

英文句式詳解
ENGLISH CONSTRUCTIONS

鍾子岩編

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臺灣開明書店印行

民國四十三年二月臺一版發行
民國六十七年二月臺十七版發行

每冊基價一元三角

(按照同業規定倍數發售)

英文句式詳解

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有著作權·不准翻印

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臺北市中山北路一段七七號
電話 五三六九 五三六四 號
郵局劃撥賬號第一二五七號

臺灣開明書店

行政院新聞局登記證：局版臺業字第〇八三七號
內政部著作權註冊執照警字第一〇二一號

序 言

一個尚未讀通英語的人，如果在修習時爲牠的內容——如論文中作者的思想，見解或小說的情節，故事中主人公的個性，行動等——所吸引，而忽略了形式方面的研究；或好高騖遠，好讀文學名家的作品，如 Shakespeare 的劇本或 Irving, Dickens 的小說之類，那末，他便是忘記了學習英語的目的和本意，縱然學習一輩子，也決不會有成功的一日。這樣的研習英語，簡直是徒勞。

誰也不能否認，我們修習英語的主要目的是在於養成閱讀原書的能力；而欲養成閱讀原書的能力，勢非研究其形式而獲得透徹的理解不可。所謂形式方面的研究，約可分爲語句（包括單字和成語）和文章構造兩部分：對於前者，我們要研究其正確的意義和用法；後者則屬於文法方面。不過，現在一般的英文法書，太偏于部分的解剖和分析，而對於那理解英語的唯一鑰匙的機構方面——即英語的各種句式，卻全未顧及，這不能不算是一件憾事。

美國教育心理學家桑戴克氏 (Thorndike) 曾依據廣汎的各種文獻，將英語各種句式作分類的排比，並以統計方法調查其使用次數之多寡，用數字表示出重要的順位（爲 9 爲使用最多數，順次而 8, 7……至 1 爲止），發表於一九二七年哥倫比亞大學發行的“The Teacher's College Record”原名 *An Inventory of English Constructions*。此種研究，實在是空前的，足以彌補前述的缺憾，於英語學界貢獻極大，自不待言。惟氏之目的，在給英語教師以英語句式的範例；他的編纂法是教師本位的，故以簡約爲主。茲舉原著之一部于下，以窺一斑：

Condition:—

162 'if' with indicative.	<i>If it rains, I shall not go.</i>8
163 'if' with subjunctive.	<i>If he be ill, I shall not go.</i>7
164 'if' understood.	<i>Please God, I shall not go.</i>2

165 'if' with an elliptical.	<i>If approved</i> , it will8
166 Inversion.	<i>Had he a grain of sense</i> , he.....5
167 'unless'	<i>Unless it rains</i> , I will go.6
168 'but that'	We should have come <i>but that</i> <i>we had an accident</i>1
170 'but for'	We should have come, <i>but for</i> <i>an accident.</i>1

因此在普通的英語學習者有許多必須解說的地方，這是編者就全部項目逐一加以解說，並增加許多例句的理由。原著所收構句種類計四百三十八項，其中有些係屬於古文體（如 'an' 用作 *if* 之意：*An it please your majesty, I will*……），今已不用，故從略。而遺漏者計四十一項，即標明「補遺」字樣列入，以供參考。結果得四百〇九項。在各項目中，不僅揭示其主要形式及類似形式，且將形式相似而意義不同的構句加以記述。卷末索引，即供此種構句的比較對照之用。

[*so that*]

- (1) I eat *so that* I may live. (目的)
- (2) Hold it *so that* it stands upright. (狀態)
- (3) I sat up late, *so that* I feel sleepy. (結果)
- (4) I am *so ill that* I cannot go. (程度)

[*but that*]

- (1) I want nothing *but that* he should be happy. (除外)
- (2) We should have come, *but that* we had an accident. (條件)
- (3) The wood was not so thick *but that* we could see. (程度)

本書揭示了現代英語構句的各種樣式，讀者倘能由此獲得了閱讀和理解英語書籍的能力，那就是編者莫大的欣幸了。惟編者學識淺陋，錯誤之處自屬難免，尚希國內高明加以指正。

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