

现代英语习惯用法
参考手册

*A Handbook of Modern
English Usage*

上 册

夕 阳 编

上海市计算技术研究所情报资料室

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编 者 的 话

德国伟大的文学家歌德曾经说：“在我的漫长的一生中我的确做过很多工作，获得了我可以自豪的成就。但是说实话，我有什么真正要归功于我自己的呢？我只不过有一种能力和志愿，去看去听，去区分和选择，用自己的心智灌注生命于所见所闻，然后以适当的技巧把它再现出来，如此而已。我不应把我的作品全归功于自己的智慧，还应归功于我以外向我提供素材的成千成万的事情和人物。……我要做的事，不过是伸手去收割旁人替我播种的庄稼而已。”（爱克曼：《与歌德谈话录》）的确，任何一部作品都是来自前人和别人所提供的素材与帮助，决非凭一个人的才能所能创造出来的。我这部《现代英语习惯用法参考手册》也不例外。在过去漫长的八年时间里，特别是在一九七一至一九七六年那些动荡不定的岁月里，如果没有至亲好友给我提供书籍与素材，并且不断地给以热情的鼓励和帮助的话，要完成这部《手册》的编纂工作是不可能的。在那些年月里我真的象抚育初生的婴儿一样，不辞艰辛劳苦，好不容易把她领养长大。现在她已有八岁了。可是由于先天不足，加以我这个保育员的保育技能亟差，“孩子”的身上不免带有许多缺陷，这是完全可以理解的。但不论怎样，现在应该是把她送到社会上去让公众来对她进行检验的时候了。现在我在写这篇“编者的话”的时刻，心情真是无比高兴。这种高兴只能引用法国大文豪雨果的一句话：“*La joie de mère, c'est la joie d'enfant.*”来形容了。

一、《手册》的对象是已经初步搞通英语语法、能粗浅地阅读国内外书籍与期刊，但对习惯用法尚不够熟悉的学者。为了适应不同程度读者的需要和个人的不同爱好，《手册》分为“标本句及解释”、“学习与参考”和“例句”三个部分；如果单读“标本句及解释”部分也可对现代英语习惯用法获得一个较完整的了解。关于

“例句”部分最好能逐句阅读，以加深印象，否则象蜻蜓点水那样，一掠而过，是不会有少得益的，而且有些比较少见的用法。放在前两个部分不够有代表性，只能在“例句”部分作适当指点。

二、《手册》中所收集的有些习惯用法与国内外出版的有些语法书籍上的解释有抵触，甚至被说成是错误的，但根据我所阅读到的材料，这种被认为是“错误”的用法却经常出现，如悬垂分词 (Dangling Participle) 即是一例。为了使读者能了解现实生活中的语言，凡是在书报杂志上出现得比较多的都作为习惯用法列入《手册》。

三、有的读者看过《手册》后可能会感到太繁琐。在编写《手册》的过程中，我曾经作过几次比较大的删节，例如有关But 作为介词的数章，写后又删除，以后又加进；又如“学习与参考”栏中好多内容都显得比较陈旧，是否有必要列入，也曾经有过动摇。后来，对这些问题，经过再三考虑，才决定采取宁烦毋缺的原则，因为既是《手册》就得尽可能求全。再者，有些用法虽然现在看来似乎已经过时（实际上可能未必是这样），但谁知道今后不会“死灰复燃”呢？特别在美语中古为今用的倾向是比较强烈的。

四、《手册》中大部分例句是由我自己译成中文的，质量当然不佳，好在《手册》的目的只是在于剖析用法，并非研究翻译。我想关于这一点读者是会谅解的。

五、这次《手册》之所以能出版是由于所党委和所领导同志的鼓励和支持，我借此机会向他们表示衷心的感谢。在具体工作中我得到了何铮儒、倪美珍、盛荣英、金亦文、费志浩、孙维莉、李志成等同志的热情帮助和指教，也在此一并表示感谢。

最后，我希望读者同志们对《手册》中存在的缺点与错误不吝赐教，以便今后能进一步加以修改、充实和提高。来信请寄上海市计算技术研究所情报资料室。

夕 阳

一九七九年八月

注： 本手册中例句的出处凡标有《读者文摘》字样的系指一九七四年至一九七九年出版的《读者文摘》杂志和《读者文摘缩写小说》(Reader's Digest Condensed Books)两种刊物，为方便起见，一概用《读者文摘》名称。

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...China's science and technology *have made* great strides in recent years.

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27. Li: The knife grinder has his
eye on my lantern
And he raised his hand to
accost me.
I *shall* casually give him
the password.

