

ACCESS TO  
ENGLISH FIGURES  
OF SPEECH

# 英语

## 常用修辞入门

李冀宏 著

世界图书出版公司

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# 前 言

语言是人类最重要的交际工具,其功能在于交流感情,传输信息,认知和描写世界。为发挥这些功能,人们应用语言都讲究修辞,力求准确、鲜明、生动、形象。古今中外,莫不如此。亚里士多德指出,“修辞术是有用的,可使真理和正义获得胜利。”孔子亦曾说过,“言之无文,行而不远。”由此足见修辞之重要。无论是优雅的文学语言,还是通俗的日常口语,人们应用时都会自觉或不自觉地借助修辞手段,以求取表达的最佳效果。

修辞学(Rhetoric)是一门研究有效应用语言以求取最佳表达效果的艺术。它可分为两个方面,即消极修辞(Passive Rhetoric)和积极修辞(Active Rhetoric)。前者指锻词炼句和布局谋篇,以通畅、明顺、准确为目的;后者指各种修辞格(Figures of Speech)的积极运用,力求表达鲜明、生动、形象。本书专讲积极修辞,介绍英语常用修辞格 20 余种,旨在帮助英语学习者熟悉、掌握这些积极修辞手段,从而提高英语理解、表达能力及文学欣赏能力。

本书力求博采众长,所用资料丰富、详实,大多出自文学作品、报刊文章、名人名言,语言地道,例句典型,说明问题。许多例句不仅表达精彩,而且意义深刻,充满智慧,富有哲理,可使读者在领略英语辞格运用之奇妙的同时,也受到名言佳句的启迪。书中例句都附有汉语译文,以便读者理解、对照。除自译部分外,译文引自多位译家,因篇幅有限,未能一一署名,特此说明并致谢。

读者阅读此书如能从中受益,感到有所收获,便是笔者最大的欣慰与快乐。囿于笔者水平,书中失误欠妥之处,敬请识者批评指正。

李冀宏

1999 年 8 月

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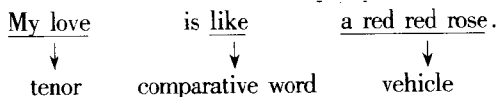
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## 1 Simile (明喻)

Simile(明喻)一词源于拉丁语 *similis*, 其意为 like(像)。这是英语里最常用、最简便的修辞格之一。它根据人们的联想, 利用不同事物之间的相似点, 借助比喻词(如 like, as 等)起连接作用, 清楚地说明甲事物在某方面像乙事物。Simile(明喻)运用广泛, 可借以状物、写景、抒情、喻理, 使表达生动形象, 明白易懂, 新鲜有趣。

关于英语 Simile, 有两点须加以说明:

一、Simile(明喻)通常由三部分构成, 即本体(tenor 或 subject)、喻体(vehicle 或 reference)和比喻词(comparative word 或 indicator of resemblance)。可图示如下:



二、本体与喻体一般为两个不同事物(如属同类也应具不同性质或特征), 比喻方可成立。例如:

① John is as tall as his father.

② John is as tall as a Maypole.

稍加分析可以看出, 例①不算明喻, 只是一个比较句, 因为 John 及其 father 同属人类; 而例②才是比喻句, 因为 John 与 Maypole 分属人与物。

Simile (明喻)可以多种格式体现, 现将常见明喻句型举例说明如下:

## (1) like 型

这种明喻句都用 like 作比喻词,其中又可分为两小类,一是连系动词(以 to be 居多) + like,另一是实意动词 + like。

① Living without an aim is **like sailing without a compass**.

(John Ruskin)

生活没有目标犹如航行没有指南针。

② He was **like a cock** who thought the sun had risen for him to crow.

(George Eliot)

他这人就像一只骄傲的公鸡,以为太阳升起是为了它的啼叫。

③ Marriage is **like a beleaguered fortress**: those who are without want to get in, and those within want to get out.

(P. M. Quillard)

婚姻像是一个被包围的堡垒:外边的人想要进去,里边的人想要出来。

④ A duty dodged is **like a debt unpaid**; it is only deferred, and we must come back and settle the account at last.

(Joseph F. Newton)

逃避职责就像欠债,只不过将职责推迟履行,我们最终还是要回来清还债务。

⑤ Records fell **like ripe apples on a windy day**.

(E. B. White)

被打破的记录有如刮风天成熟的苹果——纷纷坠落。

⑥ The staff member folded **like an accordion**.

这个工作人员就像合拢起来的手风琴似地——不吭声了。



⑦ The whole of my life has passed **like a razor** — in hot water or a scrape.

(Sydney Smith)

我的整个生涯过得犹如一把剃刀——若非在热水中,就是在刮削中。

\* 这是一个含有双关语(Pun)的明喻句。除字面意义外, in hot water 和 in a scrape 都含有“陷入困境”之意。

⑧ They will never be able to save money to buy a new house — they both spend money **like water**.

