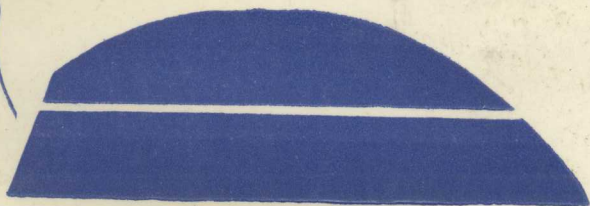


【英】A. J. 沃尔编 D. G. 索尔修订 冯卓译



342



# 日常英语习用语

ENGLISH IDIOMS FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS



南京大学出版社

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English Idioms for  
Foreign Students

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冯卓 高晓纲 译

责任编辑:李光中

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## 译者序

英语习用语为英语中的核心和精华。随着英语的普及和国际交往的需要,广大英语爱好者都希望能掌握一些日常生活和文艺作品中常遇到的英语习用语,但英语习用语比较特殊,与其中心词的原义相距甚大,常不易为读者掌握,尤其难掌握的是不同的习用语所使用的不同场合,以及不同习用语所具有的不同色彩。本书为英国 A. J. Worrall 多年研究英美人士使用各种习用语的习惯和场合写就的。他在每条习用语后都标明了所属的不同语型,这样可以帮助读者正确理解和灵活使用该习用语。在每个习用语后均配置了一个或数个例句。例句语言地道、简明实用。此外,本书共分为十章,以便读者查阅。在每个章节后都配备了各种练习,书后并附有练习答案,可供读者测试自己对习用语的理解和掌握情况。本书内容和形式新颖,条理清晰,简洁易懂,记忆方便,学之能用,实为大,中学生,一般英语学习者和英语工作者的良师益友。

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## 一. 动物、昆虫、鸟、鱼

习用语	语 型	例 句
<b>ass about</b> 疯疯颠颠, 装疯 卖傻	s	Those boys are not working; they are just <b>assing</b> about. 那些孩子什么事都不干; 他们 尽在疯疯颠颠。
<b>ass about with</b> 乱弄, 瞎弄	s	Don't <b>ass</b> about with the tele- vision; You'll break it. 不要瞎弄电视机; 你会把它 搞坏的。
<b>an ass</b> 傻瓜, 傻头傻脑 的人	c	Look what you're doing ,you silly <b>ass</b> ; you're spilling your tea! 瞧你在干什么, 你这个傻瓜; 你把茶拨翻了!
<b>make an ass of</b> <b>oneself</b> 做傻事, 出洋相	c	He was not used to public speaking and made a complete <b>ass</b> of himself. 他不习惯在大庭广众之下讲 话, 所以出尽了洋相。
<b>badger</b> 纠缠	c	If you <b>badger</b> him long enough I'm sure he'll agree. 如果你纠缠住他不放, 我肯

as blind as a bat 半瞎, 看不清楚	c	定他会同意的。 Without my glasses I'm as blind as a bat. 不戴眼镜我简直成了半瞎子。
have bats in the belfry 异想天开; 傻里傻气	s	Don't take any notice of his theories; he's got bats in the belfry. 别去听他的理论; 他常有些异想天开。
be bats (or batty) 发疯, 神经有毛病	s	If you think I'm going to lend you money, you must be bats. 如果你认为我会借给你钱, 那你的神经肯定有毛病了。
a bear 脾气坏或态度不好的人	g	That old man is a bear; he's always grumbling. 那个老人脾气不好; 他总在咕咕哝哝。
be like a bear with a sore head 暴跳如雷, 发怒	c	What's wrong with you today? You're like a bear with a sore head! 你今天怎么啦? 这么暴跳如雷!
a beast 凶狠, 残忍的人	g	Just look the way he treats his wife! He's a beast. 只要看看他对老婆的那付德

make a **beast** of  
oneself

贪婪, 穷凶极恶

a **bee**                      g(美国用)  
聚在一起工作或  
娱乐

as busy as a **bee**                      c  
忙碌不停

have a **bee** in  
one's bonnet                      c  
一门心思, 苦思  
冥想

make a **bee-line**                      c  
for

性! 有多凶狠。

(jokingly) Give me one of  
your sweets; don't be a **beast**!  
(开玩笑地) 给我一块糖吧;  
不要那么狠心!

The man made a **beast** of him-  
self and left nothing for his  
companions.

这个人贪婪地大吃大喝, 没  
留一点给他的同伴们。

The women of the village are  
having a sewing **bee** tonight.  
村里的妇女今晚要聚在一起  
做针线。

Whenever they have guests for  
dinner she's as busy as a **bee**  
all day long.

只要他们有客人来吃饭, 她  
就要整天忙碌不停。

Since he became treasurer of  
the club he has had a **bee** in his  
bonnet about economy.

