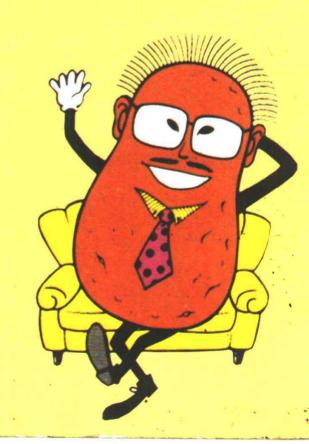


# 美国习语 俚语 插图词典

Shawn & Marilyn Holley 著 呂志士 胡 军等 译

清华大学出版社



# The Illustrated Dictionary of (600) English Idions.

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# 出版说明

学习语言,如果只注重读写,而没有口语表达能力,那么交际就会受到很大限制。这个道理已引起了很多英语学习者的重视,但在目前的口语学习中,大多数学习者却往往只能将所学的书面表达方法用在口语上,结果口语表达既生硬又不得体,甚至会引起误解。

我们认为,要掌握一门语言,对它的惯用语(set phrases and expessions)是不可忽视的。这里所指的惯用语包括短语(phrases)、非正式的习惯用语(informal phrases)、谚语(proverbs)和俚语(slang)等。学习和使用惯用语有很多好处:可以使人通过简单的语句表现有时难以言传的复杂意义;可以使人更亲切自然地表达自己,迅速拉近与交谈者的距离……更重要的是,通过对惯用语的学习,可以为学习者提供一个深入了解他国文化的特殊视野和有效途径,而这一点对于掌握地道流畅、符合语言习惯的外语来说是至关重要的。

本书原为英日对照,作者 Shawn and Marilyn Holley 是一对美国夫妇,曾受聘在日本任教。其间,他发现许多日本学生知道相当多的英语单词(有些甚至连美国人都不认识),而其英语表达能力却相当有限。这使他们对英语的教学方法产生了疑问。于是,他们利用工作之余写下了《口语表达》、《日常生活英语表达集》,以及这本《美国习语、俚语插图词典》等一大批包括后来成为日本最畅销英语书的口语书。作者所认识到的日本学习者在英语学习中的这种反常现象,在中国学习者身上也同样存在,

甚至有过之而无不及。这也正是我们热忱地将此书翻译过来, 介绍给中国读者的重要原因和直接动力。

本书收录了美国口语中使用频率最高的 600 条习语、俚语。 编者在编写过程非常注重所选词条的知识性和趣味性,并为每 个词配了插图,使读者能通过图的联想,牢记词的意思。

本书适合广大英语学习者及出国人员使用。

清华大学出版社补语室 1996年10月

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# 前言

日本朋友们, 你们好!

你们想知道美国英语的 600 个秘密吗?

我们这本书是特意为日本人而写的,旨在起一个文化桥梁作用,使你们了解美国最为常用的习语。英语语言中有成千的习语和俚语,因此美国人在日常谈话中经常使用习语和俚语是不足为奇的。但是这些习语和俚语的大部分对外国人来说却是陌生的。

《美国习语、俚语插图词典》是一本别出新裁的书,收集了英语语言中最可笑、最有趣味的 600 条习语和俚语。本书具有知识性和趣味性。每个词都附有插图,使读者通过图的联想,牢记词的意思。

本书对学生,从事贸易的人,当然还包括任何和美国人有交往或者想与之交往的人,都极有帮助。书中的词语约90%是名词,用法非常简单。用法可能不那么清楚的地方,我们都举例加以说明。本书中的所有词汇男女老少在任何场合都可以用。我们删去了那些一般来说令人感到冒犯的词语。书中有些习语有几百年的历史,而另一些则仅仅产生于几年之前。我们尽量收入一些新词语。除几个例外,书中所有材料在美国一般来说都是标准用法。我们尽量使本书使用起来简便、容易。词语按字母顺序排列。我们希望你们读此书时就像我们写此书时一样饶有兴趣。请记住——要想使人印象深刻,就使用习语! 祝你们好运!

肖恩 和 玛里琳·霍利

#### INTRODUCTION

To our Japanese friends, "Hello, Again!"

#### Would you like to know 600 secrets about American English?

We wrote this book especially for Japanese people, to be used as a cultural bridge of inside information about the most powerful slang expressions used in America. Because there are thousands of idioms and slang words in the English language, it is not surprising that Americans use them often in everyday speech. But most of them remain unknown to foreign people.

