

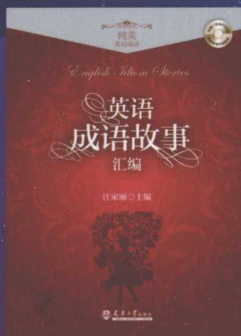
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English Idioms Collection

英语成语为英语这门语言增添了色彩和情趣，它能够用简洁的句子表达出深刻或者是复杂的语意，也让人们的交流更简明生动。但是，让英语学习者们感到困惑的是，英语成语的含义并不能简单地从其字面意义来推断。本书的编写正是帮助读者更好地从故事中理解成语的意义、引申和比喻，正确运用英语成语。本书完整收集了超过800个成语词条，涵盖英语的方方面面，十分适合各层次的英语爱好者使用，成语的扩展例句及成语出处的详解，让读者在学习的同时充分地理解了成语的含义及其使用环境，学以致用。

Our Recommendation



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汪家丽◎主编



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内 容 提 要

本书精选了英美人士使用频率极高的成语 800 余则供学习者使用。本书以精心挑选的例句作为成语的使用文本，让学习者在了解成语意义的基础上，进一步通过例句的建设性提示熟知其用法。

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前言

英语成语 (English Idioms), 是指英语词汇中一部分定型的词组或短句。这些词组短语具有固定的结构形式和固定的说法, 也有其特定的表达意义及表达效果, 因而也与运用一般普通词汇表达的效果大有天壤之别。由于这类词组或短语语言形式特别, 表意功能显著, 因而历来颇受英美人士的青睐。因此, 对于立志学好英语的学生来说, 学习、研究和掌握英语成语, 是极其重要的一个学习过程。

作为英语语言文化的一个重要组成部分, 英语成语承载了英语发展过程中逐渐积累起来的文化内涵。学习和研究英语成语, 是学习和研究英美文化和英语语言的一条捷径。同时, 由于英语成语与英美文化和英美人士的日常生活密切相关, 因而对于学习英语的学生来说, 学习英语成语, 同样是体验英美风土人情的一个尝试。英语成语的来源, 一般有几个: 《圣经》及古代的传说、名人名言、文学名著、各行各业的话、英美人乐于其中的各类文体活动, 以及人们的日常生活。英美人士在日常生活和社会交往中经常会使用成语, 因此, 深入了解英语成语的特点、来源、语法功能、分类及英汉成语对比等方面的知识, 有助于促进学习者准确把握成语的深刻文化内涵, 以正确理解并且恰当使用英语成语。

英语成语是英语中经过人们反复使用后固化而成的短语或词组, 因而一般不能随意更改或增减语素。它们的意义, 往往也不是其构成成分意义的简单相加, 而是在其构成成分的意义的基础上进一步概括出来的整体意义。现在使用的英语成语中, 有一部分来自古代的传承, 也有一部分来自当下的日常生活; 有些成语与习用语和谚语相近, 另一些则是纯粹的白话; 有些适用于书面, 有些多用于口头, 但它们的一个共同的特点, 是生动简洁, 形象鲜明。英语成语往往比普通词语的含义更丰富, 且富有更深刻的思想内涵。

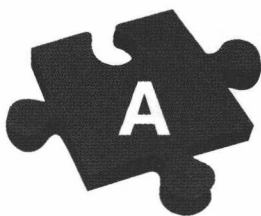
英语成语虽然看似人们表达的基本元素, 但它们却具有语法功能的多样性。由于一个英语成语虽然多为一个短语, 但它们的意义相当于一个句子。因而它们在许多情况下, 既能充当一个句子使用, 也能以一个短语的形式, 纳入句子中, 成为其组成部分。此外, 它们简短精辟, 易记易用, 并常常附带感情色彩: 既有含褒贬双意的, 中性的

也不鲜见。因此，要学好英语成语，学习者必须通过认真的研究和细致的分析。

本书精选了英美人士使用频率极高的成语 800 余则供学习者使用。本书以精心挑选的例句作为成语的使用文本，让学习者在了解成语意义的基础上，进一步通过例句的建设性提示熟知其用法。此外，本书还为学习者设计了大量的练习，以期让他们通过阶段性的学习，做到温故而知新，从而达到能够熟练使用的目的。

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a bird's eye view

an elevated view of an object from a bird's eyes 高空鸟瞰某物体

Examples

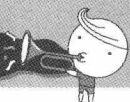
1. From Shanghai Oriental Pearl TV Tower, we obtained a *bird's eye view* of the great city.
从上海东方明珠电视塔上, 我们鸟瞰了上海市的全景。
2. Tourists can get a *bird's eye view* of the city at the 263-meter-high observatory room and the 350-meter-high "space cabin".
在 263 米高处的观光室和 350 米高处的太空舱里, 游人可以全方位鸟瞰城市景色。

