

简明英语惯用法

A
BOOK
OF
ENGLISH
USAGE

上海译文出版社

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前 言

要学好英语，必须掌握英语惯用法。无论听、说、读、写、译和应付“托福”等各种英语考试，都非熟练地掌握英语惯用法不可。

我们编写本书时采用例解方式，简单明了，符合已故英语界前辈桂绍盱先生要求惯用法参考书应该做到一索即得的设想。我们在正误例解之外，还有大量说明英美用法的不同，各种表现方式的精微区别和普通与不普通之差异等等的例解，必要时加以简要说明。总的要求，供读者一索即得，一目了然。

我们编写本书时，还有一个指导思想：就是本书不是仅供查阅，而是要成为一本学习英语的读物，供读者经常阅读，甚至逐条精读，以纠正一味“不求甚解”、始终似懂非懂、一知半解的不良学习方法，从而帮助英语学习者养成“必求甚解”的良好习惯，掌握学好英语的真正有效的学习方法。

最后应该说明，这本《简明英语惯用法》基本上是葛传槩教授独力编写的，正康、承明和我只是提供了一些资料（正康另外帮助整理缮正全稿，出力较多）。

我们知道，语言是不断发展的，本书篇幅虽小，也收入了不少新的资料，反映了不少新发展的语言现象。但是我们所认为的是正是误，恐怕有时未必绝对，甚至或有谬误不当之处，务请专家和读者批评指教。

俞亢咏

1991. 10. 24

A

a, an

1. 正: *an honest man*

(用 *an* 而不用 *a*, 因为 *honest* 虽在拼写上以辅音字母 *h* 开首, 但在发音上以元音开首.)

a UN organization

(用 *a* 是因为缩写词 *UN* 虽在拼写上以元音字母 *U* 开首, 但在发音上以辅音开首.)

2. 正: *We have a clerk and a typist.* (两个人, 文书和打字员)

We have a clerk and typist. (一个人, 文书兼打字员)

ability

正: *I admire his ability of doing the work quickly.*

I admire his ability to do the work quickly.

(*ability of doing* 不如 *ability to do* 普通, 但可以使用, 尽管有许多人认为这种用法不恰当或不正确.)

able

1. 较不普通: *The machine is able to be repaired.*

I am afraid she is not able to be taught to sing so well as her sister.

较普通: *The machine is capable of being repaired.*

The machine can be repaired.

I am afraid she is incapable of being taught to sing so well as her sister.

I am afraid she *cannot be taught* to sing so well as her sister.

2. 正: When he was young, he *was able to swim* across this river.

When he was young, he *could swim* across this river.

比较: Though she was very ill, she *was able to talk* clearly.

(关于她的能力和在某特殊场合的动作)

3. 不合习惯: We ran as fast as we could, and so we *could reach* the town before nightfall. (could reach 是“能够到达”, 没有明确的“到达了”的意思。)

正: We ran as fast as we could, and so we *were able to reach* the town before nightfall.

We ran as fast as we could, and so we *managed to reach* the town before nightfall.

We ran as fast as we could, and so we *succeeded in reaching* the town before nightfall.

We ran as fast as we could, and so we *reached* the town before nightfall.

(四句的意思都是“我们尽可能快地奔跑, 所以在黄昏前到达了城市。” were able to reach, managed to reach 和 succeeded in reaching 都含有“经过一定的努力而到达”的意思。过去式 reached 本身不含有“经过努力”的意思。)

4. 不合习惯: The copious notes will *make* the young readers *able to read* the story.

合乎习惯: The copious notes will *enable* the young readers to read the story.

The copious notes will *help* the young readers to read the story.

absence

1. 正: Nothing happened during his *absence in* the village. 在他暂时不在别处而在乡村期间, 没有发生什么。

Nothing happened during his *absence from* the village.

在他暂时离开乡村期间, 没有发生什么。

2. 正: I was surprised to discover the absence of this common word *in* the dictionary.

I was surprised to discover the absence of this common word *from* the dictionary.

