

Difficulties in English grammar series

英语语法释疑系列

Solving the

不定式解惑

邝嘉敏编著

and other

verbals

生活·讀書·新知 三联书店

infinitive

解 语 法 释 疑 系 列

邝嘉敏编著

不定式解惑

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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的研究对象，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，亦即出版业兼政者常谓之“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

有这么一个笑话。说的是某西方来客在公共汽车上抽烟，吞云吐雾，车上的人被呛得泪水直流。一位女士忍无可忍，用不那么流利的英语对他说：“You must stop to smoke here”。那人听后，耸耸双肩，反问道：“Do you mean I must get off the bus?”

这儿之所以闹出笑话，是因为在用 gerund (动名词) 的地方用了 infinitive (不定式)，于是就变成要人“下车抽烟”了。

英语中的 infinitive (不定式), gerund (动名词), present participle 和 past participle (现在分词和过去分词) 统称 verbal。在中文里有一个文绉绉的叫法——非谓语动词。顾名思义，就是不能作谓语 (predicate) 的动词。而它们又保留了动词的某些特点，如可以有自己的状语 (adverbial)、宾语 (object) 等，例如：

I saw Peter riding a bicycle.

I want to go by car.

在这方面比较容易犯的错误是几种 verbal 用法的混淆。该用 infinitive 时用了 gerund，该 present participle 时又用了 past participle。还有 infinitive 中带不带 to 也是一个令人头疼的问题。

本书归纳了学生在运用英语时常犯的一些 verbal 方面

的错误，加以分析，以便读者举一反三，触类旁通。本书配以练习，帮助读者巩固所获知识。

作者

一九九一年十一月

目 录

| | |
|---|----|
| 序言 | 1 |
| 1. 从港督访华谈起 | 1 |
| 2. To Go 还是 To Goes? | 4 |
| 3. 这个 To 是多余的 | 7 |
| 4. Had Better Not 还是 Had Better Not To? | 9 |
| 5. 又是多了个 To | 11 |
| 6. Why Not 还是 Why Not To? | 14 |
| 7. 孩子的 Game Boy 坏了 | 16 |
| 8. 这个 How 不能省 | 18 |
| 9. 谁打劫银行? | 20 |
| 10. 这个 With 不能漏掉 | 22 |
| 11. “猴子拒绝表演”怎么说? | 24 |
| 12. To Open 还是 Opening? | 26 |
| 13. 下车抽烟? | 28 |
| 14. Need To Oil 还是 Need Oiling? | 31 |
| 15. “过去早起”与“习惯早起” | 33 |
| 16. Look Forward To Hear 还是 Look Forward To Hearing? | 35 |
| 17. “百闻不如一见”怎么说? | 37 |
| 18. 香港近年变化大吗? | 39 |
| 19. 长蛇如何过马路? | 43 |

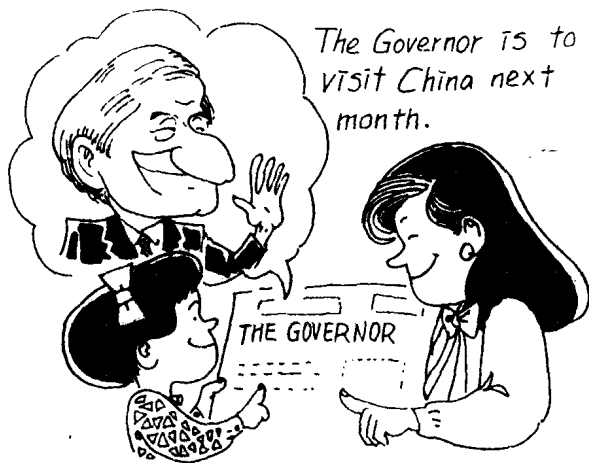
| | |
|---|--------|
| 20. Tired 还是 Tiring? | 45 |
| 21. 太热的咖啡可以喝吗? | 47 |
| 22. Enough Cold 还是 Cold Enough? | 50 |
| 23. 蛇能步行? | 52 |
| 24. 香港长了眼睛? | 55 |
| 25. 谁想学好英文? | 57 |
| 26. Not To Be 与 Don't To Be | 59 |
| 27. Having Not Done 还是 Not Having Done? | 61 |
| 28. 谁在看书? | 63 |
| 29. 他什么时候看见 UFO? | 66 |
| 30. 老虎还在香港吗? | 68 |
| 31. 他能自己走上月球吗? | 70 |
| 32. 谁去冲洗胶卷? | 74 |
| 练习答案 (Key To Exercises) | 84 |

1. 从港督访华谈起

一天《南华早报》上有则新闻，题目是 Governor To Visit China Next Month (港督下月访华)。一个学生看了，就问我：“先生，是不是也可以说 I to go to Ocean Park tomorrow. 呢？”

我说：“不行。因为平时说话、写文章不是写报纸标题，不能这样说。”

其实 Governor To Visit China Next Month 并不是一个句子，原句应是 The Governor is to visit China next month. 但作为新闻标题，要力求简洁，一目了然，才能吸引读者。所以可以用不完整的句子，但平时讲话写文章就不能这样了，一定要用完整的句子才能把意思表达清楚。



I to go to Ocean Park tomorrow. 之所以错, 是因为用了“to go”这个 infinitive (不定式) 作句子的 predicate (谓语), 而 infinitive 是不能这样用的。正确的句子应该是:

I am going to visit Ocean Park tomorrow.

