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《语文天空》与你一起讲正确英语
每逢星期二与读者见面

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刻意用外国腔调 很可能弄巧成拙



英语课室

1. 能否分享你学习掌握标准英语的心得？

我小时候讲的英语有个很奇怪的口音，姐姐常常笑我。后来，小四的班主任介绍我读Roald Dahl的《Matilda》，从此我便爱上Roald Dahl写的书，爱上了阅读。阅读是学习英文的好方法，当你陶醉在故事的梦幻情节中，同时也能学习正确的语法。升上中学后，我参加校内辩论会，因为怕丢脸，所以不断叮嘱自己一定要把英语说好。

2. 你觉得讲正确英语的障碍是什么？

最主要的学习障碍应该是对象与环境。语言需要常常练习，无论你的书写能力有多强，如果不常说英语，开口时只会结结巴巴。此外，如果身边的人都说纯正的英语，耳濡目染，久而久之也会深受影响。

3. 你曾因为使用不正确英语而被人误解，或被人认为你莫名其妙吗？

1. Your coffee want sugar?



Do you want sugar in your coffee?



It is hard to imagine coffee wanting anything, as drinks like tea and coffee do not usually have feelings or desires. It is you who do the wanting, not the coffee, so you should be the subject of want.

An even more polite way of saying this might be "Would you like sugar in your coffee?" and this might be better if you want to show respect to a guest.

饮料如茶和咖啡是没有生命的东西，不会主动要求要加点什么。要加东西的是你，所以“you”应该是“want”的主语。

更有礼貌的说法是：“Would you like sugar in your coffee?”。如果你要对客人表示敬意，这是比较好的表达方式。

2. What time you can go?



When can you go?



There is nothing ungrammatical about using what time, but it sounds like it is translated from the Chinese 什么时候. In fact, when means exactly the same and as it is shorter, it is better.

For a question, the auxiliary verb can should come before the subject you.

It is important to note that you sometimes do not need to make a sentence longer in order to make it grammatical. In this case, the well-formed sentence is actually shorter. You do not always have to use

当然有啊！我曾在电车上巧遇一名老师，她问我初到墨尔本会不会不习惯，我说还好，只是蛮想念我的家人。我们聊了大约十分钟，越聊越觉得不对劲。我问她什么时候开始学手语（她的工作是在课堂上用手语翻译教授所说的话），她的回答却是：只要认识多几个朋友，日子就不会那么烦闷。我已经开始聊新的话题，她却依然在聊第一个话题，真是“鸡同鸭讲”。幸好我快下车了，才避免更多尴尬。

4. 新加坡式英语(Singlish)的使用渗透性很强，你是否偶尔也会说？

我在外国碰到同乡，“leh”和“lor”很自然就会冲口而出。有时候，在适当的情况加上一两句Singlish，还能帮助缓和紧张的气氛。

5. 你怎么定义“标准英语”？讲标准英语是否需要英式或美式腔调？

好英语就是全球英语。无论什么场合或国度，你都能让他人理解你所要表达的意思。如果刻意用外国腔调，很可能会弄巧成拙。对方还可能觉得你刻意模仿某个腔调，对你的印象大打折扣。

“What time”并没有不符合语法的地方，只是听起来像是从华语的“什么时候”翻译过来的。其实，“when”的意思完全一样，也更简洁。

使用疑问句时，“can”这个助动词应该出现在主语“you”之前。

要注意的是，有时候，句子不一定要长才能符合语法。以这个句子为例，结构完整的句子其实更短。我们不一定要用很多词句才能讲符合语法的英语，短小精简往往反而更好。

2. Why never buy?

Why didn't you buy it?

Every sentence in English should have a subject. Here, the subject you seems appropriate.

In English, a wh-question (asking about who, which, why, or where) generally has an auxiliary verb such as are, have or do before the subject. In this sentence, the main verb is buy and this cannot go before the subject. Therefore, we need to use a dummy auxiliary did to make the sentence into a well-formed question.

If the question is about something in the past, the past tense of the verb should be used, so the verb should be did. Alternatively, if it is about a regular event, you might instead say "Why do you never buy anything?"

Finally, buy is a transitive verb, which means it must be followed by an object. In this case, the object it is added to make the sentence well-formed.

每个英语句子都应该有个主语，这个句子里的主语“you”并没有问题。

根据标准英语，“wh-问题”（询问有关who, which, why或者where的问题），一般会有一个位于主语前的“are”，“have”，或者“do”等助动词。然而，这个句子的主动词是不可以出现在主语前的“buy”。因此，要让句子变得完整，就必须有“did”这个形式助动词的帮助。

如果句子是关于过去的事情，就应该使用过去式的动词，也就是“did”。如果是指经常出现的情况，则可以说“Why do you never buy anything?”

此外，“buy”是个及物动词，其后必须有受词。以这个例子来说，句子必须加上“it”才算完整。

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