

Correctness

英語一 郭鎧睿 S11027002

英語二 顏郁勳 S10922003

Understanding Correctness

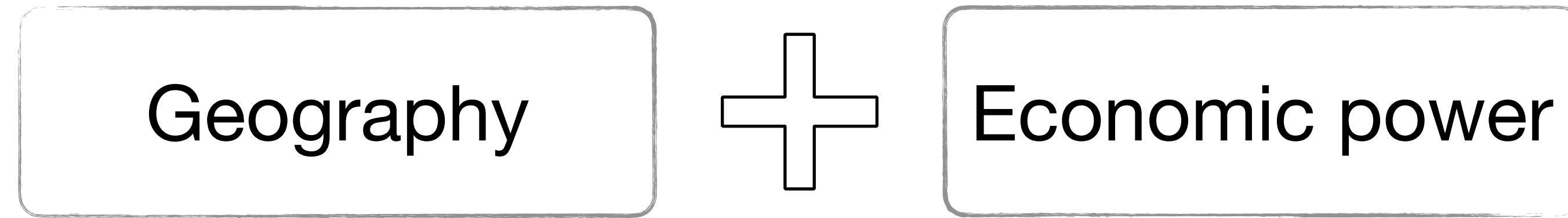
- ① Lack of media support was the cause of our election loss.
- ② We lost the election because the media did not support us.

[Most of us would choose ②]

Key

“correctness seems a matter not of choice, but of obedience.”

Grammar



Three Kind of Rules

- ① Real rules : define what makes English English.
- ② Social rules : distinguish Standard English from nonstandard.
- ③ Invented rules : some grammarians have invented a handful of rules that they think we all should observe.

Invented Rules

We can sort most invented rules into two groups :

- Folklore : These rules includes those that **most** careful readers and writers **ignore**.
- Elegant Options : Use other suitable words to replace original one.

Folklore 01

→ **Don't** begin sentences with and or but.

e.g.

- The plan was rejected. ***Because*** it was incomplete. (✗)
- Some writers write graceless prose **because** they are seized by the idea that writing is good only when it's free of errors that only a grammarian can explain. (○)

Folklore 01

→ **Don't** begin sentences with and or but.

e.g.

- **Since** our language seems to reflect our quality of mind, it is easy for those inclined to look down on others to think that grammatical “errors” indicate mental or moral deficiency. (○)

Folklore 02

→ Use the RELATIVE PRONOUN **that** – not which – for RESTRICTIVE CLAUSES.

e.g.

- ABCO Inc. ended its first bankruptcy, **which** it had filed in 1997. (○)
- ABCO Inc. sold a product **that** [*which* (✗)] made millions.

Folklore 03

→ Use fewer with nouns you count, less with nouns you cannot.

e.g.

- I can remember no **less** than five occasionss when the correspondence columns of *The Times* rocked with volleys of letters . . .

Noel Gilroy Annan, Lord Annan, “The Life of the Mind in
British Universities Today,” *American Council
of Learned Societies Newsletter*

Folklore 04

→ Use since and while to refer only on time, not to mean because or although.

e.g.

- **Since** asbestos is dangerous, it should be removed carefully. (○)
- **While** we agree on a date, we disagree about the place. (○)

Elegant Options 01

→ Don't split infinitives.

e.g.

- They wanted **to slightly conceal** the fact . . . (**correct**)
- They wanted **to conceal slightly** the fact . . . (**more formal**)

Elegant Options 02

→ Use whom as the object of a verb or preposition.

e.g.

- **Who** am I writing for? (**correct**)
- For **whom** am I writing? (**more formal**)
- Actual rule for whom and who. . .

Elegant Options 03

→ Don't end a sentence with a preposition.

e.g.

- The man I met **with** was the man I had written **to**. (**correct**)
- The man **with whom** I met was the man **to whom** I had written.
(**more formal**)

Elegant Options 04

→ Use the singular with none and any.

e.g.

- **None** of the reasons **are** sufficient to end the project. (**correct**)
- **None** of the reasons **is** sufficient to end the project. (**more formal**)

Elegant Options

“Conclusion”

They are not real rules, only to create a formal style.

Hobgoblins

“A foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds.”

— American writer Ralph Waldo Emerson

“保持盲目的一致是頭腦簡單的表現”

Hobgoblins 01

→ Never use like for as or as if.

e.g.

- These operations failed **like** the earlier ones did. **(not this)**
- These operations failed **as** the earlier ones did. **(but this)**

Hobgoblins 02

→ Don't use hopefully to mean "I hope".

e.g.

– **Hopefully**, it will not rain. **(not this)**

– **I hope** that it will not rain. **(but this)**

Hobgoblins 03-1

→ Don't use finalize to mean finish or complete.

