

怎样避免英语病句

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黑龙江人民出版社

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编译者的话

本书系根据英国伦敦 Hugo 语言出版社所出版的 “How to avoid incorrect English” 一书编译而成。该书主要是针对非英语国家的读者，在使用英语过程中容易出现的错误而编写的。全书把分析和纠正错误的重点放在语法部分，同时也涉及到词汇和语音方面。在编译中采用正误对照、选词举例、造句对比等方法，说明错误的原因和纠正的理由。该书不仅能使读者避免已列举的语病，而且能帮助读者克服其它可能出现的类似差错，以达到触类旁通的效果。本书还有专章介绍常用的语法术语，为读者掌握基本语法知识，从而在理论上分辨谬误提供了方便。

为了使该书适合我国读者的要求，我们根据中国人学习英语的实际情况和汉语的特点，特对书中一些地方做了必要的删改和增添。

本书承邢思芙、罗达尊、徐杰民、华汉钧、王家驹和沈治方等同志协助校对，特此表示谢忱。

由于编译者学识有限，书中难免有不当之处，恳请批评指正。

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第一部分

措词和语法方面常犯的错误

第一节 冗言、俗语、口语、 新闻文体、不合习惯等

冗言（赘述）——没有必要用不同的词重复一个意思。

You will admire the scenery, **while at the same time**
enjoying the pure and refreshing sea-breeze.

He **returned** it *back* to me.

They came **one after the other** *in succession*.

口语——只能用在口语中但不能用在书面语中的单词或词组。

I have **got** it.

He has **a lot of** books.

What you have done is **quite all right**.

过份的口语化就成了俚语。

新闻文体——这里是指常用在新闻报道内的僻词和矫饰词（有的歪曲了原意），动词如：eventuate (*vi.* 归结；最后

成为), evince (*vt.*表示; 显示), materialize (*vt.*使具体化), transpire (*vi.*泄露)等; 形容词如: gigantic (巨人似的; 巨大的), stupendous (巨大的; 惊人的), amazing (惊人的; 惊奇的)等。这些词的意义, 有时明显地被夸大; 有时在一个用几个词就能说明白的句子里, 加入了不必要的修饰词后, 反而形成冗句, 如: “The prospects of considerable periods of genial holiday weather are **by no means negligible.**” (产生这类错误, 可能是由于写作时太匆忙——这会使你用上“陈腐的短语”——当然也可能是想靠猎奇获得成功。)

误

aggravate

You are “aggravating” her.

“aggravate”原义是: “使恶化”, 在口语里解释: “使烦恼、激怒”等, 但这种用法在书面语里应当避免。

aim to

They are, in fact, aiming “to overthrow” the present system.

不合习惯用法。

alternative

There is, however, a “third alternative” .

正

worrying.

annoying 等

They aim, in fact, at overthrowing

a third course, plan 等

误

“alternative”只能表示两者选其一，不能有“第三”种选择。

as ever

I will leave as soon as “ever” I can.
俗语。

as to

I was wondering “as to” what I should do next.

“as to”为赘语——一个极其常见的错误。

equally as ... as

I can do it “equally as well as you” .

“equally as well as”是很明显的冗言。

as I think

This practice is, as I think, a very dangerous one.

上面句子中的“as”是多余的。

a few years back

This happened a few years “back” .
口语。

正

删去: ever

删去: as to

I can do it equally well 或 I can do it as well as you.

I think 或 in my opinion

ago

误

return back, refer back

They determined to refer "back" to the original owner for information.

He returned it "back" to me.

前缀 "re-" 已有: "再"、"重新" 或 "还" 的意思, "refer back" 和 "return back" 是冗言。这是极其常见的错误。("refer" 来自拉丁语 "referre", "ferre" 意思是: "携带"。)

balance

The "balance" of the year will be devoted to the building of ships.

我们可以讲帐目上收支的 "余额", 但是不能讲一段时间的 "余额"。

between ... or

You must choose between him "or" me.

"between" 后不能跟 "or"。

between each

The amount was divided between "each" member.

"between" 后不能跟 "each"。

正

删去: back

删去: back

rest 或 remainder

and

all the members 或
among the members

but ... however

He was refused admission several times,
"but" persisted "however" in his
efforts.

