

A NEW DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH PROVERBS

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New Dictionary
of English
Proverbs**

**新英语
谚语词典**

曾东京 主编



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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

新英语谚语词典/曾东京主编. —上海: 上海大学出版社, 2009. 4

ISBN 978-7-81118-382-5

I. 新… II. 曾… III. 英语—谚语—词典 IV. H313.3-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2008)第 191489 号

责任编辑 张芝佳 陈 强

封面设计 朱静蔚

技术编辑 金 鑫 章 斐

新英语谚语词典

曾东京 主编

苏 珊 参编

上海大学出版社出版发行

(上海市上大路 99 号 邮政编码 200444)

(<http://www.shangdapress.com> 发行热线 66135110)

出版人: 姚铁军

*

南京展望文化发展有限公司排版

上海华业装璜印刷厂印刷 各地新华书店经销

开本 787×960 1/32 印张 12.5 字数 280 000

2009 年 4 月第 1 版 2009 年 4 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1~5100

ISBN 978-7-81118-382-5/H·179 定价: 16.80 元

前 言

《新英语谚语词典》(*A New Dictionary of English Proverbs*)共收英语谚语 1 635 条。

本谚语词典之所以自命为“新”，理由有六：

首先，有一个新而全的英谚翻译原则。以前所出的英谚辞书对英谚汉译的具体原则似乎并不统一，翻译实践中尤甚。有的只有意译没有直译；有的有直译，没有意译；有的虽有直译与意译，但却费解，没有加注。我们的英谚汉译的原则为：能直译的一律直译；能直译而又有引申义的，应直译加意译；直译或意译后在理解时易产生歧义或有费解之处的，应采取加注的方法。因为直译能保持原作的“风姿”，体现其鲜明的民族特色；意译能发挥原作的内涵，阐述其哲理思想；加注则能使原作之义更加明确，从而深化理解。

其次，本词典收译了其他同类英语谚语辞书所未收译的一大批英语谚语，尤其是古代的英语谚语，起了一种很好的补充作用。

再者，本词典的释义较其他同类英语谚语辞书

详尽。很多英谚辞书只有汉译,没有注释。有的即使有,也不多,这显然不利于读者对英谚的掌握与理解。英谚的语法与常规的语句有所不同,措辞有所不同,历史演变多端,使用场合各异,其中不少若不加注往往会误导读者,起不到词典应有的作用。

第四,本词典收录了部分人云亦云、以讹传讹的常用英语谚语,并予正译,以正视听。

第五,为了检索方便、快捷多途,除按字母排序的索引外,我们还编制了“英语名词、动词索引”,以适合各种读者的需要,而这种索引为一般英谚词典所无。

第六,本词典体例说明较详细,弥补了英汉谚语词典无体例说明的弊病。

本词典的译注只是一种尝试,未尽之处谅必有之,敬请读者批评与指教。

主 编

二〇〇九年一月

凡 例

1. 本词典收译英语谚语 1 635 条。就形式而言,绝大多数为完整句,也包括一些国内外公认的、被当作谚语使用的成语化的谚语。就内容而言,绝大多数或未被先前的英汉谚语词典与综合性英汉语文词典所收录,或人云亦云、以讹传讹,或在其他辞书中的汉译不甚符合英谚翻译原则。

2. 本词典条目按字母顺序编排。若第一个字母相同,则取决于第二个字母顺序,以此类推。以定冠词开头的英谚也以此顺序编排。条目索引及正文中的每条条目均用阿拉伯数字编号。

3. 本词典条目内容由以下部分组成:

(1) 英语谚语,如: Talk of the devil and he will appear.

(2) 英谚异体,如: ⑤ Speak of the devil and he is sure to appear.

(3) 汉语直译,如: 说到鬼,鬼就到。

(4) 汉语意译,如: ▷说到某人,某人就到。

(5) 注释,如: ⑥ 此谚翻译切忌汉化,通译“说到曹操,曹操就到”不妥。

(6) 参见和比较,如: ⑦ Beauty lies in lover's eyes.

㊦ All is not gold at glitters.

其中(2)、(4)、(5)、(6)不一定每条都具备,但(1)与(3)是必备的。

4. 英谚汉译均以直译在前,意译在后,中间用“▷”分隔。直译或意译有两个或两个以上的,则用分号隔开,结束时标以句号。

5. 注释的内容包括不常用的词、句型、古英语用语、典故、来源、分析、点评、介绍、比较、引用,等等。注释中所使用的略语如下:【讽】指讽刺语,【谚】指谚语,【古】指古语,【口】指口语,【书】指书面语,【方】指方言,【诗】指诗歌用语。

6. 注释中对某些词的解释参考其他文献的,均用缩写形式注明文献名称,如《现汉》指《现代汉语词典》,ALD指 *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English*。具体文献信息及其缩写形式请见“参考文献”。

