

◆ A Concise Dictionary of English Idioms ◆

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简明英语成语词典

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庄智象 编

东方出版中心

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前 言

在学习和运用英语中,学习、熟悉和掌握英语成语对于英语学习者和使用者提高英语理解和表达能力,丰富表达手段,提升运用水平至关重要,而学习、理解、掌握和运用英语成语又是英语学习中的难点之一。为了帮助大中学生和英语工作者更好地、有效地学习和使用英语成语,笔者根据我国英语学习者的需要和实际情况编写了这本《简明英语成语词典》。

本词典共收有当代英语成语约8000余条,每一词条均有英语释义和汉语释义,释义简洁、准确。每一词条至少配有一句例句。例句语言地道、简明、实用。译文力求准确、流畅。对于某些成语的出处或难于理解、难于掌握的用法以及前后搭配关系等则根据需要分别作出适当的注释和说明。本词典按中心词字母顺序排列,查阅方便。

本词典可供大学英语和英语专业的学生、大中学校英语教师及其他英语学习者和翻译工作者使用。由于编者水平所限,缺点和疏漏在所难免,敬请广大读者惠予指正。

体例说明

1. 本词典所收录的成语按中心词字母顺序排列。

2. 为方便查阅,在每一中心词下每一词条均按起首字母顺序排列。冠词 a (an)、the 和动词 be 一般也不从略。

3. 成语中的代词或名词若不是特定形式的,在条目中分别用下列代词表示:

1) one—指“本人”,即动作主体本身,如 have it in one。

2) one's—指“本人的”,即动作主体的,如 blow one's top。

3) oneself—指“本人自己”,表示动作返回主体本身,如 address oneself to。

4) somebody—指“某人”,表示动作及于主体以外的某个或某些人,如 badger somebody。

5) somebody's—指“某人的”,表示动作及于主体以外的某个或某些人的,如 enter somebody's head。

6) something—指“某事”或“某物”,如 give something a face-lift。

4. 两个或多个成语的释义若相同或相近,且结构相似,酌情予以合并立条,条目中的替换部分(英语)用斜线(/)隔开,如 call/draw attention to。

若两个或多个成语的释义相反或相对,且结构相似也酌情予以合并立条,英语用斜线(/)隔开,汉语则用圆括号()标注,如 in a bad/good light 不(有)利地。

用圆括号括出的英语词语不作为条目的一部分参加排列。

5. 对成语的语法或用法上的特点或搭配关系等的简单说明,一般放在汉语释义的后面或前面,加上圆括号。若说明文字较多,或对成语的出处或有关背景知识需要加以介绍的,则在有关条目的义项后加注,放入圆括号内。

6. 主要标点符号。

1) 逗号(,)用于分隔并列的词目、相近的汉语释义等及按

标点规则需用逗号处。

2) 顿号(、)用于分隔汉语释义和例证等中列举同类事物时。

3) 句号(英文中用.;汉语中用。)用于例证中的句子。

4) 分号(;)用于同一义项中含意稍远的汉语释义等和按标点规则需用分号处。

5) 删节号(汉英文一律用…)用于汉语释义中表示及物动词、前置词的宾语,亦用于释义等其他表示删节处,如 explain away 为…辩护;对…加以解释。

6) 圆括号()用于:

a) 括去条目中或释义中可能省略的部分,如(come) within an ace of; come the old acid (试图)欺骗某人。

b) 加汉语注释方面的补充说明,如 out and about (尤指病人的病愈后)能够外出走动。

c) 括出不属于汉语释义部分的主语、宾语等,如 back down 放弃(要求、主张、立场、指控等)。

d) 标出词语的搭配,如 pay attention (to) 注意,专心。

7) 方括号[]用于括出条目或汉语释义中的代替部分,如 not have a hope in hell 没有一点希望[机会]。

8) 尖括号〈 〉用于汉语加注有关语体、语域、语种等方面的略语,如〈俚〉、〈美俚〉、〈英口〉等。

目 录

前言 1

体例说明 1

词典正文 1

主要参考书目 820

A a

aback

to be taken aback ≈ surprised
吃惊: *I was taken aback when she suddenly screamed.* 她突然尖叫了起来,我为之大吃一惊。

