

A DICTIONARY  
OF  
CHINESE IDIOMS  
IN ENGLISH

常 用  
汉语成语  
英译词典

侯梅琴著 黎肇汉校

# A DICTIONARY OF CHINESE IDIOMS IN ENGLISH

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## 常用汉语成语英译词典

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## 序

成语是语言中的精华。汉语成语和其他语言的成语一样有许多鲜明的特点，它言简意赅，形象生动，通俗易懂，易学易记，是人民大众喜闻乐见的语言材料。

翻译成语是很不容易的事。由于英汉文化的巨大差异，两种语言的民族色彩、比喻联想、神话典故、文体风格、声调韵律、行文规范以及遣词造句等都各有特点。有不少汉英成语貌似相同，其意义却相去甚远；有的成语的结构和意义都很接近，但比喻和联想却很不相同。随着时代和社会的变迁，成语的形式和含义也会发生变化。在成语的具体运用上，由于语境不同，含义也会转化。所有这些特点都给翻译带来许多困难。因此，学习翻译成语，掌握其方法和技巧是很有意义的。

侯梅琴同志原是暨南大学副教授，长期从事英语教学，有较丰富的教学经验，深知英语学习者的难处。多年来，他一直注意收集和研究成语翻译。《常用汉语成语英译词典》是他教学之余辛勤耕耘的成果，所选入的中文成语有几种不同的英译，可供读者学习、研究和参考。细心揣摩这些译例可以学到翻译成语的方法和技巧，从中获得启迪和教益。翻译不容易，翻译成语更难。学习前人的成果，认真比较，深入思考，无疑将会帮助我们克服翻译上的困难，逐步达到比较理想的境界。

我相信这本词典不仅对学习成语翻译有帮助，而且

对提高英语的表达能力也有促进作用。我衷心祝贺《常用汉语成语英译词典》的出版，并希望能引起读者对成语翻译的兴趣并作进一步的探讨。

黎汉材

1995年2月于

广州华南师范大学

## 前 言

世界上历史比较悠久的民族的语言中，都包含不少成语，汉语就是一例。汉语成语中很大一部分是文言，其中有的还有典故。汉语成语往往由四个字组成，因此有“四言成语”和“四字词组”之称。由于成语短小精悍，含义清楚，干净利落，易懂易记，说来顺口，听来悦耳，故长期以来为群众所喜闻乐见，频频使用。

本词典共收录常用汉语成语约一千条，全部按汉语拼音字母排列。每条成语除了附有汉语的解释外，一般都有两种以上的英译文，并且都配上例句。所给例句，相当一部分选自我国出版的英文书刊、杂志和报章，其中有些是经删节后选用的。

本书主要供高中二年级以上学生、大专学校学生、英语自学人士和英语翻译工作者参考使用。它对大中学校英语教师和其他涉外单位使用英语的人士，也有一定的参考价值。

本书在编写过程中，曾参考了一部分中外学者编著的汉英辞典，其中包括“MATHEW'S CHINESE ENGLISH DICTIONARY”(1931)、《最新林语堂汉英词典》、《国际汉英成语大辞典》以及《英汉大辞典》等。1981年6月本书初稿完成后，曾蒙当时暨南大学外语系副主任翁显良教授审阅、修改。1992年年底开始再度修改、补充，今年12月份最后定稿。本书编写前后得到不少同志诸如龙春娱

副教授、张丽梅副教授、何锡銮、陈石琳、袁绮云等高级教师的支持和帮助。黎汉材教授还为本书撰写序言。此外，林山、朱海华、朱小敏、邓鸿毅和侯淳璋、侯昌明、侯昌志、杜建洲、何万席、侯昌维、约生等同志曾为本书的校对以及其他工作作出了很大的努力。对此，仅借此机会向以上的同志致以衷心的感谢。

编者水平有限，书中错漏之处，敬请批评、指正。

编 者

1994 年 12 月 28 日



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## A

**【爱莫能助】** 虽然同情，却无力帮助，有时含讽刺意味。

1. not be able to help somebody even if one would like to

反动派必然是搬起石头打他们自己的脚，那时我们就爱莫能助了。

In other words, the reactionaries will be lifting a rock only to drop it on their own toes, and then we will not be able to help them even if we would like to.

2. willing to help but unable to do so

杰克知道杰姆处于困境，但他爱莫能助。

Jack knew that Jem was in trouble, he was willing to help him but unable to do so.

3. love but have no ability to render assistance

她明白他的实验需要她的帮助，但她爱莫能助。

She understands that he needs her help in his experiment. She loves him but has no ability to render him any assistance.

4. desirous but unable to help

戴夫对她的事爱莫能助。

With regard to her business, Dave was desirous but unable to help her with it.

5. 其他译法有: one would be glad to help but cannot

**【爱屋及乌】** 比喻喜爱某一个人, 与这个人有关的人或事物也受到喜爱。

1. love me, love my dog

古语说: “爱屋及乌”。

The old saying goes: “Love me, love my dog.”

