

IDIOMS IN SITUATION

美语习语

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前 言

习语是英语中的一个重要组成部分。但是，由于其数量众多，使用灵活，学习者很难掌握，尤其是有些习语，它们的意思与其字面意义大相径庭。如果读者一不小心，望文生义，就会闹出大笑话来。如，“**pull one's leg**”，不少英语学习者按其字面意义把它与汉语中的“拉后腿”等同起来。岂不知，“**pull one's leg**”在英语中的意思是“**make fun of a person in a friendly way**”（跟某人开玩笑）。

无论是单词还是习语，脱离上下文单独记是很难记住的。有了一定的上下文，不查辞典也能猜出其意思，而且容易记住。正因为如此，我们编写了这本《美语习语》（*Idioms In Situation*）。我们选了英语中常用的，尤其是不容易从其字面意义中猜出其真正意义的习语 150 个，并分别将其放入一段颇有趣味的语言情景中。每条习语均有英汉双语释义，每段话又给出了汉语译文。另外，我们还为全书配备了 CD-ROM 光盘，这样更便于读者学习。相信大中专学生，中学英语教师和广大英语爱好者都会通过阅读这本小书轻松地学会书中所列习语，并对今后的英语学习有一定的启迪作用。

编者

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A Blessing in Disguise

(something that is unpleasant at first but is later seen as an advantage)

因祸得福；塞翁失马，安知非福



A: Do you know that Tom had a car accident last month?

B: Yes. His knee was badly hurt.

A: It's really very unfortunate for such a good person.

B: Not really so. When he was in hospital, a very beautiful doctor fell in love with him and they are now planning to get married during the coming Christmas.

A: Great! The accident was really *a blessing in disguise*!

A: 你知道汤姆上个月出车祸了吗?

B: 知道。他的膝盖受伤不轻。

A: 对于他这么好的人来说真是不幸。

B: 也并非如此。当他住院时, 一位漂亮的女医生与他相爱了。他们现在正做准备, 打算在圣诞节结婚呢。

A: 太好了! 这真是**因祸得福**啊!

Words & Phrases

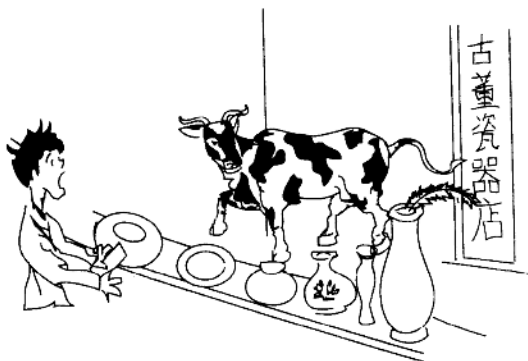
blessing	祝福
in disguise	欺骗
badly	严重地
fall in love with sb.	爱上某人
plan to	计划
get married	结婚



A Bull in a China Shop

(an extremely awkward, clumsy person)

鲁莽的人; 蠢笨的人



We wanted to hold a party on Sunday evening in the classroom. But we had to get the teacher's permission first. We told the teacher that we would not make a lot of noise and promised that we would clean up the classroom after the party. The teacher was still hesitating. Just at that moment, John came in like **a bull in a china shop**, and knocked some of the chairs down. This made the teacher very angry and finally said no to our plan.

我们想在星期天的晚上在教室里举行一个晚会。但是首先我们要取得老师的同意。我们告诉老师我们不会很吵闹，而且我们保证在晚会后把教室打扫干净。老师还在犹豫。这时，约翰莽莽地闯了进来，而且弄倒了几把椅子。这使老师非常生气，最终没能同意我们的计划。

Words & Phrases

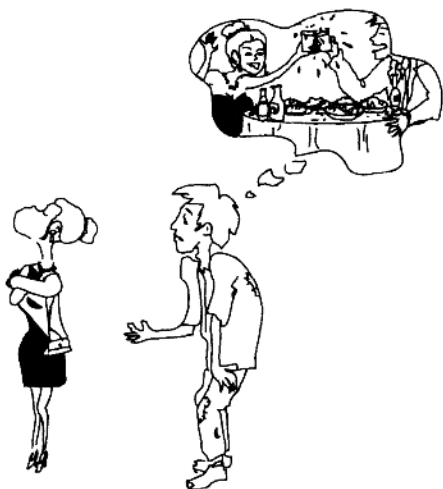
bull	公牛
extremely	极端地，极度地
awkward	笨拙的，不方便的
clumsy	笨拙的
hold a party	举行晚会
permission	允许，同意
make noise	吵闹
clean up	清扫
just at that moment	就在那时
knock sth. down	把某物弄倒了



A Fair-Weather Friend

(a person who is only friendly so long as he sees some personal advantage accruing from the friendship)

酒肉朋友



We had many friends before. They came to see us every weekend and we had a lot of wonderful parties. We sometimes went for a picnic or camped together. They all claimed to be our best friends. But after our company went bankrupt, all our *fair-weather friends* disappeared without trace. We wanted to borrow money from them or ask them to give us a hand. They found all kinds of excuses to turn us down.

我们以前有很多朋友。他们每个周末都来看我们，我们开过很多精彩的晚会。有时，我们一起去野餐或露营。他们都自称是我们最好的朋友。但是，在我们的公司破产之后，我们所有的**酒肉朋友**都消失得无影无踪了。我们想向他们借点钱，或是请他们帮助我们。他们却找各种理由把我们拒绝了。

Words & Phrases

accrue	自然增长，产生
so long as	只要
picnic	野餐
camp together	一起露营
claim to	宣称
go bankrupt	破产
give sb. a hand	帮助某人
all kinds of	各式各样的
turn sb. down	拒绝某人



All Thumbs

(very clumsy)

十分笨拙；笨手笨脚



A: Hi, Maria. Can you please give me a hand? I've been arranging the flowers for two hours and they still don't look good!

B: Just a moment. I'm coming.

A: I guess I'm **all thumbs** because I'm so nervous. You know, this is the first time that my boyfriend has come to my place. And I want to give him a good impression.

B: I see. I think you'd better stop worrying. Otherwise being so nervous would just make you more clumsy and awkward. Calm down. You will be all right.

A: I hope so.

A: 你好, 玛利亚。能帮我个忙吗? 这些花我都摆了两个小时了, 还是弄不好。

B: 稍等。我来了。

A: 我想我是太紧张了, 所以笨手笨脚的。你知道, 这是我的男朋友第一次到我家来。我得给他一个好印象。

B: 我明白了。我想你最好别担心。否则, 过度的紧张只会使你更糟糕。冷静点。你会好的。

A: 希望如此。

Words & Phrases

clumsy	笨拙的、笨重的
give sb. a good impression	给某人一个好印象
awkward	糟糕的
I hope so	我希望如此
calm down	冷静