

**最 新**

熊建国 主编

**流行美语词汇**

A Selection of  
Contemporary  
Americanisms

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世界图书出版公司

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# 最新流行美语词汇

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## 前 言

在阅读美国书刊报纸,同美国朋友交谈的时候,常常有看不下去,或者听不明白的情况。这种苦恼有时是由一些在词典上找不到的新词语造成的。这种现象并不奇怪,因为语言是发展变化的。随着国际交往更加密切,社会变革日益加剧,人民生活不断改善,特别是科技迅猛发展,每年不断有新词语、旧词新义和外来词出现在英语中。而词典的编辑,特别是大容量词典的编辑往往需要数年甚至更长的时间方能完成,所以我国现有的英汉辞典一般还来不及把这些新词语包括进去。

正是根据上面的情况,我们从大量美国出版的报纸、书刊中精选了 2000 条一般英汉词典上找不到的常用新词语,编写了这本《最新流行美语词汇》。例如:

as American as apple pie 典型的美国人或事

Wassup? 情况怎样?

wear more than one hat 担任多项职务

zipfuel 特制高能火箭燃料

virus 计算机病毒

forex 外汇交易市场

dead presidents[美国]现金(纸币)

user-friendly 容易使用的

waldo 走神

transphotic 超光速的

warts and all 明白而可怕的事实

这些新词语覆盖了从食物到电脑等40个以上门类。解释中引用的例句全部来自美国最新的书刊、报纸和通俗小说等读物,因此语言新颖、地道、生动、实用。本书所有词条都按字母的顺序排列,词条本词用黑正体印刷,词性用白斜体印刷。英文释意用白正体印刷,例句用白斜体印刷,例句后附汉语译文。为便于读者查找,书中有“参阅(see…)”。

在编写本书过程中,湖南师范大学的美国访问学者James & Ada Dailey 夫妇曾提供过很多宝贵的资料,并且给予了热情的帮助。谨此表示衷心的感谢。

编 者

1996年3月

# 略 语 表

## Abbreviations

- abbr.* = abbreviation 省略  
*adj.* = adjective 形容词  
*adv.* = adverb 副词  
*derog.* = derogatory 贬义  
*dial.* = dialect 方言  
*emph.* = emphatically 加重语气  
*euph.* = euphemism 委婉语  
*esp.* = especially 特别  
*etc.* = and so on 等等  
*excl.* = exclamation 感叹词  
*fig.* = figurative 比喻  
*fr.* = from 源自  
*imp.* = imperative 命令式  
*lit.* = literal 字面上  
*n.* = noun 名词  
*orig.* = original 本意  
*perh.* = perhaps 也许  
*pl.* = plural 复数  
*sb.* = somebody 某人  
*sth.* = something 某物  
*usu.* = usually 通常  
*v.* = verb 动词

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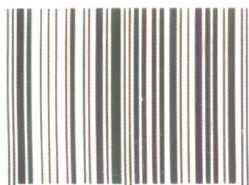
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  5. *THE NEW YORKER* magazine
  6. *READER'S DIGEST* magazine
  7. *NEW YORK TIMES* newspaper
  8. *LIFE* magazine
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# A

## a... and a half

extreme version of something  
十足的...,完全的...,最...

*Jack is a brain and a half, so everybody asks him for help with their assignments.* 杰克是个最聪明的学生,大家做作业的时候都要他帮助。

## a cold day in hell

never 永不

*It'll be a cold day in hell before I ever go out with you again.*

你休想我再跟你出去。

## a damned thing

anything (in anger) 任何东西  
(生气时说的话)

*After ten hours of work Laurie didn't make a damned thing.*

劳里一连工作 10 小时,什么也没做成。

## A for effort

a phrase applied, sometimes disparagingly, to those who have blundered or failed in spite of great earnestness (有时用来奚落做事认真但效果不好或出差错的人)甲等(成绩)

*Well, I guess we can give him A for effort, but he didn't manage to learn much this term.*

嗯,就用功而言,我们可以给他打个“甲等”。但是本学期他的确没有学到什么东西。

## a for instance

an example 举例子

*What do you mean by syllogism? Give me a for instance.*

syllogism 是什么意思?请给我举个例子。

## a thing or two

facts not generally known, or not known to the hearer or reader; unusual or important information 大家不清楚的事实,或听众、读者尚不了解的事实;不平常或重要的情况

*Mary told Joan a thing or two about Betty's real feelings.* 玛丽把有关贝蒂的真实感情告诉了琼。

## a walk in the park

something easy 轻而易举的事  
*Tom thought the assignment would be a walk in the park.*  
汤姆认为这次作业非常容易完成。