7. 条目中“[]”表示其中的内容可替换上文内容;“()”表示其中的内容是对上下文内容的补充说明。

8. “英语名词、动词索引”按字母顺序排序,词后括号内的数字表示含有该词的英语谚语的编号。

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条 目 索 引

1. A bad compromise is better than a good lawsuit.
..... (1)
2. A bad penny always turns up. (1)
3. A bad thing is dear at any price. (1)
4. A bald head is soon shaven. (1)
5. A barber learns to shave by shaving fools. (1)
6. A bird is known by its note. (2)
7. A black hen lays a white egg. (2)
8. A blind man may perchance hit the mark. (2)
9. A blind man will not thank you for a looking-glass.
..... (2)
10. A bow long bent at last waxeth weak. (2)
11. A carrion kite will never make a good hawk. (2)
12. A cat always falls on its legs. (2)
13. A cat in mittens catches no mice. (2)
14. A cat may look at a king. (3)
15. Accidents will happen in the best regulated families.
..... (3)
16. A clean hand wants no washing. (3)
17. A close mouth catches no flies. (3)

18. A cold hand and a warm heart. (3)
19. A constant guest is never welcome. (3)
20. A courageous foe is better than a cowardly friend.
..... (3)
21. A covetous man does nothing that he should, till he
dies. (4)
22. A creaking door hangs on its hinges. (4)
23. A crooked log makes a strait fire. (4)
24. A curst dog must be tied short. (4)
25. Adam's sons, conceived all and born in sin. (4)
26. A danger foreseen, is half avoided. (5)
27. A dead dog cannot bite. (5)
28. A dishonest woman cannot be kept in, and an
honest one will not. (5)
29. A drowning man will catch at a rush [straw]. (5)
30. A dry March, wet April and cool May. (5)
31. A dumb man never gets land. (5)
32. Adversity is the school of wisdom. (6)
33. Adversity makes strange bedfellows. (6)
34. A fair face may hide a foul heart. (6)
35. A fair wife and a frontier castle breed quarrels. (6)
36. A fair woman without virtue is like palled wine. (6)
37. A fat belly, a lean brain. (6)
38. A fat kitchen is near to poverty. (6)
39. A fool may ask more questions in an hour than a wise
man may answer in a year. (7)
40. A fool may put somewhat in a wise body's head.
..... (7)

41. A fool's heart dances on his lips. (7)
42. Afore warn'd, afore arm'd. (7)
43. A forgetful head makes a weary pair of heels. (7)
44. A friend in need is a friend in deed. (7)
45. A friend in the way is better than a penny in the
purse. (8)
46. A friend is never known but in time of need. (8)
47. A friend to all is a friend to none. (8)
48. After a great getter comes a great spender. (8)
49. After a storm comes a calm. (8)
50. After a thrifty father a prodigal son. (8)
51. After death the doctor. (8)
52. After dinner comes the reckoning. (8)
53. After dinner sit a while; after supper walk a mile.
..... (9)
54. After meat comes mustard. (9)
55. After scorning comes catching. (9)
56. After sweet meat comes sour sauce. (9)
57. After the verb to love, to help is the most beautiful
verb in the world. (9)
58. After the work is done, repose is sweet. (9)
59. Age and wedlock we all desire and repent of. (9)
60. Age is a heavy burden. (10)
61. A gift, long waited for, is sold, not given. (10)
62. A good beginning makes a good ending. (10)
63. A good conscience is a soft pillow. (10)
64. A good death is far better and more eligible than
an ill life. (10)

65. A good friend is a treasure. (10)
66. A good friend is my nearest relation. (11)
67. A good lawyer makes an evil neighbor. (11)
68. A good marksman may miss. (11)
69. A good mind possesses a kingdom. (11)
70. A good name is better than riches. (11)
71. A good neighbor is a good good-morrow. (11)
72. A good pinch and a rap with a stick is a clown's
compliment. (11)
73. A good thing lost, is a good thing valued. (12)
74. A great city, a great solitude. (12)
75. A great lord is a bad neighbor. (12)
76. A great talker is a great liar. (12)
77. A ground sweat cures all disorders. (12)
78. Agues come on horseback, but go away on foot.
..... (12)
79. A healthy mind in a healthy body. (13)
80. A honey tongue is a heart of gall. (13)
81. A horse hired, never tired. (13)
82. A horse stumbles that has four legs. (13)
83. A hungry belly has no ears. (13)
84. A hungry dog will not cry, if you beat him with a
bone. (13)
85. A hungry man, an angry man. (13)
86. Air coming in at a window, is as bad a crossbow
shot. (14)
87. A king's favor is no inheritance. (14)
88. A liar is not believed, when he speaks the truth.

