

## 吧 efore 与 until 的异同

一、在下列情况下，两者可互换用，但含义略有不同。before 表示“在……之前”的意思，强调时间先后关系；而 until 表示“直到……才”的意思，主句是肯定句则表示主句动作的终止时间；主句是否定句则强调主句动作的起始时间。

1.主句为否定式终止性谓语动词。常见的动词是 open, start, leave, arrive, finish, stop 等。例如：

(1)The noise of the street didn't stop until/before it was midnight.

(2)The children won't come back until/before it is dark.

(3)I didn't leave the lovely boy until/before his mother came home.

2.主句为肯定式、延续性谓语词，这类动词用 stand, stay, talk, be, wait 等。例如：

(1)He lived with his parents until/before he graduated from school.

(2)I will wait until/before he comes to my help.

(3)I shall stay here until/before you come back.

## 二、在下列情况下，用 **before** 不用 **until**。

1.主句是肯定式、终止性谓语动词，只用 **before**。例：

**(1)He fell asleep before I could take off his clothes.**

**(2)We arrived there before it started to rain.**

**(3)The holiday came to the end before I knew it.**

**(4)He almost knocked me down before he saw me.**

**2.主句谓语动词强调动词的迟缓性，只用**

**before, 常伴有时间段状语或时间段暗示。例:**

**(1)It was quite some time before he found the elephant at all.**

**(2)We had walked a long way before we found some water.**

**(3)We had sailed for two days before we saw the land.**

**(4)The fire lasted about four hours before the firefighters could control it.**

**(5)It was midnight before my brother came home.**

**(6)It was three months before they met again.**

**3.如果强调从句谓语动作未发生，就发生主句谓语动作，只用 before。常译为“未及”，“不”或“不等……就”。例：**

**(1)We can leave early in the morning before it gets too hot.**

**(2)I must write it down before I forget it.**

**(3)We do want to buy something now before prices go up.**

**4.表“与其说……倒不如”，“与其……毋宁……”只用 before。例：**

**(1)I would give up my job before I'd agree to be dismissed.**

**(2)He will die of hunger before he will**

**steal.**

**5.在某些特定句型中用 before。 例如：**

**(1)It was not long before the whole country rose up.**

**(2)It will probably not be long before they understand each other.**

三、下列情况一般区别用 until。

1.主句是持续性谓语动词时，肯定、否定都可以，但意义完全不同。肯定表动作终止，而否定表动作开始。例如：

(1)We discussed the problem until/before he came back.我们一直讨论到他回来。

(2)We didn't discuss the problem until he came back.我们一直等到他回来后才讨论问题。

2.not...until 句型尽管在某些情况下可与 before 互换用，但在强调句中一般仍用 until。

例如：

(1)It was not until he told me that I knew it.

(2)It was not until he finished his homework that he went home.

四、其他技巧

1.before 只是陈述以前的事实，用 until 则着重后来的变化情况：This book was so interesting that he read it for three hours until he realized it.

2.until 引出的分句内容是真实的，而 before 引出的分句的内容可能是真实的，也可以是非真实的：Let's wait until the rain stops.

Pig will fly before he'll become a mathematician.