

剖析“原汁原味”的典型例句  
有助教师教学和各类考生应考

# 大学英语用法 最新解释

——告别中国特色的语法观念

New Interpretations of Usage  
Of Collegiate English

鲁显生 编著




世界图书出版公司

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# 前 言

在中国,各类英语考试用书的数量无疑是**“世界之最”**,而关注英语实际用法的人却很少。我们应想一想:学英语的目的是应付考试还是学会使用?

不论是想实现**“洋活连篇”**,还是欲接近**“疯狂英语”**,先决条件是充分了解基础知识。熟练的英语不是喊口号喊出来的,也不是由几个俚语促成的,它需要雄厚的基础。

在我国英语教学和使用中,有许多根深蒂固的错误解释,一方面束缚了对英语的正确使用,另一方面导致**“中国特色”**的英语横行。此外,由于缺乏语法知识、忽视对相关或相近结构的对比,大部分学生为英语头疼。各种英语考试辅导班的流行,与其说是考生重视英语,不如说是英语教学的悲哀和失败。

本书是作者多年观察思考的结果,旨在指出在全国盛行的某些错误概念,分析对比一些难理解的现象,总结规律;同时提醒读者们注意某些被语法书忽略的用法。为了确保书中解释的合理性和可信度,90%以上的句子都是**“原汁原味”**,摘自于大量的书刊和媒体。另外附有460个例句分析,以加深读者的理解。

本书的许多解释是作者个人观点和探讨的结论,绝非专家或权威理论,提供的解释或提出的观点是激发人们去思考。由于作者水平有限,对问题的阐述很可能缺乏严谨、根基不牢或偏激狂妄,但无论谁是谁非,重要的是以事实为根据,还**英语用法的本来**

**面目。**英语教学也应与时俱进,同时突出一个观念:与传统语法不同,现代语法重在真实描述语言的使用,而不是“**制订规则**”,我们中国人更不应该为别的语言制订规则。

本书适合于高中以上英语程度的人,特别是中学英语教师、大学公外老师、大学生和从事翻译的人士。

欢迎读者赐教并参与讨论,对于书中不妥之处深表歉意。

在本书的编写过程中,曾得到家人、朋友和同事们的热情帮助,在此深表感谢。

**鲁显生**

2003 年 9 月于北京

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## 一、用法解释

### 1. spend 和 take 表达完全不同的意义

目前盛行的说法是:两者都可用于表示“花时间做……”,意义相同,而句型不同。换言之,人们普遍认为:spend 用于“somebody spends time (in)doing something”,而 take 用于“it takes somebody ...time to do something.”人们还认为:虽然句式不同,但意义完全相同。这种理解是最常见的错误之一,也体现在各种参考书和绝大多数英语教师的讲解之中。这种观点不仅片面,而且抹杀了两词在意义上的根本区别。事实上,这两个词的意义和使用范围是泾渭分明,无法表达相同的意义,也就是说,要翻译或表达同一概念绝非随便选择,也就无法谈可替换性。take 一词的用法比我们想像的要灵活。用 spend 的句型表示“把时间用在……上”;表示“花钱”时可接不定式。有时其意义近似“do...for...time”,永远不能表示完成某事所需的时间。有关这两个词的所有例句均摘自于国外出版物。首先看 spend 的用法:

(1) ..., who spent the late 1970s studying the Shanidar specimens.

……把 70 年代后几年用于研究在 Shanidar 发现的标本。

(2) At times, to make a few miles, we had to spend a day traveling in the opposite direction.

有时为了前进几英里,我们不得不向相反方向走一天。

(3) Homer spent hours walking the coast in all kinds of weather.

不管天气如何,霍默尔都要沿海边走几个小时。

(4) I spent the day composing my statement.

我把这一天都用在思考我要说的话。

- (5) ..., a cab driver spent six hours taking her around San Juan.  
..... 一名出租司机带她在圣胡安兜风六个小时。

- (6) ..., after all, they had spent the afternoon sharing a number of interesting experiences.

他们毕竟谈了一下午各自一些有趣的经历。

- (7) ..., where she browsed through the shops that were still open, spent a few minutes watching two giggling young women take their blood pressure.

在这儿,她逛了几家仍在营业的商店,看了几分钟两名正在量血压的姑娘,她们咯咯笑着。

- (8) I wish you wouldn't spend so much time watching TV.

你最好不要花这么多时间看电视。

- (9) Charlotte smiled as she recalled their girlhood, the long hours spent talking of the futures they planned.

回忆起自己的少女时代和谈论自己未来设计的漫长时光,夏洛特露出了微笑。

- (10) A more thorough investigation of Hamilton's political career, the account of which Pitt spent many hours reading and rereading, produced no injustices so glaring as to have provoked anything like murder.

