

ENGLISH IDIOMS

*ENGLISH IDIOMS THROUGH
LISTENING & SPEAKING*

英语成语 听说教程



周淑杰 编著



南开大学出版社

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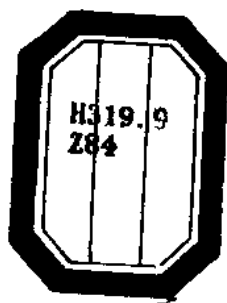
English Idioms Through Listening & Speaking

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内 容 提 要

本书是一本实用英语成语听说教程,共收入常用成语约 600 条。编写过程中参考了近几年英美流行的听力和口语教材及 TOEFL、EPT 等各类试题。内容新颖、精练、实用,成语含量大,练习用时短、见效快。它既适合做统一教材,也适合自学;既适合一般英语会话、听力爱好者使用,也是准备应试 TOEFL、EPT、大学英语四、六级、专业英语四、八级的广大考生,攻克听力成语、习语关必备的训练资料。

本书是:了解英美语言文化的窗口;
与英美人直接交流的桥梁;
突破英语听说关的通行证!

英语成语听说教程

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前 言

成语是民族智慧的结晶,是语言中的瑰宝和重要组成部分。它们不仅大量出现在书面语言中,而且广泛应用于口语中,使人际间的交流更加准确、形象、生动和多姿多彩。

要想真正学好某种语言,就必须熟练掌握其成语。学习英语也不例外。英语成语大多由常用词组成,但单从字面却很难推断出其真正含义,切勿望文生义。要真正大量掌握成语就必须多读、多听,并且在准确把握意思,了解使用场合的基础上多记。因为对意思理解准确无误,记忆才有实际意义,使用起来才能得心应手;信手拈来,妙笔生花;信口博引,凭添妙趣;了解使用场合,运用才能恰到好处,避免弄巧成拙,贻笑大方。

为了便于广大英语爱好者集中学习和掌握成语,在本书编写过程中,力求将英语成语知识融入各种练习中,因为练习不仅是检测手段,也是提供语言环境的途径。这也算是一次将英语教学由应试转为素质教育的尝试吧。

全书共分十四个单元。每个单元由三部分组成:第一部分含两个实用练习,Ex. A 中是 10~15 个单句,每句中至少有一个成语,Ex. B 中是 12~15 个简短对话,每个对话中至少有一个成语,要求边听边做选择题,以检验理解情况。第二部分 1~12 单元的为一个段落,12 个段子由短到长,内容由易到难,练习形式各不相同,有的要求听后以不同方式回答问题,有的要求边听边填空,有的要求判断正、误,每篇短文中都含有不同数量的成语和短语;13~14 单元为成语填空。第三部分是一个较长对话。对话以现实生活为基础,选材内容广泛,对话环境自然轻松,语言幽默,趣味盎然。每个对话中至少有 5 个成语。每一单元后附成语英文释义。释义并非直接给出,而是以练习形式出现,即读者要根据所给例句的意思和上下文自己判断,然后将各成语写在其英文释义之前,以达到深入理解,增加印象、强化记忆之目的。成语是根据在单元中出现先后,按 1、2、3……顺序排列的,英文释义则是按 A、B、C……顺序混排的。考虑到各部分出现的成语数量,成语英文释义练习分为三节:第一部分的 Ex. A 为一节,Ex. B 为一节,第二、第三部分合为一节,中间用※※※※※隔开,但英文释义仍混排在一起。建议读者先听录音做选择练习,然后做成语英文释义练习,以便自测对所出现成语的掌握情况,确定记忆重点。如果认为有必要,可将录音多听几遍,并跟读。每一节练习做完后应总结收获,可笔写,但最好是用英语口语述,将学到的新成语及其定义说一遍,并举例说明使用场合。记成语、练口语,一举两得。

