

现代英语口语表示法 500 例

MODERN ENGLISH
COLLOQUIALISMS 500

汪福祥 蔡坚 著

外文出版社

**Modern English
Colloquialisms 500**

现代英语口语表示法 500 例

汪 福 祥 著
蔡 坚

Foreign Languages Press
外 文 出 版 社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

现代英语口语表示法 500 例/汪福祥, 蔡坚著.

—北京: 外文出版社, 2000.1

ISBN 7-119-02548-1

I. 现… II. ①汪… ②蔡… III. 英语-口语 IV. H319.9

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (1999) 第 73514 号

外文出版社网址:

<http://www.flp.com.cn>

外文出版社电子信箱:

info@flp.com.cn

sales@flp.com.cn

现代英语口语表示法 500 例

作 者 汪福祥 蔡 坚

责任编辑 蔡 箐 杨 杰

封面设计 唐少文

出版发行 外文出版社

社 址 北京市百万庄大街 24 号 邮政编码 100037

电 话 (010) 68326644—2331/2332/2307 (编辑部)

(010) 68329514/68327211 (推广发行部)

印 刷 春雷印刷厂

经 销 新华书店/外文书店

开 本 大 32 开 (140 × 203 毫米) 字 数 350 千字

印 数 0001—8000 册 印 张 12.5

版 次 2000 年第 1 版第 1 次印刷

装 别 平

书 号 ISBN 7-119-02548-1/H·881 (外)

定 价 18.00 元

版权所有 侵权必究

Internet U—No Ivy, No Walls, No Keg Parties

HOW CAN there be classes without classrooms? Exams without blue books?

For the steady inhalation of truth, just essential to top-drawer education? Joe Martin doesn't think so. The 41-year-old CFO of Farm Bureau Insurance in Indianapolis is enrolled in Duke University's Online Executive M.B.A. program. On his lunch hour, or in his bedroom as his wife sleeps, Martin logs on to the Internet and delves into homework assigned by a professor more than 500 miles away. He listens to lectures delivered via audio stream and engages in real-time Web chats with classmates from China to Brazil. In nine months he and 46 others from 14 countries will make up the first class to graduate from Duke's virtual business school. Duke is one of several



The day the computers crashed at cyberschool

We may have to be, especially when faced with the educational demands of the future. Utah Gov. Michael Leavitt has spearheaded the formation of a sort of electronic consortium of some 20 universities in 15 nearby states—dubbed Western Governors University (WGU)—that would allow online students to take classes from any of the institutions or from a combination of all of them. Leavitt co-sponsored the plan as a response to projections that his state's college enrollments would double by 2015. Utah can't afford the \$3 billion it would cost to build the nine new campuses required. Some futurists even go so far as to predict the demise of conventional teachers. Joseph Coates, coauthor of "2025: Scenarios of U.S. and Global Society Reshaped by Science and Technology," envisions a virtual education system from kindergarten to grad school that would eventually dispense altogether with age-based grades and allow pupils to progress independently. But not even staunch proponents of online education believe academe's hallowed halls will disappear anytime soon. Says WGU executive director Jeffrey Livingston, "There is no anticipation that it's either technology or a traditional

Internet U—No Ivy, No Walls, No Keg Parties

网上大学——没有常春藤，
没有围墙，没有啤酒晚会

网上大学 (Internet U 或 cyber college) 即将成为 21 世纪大学教育的主流 (be part of mainstream)。学员在家能完成教授布置的作业，听讲座，并与世界各地的同学作即时交流。目前已有 300 多所大学和学院向网上学院发文凭。ivy、wall 和 keg parties 在此换称传统大学的形式。

L E T T E R S



The Divas of Pop

“Japanese pop music won't make a dent in bigger overseas markets until it has something fresh and original to contribute.”

Douglas Janiskee
Tokyo

Times, October 14, 1997

Make a Dent

取得成就

日本流行音乐在亚洲乐坛拥有旗手的位置。他们的原创歌曲被亚洲其他国家或地区的歌手大量翻唱，但日本音乐有太多的欧美色彩，要想在世界乐坛占据一席之地，还需要新鲜的、民族的、原创的东西。make a dent in... 指“在（某…方面）取得成就或影响。”

Buying a Pig in a Poke

Money: Can the author of a Warren Buffett book run a mutual fund with Buffett-like returns?