他们将永远积不起钱买新房子——他们两人都花钱如水。

## (2) as 型

as 在明喻句中用作介词,后面跟名词,亦可用作连词,后接状语从句,表示动作或行为的方式。此外,还有两个含 as 的常用明喻句型,即 as... as... 和 as... so... 也属于此种类型。

① Overhead the hollow stretch of whitish cloud shutting out the sky was **as a tent** which had the whole earth as its floor.

(Thomas Hardy)

头顶上方,夺据了天际上无尽空荡的白云,宛如高悬的帐篷一般,把整个荒原做了它的地面。

② Out of the sleeves came strong bony wrists and hands gnarled and knotted and hard **as peach branches**.

(John Steinbeck)

从袖子里伸出一双瘦骨嶙峋的大手,像桃树枝一样,瘤节盘错,坚硬粗壮。

③ He arose joint by joint, **as a carpenter's ruler opens**, and beat

the dust from his clothes.

(O. Henry)

像打开一把曲尺似地,他一节一节地撑了起来,掸去衣服上的灰尘。

④ Men fear death, **as children fear to go in the dark**: and as that natural fear in children is increased with tales, so is the other.

(Francis Bacon)

犹如儿童恐惧黑暗,人对于死亡的畏惧,也由于听信太多的鬼怪传说而增大。

⑤ Love goes towards love, **as schoolboys from their books**;  
but love from love, **towards school with heavy looks**.

(William Shakespeare)

赴情人的约会,像学童抛开书一样;

和情人分别,像学童板着脸上学堂。

\* 第二句中省略了一些成分,补充完整应如下所示: but love (goes) from love, (as schoolboys go) towards school with heavy looks.

⑥ My brain was **as powerful as a dynamo, as precise as a chemist's scales, as penetrating as a scalpel**.

(Max Shulman)

我的头脑像发电机那样强大有力,像药剂师的天平那样精确,像外科医师的手术刀那样锋利。

\* 该句连续用喻,形成排比句式,表达有力。英语里此类修辞现象并不罕见。再如:

⑦ "I am **as light as a feather, I am as happy as an angel, I am as merry as a school boy. I am as giddy as a drunken man...**"

(Charles Dickens)

“我像羽毛一样轻,我像天使一样幸福,我像小学生一样快活,

我像喝醉了酒的人一样飘飘然……”

⑧ **As** the lion is king of beasts, **so** is the eagle king of birds.

鹰是鸟中之王, 犹如狮是兽中之王。

⑨ **As** cold waters to a thirsty soul, **so** is good news from a far country.

(*Holy Bible*)

有好消息自远方来, 犹如以凉水供口渴者喝。

⑩ Juse **as** Darwin discovered the law of development of organic nature, **so** Marx discovered the law of development of human history.

(*Friedrich Engels*)

正如达尔文发现有机界的发展规律一样, 马克思发现了人类历史的发展规律。

英语里有不少含有明喻的成语, 其结构为 **as** + 形容词 + **as** + 名词(第一个 **as** 可省略)。例如:

(as) firm as a rock	坚如磐石
(as) light as a feather	轻如鸿毛
(as) close as an oyster	守口如瓶
(as) mute as a fish	噤若寒蝉
(as) strong as a horse	强壮如牛
(as) cool as a cucumber	泰然自若
(as) sober as a judge	十分清醒
(as) sure as a gun	千真万确

### (3) 虚拟句型

最常见的是 **as if** 或 **as though**, 另外还有其他一些形式。

① He was a beautiful horse that looked **as though** he had come out

of a painting by Velasquez.

(Ernest Hemingway: *For Whom the Bell Tolls*)

这匹马真雄骏,看起来仿佛是从一幅维拉斯奎茨的油画里跑出来的一样。

② The first time I read an excellent book, it is to me **as if** I had gained a new friend.

我头一回读到一本好书,对我来说好像交了一位新朋友。

③ My handwriting looks **as if** a swarm of ants, escaping from an ink bottle, had walked over a sheet of paper without wiping their legs.

(Sydney Smith)

我的笔迹,看来就像一大群蚂蚁从墨水瓶里逃出来,没把脚抹干净就在纸上四散奔跑过似的。

④ ... he had given me the impression of absolute rigidity, **as though** he had swallowed a poker.

(Joseph Conrad)

……他给我的印象是,态度非常呆板僵硬,好像肚子里吞下了一根拨火棍似的。

⑤ The dogs were in full cry, their noses down, their tails up, so close together that they **might have been** one great yellow and white moving carpet.

(Arthur Conan Doyle)

那群狗吠叫着追猎,低着头,翘着尾巴,一条挨着一条,看上去就像一块行进的黄白交织的大地毯。

⑥ He woke them both up getting to bed, but when they tried to wake him up afterwards they **might as well have tried** to wake the dead.

他去睡觉的时候把他们两个都弄醒了,但是后来他们想唤醒他时,简直就像唤死人一样。

#### (4) what 型

常见句式有两种: A is to B **what** X is to Y; What X is to Y, A is to B.

- ① Reading is to the mind **what** exercise is to the body.

(Sir Richard Steel)

阅读之于思想,如同锻炼之于身体。

- ② Judicious praise is to children **what** the sun is to flowers.

(Bovee)

明智的表扬对于孩子的作用,就像阳光对于花朵的作用。

- ③ The man who cannot be trusted to society **what** a bit of rotten timber is to a house.

不能信赖的人对于社会,正如朽木对于住宅一样。

- ④ **What** sculpture is to a block of marble, education is to the soul.  
教育之于心灵,犹雕刻之于大理石。

- ⑤ **What** blood vessel is to a man's body, that railway is to transportation.

铁路对于运输,好比血管对于人体一样。

- ⑥ **What** salt is to food, that wit and humour are to conversation and literature.

妙语与幽默对于会话与文学,恰似盐对于食物一样。

\* **what** 置于句首时,后面的主句一般须由 **that** 连接,见例⑤、例⑥,但也可省去。

## (5) **than** 型

- ① A fool can **no more** see his own folly **than** he can see his ears.

(*William M. Thackeray*)

愚人之不能自知其愚,犹如其不能自见其耳。

- ② A home without love is **no more than** a body without a soul.

没有爱的家无异于一具没有灵魂的躯体。

- ③ He had **no more** idea of money **than** a cow.

(*John Galsworthy*)

他对金钱像牛对于金钱一样,一无所知。

- ④ Man can **not** help craving for expression **any more than** birds can help singing.

人之不能舒其襟怀,亦犹鸟之不能啭其歌喉。

- ⑤ We have **no more** right to consume happiness without producing it **than** to consume wealth without producing it.

(*Bernard Shaw*)

我们不创造幸福便无权享受幸福,正如不创造财富也就无权享用财富一样。

- ⑥ A student can **no more** obtain knowledge without studying **than** a farmer can get harvest without ploughing.

学生不学习不能获得知识,正如农民不耕种不能得到收获一样。

## (6) **and** 型

这是一种特殊的明喻句,常见于英语谚语。其中 **and** 的作用相当于 **like**,不可理解为“和”、“与”等义。

① A word **and** a stone let go cannot be recalled.

说出的话犹如抛出的石,是收不回的。

② Love **and** cough can not be hid.

恋爱如同咳嗽,难逃他人耳目。

③ Words **and** feathers are tossed by the wind.

言语如羽毛,风刮到处飘。

④ Truth **and** roses have thorns about them.

真理如玫瑰,全身都带刺。

⑤ Kings **and** bears often worry their keepers.

国王跟熊一样,总使照料者坐立不安。

## 2 Metaphor(隐喻)

Metaphor(隐喻)借自希腊语 *metapherein* 一词,原意为 *transfer*(转换)。这也是一种比喻手法,但与 *Simile* 相比形式简练,表达含蓄,运用时无需借助比喻词,而是直接将甲事物当作乙事物来描写。因此,该辞格被称为 *compressed simile*(简缩了的明喻)。试比较以下例句:

① The soldier was as brave as a lion in the battle.(明喻)

② The soldier was a lion in the battle.(隐喻)

Metaphor(隐喻)在实际运用中有时仅出现喻体,本体需要读者从上下文中分析推敲出来。例如, *A house divided against itself can't stand*. 这句话为美国总统林肯在南北战争时所言,从字面看缺乏比喻的主体,但稍加分析便可悟出,本体指的是当时处于分裂局面的美国,林肯将其比作 *a house divided against itself*(喻体)既恰当又形象。根据本体与喻体是否同时在句中出现,英语 Metaphor 可分为两类:主体与喻体同时出现的叫显式隐喻;略去本体,仅出现喻体的叫隐式隐喻。

Metaphor 在英语里运用极为广泛、频繁,用英国诗人及文学评论家理查兹(I. A. Richards, 1893-1979)的话来说,它是“无处不在的语言原则”(the omnipresent principle of language)。我们很难在英语里找到没有 Metaphor 的段落和篇章,其在口语中的用例也俯拾即是。

英语 Metaphor 的运用格式灵活多样,它可体现在任何句子成分上,如主语、谓语、表语、定语、宾语或状语。在表达上它可以是一个单词、一个词组或一个句子,甚至是一个段落。以下为英语 Metaphor 的常见运用格式:



## (1) 名词型

最常见的句式是“甲是乙”，喻体一般体现在句子的表语部分。

① All the world's **a stage**, and all the men and women merely **players**.

( William Shakespeare )

整个世界是座舞台，男男女女，演员而已。

② Education is not **the filling of a pail**, but **the lighting of a fire**.

( William B. Yeats )

教育不是注满一桶水，而是点燃一把火。

③ Money is **a bottomless sea**, in which honour, conscience, and truth may be drowned.

( Kozlay )

金钱是无底的海洋，荣誉、良心和真理都可以淹没在其中。

④ Hold fast to dreams,  
For if dreams die,  
Life is **a broken-winged bird**  
That cannot fly.

( Langston Hughes )

紧紧抓住梦想吧，  
如果梦想死亡，  
生命就像折翼的鸟儿，  
再也不能飞翔。

⑤ Happiness is **a perfume** you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself.

( Ralph W. Emerson )