

Analysis of the Use of Postpositive Attributive in English

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Abstract

Nouns or pronouns in English usually have postattributive words. The words that act as postattributive words include single adjectives, adjective phrases, prepositional phrases, attributive clauses, non-predicate verbs and adverbs. The correct understanding and application of postpositive attributives are of great importance to English learners' listening, reading and writing. This paper discusses the use of postpositive attributive with examples.

Keywords

English; postpositive; attributive; usage

浅析英语后置定语的使用

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摘要

英语中的名词或代词通常带有后置定语, 充当后置定语的词有单个形容词、形容词短语、介词短语、定语从句、非谓语动词以及副词。后置定语的正确理解和应用, 对英语学习者的听力、阅读及写作至关重要。论文通过举例探讨后置定语的使用。

关键词

英语; 后置; 定语; 用法

1 引言

英语后置定语常见于专业英语中, 其形式多样, 结构复杂。

2 形容词作后置定语

在大多数情况下, 形容词定语是放在所修饰的名词之前, 对名词起限制或描绘作用, 但也有部分形容词是放在所修饰的名词之后, 称为后置定语。大致有以下几种情况:

①以 *-ible*、*-able* 结尾的形容词与 *every*、*the only* 或者形容词最高级连用的情况下要放在所修饰的名词之后^[1]。

We must try every way possible to save farmland.

我们应尽量节省农田土地。

Tina is the only girl reliable in the world, her mother thinks.

缙娜的妈妈认为, 她是世界上唯一可以信赖的人。

Ask yourself whether studying abroad is the best solution possible.

问问自己, 出国留学是否是最佳解决方案。

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I' d like to speak to the person responsible.

我想对负责人谈谈。

There was a space available for his position with Manchester United and he would have fitted into their system perfectly .

在曼联他应该有一席之地, 他应该能完美融入球队体系之中。

②形容词用来修饰复合不定代词, *something*、*anything*、*nothing*、*anybody* 等要后置。

—Is there anything new in today' s Shenzhen Daily ?

—No, nothing new.

—今天深圳日报上有什么新消息吗?

—没有什么新消息。

The Chinese government will do everything possible to ensure Hong Kong' s long- term prosperity and stability.

中国政府将竭尽全力维护香港的长期繁荣稳定。

It' s not clear that anyone else is going to manage it correctly.

现在还不清楚其他人是否能正确处理这一问题。

③在表示度量、年龄的词组中, 形容词放在它们后面。

I raised my eyes, and I saw a boy nearly 1.8 metres tall.

我抬眼看去, 看见一个身高大约一米八的男孩。

It was only a year ago that the massive Three Gorges Dam was completed, creating a reservoir on the Yangtze River some 640 kilometers long.

三峡大坝主体工程一年前才竣工,大坝上游640公里的长江水域成为一个大水库。

It was earlier reported that a boy 6 years old was on board. 此前报道,上面有一个六岁的儿童。

The big flood caused some buildings 3 stories high to fall down.

滔天洪水摧毁了一些3层高的建筑。

④有些形容词具有下述意义的,通常放在名词之后。例如,“在座的、出席的”present,“缺席的”absent,“有关的、涉及”concerned和involved。

He gave copies of the report to all those present at the meeting.

他给了在会议中所有出席的人一份资料(报导内容……)。

Could you let me have a look at your new watch? There are quite a few students absent today.

你能不能让我看一看你的新表?今天有不少学生缺课。

WHO also understands that there is ongoing dialogue among the parties concerned to resolve the matter.

世卫组织还了解到,有关各方正为解决这一问题进行对话。

It's hard enough to tell him the truth, but now with his father involved.

告诉他真相就够难的了,可现在他爸爸都卷进来了……

⑤以a-开头的表示状态的形容词,一般在句子中当表语成分,但作定语时须后置,类似的形容词有:alive、asleep、alike、alone、awake、aware、ashamed、abroad。

Who is the greatest writer alive in China?

谁是当今中国活着最伟大的作家?

Tom was the only boy awake at that time.

那时汤姆是唯一醒着的男孩。

More than a third of Chinese students abroad are studying in the U.S.

超过三分之一国外的中国学生在美国学习。

When I turned back, I noticed a girl asleep over the desk.

我转过身的时候,突然注意到趴在桌子上睡着的女孩。

This is not a question of interest to Americans alone. It matters almost as much to the rest of the world.

这不仅是美国人感兴趣的问题,而且对世界其他大多数地方几乎同样重要。

⑥形容词短语作后置定语。

Have you found a man suitable for the work?

你找到了适合做这项工作的人吗?

I didn't know she was a woman so difficult to please. 我万万没想到,她是一个很难取悦的女子。

I have never seen a face so sweet, happy and radiant. 我从未见过如此甜蜜、快活、喜悦的面容。

They arrived at a place dirty, gloomy and desolate. 他们到了一个肮脏、阴暗、荒凉的地方。

With the car full of flowers, we were going home. 装了一车的花,我们满载而归。

⑦少数形容词习惯上作后置定语。

Blood royal 王族, Browne major/minor 大小布朗, Postmaster general 邮政部长, Consul General 总领事, UN Secretary-General 联合国秘书长, An attorney general 司法部长, A court martial 军事法庭, God Almighty 上帝, Letters patent 专利书。

3 介词短语做后置定语

介词短语作后置定语的现象很多,这要靠平时积累,在这只举例一些常用介词短语作后置定语^[2]。

There is a man with a moustache waiting outside to see you.