Finalize :

1. Finish
2. To clean up the last few details

Hobgoblins 03-2

→ Don't use finalize to mean finish or complete.

nationalize

rationalize

ize 結尾的字都很難看！！

finalize

synthesize

Hobgoblins 04

→ Don't use impact as a verb.

e.g.

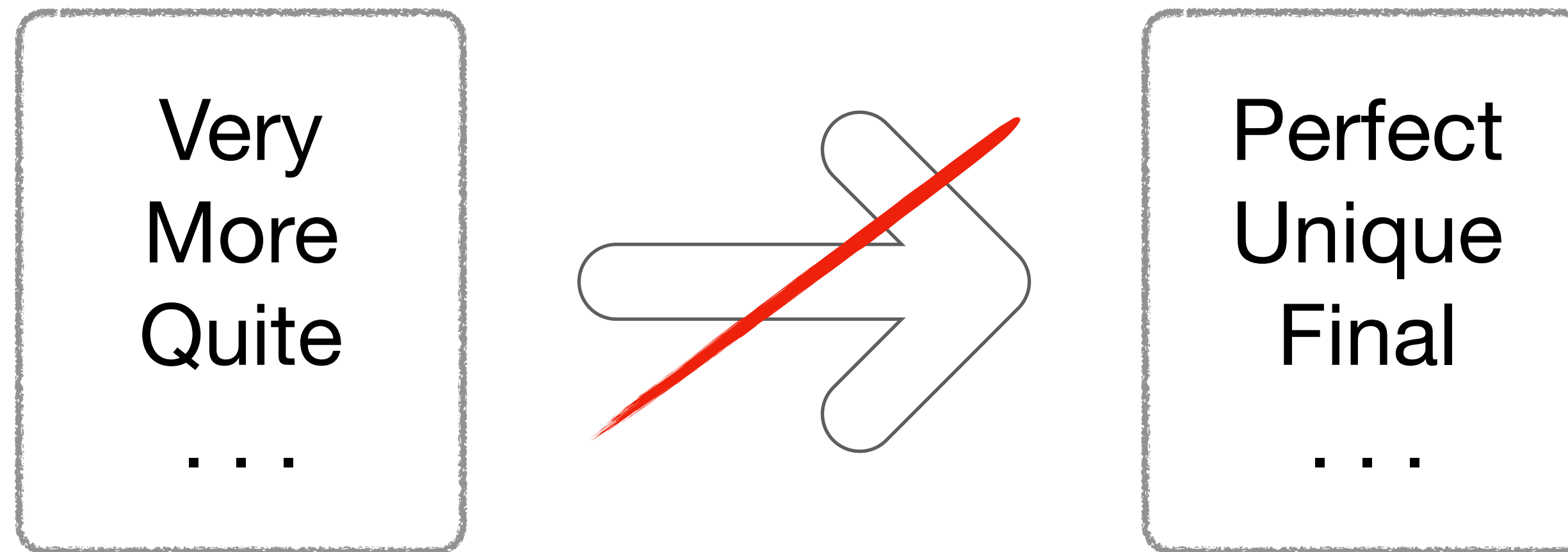
- The survey **impacted** our strategy. **(not this)**
- The survey had **an impact** on our strategy. **(but this)**

Hobgoblins 05

→ Don't modify absolute words.

We the People of the United States, in order to form a **more perfect** union . . .
(出自美國憲法序言)

– 雖然會跟這句有衝突，但還是值得遵守 –



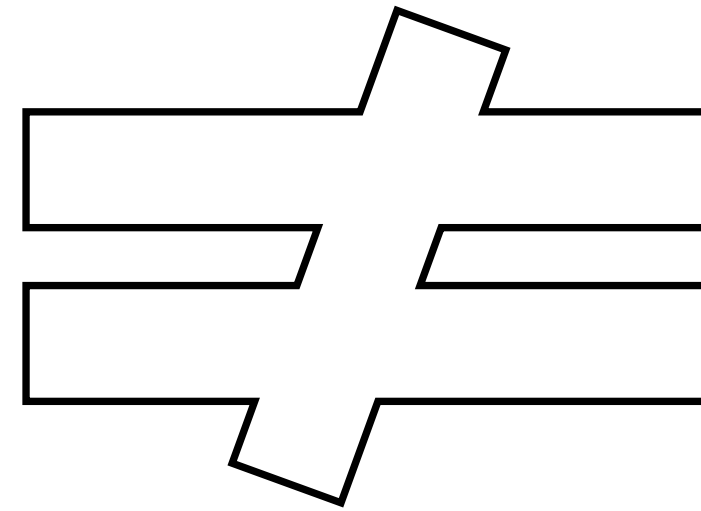
Hobgoblins 06

→ Never use irregardless for regardless or irrespective.

