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英语语法、惯用法疑难新解500%

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李学平 主编

English Grammar and Usage

500 Questions

Answered

图表领路

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前言

我们在学习英语时,当然会遇到不少语法和惯用法方面的问题。 这些问题,有的可以在一般的语法书中找到答案,有的却难以找到。 有的虽然可以在大型的语法书或惯用法书中找到答案,但在众多的书本中,又一时不知道到哪里去找。只能无奈地把问题积压下来,等待有机会再解决的人,不在少数。这样,当然会妨碍我们学习的进步。

本书主编是积累有数十年实际英语教学经验的资深教授,知道学习者在学习英语过程中在语法和惯用法方面会遇到哪些问题,而又有哪些问题往往不容易得到解决。现在,本书就是把这些问题集中在一起,加以切合实际的探讨和解释。有时接触到一些理论,但主要是结合实际,直截了当地解答问题。

书中以英语语法及有关的惯用法项目为依据,收集各方面的基本要点与疑点。在解释时,尽量做到精辟简明,并力求反映英语特别是美国英语的较新用法,尤其是有一部分内容是一般的书里不一定有或不易查到的。比如利用图解来说明动词各种时态的意义,其中又进一步指出一个用完成式的句子往往含有两个句子的意思(如:The school's name has changed = The school's name changed+ The school has a new name now)。这样,能使学习者更容易理解完成式的内涵。同时,以提纲挈领的方式,解释了一般认为不容易掌握的动词虚拟语气问题,剖析了各种从句的结构,阐述了各种补语的实质。又比如,指出为什么不能说 The plane will arrive in an hour —Yes, I know it (应该没有这个 it);为什么不能说 A computer of a smaller size is usually preferable to that of a bigger size (that 应该改为 one);为什么可以说 In New York City they live on Staten Island,不能说 On Staten Island they live in New York City;指出 The two friends met each other at...和 The

two friends met *one another* at...都不对。同时,说明为什么不能说 It is important knowing a foreign language 或 I'd like buying a new DVD set 之类的句子,说明为什么可以说 very good,不说 very excellent,以及不说 more correct,但可以说 more nearly correct 等。但书中不包括一般比较浅显的、不构成"疑点"的项目,如 large, big, huge, vast 的区别以及 look at, look for, look after 之间的不同等。

本书不仅是一本集中疑难问题以供查阅的词典式的书,也是一本可供择要通读的要津型读物。无论如何,只要认真使用本书,相信对读者提高英语水平会有相当的帮助。

本书在不少方面参照了一些权威著作的说法,特别是章振邦教授主编的《新编英语语法》(上海译文出版社),该书从 1981 年初版以后,历经后来的再版,至今都在我国的英语学术界有着很高的威望。此外,有张道真教授的《张道真英语用法》(商务,2002)和《张道真英语实用语法》(外研社,2003)以及 S. Greenbaum & R. Quirk 的 A Student's Grammar of the English Language (London, Longman, 2003)等,这些书都是英语学术界的重要著作。在这里,本书编者向他们表示感谢。

本书适合于高等院校以及高中的学生使用,也适合于广大从事英语工作的人士与英语爱好者使用。书末附有索引。

编者 2006年6月

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关于冠词和数词 one

1. more than an hour 和 more than one hour 有没有不同? 为什么?

答:有不同。more than an hour 指一小时多一点的时间,more than one hour 指两三个小时。这是因为: a (an) 是不定冠词,着重表示名词所指事物的类别,比如 a book 是说"一本书",不是一件别的东西,a machine 是说"一台机器",不是一台别的东西;而 one 是数词,表示数量,比如 one book 是说"一本书",不是两本、三本,one machine 是说"一台机器",不是两台、三台。因此,an hour 是"一个小时",不是一个别的时间单位,more than an hour 是指比"小时"这个单位多的时间,也就是一小时多一点的时间;而 one hour 则是说"一个小时",不是别的数目的小时,所以 more than one hour 是指比"一个"多的小时,一般指两小时或三小时。

说明①: 类似的结构如 more than *a* month, longer than *one* year 等, 其意义同此。

说明②: 关于 a (an) 着重表示名词所指事物的类别, one 则表示数量, 还可以从如下的句子里体会到: Can a child do it? No, only an adult can. / Can one child do it? No, but two children can.

