

大学英语 常见易混词语 辨析

Common Confusable Words and
Expressions in
College English Learning

王惠舟 孔繁津 编著

上海外语教育出版社
SHANGHAI FOREIGN LANGUAGE EDUCATION PRESS



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前言

英语是一种词汇极为丰富的语言。或许正因为词汇繁多,在使用频率较高的一两万英语词汇内,有相当数量的词语(尤其是单词),由于拼写、读音或词义等近似,常常容易被混用或误用。即使在以英语为母语的人当中,这一问题也未能完全避免。20世纪80年代末国外出版的 *Guide to English Usage*、*The Dictionary of Confusable Words*、*A Handbook of Problem Words & Phrases* 等专著分别列举了大量易于混淆的词语。国内《大学英语教学大纲》(1999年修订本)以及2004年初颁布的《大学英语课程教学要求(试行)》列出的6,000多个单词中,易混词语也占有一定的数量,这是大学英语学习过程中需要加以重视的一个问题。

将此类词语集中起来,通过对照比较,使它们变得易懂易记易区别,必将有效地克服用词混淆的问题,提高学习、应用英语的效率——这是编写本书的出发点和目的。

本书由五个部分组成,即动词类、形容词与副词类、名词类、短语与习语类、形似音似异义词类。前三类汇集的易混词包括以下几种情况:(1)有共同词根、词义相近但有区别的词,如 *technique/technology*; (2)有共同词根但词义不同的词,如 *adaptable/adaptive*; (3)词根不同、词义从汉译上看相似但有明显区别的词,如 *insist/persist/persevere*; (4)属于同义词、但有某些差别或侧重点不同,因而不可错用的词,如 *lawful/legal*, *eatable/edible*。第四类即短语类主要包括介词短语和短语动词。第五类即形似音似异义类包括形态(拼写)近似但词义不同的词,如

immoral/immortal; 发音(拼读)相同或近似但词义不同的词,如 sole/soul; 形、声均近似但词义不同的词,如 stationary/stationery。需要说明的是,为了帮助学习者提高词汇学习和记忆的效率,在这一部分还收集了部分词干相同、词义相关或不相关的词,如 occur/concur/incur/recur。考虑到我国中学英语课程指标要求的逐年提高必将促使大学英语词汇数量增加、难度加大,本书编写中选入了一些目前尚属“超纲”但比较常见的单词。

本书的编写模式是:先将每一组易混词语进行词义、属性等方面的简要介绍与对比(辅以若干实例),再安排一组练习题(practice)并附上相关答案。其中的每一词项都作了简要的解释,并在重要之处附有英语释义,以便理解更为准确。全书共编排易混词语 400 余组,涉及 1,000 余个单词和短语。

在前后近四年的编写过程中,作者紧密结合我国高校学生英语学习与应用中出现的实际问题,广泛参考了国外近年来出版的同类书籍以及国内外出版的一些权威性辞书,力图通过简明扼要的讲解和针对性练习,使读者对每一组、每一个词语都能留下比较清晰的印象。

编写本书主要是为了满足各类高校中学习英语课程的大学生和研究生需要。对于其他已具有一定英语基础的自学者和爱好者来说,查阅本书同样能得到新的收获和提高。此外,本书也可用作英语教师的教学参考资料。

本书由王惠舟、孔繁津编写。2002 年暑期完成初稿后,编者又先后在教学和各类教学测试中对本书所选词项以及编写模式等进行了必要的考证,并对书中的内容作了一定的修订和调整。尽管如此,限于作者的英、汉语功底与水平,书中仍难免有缺憾,恳请读者不吝指正。

编 者

2005 年 8 月

体例说明

1. 本书采用中文进行叙述,每一组词语中的英语主词用黑体标出。对主词进行定义时附上英文释义。例:

abandon 的含义是在面临困境、别无他法时或尚未完成时将某物“放弃”(to leave completely or to give up without finishing),也可表示断然或绝情地“离弃或抛弃(某人)”(to leave in a thoughtless or cruel way)。

2. 主词在例句中用斜体标出。例句(含短语)后附中文译文。例: The order to *abandon* ship was given and hundreds of people plunged into icy water. 弃船逃生的命令发出后,数百人跳入冰冷的海水中。 *seemly* conduct 适当的行为 a *seemly* occupation 正当的职业。

3. 例句中的方括号[]表示其中的内容可与括号前的部分内容替换,原意不变。例: I finally *conquered* [*overcame*] my fear of heights. The moon *attracts* the earth's seas towards her [it]. She *threw* the ball to me [*threw me the ball*]. He *acknowledged* defeat [that he had been defeated].

4. 例句中的圆括号()表示补充的内容,或表示可省略的词语。例: We *persuaded* him (not) to go. I *quivered* (with pleasure/fear) at the sound. Now (that) you're grown-up, you must stop this *childish* behaviour.

5. 例句中的斜线/表示斜线前后的词语均可使用,但各自的意思不一定相同。例: The children waited outside the school, *trembling* [*shivering/quivering*] with cold. I *quivered* (with pleasure/fear) at the sound.

