

A Dictionary of Common
English Phrases

英语常用 短语用法词典

薛永库 主编

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前 言

实践证明,在学习英语中掌握一定数量的短语及其基本结构与用法是学好英语的关键。

为了帮助广大英语爱好者和大、中学生迅速而又牢固掌握英语常用短语的基本用法,我们从国内外最新出版的英语词典中,从浩瀚的短语里,认真研究根据《大学英语教学大纲》编写的全国统编的《大学英语》文理科通用教材和清华大学编写的《新英语教程》两套教材的精读部分,共精选二千多条常用短语。

本书所选的都是最常见的短语,释义科学、准确、易懂;每条短语均附有多个例句,例句语言地道、生动,是一本具有很高实用价值的参考书。

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A

a bunch of (一)束,束,捆;(一)群,伙,帮

① a bunch of 是数量名词短语。介词后通常接可数名词,但偶尔也接集合性名词;介词宾语可以是物,亦可以是人。在 bunch 前可加形容词予以修饰。

② He went to market and bought a (fresh) **bunch of** grapes.

他去集市买了一串(新鲜)葡萄。

Tim says he collects antiques. But those things are, as far as I'm concerned, just a **bunch of** garbage.

迪姆说他收集古董。依我看,那些玩意儿无非是一堆破烂货。

Go to the garden and collect a **bunch of** flowers for the table.

去花园采一束花摆在桌上。

A large **bunch of** candidates sat for the college enrollment examination last year.

去年有相当多的考生参加了高考。

③ 注意,短语中的不定冠词可换作数词,如: five bunches of flowers; 此外,不定冠词也可视情况改作定冠词。

④ **The whole bunch of** racketeers were arrested.

这个诈骗团伙被一网打尽。

a case in point (一个)恰当的例

子

① 这是一个名词短语,关键部分是其中的介词短语 in point. in point 在此是“恰当的”、“切题的”意思。有关它的详细解释和例句,请参见 in point 词条。case 在此做“案例”、“例证”解。

② I tell you he is selfish. His unwillingness to help his friend is a **case in point**.

我告诉你他很自私。他不愿意帮助朋友就是一个明显的例子。

Talking of wasting money, my buying this car is a **case in point**.

说到浪费钱,我买这部车就是一个恰当的例子。

The high rate of unemployment in a society will definitely cause social disturbances. The recent bank robbery is a **case in point**.

一个国家的失业率高,必定会引起社会的动荡不安。最近的一起抢劫银行案就是一个很说明问题的例子。

a couple of 一两个,(少数)几个

① A couple (of) 在表示事物和人时,相当于数字 two。但在美国俗语中也意为“数个”或“几个”,相当于 a few, several。在美语中 couple 有时可以直接放在名词之前,如: a couple dollars (两美元或

几块美元), a couple months (两个月或几个月);而在英国英语中则用 a couple of, 只有在 more, less, too many 等表示多少或程度的词前才可以省去 of, 如 a couple more chairs (再多几把椅子)。

④ Can I borrow your camera? I'll return it to you in **a couple of** days.
我可以借你的照相机用吗? 我两天内就还给你。

Sorry I can't go with you tonight. I have **a couple of** things to do.
对不起,我今天晚上不能跟你去。我有几件事情要做。

I know **a couple of** people at the party—but not many.

我认识晚会上的几个人,但认识的不多。

I found **a couple of** socks in the bedroom, but they don't make a pair.

我在卧室里找到两只袜子,但不配对。

a far cry 大的差别

⑤ 这是一个名词短语,有时也写作 a long cry, 在句中多用作表语。

⑥ What he told me about the accident was **a far cry** from what I knew about it.

关于那起事故,他所告诉我的和我所知道的大相径庭。

She had been living abroad for more than twenty years. So when she came back, she found her hometown **a far cry** from what it used to

be.

她在国外生活了二十多年。所以当她重返故里时,她发现家乡已经与从前大不一样了。

The first calculating machine was **a far cry** from a modern computer.
第一代计算机和现代计算机相比相差很远。

⑦ a far cry 还意为“相距很远(在实际距离上)”。

⑧ It is indeed **a far cry** from the earth to the sun.
地球和太阳相距遥远。

a good many 好多,很多的

⑨ 这是一个名词短语,在句中作定语用,后接可数名词的复数,动词用复数。

⑩ **A good many** new books were published by China Book Press last year.

