



# 如何扩大英语词汇量

(附英语词汇循序渐进练习)

吕志士 等 编

中国物资出版社

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## 如何扩大英语词汇量

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# 前 言

如何扩大英语词汇量,这既是这本书的题目,也是多年来我们从事英语教学过程学生、学员——所有学习英语的人常向我们提出的问题。呈献在读者面前的这本书便是我们对这个问题提供的很不成熟的答案。我们怀着忐忑不安的心情欢迎读者对我们的答卷亮分,更欢迎你们对我们答卷提出批评、指正和建议。

如何扩大英语词汇量?对于这个问题,我们几位编者虽然心中都各自有自己的看法,但为了使答卷更有针对性,实用性更强,我们曾在部分学生中征求意见,以他们学习英语过程中对于掌握词汇的体会,给我们出主意,看看这个问题该如何回答。我们发现,对于这个问题的回答真是众说纷纭,各人都有各人的看法。记不得是哪位名人在总结了如何记住英语单词的方法之后说:**不管你采取什么方法只要你能把单词记住并掌握它,就是好方法。**这的确是很有见地的观点。这就是说,记住英语单词,扩大英语词汇量的方法应是多种多样的,因人而异,因时因地而异,不应当也不会是只有唯一的一种方法。很多记英语单词较快较多的学生并不十分谙熟英语构词法,也不十分了解英语词汇学。

但是,有一基本事实,大家却有共识。要想更多地掌握英语单词,特别是在掌握了三千至五千英语词汇之后,再增加三千至五千,甚至更多的单词,如果有英语词汇学的知识,了解一些扩大英语词汇的方法,则会如虎添翼,起到事半功倍的效果。

以上便是我们回答如何扩大英语词汇量这个问题的思路。我们提供的答卷是以英语词汇学为网络,以扩大词汇量为目的,给对这个问题感兴趣的读者提出各种各样学习和记忆英语单词的方法。对于词汇学的知识,我们基本上是浅尝辄止,更多的是举出实例,读者可以以实例检验、测试、扩大自己的词汇量。如果所反映的方法适合你的胃口,你可以以此为主菜,佐以其它小菜,安排你的食谱——你的扩大英语词汇量的自我方案。

毋庸置疑,学习构词法是扩大英语词汇量的一条重要途径,因此我们把这部分作为重点之一,但这不是唯一的方法。如果没有词汇其它方面的基础知识,单纯地以构词法方式来扩大词汇量会越学越糊涂。了解英语的同义词、反义词、习语以及英语发展的历史都有助于扩大词汇量。通过构成法学习的单词,如果通过别的方法加以验证、重复和巩固,会有助于扩大词汇量。换句话说,每个人不应只有一套食谱,要有好几套,这样才能健康茁壮地成长。

词汇练习本身就是一种学习和扩大英语词汇的方法,因此我们编了英语词汇循序渐进练习,附在书后。

我们在编写本书的过程中,得到了中央民族学院外语系崔盛刚主任的大力支持和帮助,该系英语专业教研室的很多同志为这本书的付梓和问世,也付出了艰辛的劳动,在此我们一并表示诚挚的谢意。

限于编者水平,书中谬误不少,敬请读者指正。

吕志士

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# 第一章 运用词汇知识扩大词汇量

英语是当今世界上主要的国际通用语言之一。世界上以英语为母语的人将近 4 亿。不同的国家和地区在长期使用英语过程中又形成了各自不同的英语变体,如英国英语,美国英语,澳大利亚英语,新西兰英语,印度英语等。它们除保持了标准英语的特点外,还各自有自己的特点。

但是在几百多年以前,即在诺曼底人入侵英国的 1066 年以前,世界上说英语的人仅有 150 万左右,到了莎士比亚时代(1564 年—1616 年),世界上也只有 500 万人讲英语。

英语在近一千年中得到了很大的发展,这一基本事实是我们在学习英语,尤其是英语词汇时应当了解的。英语的这种发展有一点是必须注意的,即它汲取了世界上许多其它语言的词汇。在当代任何一部英语词典中,大约有 8%左右的词条属于外来词。

英语词汇在英语语言的发展过程中起了非常重要的作用,因此我们要学习英语词汇,必须大概知道英语发展和形成的过程。

## 一、认识词的特点和意义,有助于扩大词汇量

### 1. 词的定义

语言学家对词下的定义是各有不同的,但不管其如何不同,词具有音、形、义三个特点是肯定无疑的。也就是说,词是



音、形、义的统一体。对一个词必须从这三方面了解。音,就是词的发音,读音,即各个词如何读,念;形,指词的书写,拼法;义,指词的意义。这三方面缺一不可。

词是句子的基本单位,句子是由词构成的,词放到句子中便有其语法作用。例如:

There was hardly enough room for the table.

