现代英语惯用法词典

MODERN ENGLISH USAGE DICTIONARY

现代英语惯用法词典

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学 苑 出 版 社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

现代英语惯用法词典/杨其乡主编.-北京:学苑 出版社,1998.10

ISBN7 - 5077 - 1293 - 1

I.现… II.杨… II.英语-语法-词典 IV.H 314-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 28255 号

学苑出版社出版 发行 社址:北京万寿路西街 11 号 邮政编码:100036 沈阳炮苑印刷厂印刷 新华书店经销 787×1092 1/32 28.75 印张 620 千字 1999 年 1 月第 1 版 1999 年 1 月第 1 次印刷 印数:1—5000 册

定价:38.00元

前言

随着我国外语教学改革的深入发展,对广大大、中专院校师生的外语水平要求越来越高,广大师生迫切需要一本内容新颖、功能齐全、实用性较强的英语习惯用法工具书,以便掌握正确的英语学习方法。因此,我们组织有关专家、学者编写了这本《现代英语惯用法词典》。

要掌握地道的英语,习惯用法是必须"闯"过的一大关。本词典针对中国人学习外语的特点与难点,从语用、语义、语言文化知识等方面介绍了现代英语的习惯用法,既注意应用现代语言学研究的新成果解释习惯用法现象,又不纠缠理论问题,注意语言的事实、语言的实践性和实用性,我们的目标只有一个——帮助英语学习者解决语言使用中的疑难问题,提高运用地道英语进行交际的能力。

本词典共收录词条约 12000 条,体例新颖独特,释义简洁通顺,例句简明并富有新意,是广大师生和英语爱好者的良师益友。

随着人类社会不断发展与变化,英语中会不断涌现出反映新事物的新用法;限于时间与水平,疏漏之处在所难免,恳请广大专家、读者批评指正,以便再版修订。

体例说明

- 1.本词典所列词组是指按一定语法规则或习惯用法搭配而成。
- 2.为了统一编排和方便查阅,本词典所有词组均按英语 字母顺序排列,用黑正体排印。
- 3.每个词组均有释义,并配有典型例句,例句用白斜体, 中心词(即词组)用黑斜体,释义用楷体排印。
- 4. 每一个词组有多种释义时,分别用 1. 2. 3. ·····标出, 并附有例句。
 - 5.词组中"/"表示斜线前后单词可以替代。
- 6. 鉴于使用本词典的读者均具备一定的英语水平, 所以 本词典单词均不标注国际音标。

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A a

a / one heck of a 极度的,糟糕的, 极好的,极长的

△They had a heck of fighting. 他们大打一场。△That is a heck of a situation that I've ever experienced.那是我经历过的糟糕 局面中的一个。

a / one heck of a lot 许多

△The students have learned a heck of a lot in the countryside. 学生们已经在农村学到许多东西。△He earned a heck of a lot of money in two years.两年中他挣了很多钱。

 (a) / one's change of heart (个人、 团体或国家)改变想法 / 回心 转意,(尤指向理解、合作或友好的)态度转变

△Scott used to be prejudiced against Blacks, but since he had a Black roommate at college, he has undergone a change of heart. 斯科特对黑人一向地有偏见。但自从在大学里有了一位黑人宝友之后,他的想法改变了。△Upon reflecting on how badly he had been treating his wife, George had a change of heart about demanding a divorce. 在反省了自己对待妻子的恶劣行径

之后,乔治回心转意,不要求离 插了。 △ There is danger of being so pre-occupied with defence that we would miss or discourage a Soviet change of heart that would possibly lead to a settlement, R. 在有一种过分强调防卫的危险、 这会使我们失去一次让苏联转 变态度的机会 或者说会迫使它。 故弃这种特变,而这一转变是有。 可能导致问题的解决的。AIndustry's part has been to act more responsibly. The changing economic climate as well as the public concern has influenced this change of heart. 工业界已经在 扮演更负责任的角色了,经济环 境和公众的关切影响了这种思 热转变。