Reference

A *bird's eye view* of China Pavilion for the Shanghai 2010 World Expo: It is designed in the shape of an oriental crown, showcasing the spirit of traditional Chinese culture. 63 meters tall, it stands three times taller than any other pavilion. Painted the same red as the Forbidden City, the roof of the Oriental Crown is made of six layers in the dougong (斗拱) style as are the Summer Palace and the Forbidden City in Beijing. It is such a precise, sturdy technique to build a structure, no glues or fasteners were needed to hold the pieces together. There are 56 dougong brackets on the roof, symbolizing the 56 minority cultures of China.

高空鸟瞰 2010 年上海世博会中国馆: 该馆设计成东方皇冠的形状, 以展示传统中华文化之精髓。中国馆高 63 米, 比其他馆高出三倍。东方之冠采用与故宫城墙相同的红漆, 其顶层构成了六层斗拱式样, 同北京颐和园和故宫相同。不用胶或紧固件而使整个建筑浑然一体, 这是需要非常精确、非常过硬的技术支撑才能完成。顶层建有 56 个拱门, 象征着中国 56 个少数民族文化渊源。

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a clip off the old block

a child (usually a male) who behaves in the same way as his father or resembles his father 与父亲酷似的孩子 (通常指男性) , 一脉相承

Examples

1. Watching Timmy and his dad together, you can tell Timmy is *a chip off the old block*.
看见提米和他的父亲, 你会说提米同他父亲十分相像。
2. Scott is certainly *a chip off the old block*. He reminds me so much of his father.
斯克特酷似他爸爸。他总让我想起他爸爸的好多事情。

Reference

A famous example of *a chip off the old block* is George W. Bush, who, just like his father, went into politics and, of course, became the president of the United States.

与父亲想像很出名的一个例子是乔治·W. 布什, 他同其父亲一样从政, 当然了, 也成为美国总统。

a new lease on life

to make someone happy or healthy or give someone new energy after a period of illness or sadness 人生焕然一新; 重生

Examples

1. After winning his battle with cancer, Martin felt as if he had *a new lease on life*.
马丁战胜癌症后, 感觉人生焕然一新。
2. When my uncle quit drinking it gave him *a new lease on life* and he started doing things he hadn't done for years.
我伯父戒酒后, 如同换了一个人, 他开始做多年未做的事情。

Reference

So long as the Chinese community here can revive its love and passion

for the Chinese language and culture, I believe that the Chinese language in, with its growing practical value, will get *a new lease on life*.

只要本地华人社团恢复对中国语言文化那种喜爱和热情,我相信新加坡的华语将会随着实用价值的提高而复兴。

a pain in the neck

an annoying person or thing 讨厌的家伙

Examples

1. Apple polishers are *a pain in the neck* to conscientious teachers.
对于有良心的教师,拍马屁的学生实在讨厌极了。
2. It's *a pain in the neck*.
这真是苦不堪言。

Reference

He is *a pain in the neck*. He often spoils something. One day, I organized a party and I hoped it would be a nice one. But he came again and messed up the party. I do not want to see him again.

他是个讨厌的家伙。他总是把事情搞砸。一天,我组织了一个聚会,本想好好好玩的。但是他又来了,把聚会搞得一团糟。我再也不想看到他了。

a perfect 10

to be extremely perfect without any flaw 完美无瑕的事物

Examples

1. The weather during our holiday was *a perfect 10*.
我们度假时的天气好极了。
2. No one expects you to be *a perfect 10*, but we do expect you to do your best always.
没人指望你完美无瑕,但是我们盼望你永远尽最大的努力。

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Reference

She is a completist artist. She wants to make everything *a perfect 10*, although it is actually impossible. Once she is not satisfied with her work, she will destroy it without hesitation. So her art works are few but almost wonderful.

她是个完美主义艺术家。她设法让自己的每一件艺术品都完美无瑕，尽管事实上不太可能。一旦她不满意自己的作品，就毫不犹豫地毁了它。所以，虽然她的艺术品很少，但几乎件件都是精品。

a rite of passage

a ritual event that marks a person's progress from one status to another such as from childhood to adulthood 成年仪式

Examples

1. To learn how to drive a car can be considered as *a rite of passage* for young adults in the west.

在西方国家，学会驾车被认为是一种年轻人成年的仪式。

2. The wedding has shifted from *a rite of passage* to a good vehicle for self-expression and wealth bragging.

现在的婚礼已经从当初的婚礼仪式变成了自我表现与炫耀财富的极好机会。

Reference

To be the best player in the sport, Bryant promises there's *a rite of passage* which comes with the biggest performances in the biggest games.

