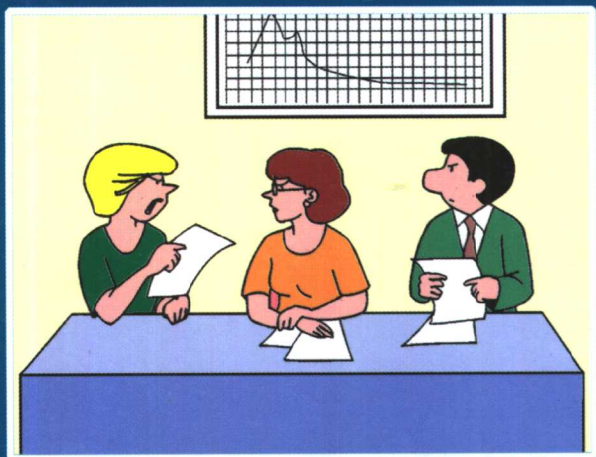


全新

英语常用习语词典

A DICTIONARY OF
BASIC ENGLISH IDIOMS

高凌 主编



商务印书馆
国际有限公司

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《英语常用习语词典》

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前 言

习语是英语学习的一大难点,这不仅是因为习语的使用非常广泛,而且多数习语的意义又并非所组成的单词意义的简单迭加;同时,英语习语的用法非常复杂,仅就短语动词来说,就有及物与不及物、可分与不可分、接名词与接动名词、可否用于被动结构等等之差别。所以,要学好英语,除了掌握必要的语法知识和大量的词汇外,还须掌握一定量的习语。最新修订的《大学英语教学大纲》把要求学生掌握的习语由修订前的 800 多条倍增到 1600 多条,这也从另一个侧面说明了英语习语的重要性。

我们编纂的这本《英语常用习语词典》具有以下特点:

1. 所收 2000 条习语都是最常用、最基本的,涵盖了四、六级统考大纲所要求的词组,又有适当的扩展,可满足中等水平英语学习者的需要。

2. 双语释义,可帮助读者正确掌握这些习语的含义及使用范围。

3. 对于每条习语,尽量给出搭配关系,并注明句法结构。对于用动词和介〔副〕词构成的习语则不仅给出其词性构成,还标示出可分与不可分,有利于读者准确掌握其用法。

4. 特辟《说明》一栏,对该习语使用上的难点、疑点给予简要提示,以避免误用。

5. 例句典型,浅显活泼,汉译准确,可使读者在学习、使用中举一反三、熟练掌握。

6. 开本适中,版式明快,既适合随时翻检,也适合系

统阅读。

在这样一本篇幅不大的习语词典中融会如此丰富的内容,无疑是一种尝试,又限于编者的水平,缺憾之处在所难免,欢迎专家同行和广大读者批评指正。

编者 谨识
2002 年 7 月

a bird in (the) hand

sth in one's possession 已到手的东 西,已定局的事情

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 一鸟在手胜于二鸟在林。

a bit

①slightly; rather 稍微,有一点儿

"How is your arm after the accident?" "It still hurts a bit." "车祸以后你的胳膊怎么样了?" "还有点痛。" "How are you feeling?" "Oh, I'm feeling a little bit better today." "你感觉如何?" "今天感觉稍好点儿。"

②short time or distance 短时间;短距离

Wait a bit! 稍等一会儿! Move up a bit. 稍微向上挪一下。

[说明] bit 前可使用 long, short, nice, good, tiny, fair 来修饰。

a bolt from the blue

sth unexpected and unpleasant 飞来横祸

His sudden death came as a bolt from the blue. 他的突然去世犹如晴天霹雳。 The news was like a bolt from the blue. 这个消息像晴天霹雳。

a case in point

example that is relevant to the matter being discussed 有关的事例,例证

I tell you he is selfish. His unwillingness to help his friends is a case in point. 我告诉你他很自私,他不肯帮助朋友就是明显的例子。 What happened to him on Sunday is a case in point. 他在星期天碰到的事例是个很好的例子。

[说明] a case in point 常用于 be 动词后作表语。

a far cry from

a very different experience from 与...相差很远,与...大不相同

a far cry from sth/wh-cl.

