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颜元叔: 使用英语, 细节出错就是大错!

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序

一般学英语的人之所以久学英语而学不好、学不精,关键在于没有练"基本功"或"基本功"练得不够。学习英语是一种很细致的努力过程,要仔仔细细注意每一个细微末节,不要出错。使用英语,细节出错就是大错!

这本书的编者是下过一番功夫研究的,他搜集了高中学生常常会出错的英语词句,也就是说,出错频率高的、有代表性的错误词句,这样,高中学生研读这本书应会发现此书对他(或她)个人的英语缺失错误有一定程度的概括性与适应性。

本书先提出一个字的正常用法,然后指出错误的用法,最后 纠正其用法。特别值得指出的是本书注明了"误"、"欠妥"或"语 意不通"等等,以示误用的不同层次。此外,在必要处附加注释, 借以扩大对错与对的认知。希望此书对高中学生有所帮助。

> 颜元叔 于台大外文系



\mathbf{A}

able ['ebl] adj. 有才干的;能够……的。
an able leader (一位有才干的领袖)
Are you able to walk now? (你现在能走了吗? = 你现在有体力走吗?)

The boy is able to tell a lit.【欠妥】

The room will be able to seat fifteen people. 【欠妥】

At first he was suspicious, but she could talk him into it.

【语意不通】

【改正】

They boy is capable of telling a lie. (这男孩子是会撒谎的。 = 撒谎这种事是他做得出来的。)

The room will seat fifteen people. (这房间将可坐十五人。)
At first he was suspicious, but she was able to talk him into it.
(起初他一肚子狐疑,但是她终能说动他参加。)

above [ə'bʌv] prep. adv. 在上;在顶上。
These boys are above average. (这些男孩都在一般水平之上。)
His loyalty is above question. (他的忠诚是不容置疑的。)



Her parents are above sixty. 【欠妥】 She threw a sheet above the bed. 【语意不通】

【改正】

Her parents are **over** sixty. (她的父母亲都已年过六十。)
She threw a sheet **over** the bed. (她在床上铺了一张床单。)
%above 与 over 常可通用,但表位置时,above 指"驾凌……上"。
若表叠置的状况宜用 over。

accept [ək'sɛpt] v. 接受;接纳。 I can't accept such terms. (我不能接受这种条件。) He accepted everything you said as true. (他把你说的一切都当作真的。)

They accepted the speaker with applause. 【欠妥】 Did you accept my letter? 【误】

【改正】

They received the speaker with applause. (他们鼓掌欢迎这位演说者。)

Did you receive my letter? (你收到我的信了吗?) ※参考 receive.

act [ækt] n. 行为。action [ˈækʃən] n. 行动;行为。an act of folly (愚行)

The thief was caught in the act. (这小偷当场被逮。) military action (军事行动)

When do we take action? (我们何时采取行动?)

He was punished for his acts. 【语意不通】 suit the act to the word 【误】

【改正】

He was punished for his actions. (他因他的行为而受到处罚。) suit the action to the word (使行动配合言词;言行一致。)

※ act 多指短促而自发的行为, action 多包含意愿,且过程较久,有时不只一个步骤。复数的 actions 可指"举止;惯常的行为表现"。

admit [əd'mɪt] v. 承认;容许。

He would not admit his mistake. (他不肯认错。)

There was a hole to admit air. (有一个小洞可透气。)

They admit the authority of their leader. 【欠妥】

They admitted receipt of my letter. 【欠妥】

【改正】

They acknowledge the authority of their leader. (他们承认领导人的权威。)

They acknowledged receipt of my letter. (他们确认已收到我的信。)

※ admit 多用于指不得不承认的事。 acknowledge 含有公开昭告的意味。

advice, advise [əd'vaɪs(z)] n. v.劝告;忠告。

some good advice (一些忠告)

He advised me to refuse the offer. (他劝我拒绝这一提议。)



The teacher gave me many valuable advices. 【误】 He advised to us that the rules should be modified. 【误】 We'd better accept his advice and stay here. 【误】

【改正】

The teacher gave me a great deal of valuable advice. (老师给了 我许多宝贵的忠告。)

或 The teacher gave me a piece of valuable advice. (老师给我一项忠告。)

He **suggested** to us that the rules should be modified. (他向我们建议说规则该修改。)

