

# 英语词汇学

【课程代码：00832】

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## 考前30分



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### 考点 1: The Definition of the Word ★★★

A word is a minimal free form of a language that has a given sound and meaning and syntactic function.

### 考点 2: The Relationships between the Sound and Meaning

A word is a symbol that stands for something else in the world.

- ① This symbolic connection is almost always arbitrary ;
- ② The relationship between them is conventional.

### 考点 3: What caused more and more differences between Sound and Form?★★

- ① The fact of more phonemes than letters in English.
- ② Another reason is that the pronunciation has changed more rapidly than spelling over the years.
- ③ The third reason is that some of the differences were created by the early scribes.
- ④ Finally comes the borrowing, which is an important channel of enriching the English vocabulary.

### 考点 4: The Definition of Vocabulary

- ① It refers to the total number of the words in a language;
- ② It stands for all the words used in a particular historical period, e. g. Old English vocabulary, Middle English vocabulary and Modern English vocabulary;
- ③ It refers to all the words of a given dialect, a given book, a given discipline and the words possessed by an individual person.

### 考点 5: Principles of words classification ★★★

Words may fall into the **basic word stock** and **nonbasic vocabulary** by use frequency, into **content words** and **functional words** by notion, and into **native words** and **borrowed words** by origin.

### 考点 6: Characteristics of Basic Word Stock ★★★

- 1) All national character; 2) Stability; 3) Productivity; 4) Polysemy; 5) Collocability

### 考点 7: Nonbasic Vocabulary (非基本词汇) ★★★

- ① **Terminology (术语)** consists of technical terms used in particular disciplines and academic areas.
- ② **Jargon (行话)** refers to the specialized vocabularies by which members of particular arts, sciences, trades and professions communicate among themselves.
- ③ **Slang (俚语)** belongs to the sub-standard language, a category that seems to stand between the standard general words including informal ones available to everyone and in-group words.
- ④ **Argot (黑话)** generally refers to the jargon of criminals.
- ⑤ **Dialectal words (方言词)** are words used only by speakers of the dialect in question.
- ⑥ **Archaisms (古语词)** are words or forms that were once in common use but are now restricted only to specialized or limited use.
- ⑦ **Neologisms (新词语)** are newly-created words or expressions, or words that have taken on new meanings.

### 考点 8: Borrowed Words ★★

According to the degree of assimilation and manner of borrowing, we can bring the loan-words under four classes: ① **Denizens**(同化词) are words borrowed early in the past and now well assimilated into the English language. ② **Aliens**(外来语词) are borrowed words which have retained their original pronunciation and spelling. ③ **Translation-loans** (译借词) are words and expressions formed from the existing material in the English language but modeled on the patterns taken from another language. ④ **Semantic-loans** (借义词) English has borrowed a new meaning for an existing word in the language.

### 考点 9: The Indo-European Language Family ★

It is made up of most of the languages of **Europe, the Near East, and India**. The prehistoric Indo-European parent language is thought to be a highly inflected language (高度屈折化).

### 考点 10: Old English (450-1150) 古英语发展的三个阶段:

- ① After the Romans, the Germanic tribes called Angles, Saxons, and Jutes came in great numbers.
- ② At the end of the 6th century, the introduction of Christianity had a great impact on the English vocabulary.
- ③ In the 9th century the land was invaded again by Norwegian and Danish Vikings.

### 考点 11: Middle English (1150-1500)

- ① Old English began to undergo a great change when the Normans invaded England from France in 1066.
- ② By the end of the 13th century, English gradually regained social status.
- ③ During this period, Britain had trade relations with the low countries, especially Holland.

### 考点 12: Modern English (1500-up to now)

- ① Modern English began with the establishment of printing in England.
- ② In modern English, word endings were mostly lost with just a few exceptions.

### 考点 13: Main sources of new words ★★

- (1) the rapid development of modern science and technology;
- (2) social, economic and political changes;
- (3) the influence of other cultures and languages.

### 考点 14: Three channels of modern English vocabulary ★★★

1. **Creation** refers to the formation of new words by using the existing materials, namely roots, affixes and other elements.
2. **Semantic change** means an old form which takes on a new meaning to meet the new need.
3. **Borrowing** has played a vital role in the development of vocabulary, particularly in earlier times.

### 考点 15: The Definition of Morphemes

The morpheme is 'the smallest functioning unit in the composition of words'.

### 考点 16: Types of Morphemes ★★★

**Free morphemes** (自由词素) which are independent of other morphemes are considered to be free.

**Bound Morphemes** (粘附词素) which cannot occur as separate words are bound.

**Bound root** is a bound form and has to combine with other morphemes to make words.

Affixes are forms that are attached to words or word elements to modify meaning or function.

**Inflectional affixes.** Affixes attached to the end of words to indicate grammatical relationships are inflectional, thus known as inflectional morphemes.

**Derivational affixes.** As the term indicates, derivational affixes are affixes added to other morphemes to create new words.

A root is the basic form of a word which cannot be further analyzed without total loss of identity.

A stem can be defined as a form to which affixes of any kind can be added.

### 考点 17: Types of Word formation ★★ ★

Affixation is generally defined as the formation of words by adding word-forming or derivational affixes to stems.

Compounding, also called composition, is the formation of new words by joining two or more stems.

Conversion is the formation of new words by converting words of one class to another class.

Blending is the formation of new words by combining parts of two words or a word plus a part of another word.

Another common way of making a word is to shorten a longer word by cutting a part off the original and using what remains instead. This is called clipping.

Acronymy is the process of forming new words by joining the initial letters of names of social and political organizations or special noun phrases and technical terms. Initialisms (首字母缩略词) are words pronounced letter by letter. Acronyms (首字母拼音词) are words formed from initial letters but pronounced as a normal word.