自从他开始掌管俱乐部的财  
务, 他就一门心思考虑经济。

As soon as I got to the party I  
made a **bee-line** for the bar.



直线前进;走捷  
径

**beef**

c

力量;肌肉

我一到宴会厅,就径直奔向  
餐柜去。

He can lift it alone; he's got  
plenty of beef.

他一人就能把它举起;他真  
是力大无穷。

**beef (about)**

s

发牢骚

Stop beefing about your  
headache and get on with your  
work!

别唠叨你的头痛,快干活吧!

**beefy**

c

强壮,(身体)棒

You're a beefy chap; you  
don't need a porter for your  
luggage.

你这家伙身体真棒;扛行李  
用不着搬运工。

**a bird**

s

姑娘

Bill is taking his bird to the  
pictures tonight.

比尔今晚要带个姑娘上电影  
院。

a bird in the hand  
is worth two in  
the bush

p

双鸟在林不如一  
鸟在手;现得为  
上

If you invest this money, you  
might make a fortune; but a  
bird in the hand is worth two  
in the bush.

如果你把这钱投资,你可能  
会发财;但总没有拿在手里  
稳当。

the **bird** is (or has  
 ) flown

要捉的人(或罪犯)逃之夭夭

give (an actor)  
 the **bird**

对(演员)发嘘声  
(表示轻蔑)

**birds** of a feather  
 flock together

物以类聚,人以  
群分

Kill two **birds**  
 with one stone

一箭双雕

a little **bird** told  
 me

听说

a **bird** of passage  
 漂泊不定的人

f

When the police arrived to  
 make the arrest, the **bird** had  
 flown.

当警察来逮捕时,罪犯已逃  
之夭夭。

s

When he forgot his lines the  
 audience gave him the **bird**.

当他忘了台词时,观众对他  
发嘘声。

p

You say his fiancée is also a  
 poet? Well, **birds** of a feather  
 flock together.

你说他的未婚妻也是一个诗  
人? 是啊,物以类聚,人以群  
分啊。

p

I killed two birds with one  
 stone by going to the bank on  
 my way to the shops.

我到店里去的路又顺便去  
了银行,真是一箭双雕。

c

A little **bird** told me your wife  
 is expecting a baby.

听说你的妻子怀孕了。

f

He was a **bird** of passage until  
 he married and bought a  
 house.

a bird's-eye view

g

鸟瞰

他一直漂泊不定,后来才结婚并购置了房子。

You get a good **bird's-eye** view of the town from the top of the church tower.

从教堂顶上你可以清楚地鸟瞰全城。

a bitch

s

脾气坏的女人,  
坏女人

She can be a **bitch** when she thinks she is being treated unfairly.

当她认为自己受到不公正待遇时,她也会大发淫威。

like a bull in a china shop

c

动辄闯祸,莽莽撞撞

The workman stamped around the kitchen like a **bull** in a china shop.

这个匠人在厨房里跺着脚走路,碰碰就闯祸。

like a red rag to a bull

c

使人愤怒;令人烦恼

To a bank manager, carelessness in money matters is like a red rag to a **bull**.

对一个银行经理来说,谁在钱财上掉以轻心常会使他暴跳如雷。

take the bull by the horns

g

不畏艰险,挺身

He decided to take the **bull** by the horns and confess to the police.

而出

have **butterflies** in  
one's stomach  
感到紧张

**calf-love**  
the straw that  
breaks the **camel'**  
s back

最后加上的一个  
使人再也忍受不  
了的细小因素、  
负担等

play **cat** and  
**mouse** with  
欲擒故纵

a **cat**  
心地狠毒的女人

a **cat** may look at

他决定挺身而出,向警方坦  
白。

I had **butterflies** in my stom-  
ach for an hour or so before I  
was due to make my speech.  
轮到我发言前大约一个小  
时,我感到很紧张。

见 **puppy-love**  
When he told me the difficult  
job had to be finished by noon  
, it was the straw that breaks  
the **camel's** back.

当她对我说这个艰难的工作  
必须在中午以前完成时,我  
再也不能忍受了。

The police played **cat** and  
**mouse** with the gang in the  
hope of catching them all at  
once.

警察对这些歹徒欲擒故纵,  
希望能把他们一起抓住。

Don't listen to her gossip ;  
she's a **cat**.

不要听信她的流言蜚语;她  
是一个心地狠毒的女人。

He is only the office-boy but

a king

小人物有时也会有点权

not ( enough )  
room to swing a  
cat

地方狭窄得没有  
活动余地,无立  
锥之地

let the cat out of  
the bag  
泄露秘密,露马  
脚

wait for the cat to  
jump ( or see  
which way the  
cat will jump )  
观察形势,伺机  
而动

rain cats and dogs  
倾盆大雨

we should listen to what he  
says. A cat may look at a  
king.

