

WRITE
CORRECT
ENGLISH

英语正误句解

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英语正

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一九八一年·石家庄

前 言

为使中、小学英语教师及具有高中以上水平的英语爱好者在教学和自学英语过程中正确掌握和使用英语，克服和改正一些常见的错句和病句，我们编写了这本小册子。

语言的发展是日新月异的。传统的语法束缚不住当代语言日益发展的步伐。传统语法当作禁忌 (Taboo) 的东西，如 *going to go*, *going to come*, *It's me*, *who did you meet*, *I'm seeing you*, *All he wanted was go to sleep* 等等却都成了当代口语或英美俚语里极其生动活泼的语言。因此本书中未打星号的句子和拟上星号的句子，往往只能相对地表明“一般应当这样说”和“一般不应这样说”，以及“比较合乎习惯”和“虽然合乎语法但比较不合习惯”这样的差别。

本书按词类不同对例句加以分类，书中尽量选用较典型或较能说明问题的错句子以改正，并在每条后面作一些简要的解释，以帮助读者理解。一些过于明显的错误，为节省篇幅起见，不再收入本书。在书后附有索引，供读者查阅。

编写本书的主要材料来源是编者多年来在英语教学中积累的学生习作错句和病句以及在编译工作中积累的资料，也参考了国内外出版的英美语词典、英汉词典、英传翻教材的

英语惯用法词典和一些外语报刊资料。

本书编写过程中承中国社会科学院研究员吴其玉教授，福建师范大学外语系主任谢德贞教授，副主任许崇信教授，厦门大学外文系讲师唐仁光，郑明和等同志审阅，在此一并致谢。

由于我们水平有限，查阅资料不全，特别是对现代英语发展动态缺乏深入的研究，虽经几度修改，仍难免有不妥之处，希望广大读者不吝指出。

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厦 门 大 学

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一、名 词

1. 1 他有说法语的能力。

* He has the ability of speaking French.

He has the ability to speak French.

说明: ability 后面可以接不定式,但不能接 of + 动名词结构。

1. 2 按错开关会造成严重事故。

* The misplacement of the switch may cause a terrible incident.

The misplacement of the switch may cause a terrible accident.

说明: accident 是意外事件,常指不好的,特别是灾难性的事件。incident 是偶然发生的小事,不一定是坏的,可以说 He is telling us a funny incident that happened in the bus.

1. 3 他在偷窃时被当场捉住。

* He was caught in the action of stealing.

He was caught in the act of stealing.

说明: act 和 action 这两个词常可混用,但 act 偏重于具体的动作,action 偏重于抽象的行动,如: It is time for ac

tion (现在是行动的时候了。)

1.4 我们都羡慕他的学识。

* We all admire his acquirement.

We all admire his acquirements.

说明: acquirement 作“学识”解时,总是用复数形式。

1.5 非公莫入。

* No admission except on business.

No admittance except on business.

说明: 名词 admission 和 admittance 都和动词 admit 有关。

都有“允许进入”的意思。admission 主要指允许进入公共场所,是比较普通的词,而 admittance 指允许进入非公共场所,是较为正式的、官方的用语。

1.6 这是按我的劝告做的。

* This was done on my advise.

This was done on my advice.

说明: advise 是动词, advice 才是名词。与此类似的“动词 - se, 名词 - ce”的对子还有 practise - practice, choose - choice 等。

1.7 我们希望教授对这一规划提出意见。

* we want the professor's advices on the project.

We want the professor's advice on the project.

说明: advice 作“劝告”、“意见”解时不用复数形式,但作“通知”、“消息”解时可以有复数形式。如: “They received advices from abroad.”

1.8 下午我总是在家。

I'm always at home afternoon.

I'm always at home in the afternoon.

说明: morning, afternoon, evening等都不用带副词, 应说 in the morning / in the afternoon / in the evening等。

10. 我年龄很轻。

My age is very young.

I am very young.

说明: 说某人年龄、年老等, 主语应当是人, 不应照汉语

直译。

11. 干部应当力戒官气。

Officials must rid themselves of bureaucratic air.

Officials must rid themselves of bureaucratic airs.

说明: air作“装腔作势”、“架子”解时, 一般用复数形式。

12. 他显然是在暗指我的失败。

His reference to my failure was clear.

His allusion to my failure was clear.

说明: reference是“提及”、“谈到”, allusion是“暗指”, allusion才有明显不明显的问题, reference已经明讲了, 就不存在说得明显不明显的问题了, 也明讲说, He clearly made an allusion to my failure.

13. 老板怒气冲冲地对雇员大叫大嚷。

The boss roared at his employee in indignation.

The boss roared at his employee in great anger.

说明: indignation是对不正义的事件表示愤慨、愤慨或义愤、愤慨的意思, 老板对雇员发怒只可用anger, 不可用indignation.

1 · 13 比尔的论点站不住脚。

* Bill's argue doesn't hold water.

Bill's argument doesn't hold water.

说明: argue是动词, argument是名词。加后缀-ment构成名词的现象在英语里很多, 应随时注意。

1 · 14 我们正忙于安排英语晚会的事。

* We are busy making arrangement for the English evening.