书后的 Additional Exercises For Idioms Review 是为帮助读者选择和掌握各单元出现的重点成语设计的,从每一单元中精选出重点、难点成语 15 个。读者在熟悉各单元出现的全部成语的基础上通过做这一练习,定会增强对这些难度较大的重要成语的理解,加深记忆,并经过反复接触,达到逐渐学会应用的目的。这部分练习可在学完每一单元后马上就做,也可在学完全书后,总复习时使用。Glossary of Idioms 是按第一个单词的首字母顺序排列的,并附英文释义。

书中共收入成语约 600 条,均为日常对话中的常用语,所以都在必须掌握之列。这既是提高口头表达能力的需要,也是提高听力水平和应试能力的需要,因为包括 TOEFL、EPT、大学

英语四、六级、专业英语四、八级在内的各种考试的听力部分都有大量成语出现。相信本书定会成为广大英语口语、听力爱好者和应试者的良师益友。

本书稿曾在南开大学 97 级已通过大学英语六级的硕士生英语提高班上使用,受到普遍欢迎,他们认为书中内容新颖、精练、实用,成语含量大,句句、节节有收获;练习用时短,见效快。在此正式出版之际我对他们的热情支持深表谢意,同时感谢南开大学研究生院、公英教学部有关领导的大力支持。感谢参加磁带录音的外籍教师 Martin Fromm, Melissa Chua 和南开大学外语学院外文系语音室杨克恩主任的辛勤劳动。

书中不妥之处恳请广大读者批评指正。

本书配录音磁带 3 盘。购买录音带,请与南开大学出版社发行科联系。

编 者

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Address of Welcome

WELCOME TO ENGLISH IDIOMS THROUGH LISTENING AND SPEAKING

The following passage will lead you to English Idioms Through Listening & Speaking. Listen to it and see whether you can understand it or not, then study the idioms listed here.

to be a (real) cool cat	to be a really calm person
to blow one's stack	to lose control over oneself, to become mad
to fly off the handle	to become excessively angry
what's more	furthermore, beside, additionally
to get away with sth	to perpetrate an illegitimate or tricky act without repercussion or harm
of course	naturally
to be getting on	to age, to get older
pepper and salt	black or dark hair mixed with streaks of gray
to make up for sth	to compensate for sth.
lost time	times wasted, time spent at fruitless labor
to take it easy	to relax, to rest, not to worry
to get up	to rise from bed in the morning or at other times
to work out	to exercise, to do gymnastics
to turn in	to go to bed at night
like a breeze	without effort, elegantly, easily
time off	period in one's job or place of employment during which one is not performing one's services
to have got it made	to be successful, to have arrived
this is it	to be in a position or in a place, or to have possession of an object, beyond which more of the same is unnecessary

Unit One

Part 1: Practice exercises

Ex. A: Listen. You will hear 10 statements. Do the multiple-choice questions after you've heard each of them.

you've heard each of them.

1. A. He is too busy to go along.
B. He must hand in a full report on the museum.
C. He has to wash his hands first.
D. He has already seen the whole museum.
2. A. That they step outside the room.
B. That they work on calculus another time.
C. That the proof should be written on one page.
D. That the proof will be easier to do in stages.
3. A. His teeth hurt him very much.
B. He finds the work harder than he expected.
C. He decided to take the course next semester instead.
D. He has no time for meals.
4. A. She just wrote a book on cloud formation.
B. She's pleased because her paper will be published.
C. She started working for a publishing firm.
D. She has everything done except her last paper.
5. A. Visit the circus.
B. Accept unsatisfactory working conditions.
C. Save more money.
D. Demand more than the bare necessities.
6. A. It's a very long one.
B. It should take place as planned.
C. It was canceled on Friday.
D. The arrangements are uncertain so far.
7. A. She doesn't feel that now is the right time.
B. She wonders if they really need to do it.
C. She's writing her seminar presentation now.
D. She's suggesting that they talk immediately.
8. A. The man shouldn't expect her to go along.
B. She doesn't think she has enough money.
C. She'll go even though the movie is bad.
D. The man should count the number of the people going.
9. A. He will contact Peter directly.
B. He already knows about Peter's grades.
C. He and Peter are not interested in grades.
D. He doesn't believe Peter will attend school this semester.
10. A. She would rather draw the room than clean it.
B. She would divide the room in half.
C. She would line up for some help.
D. She would refuse to do the cleaning all the time.
11. A. It's interesting.
B. It's easier than he expected.
C. It's too crowded.
D. It's quite difficult.

