

美《900》句 和 英《901》句 对比

北京语言学院

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编 者 的 话

英语《900句》一书是为外国人学习英语而编写的一套教程，一九六四年由美国科利尔—麦克米伦出版社第一次出版发行。

英语《901句》一书是英国 Essex 大学语言中心主任 Peter Strevens 等人在《900句》的基础上，结合英国情况，用英国英语重新改写过的一套教程，一九六八年由伦敦麦克米伦有限出版公司第一次出版发行。

英国英语与美国英语是一种语言的两种变体，但由于两国地理、历史、文化、风俗、习惯等因素的影响，美国使用的英语在某种程度上不同于英国使用的英语。这种不同主要表现在语音、词汇和语言结构等方面。《900句》和《901句》的编写体系与内容基本相同，但《901句》的编者在下列几方面作了修改：1) 部分改写了《900句》的基本句；2) 根据新的基本句改写了练习；3) 改写了阅读材料；4) 重新由英国人录制了课文录音带。最值得我们注意的是，《901句》把不合于英国英语的一些美语习惯表达法作了改写，使这套教程成为一套道地的英国英语教程。

我们把《900句》和《901句》作了一次对比，将两套教程中所有的不同表达方法和意义上有差别的句子记录下来，进行了整理和比较。对这些语言现象，我们目前还没有能力作

出全面的科学性较强的解释。但我们觉得这些实际语言材料，无论对于从事英语教学的教师，对英语专业的学生，或对于业余初学者，都有实际参考价值。因此，我们把搜集到的这份材料刊印出来，供大家学习和研究（相同的句子一般只取一句）。需要说明的是，本书不是一本全面介绍英国英语与美国英语区别的书，它仅是《900句》和《901句》两套教程中英语语言现象差别的对比。另外，对这些语言现象差别的归类和说明也可能不够精确。由于水平所限，定有不少错误之处，希望批评指正。此材料由钟式嵘、付维慈、陆增璞三同志负责整理编写。

北京语言学院外语系英语教研室

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1 表达方式 (EXPRESSIONS)

1. 意义相同或基本相同，而表达方式不同，是英国英语和美国英语的重要区别之一。在〈900句〉与〈901句〉中，这种例子很多。如“顺路到银行去一下。”英国人说“call at the bank”，美国人说“drop by the bank”。“打长途电话”。英国人说“make a trunk call”，美国人说“make a long distance call”。“今天天气怎么样？”英国人说“What's the weather like today?”美国人说“How is the weather today?”“我喜欢绘画，但不愿以此做为谋生手段(终身职业)。”英国人说“I like painting, but I wouldn't want to do it for a living.”美国人说“I like painting, but I wouldn't want it to be my life's work.”(见例句1—59)

2. 在某些表达方式中，〈901句〉中喜欢只用动词，〈900句〉中则喜欢用动词加名词的短语。如“旅行”。英国人用“travel”，美国人用“take a trip”。饭馆侍者请顾客订饭菜时，英国人说“Would you like to order now, sir?”美国人说“May I take your order now?”(见例句60—63)

3. 在表示国籍时，〈901句〉中喜欢用形容词，〈900句〉中喜欢用名词。如“我父亲是朝鲜人。”英国人说“My father was Korean.”美国人说“My father was from Korea.”(见例句64)

4. 在表示否定的看法时，〈901句〉中否定主句，〈900句〉中有时否定从句，有时用doubt来否定全句。如“我认为去年不太冷。”英国人说“I don't think it was really

cold last year.” 美国人说“I guess it wasn't really too cold last year.” “我想我明天什么事也不干。”英国人说“I don't think I'll do anything tomorrow.” 美国人说“I doubt I'll do anything tomorrow.” (见例句65—66)

5. 英国英语的表达方式比较含蓄, 留有余地, 并不把要说的意思完全表达出来(英语叫reticent, understatement), 而美国英语则比较直接了当。这在〈900句〉和〈901句〉中也有一些例子。如“我喜欢要座新房子。”英国人说“I'd rather have a new one (house).” 美国人说“I'd like a new one (house).” “我昨天病了。”英国人说“I wasn't very well yesterday.” 美国人说“I was sick yesterday.” (见例句67—71)

