

something good has happened to you 心花怒放;得意洋洋 *○I can't believe that I've won. I'm floating on air!* 我居然赢了,真是太高兴了!

★**clear the air** to deal openly with misunderstandings, problems, or jealousy, and try to get rid of them 澄清误会;消除嫌隙 *○I get angry and frustrated with Hannah's temper, but I'm a great believer in expressing my feelings to clear the air.* 汉娜脾气不好,真让人窝火,但我深信敞开心扉有助于消除嫌隙。

★**disappear into thin air** 亦作 **vanish into thin air** to disappear completely 全然消失 *○Her husband disappeared into thin air for years.* 她丈夫已多年不知去向。

★**hot air** false claims and promises 假话;空话 *○In a sense, all the rhetoric about heightened co-operation can be seen as just so much hot air. There are still endless disputes.* 在某种意义上,合作已增强之说看来只不过一派胡言。实际上,争端依然无休无止。

★**in the air** if a change, idea, or feeling is in the air, people are aware of it or think it is going to happen even though it is not talked about directly 萦绕在心头的 *○Great excitement was in the air that week in London.* 那一周,伦敦洋溢着令人心潮澎湃的气氛。

★**out of thin air** 亦作 **from thin air** if something appears out of thin air, it appears suddenly and unexpectedly 凭空而至;突如其来 *○A crisis had materialized out of thin air.* 一场危机突然降临。

pull something out of the air 亦作 **pluck something from the air** to suddenly state something without considering it carefully or using correct information 信口开河 *○She*

pulled a figure out of the air, an amount she thought would cover several months' rent on an office. 她随口报了个数,认为可支付办公室的几个月租金。

★**up in the air** not yet decided or settled 悬而未决 *○At the moment, the fate of the Hungarian people is still up in the air.* 此时此刻,匈牙利人民的命运依然悬而未决。

airs

airs and graces if someone has airs and graces, they behave in a way which shows that they think they are more important than other people 摆谱;摆架子;颐指气使 *○Ian is such a nice bloke. He has no airs and graces.* 伊恩真是个好人,一点架子都没有。

put on airs and graces 【英】亦作 **put on airs** to behave in a way which shows that you think you are more important than other people 趾高气扬;装腔作势 *○We're poor, honest folk, and we never put on airs.* 我们是穷人、老实人,从不装腔作势。

aisles

roll in the aisles to laugh so much that it is hard to stop 捧腹大笑;乐不可支 *○It's all good knockabout stuff that has them rolling in the aisles.* 这是一出闹剧,搞得他们乐不可支。

aisle 指电影院或剧院座位之间的通道。

alec

alec 的美式拼法为 aleck。用作人名时,首字母大写。

a smart alec 【英】亦作 **a smart aleck** 【美】 someone who thinks they are very clever and has an answer for everything 自作聪明之人;爱逞能之人 *○They've got a smart alec lawyer from London to oppose*



be crazy 脑子进水 ○What maudlin nonsense! Don't say that to anyone else or they'll think you've got bats in the belfry. 真是胡说八道! 千万不要告诉别人, 否则人家会以为你脑子进水了。

belfry 原指教堂顶部的钟塔。敲钟时, 栖息在塔上的蝙蝠受到惊吓会四处乱飞。这里的 belfry 指人的脑袋。

batteries

★**recharge your batteries** to stop working or doing an activity for a period and relax so that you feel better when you start working or doing the activity again 充电; 休整 ○After playing in the Divisional Championship, I took a long break from the game to recharge my batteries. 打完分区锦标赛, 我开始休整, 很长一段时间没参加比赛。

battle

★**the battle lines are drawn** said to mean that opposing groups or people are ready to start fighting or arguing, and that it has become clear what the main points of disagreement are 战线已经拉开 (描述各方准备对阵或交锋的用语) ○The battle lines were drawn yesterday for the fiercest contest in the history of local radio. 昨日, 地方广播史上最为激烈的竞赛拉开战幕。

a batter of nerves 见 nerves

a battle of wills an argument or conflict in which the people involved are refusing to accept each other's demands 意志的较量 ○It was a battle of wills, and Grace's was the stronger. 那是一场意志的较量, 格雷丝一方占了上风。

a battle of wits a competition or disagreement in which each person involved uses their intelligence and mental ability to beat their opponents 智慧的较量

○With chess you're involved in a battle of wits from start to finish. 说起下棋, 那自始至终是一场智慧的较量。

★**fight a losing battle** to try to achieve something when you are very unlikely to succeed 打无胜算之仗; 做无谓的努力 ○Miss Bennett fought a losing battle against her depression. 贝内特小姐试图摆脱抑郁症的困扰, 但结果只是徒劳。

join battle to decide that you are going to try to beat someone in an argument or contest 一较高下; 一决胜负 ○This new company intends to join battle with Cellnet and Vodafone in the mobile telecoms market. 这家新公司决意在移动通信市场与赛奈特和沃达丰一较高下。

★**a running battle** an argument or fight with someone that continues over a long period of time 拉锯战; 持久战 ○For the past year, customers have inspired a running battle between the two mobile phone providers. 一年来, 两家移动电话供应商为争夺客户展开了一场拉锯战。

someone has won the battle, but lost the war said to mean that in a struggle, someone has gained one small thing but lost something that is much more important 赢了战斗, 输了战役; 得了芝麻, 丢了西瓜 (描述因小失大、得不偿失的用语) ○The strikers may have won the battle, but they lost the war. 罢工者看似小胜, 实则大输。

bay

★**keep something at bay** 亦作 **hold something at bay** to stop something from attacking you or affecting you badly 防止侵袭; 避免伤害 ○By salting the meat, bacteria were kept at bay, preserving the meat for future use. 用食盐腌肉, 可防止细菌, 便于贮存, 以备日后食用。



be very unkind about them 抨击、指责某人(某事) **○There's no one quite like an unpublished novelist for putting the boot into established reputations.** 一个人写小说,连作品都没发表过,居然对功成名就的人大肆抨击,这样的人真没见过。

boots

die with your boots on to die while you are still actively involved in your work 死在岗位上 **○Unlike some businesspeople who die with their boots on, he has very sensibly left the entire running of Seamark to his son.** 有的企业家死在岗位上,他却不同,十分明智地把甲盾公司的运营交给了儿子。

