

让你的英文

彻底改掉让你丢分丢面子的错英文

李端◎著







本书针对两大人群:

☆所有想甩掉中式英语的人 ☆所有只会背单词却总与好英语无缘的人



让你的英文不同時間

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序

这本书是李端老师的呕心之作。

李端老师是我们认识的英语老师中最有修养、英语造诣也是最佳的一位。他以第一名的成绩考入台大外文研究所,旋即受教于李本题老师。李本题老师也是我在外语学校的恩师,英语、语法、修辞及文学素养可谓已达登峰造极的地步。我个人教学的态度就深受李本题老师的影响。得知李端老师也是李本题老师的门生时,我顿时感到很亲切。

数年前,我经友人吴乃作老师的介绍认识李端老师。与他寒暄未久,即知李端老师是一位中英文俱佳的好老师,我随即请求他担任常春藤的资深编审。或许是师出同门的关系,他爽快答应了。不久,他就与本人以及本社其他中外编辑群投入丛书编辑行列。他的笔译及英语撰写工夫连老外都佩服,然而他仍本着谦逊和善的态度善尽编审职责,这种精神令我敬佩万分,对我而言,李端老师不啻是亦师亦友。

李端老师撰写本书的计划展开时,我亲自目睹到他以极为严谨的态度广泛搜集资料,逐一求证关键英语词汇的用法,并不时与我的好友 Bruce Bagnell(目前执教于台大外文系)咨商,以求本书的精确性及实用性。

本书历经李端老师及中外编辑的用心校对及编排终于付梓成书。我相信这是一本好书,值得亲爱的读者细心品味。

于台北学营存

前言

这本书是特别针对中国人在用英语表达时易犯的错误而撰写的。

在学习英语的过程当中,我认为最大的困难不在于词汇多、词藻广或语法规则 庞杂,因为这些问题都可以逐步加以解决。我想最大的障碍在于中文的"包袱"。 由于中国人习惯于汉语的语法,再加上喜用"英汉词典",所以在写或说英语时很 容易造出或讲出"中式"的英语。这种情形可以说比比皆是,而且不乏有人犯了这 类错误一辈子而不自知。有鉴于此,特别撰写本书。

根据我多年的教学经验及从各方收集到的资料,精选出 1500 个左右的易错高频词,按照最常见的错误类型进行归类,以一正一误句子的对比及矫正说明来直观呈现错谬之处,书后加有全书单词索引,方便读者进行查阅纠错或防患于未然。

本人才疏学浅,动笔之初甚感惶恐。幸有赖世雄教授及美籍教授 Bruce Bagnell 从旁指正,本书才得以完成。赖教授治学甚为严谨。他常言英语是他的"爱人",我则半开玩笑地说英语是我的"敌人"。不过,在做学问的这条路上,"由爱生恨"或"因恨而爱"是可以殊途同归的。

李端

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注:本书根据每个单词下属的第一个例句的错误类型进行归类。



最易犯的细节错误





明辨可数与不可数

在认识到一个新名词时,一定要弄清它是可数名词还是不可数名词,在何时情况下可数、何时情况不可数。不能只重视词义,而忽略了它的基本属性。

» a(n) [e] ([ən], 强读 [æn]) n. − (个)

He is male chauvinist to the core. (\times) He is a male chauvinist to the core. (\checkmark) (他是个十足的大男子主义者。)

单数可数名词之前须置a或an。

As for cooking, I'll give her A for effort. (x)

As for cooking, I'll give her an A for effort. ($\sqrt{\ }$)

(至于烹调手艺,我想她已尽全力了。—— 言外之意,她的烹调手艺并不怎么样。)

Mr. Smith would like to buy a SUV. (\times)

Mr. Smith would like to buy an SUV. ($\sqrt{\ }$)

(史密斯先生想买一辆 SUV。)

