

英语省略句

田雨三 刘养之 合编

商务印书馆



ELLIPSES IN ENGLISH

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前 言

英语省略句是英语的一种习惯用法。其特点是虽省去了句子语法构造所需要的一种或多种组成部分,但仍然能够表达其完整意义。省略的形式多种多样,从单词到整句都可省略,而且各有一定的衔接关系,不容臆断。如果看不清楚省略的是什么,就可能产生误解。因此,不论是为了正确理解还是运用这种“以无为有”的最简便的表意手法,都有必要给省略句以应有的注意。

我们在教学过程中积累了一些有关省略句的资料,又参考了国外一些比较重要的英语语法著作、修词学著作、词典以及其他书刊,经初步探索整理,共辑录省略句 240 余种,并按英语语法系统归纳为九章。至于分类的繁简是否恰当,例句的归类是否合理,因无先例可循,还只能算是初步尝试。

本书可供英语教师参考,也可供英语专业学生和具有一定英语程度的自修者学习之用。

本书开始编写时,承吕叔湘先生作原则性指导。脱稿后,又蒙开封师范大学外语系教授 Shirley Wood 女士校阅英语原文。另外,孙瑞禾,张明旭,李敬亭诸同志也都曾提出过许多宝贵意见。特此致以衷心的感谢。

编 者 1979 年 12 月

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CHAPTER ONE
OMISSION OF NOUNS
AFTER THE GENITIVE

1. A noun after the genitive (possessive) can be omitted if it occurs (a) earlier or (b) later in the sentence.

(a) For nearly 50 years, Anna Louise Strong's life, more than any other *American's*, or any other *foreigner's*, reflected the historical development of friendship between the Chinese and American peoples. (*American's* = *American's life*, *foreigner's* = *foreigner's life*) 几乎半个世纪, 安娜·路易斯·斯特朗的生活, 比任何其他美国人的或任何其他外国人的生活, 都更多地反映出历史上中美两国人民友谊的发展。

Shakespeare's characters are really alive, so are some of *Jane Austen's*. (*Jane Austen's* = *Jane Austen's characters*) 莎士比亚戏剧中的人物都是生活中的现实人物, 简·奥斯汀小说中的人物也是生活中的现实人物。

A man is called selfish, not for pursuing his own good, but for neglecting his *neighbour's*. (*neighbour's* = *neighbour's good*) 说一个人自私自利, 并非因为他只图自己的利益, 而是因为他不顾邻人的利益。

Tom's work at school is above the average, *Harry's* is below the average, and *Jim's* is about up to the average. (*Harry's* = *Harry's work*, *Jim's* = *Jim's work*) 汤姆在校的功课在一般水平之上, 哈利的功课在一般水平之

下,吉姆的功课约刚够一般水平。

Whose idea is this? *John's*, I think. (*John's*=*John's idea*)

这是谁的主意? 我想是约翰的主意。

- (b) *Lu Xun's* was a new style in Chinese literature.=*Lu Xun's style* was a new one in Chinese literature. 鲁迅的风格是中国文学的新风格。

The children's was a wonderful performance.=*The children's performance* was a wonderful one. 孩子们的表演是精彩的。

William's is an old television.=*William's television* is an old one. 威廉的电视机是旧的。

2. A noun after the genitive (possessive), especially a name of a building, is usually omitted.

At her mother's she passed many a happy day. (*mother's*=*mother's house*) 她在母亲家里度过了不少愉快的日子。

The dentist's is just around the corner. (*the dentist's*=*the dentist's office*) 牙科医务室就在拐角处。

I had my hair cut at the *barber's* and bought a ball-point pen at the *stationer's*. (*the barber's*=*the barber's shop*, *the stationer's*=*the stationer's shop*) 我在理发店里理了发,又在文具店里买了枝圆珠笔。

He's a Fellow of *St. John's*. (*St. John's*=*St. John's College, Oxford*) 他是牛津大学圣约翰学院的研究员。

St. Paul's has long been among the principal sights of London. (*St. Paul's*=*St. Paul's Cathedral*) 圣保罗教堂一直是伦敦的主要名胜之一。

He took his *master's* at Columbia. (*master's*=*master's degree*) 他在哥伦比亚大学取得了硕士学位。

AFTER THE ATTRIBUTE

3. A noun used as cognate object is omitted after an adjective in the superlative degree.

Behave your *best*. (*best* = best behaviour) 举止要规矩。

He breathed his *last*. (*last* = last breath) 他死了。

He fought his *best*. (*best* = best fight or battle) 他努力奋斗。

He ran his *fastest*. (*fastest* = fastest race or running) 他尽力快跑。

She sang her *sweetest*. (*sweetest* = sweetest song, etc.) 她唱了最动听的歌曲。

He shouted his *loudest*. (*loudest* = loudest shout) 他高声呼喊。

I tried my *hardest*. (*hardest* = hardest efforts) 我尽了最大的努力。

4. A noun is often omitted after an adjective, or an adjective in the superlative degree, when the meaning is clear.

He was the *first* (man) to bear hardships and the *last* (man) to enjoy comforts. 他吃苦在前, 享受在后。

As I have said in my *last* (letter), I am in good health. 正如前信中所说的, 我身体健康。

This article is to be continued in the *next* (issue). 这篇文章将在下一期连载。

He ventured into the *unknown* (thing). 他大胆探索未知事物。

Give him my *best* (wishes). 请向他转达我的良好的祝愿。

The season is now at its *loveliest* (time). 这季节正是景色宜人的时候。

Have you heard Smith's *latest* (joke)? 你听到史密斯最近的笑话么?

