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柯林斯 COBUILD 学生英语用法词典

STUDENT'S USAGE

Helping learners with real English

Practice Material by Bill Mascull

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The COBUILD Series

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出 版 前 言

    自 20 世纪 80 年代末起,世界各国的英语教学界就对以全新构想编写的"柯林斯 COBUILD 英语词典系列"表示出极大的兴趣,并一致认为,该系列词典开创了高科技时代词典编纂的先河。这一系列词典是在世界著名的哈珀－柯林斯出版社(HarperCollins Publishers Limited)的支持下,由英国伯明翰大学(Birmingham University)词典编纂组经过十余年的努力,精心编纂而成。参与编写工作的有数百名英语教学、词典编纂和电脑软件专家。从词典的研制到出版花费了巨额的资金。

    "柯林斯 COBUILD 英语词典系列"之所以被称为"以全新的构想编写而成的新一代辞书",是因为英国伯明翰大学词典编纂组首先意识到电脑时代的到来对于词典编纂的意义,并将大型电脑运用于词典的编纂工作。由于电脑的发展,利用电脑庞大的存储和检索功能对大量语言现象作具体详尽的分析成为可能。以往,词典编纂人员只能根据个别语言现象推断出词义和用法;现在,他们可以利用先进的电脑设备,输入和检索数以亿万字计的语料,根据大量而确切的语言数据来确定词义和用法。英国伯明翰大学词典编纂组就是根据上述原则,编纂了这一系列新颖独特的词典。

    本系列词典中所有的例词和例句均取材于 COBUILD 英语语料库(The Bank of English)。该英语语料库的名称 COBUILD 系 **C**OLLINS **B**IRMINGHAM **U**NIVERSITY **I**NTERNATIONAL **L**ANGUAGE **D**ATABASE 的首字母缩略词,如果直译应该是"柯林斯－伯明翰大学国际语料库"。该语料库包含了小说和非小说类的多种语体材料,如广播和电视用语、日常自然会话、报刊杂志文章,也包含了英国英语、美国英语和澳大利亚英语及多种英语方言。

    本社引进出版的《柯林斯 COBUILD 学生英语用法词典》旨在帮助学习者学习和掌握英语中容易出错的词语及结构。所选词条都按字母顺序编排,内容包括常用词、近义词、容易混淆的词以及其他似是而非的词。本词典对单词的用法、两个或两个以上近义词的区别都作了详尽的描述;词语和结构的语体色彩及地域性差别在词典中也有详尽的介绍。

    《柯林斯 COBUILD 学生英语用法词典》专为中级水平的英语学习者设计编写,既适合课堂教学,也可用作个人自学。

    为了提高我国的英语教学和科研水平,更好地为读者服务,上海外语教育出版社引进了"柯林斯 COBUILD 英语词典系列",以让我国广大英语学习者和从事相关工作的人员能够获得更多更新颖的工具书。为此,上海外语教育出版社的编辑和哈珀－柯林斯出版社的编辑通力合作,对本系列词典中的部分例句进行了修订,使之更符合我国国情。毋庸置疑,如同其他词典一样,本系列词典在编校过程中难免仍有疏漏和失误,敬请广大读者批评指正。

    需要说明的是,本系列词典的例证均选自 COBUILD 英语语料库,采用这些例句的目的是为了说明词目的语义和语法特征及用法,并不代表原出版者和本社的观点。

Editorial Team

Introduction

The aim of this book is to help learners of English with words and structures that often cause difficulty.

Each entry is based on evidence from The Bank of English so that the book reflects the language as it is spoken and written today. The book shows which words and structures are used mainly in conversation, and which are used more in writing. Differences between British and American usage are also indicated.

Arrangement of entries

Entries are arranged alphabetically and divided into easy-to-follow sections. When information about the use of a word, or additional relevant information, is to be found in an entry under another headword, a cross-reference is given, highlighted by the symbol □ .

There is also a full index.

Entries for individual words

The entries for individual words that often cause difficulty explain how to use the word, for example by saying which preposition should be used after the word, or whether you should use a 'to'-infinitive or an '-ing' form after it, or either.

For example, here is part of the entry for **ask**.

> When someone tells another person that they want them to do something, you report this using **ask** and either:
>
> a 'to'-infinitive clause   OR   an 'if'-clause
>
> I _asked_ him _to_ come and sit next to me.
>
> _Asked to_ describe the music, Albini said, 'It doesn't sound like any other record I've heard this year.'
>
> He _asked if_ I'd like to go to Bala.
> She _asked_ us _if_ we thought cats were beautiful.