(a) / the case in point (所谈话题的一个)恰当的例子, 切题的例子

△A case in point is Chen Jingkai, who improved world records on eight occasions. 一个典型的 例子就是陈镜开,他曾八次改写 世界纪录。 △He is rather selfish. His unwillingness to help his brother is a case in point. 他是一 个非常自私的人,他不愿帮助他 的兄弟就是一个例子。△Some crimes are very serious, a case in point is the recent bank robbery. 有些犯罪非常严重,最近的银行抢劫案就是一例。

a / the shadaw of 一点点

△There's not a shadaw of a doubt about his guilt.毫无疑问, 他是有罪的。△The shadow of smile played over Harlin's face. 哈林的脸上掠过一丝微笑。

a bag of 一袋子……

△a bag of flour / potatoes 一袋 子面粉 / 马铃薯

- a bagful of … 满满一袋的…… △a bagful of waste paper / peanuts 满满一柴子废纸 / 花生 a bar of 一条……
 - △a bar of soap / chocolate 一条 肥皂 /巧克力

a barrel of

1.一桶……

△a barrel of beer / oil 一桶啤酒 /油

2. 许多、大量

△a barrel of money / fun 许多 钱/很有趣

- a basket of 一篮子……, 一筐…… △a basket of tomatoes / eggs 一 篮子西红柿 / 鸡蛋
- a basketful of 一满篮子, 一满筐

△a basketful of grapes / eggplants 满满一篮子葡萄 / 茄子

a bed of thorns / nails 不愉快的时

期/境况,困难的时期/境况 △At any period of history it is the unemployed who find life to be a bed of thorns. 在任何历史时期,都是失业者感到生活很艰 辛。△He seems to lie in a bed of nails. The situation is unpleasant and difficult. 他如卧针毡。现 在的情况非常不好。

a bicycle saddle 自行车车座

△He often fell from the bicycle saddle when he just began to learn to cycle. 他刚学骑自行车时,经常从车座上摔下来。

a big noise 大人物,大亨

△His father is a big noise in the steel industry. 他父亲在钢铁工业界是个有影响的人物。△He's a tennis star, big noise, so he can get anything he wants. 他是一个网球明星,一个声名显赫的人物,因此他能得到他想要的一切。

a bit

1.多少,有点儿,相当

△My tooth is better, but it still hurts a bit.我的牙好点儿了,但还是有点儿典。△Your article is a bit (too) long for our paper.对于我们的报纸来讲,你的文章 太长了。

2.少量的时间, 一小会儿, 片刻 △I'm going out for a bit. 我要 出去一会儿。△Wait a bit, I'm coming. 等会儿, 我就来。

a bit of

1.少许,一点儿

△I did a bit of teaching before I became a lawyer.在当律师之前,我我过一点儿书。△He is going to do a bit of shopping.他要出去买点儿东西。

2.相当数量的,相当规模的,相当不小的

△I must have a bit of a chat with you—this very night. 我必须得好好跟你谈谈——就今晚吧。△The humor of it takes a bit of finding. 这其中的幽默需要好好体会才行。

a bit of a … 相当地, 有几分……, 有些……的味道

△He is a bit of a humorist.他颇有几分风趣。△The place is a bit of a backwater.这地方多少有点闭塞。

a bit thick 太过分了

△Three weeks of heavy rain is a bit thick.选下了三个月的大雨, 真是太过分了。△They thought it a bit thick when he called himself a genius.当他称自己是个天才时,他们认为他说得太过分了。

a black sheep 败家子, 害群之马, 不肖子

△They say I'm the black sheep of the family because I decided to be a dancer. 他们说我是家中的不肖之子,因为我决定当一个舞

蹈演员。△There are a few black sheep in the society.在社会上有 一些客群之马。

- a blade of 一叶……, 一根…… △a blade of glass / wheat 一根 草/麦子
- a bottle of 一瓶……

 A a bottle of ink / milk 一瓶墨

 水 / 牛奶
- a bowing / nodding aquaintance (with) (与……)点头之交;(对 ……)略知一二,(有关于…… 的)肤浅知识

△As far as I know, she only had a nodding acquaintance with Joseph. She couldn't know him very well. 就我所知, 地与约瑟夫只是点头之交。她不可能很了解他的。△That guide has a nodding acquaintance with local history. 那位导游对当地历史略知一二。

a bowl of 一碗……,一体……,— 盆……

△a bowl of rice / flowers 一晚 米饭 / 一盆花

- a bowlful of 一满碗……
 - △a bowlful of soup / dumplings -一满碗汤 /饺子
- a box of 一箱……,一盒……
 - △a box of chocolates / jewelry 一金巧克力/珠宝
- a boxful of 一满箱……,一满盒 ……
 - △a boxful of books / clothes ¾