英语字母或缩略语开头字母的读音如以元音开头, 用 an。

I'm afraid you have to wait a hour or two. (×) I'm afraid you have to wait an hour or two. (√) (恐怕你必须得等候一两个小时。)

若干 h 开头的单词, h 并不发音, 须用 an 搭配其后的元音。这类单词还有: heir、honest、honor、hourly 等。

Miss Wang is on the phone. I doubt whether you know such a person. (\times) A Miss Wang is on the phone. I doubt whether you know such a person. (\checkmark) (有一位王小姐来电,我怀疑你是否认识这个人。)

对不认识的人士,必须说 a Mr. / Miss。



>> accent ['æksɛnt] n. 口音 (多与 with 连用)

Mayumi speaks English with strong Japanese accent. (\times) Mayumi speaks English with a strong Japanese accent. (\checkmark) (真由美说英语时带着浓重的日本口音。)

accent 是可数名词, 其前须置 a 或 an。

)) access ['ækses] n. 接近 (与介词 to 连用)

Besides the Net, students should have an access to a good library. (\times) Besides the Net, students should have access to a good library. ($\sqrt{}$) (除了网络之外,学生也应有机会使用图书馆。)

have / get / gain access to sth 是指"某人有机会或有权利进入 / 利用某物",其中 access 是不可数名词,其前不可加 an。

» ache [ek] n. 疼痛

Sometimes taking a hot bath can help relieve your ache and pain. (\times) Sometimes taking a hot bath can help relieve your aches and pains. (\checkmark) (有时候泡个热水澡有助于缓解身体的酸痛。)

aches and pains 指"身体的疼痛、酸痛",为固定用法,不可用单数形式。

» advice [əd'vaɪs] n. 劝告,建议

Let me give you an advice. (\times) Let me give you a bit of advice. (\checkmark) (让我给你提个建议吧。)

advice 为不可数名词,所以不能直接用不定冠词 an 来修饰,也不能在其后加 s 来表示复数的概念。不过,我们可用 a bit / piece / word of advice 来表示"一条建议",用 bits / pieces / words of advice 来表示"很多条建议"。

» aid [ed] n. 协助

The war-torn country is trying to seek humanitarian* aids from the UN. (\times) The war-torn country is trying to seek humanitarian aid from the UN. (\checkmark) (这个饱受战争蹂躏的国家正设法寻求联合国的人道主义援助。)

aid 作"援助 (金钱或物资)"解时,为不可数名词,如 economic / medical / foreign / international aid (经济的 / 医疗的 / 外国的 / 国际的援助)。aid 作"辅

^{*} humanitarian [h ju,menə tærrən] a. 人道主义的

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助器/教材"解时,为可数名词,如:a hearing aid (助听器)、audio-visual aids (视听辅助器材)。

» air [sr] n. 空气; 神态; 装腔作势(常用复数)

Jack enjoys putting on air. (\times) Jack enjoys putting on airs. (\checkmark) (杰克喜欢装腔作势。)

air 作 "空气"解时,为不可数名词,如: I need some fresh air. (我想出去透透气。) 作 "态度"或"样子"解时,为可数名词,如: He came back home with a triumphant air. (他带着得意洋洋的神情回家。) put on airs 意为"装腔做势",用复数。另外 air 还可当动词,作"表达"的意思,如: air one's opinions / views / concerns (表达某人的意见/看法/关切)。

» aircraft ['er,kræft] n. 飞机、飞行器

All the aircrafts are grounded because of the heavy fog. (\times) All the aircraft are grounded because of the heavy fog. (\vee) (因为浓雾,所有的飞机都停飞。)

aircraft 表 "飞机或直升机等飞行器",单复数同形。

» any ['ent] pron. 一点,一些,少许

To tell you the truth, I don't have any friend here. (\times) To tell you the truth, I don't have any friends here. (\checkmark) (说真的,我在这里一个朋友也没有。)

