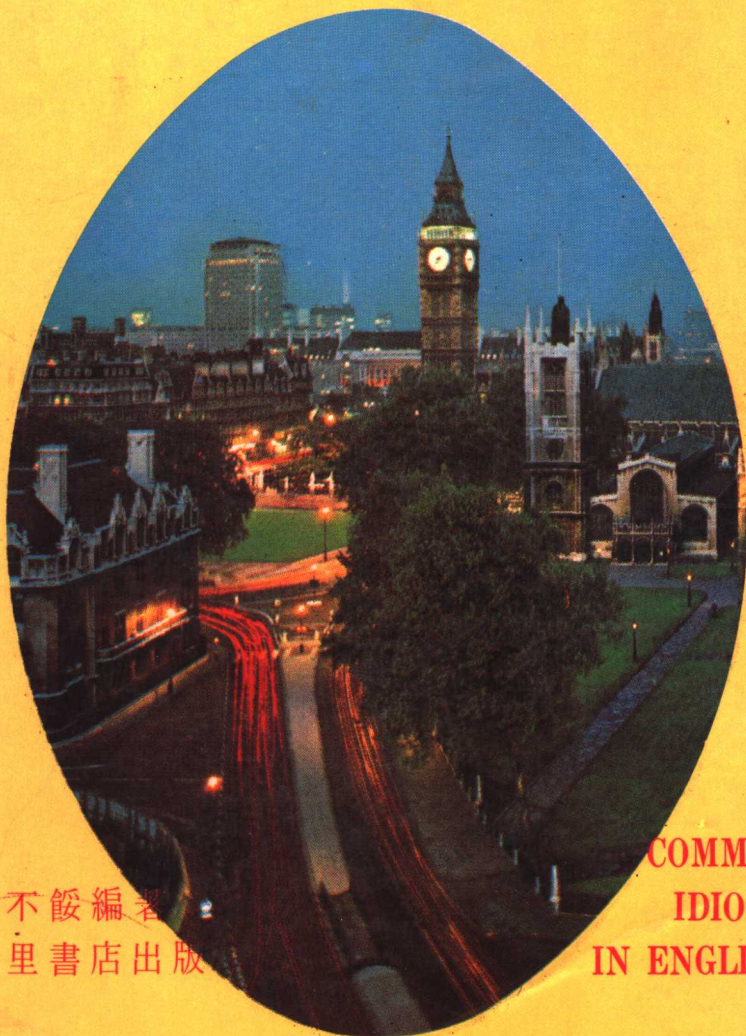


# 常用英文成語500句



何不餒編著  
萬里書店出版

500  
COMMON  
IDIOMS  
IN ENGLISH

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**常用英文成語 500 句**

何不銀編著

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## 前 言

英文成語是英語的一個重要組成部分。由於這些成語多不能單從字面上的字義去尋求解釋，縱使認識許多英文單字的人，碰上一些成語，還是會感到求解的困難的。因而，有系統的學習一些英文成語是很有必要的。

成語具有言簡意賅的特點，運用在文句中，使文章既精鍊又會生色不少。因此，熟記一些我們經常接觸到的英文成語，對於我們在閱讀和寫作方面會有很大的裨益，從而增強英語的理解能力，提高英語水平。

市面上有關英文成語的書籍雖然不少，惟其所編入之成語數量不多，不能滿足廣大英語學習者的需求；有的成語數量雖多，但其中有許多却是不常用的。基於這個原因，編寫一本比較完整的常用英文成語是有需要的。

本書所收集的五百句成語，全為日常生活中所廣用的。同時本書的次序是以每句成語中主要的字的頭一個字母來作編排，比方“in the air”一詞，非以第一個字的字母即 i 來編排，而是以其主要之字 air 的 a 作次序。每句成語除註有中文解釋外，並附有一例句，俾能說明該成語的用法及其在句子中的作用。適合一般中學生閱讀。

限於編者識見，本書如有不當之處，尚望讀者批評指正。

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## a 部

### 1. in the air 渺茫

His project for building a new villa is quite in the air.

