

智能英语

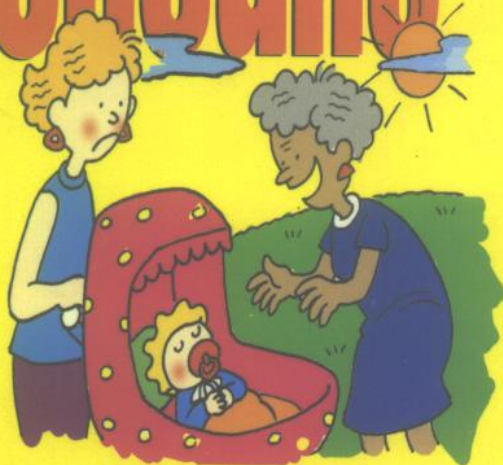


BETTER WAYS
with

Nouns & Pronouns

名词·代词

海蒂·普拉特



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写在前面的话

一个句子里最重要的两部分是名词和动词。当然它们并不总是单独使用,而是附带了相关的信息。例如一个名词可以仅仅是一个名子,如彼得、玛丽,也可以与 *the* 或 *a* 连用,如 *the bus*, *a taxi*。有时名词可以与 *her/his*, *my* 或 *this/that* 等词连用,如 *her dog*, *this computer*; 还有时名词与表示数量的词如 *many*, *a few* 连用,如 *too many files*, *a few forms*。

也有时候句子里没有名词,而有像 *he*, *she*, *they* 等代替名词的代词。通常名词在前文中已经提到,所以我们知道所说的或所写的指代是谁或什么。

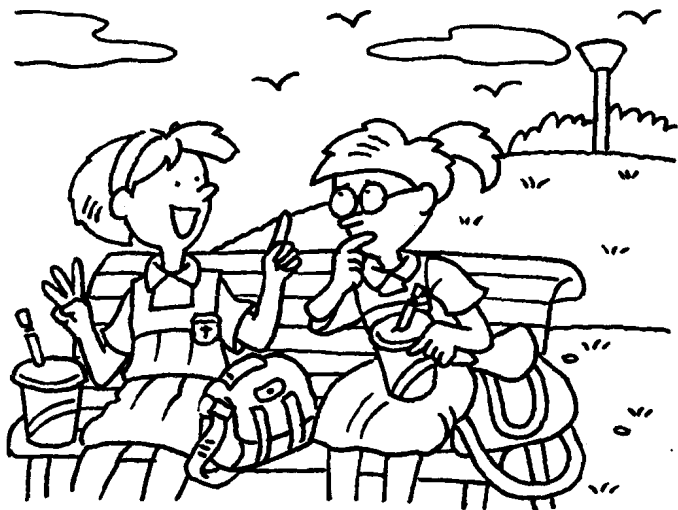
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1

One Or More



Annie: I got three **brother** and one sister.

Paula (*looking smug*): You mean you've got **brothers**?

Annie (*angrily*): Yes. I've just told you!

葆拉其实已经明白了安妮的意思,但她想给安

妮一个暗示,即在英语里绝大多数名词要加 -s 构成复数形式,例如 sister (姐妹) -sisters, brother (兄弟) -brothers。但是,安妮漏掉了表示复数的 -s 而且没有意识到这一问题。或许她将其漏掉是因为她谈到有三位兄弟,而且在该例中很显然她不只有一位兄弟。在这种情况下一般不会发生误解。

但是问题并不总这么简单。例如,假如安妮说的是:

I have big brother.

葆拉就不会知道安妮是否漏掉了冠词 a,是想说“我有一个大哥”还是想说“我有好几个大哥”。

当然,并不是英语里所有的名词都加 -s 来构成复数。例如,以 s 音结尾的名词就不仅仅是加 s,而是加 -es,例如 loss (损失) - losses, boss (老板) - bosses.

以上所提到的名词并不太常见,但是许多名词是以 s 音或近似 s 音的摩擦音结尾,例如 box (箱子), church (教堂), rush (大量), dish (盘子), sash (腰带)等。这些词在变复数时须加 es,例如:

There are a lot of foxes around here.

We've got three beautiful churches in our neighbourhood.

Can you help me washing the dishes, Ann?

一些英语名词以 y 结尾。它们在变为复数时

要将 *y* 变成 *i* 再加 *es*, 例如 city (城市) - cities, cry (哭喊) - cries:

Mrs Lee to her friend: *And that poor little girl was stuck in the drain for hours and nobody hears her cries.*

A to B: *Tony is really a terrible show-off. He claims he's visited all the important cities in Europe.*

但是,假如一个名词是以一个元音加 *y* 结尾的话,那就只加一个 *s* 构成复数形式,例如:

Mother: *Peter, put your toys away at once!*

The rays of the sun were beating down on the lost hikers.

假如一个名词以 *o* 结尾怎么办? 人们就不能总肯定地说其复数形式是 *os* 还是 *oes*。在绝大多数情况下其结尾是 *os*, 例如 radio (收音机) - radios, piano (钢琴) - pianos, kilo (公斤) - kilos:

It seemed as if millions of radios were blaring at us.

但是,有些名词如 potato (土豆), tomato (番茄), torpedo (鱼雷),要加 *es* 构成复数形式,例如:

We are right out of potatoes.