## a world's worth of

a lot of 很多

*He has a world's worth of ambition but not an iota of talent.*

他志大才疏。

**about one's ears; around one's ears**

to or into complete collapse, defeat, or ruin; to the destruction of a person's plans, hopes, or happiness 毁灭无遗; 落空

*They planned to have factories all over the world but the war brought their plans down about their ears.* 他们原计划在全世界各地开设工厂, 但战争使他们的计划全部落空。

**absolutely adv.**

expression of agreement 是的; 当然(表示同意)

*"Your husband is a pretty nice guy, eh?" "Absolutely."* “你丈夫是个很好的人嘛。”“那还用说。”

**absurd n.**

a philosophical position that holds that man exists in an irrational and meaningless universe and that man's life has no meaning outside his own existence 谬论, 荒诞

*There's no existential absurd to perplex us.* 没有任何存在主义的谬论使我们迷惑。

*The black humor of the absurd dominates his novel.* 荒诞的黑色幽默贯穿着他的小说。

**absurdism n.**

a philosophy based on the belief that man exists in an irrational

and meaningless universe and that his search for order brings him into conflict with his universe 荒诞主义

*We can see obvious absurdism in his plays.* 在他的剧本里我们可以看到明显的荒诞主义。

**absurdist adj.**

of, relating to, or dealing with absurdism 荒诞主义的

*I can't see why Mick should worship the absurdist works.*

我真不明白迈克怎么会崇拜荒诞主义的作品。

**ace v. (aced, acing)**

to earn the grade of A on (an examination) (在考试中) 获 A 等分数

*I aced the chemistry exam, no sweat.* 我不费气力便获得了化学考试 A 等成绩。

*"I aced it," he said, staring at his test paper in disbelief.* “我得了满分!”他说, 眼睛盯着考卷, 几乎不敢相信。

**acid rain**

precipitation that is acidic in nature, possibly caused by air pollution 酸雨(降下的雨水, 由于空气污染而带有酸性)

*The Canadians claim that the acid rain is caused by American industries up wind.* 加拿大人认为酸雨是由吹过来的美国工业废气所造成的。

**acoustic, acoustical adj.**

of or relating to, or being a musical instrument whose sound is not electronically modified 不用电子设备润饰的, (乐器) 原声的

*He is playing acoustical guitar.*  
他在弹奏原声吉他。

**act out v.**

1. to show an idea, story, or happening by one's looks, talk and movements 用面部表情、言谈动作来绘声绘色地表达

*He tried to act out a story that he had read.* 他试图绘声绘色地讲述他读过的那个故事。

2. to put into action 实践; 实现

*All his life he tried to act out his beliefs.* 他一生都在努力实现自己的信仰。

**action n.**

the most vigorous, productive, or exciting activity in a particular field, area, or group 某领域、地区或团体中最充满活力, 最活跃, 最令人兴奋的活动

*Let's go where the action is.*

咱们去最热闹的地方吧。

**add insult to injury**

to aggravate an already difficult situation 使情况更加恶化, 雪上加霜

*Just to add insult to injury, the burglars smashed the store front*

*window as they fled with the contents of the cash register.*

真是雪上加霜, 盗贼窃走了收款机内的钱之外还打破了商店的橱窗。

**addressable adj.**

accessible through an address (as in the memory of a computer) (电脑) 可寻址的, 可编址的

*We need an addressable register in a computer.* 我们需要在计算机上安装一个可寻址的寄存器。

**Adonis n.**

attractive male 英俊少年

*Did you see that Adonis in Brenda's study group?* 你见到了白琳达学习小组的那位俊小伙子吗?

**ADP**

automatic data processing 自动数据处理

*We've installed an ADP center at our company's headquarters.* 我们在公司本部设立了自动数据处理中心。

**advance man**

an aide generally of a political candidate who handles publicity in advance of a personal appearance of the latter (竞选人的) 先遣人员; 助选人员

*Mondale sent ten advance men to Los Angeles but Hart could af-*

*ford to send only two.* 蒙代尔派了10名先遣人员去洛杉矶,而哈特却只派得起两名。

**aerobics n.**

(fr. aerobic) a system of physical conditioning that stresses exercises (as running, walking, or swimming) designed to increase oxygen consumption for the purpose of improving circulatory function esp. of the heart and lungs 缺氧健身锻炼(一种健身法,如跑步、步行、游泳,用以增加氧的消耗,促进心肺等循环系统的功能)

*Most exercise programs emphasize aerobics, not muscle building.* 大多数训练方案都强调促进心肺功能的缺氧健身术,而不强调肌肉锻炼。

**aerospace n.**

1. a branch of physical science that deals with the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond 大气宇宙学

