

李俊杰/编译  
河南人民出版社

# 实用英语

*Practical English Proverbs*

*Practical English Proverbs*

## 千则

(英汉对照)

(With Chinese Version)

# 实用英语谚语千则

(英汉对照)

编 译 李俊杰

责任编辑 柳 明

---

河南人民出版社出版发行(郑州市农业路73号)

河南省汝州市印刷厂印刷 新华书店经销

开本 787×960 1/32 印张 4 字数 90000

1997年3月第1版 1997年3月第1次印刷 印数 1—6,000

---

ISBN7-215-03767-3/H·102 定价 6.5 元

# 编译者的话

本书是我在美国、南美工作期间收集、编译、整理的,除个别条目完全体现英美人的风格外,大部分条目都是中西文化的结合,因此较为适合我国各种层次读者的口味。既适合成年人的参阅,也适合中学生的阅读。

本书采用英文字母的排序进行逐条排列,先英语后汉语。

英语谚语很多,本书仅收集了一些日常的、实用性强的条目进行编译。在编译过程中,我得到了美国、南美一些专家学者的支持,也得到了国内一些专家学者的帮助,在此一并表示感谢。

由于编译者的水平有限,难免出现一些错误,请广大读者批评指正。

王晓中,马和平参加了本书的编译工作。

李俊杰

一九九六年三月

# 序 言

谚语是民间广为流传的一种较为定型的富有意义的语句,谚语总结了人民群众生活和斗争的经验,具有传授经验和教训,以及诲人和劝诫等功能。谚语的语言简练、通俗,常具有鲜明的形象和一定的韵律,便于传诵和记忆。

英语谚语是英、美等国人民群众的口头创作,它凝聚着人民群众生活和斗争的经验,在一定程度上反映了自然界和人类社会的活动和发展规律,人们可以从中吸取经验和教训,得到智慧和启迪,因此为英、美等国人民群众所喜闻乐道,也为其它国家的人民大众所喜爱。它是英语文化宝库中的一笔宝贵财富,是英语语汇海洋中绚丽多采的瑰宝。短短的那么一句话,常常显得既寓意深刻,又韵味隽永,既闪烁着思想智慧的火花,也闪耀着语言艺术的光彩。英语是一种历史悠久的语言,因此英语谚语也有着较为悠久的历史。随着人类社会的发展,英语虽然也在变化和发展,新的谚语不断出现,充实和丰富着英语谚语的宝库,而某些谚语或因时过境迁,已渐渐为人们所遗忘,或被新的谚语所替代,但绝大部分英语谚语却有着顽强的生命力,经得起历史和时间的

## 2 序言

---

考验,经久不衰地流传于世。英语谚语之所以具有如此顽强的生命力,根深叶茂、四季常青,最根本的原因是谚语来自人民群众,深深地植根于人民群众生活和斗争的土壤之中。

谚语具有浓厚的民族性。它与民族特殊的历史、经济、文化、生活、风俗习惯、地理环境等有着密切的关系,了解和弄清楚这些关系,是学习和研究谚语必要的前提,忽视了对英语谚语民族性的了解和研究,就会影响到正确的理解、翻译和运用英语谚语。

谚语具有深刻的思想性。首先表现在英语谚语的海洋里闪耀着朴素的唯物辩证思想的灿烂光辉,它是英语谚语思想的主体。千百年来,它不但给人们以教育和启发,甚至被人们视为思想行动的指南。此外,还有许多英语谚语表达了人民群众的道德观,表达了他们高尚的思想品德和情操,也同样起着鼓舞人民和教育人们的作用,成为人们的良师益友和座右铭,形成了英语谚语深刻的思想性的一个主要方面。

谚语具有突出的艺术性。英语谚语的语言凝炼、简洁,常常用少许几个词就能概括丰富的内容,说明一个深刻的道理,引人深思,使人从中得到教育和启示,真可谓是“言简意赅”。很多英语谚语都有着生动形象的描述,使谚语具有强烈的艺术感染力,使人们在得到经验教诲的同时,又得到了一次美好的艺术享受。人们诵读它们时,如饮甘泉、如吸芳

香,那撼人心扉的艺术力量每每给人留下难忘的印象。许多英语谚语念起来上口、听起来悦耳,具有一种和谐的音乐美。这种音乐美,不但增加了英语谚语的艺术魅力,也使得它易于诵读和记忆,为谚语的广泛流传创造了有利条件。

## PREFACE

Proverbs are relatively set expressions full of meanings which are widely circulated among the people. Proverbs summarize the experience of life and struggle of the people, having the function of imparting experience, lessons, teachings and admonition. The expressions of proverbs are terse and popular, with vivid depiction and certain rhyme, easy to read and remember.

