

英语常用习语

COMMONLY-USED
ENGLISH IDIOMS



上海译文出版社

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吴 莹 编 译

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前 言

学习英语的人常常发现习惯用语较难掌握。习惯用语产生于人们的日常生活，经过长期的使用逐步定型，并得到认可。很多英语习惯用语的意思不是其组成的各个单词的字面意义的简单总和，至于要学会使用它们就更加困难了。英语习惯用语的数量非常之多，本书收录了其中最常用而又较难掌握的习语一千四百余条，每条习语先用汉语解释意义，然后以英美人编写的短小例句进一步显示其用法。为使编排醒目，查阅方便，全部习语条目按组成单词的字母顺序排列。本书侧重收录了当代美国日常生活中最常用的习惯用语，包括口语和俚语。条目和例句的选择主要参考美国里津茨出版公司出版的《常用美国成语手册》以及巴伦教育丛书公司出版的《美

国成语词典》，此外还从其他资料中收录了一部分较新的常用习语。必须指出，英语习语一般都具有一语多义的特点，本书限于篇幅，收录的习语条目及其释义相当有限，不可能解决读者在学习英语时所遇到的一切问题。

本书在编译过程中曾得到卫宝瑛同志的指教和帮助，在此特致谢意。

吴 莹

1981年10月

A

A-1 最优的,第一流的

This man is an **A-1** mechanic. 此人是第一流的机修工。

about-face 向后转(动作)

The soldiers made an **about-face** and were dismissed. 士兵们向后转,解散了。

about time 该…的时间,已过…的时间

Mother said, "It's **about time** you got up, Mary." 母亲说:"玛丽,你该起床了。"

about to 即将,快要

The train was **about to** leave when we arrived. 我们抵达时火车正好快开了。

above all 特别,尤其,主要地

Above all, never mention it to anyone. 首要的是决不要对任何人提起这件事。

according to Hoyle 正确的,恰当的,符合规则(或尺度)的

His conduct last night was not **according**

to Hoyle. 他昨天晚上的行为不太象话。

acid rock 疯狂巨响迷幻摇摆乐

In rock music, a shift can be perceived from acid rock to the soft ballads. 在摇摆舞音乐方面, 可以看到从疯狂巨响迷幻摇摆乐到软绵绵小调的转变。

act of God 自然界发生的事件, 天公所为, 天灾
Earthquakes or hurricanes are called acts of God. 地震或飓风被称作天灾。

act up

① 表现坏, 举止粗鲁无礼

The dog acted up as the postman came to the door. 邮递员来到门口时, 狗又跳又叫。

② (机器) 运转不好, 出毛病

The car acted up because the spark plugs were dirty. 因为火花塞脏了, 汽车颠簸而行。

after a fashion 差劲地, 不高明地

He played tennis after a fashion. 他网球打得不好。

after hours 营业(或规定的工作、学习)时间以后, 公余时间

The store was cleaned and swept out
after hours. 商店在打烊后清扫干净。

after one's own heart 志趣相投,符合自己的
心意

With his love for music, he is a man
after my own heart. 他爱好音乐,倒是
与我志趣相投。

against the grain 不顺心的,恼人的

It goes against the grain to lend them
money. 要借钱给他们真叫人不愿意。

albatross around someone's neck 某人沉重的
负担,某人无法摆脱的苦恼

They considered him an albatross around
their necks. 他们认为他是他们无法摆脱
的灾星。

all along 从一开始,自始至终

We knew all along that he would succeed.
我们从一开始就知道他会成功的。

all at once 突然

All at once there was a loud crash. 突
然发出了一声撞击的巨响。

all but 几乎,差不多

Crows all but destroyed the farmer's

field of corn. 乌鸦几乎把农夫田里的玉蜀黍都糟蹋了。

all day long 整天,终日

We studied for the examination **all day long**. 我们整天都在复习迎考。

all ears 聚精会神地听,洗耳恭听

When I mentioned the party, he was **all ears**. 我提起聚会一事时,他全神贯注地听着。

all in 筋疲力尽

He was **all in** after playing tennis for four hours. 他打了四小时网球后疲惫不堪。

all in a day's work 难免遇到的不快事

When the car had a flat tire, father said that it was **all in a day's work**. 汽车车胎爆裂时,父亲说发生这种事并不奇怪。

all in all 总而言之,总的说来

All in all we enjoyed the evening at her home. 总之,我们在她家度过的夜晚很愉快。

all night long 整夜

The men worked steadily **all night long**.

工人彻夜不停地干活。

all of a sudden \approx all at once

all out 尽全力

They went all out to finish the job.
他们全力以赴完成那工作。

all over

① 全部结束,完了

She shouted, "The game is all over!"
她叫喊道:“比赛全部结束!”

② 到处

The news of the armistice spread all over the world. 停战的消息传遍了全世界。

all over the place 散乱,满处都是

The children's toys were all over the place. 孩子们的玩具乱七八糟地散放着。

all right 行,好,正确的,令人满意的

It will be all right to have a party on Friday. 在星期五举行聚会挺好。

all set 准备就绪的

We are all set for the picnic in the park. 我们已作好去公园野餐的一切准备。

all the same

① 相同的,没有差别的

These menus seem to be **all the same**.