一个留着八字胡的人在外面等着要见你。

Tony would like to make friends from all over the world.

托尼想交来自世界各地的朋友。

The girl in red missed the early bus.

穿红色衣服的女孩没有赶上早班车。

Hearing the footstep, the bird in a tree flew away.

听到脚步声,树上的鸟飞走了。

Tom is going to give a talk on the history of America.

汤姆要作一个美国历史的报告。

She was praised for her anxiety for knowledge.

她因知识的渴望而受到表扬。

She glances back to see people behind her for the first time.

她第一次回头看了看落在她后面的人。

The Japanese people also treasure the works by such great ancient Chinese philosophers as Laozi and Confucius.

老子、孔子等中国古代思想家的著作也为日本人民所重视。

A war between the two countries broke out over the energy problem.

两国间由于能源问题爆发了战争。

4 定语从句作后置定语

定语从句在意义上有限制和描绘作用,定语从句也称作形容词从句。定语从句又分为限制定语从句和非限制定语从句,从句一般是紧随被修饰的词——先行词的后面^[3]。

My head was full of the wonderful things that I could do in

my life.

我脑袋里全是我想象的、我这一辈子可能干的美妙的事。

You are the only person who can change the file.

您是唯一能够更改此文件的人。

American writer, Margaret Mitchell, who wrote *Gone With The Wind*, was knocked down and killed by a speeding vehicle in 1949.

写了《飘》的美国作家玛格丽特米歇尔, 1949年被一辆飞驰而来的汽车撞倒身亡。

On his way to the top of the steps, he noticed a door which he remembered.

上楼的时候, 他注意到了他曾记得的那个房门。

One day during their exercising, Laverne walked around the prison quietly and found a destructive wall, which can be climbed.

有一天放风, 拉文不露声色地在监狱里走了一圈, 发现一处围墙破旧, 可以攀登。

You know, there was a time when we built ships the size of cities.

你知道我们曾建造像城市那么大的船。

Dr King grew up in a city where nearly half the population was black.

金博士是在黑人几乎占一半人口的城市长大的。

He came up to take Ben's course at Columbia, where we met in early 1951.

他于是参加了本在哥伦比亚大学开办的讲座, 我们便相逢于1951年初。

I'd like to book a room whose window faces the sea.

我想要预订一间窗户朝向大海的房间。

5 非谓语动词作后置定语

5.1 动词不定式作定语

通常放在所修饰的名词之后, 不定式作定语大致分为三种情况:

①普通型。动词不定式与其所修饰的词之间往往有动宾或主谓关系^[4]。

She usually has a lot of meetings to attend in the evenings.

他晚上经常有很多要开的会。

He is not a man to bow before difficulties.

他不是那种在困难面前低头的人。

She looked for some interesting novels to read.

他寻找一些有趣的小说读。

He has no friend to depend.

他没有可以依靠的朋友。

There is enough money to spare.

钱足够用了。

Are you going to watch Tokyo Olympic Games to be held next year?

你要去观看明年举行的东京奥运会吗?

②特定型。它是指某些特定的名词后用不定式作定语。能用不定式作定语的名词很多, 除了下面的例子外, 还有 opportunity、chance、reason、effort、ambition、movement。

Some people say it is a need to be able to predict the outcome of your own behavior.

有些人认为这是一种对自己行为导致后果预判的需要。

It would be a great time to develop a website or blog.

这是一个大好时机去建个网站或博客。

Is that the best way to solve the problem?

这是解决这问题的最好办法吗?

No investigation, no right to speak.

没有调查, 就没有发言权。

We must have the courage to say that we are ignorant.

我们应有勇气承认自己是无知的。

③派生型。它是指有一些动词和形容词派生出来的同源词, 常用不定式作定语, 置名词之后。

We got to make a plan to get that boy to read. (We plan to get that boy to read.)

现在, 咱们得计划一下怎么让男孩读书。

You gave a promise to write to her. (You promised to write her.)

你答应给她写信。

Secondary schools should also make an attempt to reform their students' learning style. (Secondary schools should also attempt to reform their students' learning style.)

中学学校也应该改革学生学习方式的尝试。

以上例句中的 promise、attempt、plan 是由动词派生出来的名词。

Your ability to analyze the problem really surprises us. (You're able to analyze the problem.)

你分析这个问题的能力真叫我们吃惊。

His eagerness to get back home was quite obvious. (He was eager to get back home.)

他想回家的急切心情是显而易见的。

We have the determination to win honor for our motherland. (We are determined to win honor for our motherland.)