I just can't get Billie to eat tomatoes.

而且更复杂的是,有些名词既可加 *s* 又可加 *es* 构成其复数形式。好在这类名词数量不多。其中最常见的有 *cargo* (货物), *tornado* (龙卷风) 和 *volcano* (火山), 例如:

We had to confiscate the cargos /cargoes of several vessels.

This area has several times been devastated by tornados /tornadoes.

All the volcanos /volcanoes on this island are no longer active.

当两个或更多的词合并构成一个复合词时, 如 *babysitter* (保姆), *grown-up* (成年人), *close-up* (特写镜头), *sit-in* (静坐抗议), 该词被作为一个整体看待, 表示复数的 *s* 加在该复合词的词尾, 例如:

Agency Advertisement: *All our babysitters are reliable!*

Photographer: *I'd like to take several close-ups.*

有些复合词前一部分比其它部分更重要。人们有时将其称为词头。在这类情况下,应将 *s* 加在前一部分后以构成复数,例如 *passer-by* (过路人)-*passers-by*。但现在的趋势是将 *s* 加在复合词的词尾,尤其是在非正式的用法里。例如:

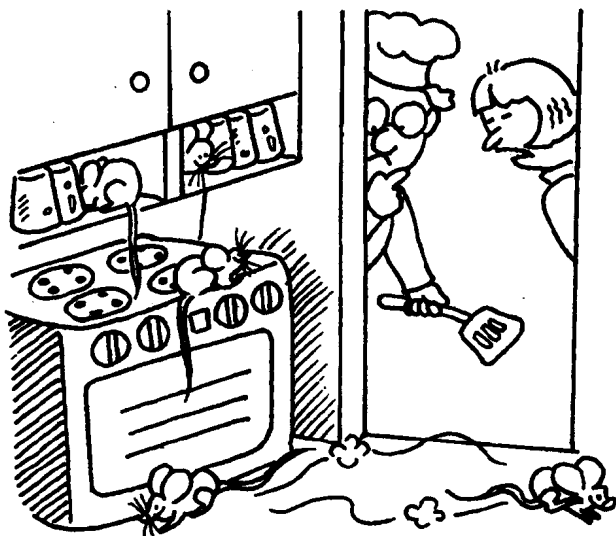
sisters-in-law , *mothers-in-law* (较正式)
sister-in-laws , *mother-in-laws* (较不正式)

In a formal document: *The money will be distributed between the two sisters-in-law.*

Jack to his friends Colin and Fred at the restaurant: *I tell you , mother-in-laws can be a real pain in the neck !*

2

Mice Or Mouses?



Amy: And the man from the government saw **mouses** running over the bench.

Owner: Not **mouses**, Amy, **mice**!

Amy: **Mouses** or **mice**. What does it matter? He closed the restaurant in any case!

饭馆主人是对的。*mouse* (老鼠) 是个不规则名词, 它的复数是 *mice*。这类在变复数时需要改变元音的名词并不多, 且绝大多数都是常用的。例如:

man - men(男人) woman - women(妇女)
goose - geese(鹅) mouse - mice(老鼠)
tooth - teeth(牙齿) foot - feet(脚)
louse - lice(虱子)

由 *man* 构成的合成词由单数变复数时也依此类推, 如 *postmen* (邮递员), *firemen* (消防员), *Frenchmen* (法国人), *Englishmen* (英国人), 等。例如:

*All the **postmen** are on strike today.*
*It's not true that all **Englishmen** are conceited.*

只有三个名词在变复数时是在其词尾加 *-en*, 如 *child* 加 *ren* 变成 *children*, 其发音也由 /ai/ 变成 /i/。

brother (兄弟) 这个词的复数形式是 *brothers*。*Brethren* 这个词只有当人们谈论某个组织, 特别是某个宗教组织的成员时才用。例如:

*He belongs to the Plymouth **Brethren**.*
***Brethren** let us now stand and praise the Lord!*

有一类名词是以 *f(e)* 结尾的, 比如 *leaf* (树叶), *life* (生命), *half* (一半), *knife* (刀子), *wife*

(妻子), *shelf*(架子), *thief*(贼) 等。这些词的复数形式都是以 *ves* 结尾, 如 *leaves*, *lives*, *halves*, *knives*, *wives*, *shelves*, *thieves*。

Look at those lovely autumn leaves!
I haven't painted the shelves yet.
They are as thick as thieves.

但是 *handkerchief* 这个词怎么办呢? 它应该变成:

Rosie has embroidered a dozen handkerchiefs.

还是

Rosie has embroidered a dozen handkerchieves.

事实上两者都行。还有另外四个名词也以同样方式构成复数。例如:

Snowwhite and the seven dwarfs/dwarves.
All these animals have hoofs/hoooves.
Her drawer was full of scarfs/scarves.
He couldn't find any work on the wharfs/wharves.

有些人偏爱一种复数形式, 而其他人偏爱另一种复数形式, 但这两种形式都正确。

但是, 有些以 *f* 结尾的名词是按一般方式构成复数形式, 即在词尾加 *s*。例如:

We could just see the roofs of the houses of Little Chippington in the distance.

Andrew stared at the steep cliffs in front of him. How could he ever find a way out of this valley?