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Take this, dad.
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28. Once we slacken our efforts
to do this, we *will be unable*
to resist corruption by
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ideas and *will lose* our
bearings and commit serious
mistakes.

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29. Comrade yang said, "I *will*
make revolution so long as
I live.

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30. you *shall* have my answer
tomorrow

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31. Yang: To their congratulatory
toast I drink my fill,
I *shall* not rest until

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32. He *will often* sit up till late
at night, studying English.

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us, *again and again*, of the time
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34. "you seem to be quite positive
that evil and insanity have
been vanquished."
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Call on him *when* it *is* most
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course of the day 178

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defraud this retirement
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He was very *careful* that nothing
should interfere with his plans.

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interfere with his plans .

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38. For twenty years he has been
working faithfully like a
willing "ox" for the masses.
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things for the people 190

39. "You mustn't blame me for that;
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40. He *is being* patient 198

41. It *will be snowing* on the
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He *is going to* regret the day he ever wrote that letter.

Shao:old yang, you're *going to* disguise as a bandit and make your way into the enemy stronghold. Are you sure you can do it?

I learned that there *was going to* be a New year's party with a variety of entertainment. I was tremendously excited. 212

43. It is my ardent *wish* that he *come* at once.

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44. It *was necessary* that another unit similar to the small detachment, *be* assembled to reinforce the detachment when needed. 239

45. I have no time, so I cannot go. If I *had* time, I *would* go with you. 244

46. The crossing of the Tatu River was the most critical single incident of the Long March. *Had* the Red Army *failed* there, quite

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47. As I was leaving he added that
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48. They would insist on watching
with their own eyes as the
yellow wine was ladled from
the keg, looking to *see if*
there *were* any water at the
bottom of the wine pot, and
inspecting for themselves the
immersion of the pot in hot
water .

He wants to know *is the*
newspaper man here 271

49. He looks *as if* he *were* going
through a great crisis .

It does look *as if* the very
crisis *is* here 276

50. *Persevere*, and you will
succeed .

Persevere , or you will fail 283

51. It is easier *to read* Chinese
than *to speak* it .

Reading Chinese is easier
than *speaking* it 287

52. *There is no denying the fact.*

*It is no use trying to excuse
yourself.*

..... 291

53. *We were to meet at 6 at Tien
An Men Square. We promised each
other to be punctual.*

..... 298

54. *Since this was during the
Russo-Japanese War, there were
many war slides, and I had to
join in the clapping and cheering
in the lecture hall along with
the other students.*

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The morning of the eighth,
the sky was clear. A *red ball*
of a sun, rising in the east,
shone on the happy village.

初八早晨，天空晴朗，东方升起一轮红日，
照耀着这个欢乐的村庄。

《林海雪原》

〔解〕

a red ball of a sun 这一短语里，of 前后的两个名词从语法上分析是同位语 (appositive)。据说这种形式原先来自法语，可是在现代英语里已使用得相当普遍。

a(n) ~ of a(n) ~ 这一形式中的 of 具有 like 或 in the form of 之意，因此：

a red ball of a sun

= the sun which is like a red ball

又如：

a great mountain of a wave

= the wave which is like (in the form of)
a great mountain

高山似的波涛

a park of a factory

公园般的工厂 (指工厂的绿化搞得好)

香港《东方地平线》杂志

in a devil of a hurry
= *in a devilish hurry*
= *in a very great hurry*
非常匆忙

注意:

- 一、of 前后的两个名词虽是同位语，但不能随意颠倒，从汉译角度来说，of 前的名词一般是用以修饰of后的名词的，比较：

{	<i>a whale of an island</i>
	鲸鱼状的海岛 (形容海岛的形状)
	[美]《儿童百科丛书》
	<i>an island of a whale</i>
	海岛似的鲸鱼 (形容鲸鱼之大)

如将上述 *a park of a factory* 改为 *a factory of a park* 那就变成了“工厂似的公园”，意指一个非常喧闹的公园。

- 二、*a(n) ~ of a(n) ~* 这一形式的前一个 *a(n)* 往往可以用 *this, that, my, his, her* 等指示形容词或所有形容词代替，如：

that despot of a landlord
那个恶霸地主
my darling of a daughter
我亲爱的女儿

- 三、*a(n) ~ of a(n) ~* 这一形式中 of 后的 *a(n)* 在任何情况下都不能省略；即使 of 后的名词是专有名词，这个 *a(n)* 也不可省略，如：

"So far, then," said Danglars to himself,