说明③: 在这里,不妨和汉语的"一"字的含义对比一下。汉语的"一…"也有两种意思: 在"这是一本书"里,"一本"着重类别,不要"一本"只说"这是书"也可以; 但在"我只有一本书"里,"一本"就不能没有,因为表示数量。因此可以说: 在大多数情况下,a (an) 相当于汉语里"一"的第一个意思,one 则相当于第二个意思。

2. less than an hour 和 less than one hour 有没有不同? 为什么?

答:根据第1题所述,可见: less than an hour 指不到一小时的时

间,而 less than *one* hour则是不合逻辑的说法,因为不能有比"一"更小的完整数目了。但是,事实上有人或许会这么说,这时只能理解为和 less than *an* hour 意思一样,指的是不到一小时的时间。

3. This is a hundred percent true 和 This is one hundred percent true 有没有不同? 为什么?

答: 没有不同,两句里的 a hundred percent 和 one hundred percent 都表示 "百分之百",两句的意思都是 "这是千真万确的"。

上面第 1 题说到 a (an) 和 one 有所区别,现在 a hundred percent 和 one hundred percent 为什么又没有不同? 回答是:本来在历史上,a (an) 和 one 同源,后来经过演变,产生了差别;但在某些具体场合,a (an) 还保留着和 one 相似的数量意义。a hundred percent 和 one hundred percent 就属于这种具体场合之一。

说明: a(an) 表示数量"一"的其他例子如: We can finish the job in a day or two. We have English lessons four times a week.

4. 那么,对不定冠词 a (an) 的用法能不能这样体会: a (an) 在多数时候表示名词的类别,但有时则表示数量"一",关键要看具体的使用场合如何?

答:对,正是这样。

5. 既然不定冠词a(an) 有时可以表示数量"一",那么在表示数量"一"时,能不能和 one 交换使用?

答: 只在少数情况下能交换使用,如前面见到的 a hundred percent 和 one hundred percent,以及 in a word=in one word 等。在大多数情况下,要根据习惯用法,或者只能用 a (an),如表示价格、速率等的\$5 a pound, 20 km an hour, three times a week 等,或者只能用 one,如 one day (有一天), one person one ticket (一人一票)等。说 in a day or two,但说 in one or two days。说 Mr. Jackson has a son and two daughters,但说 Mr. Jackson has one son but two daughters. 有些词组用 a (an)或 one 意

思不同, 如 at a time (一次、每次) \neq at one time (曾有一回)。

6. a dozen, a hundred, a thousand, a million 等和 one dozen, one hundred, one thousand, one million 等, 有没有不同?

答: 基本上是相同的,但在实际语言里,用 a 要比 one 常见,而 且用 one 时,往往带有和二、三、四对比的意思。如:

This cost me a hundred dollars.

They earn a thousand pounds a month.

I owe you one hundred, not two hundred yuan.

7. 说 On a sunny day, they got married 和 One sunny day, they got married, 对不对?

答:对。在这些句子里,有 on 就用 a (an),没有 on 就用 one。这是又一个例子,说明 a (an) 和 one 的使用在很大程度上决定于习惯用法。

8. 定冠词 the 的用法又怎样呢?

答:

- 1) 定冠词 the 主要用来特别指定有关的名词,以区别于同类中的其他事物。比如在 Can you bring me the book I want?句子中,the book I want 就是特指"我所要的那本书",所以 book 前面有定冠词 the。the computer on my desk 就是特指"我桌子上的那台电脑",所以 computer 前面有定冠词 the。
 - 2) 定冠词 the 的其他用法包括:
- ①用在单数名词前面,代表一类的事物(如: *The* tiger is a fierce animal 老虎是猛兽,*The* computer is very useful 计算机很有用);
- ②用在形容词前面,代表整类的事物或概念(如: the rich 富人, the new 新的东西);
 - ③用于指独一无二的自然界现象(如: the sun, the earth);
 - ④用在形容词最高级前面(如: the largest city, the most important

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