




高校英语选修课系列教材

英语习语 实用教程

主 编 周文岭
副主编 王 萌 王聿良
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清华大学出版社



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内 容 简 介

本教程选取当代欧美经典影片的优美对白,提取其中的常用习语,每条习语辅以简洁准确的释义和地道实用的例句。所选对白语料真实,场景丰富多彩,习语精练实用,为日常会话所必备;每单元课后配有精心设计的词汇巩固练习和口语训练话题。通过本教程的学习,学生在扩充习语语料的同时,可以领略英美文化的丰富内涵和经久魅力。

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序

文岭在他的新作《英语习语实用教程》即将付梓之际，邀我为该书作序。我和文岭有师生之谊，又见他近年来成果不断，深感欣慰，就很高兴为他的新作写几句话。

改革开放以来，随着国家对英语教育的逐步重视，我国的英语教学取得了可喜的成绩。进入 21 世纪以后，英语教学从着重语法逐步转向听、说、读、写并重，学习者的听、说能力取得了显著提升。但是，通过教学观察我们也发现了一些突出的问题。比如，学习者发现他们所讲的英语同以英语为母语者所讲的英语无论从形式还是内容上都存在明显区别，交际失败的情形时有发生。抛开词汇量不足及语法、语用的失当不谈，外语学习者与母语习得者所讲英语的突出区别还表现在对习语的使用方面。

在以英语为外语的学习环境下，英语教学多采用基于技能 (skill-based) 的方法，重在培养学习者的听、说、读、写各项技能，词汇输入多以单词和词组为主，而对习语这种特殊形式的多词语块 (multi-word chunks) 重视不足，课堂习语教学尤为欠缺。

英语习语是指具有特定形式的固定短语或词组，但它又区别于普通意义上的短语或词组，其意思往往不能从各组成部分的字面意义推导得出，形式上具有语言整体性、结构凝固性和不可替代性等特点，语义上则具有隐晦性、比喻性和文化性等特点。

习语在英语人士的日常使用中占有非常重要的地位。曾有统计显示，以英语为母语者在其一生之中总计用到大约 2000 万个习语。如果以 60 年来计，这意味着平均每人每年用到约 333333 个习语，每天约 913 个习语。如果这组数据属实，那么习语在人们日常交流中的比重和作用就不言而喻了。

第二语言习得领域内众多研究者都曾指出习语学习对语言学习的益处。首先，习语可以增进学习者语言的丰富性和生动性；其次，习语能够促进语言表述的流利性，帮助学习者获得类似母语者的语言能力；最后，使用习语有助于培养和开发学习者的比喻能力，而比喻能力则是交际能力的重要一环。概而言之，习语在说话者的语言产出及受话者的语言理解两方面均发挥重要作用，因此继语言能力 (linguistic competence) 和交际能力 (communicative competence) 之后，近年来第二语言习得研究领域又有研究者提出了习语能力 (idiomatic competence) 的概念。

所谓习语能力，简言之即指学习者能够在众多社会文化情境下恰当且准确地理解和使用习语的能力。在 Celce-Murcia 的改良版交际能力模型里，习语能力也被认为是交际能力的一个重要组成部分，对目的语习语的掌握是成功习得该语言的一个重要标志。

当前一些重要的国际性英语考试已经对受试者的习语能力提出了明确的要求。比如雅思

口语考试评分标准中, 7~9 分的档次对词汇的使用提出了如下要求:

- Band 9: uses idiomatic language naturally and accurately.
- Band 8: uses less common and idiomatic vocabulary skillfully, with occasional inaccuracies.
- Band 7: uses some less common and idiomatic vocabulary, with some inappropriate choices.

