第九章 容易混淆的介詞

1. at, in 與 on —— 指時間

- 1. 說 "在某一時刻,在幾時幾分"時用 "at + 時刻"或 "at ... time / hour"。如:
 - (1) I've got to get up at five tomorrow.

(明天我必須五點鐘起床。)

have got to = have to

(2) I'll meet Mary at the station at a quarter to six.

(我万點四十万分要在火車站和瑪麗碰面。)

(3) I have an appointment this afternoon at 3.

(今天下午三點鐘我有約會。)

- 當 提示:一般而言,一個句子裡有兩個時間副詞時,通常都是將單位較小的 (如上例中的 at 3)放在單位較大的 (如上例中的 this afternoon) 之前。但是,如果重點是指單位較大的,單位較小的只是順便一提,則必須將單位較大的放在單位較小的之前,如上例。
- (4) We heard the bawl of the animals at the zoo at feeding time.

(在餵食的時刻我們聽到動物園裡動物的吼叫聲。)

(5) It's strange that he should come at this hour.

(他居然這個時候來真奇怪。)

- **ฮ**: (a) 在非正式的場合 (熟朋友的對話與函件中), "At what time...?"裡的 at 經常是省略的。如:
 - (At) What time do you usually go to bed?

(你通常幾點鐘睡覺?)

(b) 時刻中"幾點過幾分"中的"過"字,英語用 past,美語除用 past 外, 還可用 after。如:

6:15 = a quarter past six (英,美) a quarter after six (美) (c) 時刻中"幾點差幾分"中的"差"字,英語用 to,美語除用 to 外,還可用 of 或 till。如:

6:55 = five (minutes) to seven (英,美) five (minutes) of / till seven (美)

- 2. 說 "在一天中一瞬間的時刻" (如 sunrise, sunset 等), 以及沒有冠詞的 night(s) 之前都用 at。 如:
 - (1) The farmer gets up at sunrise (or at daylight, at daybreak, at dawn).

(農夫黎明即起。)

(2) We come home for lunch at midday (or at noon). (我們中午回家吃午飯。)

(3) There was a bar of red across the western sky at sunset (or at sundown).

(日落時,西天有一道晚霞。)

(4) A new day begins at midnight (or at 12 o'clock at night).

(新的一天是在午夜 [晚上十二時]開始。)

證:另外有 by night,是 "只有在夜晚 (別的時間沒有)"的含義,或者是"利用黑夜"的含義,或者是和 by day 用在一起。如:

What is done by night appears by day.

(晚上做的事情白天會顯露出來。——若要人不知除非己莫為。)

(5) The old man always goes out at (the) peep of day.

(這個老人總是在破曉時分出門。)

(6) He always comes back home at the close of (the) day.

(他總是在日暮時回家。)

- 3. 說 "在幾歲" 時,用 "at +年齡"。如:
 - (1) Mary married at 15 (or at fifteen, at fifteen years old, at fifteen years of age, at the age of fifteen, at age 15).

(瑪麗十五歲結婚的。)

賀氏 英文法全書

(2) We learn to walk at an early age.

(我們很小的年紀時就學會走路。)

(3) **At what age** do children start school in your country? (在你們國家兒童幾歲開始上學?)

(4) At sixteen years old he left home to become a sailor.

(他十六歲時離家去當船員。)

記:如果用 teens, twenties 等表示"十幾歲,二十幾歲等"用 in。如: Mary is still **in her teens** (**twenties**).

(瑪麗還只是十〔二十〕幾歲。)

- 4. 在一天裡的某一時段(如 morning, afternoon等),以及在某星期、月份、季節、年、世紀、人生的某一時期,或在某一時代等用 in。如:
 - (1) It always takes ages to wake him up in the morning.

(早晨總是需要很久才能把他叫醒。)

在口語中, ages 常被用作 a long time 的含義。

- (2) The sun goes down in the evening, and then darkness is coming. (太陽傍晚時落下,然後黑暗來臨。)
- (3) We sleep at night and work in the day (or in the daytime, during the daytime).

(我們夜晚睡覺白天工作。)

(4) There are 30 days in June.

(六月有三十天。)

(5) We wear heavier clothing in winter than in summer.

(冬天我們穿的衣服比夏天厚。)

(6) This love story happened in the thirties of this century.

(這個愛情故事發生在本世紀的三十年代。)

(7) She was a famous beauty in her day.

(她年輕時是個出名的美女。)