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*Idioms Through
Culture Skills*

英语习语

白安竹
Andrew Bennett

这样学

拓展版

湖北长江出版集团
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习语是英语的重要组成部分，是听、说、读、写的基础。即使你熟知英语语法，也背会了许多英语单词，但是，不掌握英语习语，你仍然无法用英语成功交流。

英语习语反映了英、美文化，传递着历史、地理、宗教信仰、生活习俗等丰富的文化信息。准确掌握英语习语，有助于深刻理解英语中的文化内涵；对习语的正确使用，让你的英语地道和传神。

习语是一种特殊的语言形式，是相对固定的表达，你无法根据字面意义推断其真实含义。如果你像大多数英语学习者一样，对英语习语的学习感到“枯燥”，而且常常“学了后面，忘了前面，怎么都记不住”，那么，本书会帮您消除苦恼！

本书共30章，每章分如下6个板块：

1. 会话学习语 用一则地道、有趣的英语会话，让读者充分体会5个常用英语习语在生活中的自然使用。

2. 习语释义 中、英文解释+经典例句，加深读者对所学习语的理解。

3. 句型操练 对会话中的3个精彩句型举一反三。

4. 巩固训练 在练习中巩固对所学英语习语的记忆和掌握。

5. 活学活用 检验对所学习语的理解和实际运用能力。

6. 交际文化 介绍与会话内容相关的英美文化和交际技巧。

在每5章后面，我们还为大家精心设计了一个阅读单元，将前5章所学的所有习语巧妙运用于一篇十分有趣的英语故事中，并通过每个故事后面的5个阅读检验题，考查读者对前面内容的掌握。

通过我们的“一天一章六步走”和“五天一读测一测”，您每天只花10分钟，就可以30天轻松搞定150个常用英语习语了！这就是“一样的英语习语，不一样的学”啊！怎么样，咱们试试吧？

编者

2010年4月

To the student

Understanding idioms is an important part of learning and speaking English well. Native speakers frequently use idioms when they speak and write. Idioms are colorful and interesting, and they tell us a lot about the culture of native speakers. However, they are sometimes hard to understand.

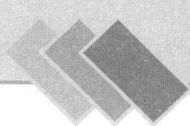
This book will help you understand 150 idioms as well as the way they are used in different situations. You'll improve your ability to speak and understand English naturally. And, as you learn more about American culture, you'll have an easier time speaking with and getting to know Americans.

To the teacher

This book is organized to make it fast and fun for students to learn 150 idioms. Each chapter introduces five new idioms in an interesting **dialogue**. This dialogue involves natural spoken English, and it improves cultural awareness by showing how Americans often act in different situations.

Next, **definitions** for the idioms are given. Three **sentence patterns** are then presented to help improve speaking fluency. **Consolidation** and **application** follow to test students' understanding of the idioms and their ability to use them. Finally, there is a section on **building conversation/culture skills**. It focuses on the cultural material introduced in the dialogue.

After every five chapters, there is a **reading** section which uses all the idioms from the previous five chapters in an interesting story. Five reading comprehension questions follow each of these stories.



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Unit 1 A new friend 新朋友



A: Dialogue 会话学习语

Matt, who is friends with both Stephen and Kelly, introduces them to each other.

Matt: Stephen, I'd like to introduce you to my good friend Kelly.

Stephen: Hi, Kelly. It's good to know you.

Kelly: **Same here.** I've heard a lot about you.

Stephen: All good, I hope.

Kelly: **For the most part.**

Stephen: Well, I hope you believed the good parts and **took the rest with a grain of salt.**

Kelly: Actually, Matt can't stop **singing your praises.**

Stephen: Now you're **pulling my leg.**

B: Definitions 习语释义

same here — me too 我也一样

A: I'm getting hungry.

B: Same here. Let's get something to eat.

for the most part — mostly 通常；多半

For the most part, Singapore is hot throughout the year.

take something with a grain/pinch of salt — be careful about believing something 对……半信半疑

You'd better take what Greg said with a grain of salt.

sing someone's praises — compliment someone 称赞某人

Marty was singing your praises at work today.

pull someone's leg — joke around with someone 跟某人开玩笑

You found \$5,000 today? I think you're pulling my leg.

C: Sentence Patterns 句型操练

Practice the following kinds of sentences:

It's good to It's nice to It's a pleasure to	know you.
--	-----------

I hope you	believed the good parts. had a good time. had fun.
------------	--

Matt can't stop	singing your praises. laughing. smiling.
-----------------	--

D: Consolidation 巩固训练

Fill in each sentence with an idiom from the lesson. Use each idiom only once.

Ex: The boss was singing your praises this morning. You may get promoted soon.

- Things don't change very much around here.
_____, everything's just as it was twenty years ago.
- You're hungry? _____. Let's get something to eat.
- That story can't be true. You must be _____.
- Katie doesn't always tell the truth, so after you hear what she says, you'd better _____.

E: Application 活学活用

Write sentences with the idioms in parentheses.

Ex: (take something with a grain of salt)

Lenny likes to make up stories, so you should take anything he says with a grain of salt.

- (for the most part)

- (sing someone's praises)

- (pull someone's leg)

F: Building Culture Skills **Meeting people**

交际文化：与某人相识

Following are questions people commonly ask each other when they first meet. Two possible answers are given for each question.

