

*ENGLISH  
COLLOQUIAL  
IDIOMS*

英语通俗成语词典

云南人民出版社

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弗雷德里克·T·伍德 著

鲍志一 杨志达 译

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## 译 者 的 话

F. T. 伍德是英国现代语言学家，著作很多，有读本、语法、文选、文学欣赏、惯用法词典等，对英语有独到和深湛的研究，在国际语言学界是有名望的。《英语通俗成语词典》是他的重要著作之一。

《英语通俗成语词典》比较广泛地收集了英国现代生活中流行的通俗成语，共 2645 条，对每一成语作了简洁、正确的释义，并根据实用的程度，附例句以说明用法。例句简单明了、实用。例句中有一部分选自名家著作。

《英语通俗成语词典》是一本比较实用的词典，适合我国学习英语的读者使用和参考。但是，需要向读者作两点说明：一、少数例句的思想性未必适合我国的社会制度和生活习惯，仅供读者批判地吸收。二、我们基本上按本义翻译，有些条目的解释，可能与其他一些词典的解释不一致；有些引文和例句没有上下句，翻译有一定困难，个别地方，很可能因为理解不当而误译。如有不当，敬请专家和读者不吝赐教，我们表示衷心的感谢。

这本词典的翻译，在疑难的地方得到我系美国专家布什夫人和布什先生的指教；在定稿时得到云南人民出版社张仁坚同志的不少帮助，谨在此一并表示谢意。

译 者

一九七九年十二月于云南大学外语系

## A

A 1 (A-ONE) 优秀的，第一流的，完美的，天字第一号的，呱呱叫的。

此词原是劳埃德船舶年鉴 (Lloyd's Register of Shipping) 用以就船舶的一般条件、适航性等进行分类的用语。口语中用以对一切事物作高度赞美之词。《牛津词典》举了以下两例：

"He must be a first-rater," said Sam.

"A 1", replied Mr Roker.

(Dickens, *The Pickwick Papers*)

"此人必定是第一流的人物了"，萨姆说。

"天字第一号，" 罗克尔先生回答说。

The Chinese police are certainly A1 at such work.

(*Reynolds's Newspaper*. 24 Nov. 1861)

中国警察干这种事当然是呱呱叫的。

ABIDE 忍受；忍耐；容忍(通常用在否定句里: *cannot abide* 吃不消，无法忍受)。

I *can't abide* people who are always boasting of their own achievements.

我忍受不了那些老是自吹自擂的人。

I *can't abide* a butcher,

I *can't abide* his meat,

The ugliest shop of all is his,

The ugliest in the street.

(Walter de la Mare, "I Can't Abear")

我讨厌屠夫，

我讨厌他卖的肉。

他的肉铺丑陋无比，

大街上最丑陋的就数他的肉铺。

**ABOUT** 注意：在“*it is* + 形容词 + *about* + 名词”这一口语句型中，*about* 指 *it* + 名词所包含，并在上下文或情景中不言自明的概念。

It's very sad *about* Mrs Brown, isn't it? (i. e. she has died, injured, or suffered some misfortune).

布朗夫人真可哀哪，是不是？（即她死了；受伤了；或是碰到什么倒楣事儿了）。

It's unfortunate *about* your holiday. (i. e. that you have had to cancel it, change the date, etc.).

你这假期真倒楣！（即：你不得不取消假日、改变度假日期等。）

**ABSOLUTE** 加强语势用语，意思近于“complete”（全然的，十足的）。例：*an absolute fool*（道地的傻瓜），*an absolute nuisance*（讨厌透顶，麻烦透了），*an absolute pleasure*（高兴之至），*an absolute treat*（极其周到的招待）。因此，*absolutely* = *completely*（全然地，完完全全地）。

It is *absolutely* stupid to say that.

说那种话愚蠢已极！

It *absolutely* poured with rain.

简直是倾盆大雨。

You can trust him to be *absolutely* fair.

