# PerfectEnglish [FE]

习惯用法与搭配

700例

马纪强 陈怡慧 编

上海交通大学出版社

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### 内容提要

本书精选了 700 余条英语成语,并为每一条成语配备了一至两个例句,对其用法进行说明,以期帮助读者理解并进一步使用这些成语。本书可作为英语学习的参考工具书使用,也可供具有一定英语水平的读者作为休闲阅读材料。

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### 前言

英语同世界上任何高度发展的语言一样,拥有丰富的成语。这些成语大多富有丰富的文化背景和强大的表现力,在文学作品、报刊杂志及日常口语中广为使用。成语言简意赅,形象生动,富于表现力,容易使读者产生联想。但成语的意义往往不能从字面意义上猜出来,因为大部分成语的意义并非其构成词汇意义的简单组合。仅根据成语各组成词汇的意义推断该成语的意义,往往就会闹笑话。

从来源上看,英语的大量成语最初是水手、猎人、农民、作坊工人、家庭主妇、厨师等劳动者创造的。他们从自己熟悉的事物中搭配出一些传神的词,并创造出一些生动活泼、耐人寻味的比喻。例如有关航海的成语有 plain sailing (一帆风顺;胸有成竹),false colors (隐藏真面目;欺世盗名,原指海盗船隐藏真面目);有关狩猎的成语有 kill two birds with one stone(一箭双雕),bark up the wrong tree (认错目标;把精力花在不该花的地方);农民创造的成语有 like a bull in a china shop(笨拙鲁莽之人;动辄闯祸之人),put all one's eggs in one basket (孤注一掷);出自渔民之口的成语有 fish in troubled waters (浑水摸鱼;乘人之

危), a fish out of water (离水之鱼;不得其所); 有来自运动的成语 below the belt (不公正;卑怯) 等等。这些成语都是非正规的口语体,最初局限 于同行业的人员使用,但不久便突破行业界限, 被普遍接受。它们早期的文体色彩亦随之消失, 成为语言的共核部分,广为使用。

英语成语的另一个主要来源是古代典籍、古希腊或罗马神话及文学名家的作品。许多成语直接来自《圣经》,比如,alpha and omega(始终,全部;最重要的部分)源自希腊字母表,但见于《圣经·启示录》第二十二章第十三节:"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." 再如,at the eleventh hour(在最后可能的时刻)源出《圣经·马太福音》第二十章。而 hoist with one's own petard(请君入瓮;害人反害己)出自莎士比亚的《哈姆雷特》第三幕第四场:"For, tis the sport to have the engineer/hoist with his own petard." 这一类成语本身即来自英语的文学典籍,早已成为大家熟悉的词汇。

本书精选了700余条英语成语,并为每一条成语配备了一或两个例句,对其用法进行说明,以期帮助读者理解并进一步使用这些成语。在遴选成语的过程中,考虑到短语动词(phrasal verb)的特殊性,本书没有编选这一类成语,尽管短语动词非常重要。本书所选成语主要是上面所陈述的两大类,这些成语趣味性强,形象生动,具有丰富的表现力。和大多数词典对成语的处理不同,

本书没有按关键词排列成语,而是按照成语的第一个词的字母顺序排列。所需注意的是,英语的 冠词 a, an, the 没有计算在内。譬如,as thick as thieves 排列在 as broad as long 之后,而在 at one's wit's end 之前,因 thick 的字母顺序在 broad 之后,而 at 则在 as 之后。

本书可作为英语学习的参考工具书使用,也 可供具有一定英语水平的读者作为休闲阅读材料。

限于编者水平, 书中谬误之处, 祈请读者不 吝指正。

> 编者 2002年8月

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### after a fashion 勉强:马马虎虎

She can swim after a fashion.

她会游泳,但不太好。

When I watched the film you recommended to me in its original French version, I was able to understand what was going on only after a fashion.

我看了你向我推荐的法语原版电影,但只能勉强 看得懂。

# afraid of one's own shadow 杯弓蛇影: 胆小到极点

The young lady does not dare to go out even on moonlight evenings; she is afraid of her own shadow.

那年轻的女子连月光明媚的晚上也不敢外出,真 是胆小到了极点。

after one's own heart

称心如意: 正中下怀

We are going to have a day after your own heart today.

我们要让你今天过得称心如意。

against the grain 格格不入: 违反本性

It goes against the grain to do it, but I have no choice.

这样做不合我本意,但我别无选择。

alive and kicking 活蹦乱跳;生气勃勃

At 76, old Mac is still alive and kicking. 老麦克 76 岁了,仍然非常健壮。

> all at sea 不知所措;迷惑不解

He is all at sea as to what to do next. 他茫然若失,不知道下一步该怎样做。

all Greek to somebody 是…全然不懂的

The theory of Relativity is all Greek to most people.

相对论是大多数人没法弄懂的。

### alpha and omega 始终,全部:最重要的部分

The alpha and omega of my heart's wishes broke involuntarily from my lips, in the words "Jane! Jane! Jane!"