原指士兵牺牲在战场。

fill your boots【英】 to get as much of something valuable or desirable as you can 大捞一笔 **○As soon as the company was sold off, the bosses were always going to fill their boots with cut-price share options.** 一有公司要出让股权,那些老板们总会以低价大量买进。

get too big for your boots 见 big

lick someone's boots to do everything you can to please someone, often because they are powerful or influential and you want something from them 讨好某人;巴结某人 **○Even if you didn't have an official position you'd still be a big shot locally, everybody would be licking your boots.** 你就算没有一官半职,在当地仍是个大人物,谁都想巴结你。

quake in your boots to be very frightened or anxious about something that is about to happen 吓得发抖;战战兢兢 **○If you stand up straight, you'll give an impression of self confidence even if you're quaking in**

your boots. 就算怕得发抖,你也要挺直腰杆,给人以自信的印象。

step into someone's boots【英】 to take over from another person in sport who has been injured or who has given up their position(运动场上)接替某人 **○Michael Kinane, the leading Irish jockey, has turned down the chance to step into Steve Cauthen's boots and ride for Sheikh Mohammed next season.** 爱尔兰首席骑师迈克尔·基纳尼拒绝下个赛季接替史蒂夫·考森为谢赫·穆罕默德效力。

bootstraps

bootstraps 指靴带。穿靴子时,拽着它便于往上提。

pull yourself up by your bootstraps to improve your situation by your own efforts, without help from anyone else 自立自强;自力更生 **○It was his ability to pull himself up by his bootstraps which appealed to Mrs Thatcher.** 正是他自立自强的能力吸引了撒切尔夫人。

to your bootstraps【澳】 if someone is, for example, British to their bootstraps, they are typically British 典型的;十足的 **○Lord McAipine and all his friends are law and order men to their bootstraps.** 麦卡艾平勋爵和他的朋友都是维护法律和秩序的典范。

bored

bored to death 亦作 **bored to tears** 或 **bored stiff** extremely bored 无聊至极 **○There are no jobs, there's nothing to do; these young people are bored to death.** 没工作,没事干,这些年轻人无聊得要死。

boss

show someone who's boss to prove to



满完成；大功告成 ○*We have got the interview in the can.* 我们的采访活动圆满成功。

can 指过去用于存放电影胶片的一种圆形金属容器。

candle

burn the candle at both ends to try to do too much, by regularly going to bed very late and getting up early in the morning 起早贪黑；过度劳累 ○*Most people need six or seven hours each night and you are burning the candle at both ends if you regularly sleep for less than five.* 大多数人每天晚上需睡6、7小时，如果经常睡不到5小时，那就是过度劳累。

not worth the candle 【英】 not worth the trouble or effort that is needed in order to succeed 得不偿失；划不来 ○*If it means falling into my present state afterwards, writing isn't worth the candle.* 要是事后会沦落成我现在这步田地，那写东西还真是划不来。

源自纸牌游戏，指下的注还没有玩牌时买蜡烛的钱多。

someone can't hold a candle to someone said to mean that the first person mentioned is not in any way as good as the second 甲不配给乙做事；甲不配给乙系鞋带（描述两者无法相提并论的用语） ○*There are football players now valued in the £2m bracket who can't hold a candle to Ian in terms of ability.* 有些球员身价已高达200多万英镑，但球技连给伊恩系鞋带都不配。

暗指一个人连给另外一个人举灯照亮都不配。

candy

like taking candy from a baby very easy 像从婴儿手中抢块糖那么简单；如探囊取物 ○*Stealing the stuff was like taking candy from a baby.* 偷这东西像从婴儿手中抢块糖那么简单。

cannon

★**cannon fodder** soldiers who are considered unimportant by their officers and are sent to fight in the most dangerous areas, where they are likely to be killed 炮灰 ○*The fifty-five to sixty-five year-olds would be sent to the front as cannon-fodder. They were to attack ahead of the regular troops and absorb the enemy's fire.* 正规军进攻之前，一些55至65岁的人会被送到前线当炮灰，消耗敌人火力。

fodder 指干草或稻草等廉价饲料。

★**a loose cannon** a person who could cause problems for other people because they do bad or silly things that no one expects 冷不丁惹出事端的人 ○*There is a widespread worry that the military command has turned into a loose cannon beyond the control of the government.* 人们普遍担心军事指挥部会演变成“闯祸部”，让政府无法控制。

指过去装在战船甲板上的大炮(cannon)，若没有固定好，就会来回转动，把船撞出个窟窿来。

canoe

paddle your own canoe to control what you want to do without anyone else's help or influence 自主行事 ○*As far as the rest of Europe is concerned, we've just got to paddle our own canoe.* 考虑到欧洲其他国家，我们必须做到自力更生。



○ *Scrambling around to recover his glasses, the scientist darted to his car like a scalded cat and clambered quickly in.* 那个科学家跌跌撞撞地找到眼镜戴上，像只烫伤的猫一样冲到车边，迅速爬了进去。

like the cat that got the cream 【尤英】 looking very satisfied and happy 洋洋得意；沾沾自喜 ○ *Did you notice Huge acting like the cat that got the cream?* 你看见休奇那副得意洋洋的样子了吗？

look like something the cat dragged in to look very untidy 不修边幅；邋遢 ○ *It is quite possible to be an intelligent and successful woman and look like something the cat dragged in.* 一个女人睿智，而且有成就，但看上去邋遢，这完全有可能。

look what the cat's dragged in said when someone arrives, to express your dislike or disapproval of them, or as a light-hearted way of greeting them 看什么人来了（对来人表示非难或幽默地打招呼的用语）

