

最新美國口語俚語精選

Modern American  
Slang and Colloquialisms

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## 編 者 序

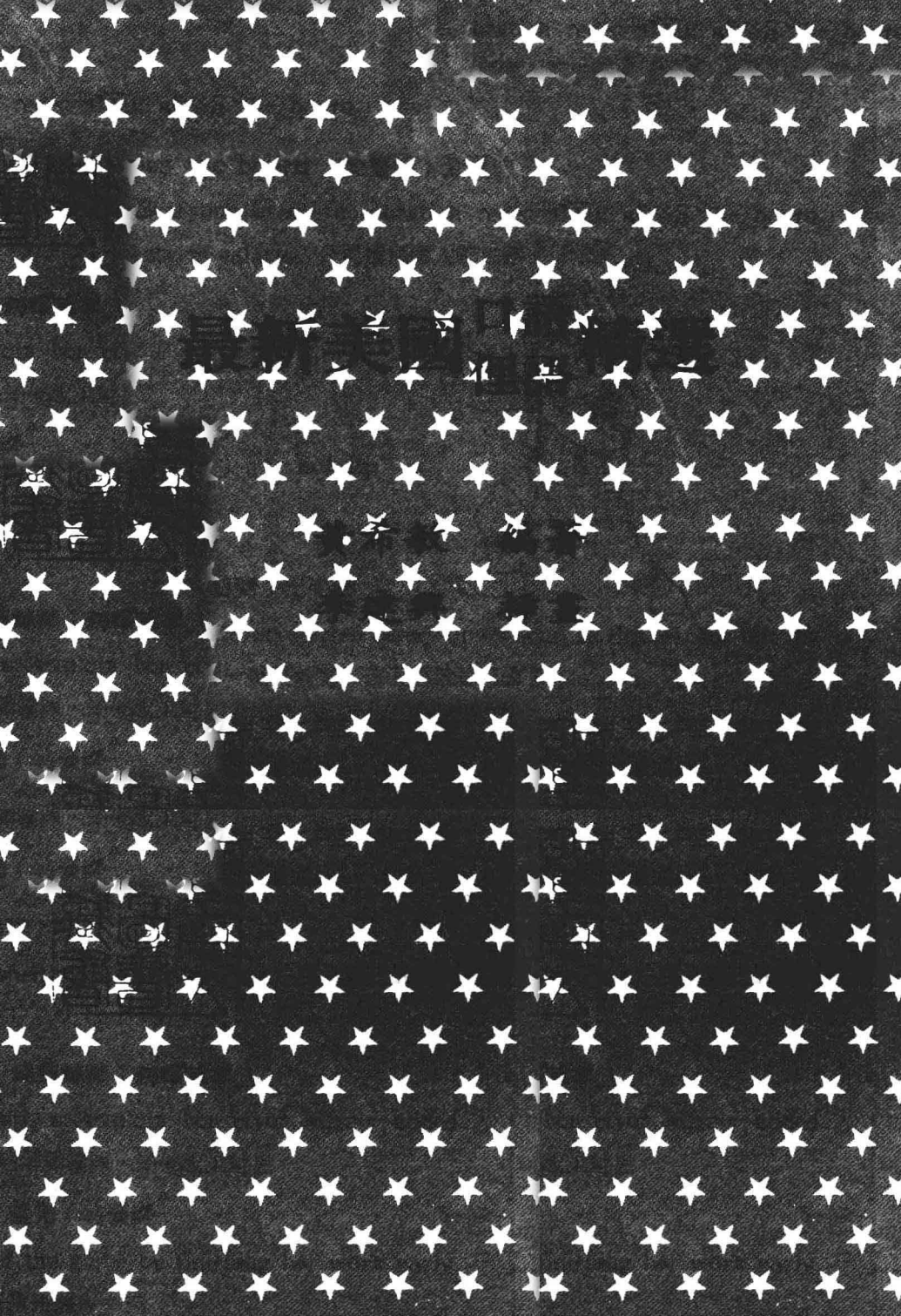
美國對我而言，不僅是留學經驗，更是生活經驗。從加州到德州，十五年間，這個地方提供我制度化、高效率的社會、日新月異的資訊、百家爭鳴的氣氛，這樣的環境，對於我“先天”的最愛——語言，自是一片沃土。我看電視、跟美國朋友談話，往往一本筆記在手，隨時記下以往不會用過的語句。美國的電視從早到晚有看不完的好節目，知識性的、教育性的、娛樂性的……，就像是我的免費家教，天天把政治人物、專家學者、以至於尋常百姓，帶到我眼前，就各種大小問題發表言論。從他們的談話中，我看見美語的最近趨勢、最道地用法，這種學習，是我長久以來的嗜好，於是口語筆記一本本，猶如果實一籬筐一籬筐，真想與在其他地方勤學美語的朋友分享。

