

英 语 谚语妙用 500 例

500 Commonly Used Proverbs
in Modern English

汪福祥 蔡坚 著

外 文 出 版 社

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作 者 汪福祥 蔡 坚

责任编辑 蔡 箐 李春英

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A Great Political Trek

The journey that led F.W. de Klerk toward the dissolution of apartheid and a place in history

By **PETER HAWTHORNE** CAPE TOWN

THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT BUT TO bow to the inevitable." Those words are the leaden concession of defeat of a young Afrikaner, Deneys Reitz, whose journal of his experiences fighting in the Boer War against the British has become something of a South African literary classic. It was out of their loss and the scorched lands of that war that the Afrikaner farmers began their rise to political power. Reitz himself became Deputy Prime Minister in the World War II government of General Jan Smuts and South Africa's High Commissioner to London in 1943. The Afrikaners went on to forge a state based on a racial policy that became an international anathema—apartheid.

Now, a century after Reitz chronicled his defeat, another Afrikaner has written about the inevitable collapse of the white tribe's ideology. Former South African President F.W. de

than a product of time and circumstances. His ancestors were French Protestants—Huguenots—who fled to the Netherlands to avoid religious persecution and settled in the South African Cape in 1688. Like many Afrikaners he has a skeleton in the closet—one of his 18th century forebears was the daughter of an Indian slave. That was a part of his genealogy that no one spoke about in his childhood, when his heroes were Afrikaner pioneers—the ones who led the Great Trek north from the Cape into the African wilderness, those who

fought the Zulus at the Battle of Blood River, the De Klerk who in 1815 was hanged for treason by the British at Slagtersnek. He was weaned on stories of the struggle against the *swart gevaar*—the black threat—and British colonial power. His family had a long history of involvement in politics. His uncle, Hans

Strijdom, was one of the early prime ministers in the post-World War II era during which the foundations of apartheid were firmly laid.

“I would like to think that, in our retirement we will be able to work together as elder statesmen.”

Time, March 22, 1999

A Great Political Trek

伟大的政治历程

南非前总统德克勒克出了一本自传，名为 *The Last Trek - A New Beginning*（最后的历程—崭新的开始），讲述这个国家废除种族隔离制度（apartheid）的艰难历程，并客观地分析自己的历史定位。Trek 原指“牛车旅行”，在此隐喻漫长而艰难的变革过程。

OPEC Talks Tough Again

Cash-strapped oil nations are threatening to cut production. But can they afford to turn off the tap?

By ADAM ZAGORIN

SAUDI ARABIA IS A LAND RICH IN OIL and privileged royal princes. Yet it is so tight for cash that Crown Prince Abdullah, who is running the show for the ailing King Fahd, has boldly cut the budget. And he is reportedly sending out "Abdullahgrams" to spendthrift nephews, demanding that they reverse their habit of ignoring telephone and electricity bills or face service cutoffs like ordinary Saudis.

That's also why the monarchy's peripatetic Petroleum Minister, Ali Naimi, was trying last week to broker production cuts

for under \$1 per gal., less than the price of bottled water. America's annual oil bill dropped roughly \$40 billion last year, and that money has shifted to other parts of the booming economy. The result is lower inflation and higher growth, with savings that show up on everything from home-heating bills to airline fuel and utility charges. Says Cynthia Latta, principal U.S. economist at Standard & Poors/DRI: "Higher oil prices will be widely felt across the economy, but they are not likely to pose an immediate threat to continued low inflation and robust consumer spending."

Yet some Americans do pay a huge

Time, March 22, 1999

OPEC Talks Tough Again

欧佩克口气又硬了

持续多年的低油价促进了西方经济的发展，但也造成了全球范围的市场饱和 (a global glut)。因此，石油输出国组织欧佩克 (OPEC) 威胁要减少开采量，提高油价。talk tough 指“强硬地说”。此外，act tough 指“强硬地做”。

Laos: Paradise Lost, Found or Misplaced?

FOR MANY TOURISTS, THE BEST DESTINATIONS are those that don't welcome tourists. And for many years, Laos fit the bill nicely. Its borders were notoriously difficult to cross, though visitors who succeeded were rarely disappointed by the country's unspoiled attractions: spectacular waterfalls, Buddhist temples with orange-clad monks and ancient sites—like Vientiane's That Luang, a dramatic, gold-colored 16th century stupa said to contain a relic of the original Buddha—with no barriers around them.

