

# 掌握正确的英语

英语常见错误辨析

陈清霖博士

Mastering  
Proper  
English



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新亚出版社(新加坡)有限公司

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common  
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error  
analysis

FB37/26

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## 图书在版编目(CIP)数据

掌握正确的英语:英语常见错误辨析/陈清霖主编. -

北京:知识产权出版社,2000.1

ISBN 7-80011-461-9

I. 掌… II. 陈… III. 英语-语法-自学参考资料

IV. H314

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(1999)第 77328 号

## 掌握正确的英语

第一版 2000 年 1 月

©2000 Singapore Asian Publications (Singapore) Pte Ltd

中国大陆版权授与知识产权出版社出版发行

China Edition ©2000 Intellectual Property Publishing House

Published and distributed by Intellectual Property Publishing House

策划:新亚出版社(新加坡)有限公司

知识产权出版社  
出版:新亚出版社(新加坡)有限公司

发行:知识产权出版社  
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印刷:辛集市装潢印刷厂印刷

开本:880×1230 1/32 印张 8.25

印数:1—5000 册 定价:20.00 元

# 前 言

中英文法差异甚大，不少人在学习英文时碰到很多困难，也犯了许多语法、词法、句法、用法上的错误。这些错误若不加以指出，会一犯再犯，积非成是，难以纠正。

<<掌握正确的英语>>内容针对英语常见的典型错误，分成四类，每类再列出细项，条分缕析，举例说明，共计260条。这四大类错误是：（一）错误的省略(*Incorrect Omissions*)；（二）多余的字眼(*Unnecessary Redundancies*)；（三）误用的形态(*Misused Forms*)；（四）错误的句子(*Misformed Sentences*)。

“错误的省略”就是该用而不用，特别是冠词和介词。“多余的字眼”是不该用而用，主要的也是冠词和介词。“误用的形态”也包括冠词和介词，此外还有非限定动词、动词时态等。“错误的句子”范围广泛，其中以一致关系、词序、句子的连接、句子的逻辑这四种为主。

分析了不同类型的错误之后，接着便是考验学习心得的时候。本书最后一部分“错在哪里”(*What is Wrong*)共有45个精心设计的测验，分成A, B, C三类，合计450题，每题都有一个错误，必须根据

分析过的错误原理寻找出来，然后加以改正。

本书书后附有标准答案，供读者参考。

陈 清 霖 博 士

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# 第一部分

## 错误的省略 (Incorrect Omissions)

有些字或词在中文里可有可无，不足轻重，但在英文却很重要，牵一发动全身，不可随意省略。冠词(articles)是最好的例子，其次是介词(prepositions)。不少人常常会把冠词和介词省略，造成许多错误。此外，第三人称单数(third person singular number)没有词尾“-s”，动词过去时态(past tense of verbs)没有“-ed”，所有格(possessive case)没有“'s / s'”，过去分词(past participles)忘了“-ed/-en”，片语动词(phrasal verbs)没有介词(prepositions)或副词虚助词(adverb particles)，以及宾语(objects)不见等，都是该用而不用，犯了不可省略而省略的毛病(errors in incorrect omissions)。

### [一]冠词 (Articles)

**1** Car: A car (汽车：一辆汽车)

误：I don't have enough money to buy *car*.



## 2 第一部分 错误的省略

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正: I don't have enough money to buy **a car**.

【注】英文的名词分单数(singular)和复数(plural)、可数(countable / count)和不可数(uncountable / mass)。单数可数名词可以在前面加定冠词“the”或不定冠词“a/an”。“汽车”(car)既是可数名词又是单数,当然可以加冠词,但这里“汽车”并不指定那一辆,而第一个字母又不是元音(vowel),所以不可用“the”,也不可用“an”,而要用“a”。其他例子有:

- (a) The problem is how to persuade some teachers to adopt **a** positive attitude towards teaching.
- (b) He went out with **a** suitcase.
- (c) The man told **a** lie.