返台任教這段期間，發現國內類似的書不少，卻都失之老舊，於是把自己手邊的稿子先整理出一部分，彙編成冊，並請輔大英語系畢業的李建興先生作插畫，增加趣味，以利記憶。相信此書對於有志熟悉今日美語的學生以及社會人士，都會有莫大助益。

黃希敏

1.15.1991 於休士頓







**across the board** 全盤的；全面的

Everyone in the corporation received an across the board increase in salary. 公司裡每個人都加薪。

**act up**



**act up** 胡鬧；出毛病

The children started to act up as soon as the teacher left the room. 老師一離開教室，孩子們就鬧起來了。

I was late to work this morning because the car acted up and wouldn't start. 我今天早上因車子出毛病而上班遲到。

**ad lib** 即興而作，隨口編

The comedian ad libbed most of his routine. 那個笑匠的講詞多半是隨口編的。

**add insult to injury** 越搞越糟；越描越黑

Her awkward attempt to explain her error merely added insult to injury. 她笨拙地解釋錯誤，結果越描越黑。

**ahead of the game** 領先；佔優勢

Marsha got ahead of the game by finishing her work early. Marsha 因提早完成工作而領先他人。



**airbrain / airhead 呆子**

Joyce can't understand anything. She's such an airbrain.  
Joyce 什麼都不懂，她是個呆子。

**all ears 全神貫注**

Whenever you tell Johnny some gossip, He's all ears. 每當你說閒話給 Johnny 聽時，他總是全神貫注。

**all ears**



**all hell broke loose 一團糟**

When the flood hit, all hell broke loose. 洪水一氾濫，一切亂糟糟。

**all-out 盡力，全力以赴**

The team made an all-out effort to win the game. 這支隊伍全力以赴贏得比賽。

**all right already 好啦好啦，別唸啦**

All right already, I'm coming! 好啦好啦，別唸啦，我來了！

**all the way 毫無保留**

I'll back her all the way. 我會自始至終支持她的。

**all thumbs 笨手笨腳的；笨拙的**

I'm all thumbs when it comes to sewing. 說起做女紅，我是非常笨拙的。

## all wet 錯誤的

I'm afraid your idea is all wet. 我想你的想法是不對的。

all wet



## along for the ride 隨著他人走，看看 [不怎麼認真地參與一事]

Don't mind me. I'm just along for the the ride. 別管我，我只是看看而已。

## antsy [出自 have ants in one's pants] 焦躁不安

After waiting around for so long, Paul started to get antsy. 等了這麼久，Paul 開始焦躁不安。

antsy



## A [e] -OK 情況順利；進行良好

He was A-OK after the surgery. 他手術後情況很好。

## an arm and a leg 昂貴的價格

This furniture cost me an arm and a leg, but it was worth it. 這件家具花了我一大筆錢，但是很值得。

**as...as all get out** .....極了

Mother is as mad as all get out. 母親氣瘋了。

**as is** (物品) 照原狀 [不做修理或改進]

The salesman said I could buy the car for \$500 as is, or give him \$1,200 after he fixes all its problems. 售貨員說我可以以 500 元按現在的樣子買這部車，或是給他 1,200 元把所有的毛病修理好。

**asap** 立刻；馬上 (出自 as soon as possible)

Hurry up! I need that report asap. 快點！我馬上要那份報告。

**ask for it** 自找麻煩；罪有應得

You were asking for it by driving around with bad brakes. 開剎車失靈的車是你自找麻煩。

**ask for it**



**awesome** 棒極了

That was an awesome party. Everybody had fun. 那個宴會棒極了，每個人都玩得很高興。

**back off** 緩和；軟化；減輕

The city council had to back off from its criticism of the utility department. 市議會必須減輕對公共事業部門的批評。

**back out** 退出(交易)；叫停

Gegore backed out of the deal at the last minute. George 在最後一刻退出交易。

**back, put something on the back burner** 暫時擱置

Paul was so busy that he had to put several projects on the back burner. Paul 忙得必須把幾個計劃暫時擱置下來。

**backseat driver** 在後座指導駕駛開車的人；好為人師；不在其位而謀其政

Please be quite, I can't concentrate with so many backseat drivers in the car. 安靜點，那麼多人教我開車，我無法專心。



**backseat driver**

**back at square one** 回到起點，白費力氣

It's really frustrating! After so much effort, I'm back at square one. 真洩氣！我費了那麼多力氣結果是白忙一場。

