

孔繁津 王惠舟 编著

英语常见易混词

COMMON CONFUSABLE WORDS
IN ENGLISH

成都科技大学出版社

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Common Confusable
Words In English

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内容简介

本书针对英语学习中经常出现的用词不当和用词混淆等问题,汇集了因词义、词形、读音相近而容易被混用的单词共五百六十多组,对每一组词均用简明、严谨的解释和具有代表性的实例进行了对照比较。它是一本帮助学习英语词汇但又不同于普通英语词典的工具书。

本书适用于各类高等学校学习英语的大学生、研究生以及已有一定英语基础的自学者和爱好者,对从事英语教学和翻译的人员也有一定的参考价值。

英语常见易混词

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序

准确地区别英语中常见而易混的词,是学习和应用英语以及进行英汉互译的一项基本功,对于深入理解和清晰表达都具有十分重要的意义。在英语词汇教学中,这个问题一直受到人们的重视。

国外近年来出版了不少有关英语中常见易混词的词典、手册和参考书,对这个问题作了许多广泛而深入的探讨,为学习英语者创造了一定的条件。但这类词典和专著,一般都出自以英语为母语的人的笔下,对于以其他的语言为起点来学习英语的人在这方面所遇到的问题和困惑,很难有清晰的认识,从而也就不可能针对问题作出“一针见血”的解说、鉴别、澄清和指导。特别是这类词典不可能从两种语言的互译方面去剖析问题(而这正是学习英语的人经常感到困惑的问题),往往难于收到“画龙点睛”的效果。国内出版的这类词书目前还是凤毛麟角,远远不能满足学习者的殷切希望和需要。

孔繁津、王惠舟编著的《英语常见易混词》正好填补了这个空白,是一个非常有意义的尝试。该书博采国外各家之长,精心筛选取舍,作出科学的组织安排。特别可贵的是,该书始终着眼于实用,对国内读者在学习中的难题作了精辟而简洁的汉语解说。我完全相信,该书的问世定会受到广大读者的欢迎和喜爱。

吴福临

1991年9月

前 言

英语是一种词汇极丰富的语言,但有相当数量的单词,由于拼写、读音或词义近似,常常易被混用或误用。即使在以英语为母语的人当中,这一问题也未能完全避免。如果将这类词汇(尤其是出现频率较高者)集中起来,通过对照比较,使它变得易看易记并及时作出鉴别、澄清,必将有效地帮助克服这种用词混淆的问题,提高学习、应用英语的效率。正是本着这一想法,我们编写了这本书。

本书分为两大部分。第一部分汇集的是:a.有共同词根,词义相近但有区别的词,如technique/technology;b.有共同词根但词义不同的词,如adaptable/adaptive;c.词根不同,词义从汉译上看相近,但有明显区别的词,如insist/persist/persevere;d.基本同义,但有细微差别或侧重点不同,因而不可错用的词,如lawful/legal,eatable/edible。以上共计285组、595词。每一词条都作了简要的解释,并在重要之处附有英语释义,以便理解更准确。第二部分集中了形、声近似易混词共280组、582词,包括:a.形态(拼写)近似的词,如effect/affect;b.发声(拼读)相同或近似的词,如sole/soul;c.形、声均近似的词,如stationary/stationery,等等。这一部分各词条的释义采用英汉双解的形式,并注出音标。全书例句丰富且基本能反映出各词的主要用法。书后附有索引,便于查阅。

在编写过程中,我们广泛参考了国外近年来出版的同类书籍和国内外出版的一些权威性词典,紧密结合我国学生在英语学习与应用中的实际问题,逐词取舍,逐句斟酌。解释客观严谨,突出实用性。力求使读者对每一组、每一个词都能留下清晰的印象,用来得心应手。