○ *In strolls Babs. 'Now look what the cat's dragged in,' says Jeanie, with a nod.* 芭布丝大摇大摆地进来，珍妮点了点头，说道：“瞧，啥人来了。”

put the cat among the pigeons 亦作 **set the cat among the pigeons** 【英】 to cause trouble or upset 惹是生非 ○ *Once again she set the cat among the pigeons, claiming that Michael was lying.* 她又一次惹得鸡犬不宁，居然说迈克尔在撒谎。

see which way the cat jumps 【尤英】 to delay making a decision or taking action on something until more is known about how the situation will develop 见机行事；随机应变 ○ *I'm going to sit tight and see which way the cat jumps.* 我决定按兵不动，相机行事。

源自旧时一种棒击木片 (tip-cat) 游戏。游戏中，小木片被称为 cat，玩家们要等看清小木片的运动方向才能决定如何击打。

there isn't room to swing a cat 【尤英】 said to mean that a place is very small and has very little space 只有巴掌大点地方 ○ *Inside, there isn't room to swing a cat and everything you see and touch is the most basic junk.* 里面只有巴掌大点地方，看得见摸得着的尽是些不值钱的破玩意儿。

cat 可能指九尾鞭 (cat-o'-nine-tails)，是旧时海陆军中一种刑具。该习语也可能与旧时弓箭手的训练方式有关，猫被拽住尾巴，在空中甩动，充当靶子。

there's more than one way to skin a cat there are several ways to achieve something 成功的路径不止一条 ○ *There is more than one way to skin a cat; keep positive and try another method of reaching your goal.* 成功的路子多着呢。乐观点，再试试别的方法，总会达到目标的。

when the cat's away, the mice will play said to mean that people do what they want, or misbehave when their boss or another person in authority is away 山中无老虎，猴子称大王 ○ *While the bosses are out of the room, the workers watch the game—a case of when the cat's away the mice will play.* 老板不在的时候，工人们就看球赛，真是山中无老虎，猴子称大王。

catbird

in the catbird seat 【美，过时】 in an important or powerful position 处于有利地位；大权在握 ○ *If I can run around the world and buy that particular group,*

需要志愿者。

chase

cut to the chase to start talking about what is really important 切入正题；言归正传
 ○He talked about the need to see all points of view, then he cut to the chase: 'Well, it looks like there is nothing here for me. I'm planning to fly back.' 他谈到要集思广益，然后才言归正传，说：“嗯，看起来这里没我什么事儿了，我准备飞回去了。”

电影里，切换场景称作 cut。A film cuts to the chase 是说电影切换到汽车高速追逐的场面。该习语将要讨论或处理的事要比作电影中的刺激场面，如高速飙车。

cheek

★**cheek by jowl** very close together 紧紧挨着的
 ○After about seven years, all this living cheek by jowl began to irritate people. 差不多7年后，这种亲密相处的生活开始令人生厌。

jowl 是 cheek 一词过时的说法。

★**turn the other cheek** to decide not to take any action against someone who harms or insults you 打不还手；甘心容忍
 ○It's better to learn how to avoid a situation where you have either to defend yourself or turn the other cheek. 最好学会如何避免“要么自卫，要么忍受”这种情况。

源自《圣经·马太福音》(Matthew 5:39)，耶稣告诉信徒，受了恶人欺负，也不要报复，若有人掴你的右脸，连左脸也转过来给他打。

cheese

★**a big cheese**【非正式】a person who has an important and powerful position in

an organization 大人物；要员
 ○During the conference big cheeses from the State Department were dropping in and out all the time. 大会期间，国务院的那些大人物不停地进进出出。

cheese 可能为乌尔都语 (Urdu, 属印欧语系) 中 chiz 或 cheez 的误拼或误解，意指东西。英国殖民统治期间，英印两国文化不断交融，该词1840年左右开始进入英语词汇，后用来指人，尤指大人物。

cheque

cheque 为英式拼法，美式拼法为 check。

★**a blank cheque** complete authority to do whatever you think is best 全权
 ○De Klerk had, in a sense, been given a blank cheque to negotiate the new South Africa. 可以说，新南非谈判事宜已交由德·克勒克全权负责。

常使用其本意，指给某人开具一张没有填写使用金额的空白支票。

chest

beat your chest 见 beat

★**get something off your chest** to talk about a problem that has been worrying you for a long time, and to feel better after doing this 一吐为快
 ○My doctor gave me the opportunity to talk and get things off my chest. 医生跟我谈心，让我有机会把心头的烦恼一吐为快。

chestnut

★**an old chestnut**【尤英】a statement, story or idea that has been repeated so often that it is no longer interesting 老生常谈
 ○The feminist struggle is too important to become an old chestnut over



were working round the clock to bring the huge blazes under control. 消防人员正昼夜奋战，以控制大火火势。

★ **wish you could turn back the clock**

to wish to return to an earlier period, for example because you think it was a very good time or because you would like the chance to live your life differently 希望时光能够倒流 ○He said if he could turn back the clock, he would act differently. 他说如果时光倒流，他会有截然不同的表现。

clockwork

★ **like clockwork**

1 very smoothly and exactly as expected 按部就班地 ○The journey there went like clockwork – flying out on Friday from Gatwick it took seven hours door-to-door. 行程完全按部就班：周五从盖特威克出发，七小时后抵达目的地。

2 regularly, always at the same time 有规律地；准时地 ○They would arrive like clockwork just before dawn. 他们会在黎明前准时到达。

clogs

pop your clogs [英，非正式] to die 蹬腿；一命呜呼 ○The kids want to know that the person they're paying to see isn't going to pop their clogs during the performance. 孩子们花钱去看演出，想知道表演的人会不会在演出中一命呜呼。

