

# 美國慣用語 與日用語手冊



附錄：人際關係要語及國際禮儀舉隅

*A HANDBOOK OF  
AMERICAN IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS  
AND  
DAILY ENGLISH*

趙一葦 趙思美 編著

Gary Alan De Waal校訂

增訂版

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AND  
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(Revised Edition)



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# 美國慣用語與日用語手冊

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## 同系書籍

英語基礎與文法手冊

英語造句與作文手冊

以上二書均以中文詳解，舉例豐富，極便自修研究，  
台南市東安路 61 號文大書局總經銷。

英語分級字彙手冊

此書除基本字彙，托福(TOEFL)字彙，研究(GRE)字彙外，並列有常用習語及外來語，均中美雙解另附例句。附錄有 SAT 字彙，最常用 1000 字，暨紐約市立高中英語字彙。台北文源書局發行。

英語慣用法手冊 台北聖文書局發行

本書主要係融會美國各大學作文暨秘書手冊中有關資料及個人教學經驗而成，正印刷中。

## 縮字簡語及符號說明

### 〔縮字〕

adj. 形容詞(兼指具有該性質的片語,下同)

adv. (疏)狀詞,副詞

interj. 感歎詞

n. 名詞

s. 句子

v. 動詞(包括 V. i., V. t.)

v.i. (verb intransitive)不及物動詞

v.t. (verb transitive)及物動詞

x. (=somebody)某人

Y. (=something)某物

### 〔符號〕

/ 選擇

( ) 可有可無;說明

[ ] 附註

### 〔簡語〕

俗 通俗,非正式(Informal,但不鄙陋)

俚 俚語(Slang,但非下流)

陳 陳舊

文 文雅,文學氣

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## 序

語文是文化的產物，它隨學術進步而滋長，隨社會變遷而變化。今日美國英語有異於過去與今日英國語文之處頗多。Extra-curricular activities（課外活動）今日多稱為 co-curricular activities（聯課活動），升降機在英國稱 lift，在美國稱 elevator：便是例子。

至如 fire 由「火燒」轉借而為「黜退」，boy 由「男孩」轉以表興奮，come again 義為請再說一遍，walk on air 義為得意揚揚等語：設不瞭解，每致誤會。又如 We can make it 說成 We can arrive in time, Please let me know 說成 Please inform me of it，似稍呆板；將 hook, line, and sinker 易為 completely；comings and goings 說成 activities，有時或感不够生動。國人在美與友邦人士交談，或則聽而不解其義，或則不知如何表達：凡此皆未能對於美國慣用語與日用語加以注意而致。余與一葦有鑒於此，因鼓勵思美協同編一小冊，以應需求。

一葦生長滬濱，接觸英語甚早，長而就學教會學校，嗣又赴美留學，應用英語之機會甚多。思美於初中時即去美受教育，迄今在美工作，英語已為她的第二母語。格理以英語為母語，成績甚佳。現在書成，即將印行，特說明編著緣起與經過如上。如此書對於讀者有所貢獻，則他們的辛勞有收穫了。

傅曉峰 識

79-1-26

## 趙一葦在台著譯其他書目

心理測驗（大中國圖書公司）

杜威哲學（主譯，教育部世界名著譯述委員會）

現代教育哲學（Brubacher 原著，正中書局）

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懷德海的哲學、教育、與宗教論文集（文源書局）

現代教育哲學大綱（台北聖文書局發行）

寫於增訂版付印之前

79年3月28日出版，以便在台分贈親友；嗣因印刷公司業務繁忙，不得不一再延期。而出版之前，著者均已以事離台，以致書中乖誤之處頗多未能改正。幸承讀者不棄，初版行將告罄。用擬將原版詳加校對外，另附現代國際禮儀舉隅一章，發行增訂版。俾讀者旅美時不特言談無礙，舉止亦能得體。尚祈讀者善加利用，以補正文之不足。讀者如有指教，請由文源書局收轉，曷勝欣幸。

著者謹識

80年11月3日



## PREFACE

It is a pleasure to highly recommend Dr. Ivan Chao and his daughter, Myrna's book on idiomatic expressions commonly used by Americans. The authors obviously have listened attentively during their various stays in the United States as they have included in their book many of the most common idiomatic expressions used there.

