

现代英语成语词典

肖振国 主编

国防工业出版社

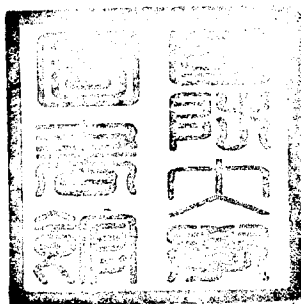


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前 言

与汉语成语一样,英语成语也源远流长、内涵丰富、为数众多、使用频繁。

对于每一个英语工作者和英语学习者来说,在英语和汉语的应用过程中,都会发现这样的体会:英语恰到好处的表现力,若能找到相应的汉语把它表现出来,不但能表达其意思,更主要的是能深刻领会跨文化之间的内在联系;一个好的英语成语,若能找到相应的汉语成语,不仅能使人理解其含义,更主要的是能使其锦上添花,起到画龙点睛的作用。本书正是一本介绍和帮助读者使用英语成语的书。

可以毫不夸张地说,衡量一个人英语水平的重要标志,是他所掌握词汇量的大小。而他所掌握成语的数量,又是衡量他所掌握词汇多少的一个重要尺度。国内外各层次的英语考试,如 TOEFL, GRE, EPT, CET4, CET6 等,无不把对成语的考核作为其重要内容。这从一个侧面反映了掌握英语成语的重要性。事实证明,英语成语是学好英语、提高阅读能力、深入英语背景环境的关键之一。为此,我们编写了这本收集较广泛、内容较丰富的英语成语词典。

本词典共收集、整理从字面上较难理解的(宽义)英语成语 5 000 余条,全部成语均按字母顺序排列,条理井然,检索方便。每条成语均有汉语释义和英汉对照例句。释义和例句确切流畅、简明实用,可以帮助读者准确掌握、深入理解、触类旁通、灵活运用。

本书适于中、高级英语读者,是英语教育者、工作者、学习者的很好工具书:可供教师进行词汇教学时参考,可对翻译人员、涉外人员、出国人员有一定帮助,可作为大中专学生、研究生、各类出国

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考试参加人员以及自学人员学习时使用。

在本书的编写过程中,汪利迎、荣银根、欧阳浩、马明渊、费楚楚、王舸帆、李于佩、俞华华、彭双全等提供了大量的资料和热情的帮助;美国专家 Tom Everett 先生和 Irene Franck 女士认真地审阅了部分内容,并提出了宝贵的修改意见和建议。在此,我们一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限,在理解两种语言及翻译方面肯定有不妥的地方,词典中出现的疏忽和错误在所难免,恳切希望读者给予批评指正。

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凡 例

1. 本词典中词条的完整内容包括词目、词目释义、英文例句、英文例句释义。
2. 词条的排列以词目的字母顺序为依据。排序时采用 Microsoft Word 97 的排序工具,并选用“拼音”和“递增”选项。
3. 词目释义大体相同或属于同一范畴的,用“,”隔开;词目释义相差较远或属于不同范畴的,用“;”隔开。
4. 英文例句中出现的词目用斜体形式排印。
5. 词目若有两种或两种以上形式的,则分立词条。其中以最常用的形式为主词条,加注完整内容,其他形式则用“=”引入参见主词条。

A

a ball of fire 精力充沛又富有才干的人

The trainer will have to be *a ball of fire* to get this football team to play well.

教练员将必须是能使这支足球队踢得出色的精力充沛而且富有才干的人。

a bed of flowers = a bed of roses

a bed of roses 安乐窝;称心如意的境遇,舒适的生活

Compared with what I used to do, I am now on *a bed of roses*.

跟以前的处境相比,我现在可算是称心如意了。

a bee in one's bonnet 想得入了迷;苦思,胡思乱想

Mrs. Brown has *a bee in her bonnet* about people drinking a lot of coffee—she thinks it is most unhealthy.

布朗太太对人们喝很多的咖啡有一种怪想法——她认为那是很不健康的。

a beggar on horseback 趾高气扬的暴发户,得志小人

Mr. Lee is *a beggar on horseback* and he shows off by giving excess tips and by constantly changing cars.