12. A. The train is always late.
B. She needs to check the train schedule.
C. They are going to be delayed again.
D. They need to decide on a schedule.
13. A. Stay home to prepare for his exams.
B. Attend the concert after his exams are finished.
C. Ask the woman to study with him.
D. Go to the concert with the woman.
14. A. He would send a postcard if he went away.
B. He wouldn't be able to take a vacation.
C. He had already moved to Florida.
D. He didn't want to go to Florida.

Part 2: Listen to this

Listen to a talk and do the following exercises.

Roller Skating

Vocabulary:

roller skating
take to
hazard
dilemma
issue
violation
citation
disregard
ordinance

Ex. A: Answer the following questions by choosing the right choices.

1. A. the high cost of gasoline
B. overcongestion of university areas
C. roller skating in the streets.
D. police roadblocks
2. A. state law only
B. city law only
C. natural law
D. city and state law

3. A. Roller skating in the streets is only a local problem.
- B. Skaters are creating problems for motorists.
- C. Police will ticket violators.
- D. The problem is most common in college and university areas.

Ex. B: Answer the following question in your own words.

Q: What do you think about roller skating as a means of transportation?

Part 3: A conversation

Meanings of the Idioms

In each of the following examples, there's an idiom used either in Address of Welcome (those listed in the book are excluded) or in Unit One. Read the example carefully to find the meaning of the idiom. Then look at the definitions that follow the examples. Write the idiom next to its definition.

Address of welcome:

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. chances are | You've got a fever. Take two aspirin(s) and go to bed early.
Chances are you'll feel better tomorrow. |
| 2. Needless to say | He got a scholarship last semester. Needless to say, he is one of the top students in his grade. |
| 3. strike a chord | What she said struck a chord of feeling in the heart of her partner. He agreed to promote their cooperation. |
| 4. at ease | He didn't feel completely at (his) ease in the strange surroundings. |
| 5. first of all | First of all I must return these books to the library. Then I'll go to play tennis with you. |

- A. _____ as the first or most important thing
- B. _____ of course
- C. _____ it is likely
- D. _____ remind sb of sth, esp. because of similarity
- E. _____ in a state of being comfortable and without worries

Part 1

Ex. A:

1. pick sb/sth up I don't know the way to the hotel. Come and pick me up at the airport, please.

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2. get in touch with | I'm trying to get in touch with my brother; he emigrated to the U-nited States 40 years ago, and I lost touch with him. |
| 3. make it | There was a lot of traffic. We barely made it to the station in time for Bob to catch the train. |
| 4. show up | We had agreed to meet at the school gate, but Mr. Li didn't show up. |
| 5. in spite of | They went out in spite of the rain. |
| 6. big (game) | It is a big game. All the top players of our team will join in. |
| 7. come up with | The teacher asked Ted a very difficult question, but finally he came up with a good answer. |
| 8. catch on | It took months for the song to catch on; then it was sung and played everywhere. |
| 9. leave no stone unturned | Don't worry. The police will leave no stone unturned in their search for the murderer. |
| 10. hand in | He handed in a poor piece of work, so the teacher asked him to do it again. |
| 11. fill sb in (on) | Susan has already filled me in on what happened yesterday. So you don't have to tell me now. |
| 12. to think | A: So it takes us an hour to come here by bus.
B: Yes. To think at first you wanted to come here on foot! |

