

THE A B C OF LIVING ENGLISH SERIES

活用英文 A B C 叢書

THE A B C
OF
ENGLISH SYNONYMS

英文歧字用法ABC

世界書局印行

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EDITED BY H. D. LING

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BY Z. Y. YU

101

英文歧字用法 A B C
俞 瑞 元

上 海 世 界 書 局 出 版
THE WORLD BOOK CO., LTD.
SHANGHAI, CHINA
1930

英文歧字用法ABC

全一冊實價國幣

(外埠酌加運費匯費)

編著者 俞 瑞 元

印刷者 世界書局

發行所 世界書局

中華民國二十年四月出版
中華民國廿五年十月五版

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活用英文 A B C 叢書序

勤奮的欲於求英文進步的中學生，常覺得每星期上三五次英文課為不滿足，好好的課本還以為不好。下了課偷偷地跑到教員身後或教員室中蜷縮待哺似地問道：先生，我的英文不好，我要立志用一番功。你看什麼書最好？什麼書能使我發音正確？什麼書能使我寫信，會話？什麼書能使我懂文法，用句子，練習作文？……教員一時裏無從指示起，腦子裏想了一大堆的英文法，修辭學，尺牘指南，會話大全，等等，自己實在介紹不出適合眼前學生胃口的課本，於是只得說，這本好，那本也好，很慚愧地敷衍過去。這是編者教授英文時天天遇到年年未決的難問題。我敢說，這當是我們英文教員的共同經驗。

對此共同的經驗設法來解決這未決的難問題，乃這幾十餘位志同道合的英文教員合編一部活用英文 A B C 叢書，凡英文學生所需用的材料分類編錄（書目另詳）。我們自己知道編得不成規模：文法，修辭學，發音，修

譯等等，必使文法家，修辭學家，語音學家，翻譯家失望。但我們足以自慰的是這部活用英文 ABC 的讀者，便是那班急於求英文進步的中學生，所以內容只求供他們的需要，行文只求合他們的程度，至於英文學家到 ABC 叢書裏來找 XYZ，那是他們的苛求，不是我們的疏陋。

這部叢書不是某板成套的。分開來，單行本各自獨立，合起來成爲一集。全套照各書的性質分別編輯，有的有華文註解，或華文講義；有的中英合璧；有練習問題者，書末並附練習問題解答；故每書頗合自修。國內英文教員如能採用爲講本，學生們或許不會再擾着你們要買什麼書了。

林漢達。

弁 言

- (一) 本書所載英語歧字皆係日常通用之字，備中學生及其他初學英語者自修之用。
- (一) 每字常有數個不同之意義與用法，本書所舉則僅限於常見者。
- (一) 各字均用普通文字註釋，使初學者易得真切了解。
- (一) 每字之後用括弧 () 註明詞類，俾讀者便於摹倣。
- (一) 各字經解釋後，舉例以明該字之確當用法，冀讀者得十分明白而知所應用。若一字註明兩個意義，則舉二例。三個四個類推。並列舉相似之歧字以資參考。
- (一) 今春編者因感喪女之痛，擱筆久之，經世界書局英文系主任林漢達先生之再三篤促，始得勉力草就此稿；本校英文系主任郝齊佳 (Henry Huizinga) 博士與政治系教授魏良聲博士又為勤加校閱；郝博士又抱病為草序言。三先生之美意，深為編者感激。特此鳴謝！

俞瑞元識於滬江大學

一九三〇年八月

FOREWORD

To discriminate between words nearly alike in meaning is often a difficult thing to do, but it is always interesting and worthwhile. Who can readily distinguish between *belief* and *faith*, *custom* and *habit*, *penalty* and *punishment*, *fashion* and *mode*, *candid* and *sincere*? Generally it is important that we use the right word, one and not the other. Moreover, the study of exact meanings of words and expressions which is required in the consideration of synonyms is a most useful means of building up a large and practical vocabulary.