如果是指定的,就用“the”,如:

- (d) I want to buy a car some day. **The** car must be blue in colour.
- (e) A Fox, having fallen into a deep well, was kept a prisoner there, as he could find no means of getting out. A thirsty Goat came to **the** same well and, seeing **the** Fox, asked if **the** water was good. **The** Fox, pretending that he liked to stay in **the** well, praised **the** water very highly and encouraged **the** Goat to come down.

如果名词前面是元音,就用“an”,如:

- (f) I eat **an** apple every day.
- (g) Please put up **an** umbrella.

## 2 Student : A student (学生：一个学生)

误：I'm not *student*; I'm a teacher.

正：I'm not *a student*; I'm a teacher.

【注】见第一节[注]。

## 3 Hundred : A hundred (百：一百)

误：I need *hundred* dollars.

正：I need *a hundred* dollars.

【注】如果“hundred”、“thousand”和“million”指“一百”、“一千”和“一百万”，前面必须加“a”或“one”。例如：

- (a) I need *a* hundred dollars . 或  
I need *one* hundred dollars.
- (b) There are *a* thousand students in this school. 或  
There are *one* thousand students in this school.
- (c) That rich man left behind *a* million dollars. 或  
That rich man left behind *one* million dollars.

当然，“hundred”、“thousand”和“million”不必限定是一百、一千、一百万，可以是五百、七千、九百万。那又怎么办呢？很简单，把“a / one”改为五、七、九就行了。例如：

#### 4 第一部分 错误的省略

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- (d) I need *five* hundred dollars.
- (e) There are *seven* thousand students in this school.
- (f) That rich man left behind *nine* million dollars.

#### 4 Lot of: A lot of(很多)

误: There is *lot of* money in his pocket.

正: There is *a lot of* money in his pocket.

【注】第3节[注]中谈到“hundred”、“thousand”和“million”前面要有“a”。同样的,许多其他数量词也要用冠词“a”;“a lot of”便是个例子。还有“a great many of”、“a great deal of”、“a couple of”、“a number of”等。如果把“a lot of”变成复数“lots of”,就可以和复数可数名词搭配,如:

- (a) There are *lots of* books in the library.
- (b) There were *lots of* guests at last night's party.

#### 5 ... made attempt: ... made an attempt (尝试)

误: The prisoner *made attempt* to escape.

正: The prisoner *made an attempt* to escape.

【注】英文惯用语中的名词,有些前面需要冠词,有些则不

要。需要冠词就要加上冠词，以免残缺不全；不需要冠词就不必画蛇添足，弄巧反拙。下面是一些不需要任何冠词的惯用语：

lose sight of; make use of; at length; in place of; on purpose; set foot on; take care of

这类惯用语很多，不胜枚举。有不少惯用语需要和不定冠词连用，“make **an** attempt”是个例子。其他例子如下：

all of **a** sudden, as **a** rule, at **a** discount, in a hurry, have **a** good time, keep **an** eye on, make **a** fortune, on **a** large scale, take **a** walk, with **a** view to等。

还有的要和定冠词连用，如：

for **the** purpose of; for **the** time being; in **the** habit of; in **the** end; get **the** upper hand of; on **the** spot; by **the** way

## 6 From the beginning to the end: From beginning to end (自始至终)

误：She worked very hard *from the beginning to the end*.

正：She worked very hard *from beginning to end*.

【注】见第五节[注]。

**7 ... the hand and the foot: ... hand and foot (手脚)**

【注】见第五节[注]。

**8 ... in position to: ... in a position to (能够; 有能力)**

误: Are you *in position to* advise him?

正: Are you *in a position to* advise him?

【注】见第五节[注]。

**9 Haves and have-nots: The haves and the have-nots  
(有钱人: 没钱人)**

误: Can *haves and have-nots* coexist?

正: Can *the haves and the have-nots* coexist?

【注】见第五节[注]。

**10 Pros and cons: The pros and cons  
(赞同的意见: 反对的意见)**

误: Compare *pros and cons* before you announce the decision.

正: Compare *the pros and cons* before you announce the decision.

