# 葛传梨英语惯用法词典

葛传椝 编著

A Dictionary of



# 葛传黎英语 惯用法词典

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A Dictionary of English Usage

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# 萬传椝英语惯用法词典 葛传槼 编著

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# 前言

要学好英语,必须掌握英语惯用法。无论听、说、读、写、译和应付"托福"、GRE、GMAT、"雅思"等各种英语考试,都要熟练地掌握英语惯用法。

本词典除了英语常用词汇在英语惯用法中的正确用法和错误用法的详细说明以外,还有大量说明英国用法和美国用法的不同之处、各种表现方式的细微区别和普通用法与不普通用法之间的差异等等的例解,必要时加以详尽的说明。本词典不仅可供查阅,同时还是一本学习英语的读物,可供读者经常阅读,甚至逐条精读,以纠正一味"不求甚解"、始终似懂非懂、一知半解的不良学习方法,从而帮助英语学习者养成"必求甚解"的良好习惯,掌握学好英语的真正有效的学习方法。

本书以我国英语界泰斗、英语惯用法权威葛传黎先生所著的《英语惯用法词典》(新修订本简体字重排本)为蓝本对原书中一些过于陈旧的汉译作了相应的改动。

a, an 1. a 和 an 用法的区别,一般说来,是在以辅音开首的词前面用 a,在以元音开首的词前面用 an。不过要注意,这里说的是辅音和元音,不是辅音字母和元音字母。如 hour 以辅音字母 h 开首,但读音作 ['avə],是以元音开首的,所以前面该用 an,不用 a。又如 one 以元音字母 o 开首,但读音作 [wʌn],是以辅音开首的,所以前面该用 a,不用 an。又如 M. A. (=Master of Arts,文科硕士)里的 M 是辅音字母,但读音作 [em] (M. A. 读 ['em'eɪ] 或 [em'eɪ]),所以前面该用 an,不用 a。MS (=manuscript,手稿)前面往往用 a 而不用 an,并不因为 M 是辅音字母,却因为读音往往作 ['mænjoskript]。又如 8 并不是词,无所谓辅音或元音,但读音作 [ett],所以前面该用 an,不用 a。& 只是一个符号,因为它的名称是 ampersand,读音作 ['æmpəsænd],所以前面该用 an。

据有些语法书说,以[h] 音开首而没有重音的音节前面该用 an,如 an historian,不作 a historian。这规则现在可说不成立了(虽然还有人——尤其是英国人——遵守着),现在尽可用 a,用 an 反嫌不自然。例如:

a habitual smile, a heroic act, a historian, a hotel, a hypothesis

有些英国人,在以[ju:]或[jo]音开首的词(如 eulogy, euphonic, European, university, united 和 usual)前面,用 an 而不用 a,在以[h]音开首的词(如 hero, history, hospital, hundred 和 hymn)前面也用 an 而不用 a,在 one 前面也用 an 而不用 a,这种人似乎现在比以前少了。

2. 哪个名词前面可以用 a (或 an),哪个名词前面不可用 a (或 an) 呢?一般说来,可数名词前面可以用 a (或 an),不可数名词前面不可用 a (或 an), 如可以说 a healthy boy, 却不可说 a health, 可以说 a chair, 却不 可说 a furniture。但事实并不这样简单。所谓"可数"和"不可数",要看那 个词的正确意思而定,不可根据它的普通汉译。如不可说 a fun, an information, 却可以说 a pastime, a knowledge。 又如 dance, hurry, interest, kiss 等词前面都可以用 a (或 an)。又如 with child (有孕的), in class (在教室里),take horse (上马),send word (通知) 等习语里都不可 用 a (或 an)。但 at a loss (不知所措的), with a view to (以…为目的), on an average (作为平均数), take a fancy to (喜欢)等习语里的 a (或 an) 都是少不得的。这些都应该从习惯,不是几条规则所能包括得了的。 一般说来,有复数形式的名词前面可以用 a (或 an),无复数形式的名词前 面不可用 a (或 an)。如 boy 和 laugh 有复数形式 boys 和 laughs,所以可 以说 a boy 和 a laugh, completion 和 laughter 无复数形式, 所以不可说 a completion 和 a laughter。但有些在习惯上无复数形式的名词,前面却往 往也用 a (或 an)。这大概有下面四种情况:

### (1) 多少有些抽象性的。例如:

I have a great admiration for Gorky.

