

Notes on Usage

I Dictionary Entries:

1 This *Usage Dictionary of 70,000 Chinese Words* collects approximately 70,000 commonly used characters, words, phrases, and idiomatic expressions. For practical purposes, some commonly used structures such as subject-predicate structure "客满", "时隔", "年逾", "马嘶", combined structure "能否", "聚散", "瓜果", "锅灶", "刊发", structure of attributive plus central word "高论", "果仁", "铁幕", "庭外", structure of adverbial modifier plus central word "痛陈", "裸奔", "老是", verb-object structure "开埠", "试法", "收腹", "生厌", "施压", and structure of central word plus complement "疏于", "收紧", "决出" are also included. (None of these are included in the most popular *Modern Chinese Dictionary* 《现代汉语词典》, the 5th edition, 2005) Other structures such as "不...不...", "照...不误...", "知...莫若...", "一...就...", "非...不可", "七...八...", and so on, are also thoroughly collected and illustrated in this dictionary.

2 Dictionary entries are arranged according to the Chinese phonetic system. When different Chinese characters or words are pronounced the same, those with fewer strokes are arranged in front. For example, "宝" (bǎo, treasure) is arranged before "饱" (bǎo, have eaten one's fill); 【公式】 (gōngshì, formula) is arranged before 【公事】 (gōngshì, public affairs). Words with the same morphology but different pronunciations/meanings are arranged as different entries, such as 【公差】 (gōngchā, common difference) and 【公差】 (gōngchāi, public errand). Words with the same morphology and pronunciation but from different origins are also arranged as separate entries. In this case, Roman numerals are used to indicate the difference, such as 【根据】 I (v. to be based on; n. evidence) and 【根据】 II (prep. according to).

3 The note "另见 X X" (see also X X) is used to indicate reference to a word with the same morphology but different pronunciations/meanings. For example, below the entry "还" (hái, adv. still; also), there is a note "另见 huán" (see also huán, v. to return).

4 The note "也作 X X" (same as X X) is used to indicate the words that have the same meaning(s) but may have different morphologies. For example, below the entry 【踏实】 (tāshi, steady and sure), there is a note "也作塌实" (same as塌实).

5 For the readers' convenience, words that may take a suffix are arranged as different entries from those that do not take a suffix, although they have the same meaning. For example, 【矮个】 (ǎigè, short person) and 【矮个子】 (ǎigèzi, short person); 【整天】 (zhěngtiān, the whole day) and 【整天价】 (zhěngtiānjié, the whole day).

6 Some words are pronounced with a retroflex ending "r", such as 【没准儿】 (méizhǔnr, not sure) and 【妞儿】 (niūr, little girl). This "r" ending is written as the character "儿" in the dictionary entry. However, this "儿" may not appear in the sample sentences, because sometimes it is optional in writing.

7 Characters in brackets after single-character entries are traditional characters or identical characters. If they are identical characters, occasionally there is a number(s) before them. The number(s) indicates that they apply only to the meaning(s) specified by the number(s). For example, after "坐", there is a number and an identical character in the bracket "(1 坐)". It indicates that "坐" is exchangeable with "座" when "座" is in the first meaning "seat". Therefore the word "座位" can be written as "坐位". But "坐" cannot replace "座" when it is used in the second meaning "底座" (pedestal of a statue), the third meaning "星座" (constellation), and the

fourth meaning (a measure word). The identical characters are for reference only but not recommended to use.

II Phonetic System:

1 In order to guarantee the correct positions of all entries, the words "一" (yī, one) and "不" (bù, not) are given in their original pronunciations without changing tones.

2 The letter "r" is used to indicate the retroflex ending of the final sound.

3 In Chinese, some words can be used in a reduplicative form. In the AABB form of adjectives and verbs, the second syllable usually changes to the light tone, such as "高 高 大 大" (gāogaodàdà, tall and big), "空 空 洞 洞" (kōngkongdòngdòng, devoid of content), and "打 打 闹 闹" (dǎdanàonào, laugh and frolic). With some of them, the third and fourth syllables change to the first tone in speaking, such as "利 利 落 落" (lìliluōluō, agile) and "漂 漂 亮 亮" (piàopioliāngliāng, beautiful). These rules do not apply to reduplicative forms of onomatopoeic words and nouns such as "滴 滴 答 答" (dīdīdādā, ticktack), "哐 哐 当 当" (kuāngkuāngdāngdāng, crack), "时 时 刻 刻" (shíshíkèkè, all the time), and "角 角 落 落" (jiǎojiǎoluòluò, every corner).