On the other hand, there may be occasions when the choice of words is almost immaterial, and only the euphony of sound, the principle of avoidance of repetition, or some such considerations must determine the particular word or expression to be used. For this purpose to have in mind a large store of words of similar meaning is very useful for a writer or a speaker. In such a simple thing as connecting clauses or sentences, it sometimes requires a nice discrimination to know which of the following to use: *and*, *moreover*, *furthermore*, *again*, *likewise*, etc.; or in cases of contrast: *but*, *nevertheless*, *however*, *yet*, *on the other hand*, etc.

Very often words differ not so much in meaning as in force or strength. Thus, to *refuse*, *reject*, *scorn*, *spurn*, *an offer*; each succeeding word expresses a stronger meaning than the one going before. Sometimes it is a good exercise to arrange a group of words like the

following in the order of strength. Which indicates the biggest thing: *big, enormous, gigantic, huge, large, vast*? Which is the smallest of the following: *infinitesimal, microscopic, minute, small, tiny*?

Mark Twain said: "There is as much difference between the almost right word and the right word as there is between the lightning bug and the lightning." Careful students of English will try to use the right word rather than a word which is almost right; they will seek to use a pleasing variety of expression rather than stupidly make use of the same term over and over again. They will use words that are big enough to convey their large and serious thoughts, and at the same time will not make themselves appear ridiculous by using words hopelessly out of proportion to the insignificance of their ideas: as the little boy, who had hurt his finger, when asked about it, replied: Oh, the agony has abated.

The accompanying *A B C of English Synonyms*, prepared by Mr. Z. Y. Yu, is an attempt to place before Chinese students some of the valuable material from good English handbooks on the subject. The detailed explanations in Chinese should make the book of great service to those for whom it is intended. The writer heartily commends the author for his painstaking care in the compilation of this text.

HENRY HUIZINGA, PH.D.

Shanghai College

August 22, 1930.

THE A B C OF ENGLISH SYNONYMS

英文歧字用法 A B C

ABANDON

abdicate
quit

cede
relinquish

desert
resign

forsake
surrender

(cease, leave, renounce, retract)

Abandon (*v. t.*) 表示一般的捨棄, 可指任何人或事物而言. [例] A man *abandons* a company, an enterprise, and a habit.

Abdicate (*v. t. & i.*) 與 resign (*v. t. & i.*) 同指職位權勢之放棄. [例] A monarch *abdicates*; a president or other elected or appointed officer *resigns*.

Cede (*v. t.*) 指土地主有權之捨棄. [例] China *ceded* Formosa to Japan in 1895 as a result of the China-Japan war.

Desert (*v. t. & i.*) 常指非樂意的怠職放棄. [例] A man *deserts* his wife.

附註: Desert 有時專指地點之離棄. [例] This is a *deserted* village.

Forsake (*v. t.*) 含離棄曾所親近之人或事物之意義. [例] Friends should not *forsake* each other in time of adversity.

Quit (*v. t. & i.*) 指猝然放棄而未必終於捨棄. [例] The workers *quit* on a strike.

Relinquish (*v. t.*) 表示不願而却強行捨棄。[例]

The creditor *relinquishes* his claim.

Surrender (*v. t. & i.*) 指軍權或其他權勢地位

等之讓棄。[例] General Robert E. Lee *surrendered* his army to General Ulysses S. Grant to end the Civil War of the United States.

ABASH

confound confuse embarrass humble shame
[bewilder, discompose, disconcert, humiliate, overawe]

Abash (*v. t.*) 指感情上以爲不及人的羞辱。[例]

The poor are *abashed* at the splendor of wealth; the ignorant, at the learning of the wise. The presence of these men *abashed* the ignorant child.

Confound (*v. t.*) 指感覺出於意料之外的羞意。

[例] A general is *confounded* by overwhelming defeat.

Confuse (*v. t.*) 指思想上的困難。[例] A pupil is *confused* by a perplexing question.

Embarrass (*v. t.*) 指因遇人而感到不自然的羞惱。[例] The presence of a good many friends *embarrassed* Mr. T. M. Wang.