He has received a good education.

She has a fondness for roses.

You seem to have a hatred of dogs.

I am in a hurry.

There is a bustle going on in the house.

We need not make a fuss about the matter.

The arrival of the visitors caused a great stir.

He speaks with a lisp.

She talks with a stammer.

We had a fine catch yesterday. (我们昨天捉到了许多鱼。)

We had a plentiful kill today. (我们今天打到了许多猎物。)

I hope you will give me a lead. (我希望你给我开个头。)

He has a good knowledge of Russian.

You must avoid such a waste of time.

The book has a wealth of pictures.

(2) a (或 an) ... 指"一个…的泉源"。例如:

A good pupil is a credit to his teachers.

A lazy boy is a discredit to his parents.

A lazy boy is a dishonour to his class.

A patriot is an honour to his country.

Such cruelty is a reproach to modern society.

Terrorism is a shame to civilization.

(3) a (或 an) ... 指"一次…",那名词本来是动词。例如:

After a run (或 a climb, 或 a swim) I had a wash (或 a rest, 或 a feed,或 a smoke,或 a read).

(4) a ...ing 指"一次…"。例如:

Instead of giving the peasant a hearing, the heartless landlord gave him a good beating (或 a good hiding, 或 a good licking, 或 a good thrashing) as well as a good scolding.

- 3. a (或 an) 在下面几种情况里可以用在复数形式前面:
- (1) 在有些习语里。例如:
- a few (books), a very few (books), a good few (books), a good many (books), a great many (books), a many (books)
- (2) 在表示时间或款项的短语前面。例如:
- a further five minutes, a mere two hours, a very busy six weeks, a whole three years, a pleasant spring holidays, an additional  $\frac{4}{5}$ 60
- (3) 在若干在形式上是复数而在意思上是单数的单词前面。例如:
- a barracks, a bellows, a gallows, a headquarters, an innings, a links,

- a means, a scissors, a shambles, a tongs
- (4) 在下列美国口语中。例如:
- a good ways, a great ways, a long ways
- **4.** a (或 an) 有时有 (1)"一个而并不是那所要的一个"或 (2)"任何一个"的意思。例如:
  - I was expecting to hear from my father. I got a letter indeed, but it was from a friend. (1)
  - I wanted to read a book, I did not care whether it was a history, a novel, or a biography. (2)

在这种用法里,a (或 an) 该特别重读。

- **5.** a (或 an) 通常不用在人名、地名或其他专有名词的前面,但有例外:
  - (1) 指有某姓或某名的某人。例如:
  - a Smith (姓 Smith 的某人)
  - a John Smith (名叫 John Smith 的某人)
  - (2) 指在某时的某人、某地等。例如:

He is now a different John Smith from what he was three years ago.

He was met at the door by a contented Mary, not an angry Mary.

Fifty years ago we little dreamt of such a Shanghai as we have today.

Our children will find it hard to imagine a semi-feudal, semi-colonial China.

(3) 指跟某人、某地等相仿的人、地等。例如:

He talks like a Johnson. (Johnson 指英国 18 世纪的大文豪 Samuel Johnson, 很健谈,多妙论。)

The humorist considers himself a (second) Mark Twain.

Do you think it possible for the North Pole ever to have a Shanghai? We may look upon the romantic tragedy as a Chinese Romeo and Juliet.

(4) 指某人的作品。例如:

A new Michael Gold (当代美国作家) has appeared.

A new Shakespeare (莎士比亚全集新版) is in preparation.

