

现代英语 惯用法词典

A DICTIONARY OF
MODERN
ENGLISH USAGE

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前 言

要掌握地道的英语,习惯用法是必须“闯”过的一大关。英语习惯用法具有明显的长期性、社会性、历史性和民族文化特性。它只可遵从“人云亦云”,所以,中国人学习英语,对惯用法感到特别困难,是可以理解的。

本词典针对中国人学习外语的特点与难点,从语音、词法、句法、语义、语用、语言文化知识等诸方面介绍了现代英语的各种习惯用法,尤其是近十几年来英语的新用法,并对英、美语的用法辨异作了详细的比较与说明。本词典既注意应用现代语言学研究的新成果解释习惯用法现象,又不纠缠理论问题,注重语言的事实、语言的实践性和实用性。我们的目标只有一个——帮助英语学习者解决语言使用中的疑难问题,提高运用地道英语进行交际的能力。

《现代英语惯用法词典》的问世得益于老一辈专家的研究成果。因为只有在他们的基础上,我们今天才能起步与发展。在此,本人向词典中所引用的国内外有关英语辞书的作者表示由衷的敬意和感谢。

随着人类社会不断发展与变化,英语中会不断地涌现出反映新事物的新用法;个人的主观动机与客观效果也会存在着一定的差距。因此,本词典里疏漏之处在所难免,亟盼读者方家斧正。

李在铭

1994年8月于燕园

AYAD 28/09

A

a, an 1. 一般说来,不定冠词“an”用在以元音音素起首的词前面,例如:“an old [əʊld] man”, “an elephant [ˈelɪfənt]”, “an interesting [ˈɪntrɪstɪŋ] book”和“an awful [ˈɔːfʊl] noise”. 英语里除了“a”, “e”, “i”, “o”4个元音字母外,“f”[ef], “h”[eɪtʃ], “l”[el], “m”[em], “n”[en], “r”[ɑː], “s”[es]和“x”[eks]这几个字母的读音也是以元音音素起首的,所以,由它们开头组成的缩略语(abbreviations)也必须用“an”,例如:“an LP”(密纹唱片), “an MP”(下院议员), “an RAF officer”(皇家空军军官), “an SRN”(合格护士)和“an SOS”(呼救信号), “an FBI man”(联邦调查局雇员)。

以不发音字母“h”开头即实际上以元音音素开始的词的前面,要用“an”,例如:“an heir”, “an honest boy”, “an honour”, “an honourable person”, “an hour”以及英语中的法语词“an hors d'oeuvre”(小吃), “an hôtel Dieu”(主宫医院)等有时用“a”或“an”都可以,但现代英语发展趋势于用“a”,例如:

a hotel (少用 an hotel)

a historican (少用 an historican)

a historical professor (少用 an historical professor)

a hysterical scene (少用 an hysterical scene)

a hereditary disease (少用 an hereditary disease)

a habitual drunkard (少用 an habitual drunkard)

a horizontal position (少用 an horizontal position)

有些英、美人在以[h]和[ju]音起首的词前仍通常用

“an”，例如：“an historic responsibility”，“an historic building”和“an European”。

2. “what”，“such”和“many”修饰名词时，“a/an”通常要跟在这些词的后面，例如：

①What a shame!

What an opportunity you missed!

What a lovely day we have had!

②such a short time, such an entertaining performance

③many a garden, many a word, many a youth

3. 副词“how”，“however”，“so”，“as”和“too”修饰名词前的形容词时，“a/an”必须跟在这些形容词的后面，例如：
how beautiful a park, how great a crime, how nice a boy, however dark a night, however attractive a report, so short a time, so touching a film, so lame an excuse, as clever a boy as you wish to meet, as tall a man as I ever saw, as big a park as we have never seen before, too hard a task, too short a visit, too difficult a book for her.

“quite”，“rather”，“more”，“more or less”，“much more”，“much less”等副词修饰形容词时，“a/an”放在它们之后，也可放在它们之前，前者常见于书面语，而后者多见于日常语中，“quite”在日常口语里放在“a/an”前面，会显得更自然些，例如：

quite a reasonable price——a quite reasonable price

rather an early period——a rather early period

more glorious an exit——a more glorious exit

in more or less a degree——in a more or less degree

much more dazzling a diamond——a much more dazzling diamond

4. “a/an”通常放在“half”与名词之间，英国英语尤其是这样，例如：half a month, half a year, half an inch, half a

mile。

但在美国英语里也常用“a+half+名词”这类结构,例如:“a half mile”,“a half inch”,“a half month”和“a half year”。

5. 两个形容词并列,同时修饰一个名词时,若该名词指两个事物,通常需要两个冠词,例如:“a black and a white horse”和“an old and a young man”,但是,有时名词只指一个事物,用了两冠词,表示加强语气。例如:

①He has become a thinner and a stronger man.

