

汉语常用习语英译手册

A HANDBOOK OF CHINESE
COLLOCATIONS
(in the English Language)

徐忠杰 编著

北京语言学院出版社

汉语常用习语英译手册

徐忠杰 编著

*

北京语言学院出版社出版发行

(北京海淀区学院路15号)

新华书店北京发行所经销

华星计算机开发公司排版

清华大学印刷厂印刷

开本 787×1092 毫米 1/32 27.5 印张 592(千字)

1989 年 12 月第 1 版 1989 年 12 月第 1 次印刷

印数 0001—5,000 册

ISBN7-5619-0051-1/H·38 定价: 10.75 元

A

āi

哀鸿遍野 āi hóng biàn yě

woeful cries ring throughout the wilderness; miserable screams are heard all over the countryside / (descriptive of) displaced persons or homeless people who wander about as refugees (from war-stricken areas, etc.)

哀莫大于心死 āi mò dà yú xīn sǐ

① the saddest thing is to have a heart dead to certain noble aspirations, patriotic feelings, revolutionary zeal, etc. ② ... to have one's will to do something great or noble, etc. played out ③ ... to fall into dull apathy (from repeated failures) ④ to a political party with fervent hopes of a new order for the country, nothing is sadder than an alarming degree of apathy among its members

挨肩擦背 āi jiān cā bèi

(lit.) to rub shoulders with people / (descriptive of) jostling crowds

ái

挨板子 ái bǎnzi

to be given so many strokes on one's back as punishment

挨打挨骂 ái dǎ ái mà

to suffer many a blow and much abuse (in one's days)

挨骂的不低, 骂人的不高 àimàde bù dī, màrénde bù gāo

In others' esteem, the abuser can't be high;

The abused is not a single peg lower thereby

挨日子 ái rìzi

to drag through one's days in misery / to go through hard times

ǎi

蔼然可亲 ǎirán kě qīn

(of a person) mild and amiable

ài

爱不释手 ài bú shì shǒu

to love something so much that one will not let go one's hold of it

爱才若渴 ài cái ruò kě

to thirst after talent and ability

爱莫能助 ài mò néng zhù

to be willing to help, but unable to do so / I am not in a position to help you in spite of my willingness

爱钱如命 ài qián rú mìng

to love money as much as life itself

爱抬杠 ài tái gàng

to love to have a row to pick with somebody / to love to have high words with somebody / to love to dispute for

its own sake

爱屋及乌 ài wū jí wū

(corresp.) love me, love my dog / (meaning) one is expected to love the things that belong to the person one loves

爱憎分明 ài-zēng fēnmíng

to draw a clear line of demarcation between what one loves and what one hates

碍手碍脚 ài shǒu ài jiǎo

to encumber the free movement of the limbs

ǎn

安不忘危 ān bú wàng wēi

forget not the possibility of danger, when you are in safety

安步当车 ān bù dàng chē

to proceed at leisure on foot instead of riding on a car

安常处顺 ān cháng chǔ shùn

(of a man of settled habits) who has been sailing smoothly down the course of life / to be content with a pattern of life arrived at from living long in peace and comfort / to be accustomed to peace and security as the norm of everyday living

安分守己 ānfèn shǒu jǐ

to be content with one's lot and do one's duties as required / to know one's station and be content with it / to stick to one's last as one's best choice / to remain in

one's proper sphere as one's preference

安家落户 ān jiā luò hù

to make one's home in or at a certain place / to settle, or
to settle one's family in a certain place

安居乐业 ān jū lè yè

① to settle to one's work and make the place one's permanent home ② to live in quiet and enjoy one's work ③ to settle down with some interesting work to do ④ he has settled down and loves his work