佩特用数小时反复阅读有关海米尔顿从政史的文章,对其从政史更彻底的调查未能发现任何能导致谋杀的犯罪行为。

- (11) For instance, the typical American is a person who spends a lot of time wondering who he or she is.

例如,典型的美国人花很长时间考虑自己是谁。

- (12) She later rebelled against the narrowness of outlook ... and spent much of her adult life moving in the free-thinking circles

of literary and artistic London.

后来,她开始摆脱这种狭窄的视野……并把大部分成年时光用于伦敦自由派文学和艺术活动。

- (13) ... he spends most of his life's energy looking after them.

……他把大部分精力用于照看它们(自己的财产)。

- (14) In 1900s, women spent most of their adult life in having and bringing up children.

在 20 世纪初,妇女成年后的大部分时光用于养儿育女。

- (15) We have spent more than 200 years trying to build a society that provides everyone with ongoing opportunities to enjoy life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and it hasn't been easy. 我们花了 200 多年的时间试图建立一个社会,此社会始终为每个人提供享受生活、享受自由、追求幸福的机遇,而且这个过程充满了艰辛。

此外,spend 表示“花钱干……”时,可接不定式:

- (16) The Hilton spent 40 million dollars to build this and two adjacent villas.

希尔顿饭店花了四千万美元建造此楼和相邻的两栋别墅。

- (17) The Pentagon is spending hundreds of millions of dollars a year to develop small unmanned tanks.

五角大楼每年投资几亿美元研制小型无人驾驶坦克。

- (18) ... his father, ... was spending lavish funds to promote his son's 1960 candidacy.

……为了让儿子在 1960 年当上候选人,其父不惜大量钱财。

- (19) And companies spend billions of dollars each and every year to advertise their products and services for reasons other than attracting new customers and clients.

许多公司花几十亿美元为其产品和服务做广告,目的并不是

招揽新顾客。

- (20) To cope with such problem, NASA is spending 2.1 million dollars to develop a repair kit that will enable spacesuited astronauts to install replacement tiles while in orbit.

为解决此问题,美国宇航局正在花 210 万美元研制一种修理包,以使着装的宇航员在绕轨道飞行时能安装备用的隔热瓦片。

· 还有:

- (21) Normally dealers have to spend \$ 500 in pocketing money to get someone to walk into a showroom.
- (22) Out of the weekly grocery budget of \$ 48.33... the average family spends 77 cents to feed its pets but only 17 to feed the baby.
- (23) ... why are we spending billions and billions of zilches to land a flying saucer on Earth when there is no life there?
- (24) Millions are spent, for example, to reduce farm surpluses—exceeded only by the millions spent to make farmland more productive.
- (25) The US Postal Service spent \$ 142,311 to move one executive ten miles and \$ 105,817 to move another 30 miles even though both continued working at the agency's headquarters.
- (26) Airlines spend millions every year to foster the image of flying as the preferred way to travel. (树立……的形象)
- (27) Manufacturers spend much money to develop new products.

take 所需句型十分灵活,表达的意义与 spend 完全不同,主要表示动作完成或某过程所需时间。

something takes ... time to do (something)

- (1) ... a balance that took thousands of years to perfect.

……一种用了数千年才得以完善的平衡。

- (2) ... while the dictionary is taking longer to record linguistic events than they take to happen.

……而字典记录语言事件所需的时间要比这些事件发生所需的时间要长。

- (3) "Over there in a rowboat, what took you so long?"

“在划艇上,你干什么用了这么长时间?”

- (4) The light of some distant stars takes hundreds of years to reach us.

一些遥远星球发出的光需数百年时间才能到达地球。

- (5) A humor scrapbook, of course, takes time, but keeping a simple laughter file can be easy.

剪辑幽默故事当然需要时间,但记住几个笑话并不难。

- (6) The flight would take 3.5 hours with refueling.

这次飞行需要三个半小时,包括加油。

- (7) Labor took more than a decade to find a way to come to terms with Thatcherism.

工党用了十多年时间才找到同撒切尔夫人政府达成共识的方法。

- (8) The construction, begun in 1174, nearly took 200 years.

该塔始建于1174年,用了近200年时间才完成。

- (9) Their show takes up to three quarters of an hour.

他们的演出最多需要45分钟。

- (10) The process took 15 hours, but....

此过程用了15小时,但……

- (11) ..., and a feeling that things which took years to establish in the last war are now being established overnight.

……并感到上次战争中需数年才能建立的东西现在一夜之间就形成了。

- (12) Does the drug take long to act ?

药力发作需要很长时间吗？

- (13) Fixed assets are assets that take more than a year to be converted to cash.

