

现代英语习语词典

英汉双解

A DICTIONARY OF CURRENT
ENGLISH IDIOMS

● 李玉陈 侯明君 主编 ● 山东教育出版社

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前 言

《现代英语习语词典》(A Dictionary of Current English Idioms)共收8,000余条现代英语习语。这些习语的来源是多方面的,其中多数是从当代英国和美国报刊、杂志上搜集来的,有些习语转引自其他词典和参考书。本词典还收进了大量的现代英国和美国大中学生使用的习语,这对学习英语的学生读者提供了很大的方便。

《现代英语习语词典》有以下几个特点:

一、除了一般习语以外,还收进了谚语、俚语、俗语、频语、口语和书面语,并以符号和文字加以区别;

二、每一词条下至少有两个例句说明该习语在地道英语上下文中的用法;

三、相关的词条在形式和意义上进行比较,形成相互参照网络;

四、习语的原体和可能有的变体并列,并同时加以解释和给以例证。

《现代英语习语词典》不同于其他习语词典的最大特点是附有一个覆盖面极宽的“习语检索表”。使用者可根据某习语中的一个关键词在表中找到所需习语的完整形式,然后再到词典正文中去查阅。“习语检索表”对使用者回忆、辨认或找出只留有部分印象的习语特别有用。

本词典在编写过程中曾得到山东省教委科研处的资助,

《山东外语教学》编辑部的刘明泉副编审和山东教育出版社的刘洪民副编审对本词的编辑和出版做了大量工作，我们在此一并深表感谢。

编 者

1990年9月

使用说明

- 一、本词典的习语条目一律按字母顺序编排，如：in so many words 这个习语，其开头字母是“i”，因此编排在“I”部里。
- 二、如果不能断定某习语的确切文字组成，可先根据该习语中的一个主要单词查阅本词典所附的“习语检索表”，找出所要找的习语，然后按该习语的开头字母查阅词典正文。
- 三、一个习语可能有一个或几个变体。习语的原体和变体之间用“或”字隔开。两个或两个以上的变体之间用分号（；）隔开。
- 四、有些习语具有一个以上的含义。这些含义用阿拉伯数字编号。有些编了号的含义可能另有所属的习语变体。此类变体前面标有“又作”字样。
- 五、有些习语除了与其并列的变体以外，还有与其有关但含义不完全相同的变体。此类变体前标有“另：”字样。
- 六、有些习语条目的后面或含义编号的后面带星号（*），表示该习语或具有该含义的习语属于口语、俗语、俚语或频语等，应慎用；这些特殊的习语一般不用于正式的讲话或正式的书面文字。此类习语由加方括号的略语来表示，即：〔I〕，〔俗〕、〔俚〕，〔频〕等，放在习语条目之后或其释义之后。
- 七、习语条目的释义用普通印刷体排印，几个释义之间用分号（；）隔开。第一个释义往往代表该习语的基本含义，其余的释义通常表示该习语在含义上或在人们理解上的细微差别。提供另外的释义有时是因为第一个释义中有读者可能不认识的单词。
- 八、有些习语的释义后面有加圆括号的说明文字，内容包括：该习语的变体或与之有关的其他习语，该习语的用法注解，与该习语比较、参照的项目，等等。
- 九、一个习语条目下至少有两个例句。每个例句前面有方框（□）标志。
- 十、习语条目及其各类变体均用黑体字排印。

略语说明

- 〔频〕 (cliché)：频语，指因用得过于频繁和过于随便而变得陈旧的词语，一般不用于正式的讲话或正式的书面文字。
- 〔俗〕 (folksy)：俗语，指具有古朴特色的民间通行的词语，一般不用于正式的讲话或正式的书面文字。
- 〔俚〕 (slang)：俚语，指粗俗的、开玩笑的或通行面很窄的词语，一般不用于正式的讲话或正式的书面文字。
- 〔口〕 (informal)：口语，指日常普通谈话中使用的非正规词语，一般不用于正式的讲话或正式的书面文字。
- 〔书〕 (formal)：书面语，指源于书面文字或通常用于书面的正规词语。