安然无事 ānrán wú shì

to have nothing to worry about / to be free from troubles of any kind

安然无恙 ānrán wúyàng

to be safe and sound / to be free from illness of any kind

安如泰山 ān rú Tàishān

(fig.) as secure as Gibraltar / (corresp.) as secure as terra firma

安身立命 ān shēn lì mìng

to be comfortably placed in life and have something to place one's hopes, ambitions, etc. on

安土重迁 ān tǔ zhòng qiān

settling down in one's native place, he would not lightly move house and home elsewhere

安危与共 ān wēi yǔ gòng

to share together danger and safety / to stick together through thick and thin

安营扎寨 ān yíng zhā zhài

the soldiers now settle in a camp with a palisade around it
/ the soldiers are now encamped within a stockade

安于现状 ān yú xiànzhuàng

to be contented with the status quo / to be satisfied with things as they are

安之若素 ān zhī ruò sù

(in a good sense) to be calm as usual in the face of adversity / to be unperturbed, indifferent, unconcerned, impassive, etc. as usual when the occasion calls for a strong protest, severe condemnation, righteous indignation, etc. / to take his usual devil-may-care attitude when he hears falsehood presented as truth, when he sees gross injustice done etc.

àn

按兵不动 àn bīng bú dòng

to hold the dogs of war in leash / to hold one's troops temporarily in leash for more effective action later / to hold in check the pugnacity of our men until such a time as could be to our better advantage to strike

按部就班 àn bù jiù bān

to do something according to routine / to observe office routine / to follow strictly prescribed routine / to perform routine duties

按劳分配 àn láo fēnpèi

to each according to his labor (Marxist formula of distribution for a socialist society)

按劳取酬 àn láo qǔ chóu

recompense is made according to the amount of labor expended

按图索骥 àn tú suǒ jì

(lit.) to look for the fast horse referred to on the basis of its picture supplied beforehand / (fig.) with clues supplied, one can find one's object without much effort

暗箭难防 ànjàn nán fáng

(lit.) an arrow shot from ambush is something difficult to guard against / (corresp.) a stab in the back or a sneak attack is not for one to forestall

暗箭伤人 ànjàn shāng rén

(lit.) an arrow shot from ambush injures people / (meaning) to fire at someone when he is off his guard, hence the injury

暗里藏刀 àn lǐ cáng dāo

concealed on his person is a bowie knife

暗送秋波 àn sòng qiūbō

to cast amorous eyes at somebody / to cast sheep's eyes at one of the opposite sex / to make eyes at a man (or woman) / to throw the eye at... / to cast half-concealed amorous glances at a person

暗无天日 àn wú tiān rì

(lit.) the sky is so overcast as to blot out the view of the

sun; the sky was overshadowed by heavy clouds / (fig.) an age of darkness where people are held down by ignorance, oppression, superstition, etc.; to be enshrouded in darkness and ignorance; to be wrapped in the night of ignorance

暗中操纵 ànzhōng cāo zòng

to pull the wires (or strings)

暗中策划 ànzhōng cèhuà

to plot in the dark against somebody

暗中活动 ànzhōng huódòng

(to engage in) clandestine activities

暗中了结 ànzhōng liǎojié

to hush up a matter (by paying people off or some other clandestine means)

暗中摸索 ànzhōng mōsuǒ

to grope one's way through the dark

暗中陷害 ànzhōng xiànhài

to plot one's ruin

黯然泪下 ànrán lèi xià

to find oneself in the blues with tears dripping down one's cheeks / to find oneself in agony with tears dropping from one's eyes

黯然失色 ànrán shī sè

to appear dull by comparison / to be thrown, cast or put into the shade / to lose brilliancy when placed by the side of another better than oneself || (e.g.) All the court ladies

were thrown into the shade in the presence of Yang Jade-ring (杨玉环).