《欧洲语言共同参考框架》(Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) 中对听力技能的评价标准也包含“can understand a wide range of idiomatic expressions and colloquialisms”的要求。

由此可见, 即使对于以英语为外语的学习者而言, 习语能力的要求也已经提上日程。然而文献资料显示, 亚洲国家的英语学习者普遍存在习语能力低下的情况。这和教学双方有意或无意回避习语的倾向存在较大关系。一则习语对于外语学习者来说确显复杂; 二则不少学习者认为用平实的英语即可解释思想或意义, 不使用习语照样可以实现交际目的。正是基于以上原因, 习语教学在亚洲国家的外语教学领域始终未能引起足够的重视, 我国当然也不例外。这从当前我国英语教材种类繁多而专门的习语类教材却凤毛麟角的情形即可看出端倪。

目前国内现有的一些习语类书籍多以课外辅导读物为主, 不适合作为课内教材使用。为了改变这种现状, 本教材的作者将积累多年的习语语料按照教材的体例汇编成书。每单元选取一部当代欧美经典影片的对白片段, 从中择取生动鲜活的习语, 结合语境解释其意义和用法, 并适时提供典故介绍或文化解读。教材在注重习语输入的同时, 也精心设计了形式多样的练习, 兼顾词汇巩固及口语训练, 使学生能够做到即学即用, 输入与输出并行。

我们认为, 随着学习者教育水平及语言水平的提高, 必须鼓励学习者接受显性的和系统性的习语学习, 唯有如此, 他们的习语能力才能得到有效提高。《英语习语实用教程》是国内习语类教材的一次大胆尝试, 必将对我国的英语习语教学产生积极的推动作用。

《英语习语实用教程》的付印见证了作者在英语教育领域不懈的探索 and 追求。我期待他不断有力作问世, 让英语学界的广大师生能够从中获益。

戴炜栋

2016 年 6 月 15 日
于上海外国语大学

前言

任何一种语言的学习不仅仅是语音、词汇和语法规则的学习，还应包括对这种语言赖以存在的文化背景及社会习俗等知识的获取。习语作为语言的精华，正可承载这种传播文化内涵的功能。

英语习语(idiom)是人们经过长期使用和提炼、并含有特殊意义的固定词语组合，具有丰富的文化内涵、鲜明的民族特色和宽广的受众范围。广义的英语习语包括谚语、俚语、俗语及惯用语等。习语可以体现英语民族的历史发展、地理环境、风俗习惯、宗教信仰、寓言神话、文学艺术、思维模式和语言习惯等方方面面。无论是开设专门的英语习语课程，亦或是在精读、泛读或写作等核心课程中融入习语的讲授，对激发学生的学习兴趣、丰富文化知识、提高语言表达能力和跨文化交际能力，乃至培养德育、美育素养等都将发挥积极的促进作用。

目前国内以英语习语为教学内容的专门教材并不多见，现存的一些习语类书籍多以课外辅导读物为主，不适合作为课内教材使用。本教程以课堂教学为编写目标，内容设计便于教学活动的开展与实施。教程共设20个单元，每单元以当代欧美经典影片的优美对白片段为阅读语料，提取其中的常用习语，每条习语配有简洁准确的语义解释、用法说明、例句扩展、文化解读或典故介绍。每单元课后配有精心设计的词汇巩固练习和口语训练话题，书后附有词汇练习的参考答案。

本教程所选对白语料真实地道，场景丰富多彩，习语精练实用，为日常会话所必备。通过本教程的学习，可使学生在扩充习语语料的同时，领略英美文化的丰富内涵和经久魅力。

为保证全书编写质量，特邀美籍专家 Winona Dailey 加盟审校全书，确保习语解释的准确性和例句编写的地道性。本教程可供高校英语及非英语专业拓展类或选修类课程使用，也可作为读写类或听说类课程的辅助教材使用。

本教程能够顺利完成，得益于全体参编人员的通力合作，也得益于清华大学出版社外语分社各位领导及钱屹芝编辑的大力支持与帮助。上海外国语大学戴炜栋教授、淮海工学院赵平教授在本书的编写过程中给予了悉心指导，参加本书编写工作的部分同学及同仁也为本书提出了诸多中肯的建议。在此谨对他们的支持和帮助表示诚挚的谢意！

本教程疏漏之处在所难免，敬请各位专家及同仁批评指正。我们将诚恳接受，不断改进和完善。

周文岭

2016年6月

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English Idioms

He's Quite a Catch!

UNIT

1

Warm-up Activity

Work in pairs and discuss the following topics:

What steps does it usually take for a typical Chinese couple to get married?

And what steps might a typical British or American marriage take?