目 录

前 言.....	(1)
使用说明.....	(1)
略语说明.....	(1)
词典正文.....	(1 —1585)
习语检索表.....	(1586)

A

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. a proverb meaning that something you already have is better than something you might get. 谚语，意为你已到手的某物要比你有指望得到的东西强。□ Bill has offered to buy my car for \$3,000. Someone else might pay more, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 比尔已出三千美元买我的车，别人可能会出价更高，但是一鸟在手总胜似双鸟在林呀。□ I might be able to find a better offer, but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 我有可能等到有人出高价，但多得不如现得。

a chip off the old block* a person(usually a male) who behaves in the same way as his father or resembles his father. 指行为方式与其父相同或酷似其父的人（通常指男性）。（通常用于口语）□ John looks like his father—a real chip off the old block. 约翰的样子很象他的父亲——简直是照一个模子刻的。□ Bill Jones Jr. is a chip off the old block. He's a banker just like his father. 真是有其父必有其子，小比尔·琼斯象父亲一样也成了一名银行家。

a cut above someone or something a measure or degree

better than someone or something else.(特别与average连用,如例句所示。)比他人或他物优或胜出一筹。□ Your shirt is beautiful, but mine is a cut above yours. 你的衬衣很好看,可我的又比你的更漂亮。□ John isn't the best mechanic in town, but he's a cut above average. 约翰并不是城里最好的技工,但他明显地超出一般技工。

a drop in the bucket

a drop in the ocean或a drop in the bucket just a little bit; not enough of something to make a difference. 一点点;某事物中无足轻重的一点。□ But one dollar isn't enough! That's just a drop in the ocean. 可是一美元不够呀!那不过是杯水车薪而已。□ At this point your help is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. I need far more help than twenty people could give. 此刻你的帮助已无济于事,我需要至少二十个人所能提供的帮助才行。□ I won't accept your offer. It's just a drop in the bucket. 我不能接受你的出价,实在是少得可怜。

A fool and his money are soon parted. a proverb meaning that a person who acts unwisely with money soon loses it. (Often said about a person who has just lost a sum of money because of poor judgement.) 谚语,意为不会理财的人会很不明智地将钱花掉。(常说由于判断失误刚刚失掉一笔钱财的人。) □ When Bill lost a \$400 bet on a horse race, Mary said, "A fool and his money are soon parted." 当比尔赌赛马输掉四

百美元时，玛丽说，“傻瓜不聚财。” □ When John bought a cheap used car that fell apart the next day, he said, “Oh well, a fool and his money are soon parted.” 约翰贪图便宜买了一辆旧车，第二天就散架了，他说，“哎呀，真是傻瓜的钱丢得容易。”

A friend in need is a friend indeed. a proverb meaning that a true friend is a person who will help you when you really need someone. 谚语，意为真正的朋友是当你最需要他人相助时前来帮助你的人。（比较 fair-weather friend.） □ When Bill helped me with geometry, I really learned the meaning of “A friend in need is a friend indeed.” 当比尔来帮我学几何时，我真领会到了“需时方知朋友真”的道理。 □ “A friend in need is a friend indeed” sounds silly until you need someone very badly. 不到你急需朋友时总觉得“需时方知朋友真”这句话听起来十分迂腐。

a little bird told me learned from a mysterious or secret source. (Often given as an evasive answer to someone who asks how you learned something. Rude in some circumstances.) 由神秘或秘密消息来源得知。（常常对打听你如何得知某事的人作为遁词。在某些场合下显得粗鲁。） □ “All right,” said Mary, “where did you get that information?” John replied, “A little bird told me.” “好，就算是吧，”玛丽说，“可你是从哪儿得到这个消息的？”约翰回答说，“总之我是知道了。” □ A little bird told me where I might find you. 小灵通告诉我在什么

