

Her frocks come from Paris, but she wears them *with a strong English accent.* Saki

她的衣裳來自巴黎，可是她簡直把它們穿成英國式（的樣子）。

——薩基

The twentieth century is only the nineteenth speaking *with a slightly American accent.* Guedalla

二十世紀只不過是稍為帶着美國口音說話的十九世紀罷了。

——吉達拉

by accident 偶然，無意中

I am a poor man, but I have this consolation: I am poor by accident, not by design. Billings

我是個窮光蛋，但我這樣安慰自己：我是偶然窮起來的，並非出於有意。

——比林斯

別讓事情順其自然。(Leave nothing to accident.)

☆ **by design** 〔故意，有計劃地〕

in accordance with 按照～，與～一致

Man is a rational animal who always loses his temper when he is called upon to act in accordance with the dictates of reason. Oscar Wilde

人是有理性的動物，但當他被要求按照理性去行動的時候，可又要大發脾氣了。

——王爾德

（直譯應為：人是每當被要求按照理性的命令去行動之時總要生氣的有理性的動物。）

他們的行為決不與他們的觀點一致。(Their deeds are never in accordance with their views.)

☆ **lose one's temper / call upon a person to do / the dictates of reason**

The future character of the Republic is *in the air*. 共和國的未來性格尚屬渺茫。

put on airs 裝腔作勢，擺架子

One of the best temporary cures for pride and affectation is seasickness: a man who wants to vomit never puts on airs.

Josh Billings

對自尊自大與裝模作樣的最佳應急療法是暈船：要嘔吐的人是決不擺架子的。

——比林斯

She *puts on high airs* with her learning.

她恃着自己的學問把尾巴翹的天樣高。

Nothing makes a man or woman look so saintly as seasickness.

S. Butler

更沒有一種事物能夠像暈船那樣令到一個男人或女人看似聖徒般高潔的了。

——巴特勒

stay alive 在活着

Many a diabetic has stayed alive by stealing the bread denied him by his doctor.

M. H. Fischer

全憑偷吃被醫師所禁的麵包而留下了性命的糖尿病患者不一而足。

——費希爾

人非單憑麵包而活。(Man shall not live by bread alone.)

☆ *many a / live by*

all A and B 只有A和B，全是A和B

A drunkard is like a whisky bottle, all neck and belly and no head.

O'Malley

酒鬼好比威士忌瓶，全是脖子跟肚子而沒腦子。

——奧馬利

George Moore unexpectedly pinched my behind; I felt rather honored that my behind should have drawn the attention of the great master of English prose. *Ilka Chase*

喬治·穆爾突然捏了我的屁股一下子，我倒覺得榮幸——我的屁股竟然引起了這位英語散文大師的垂青呢。

——蔡 斯

honor 是美式拼寫法，英式，honour.

give attention to 注意～

Being a husband is a whole-time job. That is why so many husbands fail. They cannot give their entire attention to it.

Arnold Bennett

當一名丈夫，是一則“24小時服務”的工作。唯其如是，才有這麼多丈夫們不及格。因為他們不能貫注其全神於斯。

——本涅特

☆ so many

pay attention to 注意～，關注～

The world, like an accomplished hostess, pays most attention to those whom it will soonest forget. *Collins*

世人好比圓滑周到的女主人，最關注那些最先會被遺忘的人。

——科林斯

因為對熟悉的人，可以暫時失陪。

If a man wants his wife to *pay attention to* what he says, he addresses his remarks to another woman. 若要老婆留意聽自己所說的話，做丈夫的只要把話向其他女性說便成了。

of no avail 毫無用處

There are few sorrows, however poignant, in which a good income

可免破財之煩。

——金·哈伯德

☆ *It takes B for A to do / used to do / sit by / at school*

book review (新刊書的)書評

I never read a book before reviewing it; it prejudices one so.

Sydney Smith

我對一本書在作出書評之前決不看它，因為那會使人染上偏見。

——史密斯

事先看也不看，在完全沒有先入為主觀念的情況之下寫書評。

Book review—A magazine or newspaper section that judges books by their authors rather than authors by their books.