abide

abide by ≈ comply with, remain faithful to 遵守, 信守:
There will be no trouble as long as you abide by the rules. 你只要遵守这些规章制度就不会碰到麻烦。

cannot abide ≈ cannot tolerate 无法忍受: *I cannot abide his annoying habit of sniffing.* 对他那种用鼻子吸气的讨厌习惯,我无法忍受。

about

about to ≈ just going to 刚要:
I'm glad we happened to meet, I was about to write to you. 我很高兴,我们碰巧相见,我刚才正要给你写信。

out and about ≈ active, moving around out of doors (尤指病人在痊愈后)能够外出走动:
My mother says that she doesn't get out and about much these days. 我母亲说她最近不太外出走动。

up and about ≈ out of bed (after an illness) (病人)已起床走动: *The doctor says she should be up and about next week.* 医生说下个星期她应该起来走走。

above

above all ≈ most important,

more than anything else 最重要的是, 首先: *He's a good footballer and, above all, a great sportsman.* 他是一位优秀的足球运动员,而首先他是一位杰出的运动员。

above and beyond ≈ in addition, more than necessary 另外, 多此一举: *She stayed behind to help with the cleaning, which is above and beyond her regular work.* 她留下来帮助大扫除,这超越了她的本职工作。

above asking ≈ too proud to ask 耻于启口: *He seems so self-sufficient but fortunately he's not above asking for help when he needs it.* 他似乎过于自信,但幸亏在他需要帮助时,他不会耻于启口。

above oneself ≈ self-satisfied, conceited 自鸣得意, 自高自大: *He got above himself after he was nominated for the award.* 他被提名为该奖候选人后开始骄傲自大起来了。

above suspicion ≈ known to be too honest to be suspected of wrongdoing 无可置疑: *Whoever took the money it was not Christine — she's above suspicion.* 无论是谁拿的钱,反正不是克里斯廷——她是不容置疑的。

abstain

abstain from ≈ do without / hold oneself back 戒; 避开:

Mark has abstained from smoking because of his ill health. 由于身体欠佳, 马克已经戒烟。

accident

accidentally on purpose ≈ deliberately but underhandedly 别有用心: *He got his revenge by spilling his drink over the other man accidentally on purpose.* 他别有用心地把酒溅在另一个人的身上进行报复。

chapter of accidents ≈ succession of misfortunes / mistakes 一连串不幸[错误]: *I ran out of petrol, had a broken windscreen, and then got a flat tyre — the whole trip was a chapter of accidents.* 我汽油用完了, 挡风玻璃打碎了, 接着车胎瘪了——整个旅途多灾多难。

accord

according to ≈ as said by 根据…所说: *According to her the party was a failure.* 据说, 聚会很不成功。

of / on one's own accord ≈ voluntarily 出于自愿: *I didn't make him go—he went of his own accord.* 我没叫他去——是他主动去的。

with one accord ≈ unanimously, with everyone's agreement, simultaneously 一致地, 一致同意地, 一齐地: *He had only just started to sing when with one accord they left the room.* 他刚刚开始演唱, 他们就一齐离开了房间。

account

account for ≈ explain 作出说明: *A stone in his shoe accounts for why he was limping.*

他鞋子里有一块石头, 这就是他一瘸一拐的原因。

by all accounts ≈ according to popular opinion 根据大家所说: *The Grand Hotel is the best in town by all accounts.* 据说这大旅馆是城里最好的。

by one's own account ≈ according to what one says 据某人自己所说: *Lionel was accused of shoplifting but by his own account he has never even been in the shop concerned.* 莱昂内尔被指控冒充顾客进商店行窃, 但是据他自己所说, 他甚至从来没有去过那家商店。

call to account ≈ require someone to justify his or her actions 要求说明[澄清、解释]: *One day he'll be called to account for his bad timekeeping.* 总有一天他会被要求去说明其不守时的原因。

give a good account of (oneself) ≈ do / perform well 表现出色: *There was stiff competition but she nevertheless gave a good account of herself.* 竞争很激烈, 但是她仍然表现出色。

keep an account of ≈ keep a (written) record of (书面) 记账, 记录: *Please keep an account of how long the job takes.* 请记录该工作需要的时间。

