

Betty Kirkpatrick MA 著

张丽帆 都 炜 赵保京 译

篇章英语

习语篇

English in Context
Idioms

- 附送习语小词典，包含约600条习语的词义及例句
- 58篇特选文章，让你在文段中轻松学习习语
- 精选读者感兴趣的话题
- 提供大量自测习题，充分进行自我测试



中信出版社
CITIC PUBLISHING HOUSE

篇章英语

习 语 篇

Betty Kirkpatrick MA 著

张丽帆 赵保京 都 炜 译

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

篇章英语·习语篇 / [美] 柯克帕特里克 著; 张丽帆等译. -北京:

中信出版社, 2002.6

书名原文: English in Context: Idioms

ISBN 7-80073-486-2

I. 篇… II. ①柯… ②张… III. 英语 - 短语 - 动词 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2002) 第037520号

Copyring © 2001 by Learners Publishing Pte Ltd.

All rights reserved.

Authorized Adaptation of the edition by Learners Publishing Pte Ltd and CITICPH. No part of this book may be reproduced in any form without the prior written permission of Learners Publishing Pte Ltd and CITICPH.

篇章英语·习语篇

著 者: Betty Kirkpatrick MA

译 者: 张丽帆 赵保京 都 炜

责任编辑: 王立军 责任监制: 朱 磊 王祖力

出 版 者: 中信出版社 (北京市朝阳区新源南路6号京城大厦 100004)

经 销 者: 中信联合发行有限公司

承 印 者: 中国电影出版社印刷厂

开 本: 787mm × 1092mm 1/16 印 张: 12.5 字 数: 250千字

版 次: 2002年7月第1版 印 次: 2002年7月第1次印刷

京权图字: 01-2001-4705

书 号: ISBN 7-80073-486-2/G · 39

定 价: 25.00元

版权所有·侵权必究

凡购本社图书, 如有缺页、倒页、脱页, 由发行公司负责退换。服务热线: 010-64648783

前言

如名所示,“篇章英语”丛书的编写目的,是讲解英语的各个语体例如习语、短语动词在实际中如何运用。书中专意撰写的文段,均为学习者掌握英语的这些不同语体在实际文段中如何使用,提供一个最清晰的概念。

采用文段的形式,而不是在大多数字典里常见的简单例句形式,活灵活现地演示了词语和句子如何相互结合、英语语言如何实际应用。

习语在英语中的地位举足轻重,学生了解习语并掌握其用法是个关键。由于习语是一些固定词语,其意义不可能由构成它的单个词义简单推出,因而学起来有一定难度。英语在这方面的比喻义、引申义往往高于字面义。例如,go to the wall并非仅仅简单地说“走到一堵墙边”,深层含义是“破产、钱财毁于一旦”。

每篇文章包含:

1. 一篇含 10 条习语的特写文章;
2. 一张本文习语表(清楚的词解和例句);
3. 一套自测习题(自我检查词解和文段的掌握情况)。

本书包罗英语习语的不同种类和范围,要高效流畅地说英语、写英语,就必须掌握。读者定会发现此书的无穷裨益。

目 录

1	<i>The Driving Test</i> 驾照考试	2
2	<i>Avoiding Party Preparations</i> 准备工作无人帮忙	4
3	<i>Saving a Business</i> 挽救生意	6
4	<i>What to Wear?</i> 穿什么?	8
5	<i>A Proposal of Marriage</i> 结婚计划	10
6	<i>Mother's Ban on Motorbikes</i> 妈妈不让骑摩托	12
7	<i>Amy's Holiday Problem</i> Amy假期问题	14
8	<i>Finding a Flat-mate</i> 寻找合租人	16
9	<i>Night Fears</i> 恐怖之夜	18
10	<i>A Student Joke</i> 学生玩笑	20
11	<i>The End of the Affair</i> 婚姻的结束	22
12	<i>Getting the Girl</i> 追女孩子	24
13	<i>Shop-keeping</i> 照看店铺	26
14	<i>Work Experience</i> 实习	28
15	<i>A Drive in the Country</i> 乡间驾驶	30
16	<i>A Reluctant Model</i> 一个不情愿的模特	32
17	<i>A Party is Planned</i> 策划聚会	34
18	<i>Which University?</i> 上哪所大学?	36
19	<i>Attending an Auction</i> 参加拍卖会	38
20	<i>Election for President</i> 竞选主席	40
21	<i>Buying a Car</i> 买车	42
22	<i>Nearly a Disaster</i> 近乎灾难	44

