



# 浙江省新高考英语写作



## 概要写作实例讲解 4

English weather-speak



# Summary writing process:

**Step 1 : Read for the main idea of the whole passage**

**Step 2 : Analyze the structure of the whole passage  
(What's the relationship between each paragraph?)**

**Step 3: Locate (确定) the main idea of each paragraph**

**Keep important details / Leave out unimportant information**

**Step 4: Write the summary in your own words (language)**

## 请阅读下面的文章，确定文章的主题及结构：

How can you start a conversation with an English person? The answer is quite simple. Many people will tell you that any English conversation begins with “the weather”. Such a fixation (迷恋) with the weather finds expression in Dr. Johnson’s comment that “when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of weather”. Though Johnson’s finding is almost the same as it was over two hundred years ago, most commentators (评论员) fail to come up with a convincing explanation for this English weather-speak.

Bill Bryson, for example, concludes that, as the English weather is not at all exciting, the obsession with it can hardly be understood. He argues that the most impressive thing about the English weather to an outsider is that there is not very much of it.” Simply, the reason is that those exciting, unpredictable and dangerous weather phenomena – tornadoes, monsoons, blizzards, hailstorms – are almost wholly unknown in the British Isles.

Jeremy Paxman, however, disagrees with Bryson, arguing that the English weather is by nature attractive. Bryson is wrong, he says, because the English preference for the weather is not about the natural phenomena at all. “The interest is less in the phenomena themselves, but in uncertainty.” According to him, it is because the weather in England is very changeable and uncertain that it attracts the English as well as the outsider.

Bryson and Paxman stand for common misunderstandings about the weather-speak among the English. Both commentators, somehow, are missing the point. The English weather conversation has nothing to do with the weather. English weather-speak is a system of signs, which is developed to help the speakers overcome shyness and actually talk to each other. Everyone knows conversations starting with weather-speak are not requests for weather data. Rather, they are routine greetings, conversation starters or the blank “fillers”. In other words, English weather-speak is a means of social bonding.



## 1. Main idea of the whole passage?

The misunderstandings and the real nature of English weather-speak.

## 2. The structure of the passage?

**Para. 1:** People fail to explain English people's obsession with weather.

**Para. 2: Misconception 1:**

The English enthusiasm for the weather is ridiculous.

**Para. 3: Misconception 2:**

The charm of English weather lies in its changeability.

**Para. 4: The real nature of English weather-speak:**

a means of social bonding .

## 段落大意及要点分析 Para.1

How can you start a conversation with an English person? The answer is quite simple. Many people will tell you that any English conversation begins with “the weather”. Such a fixation (迷恋) with the weather finds expression in Dr. Johnson’s comment that “when two Englishmen meet, their first talk is of weather”. Though Johnson’s finding is almost the same as it was over two hundred years ago, most commentators (评论员) fail to come up with a convincing explanation for this English weather-speak.

**说明:** 红色划线部分是本段的重点信息：英国人喜欢谈论天气但却很少人能给出令人信服的解释其原因是什么。

Para. 1 段落大意可概括为：

**English conversations often start with the weather, a cultural norm that few commentators truly understand.**

**Starting a conversation with weather is prevalent in Britain, to which most explanations are groundless.**

**Most commentators fail to explain why weather-speak has been always the start of conversations among the English.**

## 段落大意及要点分析 Para. 2

- Bill Bryson, for example, concludes that, as the English weather is not at all exciting, the obsession with it can hardly be understood. He argues that the most impressive thing about the English weather to an outsider is that there is not very much of it.” Simply, the reason is that those exciting, unpredictable and dangerous weather phenomena – tornadoes, monsoons, blizzards, hailstorms – are almost wholly unknown in the British Isles.

