

COLLINS
COBUILD ENGLISH USAGE

柯林斯合作英语 用法词典



大连出版社

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Collins Cobuild English Usage

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大连出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

柯林斯合作英语用法词典

Collins Cobuild English Usage/赵永青主编. —大连;大连出版社,
1999.1

ISBN 7-80612-546-9

I. 柯… II. 赵… III. 英语-构词法-词典 IV. H314.1-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 26014 号

著作权合同登记号:06-1999 年第 113 号

大连出版社出版

(大连市西岗区长白街 12 号 邮政编码 116011)

三河市艺苑印刷厂印刷 新华书店发行

开本:850×1168 毫米 1/32 字数:759 千字 印张:24

印数:1—5 000 册

1999 年 9 月第 1 版

1999 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

责任编辑:许文彦

责任校对:徐 兰 林 伟

封面设计:张 波

版式设计:晓 琳

定 价:36.00 元

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英汉版前言

本词典的主编和副主编均为大学英语专业教师,其中大多数人曾于1995年受国家教委公派,以高级访问学者的身份在英国伯明翰大学和阿斯顿大学研修一年。在英期间,我们常常聚在一起,交流科研与教学经验。大家一致感到:在我们教过的学生中,许多人都面对过这样的困惑,即学了多年英语,单词记了一大堆,语法书读了好几本,却始终不能纯熟地运用所学知识去准确地表达自己的思想,交流障碍十分严重。特别一些看似简单的常用词,往往就是出错频率最高,而一般工具书和语法书又均不能解决的语言难点——这也是大多数英语教师深感头痛的难题。

一天,当我们又一次讨论到如何解决上述问题的时候,几个人不约而同地拿出了刚刚买到的由柯林斯(Collins)出版公司与伯明翰大学合作语言研究中心(Cobuild)联合出版的《English Usage》。这部词典采用全新的编写方式,打破了一般词典释义加例句的传统编法,将每一个常用词都置于真实的语言环境下,进行全面的描述。同朗文、牛津词典相比,它更像是一部英语常用词表达法的通俗教科书,非常适合我们国内学生的实际需要。

“应该尽快将它介绍给国内的英语学习者!”

通过与伯明翰大学 Cobuild 联系,我们的想法得到了他们的赞同,该公司当时的负责人 Gwyneth Fox 女士给予我们热情的支持,并同意我们根据中国学生的需要,对这本词典进行适当的增删编译。因此,我们以《English Usage》为基础,结合《Collins Cobuild English Guides 4: Confusable Words》,编译成这本《柯林斯合作英语用法词典》。

本词典具有以下几个突出特点:

一、针对中国学生学英语的难点解释词义,介绍句型结构,讲解基本

用法。所收词汇均为看似简单,却最易出错的常用词,极大地弥补了一般词典的不足,实用性极强。

二、全部例句选自 Bank of English(英国伯明翰大学的语料库)。全真例句,无一由编者“制造”。Bank of English 所收集的语料为近年来出版的英美报纸、杂志、书刊、信函等书面语资料和大量的录音资料,单词数已多达 5 亿以上,全面真实地向读者展示了当今英语的用法。

三、详细介绍了英、美英语在发音、拼写、用法上的差异。中国目前市场上流行的英语教材有英国编的,也有美国编的,英语教学中英、美英语兼而有之,学生容易弄混用法,出现错误,而本词典能有的放矢,帮助学生解决在这些方面的问题。

四、词典还详细介绍了许多日常生活中人们常用的语言功能表达方法,比如提建议、道歉、谈论时间和日期等等,对其文体风格附加说明,帮助学习者恰当、得体地运用英语。这是任何其它词典都难以做到的。

总之,这部词典可以激活你的学习记忆,贯通你的语法知识,帮助你正确地运用英语词汇,讲出地道的标准英语。

在经历了几年的艰苦工作之后,柯林斯合作英语用法辞典终于面世了。现在,我们才深深体会到英国第一部英文词典编纂者 Samuel Johnson 给词典编纂者所定义的含意:“一个终日干着枯燥乏味的工作的傻瓜。”然而,我们并未感到后悔。

编者

1999 年 4 月

The Bank of English

Since 1980 COBUILD has been gathering real language for its files. Each document or transcript is carefully indexed and put into a form suitable for the COBUILD computers to handle. The start of the Nineties prompted a big new effort to collect over two hundred million words. At the time of writing, this total is likely to be achieved before the end of 1992 —and we will need more and more to keep our information up to date.