【注】有些简单的词可以加“s”变成复数, 使它失去了原来的功能, 成为词组。这种转化的词前面用定冠词, 常见的除了“the pros and cons”之外, 还有:

- (a) We know all *the ins and outs* of the problem. (细节)
- (b) *The ups and downs* of his life made him stronger in his mind.  
(生活的浮沉)
- (c) We must go into *the whys and wherefores* before we can  
come to any conclusion. (事情的原委)

## 11 Chinese: the Chinese (中国人)

误: *Chinese* are industrious and frugal.

正: *The Chinese* are industrious and frugal.

【注】用“国家”衍生的词来指明人的国籍，是常见的构词法，尤其是以“s”、“sh”、“ch”结尾的词，必须在前面用定冠词表明，如：“the Chinese”（中国人）、“the Japanese”（日本人）、“the English”（英国人）、“the French”（法国人）。

这种名词形式，表示复数，后面的动词也是复数，因此要说：

- (a) The Chinese *are* industrious and frugal.
- (b) The Japanese *work* very hard.
- (c) The English *like* sports and games.
- (d) The French *have* a good ear for music.

即使这些名词后面加上“people”，也要加定冠“the”，如：

- (e) *The Chinese people* are industrious and frugal.
- (f) *The Japanese people* work very hard.
- (g) *The English people* like sports and games.
- (h) *The French people* have a good ear for music.

这类名词前面一旦缺了“the”，便变了意思，从“人”转义为“语言”，如：

- (i) The students here are proficient in *English*.
- (j) Many Asians start learning *Chinese*.
- (k) He has a good command of *Japanese*.
- (l) *French* is a beautiful language.
- (m) She speaks a little *Spanish*, a little *German*, but her native language is *Arabic*.

## 12 ... play piano: ... play the piano (演奏钢琴)

误：Helen likes to *play piano*.

正：Helen likes to *play the piano*.

【注】教导、演奏或学习某种乐器，需要加定冠词“the”。

除了演奏钢琴(play the piano)之外，我们还可以演奏小提琴(play the violin)、手风琴(play the accordion)、六

弦琴(play the guitar)、竖琴(play the harp)、口琴  
(play the harmonica)等。

### 13 ... have the flute: ... have a flute (有笛子)

误: Do you have *the flute*?

正: Do you have *a flute*?

【注】表示某种乐器时, 不使用定冠词, 而使用不定冠词或数目, 且可根据实际需要, 使用所有形容词 (possessive adjective)。例如:

- (a) Her father bought *a pipa* for her.
- (b) Would you lend me *your violin* for a day?
- (c) Peter has *two* trumpets, one big and one small.

### 14 ... go to theatre: ... go to the theatre (到剧院去)

误: I seldom go to theatre.

正: I seldom go to the theatre.

【注】除了乐器之外(见第12节[注]), 剧院(theatre)、电影院(cinema)、歌剧院(opera)、音乐厅(concert)、礼堂(auditorium)、大教堂(cathedral)等场所也要有定冠词, 才是正确的用法; 连剧院的名称也要加上定冠词, 如:



- (a) They went to *the Lido* yesterday.
- (b) Could you show me the way to *the Cathay*?
- (c) Where is *the Capitol*?

## 15 Smiths: The Smiths (史密斯一家人)

误: *Smiths* sent us an invitation card.

正: *The Smiths* sent us an invitation card.

【注】某一家人以及某氏兄弟、姐妹的姓氏前面都要加定冠词“the”。除了“the Smiths”之外，余者类推，如：

- (a) *The Chens* will come to see you tomorrow.
- (b) What has become of *the Jensens* who lived in the farm?

这类的名词是复数，后面跟着的是复数动词，如：

- (c) The Johnsons *are* friendly neighbours.
- (d) The Huangs *have* never told lies.
- (e) The Reagan sisters *lead* a happy life.
- (f) The Brown brothers *play* basketball well.
- (g) The Gregorys *were* at the dance party last night.

## 16 Green sisters: The Green sisters (格林姐妹)

误: *Green sisters* are popular singers.

正: *The Green sisters* are popular singers.