英文习惯语选解

COMMON ENGLISH IDIOMS

毛 膺 白 编 著 BY I. B. MAO B.A.

香港英华出版社出版 publisheb by THE YING WAH PRESS, H. F

英文習慣語選解 COMMON ENGLISH IDIOMS

香港英華出版社出版 Published by THE YING WAH PRESS, H.K.

序言

很多學習英文的人士,有豐富的字彙,交法也相當通達,但對於有些文句或會話片段無法了解或不能確切了解其意義,那是因為那些文句或會話片段中含有習慣語(idioms)的緣故。在表達意思的時候,也常會感覺到用語不够簡潔靈活,或不能確切表達意思,或與英美人士在表達同一意思時的用語有所不同,那是因爲習慣語不够豐富以及不能適當運用習慣語的緣故。

習慣語是習慣上所應用的一種特別的措詞形式,一般說來,其意義是特定的,超乎字面以上的。例如:clean hands(清正廉潔,兩袖淸風)。有些習慣語是兼有字面上的意義及超乎字面以上的意義。例如:have in hand(有...在手;掌握),slip into(潛入;急急穿上;潛置於...中)。有些習慣語則僅表示字面上的意義,但習慣上總是和某一介系詞連用。例如 confident of(自信,確信,深信)。

習慣語的形式,大體上可以分爲兩種:一種是一字(動詞或形容詞等等)之後跟某一介系詞,例如:long for,familiar with,contrary to;另一種是由任何兩個或兩個以上的字所合成的字組,例如: at first, cut short, in view of, as long as, die a natural death。

一字之後跟某一介系詞的那種習慣語,有的意義眾多,用在不同的場合表示不同的意義;有的,同一個字,後面跟不同的介系詞時,其意義也就完全不同,例如:run for,run into,這就更增加了記憶及實際應用上的困難。

習慣語,由於它的意義是特定的,超乎字面以上的,所以它與可以根據字面上的意義去理解的字組——片語(phrases)是不同的,而且習慣語總是依既定的形式來應用,不是像片語一樣可以任意加以組合或改動的。

要達到精通英國語文的目的,除了必須有充分的字彙及學好 文法,以明瞭八部詞類的用法和句的結構,使自己基本上能讀、 能聽、能講、能寫,進而必須學好習慣語。學習習慣語是沒有 原則可以依循的,只有個別的了解其特定的意義和用法而加以熟 記,隨時查閱,加以應用,在閱讀或會話中對習慣語特別加以注 意和吸收。有豐富的習慣語,則英文的講和寫自趨精確靈活而簡 潔有力,在讀和聽時也就能正確了解其意義了。

英文習慣語浩瀚如海,選不勝選,作者依據二十年來應用英文的經驗,嚴謹地選擇了常用的習慣語2255條編著而成本書。

每一條習慣語的釋義均經仔細比較研究。有些習慣語原不止 本書所解釋的意義,本書所解釋的意義都是日常所用的。

本書有3700餘例句。每一例句的選擇或寫作均經再三斟酌, 務求適切表達原義,避免過分生僻和意義深奧的字,句子的結構 力求簡明實用,期能幫助讀者了解各該習慣語的意義和用法。

例句的譯義,儘可能依例句的結構直譯,以期讀者能藉此了 解例句的結構。如果直譯完全不適合中文語氣時,方加意譯。

希望讀者在學習時,除充分了解習慣語的意義和用法外,應 注意例句的結構加以文法上的分析。

此外,關於本書的編寫方法有幾點必須加以說明:

- 1. 括弧裏面,or後面的字,表示與括弧前的字可以換用,其意 義和用法相同。例如:一
 - a. as if (or though) as though = as if
 - b. blind (or dead) drunk dead drunk = blind drunk
- 2. 另外一種意義和用法相同的習慣語,則用下述例子的方式:
 as a matter of fact = in point of fact
 in point of fact = as a matter of fact
- 3. 括弧裏面的字,前面沒有or的,表示該字可以用,也可以省略;或者,在表示某種意義時要用,在表示另一種意義時不用;或者,在表達某種意思時要用,在表達另一種意思時不用。例如:
 - a. put in a (good) word for [爲……說好話] I hope you will put in a word for him. 我希望你會爲他吹嘘吹嘘。

- b. a good (or great) deal (of) [許多,大量] [……得多] That work took a great deal of my time. 那工作費了我許多時間。
 She is a good deal better today.
 今天她好得多了。
- c. take offence (at) [(對……)生氣,發怒] He is quick to take offence. 他很易發怒。 She took offence at what I said.