②What a lovely and a bright boy you are now!

③It was a cold and a dark night.

6. 两个事物被视为关系紧密的整体时,通常用一个冠词,例如:

①A doctor and nurse were provided for the old patient.

②A man and woman are walking arm-in-arm.

③At this moment a man and child entered the house, hand in hand.

7. 并列关系的名词分别使用冠词时,通常是为了强调个体,并且有相比较或者选择的意思,例如:

①He has a study, a bedroom, and a kitchen.

②Give me a pen or a pencil.

③A gentleman and a lady can't be expected to agree on such questions.

8. 由两部分配成一件的东西通常只用一个冠词,例如:“a knife and fork”(一副刀叉),“a needle and thread”,“a box and needle”(一副罗盘),“hire a car and driver”(租一辆配有司机的汽车)。

9. “a/an”用在表示姓氏的专有名词前指家庭中的一个成员,例如:“She was a Jones”(one of the Jones family)。

10. 在日常英语,尤其口语里,“a/an”通常会与动作名词或“verb-ing”构成习惯用语,说明某一次具体的动作、行

为或经历,并含有“一些”、“相当量”等意思,例如:

- ① *Have a look* at this picture.
- ② You need a wash *after a run*.
- ③ She *has a good* knowledge of English.
- ④ You must avoid *such a waste of time*.
- ⑤ Why are you in *such a hurry*?
- ⑥ I *have a hatred* for dogs.
- ⑦ They *had a plentiful kill* yesterday.
他们昨天打到了许多猎物。
- ⑧ I'll give you *a good hiding* when we get home.
- ⑨ Instead of giving the *peasant a hearing*, the heartless landlord gave him a good beating as well as a good scolding.

能用在这类短语中的名词大多没有复数形式,它们通常与“have”,“give”,“make”,“take”,“do”,“get”,“feel”,“show”,“receive”,“hold”等常见动词搭配。

这类通常用法的语用功能是平衡句子,使之保持“末尾重量”(end weight),这是英语句子的一条重要法则,例如:说“He ate.”,不如说“He had a meal.”。说“Lucille smoked.”,不如说“Lucille had a smoke.”。说“Wiggin Swimmied.”不如说“We had a swim yesterday.”。

11. “a/an”可以与说明时间、年龄、数量等复数的词语连用,例如:“a mere three minutes”(仅仅三分钟),“My grandfather is a vigorous 90.”(我的祖父现年 90 岁,仍很健旺。),“an estimated 10,000 guerrillas”(估计总数为 1 万人的游击队),“We did an eighty m. p. h.”(我们的速度每小时 80 英里。),“a pleasant summer holidays”和“an additional 60”。

12. “a/an”表示事物的同一性质、品质、特性、程度、大小等,例如:“(birds) of a feather”,“of a mind”,“of a face”,“of a nation”,“of a piece”,“of a size”,“of an

age”, “on a level”, “on a par” 和 “four/five/etc. at a time”。这类短语中的“a/an”相当于“the same”。

13. “a/an”与描写大自然界现象的名词连用时,表示“一阵”、“一场”、“一种”等,例如: “a snow”, “a rain”, “a shower”, “a fog”, “a frost” 和 “a mist”。

14. “a/an”与表示食品、饮料等名称的名词连用时,指“一份”、“一客”、“一种”等,例如: “a beer”, “a tea”, “a coffee”, “an ice”, “a wine”, “a brandy”, “a bread”, “a soup”, “a sweet”, “a candy” 和 “an aspirin”。

15. 有些人对在“kind of”和“sort of”后面的名词前加“a/an”提出异议。但是事实上用了“a/an”可强调程度或性质,指“怎么样”。试比较下列两组句子:

- | | |
|---|---|
| { | What kind/sort of holiday did you have? |
| | (=Did you have your holiday of camping, or
touring, or fishing, etc.?) |
| | What kind of a holiday did you have? |
| { | (=What did you think of your holiday? Did you
enjoy it very much?) |
| | What kind/sort of workman is John? |
| { | (inquiring about John's occupation or trade.) |
| | What kind/sort of a workman is John? |
| { | (inquiring about John's capability or proficiency) |

