

扫 清 障 碍 学 口 语 · 金 卷

常用 英语习语 及典故

总主编 侯宁海



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前 言

随着英语的普及,越来越多的人想在高层次上学习并掌握地道英语。为了满足这一需要,开阔您的视野,使您欣赏一些常用英语习语的典故,了解其由来及用法,我们特将众多的习语及典故,精撷珠玉,联缀成串编成本书《常用英语习语及典故》系《扫清障碍学口语·金卷》系列丛书之二,奉献给您。本书内容丰富,雅俗共赏,熔知识性、趣味性、实用性、恒久性于一炉。本书内容涉及日常生活的诸多方面,有的习语注有用法说明,有的习语列举其语源出处和典故,使您开阔眼界,了解异国风土人情、文化背景、风俗习惯、语言典故和历史趣闻,得知习语来龙去脉,有助记忆。

本书主要收录及解析富有表现力的地道英语习语。读者在学习时可以通过自己的生活经验及生活常识猜测英语习语的内涵。从而激发读者学习英语的兴趣,调动他们持续的学习热情,提高运用英语的技能。

英语习语是约定俗成、富有表现力的词语。在现代英语里许许多多习语,它们的意义决不是构成这些习语的各个词的意义的合成,而是另有新义。我们学习英语习语就不能仅从字面意思入手,而要了解其原义、转义、语源出处和典故,这样就不会“想当然”,也不会望文生义。如:Break a leg! 不能译成“摔断腿!(=Break one's/the leg!)”其实,Break a leg! 是“恭贺晋升! 祝你成功! 祝你幸运! 祝你好运气!”的意思。此语原是英国俚语,作对演员的祝贺语:“祝你演出成功!”但已成为美国、加拿大的流行口语。英语习语之所以很难,就难在不是习语的字面意思,而是透过字面意思加以引申、扩展、转义和联想。这就需要人们通过生活实践和常识,动用想象力,加以猜测。如书中 beat about the bush,它的字面意思是“击打灌木丛周围”。其实它是借喻。过去猎人打鸟,一群鸟飞进击灌木丛中,猎人击打灌木惊鸟起飞,以便再开枪射打。所以“击打灌木丛”不是目的,而是手段。真正的意思则是“旁敲侧击,声东击西”。

本书每个习语词条按以下顺序编排:习语、习语释义、≠(即“而不

是”)习语字面意思。这一编排方式旨在激发读者的想象力,培养联想和创新能力,同时也解决了某些习语中的生词的问题。

本书包括 1898 个词条,每个词条中含有【同义语】、【同义句】、【相关语】、【相关句】及数量不等的【反语短句】等组习语或短句。每组习语中又含有几个到几十个习语或短句。本书还包含若干【英美习俗】、【字母短句】、【字母词语】等。

本书内容设计独特,主要表现在根据习语的内容分为若干种不同的解析:1) 习语由来背景及典故,用 **典故** 表示;2) 习语含义、使用场合及用法分析,用 **用法** 表示;3) 本习语与其它习语的区别,用 **辨析** 表示;4) 有关本习语的例语或例句,用 **例** 表示;5) 归纳与某一英语词汇有关的习语,用 表示,如:heart,就用 heart 表示。另外,全书还有几十个“要点”框,归纳和总结日常生活中具有代表性的英语习俗或用语,包括:【有关圣诞节的习俗及用语】、【求婚与结婚】、【有关“干杯!”的同义短句】、【有关“道歉”的常用短句】、【有关“别客气!不用谢!”的同义短句】、【有关“我不知道!”的同义短句】、【有关“你好吗?”的同义短句】、【有关“万事如意!”的同义短句】、【有关“玩得很开心”的同义习语】、【有关“祝你幸福!祝你成功!”的同义短句】等。

为使读者在阅读之余丰富英语知识,扩大视野,提高兴趣,本书在每页书眉上编排一条名人名言(汉英对照),用六号字编排。本书以每个词条的第一个英文字母的顺序编排,可供您顺序学习并欣赏,也可供您作为工具书查找。

本书编写过程中,我们参考了大量的中外词书,并编译相关内容。在此向有关词书的作者一并表示最由衷地感谢。由于时间仓促,水平有限,遗漏错误难免,恳请专家、学者和广大读者不吝赐教。

