英语习语

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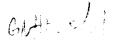
前言

"太阳从西边出来了",我们中国人都明白这句话的确切含义。而认识这8个字,也懂得中文语法的外国人就未必能领会这句话的意思了。

我们中国人学英语也会遇到许多类似的问题。 我们的语法底子很厚,不少人比以英语为母语的外国人都强。可是用英语交流对许多人来说仍然十分困难。我们也许认识一句话里的每一个单词,也明白其中的语法,可就是不明白它的意思。原因之一,就是像中文一样,英语中有许多习惯说法,习语,是不能光按字面意思去理解的。

我以 12 年在国外工作、生活的经验,选择、收集了 239 个英语中最常用的习语,联系习语字面的意思,解释、讲解 了习语实际的、真实的意思,并提供了习语的出处和背景。 例句采用办公、社交、家居、校园的真实生活场景,介绍了习 语的使用方式和场合。每一个习语都配有漫画,图文并茂, 生动活泼,有助理解与记忆。

这本书不仅能给广大英语爱好者提供一个轻松愉快的 学习渠道,也可以成为有一定英语基础的人在茶余饭后,边 休闲,边提高的好工具。



A

above board

直译: 在板子上

意译: 玩扑克的桌子叫 board。above board 指打扑克的人把手放在牌桌上,这样不会有人在桌子底下搞猫儿腻。形容合法的,符合规矩的。

Our opposition is watching us like a hawk.

We must make sure that everything we do in this election campaign is above board.

我们的对手在紧盯着我们。我们必须保证我们在这次大选中所做的每件事都是正规合法的。

I don't think what they do is above board. They will be investigated before long. 我认为他们做的不合法。他们不久就会受审查。



alive and kicking

直译: 活着还踢腿

意译:不仅活着,还踢腿,形容身体很好,活蹦乱跳 的。

My grandmother is over eighty years old. But she is certainly alive and kicking. 我祖母 80 多岁了,可仍然活蹦乱跳的。

例 A: How's Ashley? I haven't seen him for ages. 甲: 爱希礼怎么样了?我好久没见他了。 B: Oh, he's alive and kicking. In fact, he's

> running a Marathon next week. 乙:活蹦乱跳的。下周他跑马拉松呢。

A: If you see him, could you say I asked after him?

甲:如果你见到他,你能跟他说我向他问好吗?

B: Of course.



all shipshape

直译: 全是轮船形

意译: 轮船出发前都有个"洗面整容"的过程,所谓"整装待发"。整艘船全部收拾得整整齐齐,擦得闪闪发光。这个短语是 "All Shipshape and Bristol Fashion"的简写。Bristol 是英国西南部的一个港口城市,曾以出色地修整轮船,以备出航而驰名。

I can't go out tonight. I must get the house all shipshape, ready for my parents' return tomorrow.

今儿晚我没法儿出去玩儿。我得把家收拾得干干净净、整整齐齐。明天我父母就回来了。

I've just done a spring clean. Everything is now shipshape.

我刚做了春季大扫除。现在样样儿都干干净 净,整整齐齐。



and Bob's your uncle

直译: 鲍勃是你的叔叔

意译: 当英国首相 Lord Robert Salisbury 封他侄子一个部长职位后,反对党的议员讥笑说: "Bob's Your Uncle"。 意思是有了当首相的叔叔,想要什么不成啊。现在该短语形容你得到了你想要的。

I've fixed your lawn mower for you. Now all you have to do is to turn the switch on and Bob's your uncle.

我把你的割草机修理好了。现在你只需打开开 关,就什么问题都没了。

These new sauces make cooking so easy. You just fry the meat and the veg, pour the sauce over them and Bob's your uncle. Dinner is served!

这些新调料做起菜来真容易,你只要炒炒肉和 蔬菜,在上面浇上调料就全成了。吃晚饭喽!



apple of one's eye

直译: 某人的眼珠

意译: Apple of the eye 指眼珠 pupil。像眼珠一样宝贵,可见其珍贵。

Alex has four sons and one daughter. She is the youngest and the apple of her daddy's eye.

> 爱利克斯有四个儿子一个女儿。她是最小的,是 她爸爸的掌上明珠。

列 This diamond ring is very precious. You must look after it like the apple of your eye. 这个钻戒很宝贵。你一定要像爱护自己的眼珠一样爱护它。



as cool as a cucumber

直译: 像黄瓜一样爽

意译:大家都知道美国人张嘴闭嘴地说: "Cool!",与中文的"爽"字同义,常听人说:"真爽!"现在大家就直接说"酷"了。"Cool"在这个短语里的意思是"冷静"。黄瓜是清凉爽口的,所以就被借来形容冷静。作者第一次听到这个短语是在张德培与前南斯拉夫球星伊万兰多比赛时,张先输两局,然后赢了第三局,在第四局时解说员说:

Landl: seems stressed.But look at Chang.He is as cool as a cucumber.

