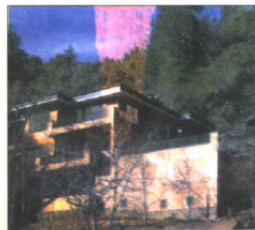


英语分类动词惯用法

Idiomatic Usages of Classified English Verbs

欧阳琦 著 · 中南大学出版社



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第一章

动词 Be

一、Be 既是助动词又是系动词

1. 在同一个句子里, be 不能同时作助动词和系动词。试比较:

1) 误: He is a good man, and respected by all.

正: He is a good man, and is respected by all.

2) 误: My first visit to Tokyo was made in 1949 and my impression of the city not so favorable.

正: My first visit to Tokyo was made in 1949 and my impression of the city was not so favorable.

在例 1) 的错句中, 在第一分句 is 是系动词; 在第二分句 is 是助动词, 和 respected 构成被动结构, 省略是错误的。在例 2) 的错句中, 在第一分句里 was + made 构成被动式, was 是助动词; 在第二分句中 was 是系动词, 省略是错误的。

2. be 作谓语动词用时, 应在人称数方面和主语一致

在大多数情况下, 在意义上和形式上都是一致的。但有时只是意义上的一致, 例如: No news is good news. 有时只是形式上的一致, 例如: Everybody likes to be praised. 当形式和意义发生矛盾时, 有的人倾向于坚持形式上的一致, 有的人倾向于牺牲形式

上的一致而保持意义上的一致。例如：

1) 句子有复合主语，每个主语都是指同一个人物时，动词用单数。例如：

Our monitor and League secretary is Zhang Hua.

我们的班长兼团支部书记是张华。

2) 句子有两个主语用 as well as 连接时，因为这个连接词强调的是前面那部分。be 应与 as well as 前面的主语在人称数上保持一致。例如：

The grandmother as well as her grandchildren is interested in watching TV.

3) 句子有两个主语，用 not only...but also 或 or 连接时，be 应该跟后面那个主语在人称数上保持一致。not only...but also 是强调 but also 引导的那一部分；or 是选择意义，通常采用邻近原则处理主谓一致关系。例如：

Not only the grandchildren but also their grandmother is interested in watching TV.

The grandchildren or their grandmother is interested in watching TV.

4) 两个主语各是一个整体的一部分，动词用单数。例如：

The hammer and sickle is our Party flag.

The horse and buggy is an ancient transportation tool.

Bread and butter is delicious.

5) 两个主语是极为密切的东西或概念，动词可以是单数，也可以是复数。如：

Criticism and self-criticism is/are a powerful weapon to strengthen unity.

Where there is/are oppression and exploitation, there is/are resistance and struggle.

6) 有时一个主语名词被两个对等形容词修饰,从意思上看,是省略了一个相同的主语名词,动词用复数。如:

Intellectual (freedom) and press freedom are guaranteed by the constitution.

宪法保障研究自由和出版自由。

7) 由两个短语构成两个主语,动词有时也用单数。例如:

Drinking too much and smoking too much was responsible for his sudden and early death.

8) 集合名词作主语,当看作一个整体时,动词用单数;当看作各个个体时,动词用复数。试比较:

- (1) { The working class is our leading class.
The working class are masters of our country.
- (2) { The family is a five-good family.
The family are having supper at a round table.
- (3) { The committee is made up of five members.
The committee are different from each other in their opinions.

二、Be + 现在分词

Be 加现在分词构成进行时,这是最基本的,也是英语学习者共知的。但是有些类同的表现形式,并不是表示正在进行的动作,而是表达下列不同的意思。

1. 情感色彩

当现在进行式用来表示情感时,往往带有像 always, constantly, all the time 等修饰语。

- 1) You are looking ill, Comrade Chang.
张同志,你脸色不好。(表示同情、关切)
- 2) He is always telling the old story.
他总是老生常谈。(表示厌倦)
- 3) How are you feeling today?
你今天感觉怎么样。
How is it that you are crying?
你今天哭了?(两个句子都表示关切)
- 4) The woman teacher is constantly showing sincere concern for her pupils.
女老师总是衷心地关心学生。(表示赞美)
- 5) She is all the time finding faults with others.
她老是鸡蛋里面挑骨头。
He is constantly leaving things about.
他老是乱放东西。
(这两句话都是表示不满和愤怒)
- 6) New varieties are appearing all the time.
新的多样化不断涌现。(表示高兴)
- 7) We're now hauling in ten times more fish than before.
现在我们的捕鱼量比以前多十倍。(表示满意)
- 8) What are you reading there?
你在那里看什么?(表示好奇)
- 9) Where am I, where are you taking me to?
我现在哪儿?你把我带到什么地方去?(表示不安)
- 10) What are you doing to my tape recorder?
你在对我的录音机搞什么名堂?(表示愤怒)

2. 动作重复

用现在进行式表示重复进行的动作,通常是用瞬间动作动词来表述这一语言现象。

- 1) The guests are arriving.

