

第一篇 作文初阶 — 词语用法和句法句型

第一章 词语的选择

1. 词的语体色彩

词是构成文章的最小单位。如果从写作的角度来考虑，词可以根据其语体特色分为普通词 (common words)，例如：begin, buy, drink 书面语词 (learned words) 例如：commence, purchase 口语体词汇 (colloquial words)，例如：kid(小孩)，vim(精力、活力)；俚语 (slang) 例如：guy(人)，cop(警察)等。对于初学写作者来说，根据语体来选择词汇是比较困难的，但要尽量避免使用俚语，也不要追求书面语词汇。而力求准确地使用普通词汇即常用词汇，这应该是初学写作者的基本原则。例如在下面的一篇短文中：

People often collect things. Stamps, books and records are fairly common. But the strangest collection I have ever seen belongs to a man who possesses 150 clocks. There are clocks in every room of his house. Each clock keeps its own time, so chimes can be heard almost any time during the day and night. In his opinion, however, there is something even worse than dust and noise. Even with so many clocks around, he never knows what time it is!

这篇短文使用的全都是普通词汇。

【练习 1】

从下列词语中将普通语体的词汇挑选出来：

improve remark say ameliorate recuperate buck
real recover operate veritable function rookie

brave dubiety valiant building edifice nigger
 doubt terminate sufficient end conflagration forsooth
 enough forward fire transmit assist peepers
 gift donation altitude help send rotter
 hight residence visualize live home hooch
 dwell imagine mysterious cryptic obscure lazybones

2. 核心词汇 (core of the language)

在英语中 大约有 5 000~7 000 个最常用的词汇 (参看《新编大学英语词汇手册》司树森司亮编著,2000 年,知识出版社出版) 这些词汇组成了英语的核心词汇,也是本科生、研究生教学大纲中要求学生掌握的词汇。这些词汇中少量属于正式 (formal) 的书面语体,也有少数属于非正式 (informal) 的口语体 但绝大部分属介于二者之间的普通词汇。对于这些词汇我们应熟记其拼写形式和用法,这样写作时才有可能得心应手。

3. 辨析词义和正确选词

1) 词的本义 (denotation) 和引申意义 (connotation) 词的本义是指其基本含义;引申意义往往指其暗示的意义或感情色彩。例如: country, nation, state 和 land 的本义中均含有‘国家’的意义 但其引申意义却各有区别。country 着眼于国家的版图领土;nation 着重于一个国家的民族;state 强调国家的政体,land 较模糊地从地理学角度着眼于一个国家,但常含有比较浓厚的感情色彩,因此,常构成 mother-land, father-land, home-land 等复合词或词组。

试比较下列句子:

Japan is an island country.

Please name your neighbouring countries.

We are a peace-loving nation.

The modernization programme has won the support of the whole nation.

China belongs to the Third World states.

Ours is a state-owned enterprise.

He died for his mother-land.

When he entered the foreign land, his heart sank.

2)词的广义与狭义 英语和汉语一样,同一个词都可能有广义和狭义两种意义,因而在表达某一思想意念时,需要予以选择。例如,在下面两个句子中:

农业是国民经济的基础。

在这一地区,农业和林业同等重要。

两句均有“农业”这个词。但第一句中的“农业”是在广义上使用的,它指一切农业经济,包括农、林、牧、渔,而第二句的“农业”则在其狭义上使用,仅指农、林、牧、渔。因而,当我们要表达这两个字面相同的不同意义时,就必须考虑使用不同的英语单词。故第一句应为: *Agriculture is the foundation of the national economy.* 第二句则是 *In this area, farming is as important as forestry.*

又如当我们表达“他从不喝酒”这个意思时,“酒”是广义地指一切酒,我们应该选择广义的 *wine*: *He never touches wine.* 但在一定的语言环境中,如果我们想要表达的是烈性酒,这时我们就应该选用 *spirits* 这个词。

3)词的多义性 汉语词汇和英语词汇一样,在不同的语言环境中可以表达多种不同的意义。例如:

在这种情况下,我们必须请求他的帮助。

Under such circumstances 或 *Such being the case* 或 *In accordance with this specific condition*) we must ask for his help.