16. “an A of a B”是一种习惯用语,其中的“an A”部分通常被视为修饰“a B”部分,例如: “a lamb of a temper”(羊羔般驯服的脾气), “a girl of a boy”(一个女孩子似的男孩子), “a poem of a hotel”(一个像诗一般幽雅的旅馆), “a devil of a hurry”(一次极度的匆忙), “a mountain of a wave”(像高山似的巨浪), “a tyrant of a landlord”, “a palace of a house”(一座宫殿似的房子), “a kitten of girl”, “a beast of a place”(一个很脏的地方), “a fool of a man”, “a gem of a poem”(一首宝石般精致的诗)和“a

jewel of an assistant”。

17. 名词表示职位、官衔、等级、社会关系或地位等时,通常不与“a/an”连用,例如:

- ① They invited him to act as interpreter.
- ② Mr John is professor of physics in Beijing University.
- ③ Caxton began his career as printer, translator, and editor in 1475.
- ④ Her cousin has obtained a post of (or as) typist.
- ⑤ Now Mr Li is manager of a bank.
- ⑥ Tom is son to my neighbour.
- ⑦ Miss Brown is daughter of a deceased rector of Cranford.
- ⑧ The man turned musician/beggar/traitor/christian/ etc.

18. 在各种标题、广告、声明中的名词前,通常省略不定冠词,例如:

1) 报刊、杂志等各种标题:

- ① (A) Big Hydro-Electric Power Station Completed in Sichuan
- ② (A) Russian Spy Brought to Trial in Sweden
- ③ (A) Man Killed on (a) Mountain
- ④ (A) New Government Formed in Mauritania

2) 公告、广告、声明等:

- ① (An) Advertisement
- ② (A) Joint Communiqué
- ③ (A) Shorthand Typist Wanted
- ④ (A) Statement of (the) Chinese Athletic Association

3) 书名、日记、文章及课文标题:

- ① (A) GUIDE TO PATTERNS AND USAGE IN ENGLISH
- ② (A) Biographic Sketch

③(A)Day at My Mother School

④(A)Conversation between Teacher and Student

⑤(A)Letter from a Primary Schoolmate

4)日常生活的电报:

①(A)Boy baby born yesterday

②Send (an)English-Chinese Dictionary to me by post

③Brother away on (a)visit

5)词典注释或定义:

①baby 1. n. (A) Very young child, ... 2. (A) Youngest member of (a) family, team, etc.; (a) unduly childish person ...; (an) animal or (a) thing small off its kind; (sl.) (a) young woman, (a) sweetheart ... (from the Concise Oxford Dictionary)

②programme n. 1. (a) broadcast item (eg a play, discussion or documentary) ... 2. (a) plan of what is (intended) to be done ... (from Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary)

19. 下列省略不定冠词的用法是考虑到诗歌的格律或韵律的关系:

①O Rome! I make thee (a) promise; (Shakespeare)

②Cassius, what (a) night is this! (ib)

③A cap of flowers, and a kirtle/Embroider'd all with leaves of (a) myrtle. (C. Marlowe)

20. 有关不定冠词“a/an”在词组中的用或不用的习惯用法问题,可参见本词典的各词条说明。

abacus ①指“打算盘”,英语说“use/work/operate an abacus”。②“reckon on an abacus”(用算盘计算)一语中的介词“on”通常不可以改为“by”或“with”。

abandon ①“abandon”通常指完全的、最后的放弃,例如:“They abandoned the wrecked plane.”。②“abandon ship”(离船)是个习语,“ship”前不可以用冠词“an”。

abbreviation “abbreviation”后面通常接介词“for”作“…的缩写词”解,例如:“‘Sept’ is an abbreviation for ‘September’”;有时用“abbreviation of”,例如:“‘GB’ is the abbreviation of ‘Great Britain’”。

ABC ①“the ABC”(用定冠词“the”指“基础知识”、“入门”,例如:“the ABC of English Grammar”(英语语法入门)和“the ABC of a subject”(某学科的基础知识)。②“as easy as ABC”是“非常容易”,“as plain as ABC”(极其明白),“as simple as ABC”(极其简单)。③“ABC”可以写为“A. B. C.”。

abdicate 试比较下列三句,第①句最常见:

- ①The king has abdicated. 国王已经退位了。
- ②The king has abdicated the throne. 国王已经退位了。
- ③The king has abdicated from the throne.
国王已经退位了。

abet “abet somebody in *doing* something”(唆使某人做某事)一语不可改为“abet somebody *to do* something”。

abhor ①“abhor”(憎恶;厌恶)的后面通常接“verb-ing”,不接动词不定式,例如:“She abhors being idle.”中的“being”不可以改为“to be.”。②“abhor”不可用在“进行时”里,不可说“She is abhorring them.”可以说“She abhors them.”。③“abhor”的过去式与过去分词是“abhorred”,“verb-ing”的形式是“abhorring”。(注意它们都双写“r”。)

abhorrent 比较下列二句

- ①Violence is abhorrent *to* him. 他厌恶暴力。
- ②He is abhorrent *of* violence. 他厌恶暴力。

abide ①“abide”(逗留,等待,居住)是个正式用语,主要用于文学作品中,如诗歌中,在日常英语中,应可以用“stay”,“wait”,“live”等为宜。②“abide”指“居住”、“逗

留”时,它的过去式和过去分词常用“abode”。在其他情况下,常用“abided”。

ability ①“ability at/in mathematics”一语中的介词“at/in”不可改用“of”。②“ability”后面一般接动词不定式,例如:“A lawyer need the ability to think clearly.”。③“an ounce of ability”(一点能力)通常作强意词,用在否定句里,例如:“He doesn't have an ounce of ability.”(他一点能力都没有。)

able ①“able”通常指自身的能力,所以,它的后面一般接主动式的动词不定式,下列各组的第一句比第二句自然,更符合习惯:

- { He speaks loudly that he can be heard.
- { He speaks so loudly that he is able to be heard.
- { She could be heard.
- { She was able to be heard.
- { He can not be reached.
- { He is not able to be reached.

②“more able”、“better able”和“abler”三语都是“able”的比较级,但是,“abler”最常见。

“most able”和“ablest”两语都是“able”的最高级,但是,后者比前者常见。

③参见“could”条2。

about 1. 下列各否定句中的“about”作“willing”(愿意)解,是美国口语:

- ① We are not about to stop now.
- ② I'm not about to lend you any more money.
- ③ We are not about to be taken in by their campaign promises.

2. “It is *about* 10 or 11 o'clock.”, “It occurred *about* the sixth *or* seventh of January.”等中的“about”是多余的,应该去掉。

“at about eleven o'clock”, “at about five o'clock”等语中的“at”是多余的,但是很常见。

“at about noon”不如用“at noon”或“about noon”简洁。

“some time about three/four/etc. o'clock”比“about three/four/etc. o'clock”的语义更加模糊。

3. “discuss about a matter”中的“about”实属误用,但中国学生通常犯这种错误。

4. 下列各句不合习惯,该把表示将来时间的副词去掉:

① I am about to go next week.

② The plane is about to take off immediately.

③ She is about to leave tomorrow evening.

5. 在口语里,“it is about”或“about”常当作评注句(the comment clause,参见“comment”条2),引导一个新的话题,例如:

① It's about my little boy, doctor, he's not very well.

② Now, about your exam results, David. They're not very good, are they?

6. 参见“on”条2。

about-turn “about-turn”(向后转;彻底改变)是英国和加拿大英语,美国用“about-face”。

above 1. “the above statement”和“the statement above”两语都作“上述声明”解。

2. “see over”是“请看下页”,“see above”是“参见上页”,两语不可混淆。

3. “above”与“over”有时可以交换使用,例如:“They built a new room above/over the garage.”和“Let's hang the painting above/over the fireplace.”。

但是,1)指动态时,只用“over”,不用“above”,例如:

① We flew over the Sahara.

② The sheep jumped over the wall.

2)指“覆盖”时,也只能多半用“over”,例如:

absolutely

③He pulled the blanket over his head and fell asleep.

④There's thick cloud over the south of England.

3)指超过某一水准或标准时,一般要用“above”,例如:
“above average intelligence”,“four degrees above zero”
和“5000ft above sea-level”。

泛指超过某一数目时,可用“over,”例如:

⑤My eldest brother is over sixty.

⑥We have been here over two hours.

abroad ①指“到国外去”,要说“go abroad”,不可说“go to abroad”。②“for abroad”是“到国外去”,“from abroad”是“从国外回来”。③“at home and abroad”(在国内外)不可改为“at home and at/in abroad”,也不可改为“abroad and at home”。

absent 1. 试比较下列两句:

①She was absent *from* school. 他没有上学读书。

②She was absent *at* school. 他到学校去了,不在家。

2. 试比较下列两句:

①He was absent *in* London.

他不在别的地方,在伦敦。

②Snow is absent *in* some countries.

有些国家终年无雪。

3. 下列第①句着重指状态,第②句指动作,并含有“故意缺席”的意思:

①She was absent *from* meeting.

