

THE CLASSICAL & PRACTICAL ENGLISH

实用英文经典

实用英语习语手册

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实用英语习语手册





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实用英语经典

实用英语习语手册

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第一章 英语常用谚语集锦

A bad shearer never had a good sickle. (or An ill shearer never got a good hook.)

笨拙的收割者不会有快镰刀。人笨刀也钝。

A bad thing is dear at any price.

坏货再贱也是贵。

A bad thing never dies.

坏事不会消失。劣迹难以磨灭。

A bad wife is the shipwreck of her husband.

妻不贤，夫受害。

A bad workman quarrels with (or complains of) his tools. (or Bad workmen find fault with their tools.)

拙匠常怨工具差。劣工常尤器。人笨怪刀钝。不会撑船怪河弯。不会写字怨笔秃。

A baited cat may grow as fierce as a lion.

上钩之猫猛如狮。人急造反，兔急咬人。

A baker's wife may bite of a bun, a brewer's wife may bite of a tun.

面包师的妻子吃面包，酿酒人的妻子喝美酒。近水楼台先得月。

A bargain is a bargain.

契约终是契约。合同岂可撕毁？买卖一言为定。

A barking dog is better than a Sleeping lion.

睡狮不如吠犬。

A barley-corn is better than a diamond to a cock.



对公鸡来说，大麦粒胜过金刚石。麦粒虽贱，可以果腹；钻石虽贵，难以充饥。

A bashful dog never fattens. (or A modest dog seldom grows fat.)
羞怯之狗长不肥。

A bean in liberty is better than a comfit in prison.
自由中的一粒豆，胜过监狱里的一颗糖。

A beggar can never be bankrupt.
乞丐永远不会破产。

A beggar may sing before a pickpocket.
乞丐可以在扒手面前唱歌。乞丐不怕掏兜。

A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (or wood).
一鸟在手胜于双鸟在林。多得不如现得。十赍不如一现。

A bird may be known by its song.
听音知鸟。

A bird is known by its note, a man by his talk.
听音知鸟，闻言知人。言为心声。

A bit in the morning is better than nothing all day.
早晨得一点胜似整天无所得。聊胜于无。

A black hen lays a white egg.
黑鸡下白蛋。丑妇生俊儿。

A ready way to lose your friend is to lend him money.
失去朋友的最简便做法，就是借钱给朋友。

A rolling eye, a roving hear.
眼睛滴溜转，百念转心头。

A rolling stone gathers no moss. (or The oft moved stone gathers no moss.)

滚石不生苔。转业不聚财。见异思迁，一事无成。

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.



玫瑰花改叫任何别的花名，闻起来还是一样芬芳。

A rotten sheep infects the whole flock.

一只腐羊害及全群。害群之马。

A royal heart is hidden under a tattered cloak.

褴褛的衣裳内藏着一颗高贵的心。人不可貌相，海水不可斗量。

A rugged stone grows smooth from hand to hand.

粗石越磨越光滑。刀是磨利的，钢是炼纯的。

A runaway monk never praises his convent.

逃出来的修道士决不会称赞自己的修道院。

A saint abroad and a devil at home.

在外是圣人，在家是魔鬼。在外圣洁，在家邪恶。

A (or The) scalded cat dreads cold water. (or Scalded cats even fear cold water.)

烫伤过的猫见了冷水也害怕。一朝被蛇咬，三年怕井绳。

A secret between more than two is no secret.

超过两人知道的秘密就不是秘密。三人知，天下晓。

A servant is known by his master's absence.

主人不在方知仆人的为人。

A short cut is often a wrong out.

近道往往是错道。事无捷径。欲速则不达。

A snort horse is soon curried.

马矮易梳。事小易办。

A sickly body makes a sickly mind.

没有健康的身体，就没有健全的精神。身体虚弱，精神萎靡。

A single fact is worth a shipload of ornament.

一个事实抵得上整船的装饰品。一件事实胜于百般巧饰。

A small rain may alley a great storm. (or Small rain lays great winds.)

小雨可以镇大风。小雨息大风。柔能克刚。

A smooth sea never makes a skilful mariner.

平静的大海造就不出熟练的水兵。疾风知劲草，烈火炼真金。

A snow year, a rich year.