满一箱书 / 衣服

- a bunch of
 - 1.一串……,一束……

△a bunch of keys / flowers 一串 钥匙 / 一息花

2. 一群……,一伙……

△a bunch of boys / monkeys - 料另族 / 辍子

a burst of 一个短暂、猛烈、突然的 动作,一阵进发

△ The soldiers heard a burst of guns in the distance. 士兵们听到 远处突然的一阵枪声。△He finished the third part of his novel with a burst of energy. E 一鼓作气写完了小说的第三部 分。△a burnt of anger 一阵发怒 △a burst of applause 一阵掌声 △a burst of benevolence 突然动 了恻隐之心 △a burst of emotion 感情的迸发 Aa burst of gunfire 一阵炮火射击 Aa burst of flame 一股火焰的喷出 da burst of hote 突戴生出一种希望 Aa burst of speed 突然加速 da burst of sun 太阳破云而出 △a burst of tears 一阵眼泪 △a burst of thunder 一阵响雷 a burst of weeping 复然大哭

a cake of 一块……

△a cake of soap / tobacco 一块 配皂 / 烟草

- (a) can / bag of worms 棘手的事, 烦杂的问题;一团糟
 - △ The Social Security problem is

a can of worms.社会保障制度是复杂而又麻烦的一大难题。 △He was handed a bag of worms soon after he was appointed the head of the committee. 他被任命 为委员会主席后不久就接过了 一项棘手的任务。△Merit pay? Let's not open up that can of worms.考镜奖?这个问题太复杂,还是别桶马蜂窝吧。

(a) card / ace up one's sleeve 數着 不用的一张牌, 锦囊妙计, 应急 方案或办法

ABill always has a card up his sleeve, so when his first plan failed he tried another.比尔总是 藏有一手,因此他的第一个计划 失败后他又开始尝试另一项计 No Alohn knew his mother would lend him money if necessary, but he kept that card up his sleeve,约翰知道他母亲在必要 时会借钱给他,不过,他把这一 手留作应急办法。 A The president candidate believes he has some aces up his sleeves in the final campaign.这位总统候选人 自信在竞选的最后关头有一些 不为人知的绝招可以使出来。 △He wasn't ruined by his business failure; he has another card up his sleeve-his wife's for-tune.他并未因商业失败而完 蛋:他另有一张王牌——他妻子 的财产。

(a) case / matter of conscience 凭 良心解决的问题,良心问题,道 义问题

△I can't advise you on such questions; it is a case of conscience.这种问题我无法提供建议,只有问你自己的良心了。 △Sometimes the law can do nothing when it comes to a case of conscience.有时在涉及道义问题时,法律是无能为力的。

(a) case of life and death 生死攸关 的事

△This is a case of life and death, you must be extremely cautious about it.这可是关条性命的事,你们可要极为小心。 △A heart operation is sometimes a case of life and death, so the surgeon shoulders a great responsibility.心脏外科手术有时是件生死攸关的大事,因此外科医生担负着重大的责任。

a change of air 易地疗养,改变环境

△He's got tired of the city, so he really needs a change of air.他已厌倦这个城市,所以他真的需要改变一下环境。△Having worked hard for the whole semester, Professor Brown is going to the seaside during the summer vocation to have a change of air.在辛辛苦苦地工作了整整一学期之后,布朗教授决定在暑

假期间去海边换换环境。

a chief secretary 秘书长

△Mr. Robinson will be the chief secretary of the committee. 罗宾逊先生将就任这个委员会的秘书长。

a chorus of 一致的……, 异口同声 的……

△a chorus of approval / disapproval / praise / protest / replies in the affirmative 一致 赞成 / 反对 / 表扬 / 抗议 / 肯 定的回答

a close / near thing (在选举、比赛 等最后阶段)几乎势均力敌,几 乎平局

△The last race was a near thing. 上次的比賽几乎胜負难分。 △The boat race was a near thing, it was an almost equal finish between competitors at the end of the race. 这次船賽双方势均力敌,比賽结束时,双方选手几乎同时到达终点。

a close call / shave 侥幸的脱险,死 里逃生

△ The old man's life is no longer in any danger, but it was a close call.这位老人已经脱离危险期了,但当时确实是死里逃生。△I just managed to jump out of the way of the car, but it was a pretty close shave. 我侥幸躲过了那辆汽车,但的确差一点就被撞上。

a couple of

1.两个,一对,一双

△I saw a couple of cats in the garden. 我在花园看见两只猫。 △I found a couple of socks in the bedroom, but they don't make a pair. 我在卧室里找到两只袜子,但它们不成双。

