

间霸纠正不了的英语

中国式英语完全纠正手册

陈瑞华◎编著

Chinglish: Explored and Explained



- 一次搞定常见的英语使用错误,让你从此只用"对"英语 集作者多年经验之大成,专为中国学习者量身打造
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- ◆ 参考译文和贴心注释, 更方便学习

中国式英语如何纠正? 看这本就够了! 英语学习加分宝典

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To my father
who taught me the real meaning of
noblesse oblige

Preface

y first book, "Common Mistakes, Corrected" Leame out in 2005 and was favourably received by students and teachers alike. Gratifyingly, it was recommended by the Central Public Library to students as a good vehicle to improve their English. As well, it was on the reading list of several local universities and quite a number of secondary schools. A second printing soon followed.

The need for books like this continues to grow to this day, not only for students but also for the general public. Secondary and university students need to score better than they are currently doing in their open exams; civil servants need to announce and explain policies and programmes more clearly and convincingly; company executives require effective communication skills in English when proposing projects and negotiating deals.

This book seeks to serve this wider population. Readers will find it more user-friendly than my previous books, with more Chinese explanations where appropriate, and no bothersome grammar.

This version reaches out to a larger readership, in the hope that these readers will come to share my view that English (or any other language, for that matter) cannot be translated mechanically or word-by-word into Chinese. One needs only to witness the absurd results we get when a "body check" might come out mistakenly as a medical (physical) examination rather than the ice-hockey manoeuver it is. Or "pedestrian" (someone who is on foot on a sidewalk, as opposed to a cyclist or a car on the road) might easily be mistranslated as "street walker" – which is actually slang for a prostitute!

In the world of business, sport and entertainment where English is a key, sometimes the dominant, international language, Chinese will not be able to compete with pride and effectiveness if their English skills are not up to standard. There is no need to embarrass ourselves by providing the world with more examples of laughable mistranslations in "Chinglish", or by making errors like the HK legislator who promised, on being elected, to "try my breast" at doing his job. This politician may have become, unknowingly, a good spokesman for Kentucky Fried Chicken, but he might do far better at his job if he tries to learn a thing or two from this book and others like it.

致读者

开宗明义,这并非一本英语语法工具书。语法是运用语言的法则或常规,学生在学习外语的初期,不得不凭记忆牢记语法,但只要求他们死记硬背什么语法、词性、时态等艰涩概念,相信难以达到理想的学习效果。因此,学生往往因不能学以致用而对学习英语产生抗拒。然而,要对学生在语言上常犯的错误寻根究底,又不能避谈语法。

这本书的主要目的是指出学生在英语学习中常犯的错误,并 尝试探讨其犯错原因。中文是我国学生的母语,他们中文的讲、 写能力是"与生俱来"的,是他们生活的一部分,因此他们在学校 学习中文必然事半功倍。英语则通常要从零学起。在观念上,一 般学生对牢记"语法规范"提不起兴趣,如果要依从一套准确的法 则才能学好外语,学生往往会望而却步,这也不难理解。因此, 母语的语言"习惯"或多或少会对学习外语构成障碍。

另外就是中、英文语法概念上的差别。举例说,中文语法中的"名词"没有单数、复数的形式差别,例如:一只"狗"和两只"狗"中的名词是同一个字;中文的"动词"不用分开第一、第二或第三人称,也没有表达"时态"概念的需要,因此,"爱"(love)这个字作为动词,在任何环境下都同样以"爱"字表达,不像英语作单数第一人称动词时须加词尾"s"(loves),作过去式时需加词尾"ed"(loved)以显示时态之别。

因此,学生运用中文的"习惯"往往使他们把英文各词类如名词、动词、形容词、副词等通通混为一谈。请参阅下列四个英文句子:

"They succeeded in passing the exam."(动词)

"His success in the research has brought him fame."(名词)

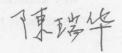
"It was a successful operation."(形容词)

"The spacecraft successfully landed on the moon."(副词)

如果要把以上句子都翻译为中文,句中斜体词语不论是动词、名词、形容词或副词,都可译为"成功"二字,因此学生在英语写作中错误地以"success"或"successed"涵盖所有不同词性的例子屡见不鲜。

还有令人懊恼的"中国式"英语词汇问题。年轻人惯用一套"独特"的词汇,若要他们以英语表达时,往往直译了事,"中国式"英语便应运而生。以下不伦不类的英文词语你也许似曾相识:body check(验身)、Chinese doctor(中医)、funny pictures(喜剧)、ghost house(鬼屋)、red pocket(红包)、Silent Night(平安夜)、space time(空闲时间)、career disease(职业病)、your holy/sacred vote(神圣的一票)、wild camp(野外露营)、appreciate the moon(赏月)、music cell(音乐细胞)、spiritual food(精神食粮)、many street walkers(街上行人众多)等,数之不尽。对完全不谙中文的外国人而言,这些词组真是读来莫名其妙!

本书除了就类似例子加以论述之外,也会尝试解释及纠正类似的坏词病句,并提供语法、语意都正确的例子,让学生了解犯错的原因。本文在指出错处时难免触及语法规则,同学们请耐心一些,既然学习语法是学好英语的基础,同学们若能付出耐性和时间,日后必能取得理想成绩。



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a fastest

a(art): "a"是不定冠詞, 没有特別指定的人或事物。

- X He is a fastest runner in the class.
- ✓ He is the fastest runner in the class. 他是班上跑得最快的赛跑手。
- → I am going to see a movie tonight (i.e. any movie). 我今晚将会去看电影(即指任何一部电影)。
- → He is a Radio Television Hong Kong reporter. 他是香港电台的一名记者。

a old man

元音a, e, i, o, u之前要用an, 唯一理由是方便发音。 读者请试读a old man, a orange, a uncle, 会觉得不畅顺。 但将a改为an, 便可以连读成an old man, an orange, an uncle, 流畅得多了。

如果元音读法与常规不同,便要恢复用a,例如: Europe, unit等发音就从y开始,读为yeurope, yunit.

One-way 读法是wone-way.

Hour, honour 因为h不发音,就变成our和onour,因此,要用an.

- X In the park, there is a old man reading.
- ✓ In the park, there is an old man reading. 公园里,有位老人在阅读。
- X I have a uncle, who is a engineer.
- ✓ I have an uncle, who is an engineer. 我有个叔叔,他是工程师。
- → He is a Radio Television Hong Kong reporter. 他是香港电台的一名记者。
- → Beneath the Lion Rock is an RTHK production. 《狮子山下》是香港电台的作品。
- → I've got to buy an MTR (Mass Transit Railway) ticket. 我要买一张港铁(即香港地铁)车票。
- → There is a Mass Transit Railway entrance a block away. 这里离香港地铁的人口只有一街之遥。
- → To gain admission into this college, you must pass an SAT. 你一定要在SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test, 美国学术能力评估考试)里及格,才能考进这所学院。
- → An MP (Member of Parliament) was attacked when he was making a speech.
 - 一名国会议员发言时受抨击。
- → A Member of Parliament was expelled from the House because of misconduct
 - 一名国会议员因为行为不检而被逐出议会。

examination was abolished and as a little and a little an

"取缔考试"

abolish(v): 取缔、废除 cancel(v): 取消

postpone(v): 延迟

- X The examination was abolished on account of the bad weather.
- √ The examination was postponed on account of the bad weather.

因为天气恶劣,考试要延期举行。

talking above

"谈及"

about(adv):大约、四处

about (prep): 相近、关于

above (adv): 位于上面

above(prep): 在上方