

英语词典 及其使用



上海外语教育出版社

ENGLISH DICTIONARIES
AND
THEIR USES

英语词典及其使用

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上海外语教育出版社

Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press

(沪) 新登字 203 号

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上海外语教育出版社出版发行

(上海外国语学院内)

上海外语教育出版社印刷厂印刷

新华书店上海发行所经销

开本 787×1092 1/32 4.75 印张 99 千字

1992 年 11 月第 1 版 1992 年 11 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1—3,000 册

ISBN 7-81009-778-4/Q·275

定价: 2.30 元

电视系列片丛书

英语基本功训练

《英语基本功训练》电视系列片丛书
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前 言

中共中央关于教育体制改革的决定指出：“建立一支有足够数量的、合格而稳定的师资队伍是实行义务教育、提高基础教育水平的根本大计”。

一九八六年，我国开办的卫星电视师范教育是深入教育体制改革，普及九年制义务教育的迫切需要。

几年来的事实已经证明，利用卫星电视培训提高全国中小学教师，收效十分显著，走的是一条加速师资培训的新路子。目前，随着卫星电视师范教育的蓬勃发展，全国中小学教师的学历培训任务将陆续完成，因此，广泛而又有效地对广大中小学教师进行继续教育就显得十分必要。重点是对新教师和骨干教师的培训。根据国家教委的要求，小学教师电视教材的制作，从今年起重点转入继续教育，初中教师的继续教育电视教材正在试制，其中英语专业教师的继续教育电视教材先行一步。大体可从以下三方面考虑：

第一，以九年制义务教育初中英语教学大纲为依据，组织教师了解义务教育初中英语教材的特点及其理论基础，学习和掌握新教材的教学方法和教学技巧，使教师们能顺利地进行教学，提高教学质量。

第二，组织教师学习和研究优秀教师示范课、优秀的教学经验和新教学大纲的学习和培训。

第三，组织教师有的放矢地学习英语教师基本功训练电视系列课程。

为了学习第一、二部分内容，突出学习第三部分内容，我们结合英语教师需要掌握的基本功，编制了中学英语教师基本功训练电视系列课程。为更好地帮助学员学习，使电视教材与文字教材相配套，我们将已拍摄好的和即将拍摄的电视教材的文字稿本整理汇集成一套《英语基本功训练》丛书。我们愿将这套丛书奉献给广大的教师们，希望广大教师通过学习，提高素质，促进教学效果和教学质量的提高。

我们深信《英语基本功训练》丛书对正在兴起的中学英语教师继续教育将会起到应有的作用。

李柱汇

一九九二年六月二十四日

编 者 的 话

《英语词典及其使用》，作为英语基本功训练电视系列片丛书之一，现在首先与广大电视观众见面，说明使用词典的能力在英语学习中占有重要地位。事实上，在校的学生，在英语学习中离不开各种词典；通过其他途径学习或进修英语的人，则更需要借助于各类英语词典。在改革开放的年代，英语词典可谓是语言学习最有用的工具。

通过电视进修英语的广大中学英语教师，希望学会使用英语词典，迅速提高自学英语的能力，从而提高英语水平。为此，我们编写本书，配合电视教学，为大家提供方便。

本书内容涉及下列几个方面，即词典发展历史，英语语言教学词典，英汉词典，美国的、英国的英语词典，特殊用途词典，百科全书和汉英词典。全书先后提及六十余本词典，然而作为重点介绍的为数不算太多。凡在讲座中提及的词典，都在附录中专门列出，供大家查阅。为帮助大家更多地了解英、美词典的情况，书末还另附“参考书目”。

由于时间仓促及水平有限，书中挂一漏万在所难免。提法欠妥或不当之处敬请读者指正。

本书由袁鹤鹄主编，柴明颀、陆飞霞、包剑星、史惠莉、Walter Wallace、Belly Barr 编写，并蒙张承谟教授审阅。在本书编写过程中，承蒙陆海虹同志在中、英文电脑输入工作中给我们不少帮助，特此感谢。

编 者

一九九二年四月

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Introduction

Hello, everyone! Welcome to our program! Let me introduce myself. I'm Zhang Chengmo, a teacher of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University.

In the past few weeks, our department received a lot of letters from middle school teachers of English all over China asking for advice about how to use English dictionaries. They say that they use dictionaries every day, but they use them for looking up the meanings of English words, and sometimes the meanings they have looked up in the dictionaries do not fit into the context. So they wonder if they are using the dictionaries correctly.

Some teachers are users of *ALD*, or *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. They want to know how to ~~make~~ use of the "verb patterns" mentioned in the dictionary. Some teachers are using *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*. They find it very difficult to look up the meanings of English set phrases. They want to be advised in this respect.

Some teachers are using *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, and they have noticed that there are other dictionaries also with the name of Webster at-

tached to them. They want to know more about these Webster dictionaries and also American dictionaries in general.

Some teachers are doing translation work, and they find it difficult to translate the four-character Chinese phrases like 胸有成竹 into appropriate English. They want to know something about Chinese-English dictionaries.

Some teachers have access to *Encyclopedia Britannica*. They wonder why there are so many volumes, and they want to know how to make use of the 30 huge volumes.

And there are teachers who want to know the history of dictionaries.

After reading the letters, I have been thinking of making a series of TV talks on how to use English dictionaries to answer the above-mentioned questions and other questions put forward by middle school teachers of English. But what are the points to be covered in each topic? Well, I have discussed these questions with my colleagues, and now we have formed a plan. I have invited my colleagues here, and I'd like to introduce them to you.