6. 有些表达方式, 虽然源出美国, 但已为英国人所接受。如“What do you have?”原是美国英语。英国英语中相应的表达方式是“What have you got?”。但现在英国人也已接受并使用“What do you have?”这种说法了。(见例句72—73)

《注》每类中除说明里标明的例句外, 我们还把一些目前不能作出说明和意义上有差别的句子一并放在各类的后面供大家参考。

1. Then I needed to drop by the bank and get some traveler's checks. (900)

Then I had to call at the bank and get some traveler's cheques. (901)

2. —What do you want?

—I want a cup of coffee. (900)

- What would you like?
- I'd like a cup of coffee. (901)
3. --Please give me a piece of pie.
 --Which one would you like—this one or that one? (900)
 --Please give me a piece of cake.
 --Which one do you want —this one or that one?(901)
4. What (Who) are you thinking about? *Can you tell me?* (900)
 What (who) are you thinking about? *Will you tell me?* (901)
5. How is her accent in French? (900)
 How good is her accent in French? (901)
6. --What time do you *finish eating lunch* each day?
 --I usually *finish eating lunch* at about 2:00 p.m. (900)
 --What time do you *finish lunch* each day?
 --I usually *finish having lunch* at about two o'clock. (901)
7. That's a long *trip* just for the weekend. (900)
 That's a long way to go just for the weekend.(901)
8. I *can't recall* how long it's been. (900)
 I *haven't the least idea* how long it's been. (901)
9. What's the matter, Anne? *Do you have a problem?*(900)
 What's the matter, Anne? *Are you worried about something?* (901)
10. I'm sorry, but that's *gone*, too. (900)

- I'm sorry, but that's off, too. (901)
11. —It's a contagious disease, isn't it?
—*I don't believe so.* (900)
—It's a contagious disease, isn't it?
—*I don't think so.* (901)
12. One moment, please, I'll get *that number for you.* (900)
One moment, please, *I'm trying to connect you.* (901)
13. *What size suitcase do you own?* (900)
How big are your suitcases? (901)
14. *The weather is nice today.* (900)
It's a nice day today. (901)
15. I'm going to *list* my name at the employment agency for a job. (900)
I'm going to *put* my name down at the employment agency for a job. (901)
16. As you travel *westward*, does the land get higher?(900)
As you travel *westwards*, does the land get more mountainous? (901)
17. The restaurant *was filled*, so we decided to go elsewhere. (900)
The restaurant *was full up*, so we decided to go elsewhere. (901)
18. *How is the weather today?* (900)
what's the weather like today? (901)
19. My brother *took on the trumpet* for nearly ten

years. (900)

My brother took *trumpet lessons* for nearly ten years. (901)

20. Have you noticed that men and women have very different opinions about *clothing*? (900)

Have you noticed that men and women have very different opinions about *clothes*? (901)

21. what do you want to *be* when you grow up? (900)

What do you want to *do* when you grow up? (901)

22. What kind of *climate* do you have? Is it mild? (900)
what's the *climate like*? Is it mild? (901)

23. I like painting, but I wouldn't want it to *be my life's work*. (900)

I like painting, but I wouldn't want to *do it for a living*. (901)

24. What's the matter *with your suit*? (900)

What's the matter *with your own suit*? (901)

25. It *looks like* it's going to rain toady. (900)

It *looks as if* it's going to rain today. (901)

26. You're *very kind* to take the trouble to help me. (900)

It's *very kind of you* to take the trouble to help me. (901)

27. He told us it was a bargain. *Some bargain!* (900)

He told us it was a bargain. *What a bargain!* (901)

28. The geographical location of a country and its physical characteristics are *very important* to its

development and progress. (900)

The geographical situation of a country and its physical characteristics are very *important* in its development and progress. (901)