在否定句或疑问句中, any 接复数的可数名词或不可数名词, 如: "Do you have any money with you?" "No, I don't even have any coins." ("你身上带钱了吗?""没有、我连硬币都没有。")

Don't worry. Any idiots can do that. (\times) Don't worry. Any idiot can do that. (\checkmark) (不用担心。任何一个白痴都能做那件事。)

在肯定句中, any 表"任一", 仅可修饰单数名词。

Any time cannot be wasted. (\times) No time can be wasted. ($\sqrt{}$) (任何时间都不能浪费。)

可数 I "No

any 及相关词 (anybody、anyone、anything 等) 不可置于否定句的句首, 须用"No+名词"的形式。

» applause [əˈpləz] n. 掌声,喝彩

After the performance, the leading actor and actress reappeared on the stage amid a thunderous applause. (x)

After the performance, the leading actor and actress reappeared on the stage amid thunderous applause. ($\sqrt{\ }$)

(戏演完之后,男女主角在如雷的掌声中,重新出现在舞台上。)

applause 表"鼓掌",为不可数名词,所以不能说 an applause 或 a(n)...applause。 但可以说 a round of applause (一阵鼓掌声)。

» arithmetic [əˈrɪθmə,tɪk] n. 算术

Arithmetics is a branch of mathematics. (\times) Arithmetic is a branch of mathematics. (\checkmark) (算术是数学的一个分支。)

arithmetic 不可加 s, mathematics 恒有 s, 为固定用法。

art [art] n. 艺术; 文科(用复数)

Do you like modern arts? (\times) Do you like modern art? (\sqrt) (你喜欢现代艺术吗?)

If you don't like the sciences, you may pick up the art. (\times) If you don't like the sciences, you may pick up the arts. (\checkmark) (如果你不喜欢理科,你可以选文科。)

art 表 "艺术"时,是抽象名词,不可数,如:Renaissance* art (文艺复兴时期的艺术);作"人文学科"时,是可数名词,且用复数。

>> ash [æ] n. 骨灰 (用复数)

According to his will, his ash is to be scattered at sea. (\times) According to his will, his ashes are to be scattered at sea. (\checkmark) (按照他的遗嘱,他的骨灰要撒在海上。)

ash 作一般的"灰烬"解时,兼有可数和不可数的用法,如: Watch your cigarette ash! (注意你的烟灰!)或 The house was burned to ashes. (这栋房子已被烧成灰烬。)但指"骨灰"时,要用复数形式 ashes。

^{*} renaissance ['rɛnəˌsans] n. (尤指某种艺术形式的)复兴

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» attention [əˈtɛn[ən] n. 注意

May I have your attentions, please? (\times) May I have your attention, please? (\checkmark) (请大家注意好吗?)

attention 作"注意 (力)"解时,是不可数名词。若指对异性"献殷勤",则常用复数形式 attentions, 如: I'm fed up with his attentions. (我受不了他对我献殷勤。)

Children usually have a short attentive span. (\times) Children usually have a short attention span. (\checkmark) (通常儿童的专注力不能持久。)

attentive 是形容词, 意为"专注 (听讲)的",如: an attentive audience 就是指一群专心听讲的听众。这个词只能形容人,不能形容事物。attention span 是指"专注的一段时间",为固定用法。

» authority [əˈθərəti] n. 权威

None of us dare question his authorities. (\times) None of us dare question his authority. ($\sqrt{}$) (我们当中没有人敢质疑他的权威。)

authority 作"权威/权势"解时,是不可数名词; 作"权威人物"解时,是可数名词,如: Mr. Murphy is an authority on pathology. (墨菲先生是病理学的权威。)指"主管当局"时,用 the authorities,如: The health authorities have adopted drastic measures to fight against SARS. (卫生主管当局已经采取强硬措施来对抗 SARS。)

» baggage ['bægɪdʒ] n. 行李

How many baggages do you have? (\times) How many pieces of baggage do you have? (\checkmark) (你有多少件行李?)

