

英语词汇 拾零

(扩大修订本)

陈德彰 编著

商 务 印 书 馆

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英语自学丛书

FUN
of
English Words

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YINGYŪ CÍHUÌ SHÍLÍNG

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内 容 简 介

这本小册子是商务印书馆“英语自学丛书”中的一本,是为大学英语专业一二年级学生、广大英语自学者和英语爱好者编写的。本书的内容为各种形式词汇的练习。这些练习不同于一般课本或语法书上的练习,也不见于一般的考试题汇编一类的书,内容丰富,形式新颖,生动有趣,旨在引起大家学英语的兴趣,寓教于乐。读者可以在做类似英语游戏的过程中学到许多英语词汇的知识。有一部分练习可能难一些,不要求读者全部做出来。但翻看一下书后附的答案,会从中受到启发。本书亦可作为学生开展英语课外活动的参考材料。

本书初版于1980年,出版后很受读者的欢迎,曾重印过几次。据说有的学校的学生因买不到此书,便设法借来一本,将全书抄在墙上大家一起来做。这次再版,应商务印书馆编辑同志的要求,对原书作了较大的修改,对某些内容进行了调整,由原来的七个部分增加到九个部分,删去了有关语音的内容,增加了大量新的练习形式,使之具有更大的趣味性。除了练习外,还适当增加了知识性的内容,列为“供你参考”或“供你消遣”。书中部分内容曾在本人编著的多本《学英语日历》

和《英语词趣大全》中出现过。

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Part One The English Words

第一部分 英语词汇

I.1. For Your Reference 供你参考

I.1.1. The English Vocabulary 英语词汇

It is estimated that the total English vocabulary contains one million words, of which about four hundred and fifty thousand are actually used, while 95% of commonly used words number no more than three thousand. (据估计,英语总词汇量达 100 万词,其中实际使用的约为 45 万,95% 的日常用语的词汇量不超过 3 千个。)

The first English dictionary compiled by Samuel Johnson in 1775 contains 50 thousand word entries. *The Oxford English Dictionary* (published in 1911) and its supplement (published in 1933) contain 500 thousand word entries. *Webster's Third International Dictionary* (published in 1961) contains 450 thousand. (塞缪尔·约翰逊于 1775 年编的第一部英语词典收词 5 万条。1911 年问世的《牛津英语词典》(俗称“牛津大词典”)连同 1933 年出的“补编”共收词 50 万条。1961 年

出版的第三版《韦氏国际英语词典》收词 45 万条。)

Shakespeare used about 20 thousand words in his writing, but only about one fifth, or around 4000 words, were of native Anglo-Saxon origin, the rest are words borrowed from foreign languages, mainly Latin, Greek and French. A total of about two hundred thousand new words have been added to the English vocabulary ever since Shakespeare's time. (莎士比亚写作使用的词汇量在两万左右,但其中只有五分之一,即 4 000 词左右是当地盎格罗·萨克逊词,其余的都是外来词,主要是拉丁词、希腊语词和法语词。从莎士比亚之后英语增加了大约二十万新词。)

It is estimated that a child five years old uses only 1%, or 1,500 of the 150,000 "dictionary words" that modern English contains. School quickly increases his vocabulary and at ten years old his treasure amounts to 7,000 words. On entrance to a university, his words inventory will have grown to 20,000, and on graduation to 60,000, but of those only 15% will be in active use. For the average English-speaking citizen, the vocabulary is estimated to include 3,000 words. A journalist uses the average of 6,000 words in his newspaper articles. It is of interest to know that the vocabulary of the *Old Testament* has 5,800 words and that of the *New Testament* 4,800 words, much less than that of a present-day newspaper, which uses about 6,000 words. (据估计一个五岁的孩子只使用词典中收

录的 150 000 个当代英语单词的 1%, 即 1 500 个词。上学以后其词汇量很快增加, 到十岁时其词汇库中会有 7 000 个词。进入大学时其词汇量可达 20 000, 而大学毕业时可达 60 000, 但其中只有 15% 的词是经常使用的。据估计, 一般说英语的公民的词汇量为 3 000 词, 记者为报纸写文章平均使用 6 000 个词。有意思的是《圣经》的“旧约”的词汇量为 5 800, 而“新约”为 4 800, 都比现在的报纸词汇量小, 后者大约使用 6 000 个词。)

I.1.2. the “Mosts” of English Words 英语中的“最”

Oldest Words in English 英语中最古老的词

Researches indicate that some words of a pre-Indo-European substrata survive in English, including (研究表明英语中还有着一些由印度-欧罗巴基本语之前的词演变成的词, 包括:)

apple (apal), **bad**, **gold** (gol), and **tin**.