地方可以找到你的。

A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. a proverb meaning that incomplete knowledge can embarrass or harm someone or something. 谚语，意为一知半解会使某人陷入困境或使某事办糟。□ The doctor said, "Just because you've had a course in first aid, you shouldn't have treated your own illness. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." 医生说，“你不该觉得自己学过一门急救课程，就给自己看起病来。不求甚解要害死人的。” □ John thought he knew how to take care of the garden, but he killed all the flowers. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. 约翰以为自己懂得如何照管花园，结果把花全都弄死了。一知半解会误事的。

A penny saved is a penny earned. a proverb meaning that money saved through thrift is the same as money earned by employment. (Sometimes used to explain stinginess.) 谚语，意为通过节俭省下的钱同作工挣来的钱是一样的。(有时用作吝啬的托词。) □ "I didn't want to pay that much for the book," said Mary. "After all, a penny saved is a penny earned." "我不想花那么多钱买那本书，"玛丽说，“不管怎么说，省下钱就等于挣了钱。” □ Bob put his money in a new bank which pays more interest than his old bank, saying, "A penny saved is a penny earned." 鲍勃把他的钱换了一家银行存上，这家银行比原来那家付的利息高些。他说，“省一点就等于赚一点嘛！”

A rolling stone gathers no moss. a proverb which describes a person who keeps changing jobs or residences and, therefore, accumulates no possessions or responsibilities. 谚语,意为一个不断变换职业或住处的人,永远也积聚不起财产或从不承担任何责任。□ “John just can't seem to stay in one place,” said Sally. “Oh well, a rolling stone gathers no moss.” “约翰好象总不能在一个地方呆住,”萨莉说。“呵,是呀,滚石不长苔嘛。”□ Bill has no furniture to bother with because he keeps on the move. He keeps saying that a rolling stone gathers no moss. 比尔总是搬来搬去,所以他连件傢俱都没有,也省了为此操心。他一直在说滚石不长苔啊。

a stone's throw away* a short distance; a relatively short distance. (Informal. May refer to distances in feet or miles.) 很近;相对近的距离。(〔口〕可指以英尺计或以英里计的距离。) □ John saw Mary across the street, just a stone's throw away. 约翰看到玛丽就在街对面,近在咫尺。□ Philadelphia is just a stone's throw away from New York City. 费城离纽约并不远。

A watched pot never boils. a proverb meaning that concentration on a problem will not help solve it. (Refers to the seemingly long time it takes water to boil when you are waiting for it. Said about a problem which a person is watching very closely.) 谚语,意为对某一问题的全神贯注无助于其解决。(指当你等着水开时,似乎时间显得格外长。用来说某人密切注视的某

一问题。) □ John was looking out the window, waiting eagerly for the mail to be delivered. Ann said, "Be patient. A watched pot never boils." 约翰一直朝窗外看, 急切地等待着邮递员来送信。安说, "耐心点, 心急水不开。" □ Billy weighed himself four times a day while he was trying to lose weight. His mother said, "Relax. A watched pot never boils." 比利在试图减肥期间每天称四次体重。母亲说, "别着急, 盯着的水总也不开。"

abandon oneself to someone or something to give up and accept a situation, to yield to a person. 退让并接受某种局面; 屈从某人。□ Ann gave up and abandoned herself to the flu. 安没有办法, 到底患了流感。□ Bill saw the gun and abandoned himself to the robber. 比尔一见到枪只好听任抢劫犯处置。

abide by something to follow the rules of something; to obey someone's orders. 遵循某事的规则; 服从某人命令。□ John felt that he had to abide by his father's wishes. 约翰感到他只好听从父亲的意愿。□ All drivers are expected to abide by the rules of the road. 所有驾驶人员都应当遵守道路交通规则。

able to breathe again 或 **able to breathe easily again**, **able to breathe freely again** able to relax and recover from a busy or stressful time; able to catch one's breath. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) 能够放松一下, 从繁忙或紧张状态下得以解脱; 能够喘一口

