

走向世界实用英语

英语成语妙译

(英汉对照)

张雪 石晓杰 徐莹 编著

ENGLISH IDIOMS



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总 序

年轻的朋友,我们都是幸运的人。跨越世纪是“百年不遇”,跨越千年更是“千载难逢”,我们就是这样的幸运儿。

为了迎接新世纪的挑战,实现走向世界的理想,越来越多的年轻人正在学习外语。但是,真正做到外语学有所成、运用自如的人却并不多。很难设想死啃一种课本的人能把活的语言学到手,很难设想学完就扔的人能永生不忘。

阅读外语书刊是温故知新的必由之路。每天茶余饭后读上几页外语,也许会是无上的乐趣。短小精悍、饶有趣味、实用性强——这是外语阅读材料的必备条件。摆在你面前的这套丛书就是这样的书籍。你会发现外语学习原来是轻松愉快的事情!

汪榕培

1995年10月于大连

前 言

在英语不断普及的今天,我们出版这本《英汉成语妙译》有着广泛的现实意义。对于每一个英语工作者和爱好英语的人来说,在英语和汉语的应用过程中,都会发现这样一个问题,英语恰到好处的表现力,若能找到相应的汉语把它表现出来,不但能表达其意思,更主要的是能深刻领会跨文化之间的内在联系。一个好的英语短语,若能找到相应的汉语成语,不仅能使人理解其含义,更重要的是能使其锦上添花,起到画龙点睛的作用。例如:a drop in the ocean “海中一滴水”,若译成“沧海一粟”不仅可以增添文字色彩,更具语言表现力,同时也恰当地表现了英语的实际含义。

在长时间的英语学习过程中,我们发现,有些英语短语,想把它恰当地译成汉语成语很难,这除了是跨文化语言差异的原因,最主要是通过上下文才能恰当说明其意义。而此书的目的就是希望通过对英语动词短语、形容词短语、名词

短语的分析,将其译成相应的比较常见的汉语成语,以便能帮助英语工作者在学习过程中,更好地运用语言这一工具。

语言作为交流工具,有其很重要的作用。通过语言,我们可以了解其文化背景、文化的发展,更好地在英语和汉语之间架起桥梁。通过比较,我们能发现两种语言的共同之处,更有利于双语的学习、提高。在翻译过程中,我们不但力求准确、易懂,同时强调其实用性。因此,每一个短语,其汉语成语的意思最多不超过两个,例句也是选最易理解的意思。

由于编者水平有限,加之时间仓促,在理解两种语言及翻译方面,难免有不妥的地方,还望广大英语读者及热爱两种文化事业的读者,给予批评指正。

作 者

1996年10月

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- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1 a drop in the bucket |
| 1 | 2 a drop in the ocean |
| 1 | 3 about one's ears |
| 1 | 4 above suspicion |
| 2 | 5 absorb in |
| 2 | 6 ace in the hole |
| 2 | 7 act high and mighty |
| 3 | 8 add fuel to the flame |
| 3 | 9 add insult to injury |
| 3 | 10 after one's own heart |
| 3 | 11 all along |
| 3 | 12 all dressed up |
| 4 | 13 all ears |
| 4 | 14 all eyes |
| 4 | 15 all in one piece |
| 4 | 16 all manner of |
| 4 | 17 all of a sudden |
| 5 | 18 all out |
| 5 | 19 all-out effort |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 5 | 20 all over someone |
| 5 | 21 all over the earth |
| 5 | 22 All roads lead to Rome. |
| 6 | 23 all shook up |
| 6 | 24 all systems (are) go |
| 6 | 25 all talk and no action |
| 6 | 26 all the way |
| 7 | 27 all thumbs |
| 7 | 28 all tuckered out |
| 7 | 29 all wet |
| 7 | 30 all worked up over something |
| 8 | 31 along for the ride |
| 8 | 32 an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth |
| 8 | 33 angle for |
| 8 | 34 annex to |
| 8 | 35 ants in one's pants |
| 9 | 36 apple of one's eye |
| 9 | 37 apple-pie order |
| 10 | 38 apple polishing |
| 10 | 39 arm and a leg |
| 11 | 40 arm in arm |
| 11 | 41 around the clock |
| 11 | 42 around the corner |
| 11 | 43 as a duck takes to water |
| 11 | 44 as an old shoe |
| 11 | 45 as best one can |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 12 | 46 as big as life |
| 12 | 47 as busy as a beaver |
| 12 | 48 as busy as Grand Central Station |
| 12 | 49 as clear as mud |
| 12 | 50 as cool as a cucumber |
| 12 | 51 as different as night and day |
| 13 | 52 as easy as (apple) pie |
| 13 | 53 as easy as duck soup |
| 13 | 54 as far as anyone knows |
| 13 | 55 as free as a bird |
| 13 | 56 as full as a tick |
| 14 | 57 as good as one's word |
| 14 | 58 as happy as a clam |
| 14 | 59 as happy as a lark |
| 14 | 60 as hard as nails |
| 14 | 61 as high as a kite |
| 14 | 62 as hot as hell |
| 15 | 63 as hungry as a bear |
| 15 | 64 as if one has come out of a handbox |
| 15 | 65 as light as a feather |
| 15 | 66 as mad as a hatter |
| 15 | 67 as mad as a hornet |
| 16 | 68 as mad as a wet hen |
| 16 | 69 as naked as a jaybird |
| 16 | 70 as plain as day |
| 16 | 71 as plain as the nose on one's face |