(两句意思相同, 都是“我发现那本词典未收这个常用词而感到意外。”)

absent

正: He was absent *in* the village. 他曾暂时不在别处而在乡村。

He was absent *from* the village. 他曾离开乡村而在别处。

This common word is absent *in* the dictionary. 那本词典中没有这个常用词。(from 偶尔用来代替 in, 句意不变。)

abstain

1. 误: You must abstain *to tell* them about it.

正: You must abstain *from telling* them about it.

2. 误: The doctor advised him to abstain smoking.

正: The doctor advised him to abstain *from* smoking.

accept

1. 误: He did not *accept* our request.

正: He did not *grant* our request.

He did not *comply with* our request.

He did not *accede to* our request.

He did not *assent to* our request.

He did not *agree to* our request.

2. 正: You must *accept that* there has been a slight misunderstanding between us. (accept that... “承认...是事实”)

accident

1. 误: An accident met her last week.

She met an accident last week.

正: She met *with* an accident last week.

She *had* an accident last week.

2. 误: Have you heard of the accident *of* the girl?

正: Have you heard of the accident *to* the girl?

accompany

1. 误: I shall accompany *with* him.

正: I shall accompany him.

2. 误: I shall accompany him *to go* to town.

正: I shall accompany him to town.

account

误: They account him *as* innocent because there is not enough evidence of his guilt.

正: They account him *to be* innocent because there is not enough evidence of his guilt.

accuse

误: He accused *that* she had broken her promise.

He accused *her that* she had broken her promise.

He accused her *having broken* (或 *breaking*) her promise.

正: He accused her *of having broken* (或 *breaking*) her promise.

acquaint

误: I *have acquainted* with him.

正: I *am acquainted* with him.

比较: I became acquainted with him five years ago.

I made his acquaintance five years ago.

I got to know him five years ago. (最通俗)

acquaintance

1. 误: I have made a few acquaintances *with* them.

正: I have made a few acquaintances *among* them.

I have made *the* acquaintance *of* a few of them.

I have made acquaintance *with* a few of them. (较不普通)

2. 误: I have made his acquaintance for years.
 正: I made his acquaintance years ago.
 It is years since I made his acquaintance.
 比较: I have been acquainted with him for years.
 I have known him for years.

acquire

- 误: He has acquired the property for two years.
 正: He acquired the property two years ago.
 It is two years since he acquired the property.

active

- 不合习惯: Is he *active in* sports?
 They are *active in* football.
 合乎习惯: Does he *go in for* sports?
 Is he *fond of* sports?
 They *go in for* football.
 They are *fond of* football.

adapt

- 正: I hope to be able to adapt *myself* to your life-style before long.
 I hope to be able to adapt to your life-style before long. (较新用法)

add

1. 误: That will add my pleasure.
 正: That will add *to* my pleasure.
 2. 正: The teacher added: "You might work still better."
 Added the teacher: "You might work still better." 教师附加一句说: "你(们)还可以学习得更好些。"

addition

- 误: In addition to *lend* me his new typewriter, he taught me how to use it.
 正: In addition to *lending* me his new typewriter, he taught me how to use it.

address

1. 正: Huang's address is 1580 Hangzhou Road.
The Huang address is 1580 Hangzhou Road.
2. 误: Let's address ourselves to *deal* with the problem.
正: Let's address ourselves to (*dealing with*) the problem.
Let's address the problem. (新的美国用法)
3. 正: I am addressing a letter *to* Beijing.
I am addressing a letter *to* a friend in Beijing.

adequate(ly)

- 误: The money is not adequate *enough* for our purpose.
He does not express himself adequately *enough* in English.
- 正: The money is not adequate for our purpose.
He does not express himself adequately in English.

adjust

- 正: We adjusted *ourselves* to their way of life quickly.
We adjusted to their way of life quickly. (较新用法)

admire

- 误: I admire *that* he is learned.
- 正: I admire *his being* learned. (较不普通)
I admire his learning.
I admire him for his learning.

admit

1. 误: I admit *to know* him.
正: I admit *knowing* him.
I admit *to knowing* him.
I admit *that* I know him.
2. 正: He admitted (*to*) *opening* my letter.
He admitted (*to*) *having opened* my letter.
He admitted *that* he *had opened* my letter.

advice

1. 误: He gave me *an* advice on the study of English.
正: He gave me *some* advice on the study of English.
He gave me *a piece of* advice on the study of English.

