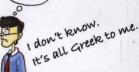


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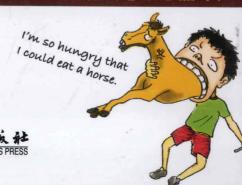
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这本《说美国潮人口语Fun 轻松》与另一本《学地道美式口语真Easy》是姐妹作。书中的内容曾在《苹果日报》的"苹果派生活美语"专栏连续刊登数月,深获大众的好评。鉴于此,我重新将内容整理,并作若干幅度的改写,使读者阅读本书时能以轻松、快乐的心情吸收本书所有精彩的内容。

我们知道各种语言均有其自有的习惯用语。中文如此,英文亦如此。习惯用语可为平淡的文字增添趣味性及可读性。与人交谈时偶尔用上一两个习惯用语,可以让对方觉得你认同他或她的文化,进而缩短彼此之间的距离。

不过坊间有关英文习惯用语的书籍相当有限,且多局限于单调的 例句及解说,读起来不免枯燥无味。因此,我们特别用心规划了这两 本书的写作方向:

- 搜集目前英美地区最地道、最流行的实用习惯用语。
- 以轻松、有趣的会话呈现这些习惯用语的正确用法及使用时 机。
 - 搭配幽默、生动的漫画,帮助理解,加强记忆。
 - 辅以趣味十足的例句解说,并延伸介绍其它相关习惯用语。
 - 聘请美籍老师精心录音,帮助读者练习发音及语调。

就这样我们历经 8 个月,完成了本书的撰写及录音工程。我们可以大胆地说本书的每一单元都是上乘之作,值得读者细心品味、努力研读。我希望未来有机会与您见面时,能来上一段英语对话,更盼能听到您将所学的习惯用语派上用场。

#32 P2

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说美国潮人口语 FUN 轻松

The Fun Way to Master Cool English

Chicken Out

临阵退缩





Anthony: I think I'm falling in love.

Jennifer: With whom?

Anthony: A girl in my office. I want to tell her how I feel,

but I always chicken out when I talk to her.

Jennifer: What's she like?

Anthony: She's incredible. She's smart, beautiful, and

nice.

Jennifer: You really should ask her out. What are you

afraid of?

Anthony: My boss. She's his daughter.



安东尼:我想我恋爱了。

詹妮弗:和谁啊?

安东尼:和我同办公室的一个女孩。我想要告诉她我的感觉,但我和她

说话时,老是临阵退缩不敢表白。

詹妮弗: 她人怎样?

安东尼: 她棒极了! 人聪明、美丽又善良。

詹妮弗: 你真应该约她出去。你在怕什么呀?

安东尼: 我老板。她是他女儿。

习惯用语精解



chicken ['tʃɪkən] 一词原指"鸡",有下列这则实用的谚语:

Don't count your chickens before they're hatched.

(在蛋未孵化前,不要先数小鸡的数目——别打如意算盘。)

老王最爱攀权附贵,一心指望三个女儿都能钓到金龟婿。好友老李则比较 务实,常警告老王为女儿找对象要小心,否则赔了夫人又折兵岂不遗憾? 此时,老李就可用上述谚语向老王适时提出谏言。

chicken 除指"鸡"外,在习惯用语中,亦指"胆小如鼠的人"。

阿雄爱阿花,两人交往了 40 年,却始终提不起勇气向阿花示爱,惹得阿 花在 56 岁生日当天,发嗲地对阿雄说:

Don't be a chicken! Say you love me.

= Don't be a coward! Say you love me.

(别做个胆小鬼!说你爱我。)

*coward ['kauəd] n. 懦夫

chicken 亦可作形容词用,指"胆小的"。

虽然阿花对阿雄使用了激将法,可阿雄还是不敢对她示爱。阿花气不过, 便说:

If you're chicken again, I'll marry your grandpa.

- = If you're yellow again, I'll marry your grandpa.
- = If you're cowardly again, I'll marry your grandpa.

(你要是再做缩头乌龟的话,我就要嫁给你爷爷了。)

*以上 chicken、yellow 及 cowardly 均为形容词,指"胆小的"。

chicken 也可作动词,与 out 并用,形成本单元的用法:

chicken out 临阵退缩

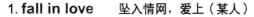
阿雄小时候住在桃园乡下,附近有一座蓄水的池塘,那也是平时阿雄光着屁屁游泳的好地方。某天,他看到池塘里竟然有只乌龟,由于担心乌龟会攻击他的重要部位,于是:

He chickened out when he saw the turtle.

= He became chicken when he saw the turtle.

(他看到乌龟时便退缩了。)

单词短语补给站 🖓

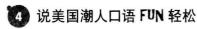


囫: I fell in love with Jane the moment I saw her. (我一见到简就爱上她了。)

2. office ['of is] n. 办公室

take office 就职

例: Mr. Wang took office as mayor of our city yesterday. (王先生昨天就任本市市长。)



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- 3. incredible [ɪnˈkrɛdəbl] a. 不可思议的
 - 例: John's language ability is incredible. He speaks English, French, and Spanish.