書評——與其說是以書來判斷其著者、倒不如說是以著者來判斷書的一個雜誌或報紙的專欄。

You don't expect me to know what to say about a play when I don't know who the author is, do you? *Shaw*

當我還未知道某一劇本的作者是誰之時，你不會期望我知道該說什麼的吧？

——蕭伯納

☆ *judge A by B*

bore a person to death 教人悶死，悶死人

My own business always bores me to death; I prefer other people's.

Oscar Wilde

我自己的工作老教我悶的要死，我更喜歡別人的。

——王爾德

The table is the only place where a man is never bored during the first hour. *Brillat-Savarin*

在頭一個鐘頭內決不令人厭煩的地方是餐桌。

——布里拉—薩瓦林

be born A 天生是A (的狀態)，天性～

break open 撬開，砸開

The policeman who was sent down to examine, says my house has been broken open on the most scientific principles.

T. L. Peacock

派來調查的警察說，我家的大門是根據極其合乎科學的原理給撬開來的。

——皮科克

The robbers *broke open* his house. 強盜們砸開了他家的門口闖了進去。

☆ *send down*

before breakfast 早飯前

Never work before breakfast; if you have to work before breakfast, get your breakfast.

Billings

千萬別在早飯前工作，如有必要在早飯前工作，就吃早飯吧。

——比林斯

意思是：“早飯前的工作”就是“吃早飯”。

They fell to work on the breakfast. 他們動手吃早飯了。/ It is characteristic of him to go to work before breakfast. 還未吃早飯就去工作，正是他的本色。

☆ *have to do / fall to work / go to work / be characteristic of*

draw one's first breath 出生，呱呱落地

Except during the nine months before he draws his first breath, no man manages his affairs as well as a tree does.

Bernard Shaw

除呱呱落地之前九個月而外，人之無能自願，猶不如樹木。

——蕭伯納

☆ *as well as*

draw one's last breath 一命嗚呼，死掉

on the brink of 瀕於～的邊緣

Whenever cannibals are on the brink of starvation, Heaven in its infinite mercy sends them a nice plump missionary.

Oscar Wilde

每當食人族瀕於餓死的邊緣之際，上天就會本着大慈大悲為懷，給他們送來又肥又大的傳教士。——王爾德

Martyrdom is the only way in which a man can become famous without ability. *Shaw*

殉教行為，是無德無能者可以一舉成名的唯一途徑。

——蕭伯納

☆ in mercy [可憐，憐憫] / without mercy [毫不留情地]

brood over 鬱鬱沉思

A reasonable amount of fleas is good for a dog; it keeps him from brooding over being a dog. *Edward Noyes Wescott*

適當數目的跳蚤對狗是有好處的——省的牠爲了自己是狗兒而鬱鬱沉思。

——韋斯科特

Well-washed and well-combed domestic pets grow dull; they miss the stimulus of fleas. *Francis Galton*

洗的乾乾淨淨而又梳的有條有理的家養寵物，會長的又笨又鈍——牠們失去了跳蚤的刺激嘛。

——哥爾登

☆ an amount of / (be) good for / keep A from B

burn oneself to death 燒死自己，自焚

When you smoke cigarette you're likely to burn yourself to death; with chewing tobacco the worst thing you can do is drown a midget. *Fred Allen*

當你抽烟之時，很可能燒死自己；如果是嚼烟，糟透了你也只可以溺死侏儒罷了。

——艾倫

☆ be likely to do

a man of business 商人，實業家

A man of business may talk of philosophy, a man who has none may practice it.

Jonathan Swift

商人也許會談談哲學，而一無所有者也許會施諸實踐。

——斯威夫特

☆ talk of

business before pleasure 先工作後享樂，先公而後私

Business first, pleasure afterward, as King Richard said when he stabbed the other king in the tower, before he smothered the babies.

Charles Dickens

在倫敦塔內殺死另一個王、扼殺幾個嬰孩之前，英王理查德就曾經說過：先公而後私。

——狄更斯

"Business before pleasure," as the man said when he kissed his own wife. 男的給自己的妻子接了一個吻之時說：“先公而後私”。

do business with 和～做生意

Take the humbug out of this world, and you haven't much left to do business with.