This corpus is called the Bank of English, and it is a unique resource that powers all the COBUILD publications. The texts are carefully selected; although 200,000,000 words sounds a lot, there is so much now available from computer typesetting that a lot of skill is needed to make the corpus a faithful record of current English. Hundreds of tape recordings are made and carefully transcribed so that the spoken language is well represented, and all sorts of small-scale documents, local publications, letters etc. are gathered to balance the big output of the newspaper presses.

We are most grateful to the large number of contributors who have generously allowed their language to be used as a source of our knowledge, understanding and exemplification.

John Sinclair

Editor—in—Chief, COBUILD

Introduction

I am very pleased to introduce an important addition to the COBUILD range of English Reference books. For the first time, a usage book has been compiled from a large and representative corpus of English texts—the Bank of English. Usage has long been a rather mysterious feature of language—partly a kind of ‘good manners’ with language and partly a set of notes on individual words. Neither a grammar nor a dictionary, a usage book seemed to fall in between them, with no proper place for it in language study.

COBUILD has changed all that. Our compilers are able to find out how people actually use language, by studying millions of words. The statements in this book are based on this study, and are supported by actual examples, not invented ones. Usage becomes the centre of language patterning, not a footnote to it.

When the COBUILD project was first set up in 1980, there were three books mentioned. One, a radical new dictionary, was the main aim, but it was thought at the time that two other books would make up a fairly comprehensive set of information about English. These were a grammar and a usage book.

The Dictionary was published in 1987, and the Grammar in 1990. This Usage Book completes the trio. Nearly everything a person needs to know about English should be found in one of these three books.

Usage is the vital detail of language, involving aspects of grammar, meaning, idiom, variety and purpose. It concentrates on the individuality

of expression, and most of its statements concern the way words are arranged to express a particular meaning or to do a particular job. There is no generality in most of the statements in this book, because usage deals with all the things that are not covered by the generalities.

Grammar properly deals with broad general statements, like the distinction between count and uncount nouns, or transitive and intransitive verbs. Each of these divides into sub-classes and sub-sub-classes and so on until eventually we get down to the unusual behaviour of just one or two words. The point of grammar is now lost, and the detailed patterns of usage can be set out individually.

There is no strict dividing line, and many grammars for teaching are heavily biased towards usage. It is, after all, the usage end of grammar that learners most need. However powerful the generalities, learners are eventually measured by the actual words and phrases they use, and so they are probably more concerned about the precise points of usage than the abstract notions of countability or transitivity.

In this book, we provide a number of entries on grammatical categories in order to link the facts of usage with the broader issues of grammar. Beyond this level the reader must turn to the Collins Cobuild English Grammar for fuller treatment.

A traditional dictionary does not give much usage information, though some modern dictionaries, like the COBUILD range, show a lot through the choice of typical real examples. Dictionaries of idioms come close to usage, but the special meaning that we associate with an idiom is not usually a feature of a usage statement.

More and more nowadays, reference books are trying to help a user produce competent language. Previously they were mainly useful for understanding language. The pressure is on to provide guidance about every detail of usage. Native speakers of English have had usage books for many years, and language professionals like journalists have long had style books

and compendiums of usage. Everyone needs a reference book of this kind, and the non-native user of English is no exception. This Usage Book is suitable for students from intermediate to advanced level, and for teachers of English.

The Entries

A large number of the entries are short notes on individual words and phrases. Two words may be easily confused, like 'comprehensive' and 'comprehensible'. One word may require another, for example 'afford' requires 'can', 'could', or 'be able to'. Where American and British usage are different, this is pointed out, so that you do not eat chips when you want crisps, or buy pants when you want trousers. A careful distinction is made between 'disabled', 'crippled' and other words to which some people are very sensitive.