兰多: 好像很有压力, 可看张 (德培), 他非常镇静。

While the rest of us panicked, he was as cool as a cucumber and pored over the map.We couldn't have come out of the jungle without him.

当我们其他人都惊慌失措时,他却非常镇定, 仔细



as good as gold

直译: 像金子一样好

意译: 行,没问题,太好了,等等。澳大利亚和新西兰 人用得最多。

A: Shall I put it by your front door when I finished?

甲: 等我用完了给你放前门边儿行吗?

B: As good as gold.

乙: 好极了。

Staff: May I leave half an hour early today and make it up tomorrow?

职员: 我能不能今天早走半个小时,明天我补上?

Manager: Yeah, as good as gold.

经理: 好,好。



as right as rain

直译: 像雨一样正确

意译: 在英国,尤其是冬天,说下雨保准下雨,一说一准儿,形容很有把握,没问题,肯定会好了。这个短语 19 世纪末就开始使用了。

例 I've fixed your car. It will run as right as rain.

我把你的车修好了, 跑起来一定没问题。

Doctor: Mrs. Robinson, take these tablets three times a day with food. Have plenty of fluid and plenty of rest. By the end of the week, you'll be as right as rain again.

医生: 罗宾逊太太,每天就饭吃药片, 一日三次。多喝水,多休息。到周末,你就全好了。



as tough as old boots

直译: 像旧靴子一样结实

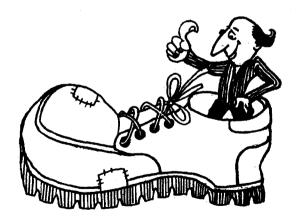
意译: 指人身体结实,也用来形容人难对付。

Don't be deceived by her physical appearance. She is as tough as old boots.

别被她的外表攀蔽住。她 (身体) 像旧靴子一样结实。

That old man is as tough as old boots. I had to give in finally.

那老人真难对付, 我最终不得不让步。



B

back to square one

直译: 又回到了第一格

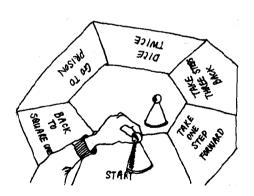
意译:比如我们下飞行棋,就有一个格子里写着 "回到起点,重新开始"。如果走到这个格子里,以前的辛苦就全白费了。指因为受挫折而不得不重新开始。

I saved my report into a corrupt floppy disk without saving it onto the hard drive. So after days of hard work, I found myself back to square one.

我没把报告存入硬盘, 只存入了坏了的软盘。 所以卖了几天的力气后, 又得从头开始。

I spent the whole morning trying to convince Glenda to enter the competition. She called me in the evening and asked, 'Do you really think I should enter?' Well, I thought to myself, back to square one again.

我花了整整一上午劝格林达参加比赛。她晚上 给我打电话问:"你真觉得我该参加吗?"得, 我自己琢磨,白费劲儿了。



back-pedal

直译: 向后蹬车

意译:来源于蹬自行车。蹬车都是往前蹬的,往后蹬就是倒退。比喻反悔了,不认账了。

M The Government made an election promise not to raise taxes, but it is back-pedalling on it. 政府在大选时保证不提税, 可现在反悔了。

My mother—in—law offered to babysit for us but back—pedalled on it after the baby was born.

> 我岳母提出给我们看孩子。可孩子出世后她又 反悔了。



backseat driver

直译: 后座司机

意译: 我有一位朋友胆子小,自己没去驾校学开车,就整天坐丈夫开的车。作者一天有幸搭他们的车,只听我朋友一路:"哎呀!老公小心,右边有辆自行车!""老公,前边儿那辆车要左转弯!""老公慢点儿!""超车吧!"我就叫她"后座司机"。司机哪有坐后排座儿的,乘客才坐后排呐。"后座司机"指对司机指手画脚的乘客,引指到处瞎指挥又不承担责任的人。

I drove here with my wife and her sister, both awful backseat drivers. I am absolutely exhausted now.

我驾车带我夫人和她姐姐来的。她们俩都是后 座司机,指手画脚,我都累死了。

The company would have been much better off without the involvement of backseat drivers like your accountant.

公司要是没有像你会计师那样指手画脚的人 会好得多。

ball is in someone's court, the

直译: 球在某人的场地内

意译: 这个短语来自网球。当一方把球击到另一方的 场地内,就该另一方打球了,不打这个球就输了。 比喻该那一方采取行动了。

A: The vendor phoned me again. How can I get him off my back?

甲: 卖方又给我打电话了。我怎么才能打发他呢?

B: Make him a ridiculously low offer. That would put the ball firmly back in his court.

乙:给他开个低得可笑的价格。那样就把球严 严实实地击回他的场地里了。

A: Have your neighbours done anything to make up with you?

甲: 你邻居有什么与你和好的表示吗?

B: Yes, they have invited us to supper. The ball is now in our court.

乙: 有,他们请我们吃晚饭了。轮到我们做些什么了。