李先生是个趾高气扬的暴发户,他常常通过给侍者过量的小费、不断更换新汽车等方式来炫耀自己的财富。

a bird in hand is worth two in the bush 一鸟在手胜过二鸟在林

If you start your own business, you may earn a lot of money but you may also lose everything. So I suggest you stick to your present job. After all, *a bird in hand is worth two in the bush*.

你若自己创业做生意,可能赚大钱,也可能血本无归。我建议你保留现职。毕竟,一鸟在手胜过二鸟在林。

a bird of passage 一个居无定所的人,一个四处飘荡的人

The singers are *birds of passage*. Every year they go on a world tour.

这些歌唱演员居无定所,每年他们都随团在世界各地巡回演出。

a bit of 一点儿,少量的,略微的

We know *a bit of* Spanish.

我们懂一点儿西班牙语。

a bit thick 过度,太过分;受不了,太不要脸

I don't think it *a bit thick* to do it that way.

我不认为那样的做法太过分了。

a born Charlie Brown 不怕失败的人,经得起挫折的人

Hugo was hurt in yesterday's race but I am sure he will join next year's race for he is a *born Charlie Brown*.

雨果虽然在昨天的比赛中受了伤,但我相信明年他会卷土重来,因为他是个不惧怕失败的人。

a case in point 一个很好的例子,一个恰当的例子

I tell you he is selfish. His unwillingness to help his friends is a *case in point*.
我告诉你他是自私的,他不愿帮助朋友就是一个很好的例子。

a cat on hot bricks 热锅上的蚂蚁;坐立不安

Pat was like a *cat on hot bricks*, for Betty had snatched her boyfriend's photo to pass it around the classroom.

帕特急得像热锅上的蚂蚁,因为贝蒂抢走了她男朋友的相片,并且给同学们传看。

a Chinese puzzle 深奥的难题,谜一般的问题

This mathematics examination is a *Chinese puzzle* to me! I do not think I am going to pass.

这次数学测验极为深奥,看来我不会及格。

a chip of the old block 活像自己父亲的人

He is not a *chip of the old block*. His father likes smoking, but he doesn't.
他不是很像他的父亲。他的父亲喜欢抽烟,而他则不。

a church mouse 贫穷的人,一无所有的人

Mr. Zhang is now one of the richest men in town. Nobody could imagine that he was a *church mouse* when he first came to here.

今天张先生是这里屈指可数的巨富。但没有谁能想到他初来时,却是一无所有。

a close call 幸免,死里逃生,九死一生

A thief attacked Jim with a knife, but was scared off by a police siren. That was a *close call* for Jim!

一个小偷拿刀子袭击吉姆,但被警车声吓跑了。对吉姆来说真是万幸!

a close thing = a near thing

a cog in the machine = a cog in the wheel

a cog in the wheel 小卒,担任不重要角色的人

Although John thinks he has an important job, he is really *a cog in the wheel*.
 尽管约翰认为自己身负重任,但他实在只是一名小卒。

a cross one has to bear 不得不忍受的苦难

Tina's husband is an invalid now and she has to look after him. It is *a cross she will have to bear* for the rest of her life.

蒂娜的丈夫现在是个伤残者,她不得不照料他。对她的有生之年来说,这是她不得不忍受的苦难。

a crying in the wilderness = a voice in the wilderness

a cut above the rest 高他人一等,胜于他人

The new leader of the company is certainly *a cut above the rest*.

公司的新领导的确是一个比他人高明的人。

a different pair of shoes 另外一回事,另当别论

I think that is *a different pair of shoes*.

我认为那是另外一回事了。

a dog's chance 机会渺茫,几乎没有希望

I have entered my name for the 10000 meters, but I have not *a dog's chance* of winning.

我已经报名参加 10000 米跑,但我获胜的机会极为渺茫。

a doubting Thomas 不听劝告的人,疑心重的人

The doctor had told grandfather many times that he needed an operation, but being *a doubting Thomas*, he refused till was too late.

医生多次劝告祖父他需要进行手术,但祖父疑心重,不肯接受,终至病逝。

a fat chance 希望很小,可能性很小

A high school team would have *a fat chance* of beating a strong college team.

高中球队要打赢实力很强的大学球队的可能性很小。

a few of 几个,一些

In *a few of* months, the whole situation will become better still.