She took offence at what I said. 她對於我所說的話很生氣。

在例句中,括弧裹面的字,表示可以用,也可以省略。例如:一

wake up [醒來] I usually wake (up) at six. 我通常六點鐘醒來。

4. 'to'是不定詞(infinitive)的符號,也是介系詞(preposition)。 習慣語的最後一字是 'to',而該'to'是不定詞的符號時,後面註明 (+動詞)的字樣;如果是不定詞的符號,同時也可以作介系詞 用時,則註明(+名詞或動詞)等字樣;如僅作介系詞用時,則 不加註明(應加名詞)。例如:一

used to (+動詞) liable to (+名詞或動詞) be (or get) used to

5. 不定詞(infinitive)和動名詞(gerund)兩者都可以作名詞用,用作受詞。但有些動詞(例如:hope, learn, need, want)之後,在用動詞性字(verbals)作受詞時,習慣上必須用不定詞而不能用動名詞。有些動詞(例如:avoid, enjoy, finish, mind, practise, remember, risk, stop)之後,則必須用動名詞而不能用不定詞。有些動詞(例如:begin, like, dislike, hate, love, prefer)之後,則可以用不定詞,也可以用動名詞。

此外,有幾個形容詞(例如:busy, worth)之後,要用動詞性字時,也必須用動名詞而不能用不定詞。

本書將動詞或形容詞以及其他字句之後必須用動名詞而不能 用不定詞的習慣語,用下述方式來表示: busy -ing enjoy -ing it is no good (or use) -ing

6. 動詞的過去分詞(past participle),可以單獨用作形容詞。本書中有很多以過去分詞開端的習慣語,例如: delighted with, divorced from,在應用時,該等過去分詞之前,通常要加'be'(am, are, was, will be...)('be'與該等過去分詞都是獨立使用,並非合構成被動語態-passive voice),有時也可以加get或feel等字。

本書中也有些以動詞開端的習慣語,而將該動詞的過去分詞的字尾'd'或'ed'等放在括弧中,這表示該動詞可以作主要動詞用,也可以作單獨使用的過去分詞用(用作形容詞)。例如:一

involve(d) in
mix(ed) up

本書不取俚語(slang)。俗語或口語(colloquialism)也極之少數。

拙著「英文文法精義」第四章是「習慣語」。此外,第二章 第二節「介系詞的習慣用法」,第一章第六節中的成語介系詞以 及第七節中的複合連接詞等等都是不同形式的習慣語。由於篇幅 關係,在數量上及深度上是不够的。本書的出版,使「英文文法 精義」中所述的習慣語得到既深且廣的補充。本書是獨立的,也 可視為「英文文法精義」的續篇。本書及「英文文法精義」構成 了一套較爲完整的參考書,希望能幫助讀者在理論上及實際應用 上齊頭並進,以達成精通英文的願望。學無止境,作者願與讀者 共勉之。

本書脫稿後,承英籍同事 F. Jones 君代爲校閱英文部份,實爲本書增光不少。作者謹此誌謝。

還請高明不吝賜教爲幸。

毛 膺 白 敬 識 一九六七年七月於香港

A

/a bit of 「少許的,少量的]

Please give me a bit of paper.

請給我少許紙o

a bit of a 「有點,稍有……的氣息]

He is a bit of a coward.

他有點怯懦。

a good (or great) deal (of) [許多,大量][.....得多]

That work took a great deal of my time.

那工作費了我許多時間。

She is a good deal better today.

今天她好得多了o

a good hand at [精於,擅長]

He is a good hand at gardening.

他精於園藝。

a great deal (of) = a good deal (of)

a great (or large) number of 「許多的]

A great number of people came to the play. 很多人來看戲 o

a lot of [許多的, 大量的]

She spends a lot of money on clothes.

她耗費很多的錢在衣服上。

a number of 「若干的]

I have still a number of letters to write.

我還有幾封信要寫。

√a poor hand at [拙於,不擅長]

I am a poor hand at making a speech.

我不擅長演講 0

a stranger to [陌生人,人地生疏][不懂得,未曾有過]

He is a stranger to me.

我不認識他。

I am a stranger to the place.

我在這裏是人地生疏。

He is a stranger to love.

他未曾有過概愛 o

a world of 「許多的,無數的]

He has a world of faults.

