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英文寫作秘訣 010: "On the other hand" 与 "Besides"

难度:中级

很多 Uni-edit 的客户是中文和日语语言背景的。有时我们的客户会将"一方"或"一方面"用英文"On the other hand"与"Besides"表达。然而,这两个词在英文中有着截然不同的意思。

On the other hand

"On the other hand"用于表达反对因素或反对观点。它表明作者正在深思熟虑或在做决定。 "On one hand … On the other hand…"是一种常用的自然表达。

正确: Some researchers have suggested metallic carbon nanotubes as a potential material for the construction electrical circuits like those in computer chips. Metallic carbon nanotubes possess high thermal stability, thermal conductivity, and current carrying capacity. **On the other hand**, their fabrication is a challenging and time-consuming process, and there is no suitable mass production method at present.

(一些研究人员建议使用金属碳纳米管作为构造电路(类似电脑芯片中的电路)的材料。金属碳纳米管具有高热稳定性、导热性和载流容量。另一方面,金属碳纳米管的制造具有挑战性、并且耗时,目前尚未有合适的大规模生产方法。)

Besides

"Besides"用于添加另外的想法或解释。这表明作者已经做出结论; "Besides"之后使用的理由只是为已作出的结论提供更多的论据。

正确: Based on this evidence, we did not employ metallic carbon nanotubes to construct our chips. **Besides**, the speed of existing technology is suitable for our purposes.

(基于这一论据,我们没有采用金属碳纳米管构造我们的芯片。另外,现有技术的发展速度符合我们的目标。)

因为"besides"为调查结果给出了"事实后的原因",听起来感觉不屑一顾,甚至带有偏见。事实上,细心的学术作者很少用"besides",因为插入额外的、不必要的原因会减弱之前的论据。

使用"moreover"或"in addition"是一种合理的替换表达方式,但这并不意味着这是在做合理的解释,而是表示用额外的事实来支持主要论据或与推理过程。

正确: Based on this evidence, we did not employ metallic carbon nanotubes to construct our chips. **Moreover**, the speed of existing technology is suitable for our purposes.

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Uni-edit English Writing Tip 010

"On the other hand" vs. "Besides"

Difficulty: Easy

Many Uni-edit customers are from Chinese & Japanese language backgrounds. Our customers sometimes translate the characters "一方" or "一方面" into English as "on the other hand" and "besides" synonymously. However, these words have quite different meanings in English.

On the other hand

"On the other hand" is used to present factors that are opposed, or that support opposing opinions. It suggests the author is deliberating, or in the process of making a decision. "On one hand ... On the other hand..." is a commonly used and natural structure.

Correct: Some researchers have suggested metallic carbon nanotubes as a potential material for the construction electrical circuits like those in computer chips. Metallic carbon nanotubes possess high thermal stability, thermal conductivity, and current carrying capacity. **On the other hand**, their fabrication is a challenging and time-consuming process, and there is no suitable mass production method at present.

Besides

"Besides" is used to introduce an additional idea or explanation. It suggests the author has already made his decision; reasons with "besides" are just more evidence for a decision that is already known to be optimal.

Correct: Based on this evidence, we did not employ metallic carbon nanotubes to construct our chips. **Besides**, the speed of existing technology is suitable for our purposes.

Because "besides" gives an after-the-fact reason for a finding, it can sound dismissive or even prejudiced. In fact, careful academic writers rarely use "besides", because inserting extra, unnecessary reasons dilutes the original argument.

Saying "moreover" or "in addition" is a sensible alternative that does not imply rationalizing. That implies the additional fact supports the main argument or line of reasoning.

Correct: Based on this evidence, we did not employ metallic carbon nanotubes to construct our chips. **Moreover**, the speed of existing technology is suitable for our purposes.

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