*Aerospace is one of the new sciences of this century.* 大气宇宙学是本世纪的一门新科学。

2. the industry involved in the manufacture of aerospace vehicles 宇航工业

**aerospace adj.**

of or relating to aerospace, or to vehicles used in aerospace or to the manufacture of such vehi-

cles, or to travel in aerospace 宇宙空间的; 宇航工具的; 宇宙航行的

*They've got marvellous achievements in aerospace research.*

他们在宇航研究方面已经取得了惊人的成果。

**afficionado n.**

devotee; fan; connoisseur (fr. Spanish) 爱好者; 热心者; 行家(源于西班牙语)

*He's an aficionado of baseball and basketball.* 他爱好垒球和篮球运动。

**afraid of one's shadow**

easily frightened 容易受惊,胆小极了

*Old Red's not much of a watchdog, he's afraid of his own shadow.* 老红毛不是一条看家护院的好狗,它胆小极了。

**A-frame n.**

(the resemblance of the shape of the facade to a capital A) a building that typically has a triangular front and rear wall and a roof reaching to or nearly to the level of the ground floor (因与大写字母A相似而得名) 前后墙呈三角形,屋顶挨到或接近房子的第一层; A型建筑物; 金字顶式建筑物

*Many A-frames are built in snowy mountainous areas, because the snow slides easily off*

*the roof.* 在雪山地区修建了许多 A 型建筑物, 因为积雪很容易从屋顶上滑掉。

**Afro** *n.* (*pl.* *Afros*)

an Afro hairstyle 埃弗罗发式 (一种非洲发型)

*His hair stood out about four inches all over his head is one of the best Afros I had ever seen.* 他的头发在头上蓬起四英寸, 是我所见过的最好的非洲发型之一。

**Afro** *adj.*

(Afro-African) having the hair shaped into a round bushy mass 蓬松如灌木状圆发型的; 埃弗罗式非洲发型的

*I wonder why Jenny likes such a bouffant Afro hairstyle.* 我不知道詹妮为什么喜欢这种蓬松的埃弗罗式非洲发型。

**aftertax** *adj.*

remaining after payment of taxes and esp. of income tax 税后的, 缴税后 (特别是缴纳所得税后) 剩余的

*His salary was \$ 3,000 but his aftertax earnings were \$ 2000.* 他的薪金是 3,000 美元, 但缴税后只剩 2,000 美元了。

**agrobusiness** *n.*

agriculture as practised by large corporations in America 美国大公司经营的规模农业

*Although agrobusiness is con-*

*trolled by climate conditions, many corporations have made a killing in it.* 虽然大型规模农业受气候条件的限制, 许多公司仍由此而大发其财。

**ahead of the game**

in an advantageous position 形势好, 主动有利

*I figure if I get half of the assignment done by tomorrow, I'm ahead of the game.* 我想如果明天我能把这作业做完一半的话, 我就主动了。

**air bag** *n.*

a bag designed to inflate automatically in front of riders in an automotive vehicle in case of accident to protect them from pitching forward into solid parts 气袋 (装置在汽车内乘车人员前的自动充气袋, 万一发生事故时, 保护他们不撞到坚硬物件上)

*Air bag legislation is not expected to pass in Congress this year.* 国会今年不打算通过气袋法规。

**air dirty laundry**

to let others know of private conflicts or problems 让家丑外扬

*We felt uncomfortable when Uncle Morgan began airing the family's dirty laundry at the dinnertable.* 晚餐时, 我们觉得很不安, 因为摩根伯伯在亮家

丑。

**air piracy n.**

the hijacking of an airplane 空中劫机, 劫机

*David is held on a charge of air piracy in the plot to hijack the plane for \$ 500,000 ransom.*

大卫因劫机阴谋被拘捕, 他劫机时曾勒索要 500 万美金。

**air support**

bombing that occurs in conjunction with a land assault 空中支援

*We need some air support now or we'll have to retreat by sundown.* 我们急需空中支援, 否则黄昏时我们将不得不撤退。

**air taxi n.**

a small commercial airplane that makes short trips between airports that are quite close together 空中的士(一种小型的客机, 用于十分邻近的机场之间的短途航行)

*We can get the air taxi between the New Jersey airport and Kennedy International Airport in New York city instead of using ground transportation.*

我们可以乘坐新泽西机场和纽约的肯尼迪国际机场之间的空中的士, 而不必使用陆路交通。

**airball n.**

shot that completely misses the rim of the basket 投篮失误

(没沾上篮框)

*Nina was embarrassed at the number of airballs she threw in the game that afternoon.* 那天下午篮球比赛中尼拉很不好意思, 因为她多次投篮失误。

