

英语常用短语词典

A Dictionary
of Commonly
Used English
Idioms and
Phrases

商务印书馆

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ENGLISH IDIOMS AND PHRASES

南京大学外文系英语教研室 编

陈 嘉 主校

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1982年·北京

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商 务 印 书 馆 出 版

(北京王府井大街 36 号)

新华书店北京发行所发行

北京第二新华印刷厂印刷

统一书号: 9017 · 1121

1982 年 10 月第 1 版

开本 787 × 960 1/32

1982 年 10 月北京第 1 次印刷

字数 1198 千

印数 62,200 册

印张 31¹/₃

(45 克纸本)定价: 4.70 元

前 言

正确理解、掌握和运用英语短语是学习英语的关键之一，也是中国人学习英语的难点之一。因此一部切实可行的英语短语词典是每一个英语工作者及英语学习者所必不可少的工具书。近几年以来，我校外文系英语教研室的全体同志在从事英语教学的同时，对商务印书馆于一九六五年出版的由我室编写并由郭斌和、沈同治和梁士纯三位教授审订的《简明英汉成语词典》进行了修订、增补工作，编就现在这部《英语常用短语词典》。

本书是以记录现代英语中常用的短语为主的中型词典，供中等英语程度的读者使用。词典中所收条目，包括现代英语中通用的成语、俚语、短语动词、介词短语等，共约八千余条。我们着重收录了国外新近出版的各种短语词典中比较口语化的短语。对所收条目，逐一加以汉语释义，并加附例句，如有几个意义，则分别配以一条或数条例句。释义力求准确、简明；例句力求浅显、实用。为方便读者，每一例句都附有汉译。

在编写过程中，我们除了阅读大量国内外书报杂志外，还参阅了国内外出版的各种词书。因限于篇幅，恕不一一列举。

先后参加过《英语常用短语词典》编写工作的有本室全体教师和近年来英语专业高年级学生。最后由陈嘉教授主校。参加校阅工作的还有杨治中、张柏然等同志。

在编写过程中，我们得到了国内有关单位的热情帮助。先后在我校工作和学习的外籍专家和部分外国留学生对本书提出了许多宝贵意见。在此，谨向他们表示衷心的感谢。

限于编写人员的水平，加上缺乏编写词典的经验，这部词

典的缺点和错误一定还不少。我们恳切地希望广大读者多多提出宝贵意见,以便继续修订,不断提高,使这部词典在英语教学方面,能起到应有的作用,更好地为实现我国四个现代化服务。

南京大学外文系英语教研室

一九八二年三月

使用说明

一、本词典所收词条按其第一个词的开头字母顺序排列,如第一个词相同,则按第二个词的开头字母顺序,余类推。

1. 如系介词短语,则查该条开头的那个介词。例如:

at any rate	查 at
in detail	查 in
to no avail	查 to
on the contrary	查 on
with all <i>one's</i> heart	查 with

2. 在句子中只能作定语或表语用的短语,在后面加上 to be, 查阅时则查该短语的第一个词。例如:

beyond description, to be	查 beyond
high and mighty, to be	查 high
as fit as a fiddle, to be	查 as
based (up)on, to be	查 based
interested in, to be	查 interested

3. 动词短语后面加上不定式标记 to。查阅时则查该条开头的动词。例如:

come on, to	查 come
find fault with, to	查 find
do <i>one's</i> homework, to	查 do
set <i>sth</i> on foot, to	查 set

4. 其它如名词短语、副词短语、习惯用语、连接词短语等,均查该短语的第一个词。例如:

ways and means	查 ways
----------------	--------

back and forth	查 back
so to speak	查 so
on condition that	查 on

5. 为了查阅方便,以冠词开头的名词短语,冠词一般放在短语的后面,查阅时则查原短语中冠词后面的那个词。例如:

bag of bones, a	查 bag
odd man out, an	查 odd
apple of <i>sb's</i> eye, the	查 apple