可能源自 pop 的一项古义，指典当东西 (pawn)。clogs (木屐) 是过去磨坊工人常穿的鞋，在英格兰北部尤为常见。

close

★ **something is too close to call** said to mean it is impossible to say who will win 胜负难料 ○The presidential race is too close

to call. 此次总统竞选依然胜负难料。

cloth

cut from the same cloth [尤英] very similar in character, attitudes or behaviours 一个模子刻出来的；(性格、态度、举止)非常相似 ○London critics are all cut from the same cloth: they are white, male, middle-aged, middle-class and university-educated. 伦敦的批评家都一个样：白人、男性、中年、中产阶级、受过大学教育。

cut your coat according to your cloth [尤英] to make plans and decisions that are based on what you have and not what you would like 量入为出 ○It is up to organizations which were supported by the taxpayer to cut their coats according to the cloth available. 靠纳税人养活的机构有义务量入为出。

have cloth ears [英] to be unable to pay attention to or understand something properly 无法集中注意力；听不明白 ○The audience had been sitting there for two hours with cloth ears. 听众已经在那儿坐了两个小时了，什么都没听明白。

made of whole cloth [美] completely untrue and not based on fact 虚假的；无凭无据的 ○There are those who say that story was made of whole cloth. 有些人说那个故事是编造出来的。

clothes

steal someone's clothes [英，新闻] to take another person's ideas or policies and pretend that these ideas or policies are your own (把别人的观点、政策)据为己有；剽窃 ○The Chancellor has tried to steal our clothes but he has done it in a cheap and shoddy way. 财政大臣想将我们的观点据为己有，但手法实在是太拙劣了。



curate

a curate's egg 【英】 something that has both good and bad parts 好坏参半的东西
 ○ *Wasserman's collection of duets with famous friends is something of a curate's egg.* 沃瑟曼与一些知名友人合作录制了对唱精选集，但其中的歌曲良莠不齐。

curate 指在英国圣公会 (Church of England) 中辅助教区传教牧师 (vicar) 或教区长 (rector) 的教士 (clergyman)。一本名为《笨拙》(Punch) 的英国杂志刊登过维多利亚时代的一组著名连环漫画，画的是一名教士跟一位高级牧师共进早餐，教士拿到了一枚坏掉的鸡蛋，为了不冒犯别人，他说这个蛋“有些部分是好的”。

curiosity

curiosity killed the cat said to warn someone that they will suffer harm or damage if they try to find out about other people's private affairs 好奇害死猫；好奇招祸害
 ○ *'Where are we going?'* Calder asked. *'Curiosity killed the cat, dear. You'll find out soon enough.'* “我们要去哪儿？”考尔德问道。“好奇害死猫，亲爱的。你很快就会知道的。”

curtain

★ **bring the curtain down on something** to cause or mark the end of an event or situation 为某事拉下帷幕；终止某事
 ○ *Richardson brings the curtain down on one of the most amazing managerial careers of all-time this weekend.* 本周末，理查森为史上最令人赞叹的管理生涯拉下了帷幕。

剧院的传统是，在每一幕结束时以及整场结束时拉下舞台前的幕布 (curtain)。

curtains

it's curtains said to mean that it is the end of something 落下帷幕 (描述某事结束的用语)
 ○ *If the vote is yes, it's curtains for us. A way of life will disappear.* 如果投票通过，咱们就没戏了，这样的生活就到头了。

curtains 指剧院中挂在舞台前的幕布。

curve

throw someone a curve ball 【尤美】 to surprise someone by doing something unexpected, sometimes putting them at a disadvantage 出其不意地捉弄某人；使某人措手不及
 ○ *Our plan is to go into the winter with our reservoirs full, just in case Mother Nature throws us a curve ball next spring.* 我们计划在过冬之前把储藏室装满，以防大自然在明年春天出其不意地捉弄我们。

curve ball 指棒球运动 (baseball) 中的弧地球。

cut

★ **a cut above the rest** much better than other similar people or things 出类拔萃的人或事
 ○ *Smith's detective stories are generally agreed to be a cut above the rest.* 史密斯的侦探小说出类拔萃，这一点得到了广泛认可。

★ **cut and dried** clear and definite 明确的
 ○ *Now, this situation is not as cut-and-dried as it may seem.* 目前，局面并没有表面看起来那么明朗。

一指已经砍下，经过干燥可以直接使用的木材，还可指采摘后经过干燥的草药，可以用作食材或药材。

cut and run to escape from a difficult



with a lot of exciting things happening that has been organized in order to impress someone 精心策划的盛举 ○We bombarded the management team with charts, graphs, facts, and figures. Our boss responded by dozing off during most of our dog and pony show. 我们把各种表格、图表、数据和情况狂轰滥炸般地展示给做管理的那些人。可老板对我们的精心展示没什么反应，大部分时间都在打盹儿。

指有狗和马参与的马戏表演。

the dog days

1 the hottest days of the year, which occur in July and August in the northern hemisphere 酷暑；三伏天 ○We spent the dog days of summer in the mountains of Arizona. 我们在亚利桑那州的山区度过了三伏天。

古罗马人称这段日子（北半球的7-8月）为 die caniculares 或 dog days, 在此期间每天早上都能看到天狼星 (the Dog Star, Sirius)。他们认为天狼星和太阳同时出现形成了极端炎热的天气。

2 a period in someone's life or career when they are not having much success or are not making any progress 低潮期 ○Those were the dog days of the Conservative government. 那是保守党政府的低潮期。

dog eat dog used for describing a situation in which everyone wants to succeed and is willing to harm other people or to use dishonest methods in order to do this 残酷无情的竞争；损人利己的角逐 ○In the 1992 campaign, he said that if it was going to be 'dog eat dog' he would do anything it took to get himself re-elected. 1992年的大选中，他曾说过，如果竞选是“一场残酷无情的角逐”，那么他将不择手段来谋求连任。

dog-in-the-manger wanting to prevent other people from using or enjoying something simply because you cannot use or enjoy it yourself 占着马槽不吃草；占着茅坑不拉屎 ○On the one hand the council has a high regard for the carnival's tourist benefits, but on the other it does not want it to have too high a profile. It's a dog-in-the-manger attitude which has taken the fun out of a great event. 一方面，市政厅很看重此次狂欢节带来的旅游收入，但另一方面，又不希望它太受关注。这种占着茅坑不拉屎的态度让盛会变得索然无味。