2. 误: He gave me *many* advices on the study of English.
 正: He gave me *much* advice on the study of English.
 He gave me *many pieces of* advice on the study of English.
3. 误: He *gave* me *advice* to take more exercise.
 正: He *advised* me to take more exercise.
4. 比较: I am writing my friend's life *on* the advice of his family. 我正按照我朋友的家属的意见在写他的传记。
 I am writing my friend's life *under* the advice of his family. 我正在我朋友的家属的指点(或指导)下写他的传记。

advise

- 误: I shall advise *him* that he *reads* more carefully.
 正: I shall advise that he (*should*) read more carefully.
 (*should* 主要用于英国英语)
 I shall advise that he *reads* more carefully. (很少用)
 I shall advise him *to read* more carefully.

advocate

1. 误: We advocate *for* reform.
 正: We advocate reform.
2. 正: The article advocates *that* every member of a community should do something for it.
 (*advocate* 把以 *that* 引导的名词从句作为宾语, 几十年前被不少学者认为是错误的, 但近年来实际上已通行。)

affair

1. 正: We wonder how affairs stood last Sunday.
 Everything is being done to improve affairs.
2. 正: She does not seem to know much of the *state* of affairs.
 She does not seem to know much of the *condition* of affairs. (较不普通)

affirmative(ly)

不合习惯: He replied *affirmatively*.

合乎习惯: He replied *in the affirmative*.

较好: He agreed.

He assented.

He consented.

He accepted.

afford

1. 比较: He cannot afford (*to buy*) a new bicycle. 他买不起一辆新自行车。

He cannot afford *not* to have a new bicycle. 他难以做到不备一辆新自行车。

2. 比较: I honestly cannot afford *to buy* such luxuries.

I honestly cannot afford *buying* such luxuries. (较不普通)

afraid

正: I am afraid *to go out* in this cold weather.

I am afraid *of going out* in this cold weather.

I am afraid *of catching cold*. (伤风是无意志行为)

after

1. 误: He will arrive *after* a month.

He will arrive a month *after*.

正: He will arrive *in* a month.

He will arrive a month *hence*. (正式用法)

He will arrive a month *from now*.

比较: He arrived *after* a month.

He arrived a month *after*.

He will arrive *after Christmas*. (圣诞节不是一段时
间)

2. 误: She went abroad *after* two years of her graduation.

正: She went abroad two years *after* her graduation.

3. 误: *After* his return from Xinjiang he has lived here.

After he returned from Xinjiang he has lived here.

正: *Since* his return from Xinjiang he has lived here.

Since he returned from Xinjiang he has lived here.

4. 误: Don't stand *after* the door.

正: Don't stand *behind* the door.

(*after* 用于 *stand* 的顺序, *behind* 用于 *stand* 的位置。)

5. 误: He did not work hard; *after all*, he failed.

正: He did not work hard; *as a result*, he failed.

比较: He worked hard; *after all*, he failed.

afternoon

1. 误: We have three lessons afternoon.

正: We have three lessons *in the* afternoon.

We have three lessons afternoons. (主要是美国用法)

比较: He came *shortly after* noon. (这里 *after noon* 是两个词, 不是一个词)

2. 误: I met him *on* yesterday afternoon.

I shall meet him *on* this afternoon.

I shall meet him *on* tomorrow afternoon.

正: I met him yesterday afternoon.

I shall meet him this afternoon.

I shall meet him tomorrow afternoon.

3. 误: I met him one *day* afternoon.

I meet him every *day* afternoon.

正: I met him one afternoon.

I meet him every afternoon.

4. 不合习惯: I met him *one day in the* afternoon.

I met him *in the* afternoon *one day*.

I meet him *every day in the* afternoon.