- I found a Picasso (毕加索画的画) on the wall.
- (5) 指某人所发明、设计或制造的机器等。例如:
- a Remington (美国人 Philo Remington 所设计制造的打字机)
- a Merriam-Webster (美国 G. & C. Merriam Company 出版, 根据 Webster 原著编的词典)
- (6) 指"…的图或像"。例如:
- a West Lake (一幅西湖图), a Cupid (一幅爱神图或一个爱神像)
- (7) 指"好比…那回事"。例如:

- a Dunkirk (敦刻尔克式撤退:1940 年 5、6 月间英军从法国北部港口城市 Dunkirk 大败撤退)
- a Munich (慕尼黑事件: 1938 年 9 月 30 日德、英、法、意四国在德国南部慕尼黑城达成协议,允许当时的纳粹德国吞并捷克斯洛伐克的领土苏台德区,以图避免战争)
- 6. a (或 an) 有时用在表示性质的抽象名词的前面。例如:

The room was furnished with a simplicity that is almost elegance. (这间房子的陈设有一种近似文雅的朴素。)

He answered my questions with an accuracy not to be expected of an ordinary schoolboy. (他回答了我的问题,准确得不像出自一个普通小学生之口。)

The bird disappeared with a startling suddenness. (那只鸟惊人地忽然不见了。)

在这种用法里,抽象名词后面通常有一个形容词从句(如第一句)或形容词短语(如第二句),否则它的前面有形容词(如第三句)。

- 7. a (或 an) 用在物质名词前面指 (1)"一种…"或 (2)"一份…"或"一客…"。例如:
  - a green tea, an old wine (1)
  - a coffee, a tea, an ice (英: 一客冰淇淋, 美: 一客冷饮), a whisky and soda (2)
- 8. a (或 an) 通常不可用在 only 的前面,也不可用在属于最高级的词的前面,如不可说 an only house, a best essay, a greatest poet, a longest street,但尽可说 an only son (一个独生子), a best seller (一本畅销书), a best man (一个男傧相), a first night (某剧的第一夜表演)。 因为这些已经成为习惯了。
- a 用在副词 most 前面是很普通的,如 a most happy life 和 a most learned man。 但该注意这里的 most 并不真正属于最高级,它的意思跟 very 相仿。
  - 9. 在一个名词被用来指它的本身的时候,往往不用 a (或 an)。例如: Apple is a noun.

He is dubbed 'poet'. (人家给他"诗人"的诨名。)

We should not call every school 'college'. (我们不该把每个学校都叫作"学院"。)

'Rogue' is too mild a term for him, he is an arrant ruffian. (对他来说, "流氓"这名称是太轻了, 他是一个十足的恶棍。)

下面第一句里的 a 可有可无,第二句里的 a 不可省:

He is dubbed (a) poet.

We should not call every school a college.

- 注意 poet 和 college 都没有引号,跟上面的各句不同。
  - 10. 许多语法书里说, kind of 和 sort of 后面的名词的前面不该用 a

(或 an),但事实上并非绝对不可用。例如:

What kind (或 sort) of tree is this?

What kind ( of (a) man is he?

第一句里不用 a, 因为 kind 或 sort 明白地作"种类"解。第二句里可以用 a, 因为 kind 或 sort 并不明白地作"种类"解。what kind (或 sort) of (a) man 是"怎么样的一个人"的意思。

其实在指"种类"的场合,不但 kind of 和 sort of 后面的名词的前面不用 a (或 an),其他相似的短语后面也是这样。例如:

a kind of car, kinds of car, a sort of car, sorts of car,

a brand of car, brands of car, a class of car, classes of car,

a form of car, forms of car, a make of car, makes of car,

a style of car, styles of car, a type of car, types of car,

a variety of car, varieties of car

11. part of 前面用 a 也有,不用 a 也有,但意思略有不同。例如: part of it (它的一部分:不一定一半以下,也不一定一半以上)

a part of it (它的一小部分:一半以下)

