

第十章 主要的單一介詞的含義及用例

1. About

1. 作“在…周圍”講，相當於 **around / round**，但不完全相同，參閱第七冊 p.315-20。如：
 - (1) Her beautiful hair hung **about** her neck.
(她的秀髮披在頸子的周圍。)
 - (2) Father put a railing **about** (or **around, round**) the porch so that we would not fall off.
(爸爸在走廊的四周圍上欄杆以免我們摔了下來。)
2. 作“在或向…各處”講，相當於“**here and there in**”，“**in or to various parts of**”。如：
 - (1) I found books and papers lying **about** (or **around, round**) the room.
(我發現書籍和文件在室內到處散置著。)
 - (2) The traveler roamed **about** (or **around, round**) the town trying to find a suitable hotel.
(這位旅行者在鎮上到處徘徊，想找個適合的旅館。)
3. 作“在…附近”講，相當於“**near (to)**”——用 **around / round** 更為普遍。如：
 - (1) I dropped the key somewhere **about** (or **around, round**) here.
(我把鑰匙掉在這裡附近。)
 - (2) He is **about** (or **around, round**) the house.
(他在這屋子附近。——可能在屋裡，也可能在屋外不遠。)
4. 作“關於，有關”講，相當於“**concerning**”。如：
 - (1) If a man takes no thoughts **about** what is distant, sorrow is surely near at hand.
(人無遠慮，必有近憂。)

(2) A: Did you hear the bad news?

(你有沒有聽說這不幸的消息？)

B: **About what?**

(有關什麼？)

A: John's grandfather passed away last night.

(約翰的祖父昨天晚上過世了。)

(3) The quarrel was **about a trifle**.

(這次爭吵是關於〔因為〕雞毛蒜皮的事情。)

5. 作“忙於，做”講，相當於“occupied with”。如：

(1) **What are you about?**

(你在做什麼？)

(2) I'm **about my father's business**.

(我在經營我爸爸的事業。)

6. 作“和…在一起”，“在…身旁”講。——此種用法的 about 表示“所有”。如：

(1) There was an air of mystery **about her**.

= She had an air of mystery.

(她這個人有一種神秘兮兮的樣子。)

(2) I haven't any money **about (or with) me**.

(我沒有帶錢。)

7. “be about + 不定詞”相當於“be on the point of + 動名詞”或“be just going + 不定詞”，意思是“即將，正要”。如：

(1) When a man is **about to die**, his words are good.

(人之將死，其言也善。)

(2) The test is **about to begin**. Please put away all of your books and notebooks.

(測驗就要開始了，請把書和筆記本全都收起來。)

(3) I haven't gone yet, but I'm **about to**.

(我還沒有走，但正要走。)

to 的後面省略了 go (參閱第五冊“代不定詞”)。

8. “How / What about + 動名詞或名詞…?” 是用來表示“徵求同意”或“徵詢意見”或“打聽情況”(參閱第六冊“疑問副詞 how”)。如：

(1) **How (or What) about going to the dance with me Saturday?**

(= Would you like to go to the dance with me Saturday?)

(星期六和我一起去跳舞好嗎?)

Saturday 之前省略了介詞“on”(參閱第七冊 p.231)。

(2) **What (or How) about five hundred dollars until Saturday?**

(= Will you lend me five hundred dollars until Saturday?)

(你借給我五百元星期六還給你好不好?)

註：以下各例中的 about 都是用作副詞：

① Our work is **about** finished.

(我們的工作快要做完了。)

本例中的 about 相當於 nearly, almost。

② Mary is **about** 10 years old.

(瑪麗大概是十歲左右。)

本例中的 about 相當於 more or less, around，與 nearly 不同。比較：

{	about a hundred = a little more or less than a hundred
	(比一百元或多或少一點，大約一百元左右)
	nearly a hundred = a little less than a hundred
	(比一百元少一點，將近一百元)

③ Is Mary **about**?

(瑪麗在不在附近?)

本句裡的 about 相當於 near, not far off。也可以將 about 改用 around。round 作“在附近”講時用作介詞很普遍(如上述 3)，用作副詞則不多。

2. Above

1. 作“(位置)在…的上方,高於”講,相當於“higher than”,可與 over 通用。如:
 - (1) The picture on the wall is **above** (or over) the table.
(牆上的那幅畫是在桌子的上方。)
 - (2) Flags waved **above** (or over) our heads.
(旗幟在我們頭頂上飄揚。)
2. 作“(數量)比…更多,多於”講,相當於“more than”,與 over 通用但不及 over 普遍。如:
 - (1) It weighs **above** (or over) ten tons.
(它的重量超過十噸。)
 - (2) He is **above** (or over) sixty years old.
(他超過六十了。——他六十開外。)
3. 作“比…更好,優於”講,相當於“better than”,“superior to”。如:
 - (1) He thinks himself **above** the other boys.
(他以為他自己比其他的男孩都好。)
 - (2) Health is **above** wealth.
(健康勝於財富。)
4. 作“超出…的範圍,非…所能及”講,相當於“beyond”。如:
 - (1) Your work is **above** (or beyond) all praise.
(= Your work is so good that it cannot be praised enough.)
(你的成績是讚揚不盡的。)
 - (2) How he manages to live is **above** (or beyond) my comprehension.
(他如何維持生活的我無法瞭解。)
 - (3) This book is **above** (or beyond) me.
(= This book is too difficult for me.)
(這本書非我能力所及。——這本書對我而言太難了。)