Josh Billings

把老千們從這世上轟出去之後，就沒剩幾個可以跟你來往做生意的了。

——比林斯

You're a humbug.—You're another. 你是個騙子。——你是另一個。

☆ take ~ out of / You're another

do the business (對某事)做得來

If a man's character is to be abused, there's nobody like a

有些句子，雖屬同一結構，意思却不同。例如，*But when a girl has been 29 for five years she can't be too particular.*（可是，一個女子經過五年來一直認作廿九歲之後，可再也不能過於挑三揀四啦。）

be capable of 有能力做～，做得出（壞事）

He was capable of bringing out an expurgated edition of Wordsworth. *S. Butler*

他幾乎做得出出版華茲華斯的刪改本（潔本）。

——巴特勒

因為在華茲華斯的作品中，根本就沒有誨淫的、或則帶有黃色的部分。
Obscenity can be found in every book except the telephone directory. *Shaw*

除了電話簿之外，任何一本書中都可以找到猥褻性。——蕭伯納

If you give me six lines written by the most honest man, I will find something in them to hang him. *Richelieu*

只要你給我六行由最誠實的人寫下的東西，我就會從中找出足以處他絞刑的東西來。

——黎塞留

Richelieu (1585～1642年) 是法國的政治家，1624年起實際上掌握了宰相的大權，曾干預德國的三十年戰爭，有文名，*Académie Française* 就是由他創設的。

這一句，充分表現了這位大政治家的心狠手辣，不期而然地令我們想起武則天時代的來俊臣，“欲加之罪，何患無詞”就是從那時候一直流傳到今時的一句真言。雖則意思完全一樣，足見漢語的表現更“精”更“勁”，而且一針見血。

be at cards 在玩紙牌

There are no friends at cards or world politics. *F. P. Dunne*

這世上，玩紙牌與國際政治是沒有朋友可言的。

——鄧 恩

be of good cheer 精神飽滿，勇敢

Let us be of good cheer, remembering that the misfortunes hardest to bear are those which never come. *J. R. Rowell*

讓我們拿出精神來吧，要記得：最難忍受的不幸是決不會來臨的（不幸）。——羅厄爾

We are always of good cheer. 我們老是精神飽滿。

☆ Let us do

a child wonder 神童

What has become of all the child wonders we used to know in school? *Kin Hubbard*

我們在學校裏認識的那些神童到底怎樣了？

——金·哈伯德

生為神童，少為才子，及冠則不過一凡夫者大不乏人。He contents himself with reporting the results of other scholars. 他滿足於報告其他學者的研究結果。

☆ What becomes of ~? / used to do / in school. / content oneself with

with children 帶着小孩兒

In America there are two classes of travel—first class, and with children. *R. Benchley*

在美國，旅行有兩種等級——頭等，以及帶着小孩兒的。

——本奇利

The children will be a drag on me, so I want to go without them. 孩子們會給我添麻煩，所以我不想帶他們去。

☆ be a drag on [使~阻手阻腳]

a chip off the old block 跟父親一模一樣的兒子

He was not merely a chip off the old block, but the old block

If this is coffee, please bring me some tea; but if this is tea, please bring me some coffee.

Lincoln

假使這是咖啡，請給我拿些茶來，但如這是茶，那就給我拿些咖啡來吧。

——林 肯

It is inferior for coffee, but it is pretty fair tea. Mark Twain

作為咖啡似嫌差一些，但這是不錯的茶。

——馬克·吐溫

Wine is the drink of the gods, milk the drink of babies, tea the drink of women, and water the drink of beasts. Brackie

酒是神的飲品，奶是嬰兒的飲品，茶是女人的飲品，而水是野獸的飲品。

——布雷基

你的是什麼？(What's yours?) / 說呀。(Name it.)

get [have] cold feet 害怕，擔心

Everybody has something; a man has dandruff, and a woman has cold feet.

Ed Howe

人總有所長，男人頭皮多，女人膽子小。

——埃德·豪

這可能是由於男人多用腦，故有頭皮，而女人膽子小故有“凍腳”。蓋心寒則血液循環欠佳，勢必導致腿冷腳凍故也。

Every actor has cold feet just before the beginning of a show. 每一個演員在臨到開始表演之前都會心驚“腿”震。

come after 跟在～後面，為～而來

I'm not one of those as can see the cat in the dairy, and wonder what she's come after.