BY ALLAN SLOAN

ROBERT HAGSTROM JR. IS LIVING PROOF that America is the land of opportunity. A year ago, Hagstrom was laboring in obscurity at a three-person money-management firm in Philadelphia. Today, he's not only famous, but he has a shot at becoming rich. Hagstrom's claim to fame is that his book about billionaire investor Warren Buffett, "The Warren Buffett Way," rocket-

counts"—accounts for which he makes all the investment decisions. This means that Hagstrom has no investment track record that outsiders can analyze. Hagstrom's response: so what? Given that most mutual funds underperform the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, he says, inexperience "may be my biggest advantage." That's like saying that because surgeons lose patients on the operating table, you're better off

Newsweek May 29, 1995

Buy a Pig in a Poke

盲目购买

1995年，投资分析家汉格斯特隆写了一本关于股票大王沃伦·巴菲特投资策略的专著。书非常畅销，于是，没有任何投资业绩的汉格斯特隆成立了投资公司，开始吸引资金。一个新手仅靠写一本有关巴菲特的书就能让投资者放心地把钱交给他吗？文章在这里提醒人们不要 Buy a pig in a poke.（未曾过目或不问好坏地）盲目购买。

INTERVIEW

WHY ARE MEN SUCH WIMPS?

SHOBHA DÉ IS INDIA'S BEST-SELLING English-language author, and one of its most controversial. Her novels, which usually portray women as the stronger of the sexes, deal with sexuality in explicit terms (though that has not prevented their being used as university texts in Bombay and as far afield as London and Chicago). Her latest book, a fast-selling nonfiction work published in late January and entitled "Surviving Men: The Smart Woman's Guide to Staying on Top," sets out to deflate the ego of the Indian male while also delivering a few well-aimed barbs at women. It's a "satin-sheathed harpoon," she says, intended to promote a dialogue between the sexes. Dé, 49, who has also been a model, a magazine editor and a newspaper columnist, lives in Bombay with her second husband and four of their six children. She spoke there with NEWSWEEK's Sudip Mazumdar. Excerpts:



“On a scale of 1 to

Newsweek March 3, 1997

Why Are Men Such Wimps?

男人为什么都是懦夫？

布哈·黛巴是印度一位用英语写作的畅销书作家，她的书专门探讨两性问题，树立女性自主意识。她对印度男人的评价是 self-absorbed（自以为是）、narcissistic（自我陶醉的）、feudal（封建的）、spoiled（惯坏的）和 infantile（幼稚的），而对印度女性的评价则是 strong、cunning、resilient、far more in touch with reality（强壮、聪明、有活力、更现实）。wimp 是俚语，意为“懦弱无能的人”。

Some Zip-Zap for Hip-Hop

In two new albums, the Japanese duo Cibo Matto and a Haitian group called the Fugees freshen up rap

THERE'S A WITTILY INCENDIARY scene in Spike Lee's film *Do the Right Thing* in which a group of Hispanics and a lone black man spar with each other by turning up their radios to louder, increasingly confrontational volumes. The scene challenges the old cliché that music is the universal language. Often, in fact, it is an expression of what divides us—Shania Twain and Tupac Shakur don't share much of a crossover audience. It's therefore a delight to encounter two engaging, off-beat new rap groups, the Japanese-American duo Cibo Matto and the Haitian-American trio the Fugees. Neither makes overtly integrationist music—no hip-hop covers of *We Shall Overcome*—but both of them cross cultural and musical boundaries to create a sound that is bold and fresh.

lot of kids who look up to these artists, who think what they're saying is true," says Michel, who was a philosophy major at New Jersey's Rutgers University before he took a break to pursue a music career. "I'm not saying don't do it, but let these people know that it's the same as with Arnold Schwarzenegger: when he jumps off buildings and shoots people up, it's just a movie at the end of the day."