2. love for a person extends even to the crows on his roof

我们对他是“爱屋及乌”。

Our love for him extends even to the crows on his roof.

3. love one thing on account of another

“爱屋及乌”, 人之常情。

Loving one thing on account of another is natural and normal.

4. 其他译法有: he that loves the tree loves the branch

**【安分守己】** 规矩老实, 守本分。

1. keep one's nose clean

你应安分守己, 不要卷进那件丑闻中去。

You should keep your nose clean. Don't get involved in that scandal.

## 2. abide by law and behave oneself

我们必须安分守己。

We must abide by law and behave ourselves.

## 3. know one's place and mind one's own business

安分守己是做个好公民的正道。

To know one's place and mind one's own business is the proper way to be a good citizen.

## 4. keep one's duty and have (or exercise) self-control

一个人在工作中应安分守己。

One should keep his duty and have self-control in his work.

## 5. be content with one's lot and obey the law

她是安分守己的。

She is content with her lot and obeys the law.

## 6. stick to one's lot (or last)

那位工人想当医生，但他的朋友劝他安分守己地干他的老本行。

The worker wanted to be a doctor, but he was advised by his friend to stick to his lot.

## 7. 其他译法有: mind one's own business

**【安家落户】** 把家搬到一个地方长期地安定地住下来。现在常指到基层长期居住。

## 1. settle (down)

他已在南京安家落户了。

He has settled down in Nanking.

## 2. make one's home somewhere

罗斯已在一个地方安家落户。

Rose made her home in a place.

## 3. 其他译法有: establish oneself in

**【安居乐业】** 指安定地生活,愉快地工作。

## 1. live and work in peace

希望我全体人民都安居乐业。

It is hoped that the people throughout the country will live and work in peace.

## 2. live in prosperity and contentment

在旧社会许多人无法安居乐业。

In the old society, many people could not live in prosperity and contentment.

## 3. 其他译法有: enjoy a good and prosperous life

**【安如泰山】** 一作“稳如泰山”。形容像泰山一样地牢靠稳固。

## 1. become as stable as Mount Taishan

我们的阵地安如泰山。

Our position has become as stable as Mount Taishan.

## 2. not be in the slightest danger

这位发言人说他们的国家安如泰山。

The spokesman said their country was not in the slightest danger.

3. as solid as a rock

她的统治安如泰山。

Her rule was as solid as a rock.

4. 其他译法有: be as steady as Mount Tai

**【按兵不动】** 控制住军队,不使行动。现在也指有计划地抑制某件事情的进行。

1. bide one's time

目前他们的军队按兵不动,伺机发动反击。

At present their troops bided their time to launch a counter-attack.

2. keep quiet

他按兵不动,等待时机。

He kept quite waiting for a good chance.

3. make no move

他们的军队故意按兵不动。

Their army deliberately made no move.

4. 其他译法有: hold back army from battle; take no action

**【按步就班】** 原指写文章时按行文布局安排段落词句。后用来指遵照规章办事或有步骤地部署某项工作。

1. keep to conventional ways of doing things

科学家做实验时，必须按部就班。

When carrying out scientific experiments, the scientists must keep to conventional ways of performing them.

2. follow the prescribed order (or way)

开动机器必须按部就班。

We must follow the prescribed order when working a machine.

3. orderly

学习应按部就班。

Study should be carried out in an orderly manner.

4. 其他译法有: do something according to routine

**【昂首阔步】** 形容精神饱满，意气昂扬，充满胜利的信心。

1. stride forward with one's chin up

他们昂首阔步进入工地。

They strode forward into the construction site with their chins up.

2. stride proudly ahead

获胜者昂首阔步，大声呼喊。

The winner strode proudly ahead and shouted.

3. strut about

他昂首阔步，像一位将军一样。

He struts about as if he were a general.

4. 其他译法有: walk with a strut

【嗷嗷待哺】 旧时用来形容由于灾荒饥饿而急于求食或等待救济的样子。

1. cry piteously for food

在那个非洲国家，成千上万的饥饿儿童嗷嗷待哺。

In that African country tens of thousands of hungry children cried piteously for food.

2. be starving

成千上万的难民嗷嗷待哺。

Tens of hundreds of refugees were starving.

3. 其他译法有: crying with hunger



## B

【百感交集】 难以表达的各种感触交织在一起。

1. all sorts of feelings well up in one's heart

刘成拿起在战斗中牺牲的战友用过的枪时，百感交集。

Taking up the gun used by his comrade-in-arms who was killed in action, all sorts of feelings welled up in Liu Chen's heart.

2. all kinds of thoughts crowd upon one's mind

眼望着夕阳西沉，她百感交集。

All kinds of thoughts crowded upon her mind while she was watching the sun setting down.

3. a multitude of feelings surges up

她仰望着天上的月亮，百感交集。

When she looked at the moon in the sky, a multitude of feelings surged up.

4. fill one's mind with a myriad of thoughts

我能再遇到他，真是百感交集，思绪万千。

That I was able to meet with him again filled my mind with a myriad of thoughts and ideas.

5. 其他译法有：have mixed feelings