The *bravest* (people) are the *tenderest* (ones). 最勇敢的人就是最亲切的人。

5. A noun common to two parallel attributes in contrast need not be repeated after (a) the first or (b) the second attribute.

- (a) Let us revise our *safety* and *sanitary* regulations. (safety = safety regulations) 让我们修改安全规则和卫生规则吧!

The *D. D. T.* and *rat extermination* squads set to work.
(*D. D. T.* = *D. D. T.* squads) 滴滴涕喷射队和灭鼠队都出动了。

Revolution means a *moral* as well as a *material* change.
(*moral* = *moral* change) 革命是物质的改革,也是精神的改革。

His hero is a *typical* and not an *exceptional* character.
(*typical* = *typical* character) 他的主角是个具有典型性的人物,而不是什么罕见的人物。

He spoke for *the first* and against *the second* motion.
(*the first* = *the first* motion) 他赞成第一个提议,反对第二个提议。

- (b) He spoke for *the first* motion and against *the second*. (*the second* = *the second* motion) 他赞成第一个提议,反对第二个提议。

We wanted *fried* fish, but they gave us *boiled*. (*boiled* = *boiled* fish) 我们要的是炸鱼,但他们给我们的却是炖鱼。

She wore the *red* dress, but the *blue* suits her better.
(*the blue* = *the blue* dress) 她穿的是红衣,但蓝衣对她

更相称。

This is his *latest* book; I hope it is not his *last*. (*last* = *last book*) 这是他的最新的著作, 但我希望不是他最后的著作。

I would read one section at a time, — rarely two, — never venturing upon a *fresh* section until I thought that I had made sure of the *preceding*. (*the preceding* = *the preceding section*) 我总是每次只读一节——很少读过两节——不到我觉得弄懂了前一节时我是决不贸然读新的一节的。

Cut off the *first* and *last* parts of the play, and leave the *middle*. (*the middle* = *the middle part of the play*) 把这剧本的首尾两部分删去, 留下中间部分。

Note: After “the + adjective” and “the + participle” to denote all members of a class, the noun “people” is implied but not expressed.

the poor and *the rich* 贫者与富者

the weak and *the strong* 弱者与强者

the oppressing and *the oppressed* 压迫者与被压迫者

the missing, *the wounded* and *the dying* 失踪者、受伤者与垂死者

6. A noun after a numeral is often omitted.

When one man falls, *ten thousand* (men) follow on his heels.
一人倒下去, 万人跟上来。

Out of a total of 368 days on route, 235 (days) were consumed in marches by day, and 18 (days) in marches by night. 总共 368 天的长征途中, 235 天是白天行军, 18 天是夜间行军。

Do you mean *five* (minutes) past *four* (o'clock) or *five* (minutes) to *four* (o'clock)? 你说的是四点过五分还是四点差五分?
The boy's father is past *forty* (years old). 这男孩的父亲四十

多岁了。

The price is *one* (shilling) and *six* (pence). 定价是一先令六便士。

The dictionary cost him one pound and *ten* (shillings). 这本词典花了他一镑十先令。

My brother is five feet and *six* (inches). 我兄弟身高五英尺六英寸。

It weighs a *tenth* (part) of a pound. 它重十分之一磅。

I wrote to you on the *fifteenth* (day of this month). 本月十五日我给你写了信。

AFTER THE PREPOSITION

7. A noun as object common to two or more prepositions appears after only the last preposition unless for emphasis.

Work, moreover, *with*, and not *against*, nature. (with = with nature.) 而且要顺应自然工作,不要违反自然工作。

Advice is like snow; the softer it falls, the longer it dwells *upon*, and the deeper it sinks *into* the mind. (upon = upon the mind) 忠告好象雪一样,来得越温和留在心里就越久,沁入心中越深。

Shall I write my name *on*, *above* or *below* the line? (on = on the line; above = above the line) 我把名字写在线上还是写在线的上方或下方呢?

A government *of* and *by* and *for* the exploiting class cannot possibly survive. (of = of the exploiting class; by = by the exploiting class) 一个为剥削阶级所占有、由剥削阶级所组成并为剥削阶级服务的政府是不可能存在的。

8. With the repetition of a preposition, the same noun before the second or third preposition may usually be omitted.

Their fleet is a weapon *of* offence rather than *of* defence. (of defence = a weapon of defence) 他们的舰队是进攻的武器, 而不是防御的武器。

Ambition is the mother *of* destruction as well as *of* evil. (of evil = the mother of evil) 野心不仅是罪恶的根源, 也是毁灭的根源。

On either side of the river lie long fields *of* rice and *of* wheat. (of wheat = long fields of wheat) 河的两边都有长块的稻田和麦田。

BEFORE THE RELATIVE ADVERB

9. When relative adverbs are regarded as conjunctive adverbs, they usually have their antecedents omitted.

Let me know (the time) *when* you will come. 告诉我你什么时候来。

Will you tell me (the place) *where* you come from? 请告诉我你从哪里来, 好吗?