几个月内,形势会变得平静些。

a fly in the ointment 美中不足

We had so much fun in the party last night. It was really *a fly in the ointment* that you could not be there.

在昨晚的聚会中,我们都玩得兴高采烈,但美中不足的是你没能和我们在一起。

a fraction of 一小部分,极小部分

She is careful with her money, and spends only *a fraction of* her earnings.
她用钱很注意,只花掉收入的极小部分。

a game at which two can play 这一套你会我也会;被攻击者可以同样报复

He was caught napping, but that was *a game at which two can play*.
他被打个措手不及,但他可照样报复。

a good deal 大大地,很多;非常,…得多

You had feel *a good deal* more comfortable if you did.
你这样做会舒服得多的。

a good deal of 许多的,大量的

We spent *a good deal of* our times in this work.
我们花了很多时间完成这项工作。

a good many 很多,相当多

There are *a good many* people in the market on Sunday.
每逢星期日,市场上都有很多人。

a great deal = a good deal

a great deal of = a good deal of

a great many = a good many

a great number of 很多,大量

The exhibition is every day drawing *a great number of* visitors.
展览馆每天都吸引许多来参观的人。

a Greek gift 不怀好意的礼物

The pills that the triad member gave Tony were *a Greek gift*; He wanted Tony to get addicted.
那个黑社会人物给托尼的药丸是一份不怀好意的礼物——他想使托尼成为瘾君子。

a hard row to hoe = a tough row to hoe

a host of 一大群,一大堆

Mr. Napier met *a host of* friends when he attended the party.
纳皮尔先生出席宴会时遇见了一大群的朋友。

a house of cards 不可靠的计划,不可靠的主意;不坚固的东西

I am afraid you have been building *a house of cards*; no one is going to help you in a scheme as that.

恐怕你一直在考虑的计划是空中楼阁,人们都不会帮助你去那样搞的。

a household word 家喻户晓的词,妇孺皆知的词

The product has become so famous that its brand name has now become a *household word*.

这个产品已非常出名,以致它的品牌现在已成为家喻户晓的名词了。

a hundred and one 很多,许多

There are *a hundred and one* reasons why you should agree to what he proposes.

你有许多的理由应该相信他提出的建议。

a jail bird 囚犯,犯人

When the boss discovered that the clerk used to be a *jail bird* he dismissed him at once.

那职员的上司一发现他以前曾是囚犯,就立刻把他解雇了。

a kind of 一种,一类

She was a friendly *kind of* person.

她是那种友好的人。

a labour of love 爱做的事,不取报酬的工作

What he did was a *labour of love*.

他做的是他所喜爱做的事。

a large amount of 大量的,极多的

A *large amount of* damage was done in a very short time.

短时间内造成了大量的破坏。

a large number of = a great number of

a little bird told me 有人私下告诉我,我自然知道,不告诉你我是怎样知道的

"How did you find out I had a new job?" "Oh, *a little bird told me!*"

"你怎样知道我找到了新工作?" "啊,我自然知道。"

a little of 一点,少许

She had a *little of* cold last week, but she is fine now.

上周她有点感冒,可是现在已经好了。

a long row to hoe = a tough row to hoe

a lot 很多,大量,很大

Since liberation our power industry has developed *a lot*.

解放以来,我国的电力工业有了很大的发展。

a lot of 很多的,大量的

There are *a lot of* people who have the same experience.

很多人都有相同的经历。

a low ebb 处于衰退状态;处于萧条状态

Public interest in new car models was at *a low ebb* because of the high price of petrol.

因为汽油太贵,公众对各种新型号汽车的兴趣降低了。

a man of parts 能干的人,有才华的人

The secretary can speak to all foreign scientists in their own languages. She is certainly *a man of parts*.

这位秘书可以用各国科学家的语言同他们交谈,她真是一个能干的人。

a man of straw 假想的对手;虚构的人物;靠不住的人

Don't let that man have the goods unless he pays for them at once, he is *a man of straw*.

这人若不立即付钱,就别让他拿走货物,因为他是不可靠的人。

a mare's nest 海市蜃楼,镜花水月;无稽之谈

What Mike said three days ago has proved to be *a mare's nest*.

麦克三天前所说的话被证明是无稽之谈。

a mass of 一大堆,大量的,大批的

There is *a mass of* stones in the back yard.