这种情况必须改变。

This state of affairs must be changed.

现在情况不同了。

Now *things* are different.

你兄弟的情况怎样?

How do *matters* stand with your brother?

前线有什么情况?

How is the *situation* at the front?

⑥ 前面有情况，做好战斗准备！

There's *enemy activity* ahead. Be prepared for the battle.

⑦ 可是在其他地方，情况却完全两样了。

But the *picture* outside this place is quite another story.

⑧ 我们有可能去那儿，但得视情况而定。

We may go there, but it all depends.

同是汉语的“情况”，在不同的语言环境中我们却应该挑选完全不同的词语和表达方法。这些例子进一步论证了我们在“绪论”中提出的用英语进行思维的重要性。如果我们的英语写作还停留在先用汉语思维，再翻译成英语句子的较低级阶段，就难免会出现“Chinglish”——汉语似的表达和结构或选词生硬的句子。如果我们直接用英语思维进行写作，头脑中根本不会出现“情况”这一汉语词汇，随着语言环境的发展自然而然选择所需要的词语或表达法，生硬的句式或不贴切的词语就自然可以避免了。

4) 词义的强弱 英语中有一些同义词，使用的时候仍然需要斟酌。例如：我们要表达“他极其生气”的意思时，我们可以说“His *anger* knew no boundness.”但如果我们要表达“反动派的暴行激起了人民极大的愤怒”时，如果写成“*The atrocities of the reactionaries roused the people to great anger.*”最末的一个词便嫌语义太弱。如果改成 *indignation* 就显得更有力量，因为这个词的外延含有“义愤”的意思，其语体色彩也较为正式而庄重。

又如：“不幸我们最终也未查明真相”可以表达为“*Unfortunately, we never found out the truth.*”但如果“不幸他父亲去世了”表达为“*Unfortunately, his father died*”就欠妥当，因为“*Unfortunately*”是一个语义较轻的词，它往往表达“遗憾”“不走运”等意思。故后一句应使用“*sadly*”或“*to his great sorrow*”等，才能表达和后面事件相当的较强语气。

选择语气强弱相当的词，在英语写作中是经常碰到的问题。*surprised, astonished, astounded, shocked* 都可以表示“惊讶”，但词义的强弱却有很大区别。看到一个人夏天戴帽子，不应该感到“*shocked*”；而一个一向善良的老头却去伤害一个孩子，“*surprised*”显

然就表达不了那种强烈的震惊。“他常提同样的问题”应该说成“*He often asks the same question.*”但如果你已经十分不耐烦，不满意了，那么你就会说“*He is always asking the same question!*”

5) 词义的褒贬色彩 汉语有褒义词和贬义词，英语也是一样。因而选用不同的词语表达相近的意义时，作者的态度和感情是十分鲜明的。

“*I like to work with that resolute person.*”其中 *resolute* 意思是“果敢的，坚定不屈的”。但却很难想像人们会喜欢一个 *stubborn person*，因为他顽固不化，难以对付。

“他们讲唯心论 我们讲唯物论。”要表达这个意思 你可以说：

They preach idealism whereas we advocate materialism.

显然，你是一个唯物主义者。但是，如果把 *preach* 和 *advocate* 换个位置，那么作者显然就站在唯心主义者的立场上了。表示“宣扬”的，*advertise* 和 *play up* 都含有贬义。

“宣传党的方针政策”可以说成 *publicize the Party's general and specific policies*。*propaganda* 也常有“宣传”的意思，但这个词通常带有贬义色彩，暗含一种“没有原则的，为达到目的而不惜欺骗的宣传鼓吹”的意义。

“他们组成了两个阴谋夺取最高权力的反革命集团。”译为：

“*They rigged up two counter-revolutionary cliques in an attempt to seize supreme power.*”

为什么“组成”不用 *form*？因为 *rig up* 有明显的贬义，含有“拼凑”之意，明确表达了作者的立场和思想感情。

The dresses designed by him are imaginative (suggestive). 两个词都含有“想像”的意思，但后者具有贬义，含有“性感的”、“卖弄风情”的意思。

6) 近义词的区别 近义词或有些同义词实际使用时意义是有差别的。例如 *invasion* 和 *aggression* 都有“侵略”之意，但 *invasion* 多用于指军事入侵，*aggression* 则含义较广，可包括政治、文化、军事和经济等各方面。

有些词词义看来接近，但用法却并不一样。例如：*ensure* 和 *as-*

sure 都有‘保证 确保’的意义 但下列两句却不可互换：

We can *ensure* that the work shall be done in the right way.

Investigations *assured* us of their honesty.

ensure 强调说明对行为或行为的结果有把握，一般以事物名词或从句做宾语，而不以人做宾语；*assure* 却相反，通常以人作为直接宾语 再接 *of sth.* 短语 也可以用人作为间接宾语 以 *that* 从句作直接宾语，例如：

I can assure you of the reliability of the information.

I assure you(that) there's no danger.

insure 词形类似，一般用于“保险”的意义。例如：

These goods are fully insured.

这些货物全部投保了。

You must insure your house against fire.

你必须给房子投保火险。

secure 也可表示“保险”但表示这一含义时几乎总和 *against* 连用，而且其宾语一般为人。例如：

He has been secured against loss by fire.

他投保了火险。

You'd better secure yourself against accident.

你最好为自己投保意外险。

在其他情况下，*secure* 则常常表示“使安全 获得”等意义。如

I'll secure you a good job.

我会使你有一份好工作。

Last year they built breakwaters to secure the harbour against waves.

去年他们筑了防波堤以保证港口的安全。

还有些词在意义上很接近，但却牵涉到习惯表达法的问题。一杯咖啡通常说成 *a cup of coffee* 而一杯酒则是 *a glass of wine*。表达热饮料常用 *a cup of*。又如 *instruments, appliances* 和 *facilities* 均有“工具”“器具”之意 实际使用时却各有侧重。*instruments* 往往指较精细的工作或科学上使用的器械或仪器。如：*optical instru-*

ments; appliances 则指较为一般的器具、家电和医疗器械。例如：medical appliances, electrical appliances , 又如：The kitchen is equipped with modern appliances 而 facilities 指“工具”、“器具”时通常只用其复数形式，它往往指有利于工作开展的环境、器具或设备。如：facilities for travel , 指汽车、火车等；sports facilities , 指跑道或游泳池等。在一般情况下，这些词都不能任意互换使用。

7) 同根派生词的意义区别 一种情况是：同一个词根派生出来的词，有些因其本身具有多种意义，其不同的派生词也就意义各异。如 industry 其第一个意义为“勤勉、努力工作”这一意义的派生词就是 industrious 可以说 He is an industrious student. 其副词 industriously 具有同样的意义。industry 的第二个意义为“工业”其派生词为 industrial 例如：It is one of the industrial areas of England. 派生名词 industrialism (工业主义) 和 industrialist (工业主义者) 都保留了这一基本意义。又如 value 派生出两个形容词 valuable (很有价值的，贵重的) 和 invaluable, invaluable 并非 valuable 的反义词而是词义更重的同义词。前缀“in-”构成了与后缀“-able”的反义：“不能用价值衡量的、无价的”，而不是“没有价值的”。其反义词应是 valueless 或 worthless。economy 也具有这种情况：economy 的一种意义为“经济”，这一意义的派生形容词为 economic (经济的) 如：They don't like the government's economic policy. economy 的另一意义为“节俭”，其派生词为 economical (节省的) 如：Using such a machine can be economical of time and energy.

另一种情况是：同一词的同意义派生出来的拼写形式、用法、意义各异的词。例如：名词 electricity 派生出两个形容词 electric 和 electrical。第一个形容词是具体的，意为“带电的”、“发电的”或“用电的”。如：an electric light, the electric chair (电椅) 第二个形容词则是抽象意义的，意为“关于电的”。例如：electrical engineering (电机工程学), electrical knowledge (电的知识) 又如名词 health 派生出来的两个形容词：healthy 和 healthful。healthy 具有较为广泛的含义，它可以指人体本身“健康的”。例如：The children look very healthy. 也可以指其他东西，意为“有益于健康的”，如：I like the

healthy climate here. 而 healthful 通常仅指有利于健康的物，其主语不能是人。例如：The healthful air at the seaside made her cheer up.

第三种应注意区别其意义的情况是：有两种不同拼写形式的副词。如 wide 与 widely, high 与 highly, deep 与 deeply, low 与 lowly 当两种形式的词都作副词使用时，一般每组的第一个词用于较为实际可以度量的情况，而第二个词则多用于较为抽象或比喻的意义。例如：

His eyes opened *wide* .

English is *widely* used.

Such plane can not fly very *high* .

The headmaster spoke *highly* of their work.

He dived *deep* into the water.

The man was *deeply* moved.

The young man bent *low* over the book.

The *lowly* paid workers went out on a strike.

8) 词语的搭配 在英语和汉语中，一部分词已经形成了固定的搭配，这种搭配是不可任意更改的。

修饰语与中心词的搭配：

浓茶 strong tea 浓墨 dark ink 浓烟 dense smoke 浓汤 thick soup
浓雾 thick mist 青山 green hill 青天 blue sky 青布 black cloth;
血肉之躯 flesh and blood (不说 blood and flesh)。

动宾搭配：

开车 to drive a car 开船 to set sail 开机器 to start a machine 上车 to get on a bus
上飞机 to board a plane 上山 to mount a hill 上子弹 to load a gun。

量词搭配：

一群人 a group of people 一群鸡 a flock of chickens 一群鱼 a school of fish
一群牛 a herd of cattle 一群蚂蚁 a swarm of ants 一群狼 a pack of wolves
一群歹徒 a gang of hooligans 一块肥皂 a cake of soap 一块巧克力 a bar of chocolate
一块糖 a lump of sugar 一只面包 a loaf of bread 一块肉 a piece of meat。

类似这样的搭配还很多,有时汉语很复杂,英语却很简单,例如:一扇窗子,一张书桌,一把椅子,一堵墙,一匹马,一只鸡等,英语仅用一个“a”就可以了。

其他一些固定搭配已经是成语了:

“三三两两”in twos and threes,“乱七八糟”at sixes and sevens,“一箭双雕”to throw a stone to kill two birds,“一箭之遥”a stone’s throw。

英语词语的其他搭配,例如名词和介词的搭配,动词和介、副词的搭配等,那就更是不胜枚举了,只能靠我们在平时的学习中日积月累而达到能够熟练运用的程度。

【练习 2】

从下列每组所给的单词中选出最合适的词填入空白处:

happy, pleasant, glad, pleased, cheerful

(1) I was so ____ when I heard that he had succeeded in doing it.

(2) Her ____ voice gave everyone delight.

(3) People in China like stories with a ____ ending.

(4) Be ____, boys! Success will surely attend us.

(5) I was very much ____ with the work he had done.

beautiful, pretty, handsome, fair

(6) This little ____ woman enchanted everyone.

(7) That young man was tall and ____.

(8) What a ____ sight I saw when I climbed to the top of the hill!

(9) I have made you a ____ copy of the report.

hung, hanged

(10) At that time, thieves were often ____ when they were caught.

(11) The electric lamp ____ from the ceiling.

aware, conscious

(12) He does not seem to be ____ of the importance of choosing

words carefully.

(13) Are you ____ of the difficulty?

raise, rise

(14) Prices are ____ all these years.

(15) If you don't want to be late, you must ____ at six tomorrow morning.

(16) She ____ her head and looked at me angrily.

(17) He ____ to his feet when he heard his name called.

(18) He was so angry that he ____ his voice.

(19) The log had been ____ to a height right over the stage.

(20) Then sun ____ red in the east.

lie, lay

(21) He ____ in the sun and had a good rest.

(22) The man had ____ there for quite some time before he made a movement.

(23) If you want to make friends with them, you'll have to ____ your prejudice aside.

(24) He ____ the book before me and left without a word.

(25) The doctor told him to ____ in bed for a week.

affect v., effect v. & n.

(26) The reforms ____ many people.

(27) The peasants ____ a few reforms.

(28) She discussed the ____ of the reforms on the peasants.

spend, expend

(29) I ____ the whole afternoon yesterday reading the novel.

(30) I ____ all my spare-time and much care in helping him solve the difficult problem.

fasten, tie, bind

(31) She quickly ____ her hair with a ribbon.

(32) We are ____ to him by gratitude.

(33) Have you ____ all the doors and windows?

whole, complete, all

(34) We spend a ____ week at the seaside.

(35) He bought a ____ edition of Shakespeare's plays.

(36) _____ students like such sports.

pleasing, pleasant

(37) Her ____ answer made the old man smile although he didn't quite believe her.

(38) What a ____ day it is!

admission, admittance

(39) I called at his house but was refused ____.

(40) ____ to the school is by examination only.

disinterested, uninterested

(41) Many in the audience were ____ and went to sleep.

(42) His action was not altogether ____, and thus he was not trusted by the people.

childish, childlike

(43) She impressed me as sweet and ____.

(44) Although he is quite grown-up, he still likes ____ games.

likely, liable, apt

(45) I do not think difficulties are ____ to occur.

(46) We are ____ to think ill of others.

(47) You are ____ to get hurt if you are not careful.

earthly, earthy, worldly

(48) He only thinks of ____ joys.

(49) If books are not your ____ desire, at least they can be your spiritual food.

(50) These roots have an ____ smell.

【练习 3】

从括号内所给的单词中挑选最合适的词填空：

- (1) I am quite ____ of your opportunity to study abroad. (jealous, envious)
- (2) Her clothes, though made of ____ material, are always neat. (cheap, inexpensive)
- (3) I have ____ your letter, and so I may omit some of the questions you asked. (misplaced, mislaid, displaced)
- (4) She walked down the stairs to ____ the strange caller. (greet, welcome, meet)
- (5) They all felt ____ for the little girl who lost her legs in the accident. (sympathy, pity)
- (6) Empress Dowager Cixi was ____ for her cruelty and tyranny. (famous, notorious)
- (7) We were sorry to ____ their invitation. (refuse, decline)
- (8) When I first came to the university, I had to ____ myself to the new conditions. (adapt, adept, adopt)
- (9) We don't know his ____ conditions. (real, true, actual)
- (10) The ticking of the clock is _____. (continuous, continual)
- (11) Everyone here is ____ to his motherland. (faithful, loyal)
- (12) He became interested in ____ studies when he went to university. (historic, historical)
- (13) East and west, ____ is the best. But I have no choice but to sell the _____. (house, home)
- (14) He boasted ____ of himself. (loud, loudly, aloud)
- (15) Those ____ influenced are young children. (most, mostly)
- (16) They shut the boy in a ____ room. (dark, black)
- (17) The shop is ____ on Sundays. (shut, closed)
- (18) He was born in Bratford, ____ by his uncle and ____ in Cambridge University. (educated, brought up)

- (19) History is concerned with the ____ of human beings done in the past. (acts, deeds, actions)
- (20) She felt ____ though she was surrounded by so many people. (alone, lonely)
- (21) Please accept my ____ for neglecting to send you an invitation. (excuse, apology)
- (22) The father was ____ his son's behaviour. (ashamed of, ashamed for)
- (23) ____ did I see him after that fall. (Hardly, Seldom, Scarcely, Barely)
- (24) Orange ____ have a lovely odour. (blooms, blossoms)
- (25) Let's ____ our views on this matter. (change, exchange, alter)
- (26) Latin is a ____ language. (classic, classical)
- (27) What terrible ____ we are having these days! (weather, climate)
- (28) The old couple still have ____ love. (common, mutual)
- (29) I have a ____ fear of snakes. (deathly, deadly)
- (30) I ____ that all of you should get out of here at once. (claim, demand)
- (31) The old lady ____ through the key hole at her new neighbours. (stared, gazed, peeped, glanced)
- (32) Our English professor tells us that he is a man of Chinese _____. (birth, source, origin, breed)
- (33) To litter in public is never considered ____ in any country. (respectful, respected, respective, respectable)
- (34) Metal must be hammered and cooled rapidly to ____ internal stress caused by heating. (retain, relieve, release, replace)
- (35) I have to ____ my essay as there are some parts I am not satisfied with. (rehearse, revise, renew, retell)
- (36) Although he did it, he tried to ____ it. (deny, refuse, reject,

decline)

- (37) The actor is very ____ to the reaction of the audience on the stage. (sentimental, sensitive, sensible)
- (38) The ____ of human knowledge are being pushed further. (boundaries, limits, borders, edges)
- (39) Money which is collected for a cause is known as _____. (cash, a fund, a scholarship, an investment)
- (40) There was not enough ____ in the life-boat for everybody. (room, place, volume, area)
- (41) We hope in this area there should be rooms to _____. (let, rent, hire)
- (42) If you don't take ____ of this opportunity, you'll never have a chance to succeed. (profit, advantage, interests)
- (43) Everyone knows that he is an ____ member of this society. (honoured, honourable, honorary)
- (44) This stubborn old man ____ to what he had said the day before and would not change his mind. (persisted, insisted, adhered)
- (45) They ____ that we will fail in the experiment. (doubt, suspect, wonder)
- (46) Do you know what is the ____ of the fire? (cause, reason)
- (47) Don't worry. I should say that it is ____ but not _____. (probable, possible)
- (48) The boy ____ his clothes and went out. (dressed, put on, wore)
- (49) Did you say he was a ____ man? (worth, worthy)
- (50) Be quiet. It's rude to ____ people when they are speaking. (interfere, prevent, interrupt)

【练习 4】

从下列所给的量词中选择合适的词填入空白处：

piece, cup, handful, ear, blade, lump, head, flash, drop, bar

- (1) We bought a new ____ of furniture.
 (2) The bird had an ____ of corn in its beak.
 (3) Between his lips was a ____ of grass.
 (4) For three months even not a ____ of rain has fallen in this area.
 (5) Please put a ____ of sugar into my tea.
 (6) He picked up a ____ of sand and threw it into the river.
 (7) Cathy cut up a ____ of lettuce for the salad.
 (8) We saw a ____ of lightning in the sky.
 (9) He's got only a ____ of chocolate.
 (10) Give me a ____ of water, please.

【练习 5】

填入合适的名词和所给的量词组成短语：

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (1) a choir of ____ | (18) a congregation of ____ |
| (2) a gang of ____ | (19) a band of ____ |
| (3) a constellation of ____ | (20) a library of ____ |
| (4) a staff of ____ | (21) a ball of ____ |
| (5) a collection of ____ | (22) a block of ____ |
| (6) a fleet of ____ | (23) a roll of ____ |
| (7) a mob of ____ | (24) a strip of ____ |
| (8) a board of ____ | (25) a pile of ____ |
| (9) a cluster of ____ | (26) a tube of ____ |
| (10) a bench of ____ | (27) a shout of ____ |
| (11) a bunch of ____ | (28) a gust of ____ |
| (12) a bundle of ____ | (29) a troop of ____ |
| (13) a team of ____ | (30) a train of ____ |
| (14) a grove of ____ | (31) a fit of ____ |
| (15) an anthology of ____ | (32) a peal of ____ |
| (16) a suite of ____ | (33) a flash of ____ |
| (17) a squadron of ____ | (34) a display of ____ |

【练习 6】

用英语表达下列句子，翻译时注意选词和搭配关系：

- (1) 那只小猫逮住了一只大老鼠。
- (2) 警察抓住孩子的手，把他领到安全地方。
- (3) 那个受惊吓的小孩紧紧抓住母亲的手。
- (4) 一见敌人出现在山上，战士们立即上好刺刀。
- (5) “赶快上马！”他命令说。
- (6) 这个篮球队由 12 个人组成。
- (7) 空气是由多种气体混合组成的。
- (8) “敢死队”由一些最勇敢的战士组成。
- (9) 他们凑成一伙反对我们。
- (10) 这些细小的水滴组成了一团云。

4. 名词使用难点

由于英汉两种语言所存在的巨大差异，以汉语为母语的人在用英语写作时，常常容易忽略英语中某些词类的语法特征而出现错误。以下是初学英语写作者应该引起特别注意的几点。

名词的性 中文的名词基本上是不分阴性和阳性的 英语在这一点上和汉语比较接近。换句话说，在绝大多数情况下，英语的名词也没有性的区别，然而有些例外，却很容易使初学者疏忽而造成错误。如：“她在十二岁那年就成了一个小演员。”在表达这一思想时，我们很容易写成：At the age of twelve, she became a little actor. 然而英语的 actor 却是一个阳性名词 应该用 actress 才对。又如：“剧中的男女主角”不应写成“the men and women heroes”，而应写成“the heroes and heroines in the play”。

阴性名词的构成，有些是在阳性名词的后面加 -ess。如：heir — heiress; priest — priestess; poet — poetess；有些略做词形变化，如：god — goddess; prince — princess 把阳性名词词尾 -ter 或 -tor 改成 -tress 也是一种常见形式，如：hunter — huntress; tempter — temptress; painter — paintress; waiter — waitress 等，以 -rer 或 -ror

结尾的阳性名词，变阴性名词则将词尾变成 *-ress*。如：emperor — empress; adventurer — adventuress; murderer — murderess。如果需要指明性别，而有些名词又没有阴阳性之别，就可以用添加性别词来加以区别，如：male baby; female cousin; boy student; girl friend; he-goat; she-fox; cock-pheasant; hen-pheasant 等。

主谓一致问题，是名词难点中我们将着重讨论的问题。

1) 某些表示游戏的名词，常常以 *-s* 结尾 却并不表示复数 只是一般常用这种单数形式，常常和单数动词连用 这类名词有：billiards(桌球), bowl(滚木球游戏), craps(掷骰子赌博), dart(投镖游戏), dominoes(西洋骨牌), draughts(chess, checkers)(西洋跳棋), fives(类似手球的球戏), heart(红心牌戏), marble(石弹游戏), musical chairs(抢座位游戏), quoit(九柱戏) 等。例如：

Billiards is a good indoor game.

台球是一种有益的户内游戏。

Fives has continued to be played with the hand.

手球一直是用手玩的。

2) 某些由两部分组成的普通名词，常常以复数形式出现，也常常和复数动词形式连用 这些名词常见的有：bellows(手拉风箱), bell(喇叭裤), bifocal(双光眼镜), binoculars(双筒望远镜), blinders(马眼套), bloomer(西短裤), bond(镣铐), boot(靴子), braces(背带), breeches(马裤), brief(贴身短内裤), calipers(卡钳, 双脚规), chopsticks(筷子), clippers(轧刀), compasses(两脚规), cord(灯芯绒裤), divider(圆规), drawers(内裤), dungarees(粗布制的工作服), edging-shears(修边剪), fetter(脚镣), flannels(法兰绒衣服), flares(喇叭裤), forceps(钳子), glasse(眼镜), glove(手套), goggle(护目镜), iron(铁镣), jeans(牛仔裤), knicker(灯笼裤), leggings(绑腿), manacle(手铐), mittens(拳击手套), plus-fours(宽大运动裤), rubber(胶鞋), scales(天平), scantie(极短内裤), scissors(剪刀), shears(整枝大剪刀), hackles(镣铐), shears(大剪刀), shades(太阳镜), shoes(鞋子), shorts(短裤), slacks(宽松裤子), slippers(拖鞋), snuffer(烛剪), socks(短袜), spat(鞋罩), spectacles(眼镜), slacks