②She absented herself *from* the meeting.

absolutely, altogether “absolutely”有两种读法:
[ˈæbsəlu:tli]和[æbsəˈlu:tli];“altogether”也有两种读法:
[ˈɔ:ltəgeðə]和[ɔ:ltəˈgeðə],当它们出现在被修饰词的前面时,通常重音落在第一个音节上,例如:

①We 'absolutely refused it.

②This is an 'altogether different problem.

在其他情况下,如单独使用或出现在被修语的后面时,一般重音是在倒数第二个音节上,例如:

③He must agree *ˌabsoˈlutely* and not try to change matters later.

④Those problems are different *ˌaltoˈgether*.

⑤—Do you think so?

—*ˌAbsoˈlutely*.

absolve “absolve somebody of something”等于“absolve somebody from something”,但不及后者常见。

academic, academical “academic”指与学术或学问有关的,例如:“academic education”,“academic records”和“academic distinction”。

“academical”指与大学或学院有关的,例如:“academical institution”和“academical training”。

有人认为,“academic”等于“academical”。

academical 参见“academic”条1。

accent 1. “She speaks English with a strong Chinese accent.”中的“with”有时可用“in”替换。

2. 下列两句的介词“on”不可以省去:

①The accent in the word “important” is *on* the second syllable.

②It “acceptable” accented *on* the first or the second syllable?

accept 1. “accept of”一语中的“of”应该尽量不用。

2. 试比较下列两句:

①The crowd accepted his statement as *truth*.

②The crowd accepted his statement as *true*.

acclaim 下列各句中的“as”常被省去:

①The people acclaimed him (as) the winner.

②They acclaimed her (as) the best writer of the year.

accord

③They acclaimed him (as) king.

accommodation ①“accommodations”指“住处”、“膳宿”

是美国英语,与之相应的英国英语是“accommodation”。

②“accommodations”在美语里还常指火车、汽车、轮船、飞机等处的预订铺位或者座位(a reserved seat),例如:

“Can I secure accommodations on the Chicago train today?”。

accompaniment 1. “to the accompaniment of”(用定冠词

“the”)指“在…伴奏下”,例如:“to the accompaniment of the piano/the accordion/etc.”“在钢琴(手风琴等)伴奏下”。

“an accompaniment to”指“给…伴奏”,例如:“a piano accompaniment to a song”钢琴伴奏曲。

2. 下列两句意思相同:

①She sang *to* a piano accompaniment.

②She sang a song *with* a piano accompaniment.

accompany 1. 下列两句意思相同,第②句是美国英语:

①Mr Green accompanied the singer at the piano.

②Mr Green accompanied the singer on the piano.

2. 下列两句意思相同,但是第①句的介词“by”与第②句的介词“with”不可互相替换:

①The singer was accompanied *by* a flutist.

②The singer was accompanied *with* a flute.

3. 英语通常不说“I shall accompany them to go to the airport.”,应该把动词不定式“to go”删去。

4. 有关“(be)accompanied with”与“(be)accompanied by”的区别,参见“participle”条4。

accomplished 说“精通”、“专长”,英语用“(be)accomplished in”,美语用“(be)accomplished at”。

accord ①“accord”(授予;赠与)有时可以接“双宾”,例

according

如：“We accorded him a hero's welcome.”间接宾语(the indirect object)还可以成为介词“to”(不可以用“for”)的宾语，例如：“We accorded a hero's welcome to him.”。

②“accord”(相一致)后面曾经接介词“to”，但现代英语通常用“with”。

according ①“according to one's views”，“according to one's opinion”不合英语习惯，通常说“according to somebody”。②“according as”(根据；取决于)通常接从句，例如：“You may go or stay according as you decide.”。如果从句是由“wh-”词引导的，要改用“according to”，例如：“He earns between £550 and £620 a month, according to how much overtime he does.”。③说“according to me”不合英语习惯，通常说“in my opinion”，“I think”等。

account 1. 试比较下列两句：

①Please *put* the shoes *on* my account.

请把鞋钱记入我的帐目中。

②Please *charge* the shoes *to* my account.

请把鞋钱记入我的帐目中。

2. 说“把…视作”、“认为”，用“account”，不可用“account as”，例如：“In English law a man is accounted innocent untill he is proved guilty.”和“He was account a hero.”。

accused “the accused”(用定冠词“the”)指“被告”，可以作单数名词，也可以作复数名词，例如：“The accused was asked to give his name.”和“Several of the accused were found guilty.”。

accustom 通常不说“accustom somebody to do something”，可说“accustom somebody to doing something”。

accustomed “accustomed”指“通常的”、“适应了”的”时只