óng

昂首阔步 óng shǒu kuò bù

to hold up one's head high and advance by long strides

昂首挺胸 óng shǒu tǐng xiōng

to hold up one's head high and throw out one's chest

áo

嗷嗷待哺 áoáo dài bǔ

(lit.) (of nestlings) crying for their mother bird to feed them / (fig.) (of hungry people) hankering for food to relieve their pangs of hunger

ào

傲慢无礼 àomàn wú lǐ

to be haughty and impolite / to be arrogant and rude / to be insolent

傲然屹立 àorán yìlì

(of a building) to stand towering proudly above the rest /
(of a person) he is a tower of strength and is justly proud of it

懊悔莫及 ào huǐ mò jí

to be too late to repent

B

bā

八面玲珑 bāmiàn línglóng

① to have circumspection and tact that enables one to deal with everybody in a way best suited to evoke the most favorable response ② to know how to say the right thing to the right person at the right moment ③ to be all things to all men (biblical) (as advice) ④ in himself, he has perfected the art of pleasing so that he finds himself in favor with many ⑤ his social tact places him at once on good terms with almost everybody ⑥ to show great tact in dealing with all kinds of people ⑦ in him, tactfulness is an all-round consummate art

八仙过海 bāxiān guò hǎi

Eight fairies attempt to cross the sea.
In the choice of methods, they are free /
One and all, to the occasion rises,
For each has his own clever devices

bá

拔苗助长 bá miáo zhù zhǎng

(See 揠苗助长 [揠: yà].)

跋前踬后 bá qián zhì hòu (踬: 同“蹶”)

to be in a dilemma

跋山涉水 bá shān shè shuǐ

(lit.) to range over hills and brooks and streams / (fig.) to endure untold hardships in travelling over difficult terrain as in an exploration, expedition, or prospecting, etc.

bái

白璧微瑕 bái bì wēi xiá

(lit.) a small flaw in an otherwise perfect piece of jade /
(fig.) a minor fault in an otherwise very worthy man

白吃白喝 bái chī bái hē

food and drinks are served gratis

白驹过隙 bái jū guò xì

(lit.) a white horse flitting by as seen through a chink /
(descriptive of) the flight of time || (e.g) The world is like
a fleeting show.

白面书生 bái miàn shūshēng

(lit.) a pale-faced learner of books / (descriptive of) persons who do not look healthy from being too much immersed in books / (corresp.) He is too much of an effeminate scholar.

白日做梦 bái rì zuò mèng

to have daydreams

白手起家 bái shǒu qǐ jiā

(lit.) to start in life with bare hands / (fig.) to start from scratch; to start with hardly any worldly goods to speak of

白头偕老 báitóu xiélǎo

husband and wife living together to a green old age

白眼相加 báiyǎn xiāngjiā

(corresp.) each gives the other a cold shoulder; each looks down his nose at the other

白纸黑字 báizhǐ hēizì

written in black and white

bǎi

百弊层出 bǎi bì céng chū

it gives rise to many abuses / the present arrangement lends itself to many abuses

百步穿杨 bǎi bù chuān yáng

(lit.) to shoot an arrow through a poplar leaf at a distance of 100 paces / (descriptive of) a powerful, penetrating shot

百尺竿头,更进一步 bǎi chǐ gān tóu, gèng jìn yí bù

he has so far made the highest record, to be surpassed by his greater efforts

百川归海 bǎi chuān guī hǎi

(lit.) all streams eventually find their way into the sea / (fig.) universal approval and support of an idea will eventually turn it into a reality as the necessary outcome of the nature of things or as the trend of events following its own logic finds its own conclusion

百端待举 bǎi duān dài jǔ

a hundred things await setting up / many things are yet to be established, undertaken, etc.

