什么是"正确的"英语?

What is "correct" english?

How do we know what's right or wrong in English? Languages such as French and Spanish have an official organisation that tells you what's correct. But there's nothing like that in English. So, what can we do?

我们如何知道英语中对错？像法语和西班牙语等语言都有一个官方组织来告诉您什么是正确的。但英语中没有这样的机构。那么，我们该怎么办呢？

🔲 **重点词汇**：

know: v. 知道，了解

right: adj. 正确的，对的

wrong: adj. 错误的，不对的

English: 英语

language: n. 语言

French: n. 法语

Spanish: n. 西班牙语

official organisation: 官方组织

correct: adj. 正确的

nothing like: 与...不同

📒 **固定搭配**：

nothing like that: 与那不同
While French has an official body that regulates its language, English has nothing like that.（虽然法语有一个官方机构来规范语言，但英语与之不同。）

what can we do: 我们能做什么
In the face of a challenge, what can we do to find a solution?（面对挑战，我们能做什么来找到解决办法？）

> There is, of course, Standard English. This is the sort of English you see in newspapers, formal letters and legal documents. It's also the sort of English you learn at school or in course books.

当然，有标准英语。这是你在报纸、正式信函和法律文件中看到的那种英语。这也是你在学校或课本上学习的英语。

📕 **重点词汇**：
Standard English: 标准英语
sort of: 种类，类型
newspaper: n. 报纸
formal letter: 正式信函
legal document: 法律文件
course book: 课本

📙 **固定搭配**：
Standard English: 标准英语
Standard English is used in official and formal written communication.（标准英语用于正式和官方的书面交流。）

formal letters: 正式信函
In formal letters, it is important to use proper language and etiquette.（在正式信函中，使用恰当的语言和礼仪非常重要。）

legal documents: 法律文件

Legal documents must be precise and follow specific language conventions.（法律文件必须精确，并遵循特定的语言约定。）

course books: 课本
Course books are essential for students to learn and practice the material taught in class.（课本对学生学习和练习课堂上教授的内容至关重要。）

> However, Standard English isn't official English. And incredibly, linguists classify Standard English as a dialect, so it's on the same level as all other types of English such as Cockney English, Yorkshire English, South African English, Australian English... And according to linguists, there's no such thing as Standard Spoken English.

然而，标准英语并非官方英语。令人难以置信的是，语言学家将标准英语归类为一种方言，因此它与所有其他类型的英语处于同一水平，例如伦敦英语、约克郡英语、南非英语、澳大利亚英语......根据语言学家的说法，没有所谓的标准口语英语。

📕 **重点词汇：**
official: adj. 官方的
incredibly: adv. 令人难以置信地
linguist: n. 语言学家
classify: v. 分类，归类
dialect: n. 方言
level: n. 水平，层次
Cockney English: 伦敦方言（科克尼英语）
Yorkshire English: 约克郡英语
South African English: 南非英语
Australian English: 澳大利亚英语
Standard Spoken English: 标准口语英语

📒 **固定搭配：**

official English: 官方英语
Official English is the language used in government and official documents.（官方英语是政府和官方文件中使用的语言。）

on the same level as: 与...处于同一水平
Cockney English and Yorkshire English are on the same level as other regional dialects in England.（伦敦方言和约克郡英语与英格兰的其他地方方言处于同一水平。）

Standard Spoken English: 标准口语英语
Standard Spoken English refers to the pronunciation and language conventions used in formal spoken communication.（标准口语英语指的是正式口语交流中使用的发音和语言约定。）

As a result of this lack of structure, English is constantly changing. Every year, new words appear, and others disappear. Words change too. For example, for many years, the Latin word "agendum' was the accepted singular form and "agenda' was the plural form. However, these days, very few people use the Latin-sounding "agendum", with "agenda" being the accepted singular form, and "agendas" the plural.

由于缺乏结构，英语一直在不断变化。 每年都会涌现新词，也有词消失。单词也在不断变化。例如，多年来，拉丁词 "agendum" 曾是公认的单数形式，而 "agenda" 是复数形式。然而，如今，很少有人使用拉丁语 "agendum"，"agenda" 成了公认的单数形式，而 "agendas" 则是复数形式。

🚩 **重点词汇：**
lack: n. 缺乏
structure: n. 结构，体系

constantly: adv. 不断地

appear: v. 出现

disappear: v. 消失

Latin: n. 拉丁语

agendum: n. 待办事项

agenda: n. 议程

accepted: adj. 被接受的

singular: adj. 单数的

plural: adj. 复数的

📙 **固定搭配：**

constantly changing: 不断变化

In the tech industry, software and hardware are constantly changing and evolving.（在科技行业，软件和硬件不断变化和发展。）

plural form: 复数形式

In English, the plural form of "cat" is "cats."（在英语中，"cat"的复数形式是"cats"。）

So, who decides what is or isn't correct? Lexicographers (dictionary makers) choose words on the basis of usage — the way language is used. They do this by analysing thousands of texts. For example, the publishing house Collins has its Bank of English, which is a massive database of over 600 million words from newspapers, film scripts and transcripts of conversations. And they select terms from this Bank of English based on their frequency — how often they appear in text or speech.