III Parts of Speech:

1 Except for phrases, single characters that are not words, and structures in classic use, all words are marked parts of speech. They are noun, verb, adjective, numeral, measure word, pronoun, adverb, preposition, conjunction, particle, interjection, and onomatopoeic words. Among them, pronouns are further divided into personal pronoun, demonstrative pronoun, and interrogative pronoun. Time word, place word, and modal verb are also specially marked. Two kinds of special adjectives are called "word describing nature" 属性词 and "word describing manner" 状态词 in this dictionary. "Word describing nature" is used only as attributive and to form a "的 phrase". It cannot take an adverb of degree such 很 and 非常 as its adverbial modifier. The words 大型、中型、小型、中式、西式、男、女、正、副 are some examples. "Word describing manner" (1) has its own describing element, such as 雪白、黧黑、笔直、溜光 and (2) is a reduplicative form, such as 慢慢、好好、懒洋洋、毛烘烘、黑不溜秋、苦了呱叽 (originally monosyllabic adjective) and 恭恭敬敬、随随便便、空空洞洞、漂漂亮亮 (originally disyllabic adjective). When taking a structural particle 的 or 地, "word describing manner" can function as predicate, attributive, adverbial modifier, and complement. (An exception is that a reduplicative form of a disyllabic adjective does not need a 的 when it functions as a complement.)

2 Words to different parts of speech are given separate definitions and sample sentences. For example, "【突破】 tūpò 1 [动] 打破 (v. to break): 突破历史最高洪水水位; 突破纪录。 2 [名] 对于旧有事物的超越 (n. breakthrough): 重大突破; 新的突破。" Because the morphology of Chinese words does not change with use, some words are difficult to parse clearly and differences of opinion exist among linguists. Under this circumstance, this dictionary marks parts of speech according to the example sentences.

3 Because some verbs and verbal phrases are also difficult to distinguish from each other, in this dictionary a few items marked as verbs may be modifier-verb, verb-object or verb-complement phrases.

IV Definitions:

1 Arabic numerals are used to indicate different meanings of a word. For example, "双 shu`ng 1[形/属性] 两个 (two)... 2 [形/属性] 偶数的 (of even number)... 3 [量] (a measure word)..."

2 The character 〈方〉 is used to indicate words in dialect, such as "【堂客】 t1ngk7 〈方〉 [名] 妻子 (wife)". The character 〈书〉 is used to indicate words used in written form, such as "【衰朽】 shuāixiǔ 〈书〉 [形] 1 衰落 (decline)。 2 衰老 (old and weak)".

3 The original meanings, extended meanings, and metaphorical meanings of words are usually given separate definitions and example sentences. For example, "【手脚】 sh0uji2o [名] 1 手和脚 (hands and feet): 手脚并用。 2 指举动或动作 (movement of hands or feet): 手脚麻利。 3 指暗中采取的行动, 含贬义 (underhand method; trick): 做手脚".

4 Definitions are given concisely to avoid verbose explanation. Users are expected to understand the meanings of the words and to study how to apply them by reading the sample sentences provided.

V Sample Sentences:

All sample sentences are chosen from modern publications. In order to reflect accurately a complete picture of modern Chinese language, materials from the 1920s through the 1940s, the beginning stage of modern Chinese, are also included. Example sentences from this period are all taken from famous literary works and are in total account for only about 15% of the overall examples. Most of the materials used to compile this dictionary were published within the last 15 years. Except for historical or public figures, the names of people in newspapers and periodicals were changed as necessary. As a guiding principle only concise and clearly written sentences are selected. In order to illustrate the usage of a part of less used words, some sample sentences have to be collected from academic and technical writings. They, however, may be a little difficult for general readers. Special thanks are offered to all the writers whose work contributed to these sample sentences.