编写本书主要为满足各类高校学习英语的大学生、研究生和具有一定英语基础的自学者和爱好者的需要。此外,本书

也可用作英语教师的教学参考材料。

华西医科大学外语系教授吴福临先生热忱关心本书的编写工作,于繁忙中挤出时间审阅了本书初稿,并欣然为本书作序。编者于此谨向吴教授致以诚挚的谢意和敬意。

限于编者的水平,缺点难免,恳请读者指正。

编 者

1991年10月

abnormal **subnormal** ← **normal** **adj.**

1. Abnormal 是 normal 的反义词,意为“不正常的”(not normal),可用来说明人或物。例:Maybe my child is *abnormal*. (我的孩子也许不正常。)It is *abnormal* for a man to walk in his sleep. (梦游是不正常的。)

2. Subnormal 的意思是“低于正常的”(below normal standard; less than normal),尤指人的智力方面。例:The Smiths have a son who is mentally *subnormal*. (史密斯夫妇的一个儿子智力逊常。)The child is considered severely *subnormal* (= far below normal in intelligence). (人们认为那个孩子的智力低下。)

accident **incident** **n.**

1. Accident 的意思是“意外事故”(an unintentional and undesirable happening)。例:He was killed by a sudden *accident*. (他死于突发事件。)An *accident* happened to the engine. (机器出了故障。)

2. Incident 一般表示不太重要的“普通事件”(an occurrence of minor importance)。例:There was a strange *incident* in the supermarket today. (今天超级市场里发生了一件奇怪的事情。)The *incident* has long since been forgotten. (那事早就被忘记了。)

3. 现在也常用 incident 表示政治等方面的“重大事件”。例:the July 7th *Incident* of 1937 (1937年〈芦沟桥〉七·七事变)the main *incidents* in the history of the war(战争史上的主要事件)

△ **acquirement** **acquisition** ← **acquire** **n.**

1. Acquisition 常用于表示“获得”(the act of acquiring)这一概念。例:He devotes his time to the *acquisition* of knowledge. (他把时间都花在求知上面。)What is even more important is the formation of character rather than the mere *acquisition* of knowl-

edge. (更为重要的是形成性格而不仅仅是获得知识。)

2. Acquisition 还常用于表示“得到的东西或人”(something or someone acquired)。例: Mary's new *acquisitions* were two dresses, a hat and a pair of shoes. (玛丽新得到的东西有两件上衣、一顶帽子和一双鞋。) The museum displayed its recent *acquisitions*. (博物馆展出了新近收藏的展品。)

3. Acquirement 主要用来表示通过实践或学习而获得的“才艺”或“学识”(a personal skill or knowledge gained through practice or study)。例: Speaking Russian was one of her *acquirements*. (她的收获之一是学会了讲俄语。) Knowledge of a foreign language is a useful *acquirement*. (掌握一门外语是一种很有用的技能。)

act action ₁ n.

这两个名词都能用来表示“行为, 行动”等意, 主要区别在于:

1. Act 强调被做的事本身, 时间上通常是短暂的; action 侧重于行为的过程, 可能费时稍多。例: Sometimes the *act* of writing down the problems straightens out your thinking. (有时候, 把问题写下来可以理顺思路。) Slapping his face was a childish *act*. (打他耳光是幼稚的举动。) His decisive *action* turned the whole situation in our favor. (他的果断行动使整个局势变得对我们有利。) An *action* must be taken to check this tendency. (必须采取行动来制止这种倾向。)

2. 两词分别用于下列固定短语中: He was caught in the *act* of stealing. (他在行窃时被当场抓住。) Large numbers of peasants died by the *act* of God. (大批农民死于天灾。) He was killed in *action* in France. (他在法国阵亡。) The trucks were out of *action* for three months. (这些车已坏了三个月。) It's time that I put my intentions of hard work into *action*. (我该把努力工作的计划付诸实施了。)

2 adaptable adaptive ← adapt adj.

1. Adaptable 的意思是“(某人或某物)能适应不同环境的”(willing or able to change to fit in with different circumstances)。例: He is an *adaptable* man and will soon learn the new work. (他的适应能力强, 很快就会学会这种新的工作。) Children are usually very *adaptable*. (小孩子的适应能力通常是很强的。) The ice ages exterminated many less *adaptable* species. (冰河时代灭绝了许多适应能力较差的物种。)

2. Adaptive 的意思是“适应的”(tending toward, fit for, or having a capacity for adaptation)。例: Many animals have developed *adaptive* mechanisms to deal with cold weather. (许多动物都具有适应寒冷气候的机能。)

△adhere cohere v.