We are busy making arrangements for the English evening.

说明: arrangement作“安排”;“准备”解时要用复数形式。

1 · 15 他有极深的科学造诣。

* He is a man of great scientific attainment.

He is a man of great scientific attainments.

说明: attainment作“成就”、“造诣”解时通常用复数形式。

1 · 16 要求观众在七时二十五分入座。

* The audience is requested to be in its seat by 7.25.

The audience are requested to be in their seats by 7.25.

说明: 名词audience被看作一个整体时, 用单数的动词和代词; 如: The audience has already expressed its approval. 而audience被看作一个一个的观众时, 用复数的动词和代词。本例中应看成是一个一个的观众。

1 · 17 我们昨天会见了本书的作者。

* We met the writer of the book yesterday.

We met the author of the book yesterday.

说明: writer 是“作家”, author 是“作者”, 作家当然是他的著作的作者, 但作者却不一定是作家。

1 · 18 “你可以向有关当局申请护照,”琼斯说。

* “You may apply to the authority concerned for a passport,” said Jones.

“You may apply to the authorities concerned for a passport,” said Jones.

说明: authority 作“领导”或“当局”解时用复数形式。

1 · 19 她生了一个女孩。

* She had a girl baby.

She had a baby girl.

说明: 汉语中习惯说“女孩”, 英语中要说 baby girl. 同样, 男婴孩是 baby boy.

1 · 20 他行李很多。

* He has many baggages.

He has a large amount of baggage.

说明: baggage 是“行李”的总称, 没有复数形式。“一件行李”是 a piece of baggage. 另外, baggage 是美国英语, 英国用 luggage. luggage 和 baggage 一样, 也没有复数形式。因此, 不可说 “How many baggages (或 luggage) are there in all?” 该改成 How many pieces of baggage (或 luggage) are there in all?

1 · 21 高举马克思主义、列宁主义的旗帜。

* Raise high the flags of Marxism-Leninism.

Raise high the banners of Marxism-Leninism.

说明: flag 指具体的“旗”, banner 虽然也可以指“旗”或“写有标语的横幅”,但更常用作比喻,指抽象的“旗帜”,本例中不宜用 flag.

1 · 22 旧营房正在进行修理.

* The old barrack is now under repair.

The old barracks are now under repair.

说明: barrack 作“兵营”解时,一般用复数形式. The barracks 可以指几座营房,也可以指一座营房,有时甚至可以说 A barracks stands by the fence. 注意这句中 a barracks 是当作单数主语看待的.

1 · 23 他匆忙洗了个澡.

* He took a hasty bathe.

— He took a hasty bath.

说明: bath 念[bæθ], 名词; bathe 念[beɪθ], 动词,两词容易相混. 又如: He enjoyed a sea-bath every day. (他每天洗一次海水澡.)

1 · 24 她怀里抱着孩子.

* She has a child in the busom.

She has a child in the bosom.

说明: 英语里没有 busom 这样的词,因为在 bosom ['buzəm] 里 O 念[u], 所以容易错拼成 busom. 对于这类错误必须随时加以注意.

1 · 25 老干部的革命干劲冲天.

* There is no bound to the revolutionary drive of

the veteran cadres.

There are no bounds to the revolutionary drive of the veteran cadres.

说明: bound 意为“边界”、“范围”、“界限”时一般用复数形式。本例亦可写作 The revolutionary drive of the veteran cadres knows no bounds.

1 · 26 我们在食堂吃了一顿便餐。

* We had a potluck at a public canteen.

We had a potluck at a canteen.

说明: canteen 指工厂、营房或办公场所附近的食堂和食品、酒类小卖部,它本身就是为公众服务的,不要从汉语“公共食堂”的概念出发加上 public。

1 · 27 在大多数情况下,他只唱一首民歌。

* Under most conditions, she would only sing a folk song.

In most cases, she would only sing a folk song.

说明: condition 指“情况”、“条件”,本例中的“在大多数情况下”指“多数场合”,不指“条件”,不能用 condition。

1 · 28 他很可能今天来。

* The chance is ten to one that he will come today.

The chances are ten to one that he will come today.

说明: chance 指可能性时既可用单数形式,也可用复数形式,视上下文而定。本例为了强调 ten to one 的比例关系,应该用 chances。但在 There is a chance that he will come

和There is no chance that he will come两句中, chance 则应当用单数形式。

1 · 29 晚餐我们吃了鸡和猪肉。

* We had cock and pig meat for supper.

We had chicken and pork for supper.

说明: 作为食品的鸡, 不管是公鸡、母鸡, 一律称为chicken, 小鸡也是chicken, 餐桌上的鸡一般说都不是小鸡, 仍然称chicken. 猪肉有专用词: pork.

1 · 30 布朗先生在政界朋友不多。

* Mr. Brown has few friends in political circle.

Mr. Brown has few friends in political circles.

说明: circle 作“集团”、“…界”解时, 一般用复数形式, 如: ruling circles (统治集团), fashionable circles (讲究时髦的上流社会), academic circles (学术界), business circles (商界) 等。

1 · 31 这男孩那天穿着新衣服。

* The boy wore new cloth that day.

