

# ENGLISH IDIOMS

*a cultural fascination*

# 英语口头禅

纪元星辉

李润辉 著

Speak  
it  
HOT  
OK

海 出版社



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李润辉 著

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*. . . love not only those who are like me,  
or belong to me,  
or have the same blood as is  
running in me. . .*

…不只是爱那些像我  
或属于我  
或与我血脉相通  
的人…

## About the author. . .

Francis Lee came to Australia from Hong Kong in the nineteen sixties when he was sixteen years old. By then he was old enough to have developed a good grasp of the eastern culture and yet was young enough to adopt a new western culture. From a very young age Francis had won recognition as a writer and an artist. Being bilingual has enabled him to gain a deeper insight into the two languages.

After graduating from the University of Sydney with honours in civil engineering, Francis proceeded to complete a Masters degree in structural engineering at the University of New South Wales, winning the Senior Prize in Civil Engineering. While working as an engineer he also completed courses in architectural science and environmental law and became an accredited translator and interpreter.

In 1983, Francis was offered a casual journalist/broadcaster position with Special Broadcasting Service (SBS). SBS is a federally funded statutory corporation, broadcasting nationally in radio and television. He later became the head of the Chinese Cantonese group in Sydney, while still maintaining a fulltime engineering job. As his broadcasting commitments grew he was confronted with a major career decision. In 1993 he followed his heart and assumed a full-time position with SBS, resigning as Environmental Engineer with the Public Works Department of New South Wales.

His diverse cultural, professional and academic backgrounds has clearly contributed to the depth with

which he views a variety of issues, as demonstrated in his writing.

Francis is the founding chairman (1999 – 2001) of the Asian Media Council of Australia.

## 作者简介

李润辉于六十年代从香港负笈澳洲,当时年仅十六岁。在香港时已对中国文学很有心得,到澳洲后仍不断钻研,而十六岁亦正是吸收西方文化语言的大好时机,结果使其中英文皆有相当的造诣。

在悉尼大学取得土木工程荣誉学士之后,李润辉继续于新南威尔斯大学取得硕士,并荣获土木工程系高等奖。后来在工务局出任工程师期间更修完建筑科学及环保法律等课程,复考获中英文翻译及传译资格。

一九八三年,李润辉进入澳洲政府唯一全国性多元文化电视及电台网络 **SBS**,兼职播音。不久更晋升为中文粤语部组长,向全国广播;一九九三年辞去公务局环保工程师的职务,全身投入广播事业。

李润辉的广泛文化、职业及学历背景,使他对所身处的社会及事物观察更为深入透彻,这一点,相信读者在他的作品中不难见到。

李润辉亦是澳洲澳亚传媒协会的首届主席(1999 – 2001)。

## Foreword

Something that fascinates me a lot in life is how profound changes, even of our destiny, often result from very small and seemingly insignificant incidents. These incidents could just be a chance encounter with a person, or a casual conversation with a stranger in my case, one such change steered my career onto a different path.

It happened about sixteen years ago, when someone I met asked if I was interested in a casual part-time, almost voluntary, broadcasting job in a radio station little known to me, to which I agreed-I always had a soft spot for public speaking, and talking to a microphone presented a new challenge. As it turned out, the challenge took me into entirely new domains not covered by my formal training and profession of engineering-community, culture, languages, and even the occasional rubbing of some agreeable and not-so-agreeable political shoulders. The casual job eventually turned into a full-time career in journalism and broadcasting, as the radio station-Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)-into a national network.

One of the initiatives in my work has been the presenting of a weekly segment called <English Idioms>. It started as merely an explanation of the meaning and usage of an English idiom. I soon found that I could relate some idioms to certain interesting anecdotes in my life. Some idioms are fascinating in their own right, in the respect of their origin, application or subtlety, or in their resemblance to or contrast with certain idioms in the



Chinese language. also found some idioms very thought-provoking. All these qualities provided good substance for my weekly stories.

This book is a collection of the stories I presented on air. To make the reading more interesting, I have also added some of my cartoons where I consider relevant. Hopefully the readers will share a little laugh, or sigh with me.

# 作者序言

## ——纪元星辉——

中国人说：千里姻缘一线牵。缘份的概念说出了一个很微妙的相逢机会。其实除了缘份之外，我们一生之中很多大与小的转变，都可以是由很微不足道的琐事带来的，这些琐事可能只是与某人偶然的会面，或是只因听某人说了一句话。一个这样小的开始，就使我的职业生涯改变了方向。

已经是十多年前了，一位朋友很不经意地告诉我：在一个政府新设立的民族语言电台有一个小空缺，问我有没有兴趣做一点播音工作，我一口答应下来了。那份兼职差不多只是义务性质，每星期在一个颇为简陋的播音室里度过一两小时，但对我来说是一个新的尝试。渐渐这份工作带领我进入一个与我当时的工程工作很不相同的领域，从那里结识了新的朋友，也给了我多些研习文化及语言技能的机会。工作逐渐繁重，工作时间又越来越长，几年之间它便取代了工程，成为了我的全职行业，而这家电台亦扩展为一个具有现代化设备的全国网络了。

有一年我在播音节目上加插了一个“英语口头禅”的环节，那是在澳洲生活了三十多年，从书本学不到的一点心得。最初只是解释口头禅的运用，偶然在写作空闲触发我的一点有趣回忆，或带给我一点生命里的启示，亦有时在探究的过程里发掘出一些文化典故，或捡拾回一些差点儿失落了的生活印证，这些都成为口头禅环节的题材了。

这本书收集了几年来的环节,我再把这些中文稿用英文写出(不一定是直译),给英语的读者也可以体会,以及双语读者可以作为意译和英文写作的参考。另外我又加上自己闲时写就的漫画,以增添阅读时的趣味。

有一句英文口头禅说: *There is a book in each of us*(我们每人心里都有一本书),意思是:每个人的经历都是有价值的,都是值得珍惜的。我希望这本书可以成为一个心灵感应的小开始,也算是我与听众和读者之间的一点点缘份吧!请不吝指教,或与我分享一点你的经验。

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鸣谢	



英语口语神

纪元星辉

人间希望

English Idioms

*Under the lucky stars*

*Under the lucky stars*



## Under the lucky stars

### \* Thank one's lucky stars

Listening to young people talk about their future and about their passions is always an inspiration to me. I thus cannot forget the eager face of a young boy that I once saw on television. The name of the program has escaped me, but I remember the youngster saying, "*I love Australia, because it is the best country in the world!*" His expression of loyalty evoked a string of thoughts within me.

Loyalty to one's country is commendable. However, I found myself asking, if one day this little boy discovered that Australia is not the "best" country on earth, would he still love Australia? I then answered myself: I think he would. The love of this country has already taken root in his heart. His remark that Australia is the best country in the world is merely an expression, and not a condition, of his love.

I then recalled another expression of loyalty by a teacher in the church-school I attended upon my arrival in Australia. He said, "*Australia receives special blessings from God! Look! We are guarded by a cross above our heads!*" He was referring to a constellation in the southern hemisphere-the Southern Cross, which has been featured on Australia's flag. The teacher's