他要建一座新別墅的計劃是很渺茫的(難實現)。

### 2. it is all up 絕望

After he had realized that he failed in the stock business he sighed, "It is all up to me", and committed suicide.

在他了解到股票生意失敗之後，長歎了一聲：“我感到絕望”就自殺了。

### 3. in apple-pie order 井井有條

She is a <sup>幹練</sup>capable woman. After her arrangement, everything is in apple-pie order.

她是個能幹的女人，經她安排之後，事物就顯得井井有條了。

### 4. the apple of one's eye 瞳孔

Mind the reputation of your school as you care for the apple of your eye.

珍惜校譽正如你愛護你自己的瞳孔一樣。

## b 部

5. on one's <sup>梁和杆</sup> beam-ends 處於危險絕望的境地

The wind was fierce, the waves were rough and the ship was on its beam-ends.

風大浪急，船兒快要沉沒了。

6. a bed of roses <sup>心情安適舒暢</sup>

In our life we may sometimes come off victorious or sometimes a loser. In short, life is by no means a bed of roses.

我們此生有時將會是凱歌高奏，有時却會遭到失敗。總而言之，人生決不會是順境的。

7. a bee line 兩點間最直最短的線段

The steamer is sailing in a bee line.

該汽船沿着一直線行駛着。

8. beside oneself 不能自主

Hearing this tragic news, he was beside himself with grief.

聽見這噩耗，他因悲痛欲絕而失去自主。

9. <sup>口</sup> bite one's head (nose) off 向某人當面頂撞(不聽任何解釋)

When I worked in that firm, the Directing Manager often bit my head (nose) off and I could hardly bear it.

當我在那間洋行工作時，董事長時常向我當面搶白一番，令我難以容忍。

10. bite off more than one can chew 做不能勝任的事情  
咀嚙；渾戾

The errand boy is only a boy of fourteen. In order to earn more money to support his family, he bites off more than he can chew.

那位後生(什役)只不過是個十四歲的孩子，爲了要多賺錢來維持家用，他要擔負他力所不能勝任的工作。

11. a black sheep 不屑一提的人(通常指道德較差的)

As he had not passed the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination, he became a black sheep of his family. He suffered a great deal for this.

由於他中學會考不及格，他就成爲家庭中<sup>from</sup>低人一等的人，爲此他深感苦惱。

12. blind side 弱點(人性格中軟弱的一面)

Everyone must have his blind side. As for John, there is no exception. The blind side of his character makes him susceptible to flattery.

任何一個人也有他自己的弱點。對於約翰來說當然也不能例外。他性格有軟弱的一面，這使到他很容



易對別人阿諛諂媚一番。

13. **blood is thicker than water** 血統關係比其他關係(婚姻, 友誼, 生意等等)要強一些

He believes that blood is thicker than water. Therefore he relies only on his own brothers but not any one else.

他相信血統關係是高於一切的。所以他只是依靠他的親兄弟而不依靠別人。

14. **a blot in one's scutcheon (or escutcheon)** 質上(指聲譽上)的污點

污  
漬

If you act a lie, you will leave a blot in your scutcheon.

如果你有欺騙行為, 你將會沾污你自己的聲譽。

15. **to blot one's copy-book** 行為不檢(輕率之意)

Be a gentleman! Don't blot your copy-book.

做個上等人(紳士)吧! 不要輕率隨便。

16. **blow hot and cold** 先褒後貶, 先讚揚後指責

When you <sup>吹</sup>get in touch with Mr. Chan, you must be cautious because he likes to blow hot and cold.

當你與陳先生交往的時候要小心謹慎, 因為他喜歡先褒而後貶。

17. **blow the gaff** 洩漏秘密

I entrust you with my secret for, I am sure you will never blow the gaff.

我將我的秘密告訴你, 因為我確信你是不會洩漏的。

18. a blue funk 恐怖戰慄

Everytime I go to the graveyard (cemetery) I am in (a state of) a blue funk.