不但不定式不能单独作谓语，现在分词 (present participle)，过去分词 (past participle) 也不能单独作句子的谓语。如：

A typhoon coming to Hong Kong soon. (Wrong)

A typhoon is coming to Hong Kong soon. (Right)

I written three reports by now. (Wrong)

I have written three reports by now. (Right)

Exercise 1

Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts, find out the one which is wrong:

(选出错项)

1. Unfortunately, two of the boys bitten by snakes the

a
b

last time the family camped in the valley.

c
d
2. Because he was very sick, he lying in bed waiting for

a
b
c
d

the doctor to come.
3. To Mrs Foster and Miss Rosen the advice sounded

wrong, but everyone else at the meeting to consider
a b c
it perfect.
d

4. The loss suffered by our troops being much worse
a b c
than we had expected.
d

5. I knew that without his help, it being difficult for me
a b
to repair the roof and paint the front porch.
c d

6. It is possible that Indians originally migrated to the
a
Western Hemisphere over a bridge of land that once
b
existing between Siberia and Alaska.
c d

7. Ever since the Civil War, the status of women been a
a b c
social issue in this country.
d

8. The thief must have entered by the kitchen window and
a
to steal the silver while the family was asleep.
b c d

9. If someone were to look through the window, he
a b
would seeing only an empty room.
c d

10. He has been sitting at the table for several hours and
a
to drinks considerably more wine than is good for his
b c d
health.

2. To Go 还是 To Goes?

一次，我在地铁站听见旁边两个学生用英文交谈：

A: My father wants to goes to Europe with my mother.

B: Really? My father also wants to go to Europe.

两人要表达的意思几乎完全相同，但说出来的句子却不一样，究竟谁对谁错呢？

B 是对的。

动词不定式 (infinitive) 一般由 to + 动词原形构成。它不受句子主语 (subject) 的人称 (person) 和数 (number) 的影响，所以 A 句应改为：



My father wants to go to Europe with my mother.

又如:

Last year my father invited a friend *to went* to Africa for a visit. (Wrong)

Last year my father invited a friend *to go* to Africa for a visit. (Right)

动词不定式不能用过去式, 因此只能说 *to go*, 不能说 *to went*。

Exercise 2

Each of the following sentences has four underlined parts, find out the one which is wrong:

1. Lucy Tsang saw the robber enterings the bank from his
bedroom window.
a b c d
2. It is often easier to selects a particular tool than to use
them correctly.
a b c d
3. The only way to reached the edge of the forest wasto
take the narrow dirty path in front of us.
a b c d
4. She got up early to is ready for the class.
a b c d
5. Her daughter managed to come and sees her three
a b

- times_c, but her som-in-law had never come_d.
6. The little boy wouldn't go_a out to plays_b until_c the postman came_d.
7. All of a sudden_a, she saw_b the postman turnings_c round the corner on_d his bicycle.
8. He seemed to be able to_a looked_b into the future and he took_c his readers along with him to share_d the wonderful view.
9. At 13_a he was sent to_b worked_c in a shop where he could learn_d the business.
10. He passed_a his examination with such good marks that he was given_b the chance to studies_c science at_d London University.

3. 这个 To 是多余的

一天上课时，我在黑板上写了两个句子，说它们每句都有一个词是多余的，请学生把它找出来，这两个句子是：

- 1) Can we to see the ferry piers from here?
- 2) We must to keep Hong Kong clean.

我话音刚落，学生们就找出来了：“to 是多余的”。凡在 must, can (could), may (might), need, dare, will (would), shall (should) 等情态动词之后动词都不能用 to。

Exercise 3

Choose the best answers:

1. I may ____ a few fish.
a. catch b. to catch c. catches d. catching
2. What will the weather ____ like on Friday?
a. is b. be c. being d. to be
3. I can ____ English, but I can't ____ French.
a. speak, to speak b. to speak, speak
c. speak, speak d. speaking, speaking
4. We must always ____ clean water. We mustn't ____ dirty water.
a. drinks, drink b. drink, drink c. to drink, to drink

d. drinking, drinking

5. Shall I ____ and borrow a fishing-rod?
a. go b. gone c. to go d. going
6. Would you please ____ me a favour?
a. to do b. doing c. do d. done
7. You must ____ your hands but you needn't ____ your hair.
a. wash, comb b. washing, combing
c. to wash, to comb d. washed, combed
8. Have I got ____ lessons before I use an aqua-lung?
a. have b. had c. to have d. having
9. It might ____ wiser for him not to go.
a. is b. to be c. be d. being