As the authors ably show, many phrases used by Americans have a synergy which is not readily obvious by studying their individual words. Accordingly, a native Chinese speaking person could easily experience difficulty upon hearing these phrases because reference to a dictionary would not necessarily be helpful. However, understanding the meaning of these phrases, or idiomatic expressions, is critical to understanding American speech. This is because idiomatic language is often included by Americans in their conversation.

This book helps bridge the gap between these expressions and understanding by providing the meaning of these idioms in Chinese and examples of these idioms in use in English. The alphabetic organization of these expressions should also be quite helpful.

Dr. Chao and Myrna's book is an invaluable asset and should be included in the library of every native Chinese speaking family where one or more members on occasion must use English and wish to sound more natural, or who must understand American conversation.

Since I had the honor to edit the book, I feel it is fit for me to write these passages as its preface.

Gary Alan Dewaal  
Taipei, Taiwan  
March 28, 1990

鄭重推薦趙一葦博士和他的女兒思美小姐合著的這本關於美國人士通常用的英語慣用語手冊，是一件快事。從這書中包括了許多在美國最慣用的辭語看來，著者們數次在美居留時顯然曾經留意聆聽人們的講話了。

一如著者們很能幹地表明：美國人士所用的許多片語具有一種協合性，它並非由研究組成它們的各個單字所得容易顯明的。一位原本說中文的人聽到這些片語時，為著查閱字典不一定有所幫助之故，實很容易遭到困難；然而瞭解這些片語或慣用語對於瞭解美國話却是十分必要的——因為美國人在他們的談話中往往包含著此種慣用的語文哩。

這本書在這些辭語和瞭解之間架設了一座橋樑：它用中文提供辭語的意義，並用英語提供它們的用例。這些辭語又按英文字母順序加以編排，也當是頗有裨益的。

趙博士和思美的這本書乃是一件十分珍貴的寶物。每個說中國話的家庭中，如有人有時必須要用英語而希望說得更自然，或則他必須切實瞭解美國人士的談話，那末這本書在他們的圖書館中應佔有一席之地。

因為我有幸校訂了這本書，我覺得握筆寫下如上幾段話作為序文是頗合適的。

華格理 1990 年 3 月 28 日寫於台北  
趙思美譯

**add fuel to the fire** *v.* 火上加油，愈弄愈糟。 By criticizing Jane, the uncle added fuel to the fire of his nephew's love. 叔叔批評琴，那正在他侄子的愛情火燄上潑油。〔比較 *pour oil on troubled waters*〕

**A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.** *s.* 一知半解，十分危險。 Jack has read a book on driving a car and now he thinks he can drive. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. 傑克曾讀了一本駕駛的書，而今他想能開車了。一知半解，十分危險。

**all out** *adv.* (俗) 竭盡力量 He went all out to finish the job and was very tired afterwards. 他竭盡力量做完工作，後來十分疲累。〔參閱 *use vp*〕

**all right** *1. adv.* ①滿意 The clock is running all right. 這鐘走得很好。②是。我要 "Shall we watch TV?" "All right." 「我們要看電視嗎？」「好，我要。」*2. adj.* 1. 够好，His work is always all right. 他的工作總是够好(正確) ②健康甚佳 "How are you?" "I'm all right." 「你好嗎？」「很好。」〔參閱 *very well*〕

**all right for you** *interj.* 我們的關係完了！ All right for you! I won't play with you any more. 我恨你，我不願意再和你玩了！

**all thumbs** *n.* (俗) 笨脚笨手 He installed the door backwards because he's all thumbs. 他把門裝反了，因為他是笨脚笨手的人。〔比較 *rule of thumb; turn thumbs down*〕