每一次我到墓地去我都感到一種莫名的驚恐。

19. be in (or have) the blues 蕭條

In recent years, there has been always the inflation in western countries. Of course this affected Hong Kong so much. Last year, the trade in Hong Kong was in the blues.

近年來，西方國家一直呈現出通貨膨脹的現象。當然這是對香港影響甚大，去年香港的生意顯得一片蕭條。

20. blue ribbon (or riband) 最高的榮譽(藍帶獎)

"He attained the blue ribbon" means that he was granted the Order of the Garter by the king.

他獲得藍帶獎，即是說皇上賞賜給他最高級的爵士勳章。

21. once in a blue moon 極少出現的情況

He gave up drinking two years ago. Since then on the occasion of the festival, he drank brandy once in a blue moon.

兩年前，他已戒酒了。自此以後每逢喜慶之場合他也極少飲白蘭地酒了。

22. a blot from the blue 晴天霹靂

The sad news came to us like a blot from the blue.

令人悲痛的消息有如晴天霹靂一樣傳到我們這裏來。

23. a bone of contention 爭端(不和的原因)

The members in Lee's family are bad-tempered and those in Wong's family like to make a fuss. Their characteristic is a bone of contention.

姓李的那一家人都是性情暴躁的，而姓黃的那一家人却喜歡小題大做。他們的性格特點就是他們之間不和的原因。

24. to have a bone to pick with 須和.....理論一番

What he said about me is untrue and I have a bone to pick with him.

他所講及我的事全都是捏造的，我必須要和他理論一番。

25. to bring (a person) to book 責問某人

He cheated me last week. I am not the person as tame as a lamb and I must bring him to book.

上週他欺騙了我。我不是馴服如羔羊的人，一定要向他責問。

26. in one's black (or bad) books 受人奚落(被人嫌惡)

I often point out his shortcomings and to my surprise I am then in his black (bad) books.

我經常指出他的缺點，真想不到我竟因此而被他嫌惡了。

27. in one's good books 受人譽愛

The maid-servant is enthusiastic in her work and she is in everyone's good books.

那個女僕人工作積極，人人都喜愛她。

28. to take a leaf out of one's book 模倣某人

Monkey<sup>書獃, 呖;</sup> are funny creatures who like to take a leaf out of a man's book.

猴子是有趣的動物，牠們喜歡模倣人的動作。

29. over shoes over boots 一不做二不休

He is an obstinate fellow<sup>長執</sup>. When he decides to do anything, he must do it over shoes over boots.

他生性固執，凡是他決定要做的事，他一定要將它完成。

30. the boot is on the other (wrong) leg 情況剛好相反

You say he ought to have written to thank me, but the boot is on the other leg, for the obligation is on my side and it is that I am deeply indebted to him.

你說他該寫信向我致謝，其實情況剛剛相反，深表謝意的應該是我而不是他。

31. be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth 貴族出身

Juliet was born with a silver spoon in her mouth but Susan with a wooden ladle.

朱麗葉是貴族出身而蘇珊則出身微賤。

32. borrowed plumes 擺虛架子(羽毛是借來的)

She is a girl of vanity and she often struts in borrowed plumes.

她是個慕虛榮的女子。她借別人飾物來向人誇耀一番。

33. brand (or bran) new 簇新的

All the coins are brand new as if they were from the fire, freshly stamped.

所有硬幣都是簇新的，看來他們像是剛剛在爐火中印上了模樣。

34. a bread and butter letter 向熱情款待過你的東道主寫信致謝

I have received a bread and butter letter from you and I think your politeness is overdone.

我已經收到你的熱情洋溢的致謝信，我認爲你這樣拘禮的做法太不必了（太客氣了）。

35. break a butterfly on a wheel 割鷄焉用牛刀(不適當之意) 蚩蚩之徒. 輕視人

To build a grand hotel in the isolate village would be to break a butterfly (or fly) on the wheel.

在偏僻的鄉村建一間豪華的酒店太不合適了。

36. break a lance with 和……比武，和……辯論

For the sake of a delicate pretty lady, this group of teddy boys decided to break a lance with the

other (group).