你可以相信他处事极其公平。

**ACHES AND PAINS** 周身不适（用来表示肉体的各种病痛的老套话。）

I wish she would be a bit more cheerful; she is always complaining of her *aches and pains*.

我希望她会愉快一点儿；她总是这儿疼，那儿痛地嘀咕个没完没了的。

ACTUALLY 竟然(用以表示所说的事实似乎是不可置信的)。

The unscrupulous fellow actually robbed his own mother.

这个不要脸的家伙竟然抢劫起他的亲娘来了!

有时也用作表示惊讶或难以置信的感叹词。

After cheating me in that way he had the cheek to ask me for a loan of five pounds. — *Actually!*

他那样把我欺骗了之后, 还有脸要求我借给他五镑哩!

竟然如此!

ADAM *As old as Adam* 极古; 很久以前; 追溯到历史上长久以前。有时用于本义 “to the beginning of the human race” (人类之初; 盘古开天地之时。但更常用作夸张语。)(Adam 亚当。《圣经》中所谓的人类的“始祖”。

——译注)

That custom is as old as Adam.

那风俗自从盘古开天地之时就有了。

*I shouldn't know him from Adam.* 我会完全认不出他来。

*I knew him when we were at school together, but that's many years ago. If I were to meet him today I shouldn't know him from Adam.*

我们一块儿念书时我认识他, 但那已事隔多年了。要是今天碰上他, 我准会认不出来。

有时——虽然不合逻辑——也用于妇女。没有相应的成语说 *I shouldn't know her from Eve.* (Eve 夏娃。亚当之妻——译注)

*The old Adam* 人类犯罪的本性, “原罪”, 本恶的人性, 难移的本性。

Despite many centuries of civilisation, there is still a bit of the old Adam in all of us,

尽管人类文明已有多少世纪了，我们大家身上仍然有点人类犯罪的本性。

ADVERT 或 AD (名词) ADVERTISEMENT (广告) 的缩略词，有时在口语中听到 (例: *put an advert in the newspaper* 在报上登广告)，但通常被视为粗俗或文句不通。

AFFAIR 笼统地用以指 “thing” (东西), “object” (物件), 或者甚至指 “piece of work” (作品, 成品, 工艺品) 或 “performance” (演出, 表演)。

What's that strange-looking *affair* over there?

那边那个奇形怪状的东西是什么玩意儿?

His car is *only* a second-hand *affair*.

他那辆小轿车不过是旧货而已。

The concert was rather an amateurish *affair*.

这个音乐会的演出颇有点不大在行。

通常用于贬义，但也不一定如此。把某样东西说成 “rather a neat little *affair*” (相当匀称小巧的东西) 是完全可以的。

#### AFTER ALL

##### 1. 终究。

I managed to get to the meeting *after all*.

我终于设法到会了。

we took our raincoats with us, but we did not need them *after all*.

我们都带雨衣去了，但根本用不着。

##### 2. 毕竟，归根到底。

Jack may have treated you rather shabbily, but if he is in serious difficulties I think you should help him. *after all*, he is your brother.

杰克可能对你相当刻薄，但是如果他现在处境很困难，我认为你还是应该帮助他。他毕竟是你的弟弟呀！



AGE 参见 AGES 词条。

AGES 很长的时间。

It has taken me *ages* to get this garden in order,  
我花了很长时间才把这个花园收拾好了。

That happened *ages* ago. I have not been to the pic-  
tures (i.e. the cinema) for *ages*.

那是很久以前的事了。我很久很久没看电影了。

*an age* 意思亦相似(例: *a few minutes that seemed like an age* (几分钟过得象几年似的; 度日如年)。这主要用于文学语言和较为正规的口语中。

*this day and age* 参见 DAY 词条。

ALIVE AND KICKING 生龙活虎的, 活蹦乱跳的。

I thought your grandfather was dead. —Far from it;  
he is very much *alive and kicking*.