Word with Most Meanings 意义最多的词

The most overworked word in English is the word **set**, which has 58 noun uses, 126 verbal uses and 10 as participial adjectives. (使用最多的英语词是 **set**, 作为名词它有 58 种用法, 作为动词有 126 种用法, 还有 10 种用作分词形容词的用法。)

Commonest Words 最常用的词

In written English, the most frequently used words are in

order (在笔头英语中使用频率最高的词依次为):

the, of, and, to, a, in, that, is, I, it, for 和 as.

The Longest Word 最长的词

The longest word used by Shakespeare (in *Love's Labour Lost*) consists of 27 letters, meaning “with no honourableness”. (莎士比亚使用的最长的词出现在《爱的徒劳》中,有 27 个字母,意为“没有荣誉”。)

honorificabilitudinitatibus

The longest word in the *Oxford English Dictionary* contains 29 letters, which was first used in 1741 and later by Sir Walter Scott, meaning “deciding something is worthless”. (《牛津英语大词典》中最长的词有 29 个字母,最早用于 1741 年,后来斯各特爵士也曾用过,意为“有些事作决定没有意思”。)

floccinaucinihilipilification

Contemporary novelist Mark McShane used a long word of 36 letters in his novel *Untimely Ripped*, meaning: “the act of surpassing the act of transubstantiation”. (当代小说家马克·麦克沙恩在名为《不适时的暴露》的小说中用了有一个有 36 个字母的长词,意为“超过化体的行为”——“化体”指耶稣的肉和血化为圣餐的面包和葡萄酒。)

praetertransubstantiationistically

The longest word in the *Webster Third International Dictionary* consists of 45 letters, referring to a miner's lung

disease. (第三版《韦氏国际英语词典》中最长的词有 45 个字母,指矿工得的“肺尘病”——又名“硅酸盐沉着病”。)

pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis

The longest English word is commonly considered to be a word used by Thomas Love Peacock in his novel *Headlong Hall*, which consists of 51 letters, used to describe the structure of the human body. (一般公认最长的英语词是托马斯·洛夫·皮科克在他的小说《大客厅》中用于描写人体结构的,一共有 51 个字母的词。)

osseocarnisanguineoviscericartilaginineruomedullary

*** For your fun:**

—Which is the longest word in English?

—“Smiles”, because there is a “mile” between its first and last letters.

I.1.3. Short Words 短词

The two shortest words in English consist of only one letter: **I** and **a**. (英语中最短的两个词是 **I** 和 **a**, 只有一个字母。)

There are quite a number of English words consisting of two letters, most of which are common words. (英语中有相当多由两个字母组成的词,大多是常用的普通词。)

am, an, as, at, be, by, do, go, he, if, in, is, it, me, my, no, of, on, or, to, up, us, we.

The following are also often seen. (下列也是常见的。)

ad [非正式]广告(advertisement之缩写)

ay [诗歌用语]永远

el [美口语]高架铁道或火车

ex 不;没有;无权;前…人物

hi [招呼用语]嘿

ma [非正式]妈妈

os (解剖学上的)开口

pa [非正式]爸爸

Other examples should include the following exclamations.
(其他例子还应包括下列感叹词。)

ah, eh, ha, ho, lo, oh, and (及) OK (常写作 **ok**,
O.K., 或 **okay**)

I.1.4. Beautiful Words and Ugly Words 美的词和丑的词

A. Ten most beautiful words in English (英语中十个最美的词。)

1. **chimes**: a set of bells or of slabs of metal, stone, wood, etc., producing musical tones when struck
2. **dawn**: to begin to glow light as the sun rises
3. **golden**: consisting of, relating to or containing gold
4. **hush**: calm, quiet
5. **lullaby**: a song to quiet children or lull them to sleep
6. **luminous**: emitting light; shining

7. **melody**: a sweet or agreeable succession or arrangement of sounds
8. **mist**: water in the form of particles floating or falling in the atmosphere at or near the surface of the earth
9. **murmuring**: a soft, gentle utterance
10. **tranquil**: free from agitation; serene