他有無數的缺點o

about to (+動詞)[即將,正要]

When you called, I was about to leave.

你來電話時,我正要走。

above all [尤其是,最重要的是]

He has a taste for arts, and above all for music.

他喜愛藝術,尤其是音樂。

Above all, be punctual.

最重要的是要推時o

above ground [活着的]

Though he is over eighty, he is still above ground.

雖然他年過八十,他還是活着o

above (or beyond, without) price [無價的,極貴重的]

This gem is above price.

這塊玉是無價之**資** o

above suspicion [沒有嫌疑,無可懷疑]

His conduct has always been above suspicion.

他的行為始終是無可懷疑的o

absent (oneself) from [不到,不在,缺席]

He was absent from school yesterday.

他昨天未到學校o

He absented himself from the meeting.

他未出席會議。

absorbed in [專心,一心,全神貫注在……上]

He is absorbed in his business.

他專心於他的事業o

according to [根據,依照][據……所說]

You have to live according to your station.

你必須依照你的身份去生活。

According to the newspapers, the strike will be settled tomorrow.

據報紙上說, 雅文 雅文 雅文 和 上記, 是工將於明天解決。

according to all accounts [人人都說]

According to all accounts, he has already left Hongkong.

大家都說,他已離開香港。

according to circumstances [按照情形]

We must act according to circumstances.

我們必須隨機應變 o

account for [說明……的原因]「由於]

He himself cannot account for abandoning his wife.

他自己也不能說明爲什麽潰棄他的妻子o

Idleness often accounts for poverty.

貧窮常常起因於懶惰。

accountable to one for 「應對某人負責] 「應對某人解說]

I am not accountable to you for my actions.

我的行動不須對你負責。

He is accountable to me for all the money he spends 所有他用去的錢,他應對我說明用途。

accuse of [譴責][控告]

They accused him of being a telltale.

他們責備他搬弄是非 0

He was accused of treason.

他被控叛國罪。

accustomed to [慣於]

I am accustomed to early rising.

我慣於早起。

He is accustomed to hard work.

He is accustomed to working hard.

他慣於苦幹。

acquainted with [熟悉] [與……相識]

Are you fully acquainted with the facts of the case?

你完全知道這件事的眞相嗎? I am not acquainted with the lady.

我與遺位女士不相識。

act on (or upon) [照行,奉行][對……有效驗、起作用、有影響]

He acted on his doctor's advice.

他遵照他醫生的勸告而行。

This medicine acts upon the heart.

這**藥對心臟有效**。

act toward(s) [對待]

He acted towards me as a friend.

他待我如友人o

act up to [實行,履行,遵守]

I hope that he will act up to his promise. 我希望他會履行他的諾言○

act upon = act on

add fuel to the flames (or fire) 「助長氣焰,火上加油]

To mention this subject to him when he is angry, only adds fuel to the flames.

在他發怒時向他提及此項問題,只有使他更加怒氣。

add to 「增加]

This added to our difficulties.

這增加了我們不少困難。

add up (or together) [加起,合計]

Add up these figures and see if the sum is correct. 把這些數目加起來,看這總數對不對 o

add up to 「合計是]

The figures add up to 365.

這些數目合計爲 365 o

adjust to [使適應]

She has to adjust herself to new conditions.

她必須使她自己適應新的環境。

adverse to [不利於][與……相反]

The judgment was adverse to the plaintiff. 判決不利於原告。

The result is adverse to his wishes.

結果與他的願望相反。

advise (or consult) with = take counsel with [與.....商量]

I must consult with him on that matter.

我必須和他商量那件事。

advise (or consult) with one's pillow = take counsel with one's pillow [深思熟慮,徹夜沉思]

Whenever he met a difficult problem, he sat alone in his study and advised with his pillow.

每當他面臨困難問題時,他就獨自坐在書房裏徹夜沉思o

afraid of (or to + 動詞)[害怕]

He is afraid of hurting your feelings.

他怕使你不快樂。

Are you afraid to go alone?

你怕一個人去嗎?

afraid of one's own shadow [膽怯之至]

She is afraid of her own shadow.

她非常膽怯∘

after a fashion (or sort) = in a fashion (or sort) [稍爲?有幾分] He can speak English after a fashion.

他稍爲能講英語。

after all [總之,墨竟,終於]

After all, money is the key that opens all doors.

總之,金錢是萬能的。

He failed after all.

