

英语词汇常见错误例解

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前 言

PREFACE

英语已成为一种国际性的语言，在我国英语学习者也日益增多，特别是在高等院校英语作为一种必修课程，广大师生投入了大量的时间和精力来完成这门课程的教学和学习任务。在近三十年英语教学实践中，我们常看到许多学生在英语词汇运用过程中出现这样或那样的错误，表现在词性不明，词义不清，固定搭配不当以及英语习惯用法不符等等。如果我们能及时帮助他们改正这些错误，从而使他们的英语水平得到进一步提高，这就是编写本书的目的所在。

在编写体系上，本书充分考虑到英语学习者的特点，力求达到科学、实用、通俗、易懂。对英语词汇按词类列目，所选用的错例针对性强，分析说明易懂易记；指出正确的用法，给予扼要的讲解；并通过正误对比，使学习者能迅速发现问题症结所在，有助于他们对英语词汇的记忆、理解、运用和掌握。

本书可以作为英语词汇学习的辅助材料，对其他有一定基础的英语学习者也会起到很大的帮助作用。

在编写的过程中，我们参考了大量的书籍，在此谨向这些书籍的作者深表谢意。

由于编者水平有限，本书一定还有不少缺点和错误，尚望专家与读者批评指正。

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一、名 词

1. accident 事故，灾难

incident 事件（指随着某件事的附带发生的事件或可能性较小的事件）

∴例：上周在典礼上发生了一件怪事。

×误：A strange accident happened in the ceremony last week.

√正：A strange incident happened in the ceremony last week.

说明：**accident** 是指预想不到的意外事故，如车祸等。

The lady was killed in a traffic **accident**.

这位女士死于一场车祸。

The actor was killed in a plane **accident**.

男演员在一次飞机事故中死亡。

Carelessness often causes **accidents** in everyday life.

在日常生活中粗心常导致事故。

Yesterday there was a car **accident** in his school.

昨天他学校发生了一起车祸。

 与 **accident** 有关常见短语：

by accident (副) 偶然地，意外地

by accident of (介) 因……的巧合

without accident (副) 平安无事

∴如：He met her **by accident** in a crowded train last week.

上周他意外地在拥挤的火车中遇见她。

The trip was a success, but more by accident not because of good planning.

这次旅行成功完全是偶然，不是事先计划的。

而 **incident** 是指小事件。

Hardships are incident to the life of an explorer.

探险者的生活总是艰难困苦的。

There were a number of unpleasant incidents after the basketball match.

篮球赛后，发生了多起不快事件。

A strange **incident** happened after school.

放学后发生了一件奇怪的事。

a humorous incident 幽默的插曲

without incident 平安无事

2. act, action 行动，行为

∴例：刚才这位男士的举止像个孩子。

×误：The man's action was like a boy just now.

✓正：The man's act was like a boy just now.

说明：①**act** 是指暂时的，具体的简单行为。

∴如：He jumped into the river and saved the girl. That was really a brave **act**.

他跳入河中救出女孩，真是勇敢的行为。

The girl slipped and fell in the **act** of picking up the ball.

女孩在捡球时滑了一跤。

②**action** 是指较复杂的，继续的行为。

∴如：In fact, all we need now is **action** not discussion.

事实上，我们现在需要的是行动，而不是讨论。

The police had to take firm **action** to deal with the riots.

警方不得不采取果断行动对付骚乱。

The workers urge strike **action**. 工人们力促采取罢工行动。

Actions are more important than words. 行比言更重要。

🔍 **in/into action** 在运行，在活动

out of action 不工作，不在运行

take action 采取行动

in the (very) act of 正在……时

3. advice 劝告，忠告，建议

∴例：他给我的忠告是更努力地工作。

×误：His advices to me were to work hard.

✓正：His advice to me was to work hard.

说明：**advice** 是不可数名词，不能加 s，可以说 **a piece of advice, some advice** 或 **much advice**.

∴如：He would not take my much **advice**. 他不肯接受我的许多劝告。

I asked my teacher for **advice** on my future course.