瑞雪兆丰年。

A soft answer is a specific cure for anger.

温和的回答是治疗愤怒的特效药。婉言可以息怒。

Bacchus has drowned more men than Napture.

酒神淹死的人比海神淹死的多。

Bad company is the devil's net.

坏朋友是魔网。

Bad customs are better broken than kept up.

恶习宜除不宜留。

Bad habits are easier conquered today than tomorrow.

摒除恶习，今天要比明天容易。积习难改，积量难返。

Bad luck often brings good luck.

恶运往往带来好运。祸中有福。

Bad (or Ill) news has wings.

坏消息长有翅膀。恶事传千里。

Bad news travels quickly. (or Ill news travels fast. or Ill news runs apace.)

坏消息传得快。恶事传千里。

Bad ware is never cheap.

劣品再贱也不便宜。


Badgad is not remote for a lover.

巴格达对情人并不遥远。有缘千里来相会。

Bare walls make giddy housewives.

四壁空荡荡，急得主妇团团转。家徒四壁，主妇何以为炊？

Bare words, no bargain. (or Bare words make no good bargain.)



空言不能成交。空言无补于事。

Barking dogs do not (or seldom) bite. (or Great barkers are no biters.)

吠犬不咬人。爱叫的狗不咬人，爱喧嚣者未必会做事。

Bashfulness is an enemy to poverty.

羞怯是贫困之敌。

Be a whole man to one thing at a time.

一时专心于一事。一心不能二用。

Be honest rather than clever.

与其聪明，不如诚实。

Be just before you are generous.

先清债，后慷慨。

Be just to all, but trust not all.

对人人都要公正，但不要对人人都寄予信任。

Be silent, or speak something worth hearing.

不言则已，言必中听。

Be slow in choosing a friend, but slower in changing him.

择友要慎重，弃友更要慎重。

Be slow to promise, but quick to perform.

许诺宜缓，履行宜速。不轻诺，诺必果。

Be swift to hear, slow to speak.

听要快，讲要慢。多听少说。

Cross the stream where it is ebbest (or shallowest).

哪儿水最浅，就在哪儿过河。

Crosses are ladders to heaven. (or Crosses are ladders that lead to heaven.)

十字架是登上天国的梯子。磨难为成功之阶梯。不经磨难不成佛。

Crows bewails the dead sheep, and then eat them.



乌鸦吃掉死羊，先要痛哭一场。猫哭耗子假慈悲。

Curiosity is ill manners in another man's house.

在旁人家里，好奇是不礼貌的行为。

Curses are like processions ; they return to whence they came.

咒骂如同游行队伍，从哪里出发，又回到哪里。咒人反咒己。害人反害己。

Curses, like chickens, come home to roost.

正如小鸡回窝，咒骂回到咒骂者本身。咒骂别人，回头应验到自己。咒人反咒己。害人反害己。

Custom makes all things easy.

只要遵循风俗习惯，一切都好办。

Cut your coat according to your cloth. (or One must cut his coat according to his cloth.)

量布裁衣。量入为出。

Danger comes soonest when it is despised.

对危险掉以轻心，危险即至。疏忽招祸。

Danger is next neighbour to security.

危险是安全的紧邻。

Danger past, God forgotten. (or The danger past and God forgotten. or When the danger is past, God is forgotten.)

遇险求上帝，一过便忘记。摘了奶，忘了娘。忘恩负义。

Dangers are overcome by dangers.

以险克险，以敌制敌。

Daughters and dead fish are not keeping wares.

鱼死不可存，女大不当留。鱼死要扔，女大当嫁。

Dead man tells no tales.

死人不会告密。死人不会揭人隐私。

Dead men don't bite.



死人不会咬人。死人背后不说人。

Death defies the doctor.

死亡蔑视医生。名医妙手亦难起死回生。

Death is the grand leveller.

死亡是伟大的平等主义者。死亡面前，人人平等。

Death keeps no calendar.

死亡不记日程表。死生无常。

Death meets us everywhere.

死亡到处和我们相遇。人生何处不归天？

Death pays all debts (or scores). (or He that dies pays all debts.)

死亡还清了一切债务。一死了百债。一死百了。

Death quits all scores. (或) Death squares all accounts.)