但 great part of it 和 a great part of it 是没有区别的。不一定一半以下,也不一定一半以上。

- 12. a (或 an) 不用在 a change of 后面的名词的前面。例如:
- a change of address, a change of name, a change of scene
- 13. a (或 an) 不用在临时被用来作为不可数名词的前面。例如:

five hundred miles of railway, a stretch of road,

an acre of garden, an expanse of lake

14. 下面各种表达方式里的 no 都是形容词,等于 not a:

no small value (很大的价值), no mean city (名城),

no such man (没有这样的人), no other person than ... (不是别人, 却是…)。所以不可说:

a no small value, a no mean city, no such a man,

no other a person than ...

a no mean city 是不可说的,但 a no meaner city 是可以说的,no meaner 里的 no 是副词,修饰 meaner,并不等于 not a,所以前面用 a。比较:

This is no (形容词) mean city. (这是一个名城。)

This is a no (副词) meaner city (than that). (这是一个[跟那个]同样有名的城。)

There is no (形容词) meaner city (than that). (没有[比那个]更无名的城。)

There is a no (副词) meaner city (than that). (有一个[跟那个]同样 有名的城。)

15. 在指职位、头衔、等级等的单词前面大都不用 a (或 an)。例如:

They asked me to act as (an) interpreter.

I served them fairly well in the capacity of (an) interpreter.

I served them fairly well in my capacity as (an) interpreter.

She has obtained a position as (或 of) (a) typist.

He has left his situation as (或 of) (a) gardener.

He is (a) professor of philosophy at that university.

He has the degree of Doctor of Literature.

He soon rose to the rank of colonel.

The title of model worker has been conferred on the young man.

John Keats, English poet, was born in 1795.

注意在 As a physician, he does not deserve much praise 等句子里的 as 等于 considered as, 那 a 是不可少的。

16. 在若干动词后面用作表语的名词的前面习惯不用 a (或 an)。例如: He commenced schoolmaster in 1956. (commence[d] 的这种用法现在不很普通)

He turned soldier at twenty-one.

The boy was bound apprentice to a carpenter.

17. 在若干独立短语里不用 a (或 an)。例如:

The old man was sitting in a chair, pipe in mouth.

The huntsman entered the forest, gun in hand.

18. 在下面各短语和类似的短语里都不用 a (或 an):

hard of heart, large of limb, nimble of foot,

quick of eye, pale of face

19. 下面各句里都不用 a (或 an),那是因为多少有些感叹的意味:

Lucky dog! (幸运儿!) Lucky beggar! (幸运儿!) You beauty!

You fool! You fool you! You lucky rascal! (你好一个幸运儿!)

'Keep by me, you lovely thing!' the girl said to her cat.

The old man got run over, poor fellow.

Poor man, he never knew what love was like.

- **20.** a (或 an) 是"一", one 也是"一", 在用法上有下面几点该注意:
- (1) 固定习语里的 a (或 an) 和 one 不可调换。如 once upon a time (从前有一次)和 one day (有一天)里的 a 和 one 不可互换。an hour or two (一二小时,若干小时)和 one or two hours 里的 an 和 one 不可互换。to a man (全体地) 不可改作 to one man。one man one vote (每人投一票) 不可改作 a man a vote。但"一个"还是两个"可以说 one ... or two。例如:Do you spell 'traveller' with one 'l' or two?

注意下面每组里的两句意思相同,但用了 a 该有 on,用了 one 没有 on:

On a warm day a stranger came to see me.

One warm day a stranger came to see me.

The ship sank on a stormy night.

The ship sank one stormy night.

