

# 袖珍 常用美语 短语词典

Super-Mini Common  
American Phrases

(美) 理查德·A·斯皮尔斯 (Richard A. Spears, Ph.D.) 著

清华大学出版社

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珍藏

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# F 出版说明

## FOREWORD

学习掌握纯正而又时尚的美式英语，是许多英语学习者的共同愿望。人们在学习的过程中会发现，在美语中存在着大量的习语、俚语和固定词组搭配。这一方面使得语言丰富多彩，另一方面却对非本土（本族）的学习者构成了巨大的障碍。此时，一本权威而规范的美语词典就非常必要。清华大学出版社外语分社引进的“纯正美语系列”词典将帮您全面解决这方面的难题。

该系列原版词典由世界知名的麦格劳-希尔（亚洲）教育出版公司及旗下 NTC 公司出版，清华大学出版社独家引进。词典编纂者理查德·A·斯皮尔斯原是美国西北大学语言学教授，是词典编纂学领域的专家，后长期担任 NTC 公司词典部主任。

这些词典有一个共同的目标：为使用者学习美国英语中的习语、俚语和短语动词提供精确、实用的帮助。为实现这一目标，编者努力使词典主要实现以下特色：

1. 所收词条来源于当代美国人日常使用的语言，具有清新现代之风；

2. 词条的释义简洁明了，所附例句和每一种词义相配合，提示其正确用法；

3. 在短语动词方面特别注重搭配，每一词条都附有完整的搭配形式，并对于后接的不同性质宾语（人或物）给予明确提示；

4. 所收词条均提供相互参照注释，以方便使用者查阅相关的同义词或近义词。

本系列词典既有大部头，又有袖珍本，在内容上它们相互补充。既可以作为案头的工具书，也可以在您需要的时候方便携带、随时查阅，更可以作为实用的教科书，值得从头至尾逐字逐条仔细阅读学习。我们衷心希望本系列词典能够成为您工作、学习和生活中的小帮手。

祝您学习进步、事业成功！

清华大学出版社外语分社  
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# E 专家推荐

## EXPERT'S WORDS

英语学习者经常会碰到两类问题：因为有生词或背景问题而看不懂文句，这一难题通常可以通过查阅词典和参考书或参阅上下文而得以解决；另一类问题则是一句话里没有生词，上下文和背景也很清楚，但就是不知其意，这种情况在日常交际里尤其常见。一些貌似简单的说法，它们的准确意思是什么？确切用法有哪些？这本小词典可以在这方面给予读者很大帮助。

它收录了大量美国人口头经常使用的短语和句子，并根据其不同的使用场合，给予相应的定义和解释说明，还提供了交

际实例。作为工具书，它能帮助读者解决口语常用语的意义和用法方面的难题，同时还可以作为一本非常实用的口语教材，值得从头至尾通读学习。

北京外国语大学

申 丕



# Guide to the Use of the Dictionary

1. Entry heads are alphabetized according to an absolute alphabetical order that ignores all punctuation, spaces, and hyphens.
2. Entry heads appear in **boldface type**. When words or expressions that are not entries in this dictionary are cited, they appear in *italics*.
3. An entry head may have one or more alternative forms. The alternatives are printed in **boldface type** and are preceded by "AND." Alternative forms are separated by semicolons.
4. An entry head enclosed in square brackets, e.g., [**how are**], leads to other entry heads that contain some form of the word(s) in brackets. Entry heads in square brackets do not have definitions or paraphrases.
5. Definitions and paraphrases are in roman type. Alternative or closely related definitions and paraphrases are separated by semicolons.
6. A definition or paraphrase may be followed by comments in parentheses. These comments give additional information about the expression, including cautions, comments on origins, or cross-referencing. Each numbered sense can have its own comments.
7. Many expressions have more than one major sense or meaning. These meanings are numbered with **boldface numerals**.