The sentences _in italics_ come from The Bank of English and have been chosen for their power to illustrate the point under discussion.

In addition, we often mention what learners should not say, as well as what they should say. These comments should be useful for learners making comparisons between their own language and English, or between different words in English.

Here is part of the entry on **enough:**

> **'not enough'**
> Note that you do not use 'enough', or 'enough' and a noun, as the subject of a negative sentence. You do not say, for example:
>
> ✗ Enough people didn't come.
>
> You say:
>
> ✔ Not enough people came.
>
> _Not enough_ people want to take geography.
> _Not enough_ of Whitworth's material is worth reading.

The ✗ shows that a structure or use is incorrect.

The ✔ shows how the correct usage.

The same conventions are also used in the other types of entries.

Entries for easily confused words

If two or more words are confused with each other, they are mentioned in the entry heading. Some entries explain the difference between words which are similar in form but have different meanings, such as **experience, experiment**. Other entries distinguish between words which share a basic meaning, but are used in different ways, such as **big, large, great**.

Entries dealing with groups of words

In some entries, larger groups of related words are discussed. For example, in the entry at **beautiful**, there is an explanation of differences between:

- attractive
- beautiful
- good-looking
- gorgeous
- handsome
- pretty
- stunning

The entry for **work** deals with words for referring to work in different contexts, including:

- business
- employment
- job
- position
- profession
- occupation
- task
- trade

These types of entries are particularly useful for building your vocabulary.

Register information

Conversation and writing

We have tried to make it clear which words and expressions are used in conversation and which are used mainly in writing. For example, 'accustomed to' and 'used to' have the same meaning, but people do not usually use 'accustomed to' in conversation.

Words and expressions used in conversation are also used in pieces written in an informal, conversational style, such as letters to friends and non-serious articles in magazines.

Similarly, words and expressions used in writing are also often used in formal speech, for example news broadcasts and lectures.

When a word, expression or structure occurs only in novels and written descriptions of events, we say that it only occurs 'in stories'. For example, 'dress' is used to mean 'put on your clothes' in stories, but in conversation you would say 'get dressed'.

Formal and informal

We sometimes make distinctions between formal and informal ways of saying something. People use informal expressions when talking to friends and relatives. They use formal expressions when speaking to people they do not know well or when they are in a formal situation such as a meeting. Formal expressions tend to be used more by older people.

Modern and old-fashioned English

If we say that a word is 'not used in modern English', or is 'old-fashioned' we mean that you may come across it in a book written some time ago, but it would not sound natural in writing today, and it should not be used in conversation either.

Standard and non-standard English

If we say that a word is 'not used in standard English', we mean that speakers of some varieties of English use it, but that it would be regarded as incorrect by most people.

Exercises

Many of the entries are accompanied by exercises designed to develop understanding of key points. There are a number of different types. One exercise-type that you may not know presents text from the Bank of English in this format.

'Experience' or 'experiment'?

The same word is missing from all these extracts. What is it?

finish in 2088. Britain's longest-running archaeological	...	is three-quarters complete, yet still has three-quarters of
that is so tempting to so many. To date, the Hampshire	...	has been a great success, despite a tragic accident near
ny and Japan but Swedes were then engaged in a proud	...	that won admiration around the world. Sweden became
'Did the baboon consent?' and 'Animals are not ours to	...	on.' Discuss. While you are discussing, I shall return to
'very mysterious' if it exists at all. Back in the 1970s an	...	was carried out and televised. A professor set out to pro
ortage of facilities. Dr Lee-Potter said that an American	...	where the public was asked to rank 700 medical proced
atter differently again, not through vocabulary or formal	...	but at a psychic level. Since her first collection a decade

---

Here, you have to find the word, 'experience' or 'experiment', that is missing from *all* the extracts, the same word in each case.

A variation on this exercise type is to find the correct grammatical form of the missing item in each case. As with all the exercises, read the instructions carefully.

There is a full answer key at the back of the book.

