



# BASIC DIFFERENCES BETWEEN CHINESE AND ENGLISH-3

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# **HYPOTACTIC 形和的；主从关系的 VS. PARATACTIC 意合的；并列的**

**In English, clauses or phrases are coordinated with or subordinated to one another syntactically while in Chinese the clauses are usually placed one after another without coordinating connectives.**

**The many colors Of a rainbow range from red on the outside to violet on the inside.**

彩虹有多种颜色，外圈红，内圈紫。

**He had a disconcerting habit of expressing contradictory ideas in rapid succession.**

他有一种令人难堪的习惯：一会儿一个看法，自相矛盾，变化无常。

**HYPOTACTIC** 形和的；主从关系的 **VS.** **PARATACTIC** 意合的；并列的

**E.g.** 我曾多次见他画小鸡，毛茸茸，很可爱；也见过他画的鱼鹰，水是绿的，钻进水里的，很生动。

**On several occasions I watched him paint fluffy little chicks and vivid cormorants with their heads in clear green water.**

## Compact 紧凑的 vs. Diffusive 流散的

English sentences are compact, tightly combined with connectives or prepositions, while Chinese is diffused, that is, loose in structure.

e.g. Now the integrated circuit has reduced by many times the size of the computer of which it forms a part, thus creating a new generation of portable minicomputer.

现在集成电路成了计算机的组成部分，使计算机的体积大大缩小，从而产生了新一代的便携式微型计算机。

## Compact 紧凑的 vs. Diffusive 流散的

**e.g. A notion has taken hold in the US to the effect that the only people who should be encouraged to bring children into the world are those who can afford them.**

在美国有一个根深蒂固的观点，说只有对那些抚养得起子女的人，才应鼓励其生育。

## Complex 复合的 vs. Simple 简单的

English sentences are long and complex, while Chinese sentences are short and simple.

e.g. Many man-made substances are replacing certain natural materials because either the quality of the natural product can not meet our ever-increasing requirement, or, more often, because the physical properties of the synthetic substance, which is the common name for man-made materials, have been chosen and even emphasized, so that it would be of the greatest use in the fields in which it is to be applied.

人造材料通称为合成材料。许多人造材料正在代替某些天然材料，这或许是由于天然物产的质量不能满足日益增长的需要，或者更常见的是，人们选择了合成材料的一些物理属性并加以强化，使其在其应用领域中被广泛应用。

## Impersonal 物称表达法 vs. Personal 人称表达法

There are more impersonal structures in English than in Chinese, as shown in the following examples:

- An idea suddenly struck me.  
我突然想到一个主意。
- A strange peace came over her when she was alone.  
她独处时感到一种特别的安宁。
- Not a sound reached our ears.  
我们没有听到任何声音。
- A great elation overcame them.  
他们欣喜若狂。
- The truth finally dawned on her.  
她最终明白了真相。

## Passive 被动的 vs. Active 主动的

As we have mentioned in the previous units, the passive voice is extensively used in English, while Chinese sentences are usually active.

e.g. Voice were heard calling for help.  
有人听到呼救声。

A few years ago it was thought unusual that programs could ever be called up by viewers to be displayed on their TV screens at home.

几年前人们还认为，观众居然能打电话要求在自家的电视屏幕上播出节目是件稀罕的事情。



## Static 静态的 vs. Dynamic 动态的

English is static, with nouns being frequently used to replace verbs, while Chinese is dynamic, with more verbs being used in a single sentence.

▪ He is a good eater and a good sleeper.

他能吃又能睡。

▪ You must be a very fast learner.

你一定很善于学习。

Studies serve for delight, for ornament, and for ability.

读书可以怡情养性，可以摭拾文采，可以增长才干。

He took his students to the factory for a visit.

他带学生到工厂去参观。

## Abstract 抽象的 vs. Concrete 具体的

In expressing the same idea English seems more abstract while Chinese, more concrete.

e.g. The absence of intelligence is an indication of satisfactory development.

没有消息即表明有令人满意的进展。

A high degree of carelessness, pre-operative and post-operative, on the part of some of the hospital staff, took place.

医院某些医护人员在手术前后都非常粗心。

## Indirect 间接的 VS. Direct 直接的

Some English sentences seem to be indirect in affirmation while Chinese sentences are straightforward.

▪ I couldn't feel better.

我感觉好极了。

▪ I couldn't agree with you more.

我太赞成你的看法了。

▪ If you have a car, you are independent of trains and buses.

如果你有小汽车，就不用去坐火车或挤公共汽车。

## Substitutive 替代的 VS. Repetitive 重复的

Generally speaking, there are not so many repetitions in English as in Chinese.

▪ You should help her since you have promised to do SO.  
你既然答应了要帮助她就应当帮助她。

▪ He hated failure; he had conquered it all his life, risen above it, and despised it in others.

他讨厌失败，他一生中曾战胜失败，超越失败，并且藐视别人的失败。

# CONCLUSION

English	Chinese
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Compact 紧凑的	Diffusive 流散的
Complex 复合的	Simple 简单的
Impersonal 物称表达法	Personal 人称表达法
Passive 被动的	Active 主动的
Static 静态的	Dynamic 动态的
Abstract 抽象的	Concrete 具体的
Indirect 间接的	Direct 直接的
Substitutive 替代的	Repetitive 重复的