Now the very charms that lure tourists to Laos may soon fall victim to a major campaign to boost tourism. Its slogan: "Visit Laos Year 1999." A rush is on to "beautify" Vientiane, for example, and a road-building program has turned the once quaint capital into a giant, ugly construction site. With every large artery under repair, getting around involves navigating a maze of orange dust, giant dirt mountains and ditches that seem to appear overnight. And since Laos made it easier to obtain visas last summer—visitors can buy them for \$50 upon arrival at major border crossings—travelers are everywhere. "I saw more

grins that Laotians are known to flash at foreign visitors. "There's an expiration date on that smile," says John Cuthbert, a guide with Intrepid Travel, a Thai tourism company.

It's not hard to understand why Laos' communist leaders want to attract a million tourists next year, more than double the total for 1996. After closing Laos off from the world for nearly two decades, the government has acknowledged the benefit of travel—namely, foreign cash. From 1991 to 1996, the number of visitors to Laos jumped tenfold, making tourism the fastest-growing foreign exchange earner. That's hard to resist for a country that ranks among the region's poorest and the world's least developed.

But putting out the welcome mat is a mixed blessing. No developing country has yet figured out how to reap the benefits of tourism—more money, more global attention—without suffering such negative side effects as the loss of cultural cohesion, a rise in crime and a proliferation of the drug and sex trades. Laos is plunging ahead despite those dangers, but it faces tough competition for tourist dollars. Battered by the financial crisis,

Time, April 20, 1998

Laos, Paradise Lost, Found or Misplaced?

老挝，失乐园？复乐园？还是误乐园？

一向闭塞的老挝为发展旅游业进行了一场美化运动 (beautifying movement)，大兴土木，结果导致自然景观的大量毁坏。游客的涌入也给淳朴的民风带来负面影响 (negative side effects)。“旅游者的乐园”是建立了？还是失去了？或是误建了？Paradise Lost 和 Paradise Found 引自 17 世纪英国诗人弥尔顿的长诗《失乐园》和《复乐园》。

Time to Jump Ship?

A series of mishaps and breakdowns could spell the end for Russia's crumbling space station Mir

By JEFFREY KLUGER

AERICAN ASTRONAUT JERRY LININGER was under no illusion that he was flying the world's most reliable spacecraft. He was nonetheless startled not long ago when it suddenly burst into flame.

One of six men aboard the Russian space station Mir, Lininger was relaxing one evening when an alarm rang in the astronomy module. Rushing to the little lab, he found a cosmonaut swatting at a blaze erupting from an air canister. Lininger

tration plans to fly astronaut Mike Foale up to Mir, bringing to five the number of Americans who will have been Russia's orbital guests. Despite these successes, some in Washington are wondering whether it's safe for any American to set foot aboard the rickety ship. Even if Mir survives, others are asking, what does the sorry state of the craft say about Russia's ability to participate in future projects with the U.S.? The best course, doubters say, might be to cut the Russians loose before their collapsing space program takes American projects—

Time, May 12, 1997

Time to Jump Ship?

是放弃的时候了么？

已服役 11 年的前苏联太空飞船米尔号破损严重，多次发生险情，急需维修，否则只好放弃。Jump ship 有“潜逃；逃脱”的意思，如：In a crisis, he will jump ship rather than face danger.（在危机时，他宁愿溜之大吉而不面对危险。）

TIME NOVEMBER 4, 1991

INDIA

Gaining Ground

But in spite of the government's effective new "cordon-and-search" tactics, peace in Kashmir is a more distant prospect than ever

Time, November 4, 1997

Gaining Ground

赢得民心

印度在克什米尔地区保持高度警戒 (strict discipline)，以防止当地游击队的反攻 (re-entry)，并在当地开设医疗诊所争取民心 (win hearts)。gain hearts 指“前进；有进展”，或“越来越为人们所喜欢；越来越流行”，如：The Latin singing star is gaining ground in Asia. (这个拉丁歌手正在亚洲走红。)

Playing Hookey

Soon they'll be calling her **Monica Seles-to-the-highest-bidder**. The temperamental 17-year-old tennis star, ranked No. 1 in the world, was fined \$20,000 last week for playing in an exhibition match in Spain against Women's Tennis Association rules. Seles is



nonchalant, reportedly because the Spanish exhibition's organizers will be forking over some fine money. It is at least her third no-show offense this year, starting with a \$6,000 fine for playing truant at Wimbledon. She has also been barred from the Barcelona Olympics next year for missing the Federation Cup.

