



英·语·茶·座·系·列·丛·书

毛荣贵 徐 曙

(美) Mary Newton Bruder 编著

(美) John Griffiths

语法疑难

英汉问答

YUFA YINIAN

英语语法，迷雾重重！欲拨云见日，且看本书。



上海交通大学出版社

英语茶座系列

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内 容 提 要

本书是“英语茶座系列”丛书之一,作者集中国学生在学习英语的过程中所遇到的难点疑点汇编成此书,通过学生与外国专家的问答形式,对英语语法作了生动细致的解析,书中所提问题具有代表性,是大中学生学习英语的必要辅助资料。

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前 言

笔者(之一)年少时,曾在杭州担任过外事导游。那是1979年的一个春日,在柳浪闻莺,数十名美国游客弃舟登岸,观春风杨柳,闻鸟雀啁啾,游兴勃发。

突然,一位来自美国加州的游客与正在湖畔朗读英语课文的学生“搭讪”起来。学生问:He goes to work at seven o'clock every morning 一句中是 work 的动词,还是名词?该游客答道:Work is a noun here. 岂料,话音刚落,另一位美国游客彬彬有礼地回敬了他:Probably it is not a noun, but a verb!

这个 work 究竟是名词,还是动词?一时间,众说纷纭,莫衷一是。游客纷纷卷入,并分成了两派,公说公有理,婆说婆有理。大有“势不两立”的模样,置身如画的西湖畔,竟无心欣赏眼前美景!

末了,游客中的一员居然“出语惊人”:Down with grammar!(打倒语法!)

若干年之后,笔者有幸遍访美国,始信美国的许多学生,甚至教师,也视英语语法为一大 headache!

Down with grammar! 在美国校园很有市场,几成“准英谚”。

我们俩人历来认为,英语语法之难,难在“例外”(exceptions),这些“例外”犹如“拦路虎”,随时会从“学径”窜出,让你防不胜防!即使你早已将一册英语语法专著读到烂熟于心的地步。比如:贵州遵义的医生毛楠是上海交大《科技英语学习》的热心读者,她提出了以下问题:I'm a reader of EST Learning. I want to ask you some questions. "It's raining, we can't go out." Is it a correct sentence? 此外,请问有哪一册语法专著或是教材,能够回答乌鲁木齐袁雪芹的问题呢:The question for the answer: "I saw the

film THREE TIMES" is "How many times did you see the film?" But how to make a question for the following answer: "This is THE THIRD TIME I have seen the film."

《科技英语学习》自 1999 年 11 期开始设立了 *Grammarlady* 的专栏,回答了全国各地读者的许多问题。该专栏就解答了以上两个问题。前者的解答是: What you have written is called a "comma splice,"—hooking two sentences together with a comma. You need a conjunction. "It's raining, so we can't go out." 回答既提供了一个新的术语 comma splice(逗号衔接),又使用了一个生动的动词 hook(ing)! 令人过目难忘! 后者的解答是: Have you seen the film before? Or how many times have you seen the film? (却原来,英语没有完全和汉语的问题相对应的说法:这部电影你看第几遍了?) Grammarlady 者, Mary Newton Bruder 也,她曾经在美国的大学执教了 40 年的英语语法! 她的专栏一经设立,读者好评如潮! 一时间,《科技英语学习》编辑部,信件和 email,如雪片般飘来,真是“稿”满为患。

本书本着“循序渐进”的原则,将问答分为三个“台阶”,由浅入深,由易入难。

Grammarlady 的语法问答为本书的“第一台阶”。

本书的第二和第三台阶的解答人是在美国许多中学和大学教授过 30 余年语法的 John Griffiths 教授。他应《科技英语学习》编辑部之请,回答了许多全国各地读者发来的形形色色的语法问题,问题的特征是来自英语翻译、写作、甚至的口语的实践,而且这些问题的 90% 左右无法在传统或目前的语法教材或书籍上寻找到现成的答案。比如:

1) What is the plural possessive of sister-in-law? Is it sisters-in-law's?

2) Is it true you are never supposed to begin a sentence with but?

3) When referring to a university, do you capitalize the word university?

4) Should the terms "world wide web" and "internet" be capitalized when they do not begin a sentence?