This is Shi Huili, Bao Jianxin, Lu Feixia, Walter Wallace, a visiting professor from Johnson State College, U.S.A., Chai Mingjiong, Betty Barr, a British Council lecturer. They are all teachers of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University.

Now we are going to tell you what we have prepared.

- W: We thought we would begin our series by informing our viewers of when and why dictionaries were invented. As an American historian, I am very much interested in the development of dictionaries in both America and in Britain.
- L: As a language teacher, I feel dictionaries play a very important part in learning and using languages and I'll talk about the history of dictionaries in China.
- W: Well, I hope to introduce our viewers to *Noah Webster* who developed the first American language English dictionary as well as introduce folks to the **Oxford** family of British language dictionaries.
- L: And we will also talk about the use of some special dictionaries such as the *Oxford Duden English-Chinese Pictorial Dictionary* and the *Longman Lexicon of Contemporary English* and some slang dictionaries.
- W: And perhaps we can also find some time to talk about the thesaurus, synonym and antonym dictionaries as well as some special history dictionaries in American and European histories.
- C: Professor Zhang just now mentioned that you have difficulties in using verbs and we know some dictionaries can tell you how verbs are used because those dictionaries have verb patterns. We have one dictionary here which we are going to talk about. That's *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*. This dictionary shows you not only the verb patterns but al-

so other things.

- B: Yes, in our program we will talk about **ELT** dictionaries, English language teaching dictionaries, which are especially good for middle school English teachers. So in our programs, besides the verb patterns, we will talk, for example, about spelling, syllables, syllable boundaries and also pronunciation. They are very important for learners of English.
- C: We are not only going to talk about this dictionary but also another dictionary which is called *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*. That dictionary is also an ELT dictionary. Right?
- B: Yes, I think perhaps many of you have either one or the other of the two dictionaries. We are also going to introduce a new ELT dictionary to you. It's called the *Collins COBUILD ELT Dictionary*. So we will say something about it in our program.
- C: Yes, we're going to talk about three dictionaries, *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*, *Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*, and *Collins COBUILD ELT Dictionary*. And if you want to know a certain word and the words related to the meaning of that word, we would like to introduce to you the *Longman Lexicon*.
- B: Then at the end of our program we will give you some exercises, just for some practice in using **ELT** dictionaries.

- C: So get your dictionaries ready if you have any of these dictionaries. We will talk about these dictionaries and tell you how they can be used.
- B: We look forward to seeing you.
- S: Mr Bao and I are going to discuss how to use *A New English-Chinese Dictionary*. It is a very commonly used dictionary among the middle school teachers of English in China. It is a very good dictionary, neither big nor small. It contains 50,000 practical words, and many, many useful phrases. Just now Professor Zhang mentioned that many teachers find it difficult to find the meanings of English phrases. So I think we shall concentrate on how to find the meanings of the English phrases.
- B: Let's also talk about the use of encyclopedias. Encyclopedias are in huge volumes. They are very useful tools, and they will furnish us, especially high school teachers, with very valuable information about human knowledge. Let's take *Encyclopedia Britannica* for an example. This encyclopedia consists of 30 volumes. It is in three parts. The first one is *Propedia* in 1 volume. The next group is called *Micropedia* in 10 volumes. The last group is *Macropedia* in 19 volumes. So if one knows how to use them, one can profit a lot. Now here is another dictionary called *A Classified Chinese-English Vocabulary*. There are 20,000 entries. We are going to talk about the use of this tiny book. And this is *A*

Chinese-English Dictionary. There are 6,000 Chinese single characters, and more than 50,000 compound words, set phrases, and examples. And in this book there are many very well-translated four-character Chinese idioms.

Now I'm going to tell you the title of each program:

1. History of Dictionaries

Speakers:

Walter Wallace, a visiting professor from Johnson State College, U.S.A.

Lu Feixia, teacher of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University

2. English Language Teaching Dictionaries

Speakers:

Betty Barr, a British Council lecturer

Chai Mingjiong, teacher of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University

3. English-Chinese Dictionaries

Speakers:

Shi Huili and *Bao Jianxin*, teachers of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University

4. American and British Dictionaries, and Special use Dictionaries

Speakers:

Walter Wallace, a visiting professor from Johnson State College, U.S.A.

Lu Feixia, teacher of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University

5. Encyclopedias and Chinese-English Dictionaries

Speakers:

Bao Jianxin and *Shi Huili*, teachers of English Department II, Shanghai International Studies University

6. Exercises and Answers

That's all. I hope these programs will be interesting and helpful to you. Now a short interval of one minute. After the interval we are going to start our first program. Please stay with us.

Program One

HISTORY OF DICTIONARIES

- L: Hello. Welcome back to our program on English language dictionaries and encyclopedias. Our first program will introduce you to the history of these word finders.
- W: Maybe before we begin the discussion of the history of these dictionaries, we should define the word "dictionary". *The Oxford Illustrated Dictionary* defines the word dictionary as follows: "Dictionary, a book dealing usually in an alphabetic order with the individual words of a language or some specified subject setting forth their spelling, pronunciation, signification, history, etymology, equivalence in another language, etc."
- L: Interesting. A book of words to help us with the understanding of meanings of words and how to use the language effectively.
- W: Exactly. Dictionaries help us to use the language more effectively. Perhaps we should know something of their history, too.