客人陆续到来。

- 2) Our gallant fellows are dying in the trenches and you want a rise.

我们英勇的将士在战壕里流血牺牲,但是你却要求增加工资。

- 3) She is breaking bowls and dishes in the kitchen.

她在厨房里把碗和碟子打得稀烂。

- 4) You make bets and abuse the confidence of hard-worked officials who are doing their bit for our country whilst our gallant fellows are perishing in the trenches.

当我们勇敢的将士在战壕里流血牺牲的时候,你却在打赌,并滥用那些为国家尽力、辛苦工作的官员对你们的信任。

- 5) He is jumping up and down.

他一上一下地跳。

在上述五个例句中,用于进行式的 arrive, die, break, perish 和 jump 都是瞬间动词,表示重复进行的动作。但是有些持续动词的进行式也表示动作重复。例如:

- 6) He is playing chess all day.

他整天下棋。

- 7) You are always smoking. All over the room there hangs a disagreeable smell of tobacco.

你老是抽烟,整个屋子里弥漫一种很不好闻的烟味。

3. 最近未来的动作

位移动词: go, come, start, leave, arrive, depart 等以及 do, give, land, stop, take, meet, eat, publish, see(= pay a visit to), spend, play, dine, pay, join, move 等行为动词的现在进行式, 在一个表示将来时间的状语修饰下, 都描述一个最近将来要发生的动作。例如:

- 1) Our Dean is leaving for Shanghai tomorrow.
- 2) Be quick! The train is starting in a minute.
- 3) The students are going to the museum tomorrow morning.
- 4) The professor is coming to give us a lecture on rhetorics next Tuesday afternoon.

5) The president is giving a report on current affairs this afternoon.

- 6) What are you doing next Sunday?
- 7) I'm seeing the general manager this evening.
- 8) He is playing the flute at tomorrow evening's concert.

在上述例句中都有一个表示将来时间的状语。有时这种未来时间概念可以通过上下文表达。例如:

9) Evening is falling. Many people have been waiting for buses at the stop for a long time. They are told that a serious traffic jam has taken place on the other end of the highway. Therefore no bus is coming.

甚至还有一种趋势, 只要是人能够控制的动作, 表示这个动作的动词, 都具有这种表达功能。试比较:

10) 正: Are you rising at six tomorrow morning?

误: The sun is rising early tomorrow morning.

在第一个句子中, rising 相当 getting up, 表述起床, 自然是人

可以控制的动作。因此“明天早晨六点你会起床吗?”是正确的。在第二个例句中,“太阳升起”是一种自然现象,人无法控制日出,因此“太阳明天早上会升起得早。”是不能成立的。

4. 一时表现

只有 be 的现在进行式才具有这种表意功能。例如:

- 1) He is being silly.

他发傻气。

- 2) You are not being modest.

你表现得不够谦虚。

- 3) She is being friendly.

她表现友好。

- 4) The naughty boy is being a good kid today.

这顽皮男孩今天很乖。

- 5) Don't talk nonsense. I'm being serious.

别胡说!我讲正经话啦。

- 6) He is being kind.

这次他很亲切。

- 7) The hot-tempered nurse is being patient.

这位脾气很大的护士这次很耐心。

- 8) He is being polite.

他装作很有礼貌。

- 9) She is being angry with you.

她装出跟你发怒的样子。

- 10) You are being an angel.

你现在这样待我真是好人。

5. 强调瞬间行为,表示生动叙述

1) I am sorry you doubt my statement. I am telling the truth.

很遗憾你不相信我的话。我讲的是真实情况。

2) When Horatio says to Hamlet in Shakespeare's play "season your admiration for a while...", he is not telling him to increase his esteem for something, but to moderate his astonishment.

当莎士比亚剧本中的霍雷肖对哈姆雷特说"Season..."时,并不是叫他更加尊重某件东西,而是让他缓和吃惊的神色。

3) I am asking for no pardon, I'm trying to obtain your understanding.

我并不是请求宽恕,而是在尽力得到你的理解。

三、Be + 过去分词

Be 的一般过去时 + 完成式的不定式,表示本来打算做但没有做的事。在这种语境中,was 和 were 在意义上似乎都相当于 meant。例如:

1) The lord Mayor was to have laid the foundation stone, but he was taken ill last night. So the lady Mayoress is doing it instead.

市长大人本来打算亲自奠基,但是昨晚上病倒了,所以市长太太正在代替他奠基。

2) We were to have got married last year.

我们本来打算去年结婚。

3) Rhoda was to have come with me for a ride in the motor car.

洛大原打算和我一道来骑摩托车。

4) I was to have seen him last Wednesday but he did not come.

我本打算上星期三和他见面,但他没来。

四、Be to 用作情态动词

1) should/ought to

He (= the man who handles weapons) is still to be educated.