baggage 或 luggage (英式用法)是"行李"的集合名词,不可数。要表达件数时,须用 a piece / two pieces of baggage。

Don't forget to go to the baggage's claim. (\times) Don't forget to go to the baggage claim. (\checkmark) (不要忘了去领取行李。)

"机场行李领取处"的固定用语为 baggage claim (美式用法) 或 baggage reclaim (英式用法), baggage 后不加 's。

明辨可数与不可数

» bail [bel] n. 保释金

The suspect was released on a bail. (\times) The suspect was released on bail. ($\sqrt{}$) (这名嫌犯已交保候传。)

bail 是"保释金", 为不可数名词。

» behavior [br'hevjə] n. 行为, 举止

How do you explain her eccentric behaviors? (\times) How do you explain her eccentric behavior? (\checkmark) (你如何看待她的古怪行为?)

behavior表"行为",是不可数名词。

Your behavior is like an idiot. (\times) Your behavior is like an idiot's. (\checkmark) You behave like an idiot. (\checkmark) (你的言行举止像白痴一样。)

英语的语言逻辑:某人可以像白痴 (因白痴也是人),但行为是"物",不能像白痴,故无法对应。上述两个正确的例句中,your behavior 可以和 an idiot's (省略 behavior) 对应;you 可以和 an idiot 对应。

» belongings [biˈləŋɪŋz] n. 所有物; 财产

When you get off, don't forget your personal belonging. (\times) When you get off, don't forget your personal belongings. (\checkmark) (下车时,不要忘记你们随身带的东西。)

belongings 指"某人的财物或随身带的东西",用复数。belonging (不可数名词)则见于 sense of belonging 这个词组,是"归属感"的意思,如: I have no sense of belonging working there. (在那里工作我没有归属感。)

>> change [t]endz] vt. & vi. 改变; 调整 & n. 改变; 零钱

The villa has changed hand several times. (\times) The villa has changed hands several times. (\checkmark) (这栋别墅已经数易其主了。)

change hands 意为"换手; 易主",为固定用法。类似的用法如: change shifts (换班)、change trains / buses (换车),都用复数形式。

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We need a change of personnel to boost morale*. (\times) We need a change in personnel to boost morale. (\checkmark) (我们需要调整人事以提升士气。)

a change of sth 是"完全改变或取代"的意思,如: The general staged a coup because he thought the country needed a change of government. (这名将军发动政变,因为他认为该国需换新政府。) a change in sth 是"做局部改变或调整"。

She had a change of mind about their marriage. (\times) She had a change of heart about their marriage. (\checkmark) (她对他们的婚事改变了主意。)

"改变主意"的英语有两种表达法: (1) have a change of heart; (2) change one's mind。

I need some small changes to buy something from the vending machine. (\times) I need some small change to buy something from the vending machine. (\checkmark) (我需要一些硬币来买自动售货机里的东西。)

change 作"零钱/硬币"解时,为不可数名词,如: Keep the change. (零钱不用找了。)

» character ['kærɪktə] n. 人格

These two social movements are similar in their objectives but different in characters. (x)

These two social movements are similar in their objectives but different in character. ($\sqrt{\ }$)

(这两个社会运动在目标上相近,可是在本质上却不相同。)

character 作"本质"、"性格"或"品德"解时,一般为不可数名词或采用单数形式。作"特殊的人物"或小说、戏剧里的"角色"时,则为可数名词,如: He used to sow his wild oats, but he is a reformed character now. (他从前放荡不羁,如今浪子回头了。)

» charm [t[arm] n. 魅力

The new drug works like charm. (\times) The new drug works like a charm. (\sqrt) The new drug works like magic. (\sqrt) (这种新药功效神奇。)

charm 作"魅力"解时,为不可数名词,如: She is a woman of great charm. (她是一个极具魅力的女人。)作"护身符"或"咒语"解时,charm 是可数名词。