伊索寓言 (Aesop's fables) 中有一则故事，讲述狗自己不吃草，但也不让牛吃槽 (manger) 里的草料。

a dog's dinner 【英】 a situation, event, or piece of work that is chaotic, badly organized, or very untidy 一团糟 ○The government's latest proposals are a dog's dinner. 政府的最新方案简直是一团糟。

every dog has its day said to mean that everyone will be successful or lucky at some time in their life. This expression is sometimes used to encourage someone at a time when they are not having any success or luck 人生总有得意时 ○I've been waiting a long time for success - four years - but every dog has its day. 成功，我等得太久，都四年了。不过，人人都会有出头的一天。

该习语至少可追溯到16世纪。莎士比亚在《哈姆雷特》(Hamlet) 中有这样一句台词：“Let Hercules himself do what he may. The cat will mew and dog will have his day.” (act 5 scene 1) (让大力士做他想做的，猫要叫，狗要笑。)



them. But that's just not true at all. She's very friendly and very down to earth. 他们觉得她艳冠群芳，肯定不会搭理他们。但其实根本不是那回事。她很友好，也很实在。○Everyone liked her down-to-earth approach to life. 大家都很欣赏她那种务实的生活态度。④ 比较 **have your head in the clouds** (见 head)

go to earth【英】 to hide from someone or something 躲藏；隐匿 ○The girl who had supplied the gun and plastic explosive device stayed put for a couple of weeks before she, too, went to earth. 提供枪支和塑性爆炸装置的那个女孩在事发地待了几周之后也躲了起来。

指狐狸藏在洞 (earth) 里。

promise the earth to promise to give people things that you cannot in fact possibly give them 凭空许诺；开空头支票 ○One voter summed up the mood: 'Politicians have lost credibility,' he complained. 'They promise the earth and don't deliver.' 一位选民如此总结这种情绪：“政客们已经没有信誉可言了。”他抱怨道：“他们只会开些空头支票，从不兑现。”

run someone to earth【英】 to find someone after a long search 终于找到某人 ○I must admit I thought I had run my man to earth, for although a great many people live there now, there could not be many that would match my description. 必须承认，当时我认为我总算找到了意中人，就目前来看，生活在那里的人虽然不少，可合我意的还真不多。

指狐狸被追赶逃回洞 (earth) 里。

easier

★easier said than done said to mean that

something is simple to achieve in theory, but difficult to do in practice 说来容易做起来难 ○The alternative option is to scrap the unwanted machines, and use the metal for some other purpose. But this, too, is easier said than done. 还有一个办法是把没用的机器拆了，将拆下的金属另作他用。不过，真做起来也没说的这么简单。

easy

第一个习语中，ABC 读作字母的本音。

easy as pie 亦作 **easy as ABC** 或 **easy as falling off a log** very easy to do 小菜一碟；和123一样简单 ○Michael understood at once. 'Why, that's easy as pie,' he said as the rest of us scratched our heads. 迈克尔一下子就明白了，说道，“哎呀，小菜一碟嘛。”而此时我们这些人还在苦思冥想。⑤ 比较 **a piece of cake** (见 piece)

easy come, easy go said to mean that something does not require a lot of effort and is therefore not worth worrying about 来得容易去得快 ○My attitude to money is easy come, easy go. That is to say, I earn a lot, but I also give quite a lot away in different ways. 对我来说，钱这东西来得容易，去得快。也就是说，我挣得多，各种各样的花销也多。

go easy on someone to punish or treat someone less severely than might be expected or deserved 对某人网开一面；对某人手下留情 ○They had to go easy on him because he was only thirteen and it was also his first offence. 他们不得不网开一面，他才13岁，而且是初犯。

go easy on something to not have or use too much of something because you think



书架。显然，她很爱读书。

★ **catch someone's eye** if something or someone catches your eye, you notice them because they are very attractive or unusual 吸引眼球；引人注目 ○ *He turned the page. The picture caught his eye instantly.* 他翻过一页，那张图片立刻引起了他的注意。 ○ *My mother and my sister love stylish, eye-catching designer hats but cannot afford to buy them.* 我妈妈和姐姐都喜欢时尚、耀眼的礼帽，可就是买不起。

get your eye in 【英】 to become more skilful or experienced in doing a particular thing because you have been practicing or doing it for a long time 练手；热身 ○ *We're going to shoot some clay pigeons later. We want to get our eye in for the hunting season.* 我们一会儿去打泥靶，先为狩猎季节练练手。

在板球 (cricket)、高尔夫球 (golf) 和斯诺克桌球 (snooker) 比赛中，参赛者需要花时间适应比赛环境，以便能准确判断球的距离和速度。

give someone a black eye to punish someone severely, but without causing them permanent harm, for something they have done 把某人打得鼻青眼肿；让某人尝尝厉害 ○ *Whenever the Liberal Democratic Party gets too cocky or corrupt, voters tend to give it a black eye.* 每当自民党过分自大或腐败时，选民往往就向其发难。

a black eye 指眼睛因受到撞击而周围发青。

a gleam in someone's eye a plan or project that is only at the earliest planning stage 尚未成形的计划；酝酿之中的想法

○ *At present, the plans seem to be no more than a gleam in a developer's eye.* 目前，这个计划还只是开发商的一个想法而已。

gleam、glint 和 twinkle 等词可用于描写人眼睛的发亮或闪光，常暗含有活力、情感或调皮之意，表示产生某一想法之初的激动和兴奋之情。

have an eye for the main chance 【英】 to be aware all the time of the best opportunities that are available 善于发现良机 ○ *New York has always been a place where individuals with an eye for the main chance could make their fortunes.* 对于善于发现良机的人来说，纽约向来是发财的好地方。

in the eye of the storm deeply involved in a difficult or controversial situation which affects or interests a lot of people 处于风口浪尖；备受争议 ○ *He was often in the eye of the storm of congressional debates related to U.S. troop withdrawals from Vietnam.* 在美军是否撤出越南的国会辩论中，他经常被推到风口浪尖。