句中的 is to be educated 表示 should/ought to be educated 的意思, 整个句子表示“掌握武器的人应该受教育”的意思。

2) must/have to

He was to do whatever Baggins told him to.

was to 等于 had to, 全句是“巴金斯叫他干什么, 他就得干什么”的意思。

3) can/may

(1) Similar conditions are to be found in all other Latin American countries.

are to 等于 can/may, 表示可能, 全句应汉译为“同样的情况可能在所有其他拉丁美洲国家发现”。

(2) How am I to pay such a debt?

am to 表示 can 的意思, 严格来讲 am to 表示说话人的财力 (financial ability)。全句汉译为: 我怎么能付得起这样一笔债务呢?

如果进一步研究这句话, 它是一个修辞疑问句。其相应的陈述句是 I am not to pay such a debt. 这个理解基于这么一个修辞理论: 修辞问句是讲话人为了加强语气而采用的修辞手段。即用疑问句表述一个陈述句的意思。因此任何一个修辞问句都有一个相应的陈述句, 肯定的修辞问句有一个相应的否定陈述句, 否定的修辞问句有一个相应的肯定陈述句。How am I to pay such a debt? 是个肯定的修辞问句, 它相应的陈述句是否定的。在这个否定的陈述句中, am not to 等于 cannot, 表示“没有能力”

的意思。

五、Be 用作实义动词

1) exist

在 there + be 句型中, be 等于 exist, 如:

Though there is much difference between urban and rural lives in our country now, yet it will gradually be narrowed down as production advances.

虽然现在我国城乡生活之间还存在巨大差别,但随着生产的发展会渐渐缩小的。

2) live

To be or not to be—that is a question.

这是莎士比亚剧本《王子复仇记》中主人翁哈姆雷特的一句话。其中 be 等于 live, 全句表示“活下去还是不活,那还是个问题”的意思。

3) want/intend

Semantics, the study of the meaning of words, is necessary if you are to speak and read intelligently.

如果你想要看得懂,讲得明白,那么词义学是必要的。

4) take place

When is your next ball to be, Lizzy?

莉莎,你们下次舞会什么时候举行?

5) equal

One plus one is two.

一加一等于二。

6) stay

He has been in Germany for five years.

他在德国呆了五年。

7) reach/get to

You can be there within ten minutes if you hurry.

如果你赶快的话,十分钟内可以到达那里。

8) become

Now remember your aunt's instructions and be a good girl.

好,记住婶婶的教诲,做个好女孩。

9) behave

Why don't you be yourself?

为什么没礼貌?

10) continue

He'll be in Beijing till next week.

他将继续在北京直到下周。

六、Be + 含结果意义的形容词等,表示完成状态

be 是中性系动词,并兼有状态系动词和结果系动词的特点。be 的表语可以表示静态结果含义,即表示“已达目的”之状态。在一般时态中,be 加含结果意义的形容词等,表示完成状态。例如:

1. be + 含有结果意义的形容词

He is dead.

Lunch is ready

I am full.

I don't know why so many important documents are missing.

My children are asleep.

这样的形容词还有 open, awake, empty, hungry, angry, apart, dry 等。

2. be + 过去分词

My fever is gone.

The sun was set.

His homework is finished.

All the doors are closed after ten in the evening.

She was recovered from her illness.

As a rule, a state-paid cadre is retired at the age of 60.

这样的过去分词还有: boiled, changed, come, covered, locked, lost, married, risen, shut, spent, undressed, 等等。

3. be + 表示动向的副词

Day is just breaking, but most of the students are up.

Several trees are down.

The storm is over.

Summer is in.

His work is through.

away, home, off, on, out, past 等也属于这类副词。

4. be + 表示移位的介词短语

The horses are over the fence.

We were across the river at last.

Bill is off drugs now.

还有 away from, behind, near, out of, past, under, through 等都属于这类介词。

这样的结构可以借助词汇手段,使用 almost, already, long, nearly, yet 以及 by 引导的短语,进一步强调“完全”这一概念。例

如:

His father was long dead.

The railway is not completed yet.

The situation in Africa has changed so rapidly that the map is already out of date.

非洲形势变化快,地图已经过时了。

The construction of the super highway is nearly through.

高速公路的建设几乎竣工了。

七、Be of 结构

1. 这种结构习惯上用来描述和说明句子主语所具有的特征。例如:

1) Internal relations of elements in lexical collocations are of the essence of the language.

词汇搭配中各种成分的内在关系是语言的实质。

这句话中 are of the essence of the language 表述了句子主语 internal relations of elements in lexical collocations 的特征。即“语言的实质”就是“词汇搭配中各种成分的内在关系”。

2) The Chinese people are of a long history, a rich culture and a glorious revolutionary tradition.

are of... tradition 描述了句子主语“中华民族/中国人民”的特点:具有悠久的历史、灿烂的文化和光荣的革命传统。

2. 这种结构具有下列特征

1) 在它的后面往往跟抽象名词,并且这样的抽象名词都有其相应的形容词形式。在意义上, of + 抽象名词等于它相应的形容词。如: The article is of value = The article is valuable.