

TODAY'S IDIOM

当代英语习语

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前言

随着新世纪的来临,我们将步入知识经济时代。贯彻科教兴国战略、发展知识经济就要开发智力资源,使包括高科技在内的各类人才达到国际水平,英语的重要性不言而喻;而提高全民族的文化素质,外语水平的提高尤为重要。

新的“英语教学大纲”即将公布,除了对教学目的提出更高要求外,还增加了英语四、六级的词汇量,旧大纲的词汇中有 723 条习语,在此基础上将增加一倍以上。在每年四、六级英语考试中习语大量出现。

现观察 1997 年 6 月英语四级最新曝光题中习语的使用情况:

32. You cannot be _____ careful when you drive a car.
A) very C) too
B) so D) enough
(【Key】C; Idiom: *cannot be too*)
34. Every man in this country has the right to live where he wants to, _____ the color of his skin.
A) with the exception of C) by virtue of
B) in the light of D) regardless of
(【Key】D; Idiom: *regardless of*)
41. The soldier was _____ of running away when the enemy attacked.
A) scolded C) accused
B) charged D) punished
(【Key】C; Idiom: *accuse sb of sth*)
46. When he arrived, he found _____ the aged and the sick at home.
A) none but C) nothing but
B) none other than D) no other than

(【Key】 A; Idiom: *none but*)

51. Studies show that the things that contribute most to a sense of happiness cannot be bought, _____ a good family life, friendship and work satisfaction.

A) as for

C) in case of

B) in view of

D) such as

(【Key】 D; Idiom: *such as*)

52. He will agree to do what you require of him.

A) of

C) to

B) from

D) for

(【Key】A; Idiom: *require sth of sb*)

54. John seems a nice person. , I don't trust him.

A) Even though

C) Therefore

B) Even so

D) Though

(【Key】 B; Idiom: *even so*)

57. _____ that my head had cleared, my brain was also beginning to work much better.

A) For

C) Since

B) Now

D) Despite

(【Key】 B; Idiom: *now that*)

59. By 1929, Mickey Mouse was as popular _____ children as Coca-Cola.

A) for

C) to

B) in

D) with

(【Key】 D; Idiom: *be popular with*)

60. Because Edgar was convinced of the accuracy of this fact, he
his opinion.

A) struck at

C) stuck to

B) strove for

D) stood for

(【Key】C; Idiom; *stick to*)

再观察 1997 年 6 月英语六级最新曝光题中习语的使用情况:

49. The political future of the president is now hanging by a

- A) thread C) string
B) cord D) rope

(【Key】A; Idiom: *hang by a hair/a single thread of a person's fate, etc.*)

54. David likes country life and has decided to _____ farming.
A) go in for C) go through with
B) go back on D) go along with

(【Key】A; Idiom: *go in for*)

55. Jack was about to announce our plan but I _____.
A) put him through. C) gave him up
B) turned him out D) cut him short

(【Key】D; Idiom: *cut sb short*)

56. I am sure I can _____ him into letting us stay in the hotel for the night.

- A) speak C) talk
B) say D) tell

(【Key】C; Idiom: *talk sb into*)

65. Fewer and fewer of today's workers expect to spend their working lives in the same field, _____ the same company.
A) all else C) less likely
B) much worse D) let alone

(【Key】D; Idiom: *let alone*)

67. Thank you for applying for a position with our firm. We do not have any openings at this time, but we shall keep your application on _____ for two months.

- A) pile C) sequence
B) segment D) file

(【Key】D; Idiom: *on file*)

为了帮助中级以上英语水平的读者更扎实地学好英语,我们编写了《当代英语习语》(Today's Idiom)。本教材既可供报考四、六级大学本专科学生使用,又可供报考 TOEFL 及研究生的考生入学考试之用,还可作为英语教师的教学参考资料。本教材共设 60 学时,同时适于读者自学。

本书分为 60 个单元,每单元配备 20 个习语,共计 1200 个习语,在索引中又增添 600 个,全书总计习语 1800 个。

语言学家叶圣陶先生说过:“教材就等于提供例子”。本教材依据“字不离句,句不离文”的原则,以准确的英文释义、地道的英语实例、少而精的练习,帮助读者掌握好重要的必备习语。

本书具有以下几项特色:

1. 专项归类

为了便于联想式记忆,以便使读者能举一反三,触类旁通,我们将同类型习语归纳在一个或数个单元内。如颜色、时间、动物、食品、气候等项。比如英语单词 **black** 常用在以下习语中:in the **black**(银行存款有盈余);to beat sb **black and blue**(把人打得遍体鳞伤);in the **black and white**(有书面文字的;白纸黑字的);the **black market**(黑市)等专项归纳,便于读者联想记忆,获取最佳记忆效果。