Section I

Movie Clip

Synopsis of the Movie: *Corpse Bride* (僵尸新娘)

Victor messed up the vow rehearsal for his wedding. He practices the vows in the woods while putting the wedding ring on a finger-shaped stick in the ground. The stick turns out to be a rotted finger belonging to a murdered girl Victoria, who returns as a zombie and insists that she is now Victor's lawfully wedded wife.

Synopsis of the Clip

Victor messed up the vow rehearsal out of overtension (紧张过度), and made a fool of himself in the church.

The Dialogue

Victor: With this candle...

Pastor Galswells: Continue! (*The doorbell rings.*)

Lord Everglot: Get the door, Emil.

Pastor Galswells: Let's just pick it up at the candle bit.

Emil: Lord Barkis, sir.

Lord Barkis: I haven't a head for dates. **Apparently**, I'm a day early for the ceremony.

Lord Everglot: Is he from your side of the family?

Lady Everglot: I can't **recall**. Emil, a seat for Lord Barkis.

Lord Barkis: Do carry on.

Pastor Galswells: Let's try it again, shall we, Master Van Dort?

Victor: Yes. Yes, sir. Certainly!

Pastor Galswells: Right.

Victor: Right. Oh right! With this... this...

Pastor Galswells: Hand!

Victor: With this hand... I... with... (*hits the table*)

Pastor Galswells: Three steps, three! Can you not count? Do you not wish to be married, Master Van Dort?

Victor: No! No!

Victoria: You do not?

Victor: No! I meant, no! I do not not wish to be married. That is, I want very much to.

Pastor Galswells: Pay attention! Have you even remembered to bring the ring?

Victor: The ring? Yes.

Mr. Van Dort: Of course. (*The ring drops off suddenly.*)

Pastor Galswells: Dropping the ring!

Lady Everglot: Oh no! He's dropped the ring!

Pastor Galswells: This boy doesn't want to get married!

Lady Everglot: Jesus Christ!

Victor: Excuse me. Got it!

Lord Everglot: Out of the way, you **ninny**!

Mr. Van Dort: Oh dear! Oh my! **Giddy** on, there's a woman on fire! Help! Emergency!

Mrs. Van Dort: Oh, I hope it doesn't **stain**.

Lady Everglot: Stop fanning it, you fool!

Mrs. Van Dort: Get a **bucket**! Get a bucket!

Mr. Van Dort: I'm on my way, dear. Yes! Oh dear!

Pastor Galswells: Enough! This wedding cannot take place until he is properly prepared. Young man, learn your vows!

Lord Barkis: Well, he's quite the catch, isn't he?

Vocabulary

① apparently	[ə'pærəntli]	adv.	显然, 明显
② ceremony	['seriməni]	n.	典礼; 仪式
③ recall	[ri'kɔ:l]	v.	回想, 回忆起
④ ninny	['nini]	n.	笨人; 傻子

⑤ giddy	[ˈɡɪdi:]	adj.	眩晕的, 头晕的
⑥ stain	[steɪn]	vi.	变肮脏; 染污
⑦ bucket	[ˈbʌkɪt]	n.	桶

Idiom Notes

① Get the door, Emil.

get the door 表示当有人敲门时前去开门, 和 **answer the door** 意思相同。

- ◇ Tom, can you get the door? I am busy cooking. (汤姆, 去开门好吗? 我在做饭。)
- ◇ Do I have to answer the door for a cop? (警察敲门我就得开吗?)

② I haven't a head for dates.

have a head for something 意思是“具有……的头脑或天分”。此外, **have a knack for (doing) something** 则表示“擅长做……”或“有做……的本事”。

- ◇ Bill Gates has a good head for business. (比尔盖茨很有商业头脑。)
- ◇ The salesman has a knack for anticipating customers' needs. (这位推销员总能知道顾客需要什么。)

③ Excuse me.

excuse me 用于表示致歉, 在口语中使用频率非常高, 使用的场合也很多, 如: 请求他人帮忙, 表达不同意见, 打断别人讲话, 或因妨碍他人及失礼行为等致歉。
excuse me 和 **sorry** 的含义并不完全相同, 应在使用中细细体会其间的细微区别。

- ◇ Excuse me, which bus should I take to the railway station? (打扰了, 请问去火车站坐几路车?)
- ◇ Excuse me, I cannot agree with you. (对不起, 我不同意你的观点。)
- ◇ Excuse me for my being late. (抱歉, 我来晚了。)

