美国英文日常短语

Idioms of American Everyday English

侯成源 侯艳江 编著



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内容提要

本书收集了美国人生活中常用的362条日常短语,采用生动活泼的教学方法,为所有短语提供实际生活场景,使之变成活生生的语言分别出现在42个单元的上下文中。每个重要短语都配有详尽注释和练习,同时本书还提供按字母顺序排列的词表,以便读者参考查阅。

本书(配有磁带2盘)适用于广大具有中级英语水平的学生和工作人员提高英语交际能力,尤其对各类出国人员更具参考价值。

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前言

Idioms of American Everyday English

亲爱的读者,你想提高你的口头交际能力吗?你想在工作、 商贸活动中提高你口语的影响力吗?那么,请你选用这本书。

编写此书的目的是帮助广大的学习或学过公共英语的学生 和工作人员适应我国改革开放、走向世界的发展趋势,更好地 发挥他们所学英语的作用。

在学习、生活、工作、商贸活动中,理解来自讲英语国家的人所讲的短语,甚至可以在自己的讲话中使用一些短语,不仅可以提高交际质量,而且可以使交际双方的感情更为密切,让讲英语的人感到你贴近他们。这对加入交际活动的人来说是十分有益、十分重要的。

我们把这本书叫作《美国英文日常短语》,一个原因是美国 英语在世界上相对用得多一些;另一个原因是主要的参考资料 来源于美国,主要的实际调查来源于留美中国学生。

必须说明,所谓美国英语完全不意味着只有美国人才用的英语。人们说美国英语、英国英语、澳大利亚英语,等等,只是为了强调它们各自在发音、用词上略有差异而已。因此凡学英语的人都可以学习或利用此书作参考。此外,我们将英语的IDIOMS 概括地译为短语,目的是想笼统地表达 IDIOMS 所包含的成语、俗语、地方用语、非正式语、谚语的表达形式。我们认为对 IDIOMS 做更细的分类在这里是没有意义的。

本书的编著思想是内容上实用,方法上新颖,学习上易懂、易记、易用。我们从中国留学生在美国的生活、学习、打工和正式工作中所遇见的英语交际方面的问题出发进行选材,以求做到内容实用;所谓方法上新颖是指,它既同于词典又不同于词典,既同于教科书又不同于教科书的特点。它与词典的相同之处是它是以教词语为目的,并且提供一个按字母顺序排列的词表,便于查找。它不同于词典的地方也是它最大的优点,即:本书给所有的短语提供一个语言环境,让每一个短语变成活生生的语言出现在上下文中。在语言环境中学习语言是非常成功的方法。我们知道在外语教学中有一个很有名的方法,即交际法,这种方法很重视在语言环境中学习语言。将语言环境由书面推到实际生活,这是本书与教科书相同的重要一点。

另一方面,本书像教科书一样,很注重词汇的重复原则。新词有一定量的重复,在重复中逐渐深化。

使用本书的方法。自学者在使用本书时,首先看一下本课短语,记一下每一个短语的中文释义,接着看第二部分对话,对话是每个短语出现的语言环境,这时读者可以根据上下文,进一步加深对所学短语含义的理解、加强记忆。如果读者记不起某一个短语的意思,请尽量利用上下文努力推导,猜测着回忆,不要急于回头看中文释义。第三步,看对话翻译以检查自己的理解。我们在翻译上力求灵活,目的是帮助读者灵活理解。

第四部分的短语解析是加深理解、加深记忆的,所以给了例句和例句翻译。本书的最后部分是回答问题,要求用英文理解。这么做的目的是让读者对短语的理解落实在对短语含义的理解上,而不是落实在对短语的翻译上。这么做是因为记忆词语的含义是将外语"学活"的必由之路,所以我们不注重一对一的翻译,而是注重对短语的解释。

如果能照上述的原则学习,自然就能体会到本书易懂、易记、易用的"三易"特点。

本书共42个单元, 共包括362条常用短语。

本书所使用的主要参考书有:《A Dictionary of American Idioms》(Second Edition. Edited by Adam Makkai)、《Practical Idioms》(Louis A. Berman/ Laurette Kirstein)、《All Clear! Idioms in Context》(Helen Kalkstein Fragiadakis)、《Attitudes Through Idioms》(Thomas W. Adams, Susan R. Kuder)、《Street Talk》(David Burke)、《101 American English Idioms》(Harry Collis)以及《综合英语成语词典》(厦门大学外语系);词典类有:《Webster's New World Dictionary》、《Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary》、《The Random House College Dictionary》、《Longman Dictionary of the English Language》、《Longman Modern English Dictionary》、《Longman Dictionary of Phrasal Verbs》以及《牛津英汉百科大词典》等词典。

编者 于北京

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Unit 1

Bite off more than one can chew 对自己的能力过分自信

本课短语

as a matter of fact 实际上
on top of the world 幸福到极点,得意到极点
wear more than one hat 担任多职,担任一个以上的职务
bite off more than one can chew 做力所不及的事,对自己
的能力过分自信

you can say that (it) again 你说得对,完全同意do the footwork (for) 帮……做跑腿的工作,帮做具体的活bend over backward 非常努力,竭尽全力burn oneself out (因过劳而)耗尽精力,精疲力竭

对 话

Peter: Have you seen John lately?