Glossary of grammatical terms

Here are the grammatical terms used in the book. The glossary also includes alternative terms that you may see elsewhere. The list is intended as a reminder. It does not provide extensive treatment of English grammar. For more information, see *Collins Cobuild English Grammar, Student Grammar* and *Basic Grammar*.

active voice verb groups such as 'gives', 'took' or 'has made', where the subject is the person or thing doing the action or responsible for it. EG *The storm **destroyed** dozens of trees*. Compare with **passive voice.**

adjective a word used to tell you more about a thing, such as its appearance, colour, size, or type. EG *A **pretty blue** dress.*

adverb a word such as 'quickly' or 'now' that gives information about the circumstances or nature of an event or state. EG *She felt **extremely** tired.*

adverbial a word or phrase which gives information about the circumstances or nature of an event or state. EG *No birds or animals came **near the body**.*

agreement the matching relationship between the forms of different words used to refer to or talk about a person, thing, or group, which show whether you are talking about one person or thing or more than one. EG *I look/She looks... This book is mine/These books are mine...*

auxiliary one of the verbs 'be', 'have', and 'do' when they are used with a main verb to form tenses, negatives, questions, and so on. **Modals** are also auxiliary verbs. See **modals**.

base form the form of the verb that has no letters added at the end and is not a past form, for example, 'walk', 'go', 'have', 'be'. The base form is the form you look up in a dictionary.

clause a group of words containing a verb. See also **main clause** and **subordinate clause**.

comparative an adjective or adverb with '-er' on the end or 'more' in front of it, for example 'friendlier' or 'more important'.

complement a noun group or adjective which comes after a link verb such as 'be', and gives more information about the subject of a clause. EG *She is **a teacher**.*

compound a combination of two or more words that function as a single unit. For example, 'bus stop' is a compound noun.

conditional clause a subordinate clause usually starting with 'if' or 'unless'. The event described is in the main clause depends on the condition described in the subordinate clause. EG *If **it rains**, we'll go to the cinema.*

conjunction a word which links two clauses, groups or words. There are two kinds of conjunction - **coordinating conjunctions** such as 'and, 'but', and 'or', and **subordinating conjunctions** which begin subordinate clauses such as 'although', 'because' and 'when'.

continuous tense a tense which contains a form of the verb 'be' and a present participle. EG *She **was laughing**.*

contraction a shortened form such as 'aren't' or 'she's', in which an auxiliary verb and 'not', or a subject and an auxiliary verb, are joined together and function as one word.

count noun a noun such as 'dog', 'lemon' or 'foot' which has a singular form and a plural form.

defining relative clause a relative clause which identifies the person or thing that is being talked about. EG *I wrote down everything **that she said.** Compare with **non-defining relative clause**.

definite article the determiner 'the'.

demonstrative one of the words 'this', 'that', 'these', and 'those'. They are used as determiners and pronouns. EG *...**this** woman... ...**that** tree...*

determiner one of a group of words including 'the', 'a', 'some', and 'my' which are used at the beginning of a noun group.

direct object a noun group referring to the person or thing directly affected by an action, in an active clause. EG *She wrote **her name***. Compare with **indirect object**.

direct speech speech reported in the words actually spoken by someone, without any changes in tense, person, and so on. Compare with **reported speech**.

future tense 'will' or 'shall' with the base form of the verb used to refer to future events. EG *She **will come** tomorrow*.

future continuous tense 'will' or 'shall' with 'be' and a present participle, used to refer to future situations. EG *She **will be going** soon*.

future perfect tense 'will' or 'shall' with 'have' and a past participle, used to refer to future situations. EG *I **shall have finished** by tomorrow*.

future perfect continuous tense 'will' or 'shall' with 'have' and a present participle, used to refer to future situations. EG *I **will have been walking** for three hours by then*.

gerund an '-ing' form used as a noun, such as 'swimming' or 'acting'.

'if'-clause a conditional clause beginning with 'if'.

imperative A clause in the imperative mood has the base form of the verb without the subject. It is the mood used especially for giving commands, orders, and instructions. It is also used for making offers and suggestions. EG ***Come** here... **Have** a seat...*

indefinite article the determiners 'a' and 'an'.

indefinite pronouns a small group of pronouns including 'someone' and 'anything' which are used to refer to a person or thing in a general or vague way.

indirect object a second object which is used with a transitive verb to indicate who benefits from an action, or receives something as a result of it. EG *She gave **him** a rose*.

indirect question another name for a **reported question**.

indirect speech another name for **reported speech**.

infinitive the base form of the verb, for example 'go', 'have' or 'jump'. It is often used with 'to' in front of it.