去年,中国书籍出版社出版了许多新书。

While studying in Beijing Language Institute, David made **a good many** Chinese friends.

在北京语言学院学习时,大卫结交了许多中国朋友。

Have you planted many trees in your garden? —Yes. There are **a good many** (trees there).

在你的花园中种有许多树吗? ——是的,那里有许多。

a great amount of 大量

① 这个短语也可写作 a large amount of, a huge amount of, a vast amount of 或 huge amounts of 等,只能用来修饰不可数名词,泛指“大量”。

② Old Albert died last week. He left **a large amount of** money in the bank.

老阿尔伯特上星期死了。他在银行里留下了一大笔钱。

Last night a heavy earthquake struck the south part of the country. **A large amount of** damage was done in a very short time.

昨夜一场强烈的地震冲击了这个国家的南部地区。顷刻之间损失巨大。

We don't have time to go on holiday. There is **a great amount of** work for us to do.

我们没有时间去度假。大量的工作在等着我们去做。

③ a great deal of, a large quantity of, a great number of, a great many, a lot of 及 plenty of 等,都是 a great amount of 的同义短语,但具体用法不同(有关 a great amount of 的用法请参看以上的解释和例句。):

④ a great deal of 和 a large quantity of 都是用来修饰不可数名词的。

⑤ There was **a great deal of** shouting and clapping of hands after his performance.

他表演完后,观众呼声和掌声大作。He buys **a large quantity of** tinned food every month.

他每月都买大量的罐头食品。

⑥ a great number of 和 a great (或 good) many 用来修饰复数可数名词,后者的后面直接跟名词,不用 of。

⑦ I found on his shelf **a great number of** books on Shakespeare.

我在他书架上发现大量关于莎士比亚的书。

I've been there **a good many** times. 我常常到那里去。

⑧ a lot of 用来修饰不可数名词或复数可数名词,常用在非正式文章或谈话中。

⑨ Manchester has **a lot of** rain. 曼彻斯特雨很多。

He has written **a lot of** short stories in English.

他用英语写了许多短篇小说。

⑩ plenty of 也是既可用于修饰不可数名词也可用来修饰复数可数名词,但它只用于肯定句中,在疑问句中一般用 enough; 在否定句中用 many 或 much。

⑪ There's no need to hurry. You have **plenty of** time to get your train.

不用着急。你有足够的时间赶火车。

Don't worry about the seats. There are **plenty of** chairs in the room.

不用担心座位问题。这间屋子里有很多椅子。

a great deal 许多,大量

① 这是一个名词短语,意为“很多东西(情况,事情等)”,在句中除可作宾语外,还可作表示程度的状语,修饰谓语动词或形容词,特别是形容词比较级。此短语与 a good deal 同义,但比后者语气重。

② During the vacation, some students went to work in a factory. They learned **a good deal** from the workers there.

假期里,一些学生去工厂劳动。他们从工人们那里学到了许多东西。

Winter in Montreal is very cold. It snows **a great deal**.

蒙特利尔的冬天很冷,(并)常常下雪。

The photographs of Mars taken from satellites are **a great deal** clearer than those taken from the Earth.

从卫星上拍摄的火星照片远比从地球上拍摄的清晰。

③ a lot 是 a great deal 的同义短语,其用法,请参看上面的解释。

④ The work has left **a lot** to be desired.

这项工作还有许多有待改进之处。

He had a slight fever last night. Now he is feeling **a lot** better.

昨晚他有点发烧。现在他觉得好多了。

a great deal of 大量;许多

① 这个名词短语是一个固定搭配;尤其是其中的 a...deal 绝不能更改;介词后接不可数名词。因而,由本短语引起的主语后面应当接单数动词。

② **A great deal of** effort was gone to his science project.

他的科研项目耗费了大量心血。

He found himself in **a great deal of** trouble when he, by punching a wrong key, failed to save the file which he had worked at in the computer for the whole day.

由于击错键,他未能贮存了一天时间输入进计算机里的文件:他知道事情糟了。

Working with children requires **a great deal of** patience.

从事儿童工作需要许多耐心。

③ 短语里的形容词有时可以换用作 a good deal of 或 a vast deal of 等。此外, a great deal of 可省去 of (有时也可保留)作强调词用。

④ She is **a great deal (of)** a diplomat.