我请老师对我的未来去向作些建议。

You should follow his **advice**. 你应该听从他的忠告。

Let me give you a piece of **advice**. 让我给你一个忠告。

注意: **advise** “忠告”, 动词, 与之相关动词依次为:

urge 力劝 recommend 劝告, 推荐 advise 忠告, 建议

admonish 告诫, 训诫 caution 警告 warn 警告

同 **advice** 构成常见短语:

give/offer him a piece of advice 给他忠告

act on/follow/take his advice 听他的忠告

seek his advice 求教于他

disregard/refuse/turn a deaf ear to his advice 不听他劝告

some advice on/about……有关……的忠告(名词+介词)

against his advice 不听他的忠告(介词+名词)

on/upon the advice of his teacher 听他老师的劝告(介+名)

4. Africa 非洲

∴例: 我叔叔在非洲工作了两年。

×误: My uncle worked in africa for two years.

√正: My uncle worked in Africa for two years.

说明: 非洲 **Africa**, 亚洲 **Asia**, 大洋洲 **Australia** 等, 各大洲第一个字母都要大写。

Some of the world's highest mountains are in Asia.

世界最高峰有数座在亚洲。

There are a lot of wild elephants in **Africa**. 在非洲有许多野象。

The girl studied English in **Australia** last year.

女孩去年在澳大利亚学英语。

The castle is said to be most beautiful in **Europe**.

据说该城堡之美居欧洲之冠。

5. afternoon 下午 (从正午到日落)

∴例: 他们在下午两点见面。

×误: They met at 2: 00 afternoon.

√正: They met at 2: 00 in the afternoon.

说明: 早晨、下午、晚上, 而要说 **in the morning, in the afternoon, in the evening**. 说某日的早晨、下午、晚上要用介词 on.

∴如: **on** a fine afternoon 在一个晴朗下午

on Friday morning 在周五早晨

on Sunday evening 在周日的傍晚

注意：今天 早晨、下午、傍晚：

this morning, this afternoon, this evening 就不用介词了。

School starts **on Monday morning**.

学校于星期一早上开始上课。

I will try to speak to the student about it **in the evening**.

我会在晚上设法跟学生谈谈这事。

Let us go to the park with these children **this morning**.

今天上午让我们跟这些孩子们一起去公园吧！

The accident happened **on Friday afternoon**.

事故发生在周五的下午。

6. age 年龄

∴例：你老师多大年纪了？

×误：How old is your teacher's age?

√正：What's your teacher's age?

说明：“你多大了？”英语是 How old are you? 或 What's your age?

He is about sixteen(years **old**).=He is about sixteen years of **age**.
他大约十六岁。

She left school at the **age** of fifteen. 她十五岁时离开学校。

Children of all **ages** will enjoy the popular song.

不管多大年龄的孩子，一定会喜欢这首流行歌曲。

When I was your **age** I never did anything like this!

我像你这样年纪的时候，从没有干出这种事！

注意：**age** 还有“人生的阶段，时代”之意。

This is a problem that often develops in middle **age**.

这是人到中年常有的问题。

We are now living in the computer **age**.

今天我们生活在电脑时代。

7. air 空气，大气，户外的空气

∴例：我们决定乘飞机去意大利。

×误：We decided to go to Italy in the air.

√正：We decided to go to Italy by air.

说明：**in the air** 在空中(口语)谣言等在流传中，计划等未决定的。

∴如: Our job is **in the air**. 我们的工作没落实。
 The **air** has been polluted by car exhaust.
 空气已遭汽车尾气污染。
 Some substances resist corrosion by **air** or water.
 有些物质可以抗空气或水的腐蚀。
Air not only occupies space but it also has weight.
 空气不仅占据空间, 而且它还占据重量。
 而“乘坐飞机”是 **by air, by plane**.
 You want to go to Dalian, it is quicker **by air (plane)**.
 你去大连, 乘飞机要快得多。

8. alphabet 全套字母, 字母系统; letter 字母

∴例: 这个词由十个字母组成。
 ×误: The word consists of ten alphabets.
 √正: The word consists of ten letters.
 说明: **letter** 是指单个字母。
 ∴如: A is the first **letter** of the alphabet. A 是字母表的第一个字母。
 The English **alphabet** has 26 letters. 英文全套有 26 个字母。
 “I” is a capital **letter**; “i” is a small **letter**.
 “I” 是大写字母; “i” 是小写字母。
 注意: letter 名词“信, 字面意义”如:
 Could you post this letter for me when you go out?
 你出去时替我把这封信寄了好吗?
 I have had a **letter** from the tax inspector saying I owe him money. 我收到一封税务官的信, 说我欠他钱。
 The case of murder was bound by **the letter** of the law.
 这起杀人案被这一法律的字面所束缚。
 Everyone must carry out the rules **to the letter**.
 人人必须严格按照字句实施条例。

9. a.m. 午前; p.m. 午后

∴例: 学生们将于午后七点到家。
 ×误: The students will get home at seven o'clock p.m.
 √正: The students will get home at seven p.m.
 说明: **a.m.** 是上午, **p.m.** 是下午, 他们置于表示时间的数字之后通常小写。
 ∴如: at 9: 30 **a.m.** 在上午九点三十分读成 nine thirty **a.m.**

the 10: 45 plane 10 点 45 的飞机。

a.m. 和 p.m. 本身就含有点钟含意，所以表示时间要去掉 o'clock.