29. You play the piano beautifully, *how much* do you practice every day? (900)

You play the piano beautifully, *how long* do you practise every day? (901)

30. All the houses here are very modern. *None of them are over five years old.* (900)

All the houses here are very modern. *There isn't one of them five years old.* (901)

31. *When I came into his office*, he told me that I was hired. (900)

When I went into his office, he told me that I was engaged. (901)

32. I want to make a *long distance call*. (900)

I want to make a *trunk call*. (901)

33. Don't forget to open your bedroom window before you go to *sleep*. (900)

Don't forget to open your bedroom window before you *get into bed*. (901)

34. Have you *thought ever about* becoming a professional musician? (900)

Have you ever *thought of* becoming a professional musician? (901)

35. When did Nicholas *begin to feel ill*? (900)

When did Nicholas *first feel ill*? (901)

36. I had no idea how much there was to do and I waited too long before I began *getting ready*. (900)

I had no idea how much there was to do and I waited too long before I began *getting things ready*. (901)

37. I suggest that you tear up the letter and *start over again*. (900)

I suggest you tear up the letter and *start again*. (901)

38. I didn't like the taste of the medicine, but I took it *anyway*. (900)

I didn't like the taste of the medicine, but I took it *all the same*. (901)

39. I'm agreeing with you *now*, but I may change my mind later. (900)

I'm agreeing with you *for the moment*, but I may change my mind later. (901)

40. I tried to call Mr. Cooper, *but the line was busy*. (900)

I tried to call Mr. Cooper, *but the number was engaged*. (901)

41. I had been looking for a new job *for quite a while*. (900)

I had been looking for a new job *for quite a long time*. (901)

42. Both your mother and I are fine, and your younger brothers are *in good health*, too. (900)

- Both your father and I are fine, and your younger brothers are *very well*, too. (901)
43. How do you do, Helen? *It's a pleasure to meet you.* (900)
- How do you do, Helen? *Glad to meet you.* (901)
44. --Hello, John. How are you?
- Just fine*, thank you. (900)
- Hello, John. How are you?
- All right*, thank you. (901)
45. --See you tomorrow.
- Fine.* (900)
- See you tomorrow.
- Good-bye.* (901)
46. *Would you mind helping me for a minute, Tom?* (900)
- Would you help me for a minute, Tom?* (901)
47. *"Thanks a lot,"* he said. (900)
- "Thank you very much,"* he said. (901)
48. Look! There he is now. *Let's go.* (900)
- Look! There he is now. *Come on.* (901)
49. *We're having a picnic tomorrow. Why don't you come with us?* (900)
- We're going for a picnic tomorrow. Why don't you come with me?* (901)
50. *We used to have a lot of fun when we were that age.* (900)
- We used to have lots of fun when we were that*

age. (901)

51. It's moving so fast, Do you think it's going to crash? (900)

It's moving very fast. Do you think it's going to crash? (901)

52. *Very pleased* to meet you. (900)

Pleased to meet you. (901)

53. Please excuse me for a little while. I want to do something. (900)

Please excuse me for a while. I've got to go out now. (901)

54. --I didn't have *breakfast* yesterday morning. Did you?

--No. I didn't have *breakfast* yesterday, either. (900)

--I didn't have *any breakfast* yesterday morning. Did you?

--No. I didn't have *any breakfast* yesterday morning, either. (901)

55. We met one of the engineers over at the *television station*. (900)

We met one of the engineers at the *transmitting station*. (901)

56. *What day is today?* (900)

What day is it today? (901)

57. --Now it's time to go.

--*Fine, Let's go.* (900)

--Now it's time to go.