这两个动词都含有“粘”(to stick)的意思, 并都能转义表示另外的意思。

1. Adhere 的意思是“粘连, 粘附在…上”(to stick firmly to another or each other), 用于那些具有粘连性的东西, 如油漆、浆糊等。并转义表示“坚持(某种习惯等)”。例: This paint will *adhere* to any surface, whether rough or smooth. (这种油漆能粘附于任何表面, 不论它是粗糙的还是光滑的。) Mud *adhered* stubbornly to my shoes. (淤泥牢牢地粘在我的鞋上。) He resolutely *adhered* to what he had said at the meeting. (他毅然坚持他在会上所说的话。)

2. Cohere 用来指物质自身“粘在一起, 粘着”(to stick together), 并转义表示“团结一致”。例: The powdery snow wouldn't *cohere* into snowballs. (粉状雪粘不成雪球。) Plaster of Paris *coheres* only when water is added. (熟石膏加水才能粘连。) The party must *cohere* if it's to win the next election. (该党若要在下次选举中获胜就必须团结起来。)

admission admittance ← admit n.

1. 二词都能表示“允许进入”(permission to go in)。Admittance 比较正式, 因而多用 admission。例: This ticket will give you

free *admission* to the exhibition. (凭此票可免费进入展览馆。) The boy gained *admittance* to the park, but without a ticket could not obtain *admission* to the exhibition. (男孩进了公园, 但没有票不能进展览馆。)

2. 更重要的一个差别是, *admittance* 只表示获准进入, 而 *admission* 还表示可成为其中一员, 因而表示“入学”“入会”等意, 都应该用这个词。例: To gain *admittance* to a club is to enter its facilities; to gain *admission* to a club is to become a member. 再例如: He has the requirements for *admission* into the university. (他具备了进该大学的条件。) *Admission* to the literary club is open to all. (人人都可加入文学俱乐部。)

3. 表示“承认”时, 只能用 *admission*。例: He made an *admission* that he was the thief. (他承认自己是窃贼。) To resign now would be an *admission* of failure. (现在辞职就是承认失败。)

advance advancement *n.*

1. Advance 的意思是“进展, 前进” (progress; going forward)。例: Discovering a cure for cancer would be a major medical *advance*. (发现治疗癌症的方法将是医学上的一大进展。) What is the driving force for social *advance*? (什么是社会发展的动力?) The forces made rapid *advances* in three directions, east, north and west. (部队向东、北、西三个方向迅速推进。)

2. Advancement 表示的是“(工作或社会地位的) 晋升” (promotion in one's job, or to a higher social class) 或“促进” (helping forward)。例: The man gained *advancement* in life at the age of forty. (那人 40 岁时发了迹。) The aim of a university should be the *advancement* of learning. (大学的目标应是促进学术的发展。)

△ adverse averse adj.

1. Adverse 的意思是“不利的” (unfavourable) 和“相反的, 敌对的” (contrary; in opposition)。例: His act is *adverse* to the attainment of my object. (他的行为妨碍我实现我的目的。) Dirt and dis-

ease are *adverse* to the best growth of children. (肮脏和疾病有害儿童的健康成长。) The result is *adverse* to his wishes. (此事的结果与他的愿望相反。)

2. Averse 的意思是“反对的, 不乐意的”(strongly opposed or unwilling)。例: She was very quiet, very *averse* from publicity. (她是一个很文静、很不愿抛头露面的人。) He was *averse* to joining the party. (他不愿参加该党。) The conservative-minded are *averse* to making any changes. (头脑保守的人反对任何变革。)

aloud loudly *adv.*

这两个副词都有“大声地”的意思。

1. Aloud 是指为使别人能听见(so as can be heard)而“大声地”说或读等。例: She read *aloud* to us from the newspaper. (她大声地把报纸内容念给我们听。) He cried *aloud* when the doctor touched his wound. (医生碰到他的伤口时, 他叫了起来。)