**all wet** *adj.* (俚) 完全錯了。 If you think I like basket ball, you're all wet. 要是你以為我喜歡籃球，那你完全錯了。

**and how** *interj.* (俗) 表甚為同意 (*very much so*) 正是如此！ "So they enjoyed themselves?" "And how!" 「所以他們自己享受。」「那是該應的！」

**anything goes** *s.* 一切准許，什麼都行。 In this school anything goes. 在這學校裏，什么都行。

**around the clock** *adv.* 24 小時服務或晝夜工作 (*all day and all night*) He studied around the clock for the entrance exam. 他爲入學考試而晝夜勤讀。(比較 *round-the-clock*. *adj.* That restaurant has round-the-clock service. 那家餐館 24 小時營業。)

**around the corner** *adv.* 接近(時間或地點), (*close by*) He is living around the corner. 他住在這裏相近。You'll get a fortune around the corner. 你最近會得到一筆財富。

**as often as not** *adv.* 時常; 往往 (*quite often* 至少有一半次數)。As often as not, he forgets his homework. 他往往忘記在家做功課。[比較 *more often than not* 尋常, 通常(有一半以上次數)]

**at large** *adv./adj.* 1. 自由在地 Cattle and sheep roamed at large on the big ranch. 牛群羊群在一片廣大的牧場上自由在地遊蕩。2. 全區地 He was elected congressman at large. 他是由全州選出的國會議員。

**at sea** *adj.* 茫然不知所措 (*lost*) Jack got a new job, and for a few days he was at sea. 傑克獲得了一件新的工作。最初幾天弄得他七葷八素。

**at stake** *adj.* (*stake* *n* 賭金, 賭物), 片語義爲「得失攸關」 I took great care on the examination because my scholarship was at stake. 我對於上次考試十分小心, 因爲它攸關我的獎學金啊。

**at swords' points** *adj./adv.* (注意 *swords'* 而非 *sword's* 或 *sword*) 爭鬥, 口角; 針鋒相對 (*quarrelling*) The mayor and the reporter were always at swords' points. 市長和記者往往發生口角。

**at (the) first blush** *adv.* (*at first glance; at first sight*) 義爲「驟見之下」 At the first blush the matter seemed easy, but when we studied it, we found it was quite difficult. 初看之下那是方便的, 但經研究之後, 便覺十分艱難。

**ax to grind** *n.* (俗) (*ax* 義爲斧, *grind* 義爲磨) 全語義爲



「別有用心」(=*a selfish reason*) In praising movies for classroom use, he has an ax to grind; he sells motion-picture equipment. 他稱讚教學上應用影片，他是別有用心；他銷售影片的設備。

**bark up the wrong tree** v. (俗) (*bark*, v. 剝樹皮) 走錯門路；亂叫瞎咬(緣木求魚) You're barking up the wrong tree if you ask him to help you, because he never helps anyone. 你要請他幫助，那你走錯門路了；因為他從未幫助他人。

**beat the bush(es)** v. (*bush*, n. 灌木) 片語義為「撥叢找尋(獵物)」(*try hard to find Y*) The mayor is beating the bushes for funds to build a new playground. 市長籌謀經費以建新運動場。〔附註：*beat about (around) the bush*, 義為「轉灣摸角」；「旁敲側擊」〕

**behind the times** adj. 過時的(*old fashioned*) The science books of thirty years ago are behind the times now. 三十年前的科學書籍而今都已過時了。

**be my guest** v. (俗) 隨意使用可也(你要那樣做，我不介意，用於回答友人告借物品時) "May I borrow your pen?" "Be my guest!" 「我可借用你的筆嗎？」「儘請隨便！」〔注意：西俗邀請友人出遊或進膳並予支付用途，不令破費，謂之 *guest*。如 *They are coming to the concert as my guest*. 他們前來出席音樂會是我的客人，由我付費。〕

**beside oneself** adj. 受了重大刺激而不能自持(*terribly angry*) He was beside himself; he was so angry. 他盛怒；他不能自持。

**better half** n. (俗；幽默) 稱自己的太太或先生(但都由先生稱他的太太；而太太稱她的先生，亦有用 *worse half* 者) 如 *Mary* 的先生介紹他的太太時說： "This is my better half, Mary." 〔注意：此語不可與 *the better part of* 相混。後語義為「大半」例如 *I haven't seen him for the better part of a month*. 我已有大半個月沒見他了。〕

