## 葛传桑英语学习系列(套装共6册)【上海译文出品!复旦教授 毕生著作的英语学习宝典集成!四六级、托福、雅思考试实用 基础读本!6本手册豆瓣评分均高达9分!】

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### 前言

要学好英语,必须掌握英语惯用法。无论听、说、读、写、译和应付"托福"、GRE、GMAT、"雅思"等各种英语考试,都要熟练地掌握英语惯用法。

本词典除了英语常用词汇在英语惯用法中的正确用法和错误用法的详细说明以外,还有大量说明英国用法和美国用法的不同之处、各种表现方式的细微区别和普通用法与不普通用法之间的差异等等的例解,必要时加以详尽的说明。本词典不仅可供查阅,同时还是一本学习英语的读物,可供读者经常阅读,甚至逐条精读,以纠正一味"不求甚解"、始终似懂非懂、一知半解的不良学习方法,从而帮助英语学习者养成"必求甚解"的良好习惯,掌握学好英语的真正有效的学习方法。

本书以我国英语界泰斗、英语惯用法权威葛传桑先生所著的《英语惯用法词典》(新修订本简体字重排本)为蓝本对原书中一些过于陈旧的汉译作了相应的改动。

#### a, an

1.a和an用法的区别,一般说来,是在以辅音开首的词前面用a,在以元音开首的词前面用an。不过要注意,这里说的是辅音和元音,不是辅音字母和元音字母。如hour以辅音字母h开首,但读音作['avə],是以元音开首的,所以前面该用an,不用a。又如one以元音字母o开首,但读音作[wʌn],是以辅音开首的,所以前面该用a,不用an。又如M. A. (=Master of Arts,文科硕士)里的M是辅音字母,但读音作[em](M. A. 读['em'er]或[em'er]),所以前面该用an,不用a。MS(=manuscript,手稿)前面往往用a而不用an,并不因为M是辅音字母,却因为读音往往作['mænjoskript]。又如8并不是词,无所谓辅音或元音,但读音作[eɪt],所以前面该用an,不用a。&只是一个符号,因为它的名称是ampersand,读音作['æmposænd],所以前面该用an。

据有些语法书说,以 [h] 音开首而没有重音的音节前面该用an,如an historian,不作a historian。这规则现在可说不成立了(虽然还有人——尤其是英国人——遵守着),现在尽可用a,用an反嫌不自然。例如:

a habitual smile, a heroic act, a historian, a hotel, a hypothesis

有些英国人,在以[juː]或[jʊ]音开首的词(如eulogy, euphonic, European, university, united和usual)前面,用an而不用a,在以[h]音开首的词(如hero, history, hospital, hundred和hymn)前面也用an而不用a,在one前面也用an而不用a,这种人似乎现在比以前少了。

2.哪个名词前面可以用a(或an),哪个名词前面不可用a(或an)呢? 一般说来,可数名词前面可以用a(或an),不可数名词前面不可用a(或an),如可以说a healthy boy,却不可说a health,可以说a chair,却不可说a furniture。但事实并不这样简单。所谓"可数"和"不可数",要看那个词的正确意思而定,不可根据它的普通汉译。如不可说a fun, an information,却可以说a pastime, a knowledge。又如dance, hurry, interest, kiss等词前面都可以用a(或an)。又如with child(有孕的),in class(在教室里),take horse(上马),send word(通知)等习语里都不可用a(或an)。但at a loss(不知所措的),with a view to(以…为目的),on an average(作为平均数),take a fancy to(喜欢)等习语里的a(或an)都是少不得的。这些都应该从习惯,不是几条规则所能包括得了的。一般说来,有复数形式的名词前面可以用a(或an),无复数形式的名词前面不可用a(或an)。如boy和a laugh,有复数形式boys和laughs,所以可以说a boy和a laugh,completion和laughter无复数形式,所以不可说a completion和a laughter。但有些在习惯上无复数形式的名词,前面却往往也用a(或an)。这大概有下面四种情况:

(1) 多少有些抽象性的。例如:

I have a great admiration for Gorky.

He has received a good education.

She has a fondness for roses.

You seem to have a hatred of dogs.

I am in a hurry.

There is a bustle going on in the house.

We need not make a fuss about the matter.

The arrival of the visitors caused a great stir.

He speaks with a lisp.

She talks with a stammer.

We had a fine catch yesterday. (我们昨天捉到了许多鱼。)

We had a plentiful kill today. (我们今天打到了许多猎物。)

I hope you will give me a lead. (我希望你给我开个头。)

He has a good knowledge of Russian.

You must avoid such a waste of time.

The book has a wealth of pictures.

(2) a (或an) ...指"一个...的泉源"。例如:

A good pupil is a credit to his teachers.

A lazy boy is a discredit to his parents.

A lazy boy is a dishonour to his class.

A patriot is an honour to his country.

Such cruelty is a reproach to modern society.

Terrorism is a shame to civilization.

(3) a (或an) ...指"一次...",那名词本来是动词。例如:

After a run (或a climb, 或a swim) I had a wash (或a rest, 或a feed, 或a smoke, 或a read).

(4) a...ing指"一次..."。例如:

Instead of giving the peasant *a hearing*, the heartless landlord gave him *a* good *beating* (或*a* good *hiding*, 或*a* good *licking*, 或*a* good *thrashing*) as well as *a* good *scolding*.

3.a (或an) 在下面几种情况里可以用在复数形式前面:

(1) 在有些习语里。例如:

a few (books), a very few (books), a good few (books), a good many (books), a great many (books), a many (books)

(2) 在表示时间或款项的短语前面。例如:

a further five minutes, a mere two hours, a very busy six weeks, a whole three years, a pleasant spring holidays, an additional ¥60

(3) 在若干在形式上是复数而在意思上是单数的单词前面。例如:

a barracks, a bellows, a gallows, a headquarters, an innings, a links, a means, a scissors, a shambles, a tongs

(4) 在下列美国口语中。例如:

a good ways, a great ways, a long ways

**4.**a (或an) 有时有 (1) "一个而并不是那所要的一个"或 (2) "任何一个"的意思。例如:

I was expecting to hear from my father. I got a letter indeed, but it was from a friend.(1)

I wanted to read a book, I did not care whether it was a history, a novel, or a biography.(2)

在这种用法里, a (或an) 该特别重读。

5.a (或an) 通常不用在人名、地名或其他专有名词的前面,但有例外:

(1) 指有某姓或某名的某人。例如:

a Smith (姓Smith的某人)

a John Smith (名叫John Smith的某人)

(2) 指在某时的某人、某地等。例如:

He is now a different John Smith from what he was three years ago.

He was met at the door by  $\boldsymbol{a}$  contented Mary, not  $\boldsymbol{an}$  angry Mary.

Fifty years ago we little dreamt of such  $\boldsymbol{a}$  Shanghai as we have today.

Our children will find it hard to imagine  $\boldsymbol{a}$  semi-feudal, semi-colonial China.

(3) 指跟某人、某地等相仿的人、地等。例如:

He talks like a Johnson. (Johnson指英国18世纪的大文豪Samuel Johnson,很健谈,多妙论。)

The humorist considers himself a (second) Mark Twain.

Do you think it possible for the North Pole ever to have a Shanghai?

We may look upon the romantic tragedy as a Chinese Romeo and Juliet.

(4) 指某人的作品。例如:

A new Michael Gold (当代美国作家) has appeared.

A new Shakespeare (莎士比亚全集新版) is in preparation.

I found a Picasso (毕加索画的画) on the wall.

(5) 指某人所发明、设计或制造的机器等。例如:

a Remington (美国人Philo Remington所设计制造的打字机)

a Merriam-Webster (美国G. & C. Merriam Company出版,根据Webster原著编的词典)

(6) 指"...的图或像"。例如:

a West Lake (一幅西湖图) ,a Cupid (一幅爱神图或一个爱神像)

(7) 指"好比...那回事"。例如:

a Dunkirk (敦刻尔克式撤退: 1940年5、6月间英军从法国北部港口城市Dunkirk大败撤退)

a Munich(慕尼黑事件: 1938年9月30日德、英、法、意四国在德国南部慕尼黑城达成协议,允许当时的纳粹德国吞并捷克斯洛伐克的领土苏台德区,以图避免战争)

6.a (或an) 有时用在表示性质的抽象名词的前面。例如:

The room was furnished with a simplicity that is almost elegance.

(这间房子的陈设有一种近似文雅的朴素。)

He answered my questions with *an* accuracy not to be expected of an ordinary schoolboy. (他回答了我的问题,准确得不像出自一个普通小学生之口。)

The bird disappeared with a startling suddenness. (那只鸟惊人地忽然不见了。)

在这种用法里,抽象名词后面通常有一个形容词从句(如第一句)或形容词短语(如第二句),否则它的前面有形容词(如第三句)。

7.a (或an) 用在物质名词前面指 (1) "一种..."或 (2) "一份..."或"一客..."。例如:

a green tea, an old wine (1)

a coffee, a tea, an ice (英: 一客冰淇淋, 美: 一客冷饮), a whisky and soda (2)

**8.**a(或an)通常不可用在only的前面,也不可用在属于最高级的词的前面,如不可说*an only* house, *a best* essay, *a greatest* poet, *a longest* street,但尽可说*an only* son(一个独生子),*a best* seller(一本畅销书),*a best* man(一个男傧相),*a first* night(某剧的第一夜表演)。因为这些已经成为习惯了。

a用在副词most前面是很普通的,如*a most* happy lie和*a most* learned man。但该注意这里的most并不真正属于最高级,它的意思跟very相仿。

9.在一个名词被用来指它的本身的时候,往往不用a(或an)。例如:

Apple is a noun.

He is dubbed 'poet'. (人家给他"诗人"的诨名。)

We should not call every school 'college'. (我们不该把每个学校都叫作"学院"。)

'Rogue' is too mild a term for him, he is an arrant ruffian. (对他来说,"流氓"这名称是太轻了,他是一个十足的恶棍。)

下面第一句里的a可有可无,第二句里的a不可省:

He is dubbed (a) poet.

We should not call every school  $\boldsymbol{a}$  college.

注意poet和college都没有引号,跟上面的各句不同。

10.许多语法书里说, kind of和sort of后面的名词的前面不该用a(或an), 但事实上并非绝对不可用。例如:

What kind (或sort) of tree is this?

What kind (或sort) of (a) man is he?

第一句里不用a,因为kind或sort明白地作"种类"解。第二句里可以用a,因为kind或sort并不明白地作"种类"解。what kind (或sort) of (a) man是"怎么样的一个人"的意思。

其实在指"种类"的场合,不但kind of和sort of后面的名词的前面不用a(或an),其他相似的短语后面也是这样。例如:

a kind of car, kinds of car, a sort of car, sorts of car,

a brand of car, brands of car, a class of car, classes of car,

a form of car, forms of car, a make of car, makes of car,

a style of car, styles of car, a type of car, types of car,

a variety of car, varieties of car

11.part of前面用a也有,不用a也有,但意思略有不同。例如:

part of it (它的一部分: 不一定一半以下,也不一定一半以上)

a part of it (它的一小部分:一半以下)

但great part of it和a great part of it是没有区别的。不一定一半以下,也不一定一半以上。

12.a (或an) 不用在a change of后面的名词的前面。例如:

a change of address, a change of name, a change of scene

13.a (或an) 不用在临时被用来作为不可数名词的前面。例如:

five hundred miles of railway, a stretch of road, an acre of garden, an expanse of lake

14.下面各种表达方式里的no都是形容词,等于not a:

no small value(很大的价值),no mean city(名城),

no such man(没有这样的人), no other person than...(不是别人, 却是...)。所以不可说:

a no small value, a no mean city, no such a man, no other a person than...

a no mean city是不可说的,但a no meaner city是可以说的,no meaner里的no是副词,修饰meaner,并不等于not a,所以前面用a。比较;

This is no (形容词) mean city. (这是一个名城。)

This is a no (副词) meaner city (than that). (这是一个 [跟那个] 同样有名的城。)

There is no (形容词) meaner city (than that). (没有[比那个] 更无名的城。)

There is a no (副词) meaner city (than that). (有一个 [跟那个] 同样有名的城。)

15.在指职位、头衔、等级等的单词前面大都不用a(或an)。例如:

They asked me to act as (an) interpreter.

I served them fairly well in the capacity of (an) interpreter.

I served them fairly well in my capacity as (an) interpreter.

She has obtained a position as (或of) (a) typist.

He has left his situation as (或of) (a) gardener.

He is (a) professor of philosophy at that university.

He has the degree of Doctor of Literature.

He soon rose to the rank of colonel.

The title of model worker has been conferred on the young man.

John Keats, English poet, was born in 1795.

注意在As a physician, he does not deserve much praise等句子里的as等于considered as,那a是不可少的。

16.在若干动词后面用作表语的名词的前面习惯不用a(或an)。例如:

He commenced schoolmaster in 1956. (commence [d] 的这种用法现在不很普通)

He turned soldier at twenty-one.

The boy was bound apprentice to a carpenter.

17.在若干独立短语里不用a(或an)。例如:

The old man was sitting in a chair, pipe in mouth.

The huntsman entered the forest, gun in hand.

18.在下面各短语和类似的短语里都不用a(或an):

hard of heart, large of limb, nimble of foot, quick of eye, pale of face

19.下面各句里都不用a(或an),那是因为多少有些感叹的意味:

Lucky dog! (幸运儿!) Lucky beggar! (幸运儿!) You beauty!

You fool! You fool you! You lucky rascal! (你好一个幸运儿!)

'Keep by me, you lovely thing!' the girl said to her cat.

The old man got run over, poor fellow.

Poor man, he never knew what love was like.

20.a (或an) 是"一", one也是"一", 在用法上有下面几点该注意:

(1) 固定习语里的a(或an)和one不可调换。如once upon a time(从前有一次)和one day(有一天)里的a和one不可互换。an hour or two(一二小时,若干小时)和one or two hours里的an和one不可互换。to a man(全体地)不可改作to one man。one man one vote(每人投一票)不可改作a man a vote。但"一个…还是两个"可以说one...or two。例如:Do you spell 'traveller' with one '1' or two?注意下面每组里的两句意思相同,但用了a该有on,用了one没有on:

(2)有些习语用a或one都可以。如at a blow和at one blow(一下子地),in a word和in one word(简单地说),be of a mind和be of one mind(同意),a hundred per cent...和one hundred per cent...(十足地...)。

(3) 有时用a和用one意思不同。如as a man是"就他的性格而论",as one man是"大家一致地",at a time是"每次"(如three at a time),at one time是"从前有一个时期"(如At one time we met every day)。

注意下面每组里的两种表达方式意思不同:

- (4)在姓或名前面,用a(或an)或one意思相同。如*a* Smith和*one* Smith都是"一个姓Smith的人"。就语法讲,one Smith里的one被看作形容词或代词都讲得通。
- (5) 在dozen, hundred, thousand和million前面,用a或one意思相同,用a普通些。如a dozen(一打),a hundred(一百),a thousand(一千),a million(一百万),把a改作one,意思不变,但往往有跟"二打、三打"等,"二百、三百"等,"二千、三千"等,"二百万、三百万"等对比的意味。

注意在下面的习语里都用a,不可用one:

a hundred (许多,如a hundred things),

a thousand (许多,如a thousand thanks),

a hundred and one (许多, 如a hundred and one points of usage),

a thousand and one (许多, 如a thousand and one points of usage),

not a hundred miles away (不远、近),

one in a thousand (极难得的一个)

(6) a (或an) 只有"一"的意思,却并不跟"二、三、四、五"等相对,one便可以有这种对比的意味。如I have a pen只说"我有一枝

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