

标准英语用法答疑

山东教育出版社

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一九八七·济南

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《济南经九路胜利大街》

山东省新华书店发行 山东新华印刷厂德州厂印刷

787×1092毫米32开本 13.375印张 2插页 280千字

1987年8月第1版 1987年8月第1次印刷

印数1—15,150

ISBN 7—5328—0050—4

G·22

书号T275·600 定价2.25元

前 言

为了给广大读者提供一本实用性很强的英语知识参考书，我们编写了《标准英语用法答疑》。书中素材主要选自《BBC现代英语》和《英语语言教学》。《英语语言教学》是英国英语教学的权威杂志。本书选了短文150例，对词汇、短语、句型、日常用语以及读音拼写等方面的一些常见的疑难问题作了解答。这些解答深入浅出，在目前国内已出版的参考书或词典里是不易找不到的。文章行文简练流畅，语言地道纯正，读起来朗朗上口，很值得读者学习效仿。考虑到不同层次读者的需要，书中对原文作了必要的注释，并附加了译文。为便于初学者对照原文，译文多采用了“直译”。

本书可供大、中学生及英语自学者学习之用，亦可作为大、中学校英语教师的教学参考书。

由于编者水平有限，书中不当之处在所难免，望广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

1986.7.23

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一、词 类

(一) 冠 词

(1) 缩略词前面不定冠词的用法

Q: Is there any rule regarding the use of the indefinite article before initials? Should one write *a M. P.* or *an M. P.*?

A: There is no generally recognized rule. The Oxford University Press (Rules for Compositors and Readers) insists that its compositors should always print *a* if the first letter is a consonant symbol (e. g. *a L. C. C. school*), but this is not universally accepted. The best principle to adopt would be to use *a* or *an* according to whether, if the sentence were read aloud, we should pronounce merely the names of the individual letters, or substitute the words for which they stand. Thus we should write *an M. P.* ①, *an L. C. C. school* ②, but *a U. S. A. cruiser* ③, because in all these cases we should pronounce the names of the letters, and it must always be *an H. M. I.* ④, for we could not possibly say 'a Her Maj-

esty's Inspector'. On the other hand it is always a MS., since the abbreviation MS. is pronounced as the full word *manuscript*, and most people would probably write a N. C. B. spokesman, since for N. C.B. we should pronounce National Coal Board. Where the initials have been put together to make a word, the same rule must be followed as for other English words, a Unesco®official, a NATO®decision.

注释

①an M. P. 一位国会议员，尤指英国下院议员。M. P. 是 Member of Parliament 的缩写，通常读作 ['em'pi:]，以元音 [e] 开始，故前面用 an。

许多英语缩写词里的句点现在习惯省去，如 M. P. 写作 MP。本题里提到的许多缩写词，如 H. M. I., L. C. C., MS., N. C. B. 等，现在一般都省去句点。可参见第 146 例。

②an L. C. C. school 指伦敦郡议会办的学校。L. C. C. 是 London County Council 的缩写，L. C. C. 读作 ['el'si:'si:]，所以前面用 an。

③a U. S. A. cruiser 一艘美国巡洋舰。U. S. A. 里的句点通常不省去，读作 ['ju:'es'ei]，所以前面用 a。

④an H. M. I. H. M. I 是 His (或 Her) Majesty's Inspector 的缩写，意思是 (英国) 视察学校的政府官员。

⑤Unesco (亦作 UNESCO) [ju:'neskəu]，是

由United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization 的缩写演变而成的首字母缩略词 (acronym)。

⑥NATO (亦作Nato), 从 North Atlantic Treaty Organization的缩写演变而来的首字母缩略词。

译文

问: 在缩写词前不定冠词的用法有规则可循吗? “一位议员”应该写作a M.P.还是an M.P.呢?

答: 没有公认的规则。牛津大学出版社的《排字工和校对员守则》坚持认为, 第一个字母是辅音字母的话, 排字工应一律在其前面排个a (如: a L.C.C.school)。不过这一规则没有得到普遍的采纳。应当采用的最好规则也许是: 如果朗读句子的话, 看看是按缩写词的各个字母的名称来读呢, 还是按这些字母所代表的词来读。根据这一规则, “一位议员”应该写作 an M.P., “伦敦郡议会学校”应写作an L.C.C.school; 但是“一艘美国巡洋舰”则应写作a U. S. A. cruiser, 因为在上述情况中我们都是按缩写的各个字母的名称来读的。另外, 我们应当写 an H. M. I., 因为我们不能读作 a Her Majesty's Inspector。另一方面, 我们总是写 aMS., 因为缩写MS. 要按manuscript整个词来念。大多数人大概会写a N. C. B.spokesman, 因为N.C.B. 应读作National Coal Board (英国煤炭部)。只要缩写词已合成一个单词, 那就得遵循与其他词同样的规则, 例如: a Unesco official (一位联合国教科文组织的官员), a NATO decision (一个北大西洋组织的决定)。

(2) 应该说to be appointed the president还是to be appointed president呢?

Q: Some teachers say that 'the' is unnecessary in the expression 'be appointed the president of Tokyo University' when *president* indicates 'social rank' or 'position'. Would you comment on this?

A: 'The' can be used before *p̄resident* or it can be omitted.

He was chosen the representative of his company.

He was chosen representative of his company. Some speakers and writers feel that 'the' before 'president' or 'representative' adds emphasis. Either construction, however, is entirely acceptable English.

译文

问: 有些教师认为在“be appointed the President of Tokyo University (被任命为东京大学校长)”这样的说法里, 定冠词the是不必要的, 因为president表示社会地位或职务。对此你有何评论?

答: 在president前面, 冠词the可以用, 也可以省去。再看下面两个例子:

He was chosen the representative of his company.

He was chosen representative of his com-