8. Sometimes a numbered sense will have an alternative form that does not belong to the other senses. In such cases the AND and the alternative form follow the numeral.
9. In some entries, comments direct the user to other entries for additional information through the use of the terms "compare to," "see," "see also," or "see under." The expressions referred to are in *slanted type*.
10. The first step in finding an expression is to try looking it up in the dictionary. Entries that consist of two or more words are entered in their normal order, such as **Act your age!** Phrases are never inverted or reordered like **age!**, **Act your**.
11. If you do not find the expression you want, or if you cannot decide on the exact form of the expression, look up any major word in the expression in the Phrase-Finder Index, which begins on page 205. There you will find all the multiword expressions that contain the word you have looked up. Pick out the expression you want, and look it up in the dictionary.

# Terms and Abbreviations

- (a box) marks the beginning of an example.
- AND indicates that an entry head has one or more variant forms that are the same or similar in meaning as the entry head. One or more variant forms are preceded by AND.
- catch phrase** describes an expression meant to catch attention because of its cleverness or aptness.
- compare to** means to consult the entry indicated and look for similarities to the entry head containing the “compare to” instruction.
- entry head** is the first word or phrase, in boldface, of an entry; the word or phrase that the definition explains.
- see** means to turn to the entry indicated.
- see also** means to consult the entry indicated for additional information or to find expressions similar in form or meaning to the entry head containing the “see also” instruction.
- see under** means to turn to the entry head indicated and look for the phrase you are seeking *within* the entry indicated.

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# A

**Absolutely!** a strong affirmation. ☐ MOTHER: *Do you want another piece of cake?* CHILD: *Absolutely!* ☐ BOB: *Are you ready to go?* MARY: *Absolutely!*

**Absolutely not!** a strong denial or refusal. (Compare to *Definitely not!*) ☐ BOB: *Will you please slip this bottle into your pocket?* BILL: *Absolutely not!* ☐ BOB: *Can I please have the car again tonight?* FATHER: *Absolutely not! You can't have the car every night!*

**Act your age!** Behave more maturely! (A rebuke for someone who is acting childish. Often said to a child who is acting like an even younger child.) ☐ Johnny was squirming around and pinching his sister. His mother finally said, "Johnny, act your age!" ☐ CHILD: *Aw, come on! Let me see your book!* MARY: *Be quiet and act your age. Don't be such a baby.*

**Adios.** Good-bye. (From Spanish. Used in casual or familiar conversation.) ☐ BOB: *See you later, man.* BILL: *Yeah, man. Adios.* ☐ BOB: *Adios, my friend.* MARY: *See you, Bob.*

**Afraid not.** See *(I'm) afraid not.*

**Afraid so.** See *(I'm) afraid so.*

**Afternoon.** See *(Good) afternoon.*

**After while(, crocodile).** Good-bye till later.; See you later. (The word *crocodile* is used only for the sake of the rhyme. It is the response to *See you later, alligator.*) ☐ MARY: *See you later.* BILL: *After while, crocodile.* ☐ JANE: *After while.* MARY: *Toodle-oo*

**After you.**

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**After you.** a polite way of encouraging someone to go ahead of oneself; a polite way of indicating that someone else should or can go first. ☐ *Bob stepped back and made a motion with his hand indicating that Mary should go first. "After you," smiled Bob.* ☐ **BOB:** *It's time to get in the food line. Who's going to go first?* **BILL:** *After you.* **BOB:** *Thanks.*

**Again(, please).** Say it one more time, please. ☐ *The play director said, "Again, please. And speak more clearly this time."* ☐ **TOM:** *I need some money. I'll pay you back.* **BILL** (pretending not to hear): *Again, please.* **TOM:** *I said I need some money. How many times do I have to say it?*

**Age before beauty.** a comical and slightly rude way of encouraging someone to go ahead of oneself; a comical, teasing, and slightly grudging way of indicating that someone else should or can go first. ☐ *As they approached the door, Bob laughed and said to Bill, "Age before beauty."* ☐ *"No, no. Please, you take the next available seat," smiled Tom. "Age before beauty, you know."*

