

English Colloquialism
With Chinese Translation

英汉双解俗语手册

潘惠霞 等编

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前 言

《英汉双解俗语手册》是为了帮助广大读者(学生、参加英语各类考试人员,出国留学或工作人员及英语爱好者)解决英语俗语在课文中、试题中、交际中及阅读中造成的理解困难而编写的。本书收集了约一千条英语俗语,每一俗语除英汉两种释义外,列有例子及附有中文译文。我们这样编写主要是为了让读者能够准确无误地理解和运用辞条,成为读者的良师益友。

在英语学习中我们常常会碰到这样的问题:所读或听到的英语句子尽管没有生词却仍令人费解。例如:“He laughed on the wrong side of the face”在这个句子中,每个单词都不生疏,可是这句话是什么意思呢?是不是“他的另半边脸笑了”?不是,它的意思是“转喜为忧”。再例如:a piece of cake,(小菜一碟);a hard nut to crack(棘手的人或事);to get one's feet wet(刚开始从事某件事),等等。这些句子在英语中运用甚广,尤其在口语中。学会了这个俗语,不仅能帮助读者解决应试中(如听力、阅读)所出现的英语俗语的理解问题,如果能运用到口语中,其英语将令人刮目相看。

本书在编写过程中,我们曾参考了许多国内外有关书籍,难以一一列出,谨表示深切的谢意。

《英汉双解俗语手册》编写人员为了使本书具有可靠性，特聘请在西安外国语学院任教的唐纳德·斯格拉格斯教授（美籍）作了审阅工作，在此特表示感谢。

编 者

一九九五年四月

A

a bed of roses:

a pleasant easy place or job; an easy life

舒适的地方、工作或生活

Living with the king is not a bed of roses.

伴君如伴虎，可不是件好事。

a big shot:

very important person

重要人物

—Who is the man in the front?

—He is a big shot from the USA.

—前面的那个人是谁?

—他是个从美国来的大人物。

a bolt out of the blue:

something sudden and unexpected; an event that you did not

anticipate happening; a great surprise; shock

震惊, 惊讶, 晴天霹雳

His decision to resign was a bolt from the blue.

他要辞职的决定简直是一个晴天霹雳。

a feather in one's cap:

something to be proud of; an honor

值得骄傲的成绩; 荣誉

He's a feather in John's cap to be chosen captain of the football team.

约翰被选为足球队长后是他的一大荣誉。

a fish out of water:

a person who is out of his proper place in life; someone who does not fit in.

不得其所的人;局促不安的人

She was the only girl at the party not in a formal dress and she felt like a fish out of water.

舞会上就她穿着不得当,所以她觉得局促不安。

a hard nut to crack:

something difficult to understand or to do

棘手的问题(难对付的人)

—Is algebra lesson easy for you?

—No, it is always a hard nut to crack.

—代数课对你来说容易吗?

—不容易,这门课对我总是一件令人头疼的事。

a Jack of all trades:

a person who undertakes many kinds of work, but is not expert

样样能做但样样不精的人;万事通,万金油

—It seems Tom knows everything.

—He is a Jack of all trades.

—汤姆好象什么都懂。

—他什么都懂一点但什么都不精。

a lame duck:

a person who has finished a term in a job and can not continue

下台之后的人;失利的人;无权势的人

John was not reelected to his position. He is a lame duck.
约翰没再当选于他原来的工作,成了一个无权无势的人。

a leap in the dark:

an attempt to do something the result of which cannot be foreseen

冒险做某事的企图

—Shall we go and kidnap his daughter?

—No, it's a leap in the dark.

—我们去绑架他的女儿怎么样?

—不,这一步太冒险了。

a live wire:

a person who is full of energy and enthusiasm

(指人)精力充沛;生龙活虎

Although Mary is 50 years old, she is still a live wire.

尽管玛丽已经五十岁了,她仍然精力充沛。

a man/woman of the world:

a man/woman who is very sophisticated and experienced

精于世故、阅历丰富的人

—Sophia always succeeds in her management of her company.

—She is a woman of the world.