- The ship sank on a stormy night.
- The ship sank one stormy night.
- (2) 有些习语用 a 或 one 都可以。如 at a blow 和 at one blow (一下子地), in a word 和 in one word (简单地说), be of a mind 和 be of one mind (同意), a hundred per cent ... 和 one hundred per cent ... (十足地…)。
- (3) 有时用 a 和用 one 意思不同。如 as a man 是"就他的性格而论", as one man 是"大家一致地", at a time 是"每次"(如 three at a time), at one time 是"从前有一个时期"(如 At one time we met every day)。

注意下面每组里的两种表达方式意思不同:

- (more than a year (比一年多些,如一年又三个月)
- more than one year (不止一个年头,如两年或三年)
- more than a decade (比十年多些,如十一年或十二年)
- more than one decade (不止一个十年,如二十年或三十年)
- (4) 在姓或名前面,用 a (或 an)或 one 意思相同。如 a Smith 和 one Smith 都是"一个姓 Smith 的人"。就语法讲, one Smith 里的 one 被看作形容词或代词都讲得通。
- (5) 在 dozen, hundred, thousand 和 million 前面, 用 a 或 one 意思相同, 用 a 普通些。如 a dozen (一打), a hundred (一百), a thousand (一千), a million (一百万), 把 a 改作 one, 意思不变, 但往往有跟"二打、三打"等, "二百、三百"等, "二千、三千"等, "二百万、三百万"等对比的意味。

注意在下面的习语里都用 a,不可用 one:

- a hundred (许多,如 a hundred things).
- a thousand (许多,如 a thousand thanks),
- a hundred and one (许多,如 a hundred and one points of usage),
- a thousand and one (许多,如 a thousand and one points of usage), not a hundred miles away (不远、近),
- one in a thousand (极难得的一个)
- (6) a (或 an) 只有"一"的意思,却并不跟"二、三、四、五"等相对, one 便可以有这种对比的意味。如 I have a pen 只说"我有一枝笔", I have one pen 便可有"我并没有两枝、三枝或更多枝笔"的意思。

比较下面两句:

Can a boy do this? (回答可能是 No, but a man can。)

Can one boy do this? (回答可能是 No, but two boys can.) 列宁著的 One Step Forward, Two Steps Backward 里的 One 不可改作 A。下面两句里的 one 也不可改作 a:

I have one pen, but my sister has three pens.

I have one pen, but three pencils.

注意上面说 a 或 an 不跟"二、三、四、五"等对比,并不说不可跟 two,three, four, five 等连用。 I have a pen, but three pencils 里的 a 该改作 one,但 I

have a pen and three pencils 里的 a 却不必改作 one。

(7) 注意下面各句的意思不同:

There is a pen on the table. (桌上有一枝钢笔: 不是一枝铅笔或一本书。)

There is one pen on the table. (桌上有一枝钢笔: 不是两枝、三枝或更 名枝钢笔。)

A pen is on the table. (跟第一句意思相同,很少见。)

One pen is on the table. (一枝钢笔在桌上: 也许还有其他笔, 但在桌上没有。)

(8) 说"每一…"计算价钱、款项、速度等,用 a (或 an),不用 one。例如:  $\frac{3.10 \text{ a dozen}}{3.10 \text{ a dozen}}$  (每打三元一角), $\frac{2.70 \text{ a month}}{3.10 \text{ a month}}$  (每月七十元),

twice a week (每星期两次), ten miles an hour (每小时十英里) 这种用法里的 a 原来县介词, 但现在不妨把它看作冠词。

**21.** of a (或 an) ... 表明在时间上经常的行为:

We would sit together in the park of a morning.

They often met of an afternoon.

The artist may have frequently been seen strolling along the street of an evening.

His friends used to go to see him in his cottage of a Sunday. 注意:

- (1) 这种结构现在少用。
- (2) 只用于经常的事,不用于一次的事,如不可说 The old man died of a morning。
- 22. 由 a ... of a ... 构成一种习语,如 a fool of a man 是"一个呆子般的男子",a gem of a poem 是"一首宝石般 (精致)的诗",a mountain of a wave 是"一个高山似的浪"。又例如:

his angel of a wife, a beast of a place (一个很脏的地方), her brute of a husband, a devil of a hurry (极度的匆忙), his dome of a forehead, a great elephant of a woman, a jewel of an assistant, a kitten of a girl, a lamb of a temper (像羔羊般驯服的脾气), a love of a ring (一枚极可爱的戒指), a poem of a hotel (一个像诗一般幽雅的旅馆), that rascal of a landlord, her tyrant of a father