百发百中 bǎi fā bǎi zhòng

every shot did execution / with him every shot tells / (referring to a person) a dead shot; a crack shot; a sharp shooter

百废俱兴 bǎi fèi jù xīng

many things that have fallen into disuse are now being revived

百感交集 bǎi gǎn jiāo jí

to have mixed feelings about a matter / to run the gamut of emotions

百花齐放, 百家争鸣 bǎi huā qí fàng, bǎi jiā zhēng míng

Let art, for variety, be given ample room,
Even as flowers, with their many forms and colors, bloom.
Let freedom of thought for all schools loudly ring,
Even as birds of all feathers vie and sing

百孔千疮 bǎi kǒng qiān chuāng

marked with innumerable scars / riddled with gun shots as a ship after a naval battle / numberless sores fester on one's person / worn through in many places as a coat

百炼成钢 bǎi liàn chéng gāng

(lit.) iron tempered a hundred times becomes steel / (fig.) to have been toughened to endure the worst hardships; to have undergone severe discipline so that one can be resolute in one's purpose

百年不遇 bǎinián bú yù

(lit.) something not met with for a century / (meaning) an extremely rare occurrence / (corresp.) once in a blue moon

百年大计 bǎinián dàjì

(lit.) a good centurial plan / (fig.) a plan that envisages and encompasses probable needs for the distant future

百年树人 bǎinián shù rén

it takes a century to train people adequate for an ever-developing economy and policy

百思不解 bǎi sī bù jiě

inexplicable even after much intellectual effort / after turning the matter in one's mind, one doesn't know what to make of it / one can think and think; still one would find many important points unaccountable

百闻不如一见 bǎi wén bù rú yí jiàn

(lit.) better to see a thing once than to hear about it a hundred times / (corresp.) seeing is believing / to see things for oneself is worth more than all the books of travel

百无聊赖 bǎi wú liáolǎi

to be filled with extreme ennui / to find life too much of a bore / time hangs heavy on one's hands; one doesn't know what to do with oneself; one must have something to do to kill time

百无一失 bǎi wú yí shī

not a single shot misses the target / sure fire; sure hit

(American slang) / something of certified accuracy / a process where success is a dead certainty / to be assured of invariable success in each case

百无一失 bǎi wú yí shī

of all the good points (mentioned) he has not a single one

百依百顺 bǎi yī bǎi shùn

to have been tamed into complete submission / to be submissive in every way || (e.g.) ① He is known for his consummate obedience to his parents. ② Compliance governs all his actions. ③ a perfectly complaisant wife

百战百胜 bǎi zhàn bǎi shèng

(of an army) ever victorious; invincible

百折不挠 bǎi zhé bù náo

(of a man) with an unbreakable will / with a tenacity of purpose that defies all opposition / with an unbending spirit / of an upright and inflexible temper (Joseph Addison) / with the inflexible integrity of Fabricius (Oliver Goldsmith)

摆臭架子 bǎi chòu jiàzi

to have the airs and graces of an aristocrat, a celebrity, etc. without the slightest claim or pretensions to being such

摆架子 bǎi jiàzi

to give oneself airs / to put on airs / to be uppish (colloq.)

摆阔气 bǎi kuòqì

to have an ostentatious display / to put on the ritz (American slang)

摆老资格 bǎi lǎo zīge

to put on airs as a veteran teacher, as an old campaigner,
as a senior of the staff, or as a member of the senior
staff / to come the old soldier over another (colloq.)

摆事实,讲道理 bǎi shìshí, jiǎng dào lǐ

to marshal the facts and explain the whys and
wherefores / to present the facts and show cause why it
must be done

摆样子 bǎi yàngzi

(of things) to be put up just for show or display / (of a
person) to do certain things just to show off

bài

败军之将不可言勇 bài jūn zhī jiāng bù kě yán yǒng

(lit.) a general whose army is defeated cannot count him-
self brave / (suggesting) cowardice, a broken spirit, blue
funk, loss of courage

败阵而逃 bài zhèn ér táo

to suffer defeat in battle and take to flight

败子回头金不换 bài zǐ huí tóu jīn bù huàn

the father would give anything in the world to have his
prodigal son return home penitent

bān

班门弄斧 Bān mén nòng fǔ

(lit.) to display one's skill in handling an axe before the ex-