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掌握美国常用习语

E.埃琳·埃尔玛基斯 著 董启明 译注

Catching On to American Idioms 2nd ed.



通过对话掌握美国常用习语
英文释义和用法例句助你透彻理解

- ◆ 英汉习语表，你的好帮手
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Catching On to American Idioms
Second Edition

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[美]E. 埃琳·埃尔玛基斯 著

董启明 译注

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Catching On to American Idioms Second Edition

Esther Ellin-Elmakias

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Preface

Because idioms are used extensively in everyday speech, it is necessary to have a good understanding of their meanings and to be able to use them properly and easily. *Catching On to American Idioms* provides the student with such experiences and the practice in usage necessary to gain needed understanding and facility.

The second edition of *Catching On to American Idioms* is divided into fifteen lessons with a review section after every five lessons. Each of the fifteen lessons is limited to twelve idioms, a comfortable number to comprehend at one time. The idioms are first used in a dialogue and then defined. These dialogues allow the student to follow David and Ana through various situations and emotions from "Moving Ahead" to "Settling Down." The definitions for each idiom are followed by a sentence that further clarifies the idiom. A variety of ample oral and written exercises in context follow. The oral exercises enable students to express themselves and to hear others. The written exercises offer them time to think about the expressions, to understand them at their own rate, and to review and/or learn grammar. A unique feature of *Catching On to American Idioms* is that most exercises, except the last two, revolve around the dialogue. This enables the student to fully comprehend and use the twelve idioms before going on to the next lesson. To facilitate self-study, an answer key is provided at the end of the text.

Even though some idioms have more than one definition, only one is focused on in each lesson. This format enables the student to grasp the idiom in that particular meaning and to feel comfortable with it. It also eliminates confusion and frustration.

Catching On to American Idioms is primarily geared toward the intermediate or advanced non-English-speaking student. It can also be very beneficial for, and easily integrated into, other forms of education in junior high schools, high schools, or universities.

前 言

习语在日常谈话中使用极其广泛,因此有必要充分理解其意义,从而达到恰当、自然地使用它们的目的。《掌握美国常用习语》一书为学生提供了使用习语的经验 and 实践。这对于学生正确理解和使用习语是非常必要的。

《掌握美国常用习语》第2版共有15课,每5课后有一个复习章节。每课只收录12个习语。记住这12个习语对学生来说并不困难。习语首先出现在一段对话中,然后是这些习语的释义。在这些对话中,学生跟随安和大卫从第1课《向前进发》到第15课《安家落户》在各种场景和情感中漫游。每个习语的释义后有一个例句及其解释。这样做使这个习语的意思更加明了。在这之后是各种场合下的口头和笔头练习。口头练习能提高学生的听说能力;笔头练习给予他们足够的时间去思考这些表达法,以他们自己的方式去理解它们,同时也复习和学习了相关的语法现象。《掌握美国常用习语》一书的特点是除了最后两组练习外,其余所有练习都是围绕着课文中的对话进行的。这样做使学生在学下一课之前能够充分理解和正确使用刚学过的这12个习语。为便于自学,书后附有练习答案。

尽管有些习语有多个释义,但每课书中我们只集中讲其中的一个。这种安排能使学生掌握这个特殊意思,从而感到满足。这样做也能防止混淆词意和因学不会而产生失落感。

《掌握美国常用习语》一书主要是针对非英语国家具有中级英语水平的学生编写的。本书也可用于初中、高中和大学里其他形式的教学活动。

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目 录

Lesson 1

Moving Ahead	(1)
向前进发	

Lesson 2

Let's Give It All We've Got!	(13)
咱们全力以赴!	

Lesson 3

You've Got What It Takes!	(27)
你是好样的!	

Lesson 4

Giving It Your Best Shot	(41)
你要尽最大努力!	

Lesson 5

Behind the Wheel	(55)
开车	

Review of Lessons 1 - 5	(69)
1 ~ 5 课复习	

Lesson 6

As Hungry as a Horse	(75)
饿极了	

Lesson 7

On Its Last Legs	(89)
奄奄一息	

Lesson 8

A Good Buy	(103)
------------------	-------

便宜货

Lesson 9

Putting Our Heads Together (117)

集思广益

Lesson 10

Running Out of Just About Everything (131)

所剩无几

Review of Lessons 6 – 10 (145)

6 ~ 10 课复习

Lesson 11

Catching the Flu (151)

得了流感

Lesson 12

Heading up to the Mountains (165)

上山去

Lesson 13

Keeping in Touch (179)

保持联系

Lesson 14

Mapping out a Vacation (193)

安排度假

Lesson 15

Settling Down (207)

安家落户

Review of Lessons 11 – 15 (221)

11 ~ 15 课复习

Appendix of Separable Idioms (227)

可分开习语表

Answer Key (229)