Griffiths 对以上 4 个问题(以及大量的诸如此类的问题)都作了详尽的令人折服的回答。

由于《科技英语学习》篇幅有限,编辑部至今未为 Griffiths 教授设立专栏,所以,Griffiths 教授所回答的读者提出的问题,至今“深藏闺阁”,而未能在《科技英语学习》上“亮相”。为了让我国读者早日读到这些精彩内容,我们特地编撰此书,一并收入 Mary Newton Bruder 和 Griffiths 两位美国教授对中国读者提出的英语疑难问题的解答。这本“补漏拾遗”,也许只能成为英语语法鸿著的旁衬、点缀和补充。但愿你在翻阅语法著作,感到“山穷水尽疑无路”的惆怅时,打开本书,你会觉得眼睛一亮,慨叹:柳暗花明又一村!

参加本书编写工作的还有:毛竹晨、姚蔷珍、陈衡、黎昌抱、张韧弦、李蕴、王小菲等。

没有他们的倾心投入和参与,本书不可能以现在的面貌与读者见面。在此,我们对他们辛勤的工作表示由衷的谢意。

由于编者的水平有限,本书的编写及其译文一定存在这样那样的不足。我们希望读者能坦诚批评。

毛荣贵 徐 曙

2002 年

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· 第一台阶 ·

Article 冠词

1. **Question:** Let us assume I am walking room with a blindfold over my eyes; as I walk I touch an object; as I touch (an) (the) object I remove the blindfold; my eyes see my hand touching (an) (the) object; therefore, my eyes are seeing the same object my hands are touching.

问: 假设我蒙着双眼在房间里踱步, 碰到一个物体, 用 an object 还是 the object? 这时我把蒙眼布挪开, 看到手接触的物体, 用 an object 还是 the object? 眼睛看到的与手接触的是同一个物体。

答: 第一个 object 前是 an, 第二个 object 前是 the。

2. **Question:** Dear Grammarlady, Please tell me what is wrong with the following sentence: "The committee is still waiting for a copy of report on the latest sales figures".

问: 请问这一句错在什么地方: The committee is still waiting for a copy of report on the latest sales figures.

答: ... a copy of the report ... 特指单数名词前要有定冠词。

3. **Question:** You and I are apparently aware of the fact that something may be "a historical event," but most commentators (TV and radio) use "an historical event" instead. Print media exhibit the same inclination. I have been taught that "H" is a consonant and is to be considered as such with words like "hole" but is silent with words such as "hour;" so my question remains unanswered as to whether the word "historical" has been made an exception.

问: 你我显然都知道, 应该是 a historical event, 但电视和电台的播音员却说 an historical event. 出版物也有这个趋势。以前



我曾学过, h 是辅音, 在像 hole 这一类词中发音, 但在像 hour 这一类词中不发音。所以我的问题仍然是, historical 这个词是否是例外。

答: 当然是 a historical event。

4. **Question:** Everyone knows to use "an" before a vowel (i. e., an offer, an object, etc.). However, if the word sounds like a vowel, as in the acronym RCI (i. e., an RCI code), is "an" the correct usage?

问: 大家都知道, 元音前用 an, (例如 an offer, an object, 等等)。然而, 如果某个词的发音像元音, 像首字母缩拼词 RCI (例如 an RCI code) 前用 an 是否正确?

答: 应该以发音而不是字母为准, 所以 an RCI ... 是正确的。首字母为元音字母的单词也有这种情况, a one-stop shop (o 的发音像 w), a unique opportunity (u 的发音像 y)。

5. **Question:** The faculty at my school are having a gentle and very friendly tussle over the correct usage of the articles a and an when discussing letters of the alphabet. Usage has many of us say "I made an F in Chemistry." Some of our English teachers are saying "No, I made a F in Chemistry."

问: 我所在学校的教师在讨论字母表里的字母时, 对冠词 a 和 an 的正确用法产生了不同的看法。例如, 很多人这样说, I made an F in Chemistry. 但有几个英语教师却说, No, I made a F in Chemistry.

答: 多数人认为冠词的规则是, 辅音前用 a, 元音前用 an, 但并不这样简单。a 用在辅音性语音的前面, an 在元音性语音的前面。f 是以元音性语音 [e] 开头的。请注意, 例如, a one-day wait. one 是以辅音性语音 w 开头的。



Pronoun 代词

1. **Question:** I do appreciate if you will tell me the function of "that" in the following sentences:

It seemed THAT it was going to rain.

I am surprised THAT he hasn't come.

问: 如果你能告诉我 that 在这两句中的作用, 我将不胜感激:

It seemed THAT it was going to rain.

I am surprised THAT he hasn't come.

