

EVERYDAY ENGLISH SYNONYMS

英语

常用同义词详解

张经浩 编著

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前 言

即使对以英语为母语的人来说,英语同义词的辨析也不是个简单问题。英国第一部有关同义词的书出版早在 1766 年,作者约翰·特拉斯勒(John Trusler)。

我国第一部有关英语同义词的书何年出版何人所作本书作者无资料考证,但可以断言,对我国学习和使用英语者来说,英语同义词的辨析肯定比对以英语为母语的人来说更难。问题归纳起来大致有三:①何时可互换?②何时不可互换?③何时都可用但意义有别?

现我国所见有关同义词的书,无论中文英文都采用分别叙述各词含义的方法。当然,辨析同义词少不了要谈各词含义。对于以英语为母语的人来说,对各词含义的解释也许能使他们辨明差异,准确用词,但是对于并非以英语为母语的人来说,恐怕还难以使他们解决上面提到的三个问题。以了了十来个字解释于我国读者面前无多大补益。

所以,本书作者没有局限于这个常见的方法。针对我国读者的三个问题,作者主要采用比较法,以使同义词的异同易于辨别。同时,还兼及了词的习惯搭配。举例较多,各例均附参考译文,译文力求准确流畅,用词造句不拘泥于英汉词典释义和原文句法结构,以帮助读者了解原文真意。

全书共解析常用英语同义词 200 组,包含词 488 个,其中 8 个词分别在两组不同意义的词组中出现。

在教学中,同义词辨析的比较法作者行之有效,现在写成书,希望这种方法也能为读者认同。由于水平有限,错误和疏漏在所难免,恳请广大读者不吝指正。

张经浩

1999 年 10 月于上海

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1. able, capable

1. 在表示有能力做某件事时,两者可互换,但 able 后需接动词不定式, capable 后需接“of + 动名词”。如:

He is able to speak two foreign languages. (= He is capable of speaking two foreign languages.) 他能说两门外语。

He is able to do the work. (= He is capable of doing the work.)
他有能力做这件工作。

2. capable 后可接“of + 名词”,但 able 不可; capable 还可表示“胆敢(做不好的事)”,able 则不可。如:

He is capable of great things. 他担当得起大事业。

He is capable of any crime. 他什么罪恶勾当都干得出来。

3. able 表示的能力高于 capable 表示的能力,对具有特殊能力的人用 able,具有一般能力的人用 capable。如:

He is an able engineer. 他是一位很有才干的工程师。

He is a capable engineer. 他是一位能干的工程师。

4. able 很少指事物,但可用来指一件做得很成功的事,表示做该事的人有一定的知识或技能。capable 指事物较多见,表示有能力或有可能的意思。如:

He made a very able speech. 他作了一个精彩的演说。

The hall is capable of seating over a thousand people. 会场能容纳 1 000 余人。

These animals have ears capable of faint sounds. 这些动物有能听到细微声音的耳朵。

This is a sentence capable of more than one interpretation. 这是一个可作多种解释的句子。

5. *able* 后的动词不定式通常不用被动式, 而 *capable* 后的动名词却可以。如不可说: *Some animals are able to be taught*, 但可以说: *Some animals are capable of being taught*。

2. *about, round, around*

1. *about* 说的“在周围”只指一个大略(在现代英语中已少用), 而 *round* 与 *around* 含有“以……为中心”或“周而复始”的意思。如:

Her hair hangs about her neck. 她的头发披在脖子周围。(不是四周都有头发)

They crowded about the man leaning against the wall. 他们围着靠在墙上的那个人。(不是四周都有人)

The whole nation rallied round (around) the government in their resistance against the aggression. 全民团结在政府周围抵抗入侵。(强调以政府为核心)

He has slept round (around) the clock. 他睡了整整 12 小时。(时针走了整整一圈)

在一般情况下用哪个词都可以。如:

They sat about (round, around) the fire. 他们围火而坐。

The earth moves about the sun. 地球在太阳周围转。(不强调以太阳为中心)

The earth moves round (around) the sun. 地球围绕太阳转。(强调以太阳为中心)

2. 在表示“到处”的意思时,它们可以换用。如:

He travelled about (round, around) the world. 他周游世界。

The news went about (round, around) the city. 消息在全城传开了。

They walked about (round, around) the town. 他们在城里到处逛。

3. round 与 around 比较,意义相同,但英国常用 round,而美国人却多用 around。

3. above, over

1. 表示“在……上方”时,over 有“垂直在上”的意思,above 只表示“位置高于”,不一定“垂直在上”。如:

There is a lamp over the table. 桌子正上方有盏灯。

The balcony just out over the street. 阳台伸向大街。

There is wen over (above) his eye. 他的眼上有个粉瘤。

The sky is over (above) our heads. 天在我们头顶上。

The mountain is 2,000 metres above the sea. 此山高海拔 2 000 米。

The sun rises above the horizon. 太阳升到地平线上。

2. over 可表示“覆盖在上”,而 above 不可。如:

He spread his handkerchief over his face to keep off flies. 他把手帕盖在脸上挡苍蝇。

She spread a table-cloth over the table. 她在桌上铺了块桌布。

注意,如与某物接触,但并非覆盖在上,则要用介词 on。如:

The book is on the desk. 书在桌上。(试与上例比较)

3. over 含有横跨在上或从上面越过的意思,而 above 没有。如:

There is a bridge over the river. 河上有一座桥。

He jumped over the brook. 他跳过小溪。

The boy climbed over the wall. 男孩爬过了墙。

4. 在表示关系的“在上”时, above 只指职位高于, over 则指隶属关系。如:

A captain in the Navy ranks above a captain in the Army. 海军的上校军衔高于陆军的上尉军衔。

He is over me in the office. 在机关里我归他管。

以上第一句不能换为 over, 因两者无隶属关系, 但第二句可换为 above, 因也说得通, 表示“在机关里他职位比我高。”实际上只要不是明显无隶属关系场合, 两者都可用。如:

A general is over a colonel. 将军管得着上校。

A general is above a colonel. 将军位在上校之上。

5. 在表示数目“多于……”时, 可换用。如:

He stayed in Beijing for above (over) a month. 他在北京住了一个多月。

This weighs above (over) a ton. 这东西不止 1 吨重。

The river is above (over) fifty miles long. 这条河有 50 多英里长。

6. 在表示价值、重要性等“在……之上”时, 用 above。如:

A miser loves gold above his life. 守财奴把钱财看得比命重。

He values honour above life. 他把名誉看得重于生命。

Your work is above the average. 你干得比一般人好。

7. above 的反义词是 below; over 的反义词是 under。

4. acknowledge, admit, recognize

1. 如果我们所说的“承认”是对某一说法正确性或真实性的认同,该用 acknowledge。如:

His theory is widely acknowledged. 他的理论得到广泛承认。

Anarchists acknowledge no government. 无政府主义者承认不应该有政府。

The boys acknowledged him to be the best player on the baseball team. 男孩子们承认他是这棒球队的最佳队员。

It is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife. 有钱的单身汉必定想娶亲,这是一条人人承认的真理(这条真理无人不晓)。

2. “承认”一件说话人原隐瞒的事时,用 acknowledge。如:

She finally acknowledged her engagement to Jim. 她最后承认已与吉姆定了终身。

He acknowledged the child as his. 他承认(招认)这孩子原是他生的。

He acknowledged his complete ignorance of mathematics. 他承认他对数学其实一窍不通。

3. 如果不得已“承认”一件已为人所知的事,该用 admit。如:

I have to admit you are right. 我不得不承认,你是正确的。
(意即我早知你对,但不肯承认)

We finally prevailed upon him to admit the charge of robbery. 我们终于使他承认犯有抢劫罪。

试比较下列两句：

He acknowledged his mistake. 他说出他有错。(或：他认识到他有错)

He admitted his mistake. 他承认他错了。(言下之意他原来不认错)

4. 对权益与合法性的“承认”，用 *recognize*。如：

They recognized him as the lawful heir. 他们承认他是合法的继承人。

The new government hasn't been widely recognized. 新政府未得到广泛承认。

试比较下列三句：

He refused to recognize him as his son. 他拒不承认他是他的儿子。(意即他坚持认为他不是他的儿子)

He acknowledged him as his son. 他说出了他是他的儿子。(意即他原来隐瞒了这一事实)

He admitted that he was his son. 他只好承认他是他的儿子。(意即原来不认账)

5. *recognize* 常可与第1条中的 *acknowledge* 换用。又例：

This is a recognized (an acknowledged) method of teaching English. 这是一个大家承认(认可)的教英语的方法。

He recognized (acknowledged) defeat. 他承认失败了。(意即意识到失败了)

He is recognized (acknowledged) internationally as an authority in this field. 各国都承认他是在这个领域的权威。