固定资产是需要一年多时间才能转换为现金的资产。

- (14) For example, during the Vietnam War, the U. S. kept trying to persuade the North Vietnamese to approach the bargaining table. The attempt took months, and the U. S. grew very impatient.

例如,在越南战争期间,美国一直试图劝说越共来到谈判桌上。持续了数月,结果失去了耐心。

- (15) Not long ago in history even the most important message took weeks to travel from one country to another in written form or by word of mouth; now a joke on a wireless programme leaps across the world at a speed of 186,000 miles a second.

不久前,不论是笔头还是口头,最重要的信息需几星期才能从一个国家传到另一个国家;而现在,用无线电传播的笑话以每秒 186,000 英里的速度传遍全球。

- (16) Even an enormous number of abnormal proteins take a long time to produce disease in recipient mice.

甚至大量的异常蛋白需要长时间才能使接受药物的鼠致病。

- (17) Since I do not know where I am going to be, or when, or how long letters will take to reach me, I cannot send you an address so that you may write to me.

我不知道将去何处,或何时去,或信寄到我处需多长时间,所以我无法给你邮信地址。

- (18) The full import may take a while to sink in.

其全部意义不会马上被领会。

- (19) Returns on education, notes Choksi, may take 15 to 20 years,

but the "effect is real and tangible".

乔克西指出,可能过 15~20 年才能得到教育方面的收效,但“效果是真实具体的”。

- (20) They must think of it as planting trees. A tree takes a generation to reach maturity.

他们必须把它(妇女教育)视为植树。树长大成材需要一代人的时间。

- (21) Today, man has at his command the ballistic missile which... takes less than thirty minutes to travel to any place in the world.

目前,人类具有的弹道导弹可在半小时内到达世界任何地方。

- (22) Nuclear plants fail on both counts: they are hugely capital intensive, and can take as long as ten years to build.

核电站有两个不足:一是资本高度密集,二是建设周期长达十年。

- (23) But the mayor warns that problems of Cleveland's magnitude, which took years to form, will not be remedied easily.

但市长警告说,像克里弗兰市这样严重的问题是多年形成的,很难解决。

- (24) Western societies took more than a century to reach zero population growth and adjust to the rapid expansion of population that accompanied their industrialization.

西方国家用了 100 多年时间才使人口零增长并适应伴随工业化出现的人口剧增。

又如:

The difficult takes time, Grant. The impossible just takes longer.

The writing took me two and a half years, working at it...

seven days a week.

The answers may take years or decades or centuries to find.

somebody takes ... time to do (something)

- (1) This is acting on first impulses: you must take days to consider such a matter.

这是一时冲动,考虑好此事需要数日。

- (2) Computers can do calculations in a fraction of the time taken by human mathematicians.

电脑完成计算所需的时间是人类数学家的一小部分。

- (3) The chief house officer, who had declared he would appear... an hour after his cryptic telephone call, actually took twice that time.

舍长打了个神秘电话,并说一小时后到,却过了两小时才到。

- (4) We had taken two weeks longer to finish the flight than Ross Smith had.

我们完成此次飞行用的时间比罗斯·史密斯多了两周。

- (5) Bonnie and Nick took a minute or so to examine the area before deciding to climb.

邦妮和尼克对这个地方仔细看了片刻,然后决定攀登。

- (6) Never take less than 20 minutes to finish a meal.

吃一顿饭一定要用 20 分钟以上的时间。

- (7) "Bishop!" And you took fifteen minutes to tour the house.

“主教!”你看房子用了一刻钟。

- (8) Some of the men had taken a long time to believe what they had actually seen; they were the worst affected when they did understand.

其中一些人过了好长时间才相信自己目睹的情景,他们终于



明白时受的影响最大。

- (9) "Oh-" The butler gulped, took a moment to gain his composure while all sorts of horrors raced through his mind.

“啊-”男管家惊叹到,过了一会儿才镇静下来,心里闪过各种可怕念头。

- (10) Working in his own time, Boyd took two years to perfect the system.

波尔德用了两年的业余时间才使此系统完善。

- (11) The journalist immediately set out to obtain these important facts, but he took a long time to send them. (《新概念英语》三册第5课)

这位记者立即动身去获取重要事实,但用了好长时间才发出。

it takes ... time for somebody(something) to do something

- (1) ... so it took a little time for the Mormons and us to get used to one another.

……所以,我们和摩门人过了一段时间才彼此适应。

- (2) It took only an instant for her to light the cigarette.

她很快就点着了香烟。

- (3) It takes longer than usual for the heart to slow down after taking exercise.

运动后,心脏放慢所需时间比平时长。

- (4) ... only because he was premature, it would take some time for Mike to catch up.

……迈克需要一段时间才能赶上,惟一的原因是他未成熟。

- (5) It didn't take long for the land of cotton to fall.

没过多久棉花地的面积就减少了。