少数短语中,冠词无法拆开放在后面,那么还是放在短语最前面,查阅时则查该冠词。例如:

a number of	查 a
the other day	查 the

- 二、为帮助读者认识一条短语的全貌,本词典所收短语原则上采取其经常出现的比较完整的形式。例如:

以 take *sth* to heart, to 为词条,而不以 to heart 或 take to heart 为词条。

以 live on borrowed time, to 为词条,而不以 on borrowed time 为词条。

但为了查阅方便,对于某些有好几部分组成的短语也酌情取其一部分单独列为词条,采用“→”的方法,不另举例句。例如:

在以 take *sth* with a grain of salt, to 词条为主时,也列出 with a grain of salt 词条。

- 三、基本上可以互换使用的词、词组或整个词条,则以“/”隔开。其中以最常用的为主,举例说明。互换部分虽另立词条,但一般采用“→”(表示“可参阅”)的方法,不另举例句。例如:

in the final/last analysis

come in handy/useful, to

take to *one's* heels/show a clean pair of heels/take

to *one's* legs, to haul/call/rake *sb* over the coals, to

四、词条中圆括号内的词属于可用可不用。例如:

in (the) face of

once (and) for all

但为查阅方便,带有该词的词条一般也以→的方法另外列出。例如:

in the face of → in face of

once and for all → once for all

五、短语中表示动作及于客体时所用的 *sb* (即 somebody), *sb's* (即 somebody's) 和 *sth* (即 something), 表示动作返回到动作的主体时所用的 *one*, *one's*, *oneself* 均用斜体字印刷。例如:

give *sb* the worst of it, to bite off more than *one*
can chew, to

at/(up)on *sb's* heels eat *one's* words, to

carry *sth* too far, to do *oneself* justice, to

这些斜体字在查阅时必须跳过。例如:

查阅 give *sb* the worst of it, to 时, 先查 give, 再跳过 *sb* 查 the worst of it, 查阅 do *oneself* justice, to 时, 先查 do, 再跳过 *oneself* 查 justice 即可查到。

六、一个动词短语, 如既可用作及物动词, 又可用作不及物动词, 则先列举其作不及物动词的用法, 再列举其作及物动词的用法。例如:

break off, to

I. break off, to

II. break off *sth*, to

turn out, to

I. turn out, to

II. turn out *sb/sth*, to

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A

ABC, the/an (一门学科的)基本知识

Such glaring mistakes show that you don't know even the ABC of English grammar. 这些错误太显眼了,说明你连最起码的英语语法知识都不懂。

Can you tell me something about the ABC of piano playing?
你能给我讲讲弹钢琴的基本要领吗?

a (little) bit 一点儿;一些

Old age and poor health have not dampened his revolutionary enthusiasm — not even a bit. 他虽年老体弱,但革命热情丝毫不减当年。

— Would you like to have some pepper to go with the noodles?

— Just a bit, please!

——您要不要在面条里来点辣椒?

——好,请给我一点吧!

a bit of a ... 一点儿...的味道

He's a bit of a yarn spinner. 他有点喜欢吹牛。

a bit thick/rather too thick/a little too thick, to be 太过分;过度;太不合理

It's a bit thick not letting us know what the plans are. 不让我们知道计划未免太过分了。

Three days of heavy rain without a let-up is a bit thick. 接连下了三天大雨,真叫人有点受不了。

a body of 一群;一批;一片;大量;许多

I saw a body of PLA men marching along. 我看见一队解放军战士向前走着。

There is a body of facts which can support this argument. 有大量事实能证明这个论点。

a bunch of 一串;一簇;一束;一捆;一群;一伙

From the drawer he took out a chain, with a bunch of keys dangling at its end. 他从抽屉里拿出一条链子,链子一头挂着一串钥匙。

a choice of 备选的种类型

This shop offers a large choice of hats and shoes. 这家商店

有各种鞋帽可供挑选。

a crop of 一批; 一群; 一大堆

You must be prepared to answer a crop of questions after class for our pupils are always eager to know the whys and wherefores of everything. 下课以后, 你得准备回答许许多多问题, 因为我们的学生总是想打破砂锅问到底。