That is (the reason) *why* I cannot consent. 这就是我不能答应的原因。

This is (the way) *how* he managed it. 这就是他处理这事的办法。

Note 1: Nouns like (a) "time", (b) "place", (c) "question", (d) "letter" or "telegram", (e) "event" or "state", and (f) "person" are idiomatically implied in the very common word "this".

(a) He ought to have got us a cab by *this*. 他本来应该在这时候替我们搞一辆车的。

- (b) Get out of *this*, please. 请离开此地。
- (c) Answer me *this*. 回答我这个问题。
- (d) When *this* reaches you, I shall have left Beijing. 你接到信时，我将已离开北京了。
- (e) *This* was unsatisfactory. 这种情况是不能令人满意的。
- (f) Who are *these*? 这些人是谁？

Note 2: In certain compound names, when the first word is a proper adjective or a noun, especially a geographical name, the second, a common noun, may be omitted.

The Atlantic	= The Atlantic Ocean	大西洋
The Pacific	= The Pacific Ocean	太平洋
The Baltic	= The Baltic Sea	波罗的海
The Caspian	= The Caspian Sea	里海
The Mediterranean	= The Mediterranean Sea	地中海
The Sahara	= The Sahara Desert	撒哈拉沙漠
The Crimea	= The Crimea Peninsula	克里米亚半岛
The Suez	= The Suez Canal	苏伊士运河
The Ural	= The Ural River	乌拉尔河
The Urals	= The Ural Mountains	乌拉尔山
The Severn	= The Severn River	塞汶河
The Yangtse	= The Yangtse River	长江
The Tarim	= The Tarim River	塔里木河
The Thames	= The River Thames	泰晤士河
The Bedford	= The Bedford Hotel	贝德福德旅馆
The George	= The George Inn	乔治客栈
The Holborn	= The Holborn Restaurant	霍尔邦饭店
The Shaftesbury	= The Shaftesbury Theatre	沙夫茨伯里剧院

CHAPTER TWO
OMISSION OF PRONOUNS
I, YOU, HE, SHE, THEY

10. When “I (we)” or “he (they)” is common to several verbs, it only appears before the first verb unless for emphasis.

I went to the market, (I) bought something useful, and (I) returned home within an hour. 我上市场, 买了点用的东西, 一小时之内就回来了。

He rose, (he) arranged his papers, and (he) addressed his audience. 他站了起来, 理了理文件, 便向听众讲起话来。

I may see you tomorrow or (I) may phone later in the day. 我或许明天看你, 或许晚些时候给你打电话。

They may complain, but (they) haven't said anything yet. 他们也许会抱怨, 但还没有说什么话。

They didn't like it, yet (they) said nothing. 他们并不喜欢它, 可是什么话也没有说。

They were tired, so (they) left early. 他们累了, 所以早走了。

They discussed the matter, then (they) made the decision. 他们讨论了那件事, 然后作出了决定。

11. “I” is often omitted in colloquial speech, in letters and diaries.

(I) Thank you. 谢谢你。

(I) Beg your pardon. 请原谅我; 对不起请再说一遍。

- (I) Would it were otherwise. 如果事情不是这样,该多好啊!
- (I) Second the motion. 我附议。
- (I) Haven't seen you for some time. How have you been?
很久没见到你了。你一向好吧?
- (I) Say, John, how do you know? 喂,约翰,你是怎样知道的?
- (I) Will write you in my next. 我要在下一封信中告诉你。
- (I) Hope to hear from you soon. 希望不久就接到你的信。
- (I) Finished *The True Story of Ah Q* in the morning. 早晨读完了《阿Q正传》。

12. The subject "you" is seldom expressed in (a) imperative sentences, (b) statements if a tag question is added, and (c) declarative questions:

- (a) Always tell the truth. 要永远说老实话。
Be here at nine o'clock. 九点到这里来。
Do be careful when you cross the road. 过马路时千万当心。
Don't try to fly before you can walk. 不会走,先别跑。
Just listen to him! 你听一听看! (看他多么聪明、愚蠢、有趣等。)
- Let not the work be left unfinished. 不要让这项工作半途而废。
- (b) Had a good time, did you? 过得快活,是吧?
Want a drink, do you? 要喝一杯,是吗?
- (c) Had a good time? 过得快活吧?
Want a drink? 要喝一杯吗?

13. In colloquial speech the subject "he (she / they)" is sometimes understood.

- (He / She) Doesn't look too well. 他(她)气色不大好。
(He / She / They) Can't play at all. 他(她/他们)一点也不会玩。