English proverbs are the oral creation of the people in Britain and the U. S. A etc, embodying the experience of the people in their life and struggle, and reflecting certain law of nature and societies. The people can draw experience and lessons, get wisdom and enlightenment from proverbs. Therefore English proverbs are loved by the broad masses not only of Britain and the U. S. A. but also of other countries. English proverbs are valuable property in the treasure house of the English language and bright and colourful gems in the ocean of English vocabulary.

A short sentence, as usually is the case of

## 2 PREFACE

---

proverbs, always has rich implication, meaningful and lingering charm, radiating the light of mental intelligence and the splendour of linguistic art.

The English language is a language with a long history, and so are the English proverbs. Although, with the development of human society, the English language is changing and developing, new proverbs replenishing and enriching the treasure house of English proverbs. New English proverbs are constantly emerging while some proverbs are either replaced by new ones or gradually forgotten as the time and situation have been changed, yet most of English proverbs with great vitality can stand the test of history and time and remain vigorously in use. The most basic reason of such great vitality lies in that English proverbs stem from the masses and take root in the soil of the life and struggle of the masses. As a result, English proverbs are well established and vigorously developing, remain evergreen and are loved not only by the people of all the English - speaking nationalities but also by the people of non - English speaking nationalities.

Proverbs have strong national nature. They have very close relations with their special national history, economy, culture life, customs and geographical conditions etc. To understand these relations is the

essential prerequisite for learning and studying proverbs. The neglect of comprehension and study of the national nature of the English language will influence correct understanding, translation and use of English proverbs.

Proverbs have profound ideological content. First of all, in the ocean of English proverbs glitters naive materialism which forms the main part of the ideological content of English proverbs. Over thousands of years, the people not only have themselves educated and inspired by the naive materialism, but also have regarded the naive materialism as a guide in their thinking and action. In addition, many English proverbs have become good teachers, helpful friends and mottos of the people in expressing the moral concepts, lofty moral character and sentiment of the people and in playing the role of educating and inspiring the people, forming the principal aspect of the profound ideological content of English proverbs.

Proverbs have exquisite artistry. English proverbs are concise and terse in expression. Usually a few words can express rich contents and show a profound truth making people ponder deeply, from which people may get education and inspiration. Proverbs are really concise and comprehensive. Many English proverbs have vivid description with strong artistic appeal,

#### 4 PREFACE

---

which brings educational effect and fine artistic treat to the people. When people read proverbs, just as they drink sweet spring water and inbreathe fragrance, the heart – penetrating artistic power often produces unforgettable impression. Many English proverbs can be easily read aloud with sweet sounding effect and perfect musical harmony. Such musical harmony not only increases the artistic charm of English proverbs but also makes the proverbs easy to declaim and remember, creating favourable conditions for the wide spread of English proverbs.

# A

**A bad beginning makes a bad ending.**

坏开头引起坏结局。

**A bad workman quarrels with his tools.**

拙匠常怨工具差。

**A bargain is a bargain.**

契约终是契约, 成交不可妄毁。

**A beggar can never be bankrupt.**

乞丐永不会破产。

**A best cart may overthrow.**

最好的车子也可能翻车。

**A best marksman may miss.**

好射手也有脱靶时。

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

双鸟在林, 不如一鸟在手。

**A bird may be known by its song.**

听其言, 知其人。

**A black hen lays white eggs.**

黑母鸡也能生白色的蛋。

**A blunt knife draws no blood.**

钝刀子割肉不出血。

A bosom friend afar brings distant land near.

海内存知己，天涯若比邻。

Absence makes the heart grow fonder.

久别情深。

A burned child dreads the fire.

一次被火烧，见火就害怕。

A cat has nine lives.

猫有九命。(比喻生命力强。)

A cat may look at a king.

猫也有权看国王。

Accidents will happen in the best regulated families.

家规再严，丑事难免。

A chain is no stronger than its weakest link.

一环薄弱，全局薄弱。

A cheerful wife is the joy of life.

有个快活的妻子会使人一生快乐。

A clear conscience is a coat of mail.

良心清白是甲冑。

A clean hand wants no washing.

不做亏心事，不怕鬼叫门。

A colt you may break, but an old horse you never can.

小驹犹可练，老马最难驯。

A cracked bell can never sound well.

破钟无好音。

Actions speak louder than words.

行动比语言更响亮。(或百说不如一干。)

A danger foreseen is half avoided.