指处于风暴的中央。但实际上旋风 (cyclone)、龙卷风 (tornado) 等风暴的风眼是相对平静的低压区。

keep your eye on the ball to continue to pay close attention to what you are doing. 聚精会神 ○ *She won widespread praise for her innovation, her tough negotiating skills and her ability to keep things moving, keep her eye on the ball.* 她善于创新，工于谈判技巧，具有掌控事态和聚精会神的能力，赢得了广泛赞誉。⊕ 比较 **take your eye off the ball** (如下)

★ **look someone in the eye** to look at



someone directly in order to convince them that what you are saying is true, even though you may be lying 直视某人让其信以为真 ○He looked me straight in the eye and said 'Paul, I will never lie to you.' 他直视着我,想让我信以为真,说什么“保罗,我永远都不会骗你。”

not bat an eye [美]

1 to not be shocked or offended by something that would shock or offend most people 眼睛都不眨一下; 不以为意 ○I was totally independent. My mother never batted an eye about the length of time I stayed out at night. 我已经完全独立了,晚上在外面待久了,妈妈也从来不以意为。

2 to not be nervous or worried about something that would normally worry most people 泰然自若; 面不改色 ○Would you believe he ordered them to fill half a tin mug with that stuff and guzzled it without batting an eye, as if it was water? 他让人把那东西倒了半缸子,面不改色地灌了下去,像喝水一样,你信不信?

bat 源自法语词汇,指鸟振动翅膀。如果一个人在某情形之下很少眨眼睛,就会显得很镇静,毫不紧张或惊讶。

★not see eye to eye with someone to not agree with someone about something 与某人意见不一致 ○The Prime Minister did not see eye to eye with him on this issue. 首相在这个问题上与他意见相左。

someone would give their eye teeth for something said to mean that someone wants something very much, and that they would do almost anything to get it 某人不惜一切要得到某物 ○He is the most exciting man I've ever worked with, and I'd

give my eye teeth to do something with him again. 我合作过的人当中,他是最令人兴奋的一个。要是能与他再度合作,让我做什么都行。

eye teeth 指犬齿。

something is one in the eye for someone

【英】said to mean that something that has been done or achieved will annoy a particular person 某事是令某人恼怒之事 ○His Nobel Prize will be seen in Mexico as one in the eye for the novelist, Carlos Fuentes, who is regarded as his great left-wing rival. 在墨西哥人看来,他此次荣获诺贝尔奖是对其左翼劲敌、小说家卡洛斯·富恩特斯的当头一棒。

spit in someone's eye to deliberately upset or annoy someone 故意惹恼某人 ○The minister for Trade and Industry spat in the eye of small business yesterday when he said: 'I won't support the weak at the expense of the strong.' “我不会牺牲强者,支持弱者。”工贸部长昨天这么说,就是故意让中小企业不愉快。

take your eye off the ball to stop paying attention for a moment, with the result that things go wrong for you 分散注意力 ○Any reorganization is disruptive. It makes key management take their eye off the only ball. 任何形式的改组都会引起混乱,往往会分散核心管理层对重点工作的注意力。④比较 keep your eye on the ball (如上)

★there's more to something than meets the eye said to mean that something is more complicated or more involved than it appears to be at first 某事不像看起来那么简单 ○'She is convinced there is more to your friendship than meets the



eye.' 'Well there isn't.' “她深信你们的友谊不像看起来那么简单。”“其实嘛，也没什么。”

★**turn a blind eye to something** to deliberately ignore something because you do not want to take any action over it, even though you know you should 对某事视而不见；对某事睁一只眼闭一只眼 ○*The authorities were turning a blind eye to human rights abuses.* 当局对侵犯人权的行为视而不见。

源自1798年尼罗河战役 (the Battle of the Nile) 期间海军上将纳尔逊 (Admiral Nelson) 的故事。在收到撤退命令时，他故意将望远镜放到失明的那只眼睛上，说自己根本看不到撤退信号，然后继续战斗，最终取得胜利。

★**with the naked eye** with only the eyes, and without the help of instruments such as a telescopes or microscopes 凭肉眼 ○*Enough light gets through space for us to see thousands of stars with the naked eye, and millions with an optical telescope.* 充足的光线穿越太空，让我们凭肉眼能看到成千上万颗星星，也可借助光学望远镜观测到数百万颗星星。

eyeball

be eyeball to eyeball if two people who are disagreeing with each other are eyeball to eyeball, they are physically close together, and it seems likely that they will start arguing or fighting 瞠目而视；剑拔弩张 ○*The two of us sat eyeball to eyeball. "Why do you hate me?" She asked, without any apparent emotion.* 我们二人相对而坐，瞠目而视。“你为什么恨我？”她问道，脸上没有一丝表情。

eyeballs

up to your eyeballs in something very

deeply involved in an unpleasant situation 深陷于某种境况 ○*The one-time media tycoon is down on his luck, out of a job, and up to his eyeballs in debt.* 红极一时的传媒大亨如今霉运连连，没了工作，还债务缠身。

eyebrows

★**raise eyebrows** to surprise, shock, or offend people 令人皱眉；让人震惊或不快 ○*The BBC opera 'The Vampyr' raised eyebrows when it was shown but the public loved it.* 英国广播公司推出的歌剧《吸血鬼》演出时令人皱眉，但颇受公众喜爱。

eyelid

★**not bat an eyelid** [英]

1 to not be shocked or offended by something that would shock or offend most people 连眼皮都不眨一下（取“无惊讶之色或怒色”之意）○*I thought Sarah and David would be acutely embarrassed. But they didn't bat an eyelid.* 我以为萨拉和大卫会非常尴尬，可两人都表现得若无其事。

