# STUDY OF ADJECTIVE\$

By C. K. FAN

# 英文形容詞用法手册

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# Study of Adjectives 英文形容詞的用法

### I. 形容詞的定義 Definition of an Adjective

形容詞是用以形容名詞的字 (An adjective is a word used to qualify a noun).

我們知道形容詞是表示某物的性質的. 當牠用以形容名詞時, 卽謂名詞的應用儘限於某種人或物之具有形容詞所表示之性質者.

所以每個形容詞有限制的力量,可以定個界說為 "用以限制名詞之應用的字." Mason 在他的英文文法一書 裏為形容詞下一定義, 說: "An adjective is a word which may limit the application of a noun to that which has the quality, the quantity, or the relation which the adjective denotes."

### I 形容制的種類 Kinds of Adjectives

#### 形容詞普通分爲下述三種:

- I. Pronominal Adjectives (代名形容制).
- 2. Quantitative Adjectives (分量形容詞).
- 3. Qualifying Adjectives (性質形容詞).

#### Nesfield 在他的文法書裏則分爲六種:

- 1. Proper Adjectives (專門形容詞).
- 2. Descriptive Adjectives (形容形容詞).
- 3. Quantitative Adjectives (分量形容詞).
- 4. Numeral Adjectives (數目形容詞).
- 5. Demonstrative Adjectives (指示形容詞).
- 6. Distributive Adjectives (分配形容詞).

#### 茲依據上例六種, 分別研究如下:

#### 1. Proper Adjectives

Proper Adjectives 是由專門名詞 (Proper nouns) 產生的. 形容詞寫的時候, 都以大寫字母 (Capital Letter) 起頭; 例如:

Platonic love (純潔的愛).

Herculean task (困難的工作).

Gangetic plain (恆河平原).

Napoleonic wars (拿破侖戰爭).

(胜) Platonic 由 Plato 變成, Herculean 由 Hercules 變成, Gangetic 由 Ganges 變成, Napoleon 變成.

**也有許多**專門名詞, 如都市名稱等用作形容詞時, 不必**變** 形的; 例如: Tientsin-Pukow Railway (津浦鉄路).

Peking dialect (北京話).

Yangchow City (揚州城).

#### 惟圖家專門名詞用作形容詞時, 都改變原形 例如:

(1) Proper nouns (2) Proper Adjectives
America American
China Chinese

Denmark Danish

England English
France French

Germany German

Greece Greek

Holland Dutch

Italy Italian

Japan Japanese

Korean Korean Mexican

Portugui Portuguese

Rumania Rumanian

Rome Roman Switzerland Swiss

Switzerland Swiss

Scotland Scottish, Scotch

Turkey Turkish

第一組都是國名,是專門名詞,第二組是專門名詞形容詞,有兩種意義:一種是"某國的";例如 Chinese civilization (中國的文化), Japanese goods (日本的貨物). 一種是"某國語言文字";例如"I speak English." (我講英語),"Chinese is the most beautiful language in the world." (中文是世界上最美的語言).專門名詞形容詞用作語文時,其前都加一"the"字,其後加一"language." 例如:"I like to study the English language"(我喜研究英國語言).

#### 2. Descriptive Adjectives

Descriptive Adjectives 限制名詞的應用於此等人或物具有形容詞所表示的性質或所在的狀況;例如: a brave boy, a black dog, an industrious student, a sick lion, an old lady.

Descriptive Adjectives 中有用物質者謂之物質形容詞 (material adjectives). 物質的形容詞有兩種. 一種是以原來物質名詞為形容詞, 不變其形狀; 一種是在物質名詞後加 "-en" 等語尾, 變成形容詞的.

#### 第一種如:

He has a gold medal. (他有一個金牌)
There is a stone house on that hill. (在那山上有一石屋)

Do you see that brick wall? (你看見那磚牆嗎)

#### 第二種如:

This is an earthen-ware. (這是陶器)

Wooden box. (木箱)

Oaken bench. (槲木櫈子)

Descriptive Adjectives 有用動詞者謂之動詞的形容詞 (verbal adjectives). 動詞的形容詞有兩種, 一種是現在分詞 (present participle) 做成的, 一種是過去分詞 (past participle) 做成的.

#### 第一種如:

The rising sun. (剛升的太陽)

A flying bird. (正飛的鳥)

A puzzling question. (疑難的問題)

A striking appearance. (魁偉的容貌)

A hissing sound. (縣縣學)

#### 第二種如:

A lighted candle. (着火的燭)

A burnt child. (火傷的孩子)

A broken watch. (損壞的錶)

A boiled egg. (煮過的蛋)

A retired officer. (退職的軍官)

#### 3. Quantitative Adjectives

Quantitative Adjectives 限制名詞的應用於此等事物具有形容詞所表示之數量 (quantity) 或程度 (degree) 者.

此種形容詞有—much, little, no, some, any, enough or sufficient, all or whole, half, etc.; 例如:

There is *much* water in that pond. (那**池塘** 中有水很多)

There is some sugar in that bottle. (那瓶中有些糖)

The baby drank a little milk. (這嬰兒吃牛乳不多)

He ate no bread. (他沒有吃麵包)

He ate enough or sufficient bread. (他吃十足的麵包)

上面 much, some, a little, no, enough or sufficient 等形容詞所形容的名詞,都係單數,而此單數名詞 都是物質名詞.

We learn English with *great* diligence (我們學英文很勤).

They did much dispute. (他們爭論很烈).

We must do hard work to get a little comfort. (我們應勤勞工作以得少許安慰).