—索菲亚总能成功地管理她的公司。

—她是一个精于世故,阅历丰富的人。

a month of sundays:

a long time

很长时间

She insists on painting the house herself in her free time,
even if it takes her a month of Sundays.

即使要花好长时间,她仍坚持自己有空时刷房子。

a night-bird:

a person who likes to stay up late at night

夜猫子

It is not good to be a night-bird. Staying up late does a lot of
harm to the health.

当夜猫子并不好。熬夜是很伤身体的。

a night-cap:

a drink before going to bed

睡前喝的饮料

What shall we have for a night-cap?

我们睡前喝点什么?

a pie in the sky:

an empty promise; a false hope

空头支票,空中馅饼

—The manager told us that we would be promoted soon, if
we worked harder.

—That's a pie in the sky.

—经理对我们说如果干的好,我们就能晋升。

—那不过是一张空头支票。

a pig in a poke:

something (an idea) accepted or bought without looking at it
carefully

瞎买的东西,或不经调查就接受的观点

—I was told that we could buy clothes by mail in some places.

—I don't like this. Buying clothes by mail is buying a pig in a poke.

—我听说有些地方可以邮寄购衣。

—我不喜欢这种方式,那等于瞎买一气。

a pretty kettle of fish:

an unpleasant or awkward state of affairs

窘境,困境

He had two flat tires and no spare on a country road at night, which was certainly a pretty kettle of fish.

在夜晚的乡村小路上,他的两只轮胎没气了,又没有备用的,这实在是糟糕极了。

a rolling stone:

a person who is always in motion; a person who changes his mind or job all the time

见异思迁的人;无固定职业的人

—Uncle Tom has changed his job again.

—I know. He is a rolling stone.

—汤姆叔又调工作了。

—我知道。他这个人干什么都见异思迁。

a rubberneck:

travelers or tourists who often move their heads from side to side when they are visiting

不停转动头部,左顾右盼的旅游者,观光者

I saw a couple of rubbernecks downtown this morning, who

seemed to be interested in everything here.

我今早在城里见了几个左顾右盼的游客，好象他们对这里的一切都很感兴趣。

a sight for sore eyes:

something or somebody you are expecting; a very pleasing sight

愿意见到的人或物

After our long and dusty hike, the pond was a sight for sore eyes.

在风尘仆仆的远足之后，水塘成了我们望眼欲穿的东西。

a silk tongue:

good at talking

三寸不烂之舌

The salesman had a silk tongue and could flatter silly women to buying things they could not afford.

这个做生意的长着一三条三寸不烂之舌，他能甜言密语地说服愚蠢的女人来买本不该买的东西。

a sugar daddy:

an older, well-to-do man, who gives money and gifts to a younger woman or girl usually in exchange for sexual favors
送豪华礼品或钱给少女们以取得其欢心的上年纪的阔佬

Cathy got a gold necklace from her sugar daddy.

凯瑟从她的老情夫那里得了一条金项链。

a wet blanket:

a person or thing that keeps others from enjoying life
煞风景的人或事；令人扫兴的人或事

—Why didn't you invite Bob to the party last night?

—He is always a wet blanket.

—你为什么昨晚没有邀请鲍勃参加舞会?

—他太煞风景了。

after a fashion:

not very well or properly; poorly

不高明地, 不合适地, 差劲的

He played tennis, after a fasion.

他网球打得不高明。

The roof kept the rain out, after a fasion.

这屋顶挡不住雨。

after one's own heart:

Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interests, and ideas; to your liking

正中下怀; 志同道合

What you said is after my own heart.

你所说的正合吾意。

She is a girl after my own heart. That's why I want to marry her.

她与我志同道合, 所以我想和她结婚。

all at sea:

completely confused

全然不懂, 不知所措, 迷惑不解

He was all at sea when he began his new job.

他开始新工作时, 茫然不知所措。

all in the same boat:

in the same situation; share same risks

在同样的处境中;冒一样的险

—I am now deep in debt because of the illness.

—We are in the same boat.

—由于疾病我现在债台高筑。

—我也和你一样。

all thumbs:

awkward; clumsy

笨手笨脚

Harry tried to fix the chair, but he was all thumbs.