预见危险,就等于防备了一半。

A dead mouse feels no cold.

死耗子不知寒。(死猪不怕开水烫。)

A dog's mouth emits no ivory.

狗嘴里吐不出象牙。

A drowning man will catch at a straw.

快淹死的人连根稻草也会抓。

Adversity is a great school master.

逆境是一个棒教练。(逆境锻炼人。)

Advice when most needed is least heeded.

最需要时的劝告,反倒最不被注意。

A fair death honours the whole life.

死得清白,荣耀一生。

A fair face may hide a foul heart.

漂亮的面孔可能掩盖着邪恶的心。

A fall into the pit, a gain in your wit.

吃一堑,长一智。

A fault confessed is half redressed.

承认错误等于改正一半。

A fine example has boundless power.

榜样的力量是无穷的。

A fool always rushes to the fore.

蠢人总喜强出头。

A fool may give a wise man counsel.

傻子也可能给智者进忠告。

A fool may make money, but it takes a wise man to spend it.

愚者挣钱,智者花。

A fool's bolt may sometimes hit the mark.

愚者千虑,必有一得。

A fool's bolt is soon shot.

蠢人易于智穷力竭。(或:黔驴之技易穷。)

A fool's heart dances on his lips.

愚人有话存不住。

A fox is not taken twice in the same snare.

一只狐狸不会两次掉入同一个陷阱里。

A fox may grow grey, but never good.

狐狸到老也不会变好。

A friend in need is a friend indeed.

患难见真交。

A friend is easier lost than found.

失去朋友容易,得到难。

After a storm comes a calm.

暴风雨后,终有风平浪静。

After death, the doctor.

死后医生来太晚。

After dinner comes the reckoning.

吃饭付帐,理所应当。

After dinner sit a while, after supper walk a mile.

午饭后要坐,晚饭后要走。

After meal, mustard.

饭后上芥末——无用。

After me the deluge.

今朝有酒今朝醉，明日无酒喝凉水。

After rain comes the sunshine.

苦尽甘来。

After rain, the umbrella.

雨后送伞不顶用。

A gentleman is always ready to help others attain their aims.

君子成人之美。

A gloved cat catch no mice.

猫儿戴手套，老鼠捉不到。

A good anvil does not fear the hammer.

好砧不怕锤来打。

A good beginning marks a good ending.

有了好的开头，才有好的结果。

A good conscience is a soft pillow.

心地坦然就是柔软的枕头。（问心无愧，高枕无忧。）

A good death is far better and more deligible than an ill life.

高尚的死远远胜过卑鄙的生。

A good example is the best sermon.

好榜样是最好的说教。

A good face is a letter of recommendation.

好面孔迎客暖人心。

A good horse should be seldom spurred.

响鼓不用重锤敲。

A good husband makes a good wife.

好丈夫带出好妻子。(夫唱妇随。一个巴掌拍不响。)

A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches.

宁要美名,不要巨富。

A good name is better than riches.

好名声胜于财富。

A good name is sooner lost than won.

好名誉失去容易得来难。

A good surgeon must have an eagle's eye, a lion's heart, and a lady's hand.

一位优秀的外科医生必须具有鹰眼狮心女郎手。

A good tale is none the worse for being twice told.

好戏百次看不厌。

A good winter brings a good summer.

一个好的冬天带来一个好的夏天。

A great ship crosses deep waters.

大船要走深水。(蛟龙要在海中游。)

A great talker is a great liar.

大空谈家就是大撒谎者。

Agues come on horseback but go away on foot.

疾病来时快如马,疾病去时慢如爬。(病来如山倒,病去如抽丝)

A heavy purse makes a light heart.

钱包重则心情轻。

A hedge between keeps friendships green.

淡交使友谊长青。(君子之交淡如水。)

A home without love is no more home than a body without a soul is a man.

没有爱情的家不是家,没有灵魂的躯体不为人。

A horse stumbles that has four legs.

人有失误,马有失蹄。

A huge tree grows from a tiny seedling.

合抱之木,生于毫末。

A leopard cannot change its spots.

花豹改变不了身上的斑点。(本性难改。)

A light purse makes a heavy heart.

为人无钱心事重。

A little is better than none.

有一点儿总比没有强。

A little learning is a dangerous thing.

一知半解是危险的事。

A little pot is soon hot.

壶小易热,量小易怒。

All are not friends that speak us fair.

当面说好话,未必是朋友。

All are not merry that dance lightly.

跳着轻快舞步者并不都是欢乐的人。

All are not saints that go to the church.

上教堂去的未必个个是圣人。

All are not thieves that dogs bark at.