a crowd of 一群; 一堆; 许多

Towards the end of the parade a crowd of children with bouquets in their hands rushed over to the rostrum. 游行快结束时, 一群儿童手捧花束, 向主席台前涌去。

a deal → a great deal

a deal of → a great deal of

a/the devil of a ... 极端的; 可观的; 大量的

Miss Lucy said she paid a devil of a price for the necklace. 露西小姐说她买那副项链花了很大一笔钱。

a far/long cry from, to be

1. 遥远的路程; 很远的距离

What we have achieved is still a far cry from the Party's demands and the people's expectations. 我们所取得的成绩离党的要求和人民的期望还差得很远。

It is a far cry from Beijing to Kunming, but to cover the distance by air takes only about four hours. 北京离昆明很远, 但乘飞机大约只要四小时就能到达。

2. 大不相同

Upon their arrival, many visitors were surprised to find conditions there a far cry from what they had imagined. 客人们到达时, 发现那里的情况和他们原来想象的大不相同。

a fat lot (用于讽刺) 非常; 很 (实指一点也不, 非常少)

A fat lot you care! 你才不在乎呢!

a fat lot of (用于讽刺) 非常多; 很多 (实指一点也不多, 非常少)

It'll probably do you a fat lot of good! 那样做大概不会给你带来什么好处吧!

a few 一些

He'll be here in a few days. 他过几天就来。

A few of us like to play bridge. 我们中间有几个人喜欢打桥牌。

a flood of 一大片; 一大阵; 一大批

The moon came up from behind the hills and bathed the village in a flood of moonlight. 月亮从山后升起, 全村沐浴在一

片月光之中。

a galaxy of 一堆光彩夺目的(东西);一群出色(或著名)的(人物)

The Tang dynasty produced a galaxy of outstanding poets and painters. 唐代产生了许多杰出的诗人和画家。

a good deal → a great deal

a good deal of → a great deal of

a good/great many 很多;许多

Comrade Li rang you up a good many times while you were away. 你外出期间,李同志给你打了好多次电话。

a good while 好些时候

The foreign delegation has been in this city for a good while. 那个外国代表团在这个城市已呆了好些时候了。

a great deal/a good deal/a deal

1. 大量;很多

I'd say you contributed a great deal to the project. 我认为你对这项工程的贡献是很大的。

2. ...得多

After taking the medicine, he is now a great deal better. 服药后,他现在觉得好多了。

a great deal of/a good deal of/a deal of 大量;很多

The commune members have acquired a great deal of knowledge on the reclamation of marsh land. 社员们在开垦沼泽地方面,取得了许多经验。

I'm afraid I've given you a good deal of trouble. 我恐怕给你添了许多麻烦。

a great many → a good many

a handful of 一小撮;少数

Such a tremendous job could never have been accomplished by a handful of persons. 这样艰巨的任务只靠少数人是决不能完成的。

a host of 许许多多;一大堆

He has a host of friends. 他的朋友多得很。

A host of problems have to be dealt with before we actually plunge into the project. 在动工以前,我们还有一大堆问题需要解决。

a little 略微;少许;一点

Please move a little to the front. 请向前移动一点。

Could you stay here a little longer? 你在这儿再呆一段时间好吗?

The visitors were not a little surprised when they saw the new airplane model designed by some teenagers. 参观者看到由几个十来岁的小孩设计的新飞机模型时,都非常惊讶。

a little bit → a bit

a little too thick, to be → a bit thick, to be

a long cry from, to be → a far cry from, to be

a lot

1. 许多

The students benefited a lot from participation in productive labour. 学生们从参加生产劳动的过程中学到很多东西。

2. ...得多

The patient ate a lot more today. 病人今天吃得多多了。

a lot of/lots of/lots and lots of 许多

Morning exercises can do us a lot of good and should not be neglected. 早操对我们很有好处,不应忽视。

He borrowed a lot of books from the library this morning. 他今天早上从图书馆借了不少书。

We haven't seen a lot of you lately; where have you been? 我们最近不大看到你,你上哪儿啦?