- Yes, *it is*. (901)
58. --Good afternoon, Betty. How are you?
--Fine, thanks, Helen. And how are you?
--*I'm just fine*, thanks. (900)
--Good afternoon, Betty. How are you?
--*I'm fine*, thanks. (901)
59. --Hello. How are you?
--*Fine*. (900)
--Hello. How are you?
--*Fine, thank you*. (901)
60. The roof *has leaks* in it, and the front steps need to be fixed. (900)
The roof *leaks* and the stairs need mending. (901)
61. The letter *was an offer of a job*. (900)
The letter *was to offer him a job*. (901)
62. *May I take your order now?* (900)
Would you like to order now, sir? (901)
63. If I have enough money, I'm going to take a trip abroad. (900)
If I have enough money, I'm going to travel all over Canada. (901)
64. I was born in Spain, but my father *was from Korea*. (900)
I was born in Spain, but my father *was Korean*. (901)
65. After giving it some more thought, I guess it *wasn't really too cold last year,.....*(900)

Come to think of it, *I don't think* it was really too cold last year,.....(901)

66. *I doubt* that I'll do anything tomorrow. (900)

I don't think I'll do anything tomorrow. (901)

67. Good. Is the house very old? *I'd like* a new one. (900)

Right. Is the house very old? *I'd rather have* a new one. (901)

68. *I was sick yesterday*, but I'm better today. (900)

I wasn't very well yesterday, but I'm better today. (901)

69. There are *common ways* of starting a conversation. (900)

There are *some of the usual ways* of starting a conversation. (901)

70. If I had had to pay for the car, I would have had to *borrow money*. (900)

If I had had to pay for the car, I would have had to *borrow some money*: (901)

71. Is the coastal plain *good* for farming? (900)

Is the coastal plain *any good* for farming? (901)

72. What kinds of vegetables do you *have*? (900)

What sort of vegetables do you *have*? (901)

73. I tried to *call* Mr. Cooper. but the line was busy. (900)

I tried to *call* Mr. Cooper, but the number was

engaged. (901)

74. I'm not accustomed to *going out after dark*. (900)

I'm not accustomed to *staying out so late*. (901)

75. There's nothing to do because tomorrow is a holiday. (900)

There's nothing we can do because tomorrow is a bank holiday. (901)

76. Put this medicine on your arms every four hours and by tomorrow *it will be all gone*. (900)

Put this ointment on your arms every four hours and by tomorrow *they'll be quite better*. (901)

77. So do I. And I would wear it *all summer*, too. (900)

So do I. And I would wear it *in the summer*, too. (901)

78. *First*, I had to apply for a passport *and visa* because I was going to visit a foreign country. (900)

First of all I had to apply for a passport, *and also* a visa because I was going to visit a foreign country. (901)

79. She lends me money *once in a while*. (900)

She lends me money *now and again*. (901)

80. Does he get up later than 7 o'clock *once in a while*? (900)

Does he *sometimes* get up later than seven o'clock? (901)

81. Today, all individuals *in a country* must have adequate schooling to prepare them for their work as well as for their responsibilities as citizens. (900)

Today, individuals in any country must have adequate schooling to prepare them for their work as well as their responsibilities as citizens. (901)

2 词 汇 (WORDS)

英国英语和美国英语在用词方面差异很大。如果不予注意,有时会产生误解(拼写和读音等差别,此处不予讨论)。

1. 同样的事物或动作,用词不同。如“飞机失事”,英国人说“air crash”,美国人说“airplane crash”。“吃饭”,英国人说“have dinner”,美国人说“eat dinner”。“可能”,英国人说“perhaps”,美国人说“maybe”。“电影”,英国人说“film”或“picture”,美国人说“movie”或“feature”。

2. 同一个词,但意义不同。如“paraffin”,在英国是煤油,在美国则是蜡。美国英语中,煤油是kerosene。若向别人借点钱,美国人说“Could you loan me five dollars?”,英国人说“Could you lend me five pounds?” loan在英国英语中是“贷款”的意思。如果在英国说“loan me five pounds”,则是向人贷款五镑,便会使人莫名其妙。“cupboard”一词,在英国是壁橱,在美国则是碗橱,食橱,而壁橱是closet,如果用得不对,便会闹出笑话。

兹将部分例子列举如下。

1. Airplane crash—Air crash

His friend was injured in an airplane crash. (900)

His friend was injured in an air crash. (901)

2. Outside antenna—Outside aerial