'ing'-form a verb form ending in '-ing' which is used, for example, to form continuous verb tenses. Also called a 'present participle'.

intransitive verb a verb which is used to talk about an action or event that only involves the subject and so does not have an object. EG *She arrived... I was yawning...* Compare with **transitive verb**.

irregular having inflected forms which are not formed in the usual way. For example, irregular verbs have inflected forms.

main clause a clause which is not dependent on, or is not part of, another clause.

main verb a verb which is not an auxiliary or a modal

modal a verb such as 'can', 'might', or 'will' which is used with the base form of another verb to express possibility, requests, offers, suggestions, and so on.

modifier a word or group of words describing a person or thing which comes in front of a noun. EG *...a **beautiful** sunny day... ...a **psychology** conference...*

mood The mood of a clause is the type of structure which indicates whether it is basically a statement, command, or a question.

negative A negative clause uses a word such as 'not', 'never', or 'no-one' to indicate the absence or opposite of something, or to say that something is not the case. EG *He did **not** reply... I'll*

never forget...

non-defining relative clause a clause that gives more information about someone or something, but which is not needed to identify them. EG *That's Mary, who was at university with me.*

noun a word such as 'woman', 'guilt', or 'Harry' which refers to a person or thing.

object a noun group which refers to a person or thing, other than the subject, which is involved in or affected by an action. See also **direct object** and **indirect object**.

object pronoun a personal pronoun which is used as the object of a verb or preposition. The object pronouns are 'me', 'us', 'you', 'him', 'her', 'it', and 'them'.

participle a verb form used for making different tenses. See **past participle** and **'-ing' form.**

passive voice verb forms such as 'was given', 'were taken', 'had been made', where the subject is the person or thing that is affected by the action. EG *Dozens of trees were destroyed.* Compare with **active voice.**

past continuous tense 'was' or 'were' with a present participle, used to refer to past situations. EG *They were worrying about it yesterday.*

past form the form of a verb, often ending in '-ed', which is used for the simple past tense.

past participle a verb form such as 'disappointed', 'broken', or 'watched', which is used, for example, to form perfect tenses and passives. Also called '-ed' form, especially when used as an adjective.

past perfect tense 'had' with a past participle, used to refer to past situations. EG *She had finished.* Also called the 'pluperfect'.

past perfect tense 'had been' with a present participle, used to refer to past situations. EG *He had been waiting for hours.*

perfect tense a tense made with the auxiliary 'have' and a past participle. EG *I have met him.*

person refers to the three categories of people who are involved in something that is said. They are called the first person (the person who is speaking or writing), the second person (the person who is being addressed), and the third person (the people or things that are being talked about).

personal pronoun one of a group of words, including 'I', 'you', 'me' and 'they' which are used to refer to people or things whose identity is clear.

plural the form of a count noun or verb which is used to refer to or talk about more than one person or thing. EG *The men were outside.* Compare with **singular.**

positive A positive clause is one that does not contain a negative word. Compare with **negative.**

possessive a **possessive determiner** or a noun with 's added to it, which shows who or what something belongs to or is associated with. EG *...your bicycle... ...Jerry's house...*

possessive determiner one of the words 'my', 'your', 'his', 'her', 'its', 'our', and 'their', which show who or what something belongs to or is connected with. Also called 'possessive adjective'.

possessive pronoun one of the words 'mine', 'yours', 'hers', 'his', 'ours', and 'theirs'.

preposition a word such as 'by', 'with', or 'from' which combines with a noun group or an '-ing' form to form an adverbial.

present continuous tense the simple present of 'be' with a present participle, used to refer to present situations. EG *Things are improving.*

present perfect continuous tense 'have been' or 'has been' with a present participle, used to refer to past situations which still exist. EG *We have been sitting here for hours.*

present perfect tense 'have been' or 'has been' with a past participle, used to refer to past situations which still exist, or past events that affect the present. EG *She **has** loved him for ten years.*

present participle another name for '-ing' form.

progressive tense another name for **continuous tense.**

pronoun a word such as 'it', 'you', or 'none' which you use when you do not need or want to use a noun to refer to someone or something.

purpose clause a subordinate clause, usually introduced by 'in order to', 'to', 'so that', or 'so', which indicates the purpose of an action. EG *I came here **in order to** ask you out to dinner.*

question a structure which typically has a verb in front of the subject and which is used to ask someone about something. EG *Have you lost something?* Also called an 'interrogative'.

question tag a structure consisting of an auxiliary verb followed by a pronoun, which is used at the end of a **tag question.**

reflexive pronoun a pronoun such as 'myself' or 'themselves' which is used as the object of a verb when the person affected by an action is the same as the person doing it.

reflexive verb a verb which is typically used with a reflexive pronoun.

regular verb a verb which has four forms and follows the normal rules.

