医学英语写作常见错误

张惠良 胡光远 周文芝 邵伟玲 张一舟 编著

OMMON MISTAKES MEDICAL NGLISH WRITING

人民卫生出版社

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我国实行改革开放政策以来,国际交往日趋频繁,世界上最通行的语言之一——英语,作为交际手段,日见其重要性。

一般来说,大多数懂英语的人可以借助词典进行英译汉, 而顺利进行汉译英却为数不多,作者在医科大学执教多年,深 知上述情况,在学生翻译作业及医师论文翻译时经常发现一 些中国人使用英语时的常见错误,有些错误非但词不达意,甚 至会引起误解。为此,作者在广泛收集资料的基础上,精选其 中典型错误500例,编纂成书《医学英语写作常见错误》。本书 共分14部分,即:①介词错误;②动词错误;③名词错误;④形 容词错误;⑤副词错误;⑥代词错误;⑦数词错误;⑧连词错 误;⑨冠词错误;⑩词组错误;⑪词序错误;⑫标点错误;⑬练 习;⑭答案。

本书用正误法对比句子的错误所在,使读者一目了然,产生深刻印象,避免重蹈覆辙。每例之后,有一简明注解,说明其错误原因,并举例反证,使读者融会贯通,收举一反三之效,书后附有练习,以备实践。

限于作者水平,书中疏漏之处,想必难免,尚希读者匡正。

作者 1994年10月

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一、介 词 错 误

(一)遗漏介词

1. worry about

那只是一个小伤口,不必担心。

误:It is just a slight cut; there's nothing to worry.

- 正: It is just a slight cut; there's nothing to worry about.
- 注:worry 可用作及物或不及物动词,用作不及物动词时,作"担心"、"发愁"解,例如:Don't worry! (别担心!)。主语为人时,worry 后常加介词 about 或 over,如:He worried over his wife's health. (他担心妻子的健康。)又如:Worrying about your health can make you ill. (你老担心健康,会闹出病来的。)

2. except for

除非有急性肺水肿,心力衰竭时很少使用麻醉剂。

- 误:Except acute pulmonary edema, narcotics are rarely needed in heart failure.
- 正: Except for acute pulmonary edema, narcotics are rarely needed in heart failure.
- 注.Except for 用于所排除的事物与所包含的事物性质不同的情况下。如果所排除的事物与所包含的事物性质相同,只用 except,例如:He gets up early every day except Sunday. (除了星期天,他每天早起。)

3. wish for

发高烧时我多么想喝一杯凉水。

- 误:How I wished a glass of cold water when I had a high fever.
- E:How I wished for a glass of cold water when I had a high fever.
- 注:1)wish for (=have a desire for)是一个固定搭配,意 为"想要","希望得到"。又如:We have everything we can wish for. (我们希望得到的东西全有了。)
 - 2)wish 用作及物动词时,后面可接名词或代词,但一般所接的多是双宾语(间接宾语十直接宾语),如: They wished him a quick recovery. (他们希望他早日恢复健康。)

4. choose ··· from

治疗本病我们有三种疗法可以选用。

- 误:To treat this illness, we have three treatments to
- E: To treat this illness, we have three treatments to choose from.
- 注:choose…from(among,out of)意为"从……中选择"。 又如:There are five X-ray units to choose from. (有 五部X光机可供选择。)

5. dark red in colour

呕吐物呈暗红色。

误:The vomitus was dark red colour.

正:The vomitus was dark red in colour.

注:vomitus 的表语是 dark red 而不是 colour。又如:Was

the blood bright or dark in colour? (那血液颜色是鲜红的,还是暗红的?)

6. no harm in...

偶尔晚睡并无害处。

误:There is no harm your staying up late occasionally.

IF: There is no harm in your staying up late occasionally.

注:名词 harm 后可以接介词 in十名词或动名词。本句中 your staying up 是动名词的复合结构,物主代词 your是 staying up 的逻辑主语。又如:I don't think there would be any harm in that. (我认为那不会有什么害处。)I see no harm in letting the patient jog. (我看让病人慢跑并无害处。)

7. admit of

对他施行外科手术刻不容缓。

误:The surgical operation on him admits no delay.

IE: The surgical operation on him admits of no delay.

注:1) admit of 意为"容许",又如:His problem did not admit of any solution. (他的问题没法解决。)

2) admit to 意为"承认",例如: The patient admitted to having a heart attack last year. (病人承认去年发过一次心脏病。)

8. be of importance

抗生素的发现在医学科学上十分重要。

误:The discovery of antibiotics is great importance to the medical science.