- (14)
89. A liar should have a good memory. (14)
90. A lie has no legs. (14)
91. A light purse makes a heavy heart. (14)
92. A lion may be beholden to a mouse. (14)
93. A little ater [venom] bittereth much sweet. (15)
94. A little bird wants but a little nest. (15)
95. A little is better than none. (15)
96. A little kitchen makes a large house. (15)
97. A little learning [knowledge] is a dangerous thing.
..... (15)
98. A little too wise, they say, do ne'er live long.
..... (16)
99. All are good lasses, but whence come the bad
wives? (16)
100. All are not hunters that blow the horn. (16)
101. All are not merry that dance lightly. (16)
102. All asses wag their ears. (16)
103. All bread is not baked in one oven. (17)
104. All cats love fish but fear to wet their paws. (17)
105. All covet, all lose. (17)
106. All flowers are not in one garland. (17)
107. All good things go by threes. (17)
108. All his [one's] geese are swans. (17)
109. All is fair in love and war. (17)
110. All is fish that comes to the net. (18)
111. All is gay that is green. (18)
112. All is not gold that glitters. (18)

113. All is not lost that is delayed. (18)
114. All is not lost that's in peril [danger]. (18)
115. All is well with him who is beloved of his
neighbors. (19)
116. All men are created equal. (19)
117. All men are free of other men's goods. (19)
118. All's alike at the latter day: a bag of gold and wisp
of hay. (19)
119. All that lives must die. (19)
120. All things change, and we change with them.
..... (19)
121. All things whatever ye would that men should not
do to you, do ye even not to them. (19)
122. All truth are not to be told. (19)
123. All your swans are geese. (20)
124. "Almost" was never hanged. (20)
125. Alms-giving never made any man poor. (20)
126. A long tongue is a sign of a short hand. (20)
127. A lord without riches is a soldier without arms.
..... (20)
128. Always taking out of the meal tub and never
putting in, soon comes to the bottom. (20)
129. Always the same old story. (20)
130. A man cannot live by air. (21)
131. A man can only die once. (21)
132. A man is not so soon healed as hurt. (21)
133. A man may lead a horse to the water, but he
cannot make him drink, unless he will. (21)

-
134. A man of many trades begs his bread on Sundays.
..... (21)
135. A man of straw is worth a woman of gold. (21)
136. A man's country is where he does well. (21)
137. A man's hat in his hand, never did him any harm.
..... (21)
138. A man were better be half blind, than have both
his eyes out. (22)
139. A man without money is a bow without an arrow.
..... (22)
140. A married man turns his staff into a stake. (22)
141. Amen is not said after an unacceptable prayer.
..... (22)
142. A merry companion on the road is as good as a
nag. (22)
143. A miss is as good as a mile. (23)
144. Among the blind a one-eyed man is king. (23)
145. An ape's an ape, a varlet's a varlet, though they be
clad in silk or scarlet. (23)
146. An artist lives everywhere. (24)
147. An ass is but an ass, though haden with gold.
..... (24)
148. And with what measure ye meet, it shall be
measured to you again. (24)
149. An egg is better to day, than a pullet to morrow.
..... (24)
150. An empty bag cannot stand upright. (24)
151. An empty hand is no lure for a hawk. (24)

152. An empty purse and a new house make a man wise,
but too late. (24)
153. An Englishman's home is his castle. (24)
154. An evening red and morning grey will set the
traveler on his way. (25)
155. A new broom sweeps clean. (25)
156. Anger can not stand, without a strong hand. (25)
157. An idle brain is the evil's shop. (25)
158. An ill agreement is better than a good judgment.
..... (25)
159. An inch breaks no square. (26)
160. An injury graves itself in metal, but a benefit
writes itself in water. (26)
161. An oak is not fell'd at one chop. (26)
162. A nod is as good as a wink to a blind horse. (26)
163. Anoint a clown and he'll grip you. (26)
164. An old bird is not caught with chaff. (27)
165. An old dog will learn no new tricks. (27)
166. An old ox makes a straight furrow. (27)
167. An old ox will find a shelter for himself. (27)
168. An old physician, a young lawyer. (27)
169. An old wise man's shadow is better than a young
buzzard's sword. (27)
170. An open door may tempt a saint. (27)
171. An ounce of luck is worth a pound of wisdom.
..... (28)
172. An over-taxed patience gives way to fierce anger.
..... (28)

173. An ox is taken by the horns, and a man by the
tongue. (28)
174. An unbidden guest knoweth not where to sit. (28)
175. An unfortunate man would be drowned in a
teacup. (28)
176. A penny saved [gained, earned] is a penny got.
..... (28)
177. A poor man has no friends. (29)
178. A poor man wants some things, a covetous man all
things. (29)
179. A pound of care will not pay an ounce of debt.
..... (29)
180. Appearances are deceptive. (29)
181. Appetite comes with eating. (29)
182. April rains for men [corn]; May, for beasts [for
grass]. (29)
183. A prophet is not without honor save in his own
country. (29)
184. A ragged colt may make a good horse. (30)
185. A rainbow in the morning, is the shepherd's
warning; a rainbow at night, is the shepherd's
delight. (30)
186. A red beard and a black head catch him with a
good trick and take him dead. (30)
187. A rolling stone gathers no moss. (30)
188. A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.
..... (30)
189. Art hath an enemy called ignorance. (30)