

汉 英
对等成语小词典

谢 大 任 编

上海外语教育出版社

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A GLOSSARY OF CHINESE IDIOMS
WITH ENGLISH EQUIVALENTS

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前 言

把汉语成语译成英语，要使懂英语而不懂汉语的外国人一目了然，或一听就懂，不是一件容易的事情。翻译汉语成语为英语，不外乎有三种译法：第一是直译法，第二是意译法，第三是对照法。现在略谈三种译法的优缺点。

(1)直译法：就是把汉语成语照每个词的意义译出。有许多汉语成语确实是可以直译的，也可以使外国人一看就懂的，例如：

易如反掌 as easy as turning over one's hand [palm] 外国人懂得就是 very easy 之意。

鼠目寸光 as short-sighted as mice

也理解得出即 see no farther than one's nose.

竭泽而渔 drain the pond to get all the fish 也可以知道即 kill the goose that lays the golden eggs.

留得青山在，不怕〔愁〕没柴烧。
There'll never be a shortage of firewood as long as green hills remain.
或 As long as green mountains are there, one need not worry about firewood. 这句直译的成语也可以理解得出原义，另外，同意义的英语成语，如 While there is life, there is hope. 是十分确切的。

(2)意译法：如把 1. 胸有成竹
2. 脱胎换骨 3. 目不识丁等直译，一定会使外国人听了莫名其妙。所以只得意译如下：

— I —

1. have a preconceived idea before doing something 或 have ready plans to meet a situation 或 belief and trust in one's own powers.

2. remould one into a new man 或 rid oneself of bad habits and ideas 或 cast off one's own old self and take on new self.

3. not to know any Chinese characters 或 be uneducated 或 be totally illiterate.

(3) 对照法：汉语成语仅有少数英语成语可以对照，所以意译法最为妥当，当然，有对照成语可找的，应该用对照语句，这样的译法最为生动而且容易达意，如上面的几句可以对照如下：

易如反掌 as easy as ABC [my eye]. 胸有成竹 have a card up one's

sleeve. 脱胎换骨 turn over a new leaf. 目不识丁 not to know one's ABC. 或 not to know (a) B from a battledore [a bull's foot].

《汉英对等成语小词典》主要搜集了一些常用的成语，都有英语成语对照。此外，还收入一些类似成语的词组，也酌量收入一些常用的熟语或谚语，共计 1,160 条。但汉语成语和英语或美语里的俚语或废语相同者，概不收入。

《汉英对等成语小词典》可供初学翻译特别是口译者参考或熟记之用。圆括号()内的词是表示可有可无的词，方括号[]内的词，是表示可代替括号前面的词，凡一条汉语成语有数条英语成语对照的用斜线/隔开。

本词典按照汉语成语的第一个字的笔画与起笔顺序“点(丶)、横(一)、竖

(1), 撇(ノ)”排列, 以便检索。

为了便于查阅, 词典末还附有英语词汇表。由于付印仓促, 缺点和错误在所难免, 希望读者提出宝贵意见, 俾再版时修订改正。

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谢大任

1980年10月

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一 画

(一画部照第二个字起笔顺序排列)

[、]

- 一心一意 heart and soul/with all one's heart and mind
- 一意孤行 have (everything) one's own way/ go [take] one's own way
- 一窍不通 It is (all) Greek to me [you 等].
- 一望而知 It's written all over one's face/sec with half an eye
- 一文不名 sit on the Penniless Bench/not a shot in the locker/(as) poor as a church mouse/ not have a shirt to one's back/ not a feather to fly with/at low-water mark
- 一举两得 kill two birds with one stone
- 一清二楚 (as) clear as day [daylight 或 noontday]/ (as) plain as daylight [pikestaff 或 the nose on your face]
- 一语道破 hit the nail on the head
- 一决雌雄 fight it out
- 一应俱全 from soup to nuts
- 一视同仁 give the devil his due/ not make chalk of one and cheese of the other
- 一言以蔽之 in a word/in short/in a nutshell/to sum up/ make a long story short

一言既出，驷马难追 A word spoken is past recalling./ better the foot slip than the tongue trip

一说曹操，曹操就到 Speak [Talk] of the devil and he will [is sure to] appear. /To mention the wolf's name is to see the same. /Speak of angels, and you will hear their wings.

[一]

一无可取 good for nothing

一无所有 (as) bare as the palm of one's hand

一无所知 be in the dark (about 或 on)

一劳永逸 once and away/ once (and) for all/
for good (and all)

一成不变 hard and fast/ move [run] in a rut

一模一样 (as) like as two peas

一马当先 take the lead/ride the fore-horse

一厢情愿 wishful thinking/We soon believe what we desire.