» cheek [tʃik] n. 面颊

The little girl has a rosy cheek. (\times) The little girl has rosy cheeks. (\checkmark) (这个小女孩脸颊很红润。)

脸颊有两边,所以应该用 cheeks 才对。另外,表"无礼"时,用单数的 cheek (英式用法),如: He had the cheek to call me a liar. (他居然如此无礼,说我是骗子。)

» chill [tʃɪl] n. 风寒 (常用复数)

Among the symptoms of pneumonia* are high fever, chill, and muscle pain. (\times) Among the symptoms of pneumonia are high fever, chills, and muscle pain. ($\sqrt{}$) (肺炎的症状包括发高烧、畏寒和肌肉疼痛。)

"畏寒"的症状通常用复数形式 chills。单数形式的用法见于 catch a chill = catch a cold,即"感冒着凉"之意。

» cloth [klɔθ] n. 布料

The suit is made of a woolen cloth. (\times) The suit is made of woolen cloth. (\sqrt) (这套西装是用羊毛布料做成的。)

指 "布料" 时,cloth 为不可数名词,如: linen** / cotton / woolen / silk cloth (亚麻 / 棉 / 羊毛 / 丝质布料)。a cloth 是指 "一块用来擦拭的布",如: The waitress wiped the table with a cloth. (女服务生用一块抹布擦拭餐桌。)

>>> circle ['sski] n. 圆圈; ······圈子, 界

Henry is very active in the literary circle. (\times) Henry is very active in the literary circles. ($\sqrt{}$) (亨利在文艺界非常活跃。)

the academic / literary / political / scientific circles (用复数)是"学术/文艺/政治/科学界"的固定说法。

I think our discussion has come a full circle. (\times) I think our discussion has come full circle. (\vee) (我想我们讨论了大半天又回到原点了。)

come / go / turn full circle 表 "绕了一圈又回到原点"

^{*} pneumonia [nu'monjə] n. 肺炎 ** linen ['lɪnɪn] n. 亚麻布

让你的英文不再错



» circumstance ['səkəm,stæns] n. 情况, 情形

Under no circumstance will I agree to this marriage. (\times) Under no circumstances will I agree to this marriage. (\checkmark) (我决不同意这门婚事。)

under / in no circumstances 表"决不",用复数形式。至于单数的用法,如: He is a victim of circumstance. (他是一个受环境摆布的可怜虫。)

» comfort ['kʌmfət] n. 舒适;舒适的设备

Can you live without modern comfort? (×)
Can you live without modern comforts? (√)
(没有现代的舒适设备,你能生活下去吗?)

指"身心舒适"时, comfort 为不可数名词,如: Everyone hopes to live in comfort. = Everyone hopes to live a comfortable life. (每个人都希望过舒舒服服的生活。)但指"舒适的设备或用品"时,如电视、电话、冷气等,则用复数形式 comforts。

» comment ['kament] n. & vi. 评论, 批评

The President's speech has provoked strong comments from the media. (\times) The President's speech has provoked strong comment from the media. (\checkmark) (总统的演说引发媒体措辞激烈的评论。)

comment 作一般的"意见/批评"时,可视为可数或不可数名词,如: He's not supposed to make any comment(s). (他不应该发表意见。) 但作"媒体的评论"时,则用不可数名词。

Stop arguing! I can't hear the baseball comment. (\times) Stop arguing! I can't hear the baseball commentary. (\checkmark) (不要再争吵了! 我听不见棒球的转播解说了。)

电视或收音机实况转播的"评论",须用 commentary。这位"评论者"则称为 commentator。

» company ['kʌmpənɪ] n. 同伴;公司

Joy is not coming—she has a company. (\times) Joy is not coming—she has company. (\checkmark) (乔伊不来了,她家里有客人。)

company 作"公司"解时,是可数名词,如: It is a multinational company. (这