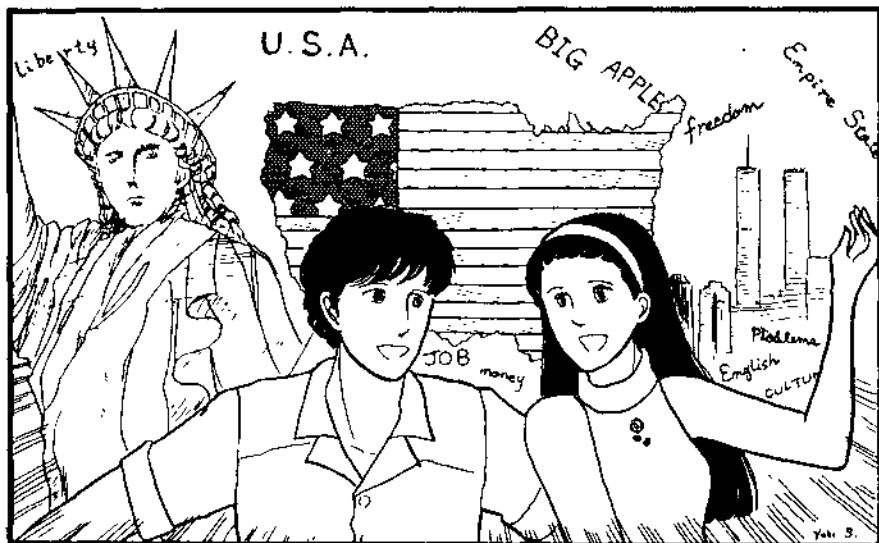
练习答案

Index to Idioms (251)

习语索引

Lesson 1

Moving Ahead



Ana: David, do you remember how we felt when we arrived *by air* some months ago?

David: I certainly do, Ana! I recall how *tired out* and confused we were!

Ana: Yes, but very excited, too.

David: That we were! We had marvelous visions of life in the United States, didn't we? Remember how we always discussed our dreams of *making out* well?

Ana: Yes, I do, David. We had really *counted on moving ahead* quickly, but it's just not that easy, is it?

David: That's for sure. For new arrivals like us, there are plenty of difficulties *to get through*.

Ana: Like *getting used to* the culture and *having to* correct our *broken English*!

David: And so many times of feeling *mixed up* about *which way to turn*.

Ana: Patience and hard work have been our answers, David. And *little by little* we are succeeding.

Definitions

by air: in an airplane, by airplane, via airplane (plane)

They went to Washington, D.C. by air. They traveled in an airplane.

tired out: very fatigued, exhausted, overtired

He was tired out from his trip to the mountains. He was exhausted.

to make out: to do, to manage, to handle affairs, to be successful

She is making out well in the United States. She is doing well.

to count on: to expect to, to anticipate, to rely on

We counted on being there by noon. We expected to be there by noon.

to move ahead: to work toward a goal, to do well, to proceed, to succeed

He tried to move ahead at the company. He tried to get a better position.

to get through: to survive, to endure, to tolerate

It's not easy to get through the northern winter. It's not easy to endure it.

to get used to (to be used to): to become accustomed to, to adjust to, to become familiar with

Eventually we got used to the climate. Eventually we adjusted to it.

to have to (to have got to): must, to be required to, to be forced to

We have to find a new place to live. We must find a new place to live.

broken English: incorrect English, poor English grammar and syntax

They still speak broken English. Their English grammar is still incorrect.

mixed up: confused, perplexed, confounded

I am totally mixed up when I study English. I am totally confused when I study English.

which way to turn: which choice to make, what to do, what to decide

He didn't know which way to turn after losing his job. He didn't know what to do after losing his job.

little by little: gradually, by slow degrees

Little by little their savings grew. Gradually, they saved more money.

None of these idioms may be separated by the object.

Exercise 1

Answer these questions from the dialogue orally.

1. When did David and Ana arrive by air?
2. Why do you think they were tired out?
3. Where did they hope to make out well?
4. What had they counted on?
5. What must David and Ana get through to move ahead?
6. What do they have to correct?
7. Why do you think David and Ana speak broken English?
8. What do they have to get used to?
9. What do you think David and Ana feel mixed up about?
10. Why wouldn't they know which way to turn?
11. What are they doing little by little?

Exercise 2

Write the idioms from the dialogue that correspond to the words in parentheses.

1. David and Ana arrived (in an airplane) _____ some months ago.
2. They were (exhausted) _____ and confused.
3. They had dreams of (managing) _____ well in the United States.
4. They had (expected to) _____ succeeding quickly.
5. (Succeeding) _____ quickly is not that easy.
6. Most new arrivals have difficult times (to endure) _____.
7. (Adjusting to) _____ the culture can be difficult.
8. David and Ana (must) _____ improve their English.
9. They must correct their (incorrect English) _____.

Lesson 1

10. Sometimes they feel (confused) _____ about what to do.
11. They don't know (which choice to make) _____.
12. (Gradually) _____ they are succeeding.

Exercise 3

Answer these questions orally.