We'd better take his advice and stay here. (我们还是接受他的忠告留在这儿为妙。)

affair [əˈfɛr] n. 事务;事情。
ministry of foreign affairs (外交部)
That's my own affair. (那是我的私事。)

This is an affair of life and death. 【欠妥】 He'll take care of such trivial affairs. 【欠妥】

【改正】

This is a matter of life and death. (这是生死攸关的事。)
He'll take care of such trivial matters. (他将处理那些琐事。)

afraid [əˈfred] adj. 害怕的。

He is afraid of dogs. (他怕狗。)

I am not afraid of dying. (我不怕死。)



He is not afraid to die. (他不怕死;他情愿赴死。)

She is afraid of asking questions. [欠妥]

He is afraid to tread on someone's toes. 【欠妥】

Don't afraid.【误】

【改正】

She is afraid to ask questions. (她不敢发问。)

He is afraid of treading on someone's toes. (他深怕踩到别人的脚。)

Don't be afraid! (别害怕!)

※ 在 be afraid 之后用动名词,表示惟恐该行为的发生;用不定词,表示害怕该行为将带来的后果。

after [ˈæftə-] prep. adv. conj. 在……之后;在后。

the day after tomorrow (后天)

The old man died two days after. (两天后这老人就死了。)

We shall begin after the guests arrive. (我们将于来宾抵达后开始。)

I'll be back after a month. 【欠妥】

We had lunch and talked for a while after. 【欠妥】

After he left, we had gone out for a walk. 【误】

【改正】

I'll be back in a month. (我过一个月就回来。)

We had lunch and talked for a while afterwards. (我们吃了午餐,之后又谈了一会儿。)

After he (had) left, we went out for a walk. (他走后,我们出去





散步了。)

※ 连接词 after 导出的从句,时间上在后,故应该用完成式。或两个从句都用过去式亦可。

age [edʒ] n. 年龄;老年;时代。
ten years of age (十岁的年龄)
He has become weaker with age. (他因年老而更衰弱了。)
the Middle Ages (中古时代)

There were men and women of all the age. 【误】
Turtles live to great age. 【误】
the age of the Civil War【误】

【改正】

There were men and women of all ages. (那儿男女老少都有。)
Turtles live to a great age. (乌龟的寿命很长。)
the period of the Civil War(内战时期)

ago [ə'go] adv. 以前。
long ago (很久以前)
He left two weeks ago. (他于两周前离去。)

It is about five years ago since we first met. 【误】 We did talk about it the day ago. 【误】 It is five years before when he got elected. 【误】

【改正】

It has been about five years **since** we first met. (从我们初识至今快五年了。)

We did talked about it the day before. (我们确实曾在前一天谈过此事。)

It was five years **ago** when he got elected. (他当选是五年前的事了。)

alive [ə'laɪv] adj. 活着的;在世的。
the greatest singer alive (现存世界上最伟大的歌手)
Look! One of the kittens is still alive! (看! 其中有一只小猫还活着!)

Are your grandparents still alive?【欠妥】 He is the best alive chess player.【误】

They ate alive shrimps.【误】

【改正】

Are your grand parents still living? (你的祖父母还健在吗?)
He is the best chess player alive. (他是世界上最好的下棋手。)
They ate live shrimps. (他们吃了活虾。)
※ alive 修饰名词时应居后位。

all [ol] adj. 一切的;全部的。

The trip was not all pleasure. (这趟旅行并不全是享乐。) All children love to play. (所有儿童都爱玩。)

They worked all the day. 【误】

They ate all ice cream. 【误】

These all men are against him. 【误】

We provide all the sorts of tools.【误】



They worked all day. (他们整天工作。)

They ate all the ice cream. (他们把冰淇淋全都吃了。)

All these men are against him. (这些人都反对他。)

We provide all sorts of tools. (我们供应所有式样的工具。=什么工具我们都供应。)

※ all 应置于限定词(如 these, my 等)之前。

almost ['olmost] adv. 几乎;差不多。

Almost everyone voted against it. (几乎人人都投票反对此事。)
He paid almost nothing for the car. (他买这车几乎没花什么钱。)

I could not almost hear what he was saying. 【误】 His ideas almost come from his brother. 【误】

【改正】

I could hardly hear what he was saying. (我几乎听不见他在说什么。)

Almost all his ideas come from his brother. (他的主意几乎都来自他兄弟。)

※ 参考 nearly。

already [əlˈrɛdɪ] adv. 已经。

It has already begun. (它已经开始了。)

We are already ten minutes late. (我们已经迟到十分钟了。)

Haven't you told her already? 【误】 I've invited already John. 【误】



Haven't you told her yet? (你还没有告诉她吗?)