Humble (*v. t.*) 表示自覺卑陋。[例] The true worshipper is *humbled* rather than abashed before God.

Shame (*v. t.*) 指自覺錯誤之羞辱。[例] A dog's fidelity *shames* us.

ABATE

decline decrease

(diminish, dwindle, ebb, reduce, subside)

Abate (*v. t. & i.*) 指力與勢的減少, 而不用以表示體積容量的減縮。[例] The storm has *abated* in violence.

Decline (*v. t. & i.*) 指因審慎而對事物拒絕或掃興。[例] He has *declined* his friend's offer to teach in a school. His interest in politics *declines*.

Decrease (*v. t. & i.*) 指容量上的漸次減少。[例] The population of Shensi and Honan is *decreasing* as war and famine make the conditions of living there very hard.

ABBREVIATION

contraction

(abridgment, compression, condensation, shortening)

Abbreviation (*n.*) 指字或成語的寫法之節略。[例] 'Dr.' is an *abbreviation* of 'doctor'; 'Am.' for America is also an *abbreviation*.

Contraction (*n.*) 指收縮物體的各部而使體積縮小; 字的 Contraction 係指字的中間部份除去而留其前後兩端。[例] 'Dr.' for debtor is a *contraction*; 'rec't' for receipt, 'mdse.' for

merchandise, and 'Mr.' for mister are also *contractions*; but 'Am.' for America is not a *contraction*.

ABEYANCE

intermission interruption suspension
(adjournment, discontinuance, inaction, reservation)

Abeyance (*n.*) 指暫時中止而可恢復原狀的懸攔。[例] A title to property, when in *abeyance*, is likely at any time to be revived on the appearance of a lawful owner. A claim or a measure is held in *abeyance* with distinct purpose of pressing it if occasion shall arise.

Intermission (*n.*) 指事前已定或臨時暫定而可望復原狀的中止, 此等中止可常有, 或有定時。[例] The *intermission* of the Chinese Oratorical Contest lasted five minutes.

Interruption (*n.*) 指因受外來擾亂的中止, 與內定的 *Intermission* 不同: *Intermission* 是自然的或自動的中止, *Interruption* 是經外來的擾亂而強迫中止。[例] All zealous Christians hate *interruptions* of religious services by rioters.

Suspension (*n.*) 指經當權人執行的中止。[例] *Suspension* of sentence, pending good behavior, is now frequently allowed on conviction of minor offences.

ABIDE

inhabit

(dwell, live, lodge, remain, reside, stay)

Abide (*v. i. & t.*) 常用以指恆久居住, 有時也用以指規定時間的居住. [例] I am so used to town life that I can not *abide* in the country.

Inhabit (*v. t.*) 與 Live 同表示在文明社會的居住, 而 Live 的用義較廣, Inhabit 則只用於有人居住之地的居住. [例] The Red Indians originally *inhabited* America.

ABOLISH

overthrow

suppress

(destroy, end, exterminate, nullify, prohibit, remove)

Abolish (*v. t.*) 現在用以指制度, 習俗及現狀的革除; 凡經時久而傳佈廣之制度, 習俗及普遍狀況有害之處, 用 Abolish 以表絕對的廢去. [例] Abraham Lincoln *abolished* slavery in the United States.

Overthrow (*v. t.*) 指對任何好惡事物的傾覆或毀敗. [例] The English pride themselves on beating their enemies by land as well as by sea and have scarcely ever been *overthrown*.

Suppress (*v. t.*) 表示改善的革除. [例] A judicious general *suppresses* a rebellion by a timely and resolute exercise of authority.

ABOMINATION

disgust

(abhorrence, abuse, annoyance, detestation, hatred,
nuisance, offense)

Abomination (*n.*) 表示深可厭棄的罪惡。 [例]

Impiety and profaneness are objects of *abomination*.

Disgust (*n.*) 表示不喜而厭棄的意義, 通常用以表官感上對物件的厭棄。 [例] Choice food may be an object of aversion and *disgust* to a sick person.