of no account ≈ worthless, of no importance 无价值, 无关紧要: *Don't worry about that mistake, it's of no account.* 不要为过失担忧, 那无关紧要。

on account of ≈ because of 因为: *He didn't go on account of his illness.* 他因病未去。

on one's own account ≈ for

oneself 独立地: *She's gone into business on her own account.* 她自己独立经商。

on that account ≈ for that reason 为了那个缘故: *It was raining and on that account I wore a hat.* 天正在下雨, 因此我戴了一顶帽子。

put / turn to (good) account ≈ use to (personal) advantage 利用: *He turned the delay to good account by catching up on some other work.* 他利用了耽搁的时间, 赶完了其他一些工作。

settle / square an account (with somebody) ≈ settle a real or figurative debt, avenge oneself (与某人) 结清账目, (喻)(向某人) 作清算: *He deliberately insulted me but I'll square accounts with him one day.* 他故意侮辱我, 但总有一天我会跟他算账的。

take account of / take into account ≈ include (in one's judgement) 考虑到: *The speaker failed to take account of the age of her audience and so many of her remarks were too difficult for them to understand.* 演讲者未考虑到听众们的年龄, 因此她的很多话使他们难以理解。

ace

ace in the hole ≈ resource or riposte held in reserve 备用的应急手段[办法]: *His remarkable ability to always score the last point in the match is his team's ace in the hole.* 他总是在比赛的最后时刻得分, 他的这一卓越才能是该队的一张王牌。

trump somebody's ace ≈

counter an opponet's move by an even more powerful one 以更强的手段向对手还击: *He did not invite me to his party but I trumped his ace by holding one on the same night. — and everybody came to mine.* 他没有邀请我去参加聚会, 但我以更绝的手段回击他, 在同一天晚上举行聚会——结果大家都来参加我的聚会。

acid

acid test ≈ crucial test or trial 严峻的考验; 决定性的试验: *Can Jones beat Smith? That's the acid test.* 琼斯能击败史密斯吗? 那是个严峻的考验。

come the old acid ≈ (try) to deceive somebody (试图) 欺骗某人: *I don't believe you, so don't come the old acid with me.* 我不信任你, 因此不要来欺骗我。

acquaint

acquaint one with ≈ make one aware of 把...通知某人: *He refused to acquaint me with his reasons for declining my offer.* 他拒绝让我知道谢绝我提议的理由。

be acquainted with ≈ know 了解: *I'm not acquainted with the rules of football.* 我不知道足球的规则。

acquaintance

have a nodding acquaintance with ≈ know somebody / something only slightly 与...有点头之交; 肤浅的知识: *No, I don't know the name of Everton's captain; I have only a nodding acquaintance with football.* 不, 我不知道埃弗顿队队长的姓名。我对足球的知识很肤浅。

make the acquaintance of ≈

to get to know or meet 结识…: *Who, Mary Smith? I've never made her acquaintance.* 是谁? 玛丽·史密斯? 我根本不认识她。

scrape up an acquaintance with ≈ deliberately try to make friends with somebody (usually for one's own advantage) 想方设法与…结识(通常为了自己的利益): *I scraped up an acquaintance with the secretary and got him to propose me for membership of the club.* 我想尽一切办法结识秘书, 请他推荐我为俱乐部会员。

across

get / put something across ≈ make one's (possibly difficult) meaning clear 把某事讲清楚; 使某事被了解: *The difficulty in selling this item is getting across to the potential customer that the higher quality justifies the higher price.* 推销这种货物的困难是难以使可能买的顾客了解优质优价的道理。

act

act a part ≈ hide one's real feelings 装腔作势: *He pretended to be impressed by their new car but he was only acting a part.* 他装出喜欢他们的新车, 但那只不过是装腔作势而已。

act as ≈ do work as / serve as 充当, 担任: *Three students acted as guides to the visitors.* 3个学生为来宾当向导。

act for ≈ do work for / represent 代理, 代办: *Since old Jones fell ill, his son has been acting for him in all his affairs.* 自老琼斯患病后, 他的儿子一直代他处理一切事务。