**airhead n.**

dizzy, empty-headed person 笨蛋, 无头脑的人

*Vince proved too much of an airhead to be a first class treasurer when he lost all the money.* 文斯的破产足以证明他是个无头脑的人, 不能成为高级财务人员。

**airplay n.**

the playing of a phonograph record on the air by a radio station (电台)播放唱片

*That group of new records is getting a lot of airplay this month.* 这个月那一组的新唱片将由电台大量播放。

**albatross n.**

1. inescapable burden from "the Rime of The Ancient Mariner" by Coleridge) 无法甩掉的包袱(出自科尔里奇[1772—1834]的《古舟子咏》长诗。albatross 是一只幸运神鸟, 被舟子射死, 因此舟子长期在海上受痛苦。后引申为“不可避免的负担”之意)

*It was his particular albatross to be related to the nefarious gang-*

ster Al Capone. 他有个包袱极难甩掉,那就是他和那个凶恶的强盗阿尔·卡彭尼有着亲戚关系。

2. an encumbrance; something that causes anxiety 引起忧虑的事物

"I'll be happy to be rid of this albatross," said the author as she placed the 400-page manuscript on the editor's desk. "我真高兴,总算完成了这烦人的活儿。"作家将那400页的书稿放在编辑的桌上时说。

3. patient who never seems to get better, or who is regularly ill with a new ailment, and who sticks with one physician for seemingly endless treatment 难以治愈的病人;老病号

It was discouraging to the internist to realize that many patients could not be cured and would be albatrosses returning again and again for treatment. 令这位内科大夫沮丧的是很多病人难以治愈,老是要回到医院进行治疗。

#### All-American adj.

entirely made up of Americans, representative of the United States as a whole; completely within the United States 美国国家的;代表美国国家的

John Smith is going to Tokyo

with the All-American basketball team. 约翰·史密斯将和美国国家篮球代表队去东京。

#### all day and night

life sentence in prison 无期徒刑;终生监禁

The kidnappers knew that if they were apprehended they'd be in jail all day and night. 那些绑架者明白,如果他们被捕,他们将被判无期徒刑。

#### all hands

ship's full crew 全体船员(水手)

The captain ordered all hands on deck for inspection. 船长命令所有水手都上甲板接受视察。

#### all systems go

everything ready for action 一切办妥了,万事俱备

The car is packed, all systems go. 车已装好,只待出发。

#### all that jazz

all that sort of thing (usu. slightly derog.) 诸如此类的事情(通常稍有贬义)

He told me I'd been a bad boy, that I'd better be more careful, and all that jazz. 他说,我表现不好,要我检点些,以及诸如此类的话。

#### all the rage

most current fashion 最时尚的;最流行的

Those leopard-print scarves are



*all the rage in the city.* 印有豹斑的围巾在这城市最流行。

**all wet**

*mistaken* 弄错了; 弄得一团糟  
*Georgia did not check his facts before interviewing the doctor, and as a result he came up all wet on television.* 乔治亚在采访医生前未核实情况, 结果弄得这场电视采访一团糟。

**allegro adj.**

*lively* 生动的, 逼真的  
*Okay, campus, let's practice the fire drill again—this time, make it allegro.* 好啦, 同学们, 我们再来一次消防演习, 这次要求做得逼真些。

**all-nighter n.**

*something that lasts throughout the night* 通宵开夜车  
*We have a lot of things: classes, meetings, eye-straining hours in the library, and all-nighters over last-minute papers.* 我们要做的事可多哩: 上课呀, 开会呀, 在图书馆内一连数小时紧张看书呀, 以及在考试紧要关头时通宵开夜车呀。

**along for the ride**

1. *present just for the fun of it or to keep others company* 逢场作戏; 陪伴  
*I'm just along for the ride, better ask him.* 我只来陪一陪, 你问他好一些。

2. *unofficially associated with* 非正式有关的

*I am not a member of this delegation, I am just along for the ride.* 我不是代表团的正式成员, 我只是随员。

**Alpine adj.**

*of or relating to competitive ski events consisting of slalom and downhill racing* 大回转障碍滑雪比赛的

*The Alpine events were scheduled for Saturday.* 大回转障碍滑雪赛定于星期六举行。

**alum n.**

*alumnus of alumna* (male or female college graduate) 大学毕业生; 校友(男女)

*I'm an alum of the college up the street.* 我是这条街上那所学校的毕业生。

**Amerasian n.**

*a person of mixed American and Asian descent* 美亚混血的后裔; 美亚混血儿

*The newest Amerasians are from Vietnam and Laos.* 最新美亚混血后裔主要是来自越南和老挝。

**American Dream**

*the dream of a paradise in America with readily available luxuries* 美国之梦(美国人追求的美国式生活标准, 美国人所追求的豪华舒适的理想乐园)