He suffered much pain. (他很受痛苦)

上面 great, much, hard, a little 等形容詞所形容的名詞, 也是單數, 但是此單數名詞不是物質名詞而是抽象名詞 (abstract noun).

由此可知 Quantitative Adjectives 所形容的名詞, 均係單數, 不是物質名詞, 就是抽象名詞.

上列各個形容詞各有用法不同, 茲分別說明如下:

- I. Some, any.—-這兩個形容詞用法不同.
  - (a) Some 用於肯定語句:

    He has procured some bread. (他已獲得些麵包)
  - (b) Any 用於否定語句:

    He has not procured any bread. or, He has procured no bread. (他沒有獲得麵包)
  - (c) Any 和 some 都能用於疑問語句:
    Has he procured any bread? (他獲得麵包麼)
    Has he procured some bread? (他獲得些
- (註) 在這種句子內,用"any"比用"some"為普通, 用時寧用"any"。
- 2. Little, a little, the little.—三者各有意義:

麵包麼)

- (a) Little 是否定的形容詞, 其意義為 "not much".
  - I have *little* money (=not much money). (我沒有錢)

(b) A little 是肯定的形容詞, 其意義為 "some at least".

I have a little money (=some money at least, although the amount was small). (我有點錢)

(註) A little 是肯定的語氣,前面可加 "not", 其意義 還是肯定的; 例如:

I have not a little money. (我有錢很多)

(c) The little 包含兩種意義——種是否定的, — 種是肯定的.

I spent the little money I had. 其意義為.

(1) The money I had was not much.

(否定)

(2) I spent all the money that I had.

(肯定)

3. Enough (足够)—無論用在物質名詞或普通名詞上 都可. **她的位置,無論在**所形容的名詞之前或後,都 可;例如:

We have *enough* apples (or apples enough). (我們有很多的蘋果)

He has eaten *enough* bread (or bread enough). (他已吃過很多的麪包)

"Enough" 的後面有時用 "for" 或 "to"; 例如:

I have enough money for the journey.
(我有錢足够旅行)

Have you money enough for the journey?
(註) "Enough" 除用作 adjective 外, 尚能用作 adverb 或 noun.

Adverb.—Be good enough to shut the door. (請你關門).

Noun.—I have had quite *enough*. (我已吃飽)

#### .. Numeral Adjectives

Numeral Adjectives 限制名詞的應用於此種人或物具有形容詞所表示的數目或次序.

Numeral Adjectives 可分為兩大類: 一類為有限的 (Definite), 一類為無限的 (Indefinite).

I 有限的一種,表示確實的數目. 凡表示事物之多寡者 (如一,二,三,四等) 謂之基數 (cardinals);表示 次序者 (如第一,第二,第三,第四等) 謂之序數 (ordinals);表示事物重複次序多寡者謂之倍數 (multiplicatives).

Cardinals	Ordinals	<b>Aultiplicatives</b>
one	first	one only, simple, single
two	second	twofold, double

three third threefold, treble, triple four fourth fourfold, quadruple six sixth sixfold

2. 無限的一種表示某種數目,不明言其數目爲何:—all, some, enough, no, many, few, several 例如:

All men are mortal. (人類都難免一死的)
Several men came. (有些人來)
Some men die young. (有人夭亡)

(註) 在有限的數目前面加上一個 "some" 或 "about", 就變成無限的數目.

About twenty men were present. (約二十入出席)

Some four or five of us will be there. (我們當中約有四五人在那裏)

3· 有許多形容詞如 "some", "enough", "all", "no", "any" 等既是數目形容詞, 又是性質形容詞, 兩者的分別是怎樣? 如此等形容詞所形容的名詞為物質名詞或抽象名詞, 則此形容詞屬於性質這類 (見前). 如果名詞為一普通名詞 (或用作普通名詞的), 因之能作複數者、則此形容詞屬於數目這類. 茲舉例如下·

#### Quantitatives

Much: He had much bread. Little: He had little bread. Enough: He had enough bread.

Some: He had some bread.

No: He had no bread.

All: He had all the bread.

Any: Have you any bread?

#### Numerals

Many: He had many loaves of bread.

Few: He had few loaves of bread.

Enough: He had enough loaves of bread.

No: He had no loaves of bread.

Some: He had some loaves of bread.

All: He had all the loaves of bread.

Any: Did you bring any loaves?

茲依據上述基數,序數,倍數三種形容詞分述之:

(a) 基數形容詞 (Cardinals)

如 one, two, three...hundred, thousand 等;例如:

I have one book. (我有一本書)

There are *twenty-four* hours in a day. (一日 有二十四小時)

Thirty-five girls are in the room. (三十五個 女子在房內)

(註) 有些基數從廿一到九十九,用時中間用一 hyphen.

Hundred 的後面用 "and" 如無 hundred, 在 thousand 後面用 "and".

- 1,346=one thousand three hundred and fortysix.
- 1,046 = one thousand and forty-six.
- 1,006=one thousand and six.
- 1,000 起到 1,999 的字數有幾種讀法.
  - 1,257=one thousand two hundred and fifty-seven.
  - 1,257=twelve hundred and fifty-seven.
  - 1,257=twelve fifty-seven.

#### (b) 序數形容詞 (Ordinals)

如第一,第二,第三之類. 序數形容詞的形成是在基數形容詞。面加 "-th" (但 "first", "second", "third" 則爲例外).

Cardinals	Ordinals	
four	fourth	
five	fifth	
six	sixth	
seven	seventh	
eight	eighth	
twenty	twentieth	
thirty	thirtieth	