**all in all AND all things considered; on balance** a transition indicating a summary, a generalization, or the announcement of a conclusion. ☐ **BILL:** *All in all, this was a fine evening.* **ALICE:** *I think so too.* ☐ *"Our time at the conference was well spent, all in all," thought Fred.* ☐ **BILL:** *How did it go?* **ALICE:** *On balance, it went quite well.* ☐ **BOB:** *Did the play turn a profit?* **FRED:** *I suppose that we made a nice profit, all things considered.*

**Allow me. AND Permit me.** a polite way of announcing that one is going to assist someone, unasked. (Typically said by a man assisting a woman by opening a door, lighting a cigarette, or providing support or aid in moving about. In *Allow me*, the stress is usually on *me*. In *Permit me*, the stress is usually on *mit*.) ☐ *Tom and Jane approached the door. "Allow me," said Tom, grabbing the doorknob.* ☐ *"Permit me," said Fred, pulling out a gold-plated lighter and lighting Jane's cigarette.*

**All right.** 1. an indication of agreement or acquiescence. (Often pronounced *aright* in familiar conversation.) ☐ **FATHER:** *Do it now, before you forget.* **BILL:** *All right.* ☐ **TOM:** *Please remember to bring me back a pizza.* **SALLY:** *All right, but I get some of it.* 2. a shout of agreement or encouragement. (Usually **All right!**) ☐ **ALICE:**

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*Come on, let's give Sally some encouragement. FRED: All right, Sally! Keep it up! You can do it!* □ *"That's the way to go! All right!" shouted various members of the audience.*

**All right already!** **AND All righty already!** an impatient way of indicating agreement or acquiescence. (The second version is more comical than rude. Dated but still used.) □ *ALICE: All right already! Stop pushing me! MARY: I didn't do anything! □ BILL: Come on! Get over here! BOB: All righty already! Don't rush me!*

**All systems are go.** an indication that everything is ready or that things are going along as planned. (Borrowed from the jargon used during America's early space exploration.) □ *BILL: Can we leave now? Is the car gassed up and ready? TOM: All systems are go. Let's get going. □ SALLY: Are you all rested up for the track meet? MARY: Yes. All systems are go.*

**All the best to someone.** See *Give my best to someone.*

**all the more reason for doing something** **AND all the more reason to do something** with even better reason or cause for doing something. (Can be included in a number of grammatical constructions.) □ *BILL: I don't do well in calculus because I don't like the stuff. FATHER: All the more reason for working harder at it. □ BOB: I'm tired of painting this fence. It's so old it's rotting! SALLY: All the more reason to paint it.*

**all things considered** See *all in all.*

**Aloha.** 1. Hello. (Hawaiian. Used in casual or familiar conversation or in Hawaii.) □ *"Aloha. Welcome," smiled the hostess. □ ALICE: Hella. Can I come in? SUE: Come in. Aloha and welcome. 2. Good-bye. (Hawaiian. Used in casual or familiar conversation or in Hawaii.) □ MARY: It's time we were going. Aloha. JANE: Aloha, Mary. Come again. □ All the family stood by the little plane, cried and cried, and called "Aloha, aloha," long after my little plane took me away to the big island.*

**Am I glad to see you!** I am very glad to see you! (Not a question. There is a stress on *I* and another on *you*.) □ *BILL: Well, I finally got here! JOHN: Boy howdy! Am I glad to see you! □ TOM (as Bill*

## Am I right?

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opens the door): *Here I am, Bill. What's wrong?* BILL: *Boy, am I glad to see you! Come on in. The hot water heater exploded.*

**Am I right?** Isn't that so? Right? (A way of demanding a response and stimulating further conversation.) ☐ JOHN: *Now, this is the kind of thing we should be doing. Am I right?* SUE: *Well, sure. I guess.* ☐ FRED: *You don't want to do this for the rest of your life. Am I right?* BOB: *Yeah.* FRED: *You want to make something of yourself. Am I right?* BOB: *I suppose.*