George Eliot

我可不是那些在牛奶房看到貓並懷疑牠為何而來的人。

——愛略特

He will come after you. 他會來追妳的。

My cat follows me everywhere, but it's only cupboard love—she

wants some fish. 我的貓兒到處跟在我後面，那只是貪吃的愛——牠想要些魚罷了。

☆ cupboard love

come away 離開，脫梓

Come away; poverty's catching.

Aphra Behn

離開吧，窮是會惹上的啊。

——貝 恩

come back to 回想到～，回到～

Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only ten of them.

H. L. Mencken

不管你怎麼說那十誡也罷，總要想到那令人高興的事實——那就是，只不過十項罷了。

——孟 肯

come between 走進～之間

Marriage resembles a pair of shears, so joined that they cannot be separated; often moving in opposite directions, yet always punishing anyone who comes between them. *Sydney Smith*

結婚好比一把大剪刀，連在一塊兒分不開來，雖然時時朝相反的方向動，但對走進其間的人，則常常會加以懲罰。

——史密斯

a pair of 不單止用於由兩個部分構成的 scissors(剪刀)、spectacles(眼鏡)、trousers(長褲)之類的東西，也用於分作兩段或兩組的物體，例如 a pair of stairs(兩段樓梯)等等。

☆ so ~ that one can

come down a street 在街上走過來

When you see a married couple coming down the street, the one

Life is the art of drawing sufficient conclusions from insufficient premises.

S. Butler

人生是從不充分的前提引伸出充分的結論的藝術。

——巴特勒

reach a conclusion 達到結論

If all economists were laid end to end, they would not reach a conclusion.

Bernard Shaw

即使所有的經濟學家排成一列，他們也不會達到結論的吧。

——蕭伯納

Did you all arrive at the same conclusion at the end of your debate on the political situation?—Not at all. Some of us arrived at the hospital and others at the police station. 在你們關於政治形勢的討論結束之時，你們全體達到了同一結論嗎？——那裏那裏。我們之中，一部分人達到（進）了醫院，其餘的達到（關進）了警察局呢。

☆ end to end / at the end of / at all / arrive at

be condemned to （命中）註定～，被宣判為～

Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.

George Santayana

不能牢記往事的人，是註定要重蹈覆轍的。

——桑塔雅納

He was condemned to death. 他被宣判了死刑。

Whatever may be God's future, we cannot forget His past.

William H. Mallock

無論上帝的未來是什麼，我們不會忘記他的過去。——馬洛克

be in (a) condition to do 處於可以做～的狀態

此句，本應用 *consist in* 則較為容易明白。

The doctor has a good bedside manner. 那醫生善於處理病人。

God heals, and the doctor takes the fee. *Franklin*

上帝治病，醫生收費。

——富蘭克林

☆ *have a good bedside manner*

contempt for wealth

God shows his contempt for wealth by the kind of person he selects to receive it. *O'Malley*

上帝爲了顯示他對財富的輕蔑，而選出那種去接受它〔財富〕的人。

——奧馬利

If Heaven had looked upon riches to be a valuable thing, it would not have given them to such a scoundrel. *Swift*

假使上天認為財富是有價值的東西的話，它就不會將之給予這樣的一個惡棍的吧。

——斯威夫特

☆ *the kind of / look upon*

contend for 爲～鬥爭

When the people contend for their liberty they seldom get anything by their victory but new masters. *Halifax*

當人們爲自由而鬥爭之時，在勝利後，除了新主子之外幾乎得不到什麼。

——哈利法克斯

be content to do 滿足於做～，願意做～

If it is more blessed to give than to receive, then most of us are content to let the other fellow have the greater blessing.

Shailer Mathews

假如施予比接受更受到祝福的話，我們大多數都情願讓其他的人得到更大的祝福。

——馬修斯

They looked so funny that I could not *keep my countenance*.

他們的樣子是那末滑稽，至使我再也忍不住笑了。

☆ *at court / keep one's word / so ~ that*

in the country 在鄉下

Flowers are as common in the country as people are in London.

Oscar Wilde

正如倫敦有的是人一般，鄉下有的是花。

——王爾德

Flowers are the sweetest things that God ever made and forgot to put a soul into. *H. W. Beecher*

花卉，是由上帝創造而忘記注入靈魂的最甜蜜的東西。

——比 徹

☆ *as ~ as*

a couple of 一對～，兩三個～

The fellow that tells a good story always has to listen to a couple of poor ones.