1. What do you do for a living?

— I'm a flight attendant.

— I work at a small clothing store.

2. Do you live around here?

— No, I don't. My house is all the way across town.

— Yes, I do. My place isn't too far from here.

3. Do you come around here often?

— I come out here every chance I get.

— No, it's my first time here.

Did you know?

When Americans meet each other for the first time, they shake hands. They also say, "Nice to meet you" or "Good to know you."

When you shake someone's hand, you should do it firmly, not loosely. Hold the person's hand for a few seconds. Then, smile and let it go.

Unit 2 At a party 在晚会上



A: Dialogue 会话学习语

Su Huifeng introduces himself to Zhang Meilan at a party.

Su Huifeng: Hi. Having a good time?

Zhang Meilan: So, so. I've been to so many of these parties. They all seem **pretty much** the same after a while.

Su Huifeng: **No doubt.** By the way, my name's Su Huifeng.

Zhang Meilan: I'm Zhang Meilan.

Su Huifeng: Good to know you. Say, there's no food here. I was planning to **take off** and get something to eat. Wanna come?

Zhang Meilan: **I'm game.** Anything to get out of here. **This place is Dullsville.**

Su Huifeng: For sure. Do you like pizza?

Zhang Meilan: It's my favorite!

Su Huifeng: Great, let's go!

B: Definitions 习语释义

pretty much — almost; very nearly 差不多; 几乎

That's pretty much what I do for a living.

no doubt — definitely; probably 无疑; 几乎可以肯定

A: This game is going to be great.

B: No doubt.

take off — leave 离开; 出发

I'm planning to take off in a minute.

I'm game — I'm ready to try or do sth.

我跃跃欲试或随时准备着

Yeah, a movie sounds great. I'm game.

this place is Dullsville — this place is very boring/dull

这地方太无聊了

This place is Dullsville. Let's get out of here.

C: Sentence Patterns 句型操练

Practice the following kinds of sentences:

I've been to	so many of these parties. a lot of different countries. this restaurant before.
--------------	---

I was planning to	take off. go shopping. get started.
-------------------	---

Wanna	come? start? go with me?
-------	--------------------------------

D: Consolidation 巩固训练

Fill in the story using idioms from the lesson. Use each idiom only once.

One Saturday morning, Sue and Peter were talking about what to do. "Wanna go shopping?" Sue asked. "I'm game," Peter replied. The two of them _____ a few minutes later. When they got to the mall, they found it was _____ the same as all the other malls. "There's nothing special here. _____," Peter said. Sue agreed with him. "_____, " she said. So, the two of them left. They decided to take a walk outside instead.

E: Application 活学活用

Write a response to what the first person says. Use an idiom from the lesson.

Ex: A: This game is going to be great.

B: No doubt. It'll be fantastic!

1. A: There's nothing to do here.

B: _____

2. A: Are you ready to go?

B: _____

3. A: Do you want to go shopping?

B: _____

F: Building Culture Skills **Introducing yourself**

交际文化：介绍自己

In different situations, there are different ways to introduce oneself. Commonly asked questions for each situation are given here. Two possible answers are given to each question.

at a party:

1. How are you enjoying yourself?

- I'm having a great time.
- Not very much. This place is Dullsville.

at a company:

2. Are you new here?

- Yes, I am. Yesterday was my first day.
- Actually, no. I just transferred to this department.

in a neighborhood:

3. Did you just move to the area?

- Yes, I did. But, I'm still getting settled in my new home.
- No, but I'm away a lot on business, so you may not have seen me before.

Did you know?

Americans make new friends at school, work, parties, and other places. Sometimes, one friend will introduce two friends to each other so they can go on a date. That's called "setting up" two people.

Unit 3 It's been a long time. 好久不见。



A: Dialogue 会话学习语

Two old friends see each other at a supermarket in Glendale, California.

Kathy: Sue, is that you?

Sue: Kathy? Wow, it's been a long time. I never thought I'd **run into** you here. I thought you moved to Oakland.

Kathy: I did, but I didn't like my job there very much. It wasn't **my cup of tea**. Now I've come back to my old company here in Glendale.

Sue: This place must have **gotten under your skin**.

Kathy: I think so. Besides, I felt **out of place** in Oakland. Anyway, let me give you my new number. Call me, and we'll get together and **catch up on old times**.

Sue: I'd like that.

B: Definitions

习语释义

run into — meet by chance 巧遇

You'll never believe who I ran into last week — Irvin Goldman.

one's cup of tea — one's interest 某人喜欢或感兴趣的

I'd rather not go swimming. It's not my cup of tea.

a place gets under one's skin — become very attached to a place
依恋、酷爱某地

After living in Los Angeles for six years, the place really got under my skin.

out of place — not belonging; not comfortable in a situation
不合适; 格格不入

I feel out of place in this club. It's so loud, and everyone's smoking.

catch up on old times — talk with an old friend about the past
回忆往昔

The two friends, who hadn't seen each other for years, stayed up all night catching up on old times.

C: Sentence Patterns

句型操练

Practice the following kinds of sentences:

I thought you	moved to Oakland. weren't coming. already heard what happened.
---------------	--

This place must have	gotten under your skin. attracted you. matched your style.
----------------------	--

Let me	give you my new number. tell you what I did last weekend. show you these great photographs.
--------	---