2.(口语或**非**正式用法)两三个, 几个

△I'll be back in a couple of minutes. 我姓几分钟就回来。
△He met a couple of friends and they had a couple of drinks. 他碰 見几个朋友, 他们一起喝了几杯。

- a cup of -(小)茶杯…… ^a cup of tea / coffee - 杯茶 / 咖啡
- a dual share 应得的一份

 △He insisted on his dual share.

 他坚持要他应得的那份。
- a fact of life 无可争辩的事实,无 法改变的事实,不可回避的事实 △Don't regret. That's a fact of life. 刷后悔了,那是个无法改变 的事实。△That smoking does harm to your health is a fact of life. 吸烟有害于身体,这是一个 无可争议的事实。
- (a) fat chance (作反语用)几乎没有可能,微小的机会
 - a The unknown tennis player has a fat chance of defeating the tennis star .这个默默无闻的网球选

手几乎不可能战胜那位网球明星。 △Jane is pretty and popular; you will have a fat chance of getting a date with her. 终妮又漂亮又招人喜欢,你很难有机会和她约会。

a few (of) (修饰可数名词,表示肯定)少数,几个

△I told a few of my friends about it. 我把这件事告诉了几个朋友。△Did they really catch a few fish that day? 那天他们真的抓到几条鱼吗?

a fit of (病等的)一阵发作,一时

△a fit of pain / coughing / curiosity / anger 一阵剧痛/咳嗽 /一时好奇/愤怒

a free hand

1.自由行动(权),自行决定(权)
△ The government gave them a
free hand to promote the international trade. 政府故手让他们自
行开展国际貿易。△ They have a
free hand in signing contracts.
他们有自行签约的权力。

2.慷慨,大方

△He often helps the poor with a free hand.他经常对穷人慷慨相助。△The conceited young man always shows a free hand before girls.那个自负的年轻人经常在女孩们面前大手大脚的。

a gallon of 一加仑……

△a gallon of petrol / water -

加仑汽油 /水

a gift from the Gods 天赐, 走运的 机会

△That he could be chosen as a monitor is a gift from the Gods. 他能被选为班长简直是天赐良机。△It seems that I have never got a gift from the Gods. 我好象从来都不走运。

- a glass of 一玻璃杯…… Aa glass of water / beer 一杯水 / 啤酒
- a good 相当大(或多)的,十足的, 至少的

△It took him a good long time to finish that picture. 他花了相当长的时间才完成那张画。△It's a good five miles to the station. 到车站至少有5英里。

- a good / great deal 非常, 极其 △Don't worry about me. I'm a good deal better. 别担心我了,我 好多了。△Tom likes to skate a great deal. 汤姆非常喜欢滑冰。
- a good / great deal of (多用于修饰不可数名词)大量的,许多的 △He took a great deal of trouble looking for his lost wife. 他费尽 心力寻找他走失的妻子。△The government attaches a good deal of importance to education. 政府 高度重视教育。
- a good few 相当多的,颇有几个 A good few college students have passed TOEFL exam and

want to study abroad. 不少大学生通过了托福考试并想出国留学。 Although he is only eight, he has remembered a good few English words. 虽说他只有八岁,但他已经记住相当多的英文单词了。

- a good job 幸运的事,好事 △It's a good job that you are late. 你来晚了倒是件好事。△It is a good job that you had such a good teacher. 你有过这么好的一 位老师真是件幸运事。
- a good / great many (of) (修饰可数名词)许多,大量的

 A good many lives lost in the

△A good many lives lost in the earthquake. 那次地震中许多人丧生了。△A great many of us have seen the film The Waterloo Bridge.我们中许多人都看过电影《纯斯蓝桥》。