ABSCOND

decamp

depart

disappear

leave

(flee, hide, retire, retreat, withdraw)

Abscond (*v. i.*) 表示逃走避匿, 因有不可告人的理由。 [例] Dishonest men *abscond*.

Decamp (*v. i.*) 表示突然隱逃, 以免被追襲或發見。 [例] A traveler might *decamp* in fear of lurking robbers or enemies, soldiers on the discovery of a superior force.

Depart (*v. i.*) 只表離去, 無好惡喜懼等含義。 [例] A traveler *departs* on his journey.

Disappear (*v. i.*) 表示自然的隱沒。 [例] Any object that moves away will soon *disappear*.

Leave (*v. t. & i.*) 指離人或事物, 而含希望重遇的意義。 [例] Mr. Robert Chang *leaves* me in order to speak to Mr. N. Lee.

ABSOLUTE

positive

supreme

(arbitrary, authoritative, commanding, compulsory,
despotic, dictatorial, dogmatic)

Absolute (*a.*) 指對人或事物的絕對不受拘束。

[例] An *absolute* monarch may do anything he pleases.

Positive (*a.*) 表示意志堅決，確信，或進行的毅力。[例] A *positive* mode of speech depends upon a *positive* state of mind.

Supreme (*a.*) 本來形容無上的神權，今亦形容人或事物之權力的無上。[例] The *supreme* court has the highest authority for judicial justification.

ABSOLVE

forgive

pardon

(acquit, discharge, exempt, free, release)

Absolve (*v. t.*) 指任何束縛的免釋。[例] One may be *absolved* from a promise by a breach of faith on the part of one to whom the promise was made.

Forgive (*v. t. & i.*) 指通常人與人間過失的相互寬恕。[例] Individuals *forgive* one another's personal offenses.

Pardon (*v. t.*) 含義較 Forgive 爲重，常指道德上與法律上的寬恕。[例] Broad-minded people

usually *pardon* offenses which are unintentional.

ABSORB

consume

swallow

(exhaust, imbibe)

Absorb (*v. t.*) 表示液體爲其他物體所吸收, 或其他相似的吸收 (1); 有時也用以表示專心一志 (2). [例] (1) Wood expands when it *absorbs* moisture. (2) He is *absorbed* in studying history which engages his whole attention.

Consume (*v. t. & i.*) 表示一物爲他物所吞滅或消化 (1); 有時也用以表示物品爲個人所購用 (2). [例] (1) Fire *consumes* wood. (2) Silk and woolen goods are *consumed*.

Swallow (*v. t. & i.*) 表示全部吞食, 與表示逐漸吸收之 Absorb 不同. [例] Some people *swallow* food too quickly.

ABSTRACT

distinguish

separate

(discriminate, distract, divert, eliminate, remove)

Abstract (*v. t.*) 指道德智識意像等非物質的分析. [例] Qualities are *abstracted* from the subjects in which they are inherent.

Separate (*v. t. & i.*) 表示物質的分離. [例] Many countries are *separated* by mountains or seas.

Distinguish (*v. t. & i.*) 表示物質或非物質的分別，由人觀察中感覺不同而得之分別。[例] It requires a keen eye to *distinguish* objects that bear great resemblance to each other.

ABSTRACTED

absent absent-minded absorbed preoccupied
(heedless, inattentive, indifferent, listless, negligent)

Abstracted (*a.*) 與 absorbed (*a.*) 及 preoccupied (*a.*) 同為用以表示不注意的原因。[例] We are *abstracted* when not thinking on what passes before us. The man *absorbed* in one thing will appear absent in others. One who is *preoccupied* is intensely busy in thought.

Absent (*a.*) 與 absent-minded (*a.*) 同為表示不注意的結果。[例] One may be *absent* (or *absent-minded*) either through intense concentration or simply through inattention.

附註：Absent 用以表示習慣或狀態，而可用名詞接於後。Abstracted 則只用以表示狀態，而不得以名詞接於後。[例] *Absent* representatives of a business corporation lose their power of voting in its meetings. A man is *absent*. He is *abstracted*.