正: The discovery of antibiotics is of great importance to

the medical science.

注: be of importance 相当于 be important;类似结构还有 be of use = be useful, be of significance = be significant, be of value = be valuable, be of help = be helpful 等,例如:Can I be of any help to you?(我能帮助你吗?)

9. be of ··· shape

肺呈圆锥形。

误:The lungs are conical shape.

正:The lungs are of conical shape.

注:误句应译为:肺是圆锥形。这在逻辑上是错误的。应该说:肺是圆锥形的,所以加介词 of。又如:The egg is of oval shape. (蛋呈椭圆形。)

10. complain of

病人哪里不舒服?

误:What did the patient complain?

正:What did the patient complain of?

注:动词 complain 作不及物动词用,后面要求接介词 of 或 about, 如: The patient complained of a bad headache. (病人主诉剧烈头痛。)变成疑问句时, complain 后面仍要加介词 of 或 about。

11. dream of

他发病前,总是梦见离奇而恐怖的事。

误: Before onset of his illness, he always dreams a strange and terrible thing.

E: Before onset of his illness, he always dreams of a strange and terrible thing.

- 注:1)dream of 可作"梦到,梦见"解。又如:The soldier often dreamed of home. (那个士兵常常梦见家。)
 - 2) dream 作及物动词时,通常带同源宾语,例如:He dreamt a strange dream. (他做了个奇怪的梦。)

12. hear of

那是我所听到过的最罕见的病例。

误:That is the rarest case that I have ever heard.

IE: That is the rarest case that I have ever heard of.

注:hear of (about)相当于 learn of (about),意为"听到", "听说"。又如 You will hear about this later. (以后你 会知道这件事的。)

13. inform sb. of sth.

不要告诉病人患肝癌的事实。

- 误:Don't inform the patient the fact that he has hepatic carcinoma.
- 正: Don't inform the patient of the fact that he has hepatic carcinoma.
- 注:1) inform 意为"告诉","通知",此句中应用 inform sb. of sth. 的结构。又如: You had better mildly inform him of the death of his father. (你最好委婉地通知他,他的父亲去世了。)
 - 2)此句也可说:Don't inform the patient that he has hepatic carcinoma. 还可说:Don't tell the patient that he has hepatic carcinoma.

14. learn of

听说你病了,我感到难过。

误:I'm sorry to learn your illness.

正:I'm sorry to learn of your illness.

注:learn of 意为"获悉","听说"。这句话也可以说:I'm sorry to learn that you are ill. 又如:We were grieved to learn of his death. (听到他逝世的消息,我们非常悲痛。)

15. read of

获悉爱因斯坦逝世人们感到震惊。

- 误:The public were surprised while reading Einstein's death.
- E: The public were surprised while reading of Einstein's death.
- 注: read of (about) 意为"获悉","读到",如: She read about the article by chance in a journal. (她偶尔在一本杂志上读到这篇文章。)

16 remind sb. of sth.

这份病例使我想起去年做的那个大手术。

- 误:This case history reminded me that major operation which was performed last year.
- 正: This case history reminded me of that major operation which was performed last year.
- 注:remind sb. of sth.常指"使某人想起某事"。如果"提醒"将来要做的事,要用不定式。例如:If I forget, please remind me to follow up that patient tomorrow. (如果我忘了,请提醒我明天对那个病人随访。)

17. speak of

心脏可看作主要循环器官。

- 误: The heart may be spoken as the chief organ of circulation.
- 正: The heart may be spoken of as the chief organ of circulation.
- 注:speak of was 意为"把……看(说)成是",意义与 refer to was 相同,如:The lungs may be referred to as the respiratory organs. (肺可视为呼吸器官。)

18. operate on

那位阑尾炎患者刚刚动过手术。

- 误: The patient with appendicitis has just been operated.
- 正: The patient with appendicitis has just been operated on.
- 注:动词 operate(动手术)要求接介词 on,变成被动语态时,介词 on 仍要跟在动词后面。又如:Have you ever been operated on? (你动过手术吗?)He operated on the baby's throat and saved his life. (他给婴儿的咽喉动了手术,救了他的生命。)

19. reply to

那位病人还不能回答医生的问题。

误:The patient could not reply the doctor's question.

正: The patient could not reply to the doctor's question.