Time, November 4, 1997

Playing Hookey

逃学

网球明星塞莱斯 17 岁就获得世界排名第一 (rank No 1 in the world), 但她红极而骄, 因犯规被屡次罚款, 并被禁止 (be barred from) 参加巴塞罗那奥运会。Play hookey 是美国口语, 指“逃课; 逃学”。

前 言

若想了解一种语言文化中的精华，若想了解生活在这一文化之中的人们以及他们的风俗习惯和行为模式，我们可从其谚语的字里行间窥见一斑。确实，一个民族的谚语，蕴涵着该民族的人们在其漫长的社会实践和日常生活中所感受到的酸、甜、苦、辣，也浸透着他们劳动的汗水和顽强拼搏的精神。从一个民族的谚语中，我们既可以找到他们的历史踪迹，也可领略到他们对其生活的体验、对社会、对人间百态的观察以及对事物哲理的精辟总结。在跨国交往日益频繁、跨文化交际日新月异的 21 世纪，我们研究英语谚语，品味英语谚语中所浸含的精神营养，学习英语谚语、掌握谚语的运用并使之服务于我们与西方人的融洽交往，看来是十分必要的。

谚语，在漫长的历史岁月中，经过千锤百炼，成为脍炙人口的语言精华。谚语，其语言精炼而意味深长，以其很小很小的语言的躯体承载着很重很重的语意的重量。要说铭刻人心，要说意味深长，要说喻意深远，恐非谚语莫属。英语谚语，不同于习语或成语，是精辟的语言与丰富的思想的完美融合。有些谚语，虽源于远古，但是对今人品行的修炼和思想境界的升华仍具有很高的参考价值。有些谚语言简意骇，把人间百态刻画得入木三分。还有的谚语，看似是在说马，但实际上是在论牛，只要你善于琢磨和体会，你就总会从中发现新的闪光点。在与英美人进行日常交谈或与他们进行贸易磋商的情景中，假若你能偶尔恰当地用上一两则谚语，就连你自己都难预测其会面的交际效果以及对未来交往所能产生的积极、深远的影响。天上虽不会掉馅饼，但比馅饼更具魅力、更具价值、更使人心旷神怡的好事不只落在了一两个智者的身上。

诚然，谚语词典编纂专家墨笔尚未来得急蘸好墨水，新的谚语就已经跑遍了半个世界，这无疑是令词典编纂人感到很头痛的一大难题。然而，语言总不能在原地踏步而等待词典的编纂者，同样，词典的编纂者也总不能因赶不上语言的脚步而双手合十地自暴自弃。他们用今天的时间去回忆并拍摄昨天人们留下的脚印，而到了明天，他们依然孜孜寻觅在昨天人们的行迹之中。说这些，有点是为了本书的不足而找个开脱的借口。但这并不意味着本书就一无是处，相反，我们在几本英语谚语词典以及 90 年代以来的英美报刊中寻寻觅觅，左比右比，最后根据笔者对读者需要的判断才在英语谚语的大海中筛选出属于谚语大海中凤毛麟脚的 500 条具有代表性的谚语精品。

应该指出的是，我们在筛选每一条谚语时，大脑一直受这样的宗旨所支配：表示相同或相类似意思的词条，我们只收录最有代表性的那一则；在表示同一个意思的数则谚语中，我们只选距离现代人生活最近、最熟悉的那一则，这就意味着，本书所选录的 500 条谚语，绝大多数具有实用性和代表性，这对启发广大英语爱好者的思路并提高大家英语的综合水平无疑具有很强的指导意义和现实意义。

现在就学习和使用谚语的方法向大家作一简单介绍。我们这里所收录的谚语，不但适用于书面文体，大多数也适用于口语会话，像诸如 *One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.*（双鸟在林，不如一鸟在手）以及 *Love me, love my dog.*（爱鸟及鸟）等类的谚语，不但常见于英美等国的现代报刊杂志，而且也常闻于英美人的日常调侃之中。但值得注意的是，谚语是语言中的精华，既然是精华，就得把“好钢用在刀刃上”，决不可以在书信或传真文件以及商务函件中到处使用，否则就会犯“高射炮打蚊子”的错误或“弄巧成拙”。在口语会话的场合中，谚语是一个有力的神秘武器，冷不防地用上一则，会提高会话的质量，给会话的场合增添几分宜人的色彩和气氛，同时也会使思想表达更具魅力。当然，无论何时使用，有一点是至关重要的：*Use the appropriate proverb at the appropriate*

time.