死亡结清了一切账目。一死了百债。一死百了。

Death spares neither Pope nor beggar.

死亡不饶恕教皇，也不饶恕乞丐。死亡面前，不分贵贱。

Death when it comes will have no denial.

死亡临门，谁能拒而不纳？人生在世，难免一死。

Debt is better than death.

即使负债，也胜于死亡。

Debt is the worst kind of poverty.

贫穷莫过于负债。

Debts turn freemen into slaves.

负债使自由人沦为奴隶。负债使人为奴。

Decision and perseverance are the noblest qualities of man.

果断与坚忍是人的最高贵的品质。

Deeds are better than words.

行为胜于言词。百说不如一干。

Deeds are better things than words are, actions mightier than boasting!



行为比言词漂亮，行动比吹牛有力！

Deeds are fruits, words are (but) leaves.

行动是果实，言语不过是叶子而已。行是果，语是叶。

Deeds, not words. (or Not words, but deeds.)

要行动，不要空言。

Deep rivers move in silence, shallow brooks are noisy.

河深水流静，溪浅水声喧。博学者从不宣扬，浅识者成天叫嚷。满瓶不响，半瓶晃荡。

Defect of judgement is often the cause of fear.

恐惧往往出于判断的错误。

Defer not till tomorrow what may be done today.

今天能做完的事不要拖到明天。今日事，今日毕。

Delays are dangerous. (or Delay breeds danger.)

事怕延误。

Delays are not denials.

拖延并不等于拒绝。

Deliberate in counsel, prompt in action.

筹谋时要深思熟虑，行动时要迅速果断。

Deliberate slowly, execute promptly.

决策要深思熟虑，执行要迅速果断。

Don't be vain because you are good-looking.

不要以貌美而自骄。

Don't cast out the foul water till you bring in the clean. (or Don't throw out your dirty water before you get in fresh.)

清水未打来，莫把脏水倒。新（好）的没到手，旧（坏）的别扔掉。

Don't cross a bridge till (or until) you come to it. (or Don't cross the bridges before you come to them.)

没到桥头别忙于跨步过桥。不要杞人忧天。别自寻烦恼。

Don't eat the calf in the cow's belly.

牛犊尚未落地，别先想吃小牛。不要指望过早。

Don't have thy cloak to make when it begins to rain.

别等下雨才做雨衣。未雨绸缪。

Don't kill the goose that lays the golden eggs. (or Kill not the goose that lays the golden eggs.)

不要杀鹅取卵。不要杀鸡取蛋。不要砍倒摇钱树，打碎聚宝盆。不要自绝生财之道。

Don't let escape the opportunity of the present, it will not return.

机不可失，时不再来。

Don't let the grass grow under your reet.

不失时机。要及时行动。不要懈怠。

Don't (or Never) look a gift - horse in the mouth. (or Look not a gift - horse in the mouth.)

对别人馈赠的礼物不要吹毛求疵。不要对礼物评头评足。不要挑剔礼物。

Don't measure other people's corn by your own bushel.

不要用自己的斗去量别人的谷。别拿自己的标准去衡量别人。别以己度人。

Don't put the cart before the horse.

不要把车套在马的前面。勿本末倒置。勿倒果为因。

Don't (or Never) scald your lips in another man's porridge. (or Scald not your lips in another man's porridge.)

不要在别人的热粥上烫伤自己的嘴唇。别多管闲事，自讨苦吃。

Don't sell the skin before you have caught the fox.

狐狸未捕到，别先卖皮。勿谋之过早。

Don't serve new wine in old bottles.

不要用旧瓶装新酒。别换汤不换药。

Don't sing your song of triumph before you have won the victory.

尚未赢得胜利，别先高唱凯歌。别高兴得太早。

Early wed, early dead.

早婚早夭。

Earnestness is the soul of work.

认真是工作的灵魂。办事贵在认真。

Easier said than done. (or Easy to say, hard to do.)

说来容易做起来难。说易行难。

East or west, home is best.

东也好，西也好，还是自己的家最好。在家千日好，出门时难。

Easy come, easy go. (or Light come, light go.)

来得容易去得快。易得易失。

Easy gained, easy spent. (or Lightly gained, quickly lost.)