I meet him *in the* afternoon *every day*.

合乎习惯: I met him *one* afternoon.

I meet him *every* afternoon.

5. 正: Would early afternoon be a convenient time to call on you?

Would *the* early afternoon be a convenient time to call

on you? (这句似乎不如前句普通)

afterwards

正: He did it three years afterwards. (三年后)

He did it *for* three years afterwards. (在以后三年期间)

age

1. 误: I am twenty of age.

正: I am twenty *years* of age.

2. 误: I am twenty years of *my* age.

正: I am twenty years of age.

3. 误: My age is twenty years *old*.

正: My age is twenty.

My age is twenty years.

4. 误: She came to China at *an* age of fifteen.

She came to China at *her* age of fifteen.

正: She came to China at *the* age of fifteen.

5. 误: She came to China *in* the age of fifteen.

She came to China *during* the age of fifteen.

正: She came to China *at* the age of fifteen.

6. 误: He died in his *advanced* age.

正: He died in his *old* age.

比较: He died at the *advanced* age of ninety-eight.

7. 误: He studied hard in his *young* age.

正: He studied hard in his youth.

8. 误: He lost his father at *a* young age.

正: He lost his father at *an* early age.

9. 误: *My* age is young.

His age is old.

正: *I* am young.

He is old.

10. 正: I know several young men *of* your age.

I know several young men *your* age.

(a boy *of* school age, a girl *of* marriageable age 等语)

中的 of 不可省略。)

ago

1. 误: He *has seen* her a week ago.

正: He *saw* her a week ago.

比较: He may *have seen* her a week ago.

He speaks of *having seen* her a week ago.

2. 较不普通: He told me he had seen her a few minutes ago.

(这句虽然较不普通,但是似乎往往比下面三句生动。)

较普通: He told me he had seen her a few minutes *before*.

He told me he had seen her a few minutes *previously*.

He told me he had seen her a few minutes *earlier*.

3. 误: He saw her *for* a week ago.

He saw her *at* a week ago.

正: He saw her a week ago.

4. 误: I was born *as* (或 *so*) long ago as in 1906.

I was born *as* (或 *so*) long ago as on 5 September 1906.

正: I was born *as* (或 *so*) long ago as 1906.

I was born *as* (或 *so*) long ago as 5 September 1906.

aid

正: They aided us *to chop* wood for the fire.

They aided us in chopping wood for the fire.

(口语中几乎不用 aid 而用 help)

aim

1. 误: Their aim *of* visiting the factory is to find out about a new technique.

正: Their aim *in* visiting the factory is to find out about a new technique.

2. 正: We aim *to get* the work done by Saturday evening.

We aim *at getting* the work done by Saturday evening.

(aim 后面接不定式原来是美国用法,但现在英国也广

泛使用。)

air

1. 误: Do you see the bird flying in air?
正: Do you see the bird flying in *the* air?
2. 误: We can now travel *by the* air.
We can now travel *through* air.
正: We can now travel *by* air.

alike

- 正: These two girls are *very* alike.
These two girls are *much* alike.
These two girls are *very much* alike. (较普通)

alive

1. 不合习惯: He is *very* alive with hope.
合乎习惯: He is *much* alive with hope.
较普通: He is *very much* alive with hope.
2. 比较: We don't know who is the greatest English novelist *alive*.
We don't know who is the greatest *living* English novelist.

all

1. 正: *All* of them are *not* here. 他们并不都在这里。
(*all...not...*表示部分否定, 但偶尔也可表示全部否定。
例如: *All* the efforts hitherto made have *not* given any results 是“迄今所作种种努力都没有效果”。)
Not all of them are here. 他们并不都在这里。(这句比上一句普通)
比较: *None* of them are here. 他们一个也不在这里。
2. 正: I do *not* like *all* (of) the books. 我对这些书并不都喜欢。
(*all of the books* 是美国用法)
比较: I do *not* like *any* of the books. 我对这些书哪本也不喜欢。
I do *not* like *any one* of the books. 我对这些书一本也不喜欢。