23	<i>An Unwelcome Friend Returns</i> 一位不受欢迎朋友的归来	46
24	<i>An Anniversary Dinner</i> 周年纪念晚宴	48
25	<i>A Marathon</i> 马拉松比赛	50
26	<i>Amateur Decorators</i> 业余装修工	52
27	<i>A Case of Mistaken Identity</i> 认错对象	54
28	<i>Deceiving the Boss</i> 蒙骗老板	56
29	<i>Unsuccessful Entertainers</i> 不成功的表演者	58
30	<i>A Missing Boat</i> 失踪的小船	60
31	<i>Opening a Sandwich Bar</i> 开一个三明治店	62
32	<i>Toothache</i> 牙疼	64
33	<i>A Protest Movement</i> 抗议活动	66
34	<i>Feuding Friends</i> 敌对的朋友	68
35	<i>Job-hunting</i> 求职	70
36	<i>No Longer a Student</i> 告别学生时代	72
37	<i>Holiday Disagreement</i> 度假之争	74
38	<i>Looking for a Corpse</i> 寻找死尸	76
39	<i>Flat-hunting</i> 求租公寓	78
40	<i>A Jumble Sale</i> 旧杂货拍卖	80
41	<i>A Visit to the Gym</i> 体育馆之行	82
42	<i>A Reluctant Shopper</i> 不情愿的购物者	84
43	<i>A New Session</i> 新学期	86
44	<i>Out Goes the Boss</i> 老板被炒了	88

45	<i>Dancing Lessons</i> 舞蹈课	90
46	<i>To Retire or Not to Retire</i> 退休之争	92
47	<i>Waiting for Results</i> 等待考试结果	94
48	<i>An Allergic Reaction</i> 过敏反应	96
49	<i>A Missing Child</i> 失踪的小孩	98
50	<i>Up a Tree</i> 上树	100
51	<i>Exam Nerves</i> 考前紧张症	102
52	<i>Misery at Work</i> 工作中的不幸遭遇	104
53	<i>A Riding Lesson</i> 骑术课	106
54	<i>Dog-minding</i> 看护塞特犬	108
55	<i>Market Research</i> 市场调查	110
56	<i>A Wrong Diagnosis</i> 错误判断	112
57	<i>Essay Time</i> 论文时间	114
58	<i>Forming a Band</i> 组建乐队	116
	 A Dictionary of Idioms 习语小词典	119
	 Translation of Each Text 短文译文	167
	 Answers 练习答案	183

Idioms in Use

1 The Driving Test 驾照考试



Idioms in Context

despite 尽管，纵使
manual 手册，说明书

indeed 的确，实在
available 可利用的
rep 推销员
publish 发行，出版
license 执照，许可证
enroll 登记，入学

instructor 教员，指导者

attempt 努力，尝试
confident 自信的

apply for 申请，请求

Jenny was on her way to take her driving test and she was **a bundle of nerves**. Despite having got up at the **crack of dawn** to read her driving manual once more, she felt that she knew nothing. If only she had listened to her father. 'It's easier to get a job if you can drive,' he had said and offered to **foot the bill** for the lessons. 'I'll think about it,' Jenny had replied and **put the idea on the back burner** for some time. When she left college and started job-hunting, she discovered that her father had **hit the nail on the head**. There were indeed more jobs available for drivers. One of her friends was a sales rep for a publishing company and Jenny had **set her heart on** getting a similar job. That meant getting a driving licence. With a great deal of encouragement from family and friends she had **plucked up** enough **courage** to enrol for driving lessons. 'Learning to drive is **a piece of cake**,' Jenny's brother kept saying, but she found it quite difficult. Although her instructor, Mr Black, was sure that she would pass **with flying colours** at her first attempt, she herself was not so confident. However, Mr Black was right. As Jenny came out of the test centre to meet her family, she was **grinning from ear to ear**. She had passed. Now she would be able to apply for the job — and get a company car.

Know the Meaning

be a bundle of nerves

to be very nervous: *Jill is always a bundle of nerves when she has to sit an exam.*

at crack of dawn

very early in the morning: *We'll have to leave home at crack of dawn to catch the first bus.*

foot the bill

to pay (for something): *Jack applied for a bank loan to help him foot the bill for his daughter's wedding.*

put (something) on the back burner

to delay dealing with (something), to set (something) aside in order to attend to it later: *Their plans to move house have been put on the back burner for the moment.*

hit the nail on the head

to be absolutely accurate or exact: *My father hit the nail on the head when he said that Jack was a villain.*

set one's heart on (something)

to be very keen to get or do (something), to want (something) very much: *Jan has set her heart on studying medicine. The child had set his heart on a trip to the seaside.*

pluck up courage/screw up one's courage

to force oneself to do something, although one might be feeling afraid or unwilling: *The junior clerk finally plucked up courage and asked his boss for a wage rise.*

a piece of cake (informal)

something very easy or simple to do: *The first exam was a piece of cake but the others were very difficult.*

with flying colours

very easily and successfully: *Anne came through the job interview with flying colours.*

grin from ear to ear

to smile broadly, to look very pleased or happy: *The coach of the local football team was grinning from ear to ear when they won the cup.*