后院里有一大堆石头。

a matter of course 理所当然的事,自然的事

All goods are tested as *a matter of course* before they leave the factory.

所有货物出厂前必须经过检验。

a mile off 容易地感觉到,轻而易举地发现

Of course she is in love with Eric. I should have thought anyone could see that *a mile off*.

她爱上了艾立克,我想谁都能容易地看出来。

a millstone round one's neck 沉重的负担,艰难的包袱

This house is *a millstone round my neck*. It costs so much money to heat and repair that I cannot afford to keep it any longer.

这幢房子是我的一个沉重负担。供热和修缮需要花很多钱,我再也负担不

起了。

a month of Sundays 很久,很长时间

It will take me *a month of Sundays* to finish this work.

我要花相当长的时间才能完成这项工作。

a mug's game 蠢事,傻瓜才干的事情

Betting on horses is *a mug's game*; no one ever wins.

对赛马打赌是傻瓜才干的事情:没有人赢过。

a must 必须的东西,很重要的东西

Our flat is such a long way from the office that a car is *a must*.

我们的住房离办公室有很长一段路,因而小汽车是必备的东西。

a nail in one's coffin 催命符;加速某人的死亡,加速某人的失败

He will drive *a nail in his coffin* by the habit of smoking and drinking to excess.

他过度吸烟饮酒的习惯会加速他的死亡。

a nail-biting finish 振奋人心的事情,使人激动的结局

Two minutes before the end of the match, the other team scored a goal to make the scores level. It was *a nail-biting finish*!

在球赛结束前两分钟,另一球队踢进了一个球,把比分拉平。这真是一场激动人心的比赛。

a near miss 功败垂成;侥幸脱险,死里逃生

A near miss should not prevent you from trying again.

功败垂成不应该阻止你再次尝试。

a near thing 极险的事;九死一生,差点完蛋;相差极微

It was going to be *a near thing* whether Luke got his headship.

鲁克是否能取得领导人的资格,将是一个相去甚微的问题。

a new lease of life 新的更美好的生活;精神焕发,精神振作

The goods news gave them *a new lease of life*.

好消息使他们重新振作起来。

a night bird 过惯夜生活的人,夜猫子

Rocky used to be *a night bird* but since he married a year ago, he has become a family man.

罗基以前很喜欢夜生活,但自从一年前他结了婚,就变成爱好家庭生活的男人了。

a nine days' wonder 轰动一时的事件;昙花一现的新鲜事

This film star is *a nine day's wonder*. I doubt whether anyone will remember her in a year's time.

这位影星是昙花一现的人物,我怀疑在一年之后是否还有人会记得他。

a pain in the neck 令人讨厌的人,令人讨厌的东西

Your little brother is *a pain in the neck*.

你的小弟弟是个讨厌鬼。

a piece of cake 很容易完成的事,小事一桩

I need not have worried about my French examination. It was *a piece of cake*.

我用不着担心法语考试,那是小事一桩。

a purple patch 顺境的日子,走好运

The actor is now having *a purple patch* but he does not know how long it will last.

这演员正在走好运,但他不知道这种光景能维持多久。

a rare bird 稀有的人,罕见的事

Mr. Chen is *a rare bird* in the bar these days because he is always working overtime.

陈先生这些日子可谓是这家酒吧的稀客,因为他总是超时工作。

a rift in the lute 不和;破裂的开始,发狂的兆头

She saw him depart without bidding her a word of farewell. That was *a rift in the lute*.

她送别他时,他连一声再见也没有说。那是破裂的开始。

a Roland for an Oliver 势均力敌,旗鼓相当,针锋相对,以牙还牙

If you attack him, be sure you will get *a Roland for an Oliver*.

你若攻击他,你肯定会得到以牙还牙的报复。

a rolling stone 漂浮不定的人,性格好动的人

We all know that Kite is *a rolling stone*.

我们都知道凯特是个性格好动的人。

a rolling stone gathers no moss 浮游不定的人难成大器

Mr. Mike has had five jobs within three years. This will not get him very far.

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

迈克先生三年内换了五份工作,这样浮游不定,又怎样能有所成就呢!

a rubber stamp 橡皮图章;不加思索就批准决议的人;唯唯诺诺的人