2. 精讲多练

本书每单元的开始配备了“**Pretest**”(预备测试),以便了解自己对本单元习语的熟悉程度,接着是“**Idiom Learning**”(习语学习),以左右两栏形式编排,左栏安排习语、英文解释、习语的中文相应含义;右栏配备含有本习语的典型例句,并附有精当的中译文,便于理解与记忆。再下面编有“**Production Test**”(成果测试),配有改错、翻译、填空练习等,以此来检查效果,巩固成绩。

3. 配备索引

本书后配备索引,使本书具有辞书的部分功能,以关键词为主线,按字母顺序安排,以便读者能快速找到。如一个习语含有两个关键词,如果按前一个关键词查不到,按后一个关键词定能查到。具有相同结构的习语,如“... **and** ...”,先查到关键词(以黑体排出)**and**,再从左边单词以字母顺序寻找。又如“**as**...**as**...”结构,以第一个 **as** 作为关键词,第二个单词以字母顺序排列。还有的同义词组,如 **and so forth**; **and so on**; **and the like** (等等)依次排在一起,便于联想记忆。

4. 最新习语

当前的时代科学技术一日千里,发明创造日新月异,新词汇、新习语也层出不穷。本书尽量将一些新习语提供给广大读者,以便

读者及时掌握时代的脉搏。例如:personal stereo(Walkman)(立体声收录机,单放机);information superhighway(信息高速公路);knowledge economy(知识经济);Internet(因特网);e-mail(用计算机传递电子信函;电子信函);computer nerd(网虫);mobile phone(移动电话,大哥大);computer pet(电子宠物);canned laughter(某些电视节目中配上去的笑声);cloning technique(克隆技术);genetic engineering(遗传工程);test-tube baby(试管婴儿);AIDS(艾滋病);cool(很好;时髦;酷),如此等等。

5. 常用成语

本书索引部分附有 100 余个常用成语,如在四、六级考试中用作作文题目的成语;Practice Makes Perfect.(熟能生巧)曾是英语四级考试作文题;More Haste, Less Speed.(欲速则不达)曾是英语六级考试作文题。

6. 配制录音

本书同时配备有美国专家录制的录音带,给读者提供听力训练的机会。

在本书编写过程中,黄佳、杨韬等同志参加了抄稿、看稿、作校对等工作。在此,我们一并表示衷心感谢。

欢迎读者和专家批评指正。

编者

1998 年 9 月

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Unit One

Idioms with Key Words from People

Pretest

Put each of the following key words in its correct place in the sentences below:

Hancock	run	Bull	Cain	man
Joneses	McCoy	family	wife	John

1. Red hair runs in his _____.
2. He acted the _____ in battling terrorism.
3. Put your John _____ on the dotted line.
4. Omar and his sister are both very thin. Being skinny must _____ in the family.
5. Mummy, I need to visit _____ to do No. 1 job.
6. When he found he was left holding the bag he decided to raise _____.
7. Kate and Ken just bought the same car as Mavis and Mick, the same drapes as Dinah and Dick, the same chihuahua as Antonio and Antonia. They're really keeping up with the _____.
8. The large diamond in her ring isn't an imitation. It's the real _____.
9. He is the John _____ who doesn't like foreigner.
10. Mrs. Drabe would have to be like Caesar's _____ so that no tinge of scandal would embarrass her husband, our new mayor.

Keys

- | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|---------|----------|
| 1. family | 2. man | 3. Hancock | 4. run | 5. John |
| 6. Cain | 7. Joneses | 8. McCoy | 9. Bull | 10. wife |

Idiom Learning

1. **smart aleck**—sb who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it (自作聪明的人; 神气活现的家伙) I don't like the man who is a *smart aleck*. 我不喜欢他这种自作聪明的人。
2. **like Caesar's wife**—above suspicion (无可怀疑) Nobody who was near the scene of the crime is *like Caesar's wife*. 在犯罪现场的任何人都在被怀疑之列。
3. **raise Cain**—cause trouble, make a fuss (大吵大闹; 找麻烦,发脾气) If I'm late again, the boss will *raise Cain*. 我再迟到,老板就要大发雷霆了。
4. **blind drunk**—very drunk (烂醉如泥; 酩酊大醉) He says that Fox made his best speeches when he was *blind drunk*. 他说,福克斯喝得醉醺醺的时候讲演是最出色的。
5. **go Dutch**—share the cost, to pay one's own bill (各自付钱) She wanted to *go Dutch* with me at the restaurant last night. 昨晚在饭店吃饭后,她要同我分摊费用。
6. **run in a family**—be a feature that keeps coming back in different generations of a family ((性格、特征等)为一家人所共有,世代相传) A gift for music *runs in that family*. 那家人都有音乐天赋。
7. **start a family**—begin to When do you hope to *start a*

