

英語 結構・題解 現代英語

HANDBOOK
CONTEMPORARY ENGLISH
現代英語手冊

⑥

英語結構疑解

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英語結構疑解

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手 冊 例 言

學習外語，往往會產生很多疑難之處，特別是學習者運用母語的習慣，對接受另外一種語言產生隔膜和抗拒作用。英語，儘管是世界上較為流行的語言之一，但對於非英語地區的讀者來說，仍然是一種陌生的外語。

現代英語教育，經歷了多次比較大的改革，各國教育學者，語言專家不斷探索、研究英語的教學特點，提供了多方面的論述。我們希望從這些內容繁多，角度殊異的著述中，整理出一套能夠幫助具漢語運用習慣的讀者，在開始接觸英語教育時比較系統介紹基本知識的參考讀物。

這就是我們嘗試編輯《現代英語手冊》的緣由。同時，限於我們經驗的不足，手冊尚有未盡完善處，有待於讀者的批評，以便再版時修訂。

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6.1 主語與動詞不一致的疑難

① 誤: *I is a boy.*

正: *I am a boy.* (我是一個男孩子)

動詞“是”(verb to be)在直說法現在式裏，因人稱(person)和數(number)的不同，有三種不同的變化：*am*, *are* 和 *is*。動詞的身和數須和主語的身和數一致，所以上面的句子要把 *is* 改成 *am*。現在把它們間的關係列表於下：

單數 *I am you are he (or she) is*

複數 *We are you are they are*

[類例] *I am a student.* (我是一個學生)

You are a clever boy. (你是一個聰明的男孩子)。

She is my younger sister. (她是我的妹妹)。

We are good friends. (我們是好朋友)。

You all are here. (你們全體都在此地)。

They are brave soldiers. (他們是勇敢的兵士)。

② 誤: *I were a pupil three years ago.*

正: *I was a pupil three years ago.* (三年前我是一個小學生)

動詞“是”在直說法過去式裏因人稱和數的不同，有

兩種變化: was, were. 動詞的身和數須和主語的身和數一致, 所以把 were 改成 was. 現在把它們的關係列表於下:

單數 *I was you were he was*

複數 *We were you were they were*

〔類例〕 *I was* still young at that time. (我那時還年輕)

You were only a little child a few years ago.

(幾年前你不過是一個小孩子)。

He was absent yesterday. (他昨天缺席)。

When we heard the news, we were very happy.

(當我們聽到這個消息, 我們是十分快樂)。

You were monitors last term. (上學期你們是級長)。

They were in the first year class last year.
(去年他們在一年級)。

⑧ 誤: *He have* a book.

正: *He has* a book. (他有一本書)

動詞“有”(verb to have) 在直說法現在式裏因人稱和數的不同, 有兩種變化: have, has. 因為動詞的人稱和數須和主語的人稱和數一致, 所以把 have 改成 has. 現在把它們的關係列表於下:

單數 *I have you have he has*

複數 *We have you have they have*

〔類例〕 *I have* a pencil. (我有一支鉛筆。)

You have a pen. (你有一支鋼筆。)

He *has* a piece of paper. (他有一張紙。)

We *have* a look at the picture. (我們看這張畫。)

You *have* a holiday to-day. (你們今天放假。)

They *have* a picnic. (他們舉行野餐。)

Each student *has* a school badge. (每一個學生有一枚校徽。)

The Chinese people *have* a bright future before them. (中國人民有一個光明的前途。)

④ 誤: Our teacher *ask* us a question.

正: Our teacher *asks* us a question. (我們的先生問我們一個問題)

在直說法句子裏主語是單數，動詞是現在式時，須加 *s* 於動詞的字尾，所以在這句子裏須用 *asks*。

〔類例〕 She *comes* to school every day. (她每天到學校去。)

He *talks* fast, but he *writes* slowly. (他說得快，但是他寫得慢。)

It *rains* at intervals. (雨時落時停。)

The sun *rises* in the east and *sets* in the west. (太陽出自東方，落於西方。)

There *lies* a lazy cat. (那裏躺着一隻懶貓。)

✓⑤ 誤: The cause of many failures *are* poor preparation.

正: The cause of many failures *is* poor preparation. (許多失敗的原因是沒有好好的準備。)

主語的修飾語中的名詞的數，和主語的數不發生關係。在上面的句子裏主語 *cause* 是單數，所以應該用 *is*。

〔類例〕 *The tables in the classroom are large.* (教室裏的桌子是大的。)

Little drops of water make the mighty ocean.
(小滴的水可成大洋。)

The most valuable of her possessions is this ring. (她的所有物中最寶貴的是這個戒指。)

The telling of lies is sometimes necessary. (說謊有時是不得已的。)

⑥ 誤: *There is seven eggs in the nest.*

正: *There are seven eggs in the nest.* (巢裏有七個蛋。)

此地的“*there*”是引語，並不是主語，動詞的數要和倒置的主語一致。在這一句裏面 *eggs* 是主語所以應該用 *are*。

〔類例〕 *There is a book on the desk.* (書桌上有一本書)

There was once a good king. (從前有一個好國王)

There goes the thief. (有賊!)