2. Loudly 含有“嘈杂地”(noisily)、“喧嚷地”(vociferously)等意思。例: Don't talk so *loudly*. (谈话声音别这么大。) The audience laughed *loudly*. (观众放声大笑。) He complained *loudly* about the food. (他大叫大嚷地抱怨食物不好。)

△ alternate alternative

1. Alternate 用作动词时的意思是: “交替, 轮流”(to change back and forth between conditions, actions, etc.). 它也可用作形容词, 表示“交替的, 轮流的”。例: He *alternated* kindness with severity. (他时而仁慈, 时而严厉。) The flood and tides *alternate* with each other. (涨潮和落潮交替更迭。) The water came in *alternate* bursts of hot and cold. (喷出的水时热时冷。) My friend and I take the children to school on *alternate* days. (我和朋友隔日轮流送孩子们上学。)

2. Alternative 作名词时, 意为“两者(或多者)择一”(a choice limited to one of two or more possibilities)。也可作形容词用。例: We have no *alternative* but to move. (除了搬家外, 我们别无选

择。) He has only two *alternatives*—he can stay or he can go. (他只有两种选择:留下或离开。) In these circumstances, what *alternatives* were left to her? (在这样的情况下,她还有什么可选择的办法呢?) The *alternative* selections do not appeal to me. (这些供选择的東西对我没有吸引力。)

△ **alternately alternatively adv.**

1. Alternately 的意思是“交替地”(first one and then the other; in turns)。例: I'm *alternately* happy and depressed. (我时而感到高兴,时而感到抑郁。) The black and white squares on a checkerboard are arranged *alternately*. (棋盘上交替排列着黑白方格。) During the talks Johnson pursued a policy of *alternately* striking and stroking his opponent. (会谈中,约翰逊采用了一种时而打击时而抚慰对手的策略。)

2. Alternatively 的意思是“作为替代”(as an alternative)。例: *Alternatively*, you can use household bleach. (作为替代,你可采用家用漂白剂。) If *however* is used, *but* is not needed; or *alternatively* omit *however*. (如果用了 *however*, 则不需用 *but*; 或者省掉 *however* 而改用 *but*。)

△ **amend emend v.**

1. Amend 和 emend 这两个动词的意思有点重迭,主要差别在于: *amend* 表示修改某物以便将其加以“改进”(improve), 而 *emend* 意为修改某物以便将其加以“改正”(correct)。例: He *amended* the speech by making some additions and deletions. (他对讲话稿作了一些增删改进。) I would advise you to *amend* your manners. (我想建议你改进一下举止态度。) You should try to *amend* your way of life. (你应该设法改进自己的生活方式。) He *emended* the report by substituting the correct figures for the erroneous ones. (他用正确数据替代错误数据,从而更正了报告的内容。) The report must be *emended* by inserting the right figure. (必须写进正确的数据以改正该报告。)

2. 现在一般认为上述两种意思均可用 *amend* 表示, 而 *emend* 仅保留“校订”(to correct errors in a book, statement etc.) 的意思。例: *emend* a passage in a book (订正书中的一段) *emend* an author (校订作家的著作) The editor *emended* the manuscript slightly. (编辑对手稿稍作订正。)

△ *amiable* *amicable* *adj.*

1. *Amiable* 常用于描述人, 意思是“和蔼可亲的, 亲切友好的”(pleasant and good-tempered; friendly and agreeable)。例: The next-door neighbors are *amiable* people. (隔壁邻居很友好。) Do you really want to go or are you merely being *amiable*? (你是真想去呢还仅仅为了表示友好?) She seems very *amiable* to him. (她对他似乎很亲切)

2. *Amicable* 常用来描绘行为、姿态等, 意思是“和睦友好的, 温和的”(showing friendliness and peaceableness)。例: The union and the company reached an *amicable* settlement in their contract dispute. (工会与公司就合同争端达成了和解。) We hope to settle the dispute in an *amicable* way. (我们希望以友好的方式解决这一争端。)

