

(美) 乔治 P·麦克勒姆

赵仲善

译注

同济大学出版社



美国 常用英语 成语练习

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译 者 序

乔治·P·麦克勒姆编写的《美国常用英语成语练习》一书的目的在于帮助外国学生掌握美国英语中最常用的180个成语。全书共分六个单元，每个单元有30个英语成语，每个单元后均附有一篇收编有该单元30个成语的阅读材料。

当然，美国英语中常见的成语并不只限于这180个。这些成语只是目前美国日常生活中最最常见的，但不包括地区性的习语和俚语。

为了便于读者使用，在本书末附有每条成语的中文注释及每篇阅读材料的译文。由于译者水平有限，错误在所难免，恳望读者不吝指教。

赵仲善

1988. 12. 30

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UNIT I

DRILL 1

DIALOGUE

A: Let's go to the movies. There's a good picture at the Roxy.

B: I'd like to, but I can't. I have to study. I wasted the whole afternoon. I forgot I had to brush up on my French. Then, all of a sudden, I remembered.

A: Oh, come on! We'll be home early.

B: No, I'd better not. I have an exam tomorrow. I was about to study when you came in. You know how it is. If you don't study, you don't pass. That goes without saying.

A: Exam? Tomorrow? Oh-oh!

B: What's the matter?

A: I just remembered. I have an exam, too!

B: We can go to the movies on Saturday.

DEFINITIONS

brush up on something review something to make it fresh again in one's mind

I'm going to give a speech tomorrow, so I have to brush up on my notes.

all of a sudden something happening quickly; without advance warning

It started out to be a beautiful day. Then, all of a sudden, it became cloudy and began to rain.

had better ('d better) should do something; ought to do something

I'd better go now or I'll be late for class.

about to on the point of doing something

Tom was about to leave when the telephone rang.

goes without saying something is so obvious that it doesn't have to be mentioned

Mary's an excellent student. It goes without saying that her parents are very proud of her.

What's the matter? What is wrong?

What's the matter with Alice? She looks angry.

SUBSTITUTION DRILL

Repeat the following sentences, using the substitutions listed.

1. I have to brush-up on my French.
my English.
mathematics.
history.
grammar rules.
chemistry.
botany.
2. All of a sudden I remembered.
she left the room.
it began to rain.

Eva started to cry.
Frank became angry.
Harry began to laugh.
Jean wanted to leave.

3. I'd better not go to the movies tonight.
tell Jane what happened.
eat supper now.
lose those papers.
fail the examination.
forget to buy stamps.
sell my car.
4. I was about to study when you came in.
go when the phone rang.
write her a letter when she arrived.
tell them a story when they walked away.
eat supper when John called me.
play the piano when the doorbell rang.
call my dog when he ran into the house.
5. It goes without saying that we must study hard.
haste makes waste.
a penny saved is a penny
earned.
many hands make light work.
you're as old as you feel.
education is important.
good health is essential.
6. What's the matter? You look angry.
John looks tired.
Your arm is bleeding.
Mary's shouting.
The baby is crying.
George is running.
You're trembling.

HOMEWORK EXERCISE

Rewrite the following sentences, substituting an idiom for the italicized section of the sentence.

1. Bill looked very sad, but then, *without advance warning*, he began to sing.
2. Mary was *on the point of leaving* when Mrs. Allen invited her to stay for lunch.
3. Professor Smith had not given a talk on Shakespeare for a long time, so he had to *review* some of the plays.
4. "What's wrong, Fred?" asked Jean. "You look like you don't feel well."
5. Anne just told me she can't go with us. *Obviously* we're disappointed.
6. You *should* take your raincoat, because it's supposed to rain today.

DRILL 2

DIALOGUE

- A: Every now and then I get hungry for French food.
B: There's a good French restaurant near here. Let's go sometime.
A: Why not tonight?
B: No, not tonight. You have to make reservations in advance. It's a very popular place. Besides, it's expensive. And I don't have any money.
A: I'm broke, too. Let's save our money and go next week.
B: Okay. But how?
A: We could do *without* lunch this week.
B: Do you mean every day? I don't feel up to that.
A: Well, then every other day.

DEFINITIONS

every now and then occasionally

Every now and then I like to take a walk in the country.

in advance before; ahead of time

If you want to see that play, you should buy your tickets in advance.

be broke be without money

I'd like to go to the concert with you, but I'm broke.

do without live without something

If there's no butter for our bread, we'll do without.

feel up to feel able (health or ability) to do something

I ought to go to Jane's party, but I just don't feel up to it now.

every other alternate

This class meets every other day, not every day.

SUBSTITUTION DRILL

Repeat the following sentences, using the substitutions listed.

1. Every now and then I get hungry for French food.

John goes to New York.

Mary gives a party.

Henry likes to play cards.

we speak Chinese to each other.

the weather gets quite cold.

the Smiths give a big dinner.

2. You can make reservations in advance.

We bought our tickets

They gave us the information

The teacher told us our grades

Jim gave Anne her birthday gift
I ought to send a telegram
She's going to phone us

3. I'm broke this week.

John's
We're
He's
Ellen's
They're
Tom's

4. We could do without lunch this week.
breakfast today.
supper tonight.
cream in our coffee.
butter on the bread.
dessert every day.
jelly on our toast.

5. I don't feel up to eating any dessert.
going to the concert.
participating in the play.
giving a speech today.
driving to Chicago.
arguing with my wife.
playing bridge tonight.

6. Let's do without lunch every other day.
walk to work
go to the library
play golf
study together
practice French
go swimming

HOMEWORK EXERCISE

Write an original sentence with each of the following idioms:

be broke
every other
feel up to

do without
every now and then
in advance

DRILL 3

DIALOGUE

- A: Have you heard that Jane cancelled her party next Friday?
- B: Yes, but I didn't hear why. What happened?
- A: She's going to New York. She has to **see about something** for her boss.
- B: Why did Jane plan the party? She **knew all along** about New York, didn't she?
- A: Yes, but she really **isn't to blame**. She thought the trip would be next week. Yesterday she was told to go this week.
- B: Too bad about the party, to say the least. The trip will do Jane good, though.
- A: And she can have the party when she returns.
- B: Frankly, I'm glad about the party. I'm **up to my ears** in work right now.

DEFINITIONS

see about take the responsibility to do something; make arrangements for

Let's have a picnic on Sunday. I'll see about the food.