**Irregardless
is
Nonstandard**

Some Words That Attract Special Attention

1.Flaunt
2.Aggravate
3.Anticipate
4.Anxious
5.Blackmail
6.Comprise

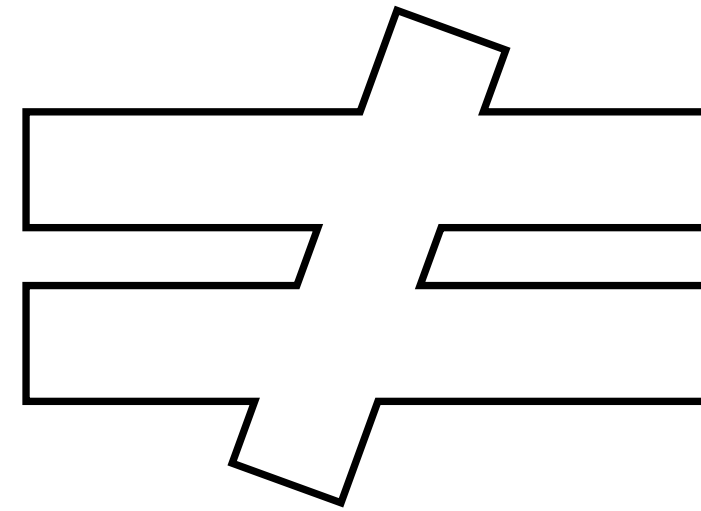


1.Flout
2.Annoy
3.Expect
4.Eager
5.Coerce
6.Constitute

When Prince William married Kate Middleton, she became his “consort”;
his hangers-on **are** still his **cohort**.

Some Words That Attract Special Attention

1. Continuous
2. Disinterested
3. Enormity
4. Fortuitous
5. Fulsome
6. Notorious



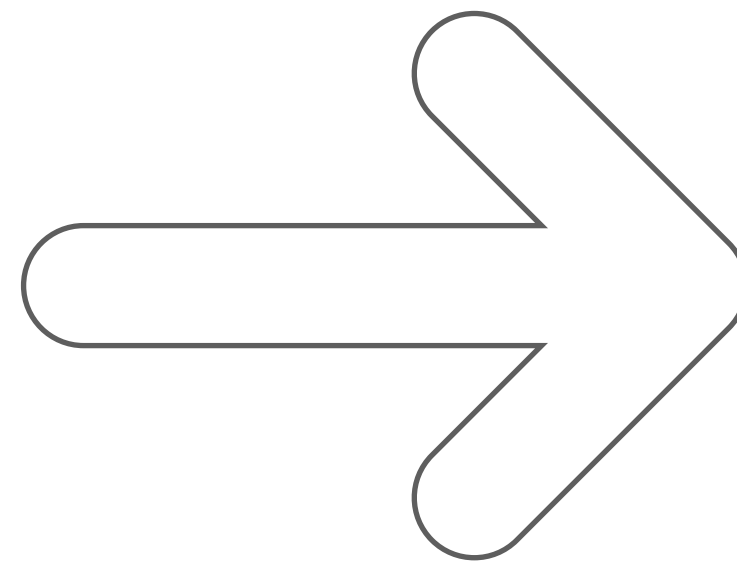
1. Continual
2. Uninterested
3. Enormous
4. Fortunate
5. Much
6. Famous

“You can’t predict good grammar or correct usage by logic or general rule.”

Some Words That Attract Special Attention

Singular

- 1.Datum
- 2.Criterion
- 3.Medium
- 4.Stratum
- 5.Phenomenon



Plural

- 1.Data
- 2.Criteria
- 3.Media
- 4.Strata
- 5.Phenomena

“You have to learn the rules one-by-one and accept the fact that some of them, probably most of them, are arbitrary and idiosyncratic.”

Pronouns and Their Referents 01

e.g.

- Early **efforts** to oppose the hydrogen bomb failed because **it** ignored political issues.
(**not this**)
- Early **efforts** to oppose the hydrogen bomb failed because **they** ignored political issues.
(**but this**)

Pronouns and Their Referents 02

e.g.

- No one wanted to expose themselves to anti-Communist hysteria.
(not this)
- No one wanted to expose himself to anti-Communist hysteria.
(but this)

Pronouns and Their Referents 03

The first problem

e.g.

- The **committee** has met but has not yet made **its** decision.
(the group acts as a single entity)
- The **faculty** have the memo, but not all of **them** have read it.
(its members act individually)

Pronouns and Their Referents 04

The second problem

e.g.

- **Everyone** knows **they** must answer for their actions.
(casual)
- **Everyone** knows **he** must answer for his actions.
(formal)

Gender and Biased Language

e.g.

- When **a writer** ignores **his** reader's ethnicity , . . .
- If **a writer** ignores the ethnicity of **his or her (s/he)** readers, . . .
- When **writers** ignore **their** readers' ethnicity, . . .
- If **we** ignore the ethnicity of **our** readers,
- Failure to consider ethnicity may lead to . . .

Thank you for your attention