- a grain of 一(小)粒…… △a grain of sand / salt / rice 一 粒沙/盐/米
- a great / considerable / huge /
 lerge amount of (修饰不可数名
 词)许多的,大量的
 - △The joint venture earns a large amount of money every year. 那 家合資企业每年赚大量的钱。 △They had to sustain a considerable amount of damage. 他们不得不蒙受相当大的损失。

es 一群女孩子 / 一片树木 / 一 片房屋

a handful of

1.一把……

△a handful of sand / earth 一 杞沙子 / 土

2. 少量, 少数

△a handfull of people / days / money 少数几个人 / 不多几天 / 少量的钱

a hang of a 极其,非常

△That's a hang of an exciting play.那是一个极其振奋人心的 剧。△Winter in the North is a hang of a cold season.北方的冬季是非常寒岭的季节。

a hard / tough nut (to crack) 难 题,难事,难对付的人

△The question of world hunger is a very hard nut to crack. I doubt if we'll find the answer to it in my lifesime. 世界人口饥饿是一个难题。我怀疑在我有生之年,我们是否能找到解决它的办法。△Dom't annoy him. He is a real tough nut. 别把他惹恼了,他可是个难对付的人。

(a) hard case

1. 棘手的事情, 困难的局面 △This is a hard case, so we must ask the advice of a lawyer. 这是 一个棘手的事情, 因此我们必须 请教律师。 △They have been in a hard case since last year's financial crists. 自从去年金融危 机以来,他们一直处于困境之中。

2.(常指罪犯)冥顽不化的人,难 以对付的家伙

△ You shouldn't annoy him. He is a hard case. 你别招惹他,这家伙可不好对付。

a hell of a

1. 糟糕的, 坏透的, 很麻烦的

△Every neighbor has found that family is a hell of a mess. 每个 都居都发现,那个家庭乱极了。 △Tom Sawyer had a hell of a job to whitewash the frontfence on Saturday. 汤姆飞票短在星期六把前面的栅栏粉刷得真够糟糕的了。

2. 极好的, 极度的, 异常的

△We had a hell of a time last night.昨天夜里我们玩得很痛快。△Lending money to such a person is really a hell of a risk. 把钱借给这样的人真是一种极大的冒险。

a hell of a lot

1.许多,大量

△The ten-year-old boy has read a hell of a lot of classical master-pieces.这个十岁的男孩已经读过许多古典名著了。△The young lady has a hell of a lot of property.这位年轻女士有许多财产。

2.远远,非常

△ The film was a hell of a lot

more interesting than I had expected.这都电影比我预想的有趣得多。△She likes pet dogs a hell of a lot.她非常喜欢宠物小狗。

a hole in the wall 狭小而黑暗的住 所或店铺

AMany a family in that large city lives in a little hole in the wall,那个大城市里的很多家庭都住在又小又黑的房子里。 AHow can you run a business in such a hole in the wall? 在这么个狭小而黑暗的地方你怎么能做买卖?

a home from home 像自己家一样 的地方,使人感到舒适自在的场 所

△This motel is a home from home for drivers. 这家汽车旅馆是司机之家。△This villa is a home from home for a tired person.对于一个疲倦的人来说,这个别墅是个很舒适的地方。

a hop and jump 短距离

△The school is only a hop and jump from my house. 学校离我家很近。△You can go to the railway station on foot. It's just a hop and jump from here. 你可以步行去火车站,那几离这几很近。

a horse of a different / another colour 完全另外一回事,风马牛 不相及的事

△Why did you mention it on such an occasion? It's a horse of a different colour.这种场合下为什么提这事?这是风马牛不相及的事。△You'd better use another method. This is really a horse of a different colour. 你最好用另一种办法,这可完全是两码事。

(a) house / castle of cards 纸牌制的房子/城堡,空中楼阁,不可靠的计划

△John's business fell apart like a house of cards. 约翰的生意像纸牌制的房子一样特牌了。 △Their plan for a trip to Europe proved to be just a house of cards. 他们更去欧洲旅行的计划已证明是完全不切实际的。

(a) hundred and one 许多

△ The young man tried to be favorable with your sister in a hundred and one ways. 这个年轻人千方百计地讨你妹妹的喜欢。
△ I have hundred and one problems to solve. 我有许多问题要解决。

a hundred to one 十有八九, 可能性 极其大

△It's a hundred to one that the red team will win. 十有八九红 以会赢。△If there's nothing abnormal, it is a hundred to one that my son will pass the entrance examinations. 如果不出什