16	72 as poor as a church mouse
17	73 as pretty as a picture
17	74 as proud as a peacock
17	75 as quick as a wink
17	76 as quiet as a mouse
17	77 as scarce as hen's teeth
17	78 as slick as a whistle
18	79 as slippery as an eel
18	80 as strong as an ox
18	81 as stubborn as a mule
18	82 as thick as thieves
18	83 as weak as a kitten
18	84 as wise as an owl
18	85 ask/cry for the moon
19	86 asleep at the switch
19	87 at a blow/stroke
19	88 at a snail's pace
19	89 at all hazards
19	90 at any rate
20	91 at arm's length
20	92 at bay
20	93 at both ends
20	94 at/on call
20	95 at cross purposes
21	96 at death's door
21	97 at hand

21	98 at large
21	99 at liberty
22	100 at loose ends
22	101 at one's beck and call
22	102 at one's ease
22	103 at one's fingertips
23	104 at one's leisure
23	105 at sea
23	106 at sixes and sevens
23	107 at stake
23	108 at swords points
24	109 at the end of nowhere
24	110 at the end of one's rope/tether
24	111 avenge on
24	112 awake to
25	113 ax to grind

B

26	114 babe in the wood(s)
26	115 baby kisser
26	116 back out
26	117 back to the wall
27	118 backward(s) and forward(s)
27	119 bad-mouth someone
27	120 bag of tricks
27	121 balk at

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 27 | 122 banana oil |
| 27 | 123 band together |
| 28 | 124 bang away |
| 28 | 125 bang into |
| 28 | 126 bark up the wrong tree |
| 28 | 127 bark worse than one's bite |
| 28 | 128 barter/bargain away |
| 28 | 129 bat an eye (eyelash) |
| 29 | 130 bats in one's the belfry |
| 29 | 131 bawl out |
| 29 | 132 be a cold fish |
| 30 | 133 be a copy-cat |
| 30 | 134 be a dead duck |
| 30 | 135 be a fan of someone |
| 30 | 136 be a goner |
| 30 | 137 be above one's head |
| 30 | 138 be at a dead end |
| 31 | 139 be at a halt/standstill |
| 31 | 140 be beneath contempt |
| 31 | 141 be beside oneself |
| 31 | 142 be beyond endurance |
| 32 | 143 be beyond one's ken |
| 32 | 144 be beyond question |
| 32 | 145 be beyond redemption |
| 32 | 146 be bushed |
| 32 | 147 be careful |

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 33 | 148 be done with somebody/something |
| 33 | 149 be down to |
| 33 | 150 be for the high jump |
| 33 | 151 be half-hearted |
| 33 | 152 be hip to |
| 33 | 153 be in evidence |
| 34 | 154 be in order |
| 34 | 155 be in the open |
| 34 | 156 be in the public eye |
| 34 | 157 be of one mind |
| 34 | 158 be on about |
| 34 | 159 be on at |
| 35 | 160 be out of someone's reach |
| 35 | 161 be out of sorts |
| 35 | 162 be out of the blue |
| 35 | 163 be out of the picture |
| 35 | 164 be over the moon |
| 36 | 165 be poles apart |
| 36 | 166 be the spit and image of someone |
| 36 | 167 be up against it |
| 36 | 168 be up in arms |
| 36 | 169 be up to one's eyes in |
| 37 | 170 be well up in |
| 37 | 171 bear down on/upon |
| 37 | 172 bear the brunt of something |
| 37 | 173 beat a dead horse |