Lots and lots of people have visited the agricultural exhibition. 许许多多的人参观了农业展览会。

a matter of (表示数量)...左右;...上下

We may as well buy that one of better quality since it's only a matter of a few yuan's difference. 我们不如买质量较好的那种,相差不过几块钱。

a multitude of 许多;大批;大群

There is a multitude of fruit trees on the southern slope of the mountain. 山的南坡栽有许多果树。

a number of 一些;若干

Very rich oil deposits have been found in a number of areas in China. 中国有些地区发现了极其丰富的石油矿藏。

Quite a number of students in our department are from the South. 我们系有好多学生是南方人。

A 1/A one 挺好;顶呱呱;第一流的

— What do you think of Dr Liu?

— I'd say he's A1, he's always willing to help.

——你觉得刘医生这个人怎样?

——太好了,他总是乐于助人。

— How do you feel?

— I feel A 1.

——你感觉怎样?

——好得很。

We found the quality of the goods to be A one. 我们觉得这批货质量呱呱叫。

A one → A 1

a series of 一系列

A series of lectures will be given on this topic. 关于这个题目将要做一系列的讲演。

a spark of 一点点; 丝毫(常用于否定句)

Not a spark of life was left in him when he was rescued from the river. 他被从河里救起来时, 已经没有一点生气了。

He is a miser, without even a spark of generosity in him. 他是个小气鬼, 一点儿也不大方。

She showed not a spark of interest in those drawings. 她对那些画毫无兴趣。

a train of 一连串

A train of ideas came into my mind after I heard his speech. 听了他的话, 我思绪万千。

A long train of children filed into the park. 孩子们排成长队进入公园。

a trifle 一点; 很少

He seemed a trifle peeved because they did not take his advice. 因为他们没有接受他的意见, 他显得有点恼怒。

This lighter cost me only a trifle. 买这个打火机, 我没花几个钱。

a troop of 一群(在行进中的人或动物)

The door opened and in came a troop of children. 门一开, 一群孩子就涌了进来。

a world of 很大的; 很多的

The medicine did the patient a world of good. 这药对这个病人很有好处。

There is truly a world of difference between the old Chinese society and the new. 中国新旧社会确是两重天。

abandon oneself to sth, to 纵情于(某事)

Don't abandon yourself to despair. 不要悲观失望。

abide by, to

1. 遵守; 恪守; 坚持

The coach told his players to abide by the referee's decision.

教练要运动员们服从裁判员的决定。

Do you think he'll abide by his word? 你认为他会守信吗?

2. 承担

He said he would abide by all possible consequences. 他说他将承担一切可能的后果。

abound in/with, to 有大量的; 富裕

This district abounds in mineral deposits. 这个地区的矿藏很丰富。

Wild game abounds in the forests. 那些森林里有大量的猎物。

The dilapidated temple in the neighbourhood abounded with vermin and mice. 附近的那座破庙里到处都是虫子和老鼠。

abound with, to → abound in, to

above all 尤其是; 最重要的是; 首要的是

The Young Pioneers with their white shirts, bright red scarves and above all, their eager, smiling faces left a deep impression upon us. 少先队员的白衬衫, 鲜红的领巾, 尤其是他们热切的笑容, 给我们留下深刻的印象。

That is what I prefer above all. 那是我最最喜欢的东西。

above sb's comprehension, to be → beyond sb's comprehension, to be

above sb's head → over sb's head

above price, to be → beyond price, to be

above the reach of, to be → beyond the reach of, to be

absence of mind 心不在焉; 发呆; 发愣

In his absence of mind he walked by mistake into the office next to his own. 由于心不在焉, 他走错了门, 走到隔壁办公室去了。

absorbed in, to be 全神贯注于; 专心于; 沉缅于

He was so absorbed in his work that he often forgot to eat. 他全神贯注地工作, 时常饭都忘记吃了。

abstain from, to 戒; 避开

He has abstained from smoking because of poor health. 由于身体不好, 他已经戒烟了。

accede to, to 同意; 应诺(请求、建议等)