relative clause a subordinate clause which gives more information about someone or something mentioned in the main clause. See also **defining relative clause** and **non-defining relative clause.**

relative pronoun a word such as 'who' or 'which' that is used to introduce a relative clause. EG *The girl **who** was carrying the bag.*

report clause the part of a report structure which indicates what someone has said. EG *She said **that I couldn't see**

her. Also known as a 'reported clause'.

reported question a question which is reported using a report structure rather than using the exact words of the speaker. Also called an 'indirect question'.

result clause a subordinate clause introduced by 'so', 'so that', or 'such that' which gives the result of something. EG *The house was severely damaged, **so that it is now uninhabitable.**

sentence a complete group of words which expresses a statement, question, command, or exclamation.

simple past tense the past form of a verb, used to refer to past events and situations. EG *They **waited.**

simple present tense the base form and the third person 's' form, usually used to refer to present events and situations. EG *I **like** bananas.*

simple tense a tense in which no auxiliary is used. EG *I sang... She waited.*

singular the form of a count noun or verb which is used to refer to or talk about one person or thing. EG *That woman is my mother.*

subject the noun group in a clause that refers to the main person or thing you are talking about. EG ***We** were going shopping... **He** was murdered.*

subordinate clause a clause which must be used with a main clause. See also **main clause.**

superlative an adjective or an adverb with '-est' on the end or 'most' in front of it, for example 'thinnest' or 'most beautiful'.

tag question a statement to which a **question tag** (an auxiliary verb and a pronoun) has been added. EG *She's quiet, isn't she?*

tense the form of a verb group which shows whether you are referring to the past, the present, or the future.

'that'-clause a clause starting with 'that' which is used mainly when reporting

what someone has said. EG *She said that she'd wash up for me.* 'That' can be omitted when reporting what someone has said.

'to'-infinitive the base form of a verb preceded by 'to', for example 'to go', 'to have', to jump'.

'to'-infinitive clause a subordinate clause based on a 'to'-infinitive. EG *I wanted to see you.*

transitive verb a verb which is used to talk about an action or event that involves more than one person or thing, and therefore is followed by an object. EG *She's wasting her money.* Compare with **intransitive verb.**

uncount noun an noun such as 'money', 'furniture' or 'information' which refers to a general kind of thing rather than to an individual item, and so has only one form. Also called an 'uncountable noun'.

verb a word such as 'speak', 'go', or 'die' which is used with a subject to say what someone or something does, or what happens to them.

verb group a main verb, or a combination of one or more auxiliaries or modals and a main verb. EG *I'll show them... She's been sick...*

'wh'-question a question which expects an answer mentioning a particular person, thing, place, amount, and so on, rather than just 'yes' or 'no'. Compare with **'yes/no' question.**

'wh'- word one of a group of words starting with 'wh', such as 'what', 'when', and 'who', which are used in 'wh'-questions. 'How' is also called a 'wh'-word because it behaves like the other 'wh'-words.

'yes/no' question a question which can be answered simply with either 'yes' or 'no'. EG *Are you married?* Compare with **'wh'-question.**

Pronunciation Guide

Information about pronunciation is given where it helps to distinguish between confusable words.

The symbols used to indicate pronunciation are part of the International Phonetic Alphabet. Here is a list of the symbols used in this book:

vowel sounds:

ɒ:	heart, start, calm
æ	act, mass, lap
aɪ	dive, cry, mind
aɪə	fire, tyre, buyer
aʊ	out, down, loud
aʊə	flour, tower, sour
e	met, lend, pen
eɪ	say, main, weight
eə	fair, care, wear
ɪ	fit, win, list
i:	feed, me, beat
ɪə	near, beard, clear
ɒ	lot, lost, spot
əʊ	note, phone, coat
ɔ:	more, cord, claw
ɔɪ	boy, coin, joint
ʊ	could, stood, hood
u:	you, use, choose
ʊə	lure, pure, cure
ɜ:	turn, third, word
ʌ	but, fund, must
ə	*the weak vowel in* butter, about, forgotten
i	*the weak vowel in* very, create
u	*the first weak vowel in* tuition

consonant sounds:

b	bed, rub
d	done, red
f	fit, if
g	good, dog
h	hat
j	yellow
k	king, pick
l	lip, bill
m	mat, ram
n	not, tin
p	pay, lip
r	run
s	soon, bus
t	talk, bet
v	van, love
w	win
x	loch
z	zoo, buzz
ʃ	ship, wish
ʒ	measure
ŋ	sing
tʃ	cheap, witch
θ	thin, myth
ð	then, loathe
dʒ	joy, bridge

Stressed syllables are indicated by an underline under the vowel symbol for the stressed syllable.

Contents