

今天我们为大家带来五组名词类的近义词辨析，这一环节的意义不仅在于帮助大家区别几个词语的含义，更主要的是了解它们的语言环境从而更好地使用，进一步感知英语语言文化。一起来看我们今天这些词语吧！

## class / lesson

这两个词都有“课业”之意。

### class

/klæs/

1. a group of student who are taught together (班，班级)

例句：Reducing class sizes should be a top priority.

削减班级规模应该是首选方案。

2. a series of classes in a particular subject (课程)

例句：He acquired a law degree by taking classes at night.

他通过读夜校获得了法律学位。

3. a period of time during which a group of students is taught together (课堂，上课时间)

例句：There is lots of reading in class.

课上要进行大量的阅读。

4. a group of people who finish a course of study together in the same year (...届毕业生)

例句：These two members of Yale's Class of '57 never miss a reunion.

这两个耶鲁大学 57 届毕业生每次同学聚会都参加。

## lesson

/ˈles(ə)n/

1. a fixed period of time when people are taught about a particular subject or taught how to do something (一堂课，一节课)

例句：It would be his last French lesson for months.

这将是他以后几个月里的最后一堂法语课。

2. a section in a book that teaches you about a particular subject (课程)

例句：Lesson 5 is all about the preposition.

第五课讲的是介词。

3. something that you learn from life, an event, or an experience, a punishment or a bad experience that teaches you something (教训, 经验)

例句: There's still one lesson to be learned from the crisis—we all need to better understand the thinking of the other side.

从这次危机中我们还可以吸取一个教训——我们都需要更好地了解对方的想法。

**辨析:** 在辨析中我们主要为大家辨析这两个词关于课业的意思。很多时候两者可以通用, 比如: There is a physics class / lesson on Tuesday. Class 比较侧重与表示课业课堂的形式, 而 lesson 常侧重学科的课业内容, 具体的应用还是要根据语境来分析。此外, 关于 lesson 还有一个非常实用的短语, teach someone a lesson, 表示给了某人一个教训。

### description / narration

这两个词都有“描述”之意。

#### description

/dɪ'skrɪpʃ(ə)n/

1. a piece of writing or speech that gives details about what someone or something is like (描述)

例句: Police have issued a description of the man who was aged between fifty and sixty.

警方已公布了这一年龄在 50 至 60 之间的男子的相貌特征。

2. type or kind (类型)

例句: Events of this description occurred daily.

这类事件每天都有发生。

### **narration**

/nə'reɪʃ(ə)n/

1. the act or process of telling a story or describing what happens (叙述, 描述)

例句: The novel uses first-person narration.

这部小说用第一人称来叙事。

2. words that are heard as part of a movie, television show, etc., and that describe what is being seen (解说)

例句：A detailed PowerPoint slide show with voice narration is downloadable

这里有一份详细的演说幻灯片，带语音旁白是可下载的。

**辨析：**Description 可以是书面化或口语上的描述，可以描述一个场景，一件物品，一个事件等等，还可作说明书使用；而 narration 侧重口头描述，也就是我们说的讲述，多数是用嘴巴说的，常用来讲述故事等。

### capacity / capability

这两个词也都有“能力”之意。

#### capacity

/kə'pæsəti/

1. the amount of something that can be put in a container, or the number of people that a place has room for (容量)

例句：The theater has a seating capacity of 600.

这个剧场可容纳六百名观众。

2. the ability to do something (能力，才能)

例句：Her mental capacity and temperament are as remarkable as his.

她的才智和气质和他一样出众。

3. the amount of goods that a company can produce, or the amount of work it can do (生产能力)

例句：Spending could outrun the capacity of businesses to produce the goods.

消费有可能超出企业的产能。

## capability

/ˌkeɪpəˈbɪləti/

1. the quality or state of being capable (能力)

例句：The country needs a defense capability as insurance against the unexpected.

国家需要有一定的防御能力，以应对不可预知的情况。

2. a feature or faculty capable of development (潜力，尚未发挥的资质)

例句：She has the capability to become a very fine actress.

她有潜力成为杰出演员。

3.the number of weapons, soldiers, etc. that a country has for fighting a war (武器装备, 军事力量)

例句：The country has virtually no military capability of its own.

这个国家实际上没有自己的军事力量。

**辨析：**这个单词的区别有一定的困难，大家先看两句话来理解他们的最常用的语境：The box has the capability to withstand pressure. (那箱子能承受压力)，The box has the capacity to contain 100 liters of water. (那箱子能装 100 公升的水)。capacity 侧重容纳能力或吞吐能力，capability 指实现特定目标或人物所必须具备的技能或资质，不局限于人，它的意思更接近汉语中的实力，有实力，所以能把事情做成。比如抗压能力，军事实力，核能力，排污能力等。当然，还是建议同学们结合所在的语境分析，下次遇到它们的时候，留心看一下喽。

## meeting / conference

这两个词都有“会议”之意。

## meeting

/ˈmi:tɪŋ/

1. an occasion when people gather to discuss things and make decisions, either in person or using phones, the internet, etc (会议, 集会)

例句: The representatives almost came to blows at a meeting.

代表们在一次会议上差点动起手来。

2. a conjunction or union (聚会, 会见)

例句: Her life was changed by a chance meeting with her former art master a few years ago.

她的生活因几年前同她以前的美术老师的偶遇改变了。

3. a sporting competition, as of athletes, or of horse racing (运动会)

例句: Should the weather be bad, the sports meeting will be postponed.

如果天气不好, 运动会就要延期。



**conference**

/'kɒnf(ə)rəns/

1. a prearranged large meeting for consultation or exchange of information or discussion (especially one with a formal agenda) (会议, 正式商谈)

例句：The British Labor Party concludes its annual conference today in Brighton.

英国工党的年度会议今天在布赖顿闭幕。

2. a discussion among participants who have an agreed (serious) topic (讨论会, 研讨会)

例句：The President summoned all the state governors to a conference on education.

总统召集各州州长召开了一次教育研讨会。

**辨析：**meeting 一般指广义上的会议，一般性的聚集会议，可以用与两人或多人，表示偶然的或拟定的，短暂的或持续的聚会，可用在日常普通场合，也可用在特殊或官方的正式场合；而 conference 一般指专门性有主题的正式会议，常用于就某个重大问题进行专门研究或交换意见的讨论会，协商会等。

## research / investigation

这两个词都有“研究调查”之意。

### research

/rɪ'sɜːrtʃ/

1.the detailed study of something in order to discover new facts, especially in a university or scientific institution (研究, 探索)

例句: Following a day of medical research, the conference focused on educational practices.

在就医学研究专题讨论一天后, 会议接下来的主题集中在教学实践上。

### investigation

/ɪnˌvestɪˈɡeɪʃ(ə)n/

1.the process of trying to find out all the details or facts about something in order to learn who or what caused it or how it happened (正式的调查, 审查, 侦查)

例句: The matter is the subject of a police investigation, and we have been advised not to comment.

这件事警方正在调查, 我们得悉不要加以评论。

Despite a thorough investigation, no trace of Dr. Southwell has been found.

尽管进行了彻底的调查，还是没有发现索思韦尔博士的任何踪迹。

**辨析：**research 多指科学上的研究，指科学工作者，学术人员等为揭示自然规律或获取某个领域的新知识而进行长时间的调查研究，偏重于较专业的学术上的研究调查；而 investigation 一般指有系统的全面调查以得到希望发现或需要知道的事，常用于政府警方等部门调查案件，事实真相等。