Here come the children. (小孩子來了)

Here are our books. (此處是我們的書)

⑦ 誤: *You and he has the same birthday.*

正: *You and he have the same birthday.* (你和他

有同樣的生日)

兩個主語由 **and** 連合起來，通常須用一個複數的動詞，所以把 **has** 改成 **have**。

〔類例〕 A magazine and a newspaper *were* lying on the table. (桌上放着一本雜誌和一份報紙)

You and I *have been* friends for a long time. (你和我已友好多時)

There *are* a book and a pen on the desk. (書桌上有一本書和一枝鋼筆)

⑧ 誤: Bread and butter *are* my usual breakfast.

正: Bread and butter *is* my usual breakfast. (塗奶油的麵包是我每日的早餐)

假使兩個主語表示一個觀念時，須用一個單數的動詞。在這句裏 **bread and butter** 指塗奶油的麵包，所以要用 **is**。

〔類例〕 Truth and honesty *is* the best policy. (真誠和正直是最好的方策)

Coffee and milk *is* my favorite drink. (牛奶咖啡是我愛好的飲料)

His end and aim *is* success. (他的目標是成功)

Blood and iron *is* not a good policy. (鐵血政策不是一個好的政策)

⑨ 誤: Either you or he *are* wrong.

正: Either you or he *is* wrong. (不是你便是他錯)

了)

二個主語由 *or, either……or, neither……nor* 連合，則動詞應該和最近的主語一致。在這句裏最接近動詞的主語是 *he*，所以應該用 *is*，若改成 *Either you are wrong or he is*，則更好。

〔類例〕 *Either you or I have made a mistake.* (不是你便是我弄錯了)

Neither you nor she is a lazy student. (你和她都不是懶學生)

Neither the teacher nor the students are in the classroom. (先生和學生都沒有在教室裏)

He or his servants were to blame. (不是他就是他的僕人們不好)

✓ ⑩ 誤: *The mother, as well as her two daughters, are going to market.*

正: *The mother, as well as her two daughters, is going to market.* (這個母親和她的兩個女兒將到市場去。)

附加語由 *with, besides, along with, together with, as well as, in addition to, no less than* 等連接詞引入句中，使句中的主語和動詞分離，但它並不影響主語的數，所以在這句裏的動詞應該是 *is*。

〔類例〕 *My life no less than my fortune is at the service of my country.* (我的生命和財產一樣供國家驅使。)

The boy with his friends *is* playing at home.
(這孩子和他的朋友正在家裏玩耍。)

This fairy story, besides many other interesting stories, *is* in the book. (除許多別的有趣的故事外，這篇童話也在這書裏面。)

Mary, along with her friends, *goes* to school.
(瑪麗和她的朋友們一同到學校去。)

The teacher, in addition to his students, *is* in the library. (先生和學生都在圖書館。)

⑪ 誤: Somebody *have* taken away my book.

正: Somebody *has* taken away my book. (有人把我的書拿掉了。)

大多數的不定名詞，不定代名詞和不定形容詞如 *each, every, another, any, either, anyone, each one, every one, some one, no one, anybody, something* 等都是單數的，所以在它們的後面須用單數的動詞。此句的主語是 *somebody* (某人)，它是單數的，所以動詞也應該用單數的動詞 *has taken*。

[類例] *Each of the pupils has* his own desk.

(每個學生都有他自己的書桌。)

Every train was crowded. (每輛火車都擁擠。)

One is blind and another *is* deaf. (一個是瞎的，別一個是聾的。)

Any child knows that. (任何兒童都知道那個。)

Either way *is* correct. (兩種方法隨便那一種都是對的。)

Neither *has* much to do. (兩人均無甚事做。)

Anybody *is* able to do the work. (任何人都能做這件工作。)

⑫ 誤: Each boy and each girl *are* here.

正: Each boy and each girl *is* here. (每個男孩和每個女孩都到了。)

假使由 *and* 所連合的兩個或兩個以上的單數主語的前面有 *each* 或 *every* 或 *no*, 句內的動詞應該用單數。所以在這句裏的動詞應該用 *is*。

[類例] No boy and no girl *is* allowed to enter. (男孩和女孩都不准入。)

Every man and every woman *was* asked to take part in the discussion. (每個男人和每個女人都被邀請參加討論。)

Each day and each hour *brings* the news of the war. (每天和每小時都帶來戰爭的消息。)

There *is* no tree and no flower in the garden. (花園裏沒有花和樹。)

⑬ 誤: All of us *is* present.