1. Were you tired out after your journey to the United States? Why?
2. Did you arrive by air or by another means of transportation?
3. Did you speak broken English when you first arrived?
4. Is your English still improving little by little? How?
5. What kind of difficulties did you have to get through?
6. In what ways are you still getting used to the culture of the United States?
7. Do you feel mixed up about the reactions of people?
8. In what situations haven't you known which way to turn?
9. What helps a person to move ahead quickly?
10. How are you making out on your job? Explain.
11. What are you counting on achieving in the United States?

Exercise 4

Match the idiom to its definition by writing the letter of the definition on the line next to the idiom number.

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| 1. _____ to have to | a. adjust to |
| 2. _____ which way to turn | b. to survive |
| 3. _____ mixed up | c. to succeed |
| 4. _____ to count on | d. very fatigued |
| 5. _____ broken English | e. via airplane |

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 6. _____ by air | f. to anticipate |
| 7. _____ to get through | g. gradually |
| 8. _____ to make out | h. confused |
| 9. _____ little by little | i. must |
| 10. _____ tired out | j. what to do |
| 11. _____ to get used to | k. incorrect English |
| 12. _____ to move ahead | l. to manage |

Exercise 5

Respond to these statements orally.

1. Name two items you got used to quickly in the United States.
2. Name two occasions when you were tired out.
3. Name one difficulty you had to get through.
4. Name three things you have to do daily.
5. Name two things you counted on doing in the United States.
6. Give two ways to make out well on the job.

Exercise 6

Underline the words in parentheses that best correspond to the italicized idioms.

1. He didn't know *which way to turn* when he couldn't find a job. He didn't know (what to do, how to endure it, the job location).
2. They *got through* the hot, humid summer. They (couldn't endure, tolerated, were enthusiastic about) the summer.
3. Ana was *tired out* after the trip. She was (hardly tired, a little tired, very tired).
4. David *is used to* the American culture. He is (barely aware of, unfamiliar with, accustomed to) the culture.
5. He *has to* find a job soon. He (did, must, might) find a job.
6. We *counted on* doing well. We (were confused about, were not sure about, anticipated) doing well.

7. We came *by air*. We came in a (taxi, boat, plane).
8. They were very *mixed up* about the system of education in the United States. They were (sure, perplexed, determined) about it.
9. She spoke *broken English*. Her English was (excellent, good, poor).
10. I hope *to move ahead* quickly on my job. I hope to (make choices, survive, do well).
11. *Little by little* his wages increase. His wages increase (slowly, rapidly, suddenly).
12. David *is making out* well on his new job. He is (surviving, successful, hardly managing).

Exercise 7

Reread the dialogue. Tell the story in your own words using the idioms.

Exercise 8

Complete the second sentence by substituting idioms for the italicized words.

1. She is *adjusting to* the new living conditions.
She is _____ the new living conditions.
2. Correcting *incorrect English* requires time and patience.
Correcting _____ requires time and patience.
3. They are *confused about* what to do.
They are _____ about what to do.
4. We *proceeded* in our plans to buy a new house.
We _____ in our plans to buy a new house.
5. He didn't know *what to do* when he lost his wallet.
He didn't know _____ when he lost his wallet.
6. I *must* prepare my lessons for tomorrow.
I _____ prepare my lessons for tomorrow.

7. How did you *do* at the job interview?

How did you _____ at the job interview?

8. I *anticipated* arriving at the airport one hour early.

I _____ arriving at the airport one hour early.

9. *Gradually*, we adjusted to the different customs.

_____ we adjusted to the different customs.

10. David was *exhausted* from job hunting.

David was _____ from job hunting.

11. All luggage will go *via plane*.

All luggage will go _____.

12. They *survived* the period of adjustment.

They _____ the period of adjustment.

Exercise 9

Change these sentences to the future tense. Use *will*.

Example: His broken English *is* difficult to understand.

His broken English will be difficult to understand.

1. Little by little, he *adjusted* to the American culture.

Little by little, he _____ to the American culture.

2. David *was* tired out from the long journey.

David _____ tired out from the long journey.

3. Her grandmother *sent* four packages by air.

Her grandmother _____ four packages by air.

4. He *had counted* on finishing the job early.

He _____ on finishing the job early.

5. She *is moving* ahead at a rapid pace.

She _____ ahead at a rapid pace.

6. She *makes* out well in her profession.

She _____ out well in her profession.

7. Their broken English *improved* quickly.

Their broken English _____ quickly.

8. They *got* used to the different customs.

They _____ used to the different customs.

9. Do you think he's mixed up?

Do you think he _____ mixed up?

10. David *has* to attend classes for ten weeks.

David _____ to attend classes for ten weeks.

11. They *got* through their difficulties.

They _____ through their difficulties.

12. We *don't* know which way to turn.

We _____ know which way to turn.

Exercise 10

Complete the idiom phrase in each sentence.

1. He was very tired _____ from working long hours.
2. When I study English grammar, I get mixed _____.
3. She's counting _____ having a good job.