

英文经典系列 英汉对照

英语经典谚语

E N G L I S H
C L A S S I C S

武喆叶成 编译



上海科学技术出版社

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前 言

英语谚语是富于色彩的语言形式，具有生动形象、喻义明显、富于哲理的语言特征。它反映了英语民族的文化特点，在英语学习中占有重要的地位。

谚语具有鲜明的形象，往往带有浓厚的民族文化特色，在一定程度上反映了民族的思维方式和习惯，与文化传统有着极为密切的关系。了解英语谚语，体味与中文的差别，无疑有利于我们了解中英两种语言及文化的异同。

在编排时，本书按照谚语所表达的内容进行分类，共有 12 个主题，如动物、颜色、数字、形状和食物等。目前，有关谚语的书多按字母顺序编排，本书则从读者感兴趣的主体出发，进行合理编排；同时，本书内容活泼幽默，能激发英语学习者的兴趣。

在实际应用方面，本书也有很大的帮助。各条例句，生动活泼，可作为英文背诵的脚本。每日背诵数句，日积月累，可作为日常会话的素材和写信、作文的灵感源泉，并且也有利于翻译技巧的提高。

无论说写，恰当地使用谚语都能使辞意更加活泼，更富生命力，充分反映出人类日积月累的生活智慧。

限于编者学识，书中难免有疏误之处，欢迎读者批评、指正。

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第一章
动 物
Animal

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

一鸟在手，胜过两鸟在林。

A bird is known by its note, and a man by his talk.

闻其声而知其鸟，闻其言而知其人。

A bird never flew on one wing.

鸟不能只靠一个翅膀飞翔。（孤掌难鸣。）

A bleating sheep loses a bite.

爱叫的羊少吃食。（说话太多，错过良机。）

A blind pigeon may sometimes find a grain of wheat.

瞎眼鸽子偶然也会找到一粒麦子。（瞎猫碰上死耗子。）

A cat has nine lives.

猫有九命。（生命力强。）

A cat in gloves catches no mice.

戴手套的猫抓不住老鼠。

A cat may look at a king.

猫也可以盯着国王看。（即使卑微的人也可以和高贵的人在一起，也可以批评长官。）

A cornered cat becomes as fierce as a lion.

走投无路的猫也会变得像狮子一样凶猛。（兔子急了也咬人。 / 狗急跳墙。）

A dog barks at random makes all the street bark in earnest.

一犬吠影，百犬吠声。

A dog that is bemired tries to bemire others.

沾上污泥的狗极力要把泥弄到别的狗身上。

A donkey looks beautiful to a donkey.

驴不嫌驴丑。

A fish is a king in the water.

如鱼得水。

A fox is not caught twice in the same snare.

一只狐狸不会两次落入同一个陷阱。（不能在同一个地方跌倒两次。）

A good cat deserves a good rat.

好猫该得好老鼠。

A good horse cannot be of a bad color.

良马无劣色。

A good horse should be seldom spurred.

好马不用鞭催。

A growing youth has a wolf in his belly.

年轻人吃饭狼吞虎咽。

A lamb is as dear to a poor man as an ox to the rich.
穷人眼中一只羊，如同富人眼中一头牛。

A lazy sheep thinks his wool heavy.
懒羊嫌毛重。

A man in passion rides a wild horse.
放纵激情的人如野马脱缰。

A man must plow with such oxen as he has.
有什么样的牛，就得用什么样的牛耕田。

A man without reason is a beast in season.
没有理智的人如同发情期的禽兽。

A mischievous cur must be tied short.
恶犬须用短绳系。

A mole can undermine the strongest rampart.
一只鼹鼠能毁坏最坚固的堡垒。（堡垒易从内攻破。）

A mouse in time may bite in two a cable.
老鼠不断咬，粗绳变两截。（只要功夫深，铁杵磨成针。）

A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse.
对瞎马点头和眨眼都一样。

A pet lamb makes a cross ram.

坏脾气的公羊是小时候被宠坏的。

A scaled cat dreads cold water.

一朝被蛇咬，十年怕井绳。

A sparrow may be small but it has all the vital organs.

麻雀虽小，五脏俱全。

A thief knows a thief, as a wolf knows a wolf.

贼了解贼，正如狼了解狼。

A wily hare has three burrows.

狡兔三窟。

A wise bird selects its tree.

良禽择木而栖。

All are not thieves that dogs bark at.

狗对着叫的未必都是贼。

All fish are not caught with flies.

不是所有的鱼都能用同一种鱼饵捕到。(别指望用同样的手段欺骗所有的人。)

All is fish that comes to the net.

进网的都是鱼。

All lay loads on a willing horse.

马善被人骑，人善被人欺。

Always put the saddle on the right horse.

把马鞍放在该放的马上。（赏罚分明。）

An ass loaded with gold climbs to the top of the castle.

驮金的毛驴上城堡，草包富翁做大官。

An eagle does not catch flies.

老鹰不捉苍蝇。

An invisible microbe can kill a giant and lay low an elephant.

看不见的细菌能杀死巨人，也能击倒大象。

An old ox makes straight furrow.