这句话是由 8 个词构成的,每个词都具有音、形、义,并都在句子中起一定作用。

## 2. 词的意义

词义是我们学习词时的重点。但为了掌握好词义,也必须了解词的其它诸方面。现在举例来说明。

**imitate** 这个词,我们首先要掌握其发音,〔'imiteit〕共有 3 个音节,读音的重音在第一个音节。有些人在读这个词时,把最后一个元音读成〔i〕,这不对。

拼写应正确。但有些人在拼写时常把上述单词的第二个元音给忘掉了,拼成了 imtate,显然也不对。

词性应明确。学习一个单词掌握词性是很重要的。例如: But me no buts. (不要总和我说但是。)这句话中第一个 but 是动词,第二个 buts 是名词。

Don't trouble trouble until trouble troubles you. (不要自找麻烦,除非麻烦找到你头上。)这句话中第一个 trouble 是动词,作谓语,第二个是名词,作 trouble 的宾语。第三个 trouble 是名词,作分句的主语,第四个 troublts 是谓语,是单数第三人称,是及物动词,you 是其宾语。

现在我们再来看 imitate,其词性是及物动词,后面要跟宾语。

就词义看,imitate 的主要意思是“模仿,仿效”或“学……的样子”。其它意思由此派生和演变而来,不是主要意义。

在了解一个词的词义后,最好再以短语和例子来说明该词的用法,这样才能生动具体、准确地记住词的意思。下面就 imitate 一词举几个例子。

imitate the examples of one's elders(效法长辈)

His handwriting is difficult for me to imitate. (我很难模拟他的笔迹。)

Be your own person and don't imitate others. (要有自己的风格不要模仿别人。)

但 imitate 的次要意义也要注意。例如:

fabrics made to imitate silk(仿丝织物)

这个短语中,imitate 的意思是“仿制,仿造”

如果再进一步,可以了解到,imitate 的名词是 imitation,形容词是 imitative。

如果从词源上探索,imitate 是来自拉丁文的 imitari,意思是 to make an image or copy of。

到此,我们就对 imitate 这个词有了大概的了解。学习一个单词必须这样一丝不苟、认认真真地学。如果单纯地在小卡片上面写英文拼法,下面写汉语意思,这样来学习英文单词,是远远不够的。

词义是掌握和学习英语单词的重点。但是在学习单词意义时,也要注意词义和概念的关系。概念是词义的基础,词义是概念在语言中的表现形式,两者有着密切联系。例如:

Horse is a useful animal.

David likes his father's horse.

第一句中的 horse 是指一般的马,是类概念,而第二句中的 horse 则是具体的马,是个别概念。

词义在语言中具有一定的感情色彩和文体色彩,不同的词虽然词义一样,但却可以表示不同的感情色彩或文体色彩。这就是说,不同的词要使用在不同的场合,说话的对象不同,语言环境不同就要用不同的词。这是在学习词义时应注意的。很多初学者只背词义,而不注意词的使用域,这就不能准确地使用词。例如:

What he had done let his father down.

What he had done disappointed his father.

这两句都表示:他的所为使他父亲失望。但第一句 let sb. down 是盎格鲁萨克逊的动词短语,是英语的本族词,往往用于非正式场合,而 disappoint 一词来自罗曼语,是外来词,多用于较正式的场合。

### 3. 词和词汇

词汇是词的总和,词汇不仅包括语言中所有的词,而且还指方言、使用域和术语等某一语言变体中使用的词和短语。

英语的全部词汇约有一百多万。可分为积极词汇和消极词汇。前者指经常使用的词汇,后者指能读懂的词汇。对于不同的人来说,积极词汇和消极词汇的界线和数量是不一样的。一般来说,以英语为母语、且文化教育层次较高的人,其积极词汇在 5 万左右,而把英语作为第二语言的人,根据每个人不同的情况,也大体有个数量。一般中学毕业生,要掌握的词汇也就在 4000 以内。大学生如果是非英语专业生,一般也就在 8000 以内。如果再要通过某种考试,则都有不同的词汇要求。

英语的一些词汇和汉语的词汇一样,也有掌故。汉语成

语,例如掩耳盗铃、望梅止渴等都有来源,有历史故事背景。英语中的一些词汇也是如此。了解这些词汇的故事,产生的过程则能帮助我们牢固记住和完全吃透这些词的意义。下面我们举三个词的掌故为例。

## BLUESTOCKING

The French philosopher, Jean Jacques Rousseau, once described a “bluestocking” as a woman who will remain unmarried as long as there are sensible men on this earth.

For a “bluestocking” is a woman who loves books and learning so much that the only thing she loves better is showing the world how much she knows.

But to be completely just, it must be pointed out that a man was responsible for the word bluestocking.

The word was coined in 18th century London. Groups of men and women met in the evening to discuss books and culture. They decided to replace evenings of empty, meaningless talk with intelligent discussion.

The members of the group dressed very simply, to show their dislike for the fancy evening clothes of the time.

The “proper” members of London society disapproved of the group, and named it the “Bluestocking Club” or the “Bluestockings”.

The name came from Benjamin Stillingfleet, a member of the club; he wore plain bluestockings in place of the fancy

black ones worn by other gentlemen.