10. amount 数量

∴例：我总有大量的工作可做。

×误：I always have a large number of work to do.

√正：I always have a large amount of work to do.

说明：**a large number of** 和 **a large amount of** 都有“大量”的意思，但后者接不可数名词，前者接可数名词。

∴如：**a large number of** bags 大量的包

a large amount of money to spend 大量的钱要花

A large number of visitors want to visit that beautiful old stone house.

大批来宾要去参观那古老而美丽的石屋。

A large amount of money was spent on the new bridge.

那座新桥耗费了大量金钱。

You will have any **amount** of time after your examination.

考试过后，你们会有大量的时间。

the amount 总额，总计，总数。

∴如：What's **the amount** of the bill? 账单上金额总计多少？

He could only pay half **the amount** he owed.

他只能偿还所欠债款的一半。

11. April 四月

∴例：我四月份去了北京。

×误：I went to Beijing in april.

√正：I went to Beijing in April.

说明：英语中的表月份词第一个字母都要大写。

∴如：**January** 一月，**February** 二月，**March** 三月，等等。

They are going to get married in **November**.

他们将在十一月结婚。

My father came home from Europe on **January** 26.

My father came home from Europe on the 26th of **January**.

我爸爸一月二十六日从欧洲回来。

She started work there the **August** before last.

她前年八月开始在那工作。

It happened on **May** the fifteenth. 这件事发生在五月十五日。

April Fools' Day 愚人节

12. arm 臂 (从肩 shoulder 至腕 wrist; 动物的前肢)

∴ 例: 她怀里抱着婴儿。

× 误: She held her baby in her arm.

√ 正: She held her baby in her arms.

说明: **arm** 是可数名词, “怀中抱着……” 是 **carry(have, hold)in one' s arms**, 这里习惯上用复数形式 **arms**。

arms 武器, 兵器, 武力

如: **nuclear arms** 核武器

take up arms 拿起武器

the arms race between the superpowers

超级大国间的军备竞赛。

She threw her **arms** around his neck.

她用双臂搂住他的脖子。

They waved their **arms** in the air and shouted at us.

他们挥动手臂, 对着我们大喊。

而 **arm in arm** 臂挽着臂 **with folded arms** 抱臂

The two good sisters walked **arm in arm**.

两个好姐妹挽臂而行。

Do not look on **with folded arms**. 不要袖手旁观。


13. attention 注意, 注目

∴ 例: 请注意你的行为。

× 误: Please give more attentions to your action.

√ 正: Please pay more attention to your action.

说明: **attention** 这里是名词, 表示 “注意(关注)某事”

 常用词组:

pay more attention to sth.

give(turn)one' s attention to sth.

常用短语:

attract(catch, draw, capture, command, get)one' s attention

吸引某人注意

hold(retain)one' s attention on 将注意力集中于

direct(turn)one' s attention to 将注意力转向

It is difficult to **hold the students' attention** for more than half an hour.

让学生持续集中注意力达半小时以上，真是很难。

They **drew their attention** to the rising unemployment.

失业率日渐升高引起他们的注意。

This thing requires her close **attention**. 这事她必须密切关注。

14. bath 沐浴，洗澡

∴例：你洗澡了吗？

×误：Did you take(have)a bathe?

√正：Did you take(have)a bath?

说明：**have (take) a bath** 指室内沐浴，而 **have (take) a bathe** 则指洗河、海水澡。另外 **bathe** 常做动词用。

∴如：**Bathe** the wound twice a day. 伤口一天清洗两次。

Bathe your feet twice a week. 每周要泡脚两次。

The fields were **bathed** in sunlight. 田野沐浴于阳光中。

Would you prefer to **take a bath** or a shower?

你喜欢洗盆浴还是洗淋浴？

The mother gave the baby a **bath** this afternoon.