她颇具外交家的才华。

⑤ 与 a great deal of 类似,只能接不可数名词的短语有: an amount of; 与此相反,只能接可数名词的有: a great (good) many, a number of (见本词注释)。短语后可接可数名词或不可数名词的短语有: a lot of (见本词注释), a quantity of。

a great many (of) 大量

● 这是一个名词短语,也可写作 a good many (of), 用作定语,修饰可数名词的复数,名词复数前要有 my (或 his, these 等);动词用复数形式。

● We know a great many of the people in the village.

在这个村里,我们认识的人相当(非常)多。

We have a great many of our urgent things to do at present, so we can not help you.

目前我们有许多急事要处理,所以不能帮助你。

On our way home, he asked me a great many of his interested questions.

在回家的路上,他问了我许多他感兴趣的问题。

● 另外, a good many, a great deal of, a lot of, plenty of 是它的同义短语。

● a good many 意为“相当多”,在程度上和量上弱于 a great many of。

● He called you up a good many times yesterday.

昨天他给你打了好多次电话。

● a great deal of 和 a lot of 意为“大量,许多”,后接可数名词复数或不可数名词,前者动词用复数,后者动词用单数,常用于肯定句。用于疑问句和否定句时改用 many, much。

● There are a lot of such people.

这种人多得很。

● plenty of 意为“大量,许多,足够”,后接可数名词复数或不可数名词,前者动词用复数,后者动词用单数。

● There are (is) plenty of books (time).

有许多书(时间很富裕)。

a group of 一群,组,队,片

● 这个词组后接复数名词,动词用复数。其用法和其他同义词组参看 a great deal of。

● A group of soldiers separated from the main body of the troops and marched west.

一队战士与大部队分开后向西进发。

The institute employs a large group of very dedicated researchers.

那所研究机构拥有一大批富于进取精神的研究人员。

A report made known by a U. N. environmental protection organization indicates that a vast group of trees are felled globe wide every year.

联合国环保机构公布的一份报告表明,全世界每年有大片的森林遭到砍伐。

a headache (for) 难办的事,棘手的问题

● 在此短语中,headache 亦可用作

复数,意思引伸为“使人头疼的事,棘手难办的事”。

- ② It hasn't rained for almost half a year. The threat of drought has become **a big headache for** the government.

几乎近半年没下雨了。干旱的威胁已成为一件让政府大伤脑筋的事。

The workers threatened to go on strike if their demands were not met by Friday. No doubt it would give the boss **a sick headache**.

工人们说如果他们的要求在周五前不能得到令人满意的答复,他们将举行罢工。毫无疑问,这会令老板大伤脑筋。

Since the country's economy is even worse this year than last year, there will be more **headaches for** the Minister of Labour.

由于今年国家的经济状况比去年更糟,因此使劳工部长感到头疼的问题将会更多。

a host of 一大群,好些

- ① 这是一个由“不定冠词+名词+介词”构成的名词短语,也可写作 hosts of, 用来修饰复数可数名词。

- ② I have **a whole host of** things to do today.

我今天有一大堆事情要做。

Hosts of people gatecrashed the party.

很多人未经邀请也参加了晚会。

On a clear night we can see **a host of** stars in the sky.

在晴朗的夜晚我们能看到天空中群星密布。

a kind of 一种,某种;几分,稍稍

- ① 短语后的介词宾语通常是单数名词,而且不带冠词。但短语作“几分,稍稍”解时偶尔也接形容词,此时冠词 a 常被省去。

- ② Scotch pine is **a kind of** evergreen tree native to Northern Canada.

司格奇松是生长在加拿大北部的一种长青树。

After the general manager announced his decision of retirement, **a kind of** hush fell over the meeting.

总经理宣布退休的决定后,会场顿时静了下来。

His business trip abroad turned out to be **a kind of** holiday.

他的国外之行本来是去经商的,但后来变成了某种休假。

- ③ 注意区分名词性短语 a kind of 和副词短语 kind of (有点儿,有些)。

His behavior is **kind of** unusual today.

今天他的举止有些反常。

a long time ago 很久以前

- ① 此短语常用作状语,只用在过去时的句中,一般不用在完成时的句中。

④ I went to that city *a long time ago*, but I still remember clearly everything I saw there.