要成为体育界里最好的球员，布赖恩特认为这需要经历一个“成人礼”，即你在最关键的比赛中发挥最好的球艺。

a slap in the face

an action that insults or upsets someone 侮辱之举；打耳光

Examples

1. They felt that it was *a slap in the face* when their gift was returned unopened.
他们的礼物原封不动地被退了回来，他们感到这是一种羞辱。
2. The minister's decision was *a slap in the face* to those who had tried to change his mind.
部长的决定是给那些试图使他改变主意的人的一记耳光。

Reference

Tommy gave a priceless present to Lucy but she threw it to the rubbish bin. It was like *a slap in his face*.

汤米送了一件贵重的礼物给露西，但露西把它扔进了垃圾箱，这好比打了他一记耳光。

a taste for something

a short experience of something that shows you what it is like 体验某事

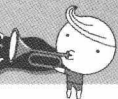
Examples

1. Jan's trip to America gave her *a taste for* traveling overseas. Now she wants to visit a foreign country every year.
简的美国之行给了她海外旅行的体验。现在她想每年都去国外。
2. The visit to the farm gave me *a taste for* the farmer's life.
农场之行让我体验了农民的生活。

Reference

In every August, new students will have a military training. The objective is to allow them to get *a taste for* military life. Most students enjoy this kind of training much.

每年8月，新生都会接受军训，以体验军营生活。大部分学生非常喜欢这样的训练。



a taste of his/her own medicine

to do to him what he does, an eye for an eye 以其人之道，还治其人之身

Examples

1. He's always interrupting people when they are speaking. What he deserves is *a taste of his own medicine*.
当别人讲话时他总是打断别人，我们应该以其人之道还治其人之身。
2. My boyfriend always arrives late. Last night I decided to *give him a taste of his own medicine* by keeping him waiting for half an hour.
我的男朋友总是迟到。昨晚，我决定以牙还牙，足足让他等了半个小时。

Reference

A: Look! Who's coming!

B: At last she's coming! She's always turning up late for me so I thought I'd *give her a taste of her own medicine* and see how she likes it.

A: 快看谁来了!

B: 她可算来了! 我邀请她时，她总迟到。我老想着哪天我也得让她尝尝她的客人迟到的滋味，看看她喜不喜欢。

actions speak louder than words

what you do is more significant than what you say 行动胜于言辞；坐而言不如起而行

Examples

1. *Actions speak louder than words*. You've said that you want to learn to play the violin but you never practice.
事实胜于雄辩，你说过要学会拉小提琴，但是你从来没有去学过。
2. You keep saying that you'll do your fair share of the housework. Remember that *actions speak louder than words*.
你总是嘴上说你要承担相应的家务活，记住：坐而言不如起而行。

Reference

Although it's true that *actions speak louder than words*, words often speak more clearly than actions. Take a moment every now and then to verbalize your feelings for your lover, simply say such sweet words as “I love you!” and “you are my all!”.

虽然，行动比口号更加有力，但言语往往比行动更清晰。随时花一点儿时间对你的情人表达你的感受，简单地说几句甜言蜜语，比如：“我爱你！”“你是我的一切！”

against the clock

to work very fast because you know you only have a limited period of time to do something 抢时间；分秒必争

Examples

1. It was simply a race *against the clock* to finish the math exam before class is over.
要在下课前完成数学考试，简直是一场争分夺秒的竞赛。
2. Scientists were working *against the clock* to collect specimens before the volcano erupted again.
科学家在火山再次喷发前，争分夺秒地搜集样本。

Reference

The fishermen work *against the clock* to get the meat on the table and freeze while the animal (usually fish, shrimp, squid, etc.) is still alive and twitching.

在这些海鲜（通常是鱼、虾、鱿鱼，等等）被捞起来后，渔工们就必须争分夺秒，在海鲜还活着、能挣扎的时候取其肉，并冷藏起来。

agree to disagree

to decide not to argue about something any more 不再争论，双方接受彼此的不同意见



Examples

1. My elder brother and I can't agree on politics, so we'll have to *agree to disagree*.
我和哥哥政见不同，只好彼此相容。
2. The president has *agreed to disagree* with his advisors on the issue of taxation.
总统与其智囊在税收问题上意见相左，双方接受彼此不同意见。

Reference

Belgian governments fall often, yet the place trundles along because most leaders *agree to disagree*. One thing that unites them is faith in deeper European integration.

