



ELLIPSES IN ENGLISH

英语中的省略现象

天津人民出版社

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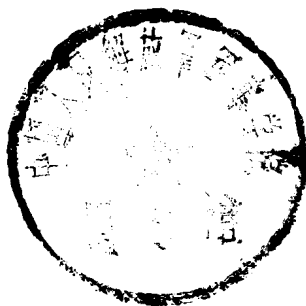
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张克礼 刘春健 编著

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说 明

省略是英语中的普遍现象，无论在口语中还是在书面语中，都会经常遇到。它对英语为本族语的人来讲并不十分困难，但对英语为外国语的人来讲就不是很容易的问题了。有时辨别不出有无省略，有时不知道在什么情况下才能够省略、省略与不省略有何区别、哪种说法更普遍等等。本书就是试图为帮助读者解决这些问题而编写的。

本书虽然谈的是英语中的省略，但它涉及到语法、词汇、惯用法等各方面的問題。如关系代词在定语从句中作主语时通常是不能省略的：*** I know the man () asked for you.** 但在主句含有 **there (here) be** 或 **it be** 等的结构中，其后从句中作主语的关系代词却可省略：**There was a man () asked for you. It is a kind of miracle () has brought us here.** 关系代词后有插入句时，该关系代词也可省略：**This was exactly the situation () I feared would happen.** 再如介词 **for** 引导的时间长度短语作状语时也可省略，但通常是在肯定句或疑问句中，而且在谓语动词之后：**He has lived here (for) ten years. Will you be**

* 代表不可接受的词或句子；这类的词或句子均不译成汉语。

out (for) long? 在否定句中一般不省略: I haven't seen her for years. 在句首时不能省略: For ten years (* Ten years) he has lived here.

在编写过程中,笔者参阅了很多国内外有关资料,进行加工整理。说明一般是根据语言现象进行归纳的,特别是第三章;例句一般都有出处,选自语法书、词典、文学作品、科普读物、现行各类教材等。说明和例句都力求简明扼要、实用性强。全书共分三章,第一章主要谈什么是省略句,第二章谈句子成分的省略,第三章谈虚词和中心词等的省略。有些词能单独充当句子成分,就在第二章处理,有些词不能单独充当句子成分或不便归属句子成分的就在第三章处理。

本书内容有深有浅,适应范围广。可供大学英语专业学生、中学英语教师以及英语自学者参考之用。

由于编者水平有限、时间紧迫,缺点和错误在所难免,衷心希望读者批评指正。

编 者

一九八三年七月

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第一章 完整句和非完整句

什么是句子？对这个问题，在很多语法书和词典中都能找到答案，但对句子所下的定义各不相同。有的是广义的，有的是狭义的，有的是广义和狭义相结合的。H. W. Fowler在 *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* 一书中 (P. 546) 引用了十位语法家对句子所下的不同定义。

广义的有：

A group of words which makes sense. 一组有意义的词。

狭义的有：

A combination of words that contains at least one subject and one predicate. 至少含有一个主语和一个谓语的一些词的组合。

广义与狭义相结合的有：

A set of words complete in itself, having either expressed or understood in it a subject or a predicate and conveying a statement or question or command or exclamation; if its subject or predicate or verb (or more) is understood, it is an elliptical sentence. 完整的一组词，其中具有或省略了一个主语或谓语，能表达陈述、疑问、命

令或感叹;如果主语或谓语或动词(或其他)省略了,它就是省略句。

这些定义从不同的角度说明并概括了句子的特点,有的侧重意义,有的侧重结构。第三个定义还指出了什么是省略句。Bergen Evans 在 *A Dictionary of Contemporary American Usage* 一书中(P. 153)对省略进行了解释,认为省略的含义比省略句要广:

This term (ellipsis) is used by some grammarians to refer to words that do not actually occur in a sentence but which they feel are needed in making a certain kind of grammatical analysis or to explain a grammatical construction. These words are sometimes described as “words which the hearer easily supplies.” 这个术语(省略)是一些语法家用来指句中实际未出现、但他们在进行某种语法分析或解释语法结构时又感到需要的词。有时把这些词说成是“听话的人容易补上的词”。

综上所述,如果一个独立的句子既有主语又有谓语,就是完整句;如果只有主语没有谓语或只有谓语没有主语,就是非完整句。完整句中也可能有某些虚词或重复的实词的省略,但通常不称作省略句,而说省去了某某词。非完整句中,往往缺少某些主要的句子成分,一般都是省略句。省略句有一般省略和定型化省略两种。一般省略句中的省略部分通过上下文是可以补上的,定型化省略句中的省略部分一般不易补上或补上后不习惯。本书主要谈一般省略,但对定型化省略也

作了归纳。试介绍如下:

1. 有的独立句是固定习语,称定型化省略。这种省略句的省略部分要么无法补上,要么补上的方法多种多样,而且都不合乎习惯用法。如:

Hello! Thanks. No. Yes. Dear me!