act on / upon ≈ take action because of (something known) 遵照…行动: *He suggested what I should do and I acted on his advice.* 他建议我该怎么办, 我按照了他的意见行事。

act out ≈ show an idea, story or happening by one's looks, talk and movements, or put into action 用表情谈话, 用动作描绘出; 执行, 实行: *She tried to act out a story that she had read.* 她试着把所读过的故事绘声绘色地表演出来。/ *All his life he tried to act out his beliefs.* 他一辈子都在努力把他的信念付诸实践。

act up ≈ misbehave or malfunction (机器、车) 运转不正常: *My car wouldn't start again this morning — it's always acting up lately.* 我的车今天上午又没发动起来——最近它老是出毛病。

catch somebody in the act ≈ come across somebody while he / she is doing something wrong 当场捉住某人: *I went back unexpectedly and caught him in the act of searching my personal papers.* 我突然返回, 正好发现他在查阅我的私人信件。

get in on the act ≈ intrude, or copy somebody, for a hoped for advantage (为了想得到好处) 加入, 参与, 插一手: *They were doing well in their new shop until her mother got in on the act and drove away much of their custom.* 在她母亲插手后许多顾客不再光顾之前, 他们的新商店经营得很好。

get / put one's act together ≈ become organized 组织起

来: *His lecture was going badly until he got his act together and by the end they were all very impressed.* 他开始讲得不好,但经过组织以后,最后给人们留下了深刻的印象。

old pal's act ≈ favouritism to a friend (especially in business) (尤在商业中)对朋友偏袒: *I put in the lowest price but he gave the contract to his friend's firm — a typical example of the old pal's act.* 我提出最低价格,但他把合同给了他朋友的公司——一个对朋友偏袒的范例。

put on an act ≈ pretend (ostentatiously) 装腔作势: *He appeared to be upset with her but he was only putting on an act.* 和她在一起,他看起来显得心绪烦乱,但这只是装腔作势而已。

action

actions speak louder than words ≈ deeds are more effective than mere talk 行动比语言更响亮;事实胜于雄辩: *Actions speak louder than words when it comes to tidying up the village.* 到清理村子时,行动会比语言更响亮。

go into action ≈ start working (vigorously) (朝气蓬勃地)干起来: *He's reluctant to begin, but when he does you should see him go into action.* 他不愿意开始,但他一旦开始了,你就会看到他干得十分卖力。

out of action ≈ not working (of a machine), indisposed (of a person) (机器)不(再)起作用;(人)不舒服: *My washing machine has been out of action*

since last Monday. 从上星期一开始我的洗衣机就坏了。/ *I'm sorry not to have called round earlier, but I've been out of action with the flu.* 我很抱歉没有早点来,不过我得了流行性感冒,一直感到不舒服。

Adam

not known from Adam ≈ completely unknown 完全不知道: *Who's that? He greeted me, but I don't know him from Adam.* 那是谁?他向我打招呼,但我完全不认识他。

adapt

adapt something / oneself to ≈ change something or somebody to suit or be able to deal with (usually something) 使适应: *When you go to a new country, you must adapt yourself to new condition.* 入乡随俗,入国问禁。

add

add on ≈ add as an extra or extras 加上;添上: *After she had finished her letter she added on a few lines inquiring after his health.* 她写完信又添了几句,问候他的健康。

add to ≈ increase 增加,添加: *Nothing has been added to our understanding of this disease by all the experiments on animals.* 在动物身上做的所有试验,丝毫没有加深我们对这种疾病的了解。

add up ≈ make sense 言之成理: *I understand; it all adds up now.* 我明白了。现在从各方面看那都说得通。

addition

in addition (to) ≈ as well as 除...之外[还]: *He's bad tempered, in addition to being un-*

reasonable. 除不讲道理外,他脾气也很坏。

address

address oneself to ≈ direct one's effort / attention to 致力于…; 把注意力放在…: *When I've finished painting the house I'll address my attention to doing the garden.* 等我把房子油漆好以后,我将着手整理花园。

admire

admire somebody for ≈ have a high regard for 因…而钦佩某人,因…而羡慕: *I admire him for his bravery and learning.* 我羡慕他胆识过人,学问渊博。

admit

admit of ≈ leave room for, or give the possibility of 容许有,有…余地,有…的可能: *His problem did not really admit of any solution.* 他的问题真是没有解决的可能。

advance

in advance of ≈ before (in time) (时间)在…前面: *The cooks arrived on camp in advance of the main party.* 厨师们在大队人马之前来到了野营地。

make advances to ≈ try to establish a friendship with 接近(某人)表示友好;(尤指对异性的)挑逗: *This awful man made advances to me on the train.* 这个讨厌的家伙在火车上对我进行挑逗。

advantage

have the advantage of ≈ be in a better / superior position than, or know something that somebody else does not 胜过,优于,比…处于有利地位;对…