我内心的全部愿望,不由自主地从我唇边用这样的话发出:"简!简!简!"

Discipline and talent are the alpha and omega of a career as a piano player.

对一名钢琴家来讲, 勤学苦练和天赋是其事业成功的最重要因素。

### another pair of shoes 另外一回事: 另当别论

That's another pair of shoes.

那是另外一回事了。

If you say he's your Godfather, that's another pair of shoes. I suppose you can rely on him to help you.

你若说他是你的教父,那就另当别论了,我想你 能依赖他来帮助你。

### apple pie

接近完美的;美国特点的;美国价值观的

Put the room in apple-pie order.

把房间整理得井井有条。

Family, neighborhood, community are apple pie virtues, unassailable and unavoidable in political rhetoric.

家庭、邻里和社区关系是地道的美国式美德,在 政治辞令上无懈可击,不可废除。

### as broad as long 长宽相等的: 无区别的

I am very hungry. It is as broad as it is long to me whether we go to the Chinese or the Italian restaurant.

我饿坏了,我们去中国餐馆还是意大利餐馆,这 没什么区别。

### as pale as a ghost 脸色苍白

The old man was not able to speak and he was as pale as a ghost.

这个老人不能说话,脸色苍白。

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### as thick as thieves 亲密无间

To separate Marina and her friend Monica is hardly possible—they are as thick as thieves.

要把玛丽娜和她的朋友莫妮卡分开几乎是不可能的,她们彼此要好,亲密无间。

at one's wit's end 智穷计尽,不知所措

I am at my wit's end with this problem.

我对这个问题全然束手无策。

at the eleventh hour 在最后可能的时刻

I turned in the report at the eleventh hour. 我在最后时刻交上了这份报告。

> at the end of one's tether 山穷水尽:一筹莫展:走投无路

He was out of work and broke, and he was at the end of his tether.

他失业了,身无分文,到了山穷水尽的境地。

### an axe to grind 个人企图:私心

He may offer you a post in his firm, but he has an axe to grind, he wants to stand well with your father.

他会在他的商行里为你安排一个位子,但他是别有企图的:他想博取你父亲的好感。





### bag and baggage 彻底,完全

Last night our neighbors cleared out bag and baggage; today the house is quite empty.

昨晚我们的邻居把东西都搬走了;今天房子显得 空荡荡的。

### bang one's head against a brick wall 以头撞墙: 徒劳无益

Though our boss may be a decent man, you will bang your head against a brick wall by asking for a pay rise.

虽然我们老板人值得尊敬,但要求他给你加薪, 那是妄想。

> bark up the wrong tree 认错目标、把精力花在不该花的地方

If you believe the school headmaster to be the traitor, you are barking up the wrong tree.

如果你认为是校长叛变,那你就认错目标了。

### be able to take a joke 经得起开玩笑

Ralph is kind but he is not able to take a joke. 拉尔夫为人友善,但经不起开玩笑。

> beat about the bush 说话兜圈子:拐弯抹角地说

Please, tell me if you want a divorce and stop beating about the bush.

拜托, 告诉我你是否想离婚, 别说话兜圈子。

Stop beating about the bush and tell us who won.

不要东拉西扯了,告诉我们是谁赢了。

be expecting 怀孕

I heard Sally was expecting again. 我听说萨莉又有了身孕。

> beat somebody black and blue 打得某人青一块紫一块

The gang had beaten him black and blue.

那伙人打得他浑身青一块紫一块。

below the belt 不公正:卑怯

I thought the remark was a bit below the belt. 我认为那句话不太正大光明。

### bet one's sweet life on something 绝对确信某事物

He had said: "These stocks will rise, you can bet your sweet life on that." Now I am deeply in debt.

当初他告诉我说:"这些股票一定会涨的,这一点你尽可以放心。"如今我却负债累累。

# bite the bullet 啃酸苹果;做不愉快或困难的事

I wanted to buy a stereo as soon as possible so I bit the bullet and accepted a job at a snack-bar. 我想尽快买一套音响,因此将就在一家快餐店打工。

### bitter pill

耻辱: 苦果: 难以接受的事物

Having to seek his foe's aid was a bitter pill to take.

不得不去找仇人帮忙,那是一件令他难堪的事情。
To accept defeat is, indeed, a bitter pill to swallow.

承认失败的确是不得不忍受的屈辱。

blaze a trail 开辟道路: 创始革新

The expedition blazed the trail in the woods. 探险队在森林里开辟道路。

His research group blazed a trail in the field of laser surgery.

他的研究小组在激光外科手术领域中开拓新路。

blow one's own trumpet 自吹自擂; 夸口

Robert's friends got rather annoyed because he always blew his own trumpet concerning his job. 罗伯特老是吹嘘自己的工作,他的朋友对此深感厌恶。

blurt it out 脱口说出