**bad** 太棒了 [講反話]

That outfit is bad. Where can I get one? 那套衣服棒透了，那裡可以買到？

**bad blood** 嫌隙；不和；敵意

Ever since Howard borrowed 5,000 dollars from Mike and

never paid him back, there has been bad blood between them.  
自從 Howard 向 Mike 借了 5,000 元不還之後，他們之間就有了嫌隙。

### bad-mouth 說壞話

Paul was always bad-mouthing his superiors until his boss threatened to fire him. 老闆威脅要炒 Paul 魷魚，他才停止說老闆壞話。

### bad news 討厭鬼

Marcy is nothing but bad news around here. Marcy 真是這一帶的討厭鬼。

### ballpark figure 大約數目；略估

I think it will cost you about 50 dollars, but that's a ballpark figure. 我想它大約要花你 50 元。

### ballpark figure



### baloney 胡扯

Baloney! I never said that. 胡扯！我從沒那麼說。

### bananas 瘋子

The guy acts like he's bananas. 這傢伙舉動像個瘋子。

**bank on 信任；倚賴**

The public knew they could bank on the mayor to do what he promised. 群眾知道他們能信任市長會實現承諾。

**bank on**



**bar none 只此一家，別無分號**

This is the best ice cream anywhere in the state of Texas, bar none. 這是德州最好的冰淇淋，別無分號。

**barf 嘔吐**

When Amy was sick, she barfed all night. Amy 生病，吐了一晚。

**barge in 闖入**

George rudely barged in on our private meeting. George 無禮地闖入我們的私下會談。

**basket case 絕望無助、意志消沈的人**

When Sam's wife left him, he was a basket case for weeks. Sam 的太太離開他時，他消沈了好幾個星期。

**beat a dead horse 白費唇舌，白費力氣**

I've already made up my mind. There's no sense beating a dead horse. 我已經下了決心，不必再白費唇舌了。

**beat it 走開**

Beat it! I'm busy right now. 走開！我現在忙著。

**beats me 我不知道**

Beats me. We haven't learned that yet. 我不知道，我們還沒有學到那個。

**beats me**



**beeswax [bízwæks] 事情 [出自 business]**

This is a private matter. It's none of your beeswax. 這是個人的事，和你無關。

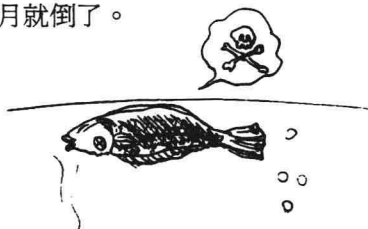
**belly laugh 震耳欲聾的笑聲**

My goodness, Burt, you've got a real belly laugh. 天哪，Burt，你的笑聲真震耳。

**belly up 垮了；死了；完蛋 [源於“死魚肚子向上”]**

The restaurant went belly up after being open for only three months. 這家餐廳才開張三個月就倒了。

**belly up**



**bent out of shape** 氣壞了；大發雷霆

Mother is really bent out of shape because we came home so late last night. 我們昨晚遲歸，母親大發雷霆。

**bend over backwards** 不遺餘力

Sue will bend over backwards to help her friends. Sue 會盡全力幫助朋友。

**between a rock and a hard place** 進退兩難

I don't know what the solution is. Right now, I'm caught between a rock and a hard place. 我不知道如何解決，現在我進退兩難。



**between a rock and  
a hard place**

**big** 重要的；受歡迎的，熱門的

Michael Jackson is a big name in the music business. Michael Jackson 在音樂界是個響噹噹的名字。

Her new novel is really big in New York. 她的新小說在紐約很紅。



### **big deal 重要的事**

It's no big deal. I don't mind helping you out. 這沒什麼大不了的，我不介意幫助你。

### **big idea, What's the big idea? 什麼意思?!**

What is the big idea? I don't appreciate all the personal questions. 什麼意思?! 我可不喜歡被問這些私人問題。

### **big league, hit the big leagues / time 更上一層樓**

He's not a small time accountant anymore. With his new job, he's definitely hit the big leagues. 他不再是個小會計了，有了新工作，他的確更上一層樓。

### **big man on campus 學生領袖；校園風雲人物**

Rick is the captain of the football team. He's the big man on campus. Rick 是足球隊長，是校園風雲人物。

### **big picture (事情的) 主要部份；重點**

Concentrate on the big picture for now. Don't worry about the minor details. 先把精神集中在重點上，不要擔心次要的細節。

### **big cheese**



### **big shot (= VIP, big cheese, big wheel) 大人物，大頭**

You can tell John is a big shot; he rides in a limousine