

第四章：不定词短语

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所谓不定词短语，就是 to 加上原形动词所形成的的短语。不定词最合理的解释就是把它视为助动词的变化。只要弄清楚不定词与助动词之间的关系，就可以了解不定词的变化以及与现在分词，过去分词和动名词的关系。

不定词与动名词的共同点

- I am glad to know you.
- I am glad because I can know you.
- I am glad because I am able to know you.

在 I am glad because I am able to know you 中，在 because 所引导的副词从句中，主语 I 和前面主要从句的主语相同，是重复元素。动词 am 无意义。因此 I am 可省略。如此一来，副词从句中省略主语和动词之后，已经不是一个完整的从句结构，即 [I am glad because able to know you.] 中 because 也可不存在。剩下的 to know 有 able to 的暗示，综上，就变为 [I am glad to know you]。从以上可看出，不定词与助动词的关系极为密切：

1. 后面都要接原形动词：
 - I will go.
 - I want to go.

2. 都有不确定的语气:

- He is right.
- He maybe right.
- He seems to be right.

3. 都要完成式来表达相对的时间。助动词和不定词本身都无法完整表达过去的时间:

- It must be raining now.
- It may rain anytime.
- It might even snow.

在此, might 并不是 may 的过去时, 而是一种弱化的语气。从中可以看出 must, may, might 均只能表示现在或者未来时间的事情, 助动词本身缺乏表达过去时间的能力。如果早上地面看起来湿湿的, 则可以说: It must have rained last night.

在猜测过去的事情时, 无论是 must, may 还是 might 都只能表示语气强弱的差别, 无法表达过去。助动词后面要接原形动词, 也不能表示过去式, 所以别无选择, 只能用完成式来表示过去, 即 must have rained 这种形态。从这点看, 不定词仍然和助动词相同: It seems to have rained last night.

综上, 所有重要的语气助动词, 都可以改为不定词:

- Must → have to
- Should → ought to
- Will/would → be going to
- Can/could → be able to
- May/might → be likely to

以上, 不定词和助动词其实是一种意思的不同表达, 但凡是不定词出现的地方, 都可以看成另外一个从句的省略: 把主语省略, 把助动词改为不定词。

不定词与动名词的区分

动状词:

- 现在分词: 形容词
- 过去分词: 形容词
- 动名词: 名词
- 不定词: 形容词, 副词, 名词

以上动名词和不定词都可以充当名词使用, 那么有什么区别呢:

- They plan to marry next month: to marry next month 就是 (that) they will marry next month 的变化, marry 是计划中的事情, 所以用 they will marry, 即 they are to marry, 这时候如果把重复的 they 和 空的 be 动词省略, 就成了不定词 to marry。
- I avoid making the same mistake twice: 此时 making 比 to make 恰当, 因为 to make 是 will make 的省略, 有未来的意思。
- I hate to say this, but I think you're mistaken.
- I like to be the first: can be.
- I don't like to wait too long: will wait.
- I dislike standing in long lines: dislike 本身是否定的, 就不适合接 I will stand in long lines.
- Try being late: 你尝试下迟到, 不迟到很难, 但迟到很简单啊。所以可以表示为一种既定的事实的感觉。不可用 must, might 等语气助词, 所以只能用动名词了。
- I remember calling her at 6 last night: 在描述一种事实, 没有助动词存在, 即不可用 must, might.
- The speaker stopped talking at the second bell: talking 表示一种动作的持续。
- The speaker stopped a second to drink some water: to drink 是 he could drink 的变化, 可还原为: The speaker stopped a second so that he could drink some water.

使役动词和原形动词

The little girl asked her mother to come to the PTA meeting → The little girl asked if her mother would come to the PTA meeting.

Ask 是普通动词, 邀请人参加, 但别人不一定愿意, 所以会牵涉到语气助词, 就会变为 to come 而不是 coming。

使役动词与普通动词的差别就在于它又强制性, 结果是确定的, 无从选择的。所以排除了语气助词的存在, 从而不可以用不定词。

- The teacher made the little girl stay behind: 表示强制性地让其留下来。
- The teacher asked the girl to stay behind: 此时小女孩可自由选择。

感官动词与原形动词

I heard her playing the violin.

所谓感官动词就是 see, hear, watch 等等。它们后面不适合不定词, 因为不定词是助动词的变化, 有不确定语气。比如说 to play the violin, 就表示 she would play the violin (她想要或将去拉小提琴), 那么这是听不到的。所以看到, 听到这些字眼只能配合确实发生过的事情使用。

- I heard her cry out in pain: cry out 表示一瞬间的哭了出来, 并不具有持续性

- She was crying in pain: 持续性