- 注:1)动词 reply 之后,如跟名词,应加介词 to,又如:He failed to reply to my question. (他没有回答我的问题。)此句相当于:He failed to answer my question.
 - 2)动词 reply 之后,如跟连词 that 引导的宾语从句,则不用加介词,如:He replied that the patient would

recover soon. (他回答说病人很快就会恢复健康。)

20. speak to

医生要跟他谈谈他的疾病。

误:The doctor will speak him about his illness.

IE: The doctor will speak to him about his illness.

- 注:1)speak 一般用作不及物动词,speak to sb. 意为"与某人讲话"。又如:She never speaks to me. (她从不跟我讲话。)
 - 2) speak 作及物动词时,一般后接"语言",如:He does not speak French. (他不会讲法语。)How many languages do you speak? (你会讲几种语言?)

21. supply sb. with sth.

健康奶牛供应我们牛奶。

误:The healthy cows supply us milk.

正:The healthy cows supply us with milk.

注:supply sb. with sth. 意为"供应某人某物"。supply sth. for sb. 意为"为某人供应某物"。如:"那所幼儿园供应儿童饮食"可用以下两种方式表达:The kindergarten supplies children with food and drink. 也可说:The kindergarten supplies food and drink for children.

(二)错用介词

22. above

鼻在嘴上方。

误:The nose is on the mouth.

IE: The nose is above the mouth.

注:on 指紧贴物体表面的上面,而 above 则指有一定的 距离的上方。例如:The boat was floating on the water. (那只船浮在水面上。)又如:The shelf should be six feet above the level of the floor. (架子应高于 地板六英尺。)

23. be effective against

此药对消化不良有效。

误:This drug is effective on indigestion.

正:This drug is effective against indigestion.

- 注:1) be effective against 意为"对抗……有效",例如: This drug is effective against cancer. (此药有抗癌作用。)
 - 2)此句也可说: This drug is effective for indigestion.

24. apart from

除了药片外,你还服些什么药?

误:Except for tablets, are you taking anything else? 正:Apart from tablets, are you taking anything else? 注:介词 apart from 有两层意思。

- 1) 意为"除了……(还有)",如 Doctors have many jobs to do apart from (= besides) curing people of illness. (医生除了为人们治病外,还有许多工作要做。)
- 2) 意为"不包括……在内", 如: Your operation is good work, apart from (=except for) a slight fault. (你的手术做得很好,只有一个小错。)

25. classify as

高血压可分为原发性与继发性。

- 误: Hypertension may be classified into essential and secondary.
- 正: Hypertension may be classified as essential and secondary.
- 注: "分为具体类型"用 classify ··· as; "分为几种"用 classify ··· in (into), 例如: Living things may be classified in two types. (生物可分为两种类型。)

26. at altitude

在很高的地方人们呼吸困难。

误:It is difficult for men to breathe on high altitudes.

正:It is difficult for men to breathe at high altitudes.

注:altitude 之前用介词 at,不用 on。又如:He kept the plane at an altitude of 8000 feet. (他使飞机保持在8000 英尺的高度。)

27. at birth

男孩出生时的体重略重于女孩。

- 误:On birth boys are slightly heavier, on the average, than girls.
- 正: At birth boys are slightly heavier, on the average, than girls.
- 注:at birth 是一种固定搭配,意为"出生时,出世时",又如:The baby weighed seven pounds at birth. (那婴儿出生时重 7 磅。)

28. at the age of

3岁以上的儿童好发腮腺炎。

误:Mumps often occurs in the children during the age

of three and over.

- 正: Mumps often occurs in the children at the age of three and over.
- 注:at the age of…意为"在……岁时"。本句也可以说: Mumps often occurs in the children of three and over.

29. at the beginning

- 十月初天气变冷,普通感冒发病率升高。
- 误:In the beginning of October it becomes colder and the incidence of common cold, higher.
- 正: At the beginning of October it becomes colder and the incidence of common cold, higher.
- 注:1) in the beginning 意为"开始时,开头",例如:You will find swimming rather difficult in the beginning.(开始你会发觉游泳很难。)
 - 2) at the beginning 意为"开始时,开头",常与 in the beginning 换用,例如: Tom disliked it at (in) the beginning. (汤姆一开始就不喜欢它。)
 - 3) at the beginning of (意思正好与 at the end of 相反) 意为①"在……初(指时间)",例如: At the beginning of March, an accident happened. (三月初发生一起事故。)还可意为②"在……开头(指位置)",例如: A definition on metabolism is given at the beginning of this chapter. (在本章开始处对新陈代谢下了定义。)

30. attempt at

由于缺氧,登山运动员登顶失败。