下午这位妈妈给婴儿洗澡了。

I prefer to **bath** in the morning, and then I go to work.

我喜欢早晨洗澡，然后上班去。(bath 动词)

Let us go for a **bathe**. 我们去游泳吧。(尤指在海里游泳)

 与 **bath** 有关的短语：

a cold bath 冷水浴

bath tub 浴盆，浴缸

shower curtain 浴帘

public baths 公共澡堂

have a shower 淋浴

a room with a bath 套房(附有浴室)

sit/lie in a hot bath 泡缸

shampoo one's hair 洗发

bath towel 浴巾

bathhouse 公共澡堂，更衣室

15. battle 战役，战斗，交战

∴例：这场战役持续多久？

×误：How long did the war go on?

√正：How long did the battle go on?

说明：**war** 是“战争，战争状态”与之对应 **peace** “和平”。

 **a war of words** 舌战 **the Second World War** 二次世界大战

a cold war 冷战

a price war 价格战

war and peace 战争与和平 **declare war** 宣战

The Allies waged **war** on Hitler. 同盟国向希特勒开了战。

The **war-torn** city of Beirut 屡遭战争破坏的贝鲁特城。

That is a price **war** among oil companies.

那是一场石油公司的价格战。

When **war** broke out, thousands of men volunteered for the army.

战争爆发，数以千计的人自愿参军。

而 **battle** 是“战役”，一次战争往往包含多次具体的战役。

The Battle of Waterloo 滑铁卢之战

It is one of the most crucial **battles** in the whole war.

那是整个战争中最关键的战役之一。

16. bed 床

∴例：孩子昨晚十点就寝。

×误：The child went to the bed at ten last night.

√正：The child went to bed at ten last night.

说明：**go to bed** “就寝”是固定词组，同 **go to school** “上学”一样，在 bed 及 school 前不加冠词。

go to the school 去这个学校

It is time the children **go to bed**. 孩子们该睡觉了。

What time do you usually **go to bed**? 你通常几点睡？

Do not **go to the school** to see her in class.

不要上课时去学校看她。

I **went to the hospital** to see my good friend tomorrow.

我昨天去医院探望我的好友。

17. birth 出生

∴例：布莱克夫人上周生个小孩。

×误：Mrs. Black birthed a child last week.

√正：Mrs. Black gave birth to a child last week.

说明：**birth** 是名词，不是动词。

a difficult birth 难产

birthday 生日

give birth to a baby 生小孩

My good friend **gave birth to** a fine healthy baby last week.

我好朋友上周生了一个健康漂亮的宝宝。

Last year there were more **births** than deaths.

去年的出生人数大于死亡人数。

the **birth** of a child 一个孩子的诞生

the **birth** of a new nation 一个新国家的诞生

18. blood 血，血统

∴例：他是贵族出身。

×误：He is of noble bloods.

√正：He is of noble blood.

说明：**blood** 是不可数名词，没有复数形式。

∴如：**Blood** is thicker than water. 血浓于水。

The son donated his **blood** to help his mother.

儿子献血救助他的母亲。

The heart pumps **blood** around the body.

心脏将血液送往身体各处。

Blood was pouring from a cut on his head.

他头上的伤口涌出鲜血。

a man of hot blood 血气之勇勇士

a woman of noble blood 门第高贵的妇人

princes of the blood 有皇族血统的王子

in cold blood 冷血地 **cold-blooded** 冷血的

He killed the baby **in cold blood** last week.

上周他残忍地杀死这个婴儿。

Reptiles are **cold-blooded**. 爬虫类都是冷血动物。

Li Gang played a **cold-blooded** killer in the film.

李刚在这部电影中扮演一位冷血杀手。

19. boat 小船，小舟；ship 大轮船

∴例：他们乘船渡河。

×误：They crossed the river by ship(in a ship).

√正：They crossed the river by boat(in a boat).

说明：**boat** 常指江河，湖泊行驶的船；**ship** 常指在海洋行驶的大轮船或舰。

∴如：He went to Europe **by ship**. 他搭船去的欧洲。

 **space ship** 宇宙飞船 **air ship** 大型飞机

Dragon Boat 端午节

be in the same boat 同舟共济

burn one's boats 破釜沉舟

It is much slower to cross the Atlantic **by ship**.

乘船横渡大西洋慢得多。

The students will cross the river **by boat (in a boat)**.

学生们将乘小船渡河。

20. body 身体, 躯体

∴ 例: 我老爸身体很好。

× 误: My old father's body is good.

