

Difficulties in English grammar series 英语语法释疑系列

前呼后应

龚少瑜 常晨光

I 314.3-269

# 前呼后应

龚少瑜

常晨光编著

生活·读书·新知三联书店



语言法释疑系列

龚少瑜 常晨光编著

前 呼 后 应

生活·读书·新知 三联书店

# (京) 新登字 007 号

责任编辑：倪 乐

封面设计：海 洋

## 图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

前呼后应/龚少瑜, 常晨光编著. -北京: 生活·读书·新知三联书店, 1993. 9  
(英语语法释疑系列)  
ISBN 7-108-00641-3

I. 前…

II. ①龚… ②常…

III. ①英语-句法 ②句法-英语

IV. H314. 3

生活·读书·新知三联书店出版发行

(100706 北京朝阳门内大街 166 号)

北京市印刷一厂印刷 新华书店北京发行所经销

1993 年 9 月第 1 版 1993 年 9 月北京第 1 次印刷

开本: 787×1092 毫米 1/32 印张 3

字数: 67 千字 印数: 00, 001-10, 000 册

定价 4.20 元

## 许国璋序

三十多年前，受命编写大学文科英语教材。其时阶级斗争之说风行，无事不蒙受其深刻影响，但在此书编纂实务中，还是尽当时之可能，力求背离时尚，追求语言之基本训练。现在看来，这套教材虽已必须重新修订，其原作毕竟已为各校及外语训练班乐于采用多年。其结果是，一方面，本人之虚名顿传，“许国璋”成为某种合用之英语教本之代称，一个社会语言学家的姓名竟然可以成为社会语言学之研究对象，不免惶恐；另一方面，使我更加注意英语之教学，不仅关心大学生英语训练，而且包括他们的预备阶段——中学时代的英语教学。

中学英语教学，年来改进颇多。我不是中学教师，隔岸观火，难说此中还存在什么关键问题。只有一个感觉：这些年来，适应开放改革之现实需要，大家比较注意成人培训，例如办强化班，口语班等等，不一而足。凡此均非无谓之举，但是治本之计，恐怕还得从中小学时期做起。“三年之病，难求七年之艾”；为了将来，我们恐怕得早早地把“七年之艾”准备好。事事都靠到了成人再加强、速成，究竟不是办法。从已出之教材和辅导读物看，似乎考虑中学生之基本训练较少，亟待加强。

生活·读书·新知三联书店交来这套《英语语法释疑系列》专供中学生阅读，我略加翻阅，颇为高兴，乐于促其印行。这套书注重基本训练，文法笃实准确，而又叙述生动，练习周详，并且附有插图，当为若干于中学英语教学有素养

的同行的精心之作。是一套具有新意的可用教材。

生活·读书·新知三联书店历来常出高水准学术论著，这也许可受称道，但在经营效益上，似乎并不能得到相应的嘉许。作为一个文化企业，推而广之，作为一个文化人，难道可无经济观念？我希望三联书店好好经营、推广这类有益的普及读物，在经营效益上也作出成绩。今年五月赴欧讲学前夕，与三联书店前任总经理沈昌文专门谈及此点，咸有同感。惜乎我已年迈多病，连素以壮年视之的昌文，亦已因年龄关系，退出领导岗位。我辈于此，徒呼负负，实已难能为力。则今后以文化促经营、以经营助文化之举，亦即出版业秉政者常谓之“双效益”重任，只能期望于来者！

我深信，既然大家已有认识，积以时日和经验，这个“双效益”的工作是一定可以完成的。

因是之故，我对这套丛书，乐观厥成，并应三联书店之命，为之序。

许国璋

一九九三年八月

## 序 言

这本书是谈 agreement 的。

agreement 这个词有各种各样的意思。如我们在报纸上看到这样的消息：戈尔巴乔夫与布什就裁军问题达成了协议。这个“协议”就叫 agreement。公司与公司之间也可以有 agreement。个人与个人之间也会有 agreement。

可见 agreement 一词，含有“一致”、“呼应”的意思。

本书所谈的 agreement，就是指英语句子各个部分的互相呼应和一致。

agreement 对于英美学生并不会成为一个问题。因为他们生活在英语环境之中，通过模仿，不知不觉养成习惯。而香港的学生由于受中英文差异的影响，就难免会在一致 (agreement) 方面出现这样那样的错误。这些错误小则会令人听起来觉得不顺耳，如 She like to play tennis 一类句子，凡是英美人听了都会皱眉头的；大则就会造成误解，如有个学生想用英语表达“玛丽说她可以在这里签上自己的名字”，他说：“Mary said she could sign his name here”。由于没注意前后的 agreement，就令人莫名其妙。不知签的是谁的名字，也不知“玛丽”是男是女了。

