

英语常用同义词解说

张 经 浩

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· 英语 进修 读物 ·

福建人民出版社

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张 经 浩

福 建 人

一九八

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作 者 的 话

同义词在英语学习中是个较棘手的问题。为了使读者对各同义词的异同能一目了然，本书不用常见的分别叙述各词含义的方法，而采用了比较法。除辨析含义外，还兼述了一些习惯用法。英语初学者和有一定基础的读者，均可按自己的需要参阅本书。

原中山大学外语系吴志谦教授曾审阅部分稿件。湖南师院外语系副主任廖世翘副教授审阅过全稿，百忙中大力支持了本书的编写工作。江西教育学院外语系副主任孙宜民副教授，江西师院外语系万兆凤、张联璋副教授，给予了热情帮助。谨一并致谢。

张 经 浩

一九八一年三月



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1. able, capable

1. 在表示有能力做某件事时，两者可互换，但able后需接动词不定式，capable后需接“of + 动名词”。如：

He is able to speak two foreign languages.

(= He is capable of speaking two foreign languages.) 他能说两门外语。

He is able to do the work.

(= He is capable of doing the work.) 他有能力做这件工作。

2. capable 后可接“of + 名词”，但able不可；capable还可表示“胆敢（做不好的事）”，able则不可。如：

He is capable of great things. 他担当得起大事业。

He is capable of any crime. 他什么罪恶勾当都干得出来。

3. able 表示的能力高于 capable 表示的能力，对具有特殊能力的人用 able，具有一般能力的人用 capable。如：

He is an able engineer. 他是一位很有才干的工程师。

He is a capable engineer. 他是一位能干的工程师。

4. able 很少指事物，但可用来指一件做得很成功的事，表示做该事的人有一定的知识或技能。capable 指事物较多见，表示有能力或有可能的意思。如：

He made a very able speech. 他作了一个精彩

的演说。

The hall is capable of seating over a thousand people. 会场能容纳一千余人。

These animals have ears capable of faint sounds. 这些动物有能听到细微声音的耳朵。

This is a sentence capable of more than one interpretation. 这是一个可作多种解释的句子。

5.able 后的动词不定式通常不用被动式，而 capable 后的动名词却可。如不可说：Some animals are able to be taught. 但可以说：Some animals are capable of being taught.

2. about, round, around

1.about 说的“在周围”只指一个大略（在现代英语中已少用），而 round 与 around 含有“以……为中心”或“周而复始”的意思。如：

Her hair hangs about her neck. 她的头发披在脖子周围。（不是四周都有头发）

They crowded about the man leaning against the wall. 他们围着靠着墙的那个人。（不是四周都有人）

We must rally round (around) the Party. 我们必须团结在党的周围。（强调以党为核心）

He has slept round (around) the clock. 他睡了整整十二小时。（时针走了整整一圈）

在一般情况下用哪个词都可以，如：

They sat about (round, around) the fire. 他们围火而坐。

The earth moves about the sun. 地球在太阳周围转。(不强调以太阳为中心)

The earth moves round (around) the sun. 地球围绕太阳转。(强调以太阳为中心)

2. 在表示“到处”的意思时，它们可以换用。如：

He travelled about (round, around) the world.
他周游世界。

The news went about (round, around) the city.
消息在全城传开了。

They walked about (round, around) the town.
他们在城里到处逛。

3. round 与 around 比较，意义相同，但英国常用 round，而美国人却多用 around。

3. above, over

1. 表示“在……上方”时，over 有“垂直在上”的意思，above 只表示“位置高于”，不一定“垂直在上”。如：

There is a lamp over the table. 桌子正上方有盏灯。

The balcony juts out over the street. 阳台伸向大街。

There is a wen over (above) his eye. 他的眼上有个粉瘤。

The sky is over (above) our heads. 天在我们头顶上。

The mountain is 2,000 metres above the sea. 此山高为海拔两千米。

The sun rises above the horizon. 太阳升到地平线上。

2. over 可表示“复盖在上”，而above不可。如：

He spread his handkerchief over his face to keep off flies. 他把手帕盖在脸上挡苍蝇。

She spread a table-cloth over the table. 她在桌上铺了块桌布。

注意，如与某物接触，但并非复盖在上，则要用介词on。如：

The book is on the desk. 书在桌上。（试与上例比较）

3. over 含有横跨在上或从上面越过的意思，而 above 没有。如：

There is a bridge over the river. 河上有一座桥。

He jumped over the brook. 他跳过小溪。

The boy climbed over the wall. 小孩爬过了墙。

4. 在表示关系的“在上”时，above 只指职位高于，over 则指隶属关系。如：

A captain in the Navy ranks above a captain in the Army. 海军的上校军衔高于陆军的上尉。

He is over me in the office. 在机关里我归他

管。

以上第一句不能换为over, 因两者无隶属关系, 但第二句可换为above, 因也说得通, 表示“在机关里他职位比我高。”实际上只要不是明显无隶属关系场合, 用两者都可。如:

A general is over a colonel. 将军管得着上校。

A general is above a colonel. 将军位在上校之上。

5. 在表示数目“多于……”时可换用。如:

He stayed in Beijing for above (over) a month.
他在北京住了一个多月。

This weighs above (over) a ton. 这东西不止一吨重。

The river is above (over) fifty miles long. 这条河有五十多英里长。

6. 在表示价值, 重要性等“在……之上”时, 用above。如:

He puts the interests of the collective above his own. 他把集体利益放在个人利益之上。

He values honour above life. 他把名誉看得重于生命。

Your work is above the average. 你干得比一般人好。

7. above 的反义词是 below; over 的反义词是 under。

4. action, act

1. action 指一个较复杂的、持续性的动作; act 指一个

较简单的、短暂的动作。action 可指抽象概念，act 的含义都较具体。试体会下列典型例句的这种差别：

The rescue of a shipwrecked crew is a heroic action. 抢救遇难船员是一种勇敢的行为。

It is an act of kindness to help a blind man across the street. 搀扶盲人过马路是好心的行为。

Every sudden emotion quickens the action of the heart. 情绪的任何突然变化会使心跳加速。

In their country, to kick a cat is thought of as a cruel act. 在他们国家,用脚踢猫被看成是一种残忍的行为。

The government took a high-handed action. 政府采取高压手段。

Don't do a rash act. 别轻举妄动。

The time has come for action. 现在该行动了。

(表示抽象概念)

The thief was caught in the act of stealing. 贼在偷东西时当场被捉。

2.action 只能被形容词修饰，不能被与某个形容词相当的“of + 名词”构成的短语修饰，而act却可。如可说：

a cruel act(ion) 或 an act of cruelty 残忍的行为

a foolish act(tion) 或 an act of folly 愚蠢的行为

a kind act(ion) 或 an act of kindness 好心的行为

但不可说 an action of cruelty (folly, kindness).