一事无成 come to naught [nought]/get nowhere

一转眼间 (as) quick [swift] as thought /in the twinkling of an eye [of a bed post]

一天到晚 all day long/as the day is long

一塌糊涂 in a great mess

一不做，二不休 in for a penny, in for a pound/

go (to) all lengths/go to great lengths
一而再，再而三 again and again/time and again
一寸光阴，一寸金 Time is money.

[1]

一败涂地 done to the wide [to the world]/bite
the dust [ground]
一见钟情 love at first sight
一蹶不振 curl up
一目了然 leap to the eye [eyes]/with half an
eye/stick out a mile/He that [who] runs may
read/meet one's eye
一帆风顺 plain [smooth] sailing/without hitch/
good innings/sail before [with] the wind
一叶知秋 A straw shows which way the wind blows
一日之计在于晨 An hour in the morning is
worth two in the evening.

[2]

一钱如命 skin a flint
一钱不值 not worth a penny
一箭之遥 at a stone's throw
一箭双雕 kill two birds with one stone
一年到头 all the year round/year in and year
out/in season and out of season
一生一世 from the cradle to the grave

- 一丘之貉 birds of a feather/of the same batch/
both of a hair/nothing to choose between them
- 一贫如洗 sit on the Penniless Bench/not a shot
in the locker/(as) poor as a church mouse/not
a feather to fly with/at low-water mark/not
have a shirt to one's back
- 一般地说 generally [broadly] speaking
- 一毛不拔 (as) mean as a miser
- 一鳞半爪 odds and ends
- 一针见血 hit the (right) nail on the head
- 一片混乱 in a litter
- 一筹莫展 find [stick] oneself in the mire/be up
a (gum) tree/not have a feather to fly with/
at one's wit's [wits'] end/at the end of
one's rope [tether]
- 一触即发 touch and go
- 一气呵成 at a stretch
- 一丝不挂 not a stitch on/without a stitch of
clothing

二 画

[一]

- 七手八脚 Too many cooks spoil the broth.
- 七零八落 at sixes and sevens/all upside down
- 七颠八倒 at sixes and sevens/all upside down.

七上八下 at sixes and sevens/all upside down
十有八九 in nine cases [times] out of ten/as
like as not/in all likelihood/ninety-nine times
out of a hundred

十全十美 the pink of perfection

了如指掌 know [read] like a book/know some-
thing like the palm of one's hand/have some-
thing at one's fingertips

力争上游 aim high

又要马儿好，又要马儿不吃草 You can't eat your
cake and have it.

[ノ]

九死一生 escape by a hairbreadth/be [have] a
close shave

九牛一毛 a drop in the bucket [ocean]

人间地狱 hell on [upon] earth

人多嘴杂 Too many cooks spoil the broth.

人情世故 the way of the world

人心不同，有如其面 All bread is not baked in
one oven.

入乡随乡 Do in Rome as Rome does [as the
Romans do].

入不敷出 be behindhand in one's circumstances
/live above [beyond] one's income [means]

、接同「松」 Do in Rome as Rome does [as the

Romans do].

入国问禁 Do in Rome as Rome does [as the
Romans do].

八面玲珑 all things to all men

三 画

[一]

三三两两 in twos and threes/by ones and twos
三心二意 neither off nor on/be in two minds/
have two minds

三思而行 Look before you leap./Score twice be-
fore you cut once./Second thoughts are best./
Think today and speak tomorrow.

三番五次 again and again/time and again/over
and (over) again

三言两语 half a word

三句不离本行 talk shop

三个和尚无水吃 Everybody's business is nobody's
business./Too many cooks spoil the broth./Two's
company, three's none.

三天打鱼，两天晒网 blow hot and cold/play fast
and loose/by fits and starts/off and on

三个臭皮匠，胜[赛]过诸葛亮 Two heads are bet-
ter than one.

- 大雨倾盆 It rains cats and dogs.
- 大雨如注 It rains cats and dogs.
- 大智若愚 Still waters run deep./Smooth water runs deep.
- 大发雷霆 flare up/hit the ceiling [roof]/blaze out/fly [fall] into a rage [passion]
- 大言不惭 turn geese into swans/blow one's own trumpet
- 大声疾呼 lift up a cry/lift up one's voice/at the top of one's lungs [voice]
- 大吹大擂 talk big
- 大喜过望 jump out of one's skin
- 大公无私 not make chalk of one and cheese of the other
- 大同小异 much of a muchness/much (about) the same
- 大庭广众 in broad daylight
- 大惊小怪 like a hen with one chicken/fuss about/a storm in a tea-cup/a tempest in a barrel [bucket 或 teapot]
- 大海捞针 square the circle/cry for the moon/look for a needle in a bottle [bundle] of hay/look for a needle in a haystack
- 大放厥词 loose one's tongue
- 大功告成 come off with flying colours
- 大失所望 bring one's pigs to a fine [a pretty