Cibo Matto's blissfully oddball music, by contrast, is free of any overt social agenda. The duo's impressive debut album *Viva! La Woman* is a seductive mix of hip-hop beats, jazzy instrumentation and goofy yet provocatively surreal lyrics. "The velocity of time turns her voice to sugar water," sings lead vocalist Miho Hatori on the genially bizarre *Sugar Water*. Food—apples, artichokes, white-pepper ice cream, beef jerky—is the album's con-

Time, April 15, 1996

Some Zip-Zap for Hip-Hop

拉普乐的新声

这篇文章介绍二支海地裔日本裔的新锐拉普乐队。hip-hop 即 rap music (拉普音乐) 的俚语说法, 是一种配合打击乐器, 有节律地唱诵有韵二行诗的音乐, 常流行于美国城市黑人青少年中, zip-zap 是一个象声词, 指充满活力的、强劲的声音。

Winter Takes a Turn for the Worse

The most recent avalanches in western Austria were the season's worst, claiming 40 lives altogether. Slides have killed more than 80 people in the Alps since January.



SOURCE: CYBERSPACE SNOW AND AVALANCHE CENTER

makes it difficult for authorities to use "active" avalanche controls—namely, exploding small avalanches before they become big ones (following story). Where there are crowds, there can be no explosions, and therefore no active avalanche prevention.

The Alps are the most densely populated

high mountain range in the world. The weather of the past two months—overwhelming snowfalls—has emptied many of the areas' resorts and will certainly have an effect on tourism. But in a good season, the Alps are the single most popular tourist region in the world, drawing 120

Newsweek March 8, 1999

Winter Takes a Turn for the Worse

冬天让情况更糟

温室效应 (greenhouse effect) 使阿尔卑斯山脉 (Alps) 雪线逐年升高, 当地旅游开发商不得不把滑雪点修在更高的山坡上。那里雪崩 (avalanche) 的发生率也高得多, 因此屡次发生伤亡事故。take a turn 是“转弯、情况改变”的意思。

'We Were Crushed, We Were in Shock'

JonBenet Ramsey's parents speak

IN AN EMOTIONAL INTERVIEW to be aired this week on British television, John and Patsy Ramsey spoke about their daughter's murder. NEWSWEEK's excerpts:

Did you have anything to do with the death of JonBenet?

JOHN: I would have given my life for JonBenet. I regret, and I will regret for the rest of my

life, that I wasn't able to that night. No, to answer the question, no we did not.

PATSY: Absolutely not. I mean, how do you say no any more clearly than no? We love our children. I can't believe we're even having to answer this question, I mean, it's just so ludicrous.

Did you ever consider each other?

JOHN: No.

PATSY: Absolutely not.

John, you've said the worst part was finding the ransom note.

Why wasn't [finding JonBenet's body] the worst moment?

JOHN: It's just a devastating feeling, not only is your child not in your sight and you don't know where she is, but she's been forcibly taken out of your home by someone who we don't know, we don't know what their intent is. Is she alive, is she dead? Will we see her in an hour, will we see her in 10 years, will we never see her again? ... In a sense, finding her was a relief. I'd found my baby.

After the murder, many people said you didn't react or be-

Newsweek July 13, 1998

We Were Crushed, We Were in Shock

我们被压垮了，痛不欲生

拉姆齐夫妇在女儿惨遭不测后痛不欲生，be crushed原指“被压碎”，在此指精神上的重压。be in shock指“处于极度震惊之中”。

The Strangest of Bedfellows

Thurgood Marshall fought for civil rights. J. Edgar Hoover fought communists. How the two titans joined forces. BY JUAN WILLIAMS

THE FIRST TENTATIVE STEPS IN THE MINUTE BETWEEN Thurgood Marshall and J. Edgar Hoover were short and awkward. They came in 1956 when Dr. T.R.M. Howard gave a spit-and-fury speech to an NAACP meeting at the Sharp Street Methodist Church in Baltimore that harshly criticized the FBI. Bureau agents sent reports on the speech to Hoover, who wrote to Marshall, the NAACP's top lawyer -- not NAACP head Roy Wilkins. It was an unusual choice. Almost from his first days at the NAACP, Marshall had been vocal about the FBI's failure to protect blacks in the South. Hoover wrote to Marshall that since Howard had used the NAACP as "a forum" to criticize the bureau, Hoover was taking "the liberty of writing you to set the record straight."