Do it Yourself

- 1 If you were described as being a **bundle of nerves** would you be feeling calm and confident?
- 2 If you get up **at crack of dawn** are you a late riser?
- 3 Fill in an idiom to complete the sentence:
Luke was surprised that he was left to _____ in the restaurant — he had thought that they were going to divide it among them.
- 4 If you **put something on the back burner** do you attend to it immediately?
- 5 If you **hit the nail on the head** are you accurate?
- 6 If you have **set your heart on something** are you reluctant to have it?
- 7 Give an idiom that is very similar in form to **pluck up one's courage** and means exactly the same.
- 8 Give an idiom which you could use to say that something is very easy.
- 9 If students very nearly fail an exam would you say that they had passed **with flying colours**?
- 10 Give an idiom which has the same meaning as **grin from ear to ear**.

2 Avoiding Party Preparations 准备工作无人帮忙

Idioms in Context

Bill could hear his mother calling him but he **turned a deaf ear**. She was giving a large dinner party that evening and it needed a great deal of organization. The whole household was **at sixes and sevens**. Having spent the morning cleaning the windows, mowing the lawn and moving chairs around, Bill was **all in**. A few minutes ago he had made for the garden shed to have a rest and read the newspaper, saying to himself, 'It's time to **lie low** for a while.' Suddenly the shed door opened. Bill looked up to see his brother Rob standing there. 'This is where you are,' Rob said. 'You're really **in** mum's **bad books**. She wanted you to collect the meat from the butcher's.' 'What are you doing here?' asked Bill. 'Mum's **turning** the house **upside down** looking for a recipe,' said Rob. 'Apparently she wrote it on a piece of paper and left it on the hall table. I decided to **make myself scarce** until she calms down. Dad's helping her look for it.' Rob had just sat down beside Bill when their father appeared. 'So this is where you're hiding,' he said. 'You'll both be **in hot water** when your mother finds you. She's **like a cat on hot bricks** about this party and says that there's no one to help her. She's going to the hairdresser in a few minutes and I'm staying here until **the coast is clear**.'

household 家属, 家眷

mow 割(草)

lawn 草地, 草坪

make for (匆匆)走向

shed 小屋[棚]

butcher 屠夫, 屠户

recipe 烹饪法, 食谱

apparently 显而易见地

calm down 镇定下来

hairdresser 理发师

Know the Meaning

turn a deaf ear to (something)

to refuse to listen to or pay attention to (something): *The workers pleaded with the boss to give them more money but he turned a deaf ear to their request.*

at sixes and sevens

in confusion, in a muddle, in a disorganized state: *The students are all going home today and the place is at sixes and sevens.*

all in

exhausted, very tired: *I can't reach the top of the hill — I'm all in.*

lie low

to stay quiet or hidden, to avoid drawing attention to oneself: *The police think that the bank robbers are lying low somewhere. Their mother was in a bad mood and so the children were lying low.*

in (someone's) bad books/in (someone's) black books

unpopular with (someone), out of favour with (someone): *I damaged dad's car and I'm now in his bad books.*

turn (somewhere) upside down

to cause confusion and mess (somewhere), usually when looking thoroughly for something: *The police turned the students' flat upside down looking for drugs. I've turned the place upside down and I can't find my ring.*

make oneself scarce

to get out of the way quickly, usually to avoid trouble or difficulty: *The students were demonstrating against high fees but they made themselves scarce when the police arrived.*

in hot water

in trouble: *You'll be in hot water if you're late for work again.*

like a cat on hot bricks

very nervous and restless: *Jane has been like a cat on hot bricks all morning waiting for her exam results.*

the coast is clear

there is no longer any danger or difficulty present: *The burglars watched everyone leave the building and broke in when the coast was clear.*

Do it Yourself

- 1 If you **turn a deaf ear to** someone's instructions do you listen to these carefully?
- 2 If a kitchen is **at sixes and sevens** does it look neat and tidy?
- 3 How are you feeling if you describe yourself as being **all in**?
- 4 Write the missing word to complete the idiom:
*The robbers are **lying** _____ while the police are looking for them.*
- 5 Give an idiom which is opposite in meaning to **in (someone's) bad books**.
- 6 Under what circumstances would you be likely to **turn somewhere upside down**?
- 7 Replace the underlined words with an idiom:
It's time to get out quickly — my brother has discovered that I got a stain on his best silk tie.
- 8 Give an idiom which means 'in trouble'.
- 9 Write the missing word to complete the idiom:
*If someone is very nervous and restless you would say that they are **like a cat on** _____ **bricks**.*
- 10 Would you feel safe to proceed if **the coast is clear**?