得来容易花得快。不义之财，理难久享。

Eat and drink measurely, and defy the medicines.

饮食适度，不用药物。饮食适度，不进药铺。

Eat (bread) at pleasure, drink (wine) by measure.

随意吃饭，适度饮酒。多吃饭，少喝酒。

Eat in measure and defy the doctor. (or Feed by measure and defy the physician.)

饮食适度，不用大夫。

Eating and scratching wants but a beginning.

吃饭和搔痒，只要开个头。越吃越馋，越搔越痒。

Eating little and speaking little can never do harm.

吃少病少，说少祸少。节食寡言有百利而无一害。

Economy (or Frugality or Sparing)) is a great revenue.

节约是笔大收入。

Economy is too late at the bottom of the purse.

囊空如洗而后节俭，为时已晚。

Elbow grease gives the best polish.

使劲擦，亮光光。苦干出好活。

Empty vessels (or waggons) make the most sound. (or The empty vessel makes the greatest sound.)

空器皿（车）响声最大。大声嚷嚷者，学识一定浅薄。满瓶不响，半瓶晃荡。

Enough is as good as a feast.

足食犹如筵席。知足常乐。

Enough is better than too much.

足够胜于过多。知足常乐。

Enough is enough.

够花便应知足。（指金钱）

Envy has no holiday.

妒忌无假日。

Envy is a stubborn weed of the mind.

妒忌是思想的痼疾。

Failure is the only highroad to success.

失败是通往成功的唯一之路。失败为成功之母。

Failure teaches success.

失败教人获得成功。失败为成功之母。

Faint heart never won a castle.

胆怯夺取不了城堡。懦夫成不了大事。

Faint heart never won a fair lady.

胆怯难赢美人心。懦夫不配美女。

Faint praise is disparagement.



敷衍勉强的恭维等于轻蔑。

Fair and soft go far in a day.

从容稳重，无往不利。

Fair flowers do not remain long by the wayside.

鲜花岂能长留于路旁？红颜多薄命。

Fair gainings make fair spendings.

来得正当，花得正当。

Fair play's a jewel.

光明磊落最可贵。

Fair without, and foul within.

外表漂亮，内心龌龊。金玉其外，败絮其中。马屎皮面光，里头一包糠。

Fair (or Fine) words butter no parsnips.

花言巧语不中用。甘言无益。

Fair words fill not the belly. (or The belly is not filled with fair words.)

花言巧语填不饱肚子。花言巧语当不了饭吃。

Fair words fill not the belly nor mind always.

花言巧语填不饱肚子，也充实不了头脑。花言巧语不济事，巧言令色实无益。

Fair words make fools fain.

花言巧言使傻瓜得意洋洋。

Fairest gems lie deepest.

最美的宝石埋得最深。

Faith can (or will) remove mountains.

诚可移山。精诚所至，金石为开。

Faithfulness and sincerity are the highest gems (or things).

忠诚是至宝。

Fall not out with a friend for a trifle.

别为小事跟朋友闹翻。别为鸡毛蒜皮的事而伤友情。

Fall sick and you will see who is your friend and who is not.

得了病就知道谁是朋友，谁不是朋友。患难见交情。

False with one can be false with two.

对一个人虚伪，也会对两个人虚伪。

Falsehood like a nettle stings those who meddle with it.

谎言似荨麻，谁玩谁扎手。

Fame is a magnifying glass.

名声是面放大镜。

Freedom is a noble thing.

自由可贵。

Friendless is the dead.

死者无友。

Friends agree best at a distance.

朋友之间保持一定距离最能情投意合。君子之交淡如水。

Friends are like fiddle-strings, they must not be screwed too tight.

朋友好比琴弦，不能上得太紧。

Friends are thieves of time.

朋友是时间的窃贼。朋友在一起浪费时间。

Friends (or Men) may meet but mountains never.

山与山不相遇，人与人总相逢。人生何处不相逢？

Friends must part. (or The best of friends must part.)

好朋友也得分手。朋友再好，终须一别。天下无不散的筵席。

Friendship cannot stand always on one side. (or Friendship stands not on one's side.)

友谊不能全在一方。友谊是双方的事。

Friendship is stronger than kindred.

友谊强于血亲。