比较: Have you told her already? (你竟然已经告诉她了吗?)

I've already invited John. (我已经邀请了约翰。)

※ 在否定式与问句中,以 yet 表"已经"的意思。

also ['olso] adv. 也;而且。

John was there also. (约翰也在那儿。)

My parents also know him. (我的父母亲也认识他。)

I am not satisfied also. 【误】

She doesn't know him. I don't also. 【误】

【改正】

I am not satisfied either. (我也是不满意的。)

She doesn't know him. I don't either. (她不认识他。我也不认识。)

※ 否定式用 either 表"也"的意思。

although [ol'do] conj. 虽然。

He went with them, although it was late. (虽然天晚了,他还是和他们同去了。)

Although he apologized, but she did not forgive him. 【误】

【改正】

Although he apologized, she did not forgive him. (虽然他道歉了,她并不原谅他。)

或 He apologized, but she did not forgive him. (他道歉了,她却



不原谅他。)

※ although 不可与 but 连用。

always ['olwez] adv. 总是;一直。
John is always late. (约翰经常迟到。)
He always gets up early. (他向来早起。)

She always doesn't go out after dark. 【误】 He always never notices such trifles. 【误】 I always listen to the radio. 【语意欠通】

【改正】

She never goes out after dark. (她从不在天黑后外出。)

He hardly ever notices such trifles. (他几乎从不注意这些琐事。)
I often listen to the radio. (我常听收音机。)

或 I always listen to the radio while studying. (我总在做功课的时候听收音机。)

※ always 不可用在否定式助动词之前。若作 She doesn't always go out after dark. 意思是:她不一定总在天黑以后外出。

among [əˈmʌŋ] prep. 在……之中。

She is one of the fastest among swimmers. (她是游得最快的泳者之一。)

Divide the pie among you. (你们把这馅饼分了吧。)

Don't tell anyone. This is among you and me. 【误】 I saw him standing between the crowd.【误】



Don't tell anyone. This is **between** you and me. (别告诉任何人。这只能让你我二人知道。)

I saw him standing among the crowd. (我看见他站在人群中。)

※ between 意思是"在……之间",限指两者之间。多于两者应该用 among。

amount [ə'maunt] n. 数量。

a large amount of money (一大笔钱)

It takes a certain amount of diplomacy to win the game. (要赢这场游戏得用上一些外交手腕。)

We collected a large amount of used books. 【误】

【改正】

We collected a large **number** of used books.(我们收集到一大批使用过的书籍。)

※ amount 表数量时只限于修饰不可数名词,而 book 是可数名词,应该用 number。

and [ænd;ənd] conj. 与;则。

Bob and I are friends. (巴布和我是朋友。)

Hurry and you won't be late. (赶快的话,你就不会迟到。)

Are you going with your husband and by yourself? 【误】 He never smokes and drinks. 【误】

Take your umbrella and you'll get wet.【语意不通】





Are you going with your husband or by yourself? (你要和你丈夫同去还是你自己一人去?)

He never drinks or smokes. (他从不喝酒,也不吸烟。)

Take your umbrella or you'll get wet. (带着你的伞,不然你会淋湿的。)

angry ['ængrɪ] adj. 生气的。

She was angry at those remarks. (她为那些话而生气了。)

He became angry to me. 【误】

Why did he angry about this?【误】

【改正】

He became angry with me. (他对我发起脾气来。=他生起我的气来。)

Why was he angry about this? (他为什么对此事生气?)

※ angry 不能作动词用。

animal [ˈænəməl] n. 动物。

The cat is a domestic animal. (猫是一种驯养的家畜。)

He is a political animal. (他是个精于搞政治的人。)

She loves little animal. 【误】

The animals feed on other animals. 【误】

【改正】

She loves little animals. (她喜欢〔各种〕小动物。)

Animals feed on other animals. (动物吃其他动物为生。)