④ Out of the way, you ninny!

out of the way 这里是让人闪开或滚开之意, 是一句比较粗鲁的话, 应当注意使用场合。

⑤ There's a woman on fire!

on fire 通常表示着火或起火, 比喻用法则表示“非常激动”、“大为光火”之意。常用的习语还有 **catch fire/go on fire** (燃烧、起火), **set fire to** (纵火) 等。

- ◇ The whole house is on fire and already out of control. (整个房子都着火了, 火势无法控制。)
- ◇ The policemen failed to find out who set fire to the house. (警察没查出是谁纵火烧房。)

⑥ I'm on my way, dear.

on my way 这里表示立即行动，有“马上就办”或“马上就来”之意。

◇ A: Doctor, this is an emergency! Can you come now? (医生，情况紧急！现在能过来吗？)

◇ B: No problem. I'm on my way. (没问题。我马上来。)

⑦ Well, he's quite the catch, isn't he?

quite the/a catch 是一种非正式的习语用法，通常用来谈论某位男性是爱情或婚姻的不错人选，汉语里俗称“金龟婿”。英美人一般不说某位女性是 quite the/a catch。

◇ Sometimes I think my ex-boyfriend was quite a catch for me. (有时我觉得我的前男友还真挺适合我。)

◇ I heard that you married Mike. He's quite a catch. (听说你和迈克结婚了。你算是钓到金龟婿了。)

Section II

Structure Practice

1. Decide which of the choices is correct. You may consult your dictionary.

- 1) When she heard the doorbell ring, she went to _____.
a. close the door b. get the door c. take off the doorbell
- 2) Don't worry. The doctor will be here soon. He is now _____.
a. in his way b. out of his way c. on his way
- 3) James has proven _____ for Lily. They are really a perfect match.
a. quite a catch b. a quite catch c. the wrong person
- 4) Lily is _____ for you, James. You will make a perfect match.
a. quite a catch b. the right person c. the wrong person
- 5) The cinema was _____ and the firemen were already _____.
a. in fire; on the way b. on fire; on the way c. on fire; in the way

2. Complete the dialogue with an idiom from this unit. The cues given in the brackets or responses are for your convenience. Be sure to use the correct tense and person.

- 1) A: Sir, your wife is on the phone. She wants you to go home immediately.
B: Okay, tell her _____. (way)
- 2) A: What do you think about my new boyfriend?
B: _____. You have hooked a winner this time. (catch)

- 3) A: Why don't you study accounting? It's so hot nowadays.
B: I don't think _____ numbers. I prefer literature. (head)
- 4) A: Someone is knocking at the door, honey.
B: Okay, I will go and _____. (door)
- 5) A: _____, sir. Can I have a word with you? (excuse)
B: Yes, what can I do for you?

Section III

Oral Practice

1. Make a list of both English and Chinese idioms that are used to mean "a perfect match". You may try to find out if each idiom or expression has a counterpart in the other language.
2. You are going to introduce a young man or lady to your friend. Try to assure your friend that the person will be a good match for him/her. Role-play the dialogue with your partner.

English Idioms

UNIT

2

Let's Go Crazy!

Warm-up Activity

Work in pairs and discuss the following topics:

Have you ever met a celebrity? If yes, describe the meeting to your classmates. If not, who might be the first celebrity you wish to see?

Section I

Movie Clip

Synopsis of the Movie: *Notting Hill* (诺丁山)

William's life undergoes a radical shift when the world-famous actress Anna walks into his bookstore in Notting Hill, London on a Wednesday. They fall in love soon. When William happens to see Anna's boyfriend in her apartment, he leaves with a broken heart. Half a year later, Anna comes back to London for William. After a series of twists and turns, William expresses his love for Anna at her press conference.

Synopsis of the Clip

William meets Anna at the bookstore for the first time.

The Dialogue

William: Can I help you at all?

Anna: No, thanks. I'll just look around.