2 to not be nervous or worried about something that would worry most people 连眼皮都不眨一下（取“无所担忧”之意）○*It is a popular myth that modern couples have affairs without batting an eyelid and believing marriage is for bores. In reality, the opposite is true.* 一个普遍性的认识误区是，前卫已婚人士搞起婚外情连眼皮都不眨一下，而且认为婚姻是无情趣之辈的事情。事实上不是那么回事。

eyes

★**all eyes are on someone or something** said to mean that everyone is carefully watching a particular person or thing, often because they are expecting something to happen or develop 聚焦某人或某事 ○*All*



to become established in a new situation, or become re-established in an old one 站稳脚跟 ○*They have modest two-room apartments, and until they get their feet on the ground, they take most meals at the institute's cafeteria.* 他们住在简陋的两居室公寓。没有站稳脚跟之前,吃饭大都在学院的自助餐厅解决。

get your feet under the table 【英】 to establish yourself firmly in a new job or situation 站稳脚跟 ○*Mr MacGregor will wait for the new Transportation Secretary to get his feet under the table.* 麦格雷戈先生要等到新任运输部长站稳脚跟的时候再行动。

get your feet wet 亦作 **have your feet wet** 【尤美】 to get involved in something or experience something for the first time 初次参与某事 ○*Charlton thinks it's time for me to get my feet wet. He says I'll be able to help the department a lot more if I learn how police actually solve crimes.* 查尔顿认为该让我参与进来了。他说,如果我了解警察是如何破案的话,就能给本部门帮不少忙。

★**keep your feet on the ground** to continue to act in a sensible and practical way even when new or exciting things are happening or even when you become successful or powerful 脚踏实地;求真务实 ○*He says he keeps his feet on the ground by keeping childhood friends around him.* 他说把儿时的好友留在身边,自己做起事来才踏实。

★**put your feet up** to have a rest from your work and relax, for example by lying down or sitting in a comfortable chair 跷起二郎腿休息 ○*All these dishes can be oven-baked from frozen, while you put*

your feet up and relax. 你跷起二郎腿休息一会儿,这些吃的放进烤箱,从解冻到烤熟,不大工夫就好了。

rushed off your feet 【英】 very busy, often because you are not getting any help or support in your work 忙得团团转;忙得不可开交 ○*Now we have a cut-back in staff in this department, and I'm rushed off my feet.* 我们这个部门减员了,把我忙得团团转。

someone has feet of clay said to mean that someone who is greatly admired or respected has serious faults or weakness which people generally do not know about 某人有软肋(描述受人仰慕、尊敬之人具有不为人知的弱点的用语) ○*When those idols are found to have feet of clay, the pain of disenchantment can be profound.* 这些偶像的弱点,一经显露,可能就是幻想破灭、极度痛苦之时。

据《圣经·但以理书》(Daniel 2:33)记载,尼布甲尼撒二世国王(King Nebuchadnezzar)请但以理(Daniel)为他解梦。国王梦到一尊由金银铜铁制成的巨型雕像,但雕像的脚有些部位是用泥土(clay)做成的。但以理告诉国王,泥足象征弱点。

★**stand on your own two feet** 亦作 **stand on your own feet** to show that you are independent and do not need anyone to help you or support you 独立自主 ○*It now seems clear that foreign aid levels of the 1980s will never be seen again and that these countries will have to stand on their own two feet.* 显然,像80年代那样的外国援助如今再也不会了,这些国家必须独立自主。

★**sweep someone off their feet**

1 to be so attractive, romantic, and ex-



citing that someone falls in love with you almost as soon as they meet you 让某人为之倾倒; 让某人一见钟情 *Q He is good fifteen years older than Felicity. He swept her off her feet, though. And I suppose it seemed very romantic.* 他比费莉西蒂足足大了15岁, 但却令她一见钟情。我觉得这挺浪漫的。

2 to be extremely attractive or appealing to someone 吸引某人; 迷住某人 *Q Ten British chefs plan to cook a feast they hope will sweep the French off their feet.* 十位英国大厨打算备上一场盛宴, 好让法国人为之倾倒。

think on your feet to make good decisions and achieve things without having to think about them or plan them first 随机应变 *Q Being a parent means thinking on your feet and adapting as you go along.* 为人父母, 意味着能够随机应变, 并适时做出调整。

vote with your feet to show what you want through your actions, for example, showing your dislike of a place or situation by leaving it 用行动表明态度 *Q It seems thousands of people are already voting with their feet, and leaving the country in the hope of a better life.* 看来成千上万的人已经在用行动表明态度, 带着对美好生活的憧憬离开这个国家。

fence

★sit on the fence to refuse to state a definite opinion about something or to say who you support in a conflict 做出骑墙的姿态 *Q The commission has chosen, extraordinarily, to sit on the fence, murmuring that schools must decide for themselves.* 委员会一反常态, 选择骑墙这一姿态, 模棱两可地表示让学校自己拿主意。

篱笆 (fence) 是一种用来分隔房屋或领地的设施。坐在篱笆上的人无法或不愿选择自己应站在哪边。

fences

★mend fences to do something to try to improve a difficult relationship that you have with someone 冰释前嫌; 重修旧好 *Q Yesterday he was publicly criticized for not doing enough to mend fences with his big political rival.* 昨日有人公开指责他, 说他在改善与主要政敌的关系方面做的还不够。

fever

★reach fever pitch to become very intense and exciting, or very desperate 到狂热的程度; 到了孤注一掷的地步 *Q In the past year, the civil conflict has reached fever pitch.* 一年来, 国内冲突已达到白热化程度。

fiddle

be on the fiddle [英] to be getting money dishonestly, for example by cheating with the accounts at work 报假账套钱 *Q A postman earning only £136 a week drove around in a Porsche for six months before his bosses realized he was on the fiddle.* 有个一周只挣136英镑的邮递员, 居然开着保时捷四处兜风。六个月后, 他的上司才发现他靠报假账套钱。