我以为你祖父已经去世了。——根本不是这么回事。他依然生龙活虎, 精神饱满。

这个成语原来可能用以指初生婴儿。

ALIVE WITH 害虫成灾的, 害虫横行的。

All my best cabbages were *alive with* caterpillars.

我所有最好的白菜上都生满了虫子。比喻的说法:

The town was *alive with* rumours of one sort  
and another.

城中到处谣诼纷纭。(alive with 在此有“充斥”之意。  
——译注)

ALL AGOG 渴望, 切望; 急切。

The children were *all agog* to hear the story.

孩子们都渴望着要听这个故事。

ALL ALONG (事情、计划等的)自始; 一直, 一贯; 始终。

I said *all along* that he was not a person to be trusted,  
but you would not listen to me.

我一直在说他这个人是不可靠的，可你就是不听。

**ALL AND SUNDRY** 严格讲指“人人在内，个个一律”，但口语中仅为“all”（全体）或“everyone”（每人）的迂说法（Periphrasis）。

we shall have to restrict the number of guests; we can't invite *all and sundry*.

我们有必要限制一下客人的数目，不能人人都请。

**ALL AT ONCE** 突然，一下子。

I had been puzzling over the problem for over an hour without any result, when *all at once* the solution flashed across my mind.

这个问题把我难住了一个多小时，接着，我忽然开窍，找到了答案。

*All at once* I saw a crowd,

A host of golden daffodils.

(Wordsworth, "The Daffodils")

突然我看到一大丛，

一大丛金色的水仙花。

（但是这个成语不能与下述句子中词序相同的语句相混：we shall have to make several journeys for the goods; we cannot take them *all at once*（这些货物一次是无法全部运走的，得来回几趟才行。）在这个句子中，all 是 take 的宾语的一部分，而 at once 是副词短语，意思是 in a single operation（一次，一举）。）

**ALL AT SEA** 茫然，不知如何是好，稀里糊涂。

The guide was ready enough with his usual patter on the history of the place, but as soon as you began to question him on anything outside that, he was *all at sea*.

向导把该地历史介绍的老一套讲得滚瓜烂熟，但当你一

开始问起那以外的东西时,他就瞠目结舌,不知所对了。

**ALL BUT** 将近; 几乎; 差点儿 (主要用在形容词和过去分词前, 但有时也用在限定动词 (finite verb) 之前。)

The new building was *all but* complete when it was destroyed by fire.

这座新建筑眼看就要完工, 却着火烧毁了。

The work is *all but* finished.

这件工作已接近完成。

She *all but* wept when she heard the news.

听到这消息她差点儿啜泣起来。

**ALL FOR** 完全赞同, 完全支持。

I'm *all for* anything that makes life easier.

凡是能使生活过得舒服点儿的事, 我一概赞成。

As usual, John was *all for* going; taking the risk, and getting out of Germany. But Peter was cautious. (Eric Williams, *The wooden Horse*, phase II, ch. ix)

同往常一样, 约翰完全同意出走, 冒险逃离德国。但彼得则小心翼翼, 不敢轻举妄动。

**ALL IN** 一切包括在内, 总共。

I reckon it costs me two hundred pounds a year to run my car, *all in*.

我算来, 使用我这辆小汽车, 一切费用包括在内, 一年要花 200 镑。

On top of his wages he gets tips and various other perquisites, so that he probably makes the equivalent of about twenty-five pounds a week, *all in*.

除工资外, 他还有小费和其他各种各样的外快。这一来, 他每周总共大约就有相当于 25 镑的收入了。

**ALL IN GOOD TIME** 在适当时间; 适当时机到来之时。

When are you coming to do those repairs to the roof

of my house? It was over a fortnight ago that I asked you about them. — *All in good time*, madam; I haven't forgotten.

你什么时候去给我修屋顶呀? 两个多星期以前我就请你去了。——到时候会去的, 太太。忘不了!