注意 a ... of a ... 里的两个名词不可互调, 如 a boy of a girl 是"一个男孩子似的女孩子", a girl of a boy 是"一个女孩子似的男孩子", 意思各不相同。

23. a (或 an) 通常用在一般形容词的前面,如 a beautiful garden,但也有几个例外。a (或 an) 该用在 what, such 和 many 三个形容词的后面。例如:

What a beautiful garden! such a garden, many a garden 假使形容词前面有 how, however, as, so 或 too, 那末 a (或 an) 也用

在这形容词的后面。例如:

how beautiful a garden, however beautiful a garden, as beautiful a garden as I ever saw, so beautiful a garden, too beautiful a garden a so beautiful garden 和 a too beautiful garden 这种结构也有,但不很自然。似乎 a so beautiful garden 比 a too beautiful garden 更不自然。当代英国作家 William Somerset Maugham 的 On a Chinese Screen 的 Romance 一篇里有 somewhat Ouidaesque a fashion,当然极不普通。

假使形容词前面有 no less, 那末 a (或 an) 用在 no less 的前面或这形容词的后面都可以。例如:

a no less beautiful garden, no less beautiful a garden 前者比后者自然。 假使后面加上 than yours, than this 等, 改作 a garden no less beautiful than ... 就更自然些。

假使形容词前面有 no more,那末 a (或 an) 就用在 no more 的前面,如 a no more beautiful garden。不过 no more beautiful a garden 这种结构也有。

假使形容词前面有 more 或 less (不是 no more 或 no less),那末 a (或 an) 就用在 more 或 less 的前面,如 a more (或 less) beautiful garden。上面所说 no less 里的 less 是副词, no less a person than ... 中的 less 是形容词,作"较不重要"解, a 的位置不可改动。

**24.** a (或 an) 可以用在 quite 和 rather 的前面,也可以用在它们的后面。例如:

a quite big dog, quite a big dog,

a rather big dog, rather a big dog

在口语里 quite a (或 an) ... 和 rather a (或 an) ... 比 a quite ... 和 a rather ... 普通。

注意 big 和 dog 总是连在一起,不该说:

quite big a dog, rather big a dog

**25.** 就普通语法讲, a black and a white dog 是"一只黑狗和一只白狗", a black and white dog 是"一只黑白花狗", a journalist and an author 是"一个新闻记者和一个作家", a journalist and author 是"一个新闻记者兼作家"。

但事实上为了加强语气,也有用两个 a (或 an),一个 a 和一个 an,或一个 an 和一个 a 而指一个人的。例如:

He has become a sadder and a wiser man.

He is a journalist and an author.

也有虽然只用一个 a (或 an) 而指两个人的。例如:

A man and woman are walking arm-in-arm.

A boy and girl are playing together.

但假使具有相对立的意思,便该用两个 a (或 an),一个 a 和一个 an, 或一个 an 和一个 ao 例如:

A man and a woman may not always agree on such a question.

明明两件东西而通常配成一件的,只用一个 a (或 an)。例如:

- a knife and fork, a cup and saucer, a needle and thread, a coat and tie, a short beard and moustache, a swimming head and parched throat
- 26. 在两个或两个以上的名词连用的场合,通常不用 a (或 an)。例如:

We are brother and sister.

He was printer, publisher, and editor before 1949.

This room is study, bedroom, and sitting room all in one.

This article is meant to appear in newspaper or magazine.

Like father, like son. (有其父必有其子。——谚语)

Diamond cut diamond. (旗鼓相当。)

Dog eat dog. (同类相残。)

27. 假使把 though he is a child 里的 child 放在开首, a 便该去掉, 作 child though he is。 child as he is 有同样的意思, 也不该有 a。

### 28. 下面两句里都有 a:

A baby never sat so gracefully.

Did a baby ever sit so gracefully?

假使把 never 或 ever 放在 baby 的前面,通常把 a 去掉。例如:

Never did baby sit so gracefully.