爲了一個身裁纖瘦的美女的緣故，一幫飛仔決定與另一幫飛仔比武。

37. **break the back (or neck) of** 完成最困難的部分

Spending two sleepless nights, I can break the back (or neck) of this task.

花了兩個不眠之夜，我能夠完成這件工作中最難的部分。

38. **break the record** 打破紀錄

When an athlete runs a race in a shorter time than he has done before, we say that he breaks his own record.

當一位運動員以比他自己原來競跑時更短的時間跑完了全程，我們說他又打破了他自己的紀錄。

39. **break the ice** 打破悶局

I am sure that his vivid description of the robbery may certainly broke the ice of the conference.

我確知他那關於劫案的生動描繪一定會打破會議的悶局。

40. **bring down the house** 表演精采，令人震驚

After the acrobat had made a brilliant performance the applause from the audience brought down the house.

賣藝者作了精采的表演後觀眾喝采之聲震撼了全屋。

41. bring (or drive or strike) home 證明確實

His strange behaviour brought home to me that he was no doubt the murderer.

他行動怪誕，這向我證實了他就是如假包換的兇手。

42. bring grist to the mill 值錢的(令……致富)

He has a collection of rare curiosities and this can bring grist to his mill.

他蒐集了罕有的古董，這些東西令他變得富裕了。

43. It is as broad as it is long 反正一樣

I don't care whether he allows me or not. It is as broad as it is long that I will not give up my plan.

他批准與否我不理會，無論怎樣我決不放棄我的計劃。

44. a broken reed 幫不了別人的忙的人或物

Many events proved that he was a coward. In fact he is a broken reed to me.

從不少的事件證明他是個胆小鬼。事實上他對我來說是毫無幫助的。

45. <sup>in</sup> a brown study 全副精神貫注到學習之中

When I entered his room, he was in a brown study on the map.

當我進入他房間時，他正全神貫注在研究地圖之中。

46. browed off 不開心

In the tropical countries, the sun shines bright at noon, everyone seems browed off.

在熱帶地區（天氣酷熱的國家）正午時分，烈日當空，人人都流露出一不很開心的神色。

47. burn one's fingers 做加害於自己的事

There is an English proverb, saying "Never burn your fingers to snuff another man's candle."

有一句英國的諺語這樣說：“不要因捏熄人家的蠟燭而弄傷了自己的手指。”

48. burn one's boats 截斷後路

破斧沉舟背水戰

The military leaders burned all their boats in which an army had crossed a river so that the soldiers would know they must conquer or die, as retreat was impossible.

軍隊的首領們截斷了後路，使士兵們知道不能後退只有向前挺進，將敵人征服或者只得戰死沙場。

49. burn the candle at both ends 兩面夾攻令人難於應付（使人雙倍地消耗體力或精力）

Her son died in the war and she herself suffered from a serious disease. These misfortunes fell upon her just as a candle had been burned at both ends. 她的兒子在戰爭中死去，而她自己又患上惡疾，這真是禍不單行了。

50. burn the midnight oil 工作通宵達旦



The famous writer has been busy recently. Frequently he burns the midnight oil.

這位著名的作家近來很忙。他經常工作到通宵達旦。

51. bury one's head in the sand 不敢面對現實

It is the funny habit of an ostrich. When someone chases it, it buries its head into the sand.

駝鳥有一個可笑的怪習慣——當人家追牠時，牠就將牠的頭部埋藏在沙堆之中。

52. bury the hatchet 和解

When the Red Indians want to make peace, they usually bury their hatchets (war axes) into the ground.

紅印第安人經常都將手斧埋在地上以表示休戰（和解）。豬(皮烟)

53. buy a pig in a poke<sup>小袋</sup> (bag) 買東西時沒有作審慎的觀察檢查

As he is a careless man he often buys a pig in a poke.

因為他是個粗心大意的人，他往往是沒有經過審慎的挑選就將東西買了回來。

54. by and large (on the whole) 總的來說

This theatre is air-conditioned and decorated with beautiful chandeliers. It has also valuable carpets on the floor. By and large, it is well-equipped.