one would know where he got the information and he wondered if I could be of any help to him ... "Nichols noted after his conversation with Marshall. Marshall recalled the meeting -- though not what Nichols shared with him -- years later: "I remember one time I had a conversation with Lou Nichols about something very important." Marshall said, still refusing to divulge exactly what he talked about with Nichols. "In the FBI office, in some of these secure offices, I met him." Marshall said. "I sat down. He tossed a yellow pad over to me. I said, 'You must be kidding. I know you guys don't allow copying.' He said, 'These are instructions from the boss. Make your copies and use 'em.' And I did. But I still ain't gonna tell ya what it was. We were helping each other. It was something he wanted and there was something I wanted."

Newsweek September 21, 1998

The Strangest of Bedfellows

同床异梦的盟友

相互对立的政治宿敌 (old enemy) 为了共同的利益竟能结成联盟 (alliance), 但这种关系是脆弱而短暂的, 他们必然为各自利益而相互倾轧, strange bedfellow 指“同床异梦的盟友”, 在此 strange 用最高级表示强调。

前 言

口语习语是人们进行思想交流和思想表达的重要途径。英语的口语 (colloquialisms) 既包括成语、谚语和典故, 也包括俗语、习语和俚语, 因此, 西方语言学界在给口语下定义时很难达成共识: 有人把谚语和成语从口语的行列中剔除出去; 有的则认为口语就是俗用语和习语。其实, 口语是与书面语 (written language) 相对而言的: 口语是人们在面对面交往或在较非正式的场合中所使用的一种约定俗成的语言形式, 书面语则缺乏口语所固有的某种程度上的“随意性”和“灵活性”。以 tell 一词为例, 在 I'll tell him the news. 和 I will inform him of the news. 两句中, 前者属于口语, 而后者则属于书面用语。当然, 书面用语中也包含着大量的口语, 而口语中也不乏常用于书面的谚语或成语。

尽管如此, 英语中的很多词条仍被人们广泛视为“口语”并将其明显区别于较为正式的书面用语, 这大概与这些词条在日常口语会话中的使用频率有关。以在付款情景中人们常说的 It's on me. 和 I'll foot the bill. 两句为例。这两种说法基本上限于口语情景。其实, 无论何种语言现象, 谚语也好, 俚语也罢, 只要人们在口语会话当中经常使用, 我们均可将其称为“口语”。Strike while the iron is hot. 本是一则谚语, 但因人们经常使用, 所以词典的编纂人也就自然而然地将其收录于“口语”词典中了。

中国学生在抱怨自己的口语水平不佳时, 常将其归因于单词量的缺乏, 这其实是不准确的。笔者从事大学英语教学达二十几年。从课堂上下学生的英语会话情景来看, 其水平的低下主要表现在思想的缺乏和对俗成的英语口语词组的掌握不足等方面, 而单词量并

非是主要的问题。以“她是不会干什么好事的。”、“这本小说很无聊。”、“他让大家咬紧牙关。”以及“这个东西吃了会上瘾的。”等口语句式为例，如果我们把其英语表示法展现在学生们眼前：
(1) She's up to no good. (2) This novel is all for the birds. (3) He asked us to bite the bullet. (4) This food easily gets in our blood. 又有多少学生会说这里面有他们不认识的单词呢？

作为一名大学专职英语教师，我深知这样一个事实：在学校所用的口语教材中没有一本可以囊括英美日常使用的绝大部分的口语表示法，也没有哪一本教材既可以提供口语情节又兼顾大多数的表示法。正因为此，我们才编写了这本书。值得提及的是，一般的英美口语词典或教科书，所收录的词条不下 3,000 条，有的甚至多达上万条，但学生们所急需的是英美人在日常口语会话中频繁出现的语言词条，是那些脍炙人口、老少皆知、雅俗共用的口语表示法。出于此种考虑，我们在数本《口语词典》中一次又一次地筛选，最终确定出 500 个最为常用的口语表示法。

为了使大家更好地掌握并能准确运用这些表示法，我们在每一词条的下面加上了汉英对照的例句以及简要的用法说明，并提供了简短的对话。每一个 Section 中的 15 个对话基本上是顺着一个思路编写下来的。我们深信，这样的编排一定有助于读者对每一词条用法的理解和掌握。