ALL MANNER OF 各种, 种种。

They asked me *all manner of* questions.

他们向我提了各种问题。

He'll give you *all manner of* excuses for his absence.

他将找出种种借口来为他的缺席辩解。

ALL MY EYE 胡说, 胡说八道, 鬼话(轻蔑语。表示对某种报道、某种说法等不相信)。

He told you he was never given the instructions?

That's *all my eye*. Why, I gave them to him myself.

他对你说过他压根儿没得到指示吗? 简直是瞎说八道。

我亲自交给他的。(如指口头指示, 则为: 我亲自告诉他的, 或亲口对他讲了的。——译注)

另一种说法是: *All my eye and Betty Martin*.

ALL OF A...后面跟动词词干, 用来表明:

(a) 不可控制的神经动作, 如:

*all of a tremble* 浑身发抖

*all of a flutter* 焦急不安, 心绪不宁

*all of a dither* 浑身发抖

*all of a twitch* 全身抽搐

*all of a fidget* 烦躁已极

(b) 表明所述事物的缺陷所在。如:

*all of a skew* 歪斜, 扭曲

*all of a tilt* 倾斜, 翘起

*all of a slope* 倾斜

偶而也可用名词, 如:

*all of a heap* 颓然(倒下来)。

ALL OF A SUDDEN 突然。

*All of a sudden* a man burst out of the hedge, and made off down the road.

突然有个人从篱巴里闯了出来,从公路上跑掉了。

ALL ONE CAN DO 竭力(前面加 *It is/was*, 后面跟不定式或不定式结构,提示在做不定式中所说的某事有很大困难。)

*It's all we can do to keep ourselves in food and clothing; holidays are out of the question.*

我们把钱都花在衣食上去了,哪来钱去度假呢!

*It was all I could do to refrain from laughing.*

我忍了又忍才算没笑了出来。

*The thieves drove so fast that it was all the police could do to keep up with them.*

盗贼们车开得如此之快,警方好不容易才跟上他们。

ALL OUT 参见GO ALL OUT 词条。

ALL OVER

1. 布满,复盖以……。

*His shoes were all over mud. His hands were all over grease.*

他的鞋上尽是污泥。他的双手尽是油腻。

2. 完结,了结(暗示 defeat(击败)、failure(失败)或 death(死亡))。前面加 *It is/was/will be*, 后面跟 *with*。

*If the patient has another relapse, I am afraid it will be all over with him.*

如果病人旧病复发,恐怕就要完蛋了(意思是没救了)。

*When our opponents scored another goal only a few minutes from the end of the match, we knew it was all over with us.*

当我们的对手在比赛的最后几分钟又踢进一球时，我们明白自己输定了。

3. 到处，四面八方（可能是 ALL OVER THE PLACE 的缩略，参见下一词条）。

We've been looking for you *all over*.

我们一直在到处找你呢！

4. 表示所谈论的人的特点正是这样的。

You say he refused to buy the goods unless he was allowed a discount? I'm not surprised. That's John *all over*. Always wanting things on the cheap.

你说的是不打折扣他就不买这批货吗？我并不觉得奇怪。约翰就是那样的人，总想买便宜货。

ALL OVER THE PLACE 到处，处处。

When you've finished playing with your toys, put them back in the toy cupboard; don't leave them lying *all over the place*.

你玩了玩具之后，放到玩具柜里，不要到处乱扔。

I've searched *all over the place* for that lost ring, but I've not found it.

我到处寻找丢失了的戒指，可就是找不到。

ALL OVER THE SHOP 参见 ALL OVER THE PLACE 词条。

ALL OVER THE SHOW 参见 ALL OVER THE PLACE 词条。

ALL RIGHT

1. 令人满意的，适宜的，行的。

Will it be *all right* if I let you have the information by next Friday?

我下星期五给你信息行吗？

If the arrangement is *all right* with you, it's all right with me.