- have children (生第一个孩子, 开始有小孩)
8. **girl Friday** — young woman with a wide range of office duties (女事务员; 能干的女助手)
9. **wise guy** — (*AmE informal*) sb who acts as if he or she knows everything and is often rude about it (自以为是的人)
10. **a jack of all trades** — a person who can do many different kinds of work but not necessarily well (万能先生; 博而不精的人)
11. **John** — toilet (厕所)
12. **John Bull** — the English people (典型的英国人)
13. **John Hancock** — (*AmE informal*) signature (签名)
14. **keep up with the Joneses** — try to maintain the same social and material standards as one's neighbors (与左邻右舍并驾齐驱(比排场))
- family?* 你希望什么时候生第一个孩子?
- She found the job as a *girl Friday* in the big company. 她在这家大公司谋求到一个女事务员的职务。
- Ok, *wise guy*, shut up and listen for a minute! 好吧, 自以为是的小伙子, 闭上你的嘴, 听我说一会儿!
- If there's something wrong with your radio, you may ask Tom for help who is a *jack of all trades*. 如果你的收音机有毛病, 你可以求助于汤姆, 他是万能先生。
- I got runs so I've to visit *John* to do No. 1 job. 我肚子痛, 要上厕所大便。
- They are not American at all, you know, they are *John Bull*. 你知道他们根本不是美国人, 他们是地道的英国人。
- They want my *John Hancock* on the contract. 他们要我在合同上签名。
- They buy a new car every year, not because they need one, but to *keep up with the Joneses*. 他们每年买一辆新汽车, 不是出于需要, 而是为了赶时髦。

15. **man/woman of means** — a rich person (富有的人) Bill Gates, who is a computer specialist, is a *man of means* in the United States. 比尔·盖茨是一位计算机专家,他是美国一位富有的人。
16. **act the man** — behave bravely (表现勇敢) He *acted the man* in every way. 他各方面都表现得很勇敢。
17. **play the man** — be a male person with the qualities of courage, toughness, etc. often associated with men (显出大丈夫气概,无所畏惧) You will surmount your difficulties if only you *play the man*. 只要拿出大丈夫气概来,你就能克服困难。
18. **the real McCoy** — a true example of sth (真货;可靠的东西) Bottled lemon juice is no good — you must use *the real McCoy*. 瓶装的柠檬汁不行——你必须用原装货。
19. **rub a person the wrong way** — do sth that irritates or annoys (触犯(或惹怒)某人) What you said may *rub him the wrong way*. 你所说的那些话可能惹怒他。
20. **Tom, Dick, or Harry** — nobody special, just any person (任何人;张三、李四) We don't want any *Tom, Dick and Harry* using the club bar. 我们不让随便什么人都使用俱乐部酒吧。

Production Test

I. Gap Fill

Put in the key words from the idioms we have just learnt in its correct place in the sentences below:

1. Griselda wants to get some work experience, and she likes to do a lot of different things. So she's gotten a job as a _____ Friday at the local TV studio.

2. His idea of a good night out is to get blind _____.
3. The president of our company is a woman of _____.
4. The quickest way to rub a _____ the wrong way is to give him the cold shoulder.
5. Be careful with Ben. He's somewhat of a wise _____.
6. Amanda asked Richard to go on a date, but she said that they would go _____.
7. I don't like to work with her. She's such a smart _____.
8. I don't lend my car to just any _____, Dick or Harry.
9. At last I found Andy the handyman. He's a _____ of all trades.
10. This ring is the real _____. It's genuine.

Keys

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. girl | 2. drunk | 3. means | 4. person | 5. guy |
| 6. Dutch | 7. aleck | 8. Tom | 9. jack | 10. McCoy |

I. Error Correction

There's only one mistake in each of the following sentences.

Correct the following sentences and explain your corrections:

1. She bought the new car just to keep up with the Jonese.

2. My cousin has a business that makes a large profit every year.
He's a man of mean.

3. Don't be such wise guy and act as if you know it all. Other
people won't like you.

4. What we need in this office is a girl on Friday.

5. Alexandra is such smart aleck. She always thinks she's right
about everything and always makes you think that you're

wrong.

-
6. Being good at math goes in my family.
-
7. The boss was very careful about whom he hired for the job, and he interviewed several people. He didn't just hire any Tom, Dick, and Harry.
-
8. Louise can fix TVs, paint houses, and build shelves. She's a jack in all trades.
-
9. When I go out to eat with my friends, we usually run Dutch. This way everyone knows what he or she is spending.
-
10. They played the men in the battle field.
-

Keys

1. keep up with the *Jonese*—keep up with the *Joneses*
2. a man of *mean*—a man of *means*
3. wise guy—*a* wise guy
4. a girl *on* Friday—a girl Friday
5. smart aleck—*a* smart aleck
6. *goes* in my family—*runs* in my family
7. Tom, Dick, *and* Harry—Tom, Dick, *or* Harry
8. a jack *in* all trades—a jack *of* all trades
9. *run* Dutch—*go* Dutch
10. played the *men*—played the *man*

III. Translation

Put the following sentences containing *Idioms from People* into Chinese:

1. He was *rubbed the wrong way* by her insolence.
-