最后需要向读者交代的是，本书是工具参考书，不适于作课堂口语教材。这就要求读者制定一个学习计划，每日研习几条，日复一日，争取把书中的 500 个词条研习一遍。如若没有这样的时间，读者也可浏览“目录”，以寻找自己急需的具体词条。

本书作者

CONTENTS

目 录

- | | | | |
|-------|--|-------|---|
| [001] | one's brain child 某人的主意, 某人想出来的 | | 冷静 |
| [002] | have a chip on one's shoulder 叫阵, 叫板 | [016] | be rotten to the core 坏透了, 烂透了 |
| [003] | clam up 守口如瓶, 拒不开口, 沉默不语 | [017] | cut corners 偷工减料, 走捷径, 图省事, 节约 |
| [004] | take someone to the cleaners 使人囊中如洗, 一贫如洗 | [018] | have a crush on someone 迷恋上某人 |
| [005] | a cliff-hanger 扣人心弦的事情 | [019] | be a far cry from... 与……相差甚远 |
| [006] | fight the clock 争分夺秒, 与时间赛跑 | [020] | chew the cud 好好琢磨琢磨 |
| [007] | a clotheshorse 讲究穿戴的人 | [021] | be cut out for... 天生适合于…… |
| [008] | get hot under the collar 发怒, 怒气冲天 | [022] | be completely in the dark 一无所知, 仍蒙在鼓里 |
| [009] | come through with flying colors 干得出色, 大获成功 | [023] | a blind date 初次约会 |
| [010] | show (reveal) one's true colors 露出真实面目, 原形毕露 | [024] | have seen better days 今非昔比 |
| [011] | come up with 找出, 想出, 弄出, 提出 | [025] | be out of one's depth 力所不及 |
| [012] | jump to conclusions 仓促地下结论 | [026] | give someone a dose of his own medicine 以其人之道还治其人之身 |
| [013] | to one's heart's content 心满意足 | [027] | a drop in the bucket 沧海一粟 |
| [014] | lose one's cool 沉不住气 | [028] | play dumb with someone 装聋作哑 |
| [015] | play it cool 不露声色, 沉着 | [029] | be down in the dumps 垂头丧 |

气的, 神情沮丧的

- [030] make the dust fly 干得很起劲
[031] go easy on ... 酌情处理
……; 节约使用……; 对
……手下留情
[032] egg someone on to do some-
thing 怂恿, 鼓动某人干某事
[033] rub elbows with someone 和
某人没有很深的交情
[034] be at the end of one's tether
山穷水尽
[035] be at one's wits' end 不知如
何是好
[036] be at loose ends 心里没有着
落
[037] make both ends meet 收支平
衡
[038] be green with envy 羡慕极了
[039] be of the essence 绝对不可
少的, 关键的
[040] a poor apology for... 蹩脚
货, 名不符实
[041] make an exhibition of oneself
出洋相
[042] keep an eye open 密切注视
[043] see eye to eye with... 与
……意见一致
[044] turn a blind eye to ... 装作没
看见……
[045] feast one's eyes on... 观赏
……, 一饱眼福
[046] have a face that would stop a
clock 奇丑无比
[047] keep a straight face 板着脸

[048] be fed up with ... 对……烦
透了

- [049] fall for ... 迷恋上……
[050] be riding for a fall 自讨苦吃
[051] play fast and loose with... 敷衍了事, 不正经干
[052] play favorites with... 对……
有偏心眼
[053] put out a feeler to do ... 试
探……的反应
[054] be dead on one's feet 精疲力
尽
[055] land on one's feet 安全摆脱
困境
[056] stand on one's feet 自食其力
[057] sit on the fence 保持中立
[058] play the field 不正经干
[059] burn one's fingers 因管闲事
而吃苦头
[060] have sticky fingers 手不老实
[061] keep one's fingers crossed 祈
求成功
[062] let something slip through
one's fingers 眼睁睁地看着
……跑掉
[063] build a fire under someone 紧
催促某人……
[064] have other fish to fry 有其它
要紧事情做
[065] a flash in the pan 昙花一现
[066] a fly in the ointment 美中不足
[067] be nobody's fool 不傻; 精明
[068] get off on the right foot 开门红