本书的目的就是通过归纳分析学生一些比较容易犯的错误，配以一些练习，帮助读者掌握英语的 agreement 问题。

作者

一九九一年十月

# 目 录

序言 .....	1
1. 从“是”谈起 .....	1
2. “我昨天打网球。” .....	4
3. “某处有……”怎样表示? .....	6
4. “车来了!” .....	9
5. subject 究竟是哪一个词? .....	12
6. “《星球大战》是一部好电影!” .....	16
7. “five minutes”是 singular? .....	18
8. His family is...与 His family are... ..	20
9. “一群”如何表示? .....	23
10. “你的裤子太脏了!” .....	26
11. “数学很难!” .....	29
12. “aircraft”还是“aircrafts”? .....	33
13. “大家都来了吗?” .....	35
14. “学生都不在课室。” .....	37
15. either 和 neither .....	39
16. All of the book is...与 All of the books are... ..	42
17. few, a few 与 little, a little .....	45
18. many 与 much .....	47
19. a number of 和 the number of .....	49
20. phenomenon 与 phenomena .....	51
21. The young are...与 The deceased is... ..	53

22. “中文” 还是 “中国人”?	55
23. “百闻不如一见。”	58
24. “it” 的用法	60
25. the writer and the professor 与 the writer and professor	63
26. “天助自助者。”	66
27. “he” 还是 “she”?	70
28. “喂！哪一位？”	72
29. “仁者见仁，智者见智。”	74
30. 再谈 either...or... 和 neither...nor...	77
31. the team...its or their?	79
32. “闪闪发光者，未必尽黄金。”	82

## 1. 从“是”谈起

我们用中文说“我是学生”，“你是学生”，“他是学生”或“我们是学生”时，“是”仅有一种形式，不需要有任何变化。英文则不同。例如：

*I am Chinese, you are American and he is Japanese, but we are all friends.*

*... we are all friends.*



句中有四个“是”，却用了三种不同的形式：

在英文里，verb to be 应随主语 (subject) 的不同而变化。但是，由于中英文习惯的差异，一些中学生朋友常忽视主语和动词之间的呼应和一致，出现用法错误。

请大家观察 verb to be 在现在时 (present tense) 中的变化。

I am	You	} are	He	} is
	We		She	
	They		It	

其实，除 be 以外的其他动词在不同的主语后形式也有变化。不过没有 to be 那么复杂。规则很简单：复数主语 (plural subject) 后用复数动词 (plural verb)，即原形；单数主语 (singular subject) 后用单数动词 (singular verb)，即多在动词后加-s, -es。

因为中文中不存在单数动词形式，许多同学在用英文时常忘记主语和动词之间单数形式的一致，而说出类似下面的错误句子：

My sister *study* English in college.

The lift *work* well.

上面两句中的主语 (subject) My sister 和 The lift 都是单数形式 (singular form)，而后面的动词 (verb) study 和 work 却都用了复数形式 (plural form)，所以主语和动词之间的数不一致。

应改为：

My sister *studies* English in college.

The lift *works* well.

### Exercise 1

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs. (用动词正确形式填空)

My home (1) (be) in Hong Kong. My father (2) (be) a teacher. My mother (3) (work) in a nursery. My father (4) (teach) physics. My mother also (5) (teach). She (6) (teach) children to sing and speak clearly.

I (7) (have) a brother and a sister. I (8) (be) eighteen, my brother (9) (be) eleven and my sister (10) (be) seven. My brother and my sister (11) (go) to school. I (12) (be) in my first year at college. I (13) (like) my subjects and I (14) (work) very hard.

### Answer Key

(1) is    (2) is    (3) works    (4) teaches    (5) teaches  
(6) teaches    (7) have    (8) am    (9) is    (10) is  
(11) go    (12) am    (13) like    (14) work

### Exercise 2

Circle the correct form of the verbs in the brackets.  
(选出括号中正确的词。)

1. (Has, Have) Jane any brothers and sisters?
2. One swallow (does, do) not make a summer.
3. A farmer (shows, show) us how to sow.
4. The Jacksons (has, have) two sons and a daughter.
5. The dictionary (is, are) as thick as a brick.
6. This kind of dress (has, have) gone out of fashion.
7. The dish (doesn't, don't) taste as good as it (looks, look).
8. Her question (sounds, sound) quite reasonable.
9. John always (does, do) his homework in the evenings.
10. The pictures on the wall (is, are) remarkable.

### Answer Key

1. Has    2. does    3. shows    4. have    5. is    6. has  
7. doesn't, looks    8. sounds    9. does    10. are

## 2. “我昨天打网球。”

一位学生曾写过这样一个英文句子：

I *play* tennis yesterday.

显然，他想表达的意思是：我昨天打网球。但这个英文句子对吗？

答案是“不对”。

中文要表达过去发生的事情或动作时，一般只需加上表示过去时间的词就行了，如“昨天，去年，上星期五等。

但在英文中，如要表示主语的行为是在过去发生的，句中的动词也必须用过去形式，才能保证主语和动词的一致。

所以，上面的句子应改为：I *played* tennis yesterday.