取得优势: *She was younger than her opponent but had the advantage of more experience.* 她比对手年轻,但在经验方面却胜过对手。/ *You seem to know my name but you have the advantage of me, because I don't know yours.* 您似乎知道我的名字,可是您贵姓? 我不知道您的尊姓大名。

take advantage of somebody

≈ profit by somebody else's ignorance / innocence 利用(他人的无知、弱点等): *She knows very little about cars and the salesman really took advantage of her.* 她对汽车一窍不通,推销员实在是占了她的便宜。

turn to advantage

≈ make beneficial 利用,使转化为有利: *He had to stay at home but turned it to his advantage by catching up on his reading.* 他不得不呆在家里,但他利用了这一时机赶紧把书读完。

affair

affair of the heart ≈ love affair 恋爱事件: *Her relationship with Peter is an affair of the heart.* 她与彼得的的关系是恋爱关系。

have an affair with ≈ have an emotional / sexual relationship with 与某人发生暧昧关系: *My wife has accused me of having an affair with my secretary.* 我妻子指控我和秘书私通。

after

after all ≈ in spite of everything 毕竟,终究,终归,到底: *He had a runny nose and a sore throat, but he didn't get flu after all.* 他流鼻涕,喉咙痛,但终究还是没有患流行性

感冒。

be after somebody ≈ pursue, want to catch 追赶, 追缉: *The police are after him.* 警察正在追缉他。

be after something ≈ desire, want to obtain 追求, 追逐: *What I'm really after is a new car.* 我真正想要的是一辆新车。

again

now and again ≈ occasionally 偶尔: *I only go there now and again.* 我只是偶尔到那里去。

age

act / be one's age ≈ behave in an adult manner 举止有大人气: *Don't cry. It's time you started acting your age.* 不要哭。该像大人的样子了。/ *Be your age! Remember, you're sixteen now.* 该像大孩子的样子了! 记住, 你已经 16 岁了。

age before beauty ≈ older people should take precedence over younger ones (meant sarcastically) 年龄比相貌重要(常被青年女子用作对年长男子的戏谑恭维语): *The boy was here first, but age before beauty!* 这个男孩第一个到达这里, 不过年龄比相貌重要!

age of consent ≈ 16 years for a girl in Britain (over which age a man can legally have sexual relations with her) 同意年龄(英国女孩为 16 岁, 超过同意年龄在法律上男子可以与其发生性行为): *She's going on holiday with her boyfriend — well, she's over the age of consent.* 她要同男朋友一起去度假了——不过, 她已超过同意年龄了。

ages since ≈ a long time 很长时间: *Hello! It's ages since I*

saw you. 你好! 很长时间没见到你了。

an age / for ages ≈ for a long period (of time) 很长一段时间: *I wish the bus would come; I've been waiting here for ages.* 我希望公共汽车快来。我在这里已经等候好久了。/ *It seems an age since I last had a decent meal.* 从我上次吃了一顿像样的饭至今, 已经有好长时间了。

at an awkward age ≈ at any difficult stage of life, usually adolescence or the menopause 处于将近成年的时期, 未成熟的青春期或更年期: *He's at that awkward age; always hanging around on street corners.* 他正处于将成年未成年的时期, 老是在街头巷尾闲荡。/ *My mother has become very moody — but she's at an awkward age.* 我母亲变得喜怒无常——不过她正处于更年期。

look / show one's age ≈ appear to be as old as one really is 长相看上去和真实年龄相当: *He's nearly seventy, but doesn't look his age.* 他已近 70, 但看上去比实际年龄年轻。/ *She's nearly sixty, and beginning to show her age.* 她已近 60, 开始显得老了。

of tender age / years ≈ young / immature 幼年, 童年, 未成年: *She is still of tender age and much too young to get engaged.* 她还未成年, 离订婚年纪还太远。

ripe old age ≈ very old 耄耋之年: *Did you hear that William died last week? Still, he lived to a ripe old age.* 威廉上周死了, 你知道吗? 不过他已活到了