很久以前我去过那个城市,但在那儿看到的一切我现在还记忆犹新。

I knew him *a long time ago* when he was in the army.

很久以前当他在部队服役时我就认识他了。

It was *a long time ago* that I met him in Hong-kong. Is he still living there?

还是在很久以前我在香港遇见过他。他现在还在那儿吗?

a lot of 许多,大量

① 本短语后的介词宾语不加冠词。它既可是复数名词,也可是不可数名词。相应的动词也分别用复数或第三人称单数。其他用法和其他同义词组参看 *a great deal of*。

② She'll need to use *a lot of* persuasion to convince her father of consenting her engagement to Jack.

她需要做大量的工作来说服父亲同意她和杰克订婚。

Building the early Trans-North American Railway involves *a lot of* sweat and tears of the Chinese railway builders.

早期修建的跨北美的铁路包含了中国铁路工人的许多苦难和辛酸。

A lot of people believe that John

F. Kennedy was murdered by the CIA.

有不少人认为约翰·肯尼迪是被中央情报局杀害的。

a mass of 大量,大批(群,堆等)

① 在此短语中, *mass* 泛指数量大和多。短语后可跟可数或不可数名词,动词分别用复数或单数。

② There was *a great mass of* people outside the building demanding to see the general manager.

楼外面有一大群人要求见总经理。

After his adventurous experience was reported in the newspaper, he has received *a mass of* letters from the readers all over the country.

当他的那次惊险经历见报后,他收到了一大堆来自全国各地的读者来信。

Don't call me in the morning, because I have *a mass of* things to see to in my office.

上午别给我打电话,因为我办公室里有一大堆事情要处理。

③ *mass* 也可指同种物质聚成的庞大物质“块”、“团”或“堆”,因此 *a mass of* 后亦可跟物质名词,表示“一大块”、“一团”、“一堆”等。

④ It was unusually cold the past few days. The pond became *a solid mass of* ice.

前些天天气异常冷,池塘都变成了一大块厚厚的冰。

⑤ 另外,此短语和动词 *be* 在一起构

成成语,意为“遍地”、“遍体”。

- ④ The poor fellow **was a mass of** bruises.
那个可怜的人遍体鳞伤。

a narrow/near, hair-breadth/escape 死里逃生,九死一生

- ① 这是一个名词短语。经常见到这样的动词短语: have / experience a narrow escape (from) (从……) 逃生。

- ② The ship overturned during the storm. He had **a narrow escape** from being drowned.

在暴风雨中,船翻了,他险些被淹死。

He jumped out of the burning building and had **a near escape**.

他从着火的楼里跳了出来,差点丧命。

He survived miraculously from that fatal disease. His **hair-breadth escape** from death made him more appreciative of life.

他从那致命的疾病中奇迹般地活了下来。死里逃生使他更加珍惜生命。

a number of 许多,若干,一些

- ① 短语的介词宾语接复数名词;名词前的冠词经常可以省去。其后的谓语动词用复数形式。

- ② **A number of** students were late for class this morning.

今天早晨许多同学上课迟到了。

There are **a vast number of** different alternatives of purchasing computers in this shopping hall.

在这个商业城购买计算机有相当大的挑选余地。

You can get to Shanghai by **a number of** different routes.

去上海的路线有好几条,你都可以走。

- ③ 不定冠词切勿换作 the number of, 否则其意思变成了“……的数量”。此外, a number of 引起的主语偶尔也跟谓语动词的第三人称单数形式。

- ④ **A great number of** protesters have (or has) assembled on the square.
广场上聚集了许多抗议者。

a packet of 一包,盒,捆

- ① 短语后的介词宾语为不带冠词的物质名词,单复数均可。

- ② **A packet of** needles and thread is always carried on her person.
她总是随身携带针线盒。

Cigarettes usually come in **a packet of** 20 each.

每包香烟通常是20支装。

A packet of medicine should last you a whole week.

这一包药够你服用一周。

- ③ 由于本短语是可变性结构,因此它可以有单复数的变化,其谓语动词的使用可以视具体情况,非常灵活。

- ④ Are these three **packets of**

medicine all for me?