动词 (verb) 改变为过去式 (past tense)，除 be (变为 was, were)、have (变为 had) 等一些特殊变化的动词外，一般只要在动词后加-ed 就能与主语 (subject) 取得一致，表示过去发生的事。

例如：

My daughter *watched* TV after dinner.

We *enjoyed* ourselves very much last week.

### Exercise 3

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the brackets.

1. The exhibits last week \_\_\_\_\_ (be) prepared by the art department.

2. What \_\_\_\_\_ (be) you doing at nine this morning?
3. When you \_\_\_\_\_ (be) there last year, what \_\_\_\_\_ (be) she working at?
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to raise crops on the poor and dry land, but most of the plants died.
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (be frightened) when he \_\_\_\_\_ (hear) someone shriek (尖声叫喊) out in the middle of the night.
6. When we \_\_\_\_\_ (call), Mary \_\_\_\_\_ (be) at dinner.
7. The child \_\_\_\_\_ (run) away and hid behind a tree.
8. I \_\_\_\_\_ (see) the President on television last night.
9. I was still sleeping when the stewardess \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to tell us that we \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) Mt. Olympus.
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a wonderful time last weekend.

### Answer Key

1. were    2. were    3. were, was    4. tried
5. was frightened, heard    6. called, was    7. ran
8. saw    9. came, were passing    10. had

### 3. “某处有……”怎样表示？

大家都知道，英文中表示“有”，除 have 外，还有 there be 结构。通常说“某处有……”多用 there be 来表示，而不是用 have。例如：房间里有张床。

英文中不说：

The room has a bed. 而是说：

There is a bed in the room.

在这种结构中，there 出现在句首。有些同学便误将它看作句子的主语。事实上，真正的主语是在 verb to be 后面。

因此，要保证句子中的主语和动词的一致 (agreement)，就应看 verb to be 后面的主语是复数还是单数，再看动词应该用复数还是单数形式。

比如，上面例句中的主语是 a bed，单数形式，所以，句中的动词也用单数形式 (singular form)：is。又如：

Where there is a will, there is a way.

There have been a lot of visitors here this year.

如果 verb to be 后有两个或两个以上并列的主语，句子中的动词的形式应与最接近它的那个主语一致。因此，我们说：

There is only a table, two chairs and a bed in the room.

尽管句中的 a table, two chairs and a bed 具有复数 (plural) 概念，动词仍用单数形式 (singular form) is，与 a table 取得一致，一般不说：

There *are* only a table, two chairs and a bed in the room.

#### Exercise 4

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs in the brackets.

#### The Sahara

The Sahara (1) (be) the largest desert in the world, 1,000 miles from north to south and 3,000 miles from east to west. But you mustn't (2) (think) of it as a "sea of sand". There (3) (be) plains of hard sands and plateaus with dried-up watercourses, and there (4) (be) mountain ranges. Most of the Sahara (5) (receive) almost no rain at all, so there (6) (be) no trees, no flowers, no grass. But there (7) (be) places with plenty of underground water. Where underground water (8) (come) to the surface, there (9) (be) oases. There you will (10) (find) lots of date-palms, and people also (11) (grow) millet and vegetables. There the tired traveller (12) (take) a rest under the shady trees and (13) (have) a good drink of its clear well water. The Sahara (14) (have) a very important mineral-oil. This (15) (make) the Sahara rich and important.

#### Answer Key

- (1) is    (2) think    (3) are    (4) are    (5) receives  
(6) are    (7) are    (8) comes    (9) are    (10) find

- (11) grow    (12) takes    (13) has    (14) has  
(15) makes

### Exercise 5

Put a check (✓) beside the correct sentences and an (×) beside the incorrect ones. (判断句子正误。)

- 1. There has been an increase in the importation of foreign cars.
- 2. There was an accident last night.
- 3. There has been a number of telephone calls today.
- 4. There was water on the floor where he fell.
- 5. There are five people in my family.
- 6. There are nothing serious.
- 7. There are a pen and some pencils in my pencil-box.
- 8. There is a box of matches in the kitchen.
- 9. There seem to be little time left.
- 10. There seem to be too many players in the field.

### Answer Key

1. ✓    2. ✓    3. ×    4. ✓    5. ✓    6. ×    7. ×    8. ✓  
9. ×    10. ✓

#### 4. “车来了!”

有一次，我在公共汽车站等车，等了很久，仍不见有汽车来。正烦闷之际，忽听身后有一外国女士说：

*Here comes the bus.*



抬头一看，果然是汽车来了。

你知道这种用法吗？

这种句子叫倒装句，也就是说，主语不在动词前面，而是出现在动词的后面。

英文中很多由 *there*, *here* 或其他表示地点，时间的词出现在句首的句子，常用主语和动词倒装结构。