- 37 174 beat a path to somebody's door
- 37 175 beat a retreat
- 38 176 beat about the bush
- 38 177 beat all hollow
- 38 178 beat one's brains out
- 38 179 beat one's head against the wall
- 38 180 beat somebody to the draw/punch
- 38 181 beat/bring someone to his knees
- 39 182 beef up
- 39 183 beg for the moon
- 39 184 beg the question
- 39 185 Beggars can't be choosers.
- 40 186 begin to see daylight
- 40 187 begin to see the light
- 40 188 behind the eight-ball
- 40 189 bend/fall/lean over backwards
- 41 190 beside the point/question
- 41 191 bet on the wrong horse
- 41 192 bet one's boots/bottom dollar
- 41 193 bet one's life
- 42 194 between a rock and a hard place
- 42 195 between life and death
- 42 196 between the devil and the deep blue sea
- 42 197 between two fires
- 42 198 betwixt and between
- 43 199 beyond/out of one's depth

- | | |
|----|--|
| 43 | 200 beyond one's means |
| 43 | 201 beyond/without question |
| 43 | 202 beyond the pale |
| 43 | 203 beyond the shadow of a doubt |
| 44 | 204 bide one's time |
| 44 | 205 big as life and twice as natural |
| 44 | 206 big deal |
| 44 | 207 big frog in a small pond |
| 44 | 208 big lie |
| 44 | 209 Birds of a feather flock together. |
| 45 | 210 birthday suit |
| 45 | 211 bite off more than one can chew |
| 45 | 212 bite one's nails |
| 45 | 213 bite someone's head off |
| 45 | 214 bite the dust |
| 46 | 215 bite the hand that feeds one |
| 46 | 216 black sheep of the family |
| 46 | 217 blaze up |
| 46 | 218 blend with |
| 46 | 219 blind alley |
| 47 | 220 blind leading the blind |
| 47 | 221 blood freezes/runs cold/turns to ice |
| 47 | 222 blood is thicker than water |
| 47 | 223 blow a fuse/gasket |
| 48 | 224 blow hot and cold |
| 48 | 225 blow one's/sb's brain's out |

- | | |
|----|--|
| 48 | 226 blow one's/sb's mind |
| 49 | 227 blow one's own horn/trumpet, toot one's own horn |
| 49 | 228 blow one's top |
| 49 | 229 blow over |
| 49 | 230 blow someone's cover |
| 49 | 231 bluster it out |
| 50 | 232 boast of/about |
| 50 | 233 body blow |
| 50 | 234 boggle someone's mind |
| 50 | 235 boggle the mind |
| 50 | 236 bolt from/out of the blue |
| 51 | 237 bone up on |
| 51 | 238 born yesterday |
| 51 | 239 borrow trouble |
| 51 | 240 bound to |
| 52 | 241 bow and scrape |
| 52 | 242 brain drain |
| 52 | 243 brave it out |
| 52 | 244 break out into tears |
| 52 | 245 break up |
| 52 | 246 breathe easily/freely |
| 53 | 247 breathe one's last |
| 53 | 248 breeze through |
| 53 | 249 bright and early |
| 53 | 250 bring down the house |
| 53 | 251 bring home to |

- 54 | 252 bring something into sight/view
- 54 | 253 bring to bay
- 54 | 254 bring together
- 54 | 255 bristle with
- 54 | 256 brood over/on/upon/about
- 55 | 257 brown off
- 55 | 258 brush off
- 55 | 259 brush up against
- 55 | 260 buckle under
- 55 | 261 bug-eyed
- 56 | 262 build castles in the air/Spain
- 56 | 263 bump into
- 56 | 264 burn one's boats/bridges
- 56 | 265 burn one's fingers
- 56 | 266 burn oneself out
- 57 | 267 burn up the road
- 57 | 268 burnt child dreads the fire
- 57 | 269 burst at seams
- 57 | 270 burst into tears/burst out crying
- 57 | 271 burst with joy
- 58 | 272 burst with pride
- 58 | 273 bury one's head in the sand
- 58 | 274 bury the hatchet/tomahawk
- 58 | 275 butter someone up
- 59 | 276 butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
- 59 | 277 butterflies in one's stomach