毫厘之年。

under age ≈ below a legally required age 未到法定年龄: *He started drinking in pubs when he was still under age.* 他还未到法定年龄时,就开始在酒店喝酒。

agree

agree on ≈ reach a harmonious understanding about 对...取得一致意见: *They agree on these terms.* 他们一致同意这些条款。

agree to ≈ accept an idea / opinion, etc. (esp. after argument) 同意想法、意见等(特别在争论后): *After much argument, her advice was finally agreed to.* 几经争论,她的意见总算被采纳了。

agree with ≈ have the same opinion as, or accept or coincide with 同意,赞成;与...一致: *I am afraid I shall never agree with you about corporal punishment in school.* 我恐怕永远不会同意你要在学校中实行体罚的意见。

agree to differ ≈ agree (amicably) to a difference of opinion (和睦地)同意各自保留不同意见(不再说服对方): *I thought it would take three weeks, she said four, so we agreed to differ.* 我认为这将需要3个星期,而她说要4个星期,于是我们同意各自保留不同的意见。

one-sided agreement ≈ agreement that favours one party but not the other 于单方面有利的协议: *It was a one-sided agreement; he got the right of way over my land but I was still forbidden to cross*

over his fields. 这是一份于单方面有利的协议:他有从我地里走过的权利,而我仍然不被允许从他的地里穿过。

aid

in aid of ≈ for the help / benefit of 为帮助;作...之用: *What's that new machine in aid of?* 那台新机器究竟派什么用场? / *I'm collecting money in aid of starving children.* 为帮助饥饿的孩子们,我正在搞募捐。

air

airs and graces / put on airs ≈ affectation / adopt an affected manner 做作的姿态,装腔作势: *I cannot stand his airs and graces — he is, after all, just an ordinary person like us.* 我不能容忍他装腔作势——他毕竟同我们一样只是普通的人而已。

airy-fairy ≈ dreamy but impractical 想像出来的;不切实际的: *He was supposed to give us advice, but all he came up with were airy-fairy ideas.* 他应该给我们提些建议,但他所想出来的一切却是不切实际的。

dance / walk on air ≈ be in a state of ecstasy 欣喜若狂: *When I heard that I had got the job I could have walked on air.* 当我得知我已得到了那份工作,我简直欣喜若狂。

give oneself airs ≈ show off, try to impress / claim to be what one is not 炫耀,买弄;装腔作势: *He's not really that good — he's only giving himself airs.* 他并不真的那么好——他只是装装样子罢了。

go up in the air ≈ become very angry 十分恼火: *When*

she saw the damage to her car she went right up in the air. 当她看到自己的汽车被损坏时,她立即火冒三丈。

have a hangdog air ≈ appear to be shame-faced 羞愧畏缩的神态: *I wanted to tell him off, but he had such a hangdog air I just couldn't do it.* 我想责备他,但他那副羞愧畏缩的神态,使我无法那样做。

hot air ≈ bluster, unsubstantiated claim 夸夸其谈;大话: *I know he says he can run a mile in under four minutes, but that's all hot air.* 我记得他说过能在4分钟内跑完一英里,但那完全是吹牛。

(up) in the air ≈ undecided / unresolved (计划、问题等)悬搁中,未决定: *We thought we were going to Spain next week, but because of the seamen's strike that is all up in the air.* 我们本来想在下周去西班牙,但由于海员们罢工,一切都无法决定。

into thin air ≈ emphasizes disappearance 无影无踪: *I searched for the ball for ten minutes, but it had vanished into thin air.* 我找球找了10分钟,但它仍然无影无踪。

make the air turn blue / turn the air blue ≈ swear, blasphemy 骂声不绝;辱骂: *When he saw what she had done, he made the air turn blue.* 在他看到她所做的一切之后,破口大骂。