我们有为祖国争光的决心。

以上例句中的 ability、eagerness、determination 是由形容词派生出来的名词。

5.2 分词短语作后置定语

①现在分词短语作后置定语, 要么表示一个正在进行

的动作, 要么表示某个状态。这时形容词特点更强。而过去分词短语作后置定语, 动作要么发生在谓语动词之前或要么表示正在进行, 但都有被动的含义。现在分词短语和过去分词短语作后置定语, 通常可以转换成定语从句。

She looked at the city being attacked (Which was being attacked by the enemy.)

她注视着遭到敌人袭击的城市。

A man going to die (who is going to die) is always kind-hearted.

人之将死, 其心也善。

Do you know the number of people coming (who will come) to the party?

你知道参加晚会的人数吗? (以上表示动作)

There is a piano standing (which stands) in the corner.

角落里有一架钢琴。

Those were the problems puzzling (which puzzled) her day and night.

这些就是使她日夜困惑的问题。

A man respecting others (who respects others) will be respected.

一个尊重别人的人会得到别人的尊重。(以上表示状态)

Is this the book written (which was written) by Jack London?

这本书是由杰克·伦敦写的? (动作表被动)

Half of the professors invited (who had been invited) to the university were from Germany.

一半邀请到这个大学的教授都是德国人。(动作表被动)

The man being questioned (who was being questioned) in the interrogation was a spy.

在审讯室正在被审的这个人是个间谍。(动作正在进行)

The environmental problem being discussed (which is being discussed) in Geneva is hard to settle.

在日内瓦正在讨论的环保问题很难解决。(动作正在进行)

②单个分词作定语, 不论是现在分词还是过去分词, 以下几种情况, 单个分词可以作后置定语, 表示对比或强调。

Money spent is more than money earned.

花的钱比挣的钱少。

There were people crying and people laughing.

有人哭, 有人笑。

He saw a lot of people coming and going in front of the shopping mall.

他在购物中心门口看见许多来来往往的人。

③如果被修饰词前有形容词最高级或是代词(all、those、one)等, 或是定语从句的简化。

Qian Xuesen is the best physicist known in the world.

钱学森是世界上最著名的物理学家。

All suspected must have a 14-day quarantine in a hotel.

所有的疑似病人必须在宾馆隔离 14 天。

Those remaining had to face all kinds of difficulties.

留下来的人必须面对各种困难。

He is like one charmed.

他像个着了魔的人

Most of people singing (who sang) were women

唱歌的人中大部分是妇女。

Who are the people (that will participate) participating tomorrow?

明天要参加的是哪些人?

The meeting held (which was held) yesterday was about global warming.

昨天开的这个会议是关于全球变暖。

④如果是固定的结构或习惯用法。

He lived alone in the hills for years running.

他一连数年独自一人住在山里。

I will not write to her for the time being.

暂时我不打算给他写信。

The experience gained will be of great value to us.

取得的经验将对我们很有价值。

My father always eats the food left.

我爸爸总是吃剩下的饭。

Many international students like to choose the course Accounting offered.

许多国际学生喜欢选择开的会计课程。

Fast Food ordered will arrive in 10 minutes.

点的快餐十分钟内到。

Our school sports meet planned has been canceled because of the COVID19- outbreak.

由于新冠病毒的爆发, 我们学校筹划的运动会取消了。

Volunteers needed must be patient and committed.

需要的志愿者必须有耐心和敬业精神。

6 副词作后置定语

部分表示方位、处所、时间副词作定语, 如 here、there、above、below、upstairs、Downstairs、outside、inside、around、before 等常作后置定语。

The buildings around were badly damaged.

附近的建筑物受到严重损坏。

There will be a dancing party tomorrow afternoon, the students there are busy preparing for it.

明天下午有一个舞会, 那里的学生正忙着准备。

As he walked, he saw millions of stars above.

在走路时,他抬头看到了天空数以百万颗的星星。

I wonder how they are finding things upstairs.

我不知道楼上证据找得怎么样了。

The cat on the wall outside was showing no sign of sleepiness.

外面墙上的猫一点没有睡意。

They were talking about NBA finals the week before.

他们在谈论上周的NBA决赛。

This is my first day off.

这是我休假的第一天。

7 结语

英语中的名词或代词通常带有后置定语,充当后置定语的词有单个形容词、形容词短语、介词短语、定语从句、

非谓语动词以及副词。后置定语的正确理解和应用,对英语学习者的听力、阅读及写作至关重要。

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教学水平。

4.4 共享慕课资源

当下,大多数的高校都已经转变了传统的英语教学模式,在课堂教学中引用现代网络教学。慕课的发展将大学英语教育带入了一个新的阶段。慕课平台相对开放,学生可以不必考虑时间地点进行访问学习,最大限度地实现资源共享。

5 结语

简而言之,现阶段大学英语教学工作的展开还要受到教学重点、学生积极性、教师水平以及教学模式等多个因素的局限,在学生实际应用英语的能力上关注不足,制约了大学英语教学效果的提升。笔者针对现阶段大学英语教学中存在的不足提出几点加强教学中慕课平台的应用策略,从多个角度着手加强大学英语教学的效率和水平。

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