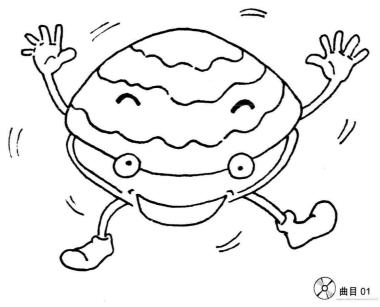
(约翰的语言能力真是不可思议。他会讲英语、法语及西班牙语。)

- 4. ask sb out 约某人外出(约会)
 - **例**: I asked her out, but she turned me down. (我约她出去,不过被她拒绝了。)
- 5. **boss** [bos] *n.* 老板; 顶头上司 & *vt.* 指使(某人) boss sb around (像老板一般)差遣某人
 - **囫**: Don't boss me around. I'm not your son, nor am I your employee. (别指使我做这做那。我既不是你儿子,也不是你的员工。)

NOTES

As Happy as a Clam

开心得不得了



Mary: Hi, Anthony. I've been thinking about you.

Anthony: I've been thinking about you, too.

Mary: I'm glad we're finally dating.

Anthony: Me, too. Ever since we met, I've been as happy

as a clam.

Mary: How sweet! I think I could...

Anthony: What? Love me?

Mary: No! I said, I think I could go for a seafood

dinner. When you said you were as happy as a

clam, it made me hungry.

玛丽: 嗨,安东尼!我一直在想你。

安东尼:我也一直在想你。

玛丽: 真高兴我们终于约会了。

安东尼:我也是。自从我们认识以来,我一直都开心得不得了。

玛丽: 你嘴巴真甜!我想我可以……

安东尼: 怎样?爱我吗?

玛丽: 不是啦!我是说,我想晚上可以来顿海鲜大餐。你刚说你跟蛤

蜊一样开心, 害我听了肚子都饿了!

习惯用语精解 🖓

clam [klæm] 是指"蛤蜊", as happy as a clam 字面上的意思就是"跟蛤蜊一样开心"。其实这个习惯用语完整的说法是 as happy as a clam at high tide (像涨潮时的蛤蜊一样快乐),high tide 就是"涨潮"。蛤蜊跟开心有什么关系呢?人们通常在退潮时才会去海滩捡蛤蜊,所以涨潮时的蛤蜊既不用担心有生命危险,又可以饱食海中的浮游生物,当然很开心。沿用到后来 at high tide 被省略了,所以就用 as happy as a clam 来形容一个人开心得不得了。

阿花跟阿雄要结婚了,阿花的老爸老妈看到女儿终于嫁出去,而且又收 到一大笔聘金,两个人笑得合不拢嘴。邻居老王看了就不禁对他们说:

You look as happy as a clam.

= You look very happy.

(你们看起来真是开心啊!)

除了蛤蜊之外,我们还可以用 on cloud nine 来形容开心的感觉。 cloud [klavd] 是"云",on cloud nine 照字面上的意思是指"在九重云霄上",九重云霄非常高,靠近充满喜悦又快乐的天堂,所以 on cloud nine 就可以用来形容一个人"开心无比"。

阿花的老妈在听到老王说他们像蛤蜊一样开心时,就可以回答: We were on cloud nine when they decided to get married. (他们决定结婚时,我们开心极了!)

另外,walk on air 也能形容开心的感觉。walk on air 字面上的意思是 "在空中漫步"。一个人"乐歪"时,不是常会有飘飘然仿佛可以飞起来 的感觉吗?

新娘子阿花当然是最开心、最兴奋的人了,这时候她就可以跟阿珠讲: I've been walking on air ever since he proposed to me. (他跟我求婚到现在,我还是飘飘然的。)

单词短语补给站 🔾

- 1. date [det] vt. & n. 约会 date sb 与某人约会 go out on a date 约会
 - 例: I really want to date Gina.
 - I really want to ask Gina out.(我真的很想约吉娜出去。)

We went out on a date last night and had a good time. (我们昨晚去约会,玩得好开心。)

2. sweet [swit] a. 甜的

have a sweet tooth 爱吃甜食(= enjoy sweets)
sweet-talk ['swit ,tɔk] vt. 花言巧语
sweet-talk sb into doing sth 说好听的话以说服某人做某事

例: Don't try to sweet-talk me into lending you money.

(别想对我花言巧语,要我借钱给你。)

sweet 也可用来形容人很"温柔"或"贴心"。

阿雄生性乐于助人,特别喜欢帮助隔壁班的美女阿花。阿花看到阿雄频频献 殷勤,就对他说:

How sweet!

- = How sweet of you!
- You are so sweet.(你真是贴心!)
- 3. I could go for... 我想要······ / 我想做······

例: I could really go for Italian food right now. (我现在真想吃意大利菜。)

go for 也有"喜欢"的意思。

囫: What kind of girl do you go for? (你喜欢哪一类女生?)

NOTES

Have One's Hands Full

分身乏术



角目 01

Anthony: Mary, will you ever go out with me?

Mary: Anthony, I really have my hands full right now.

Anthony: I'm not asking you to marry me. I just want to

grab a cup of coffee or something.

Mary: Why me?

Anthony: Because you're smart, gorgeous, and kind.

Mary: Well, since you put it that way, maybe a cup of

coffee wouldn't hurt.