正: All of us *are* present. (大家都到了。)

All, some 和 none 用做主語時, 若指量則應該用單數的動詞, 若指數則應該用複數的動詞。在這句裏的 *all* 係指我們, 我們是可以數的, 故 *all* 是複數, 所以

動詞也應該用複數的 *are* 我們再舉一個例來說明: *All of the milk has turned sour.* (所有的牛乳已變酸了。) 在這句裏 *milk* 是物質名詞, 它是不可以數的, 只可以以量計, 故 *all* 是單數, 所以它的動詞也應該用單數的動詞 *has turned*.

[類例] *All are agreed.* (大家都同意。)

All has been explained.

(一切都已說明。)

Some of the soil is poor.

(有些土壤是貧瘠的。)

Some of the students speak English very well.

(這些學生中有幾位英語說得很好。)

None of this concerns me.

(這件事對與我毫無關係。)

None of my lost books were found.

(我所遺失的書一本也沒有尋到。)

None are completely happy.

(沒有人是完全快樂的。)

⑭ 誤: *The rest of the boys is at play.*

正: *The rest of the boys are at play.*

(別的孩子在玩耍。)

假使主語是 *half*, *rest*, *plenty*, *part* 等字時, 則動詞的數須依照它所指的東西而決定。假使它所指的東西是可數的, 並且是多數的, 那麼它的動詞應該用複數, 如

果它所指的東西雖然是可以數的，可是祇是一個或一個的一部份時，那麼它的動詞應該用單數，假使它所指的東西祇可以以量計算而不能數的，那麼它的動詞也應該用單數。在這句子裏 *the rest* 指孩子，孩子是可以數的，並且在一個以上，所以動詞應該用複數的 *are*，例如 *A half of the orange is bad.* (一半的橘子是壞的。) 在這句裏 *half* 所指的橘子雖然可數，但祇是一個橘子的一部份，所以它的動詞用單數的 *is*，又如 *The rest of the wine was thrown away.* (其餘的酒被倒掉了。) 在這句子裏 *the rest* 指酒，酒祇可以量，却不可以計數的，所以它的動詞用單數的 *was thrown*。

[類例] *The rest of the students are absent.* (其餘的學生缺席。)

The rest needs no telling. (其餘的不必說了。)

A half of them are gone. (他們中的一半是去了。)

A half of the wood is getting rotten. (這樹木的一半已朽了。)

There are plenty of men who would work and not mind the hours. (有許多人工作不顧時間。)

There is plenty of snow. (雪很大。)

A part of the horses have run away. (一部份的馬跑掉了。)

Only part of his story is true. (他的故事祇有一部份是真的。)

⑮ 誤: *The number of students in our class are forty.*

正: The number of students in our class *is* forty.

(我們班裏學生的總數是四十。)

The number of 的意思是總數，它作主語時，它的後面的動詞應該是單數的。a number of 的意思是若干，它是形容片語，可以用來形容主語，使主語成為複數，所以在這樣的主語的後面的動詞應該是複數的。在這句裏的主語是 The number 所以它的動詞應該用單數的 *is*。

[類例] The number of tickets *is* limited. (票數是有限制的。)

A number of people *were* present. (若干人出席了。)

There *are* a number of students outside. (若干學生在外面。)

Here *are* a number of good opportunities. (這裏是許多的好機會。)

⑩ 誤: The latest news *are* favorable.

正: The latest news *is* favorable. (最近的消息是好的。)

有許多名詞像 news, mathematics, measles 等字雖然是複數的形式，它們的意思却是單數的。當它們被用作主語時須用單數的動詞。所以在這句裏的動詞應該是單數的 *is*。

[類例] Mathematics *is* my favorable subject. (數學是我歡喜的學科。)

Measles is a common disease among children. (麻疹是小孩子患的一種普通的病。)

Physics is worth studying. (物理是值得學習的。)

The gallows was used to hang criminals. (絞台被用來絞死犯罪的人。)

⑪ 誤: His family is all well.

正: His family are all well. (他的家屬都健康。)

當集合名詞如 audience, family, class, committee, nation, generation 等字作主語時，若指整個的團體時需要一個單數的動詞；若指團體內的各個時則需要一個複數的動詞。在這句裏的 family 是指家屬裏的每一員，所以應用複數的 are。

[類例] His family is spending the winter in the south.
(他一家在南方過冬。)

The family have just sat down to table. (這家人剛剛正在就桌用膳。)

The committee was made up of twenty members.
(這個委員會是由二十個委員組成的。)

The committee were divided in opinion. (各委員意見分歧。)

The fifth year class has only ten students. (五年級只有學生十人。)

The whole class are listening attentively. (全班的學生正注意的傾聽。)

There was a large audience. (有多數的聽眾。)