他終於失敗了。

after hours [辦公或營業時間以後,工作之餘]

I play tennis after hours.

工作之餘我打網球。

after one's own heart [合某人心意的,某人所心愛的]

She is a girl after my own heart.

她是一位合我心意的女子。

after (or in) the manner of [做效, 學……的樣]

This is a painting after the manner of Raphael.

這是一幅做照拉斐爾筆法的畫。

again and again [再三地]

I warned him again and again.

我再三警告過他。

against a rainy day [未雨綢繆,以備不時之需]

We must save money against a rainy day.

我們必須積蓄金錢以備不時之需。

against one's will [違背心願,無可奈何]

She was married against her will.

她違背自己的心願嫁了人。

agree to (+ 名詞或動詞)[同意,應允]

I agreed to his terms.

我同意了他的條件。

They agreed to do what I asked.

他們答應去做我所要求的事。

agree with [與……同意] [與……一致] [適合(健康,體質,胃口等)]

He did not agree with me on this point.

在這一點上他不同意我。

The verb must agree with its subject in person and number.

動詞的人稱和數必須與主詞的人稱和數相一致。

The climate does not agree with me.

這氣候不適合我的健康 o

ahead of 「在……之前] [比……進步,速於,勝於]

He was walking ahead of me.

他在我的前面走。

He is far ahead of his rivals.

他遠勝於那些和他競爭的人o

aim at [瞄準,對準][立志要,目的在]

He aimed at the lion, fired, and killed it.

他瞄準了獅子,開鎗殺死了牠。

He aims at becoming a doctor.

他立志要成爲醫生。

alight from [從(車,馬)下來]

I met him when he alighted from a bus.

他從公共汽車上下來時,我遇見了他。

all along [沿途,一路][自始至終,一直都]

There are trees all along the road.

沿途都有樹o

As we climbed the mountain, we saw beautiful flowers all along.

我們登山時,沿途看到美麗的花。

I knew all along that he was ill.

我一直都知道他有病。

all at once [忽然,突然]

While we were talking, all at once Mary screamed.

我們在談話時,瑪麗忽然尖聲叫喊。

all but [除……外其餘都][幾乎]

All but the morning star have disappeared.

除金星外其餘的星都不見了。

He was all but drowned.

他幾乎溺死o

all day (long) [整天,終日]

All day (long) the girl sat at the door waiting for her mother's return.

那女孩子整天坐在門口等她的母親囘來。

all in all 「最重要的] [完全地]

Money is all in all to her.

在她金錢是最重要的 0

I trust him all in all.

我完全信任他o

all manner of 「各種的,各色各樣的]

He has seen all manner of men.

他見過各色各樣的人o

all of a sudden = on a sudden [突然,忽然]

We heard a tremendous explosion all of a sudden. 我們突然聽到可怕的爆炸整。

all one's life = through life [一生,終生]

I have lived here all my life.

我一生住在這裏。

all over [全, 各處][完結, 過去]

He has travelled all over the world.

他已在全世界旅行過。

The meeting was all over when I got there.

當我到達時,會議已告結束。

all the time (or while) [(在某段時間內)始終,一直]

I looked all over the house for that letter, and it was in my pocket all the time.

我在屋內各處找那封信,而那封信始終是在我的衣袋中。

all the year round [終年,一年到頭]

Some people work hard all the year round.

有些人終年勤勞工作。

amazed at [被……嚇了一跳,(聽見或看見……)大爲驚異]

I am amazed at the news.

這消息使我大爲驚異。"

amount to [總計,合計][相當於,等於]

His debts amount to one hundred pounds.

他的負債合計一百鎊o

His flight amounted to a confession of guilt.

他的逃亡不啻自認犯罪。

and all [等等,連……都]

The dog ate the bird, bones, feathers and all. 這狗把鳥連骨帶毛都吃了。

and so forth (or on) = and the like [等等,其餘類推]

He is addicted to all kinds of wine — port, beer, whisky, and so forth.

他愛好各種的酒——葡萄酒,啤酒,威士忌酒等等。

angry at (or about) [因(事物)而發怒]

She was angry at what her husband said.

她因她丈夫所說的話而生氣。

angry with [對(人)發怒]

He got angry with me'for saying so.

他因爲我這樣說而對我發怒o

annoyed at [因(事物)而煩惱、不高興]

He was annoyed at the boy's stupidity.