这些菜单好象都是一样的。

② 尽管如此

All the same, I will not sign the document. 尽管如此,我还是不会在文件上签字的。

all there 头脑清醒的,机警的

That aged woman is not **all there**. 那位老妇人脑子糊涂了。

allow for ≈ make allowance for

anything but 决不,绝非

That's **anything but** true. 那决不是真的。

I don't mean he's lazy—**anything but**!

我并不是说他懒惰——绝非如此!

apple-pie order 整整齐齐

The maid left the house in **apple-pie order**. 女仆把屋子拾掇得整整齐齐。

armed to the teeth 武装到牙齿,全副武装

They were **armed to the teeth**, ready for any emergency. 他们已全副武装,随时准备应急。

around the clock 连续一昼夜,日以继夜,通宵达旦

The factory operated around the clock until the order was filled. 那家工厂日夜开工,直到完成客户的订货。

as a matter of fact 事实上,其实

As a matter of fact, he is madly in love with her. 事实上他狂热地爱着她。

as far as 在...范围内,就...,尽...

As far as I know, he has no brothers. 就我所知,他没有兄弟。

as long as \approx so long as

as luck would have it

① 碰巧

As luck would have it, no one was in the building when the explosion occurred. 发生爆炸时大楼里幸好没有人。

② 不巧

As luck would have it, there was rain on the day of the picnic. 不巧得很,野餐那天下雨。

as soon

① 同样乐意

I would just as soon read as play cards. 我看书和玩纸牌一样乐意。

② 宁愿

I would as soon you didn't tell me about that. 我宁愿你没有告诉我那件事。

as the crow flies 笔直地,按直线地

The towns are ten miles apart by railroad but only six miles apart as the crow flies. 两镇按铁路线相距十英里,但直线距离只有六英里。

as well

① 也,还,又

The book tells about Mark Twain's writings and about his life as well.

这本书谈到马克·吐温的作品,还谈到他的生平。

② 不如,还是…为好

Since he can't win the race, he may as well quit. 既然他赢不了比赛,倒不如退出。

as yet 至今,迄今

As yet she has not received the invitation. 她至今尚未受到邀请。

as you please

① 随你高兴

You may do as you please. 你可以随你高兴做。

② 非常

There was Tinker, sitting there, cheerful as you please. 丁格坐在那里, 非常高兴的样子。

at a blow (at a stroke) (at one stroke) 一下子, 一举

A thousand men lost their jobs at a stroke, when the factory closed. 工厂关闭时, 一千人一下子就失业了。

at all 根本

The immigrant could not speak English at all. 那个移民压根儿不会讲英语。

at a time 每次, 一次

He ran up the steps two at a time. 他一次两级地跑上阶梯。

at fault 错误的

You were at fault for not greeting him. 你不向他招呼致意是错误的。

at first 一开始时, 起先

At first the work seemed to be very difficult. 那工作起初好象很困难。

at first sight 初见后立即

He liked her **at first sight**. 他一见她就喜欢她了。

at heart 心里,本质上

His manners are rough, but he is a kind man **at heart**. 他虽然举止粗鲁,但是心地善良。

at home

① 不拘束,自在,舒适

Make the new student feel **at home** in your school. 使那新生在你的学校里感到自在舒适。

② 熟悉的

Jim always lived by a lake, and he is **at home** in the water. 吉姆一向住在湖边,所以深识水性。

at large 逃脱在外,逍遥

The prisoners who escaped are still **at large**. 逃犯们依然逍遥法外。

at last 终于,最后

At last, Edward and Helen were together again. 爱德华和海伦终于又团聚了。

at least 至少

Spend **at least** one hour each day practicing your piano lessons. 至少每天花一小时练习你的钢琴课程。

at loose ends 无固定工作, 闲着, 未定

He felt himself **at loose ends**—no job, no immediate prospects. 他感到自己没个着落——失业着, 眼下又没有什么希望。

at once 立刻, 马上

You must send this telegram **at once**.
你必须立刻发出这份电报。

at one's finger tips 在手头, 随时可供使用的

He has all the necessary facts **at his finger tips**. 他手头掌握着所有必要的事实根据。

at one's wits' end 智穷计尽

He was **at his wits' end** trying to borrow money. 他设法借钱已智穷计尽。

at sea 茫然, 困惑

Although he explained it to her, she was still completely **at sea**. 虽然他向她作了解释, 但是她仍然一点也不明白。

at times 有时, 间或

At times the sick man seemed to recognize us. 那病人有些时候似乎认得我们。

B

back and forth (两地间) 来来回回地

He travels back and forth between Chicago and New York. 他经常往来于芝加哥和纽约之间。

back down 放弃原来的主张, 声明取消前言, 打退堂鼓

Harry claimed Joe had taken his book, but backed down when the teacher talked with him. 哈里声称乔拿了他的书, 但当老师找他谈话时, 他不再坚持了。

back of

① 在...后面

The garage is back of the house. 车库在房子后面。

② ...的原因, ...的缘故