

Contemporary English

当代英语

自助学英语

TEACH YOURSELF ENGLISH

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目 录

一、时间	1	十一、活动	77
二、年龄	10	十二、旅游	83
三、天气	17	十三、交通	92
四、交际	26	十四、问路	99
五、约会	35	十五、旅馆	105
六、电话	42	十六、购物	115
七、疾病	48	十七、邮局	126
八、卫生	55	十八、商贸	137
九、住所	62	十九、学习	147
十、嗜好	69	二十、书籍	155

一、 时间

“对不起，请问现在几点钟了？”“现在4点钟。”

【说明】

“对不起”可用 Excuse me (, but…), 这是客套话，在向别人询问时常要用到。

“请问现在几点钟了？”可说 Please tell me the time, 或用疑问句 What time is it? / What time do you make it? / What time do you have? 都可以。

“现在4点钟，”即 It is (It's) four (o'clock)。如要表明正好4点钟，可说 It's just four o'clock 或 Four o'clock sharp。如快要到4点钟，可说 It's close on (或 upon) four o'clock, 或 It's getting (或 going) on for four o'clock。如刚过4点钟，可说 It's just past four o'clock。如为4点20分，可说 It's twenty (minutes) past four, 或简单地说 It's four twenty (4:20)。如为4点半，可说 It's half past four, 或简单地说 It's four thirty (4:30)。如为4点50分，可说 It's ten (minutes) to five, 或简单地说 It's four fifty (4:50)。

【译例】

(a) “Excuse me. ~~What time is it now?~~” “It's just four o'clock.”

(b) “Excuse me, but please tell me the time.”
“It's four o'clock sharp.”

1 2

学校 8 点半开始 (上课), 3 点半放学, 午休 1 小时。

【说明】

“8 点半开始”是 begin at half past eight 或 begin at eight thirty (8:30)。

“3 点半放学”: “放学”是结束的意思, 所以可说 end at half past three。“钟点”作为状语前面要用介词 at, 表示“在”。此外如 at noon (中午), at midnight (午夜), at night (夜里) 都要用 at。

“午休”: a noon recess; a break at noon

【译例】

(a) School begins at half past eight and ends at half past three. We have an hour's noon recess.

(b) School begins at eight thirty, and ends at three thirty. We take an hour's break at noon.

1 3

“今天是几号? (星期几?)” “今天是 6 月 3 号 (星期二)。”

【说明】

“今天是几号？”可说 What day of the month is it? 或 What's the day of the month today? 也可简单地说 What's the date? 或 What's the date today? Date 是“日期”、“日子”。这里是指“几号”，但也可包括星期，所以答句可单说“几号”，如 It's June 3 或 Today is June 3，也可包括星期说 It's Tuesday, June 3，或 Today is Tuesday, June 3。

“今天是星期几？”可说 What day of the week is it? 或 What's the day of the week today? 也可简单地说 What day is it? 或 What's the day today? 这里 day 只指“星期”不包括“几号”，所以答句只可说 It's Tuesday, 或 Today is Tuesday, 而不能说 It's Tuesday, June 3 或 Today is Tuesday, June 3。

【译例】

(a) “What day of the month is today?” “Today is June 3.”

(b) “What day (of the week) is today?” “Today is Tuesday.”

(c) “What's the date today?” “Today is June 3.”
或 “Today is Tuesday, June 3.”



光阴似箭，我到这里差不多 3 个月了，这使我感到

吃惊。

【说明】

“光阴似箭”或照字译 Time flies like an arrow, 也可简单说 Time passes swiftly (或 quickly)。如用感叹句可说 How time flies!

“我到这里差不多 3 个月了”可说 I've already been here for almost three months, 也可说 Nearly three months have passed since I came here, 或 It's nearly three months since my arrival。Since 是“自从……以来”的意思, 可作连词, 也可作介词。注意: 用了连词 since, 从句里的动词要用过去时, 主句里的动词一般用现在完成时, 如 Nearly three months have passed since I came here; 或用现在完成进行时, 如 It has been raining since yesterday; 如只说多少时间则多用现在时, 如 It's nearly three months since my arrival。

“感到吃惊”要说 I'm surprised (或 astonished), 不可说 I'm surprising。

【译例】

(a) Time flies like an arrow. I'm surprised that I've already been here for almost three months.

(b) Time passes swiftly. I'm surprised that nearly three months have passed since I came here.

(c) How time flies! I'm astonished that it's almost three months since my arrival.

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父亲3月3号到美国去了，要到4月底才回来。

【说明】

“3月3号”说 March 3 或 March (the) 3rd 都可以，3rd 表示 third (同样，first, second, fourth 都可写成 1st, 2nd, 4th)；比较正式的也可说 the third of March。序数词前要有定冠词 the。如作状语用也像星期名称一样前面要加 on，如 on March 3 或 on the third of March。

“4月底”是 the end of April，用作状语前面要加 at；“到4月底”要说 till (或 until) the end of April。

【译例】

(a) My father went to the States on March 3. He will be back at the end of April.

(b) My father went to the States on March the third. He'll remain there till the end of April.

(c) Father left for the States on the third of March and won't be back till the end of April.

我急急忙忙地到车站去赶头班列车，但因迟了两分

钟没赶上。

【说明】

“头班列车”是 the first train, “末班列车”是 the last train; 也可按开车时刻说, 如9点15分列车 the 9:15 train, 4点30分列车 the 4:30 train 等, 或不用 train 字样也可, 如: If you take the 9:15, you'll be there at 16:40.