√ 正: My old father is sound in body.

说明: 英语中有许多种表达“身体好”的用法。如:

“to be sound (健康的) in body”, be well, be ok 短语都可以。

body 对应词 mind, soul, spirit

∴ 如: **body and soul** 身心。

He devoted himself **body and soul** to his study.

他全身心地投入到学习中。

The police have found a **body** in the old canal.

警察在老运河中发现了一具尸体。

A sound mind in a sound **body**.


健康的心理寓于健康的身体。(谚语)

She had injuries to her head and **body**.

她的头部和身躯都受了伤。

You can imprison my **body** but not my mind.

你可以禁锢我的身体, 但你不能禁锢我的精神。

 常用短语:

in a body 全体, 一起

keep body and soul together 苟延残喘

own sb body and soul 完全主宰某人

bodyguard 保镖

body-building 健身, 健美

body-builder 健身者, 健美运动员

body clock 人体生物钟

body language 身势语, 体态语

21. bottle 瓶

∴例：这个学生喝了一瓶牛奶。

×误：The student has had a bottle milk.

√正：The student has had a bottle of milk.

说明：一瓶(的量)of 名词：

∴如：He drank two **bottles** of beer. 他喝了两瓶啤酒。

Why do not we crack open another **bottle** of champagne?

我们为什么不再开一瓶香槟酒呢？

The girl drinks a whole **bottle** of wine! 女孩喝了一整瓶酒！

a bottle of ink 一瓶墨水

two bottles of water 两瓶水

bottled water 瓶装水

bottleneck 瓶颈(路段)

After three or four months the wine is **bottled**.

过三四个月就把酒装瓶了。(bottle 装瓶，动词)

22. bread 面包

∴例：他们以面包和牛奶为主食。

×误：They live on breads and milk.

√正：They live on bread and milk.

说明：bread 是不可数名词，没有复数形式。

“一(两)条面包”为 **a loaf(two loaves)of bread**

He ate five slices of **bread** just now. 他刚才吃了五片面包。

“许多面包”则为 **much(a lot of) bread**

The children had **bread** and cheese for lunch.

孩子们午饭吃了干酪面包。

Would you like some **bread** and butter?

你要不要黄油面包？

French bread 法国面包 **croissant** 牛角面包

wholemeal bread 全麦面包 **breadcrumbs** 面包屑(烹饪用)

23. breakfast 早餐

∴例：今天你何时吃的早饭？

×误：When did you have the breakfast this morning?

√正：When did you have breakfast this morning?

说明：一日三餐，**have (take) breakfast (lunch, supper)**，三餐前无冠词，但强调时前面可以加物主代词。

∴如：I had my **lunch** at home. = I took **my lunch** at home.
我在家吃的午餐。

to be at breakfast (lunch, supper) 是指“正在吃早饭”（午饭，晚饭）。

三餐前加上形容词时，前面再加上不定冠词。

∴如：**have (take) a light breakfast** 吃简单的早餐

have (take) a good lunch 吃丰盛的午饭

We had a working **lunch**. 我们吃了一顿工作午餐。

They had a late **breakfast** yesterday. 昨天他们很晚才吃的早餐。

24. brother-in-law 姐（妹）夫，内兄（弟）

∴例：他有三个姐夫。

×误：He has three brother-in-laws.

√正：He has three brothers-in-law.

说明：合成名词构成复数时通常只将里面所包含的主体名词变为复数。

father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law 及

two lookers-on 两个旁观者 **runners-up** 亚军

three sons-in-law 三个女婿 **grand-child (ren)** 孙儿，孙女

armyman (armymen) 军人 **comrades-in-arms** 战友

editors-in-chief 总编辑 **vice-premiers** 副总理

如果没有主体名词，就只在最后一个词上加复数词尾。

例如：**go-between (s)** 中间人（月老，媒人）

drawback (s) 缺陷 **film-goers** 常看电影的人

tooth-brushes 牙刷 **greenhouses** 温室

但由 man 和 woman 构成的合成词，里面所含的成分，全都要变为复数。

∴如：man-doctor → **men-doctors** 男医生

woman-servant → **women-servants** 女仆人

man-cadre → **men-cadres** 男干部

25. chalk 粉笔

∴例：请给我一些粉笔。

×误：Please give me some chalks.

√正：Please give me some chalk.

说明：chalk 为不可数名词，无复数形式。