B. Ten worst-sounding English words (最难听的十个英语词)

1. **cacophony**: harsh or discordant sound
2. **crunch**: to chew, grind, or press with a crushing noise
3. **flatulent**: affected with gas in the stomach or intestines
4. **gripe**: to complain with sustained grumbling
5. **jazz**: popular dance music
6. **phlegmatic**: having a sluggish or stolid temperament
7. **plump**: somewhat fat
8. **plutocrat**: one who exercises power by virtue of his wealth
9. **sap**: the fluid part of a plant
10. **treachery**: violation of allegiance, confidence, or faith

1.2. Anagrams 由相同字母组成但字母次序不同的词

1.2.1. For Your Reference 供你参考

Examples of some common anagrams (一些常见的字母组

成字母相同次序不同的词例)

read - dear, kitchen - thicken, blame - amble, English - shingle, wrote - tower, mate - tame, save - vase, stop - spot - post, live - evil - veil, horse - shore, meal - lame - male, strait - artist, below - elbow - bowel, throw - worth - wroth, snake - sneak, heart - earth, teach - cheat, never - nerve, please - asleep - elapse, stale - steal, least - slate - tales, sale - seal, worse - swore, north - thorn

I.2.2. The following are some words of three letters, but the order of the letter arrangement is wrong, your task is to correct the order to get some common English words. (下列是一些三个字母组成的单词,但是字母排列次序错了,你的任务是把他们改正过来,得出一些常用英语词。)

- | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. wlo | 2. pcu | 3. dgo | 4. tiw | 5. eew |
| 6. oth | 7. ipz | 8. sta | 9. arf | 10. eto |
| 11. snu | 12. pho | 13. het | 14. toa | 15. aor |
| 16. hpi | 17. eor | 18. ese | 19. ipl | 20. ryd |
| 21. tpi | 22. abt | 23. ofx | 24. eyr | 25. pto |
| 26. wse | 27. wsa | 28. mja | 29. esy | 30. wot |
| 31. tik | 32. ddo | | | |

I.2.3. Rearrange the order of the letters of the following words, and see how many other words you can get. The figure

in parentheses stands for the number of words these letters can form. (重新排列下列各词的字母,看看你能组成多少不同的词。括号里的数字表示可组成的词数。)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. silent (4) | 2. stale (5) |
| 3. result (6) | 4. leap (3) |
| 5. realization (1) | 6. continued (1) |
| 7. thread (3) | 8. crates (8) |
| 9. pears (8) | 10. instead (3) |

I.2.4. Trees Scrambled 拼乱了的树名

Here are twenty scrambled names of trees. Can you unscramble them? (这里有二十个拼乱了的树名。你能拼正确吗?)

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. neip | 2. sprecys | 3. ruceps |
| 4. dewdoor | 5. kao | 6. lem |
| 7. larpop | 8. palme | 9. plam |
| 10. rif | 11. scoutl | 12. merrybul |
| 13. lowliw | 14. chirb | 15. pokka |
| 16. vielo | 17. nineld | 18. has |
| 19. patcala | 20. nobye | |

I.3. Test Your Vocabulary 考考你的词汇量

I.3.1. Can you name 10 words of three letters which mean parts of the human body? (你能说出十个由三个字母组成的

表示人体部位的英语词吗?)

I.3.2. The following are twenty groups of definitions or hints, each group referring to the same word of three letters. How many can you spell out? (下面是二十组定义或提示, 各组表示同一个由三个字母组成的词, 你能拼写出几个?)

1. acting signal; billiard stick; pigtail
2. pickpocket; downward slope; swim
3. tooth holder; rubber overshoe; chuckle
4. son of Noah; kind of meat; bad actor
5. gratitude; extremity; advance information
6. line; boat ride; brawl
7. fate; great deal; movie studio
8. jail; quill; sty
9. dance; air trip; beer-flavoring plant
10. door opener; piano lever; Florida reef
11. Greek god; metal dish; hard subsoil
12. harbor obstruction; drinking place; lever
13. attitude; atmosphere; song
14. joke; speech restrainer; mouth opener
15. ball club; spree; winged mammal
16. haircut; pendulum weight; shilling
17. clothes fastener; bowling target; leg
18. radio chain; clear profit; snare