这三包药都是我的吗?

a pair of 一双,副,件,套

①本短语介词后,只能接由两个成对的东西构成一个组合体的复数名词,如: a pair of trousers (pants, shoes, boots, socks, stockings, gloves, glasses, scissors, pincers, tongs, etc.), 谓语动词用单数。

②She has **a pair of** the most beautiful talking eyes I've ever seen.

我还是第一次看到像她那样楚楚动人的美丽的眼睛。

A pair of these shoes sells for over a hundred dollars abroad.

一双这样的鞋在国外的售价为100多美元。

There must be something wrong with his hands, for he's always wearing **a pair of** gloves.

他总戴着一副手套,他的手一定有什么问题。

③“a pair of + 名词”可以换成“指示代词(或冠词) + 名词”,此时谓语动词换成复数。

④**This pair of** trousers look OK. But the shop attendant told me these trousers can be broken less than a month.

这条裤子看着还行,可是导购员说恐怕穿不到一个月便会破。

⑤当需要在“a pair of + 名词”片语中加形容词予以修饰时,形容词通常放在 pair 前。如: a sturdy

pair of boots (一双坚固耐用的靴子)。短语中的冠词 a 可由其他数词代替,但注意其用法。当要表示“两双靴子”时,应该说 two pair (s) of shoes, 不能说 two shoes, 而且 pair 后表复数的 s 可以省略。

a piece of 一条,块,件,张

①介词后跟不可数名词,或意指不可数名词的单数代词。因而本短语用作主语时,其谓语也应是第三人称单数动词。

②I marched right over to his desk and gave him **a piece of** my mind. 我径直走到他的桌前,将我的一个想法告诉了他。

Would you like **a piece of** chocolate cake with tea?

喝茶时你想来一块巧克力蛋糕吗?

Please allow me to put forward to you **a piece of** advice: Never let somebody decide for you.

请容我进一言:你做事得有主见。

③介宾名词既可是物质名词,也可是抽象名词。有些名词虽然也可作复数名词,但用于本短语时,往往作为不可分割的整体中的一部分来看待。数词 a 也可用其他数词代替,此时 piece 变成复数,如 three pieces 等。

a quarter of ……的四分之一, ……的百分之二十五;一刻

④这个数量名词短语后可接可数名

词或不可数名词,有时非常口语化。其搭配相对来说比较松散。

- ④ **A quarter of** the country's population is of Chinese descent.

那个国家四分之一的人口都是华裔。

On your way home from work pick **a quarter of** a kilo of green peppers.

下班回来的路上顺便买半斤青椒。

I'll meet you in front of the statue at **a quarter of** eight p.m.

晚上八点一刻我在雕像前等你。

- ⑤ 这个短语的介词 *of* 常常可以省去,如 **a quarter (of a) mile** 四分之一英里。

- ⑥ She paid only **a quarter (of)** the price I did for the suit.

我们俩买的是同样的套装,她只花了我出的价的四分之一。

a sense of ……的感(觉);……的鉴赏力,……的意识

- ⑦ 短语后通常跟单数名词,且抽象名词多于物质名词。*sense* 前常加形容词。

- ⑧ I felt **a sense of** foreboding as the newscaster began his story.

当播音员开始报道新闻时,我有一种不祥的预感。

To play such piece of music well, you need **a sense of** rhythm as well as of humor.

要想演奏好这部音乐作品,你得

奏出节奏感和谐趣。

This prosperous boss has **a good sense** how business is done in China.

这位财运亨通的老板谙熟中国商情。

a series of 一系列的,一连串的

- ⑨ 这是一个名词短语,多用于修饰复数可数名词。其中的 *series* 无单复数形式变化,前面有时可有形容词修饰,如: **a careful series of** (一系列细致的……), **a continued series of** (连续的), **a long series of** (长期连续的), **an unbroken series of** (连续不断的……)等。

- ⑩ They planned to go camping, but **a series of** rainy days spoiled their vacation.

他们本打算去野营,可连续的雨天毁了他们的假期。

Misfortunes never come singly. She suffered **a series of** misfortunes within a month.

祸不单行。她在一个月之内遭受到了一连串的不幸。

In order to help the students to know more about the cultural backgrounds of the English speaking countries, the Foreign Language Department organized **a series of** lectures on America.

为了使学生们更多地了解英语国家的文化背景,外文系组织了一次关于美国的系列讲座。

① a series of 也可做“一套(丛书, 邮票或连续剧)”解。

Recently a foreign friend of mine sent me **a series of** memorial stamps from Canada.