out of thin air ≈ (apparently) from nowhere (似乎)无中生有: *The magician produced a rabbit out of thin air.* 魔术师变出来一只兔子。

take the air ≈ go / walk out of doors 在户外散步: *There's nothing better when on holiday than to take the air before breakfast each day.* 在假日里没有什么比每天早饭前到户外去散散步更好的了。

alarm

false alarm ≈ something, although expected, that does not happen / an unnecessary warning (火灾等)假警报;虚惊: *The sky went very dark and we thought it was going to rain but it was a false alarm.* 天空变得黑沉沉的,我们以为要下雨了,但结果只是虚惊一场。/ *Martin said the boss was going to make a surprise visit, but it proved to be a false alarm.* 马丁说老板将来个突然造访,但结果却是虚惊一场。

alert

on the alert ≈ prepared and ready for anything 警戒着,防备着: *Keep on the alert, we're due for an inspection.* 提防着点,轮到检查我们了。

alive

alive and kicking ≈ aware and active 活蹦乱跳的;精力充沛: *Despite his great age, George is still alive and kicking.* 尽管乔治上了年纪,但他仍然精力充沛。

alive with ≈ crowded / infested with 充满着(生物或活动的东西);拥挤着: *The town square was alive with people.* 市区广场挤满了人。/ *The poor dog was alive with fleas.* 这条可怜的狗浑身都是蚤子。

be alive to a situation / the fact that ≈ be aware of something (对情况)意识到,注意到:

Jane's husband is being unfaithful but she doesn't seem to be alive to the situation. 简的丈夫不忠实,但她似乎没有意识到这一情况。

all

all along ≈ all the time / from the beginning 始终,一直: *I knew that all along.* 我从开始就了解那事。

all at once / all of a sudden ≈ suddenly 突然: *Then all at once there was a crash of breaking glass.* 接着突然传来一阵玻璃的砸碎声。/ *The window caved in all of a sudden.* 窗户突然坍塌了。

all for something ≈ be enthusiastically in favour of something 对某事完全赞同: *Let shops open on Sundays? I'm all for it.* 让商店星期天开门营业? 我完全赞同。

all for the best ≈ ultimately for the good 结果会是好的(显然最初并非如此): *Don't be upset that you can't go with them, it's probably all for the best.* 你不能和他们一起去,不要沮丧,这很可能是好事情。

all in ≈ exhausted, or inclusive (of extras) 精疲力竭;一切包括在内: *When I finally got back from the long walk I was all in.* 最后我长途步行回来时,我已精疲力竭了。/ *The cost of accommodation was only ten pounds a night all in.* 一个晚上的住宿费总共才花了 10 英镑。

all in all ≈ taken as a whole 总的说来: *There were some slightly cloudy days, but all in all the weather was good.* 有几天是多云,但总的说来天气是

好的。

all of ≈ at least, fully 不少于, 实足: *It took all of three days to do.* 至少要干 3 天。

all out ≈ with maximum effort 全力以赴: *They are making an all-out attempt to climb to the top.* 他们正竭尽全力试图爬到顶端。

all over the place ≈ to many destinations, or drunk / incompletely done 到处;喝醉了;未完工: *Every year she travels all over the place.* 她每年到很多地方去旅行。/ *When he finally left the pub he was all over the place.* 他最后离开酒店时,已经酩酊大醉了。/ *Brian tried to build a shed but it was all over the place and fell down within a few weeks.* 布赖恩试着盖一个小屋,但却盖得乱七八糟,没几个星期就倒塌了。

all right ≈ good / o. k., acceptable, or certainly, or satisfactorily 行,好(用于建议等的回答,也用于威胁口气);的确,确实;顺利,圆满: *All right, I'll come at six o'clock tomorrow.* 行,我明天 6 点钟来。/ *You have read the book all right, but the point is that you haven't studied it critically.* 你确实读过这本书,但问题是你没有批判地研究它。

all round ≈ various 在各方面: *He is good at quizzes because he has an all-round knowledge.* 他擅长智力竞赛,因为他的知识很全面。

all rounder ≈ somebody with various skills 多才多艺者: *She's equally good at running and jumping and is one of the team's best all rounders.* 她擅