最后，关于内容的编排再向读者作一个交代。书中 500 条谚语的顺序是按字母的顺序编排的。在每一则谚语之后，有汉译文，然后便是一段涉及该谚语使用的场合以及本人对其所作的相关评述。该段不但提供了所涉及谚语内容以及表达方式的简要陈述，而且也为读者更好地理解该谚语的内涵提供了可供思考的线索。跟随英文论说之后，我们对每一条谚语的意思以及用法作了简要说明，旨在使读者对每一条谚语的喻意加深理解。之后我们又提供一段简短的对话，旨在使读者对该谚语使用的场合有更深层次的理解。总之，无论该书的编排是否适当，有一点是值得肯定的：读者一定能够从中获得程度不同的启发或灵感。若是此书能为你的英语学习带来一些益处或是你认为该书有一定的参考价值，那么我们就感到很欣慰了。

本书作者

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- [011] After honor and state, follow envy and hate. 有了名位, 妒忌和仇恨也就接踵而来。
- [012] After your fling, watch for the sting. 行乐要防悲。
- [013] All are not saints who go to church. 去作礼拜的人未必都是圣徒。
- [014] All cobblers go barefoot. 补鞋匠都没有鞋子穿。
- [015] All covet, all lose. 事事都想要, 凡事得不到。
- [016] All happiness is in the mind. 心里认为是幸福的就是幸福。
- [017] All is not gold that glitters. 闪光的东西不一定是金子。
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to pass. 心里想的事不一定能发生。

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[027] All things come to him who waits. 一切都属于能耐心等待的人。

[028] All things fit not all persons. 一物难称万人心。

[029] All things thrive at thrice. 好运总在第三次。

[030] All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. 只干活而无娱乐的人会变呆。

[031] Always have two strings to your bow. 一定要为弓准备两根弦。

[032] Ambition loses many a man. 野心撂倒众多人。

[033] Among the blind the one-eyed man is king. 盲人国里，独眼称王。

[034] Appearance is deceiving. 外表靠不住。

[035] Appetite comes with eating. 胃口越吃越大。

[036] An apple a day keeps the doctor away. 一天吃一个苹果，不用看医生。

[037] Arrogance is a roadblock on the highway of wisdom. 狂妄是通向智慧之路的绊脚石。

[038] Art is long, but life is short. 人生有限，学问无穷。

[039] As a man makes his bed so must he lie. 自己铺的床，就得自己睡。

[040] As is the lover, so is the beloved. 什么样的人爱什么样的人。

[041] As the inner life is, so will be the language. 言为心声。

[042] As the master is, so is his dog. 什么样的主人养什么样的狗。

[043] As you brew, so must you drink. 自己酿的苦酒只能自己喝。

[044] The ascent is difficult, but the descent is easy. 下降容易上升难。

[045] Asking costs nothing. 提问无需代价。

[046] Attack is the best defense. 进攻是最好的防御。

[047] Avarice is never satisfied. 贪欲永难满足。

[048] Avarice overreaches itself. 贪得其反。

[049] Away from the battle all are soldiers. 离开战场，人人都是勇士。

[050] The back door robs the house. 后门的盗贼难防。

[051] A bad conscience is a snake in one's heart. 良心有愧，犹如心中有鬼。

[052] The bad flourish; the good die

young. 坏人活得好, 好人命不长。

[053] A bad man in office is a mischief to the public. 坏人当道, 百姓遭殃。

[054] Bad news travels fast. 坏消息传得快。

[055] A bad workman always blames his tools. 蹩脚的工匠总责怪工具不好。

[056] Barking dogs do not bite. 吠犬不咬人。

[057] Every dog has his day. 凡人皆有得意日。

[058] He who has a mind to beat his dog will easily find his stick. 欲加之罪, 何患无辞。

[059] Let sleeping dogs lie. 莫惹是非。

[060] Be not too bold with your biggers or betters. 在强者面前, 切莫莽撞。

[061] Be patient in adversity and cautious in prosperity. 身处逆境要忍耐, 身处顺境要小心。

[062] Be swift to hear, slow to speak. 快听慢说; 多听少讲。

[063] Beat the dog before the lion. 杀鸡给猴看。

[064] Beauty is but skin-deep. 美貌只是表面的。

[065] Beauty is in the eye of the be-

holder. 情人眼里出美人。

[066] The bee sucks honey out of the bitterest flowers. 蜜蜂能从最苦的花里吸吮出蜜来。

[067] A beggar's purse is bottomless. 乞丐钱包没有底。

[068] Beggars can't be choosers. 要饭的不能挑三拣四。

[069] Behind the mountains there are people to be found. 能人背后有能人。

[070] The best art conceals art. 艺术之妙, 贵在含蓄。

[071] Best defense is offence. 进攻是最好的防御。(先下手为强。)