The first automobile could run, but it was a far cry from a modern car. 早年的汽车虽然能跑,但比现代汽车差得很远。 The style of poem is a far cry from what he has been used to. 这首诗的风格与他过去做的的大不相同。

[说明] a far cry from 通常用在 be 动词之后,介词 from 的宾语除名词或动名词外,还可以是 wh-从句。

a few

a small number; some 几个,少数,有些

There are a few people in the room. 房间里有几个人。 Quite a few of us are getting worried. 我们当中有不少人在担心。 Most hydrogen nuclei have only one proton, a few have one proton and one neutron,

a good deal—a lot

and some can be found with two neutrons. 大多数氢原子核只有一个质子,少数有一个质子和一个中子,还有一些有两个中子。

【说明】a few 常用于可数名词前作定语,此外也可作主语。

a good deal

a lot, much 许多,大量, ...得多

a good deal

He feels a good deal better. 他觉得好多了。 *This will cost a good deal of time.* 这将花费很多时间。 *A good deal has been accomplished, but more remains to be done.* 虽然完成了许多工作,但还有更多剩下的要做。

【说明】a good deal 既可用作副词,也可用作名词。用作名词作主语时,谓语动词用单数形式。

a good deal of sth

They have a good deal of rain in the summer. 夏天他们那里多雨。

【说明】a good deal 还可借助于 of 来修饰其后的名词(接不可数名词)。

a good many

a lot of 相当多,很多

The little girl knows a good many folk songs by heart. 那个小姑娘记得好多民歌。 *We have done a good many times.* 我们已经做过很多次了。

【说明】a good many 主要用作定语,其后的名词是复数。a good many 也可单独使用,这时 many 是名词,表示多数人或物。

a great deal

= a good deal

a great many

= a good many

a little

a small amount of 一些,一点点

Learn a little at a time. 一次学一点儿。 *The old woman had laid by a little money.* 这位老太太积蓄了一点钱。 *The children wanted to play a little longer.* 孩子们想要玩久一点。 *Now a color TV set is a little less expensive than before.* 彩电现在比以前便宜一点儿。

【说明】a little 修饰不可数名词,在句中可用作名词、形容词或副词。

a lot

a great amount(number) 很多

Prices have been lifted a lot. 物价涨了很多。 *John works a lot at home.* 约翰在家里干很多活。

【说明】a lot 可用作名词,也可用作副词。

a lot of

a great number of, a great amount of 大量的, 许多的

a lot of sb/sth

There are a lot of lines on his forehead. 他额头上都是皱纹。*To take it apart now would mean wasting a lot of labor.* 现在把它拆开, 就会浪费大量劳动力。*We saw quite a lot of him when we were in Shanghai last week.* 我们上个星期在上海时常常看到他。

【说明】a lot of 后可接可数名词或不可数名词, 此外还可接代词。

a multitude of

a lot of 许多, 大量

a multitude of sb/sth

The book will find a multitude of readers. 这本书将会有大批读者。*There are a multitude of reasons against it.* 有大量反对它的理由。

【说明】a multitude of 后要接可数名词。“a multitude of + 名词复数”作主语时, 谓语要用复数形式。

a number of

some, a lot of, a great deal of 若干, 许多

a number of sb/sth

A number of new products have been successfully trial-produced. 许多新产品已试制成功。*A large number of boxes were broken.* 很多盒子被摔破了。*A great number of problems have arisen.* 出现了许多问题。

【说明】a number of 后接可数名词。“a number of + 名词(复数)”作主语时, 谓语多用复数形式。

a piece of cake

sth very easy to be done 容易的事

The proficiency test was a piece of cake, most of us finished it in less than an hour. 智力测验很容易, 我们大多数人不到一个小时就做完了。

This work is a piece of cake. 这种工作容易极了。

【说明】a piece of cake 通常用在 be 动词之后。

a sea of

much, lots of 无限的, 大量, 很多的

a sea of sb/sth

The streets are decked with a sea of red flags. 街道上红旗似海。*He stood amid a sea of corn.* 他站在茫茫一片庄稼之中。*There is a sea of troubles ahead.* 今后还有无穷无尽的麻烦呢。

【说明】a sea of 后可接可数名词或不可数名词。后接复数名词作主语时, 谓语动词一般用单数形式。

a series of —above board

a series of

a group of things of the same kind or related in some way, coming one after another or in order 一系列,一连串

a series of sth

The post office will issue a series of new stamps. 邮局将要发行一组新邮票。
After a series of wet days, a burst of sun came through the clouds. 连续下了若干天雨后,阳光突然穿云而出。

【说明】a series of 后接可数名词的复数。

a trifle

some degree, rather 有点儿,稍微

Jack seems a trifle angry. 杰克似乎有点儿生气。
Try turning the computer a trifle. 你试试把电脑再转一点。

a variety of

a number (group) of different things 种种,多种多样的

a variety of sb/sth

This shop sells a variety of toys. 这家商店出售各种各样的玩具。
Every spring a variety of birds come here. 每年春天,各种各样的鸟飞到此地。
There were a considerable variety of opinions. 意见众说纷纭。