• *amoral* *immoral* ← *moral* *adj.*

1. *Immoral* 为 *moral* 的反义词, 意为“不道德的, 邪恶的”(not moral; wrong or wicked)。例: He considered cheating to be *immoral*. (他认为作弊不道德。) Lying and stealing are *immoral*. (撒谎与偷窃都是邪恶的行为。)

2. *Amoral* 的意思是“非道德性的, 与道德性无关的”(not related to morality) 和“缺乏道德标准的”(lacking moral standards)。例: This is an *amoral* subject, so it would be quite wrong to introduce questions of morality into the debate. (这个题目同道德性无关, 因此不应把道德问题扯进辩论来。) It is difficult to prevent her from stealing, as she is totally *amoral*. (要阻止她行窃是很难的, 因为她根本没有道德观念。)

anxious eager adj.

1. 尽管 *anxious* 已被广泛地用来表示 *eager* 之意(主要是通俗的用法中),但在写作以及细心的谈话中,这两个形容词还是应区别使用。*Anxious* 主要表示“(令人)焦虑的;担忧的”(full of anxiety; causing anxiety or worry)。例: I was *anxious* about her walking through the park alone at night. (她夜间独自一人穿过公园,我很不放心。) It's time to be going home, your mother will be *anxious*. (该回家去了,不然你妈妈会着急的。) You must have had an *anxious* day. (你一定担忧了一天吧。)

2. *Eager* 的意思是“渴望的;热切的”(earnestly longing; keen)。例: We were *eager* to learn if mother had enjoyed herself. (我们渴望知道母亲是否过得愉快。) The majority were *eager* to express their opinions. (大多数人都很想表述自己的意见。)

artful artistic adj.

1. 这两个形容词中,与“艺术”(art)有关即表示“艺术的”和“艺术性强的”等意思的是 *artistic* 一词。例: He was extremely conscious of the high *artistic* values of his plays. (他非常清楚他的剧本的极高艺术价值。) That flower-arrangement looks very *artistic*. (那种插花看上去颇有艺术性。)

2. *Artful* 的意思是“精明的;机灵的”(ingenious or skillful)和“狡诈的”(cunning or tricky)。例: He's very *artful* and usually succeeds in getting what he wants. (他很精明,想要的东西通常都能搞到手。) The fox is so *artful* that he often outwits the people hunting him. (那狐狸很狡猾,经常使捕猎他的人上当。)

aspect respect n.

这两个名词都能用来表示事物的某些“方面”。

1. *Aspect* 指的是某一多方面的事物、观念、计划、困难中特别的一面(a particular side of a many-sided state of affairs, idea, plan, etc.)。例: You have only considered one *aspect* of the difficulty, but there are many. (你只考虑了困难的一个方面,但困难是

多方面的。) I shall limit myself to three *aspects* of the subject. (我只准备讨论这个问题的三个方面。) The subject may be viewed from two *aspects*. (这问题可以从两个方面来观察。)

2. Respect 表示的是事物的某些“细节方面”(a particular detail, feature etc. of something), 用于以介词 in 引出的短语中。例: These two poems are similar in some *respects*. (这两首诗有些方面相似。) This hasty plan is unwise in many *respects*. (这项仓促制定的方案在许多方面是不明智的。) In that *respect*, you are quite right. (在那一点上, 你完全正确。)

assume presume v.

这两个动词都可表示“假定”之意, 区别在于:

1. Assume 既可表示在没有证据的情况下“假定”(to suppose without proof), 也可表示根据已知或认为真实的情况而得出结论(to come to a conclusion on the basis of what is known or felt to be true)。例: I *assume* you don't drive. (我假设你不会开车。) Let us *assume*, for the moment, that the moon is made of green cheese. (我们暂时假设月亮是由绿奶酪构成的。) After talking with you yesterday, I *assumed* you were going to the party. (昨天同你交谈后, 我认为你会参加晚会的。)

2. Presume 的意思是根据某些证据或情况而自然做出假定(to suppose something naturally from the evidence)。这种假定可能正确, 也可能不正确。例: I saw them together and *presumed* that they had reconciled their differences, but, from what you tell me, I was wrong. (看见他们在一起, 我便认为他们已调解了争端, 但从你跟我说的情况来看, 我的假定是不对的。) Dr. Livingstone, I *presume*. (我想你就是李文斯顿博士吧。) Since the firm is prosperous and my work's been good, I *presume* I'll get a raise. (公司生意兴隆, 我又一直干得不错, 所以我想我会提薪的。)

▷ audible auditory adj.