3 Saving a Business 挽救生意

Idioms in Context

statement (财务) 报告书

account 户头, 帐户

customer 顾客, 主顾

promptly 即时地, 马上地

convince 使相信, 说服

profit 利润, 赢利

loan 贷款

particularly 特殊, 特别

generous 慷慨的, 大方的

Peter was looking **down in the mouth**. He had just opened a statement from the bank and his account was **in the red**. This was really bad news as he had recently started a new computer business and it was having a few **teething troubles**. It always takes quite a long time to **get** a new company **off the ground** and, although Peter had a great many customers, he was finding that they did not always pay promptly. Without more money coming in, the young man was worried that his business might soon **go to the wall**. He had no competitors in the town and was convinced that he would make a profit **in the long run**. However, he needed time — and money. Over the years he had borrowed a great deal of money from his parents and he knew that his father would **hit the roof** if he asked for more. Peter already had a small loan from the bank but he was going to have to try to increase this in order to stay in business. It would not be easy as the banks were not being particularly generous at the moment, but he had no other choice. All the way to the bank Peter was **on tenterhooks** but, when the bank manager looked at Peter's business plan and saw that everything was **above board**, he agreed to help. The loan was not large but, if Peter **tightened his belt**, his business would be safe for some time.

Know the Meaning

down in the mouth

miserable or depressed: *Sara seems rather down in the mouth — did she fail the English test?*

in the red

in debt, (of a bank account) overdrawn: *May is highly paid and yet her account's in the red at the end of every month.*

teething troubles

problems or difficulties which occur at the start of something: *The builders had a few teething troubles with our new office block but they finished it on schedule.*

get (something) off the ground

to get (something) started and operating successfully: *We're trying to start a new tennis club but we'll never get it off the ground without more members.*

go to the wall

to fail, to be financially unsuccessful, to go bankrupt: *Sales of the new product were poor and the company went to the wall.*

in the long run

eventually, in the end, after a long period of time: *It is hard having no money as a student but studying is worth it in the long run — you will get a better-paid job.*

hit the roof

to become extremely angry: *Mother will hit the roof when she sees the stain on the new carpet.*

on tenterhooks

uncertain and extremely tense and nervous about what is going to happen: *The exam results were to be announced soon and the students were on tenterhooks.*

above board

open and honest, without hiding anything: *I would check whether Jack's business is above board before investing any money in it.*

tighten one's belt

to economize greatly, to spend a great deal less money: *Joe and Sue have just had another child and have had to tighten their belts.*

Do it Yourself

- 1 If you were **down in the mouth** would you be smiling?
- 2 Give a phrase which means the opposite of **in the red**.
- 3 Do **teething troubles** occur at the beginning or end of something?
- 4 Write down an idiom which means the same as **get (something) up and running**.
- 5 Replace the underlined word with an idiom:
The firm is losing sales and the workers are afraid that it will fail.
- 6 If workers are going to be promoted **in the long run** will their promotion happen very soon?
- 7 Replace the idiom with another idiom of similar meaning:
*Dad will **hit the roof** if you borrow his car without permission.*
- 8 If you are **on tenterhooks** are you calm or nervous?
- 9 Would you trust someone who was not **above board**?
- 10 Write down an idiom which is similar in meaning to **tighten one's belt**.