最近,我的一位外国朋友从加拿大给我寄来一套纪念邮票。

This publishing firm is planning **a new series of** school textbooks.

这家出版公司正在计划出版一套新教科书。

② 除此, a series of, a sequence of 和 a succession of 均指按某种次序排列的一连串的物件或事件等,但这三个短语的实际含义不同。a series of 表示有关联事物的单独性而不仅仅是它们互相衔接的这一事实。有关它的具体用法请参看前面的例句; a sequence of 指在空间、时间或想法上的跟随,并且表明集合在一起的事物是按照逻辑系统这样做的; a succession of 强调类似的物体或事件一个接一个,没有间断。

③ He reviewed the **sequence of** events leading to peace.

他把导致和平的一连串事件加以观察。

He had **a succession of** colds.
他连续患伤风。

a set of 一套,一系列;一伙

④ 本短语表示成套或成系列的一组人或物,介词 of 后常跟复数名词,但有时也跟不可数名词。如: a set of false teeth (一副假牙), a

fine set of china (一套精美的瓷器)等。

⑤ **A full set of** his encyclopedias was lost in the fire.

他的整套百科全书在大火中付之一炬。

The factory has introduced in **a complete set of** equipment from abroad recently.

这个工厂最近从国外引进了全套设备。

He has **a set of** clothes for every occasion.

在各种场合穿的服装他一应俱全。

A set of swindlers have reportedly caused so much social disorder in this city.

据报道一群诈骗犯给这个城市造成了严重的社会混乱。

⑥ 当“a set of + 复数名词”作主语时,通常被视为单数名词,如上面第一个例句;但是,如果说话人要表示强调的语气,有时也被用作复数名词,如上边的最后一个例句。

a source of... ……的来源,……的起因

⑦ 这是一个名词短语,在句中作表语或宾语;不定冠词 a 可换用定冠词 the, source 亦可用作复数。

⑧ We hardly make both ends meet. We'll have to look for **a new source of** income.

我们几乎入不敷出,必须寻找一个新的收入来源。

The recent statistical data from *the* government *sources* reveal that the population in that country has reached two hundred millions.

从政府方面得到的最新统计资料表明,那个国家的人口已达到两亿。

Several ethnic groups are living in the area, and therefore, religious diversity has become *a* constant *source of* conflicts.

那个地区住着好几个少数民族,因此,宗教信仰的差异已经成为冲突迭起的根源。

a stretch of 一片(陆地或水域)

① 这是一个名词短语, stretch 在此为可数名词,也可以说 stretches of ... (大片大片的……)。stretch 前面有时可有形容词修饰,如: a beautiful stretch of woods (一大片美丽的林区), to travel a hard stretch of road (走一段艰难的路程)等。整个短语既可用来修饰可数名词,也可修饰不可数名词。

② It was getting dark. We drove fast along *a stretch of* empty highway. 天渐渐黑了,我们驾车在一段空荡荡的公路上飞驰。

They had flown over *a stretch of* desert before they saw *a stretch of* open water in front of them.

他们飞越了一片沙漠之后眼前才出现一片宽阔的水域。

This new *stretch of* road is just a continuation of the old highway.

这条新路是那条旧公路的延续。

③ *a stretch of* 也可用来形容一段时间。

④ To his surprise, they still remember him after *a stretch of* twenty years.

令他惊讶的是,隔了二十年之后他们还记得他。

a trifle 有点

⑤ 这是一个名词短语,在句子中多作程度状语。

⑥ The skirt my mother bought me is *a trifle* too short, but she said it was in fashion.

我母亲给我买的裙子太短了,但她说这是时髦货。

“Who is in charge here?” the manager demanded, *a trifle* angrily, when he saw the messy condition of the workshop.

经理看到车间里乱糟糟的情况有点气愤,他质问:“这里谁负责?”

I had a bad cold last week, and I'm still *a trifle* under the weather.

上星期我患了重感冒,现在身体仍不适。

⑦ *a little* 是 *a trifle* 的同义短语,口语中亦用 *a little bit*。

⑧ My mother is *a little* better today. 我母亲今天好一点了。

Will you walk *a little bit* with me? 你跟我走一走好吗?