

# A Concise English Grammar

英语语法精要

张德聪 主编

西北工业大学出版社

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A CONCISE ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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**【内 容 简 介】** 本书用英文写成，旨在提高学生的语言技能。全书五章二十二节，概括了所有语法项目。为使语法内容更符合现代英语的发展趋势和使用情况，本书突出了词类、词组与句子固有联系的教学以及句子成分的变换。书中提供了足够的例句和大量练习，（书后附有练习参考答案）重点突出，精练实用。

**英语语法精要**  
A CONCISE ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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# 前　　言

本书是一本高等院校英语语法教材，供专业英语及公共英语分级教学使用，也是中学英语教师用英语组织教学的必备参考书。同时还可作为电大、函大、等学员及其他自学者学习、应试用书。

英语语法是一门专业必修课，是语言学习的重要组成部分。本书适当吸取了国内外语法学家最新研究成果和传统语法的精华，力图使语法内容更符合现代英语的发展趋势和使用情况。为打好基础，提高教学效果，本书突出了词类、词组与句子固有联系的教学及句子成分的变换。同时考虑到语法教学应为提高语言技能服务，为此各章节均用英语叙述，使语法有助于交际能力的培养。

本书注重精讲多练，讲完一个章节，随即进行练习。各种练习中既有机械性练习，又有启发性练习，既有单句练习，又有联系上下文练习，难度高、低均有、适用面较宽。使用本书时可实行“边讲边练”，也可将练习作为课后作业，通过练习将知识转化为技能。

本书材料先作为内部教材，经作者多年讲授，效果良好，由专家鉴定、推荐入选《高等学校交流讲义目录》（高等教育出版社）。在长期教学实践基础上，逐步修改充实，丰富完善，

编成此书。

本书编写过程中，美国教授 Robert Burton 给予了热情指导，并承西安外语学院周如龙教授、陕西师范大学江冰华教授审阅全书，在此表示衷心感谢。

本书是改革语法教学的新尝试，加之作者水平有限，错误疏漏之处肯定存在，敬请同行、读者不吝批评指正。

编著者

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# I. The parts of speech

The English words are classified into ten **Parts of Speech**: nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, articles and numerals.

## § 1 Nouns

### 1. 1 Nouns———Definition and Classification

A Noun is the name of a person, place, or thing; such as,

- 1) China is a great country in the world.
- 2) Health is important.
- 3) Tom makes good use of his time.
- 4) Shanghai is situated at the mouth of the Yangtze River.

Nouns are divided into five kinds:

#### A. Proper Nouns

A proper Noun is the name of a particular person, place, or thing; such as, Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhong, Edison, John, America.

Note: A Proper noun must begin with a capital letter.

#### B. Common Nouns

A Common Noun is the name of anyone of a class of per-

sons, places, or things; as, city, country, hero, store, school.

#### C. Collective Nouns

A Collective Noun is the name of number of persons or things considered as one; as, class, army, group, family, crowd, team, flock (of sheep), head (of cattle)

#### D. Abstract Nouns

An abstract Noun is the name of some quality, state, or action; such as,

Quality: honesty, courage, laziness, diligence, kindness, beauty, wisdom, poverty.

State: life, freedom, illness, happiness, darkness, anger, silence, friendship.

#### E. Material Nouns

A Material Noun is the name of substance of which things are made; such as, wood, glass, wool, stone, chalk, flour, gold, silver, food, beef, sugar, milk, wine, water, ink.

Material Nouns are uncountable nouns.

#### Exercise 1

(1) Point out the nouns in the following sentences and tell to which kind each belongs:

- 1) We struggle for peace.
- 2) Clothes are made from cotton, silk, and wool.
- 3) There is not much milk in the cup.
- 4) The football team of our class will win the game.
- 5) My house is built of stone and brick.
- 6) We saw a fleet of ships on the sea.

- 7) Light and heat are necessary to life.
- 8) The desk is covered with dust.
- 9) Mary has a deep love for her teacher.
- 10) The reporter is an American girl.

(2) Write down 15 nouns, every three indicating a different kind.

#### 1. 2 Nouns — — Number

Number is the change in the form of a noun to show whether it names one person or thing, or more than one. A noun which names one person or thing is said to be in the Singular Number; and a noun which names more than one person or thing is said to be in the Plural Number.

- (1) The plural of nouns is generally formed by adding "s" to the singular; such as, cat, cats; chicken, chickens; tree, trees; Germam, Germans; American, Americans.
- (2) Nouns ending in "s, x, z, sh and ch", form the plural by adding "es"; such as , class, classes; gas, gases; box, boxes; wish, wishes; match, matches.
- (3) Nouns ending in "y" preceded by a consonant form the plural by changing "y" into "i" and adding "es"; such as, army, armies; story, stories; country, countries; body, bodies; city, cities.
- (4) If the final "y" is preceded by a vowel, the plural is formed by adding "s" only; such as, way, ways; day, days.
- (5) Nouns ending in "f" or "fe" form the plural by changing

these endings into "v" and adding "es"; such as, life, lives; leaf, leaves; calf, calves; wife, wives; half, halves. Exceptions: chief, chiefs; gulf, gulfs; safe, safes; belief, beliefs; roof, roofs.

(6) Nouns ending in "o" form the plural, most of them adding "es", 1) and some adding "s", such as 2)

- 1) hero, heroes; potato, potatoes; mosquito, mosquitoes; tomato, tomatoes.
- 2) radio, radios; zero, zeros; piano, pianos; bamboo, bamboos.

(7) Some nouns form their plural by a change of vowel within the word; such as, mouse, mice; woman, women; foot, feet; tooth, teeth; goose, geese.

(8) A few nouns form the plural by adding "en"; such as, child, children; ox, oxen; brother, brothren.

(9) Some nouns have the same form in both singular and plural such as, deer, deer; sheep, sheep; dozen, dozen; Chinese, Chinese; Japanese, Japanese.

(10) Compound nouns form the plural by making the principal word plural; such as, father-in-law, fathers-in-law; editor-in-chief, editors-in-chief; looker-on, lookers-on.

If there is no principal word, adding "s" in the last word; such as, go-between, go-betweens; ne'er-do-well, ne'er-do-wells; grown-up, grown-ups.

Exceptions: man-servant, men-servants; woman-doc-

tor, women—doctors.

- (11) Some foreign nouns adopted into English have retained their original plurals, but some of them also take English plurals; as, analysis, analyses; basis, bases; bandit, banditti (or bandits); bureau, bureaux (or bureaus); formula, formulae (or formulas).
- (12) Letters and figures take "s" in the plural; as, Your 3's look like 5's.
- I use ten t's in this sentence.
- He said four OK's.
- She gives more X's than /'s.
- I found twenty go's in the text.
- (13) A proper name with the title "Mr, Mrs, or Miss" is pluralized in this way; as, Mr Brown, Messrs Brown (or the Messrs Brown); Mrs Brown, the Mrs Browns (Mrs cannot be put into plural); Miss Brown, the Misses Brown (or the Miss Browns).
- (14) Some nouns are plural in form but singular in meaning; as, mathematics, economics, physics, politics, news, phonetics, optics.
- (15) Some nouns are never in the plural; as, furniture, knowledge, luggage, baggage, poetry, stationery, clothing, scenery, information, progress, courage, poverty, milk.
- (16) Some nouns are never used in the singular; as, goods, surroundings, savings, contents, fireworks, living —