The boy wore new clothes that day.

说明: cloth (布、衣料) 通常用单数形式, “几块布”是 pieces of cloth. clothes (衣服) 这个词永远是复数形式, 它没有单数形式。可以说 these (those) clothes; 不能说 a clothes, 也不能说 two clothes 等。

1 · 32 殖民主义者必定灭亡。

* The colonists are doomed to failure.

The colonialists are doomed to failure.

说明: colonist 是“移往殖民地居住的人”,这些人不一定每一个都是殖民主义者,“殖民主义者”应用 colonialist.

1 · 33 他买了一些水形颜料./狼总要显露出其真面目.

* He bought some water colour. / A wolf will show itself in its true colour.

He bought some water colours. / A wolf will show itself in its true colours.

说明: colour 在意为“颜色”、“颜料”时用复数形式,如: bright colours (鲜艳的颜色), dark colours (晦暗的颜色), all the colours of rainbow (五颜六色)等;但“一种颜料”用单数,如: an oil colour (一种油画颜料); colour 意为“本质”、“原形”、“真面目”时亦用复数形式,本例亦可写作 A wolf will be exposed in its true colours.

1 · 34 开始时我们是一起踢足球的伙伴,后来经常接触,互相合得来,最后成了好朋友.

* At first we were friends in playing football, but by frequent intercourse and through affection, we became good companions.

At first we were companions in playing football, but by frequent intercourse and through affection, we became good friends.

说明: companion 是“同伴”的意思,可以是短期的,也可以是长期的,如 his companions on the journey (旅伴). friend 是“朋友”,但在以下句子里,companion 就不是“同伴”而是“伴侣”了. She longs to be his companion through

life. / Mary is my faithful companion of forty long years.

1 · 35 留在家里陪我一会儿。

* Stay indoors and accompany me for a while.

Stay indoors and keep me company for a while.

说明: accompany 是“陪某人去某地”之意,不是单纯的“陪伴”。如, She accompanied her friends on a walk. keep somebody company 既有“一起去”的意义又有“在一起”的意义。如, He sat near the bed and kept his wife company.

1 · 36 祝贺你们新婚愉快!

* Congratulation on your happy marriage!

Congratulations on your happy marriage!

说明: congratulation 一词用来表示祝贺时常用复数形式。如, Congratulations on your success! / Please convey my congratulations to them!

1 · 37 这些机器的成本很贵,因此他不能降低售价。

* The price of these machines is very great, therefore he cannot sell them cheaper.

The cost of these machines is very great, therefore he cannot sell them cheaper.

说明: price 是“售价”, cost 是“成本”。

1 · 38 比琳达穿一身棉制服。

* Belinda wore a cotton uniform.

Belinda wore a cotton-padded uniform.

说明: cotton 在本例中指“棉布的”,而“棉制服”指带土棉花的制服,应说 cotton-padded uniform.

1 · 39 他的朋友常给他以明智的忠告。

His friends often give him wise counsel.

His friends often give him wise counsel.

说明: counsel 是“谏言”, a consul-general 是“总领事”,而 counsel 是“劝告”, a friendly counsel 是“友好的劝告”, a valuable counsel 可称作“金玉良言”。

1 · 40 中国是一个大国。

China is a large nation.

China is a large country.

说明: 汉语中的“大国”可以有两种含义: 指“地大”和“人多”。英语中 nation 侧重“人民”,有时可译“民族”, country 侧重“国土”, a large nation 很少见, great nation, the major nations 和 the minor nations 都可以说,都跟“人口多少”有关。本句用 a large country 为宜。

1 · 41 比尔被汽车撞倒受伤,他将向司机索取赔偿。

Bill was knocked down and hurt by a car, and he would claim damage from the driver.

Bill was knocked down and hurt by a car, and he would claim damages from the driver.

说明: damage 作“损害”,“损失”时是不可数名词,没有复数形式,如 The typhoon caused extensive damage to the crops. 但 damage 作“损害赔偿金”解时一般应用复数形式,如: Jack claimed \$ 4,000 damages from his

employers.

1 · 42 今天是几号?

* What day is it?

What's the date today?

说明: What day is it? 问的是“今天星期几?”回答是“It's Sunday.”要问今天几号应说“What's the date today?”

回答是“It's 4 May.”也可以回答“It's Sunday, 4 May.”或“Today is Sunday, 4 May.”口语中偶而用What day is it来问今天是几号,但初学者不宜模仿。

1 · 43 她喝茶不多。

* She doesn't drink a great many tea.

She doesn't drink a great deal of tea.

说明: a great many 后跟可数名词,如: She has read a great many books. a great deal of 后跟不可数名词,如: She has spent a great deal of money on books.

1 · 44 在他与我的交往中,我看出他总是诚实的。

* I have always found him honest in his dealing with me.

I have always found him honest in his dealings with me.

说明: dealing 作“交易”、“交往”解时一般用复数形式。

又如: I have no dealings with pawnbrokers. (我跟当铺老板没有来往。意即:我没有拿东西去典当。)

1 · 45 当地居民游行示威反对超级大国的政策。

* The native population made parades against the