**And how!** an enthusiastic indication of agreement. ☐ MARY: *Wasn't that a great game? Didn't you like it?* SALLY: *And how!* ☐ BOB: *Hey, man! Don't you just love this pizza?* TOM: *And how!*

**And you? AND Yourself?** a way of redirecting a previously asked question to the asker or someone else. ☐ BILL: *Do you want some more cake?* MARY: *Yes, thanks.* Yourself? BILL: *I've had enough.* ☐ JANE: *Are you enjoying yourself?* BILL: *Oh, yes, and you?*

**Anybody I know? See Anyone I know?**

**Any friend of someone('s) (is a friend of mine).** I am pleased to meet a friend of someone. (A response when meeting or being introduced to a friend of a friend.) ☐ FRED: *Well, nice to meet you Tom. Any friend of my brother is a friend of mine.* TOM: *Thanks, Fred. Nice to meet you too.* ☐ JOHN: *Thank you so much for helping me.* SALLY: *You're welcome. Any friend of Sue's.*

**anyhow** See *anyway*.

**Anyone I know? AND Anybody I know?** a coy way of asking *who?* ☐ SALLY: *Where were you last night?* JANE: *I had a date.* SALLY: *Anyone I know?* ☐ BILL: *I've got a date for the formal next month.* HENRY: *Anybody I know?*

**Anything else?** See *(Will there be) anything else?*

**Anything going on?** See *(Is) anything going on?*

**Anything new down your way?** Has any interesting event happened where you live? (Rural and familiar.) ☐ BILL: *Anything*



new down your way? BOB: Nothing worth talking about. ☐ MARY: Hi, Sally. Anything new down your way? SALLY: No, what's new with you? MARY: Nothing.

Anything you say. Yes.; I agree. ☐ MARY: Will you please take this over to the cleaners? BILL: Sure, anything you say. ☐ SALLY: You're going to finish this before you leave tonight, aren't you? MARY: Anything you say.

Anytime. 1. an indication that one is available to be called upon, visited, or invited at any time in the future. ☐ MARY: I'm so glad you invited me for tea. JANE: Anytime. Delighted to have you. ☐ SALLY: We really enjoyed our visit. Hope to see you again. BILL: Anytime. Please feel free to come back. 2. a polite but casual way of saying You're welcome. ☐ MARY: Thanks for driving me home. BOB: Anytime. ☐ SALLY: We were grateful for your help after the fire last week. JANE: Anytime. 3. See Any time you are ready.

Anytime you are ready. an indication that the speaker is waiting for the person spoken to to make the appropriate move. ☐ MARY: I think it's about time to go. BILL: Anytime you're ready. DOCTOR: Shall we begin the operation? TOM: Anytime you're ready.

anyway AND anyhow "In spite of all this"; regardless. (Words such as this often use intonation to convey the connotation of the sentence that is to follow. The brief intonation pattern accompanying the word may indicate sarcasm, disagreement, caution, consolation, sternness, etc.) ☐ JOHN: I just don't know what's going to happen. MARY: Things look very bleak. JOHN: Anyway, we'll all end up dead in the long run. ☐ BOB: Let's stop this silly argument. FRED: I agree. Anyhow, it's time to go home, so none of this argument really matters, does it? BOB: Not a bit.

(Are) things getting you down? Are things bothering you? ☐ JANE: Gee, Mary, you look sad. Are things getting you down? MARY: Yeah. JANE: Cheer up! MARY: Sure. ☐ TOM: What's the matter, Bob? Things getting you down? BOB: No, I'm just a little tired.

(Are you) doing okay? AND You doing okay? 1. How are you? ☐ MARY: Doing okay? BILL: You bet! How are you? ☐ BILL: Hey, man! Are you doing okay? TOM: Sure thing! And you? 2. How are you surviving this situation or ordeal? ☐ MARY: You doing okay? BILL: Sure.