

少了個逗號,換了層意思

有個廣為流傳的笑話: 老師在白板上寫了一句話 "A woman without her man is nothing",要同學們填入標點符號。結果答案竟成了兩派:



A woman, without her man, is nothing.

女人,只要沒了男人,就毫無用處。

A woman: without her, man is nothing.

女人: 沒有她, 男人毫無用處。



由此可見,標點符號雖然看似渺小,但卻能夠主宰整個句子的語義。以下兩句只差了一個短號,就把原本的好意變成了想要與對方決裂的句子:

I'm sorry I love you

我很抱歉愛上你。 (沒有誠意的道歉,像是分手宣言)

I'm sorry, I love you.

我很抱歉,我愛你。

(讓對方知道:我很抱歉,但我是愛你的)

容易被忽略的「逗號」

標點符號是語言的一部分,且各司其職。然而,這些立大功的小兵,卻容易被人忽略、錯用;加上資訊爆 炸時代的來臨,導致語言習慣演變為方便導向,讓人更容易忽略標點符號的重要性:尤其是與我們關係最緊 密的「逗號」。

想像你剛開完馬拉松式的會議,想在陌生的城市晃晃,隨手在臉書牆上打:

I have few hours to kill someone give me some ideas

(你想說)我有幾個小時的空檔,給我些建議吧。

I have few hours to kill, someone gives me some ideas.

(別人看成)我有幾個小時可以殺人,給我些想法吧。 I have few hours to kill someone, give me some ideas. 不但忘了逗號,也忘了someone後面動詞要用單數,結果把朋友們嚇了一大跳,還以為要發生命案;或者,你與新認識的朋友在Line聊天,結果弄巧成拙...

I often find inspiration in cooking my family and my dog.

(你想說)我常從烹飪、我的家人與狗獲得靈感。
I often find inspiration in cooking, my family and my dog.

(別人看成) 我常從煮我的家人與狗獲得靈感。

這裡整理出3種,常見的逗號錯誤:

1. 複數跟所有格分不清

The girl's will go to the office tomorrow.

The girls will go to the office tomorrow.

2. 沒有對等連接詞

如果沒有連接詞,那就直接打句號再重新開始一個句子,或是用 and, but, or, so, yet 這些對等連接詞,把句子接起來。

The ticket costs \$1, I'm going to buy it.

The ticket costs \$1. I'm going to buy it.

The ticket costs \$1, and I'm going to buy it.

3. 從屬子句開頭的句子,沒有逗號

Before going to sleep John played video games. Before going to sleep, John played video games.

常見的從屬連接詞為:although, because, before, however, unless, even though...