【说明】a variety of 后接可数名词,也可接不可数名词。此外 variety 前还可使用 large, great, considerable 等形容词修饰。

abandon oneself to

give up completely to a feeling, desire, ect. 纵情,沉溺于

abandon oneself to sth

He abandoned himself to grief. 他沉浸在悲伤之中。

【说明】abandon oneself to 后通常接表示 an emotion (情感) 或 impulse (冲动) 的名词。

above all

most important of all 首要的是,首先,尤其

He was above all a good and tireless writer. 他首先是一位优秀的、不知疲倦的作家。
The problem of electricity and magnetism interested him above all. 电磁学的问题尤其使他感兴趣。
He is a good football player and, above all, a great sportsman. 他是一位优秀的足球队员,而首先他是一位杰出的运动员。

【说明】above all 常置于被其强调的词之前,也可置于其后。通常 above all 用于并列连词之后,其前后往往使用逗号。

above board

just and honourable 摆到桌面上的,光明正大的

above sb's/ the head—act up

Everything that we're doing is all perfectly above board. 我们做的每件事情最好光明正大。*It is best to be above board in everything.* 做任何事都要光明正大。

【说明】above board 通常接用在 be 动词后。

above sb's/ the head

too difficult to understand 难以理解

above sb's/the head

The lecture was a bit above their heads. 这演讲过于深奥了一点,他们不能理解。

above the head of

The lecturer spoke above the heads of his audience. 演讲者讲得太深奥,听众听不懂。

across the board

include all the people 全体人员都包括在内

It is very cold outside, you'd better come in the room across the board. 外面很冷,你们所有人最好都进屋。

【说明】across the board 通常置于句尾。

act on (v. + prep.)

① have an effect (influence) on 对…起作用;对…有功效

act on sth

This medicine acts on the heart. 这种药对心脏起作用。*Acid acts on most metals.* 酸对大多数金属起作用。

② do what is suggested; follow 奉行;按照…而行动

act on sth

The police are acting on information received. 警方正根据获得的情报采取行动。*I acted on my own judgement.* 我按照自己的判断行事。*If my advice had been acted on, he would not make that mistake.* 他要是听了我的劝告,也不会犯那个错误了。

act up (v. + adv.)

① behave in an unruly or capricious manner 行动倔强,任性

act up

The river often acted up in those days. 那时这条河常常泛滥。*The little boy acted up at the banquet last night.* 这个小男孩在昨天的宴会上很调皮。*The children have been acting up all day, and I'm exhausted.* 孩子们一直闹了一天,把我弄得筋疲力尽。

② (of a machine, etc.) function improperly (机器等)功能失常

act up

The car's engine is beginning to act up. 这辆车的引擎开始出毛病了。*This old car is always acting up.* 那辆旧汽车老是坏。

act upon—add up to

③ show off 炫耀,故意惹人注意

act up

The kid is acting up for our benefit. 那孩子正在做各种动作来逗引我们注意。*Instead of acting on the stage she started acting up.* 她不是在台上演戏,简直是在卖弄了。

④ (of a physical infirmity, etc.) become active after being quiescent (病痛等) 复发

act up again

Her thyroid was acting up again. 她的甲状腺又犯病了。*His arthritis began to act up again.* 他的关节炎又开始发作了。*An old injury to his right foot had begun to act up again.* 他右脚上的老伤又发作了。

⑤ respond appropriately 反应

act up

The question was so unexpected that, for a moment, she was at a loss how to act up properly. 问题来得这么突然,她一时不知道如何作出恰当的反应。*When the friends tease him, he doesn't know how to act up.* 当朋友们取笑他时,他不知如何是好。

act upon (v. + prep.)

= act on

add up (v. + adv.)

① cause to make a total of numbers 加起来,总计

add sth ⇔ up

At the exits polite assistants will take the goods and add up the cost. 在出口处,客气的服务员会把你的商品接过去,把价钱加在一起。

② come to the correct amount 与应有的数量相符

add up

The numbers wouldn't add up. 这些数目加起来与总数不符。

[说明] add up 作此解时多用于否定句。

③ make sense <□> 合乎情理

add up

The little things we do add up. 我们做的每一件小事都在情在理。*I can't understand this case; the facts just don't add up.* 我不理解这一案例,这些事实不能说明问题。

add up to (v. + adv. + prep.)

① make a total of a figure 总计达,总共是

add up to sth

The money adds up to \$100. 这笔钱总计达100美元。*The figures add up to 1996.* 这些数字加在一起是1996。

② be equal to; indicate means; seem to be sth in fact <□> 等于;意味着;总起来说