答: that 是可用可不用的关系代词, 把两个短语连接成句子。

【编者注: 这里的 that 似应看作从属连词, 因为它连接了前后两个短语, 而 that 自身并不在句子中担任任何成分, 且没有代表任何先行词。而关系代词在定语从句中可作主语、表语、定语等, 另一方面它们又代表主句中被定语从句所修饰的那个名词或代词 (通称为先行词)。见薄冰主编《高级英语语法 (最新修订本)》, 世界知识出版社, 2002 年 1 月第 2 版, P137: 关系代词的形式和功用。】

2. **Question:** Is it appropriate to use "some" as an answer to a question started with "How much" or "How many"? if not, why? For instance:

Jack: How many boys are there at school?

Betty: There are some boys at school.

Jack: How much milk is there in the cup?

Betty: There's some.

问: 在以 How much 或 How many 开头的问句中, 用 some 答复是否适当? 如果不适当, 为什么? 例如:

Jack: How many boys are there at school?

Betty: There are some boys at school.



Jack: How much milk is there in the cup?

Betty: There's some.

答:从语法的角度讲是不正确的,但就传达信息而言,很多人认为是可取的。

3. **Question:** Dear Grammarlady, I know that this sentence is correct grammatically: "John and I studied yesterday." My question is this: Should we ALWAYS say "John and I ..."? Isn't there any case that one can start the sentence with "I and John"?

问:我知道这个句子在语法上是正确的, John and I studied yesterday. 我的问题是,是否总是应该说 John and I ...? 有没有这样的可能性,一个句子以 I and John 开头?

答:一般说来, I and John ... 在语法上是不正确的,但我们确实见过这种句子: I and John are to blame. 表明“我”勇于承担责任。

4. **Question:** I am confused of the sentences below. Can you please tell me which of these is correct?

1) A. He is taller than me.

B. He is taller than I.

2) A. It's not me who took the book.

B. It's not I who took the book.

3) A. He swims as well as I do/He swims as well as I.

B. — He swims as well as me...?

问:我对下面的句子感到困惑。能否告诉我哪一句是正确的?

1) A. He is taller than me.

B. He is taller than I.

2) A. It's not me who took the book.

B. It's not I who took the book.

3) A. He swims as well as I do/He swims as well as I.

B. — He swims as well as me...?

答:这两组句子中,用 I 和 me 都是可以接受的,但很多美国人偏爱用 me, 因为这比较随意。当然,问题没有这么简单,如我



们应该说 It's me whom he always counts on for help. 显然, 我们应该考虑句子结构。

5. Question: What is the correct answer to the question:

"Is this your mother?"

A. Yes, it is. B. Yes, she is. C. Yes, this is.

问: 这个问句的正确答案是什么:

"Is this your mother?"

A. Yes, it is. B. Yes, she is. C. Yes, this is.

答: 正确答案是 a. 尽管这个问句涉及的是妇女, 句子结构需用中性代词 it。

6. Question: Which is correct, "none + is" or "none + are"?

问: none + is 和 none + are, 哪一个正确?

答: none 是单数, 除非它本身是复数。例如:

Four candidates are running for sheriff; none of them is qualified.

A school bus was involved in an accident. None of the children were hurt.

7. Question: Do I say, for example, "Bring the book which is on the table"? or Do I say "Bring the book that is on the table"? Why?

问: 我应该怎么说, 例如, "Bring the book which is on the table?" 还是 "Bring the book that is on the table?" 为什么?

答: which 和 that 在这里都是关系代词。在标准的正式英语中, 用 which 引导非限制性从句, that 引导限制性从句。那么, 在你的例句中, 你最好用 that (因为从句是“限制性”的, 即不可缺少的)。但我们也见过这种句子: He's not such a man which you thought him to be, 因为此处侧重指某人的特点。

8. Question: I came across this bugbear: "Who do you think you are?" or "Whom do you think you are?" Which is correct?



问:我无意中遇到这两个棘手的句子:Who do you think you are? 和 Whom do you think you are? 哪一句是对的?

答:Do you think you are he/him?

He/Who do you think you are?

Him/Whom do you think you are?

任何时候都会遇到选用哪一个的问题。把 who/m were you talking to 倒过来, were you talking to he/him? 那当然是 him, 所以应该用 whom。Whom were you talking to?

9. **Question:** Is it correct to put the pronoun "me" first in the following sentence in a letter. "Please contact me or John Doe in reference to this matter."

问:下面这一句如果出现在信件中,把 me 放在 John 前面是否正确:Please contact me or John Doe in reference to this matter.

答:正确。只有在和连词 and 一起出现时, me 放在前面,是你告诉收信人在与你和你的同事联系时的顺序。

10. **Question:** I'm talking about two women. Each presented themselves/herself to be questioned.

问:特指两位妇女时,我应该怎么说, Each presented themselves to be questioned 还是 Each presented herself to be questioned.

