



简明英汉成语词典

A CONCISE DICTIONARY OF
ENGLISH IDIOMS AND PHRASES

商 务 印 书 馆



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南京大学外文系英语教研室編

郭斌和 沈同洽 梁士純审訂

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內 容 提 要

《簡明英漢成語詞典》共收成語三千七百餘條。選輯的成語以現代英語中通用的為主，並特別着重短語動詞（動詞加介詞，動詞加副詞）和介詞短語。每一成語除譯義外，均加附例句，說明用法；如有幾個意義，則每個意義都有一條或數條例句。例句選自國內外書報雜誌以及成語詞典，並譯附漢語。

本詞典主要供大、中學生及一般英語學習者使用。

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前 言

这部簡明英汉成語詞典是在党的社会主义建設总路綫的光輝照耀下，我們英語教研室全体同志集体劳动的小小成果。

多年来在英語教学中，我們深深感到正确理解与使用英語成語是中国人学习英語的难点之一。因此一部切实可用的英語成語詞典是每一个英語工作者及英語爱好者所迫切需要的。在全国大跃进形势的鼓舞下，我們在 1959 年秋应商务印书館之約，接受了編写这一部簡明英汉成語詞典的任务。

在編写过程中我們除了閱讀大量国内外书报杂志外，并參閱了国内外出版的各种成語詞典，然后分組选择成語，分条加以整理，結合实际，編写例句，力求明了确切，并将例句譯成汉语。在寒、暑假期中又作了进一步的校訂与补充。

由于我們經驗不足，時間比較仓促，虽經几次校閱，难免仍有錯誤，希望讀者多多提出批評与意見，以便再版时加以改进，力求完善。

南京大学外文系英語教研室

用法說明

1. 本詞典所收录的成語，均按英語字母順序排列。
2. 以冠詞 a, an 或 the 开头的成語，一律排在 A 字部或 T 字部的有关条目下。例如 a finger in the pie, 以 a 作为第一詞，排在 A 字部；a good hand at 亦以 a 为第一詞，排在 A 字部；the apple of one's eye, 則以 the 为第一詞，排在 T 字部；余类推。
3. 由“形容詞加介詞”組成的成語，以該形容詞为第一詞，順序排列。例如 free from 这个短語不管它用作表語或定語等，都以 free 为第一詞順序排列；fond of 亦以 fond 为排列次序的第一詞，見 F 字部。
4. 由“動詞 get, have, take 等加名詞（有时再加介詞）”組合而成的成語，分別以 get, have, take 等作为第一詞排列。例如成語 get a glimpse of 按第一詞 get 順序排列；成語 have an eye to 按第一詞 have 順序排列；take a turn 按第一詞 take 順序排列，等等。
5. 由“動詞加介詞”或“動詞加副詞”組合而成的成語，一律以各該動詞为第一詞，并在成語后附加動詞不定式的标志“to”。
6. 由“動詞过去分詞加介詞”組合而成的成語，以該过去分詞为第一詞，而在成語后面附加“to be”的字样。例如 based on 以 based 为第一詞順序排列，写成“based on, to be”；convinced of 以 convinced 为第一詞順序排列，写成“convinced of, to be”，等等。
7. 由“介詞加名詞”或由“介詞加名詞加介詞”构成的成語，一律以該介詞为第一詞順序排列，例如 on the

move 以 on 为第一詞順序排列; in accord with 以 in 为第一詞順序排列.

8. 凡成語中有些詞可用他詞代替的, 这些代替的詞放在方括号內; 凡是可有可无的詞, 都放在圆括号內.
9. 成語中人称代詞都用 one 或 one's 表示, 成語中及物動詞需要宾語时用 someone 或 something 表示.
10. 圆括号內的“+”表示对成語的簡單用法說明.