- [069] put one's foot down 气愤地表示反对
- [070] play footsy with... 与……调情
- [071] marry a fortune 嫁给了有钱的人
- [072] as sly as a fox 非常狡猾
- [073] a dime a dozen 数不清, 不稀罕
- [074] make free with... 擅自使用……
- [075] a freeloader 白吃白喝, 爱占便宜的人
- [076] a fair-weather friend 不能同患难的朋友
- [077] get stage fright 怯场
- [078] add fuel to the flames 火上浇油
- [079] have a barrel of fun 极开心
- [080] make fun of someone 取笑某人
- [081] play to the gallery 哗众取宠, 收买人心
- [082] gang up on someone 结伙对付某人
- [083] be in high gear 全力进行
- [084] get away with... 逃脱惩罚
- [085] have the gimmies 患伸手病
- [086] give as good as one gets 不服输, 不示弱
- [087] fit like a glove 恰到好处, 非常合适
- [088] handle ... with kid gloves 小心, 谨慎对待……
- [089] get someone's goat 使人恼怒, 惹人生气
- [090] for good 永远地
- [091] be too good to be true 好得令人难以相信
- [092] have the goods on someone 有某人犯罪的证据
- [093] goof off 偷懒耍滑
- [094] through the grapevine 道听途说
- [095] The grass is always greener on the other hill 这山望着那山高
- [096] use elbow grease 费很大的劲头
- [097] get the green light 得到批准
- [098] grin and bear it 一笑忍之
- [099] catch someone off guard 乘虚而入
- [100] hate somebody's guts 恨之人骨
- [101] kick the habit 戒除恶习
- [102] get in somebody's hair 惹恼某人
- [103] let one's hair down 无拘无束
- [104] without turning a hair 保持冷静的态度, 不动声色
- [105] a half-wit 弱智者
- [106] bite the hand that feeds one 恩将仇报
- [107] gain the upper hand 占上风
- [108] have someone eating out of one's hand 使人完全服从某人的摆布

- [109] live from hand to mouth 勉强糊口
- [110] overplay one's hand 做得过火了
- [111] tip one's hand 无意中亮底
- [112] try one's hand at ... 试着干.....
- [113] fly off the handle 大发雷霆
- [114] play into someone's hand 正中某人下怀
- [115] wash one's hands off something 洗手不再干某事
- [116] get the hang of something 掌握某事的窍门
- [117] go haywire 乱了套
- [118] bury one's head in the sand 逃避现实
- [119] make neither head nor tail of... 对.....摸不着头脑
- [120] have one's head in the clouds 满脑子幻想
- [121] turn one's head 使某人自满
- [122] have one's heart set on... 一心想要.....
- [123] one's heart in one's mouth 吓得要命
- [124] not have the heart to do something 不忍心去做
- [125] take something to heart 往心里去/认真接受意见等
- [126] be in the seventh heaven 高兴极了
- [127] move heaven and earth 想尽一切办法

- [128] cool one's heels 等得双脚发凉, 久等
- [129] take to one's heels 逃走, 蹣丫子
- [130] shoot from the hip 信口开河
- [131] by hook or by crook 千方百计地, 不择手段地
- [132] blow hot and cold 出尔反尔, 喜怒无常
- [133] make it hot for... 刁难某人
- [134] have the hots for someone 迷恋上某人
- [135] bring down the house 博得满堂喝彩
- [136] be over the hump 已渡过难关
- [137] have a hunch that... 预感到.....
- [138] be hunky-dory 挺不错的
- [139] skate on thin ice 如履薄冰, 冒风险
- [140] toy with the idea of ... 心里盘算要.....
- [141] No ifs, ands and buts 不要找任何的理由, 借口
- [142] give someone an inch and he'll take a mile 得寸进尺
- [143] have many irons in the fire 同时有很多要紧的事情要做
- [144] be in a jam 陷入困境
- [145] jaywalk 横穿马路
- [146] in a jiffy 不大一会儿
- [147] have (a case of) the jitters 忐忑不安