

Difficulties in English

Grammar

Series

5

英语语法
释疑

不定式解惑

Solving the Puzzles of Infinitive and Other Verbals

邝嘉敏编著



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上海交通大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语语法释疑:不定式解惑/邝嘉敏编著. —上海:上海交通大学出版社, 2000

(英语语法释疑;5)

ISBN 7-313-02454-1

I. 英… II. 邝… III. 英语-语法 IV. H314

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2000)第 27145 号

英语语法释疑

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邝嘉敏 编著

上海交通大学出版社出版发行

(上海市番禺路 877 号 邮政编码 200030)

电话:64071208 出版人:张天蔚

常熟市印刷二厂印刷 全国新华书店经销

开本:787mm×1092mm 1/32 总印张:30.25 总字数:608 千字

2000 年 10 月第 1 版 2000 年 10 月第 1 次印刷

印数:1~6050

ISBN 7-313-02454-1/H·473 全套定价:64.00 元

本册定价:8.00 元

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《英语文法释疑》

总 序

英语教学实行了多年交际法 (communicative approach), 老师们渐渐觉得这种方法虽然能引起学生的学习兴趣, 使他们在某些环境中能略为应对, 可是在掌握文字的正确性 (accuracy) 方面似乎出了很大的问题。学生在应用英语时常常不知该用哪一个时态 (tense), 不知道一些特定的 verb form, 而在“呼应” (agreement) 方面更是极为疏忽, 譬如老是忘了在现在时态 (present tense) 第三人称 (third person) 单数 (singular) 的动词后面加 s (例如: Tom go to school.), 更不用说掌握正确的句子结构 (sentence structure) 了。而学生自己由于对语法没有系统的认识, 说到正确性, 似乎茫然无所依归, 其实心中也极想抓到些什么以作准绳。

由于上述情况, 英语老师们虽然仍然使用 communicative approach, 但渐渐觉得语法还是需要的, 尤其对以英语为第二语言来学习中国学生来说, 更是如此。所以笔者觉得三联书店(香港)有限公司出版的这套有关语法的丛书, 应是非常切合中国学生的需要的。它针对中国学生在语法上常犯的错误, 作了深入浅出的解释, 令学生极易明了, 有的还以故事的形式带出各种问题, 文体极

为生动活泼。所以这套丛书除了令学生在学习上得益之外,更是极有趣的精神食粮。

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序 言

有这么一个笑话。说的是某西方来客在巴士上抽烟,吞云吐雾,车上的人被呛得泪水直流。一位女士忍无可忍,用不那么流利的英语对他说:“You must stop to smoke here.”那西方人听后,耸耸双肩,反问到:“Do you mean I must get off the bus?”

这儿之所以闹出笑话,是因为在用 gerund(动名词)的地方用了 infinitive(不定式),于是就变成要人“下车抽烟”了。

英语中的 infinitive(不定式), gerund(动名词), present participle 和 past participle(现在分词和过去分词)统称 verbal。在中文里有一个文绉绉的叫法—非谓语动词。顾名思义,就是不能作谓语(predicate)的动词。而它们又保留了动词的某些特点,如可以有自己的状语(adverbial)、宾语(object)等,例如:

I saw Peter riding a bicycle.

I want to go by car.

在这方面比较容易犯的错误是混淆了几种 verbal 的用法。该用 infinitive 时用了 gerund,该用 present parti-

ciple 时又用了 past participle。还有, infinitive 中带不带 to 也是一个令人头疼的问题。

本书归纳了中国学生在运用英语时常犯的一些 verbal 方面的错误, 加以分析, 以便读者举一反三, 触类旁通。本书配有练习, 帮助读者巩固所获知识。

作 者

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1. 从港督访华谈起

一天《南华早报》上有则新闻,题目是 Governor To Visit China Next Month(港督下月访华)。一个学生看了,就问我:“先生,是不是也可以说 I to go to Ocean Park tomorrow 呢?”

我说:“不行。因为平时说话、写文章不是写报纸标题,不能这样说。”

其实, Governor To Visit China Next Month 并不是一个句子。原句若看作句子,应是: The Governor is to visit China next month. 但作为新闻标题,要力求简洁,一目了然,才能吸引读者,所以可以用不完整的句子。但平时讲话、写文章就不能这样了,一定要用完整的句子才能把意思表达清楚。



I to go to Ocean Park tomorrow. 之所以错,是因为用了“to go”这个 infinitive(不定式)作句子的 predicate(谓语),而 infinitive 是不能这样用的。正确的句子应该是:

I am going to visit Ocean Park tomorrow.