6. Practice 中出现的较难词汇或短语采用斜体,其后括号中标出中文词义。例:He tried to _____ the window, but the *sash cord* (吊窗绳) was broken.

7. Practice 中一个句子有两个填空项时,用分号将两个答案分开。例:a) Since the police _____ that the crime was solved, I _____ that they would soon arrest the culprit. *Answer: a) implied; inferred*

8. Practice 中一个句子有一个以上答案时,用[]标出另外的答案。例:c) Don't you find her enthusiasm _____? *Answer: c) infectious [contagious]*。

9. 本书采用下列缩略语:[谚]=谚语;[喻]=比喻;[美]=美式英语;prov. = proverb; fig. = figurative; esp. = especially; usu. = usually; etc. = et cetera。

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第一部分

动词





abandon /ə'bəndən/ **desert** /dɪ'zɜ:t/
discard /dɪs'kɑ:d/

这一组动词都含有将某物或某人“抛弃；离弃”(to get rid of or to leave completely)之意，但彼此间有一些差异。三词均为及物动词。

1. **abandon** 的含义是在面临困境、别无他法时或尚未完成时将某物“放弃”(to leave completely or to give up without finishing)，也可表示断然或绝情地“离弃或抛弃(某人)”(to leave in a thoughtless or cruel way)。例：

The order to *abandon* ship was given and hundreds of people plunged into icy water. 弃船逃生的命令发出后，数百人跳入冰冷的海水中。

The bad weather forced them to *abandon* the search. 恶劣的天气迫使他们放弃搜寻。

He *abandoned* his wife and children. 他遗弃了妻儿。

2. **desert** 除表示一般意义上的“离弃”外，还往往表示在困难时刻“离弃(某人)”(to leave at a difficult time)，这种离弃要么有悖于法律，要么有悖于诺言。此外 **desert** 还可引申表示“(在需要时)失去”之意。例：

They *deserted* the farm for the city. 他们离开农场，迁往城市。

The road was completely *deserted* deep at night. 夜深时分那条路上杳无一人。

All my friends have *deserted* me! 所有的朋友都离我而去！

He *deserted* his wife and children. 他遗弃了妻儿。

His presence of mind never *deserted* him. 他从不惊慌失措。

3. **discard** 与 **abandon** 和 **desert** 有较大的差异，其含义是将人们不需要的、尤其是无用的物品“丢弃”(to put away something one does not

need or to throw away as useless)。例：

He *discarded* his clothes and jumped into the water. 他丢掉衣服，跳入水中。

Should they *discard* the present system entirely? 他们应该完全摒弃现行制度吗？

They *discarded* the empty bottles. 他们把空瓶都扔掉了。



Practice : _____

- a) We _____ some old clothes.
- b) The scientist regretfully _____ his research for lack of funds.
- c) They _____ all hope of finding the child.
- d) His courage suddenly _____ him.
- e) Why did you _____ us just when we needed you?

Answer :

- a) *discarded* b) *abandoned* c) *abandoned* d) *deserted*
- e) *desert*



absorb /əb'sɔ:b/ **attract** /ə'trækt/
appeal /ə'pi:l/ **to**

这三个词项都含有“吸引(或引起)……的注意”的意思,但在词义及用法方面有一定的差异。

1. **absorb** 为及物动词,意思是“(某事)吸引……的注意;(某事)使全神贯注”(to get the full attention or interest of (someone)),常采用被动语态形式,即(somebody) be **absorbed** in (something)。例:

This book will *absorb* the serious reader. 这本书将吸引严肃的读者。

The lecture completely *absorbed* the attention of the audience. 讲座把听众的注意力完全吸引住了。

They were *absorbed* in their work. 他们专心致志地干工作。

She was completely *absorbed* in her own affairs. 她聚精会神地处理自己的事务。

2. **attract** 也是及物动词,意思是“吸引”(to draw towards one or to draw by unseen forces)。可用于人和物。例:

He *attracted* large numbers of followers. 他曾吸引了许多追随者。

This scenery *attracts* many tourists. 这一风景吸引了众多游客。

The moon *attracts* the earth's seas towards her [it]. 月亮将地球上的海洋朝其方向吸引。

该词也有“引起……的注意”(to arouse (someone's) notice or liking or interest)之意。例:

He was *attracted* by her beauty. 她的美貌引起了他的注意。

She *attracted* all the young men in the neighbourhood. 她引起了这一带所有年轻人的注意。

3. **appeal to** 的意思是“(某人或某物)有吸引力(或感染力)”(to be attractive to)。可用于人和物。注意不要采用被动语态形式。例:

She *appeals to* him very much. 她对他非常有吸引力。

Creative work *appeals to* me irresistibly. 创造性的工作对我具有不可抗拒的吸引力。

Does this piece of music *appeal to* you? 这段音乐对你有吸引力吗?



Practice: _____

- a) Travelling by automobile _____ to many Americans.
b) His work _____ all his energies.
c) Never before had he felt himself so powerfully _____ to the scientific ideal.

- d) Does she say anything that _____ you especially?
e) Time passes quickly when you are _____ in reading a good book.