答: each 要与单数相一致: herself.

11. **Question:** Please advise whether to use it / them. Here are some of the points I need to bring it / them to your attention.

问:请告知在这个句子中用 it 还是 them: Here are some of the points I need to bring it / them to your attention.

答:都不要,在这句上下文中不需要用代词。Here are some of the points I need to bring to your attention.



Noun 名词

1. **Question:** My Question is about asking time. Should I say, "Do you know what time is it?" or "Do you know What time it is?"

问:我的问题与问时间有关。我应该说"Do you know what time is it?" 还是 "Do you know what time it is?"

答:应该是 Do you know what time it is?

2. **Question:** I have a question about the use of possessive. We always say "Lily and Lucy's bags". But I want to know if "Lily's and Lucy's bags" is possible. Thank you very much.

问:我的问题是有关所有格的用法。我们总是说 Lily and Lucy's bags, 但我想知道, 是否可能有 Lily's and Lucy's bags 这样的说法。多谢。

答: 如果 Lily 和 Lucy 共用这些书包, 则说 Lily and Lucy's bags. 如果两人分别用自己的书包, 那么该说 Lily's and Lucy's bags.

3. **Question:** A simple sentence appeared on a test and now it has me going crazy trying to figure out what is the "correct" usage. Actually, there are two sentences. They are: 1) "She likes cake very much." and 2) "She enjoys making cakes." "She likes cakes very much." didn't seem to sound quite right. Cake in the singular represents the general idea of cake, so it does not have to be plural. In regards to sentence two I am torn between using cake in the singular or plural.

问:在一次考试中出现了一个简单的句子, 现在我发疯似地想弄明白它的“正确”的用法。实际上是两个句子。第一句: She likes cake very much. 第二句: She enjoys making cakes. She



likes cakes very much 听起来似乎不太正确。cake 用单数形式表示的 cake 的总概念,所以不必用复数。至于第二句,我对应该用单数还是复数举棋不定。

答:两句都是正确的。第一句,cake 是总称。第二句,你指的是一个个单独的蛋糕。

4. **Question:** To graduate from high school / grade school / play school / college?

问:To graduate from 后面应该是 high school, grade school, play school, 还是 college?

答:应该是 graduate from high school and up [高中和高中以上的学校]。

5. **Question:** Are school subjects capitalized? For example: I like math. It's my favorite subject, but I don't like computer science. I love history but I think geography is boring. OR I like Math. It's my favorite subject, but I don't like Computer Science. I love History but I think Geography is boring.

问:学校的课程要大写吗?例如,I like math. It's my favorite subject, but I don't like computer science. I love history but I think geography is boring. 还是 I like Math. It's my favorite subject, but I don't like Computer Science. I love History but I think Geography is boring.

答:学校的课程不需要大写,除非是课程题目的一部分,例如, Math 101, but I hate math. [数学第 101 课,但我讨厌数学。]

6. **Question:** Should I use WORK or WORKS? I speak to a group of people who handle different kinds of works. "You must finish your WORK / WORKS faster."

问:我应该用 WORK 还是 WORKS? 我对一群工种不同的人说, You must finish your WORK / WORKS faster.

答:不论什么工种,都用 work。work 是不可数名词,在这种情况下从不用复数。如果你谈论的是“艺术或音乐作品”,那就用



复数。

7. **Question:** I want to know which is right: A. a station for plane to land on B. a station to land plane.

问:我想知道哪一个是正确的: A. a station for plane to land on B. a station to land plane.

答:A 和 B 都不对。应该是: A runway is a place for a plane to land on, 或 A runway is a place to land a plane. 请注意, plane 前面要有冠词。

8. **Question:** I want to know what is the difference between concrete noun and material noun.

问:我想知道具体名词和物质名词的区别。

答:我不知道物质名词是什么。具体名词是你能摸到的东西,例如一本书。抽象名词是你摸不到的东西,例如爱情。

9. **Question:** What is the difference between "news programs" and "programs of news"?

问:news programs 和 programs of news 有什么区别?

答:programs of news 不常用。请用 news programs.

10. **Question:** When there are both a countable and uncountable noun within a sentence, which verb (single or plural) should I use? For example, "Fees and charges, if any, (is or are) included." Which word "is" or "are" should be used?

问:如果一个句子里既有可数名词,又有不可数名词,动词用单数还是复数?例如, Fees and charges, if any, (is or are) included. 用 is 还是用 are?

答: fees 和 charges 都是可数名词,所以不存在任何问题——用 are。

11. **Question:** Many kinds of books are available IN/ON the market. Please advise whether to use in / on?