- | | |
|----------|--|
| A. _____ | contact |
| B. _____ | be present somewhere, to appear |
| C. _____ | important |
| D. _____ | inform sb, give sb the latest information |
| E. _____ | turn in |
| F. _____ | use every possible effort to find out, employ every possible enquiry |
| G. _____ | become popular |
| H. _____ | How surprising/absurd etc. it is to think... |
| I. _____ | think of (a plan/reply, an idea...) |
| J. _____ | arrange to go and get |
| K. _____ | arrive in time |
| L. _____ | taking no notice of |

Ex. B:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 1. have one's hands full | With two small children to take care of, she has her hands full already. I don't think she can help us. |
| 2. work out | So you've got the answer, but I haven't work it out yet. |
| 3. take one step at | If you want to work out the sum, you must take one step at a |

	a time	time.
4.	How's it going?	A: You're learning Taiji. How's it going? B: Everything is going nicely at the moment.
5.	bite off more than one can chew	I told him he would be biting off more than he could chew if he tried to repair the car himself.
6.	on cloud nine	We were on cloud nine when our school team won the state championship.
7.	not any longer	You can't find him here, because he doesn't live here any longer.
8.	grin and bear it	I hate having my wife's parents to live with us, but I suppose I'll have to grin and bear it.
9.	as far as	A: How are they coming? B: As far as I know, they are coming by car.
10.	get together	Guys, come to my apartment on Saturday evening. Let's get to- gether for a drink?
11.	right now	We can't go without him. Wait a minute! He's coming right now.
12.	count sb out	If you're going skiing in this kind of weather, count me out. I'd rather stay at home and watch TV.
13.	straight As	You have to study very hard to get straight As in our school.
14.	draw the line	Of course I want to help you, but I draw the line at lying.
15.	turn out	At first we all believed what he said, but his statement turned out to be false.
16.	boil down(to)	Have you realized that the report boils down to a demand for higher safety standards?
17.	do sb/sth good	I want to stay here for a while. It does my heart good to see those children play.
18.	time off	I had a toothache that day; my boss gave me time off to go to the dentist.

- A. _____ very happy
 B. _____ to the degree that
 C. _____ be good for sb
 D. _____ to be or mean
 E. _____ leave out
 F. _____ be found to be
 G. _____ have a meeting or party
 H. _____ immediately
 I. _____ be very busy
 J. _____ do (sth) step by step

- K. _____ attempt more than one can deal with
 L. _____ find by reasoning or calculating
 M. _____ suffer sth unpleasant without complaint
 N. _____ a period of release from work
 O. _____ not any more
 P. _____ Is everything happening satisfactorily?
 Q. _____ set a limit as to what one will do or not do
 R. _____ the highest grades in all courses

Parts 2&3

1. take to He took to repairing watches in his spare time.
 2. as well as He was my friend as well as my doctor.
 3. insist on He insisted on going there by plane although his wife preferred to the train.
 4. on the grounds He left on the grounds that he was not feeling well.
 (of/that)
 * * * * *
 5. see about If you're too busy, I'll see about the plane tickets.
 6. all along Our team has won the game. I knew all along that we would win.
 7. to be blame (for) The teacher tried to find out who was to blame in the fight.
 8. to say the least They'll be pleased with their new house, to say the least. It's much bigger than this one.
 9. be up to one's ears They are up to their ears in business before the Spring Festival.

- A. _____ comment as little as possible about sth
 B. _____ for the reason, because
 C. _____ make a habit of
 D. _____ be very busy, have a lot to do
 E. _____ be at fault, be responsible for (sth bad)
 F. _____ attend to, arrange for
 G. _____ declare sth firmly, esp. in the face of opposition
 H. _____ and also, in addition to
 I. _____ all the time, during the whole time

Unit Two

Part 1: Practice exercises

Ex. A: Listen. You will hear 10 statements. Do the multiple-choice questions after you've heard each of them.