他只是一个办公室的杂勤  
工,但我们必须听从他的话。  
小人物有时也会有些权。

After we had got all our furni-  
ture into the flat, there wasn't  
enough room to swing a cat.

当我们把所有的家俱都搬进  
公寓之后,地方狭窄得无立  
锥之地。

Their engagement was to be a  
secret but the ring on her fin-  
ger let the cat out of the bag.

他们的订婚是保密的,但她  
手指上的戒指却露了马脚。

Cautious politicians always  
wait for the cat to jump before  
agreeing with any proposal.

谨慎的政治家总是先观望一  
下形势,再对提议表示同意。

It rained cats and dogs all day  
and we could not go out.

下了一整天的倾盆大雨,所

a <b>cat-and-dog</b> life	c	以我们就无法出门了。
(夫妻间)经常吵 闹的生活		They have led a <b>cat-and-dog</b> life ever since they were married.
a <b>cat-burglar</b>	s	自从他们结婚之后,他们一 •直吵吵闹闹。
惯从屋顶侵入的 窃贼		The robbery in the top flat was obviously the work of a <b>cat-burglar</b> .
<b>catty</b>	s	公寓顶屋的盗窃很明显是惯 从屋顶侵入的窃贼干的。
恶毒的;爱散布 流言蜚语的		Don't be <b>catty</b> , it's none of your business where she gets her clothes.
<b>chicken</b>	s	不要说三道四;她在哪里弄 到这些衣服,不关你的事。
胆小的人,懦夫		His friends said he was <b>chicken</b> when he refused to take part in the robbery.
no <b>chicken</b>	s	他不肯参加抢劫,他的朋友 们说他是胆小鬼。
不年轻了,半老 徐娘		She's no <b>chicken</b> . She's forty if she's a day!
play <b>chicken</b>	s	她已不年轻了,她足足有四十 岁了。
		The youths were playing

## 互相挑战和威胁

**chicken out (of)**

退出(危险的事情), 临阵逃跑

s

**chicken** by standing in the path of fast-moving cars.

这些年轻人站在高速汽车道上互相挑战。

The bank robbery was all planned, but one of the gang **chickened out**.

银行抢劫安排就绪, 但一个歹徒临阵逃跑了。

**count one's**

**chickens** before

they are hatched

打如意算盘

p

You think you have won the election, but don't count your **chickens** before they are hatched.

你认为你已在这次选举中取胜, 别打如意算盘。

**chicken-feed**

小额钱币; 九牛一毛

s

To a man as rich as he is, £50 is **chicken-feed**.

对他这么个有钱人来说, 50英镑只是九牛一毛。

**chicken-hearted**

胆小如鼠, 十分胆小

f

The soldiers proved themselves **chicken-hearted** and ran away.

这些士兵原来十分胆小, 终于逃跑了。

till the cows come home

s

If you're waiting for a bus, you'll have to wait till the

很久,无限期地

**crabby**

脾气坏的,易怒的

**crocodile tears**

假哭;假慈悲

**as the crow flies**

笔直地,按直线地

**as dead as a dodo**

完全过时了(dodo 是产于毛里求斯,现已绝迹的渡渡鸟)

**dog (or dog someone's footsteps)**

c

g

g

c

c

**cows** come home. They're on strike.

如果你等公共汽车的话,你要等很久。因为公共汽车工人在罢工。

You're very **crabby** today.

What have I done wrong?

你今天脾气坏透了,我究竟做错了什么事?

He wept a few **crocodile tears** over his wife's death and then got married again at once.

他对他妻子的死假哭了一阵,马上又再结婚了。

The station is five miles away by road but only three as the **crow flies**.

走大路到车站有五英里远,但直线走只有三英里。

Fashion experts say that long skirts are as dead as a **dodo** this year.

时装专家说今年长裙子完全过时了。

Wherever I go, my little brother **dogs** my footsteps.



紧跟,跟踪

give a dog a bad name and hang him  
人言可畏

a dog in the manger  
占着茅坑不拉屎的人

love me, love my dog  
爱屋及乌

go to the dogs  
a. (人)堕落

不论我走到那里,我的小弟总是紧跟着我。

Only one newspaper mentioned him in connection with the scandal, but his career was ruined ;give a dog a bad name and hang him.

虽然只有一家报纸提到他和这桩丑闻有牵连,但他的前程就毁了;真是人言可畏。

If you don't know how to skate , why don't you give your skates to me? Don't be a dog in the manger!

如果你不会溜冰,为什么不把溜冰鞋给我呢? 不要占着茅坑不拉屎。

They both had grown-up children when they got married , so it was a case of love me, love my dog.

当他们结婚的时候,他们两个都有个成年的孩子了,这就是一个爱屋及乌的例子。

Since his wife left him, he has