气了。(able to 可换用 can。)
□ Now that the lion has been caught, we'll be able to breathe freely again. 既然狮子已被捉到,我们又能喘口气了。
□ Now that the annual sale is over, the sales staff will be able to breathe again. 一年一度的大销售结束了,售货员们又可以松口气了。
□ Final exams are over, so I can breathe easily again. 期末考试过去了,我又可以放松一下了。

able to do something blindfolded 或 able to do something standing on one's head able to do something easily and quickly, possibly without even looking. (Informal. Rarely used literally. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) 能够非常容易并迅速地做好某事,甚至可能连看都不用看。〔口〕极少按字面意义使用。able to 可换用 can。)
□ Bill boasted that he could pass his driver's test blindfolded. 比尔吹牛说他可以不费吹灰之力地通过驾驶执照考试。
□ Mary is very good with computers. She can program blindfolded. 玛丽搞计算机十分熟练,她闭着眼也能把程序搞出来。
□ Dr. Jones is a great surgeon. He can take out an appendix standing on his head. 琼斯大夫是位杰出的外科医生,做阑尾摘除术对他简直是易如反掌。

able to do something standing on one's head 见前条。

able to make something* *able to* attend an event. (Informal. Also used literally. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) 能够参与某一事件〔口〕也按字面意义使用。

able to 可换用 can) □ I don't think I'll be able to make your party, but thanks for asking me. 我想我不能参加你们的晚会了, 谢谢你的邀请。 □ We are having another one next month. We hope you can make it then. 我们下月要再举行一次, 希望到时你能参加。

able to take a joke to be able to accept ridicule good-naturedly; to be the object or butt of a joke willingly. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) 能够不恼怒地接受嘲笑; 情愿做开玩笑的目标或笑柄。 (*able to* 可以用 *can* 替换。) □ Let's play a trick on Bill and see if he's able to take a joke. 咱们要弄一下比尔, 看跟他开玩笑恼不恼。 □ Better not tease Ann. She can't take a joke. 最好不要戏弄安, 她开不起玩笑。

able to take something able to endure something; able to endure abuse. (Often in the negative. *Able to* can be replaced with *can*. See also the previous entry.) 能够经受某事; 能够忍受屈辱。(常用于否定句中。 *able to* 可换用 *can*。另见前条。) □ Stop yelling like that. I'm not able to take it anymore. 不要再吼叫, 我再也受不了啦。 □ Go ahead, hit me again. I can take it. 打吧, 你再打呀, 我能受得了。 另: **able to take just so much** able to endure only a limited amount of discomfort. (*Able to* can be replaced with *can*.) 只能忍受一定限度的不适。 (*able to* 可换用 *can*。) □ Please stop hurting my feelings. I'm able to take just so much. 请不要再伤害我的感情, 我再也无法忍受。 □ I can

take just so much. 我已经受够了。

abound with something 或 abound in something to be plentiful with something. 某物十分丰富。□ The forest abounds with small animals. 这座森林中小动物很多。□ The medical system abounds with problems. 这种医疗制度问题很多。

about to do something ready to do something; on the verge of doing something. 正准备要做某事；即将要做某事。□ Our old dog is about to die. 我们那只老狗就要死了。□ The apple tree is about to bloom. 苹果树就要开花了。

above and beyond the call of duty 或 beyond the call of duty in addition to what is required; more than is required in one's job. 在工作要求应尽的本分之外；超出某人的工作尽责范围。□ We didn't expect the police officer to drive us home. That was above and beyond the call of duty. 我们没想到警官会主动开车送我们回家，这样做已不属他份内的工作。□ The English teacher helped students after school every day, even though it was beyond the call of duty. 这位英语教师每天放学之后帮学生补课，尽管这已超出工作对他的要求。

above board 或 honest and above board; open and above board in the open; visible to the public; honest. (Especially with *keep*, as in the examples.) 公开；人人都能看到；光明正大（特别与 *keep* 连用，如例句中所示。）□ Don't keep it a secret. Let's make