Kin Hubbard

會講一個好故事的人，總要聽上兩、三個無聊的故事。

——金·哈伯德

He hasn't actually kissed me yet, but he steamed my glasses a couple of times. 他並沒有真的吻過我，可是他把我的眼鏡兒給弄模糊了兩、三次。

☆ *have to / listen to*

have courage 有勇氣

No man in the world has more courage than the man who can stop after eating one peanut.

Pollock

至於離婚，是雙方經過深入了解之後的結果。

from day to day 天天，日復一日

That's the reason they're called lessons, because they lessen from day to day.

Lewis Carroll

其所以被稱為 lesson (功課) 的理由，是因為日見其 lessen (減少)。

——卡洛爾

這是以 lesson 與 lessen 為雙關語打的趣。

You have been worse *from day to day*. 你的情形每下愈況。

have one's day 走運，正當得意之時

Every dogma must have its day.

Carolyn Wells

每一種教條自有其得意之時。

——韋爾斯

這是借用諺語 *Every dog has his day* (狗有狗運) 滑稽化的俏皮話，由於發音相近，以 dogma 喻 dog。

Any stigma will do to beat a dogma. *Guedalla*

一點漏洞，足可打破教條。

——吉達拉

Dogmatism is puppyism come to its full growth. *D. Jerrold*

教條主義是自高自大的全副面目。

——杰羅爾德

〔妙處在於 dog 是“狗”，而 puppy 是“小狗”，因而 come to its full growth “完全成長”才有意思〕

☆ come to

on the same day 在同一天

I kissed my first woman and smoked my first cigarette on the same day; I have never had time for tobacco since.

Arturo Toscanini

我在第一次吻女人的同一天裏第一次抽香烟，以後就再也沒空抽烟絲啦。

——托斯卡尼尼

to death 至死

There are more ways of killing a man's love than by strangling it to death, but that's the usual way. *Helen Rowland*

除窒息至死外，還有很多方法殺死男人的愛，但這是通常的方法。
——羅蘭

可參閱第 536 頁。

get into debt 借錢，負債

Some people use one half their ingenuity to get into debt, and the other half to avoid paying it. *G. D. Prentice*

有些人把一半智謀用來借錢，另一半則用來逃債。

——普倫蒂斯

以 debt 字構成的成語，另有，a debt of honour（賭債）、pay one's debt to nature（死），也頗有意思。

run into debt 借錢，負債

Never run into debt, not if you can find anything else to run into.

Josh Billings

情願陷入其他羅網，也千萬勿陷於負債之中。

——比林斯

out of debt 沒有負債，還清債務

God forbid that I should be out of debt, as if, indeed, I could not be trusted. *François Rabelais*

但願我不至沒有分文債務，不然的話，我豈不是等於沒有分文信用？
——拉布雷

☆ God forbid! [决不!]

的數字而定。

——詹姆士

☆ unite A with B [結合A與B]

2. The size of a woman's stomach depends largely on her surroundings.

Eugene Field

女性的胃口有多大，主要看她所處的環境而定。

——菲爾德

Act according to circumstances. 見機行事吧。

The happiness of a married man depends on the people he has not married. *Wilde*

已婚男性的幸福，要看看沒有和他結婚的（女）人們如何而定。

——王爾德

☆ according to

depend on [upon] it 不錯，毫無疑問地

If your morals make you dreary, depend on it they are wrong.

Robert Louis Stevenson

如果你的品行使你覺得陰鬱的話，毫無疑問地，那是品行之錯。

——斯蒂文生

An Englishman thinks he is moral when he is only uncomfortable. *Shaw*

當英國人只不過覺得不愉快之時，他會認為自己是合乎道德的。

——蕭伯納

deprive a person of 奪去某人的～

The worst thing you can possibly do to a woman is to deprive her of a grievance.

B. Nichols

你能够對一個女人做得到的最壞的事，是奪去她的傷心事兒。

——尼科爾斯

They're unhappy if they don't have something to be unhappy about. 假使沒有一些令他們不快的事情，他們就覺得不快樂了。