编 者

2008 年 10 月 1 日

于南京大学

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552 at this(/that) point	82	585 be button-down	88
553 at twice	82	586 be capable of anything	88
554 at will	83	587 be caught with one's hand in	
555 at your disposal	83		
555 attack strile	83		

❧ B ❧

557 back and belly 83

the till	88	619 be in one's hands	94
588 be chicken-hearted	88	620 be in one's right mind	94
589 be close-fisted	89	621 be in pocket	94
590 be colourless	89	622 be in sb else's skin	94
591 be dead from the neck up	89	623 be in the bloom of youth	95
592 be down all heel(s)	89	624 be in the blues	95
593 be down on sb's neck	89	625 be in the bosom of one's family	95
594 be dressed up fit to kill	89		
595 be dressed up like a dog's dinner	90	626 be in the pink	95
596 be driven from pillar to post	90	627 be in the red	96
		628 be in the soup	96
597 be eaten up with jealousy	90	629 Be it so!	96
598 be food for fishes	90	630 be light-footed	97
599 be foxed	90	631 be like a vulture	97
600 be full of bile	90	632 be long in the tooth	97
601 be fussy as a hen with one chick	90	633 be more than flesh can stand	97
602 be good at handling people	91	634 be more trouble than a cartload of monkey	97
603 be green	91	635 be next door to sth	97
604 be green with envy	91	636 be no chicken	97
605 be hand in glove with sb	91	637 be no skin off sb's nose	97
606 be high-handed	91	638 be not as green as one is cab- bage-looking	98
607 be in a bed of thorns	91	639 be nuts on sb(sth)	98
608 be in a black mood	91	640 be off colour	98
609 be in a brown study	91	641 be on a friendly footing	98
610 be in a jam	92	642 be on a knife-edge	98
611 be in a pet	92	643 be on holiday	99
612 be in another's shoes	92	644 be on one's back	99
613 be in apple-pie orde	92	645 be on the bottle	99
614 be in clover	93	646 be on the carpet	99
615 be in dry dock	93	647 be on the last legs	99
616 be in full swing	93	648 be on the line	100
617 be in good taste	93	649 be on the point of	100
618 be in one's birthday clothes	93		

650 be on the rampage	100	682 bear sb's trouble on one's back	106
651 be on the side of the angels	100	684 bear the bag	106
652 be on the streets	101	684 beard the lion	106
653 be on the tiles	101	685 beat a dead horse	106
654 be out of pocket	101	686 beat about the bush	107
655 be out of the gutter	101	687 beat into sb's head	107
656 be out of the woods	101	688 beat one's breast	107
657 be out of truth	101	689 beat one's head against a wall	107
658 be out on a limb	101	690 beat sb black and blue	107
659 be packed like sardines	101	691 beat sb to his knees	107
660 be raised to the bench	101	692 beat sb out boots	108
661 be rooted to the ground	102	693 beat the Dutch	108
662 be short-handed	102	694 Beats me.	109
663 be shown the red card	102	695 beaver away	109
664 be shown the yellow card	102	696 beef about	109
665 be sick at heart	102	697 bee's knees	110
666 be stone deaf	102	698 behave like an animal	110
667 be sweet on(/upon) sb	102	699 bell the cat	110
668 be taken bad	102	700 below the belt	110
669 be the picture of health	103	701 bend an ear	110
670 be tied hand and foot	103	702 bend the knee	110
671 be tied to a woman's apron-stings	103	703 bend the knee before sb	111
672 be two-faced	103	704 Berlin warehouse	111
673 be unable to charm birds off a tree	103	705 best man	111
674 be under-handed	104	706 best part of...	111
675 be up a tree	104	707 best seller	111
676 be up to a lark	104	708 better safe than sorry	111
677 be up to one's neck in	104	709 better than one's word	111
678 be wool-gathering	105	710 Between you and me!	112
679 be yellow	105	711 beyond the pale(of sth)	112
680 Be your age!	106	712 big bad wolf/big bad	112
681 bear fruit	106	713 big game	112
		714 have the big head	112

✂ C ✂