么意外的话,我儿子极有可能通 过入学考试。

a Judas kiss 犹大的吻,口蜜腹剑, 阴险的背叛

△Luckily I recognize that it's a Judas kiss in time. 幸 好我及时认识到这是口蜜腹剑。△Don't accept his proposal. It's a Judas kiss. 刑接受他的建议, 那是阴险的背叛。

- a kilo of 一公斤 / 于克…… △a kilo of eggs / cabbages 一公 斤鸡蛋 / 白菜
- (a) kind of 有点,稍稍

△I have a kind of suspicion that they' re graduates. 我对他们是大学生有点怀疑。△He kind of believed that there was gold on the island. 他不很相信岛上有金子。

a kiss of death 看上去对人有好处 实际具有毁灭性的行为

△Pay attention! It may be a kiss of death.注意! 这可能是个看上去有好处实际具有毁灭性的圈套。△I see through that it's a kiss of death.我看透那个看似有好处而实际具有毁灭性的行为。

a knowing card 机灵鬼,精明的家伙

△ The secretary was a knowing card and always understood what the manager wanted her to do. 这个秘书是个机灵鬼, 总是能够

何会经理要她做的事。

(a) labour of love 乐意做的工作, 出于爱好而不计报酬去做的工作

△I dislike gardening myself, but to my brother it is a labour of love. 我本人不喜欢因艺,可对我 弟弟来说,如是一种嗜好。

- (a) ladies' man 喜欢和女人厮混的男人;对妇女献殷勤的男人 △He had always been a ladies' man but he did not marry until he was over 50. 他一向喜欢在女 人堆里厮混,却年过五十才结婚。
- (a) lady of leisure 不工作的妇女 △"But I can't take up your time.""I'm a lady of leisure, Lewis!"Caroline retorted gaily. "可我不能占用你的时间"。"刘 易斯,我可是闲人一个呀!"卡罗 琳笑嘻嘻地反取道。
- a (large) sum of 一定金额的…… △a large sum of money 一大笔 钱
- (a) law unto oneself (不顾法律)爰怎么干就怎么干,无法无天,为 所欲为

△You never know what John will do; he's a law unto himself. 你永远也搞不清楚约翰要干什么,他爱怎么干就怎么干。 △Everybody in Germany feared Hitler because he was a law unto himself. 在德国每个人都对希特

·勒有恐惧感,因为他无法无天, · 为所欲为。

(a) leap in the dark 后果未可预料的举动, 盲目的行动

AHis move to America was a leap in the dark, and he knew that he would need luck as well as courage to make it successful. 他移居美洲是无把握的冒险,他知道成功需要勇气也需要运气。

- a length of 一段……, 一节…… △a length of cloth / strove pipe 一段布 /一节炉管
- a little (修饰不可数名词)一些,少 许

△A little more sugar, please. 请 再给我一点糖。△He knows a little English. 他稍懂一点英语。 a loaf of (长形的)—大块…… △a loaf of bread / cake 一大块 面包/蛋糕

(a) lost cause 注定要失败的事,无 法达到的目的

△She wanted very much to become a film star, and paid no attention to me when I told her it was a lost cause.她一心想成为电影明星,我告诉她这不可能,她却不予理睬。△As an unexperienced beginner, he wants to do such a complicated experiment all by himself; it is bound to be a lost cause.作为一个没有经验的初学者,他竟要完全由他自己来做这个实验,这是注定要失败的

事。

a lot

1.很大程度,非常

△Thanks a lot. 非常感谢。 △Jane is feeling a lot better than before. 简现在感觉比以前好多 了。

2. 久久地, 常常

△That couple stroll a lot after supper.那对夫妇晚饭后常常数费。△If you want to get a lift at night, you'll have to wait a lot.如果你在夜里想搭便车的话,你不得不等很久。

a lot of 大量的,很多

△a lot of money / friends 很多 钱/朋友

e lump of 一(小)块……

△a lump of sugar / coal 一块方 糖 / 煤

a man of iron 意志坚强的人;残酷 无情的人

△He's regarded as a man of iron.他被认为是个意志坚强的人。△He punished a relative of his, and was believed as a man of iron.他处罚了他的一个亲戚,而被大家认为是个废醅无情的人。

a mouthful of 一满嘴……, 一口的 ……

△a mouthful of food / whisky / good teeth 一嘴食物 / 一口或士 忌酒 / 一口好牙

a name to conjure with 鼎鼎大名