“赶”这里要用 catch; “赶上火车 (公共汽车)”说 catch a train (a bus); “没有赶上”是 fail to catch, miss 或 lose.

“迟了两分钟”是 two minutes late, 但如用 fail to catch 或 miss 表明未赶上则后面加上 by two minutes 就可以了; by 在这里是“相差”的意思。

【译例】

(a) I went hurriedly to the station to catch the first train, but I was two minutes late, so I missed it.

(b) I hurried to the station for the first train, but lost it by two minutes.

(c) Though I hurried to the station (so as) to be in time for the first train, I failed to catch it by just two minutes.



我的朋友是个非常守时的人, 聚会时总是按规定时

间 5 分钟前出席。

【说明】

“守时的”是 *punctual*；“我的朋友是个非常守时的人”可照字译，也可译作 *My friend is a very punctual man.*

“聚会”：*a meeting; a gathering*

“规定时间”：*the appointed (或 fixed) time*

“5 分钟前”是“早 5 分钟”的意思，所以说 *five minutes earlier (than...)*。

“总是”：*always* 或 *without fail*；如改用动词，可说 *never fail to*。

“出席”可说 *be present (at)*, *present oneself (at)*, 或 *attend*。

【译例】

(a) *My friend is very punctual. He is always present at a meeting five minutes earlier than the appointed time.*

(b) *My friend is a very punctual man. He never fails to present himself at a meeting five minutes earlier than the fixed time.*



俗语说“时者金也”。时间一去不复返。我们必须好好利用时间。

【说明】

“俗语说”用 The proverb says..., The saying goes that..., 或 The proverb has it that... 都可以。

“一去” once it is gone 或 as soon as (the moment, the instant) it passes; 这里 once, as soon as, the moment, the instant 都是连词, 表示 “一……就……”。

“好好利用时间”可说 make good use of one's time, employ one's time well (或 profitably), 也可说 turn one's time to profitable account。

【译例】

(a) The proverb says, “Time is money.” It will never come back once it is gone. We must make good use of our time.

(b) The proverb has it that time is money. Never will it come back as soon as it passes, so you should employ your time well.

(c) The saying goes that time is money. The moment it passes, it will never come back. Hence one should turn one's time to profitable account.

二、 年齡

他是 1950 年出生的。今年刚好 30 岁。

【说明】

年份作状语，前面要用介词 in，如 in 1950，或 in the year 1950。

“出生”：be born

“刚好”：just, exactly

“30 岁”：thirty years old 或单说 thirty 也可以。

【译例】

(a) He was born in 1950. He is just thirty years old this year.

(b) He was born in the year 1950, and is exactly thirty this year.

我的哥哥快 25 岁了。他比我大 3 岁。我的妹妹最小，今年还不到 20 岁。

【说明】

“快到 25 岁”是 will soon be twenty-five, 或 be getting on for twenty-five.

“大3岁”可说 three years older than..., 或 older than...by three years.

“还不到20岁”: be still under twenty, 或 be not quite twenty.

【译例】

(a) My brother will soon be twenty-five. He is three years older than I. My sister is the youngest. She is not quite twenty.

(b) My brother, who is older than I by three years, is getting on for twenty-five. The youngest is my sister, who is still under twenty.



“你猜猜看我几岁。”“照我看来，你最多是25岁。”
“我已经过了30周岁了。”“真的吗？你看上去还不到这年龄。”

【说明】

“猜”是 guess; 后面“我几岁”是个从句，所以不可说 how old am I, 要说 how old I am; 如不用 guess, 也可说 How old do you think I am? 注意：这个类型的句子，do you think 不可放在句首。

“照我看来”可说 It seems to me that..., 或 I take it that...。

“最多”是 at (the) most, “最少”是 at (the)

least。

“过了 30 周岁”可说 be already over thirty, 或 was thirty on one's last birthday; 这是说已经过了 30 岁的生日。

“真的吗?: Really? Is that so?”

“看上去不到……”可说 look younger than..., 或 look young for one's age。

【译例】

(a) “Guess how old I am.” “It seems to me that you are twenty-five at most.” “I'm already over thirty.” “Really? You look younger than your age.”

(b) “How old do you think I am?” “I take it that you are twenty-five at most.” “I was thirty on my last birthday.” “Is that so? You look young for your age.”

2

4

“你看那个女人有几岁?” “那我不清楚, 大约 30 多岁吧。” “是 30 与 40 之间, 还是靠近 40?” “不, 大约是 30 出头吧。”

【说明】

“30 多岁” in one's thirties, thirties 是 30-39 的年龄。

“30 与 40 之间”可说 in the middle of thirty, 或 in one's middle thirties。

“靠近 40”可说 in the latter part of thirty, 或 in one's late thirties。

“30 出头”是 in the first part of thirty, 或 in one's early thirties。

【译例】

(a) “Do you know how old the woman is?” “That I don't know. Somewhere in the thirties, I think.” “Middle or latter part?” “No, I'd say about the first part.”

(b) “How old do you think the woman is?” “Oh, I'm not clear. In her thirties, I think.” “Middle? latter?” “No, may be in her early thirties.”

2 5

上星期碰到 5 年不见的外甥。他还是十几岁的孩子，却长得那么高，我几乎不认得了。

【说明】

“5 年不见”可照字译，因为是隔了 5 年又遇到，所以也可说 met after a five years' interval (或 after an interval of five years)。

“十几岁的孩子”可说 a boy in his teens; teens 是指 13-19 的年龄；也可说 a teenager (或 teener)。

“那么……以至”的意思可用 so...that 的句型来表达。