★play second fiddle to have to accept that you are less important than someone else 当副手; 当配角 *Q The 44-year-old senator will play second fiddle to a man who has been his junior in the Democrat hierarchy.* 这位44岁的参议员要给民主党内的一个晚辈做副手。

fiddle 指小提琴。管弦乐队中有第一小提琴和第二小提琴之分。



to mean that when someone tries to do something, it goes wrong, and there are very unpleasant consequences for them, so that they feel nervous about trying again 一朝被蛇咬, 十年怕井绳
 ○The government, after getting its fingers burned so badly, will surely not want to make the same mistake again. 政府吃过大亏之后, 肯定不希望再犯同样的错误。

work your fingers to the bone to work extremely hard 拼命工作 ○I have washed, cooked, fetched and carried all my life. I worked my fingers to the bone in this house. 我这一辈子, 洗衣做饭, 搬这个, 扛那个, 累死累活地操持这个家。

fingertips

★at your fingertips

1 readily available for you to use or reach 就在手边; 唾手可得 ○All basic controls are at your fingertips for straightforward, no fuss operation. 基本控制按钮尽在掌中, 操作快捷, 毫不烦琐。

2 if you have facts or information at your fingertips, you know them thoroughly and can refer to them quickly 信手拈来的; 了如指掌的 ○He wanted to know all about his latest projects, so that the correct answers were at his fingertips when he was questioned by the right people. 他希望能最近的项目了解清楚, 内行人问起他来, 也能对答如流。

someone is hanging on by their fingertips 见 hang

fingernails

someone is hanging on by their fingernails 见 hang

fire

breathe fire to be very angry about something 对某事开火(或发难) ○One

Democratic legislator who was breathing fire over the Weinberger indictment yesterday was Brooks. 昨天有个民主党员针对韦伯格起诉讼案发难了, 名字叫布鲁克斯。

catch fire to become exciting or entertaining 令人兴奋; 引人入胜; 令人愉悦 ○The play only really catches fire once Aschenbach falls in love. 这出戏直到阿申巴赫坠入爱河后才真正有意思起来。

★**come under fire** 亦作 **be under fire** to be strongly criticized 受到严厉批评; 遭到炮轰 ○The president's plan first came under fire from critics who said he didn't include enough spending cuts. 总统的计划首先遭到评论人士的炮轰, 认为充分削减开支没有纳入计划。

do something with fire in your belly to do something in a very enthusiastic, energetic, and passionate way 满腔热情地做某事 ○Some people claim he has changed his style, but Ian has played with fire in his belly throughout his career. 有人说兰的做事风格变了, 可他在整个职业生涯中始终满怀热情地做事。

draw someone's fire to do or say something which makes someone strongly criticize you 惹得某人发火; 招惹某人批评 ○Their first substantial work was the flats at Ham Common in 1957. This immediately drew the fire of the architectural establishment. 他们的第一件实实在在的作品是1957年在汉姆门修建的公寓, 当时就遭到建筑界的严厉批评。

fire 此处指炮火。

fight fire with fire to use the same methods of fighting and the same amount of force as your opponent 以牙还牙; 以其人之道还治其人之身 ○The chancellor



yourself with something unimportant, perhaps neglecting something that really is important 捡了芝麻丢了西瓜; 小处精明大处糊涂 ○When it comes down to distinguishing 1 percent growth from a mild recession, you'd be straining at gnats to tell the difference. 说到底, 将1%的增长和温和衰退加以区分并说明其中的不同, 那可是捡了芝麻丢了西瓜。

源自《圣经·马太福音》(Matthew 23:24)。耶稣批评经文抄写者(scribe)和法利赛人(Pharisee)过于关注犹太法(the Jewish law)的细枝末节, 缺乏统观全局的眼光。

go

don't even go there【非正式】said to mean that a topic is considered to be too unpleasant or controversial to be mentioned 提都不要提(描述规避某一敏感话题的用语) ○Bloom is romantically linked to Kate Bosworth, but don't even go there. Keeping his private life private is one of the ways he copes with his celebrity status. 布卢姆与凯特·博斯沃斯思相恋, 但是千万别提这事。作为名人, 他对待个人的名分自有一套办法, 私人生活私密化便是其中之一。

go figure【尤美, 非正式】said to mean that you cannot explain something surprising, stupid, or hard to understand, as there seems to be a contradiction 搞不懂; 不明白(描述难以理解自相矛盾之事的用语) ○'It was certainly unexpected,' said Mickelson, who hadn't touched a club for two weeks before the tournament. 'I didn't hit it great today and somehow I shot 59. So go figure.' “绝对出乎意料,” 米克尔森说, 赛前两周他都没有摸过球杆, “今天状态

也不佳, 却打出了59杆的好成绩。真弄不明白。”

go off on one【英, 非正式】to suddenly become very angry 发火; 气不打一处来 ○I've never seen him go off on one before but I saw a very different side to him then. 以前我从未见过他发火, 但那一刻我见到了他截然不同的一面。

★**have a go at someone**【尤英】

1 to criticize someone strongly, often without good reason 挑刺; 找茬 ○Finally, I felt angry, because I figured she was just having a go at me for the sake of it. 最后, 我发火了, 我发现她完全是在故意找我茬儿。

2 to attack someone physically 袭击 ○A mob had a go at him with stones. 一群暴徒用石块袭击了他。

what goes around comes around said to mean that people's actions will eventually have consequences which they will have to deal with, even though this may not happen for a long time 种什么因得什么果; 对别人不好, 别人也对你不好 ○What goes around comes around. If you ignore the other guy when he asks for help, you might just be setting yourself up for a little of the same later on. 种什么因得什么果。别人有求于你, 你置之不理。过后, 类似情形或多或少会发生在你身上。

goal

★**an own goal**【英】a failure to achieve something which results in damage to you own interests 乌龙球; 作茧自缚之举 ○He said that the government must get its act together and stop scoring economic own goals. 他说政府必须有条不紊地做出安排, 不要在经济上再打乌龙球了。