哈利想修理这张椅子,但他手脚太笨。

an eyesore:

something that is disgusting

令人厌恶的人或物

That boy is an eyesore. Take him out and wash him.

那孩子真令人厌恶,带他出去洗洗吧。

an old hand:

a person with rich experience

老手,经验丰富的人

—Can we trust the work to him?

—Sure. He is an old hand.

—我们能把这项工作委托给他吗?

—没问题,他已经是个老手了。

apple of one's eye:

a cherished person or object

心肝,宝贝,掌上明珠

Her mother won't let anybody touch the vase. It's the apple of her eye.

她母亲从不让任何人去动她的花瓶,这是她的心肝宝贝。

Charles is the apple of his mother's eye.

查理是他母亲的掌上明珠。

around the clock:

24 hours; day and night

一整天

He looked pale because he worked around the clock yesterday.

他由于昨天工作了整整一天脸很苍白。

around the corner:

soon to happen; close by; near at hand

即将发生,很近,垂手可得

Today is December 27 and the New Year's Day is around the corner.

今天已经是十二月二十七日了,新年就在眼前了。

ask for the moon:

to want something that you cannot reach or have

想得到难以得到的东西;异想天开

Mary asked her husband to buy her a necklace worth \$5,000 today. She was always asking for the moon.

玛丽今天让丈夫给她买串价值五千美金的项链,她常常异想天开。

at bay:

in a place where you can no longer run away; unable to go

back further

无法逃脱的地方;死胡同

She felt helpless because she was held at bay by the man.

她被逼进了死胡同,因此,她绝望了。

at odds:

in conflict or disagreement

意见不一致;不协和

—Why did they divorce soon after they got married?

—They found themselves at odds about life styles.

—他们刚结婚怎么就离婚了?

—他们发现生活方式差异很大。

at one's elbow:

close beside you; nearby

在附近;在身边

He is so fond of his dog that he keeps it at his elbow wherever he goes.

他非常喜欢他的狗,他走到哪儿就把它带到哪儿。

at one's fingertips:

within easy reach; nearby

手头,身边

—Mike did an excellent job in his reporting.

—Yes. He had all the statistics at his fingertips.

—迈克的报告充分极了。

—是的,所有的统计数字他全能报出来。

at one's feet:

under one's influence or power

拜倒在某人足下

She had a dozen men at her feet.

许多人拜倒在她石榴裙下。

Micheal Jackson's voice kept audience at his feet.

麦克·杰克逊的歌声使许多观众为之倾倒。

at one's heels:

close behind; as a constant follower or companion

跟在身后;追随或伴随左右

The little girl is always at the heels of her parents.

这个女孩总是跟在父母身边。

at one's wit's end:

having no ideas as to how to meet a difficulty or solve a problem; not knowing what to do

黔驴技穷;无计可施

I was at my wit's end when I found the exam beyond my ability.

当我发现这次考试远远超过我的能力范围时,我感到黔驴技穷,无可奈何。

at sixes and sevens:

in a state of disorder or confusion

乱七八糟

He apologized because his wife was away and the house was at sixes and sevens.

由于妻子外出未归家里乱七八糟,为此,他深表歉意。

at the drop of a hat:

immediately, without waiting,

立即,立刻

If you call him, he will come at the drop of a hat.

你如果给他打电话,他会立即来的。

at the eleventh hour:

at the last minute; almost late

在最后时刻,在几乎太迟的时候

I managed to find the little stream nearby and got some water at the eleventh hour.

我设法找到了附近的一条小溪,在我快渴死的时候找到了水。

at the tip of one's tongue:

at the point of being said

差一点说出口

It was at the tip of his tongue to break the news when his friend stopped him.

他刚要把这个消息告诉大家,他的朋友阻止了他。

B

babe in the woods:

a person who is inexperienced or innocent in certain things

指人在某方面一无所知

John is a good driver, but as a mechanic he is just a babe in the woods.

约翰是一位出色的司机,但他对汽车维修则是一无所知。

back and fill:

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