不但不定式不能单独作谓语,现在分词(present participle)、过去分词(past participle)也不能单独作句子的谓语。如:

A typhoon coming to Hong Kong soon. (Wrong)

A typhoon is coming to Hong Kong soon. (Right)

I writtten three reports by now. (Wrong)

I have writtten three reports by now. (Right)

Exercise 1

Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts, find out the one which is wrong:

1. Unfortunately, two of the boys bitten by snakes the last time the family camped in the valley.
a b c d
2. Because he was very sick, he lying in bed waiting for the doctor to come.
a b c d
3. To Mrs Foster and Miss Rosen the advice sounded wrong but everyone else at the meeting to consider it perfect.
a b c d

4. The news of the loss suffered^a by our troops being^b
much worse^c than we had expected.^d
5. I knew that without him to help^a me, it being^b difficult
for me to repair^b the roof and paint^d the front porch.
6. It is possible that Indians originally migrated^a to the
Western Hemisphere over a bridge of land that^b once
existing^c between^d Siberia and Alaska.
7. Ever since^a the Civil War, the status^b of women been^c a
social issue in^d this country.
8. The thief must have entered^a by the kitchen window
and to steal^b the silver^c while the family was asleep.^d
9. If someone were to^a look through^b the window, he
would see^c only an^d empty room.
10. He has been sitting^a at the table for several hours and
to drink^b considerably^c more wine than is^d good for his
health.

2. To Go 还是 To Goes ?

一次,我在地铁站听见旁边两个学生用英文交谈:

A: My father wants to goes to Europe with my mother.

B: Really? My father also wants to go to Europe.

两人要表达的意思几乎完全相同,但说出来的句子却不一样,究竟谁对谁错呢?

B是对的。

动词不定式(infinitive)一般由 to + 动词原形构成。它不受句子主语(subject)的人称(person)和数(number)的影响,所以 A 句应改为:

My father wants to go to Europe with my mother.



又如：

Last year my father invited a friend to went to Africa for a visit. (Wrong)

Last year my father invited a friend to go to Africa for a visit. (Right)

动词不定式不能用过去式，因此只能说 to go，不能说 to went。

Exercise 2

Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts, find out the one which is wrong:

1. Lucy Tsang saw the robber enterings the bank from
a b c
his bedroom window.
d
2. It is often easier to selects a particular tool than
a b c
to use them correctly.
d
3. The only way to reached the edge of the forest was
a b
to take the narrow dirty path in front of us.
c d
4. She got up early to is ready for the class.
a b c d
5. Her daughter managed to come and sees her
a b
three times, but her son-in-law had never come.
c d

6. The little boy wouldn't go out to plays until the postman came.
a b c d
7. All of a sudden, she saw the postman turnings round the corner on his bicycle.
a b c d
8. He seemed to be able to looked into the future and he took his readers along with him to share the wonderful view.
a b c d
9. At 13 he was sent to worked in a shop where he could learn the business.
a b c d
10. He passed his examination with such good marks that he was given the chance to studies science at London University.
a b c d

3. 这个 To 是多余的

一天上课时,我在黑板上写了两个句子,说它们每句都有一个词是多余的,请学生把它找出来。这两个句子是:

- 1) Can we to see the ferry piers from here?
- 2) We must to keep Hong Kong clean.

我话音刚落,学生们就找出来了:“to 是多余的。”凡在 must, can (could), may (might), need, dare, will (would), shall (should) 等词之后动词都不能用 to。

Exercise 3

Choose the best answers:

1. I may _____ a few fish.
a. catch b. to catch c. catches d. catching
2. What will the weather _____ like on Friday?
a. is b. be c. being d. to be
3. I can _____ English, but I can't _____ French.
a. speak, to speak b. to speak, speak
c. speak, speak d. speaking, speaking
4. We must always _____ clean water. We mustn't _____ dirty water.
a. drinks, drink b. drink, drink

- c. to drink, to drink d. drinking, drinking
5. Shall I _____ and borrow a fishing-rod?
a. go b. gone c. to do d. going
6. Would you please _____ me a favour?
a. to go b. doing c. do d. done
7. You must _____ your hands but you needn't
_____ your hair.
a. wash, comb b. washing, combing
c. to wash, to comb d. washed, combed
8. Have I got _____ lessons before I use an aqua-lung?
a. have b. had c. to have d. having
9. It might _____ wiser for him not to go.
a. is b. to be c. be d. being