**说明:** 红色划线部分是本段的主题句，蓝色划线部分还是解释英国天气并没有什么特别的，其它内容是对英国天气情况的举例说明，属于次要信息。

Para. 2 段落大意可概括为：

**One argument is that English people's enthusiasm for the weather is ridiculous as it is totally boring and changeless.**

**Some people think it incomprehensible that the English are so fascinated by the dull and normal weather.**

**Bill Bryson believes that the English preference for weather doesn't make any sense because it is too dull to talk about.**

**说明：**该段以Bill Bryson为例，陈述一种观点。写概要时，一般无需提及具体的名字及例子，但有时如果这一段内容主要是关于这个人的，则视情况而定。如这篇文章中的2，3两段就属于这种情况，那么写概要时也可提及。

## 段落大意及要点分析 Para. 3

- Jeremy Paxman, however, disagrees with Bryson, arguing that the English weather is by nature attractive. Bryson is wrong, he says, because the English preference for the weather is not about the natural phenomena at all. “The interest is less in the phenomena themselves, but in uncertainty.” According to him, it is because the weather in England is very changeable and uncertain that it attracts the English as well as the outsider.

**说明:** 红色划线部分是本段的主题句，蓝色划线部分是主要信息，解释英国天气吸引人的原因。

Para. 3 段落大意可概括为：

Another point of view is that the charm of English weather actually lies in its changeability and uncertainty.

Other people think the changeable and unpredictable weather makes it fascinating to English people.

On the contrary, Jeremy Paxman argues that English people's interest in weather is actually because the weather changes a lot and is hard to predicate.

## 段落大意及要点分析 Para. 4

- Bryson and Paxman stand for common misunderstandings about the weather-speak among the English. Both commentators, somehow, are missing the point. The English weather conversation has nothing to do with the weather. English weather-speak is a system of signs, which is developed to help the speakers overcome shyness and actually talk to each other. Everyone knows conversations starting with weather-speak are not requests for weather data. Rather, they are routine greetings, conversation starters or the blank “fillers”. In other words, English weather-speak is a means of social bonding.

**说明:** 红色划线部分是本段的主题:英国人谈论天气是社交需要。蓝色划线部分是主要信息,说明前两种观点的错误。in other words, 说明前后内容是一致的,写概要时无需重复。该段落的概要写作需要对谈论天气的作用进行较为笼统的总结,不要一一举例。

Para. 4 段落大意可概括为：

Actually, both of the opinions lose the main point that the function of English weather-speak is to socialize rather than to weather.

In fact, the English weather-speak is not about the weather, but a way to make a conversation, a method of socializing.

However, the English people talk about weather in a conversation for the need of socializing, not for their interest in weather.

However, neither of the two opinions is true as the English talk about weather for socializing, not for the weather.

## 完成概要写作:

1. 用恰当的衔接词把每段的要点连接在一起。
2. 注意词数，不超过80词。
3. 通读一遍，看要点之间是否独立，内容是否连贯，逻辑是否通顺。
4. 检查语言的表达是否准确，有无语法、拼写及标点的错误。

## Possible version 1:

- English conversations often start with the weather, a cultural norm that few commentators truly understand. (要点1) One argument is that English people's enthusiasm for the weather is ridiculous as it is totally boring and changeless. (要点 2) Another point of view is that the charm of English weather actually lies in its changeability and uncertainty. (要点3) Actually, both of the opinions lose the main point that the function of English weather-speak is to socialize rather than to discuss weather. (要点4)

(76 words)

## Possible version 2:

- Starting a conversation with weather is prevalent in Britain, to which most explanations are groundless. (要点1) Some people think it is incomprehensible that the English are so fascinated by the dull and normal weather. (要点 2). Other people argue the changeable and unpredictable weather makes it fascinating to English people. (要点3) In fact, the English weather-speak is not about the weather, but a way to make a conversation, a method of socializing. (要点4)

(68 words)

### Possible version 3:

- **Most commentators fail to explain why weather-speak has been always the start of conversations among the English. (要点1) Bill Bryson believes the English preference for weather doesn't make any sense because it's too dull to talk about. (要点 2) On the contrary, Jeremy Paxman argues English people's interest in weather is actually because the weather changes a lot and is hard to predicate. (要点3) However, neither of the two opinions is true as the English talk about weather for socializing, not for the weather. (要点4)**

(78 words)