Then, for some strange reason, a “bluestocking” came to mean a rather plain-looking woman who thought she knew more about everything than anyone else.

In America, in colonial times, “bluestockings” also meant some members of the “upper classes” of society who thought their money or their family history made them better than other people. These “bluestockings” called themselves “bluebloods.” They felt that they were better than other people, and their blood, therefore, must be pure and blue.

Some of these bluebloods had strong restrictive moral beliefs. Some of them even felt that having a good time was immoral. Such persons were also called “bluenoses.”

Their stiff and unbending moral beliefs may have led to what were called “blue laws,” that governed public and private behavior.

The name was said to have come from a series of extreme laws written on blue paper in the colony of New Haven. The Reverend Samuel Peters, an American Tory who later returned to England, spread wild stories about how terrible the laws were. He claimed that one law even made it illegal for a man to kiss his wife on the Sabbath.

This law may never have existed, but there were laws in Colonial America that banned people from drinking too much liquor or dressing incorrectly. There were also laws

that said it was illegal not to observe the Sabbath fully.

After the American Revolution, most of the blue laws were forgotten or were no longer enforced.

But they arose again early in this century during the time of *Prohibition*. This was a law banning the sale or manufacture of liquor, one of the most hated laws in the United States. Also, many states banned the sale of cigarettes, the opening of stores and theaters on Sunday, as well as all unnecessary work on the Sabbath.

Many of these laws have been softened or changed over the years, but some remain.

Today, some states still do not permit their stores and theaters to open on Sundays, because this is Sabbath and a day of rest.

Luckily, however, there is no law against a man and a woman holding hands, even on Sunday.

## HELLO

Hello. This is as good a way as any to welcome you to these pages.

The word "hello" is probably used more often than any other one in the English language. Everybody in the United States—and elsewhere—uses the word, again and again, every day of the week.

The first thing you hear when you pick up the phone is "hello" unless the caller is an Englishman, who might say, "Are you there?"

Where did the word come from ? There are all sorts of beliefs. Some say it came from the French, "ho" and "la"— "Ho, there!" This greeting may have arrived in England during the Norman Conquest in the year 1066.

"Ho, there" slowly became something that sounded like "hallow" (accent last syllable), often heard in the 1300's, during the days of the English poet, Geoffrey Chaucer.

Two hundred years later, in Shakespeare's time, "hallow" had become "halloo." And later, sounds like "halloa," "halloo" and "hollo" were often used by sailors and hunters. "Halloo," is still used today by fox hunters.

As time passed, "halloo" and "halloa" changed into "hullo." And during the 1800's this was how people greeted each other in America.

The American inventor, Thomas Alva Edison, is believed to be the first person to use "hello" in the late 1800's, soon after the invention of the telephone.

At first, people had greeted each other on the telephone with, "Are you there?" They were not sure the new instrument could really carry voices.

Tom Edison, however, was a man of few words. He wasted no time. The first time he picked up the phone he did not ask if anyone was there. He was sure someone was, and

simply said, "Hello. "

From that time on—only about 100 years ago—the "hullo," became "hello," as it is heard today.

Strangely enough, when the first telephone system was put in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1878, people did not say "hello" or "hullo" or even "halloo. " They answered the phone the way sailors hail a ship, "Ahoy, ahoy there!" Thank God, that telephone greeting did not last long.

Of course, there are other ways Americans greet one another. Not long ago, people often said, "How are you?" when they first met someone. This later became "hiyah. " Then, someone thought that two syllables were too much and "hiyah" became "hi. " Laziness is a strong force in changing language.

Answering a telephone call in America still presents problems, however. Telephone companies think that Thomas Edison's short "hello," is too long. Why waste time? the phone companies say. Simply pick up the phone, give your name, and start talking.

## OKAY

The word "okay" is known and used by millions of people all over the world. Still, language experts do not agree on where it came from.



Some say it came from the Indian peoples. When Europeans first came to the Americas they heard hundreds of different Indian languages. Many were well developed.

One tribe especially had a well developed language. This was the Choctaw tribe. They were farmers and fishermen who lived in the rich Mississippi valley in what is now the state of Alabama. When problems arose, Choctaw leaders discussed them with the tribal chief. They sat in a circle and listened to the wisdom of the chief.

He heard the different proposals, often raising and lowering his head in agreement, and saying, "Okeh," meaning "It is so."

The Indian languages have given many words to English. Twenty-four of the American states—almost half—have Indian names"—Oklahoma, the Dakotas, Idaho, Wisconsin, Ohio and Tennessee, to name a few. And the names of many rivers, streams, mountains, cities and towns are Indian.

Nevertheless, there are many who dispute the idea that "okay" came from the Indians. Some say that President Andrew Jackson first used the word "okay." Others claim the word was invented by John Jacob Astor, a fur trader of the late 1700's who became one of the world's richest men. Still others say a poor railroad clerk made up this word. His name was Obadiah Kelly and he put his initials, O. K., on each package people gave him to ship by train.