

Why Don't We Complain

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1) About the **Structure** of this essay

- ✓ It might be an **argumentation** supported by **exemplification** while some examples were **in detail**, some examples were just being **touched upon**.

1) About the **Structure** of this essay

Para
1-4

- Example 1: Heat on the Train
- Author's experience on the train

Para
5-8

- Example 2: Movie out of Focus
- Author and his wife in the cinema.

Para
11

- Example 3: A Late Glass of Milk
- Author at his breakfast in a restaurant in New Year's Day.

1) About the **Structure** of this essay

Para
13-17

- Example 4: Borrow a Screwdriver
- Author at the ski repair store.

Para
18

- Example 5: Lunch Tray on Airplane
- Author on an airplane.

Para
19

- Example 6: American People's Style
- The reason that they are reluctant to assert themselves in various matters.

1) About the **Structure** of this essay

Para20-21

- Example 7: American's Political Apathy
- The reason the American people are so reluctant to assert themselves in various matters

Para22-23

- Conclusion: American people tend to suppress themselves in asserting themselves in various matters.
- **There should be more complain.**

1) About the **Structure** of this essay

- ✓ This essay can be divided into **8 parts** in terms of content: example 1-7 and the final part, the conclusion.
- ✓ Differently, in terms of narrative function, this essay can be divided into **2 parts**, that is, examples and conclusion.

2) About the **Theme** of this essay

- ✓ To criticized/ satirized American people's unwillingness in **asserting themselves** (坚持自己的主张) in minor and grave matters.
- ✓ That is, to criticized/ satirized American people's unwillingness in bravely expressing their real thoughts and sticking to them in both big and small things.

3) Words and expressions

1. **fleck**(P1L5)... the car was **flecked** with the white shirts of passengers.

---- to mark with spots of color, light or the like; to speckle

e.g.

The bird's breast is flecked with brown.

这只鸟的胸部有棕色斑点。

When a banana ripens it is flecked with brown.

当香蕉成熟时，会有棕色的斑点。

Words and expressions

2. **virile** (P2L2)

---- having or showing masculine spirit, strength, vigor, or power.

e.g.

His style of singing is very virile.

她演唱的风格浑厚有力。

Words and expressions

3. **edge**(P2L6)... with a considerable **edge** to my voice

---- sharpness; the quality of being sharp or keen

e.g.

Her remark has a biting edge to it.

她讲的话很尖刻。

Words and expressions

4. **sibilant**(P2L9)...to justify my **sibilant**
intrusion into his stupor
---- hissing; having or making a hissing sound

e.g.

When he spoke, his voice was usually low and sibilant.
他说话时的声音老是低沉的、咝咝作响的。

Words and expressions

5. **discreet**(P2L10)...making a **discreet** fuss.

---- very careful in speech and action;
showing good judgement; wisely cautious

e.g

A discreet person does not spread gossip.

智者不说闲话。

Words and expressions

6. **set in**(P2L2)

---- to begin

e.g.

Winter set in early.

冬天早早地降临了。

It seems to me you lived your life like a candle in the wind, never knowing who to cling to when the rain set in.

在我看来，你的生活就像风中的蜡烛，从不知道在雨中该依附谁。

Words and expressions

7. **nonchalant**(P3L1)...**nonchalantly** walked down the gauntlet

---- without warmth or enthusiasm; coolly
unconcerned; casually indifferent; apathetic
e.g.

a nonchalant manner 无所谓的样子

a nonchalant reply 漫不经心的回答

She remained quite nonchalant during all the excitement.

在所有激动人心的事件中，她仍然相当淡定。

Words and expressions

8. **gauntlet**(P3L1)... nonchalantly walked down the **gauntlet**

---- n. a former military punishment. Here the conductor should have been consigned to this military punishment.

expression:

run the gauntlet

---- to be punished by means of the gauntlet; to proceed while under attack from both sides, as by criticism, gossip, etc.

Words and expressions

9. **visualize**(P4L1)

---- to form a mental picture of(something not present to the sight, an abstraction, etc.);
envision

e.g.

to visualize a friend's face when he is away

当朋友不在时，想象他的样子

to visualize the scene of a battle

想象一下战斗的场景

Words and expressions

10. **apprehensively**(P5L4)

---- feeling alarm; afraid, anxious or fearful about the future; uneasy, or worried

e.g

The captain **felt apprehensive about** the safety of his passengers during the storm at sea.

在海上的风暴中，船长对乘客的安全感到忧虑。

Words and expressions

11. irksome(P5L14)...calling dramatic attention to the irksome distortion

---- annoying; tiresome (SYN) wearisome

e.g

Washing dishes all day would be an irksome task.

Company was irksome to me.

去上班令我感到不快

Words and expressions

12. **head-on**(P8L6)...before undertaking a head-on...

---- a crash with the head or front first; in a direct manner; headlong

e.g

His car was involved in a head-on collision.

他的车被卷入迎面而来的碰撞。

It collided head-on with a truck.

它与一辆卡车迎头相撞。

Words and expressions

13. **gird**(P9L9) I am **girded** for a total showdown.

---- to get ready for action; to prepare (oneself) for action

e.g

to gird oneself to face an examination

The soldiers girded themselves for battle.

严阵以待

Words and expressions

14. **fortify**(P11L4)... I was **fortified** in my resolve

---- to give support to; strengthen physically, emotionally, etc.

e.g

They fortified each other against the coming ordeal.
他们互相支撑着对方，以应对即将到来的磨难。

Words and expressions

15. telltale(P13L8)...My pulse began its telltale acceleration.

---- showing, signaling, or warning of something; revealing, revelatory, suggestive, meaningful, significant, indicative

e.g

the telltale mud on his shoes

鞋子上明显的泥巴痕迹

Careful examination will reveal the telltale nits attached to the hairs.

仔细检查会发现附着在毛发上的明显的虱子。

Words and expressions

16. **rare**(P13L12)...six good men who were
raring to ski

---- [Colloq.] to be eager, enthusiastic, etc.

e.g

raring to go 蓄势待发

Words and expressions

17. **mortification**(P16L2)

---- a feeling of shame; humiliation; chagrin;
loss of self-respect (SYN) embarrassment

e.g

mortification at having spilled food on the tablecloth
饭菜洒在桌布上而感到羞愧

There's no virtue in any mortification, either of the
flesh or the spirit.

无论是肉体还是精神，在任何道德上都没有美德。

Words and expressions

18. **unctuous**(P18L9)...she spoke **unctuously**
into the loud-speaker

---- too smoothly and oily; too suave or oily in
speech or manner 圆滑，油嘴滑舌

e.g

the unctuous manner 虚伪的态度

an offensively unctuous speech 卑鄙无耻的言论

Words and expressions

19. **prime**(P22L4)... late in 1959 he was **primed**
---- to equip (a person) with information,
words, arguments, etc.

e.g

to prime a person with a speech

以演讲的方式给人打气

Thank you!

Difficult Sentences and Rhetorical Device
will be presented next week.