Beikaiwa Kimarihyogen Etokijiten is a rare collection of 600 of the funniest, most interesting slang expressions ever assembled in the English language. This book is designed to be both entertaining as well as informative. Each word has been illustrated to maximize the reader's ability to memorize by picture-association.

This book should be very useful to students, businessmen, and of course, anyone who talks, or would like to talk to Americans. About 90% of the words in this book are nouns, making their usage very simple. We've included example sentences where the usage may not be so clear. All the words in this book can be used by both men and women in all cases. We have omitted words that are generally offensive. Some of the expressions in this book are hundreds of years old, while others go back only a few years or so. We tried to include as

many new words as possible. With few exceptions, all the material in this book is generally standard across America. We tried to make this book as easy to use as possible. All the words are arranged in alphabetical order. We hope you enjoy reading this as much as we enjoyed writing it. Remember - when you want to make an impression, use an expression! Good luck!!

Shawn & Marilyn Holley

# 使用美国习语的九大好处

- 1. 研究美国习语会使人洞察美国文化的特殊内涵。
- 2. 美国习语和俚语使用方便,因为它们通过更为人所熟悉的方式来表情达意。它们是用简单的词或短语来表达复杂意思的一种手段。
- 3. 由于美国英语总是不断地在变化,研究习语就会了解美国市场和社会潮流的方向。美国英语每年都会增加新的习语。
- 4. 我们正在步入 21 世纪, 日美之间的关系日趋重要, 懂得地道的语言和俚语将是一个优势——会讲英语的人在和美国人的商业交往中成功率可能会高出 5 倍多。
- 5. 遇见美国人时, 习语"break the ice"(打破僵局), 会使这种场合显得更加轻松。
- 6. 本书的习语和俚语会增加你的词汇量,并为将来的交谈提供 一些帮助。
- 7. 美国习语很有趣味,有些甚至很是妙趣横生。
- 8. 一个人, 特别是一个说外国语时使用习语的人, 人们会记住不忘! 因为一个好的习语或俚语比十几个普通词更令人难以忘却。就我而言, 当我听到一个日本人使用一个据我所知大多数日本人不懂得的美国习语时我会得到深刻的印象。
- 9. 一个日本人使用美国俚语和习语听起来会很文雅,很有见识。

肖恩和玛里琳·霍利

#### Nine Advantages of Using American Idioms

- 1. The study of American idioms gives the reader a special insight into American culture.
- 2. American idioms and slang are convenient in because they put the point across in a more familiar manner. They are a way to express a difficult meaning with a simple word or phrase.
- 3. Because American English is constantly changing, the study of idioms indicates new directions in American markets and trends. The American English language adds new idioms every year.
- 4. As we move into the 21st century and ties between Japan and America become increasingly important, the understanding of idiomatic language and slang will be an advantage—people who speak English are 5 times more likely to be successful in business dealings with Americans.
- 5. Idioms "break the ice" and make it easier to relax when meeting Americans.
- 6. The idioms and slang in this book build your vocabulary and give you ideas for future conversations.
- 7. American idioms are fun and sometimes even hilarious!
- 8. People remember a person, especially a foreign-speaking person, who uses idioms! Because one good idiom or slang word is more memorable than a dozen ordinary words. I know I'm impressed when I hear a Japanese person use an American idiom that I know most Japanese don't know!
- 9. The use of American slang and idioms makes a Japanese person sound educated and international.

Shawn & Marilyn Holley

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# 1. Ace in the hole (from stud poker) 王牌;秘密的法宝



- [Sl.] Any advantage held in reserve until needed.
- That spare can of gas in the trunk was our ace in the hole.
- □后背箱里那罐剩余的汽油是我们最后的 储备。

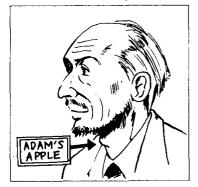
## 2. Act of God 天意;天灾



A disaster that is due entirely to the forces of nature and that could not reasonably have been prevented.

- The destruction of the village must have been an **act of God**.
- □那座村庄的毁灭一定是天灾造成的。

### 3. Adam's apple 喉结



The projection formed in the front of the throat by the thyroid cartilage: seen chiefly in men

- My mother loves Charlton Heston's adam's apple.
- □ 我妈妈非常喜欢查尔顿· 黑尔顿的喉结。

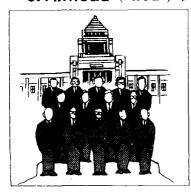
# 4. Ad-lib (ad'lib') 即兴表演



[Colloq.] To improvise words, gestures, etc. not in a prepared speech, script, etc.