Did ever baby sit so gracefully?

never a ... 作 no ... 解,不过语气强些,a 决不可省。例如: He found never a baby there. 这里的 never 并不指时间。

**29.** He is a scholar 等句子里的 a (或 an) 当然不可省去,但注意下面 各句里都不用 a (或 an):

He is artist enough to appreciate these pictures.

Surely you are scholar enough to read this old book.

I was fool enough to believe him.

这里 artist, scholar 和 fool 前面都不用 a (或 an), 因为后面加上了 enough, 把这些名词抽象化了。

- **30.** A Tale of Two Cities 里有 A, 但说 Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities 或 Dickens's Tale of Two Cities 都可以。the Tale of Two Cities that I bought yesterday 里不可在 Tale 前面加上 A。
- 31. 上面所讲到的 a (或 an) 的省略,可说都跟语法有关,都是一般的用法。还有为了节省空间、时间、金钱或精力,或为了引起注意力,而省去 a (或 an) 的,主要有下面各种情况:
  - (1) 报纸标题:
  - (A) New Book by E.G.Flynn (当代美国进步女作家) Published.
  - (A) Noted Scientist to Make (a) Report on (an) Important Invention at (a) Local Technical School.

- (2) 工商业文件:
- (A) Copy of the booklet is enclosed.
- (A) Duplicate of this letter will be sent to the management.
- (3) 广告:
- (A) Fully furnished flat to let.
- (A) Secondhand typewriter wanted.
- (4) 电报:
- (A) Girl born today.

Brother away on (a) visit.

- (5) 公告:
- (A) School Ahead.
- (An) Exit.
- (6) 日记:

Attended (a) lecture on IT technology.

Got (a) long letter from James.

(7) 非正式信札:

Hope to send you (a) picture of the Lake soon.

Could you let me have (a) summary of the story?

(8) 注释和定义:

Fleet Street: (A) Famous old London street, now the location of many newspaper offices, often used allusively for the English press.

landscape: (A) Piece of land scenery.

**32.** few 和 a few 不同。few 是"很少",有"几乎没有"的意思。a few 是"若干",有"颇有几个"的意思。但两种表达方式的不同,不在于实际数目的大小,却在于说话者的语意。如一篇作文里有三个错误,要是你说 There are few mistakes in it,你在说它"错误很少",便是说它好。要是你说 There are a few mistakes in it,你在说它"有若干错误",便是说它不好。可以说 few, or perhaps none 和 a few, or perhaps many。注意 only a few 却等于few,也是"很少"的意思。

little 和 a little 的不同,相当于 few 和 a few 的不同。如 little trouble 是"很少麻烦"或"几乎没有麻烦",a little trouble 是"若干麻烦"或"颇有些麻烦"。

**33.** 下面各种表达方式里都有 half a (或 half an):

half a mile, half a month, half an inch, half an hour, half a bottle, half a cup, half a dozen, half a million

在这种用法里,把 half 看作形容词或看作名词后面省去 of 都可以。但不论 half 是形容词还是名词,a 总是冠词,所以下面各种表达方式里的 a 或 an 照理都该去掉:

that half a mile, this half a month, another half an inch,

the next half an hour, my half a dozen

不过这个多余的 a (或 an) 事实上很常见, 因为 half a ... 或 half an ... 用得很多, 好似成为一个单位了。甚至有人说 a half an hour。

上面所举的 half a mile, half a month 等表达方式里的 half a (或 half an) 英美通用。但在美国也往往用 a half。例如:

a half mile, a half month, a half inch, a half hour a half 在英国也用,但不用在表示距离、时间、数量等的词的前面。如不说 a half mile, a half month 等,却说 a half length, a half share, a half conviction 等。

… and a half 和 … and a half … 两种表达方式意思相同,如 two miles and a half 和 two and a half miles 都是"两英里半"。这两种表达方式是英美通用的。 即使在英国也并没有 two miles and half a mile, two and half a mile 或 two and half a miles 的结构。