4 What to Wear? 穿什么?



Idioms in Context

celebrate 庆祝, 庆贺

afford 买得起, 承担得起

rent 租金

be offended 生气, 不愉快

iron 烫平, 熨

share 共有, 分享

flat 公寓

related 有(亲戚)关系的

wardrobe 衣柜, 衣厨

reluctant 不愿意的, 勉强的

eventually 最后, 终于

It was Saturday night and Meg should have been getting ready for a party. This was to celebrate her friend Joan's twenty-first birthday, but Meg was **in two minds about** going. The problem was clothes. She knew that all the guests would be **dressed to the nines** and she had not been able to afford to buy a new dress. Being a student, she was **living on a shoestring** and all her money went on rent, food and books. Now it was the end of term and she **did not have a penny to her name**. Still, Joan would be offended if she did not appear at the party and so **there was nothing else for it**. She would just have to wear the dress that she had worn to all the other parties this term, even though it was **falling to bits**. Just as Meg was ironing the dress Carol came rushing into the room. She shared a flat with Meg and, although they were not related, the two girls **looked like two peas in a pod**. 'Why don't you borrow a dress from me?' cried Carol. She had a huge wardrobe full of clothes given to her by her father who was **rolling in money**. 'That gold-coloured one will **suit you down to the ground**.' Meg was reluctant to accept but eventually agreed to borrow the dress and was the **belle of the ball** when she arrived at the party.

Know the Meaning

be in two minds about (something)

to be unable to come to a decision about (something): *Fred has been offered a job but it is out of town and he is in two minds about accepting it.*

be dressed to the nines

to be dressed in formal, smart clothes, sometimes over-dressed: *Jane usually wears jeans and a sweater and hates parties where everyone is dressed to the nines.*

be living on a shoestring

to have very little money to live on: *The young mother is living on a shoestring and cannot afford to buy sweets for her children.*

not to have a penny to one's name

to be extremely poor: *The groom is very rich but the bride doesn't have a penny to her name.*

there is nothing else for it

there is only one thing to do, there is no choice: *When Mark's car broke down several miles from the town there was nothing else for it — he had to walk.*

be falling to bits

to be in a very bad state of repair, to be torn or broken: *Jack tried to sell me a car but you could see that it was falling to bits.*

look like two peas in a pod

to look very much alike: *The two girls must be sisters — they look like two peas in a pod.*

be rolling in money (informal)

to have a great deal of money, to be very rich: *You would have to be rolling in money to be able to afford a house in that part of town. Mark's dad's rolling in money but he won't give him a loan.*

suit (someone) **down to the ground**

to suit (someone) extremely well, to be exactly right for (someone): *Jim loves travelling and so that job will suit him down to the ground.*

belle of the ball

the most attractive woman or girl present at a gathering: *There were many beautiful women at the party but everyone agreed that Vicky was the belle of the ball.*

Do it Yourself

- 1 If you are **in two minds about** whether to go somewhere or not have you come to a decision yet?
- 2 If your friends are wearing their old, casual clothes would you say that they are **dressed to the nines**?
- 3 Write the missing word to complete the idiom:
*After he was declared redundant the family had to **live on a** ____.*
- 4 When there is **nothing else for it** how many choices do you have?
- 5 If you do **not have a penny to your name** can you afford to lend someone money?
- 6 If curtains are **falling to bits** are they in a good state of repair?
- 7 Replace the underlined words with an idiom from the passage:
The two little girls looked very like each other.
- 8 Would you describe a very poor person as **rolling in money**?
- 9 Replace the idiom with one of similar meaning:
*Mike loves working outdoors — a job as a gardener will **suit him down to the ground**.*
- 10 Would you describe a plain, badly-dressed young woman as the **belle of the ball**?

5 A Proposal of Marriage 结婚计划



Idioms in Context

proposal 求婚

wedding 婚礼, 婚宴

informal 非正式的, 简略的

occasion 场合

engagement 订婚, 婚约

set 一组, 一套

couple 夫妻, 配偶

beg 请求, 恳求

spread 传播, 散布

date 约会

suspect 怀疑, 猜疑

actually 如今, 实际上

announce 宣布, 宣告

look forward to 盼望, 期待

Jane was **in seventh heaven**. Jack had just **popped the question** and she had said yes. They wanted to get married as soon as possible, but knew that Jane's parents would want to **spare no expense** for their only daughter's wedding. Organizing this could take a long time and both Jane and Jack would have preferred an informal occasion. Still, Jane **thought the world of** her family and would agree to a large wedding if they wanted one. The young couple were hoping to **keep** their engagement **under wraps** until they could tell both sets of parents in person next day. However, they were smiling so happily that their friends guessed that they had some good news and asked what it was. Eventually Jane's best friend, Mary, made her **come clean** and everyone congratulated the happy couple. They begged their friends not to tell anyone else but Mary **let the cat out of the bag** and the news spread rapidly round the town. By the time Jane and Jack arrived for lunch next day both sets of parents were already **in the know**. Realizing that the young people would want to tell them of their engagement themselves, the parents pretended to know nothing about it. Since Jane and Jack had been dating for some time, both families had suspected that an engagement was **on the cards**. Now that it had actually been announced, they all looked forward to the happy day when the couple would **tie the knot**.