比利时的政府经常会垮台，但是却还能蹒跚前行，是因为大多数领导者都同意彼此可有不同意见，对欧洲一体化的深入认识将他们团结在了一起。

all for something

to approve of or support something very much 完全赞成某事

Examples

1. I'm *all for* sexual equality, but I don't want my wife to earn more than I do.
我完全赞成男女平等，但我不想我的妻子赚钱比我多。
2. I've got nothing against change. I'm *all for* it.
我不反对改变，完全赞成。

Reference

He is an old stubborn man who seldom accepts new or modern ideas and concepts. But this time, he is *all for* this new proposal that a fashionable dancing hall should be built in the city. We all feel surprised.

他是个保守固执的老头儿，很少接受新的、时髦的主意和想法。但这次，他对于在我们城市建造时尚舞厅的计划却完全同意，这让我们都感到很惊讶。

all in all

with everything considered (and neglecting details) 总体而言

Examples

1. *All in all*, he's more learned than he was ten years ago.
总的说来, 他比 10 年前更有学问了。
2. He has his faults, but, *all in all*, he is a good helper.
他虽有缺点, 但总的说来, 他是一个好帮手。
3. Still, *all in all*, I hear he is a kilo fatter today than he was yesterday.
还有, 总体而言, 我听说他今天比昨天胖了 1 公斤。

Reference

The summer vacation is coming up. This semester, *all in all*, is a great success. We have attained many achievements in some aspects. But we do have some remaining problems to solve. So it's not the time for us to pride ourselves on these accomplishments but to make determined and persistent efforts to make our school, our staff and our students better.

暑假快来了。总体而言, 这个学期我们取得了很大的成功, 在一些方面取得了一些成就。但是我们的确还有一些问题需要解决。所以现在不是对所取得的成就沾沾自喜的时候, 而是应该再接再厉把我们的学校、全体教职工和我们的学生变得更好。

all set

prepare well 都准备好了; 一切就绪

Examples

1. You can keep your mind at rest about the matter, it's *all set*.
你放心吧。这件事已经解决了。
2. Our plans for the trip are *all set*.
我们旅行的准备工作都做好了。



Reference

Our bags were packed and we were *all set* to leave when we received new instructions from our Government. We unpacked and stayed.

我们打点完行装正准备出发，这时，接到了政府的新指示。我们又解开行装留下了。

all that glitters is not gold

not everything that looks precious is precious 发光的不一定是金子

Examples

1. *All that glitters is not gold.* The young might probably be cheated by somebody's appearance.
闪闪发光的东西不一定是金子。年轻人很可能被某些人的外表所迷惑。
2. Hollywood may look like an exciting place to live, but I don't think you should move there. *All that glitters is not gold.*
好莱坞看上去是一个令人心动的生活地，但是我想你不应该搬去住。发光的都不都是金子。

Reference

Shakespeare is the best-known writer to have expressed the idea that not everything that is shiny and superficially attractive is valuable, in the original editions of *The Merchant of Venice*, 1596. Nowadays, this idiom is very popular as such "This professor was saying what moralists have said for thousands of years: Handsome is as handsome does. *All that glitters is not gold.*"

不是所有发光的、外表艳丽的东西都值钱，莎士比亚是表达这个意思最著名的作家，他在 1596 年原创剧本《威尼斯商人》说过此话。现在该成语非常流行。例句：这位教授所说的正是宣扬道义的人已经说了几千年的道德标准：行为善良的人才算美，就像所有闪光的东西不一定是金子一样。

all the while

all the time; all through 始终; 一直

Examples

1. Mother baked cookies for her family last night though *all the while* she worried there might not be enough.
昨晚母亲为全家烘烤小甜饼, 尽管她一直担心数量不够。
2. He sang *all the while* they walked home.
在他们回家的路上, 他一路走一路唱。

Reference

And I know that we distrust one another *all the while*, and instinctively conceal or misrepresent our actual thoughts and emotions when there is no very apparent need. When this happens to me I should ignore it and do as I like.

我知道, 我们彼此间一直都互不信任, 即使在显然没有必要的时候, 也总是本能地隐藏或者歪曲我们的真实想法和情感。当这种事发生在我身上时, 我将不予理会并我行我素。

all thumbs

awkward in handling things 笨手笨脚的

Examples

1. Can you do this for me? I'm *all thumbs*.
你能帮我做这个吗? 我笨手笨脚的。
2. I am *all thumbs* today.
我今天真是笨手笨脚的。

Reference

Jack made a new girlfriend Jane and took her home. Jack's mother,

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