你好! 谢谢。 不。 是的。 天啊!

So long. Of course. Thanks a lot. Not at all.

再会! 当然了。 多谢。 不客气。

By all means. What about you? What of it?

当然可以。 你呢? 那又怎样呢?

So far so good. How about a drink?

到目前为止,一切顺利。 喝点如何?

Waste not, want not. Here goes! Let well alone.

不浪费,不愁缺。 瞧,开始了! 不要画蛇添足。

Like father, like son.

有其父必有其子。

[注] 有人认为定型化省略不是省略句。

2. 有的独立句子看来似乎缺少某种句子成分,缺少的部分可以补上,但补上后语法上通了,却不大合乎习惯用法,这也是定型化省略。如:

(I'm) After you with the paper, please. 报纸您看完我再看。

(If something is) Out of sight, (it soon comes) out of mind. 眼不见,心不想。

I am going to Paris. — What (are you going

to Paris) for? 我去巴黎。——干什么去?

I cannot (do anything) but admire his courage.

我不禁钦佩他的勇气。

I would rather go than (I would) stay. 我情愿走,也不留下。

Eternal life (be) to the revolutionary martyrs!

革命烈士永垂不朽!

I take it for (being) granted that we should build new roads. 我认为我们修筑新的道路是理所当然的。

I regard him as (being) stupid. 我看他愚蠢。

All (go) aboard for Greenwich. 去格林威治的请上车。

The auditorium admits as many as (any that) come. 这礼堂来多少人都容纳得了。

James is (by) a head taller than Margaret (is tall). 詹姆斯比玛格丽特高一头。

He is more surprised than (he is) angry. 与其说他生气不如说他吃惊。

The full text reads as (it) follows. 全文如下。

It cost me more than (what) I had intended to spend. 那超过我原打算付的钱了。

(It's) Easier said than (it's) done. 说比做起来容易。

3. 有的独立句子看上去缺少什么词或句子成分,缺少的部分可以补上去,补上后既符合原意又合乎习惯用法。这种

省略为一般省略。如:

He said (that) he would come. 他说他要来。

This is the bicycle (which) I bought last month.

这是我上月买的自行车。

There's a man downstairs (who) wants to see you. 楼下有个人要见你。

Gone forever are the days (when) the labouring people were oppressed. 劳动人民受压迫的日子一去不复返了。

Li went out, but Wang didn't (go out). 李出去了, 可是王没有(出去)。

John is as old as Mary (is). 约翰和玛丽一样大。
(I am) Glad to know you. 认识您很高兴。

He spent a lot of time (in) reading novels. 他花了很多时间看小说。

Saturday is when I am (the) least busy. 星期六是我最清闲的日子。

He helped me (to) develop some photos. 他帮我洗了一些照片。

She regarded him as (being) without principles. 他认为他没有原则。

Will you come with me? — I'd love to (come with you). 你愿意和我一起去吗? ——我愿意(和你一起去)。

The study of grammar is more important in learn-

ing a foreign language than (it is) in learning one's native language. 学外语学语法比学母语学语法更重要。

They gave him the same welcome as they would (give) their own guests. 他们欢迎他就像欢迎自己的客人一样。

John hates (Mary), and James loves, Mary. 约翰恨玛丽, 詹姆斯爱玛丽。

4. 并列连词 and, but, or 既可连接并列词或短语, 又可连接并列句, 其连接的结构的相同部分常可省略。这时若把其连接的并列范围缩小, 则视为无省略。如:

We must speak as much English as possible in (class) and out of class. (介词短语 in class 和 out of class 并列, 省去了前一个 class; 或介词 in 和 out of 并列, 共接宾语 class, 视为无省略。) 我们在课内外要尽可能多讲英语。

They are young but (they are) experienced. (分句 they are young 和 they are experienced 并列, 省去了第二个 they are; 或表语 young 和 experienced 并列, 共用主语和系动词 they are, 视为无省略。) 他们年轻, 但很老练。

Are you for (this proposal) or against this proposal? (介词短语 for this proposal 和 against this proposal 并列, 省去了前一个 this proposal; 或介词 for 和 against 并列, 共接宾语 this pro-

posals, 视为无省略。)你是同意还是反对这个建议?
但当 and 连接的两个定语前都有或都无限定词、且只有一个名词(中心词)时,只能看作第一个定语成分后省去了中心词,不能视为无省略。如:

The red (rose) and the white rose are both beautiful. 红玫瑰和白玫瑰都很漂亮。

The new (society) and the old society are as unlike as day and night. 新旧社会两重天。

Good (taste) and bad taste are inculcated by example. 文雅和粗俗都是通过实例灌输的。

American (beer) and Dutch beer are both much lighter than British. 美国啤酒和荷兰啤酒都比英国的淡得多。

