

## 第四章 時態的一致 ( Sequence of Tenses )

當一個句子裡含有從屬子句時，從屬子句的動詞時態需要依據主要子句的動詞時態而定，以表示出兩者之間的時間關係，這種以動詞時態來顯示兩者的時間關係，即稱為“時態的一致 ( Sequence of Tenses )”。

以下是時態一致的基本原則：

### 1. 主要子句與名詞子句時態的一致

1. 主要子句裡的動詞是“現在式”、“未來式”、“現在完成式”時，名詞子句裡的動詞可按其所涉及的時間用任何適當的時態。如：

(1) I think {

- he often **does** it
- he **is doing** it.
- he **has done** it .
- he **will do** it.
- he **has been doing** it.
- he **did** it yesterday.
- he **was doing** it then.
- he **had done** it by that time.
- he **had been doing** it till then.
- he **will be doing** it then.
- he **will have done** it by noon.
- he **will have been doing** it several hours by the time you return.

(2) We'll know {

- whether he often **comes**.
- whether he **came** yesterday.
- whether he **will come** tomorrow.
- whether he **is coming** tomorrow.
- whether he **has ever come**.

(3) I have heard  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{it is so.} \\ \text{it was so.} \\ \text{it will be so.} \\ \text{it has ever been so.} \end{array} \right.$

(4) She **wants** to know if she'll be in time.

(她想知道她來不來得及。)

(5) He'll certainly **ask** you if your operation **was** successful.

(他一定會問你你的手術是不是很成功。)

(6) I've already **told** you that I **don't want** to go.

(我已經告訴過你我不想去。)

## 2. 主要子句裡的動詞是過去式時，名詞子句裡的動詞必須用過去的形式：

A. 主要子句裡的動詞是過去式時，名詞子句裡的動詞不可用現在式，應該用過去式，以表示與主要子句的動作同時。如：

(1) I **said** I  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{do not know (×)} \\ \text{did not know (✓)} \end{array} \right.$  him.

(我說我不認識他。)

(2) I **did not know** he  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{is (×)} \\ \text{was (✓)} \end{array} \right.$  our new principal.

(我不知道他是我們的新校長。)

(3) I **asked** what he  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{wants. (×)} \\ \text{wanted. (✓)} \end{array} \right.$

(我問他要什麼。)

❖ 例外：(a) 主要子句裡的動詞無論是何種時態，如果名詞子句是敘述真理或不變的事實，動詞永遠用現在式。如：

① I  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{say} \\ \text{said} \end{array} \right.$  that a rolling stone  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{gathered (×)} \\ \text{gathers (✓)} \end{array} \right.$  no moss.

(我說滾石不生苔。——我說轉業不聚財。)

② Formerly people **did not know** the earth  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{moved. (×)} \\ \text{moves. (✓)} \end{array} \right.$