那么，到底是由谁来决定什么是正确的，什么是错误的呢？词典编纂者根据语言的实际使用情况来选择词汇。他们通过分析成千上万的文本来完成这项工作。 例如，柯林斯出版社拥有其 Bank of English，这是一个庞大的数据库，从报纸、电影剧

本和对话记录中收录了 6 亿多个单词。他们根据词汇出现的频率（即它们在文本或语音中出现的频率）从这个英语库中挑选词汇。

🟥 **重点词汇：**

lexicographer: n. 词典编纂者，词典制作者

usage: n. 用法，使用

language: n. 语言

analysing: v. 分析

publishing house: 出版社

Collins: 柯林斯，出版公司名

massive: adj. 巨大的，庞大的

database: n. 数据库

film script: 电影剧本

transcript: n. 文字记录，文字复制本

conversation: n. 会话，交谈

term: n. 术语，词汇

frequency: n. 频率

Newspapers each have their own style guides with information on how they write certain things. For example, The Guardian puts dates like this, "21 July 2011", with the day first, followed by the month (and no commas). However, the news agency Reuters writes them like this, "July 21, 2011" (with the month first, and a comma between the day and the year). Other newspapers have different ways of doing it too. So, as you can see, there's no one "correct" way — there's a variety of ways and each one is valid.

各家报纸都拥有自己的编辑规范指南，其中包含有关如何撰写某些内容的信息。 例如，《卫报》是这样写日期的 "21 July 2011"，日期在前，月份在后（没有逗号）。 然而，路透社是这样写的："July 21, 2011"（月份在前，日和年之间用逗

号）。其他报纸也有不同的写法。 因此，如你所见，没有一种"正确"的方式——方式有多种，每一种都是有效的。

📕 **重点词汇：**
style guide: 风格指南
information: n. 信息
certain: adj. 某些的，特定的
The Guardian: 卫报，报纸名
comma: n. 逗号
news agency: 新闻机构
Reuters: 路透社，新闻机构名
variety: n. 多样性，种类
valid: adj. 有效的

📙 **固定搭配：**
style guides: 风格指南
Writers often refer to style guides to ensure their writing aligns with a specific publication's guidelines.
（作者经常参考风格指南，以确保他们的写作符合特定出版物的准则。）

For language learners, there are guides, such as Michael Swan's Practical English Usage. And most course books are written in Standard English, but there are always grey areas such as the use of who and whom.

对于语言学习者，有一些指南，比如迈克尔·斯旺（Michael Swan）的《实用英语用法》。 而且大多数教材都是用标准英语编写的，但总有一些灰色地带，例如 who 和 whom 的使用。

📕 **重点词汇：**
guide: n. 指南，指导书
course book: 课本
grey area: 灰色地带

📒 **固定搭配：**
grey areas: 灰色地带
Grammar rules sometimes have grey areas where there is room for interpretation.（语法规则有时存在灰色地带，允许不同的解释。）

> Of course, some people try to impose rules on the language. They may tell you that you can't split an infinitive — you can't put a word between "to" and the base verb form (e g. "to quickly eat"). But try telling that to the makers of Star Trek, whose famous introduction goes, "To boldly go where no man has gone before."

当然，有些人试图对语言强加规则。 他们可能会告诉您不能拆分不定式 - 不能在 "to" 和基本动词形式之间放置单词（例如 "to quickly eat"）。但你可以试着把这一规则告诉《星际迷航》的制作者，因为他们著名的开场白是："To boldly go where no man has gone before."

📕 **重点词汇：**
impose: v. 强加，强制执行
rule: n. 规则
split: v. 分割，拆分
infinitive: n. 不定式
verb: n. 动词
introduction: n. 介绍
boldly: adv. 大胆地

> Others will say you can't end a sentence with a preposition. Well, Winston Churchill had something funny to say about that, "This is the sort of nonsense up with which I will not put," which sounds ridiculous in English. (The more natural

version would be: "This is the sort of nonsense I won't put up with.")

还有一些人会说你不能以介词结尾。 对此，温斯顿·丘吉尔对此开过玩笑，"This is the sort of nonsense up with which I will not put"，这在英语中听起来很荒谬。 （更自然的版本是："This is the sort of nonsense I won't put up with."）

📕 **重点词汇：**
preposition: n. 介词
funny: adj. 有趣的，滑稽的
nonsense: n. 胡说，无稽之谈
put up with: 忍受，容忍
ridiculous: adj. 荒谬的，可笑的
natural: adj. 自然的，常见的

📒 **固定搭配：**
put up with: 忍受，容忍
Sometimes, we have to put up with things we don't like in life.（有时候，我们不得不忍受生活中的不喜欢的事情。）

Or that you can't use double negatives (two negative words in the same sentence). But what would Mick Jagger, whose song goes, "I can't get no satisfaction", have to say about that?

还有人说你不能使用双重否定（一个句子中同时出现两个否定词）。但米克·贾格尔（Mick Jagger）的歌曲中就有 "I can't get no satisfaction" 这样的句子，你对此怎么看呢？

📕 **重点词汇：**
double negative: 双重否定
satisfaction: n. 满足

📗 **固定搭配：**

double negative: 双重否定

In some languages, double negatives cancel each other out, while in English, they intensify the negation. （在一些语言中，双重否定相互抵消，而在英语中，它们加强了否定。）

> Next time someone tells you that something is "wrong", tell them that it isn't wrong, it's Just English!

下次有人告诉你某些是"错误"时，请告诉他们这没有错，这就是英语！

📗 **固定搭配：**

double negative: 双重否定

In some languages, double negatives cancel each other out, while in English, they intensify the negation.