1. A. You can fill in the spaces under the questions.
B. I have three questions to ask you.
C. You may ask questions if you want.
D. Please tell me when you are free.
2. A. We should each go on a different day.
B. We could have gone to a nicer beach.
C. This weather is just right for being at the beach.
D. There is some question about when we should go.
3. A. I hope I receive some letters.
B. I wish I still had the letters.
C. I wish I hadn't read those letters.
D. I hope I don't get any more of those letters.
4. A. Kate has already disposed of the chemicals.
B. Kate didn't do the last assignment in chemistry.
C. Kate was unhappy about the newest assignment.
D. Kate was excited about the chemistry assignment.
5. A. Let the driver get off at the intersection.
B. Has the bus driver reached the intersection yet?
C. Have you ever gotten off at this intersection?
D. Tell the driver you will get out at the intersection.
6. A. Please get your things out of my way.
B. You never listen to what I say.
C. You should do what someone else wants sometimes.
D. Don't be so possessive all the time.
7. A. Margret's headache kept her out of class.
B. Margret is by far the best writer in her class.
C. Margret finds writing a restful activity.
D. Margret is taller than all the others at school.
8. A. The school sent pictures to all of the teachers.
B. Mary thanked Bob for taking the picture.
C. The envelope contained two letters and a picture.

- D. Bob opened the envelope containing the letter and picture.
- 9. A. George helped prepared the pass.
B. George served him another slice.
C. George took another serving of pie.
D. George served everyone the pizza.
- 10. A. Does everyone have a copy of the assignment?
B. Can you turn the sheet around?
C. Is there enough time for the assignment?
D. Do the sheets have enough information?

Ex. B: Listen. You will hear 15 short conversations. Do the multiple-choice questions after you've heard each of them.

- 1. A. Try harder to locate work. B. Giving up looking for a job.
C. Ask his stepfather for a job. D. Travel instead of working this summer.
- 2. A. She took ancient history last semester.
B. She did extremely well on the test.
C. She passed out during the exam.
D. She wrote very colorful essays.
- 3. A. She's been upstairs in the business office.
B. She's been catching up on her projects.
C. She's doing the least amount of work possible.
D. She's setting up a date to present her result.
- 4. A. Revise the report. B. Do all his work by himself.
C. Leave the politics class. D. Submit the report as it is.
- 5. A. Exchanging furnaces. B. How to turn the furnace.
C. How to play a trick. D. Repairing a switch.
- 6. A. West Virginia has many unexplored areas.
B. Andy would probably be a good person to ask.
C. The campers should try to get a lot of information.
D. Andy will help if he's there this summer.
- 7. A. He wants part of each piece of cloth.
B. He can't tear either piece of cloth.
C. The pieces of cloth seem identical to him.
D. The pieces of cloth are made by a secret process.
- 8. A. The situation looks better than it is.
B. The phone connection was bad.
C. The women ought to speak to each other in person.
D. It's better to be courageous.
- 9. A. His car is in quite good condition.

- B. He's willing to lend them the car.
 - C. He would prefer to go to the game on foot.
 - D. He will take them if he can.
10. A. She constructed a proper container.
B. She thought it was hard to do the grading.
C. She pretended she was happy.
D. She was extremely pleased.
 11. A. Their appointment is not until tomorrow.
B. The professor is waiting for their call.
C. They should call the professor after the meeting.
D. They should wait until the next day.
 12. A. She's too busy to help the man today.
B. The proposal is already late.
C. She'll have time later on in the day.
D. She'll finish the proposal by noon.
 13. A. He's feeling better.
B. He thought last week's seminar was easy.
C. He needs to get more rest.
D. He was surprised that the woman missed the seminar.
 14. A. They shouldn't make too many requests.
B. They should ask for another extension.
C. They shouldn't worry about the project.
D. They should wish the professor good luck.
 15. A. His doctor told him not to drink tea.
B. He'll bring some tea to the doctor.
C. He would really like some tea.
D. Tea tastes too much like medicine.

Part 2: Listen to this

Listen to a news story and do the following exercises.

People Rescued

Vocabulary:

rescue	Gulf of Mexico
adrift	Coast Guard
frantically	
drift	