Answer:

6

- a) *appeals* b) *absorbed* c) *attracted* d) *appeals to*
e) *absorbed*



accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ **achieve** /ə'tʃi:v/
attain /ə'teɪn/ **finish** /'fɪnɪʃ/

1. **accomplish** 和 **achieve** 可表示“完成;实现”(to finish successfully)等意,并常以 something/nothing/anything/a great deal 等为宾语。例:
We tried to arrange a peace but *accomplished* nothing. 我们试图安排一次和谈,但是没能办成。

The pilot *accomplished* his mission. 飞行员完成了他的使命。

He will never *achieve* anything unless he works harder. 除非他更加努力,否则将一事无成。

2. **achieve** 的另一个意思同 **attain**,即经过努力等“达到,得到”(to get as the result of action or after effort)。例:

He will do anything in order to *achieve* his aim. 他将尽一切努力达到自己的目标。

Women have yet to *achieve* full equality in the workplace. 在工作领域,妇女还没有取得完全平等的地位。

Nothing would stop me from *achieving* [*attaining*] my ambition. 没有什么能阻止我实现我的抱负。

I hope you will *attain* your object. 我希望你能达到自己的目标。

The early American patriots *attained* freedom. 早期的美国爱国者争得了自由。

3. **finish** 多用于表达一般意义上的“结束”(to bring or come to an end

or to completion)。例：

Have you *finished* reading all those books? 那些书你都读完了吗?

They *finished* their performance by singing a song. 他们唱了一首歌作为演出的结束。

When does school *finish* this year? 今年学校什么时候放假?



Practice : _____

- a) Has he _____ anything by all these years of work?
- b) He interrupted her before she had _____ what she was saying.
- c) He hopes to _____ all his aims by the end of the year.
- d) His skill had _____ perfection before he died.
- e) The plan failed to _____ the desired effect of diverting traffic from the city.

Answer:

- a) *accomplished* [*achieved*] b) *finished* c) *achieve*
- d) *attained* e) *achieve*



accumulate /ə'kju:mjuleɪt/ **gather** /'gæðə/
collect /kə'lekt/ **assemble** /ə'sembəl/

这四个词都可作及物和不及物动词使用。

1. **accumulate** 与 **gather** 基本同义,但前者正式一些。用作及物动词时意为“积累,积聚”(to gather or collect, esp. by degrees);用作不及物动词时表示物体的“累积,聚积”(be gathered together in a large quantity)。例:

It's amazing how many books we've *accumulated*. 我们收集了这

么多的书,真是令人惊讶。

He gradually *accumulated* an impressive collection of paintings. 他逐渐积累了一批数量可观的绘画藏品。

Rubbish *accumulates* very quickly in our house. 我们家里的垃圾很快就聚积起来了。

Snow *accumulated* to a depth of five feet. 积雪达五英尺深。

2. **gather** 通常表示“收集,采集;聚集,集合”(to bring or come together into one group, collection, or place; collect)以及“逐渐增加(速度等)”(to increase (speed))等。例:

He is busy *gathering* information about birds. 他正忙于搜集有关鸟类的资料。

Please *gather* me some flowers. 请给我采集一些花。

A crowd of people *gathered* near the accident. 一大群人聚集在事故现场附近。

As we came onto the open road we *gathered* speed. 上了公路,我们就加快了车速。

3. **collect** 也通常表示“收集,聚集”(to bring or come together; gather)等,强调的是将零散的物品(包括具体的和抽象的事物)收集拢来。例:

I *collect* stamps as a hobby. 集邮是我的一种嗜好。

I tried hard to *collect* my thoughts before the interview started. 面试开始前我努力想集中思想。

People are *collecting* in front of the house. 人们正在房前聚集。

Dust *collected* on the furniture. 家具上积了一些灰尘。

另外,collect 还可表示“接,取;收(账、税等)”(to get money from someone for a particular purpose)。例:

She *collects* the kids from school each day. 她每天从学校接回这些孩子。

The main part of his work was *collecting* debts. 他的主要工作是收债。

4. **assemble** 的意思是“集合, 召集; 聚集”(to bring or come together; gather into one place) 以及“装配”(to put together the parts of) 等。例:

If we can *assemble* everybody then we can leave. 如果我们能召集所有的人, 那么我们就可以离开了。

Assemble your papers and put them in this file. 把你的文件集中起来装进这个文件袋。

The crowd *assembled* in the waiting room. 人群聚集在等候室里。
This bookcase is very easy to *assemble*. 这书架很容易组合。



Practice: _____

- a) It was some time before he could _____ himself.
b) We often sent people there to _____ opinions from the workers.
c) By buying ten books every month, he soon _____ a good library.
d) The wind was _____ strength.
e) The four leaders _____ in Paris for a summit meeting.
f) I hate to see such good equipment _____ dust.

Answer:

- a) collect b) collect c) accumulated d) gathering
e) assembled f) gathering [collecting]



adhere /əd'hɪə/ **cohere** /kəʊ'hɪə/

这两个动词均为不及物动词, 都含有“粘”(to stick)的意思, 并都能转义表示另外的意义。