William: Fine. (*Anna wanders over to a shelf and picks out a book.*)

William: Uh... , that book's really not great. Just in case, you know, **browsing** turned to buying, you'd be wasting your money. But if it's Turkey you're interested in, (*picks up a book on the counter*) this one, on the other hand, is very good. I think the man who wrote it has actually been to Turkey, which helps. There's also a very amusing **incident** with a **kebab**, which is one of many amusing incidents.

Anna: Thanks! I'll think about it.

William: Or in the bigger **hardback** variety, there's... I'm sorry. Can you just give me a second?

Anna: I will take this one.

William: Oh, right, right. So, well, on second thoughts, maybe it's not that bad after all. Actually, it's a sort of a **classic**, really. None of those childish kebab stories you find in so many books these days. And, I tell you what. I'll throw in one of those for free. Useful for... lighting fires, wrapping fish, that sort of thing.

Anna: Thanks!

William: Pleasure. (Anna leaves. Seconds later, Martin, the shop assistant, comes back.)

Martin: **Cappuccino**, as ordered.

William: Thanks! I don't think you'll believe who was just in here.

Martin: Who? Was it someone famous?

William: No, no, no.

Martin: No? Would be exciting, though, wouldn't it, if someone famous came into the shop? Do you know... and this is, this is pretty amazing, actually... but I once saw Ringo Starr.

William: Where was that?

Martin: Kensington High Street. At least I think it was Ringo. It might have been that man from *Fiddler on the Roof*. You know, Toppy.

William: Topol.

Martin: Yes, that's right. Topol.

William: Actually, Ringo Starr doesn't look at all like Topol.

Martin: Yeah, but he was... he was quite a long way away from me.

William: So actually it could've been neither of them.

Martin: Yes, I suppose so. Yes.

William: It's not a classic **anecdote**, is it?

Martin: Not a classic. No!

William: Another one?

Martin: Yes. No! Let's go crazy! I'll have an orange juice.

Vocabulary

① browse	[brauz]	vi.	浏览
② incident	['insident]	n.	事件, 事情
③ kebab	[kə'ba:b]	n.	烤肉串
④ hardback	['hɑ:dbæk]	n.	精装书

⑤ classic	['klæsɪk]	n.	经典著作；名著
⑥ cappuccino	['kæpuːtʃiːnəʊ]	n.	意大利泡沫咖啡
⑦ anecdote	['ænikdəʊt]	n.	轶事

Idiom Notes

① I'll just look around.

逛商场或书店时，销售人员通常会礼貌地问你 **what can I do for you**，如果你只是漫无目的地随便看看，或不希望被销售人员打扰，就可以说 **just look around** 或 **just have a look**。

② Just in case.

从规范用法上来讲，**in case** 后面通常要接介词 **of** + 名词，或接 **that** 引导的从句，表示某种假设情况。但是口语中经常见到 **just in case** 放在句尾，或者独立使用，其意思相为“以防万一”。

◇ Please tie the safety belt just in case. (请系好安全带，以防万一。)

◇ It looks gloomy so I brought an umbrella. Just in case. (天气阴沉所以我带了把雨伞来。以防万一嘛。)

③ Can you just give me a second?

give me a second 就是“稍等一下”或“打搅一下”，暗示等候或占用的时间很短。口语中 **second** 也常常简化为 **sec**，故此有 **give me a sec** 或 **one sec please** 等说法。

◇ Give me a second please. Let me see if the doctor is in. (请稍等，我看看医生在不在。)

◇ One sec please. I'm on my way. (请稍候。我马上到。)

④ So, well, on second thoughts, maybe it's not that bad after all.

on second thoughts 意思是“转念一想”或“再一想”。也可用作插入语，表示略作迟疑之后改变主意，相当于“算了”或“等一下”。

◇ I was about to tell him the truth, but on second thoughts I decided not. (我本想告诉他真相，但转念一想还是算了。)

◇ I'll have tea. On second thoughts, make that coffee please. (给我来杯茶，等等，还是换成咖啡吧。)

⑤ Useful for... lighting fires, wrapping fish, that sort of thing.

(and) that sort of thing 用于列举，尤其当你不想或无法说清某些事情时，就可以用这句话搪塞一下，意思是“诸如此类的事”或“……之类的”。类似的说法还有 **(and) things like that**, **(and) stuff like that**, **and stuff**, **and so on** 等。这些说法通常只用于日常口语。