All the entries are in strict alphabetical order, with cross references. Some entries are longer, because of the special nature of the words. There are also a number of long entries on important usage topics such as Invitations and Punctuation. In these entries a large number of points are gathered together and presented so that the whole entry can be consulted, or just one or two of the points. There are frequent side headings to help users find a particular point, so that the entry can be used for quick reference.

One feature of COBUILD is that we try to list all the words or phrases that are used in the same way, rather than just giving one or two examples. The lists are very helpful for language production, for example those in the grammar entry on Complements give information on what verbs take what sort of complements.

The Examples

Above all, COBUILD rests its authority on actual examples. Thousands of real extracts from the growing Bank of English are used to demonstrate the usage points, and each of them is chosen as an appropriate model, so that it can be confidently followed. The English that people invent to illustrate a point is not part of their real communication and may be quite misleading.

If you are fluent in a language you cannot always bring to mind all the details of your actual usage, because it is below your conscious awareness. Hence you may not be able to produce an example that is really reliable.

At COBUILD there is no problem, except to select the very best from a huge range of real examples. These examples are not just 'based on' a corpus but are actual citations from a corpus. During the compilation of this Usage Book, the corpus has grown from 20,000,000 to 150,000,000 words, and we hope to convince users that real examples are the only reliable evidence of usage.

At usage book can be improved by comments from the users, and I always make a plea for feedback, because it helps us very much to design books which are helpful guides to the language.

John Sinclair

Editor-in-Chief, COBUILD

Professor of Modern English Language

University of Birmingham

使用说明

出版本书的目的是为了帮助读者正确使用英语常用词汇,正确选择词汇结构为自己要表达的意思服务。每个词的选择都是以最近 Cobuild 语料库的数据为基础,向学生和教师展示当今标准英语的使用情况。本书突出的特点是清楚地告诉学生哪些词和结构多用在口语中,哪些词和结构只用在书面语中。同时本书还介绍了英国英语及美国英语的差异。

为了使用方便,本书词条以字母顺序排列。有关一个词的其它相关用法均附加说明。本书还设置了许多参见说明。具体用法如下:

一、单词目

单词词目解释如何使用该词,比如什么介词常用在该词之后,或者该词后是用不定式 to 还是 -ing 形式等。本书所选词汇均为学生使用有困难 的常用词。为了使 学生更加明确该词的用法,我们经常告诉学生应该如何 说而不应该如何说。这些说明对于纠正由于学生套用 自己母语习惯而犯的 错误格外有益。例如:

desire

desire 可以用作名词、动词。

a desire 是想要某物或想做某事的愿望,通常说 a desire for 某物或 a desire to do 某事。

...*a tremendous desire for liberty.*

He had not the slightest desire to go on holiday.

但不能说 a desire for doing 某事。

当提醒学生注意某词或表达法在某种情况下不可使用时,我们往往给出可以在该情况下使用的词或表达法。

accept

accept 某人的劝说或者建议,表示你决定按照他们的劝说或建议去

做。

I knew that they would accept my proposal.

然而却不能说 accept to do 某人的建议,而应用 agree to do 来表示。

The princess agreed to go on television.

二、易混淆词目

两个易混淆使用的词往往并列在一个词目下。比如 ill - sick。该词目解释 ill 和 sick 的不同使用方法。有些词目也解释形式相似但意义不同的词。

effective - efficient

‘effective’ effective 的意思是(某事)产生了预想的效果。

…*effective street lighting*

‘efficient’ 如果说一个人、机器或者一个机械 efficient,意思是这个人、机器或者机械既没有浪费时间,也没有浪费能量(源),效率高。

You need a very efficient production manager.

human - humane

human/hju:mən/意思是“人的”、“人类的”。

…*the human body.*

…*human relationships.*

若要用 human 来描述某人或他的行为,其意是他们或他们的行为特点与大多数普通人的一样。这些行为特点包括善良,会犯错误等等。

For the first and only time in our dealings with one another he was almost human.

