five for private retrospectives. While these work for his team, many options exist. The important thing is to try and find what works effectively in your situation, because bad tooling can have a serious effect on remote working.

Humble (演讲人) 分享了一堆 C4 用的工具。

自然是远程工作的工具(Zoom 之类的),疫情之后,家喻户晓。据我所知,现在督促孙辈上网课的爷爷奶奶们都是"Zoom 专家"。

接下来,最后一段通常是总结段,我们全部通读一遍。我也在英文原文和中文翻译中标黑了我认为的关键内容。总结起来讲就是,远程工作有得有失,所以成本不是问题,心理健康才

是关键问题。怎么样才能健康呢?要工作团队信任开放,要家庭社交克服孤独,还要有健康的生活方式。

While remote work is very appealing to some employees, it does come with some trade-offs. Although the time and costs associated with commuting disappear, new costs may be incurred from premium high-speed internet, a good laptop, a nice desk, and especially a good office chair. A subject not often, or easily, discussed regarding remote work is mental health. Burnout is a real, serious issue, and is endemic in IT. Trust and openness is critically important, and allows team members to recognize when someone is struggling, and help them cope, including seeking professional help. Loneliness can also be a problem, and it takes active effort to make your family and your social life a real priority. Pets, exercise, and getting into nature can also help improve mental well-being.

虽然远程工作对某些员工非常有吸引力,但**有得必有失**。与上下班相关的**时间和财务成本**消失了,但是会产生**新的成本**去购置高速上网服务、好的笔记本电脑、漂亮的办公桌、特别是一张舒服的办公椅。远程工作的另一个不经常或不容易讨论的话题是**心理健康。职业倦怠**是一个现实而严重的问题,并且在 IT 行业普遍存在。**信任和坦诚**至关重要,只有这样团队成员才能够发现正在挣扎的同事,并及时帮助他们,包括寻求专业的帮助。孤独也是一个问题,让家庭和社交真正成为生活重心是需要你为之付出积极努力的。宠物、锻炼和亲近大自然也可以帮助改善心理健康。

### 小结

好了,今天我们就讲到这里。了解这篇文章的大意,主要目的还是培养你的阅读习惯,希望对你有所启发。后面的文章中我们还会继续探讨这一话题。

关于英语篇章阅读,最后我还要强调一点。英语毕竟不是我们的母语,无论是听说,还是读写,效率都远远不及中文。例如我们一边打扫房间一边看电视,如果播放的是中文频道的新闻或者电视剧,我们基本上还是可以听到不少内容(passive listening);但是如果播放的是英语新闻或者美剧,这时如果一心二用的话,听进去的信息就微乎其微,除非我们停止其他活动,一心一意竖起耳朵来听(active listening)。阅读也是如此,中文或许我们可以一目十行地浏览,但英文阅读基本上还是需要一行一行地看,那些文字不会像汉字那样主动跳到你的眼睛里来。

正因为如此,某一些针对母语阅读的方法并不一定适用于外语阅读(例如一些速读的技巧),但有一些方法是基本适用于所有阅读的,例如我们今天说的略读或粗读。

岳飞说过: "阵而后战,兵法之常,运用之妙,存乎一心。" 方法的道理说起来都是比较容易的,但真正要用好,还需要你自己去练习和体会。

### 课后作业

1. 下面是 Gartner 关于疫情期间远程工作的两篇文章,推荐给你课后阅读。

文章一: @https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/with-coronavirus-in-mind-are-you-ready-for-remote-work/

文章二: @https://www.gartner.com/smarterwithgartner/coronavirus-cio-areas-of-focus-during-the-covid-19-outbreak/

2. 根据我们今天讨论的内容,想一想远程办公的优点和缺点,以及克服这些缺点的应对办法,用简单的英语把自己思考的结果总结出来。你可以写成完整的句子,也可以用短语,只要能把意思表述清晰即可。

如果在学习中有什么问题,你可以在留言区提问,同时欢迎你把学习心得分享出来,我们一起每天进步一点。

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下一篇 开学直播回顾 | 程序员如何阅读英语资料?

#### 精选留言 (2)





#### Len

2020-06-09

I think remote work is an unstoppable trend. Work from home will be a basic skill f or the people in the future. So how to keep mental health is a significant thing while we work from home alone.







#### escray

2020-06-08

对于第一段中 ... remote work requires intentional design and implementation to be effective. 这句话的关键词划分有点疑惑。

老师取出的关键词是 intentional design,而我觉得应该把 intentional design and implementation 一起取出来,也就是说"设计和实施都需要双方有意识"。...

作者回复: 其实我觉得关键词是intentional,但是觉得没头没脑的,就带上了一个design。当然写全了intentional design and implementation也很好呀。