如果这个安排对你合适，对我也是合适的。

2. 处于令人满意的状态、状况或地位。

I've not been very well, but I'm *all right* now.

我一直身体欠佳，但现在好了。

Are you *all right* for money?

你不缺钱花吧？

He doesn't care what happens to anybody else, so long as he's *all right*.

只要他过得惬意，别人有什么事他是不管的。

3. 一般地用以表示没有什么反对意见，或者没有什么关心或惊慌的必要。

Is it *all right* for me to see the patient for a few minutes?

我去看望病人几分钟可以吗？

It's *all right*; don't make a fuss; there's no harm done.

没什么，别大惊小怪的，一点事儿也没有。（没出什么事儿。）

4. 用以表示赞许（approval）、同意（consent）或意见一致（agreement）。

*All right*, I'll meet you at seven o'clock, then.

好啊，那我就在七点钟来会你。

Might I leave a quarter of an hour earlier today?  
— *All right*, but see that all the letters are ready for posting before you go.

我今天可以早走一刻钟吗？——可以，不过走前务必把全部信件准备好付邮。

有时有嘲讽的意思，或表示不耐烦或厌烦。

*All right*, do it your own way, but don't blame me if you come to grief.

好吧！你就自行其是吧！但是将来吃苦头可别怨我。

5. 作为对解释、说明等的前后阶段的连结语。

You have followed the explanation so far? *All right*, now we come to the second stage.

(在说话时, *right* 一词要重读)

以上的解释你们都听懂啦？那好，我们现在来讲第二个阶段。

6. 作为威胁的引子。

*All right*, my lad, if you won't do what you're told you must take the consequences.

好嘛，我的孩子，你既然不听话，那就要自食其果了。

7. 表达 “going the right way” (到某地的路走对了)。

“on the right road” (到某地就走这条路) 的意思。

Am I *all right* for Bristol on this road?

我走这条路可以到布里斯托尔吧？

Is this train *all right* for Birmingham?

这列车是开往伯明翰的吗？

8. 用以加强语气，意思是 “certainly” (当然罗！) “without doubt” (毫无疑问)。

He's dead *all right*.

他是准死无疑的了。

9. 用以表达 “quite capable of doing whatever is specified” (完全能做到所述之任何事) (通常暗示一般有相反的想法或托词。)

Don't take any notice of the excuse that he could not understand the document because it was in English. He can understand English *all right* when it suits his purpose.

别理睬他推说什么他看不懂这个文件，因为是用英文写的。要是文件对他有用，他可是满懂英文的哩。



## ALL ROUND

1. 对全组或整个团体的每个成员，

The organiser of the expedition stood us drinks *all round*.

探险队的组织者为我们每个队员付酒钱。

2. 在每个学科上，在每个方面或每个部门。

It's difficult to say which is his best subject; he seems equally good *all round*.

很难说他在哪门学科上最拿手。看起来他无所不精。

因此，（作定语用）有 *an all-round sportsman* 全能运动员，技巧全面的运动员，擅长多种运动的运动员。

## ALL THAT

1. *not as bad/dear/old/hot as all that* 还不是那么糟糕/贵重/衰老/炎热（与所提示或暗示的似乎不一样。）

There is no need to get alarmed; things are not as bad as *all that*.

不必惊慌失措嘛，事情还不致于那么糟糕。

Merely because I'm grey-headed, don't imagine that I'm drawing the old age pension; I'm not as old as *all that*.

不要仅仅因为我头发斑白，就以为我在领养老金了。我还没有老到那个地步哩！

You needn't open all the windows; It's not as hot as *all that*.

用不着把窗子都打开了，还不致于那么热吧！

2. 在形容词或副词前面，含有相当于程度副词 *so* 或 *so (as) ...as that* 之意。（纯正派语言学家把在书面或较正规的英语口语中所见到的这种用法称之为文理不通，但这种用法常见于口语中，*that* 指先前提到的东西。）

It wouldn't worry me to go without porridge for