Back-formation is considered to be the opposite process of suffixation.

### 考点 18: Different Types of Prefixes ★★ ★

(1) **Negative prefixes** (表示否定意义的前缀): a-, dis-, in- (il-, ir-, im-), non-, un-

(2) **Reversative prefixes** (表示逆向意义的前缀): de-, dis-, un-

(3) **Pejorative prefixes** (表示贬义的前缀): mal-, mis-, pseudo-

(4) **Prefixes of degree or size** (表示程度、大小等意义的前缀): arch-, extra-, hyper-, macro-, micro-, mini-, out-, over-, sub-, super-, sur-, ultra, under-

(5) **Prefixes of orientation and attitude** (表示倾向和态度等意义的前缀): anti-, contra-, counter-, pro-

(6) **Locative prefixes** (表示方位意义的前缀): extra-, fore-, inter-, intra-, tele-, trans-

(7) **Prefixes of time and order** (表示时间和顺序等意义的前缀): ex-, fore-, post-, pre-, re-

(8) **Number prefixes** (表示数字的前缀): bi-, multi- (poly-), semi- (hemi-), tri-, uni- (mono-)

(9) **Miscellaneous prefixes** (其他不同种类意义的前缀): auto-, neo-, pan-, vice-

**考点 19: The Meanings of 'Meaning'**

Reference is the relationship between language and the world.

Concept, which is beyond language, is the result of human cognition, reflecting the objective world in the human mind.

Sense denotes the relationships inside the language.

**考点 20: Types of Motivation★★★**

Motivation accounts for the connection between the linguistic symbol and its meaning.

**Onomatopoeic Motivation** (拟声理据): In modern English one may find some words whose sounds suggest their meanings, for these words were created by imitating the natural sounds or noises.

**Morphological Motivation** (形态理据): Compounds and derived words are multi-morphemic words and the meanings of many are the sum total of the morphemes combined.

**Semantic motivation** (语义理据) refers to the mental associations suggested by the conceptual meaning of a word.

**Etymological Motivation** (词源理据): The meanings of many words often relate directly to their origins.

**考点 21: Types of Meaning★★**

Grammatical meanings refers to that part of the meaning of the word which indicates grammatical concept or relationships.

Lexical meaning and grammatical meaning make up the word-meaning.

Conceptual meaning (also known as denotative meaning) is the meaning given in the dictionary.

Associative meaning is the secondary meaning supplemented to the conceptual meaning.

Connotative meaning refers to the overtones or associations suggested by the conceptual meaning.

**Stylistic meaning:** Apart from their conceptual meanings, many words have stylistic features, which make them appropriate for different contexts.

Affective meaning indicates the speaker's attitude towards the person or thing in question.

**Collocative meaning:** This meaning consists of the associations a word acquires in its collocation. In other words, it is that part of the word-meaning suggested by the words before or after the word in discussion.

**考点 22: Two Processes of word-meaning development: ★★**

1. **Radiation** (辐射型) is a semantic process in which the primary meaning stands at the center and the secondary meanings proceed out of it in every direction like rays.

2. **Concatenation** (连锁型), meaning 'linking together', is the semantic process in which the meaning of a word moves gradually away from its first sense by successive shifts until, in many cases, there is not a sign of connection between the sense that is finally developed and that which the term had at the beginning.

**考点 23: Types of Homonyms: ★★★**

① **Perfect homonyms** are words identical both in sound and spelling, but different in meaning;

② **Homographs** are words identical only in spelling but different in sound and meaning;

③ **Homophones** are words identical only in sound but different in spelling and meaning.

#### 考点 24: Definition of Synonyms (同义词)

One of two or more words in the English language which have the same or very nearly the same essential meaning. In other words, synonyms share a likeness in denotation as well as in part of speech.

#### 考点 25: Types of Synonyms

1. **Absolute synonyms** (绝对同义词) also known as complete synonyms are words which are identical in meaning in all its aspects.

2. **Relative synonyms** (相对同义词) also called near-synonyms are similar or nearly the same in denotation, but embrace different shades of meaning or different degrees of a given quality.

#### 考点 26: Discrimination of Synonyms 同义词的区别 ★★★

1. Difference in denotation; 2. Difference in connotation; 3. Difference in application

#### 考点 27: Antonyms

Antonymy is concerned with semantic opposition. Antonyms can be defined as words which are opposite in meaning. ① Contradictory terms; ② Contrary terms; ③ Relative terms.

#### 考点 28: Types of Changes ★★★

1. **Extension** of meaning, also known as generalization, is the name given to the widening of meaning which some words undergo;

2. **Narrowing** of meaning, also called specialization, is the opposite of widening meaning. It is a process by which a word of wide meaning acquires a narrower or specialized sense;

3. **Elevation** or amelioration refers to the process by which words rise from humble beginnings to positions of importance;

4. **Degradation** or pejoration of meaning is the opposite of semantic elevation. It is a process whereby words of good origin fall into ill reputation or non-affective words come to be used in derogatory sense.

#### 考点 29: The Role of Context

elimination of ambiguity, indication of referents, provision of clues for inferring word-meaning.

#### 考点 30: The Main Features of Idioms: semantic unity and structural stability.

#### 考点 31: Longman Dictionary of contemporary English (LDCE) New Edition (1987) ★★★

① Clear grammar codes (明确的语法规则)

② Usage notes (用法注解)

③ Language notes (语言注释)

#### 考点 32: Collins COBUILD English Language Dictionary (CCELD) (1987) ★★★

① Definition;

② Extra column (额外的专栏);

③ Usage examples (用法例证)