他因爲這孩子的愚昧而煩惱。

annoyed with [對(人)不高興、討厭]

He was annoyed with the boy for being so stupid. 他因爲遺孩子非常愚昧而對他不高與。

answer back [囘嘴 > 反唇相談]

You must not answer back again. 你不可以再回嘴 o

answer for [負……的責任,保證] [償(罪),受處分]

I cannot answer for his honesty.

我不能保證他是誠實的。

He has a lot to answer for.

他有很多事要受責。

answer to [對……的答覆、答案]

I want a distinct answer to my question.

我要一個對於我的問題的明白答覆。

answer to a description [和說明相符]

He does not answer to the description of the missing man that appeared in the newspapers.

他和報上所登載的失踪人的說明不符。

anxious about 「關心,爲……而憂慮]

I am very anxious about my son's health.

我爲我兒子的健康而非常憂慮o

anxious for [切望,急欲]

He is anxious for a change.

他渴望變換環境o

anxious to (+動詞)[切望,急欲]

She is anxious to know the result.

她急於想知道結果o

anything but [並非,決不是][除……外什麼都]

He is anything but a millionaire.

他決不是富翁。:

I will do anything but that.

除那個外,我什麼都做。

apart from [離開][除……外還]

Mary stood apart from the other children.

瑪麗不與其他孩子站在一起。

Apart from my natural language, I speak English and French.

除本國語言外,我還說英語和法語。

appeal to [訴諸][上訴][懇求][呼籲][投合……心意 , 引起 ……共鳴]

We may appeal to the law.

我們可以訴諸法律o

He appealed to a higher court.

他向上級法院上訴。

The thief appealed to the judge for mercy.

這竊賊向法官求恩。

The government appeals to the people for support.

政府呼籲人民支持○

These pictures do not appeal to me.

這些畫不合我的心意。

apply for [請求][申請,應徵]

They applied for immediate relief.

他們請求緊急救濟。

Anybody who has a good command of English may apply for the position.

任何精通英文之人士均可應徵此項職位。

apply oneself to [專心致力於]

He applied himself to the study of English.

他專心研究英文。

apply to [用……敷於、貼於][把……使用於、應用於][適用於] 「和……有關]

He applied a plaster to his wound.

他用膏藥貼傷處o

The money was applied to the payment of debts. 該款被用於付債。

That regulation does not apply to you. 那條規則對你不適用。

What I have said does not apply to you. 我所說的與你無關○

apply to for [向······請求、申請、詢問、接洽]

He applied to them for assistance. 他請求他們幫助 o

I have applied to the consul for a visa. 我已向該領事申請簽證 o

For particulars apply to the office. 詳情請向辦事處詢問 o

appropriate for (or to) [適於,合乎]

Thick woollen clothes are not appropriate for a hot summer day.

厚的毛衣不適合於炎熱的夏日。

approve of [贊成][批准]

I cannot support a policy of which I have never approved. 我不能支持我從不贊成的政策 o

My mother does not approve of my staying out late. 我母親不准我在外逗留得很逞。

argue against [反對]

He argued against giving a party. 他反對暴行宴會 o argue for [贊成]

She argued for giving a party.

她贊成舉行宴會。

argue with about (or on) [與……討論……事]

He argued with me about equal pay for men and women. 他與我討論男女同酬問題。

arm in arm [臂挽臂地]

I saw them walking arm-in-arm in the street.

我看見他們在街上挽臂同行。

arrange for 「準備,安排]「約定]

I will arrange for everything you require.

我會準備好你所需要的一切。

Have you arranged for an appointment with him?

你可會與他約定會面時間?

arrive at [到達(狹的場所)]

We arrived at our destination on time.

我們準時到達目的地。

arrive at a conclusion = come to a conclusion = reach a conclusion [獲得結論]

I have arrived at the conclusion that he is a very intelligent boy.

我已獲得結論,他是一個非常聰明的孩子。

arrive at a decision = come to a decision = reach a decision [決定]

Have they arrived at a decision yet?

他們已經決定了嗎?

arrive in [到達(廣的場所)]

I arrived in Hongkong in 1949.

我於一九四九年到達香港。

as a matter of course [當然,是當然的事情]

As a matter of course, you must study hard.

當然,你必須努力讀書。

He took it as a matter of course.

他認爲這是當然的事情。

as a matter of fact = in point of fact [事實上,其實]
As a matter of fact, I know nothing about it.

事實上,我不知道這件事。