A

a bag of bones 骨瘦如柴的人:

He had been so severely attacked by malignant malaria that he was just *a bag of bones*. 他曾患了严重的恶性疟疾,以致骨瘦如柴.

a battle of wits 一場斗智:

They argued for hours but finally both were convinced that their arguments really supplemented each other; it was *a real battle of wits*. 他們爭辯了好几个小时,最后两人都承认他們爭辯中的論点实际上起着相互补充的作用,这真是一场斗智.

a bird's-eye view 鳥瞰; 概況:

From the aeroplane we obtained *a bird's-eye view* of the city. 从飞机上我們可以俯瞰全城.

a bitter pill to swallow 难于接受的苦事:

To the proud general such sharp criticism is *a bitter pill to swallow*. 对于这个驕傲的將軍來說,这样尖銳的批評是一件难于接受的苦事.

a body of 一队; 一批; 大量:

I saw *a body of* men marching along. 我看見一队人向前走着.

He had *a large body of* facts to prove his statements. 他有大量事实証明他的說法.

a bolt from the blue 晴天霹靂:

The news came like *a bolt from the blue*. 这消息传来有如晴天霹靂.

a bone of contention 爭端:

In feudal society the division of family property was often *a bone of contention* between brothers. 在封建社会里,分家产常常造成兄弟之間的爭吵.

a capital [a crack, an excellent] hand at, to be ...的 能手; 善于:

You can hardly fancy what *a capital hand* she is *at* embroidery. 你很难想像她是多么精于刺綉.

He is *a crack hand at* wood-carving. 他是个木刻的能手.

a case in point 恰当的实例:

I tell you he has a real sense of discipline. His readiness to take up that work is *a case in point*. 他确有纪律的观念。他勇于接受那个工作就是一个恰好的例子。

a case [matter] of life and death 生死有关的事情:

We must take action immediately, for it is *a case of life and death*. 我們得馬上行动, 因为这是一件与生死有关的事情。

a cat's paw, to be 别人的爪牙:

He is not willing to be *a cat's paw*. 他不願意做别人的爪牙。

a change for the better [worse] 变好 [变坏]; 好轉 [恶化]:

There is *a change for the better* in the weather today. 今天天气好轉了。

a chip of the old block 完全像父亲的儿子:

He speaks and acts so much like his father, he is truly *a chip of the old block*. 他講話行动都和他的父亲一模一样, 真是从刻版上印出来一般。

a credit to..., to be ...的光荣:

Comrade Wang is *a credit to* our factory. 王同志是我們工厂的光荣。

a dead [crack] shot 神枪手:

He is very accurate in shooting, so they all call him *a dead shot*. 他射击非常准确, 因此他們大家称他神枪手。

a drop in the bucket [ocean] 九牛一毛:

In the U. S. annual budget of billions of dollars, the amount allotted for education is so pitifully small that it is but *a drop in the bucket*. 美国每年以巨亿計的預算中, 教育拨款小得可怜, 仅仅是九牛一毛而已。

a far cry (from) 悬殊; 大不相同:

The new bridge across the Yellow River at Chengchow is *a far cry* from the old one it has replaced. 郑州新黄河大桥与原有的老式旧桥比, 真是大不相同。

The much-vaunted freedom in the capitalist countries is *a far cry* from reality. 資本主义国家一再吹嘘的“自由”和现实有很大差别。

a fat lot <諷刺> 非常(实指“一点也不, 非常少”):

A fat lot you care. 你真是非常关心!

a feather in one's cap 荣誉; 值得夸耀的事:

To have your name inscribed on the Honours Roll is a *feather in your cap*. 你的名字上了光荣榜是足以自豪的事。

a fifty-fifty basis 平均分配:

We two shall divide the apples on a *fifty-fifty basis*. 我们两人平均分配这些苹果。

a finger in the pie 见 *have a finger in the pie*.

a fishy story 不可信的话; 无稽之谈:

What he has told us sounds like a *fishy story*, but actually it is true. 他所告诉我们的听来像是无稽之谈, 但实际上是真的。

a flash in the pan 曇花一現:

Hitler's iniquitous regime was a *flash in the pan*, contrary to his boast of a thousand-year Reich. ("Reich" is a German word meaning "Kingdom.") 和希特勒所自吹的江山万代相反, 他的万恶政权, 终究是曇花一現。

a flea in one's ear 刺耳的话; 諷刺:

When a comrade has made a mistake, we shouldn't send him away with a *flea in his ear*, but give him friendly advice instead. 有同志犯錯誤时, 我們不要用刺耳的话使他生气走开, 而是要給他善意的劝告。

a flood of 大量的:

The moon came up from behind the hills and bathed the city in a *flood of* moonlight. 月亮从山背后升起来, 全城沐浴在一片月光之中。

a fly in the ointment 杀风景; 扫兴之事:

We were having a picnic, when suddenly there came a downpour, which was rather a *fly in the ointment*. 当我们正在举行野餐的时候, 忽然大雨傾盆, 未免扫兴。

a fool's errand 不会有结果的差使; 毫无道理的事情:

He refused to undertake a *fool's errand*. 他拒絕干一件毫无道理的差使。

a free fight 混战; 大打出手:

Someone in the audience threw a cabbage at the white speaker, and the meeting ended in a *free fight*. 听众中有人向发言的白人扔洋白菜, 最后会议以混战而告收場。

a galaxy of 灿烂的一群:

The Tang dynasty produced a *galaxy of* outstanding poets and painters. 唐代产生了许多杰出的诗人和画家.

a good [great] deal of 很多:

The members of these people's communes have acquired a *good deal of* experience in making the best use of manpower. 这些人民公社的社员, 在充分使用人力上取得了许多经验.

a good hand at, to be ...的能手; 善于:

He is a *good hand at* table-tennis. 他是打乒乓球的能手.

a good while 好些时候:

The foreign delegation has been in this city for a *good while*. 外国代表团在本城已呆了好些时候.

a grain of truth 有点道理:

There was not a *grain of truth* in the American president's statement at the press conference. 美国总统在新闻记者招待会上的发言, 完全是假话.

a great deal 大大地:

The experts working on the building site helped us a *great deal* in guaranteeing the progress and quality of the projects. 在建筑工地上工作的专家们大大地有助于保证建设项目的进展和质量.

a great many 很多 (指数而言):

The pear tree in the yard bore a *great many* pears last year. 院子里的梨树去年结了许多梨子.

a hair's breadth 极短的距离; 间不容发; 丝毫:

Our team escaped defeat by a *hair's breadth*. 我们的球队几乎被打败了.

The marksman missed the bull's-eye by a *hair's breadth*. 那射击手仅差一点点儿没有击中靶心.

a handful of 少数:

This tremendous job cannot be done by a *handful of* experts; it is necessary to mobilize the masses to work on it together. 这件巨大的任务, 少数专家是不能完成的, 必须发动群众大家来做.

a hard nut to crack 难事; 棘手的问题:

I've put all the facts and figures before you. Try to work

it out, though I warn you it's *a hard nut to crack*. 我把所有的事实与数字都放在你面前了。你得设法解决这一问题。不过我要警告你, 这是一个难题。

The third question in the examination is *a hard nut to crack*. 考试的第三道题真是够难的了。

a heavy heart 沉重的心情:

He went to town this time with *a heavy heart*, for a dear comrade of his was seriously ill. 这次他是以沉重的心情进城去的, 因为他的一个亲爱的同志生了重病。

a helping hand 援助之手:

China is always ready to extend *a helping hand* to any oppressed people struggling for freedom. 中国任何时候都愿意向一个争取自由的被压迫民族伸出援助之手。

a host of 大量, 许许多多:

He has *a host of* friends. 他的朋友多得很。

We are faced with *a host of* difficulties. 我们面临着很多困难。

a household word 大家知道的名字:

Chairman Mao's name is *a household word* throughout China. 毛主席的名字在全中国是家喻户晓的。

a Jack of all trades 万能先生; 博而不专之人:

He had been *a Jack of all trades* but now he confined himself to architecture. 以前他什么都搞, 但后来他专攻建筑了。

a jarring [discordant] note 不调和, 不一致的事情:

The meeting went on without *a jarring note*. 会议在十分和谐的气氛中顺利进行。

a lie out of the whole cloth 彻头彻尾的谎言:

The imperialists' statement is but *a lie out of the whole cloth*; the imperialists hardly ever tell the truth in their propaganda. 帝国主义的声明完全是彻头彻尾的谎言, 这些帝国主义者在他们的宣传中几乎从来没有说过真话。

a little 略微; 少许:

Please move *a little* to the right. 请向右移动一点。

a long face 愁眉苦脸, 忧郁的脸孔:

He pulled *a long face* when he heard the sad news. 他听

了这个不愉快的消息，愁眉苦脸。

a long way off 离得远：

They are a *long way off* from overtaking us in production. 他們要在生产方面赶上我們还差得很远。

a lot of 許多：

Daily physical exercise does us a *lot of* good. 每天体育锻炼对我們很有好处。

a man of his word 守信用的人：

He will surely finish the work in time as he is a *man of his word*. 他一定会按时做完工作，因为他是一个守信用的人。

a man of taste 能鉴赏文学美术的人，有审美能力的人：

He can distinguish great paintings from mediocre ones because he is a *man of taste*. 他能把伟大的画和平凡的画区别开来，因为他是一个能鉴赏文学美术的人。

a matter in hand 当前的問題：

The question of improving our teaching methods is a *matter in hand*. 如何改进我們的教学方法，是急待解决的一个問題。

a matter of course 当然的事；一定的事：

I thought your coming was a *matter of course*. 我想你来是当然的事。

a matter of fact 实情；事实：

It is a *matter of fact* that the East wind prevails over the West wind. 东风压倒西风，完全是事实。

a matter of opinion 各人所見不同的問題：

Well, I suppose it's a *matter of opinion*. Our aim is the same. 我认为这可能是見解不同的問題，我們的目的是是一致的。

a multitude of 許多：

There is a *multitude of* streams lying south of the mountain. 山的南面有許多河流。

a narrow escape 幸免于难；险遭不测：

They congratulated themselves upon having successfully made a *narrow escape* from their enemy. 他們深自庆幸能成功地从敌人那里脱险出来。

a number of 若干；好多：

China's coal deposits are concentrated in a *number of* areas. 中国的煤层集中在許多地区。

a past master 老手：

Having worked in this factory for 50 years, this old worker is a *past master* in his profession. 这个老工人工作了五十年之后, 已是这一行的老手。

a penny for your thoughts 你呆呆地想什么呢?

You have been silent now for quite a few minutes. *A penny for your thoughts.* 你已经整整几分钟没有说话了。你在想什么呢?

a piece [bit, word, few words] of advice 一点忠告:

Let me give you *a piece of advice*; never go swimming immediately after a big meal. 我劝你刚吃饱饭不要去游泳。

a place in the sun 出头的机会:

In feudal China only members of the ruling classes could find *a place in the sun*. 在封建时代的中国, 只有统治阶级才能有出头的机会。

a point of view 观点; 看法:

You've given me quite *a new point of view*. I never thought of that side of the question at all. 你给了我一个新的看法。我完全没有想到问题的那一方面。

a rainy day 万一的时候; 困难的时候:

She thought that this sum of money could be saved against *a rainy day*. 她想这笔钱可以省下来, 在万一有困难的时候来使用。

a ray of hope 一线希望:

The doctor said that he could see just *a ray of hope* and that if the patient could sleep, things might be better. 医生说病人只有一线希望, 如果病人能睡, 情况也许会好转。

a real treat 美味; 愉快的事情:

The lunch we had was *a real treat*. 我们的午餐真够味。

It is *a real treat* to get away from the noise of the city. 避开城市的喧扰是一件愉快的事情。

a red-letter day 喜庆节日:

May 1st is *a red-letter day* for the workers all over the world. 五月一日是全世界工人的一个节日。

a rough draft 见 rough draft.

a round of 一场:

Persistence in carrying out the Party's general line means *a round of stern struggle*. 坚持贯彻党的总路线是一场严肃的

斗争。

a running fire 見 **running fire**.

a series of 一連串；一系列：

The Chinese people, under the leadership of the Communist Party, have won *a series of* victories in socialist construction. 中国人民在共产党领导下在社会主义建設方面已取得了一系列的胜利。

a shadow of one's former self 非常瘦弱：

He has been sick for a month, and now he is only *a shadow of his former self*. 他病了一个月，現在他非常瘦弱。

a shining light 一盞明灯：

The distinguished biologist is *a shining light* among scientists. 这位卓越的生物学家是科学家中的一盞明灯。

a slap in the face 脸上一巴掌；打击：

The universal censure of apartheid in the world press is *a slap in the face* of the reactionary white ruling clique in South Africa. 全世界輿論对种族隔离的普遍譴責，是对南非反动的白人统治集团的一記响亮的耳光。

a slip of the pen 笔誤；写錯：

It was by *a slip of the pen* that Comrade Chen's letter was directed to Hanchung Road instead of Hankow Road. 由于笔誤，陈同志的信給寄到了汉中路而没有寄到汉口路。

a slip of the tongue 說錯；失言：

By *a slip of the tongue* Comrade Li said that Comrade Kuo lived in Shansi instead of Shensi. 由于說錯，李同志把郭同志住在陝西說成住在山西。

a sort of 一种：

A yak is *a sort of* long-haired cow. 犛牛是一种长毛牛。

a spark of life 一綫生命：

While *a spark of life* remains, a doctor's duty is to try to save the patient. 只要病人还有一綫生机，医生的責任就要設法挽救他的生命。

a spot of work 一点工作：

All the youngsters are learning in various ways, at school and at home, to do *a spot of work* suited to their age and ability. 所有的小孩都学习以各种方式在学校和在家中做一点他們的年齡和能力所能承当的工作。

a square peg in a round hole 格格不入:

In his present situation he acts as though he were *a square peg in a round hole*. 在他目前的情况下, 他的行为似乎与环境很不合拍

a stone's throw 一箭之遥:

Chungshan Park in Peking is only *a stone's throw* from Tien An Men Square. 北京的中山公园离天安門广场很近。

a storm in a tea cup 小题大做:

In order to be sensational, bourgeois newspapers often try to create *a storm in a tea cup* over some trivial incident. 为了要耸动听闻, 资产阶级报纸常常企图在微不足道的事情上小题大做。

a strong hand 高压手段:

The imperialists ruled the colonial people with *a strong hand*. 帝国主义者以高压手段統治殖民地人民。

a tender age 幼年时期:

He lost his parents at *a tender age*, and he never had any formal schooling. 他幼年时期父母双亡, 他没有受过任何正式的教育。

a thorn in the flesh 苦恼之源:

The unshakable friendship of the peoples of these two countries is to the imperialists *a thorn in their flesh*. 这两国人民的牢不可破的友谊, 是帝国主义者苦恼的根源。

a toss-up 不一定的事情:

It is quite *a toss-up* whether he will come or not. 他来不来, 很难說。

a trifle 有点:

He seemed *a trifle* peeved because they did not take his advice. 他有点暴躁因为他们没有听他的忠告。

a turning point 转折点:

The October Socialist Revolution was *a turning point* in the history of the proletarian revolution. 十月社会主义革命是无产阶级革命史上的转折点。

a twice-told tale 濫調; 尽人皆知的事情:

Imperialist talk of peace is more tedious than *a twice-told tale*. 帝国主义者的和平空論比陈腐濫調更加讨厌。

a twinkle in the eye 眨眼:

As he said it, I caught a *twinkle in his eye*, and I saw he was not serious about it. 当他說这话时, 我看到他眨眨眼, 于是我明白了他不是认真的。

a vicious circle 互为因果的两件坏事; 恶性循环:

For capitalist countries economic crises form a *vicious circle* from which they cannot escape. 经济危机对于资本主义国家是一种无法摆脱的恶性循环。

a wash-out 无成的人; 失败的事:

The new play by the bourgeois writer is a *wash-out* — wrong ideology and feeble characterization. 这个资产阶级作家的新剧本完全失败了——思想性和人物的刻画都差得很。

a weak-kneed fellow 意志薄弱的人; 軟骨头:

He's got no strength of mind, no determination. In fact I have never known such a *weak-kneed fellow*. 他是意志不坚, 沒有果断。我真是从来没有见过这样一种优柔寡断的人。

a wet blanket 扫兴; 泼冷水:

All were full of fun and frolic before he came, but his entry into the room was a *wet blanket* to their mirth. 他没有来之前大家都一团高兴闹着玩儿, 但他一走进房間便立刻給他們的快乐泼上一盆冷水。

a widow's mite 少而可貴:

Considering her age and health, her contribution to the revolutionary cause was truly a *widow's mite*. 就她的年龄和健康情况而言, 她对革命事业贡献虽少, 但却是非常宝贵。

a wild shot 乱射:

The sportsman took a *wild shot* at the bird and missed it by several feet. 猎人对那只鳥乱射, 离命中还差好几呎。

a wolf in sheep's clothing 披着羊皮的狼; 伪善者:

The American imperialists who profess to help the people of Africa and Latin America to develop their countries are really *wolves in sheep's clothing*. 自称帮助非洲和拉丁美洲人民发展他們的国家的美国帝国主义者, 实在是披着羊皮的狼。

a word in season 适时的劝告; 适时的干預:

A *word in season*, if properly heeded, can save one a good deal of trouble. 适时的忠告如果受到应有的注意, 就可以省掉許多麻煩。

a world of 极多; 极大:

It makes a world of difference if you look at the question from another point of view. 假使我們从另外一个观点来看這一問題，那就大大不同了。

a wretched [poor, bad] hand at, to be 不善于：

He is a wretched hand at painting. 他不善于画画。

abandon oneself to, to 纵情于：

Before liberation, many of the bankers simply abandoned themselves to drinking and gambling. 解放前許多銀行家完全沉溺于飲酒及賭博中。

Don't abandon yourself to despair. 不要悲观失望。

abide by, to 遵守：

An honourable man must always abide by his promises. 一个可敬的人必須常常遵守他的諾言。

The Communist Parties of all countries must abide by the revolutionary principles of the Moscow Declaration and the Moscow Statement. 各国共产党必須遵守莫斯科宣言和莫斯科声明的革命原則。

abound in, to 富于：

This district abounds in mineral deposits. 这个区域的矿藏丰富。

about to (+不定式), to be 将要：

An enthusiastic discussion was about to take place when Comrade Wang came in. 一場热烈的討論就要开始的时候，王同志进来了。

above all 尤其是：

The young pioneers' white shirts, bright red ties and, above all, their eager, shining faces give one a very deep impression. 少先队员的白衬衫，鮮紅的領巾，尤其是他們热切和发光的脸，給人以十分深刻的印象。

above someone, to be ...不懂：

This book is above me. 这本书我看不懂。

absence of mind 不留心；心不在焉：

It was absence of mind that made him insensible to all that was passing around him. 由于他心不在焉，所以他一点也不知道周围发生的事情。

absent oneself from, to 缺席；不到場：

Why did you absent yourself from school yesterday? 昨天