If I have given offence,remember that my failure was simply human and not for want of the spirit to do good.

humane/hju:mein/的意思是在防止、减轻别人或动物的痛苦方面表现出善良和同情、人道。

…*humane plea for mercy and compassion.*

…*the most humane method of killing badgers.*

called-named

称呼某人、某物的名子时,可以用 called 或 named。called 比 named 用得普遍,口语中通常不用 named。

Did you know a boy called Desmond?

We pass through a town called Monmouth.

Anna had a boyfriend named Shorty.

called 既可用在名词之后,也可用在动词 be 之后。

Komis asked me to appear in a play called Katerinal.

*The book was called **The Goalkeeper's Revenge.***

named 后只能紧跟着名词。

The victim was an 18-year-old girl named Marinetta Jirkowski.

还有些词目下解释某些词的英国用法和美国用法的差异,这些差异往往会造成学生的困惑。

post - mail

收集和分送信件、包裹的邮政服务,在英国英语中称为 post,而在美国英语中称为 mail。在英国英语中有时也用 mail,如在名字 Royal Mail 中。

There is a cheque for you in the post.

Winners will be notified by post.

Your reply must have been lost in the mail.

英国人通常把他们的信件、包裹统称为 post;而美国人称为 mail。但有些英国人也用 mail。

They read their bosses' post.

I started to read my mail.

三、类义词目

类义词词目解释数量较多、基本义相同但意义上稍有差异的一组类义词。比如 beautiful 词目下就解释了以下这些词的细微差异:attractive, beautiful, good-looking, gorgeous, handsome, pretty, stunning。这样的词具有帮助水平较高的学生扩大词汇量的功能。以下这些词项均为类义词:

beautiful	dignified	new	stubborn
cook	fat	obedient	thin

crippled	forceful	old	tools
curious	madness	proud	unusual
damage	mean	retarded	work

有些类义词目还根据所列词汇表达意义的不同程度排列词汇。比如 **happy-sad** 词目下就根据 happy 或 sad 的程度列出以下这些词：

- ecstatic, elated, euphoric
- joyful, radiant, jubilant
- happy, cheerful, jolly
- light-hearted
- contented, fulfilled
- dissatisfied, moody, discontented
- sad, unhappy, depressed, gloomy, glum, dejected, dispondent, dispirited
- miserable, wretched

在这样的词目中，同一程度的词列为一行。每行从左至右按最常用至最不常用的顺序排列。例如 ecstatic 就比 elated 常用，而 elated 又比 euphoric 常用。以下词目下的词按程度排列：

happy—sad
 like—dislike
 pleased—disappointed
 small—large

在 **Adverbials** 词目下也有按程度排列的副词。例如：

adverbials of frequency (never—always)
 duration (briefly—always)
 degree (little—enormous)
 extent (partly—completely)
 probability (conceivably—definitely)

四、话题词目

本书还列有多种话题词目。这些话题词目解释在谈论某种话题时所用的词、句子结构和表达方式的用法，比如年龄、钱、告别、感谢等等。话题

词目下还包括一些具有共同特征的词,比如指代群体的词等等。本书包括以下这些话题词目:

Names and titles	Addressing someone
Nationality words	Advising someone
Numbers and fractions	Age
Offers	Agreeing and disagreeing
Opinions	Apologizing
Permission	Asking for repetition
Pieces and amounts	Capital letters
Places	Criticizing someone
Complimenting and congratulating someone	
Possession and other relationships	
Days and dates	Reactions
Fixed pairs	Replies
Greetings and goodbyes	Requests, orders, and instructions
Groups of things, animals, and people	
'-ic' and '-ical' words	Intentions
Suggestions	
Telephoning	Invitations
Introducing yourself and other people	
Thanking someone	Transport
Time	Warning someone
Male and female	Measurements
Meals	
Money	

五、语法词目

本书包括以下一些基本的语法内容:

Adjectives	'-ing' forms
Adverbials	Linking adverbials
Comparative and superlative adjectives	