- ☐ The speaker had to **ad-lib** his speech, when his papers suddenly blew off the podium.
- □ 当演讲稿突然掉下讲台时,演讲者不得不现编词。

# 5. Airhead (-hed') 浅薄、无知、愚蠢的人



- [Sl.] A frivolous, silly, and ignorant person.
- Boy, that salesman was the biggest airhead I've ever seen.
- □好家伙,那个男售货员是我见过的最愚蠢的人。

#### 6. All thumbs 笨手笨脚的;手太笨的



A state of clumsiness, bad hand coordination.

- ☐I'm all thumbs today.
- □我今天真是笨手笨脚的。

# 7. Alley-oop (al'e oop) 妙传,精采的喂球



Basketball - a high, lobbed pass to a teammate near the basket who attempts a slam dunk or a tip in.

- ☐ The team's center recieved an **alley-oop** from the guard and slam-dunked the ball for a quick two points.
- □球队中锋接到一个后卫的妙传,他迅速 扣篮很快地得到两分。

#### 8. Ambulance-chaser 怂勇事故受害者起诉的律师



[Colloq.] A lawyer who tries to gain clients by encouraging accident victims to sue for damages.

- Beware of that lawyer, I hear he's an ambulance-chaser.
- □小心那位律师,我听说他是个怂恿 受害者起诉的律师。

#### 9. Armchair quarterback 场外四分卫,爱瞎指挥的人



A person who is not a quarterback, etc., but offers opinions and criticism on the performance or decisions of those who are.

- ☐ John's father always tells you his opinion; he's an armchair quarterback.
- □约翰的父亲总是爱发表自己的意见, 他是个爱指手划脚的人。

#### 10. Atomic cocktail

#### 含放射性物质的吞服剂



A dose of medicine to be swallowed containing a radioactive element used in medical treatment and diagnosis of cancer.

- When I was in the hospital, the doctor gave me an 'atomic' cocktail.
- □我在医院时,大夫给我喝一种 含放射性物质的吞服剂。

Eager beaver Early bird Easy-going Easy street Early one basket Egg-head Eggs Eightball Elbow grease Elbow from Empty-the town we're no Even-steven Eye-catcher Eye-opener Eye-sore

Jack of all trades Jackpot Jam Frank killer Perfect pitch ook itch Joe Blow John Henry Junk food Junkie

Dreamland Drain in the neck Pay dirt Perfect pitch ook itch Joe Blow John Henry Sallow talk to comply Panic button Paper-han-but talk primetime Peel rubber Peeping Tom Frace life fial Penny pinn ber Pig on Plus Primetime Peel rubber Peeping Tom Frack fall Normal pusher Pig on Plus Pop the question Pot luck dinner Eger Pencil pusher Pound the pulph Punch Heat wave Hen peek Hexday High on the hog High rollepit stop Home stretch Honky-tonk Hoop Hot air Hot cakes Hot potato Hot roll (ePucket up) Home stretch Honky-tonk Hoop Hot air Hot cakes Hot potato Hot roll (ePucket up) seat Hot shot Hot spot Hotwire Humble pie Humdinger Humongous

# 11. Baby boomer (boo'mer) 生育高峰期出生的人



A person born in the U.S. during the great increase in birth rate (the baby boom) in the years following World War II.

- ☐ The baby boom years in the U. S. were from 1945—1964.
- □美国的生育高峰期是从 1945 年 到 1964 年。

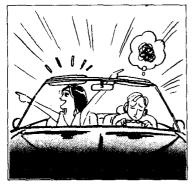
### 12. Back burner (on the) 暂时停止, 暂时不予重视



From the idea of putting a pot on a back burner of a stove to keep its contents warm. A state of temporary suspension, low priority, etc.

- ☐ I'll put the car repairs on the **back burner** for now.
- □我把这车的修理暂时放一放。

# 13. Back-seat driver 对驾驶员指手画脚的人



A passenger in an automobile who offers unwanted advice about driving.

☐ I hate to drive with Yuki in the car. He's a back-seat driver.

□我讨厌我开车时愚基坐在车里, 他是个爱对司机指手画脚的人。

# 14. Back-slapper 过分亲热或友好的人



[Colloq.] A person who is friendly in a way that is effusive or too hearty.

- You can meet a lot of back-slapper in Tennessee.
- □在田纳西州你会遇到许多对你 过分亲热的人。

### 15. Ball park figure 大致正确的估计,近似数



An estimate, figure, etc. that is thought to be fairly accurate.

- The real estate agent gave me a ball park figure on the house.
- □这位房地产代理商给了我关于 这间房屋的大致估价。