[072] The best fish swim near the bottom. 好鱼潜水底。

[073] The best mirror is an old friend. 老朋友是一面最好的镜子。

[074] The best friend must part. 再好的朋友也总有一别。

[075] The best remedy for an injury is to forget it. 医治创伤的最好办法就是将其忘却。

[076] The best things in life are free. 生活中最好的东西是不需要花钱买的。

[077] Better a neighbor that is near than a brother far off. 远亲不如近邻。

[078] Better a witty fool than a foolish wit. 宁要明白的傻子, 也不要

糊涂的才子。

- [079] Better an empty purse than an empty head. 宁可口袋空，不可脑袋空。
- [080] Better an open enemy than a false friend. 宁要公开的敌人，不要虚伪的朋友。
- [081] Better be a bird in the wood than one in the cage. 宁做林中鸟，不做囚中雀。
- [082] Better be envied than pitied. 宁让他人羡慕，不让他人怜悯。
- [083] Better be the head of a dog than the tail of a lion. 宁为犬首，不做狮尾。
- [084] Better die standing than live kneeling. 宁可站着死，不可跪着生。
- [085] Better go it alone than be in bad company. 没有好伴，宁愿独行。
- [086] Better late than never. 迟到总比不到强。
- [087] Better lose the saddle than the horse. 宁舍鞍而不失马。
- [088] Better wit than wealth. 有财不如有才。
- [089] The bigger the lie the more it is believed. 谎言越大，信的人越多。
- [090] The bigger the man, the better the mark. 人物越大，目标越大。
- [091] The bigger they are, the harder

they fall. 爬得越高，摔得越狠。

- [092] One bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 双鸟在林，不如一鸟在手。
- [093] A bird is known by its singing. 闻其声，知其鸟。
- [094] Bite off more than one can chew. 贪多嚼不烂。
- [095] Bitter pills may have blessed effects. 良药苦口。
- [096] A blithe heart makes a blooming visage. 人逢喜事精神爽。
- [097] Blood is thicker than water. 血浓于水。
- [098] The boughs that bear most hang lowest. 果实最多的树枝垂得最低。
- [099] The brave man is daring enough to forgive an injury. 只有勇士，才敢于宽恕伤害过他的人。
- [100] The bread of charity is bitter. 讨来的面包味道苦。
- [101] Brevity is the soul of wit. 言以简洁为贵。
- [102] A bribe will enter without knocking. 行贿者进屋不用敲门。
- [103] Bribes blind the wise man's sight. 贿赂能使智者变糊涂。
- [104] The bridge between joy and sorrow is not long. 悲喜之间的桥很短。

- [105] The brighter the moon, the more the dog howls. 月亮越明, 狗叫得越凶。
- [106] Broken bones well set become stronger. 断骨接好更结实。
- [107] A bully is always a coward. 恃强欺弱者是个胆小鬼。
- [108] The burden is light on the shoulders of another. 别人肩上的担子不会重。
- [109] The burden of one's own choice is not felt. 愿挑的担子不觉重。
- [110] Business before pleasure. 先工作, 后娱乐。
- [111] Business is the salt of life. 事业是生命的要素。
- [112] The buyer needs a hundred eyes, the seller but one. 买主需要一百只眼睛, 而卖主只需一只眼。
- [113] By doing nothing we learn to do ill. 无所事事的人就会学着干坏事。
- [114] By peace plenty. 人和财富多。(和气生财。)
- [115] Calamity is man's true touchstone. 灾难是对人的真正考验。
- [116] Calamity is often a friend in disguise. 灾难往往是不露面的朋友。
- [117] Call no man happy till he is dead. 死前莫说谁幸福。
- [118] A candle lights others and consumes itself. 蜡烛照亮了别人, 却燃掉了自己。
- [119] Candor breeds hatred. 坦诚招人恨。
- [120] Care and diligence bring luck. 好运来自谨慎和勤奋。
- [121] Care brings gray hair. 忧愁生白发。
- [122] Care is beauty's thief. 忧愁是偷盗美貌的贼。
- [123] Cash begets cash as credit begets creditors. 钱生钱, 债生债。
- [124] Cast pearls before swine. 把珍珠拿给蠢猪看。
- [125] The cat is a good friend but she scratches. 猫是好友, 但会抓人。
- [126] A cat may look at a king. 猫也可以看国王。
- [127] The cat that catches no mice does not earn his keep. 不捉耗子的猫没人养。
- [128] Catch your bear before you sell its skin. 熊不到手, 莫先卖皮。
- [129] Caution is the parent of safety. 谨慎为安全之本。
- [130] A cent of mirth is worth a dollar of grief. 一分欢乐抵千愁。
- [131] Charity begins at home. 施舍先及亲友。
- [132] Cheap goods always prove ex-