**beyond the pale** adj/adv. (*pale* 為柵欄或界限) 片語之義為「拒而不納」、「拒之門外」 Lee's swearing is beyond the

pale; no one invites him to dinner any more. 李的宣誓被拒門外；以後再沒人邀他會餐了。

**big deal interj.** (deal 俗義爲交易；全語義了不起；但常用表譏刺) (俚) 小事一樁，何足爲奇 (*an unimportant thing*)  
So you became president of the company—big deal!  
你成爲公司董事長，我並不爲之感動。

**big fish / frog in a small pond n.** (俗) 大才小用 (*a leader in a small group*) As company president, he had been a big fish in a small pond, but he was not so important as a member of parliament in the capital city. 當董事長時他是大才小用，但當了國會議員進入京都，却不見得如何顯赫。〔比較 *little frog*……〕

**big time n.** (俗) 快樂時光 (*a very enjoyable time*) I had big time at the club last night. 昨夜在俱樂部裏，我享受了一段快樂時光。 When he got the part in a Hollywood film he made it big time. 當他好萊塢的影片參加演出，他覺得那是快樂時光。〔參閱 *time of one's life*〕

**bird in the hand n.** 已到手的東西 Be grateful you already have one baseball. A bird in the hand is worth more than two in the bush. 你已有了一個棒球，應當知所感激。手中已有的一隻鳥比較林中兩隻以上的鳥更有價值。

**black out v.** (俗) 昏暈 After the accident he blacked out and couldn't remember what had happened. 意外事故之後，他即昏過去，不能記憶所發生的一切。(連爲一字時爲 *n.* He had a blackout after the accident and could not remember what happened.) 〔比較：(言論 / 燈火) 管制。 During the war we have to black out all our windows. The streets were not lit at night during the blackout〕。

**blind leading the blind n.** 以盲導盲 Mr. Lin asked me to show him how to skate. It was really the blind leading the blind. 林君請我教他溜冰，那實在是以盲導盲。

**blow in v.** (俚) 不速(之客)；(甚風兒)吹到 (*arrive unexpectedly*) The house was already full of guests when John blew in. 當強尼突然來臨時，屋內已是高朋滿座了。〔附



記：側重由外入內或由甲地到達乙地時，用 *blow into*. ]

**blow (或 toot) one's own horn (或 trumpet) v.** (俚)  
自誇自吹 (*boast*) People get tired of a person who is  
always blowing his own horn. 人們討厭一個常常自吹的  
人。

**blow the lid off v.** (俗) (*lid*, 箱壺之蓋) 片語義為「揭開  
秘密」 The journalists blew the lid off the Watergate  
cover-up. 新聞記者揭開水門案的隱秘。

**blow the whistle on v.** (俚) 為某事吹笛告衆 The mayor  
blew the whistle on corruption. 市長警告不准賄賂腐化。

**blow up v.** (俗) 1.大怒 When Dad bent the nail for  
the third time, he blew up. 當父親要弄彎那釘子到第三次  
時，他發怒了。 2.計畫告吹 The whole scheme for a big  
party suddenly blew up. 舉行一次盛大聚會的全部計畫，忽  
然告吹了。 3.張大其辭 It was a small thing to happen but  
the newspapers had blown it up until it seemed  
important. 那件事發生時原來是一件小事，但報紙把它渲染得  
成為一件大事。 [ 注意：*blow-up*, n. 口角 *J and S had a  
blow-up last night.* ]

**bone up v.** 啃、吞 (*study quickly*) Carrol was boning up  
for an examination last night. 卡洛爾昨夜為考試而急啃。

**booked up v.** 預訂 All the rooms at the hotel were  
booked up. 旅館中的所有房間都已有人預訂了。

**born with a silver spoon in one's mouth adj.** 生於富有  
之家 (以銀匙為餐具) His conduct is that of a person who  
was born with a silver spoon in his mouth. 他的行為是  
生於富有之家的那一套。

**bottom dollar n.** (俗) 最後的一些錢；僅剩的一塊錢 (*last  
penny*) He was down to his bottom dollar when he got  
the job. 當他獲此工作時，他僅剩一塊錢了。 [ 附記：*bet one's  
bottom dollar*, (俗) 保證靠得住。 *You can bet your  
bottom dollar that she'll win.* 參閱 *I'll bet*…… ]

**boy interj.** 表興奮 **Boy! What a game!** 呀！怎麼樣的一次比賽啊！〔比較 *son*〕

**break one's heart v.** 心碎，傷心 (*very sad*) **His son's disgrace broke his heart.** 他孩子的不名譽事使他心碎。

**break one's neck v.** (俚) 竭力而為 (*try very hard*) **Bill nearly broke his neck trying not to be late to school.** 比爾竭力不使上學遲到。

**break the ice v.** (俗) 打破冷場；打開僵局 (*start a conversation*) **Some people use an unusual thing, such as an unusual piece of jewelry, to break the ice.** 有些人用一件不尋常的東西，如一件不尋常的首飾等，來打破冷場。〔比較 *get the ball rolling*〕

**break with v.** 絕交 (*end friendship with*) **He broke with some friends who had changed their ideas.** 他和改變了他們的思想的幾位朋友絕交了。

**bring down the house v.** (俗) 令人哄堂大笑，博得滿堂采聲 **The President made a fine speech that brought down the house.** 總統做了一次漂亮的演說，引得滿場喝采。

**bring home v.** 使人瞭解 (*make realize*) **Many things left by the ancient Egyptians in tombs have been brought to light by scientists and explorers.** 古代埃及人遺留在墳墓裏的許多東西，已為科學家和探險家發現了。

**buck** (俚) 美元〔參閱 *fast buck*; *pass the buck* 註〕

**build castles in the air v.** 建造空中樓閣；做白日夢 **He liked to build castles in the air, but never succeeded in anything.** 他喜歡做白日夢，但從未有一件成功。

**burn one's bridges (或 boats) v.** (俗) 破釜沉舟；下定決心，義無反顧 (*destroy all means of going back*) **When Catherine became a nun, she burned her bridges behind her.** 當凱若琳成為修女時，她斷絕後路，決不反顧。  
**When he left his last job, he was careful not to burn his bridges.** 當他離開上次的工作時，他小心地沒有過河拆橋。

**burn the candle at both ends** v. 燃燭兩端，快速消耗 ( *get too tired* ) He works hard day and night; he is burning the candle at both ends. 他日夜工作勤奮；他是一枝燭兩頭燒，終將疲竭。

**burn the midnight oil** v. 讀書或工作至半夜；焚膏繼晷 ( *study late at night* ) Many students are burning the midnight oil because the examination is near. 考試將臨，許多學生日夜勤讀。

**burn X/Y up** v. ( 俗 ) 令人生氣；使物毀壞 The boy's laziness and rudeness burned his teacher up. 那孩子的懶惰與粗魯使他的老師生氣。 In his eagerness to meet his friend, William burned up the road for driving too fast. 由於他急於會到他的朋友，威廉開車極快，致使道路毀壞。

**bury one's head in the sand** v. 埋首沙中 ( 不敢面對現實或難題 ) When he meets with difficulties, he always buries his head in the sand. 當遭遇困難時，他總是縮頭縮腦，不敢面對。 [ 參閱 *hide*…… ]

**bury the hatchet** v. ( 俗 ) 收起斧鉞，重歸舊好 ( *make peace* ) They had been enemies for a long time, but they buried the hatchet after the flood. 他們曾是長久的敵人，但經這次水災後，重歸和好了。

**butter up** v. ( 俗 ) 諂媚；奉承 He began to butter up the boss in hope of a better job. 他開始奉承老闆，希望有更好的工作。 [ 參閱 *polish the apple* ]

**buy off** v. 賄賂 When the police threatened to stop the gambling business, the owner bought them off. 當警察威迫停止賭博營業之時，業者向警察行賄。

**by and large** adv. 一般而論；大概說來 ( *mostly* ) By and large, your plan is a good one. 大體看來，你的計畫是好的。 [ 比較 *at large* ]

**by fits and starts** adv. 時作時輟 ( *irregularly; fit, n.* 一時高興 ) You will never get anywhere if you study just by fits and starts. 倘若你研究只乘高興，時作時輟，你永遠不會