The Committee decided that for various reasons it could not accede to your request. 由于种种原因, 委员会决定不同意你的请求。

accord with, to 与...一致(常用于否定句)

His actions do not always accord with his words. 他的言行

不总是是一致的。

What he has just said does not accord with the views of the majority. 他刚才所说的同大多数人所持的观点不一致。

according as 根据...而; 按照...而

The barometer rises or falls according as the atmospheric pressure is high or low. 晴雨计是根据气压的高低而升降的。

according to, to 根据; 按照; 依照

These entries are arranged in the dictionary according to alphabetical order. 那本词典里的词条是按字母顺序排列的。

From each according to his ability, to each according to his work. 各尽所能, 按劳分配。

According to the weather forecast, there will be rain this afternoon. 天气预报说, 今天下午有雨。

account for, to

1. 解释; 说明(原因等)

With new scientific discoveries we can now account for many natural phenomena that seemed inexplicable before. 对许多从前似乎无法解释的自然现象, 我们现在可以根据新的科学发现作出解释了。

Illness accounts for his absence. 他因为生病, 所以才缺席。

2. 将(受人托付的钱)报帐

He can account for every *fen* of the public fund placed in his trust. 他经管的公款每一分钱都可以报出帐来。

3. 捕捉; 射死; 打死; 解决

True to his fame as a good shot he accounted for six pheasants in less than an hour last Sunday morning. 他枪法很准, 名不虚传, 上星期天上午不到一小时就打到了六只野鸡。

4. (指数量等)占

Before liberation, China's industry accounted for only about 30 percent of the total value of the country's industrial and agricultural output. 解放前, 中国的工业只占工农业生产总产值的百分之三十左右。

5. 对...负责

It was carelessness on the part of the young worker that accounted for the breakdown of the machine. 机器损坏是由于那个青工粗心大意造成的。

accustom oneself to (doing) sth, to 使(自己)习惯于(某事或做某事)

He has gradually accustomed himself to cold showers. 他慢

慢地习惯于洗冷水澡了。

Years ago, he became accustomed to taking a walk every day. 多年前,他养成了每天散步的习惯。

Achilles' heel/heel of Achilles 致命的弱点

Don't talk about vanity in Comrade Liu's hearing; it's his Achilles' heel. 不要在刘同志面前谈论虚荣,他这个人最大的弱点就是爱虚荣。

acid test, an 严峻的考验;决定性的考验

To yield or not to yield to the enemy under torture or threat of death is often an acid test for many revolutionaries. 在严刑拷打和死亡威胁下是否屈服于敌人,对许多革命者来说往往是一个严峻考验。

acknowledge the corn, to 接受指责;认错

Her convincing analysis finally made him see the point and he acknowledged the corn. 她那令人信服的分析终于使他对问题有所认识并承认了自己的错误。

across from 在...对面;在...对过

The Municipal People's Bank is across from the General Post Office. 市人民银行在邮政总局对面。

act a part, to

1. 扮演一个角色

He acted a part in *Othello*. 他在《奥赛罗》中扮演了一个角色。

2. (为了骗人而)假装

He walked as if nothing had happened to his leg, but everyone could see that he was merely acting a part. 虽然他走路时腿好象没有什么毛病,但是大家都看得出来他是装的。

act (up)on, to

1. 对...起作用;对...有功效

Heat acts on solids and causes them to expand. 热对固体起作用,使它们膨胀。

2. 奉行;按照...而行动

Acting upon his advice, I decided to change my essay topic. 我决定遵照他的意见,换一个题目写。

act out, to

1. (用表情、动作等)描绘出;表演

He tried to act out the story he had read. 他想把他读过的那篇小说搬上舞台。

2. 实行;实践