把 two miles and a half 跟 two and a half miles 比较起来,前者好些, 因为 a half miles 读起来似乎很不自然。就时间讲,先有前者,后有后者,后 者是从  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles 这种写法产生出来的。同样地,a foot and a quarter 比 one and a quarter feet 好些。

上面说过, that half a mile 等表达方式里的 a 照理该去掉。下面各种表达方式里的 a 照理也该去掉。

those two miles and a half.

those two and a half miles.

the foot and a quarter.

the one and a quarter feet

但习惯上这种多用的 a 可说是不可少的,省去了反而觉得不自然。

A.B. A.B. (= Bachelor of Arts, 文学士) 是美国拼写形式, 相当于英国拼写形式的 B.A.。

**abashed** abashed 是表语形容词,不可说 very abashed,该说 much abashed 或 very much abashed。

abbreviate 下面两句都可以说:

United Nations is abbreviated to UN.

UN is abbreviated from United Nations.

**ABC** ABC 指某科的初步知识,如 ABC of English grammar。这意思是从英语开首字母 ABC 来的,并不是缩写,所以不该写作 A. B. C.,但事实上很多写作 A. B. C.,如英国 Oxford University Press 出版的 An A. B. C. of English Usage。

abdomen 参见 belly

abed abed 现在不很通用,最好改用 in bed。

**ability 1.** ability 指体力或智力,后面通常接不定式,很少接 of 和动名词,如通常说 ability to do it, ability to lift a great stone 和 ability to write correct English, 很少说 ability of doing it 等,但可以说 reading

ability, writing ability, driving (驾驶) ability 等, 也可以说 his ability in reading and writing, his ability in drawing 等。

2. 单独用 ability,除了可以从上下文看出指体力者以外,都指智力,如下面的 ability 都指智力:

man of ability (有才的人), great ability (大才),

in point of ability (就才能讲), He lacks ability. (他缺少才能。) 复数形式 abilities 只指智力,不指体力,如 his abilities, manifold abilities 等都指智力。

- 3. ability to do it, the ability to do it, an ability to do it 和 his (或 your 等) ability to do it 都可以说,第一种形式最不普通。
- **able 1.** able 后面的不定式通常不属于被动语态,如通常不说 The mistake is able to be corrected, 最好改作 The mistake is capable of being corrected.
- 2. able 指能力,不一定意味着实行,如"经过了两个月的步行,他们到达了目的地"通常不说 After a two-month tramp they were able to reach their destination,而用下面的任何一种:

After a two-month tramp they reached their destination.

After a two-month tramp they succeeded in reaching their destination.

After a two-month tramp they managed to reach their destination.

aboard aboard 在英国通常指"上船"或"在船上",在美国往往指"上车"或"在车上","上飞机"或"在飞机上"。

**abound 1.** abound 的主语,也许是指大量存在的东西的名词,也许是指感产某东西的地方的名词,如下面两句的意思相同:

Fish abound in this stream.

This stream abounds in fish.

- 2. abound in (指以盛产某东西的地方作主语的) 和 abound with 略有区别, abound in 除了"盛产…"的意思以外,往往有"那东西是特有的或固有的"的含意。如 This stream abounds in fish 含有"以产鱼著称"的意思, This stream abounds with fish 只说"盛产鱼"罢了。又如 He abounds in courage 作"他天性勇敢"解,不可把 in 改作 with。
- **about 1.** about 在用作"不久就要…"解的时候后面通常接不定式,如 about to start。 但也有接动名词的,如 about starting。 用不定式比较普通。

about 在用作"不久就要…"解的时候不可再加表示时间的词,如不可说 about to start next morning 或 about starting at once。

2. 下面各种表达方式里的 about 都作"大约"解:

about ten, about a hundred, about half, about a quarter 注意 ten, a hundred, half 和 a quarter 都是明确的数或量, 原来并没有"多少不定"的意思。 在有"多少不定"的意思的词语前面不该用 about, 如不