这两个形容词都与“听”有关联, 区别在于:

1. Audible 的意思是“听得见的”(loud enough to be heard)。例: He spoke in a scarcely *audible* voice. (他用几乎听不见的声音说话。) When the microphone broke her voice was barely *audible*. (麦克风一坏, 她的声音就几乎听不见了。)

2. Auditory 的意思是“听觉的”(of, by or for hearing)。例: She had *auditory* difficulties for which an ear operation was necessary. (她听觉困难, 需要做耳部手术。) The animal had damaged *auditory* apparatus. (那动物把听觉仪器打坏了。)

authoritarian authoritative ← authority adj.

△ 1. Authoritarian 一词常具有消极意味, 意思是“权力主义的; 独裁主义的”(favouring complete subjection to authority), 可用来说明人或制度等。例: His parents are very *authoritarian*. (他的父母亲非常专断。) The supervisor was very *authoritarian* by nature, and consequently he discouraged any creativity in the other employees. (那个主管生性专横, 结果使其他雇员的创造力无法发挥。)

2. Authoritative 具有积极意义, 表示“有权威的”(given with authority, commanding respect, to be trusted)。例如: It was a very *authoritative* report, convincing nearly everybody who read it. (这篇报道颇具权威性, 几乎每个读者都信服了。) His comments sounded very *authoritative*. (他的评论听起来很有权威性。)

△ **avenge revenge v.**

这两个动词都表示“报仇, 报复”之意, 但一般认为应注意下列区别:

1. Avenge 的含义是出于一种正义感, 为他人受到的冤屈等进行报仇(to repay a wrong done to another)。例: They *avenged* his death by burning the village. (他们烧了村子, 为他的死报仇。) He was determined to *avenge* his father's death. (他决心为父亲的死报仇。)

2. Revenge 主要表示的是为自己报仇或报复(to repay a wrong done to oneself)。例: She will *revenge* herself on those

who helped him to escape. (她要对那些帮他出逃的人进行报复。) I *revenged* myself for his insulting behaviour towards me. (我为自己受到他的羞辱向他进行报复。) The cat *revenged* itself on the teasing boy by scratching him. (那只猫向逗弄他的男孩报复,将他抓伤。)

award reward n.

1. Award 表示的是因某种突出成就而得到的奖赏 (a tribute given for some outstanding accomplishment), 即我们所说的“奖(品)”。该词与 prize 几乎同义, 但正式一些。Award 表示的“奖(品)”, 不一定是“奖金”。例: The Olympic winner received a gold medal as an *award*. (奥运冠军的奖品是一枚金质奖章。) It is the custom of this academy to make an annual *award* for outstanding research in chemistry. (每年向优秀的化学研究工作发奖是这个学会的惯例。) The medal of the first class carries with it an *award* of \$ 1,000. (一等奖章附有一千美元奖金。)

2. Reward 表示的意思, 一是指因工作、贡献等而给予的报答, 即“报酬”(something given in return for work, service, etc.); 二是指因帮助警察或找回他人丢失的财产而得到的一笔钱, 即“赏金”(an amount of money given to someone who helps the police or brings back lost property)。例: He was presented with a television set in *reward* of his services. (赠给他一台电视机, 作为对他的贡献的奖赏。) A *reward* will be paid to anyone who brings back the money that he lost. (凡能将他遗失的钱寻回者可得到一笔酬金。)

base basis n.

1. Base 的主要意思是“底座, 基础”(the bottom support or part)、“基地, 根据地”(places at which armed forces, expeditions etc. have their stores etc.)。例: The lamp stands on a circular *base*. (这盏灯的底座是圆的。) The material *base* of this country is comparatively solid. (这个国家的物质基础比较稳固。) There we