Nancy: Yes, I have. As a matter of fact, I saw him at the meeting yesterday. He looked like he was on top of the world and I heard that he wears more than one hat in his company now.

: I hope he doesn't bite off more than he can chew.

Nancy: You can say that again. But remember he has Mary to

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do all his footwork for him.

Peter: Poor Mary, she always bends over backward for John.

I hope she doesn't burn herself out.

对话译文

彼得: 你最近见到过约翰吗?

南希: 是的,实际上,我昨天在会上看到过他,他的样子非常得意,听说,他现在在公司里担任多个职务。

彼得: 我希望他没贪多嚼不烂。

南希: 你说得对,不过记住,他让玛丽替他做所有跑腿的工作。

彼得: 可怜的玛丽, 她总是为他不遗余力。我希望她不要耗 尽心力。

短语学习

短语解析

as a matter of fact 实际上,事实上

Jeff, you'd better go to bed early. You have to go to school tomorrow.

I don't want to go to school tomorrow. And as a matter of fact, I don't want to go all the week.

杰夫, 你最好早上床睡觉, 你明天早上要上学。

我明天不想上学。实际上、我这一周都不想上学。

I saw Mary last night driving a blue car.

It was not a blue car that Mary drove last night. As a matter of fact, she hasn't got a blue car.

昨天晚上我看见玛丽开着一辆蓝色车。

玛丽昨晚开的不是蓝车,实际上她没有蓝色车。

on top of the world 幸福到极点,得意极了,非常快乐

How does Mary feel?

The sea and the warm sun make her feel as though she was on top of the world.

玛丽感觉怎样?

大海与和煦的阳光让她快乐至极。

You look like on top of the world, don't you?

Yes, I am. I have passed the entrance exam to college.

你看上去快乐极了,是不是?

是的,我考上大学了。

wear more than one hat 担任多职

Have you heard that Bill has got promoted again?

That's not a promotion, but another hat they intend him to wear.

你听说贝尔又提升了吗?

不是提升,是人家让他担任另一个职务。

I don't think it's wise to wear more than one hat in one company.

Why not? You can earn more money if you wear more than one hat.

我不认为在一个公司里担任多职是什么明智的事。

怎么不是?如果担任多职就可以赚更多的钱。

bite off more than one can chew 做力所不及的事,对自己的能力过分自信

Did he agree to edit the book alone?

Yes, but he always bites off more than he can chew.

他同意一个人编辑这本书?

是的,不过他常做力所不及的事。

Never bite off more than you can chew.

No, I won't. I'll just do what I can afford to.

永远不要贪多嚼不烂。

是的,我从来不。我就做我能做的。

you can say that (it) again 说得对, 我完全同意

That test was really long.

You can say that again! I needed another hour.

那份试题确实长。

太对了,我多用了一个小时。

His lecture is simply a bore.

You can say that again. I left in the middle of it.

那个讲座枯燥乏味。

再对不过了,没等讲完我就走了。

do the footwork (for) 帮……做跑腿的事,帮做具体的事

Investigation entails a lot of footwork that may make you rather busy.

I like doing investigation no matter how much footwork should be done.

调研需要大量跑腿的细活,会忙得你不可开交。

我喜欢做调研,不管有多少具体的活要做。

John is a good commander and needs someone who can do the footwork for him.

Mary might be the right person for him because she's young and familiar with bus iness tactics.

约翰是个好的指挥,他需要有人替他做跑腿的活。

玛丽可能是他的一个合适人选, 因为她很年轻, 对商业事 务也熟悉。

bend over backward 非常努力,竭尽全力

Mr. Smith is going to visit your hometown tomorrow.

I'll bend over backward to make him feel at home.

史密斯先生明天将访问你们家乡。

我将竭尽全力让他感到如同在自己家里一样。

Why do you bend over backward to explain the importance of the new rules?

I don't want any of the rules to be broken while I am the manager here.

为什么你那么使劲地解释新规则的重要性? 我不希望在我当经理的时候有人违反任何规矩。

- 回答问题

- 1. Chose the right word, which matches the meaning of "as a matter of fact" from the following choices.
 - A. The same as a fact.
 - B. Actually.

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C. Exactly.

- 2. In what situation can we use "do the footwork"?
- A. When we give a hand to somebody.
 - B. When we have to carry out someone else's plan.
 - C. When we work on foot.
 - 3. "You can say that (it) again" means _____.
 - A., you agree with somebody completely
 - B. you are emphasizing what you have said
 - C. you want to listen to someone again
 - 4. How can we understand "wear more than one hat"?
 - A. One hat is not enough.
 - B. One shoulders more than one work responsibilities.
 - One has extra work to do.
 - 5. What do you mean when you say "Someone bites more than he can chew"?
 - A. One has too much work to do.
 - B. One does more than he is expected to.
 - C. One does more work than he is able to.
 - 6. What will you say when you are extremely pleased?
 - A. To fly over the world.
 - B/To be on top of the world.
 - C. To observe the world from above.

- 7. How do you describe a man who works very hard?
 - A. He works as hard as a horse.
 - B. He works as hard as a bull.
 - C. He bends over backward.