老牛拉犁犁沟直。

Anger is a stone cast at a wasp's nest.

发怒是投向黄蜂窝的石头。

Any stick will do to beat a dog with.

打狗用什么棍子都行。

As the old hen crows, so crow her chicks.

老母鸡如何叫，小鸡就怎么叫。

As well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb.

偷大羊和偷小羊羔同样被处死。(一不做，二不休。)

Bad chicken, bad egg; bad egg, bad chicken.

坏鸡下坏蛋，坏蛋孵坏鸡。

Bad news has wings.

坏事传千里。

Barking dogs seldom bite.

吠犬不咬人。

Beasts at bay will fight back.

困兽犹斗。

Better a living dog than a dead lion.

好死不如赖活着。

better be a bird in the wood than one in the cage.

宁为林中鸟，不作笼中禽。

Better be a free bird than a captive king.

宁为自由鸟，不作被俘王。

Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion.

宁作狗之头，不作狮之尾。(宁作鸡头，不作凤尾。)

Better give the wool than the sheep.

宁给毛，不给羊。

Better to have a dog fawn on you than bite you.

对于小人，与其结怨，不如拉拢。

Big fish eat little fish.

大鱼吃小鱼。

Birds in their little nests agree.

巢中之鸟相处好。

Birds of a feather flock together.

物以类聚，人以群分。

Burn not your house to frighten the mouse away.

不要为赶老鼠而烧掉房子。

By scratching and biting cat and dog come together.

不打不相识。

Care killed a cat.

忧愁伤身。

Catch your bear before you sell its skin.

卖熊皮之前得先捉到熊。

Changing of pasture makes fat calves.

常换草场，牛羊肥壮。

Clumsy birds have to start flying early.

笨鸟要先飞。

Curse, like chickens, come home to roost.
诅咒如鸡回巢栖。(咒骂别人就如咒骂自己。)

Cut off a dog's tail and he will be a dog still.
砍掉尾巴的狗还是条狗。(细节虽改,本质未变。)

Daughters and dead fish are no keeping wares.
鱼死不可存,女大不中留。

Destroy the lion while he is yet but a whelp.
杀狮应待其尚幼时。

Do not cast your pearl before swine.
不要把珍珠丢在猪面前。(不要对牛弹琴。)

Do not change horses in mid-stream.
别在河中间换马。

Do not count your chickens before they are hatched.
小鸡孵出前,勿计算鸡有多少。

Do not cry stinking fish.
不要叫卖臭鱼。(别自己拆自己的台。)

Do not kill the goose that lays the golden egg.
勿杀鸡取卵。(勿只顾眼前利益,不顾长远利益。)

Do not make a mountain out of a molehill.

不要把鼯鼠丘当成高山。(勿小题大做。)

Do not make yourself a mouse, or the cat will eat you.

不要把自己变成老鼠,否则猫会吃掉你。(勿自贬身份。)

Do not put all your eggs in one basket.

勿把所有鸡蛋都放到一个篮子里。(勿孤注一掷。)

Dog does not eat dog.

同类不相残。

Drumming is not the way to catch a hare.

敲锣打鼓捉不到兔子。

Dry shoes won't catch fish.

鞋不湿者捉不到鱼。

Dumb dogs are dangerous.

不叫的狗最危险。

Eagles fly alone, but sheep flock together.

鹰喜独飞,羊爱成群。

Even a worm will turn.

即使是虫子也会翻身。(狗急了也会跳墙。)

Every ass likes hear himself bray.

驴子都喜欢自己的叫声。

Every cock crows on his own dunghill.

公鸡都喜欢在自己的粪堆上啼叫。

Every dog has his day.

狗也有得意的时候。

Every dog is a lion at home.

狗在自家门口就像头狮子。

Every horse thinks its own pack heaviest.

每匹马都认为自己的担子最重。

Fat hens lay few eggs.

鸡肥不下蛋。

Fine feather makes fine birds.

美丽的羽毛装饰美丽的小鸟。(人靠衣裳马配鞍。)

First catch your hare.

先抓到你的兔子再说。(到手的东西才算数。)

Fish begins to stink at the head.

烂鱼先烂头。

Give a dog a bad name and hang him.

欲加之罪，何患无词？

Go for wool and come back shorn.

偷鸡不成反蚀把米。

Good jests bite like lambs, not like dogs.

玩笑莫过分，过分会伤人。

Habits are at first cobwebs and at last cables.

习惯初如蛛网，终如钢缆。（习惯成自然。）

Hares may pull dead lions by the beard.

兔子敢扯死狮子的胡须。（鱼游浅底遭虾戏，虎落平阳被犬欺。）

Hawk will not pick hawk's eye out.

同类不相残。

He that steals an egg will steal an ox.

偷鸡蛋的人迟早会偷牛。（少时偷针，长大偷金。）

He that would have eggs must endure the cackling of hens.

想要得到鸡蛋，就要忍受鸡叫。（要想得到好处，就得吃点苦头。）

He who has a mind to beat the dog will easily find a stick.

有心打狗，找棍不难。（欲加之罪，何患无词？）