删去: however

冗言。"but" 和 "however" 同义。

calculate 或 reckon

I "calculate" (或 "reckon") he is a
clever man.

believe

美语。不提倡。

chronic

The heat was "chronic" yesterday.

intense

"chronic" 来自希腊语 "chronos"
(时间), 意思是 "长时间" 或 "长期
形成的"。在书面上, 它一般不能用来
表达 "bad"、"severe"、"remarkable"
等词的意思, 而且这样的用法是极其庸
俗的。

conservative

On a "conservative" estimate, the pro-
fits will be large enough for a 10
per cent. dividend to be paid on the
ordinary shares.

moderate

误

“conservative” 不应用来表达这种意思。它的意思是：“有意保持现状”。

content oneself by ...

I had to content myself “by” writing with
a strongly worded letter to the Directors of the Company.

不合习惯用法。

continue to remain

He “continued” to “remain” inflexible. He remained inflexible.
这种由粗心造成的冗言是不可原谅的。

it depends who ...

It depends “who” did it.

口语。“depend” 的正确用法是后面跟 “on” 或 “upon”。

The question is who did it.

differ

The colour “differs” according to the material. varies

“differ” 的意思是 “to be different from”（与……不同），后面不能跟 “according”。

正

误

different (用作 differently)

He says so, but I think "different" .

任何人将形容词误用为副词，都会产生这种大错。这说明他缺乏语言知识。

different ... than

When M. L. came to see me, it was
"for an entirely different object than
that which" has caused me to write
today.

这里用 "different than" 是文理不通。

different to

This is quite different "to" what he
said.

大多数语法学家都认为 "different
to" 是语法错误。"different from"

(和……不同；和……有别) 才符合词源学，所以应用 "different from".

due to

I shall have to remain at home, "due
to" the serious trouble that has over-

正

differently

for an object entirely
ly different from
that which

from

owing to

误

taken me.

“due” 是形容词，应修饰名词或代词，如：“The rent is due.”（租金到期了。）

“His success was due to application.”

（他的成功是由于他努力。）但是，我们应该讲：“He succeeded owing to his application.”（他因为努力而获成功。）这里使用复合介词“owing to”

（因为；由于），引导副词短语，并修饰“succeeded”。

either of the three

“Either of the three” will do.

“either”（两者之中任何一个）不能用于两个以上的人或事物。

entitled to

Having done the damage, you are “entitled” to pay for it.

“entitled to”意思是：“有权做……”，不应与“liable to”“有（法律）责任的；有义务的”混淆。

rise equal to

Do you think he will rise “equal” to

正

any one of the three

liable

will rise to the

误

the occasion?

两个习语相混。

expect

We “expect” the work was finished yesterday.

“expect”（期待；盼望）着眼于将来，因此除口语外不能用于过去。

eventuate

What we expected did not “eventuate”.

“eventuate”（结果；终归）是个新闻文体的矫饰词，应该避免使用。

seldom or ever

They are seldom “or ever” in town on that day.

俗语。

facilitate

The Customs Officers were “facilitated” in their task by the traveller’s readiness to comply with their directions.

“facilitate”（使容易；使便利）用来指“物”，不能指人。

正

occasion 或 will be equal to the occasion

think、suppose、believe 等

happen

no never 或 seldom if ever

helped 或 the task of the Customs Officers was facilitated by ...

误

few 和 fewer

The excursionists were in a "fewer" number than usual.

"few" 和 "fewer" 不能用在单数名词前。

a comparatively few

There were "a" comparatively few persons on the beach.

as follow

The words used on this occasion were "as follow".

尽管从句子的语法上看来，似乎要求用复数，但公认的习惯用法是 "as follows" (如下)。

have a glance of

I could just "have a glance of" the monument.

不合习惯用法。

take a glimpse at

I could just "take a glimpse at" the monument.

正

in a smaller number 或 were fewer

删去: a

as follows

take a glance at

get a glimpse of

误

不合习惯用法。

正

goodself, goodselves

We have already mentioned the matter to "your goodselves" in a previous letter.

"goodself" 和 "goodselves" 不是英语词

you

at close hand

He was able to follow the negotiations "at close hand."

不合习惯用法。

at close quarters 或
near at hand

hardly ... than

He had "hardly" entered "than" his nephew arrived.

混淆两种结构。"than" (比) 必须跟一个比较级。"hardly" 不是比较级。

no sooner ... than
或 hardly entered

when

hardly

He squandered his "hardly" earned salary.

在这里, "hard" 已经是副词了, 因此不必再加词尾-ly。

hard