As well as, rather than, let alone, as much as, instead of, not to say 等短语有时起并列连词的作用,但一般只能连接并列词或并列短语,不能连接并列句,所以不能把这些并列词或短语看成是并列句的省略形式(a);而 still (much) less 用作并列连词时,偶尔可连接并列句,这时便可视为并列句的省略形式(b)。如:

a. He was kind as well as $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{sensible.} \\ *he \text{ was sensible.} \end{array} \right.$ 他不仅明智而且和善。

These shoes are comfortable rather than $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{pretty.} \\ *they \end{array} \right.$

are pretty. 这鞋穿上舒服,但不好看。

He doesn't even speak his own language well,

let alone {French.
*he speaks French. 他连母语都说不好，更不用说法语了。

The speech was addressed to the employers as much as {to the strikers.
* it was addressed to the strikers.

这报告是对雇佣者和罢工者双方作的。

That increased instead of {decreased
*that decreased } our courage. 那不但没有减弱反而增加了我们的勇气。(这时仍有人将 instead of 视为介词。)

It's rather warm, not to say {hot.
*it's hot. 天气虽不能说热，也相当暖和了。

b. The baby can't even walk, much less {run.
can he run. 这孩子甚至连走都不行，更不用说跑了。

5. 有的独立句子看来似乎缺少什么成分，但是一旦要补上缺少的成分就得改变句子结构，这实际上不是省略，而是属于句型转换或表达相同意义而采用的不同结构。(这类句子本书不予详论。) 例如下列各例中每对句子的第一句并不是第二句的省略形式：

Were it not for {
If it were not for } the two poles propping it up,
the wall would long since have toppled in any

storm. 要没有这两根柱子支着, 这墙在暴风雨中早就倒塌了。

Had he only been
If he had only been } here, I would have given
him all that I had. 当时他要在这儿, 我就把我有的一切都给他了。

Give him an inch, and
If you give him an inch, } he will take a mile.
他得寸进尺。

His name is Ken Grimes, { a friend of Tom's.
one of Tom's friends.

他叫肯·格里姆斯, 是汤姆的朋友。

With the best intention
Even if I had the best intention } in the world, I
can't make her like me. 即使我有世上最好的愿望, 我也不能使她喜欢我。

For all his wealth,
Although he is wealthy, } he is not happy. 尽管
他很富有, 但他并不幸福。

Ripe,
When they are ripe, } these apples are sweet. 这
些苹果熟了就甜了。

That
How I wish that } I could go to Beijing with you!
我多么想和你一起去北京啊!

He told me {where he had bought it.
the place where he had bought it.

他把买的地点告诉了我了。

She stood there, {book in hand.
with a book in her hand. 她站
在那儿, 手里拿着一本书。

This done,
When this was done, } he went home. 事情干完后,
他就回家了。

{To underrate the dangers would be foolish.
If one underrated the dangers, it would be foolish.

低估这种危险是可笑的。

6. 为达到某种修辞效果, 有的独立句子看上去省略了某种成分, 但补上省去的成分就不能或难于达到这种修辞效果, 这时有的既可视作为一般省略句, 也可视为定型化省略句(a); 有的只能视为定型化省略, 无法补上省略部分 (b)、(c)、(d)、(e)、(f):

a. 用 if 引导的虚拟语气感叹结构, 表示与现在或过去事实相反的愿望:

If I had wings! (= How nice it would be if I
had wings!) 我要是有翅膀该多好!

If I had been warned! (= How nice it would
be if I had been warned!) 要是预先通知我该
多好!

b. 用 if 引导的否定形式、肯定意义的感叹结构, 表示

惊奇、恼怒等情绪:

Well, if I haven't left my umbrella in the train!

哎,我真不该把伞丢在火车上!

And if he didn't try to knock me down! 他真不该把我撞倒!

If I haven't repeated the mistake! 我真不该重犯这样的错误!

c. 用 if only 引导的感叹句表示愿望或未实现的条件:

If only he could arrive in time! 但愿他能及时赶到!

If only he would marry me! 要是他和我结婚该多好啊!

If only he had known about it! (= If he had only known about it!) 那时他要知道这件事该多好哇!

If only you could have seen it! (= If you could only have seen it!) 当时你要能见到它该多好哇!

d. 用 that 引导的感叹句表示愿望、感叹等:

Oh, that I could be with you again! (= How I wish I could be with you again!) 我多么希望再和你在一起呀!

That he should do such a thing! (= How sad it is that he should do such a thing!) 真不会想到他竟会干出这种事来!

图. 将不定式感叹结构表示喜悦、惊讶等情绪: