

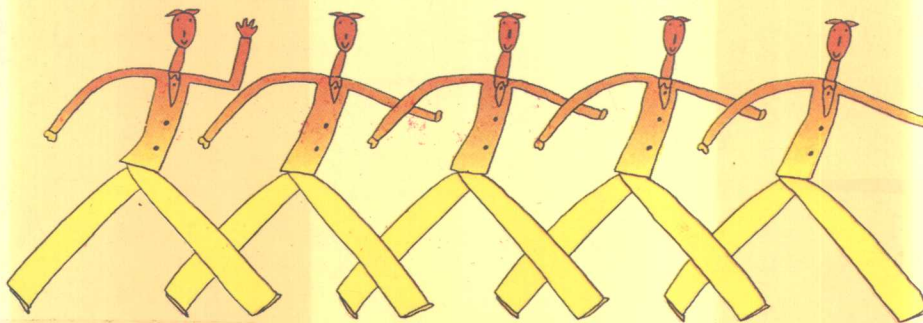


國際翻譯社 主編 / 語文進修叢書 47

胡子丹 編著

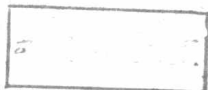
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英文成語探源



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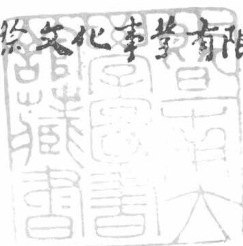
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英文成語探源

胡子丹 編著



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編輯前言

任何一個民族的特性，我們可以由它的語文中看出來，尤其是語文中的成語、諺語、歇後語，以及民謠等。英語更不例外，自從新大陸被發現後，開拓時期的新奇興奮，和狂熱的淘金生涯，在英文中留下了更多的痕跡。在時光一去不復返的流程中，好多好多的英文成語，又逐漸衍生出新生命，注入了新的意義。英文的讀者如不能明白其底蘊，一味依靠文法知識和字典釋義，是無法明究其真正意義的。

我們舉例來說：「藍光」(A blue streak)(見第三頁)，「印第安之夏」(Indian summer)(見第一八三頁)，「跛鴨」(Lame duck)(見第九九頁)「剔骨頭」(Bone to pick)(見第七〇頁)，「弄」(fix)(見第一三一頁)等等，是甚麼意思呢？

本書參考了「美國之音」特別英語節目的一百次廣播，曾逸雲先生的「英語淺入深」，加上筆者本人平時閱讀時所筆記下來的零碎，整理編譯而成。相信對學習英文的朋友們，在「提高英文能力」和「英語的感覺」方面，應該有正面的影響。書中有錯誤地方，尚請來函指教，俾可再版時改正。

胡 子 丹

一九八五年七月

索引

A

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | a bad quarter of an hour |
| | a beauty sleep |
| 2 | a bed of roses |
| | a big shot |
| 3 | a blue streak |
| | a born Charlie Brown |
| 4 | a bug in a rug |
| 5 | A burnt child dreads the fire. |
| | a cat on hot bricks |
| 6 | A candle lights others and consumes itself. |
| | a child's play |
| 7 | a chip of the old block |
| | a church mouse |
| 8 | a close crop |
| | a cloud of words |
| 9 | a cold coal to blow at |
| | a cold purse |
| 10 | a dirty night |
| | a dog with two tails |
| 11 | a feather in the cap |
| | a fast friend |
| 12 | a finger in the pie |

- | | |
|----|-------------------------|
| 13 | a flea in one's ear |
| | a fly in the ointment |
| 14 | a fly on the wheel |
| | a frog in the throat |
| 15 | a glow watch |
| | a great gun |
| 16 | a gull |
| | a heart in one's boot |
| 17 | a household word |
| | a lion's share |
| 18 | a little thin god |
| | a long cry |
| 19 | a lucky dog |
| | a morning bird |
| 20 | a near go |
| 21 | a new broom |
| | a night bird |
| 22 | a noodle |
| | a nose of wax |
| 23 | a pain in the neck |
| | a past master |
| 24 | a paying guest |
| | a pearl diver |
| 25 | a pie in the sky |
| | a place in the sun |
| 26 | a pretty business |
| | a pretty kettle of fish |

- 27 a ready pen
a red tape
28 a regular brick
a rough diamond
29 a raining day
a sad dog
30 a short cut
31 a snake in the grass
a Spartan dog
32 a squeezed orange
a square peg in a round hole
33 a stop watch
a tall order
34 a tame cat
a thin time
35 a walking library
a warm corner
36 a wasp
a wet blanket
37 a white crow
a white lie
38 a yellow boy
an afternoon farmer
39 an angel altogether
an iceberg
40 an itching palm
41 an odd fish

- an old soldier
42 an ugly customer
as cool as a cucumber
43 as dry as a bone
as good as gold
44 as green as grass
as the call, as the echo
45 ax to grind
46 ABC
act of god
47 all abroad
all at sea
48 all bark and no bite
All bread is not baked in one oven.
49 all burnt up
All cats are grey in the night.
50 all ears
all eyes
51 All geese are swans.
all the world and his wife
52 all woman
Art is long.
ass in a lion's skin
53 airs and graces
ants in one's pants
54 Adam's apple
about one's ears

- 55 alibi
apple of the eye
56 apple pie order
apple polisher
57 April weather
absent-mind professor
58 affair of honour
arrest one's eye
59 Actions speak louder than words.
against the grain
60 another pair of shoes
Achilles heel
61 advanced age
anything under the sun

B

- 62 by the skin of teeth
bag and baggage
63 big words
buy a pig in a poke
64 baby-kisser
back number
65 bark at the moon
bears and bulls
66 bear the bag
bear the bell
67 bell the cat

- bite the bullet
68 blow away the cobwebs
69 blow hot and cold
blow the coals
70 body and soul
bone to pick
71 book of books
bull in a china-shop
72 bunk
73 burn a hole in the pocket
burn daylight
74 burn the fingers
bury the tomahawk
75 below the salt
Birds of a feather flock together.
76 black and white
black art
77 black diamond
blind alley
78 blind door
blind letter
79 blind man's buff
blind man's holiday
80 blind side
break the ice
81 bring eggs to the wrong market
bogus

- 82 | bred buttered on both sides
brick in the hat
83 | bring down house
brown study
84 | baker's dozen
beauty sleep
85 | Berlin warehouse
86 | before you know it
borrow trouble
bottom dollar
87 | bright in the eye
88 | butter words
between the cup and the lip
89 | barking up the wrong tree
bonanza
90 | brother of an angle
belittle
91 | blackout
backseat driver
92 | blackboard jungle
butterflies in the stomach
93 | bluestocking

C

- 94 | cut and dried
cut one's coat according to one's cloth
95 | cut someone down to size

- 96 cry over spilt milk
cry wolf
call it a day
- 97 care killed a cat.
- 98 cast pearls before swine
chip on his shoulder
- 99 chop logic
- 100 cock and bull story
cock of the school
- 101 come back to earth
come on the stage
- 102 cook the goose
cook up
- 103 canoe
carry coals to Newcastle
- 104 chalk for cheese
- 105 chalk to cheese
clean the house for someone
clear hands
- 106 count the nose
crash the gate
- 107 crook the elbow
castle in the air
- 108 caviar to the general
chance the duck
- 109 Chinese puzzle
careless life

110 | crocodile tears
| conversation piece

D

111 | die with one's boots
| Dog does not eat dog.
112 | dry as a chip
| dry light
113 | Days are numbered.
| dead air
114 | dead line
| dead man
115 | dead sea apple
| dear John letter
116 | disc jockey
117 | down in the mouth
| draw cuts
118 | down to the ground
| drop a line
119 | duck soup
| Derdy dog
120 | Dutch auction
| Dutch courage
121 | devil's books
| double crosser
122 | deserve a corner
| Diamond cut diamond.

- 123 | diamond of the first water
deadbeat
124 | doubting Thomas
125 | doubtful card

E

- 126 | eat crow
eat like a horse
127 | eat one's corn in the blade
128 | ears on tse walls
Every bean has its black.
129 | Every bird likes its own nest.
Every day is not sunday.
130 | Every dog has his day.
every Tom, Dick and Harry

F

- 131 | fix
fiy a kite
132 | fly high
for better or for worst
133 | for good
for love or money
134 | for the love of Mike
fair and square
135 | face the music
fall between two stools

- | | |
|-----|---------------------------|
| | fall for look |
| 136 | fast colour |
| | find oneself |
| 137 | Fine feathers make birds. |
| | fish in the air |
| 138 | fish in troubled waters |
| | fish out of water |
| 139 | from hand to mouth |
| | from the heart |
| 140 | full house |
| 141 | full of beans |
| | first and last |
| 142 | fancy ball |
| | fool's paradise |
| 143 | forty winks |
| | family man |
| 144 | French crown |
| | French window |
| 145 | feeling n the pink |
| | furniture of mind |
| 146 | filibuster |
| 147 | fair-weather friend |

G

- | | |
|-----|-------------------------|
| 148 | go around with achip on |
| | go Dutch |
| 149 | go for a song |

- 150 go haywire
go on wheels
go to the bar
- 151 go to the bottom
go to the wrong shop
- 152 go to town
go with the stream
- 153 get nothing on me
get off on the wrong foot
get someone by the neck
- 154 get something off one's chest
gild the pill
- 155 give a lark to catch a kite
give him the bird
- 156 give him the dose of his own medicine
give one's ears
- 157 give someone a black eye
give someone a dirty look
- 158 gray mare
give someone a piece of one's mind
- 159 give someone enough rope
grow downward
- 160 goat's wool
Greek gift
- 161 green food
gallop away
- 162 golden balls

- golden case
163 getting down to brass tacks
greasy spoon
164 general dealer
gentleman at large
165 goldbrick
gobbledegook

H

- 167 ham actor
hit the nail on the head
168 hot air
hot water
169 hair of the dog
Half a loaf is better than none.
170 hand and glove
hang up one's axe
171 have all goods in the window
172 have an ear in every man's boat
have other fish to fry
173 hear the grass grow
high stomach
174 hold chair
Hands are full.
Hands are tied.
175 hello
horse of another color

176 | handwriting on the wall

I

177 | I'm not myself today.
in a whole skin
in a word
178 | in camera
in full feather
179 | in high feather
in season and out season
180 | in the green
in the same boat
181 | in the wind's eye
idle bread
182 | idols of the cave
Irish bull
183 | Indian summer
184 | I-love-me fellow

J

185 | Jack and Jill
Jack of all trades
186 | jink and hex
187 | jump on someone
junk mail
just what the doctor ordered