

A
CONCISE DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH
IDIOMS AND PHRASES

简明英语常用成语词典

罗时中 编

中国科学技术大学出版社

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前 言

本成语词典的宗旨在于使读者能在较短时间内较有效地掌握常用英语成语,从而达到迅速提高英语运用能力的目的。阅读对象为大中学校师生和广大英语爱好者。

本词典收录了常用的英语成语 1600 余条,每条成语后均附有例句,例句精确、地道为其特色。例句大部分取自英美作家的原著(署名),小部分取自经英美文人改写或翻译的作品(未署名)。相关词典的例句一概未采用。这就为读者提供了阅读英文原著的机会,至少能学到地道的英语。为便于读者理解学习,例句皆附有中文译文。

本词典是在参阅了数十种英文原著和近百种英文书籍的基础上编纂而成的。利用本词典,一可查阅英语成语用法;二可充当阅读材料;三可作为翻译的借鉴。

在编写过程中,曾参考了中外有关工具书,并引用了一些英文原著及中译本中的句子,特此向有关的作者和译者们致谢。此外,肖作新、赵一如、罗春晖等同志为本词典的编写搜集并提供了大量的资料,盛学峨教授曾进行过具体指导,刘子臣教授仔细审阅了原稿并提出了许多宝贵意见,对他们的大力支持与帮助,在此也一并表示衷心的感谢。

由于本人能力有限,时间紧迫,本词典不足之处在所难免,敬请读者批评指正。

罗时中 谨识

1996 年 4 月 20 日

凡 例

1. 本词典按中心词的字母顺序编排。中心词按名词、形容词、动词、副词、代词等顺序确定。例如：

词 条	中心词
take care of	care
turn sick	sick
put up with	put
out of	out
with that	that

be 一般不作为中心词。

2. 中心词的变化形式排在原形之后。例如：time 排在前，times 排在后；surprise 排在前，surprised 排在后。
3. 中心词在词条中为第一个词时排在前，为第二个词时排在后，依次类推。例如：all out 排在前，after all 排在后。中心词的词序相同时，按其前面单词的字母顺序排列。例如：after all 排在前，at all 排在后。
4. 中心词如有两个或两个以上，以第一个为中心词。例如：to and fro，以 to 为中心词；up and down，以 up 为中心词。
5. 条目中()内的词表示可代换或可省略。
6. 条目中代词的含义如下：one 指本人，动作的主体；one's 指本人的；oneself 指本人自己；sb. 指某人，动作的客体；sb.'s 指某人的；sth. 指某事或某物。
7. 条目中的英语成语，中心词排为黑斜体，非中心词排为黑正体，以示区别。成语的中文释义也排为黑体。在例句中，相应的英

语成语也用黑正体标出,以方便查找和学习。

8. 例句的原作者一般用简名,附在该例句后面的()内,用白斜体排版。未注明出处的例句系取自英美文人改写或翻译的作品。
9. 英文例句中,莎士比亚(W. Shakespeare)与乔叟(G. Chaucer)等人的诗句一律用斜线“/”隔行,大小写从原作;肖伯纳(B. Shaw)作品中的 Youll, Dont, thats, wouldnt 等,马克·吐温(Mark Twain)作品中的 warn't, dasn't 等,欧·亨利(O. Henry)作品中的 ye, yer 等,也从原作;笛福(D. Defoe)的作品中,大写字母用得较多,也未作更改;英美作品中司空见惯的写法,如 an' = and, 'em = them, 'twas = it was, 'Tis = It is, 'Twill = it will, d'ye = do you, on'y = only 等,也保持原样;个别不太合乎语法习惯的地方,如 I says, he ain't 等,也从原作。
10. 口语或俚语均注明【口语】或【俚语】等。

关于英语成语

英语是世界上最重要的语言之一。我们在学习和使用英语时,无时无刻不在和英语成语打交道。因此,在一定的意义上,能否掌握和运用英语成语,关系到英语学习的成败。这里拟从以下几个方面进行初步探讨:

一、何谓英语成语?

在 TOEFL 考试中,常会遇到这样的题目:

例 1 从 (A)~(D) 选项中,找出与句中划线部分意义最接近的词语:

Mary met her sister unexpectedly while she was shopping in the city.
(A) ran over (B) ran after (C) ran into (D) ran down

例 2 从 (A)~(D) 选项中,选出一个意义与原句最相近的句子:

Wally ran into his friends, John and Robert, on his way to the theater.

(A) Wally didn't go to the theater.

(B) Wally happened to meet his friends.

(C) Wally had words with Robert.

(D) Wally, John and Robert went to the theater together.

答案 例 1 选 C; 例 2 选 B。

像 run after, run down, run into, run over 等,就是英语成语。

所谓成语,就是人们长期以来习用的、形式简洁而意思精辟的、定型的词组或短句。每种语言都有自己的成语,《汉语成语词典》收集了

8700 多条汉语成语,而《综合英语成语词典》则包括约 5 万条英语成语。成语是英语的重要组成部分,因此各级各类英语考试中,都要求掌握一定数量的成语,如 TOEFL 和 GRE 考试要求掌握 2000~3000 条成语。故要学好英语,考试取得高分,就必须重视英语成语的学习和运用。

二、英语成语的结构

英语成语从结构上分析,大致可分为四类:

I. 以动词为中心的成语

其主要结构为:动词+介词(或副词)。这类成语在英语中占一大半。有些动词构成成语的能力特别强,下面以动词 look 为例举例说明(例句均取自英美原著,括号内为原作者姓名,下同):

1. Thus Annie has time to **look about** her. (*D. H. Lawrence*) 因而安妮可以从容不迫地观望四周。
2. As he came into the hall he encountered the girl, who **was now looking after** another chamber. (*T. Dreiser*) 当他走进客厅里时,又遇见了那个姑娘,她现在正在整理另一个房间。
3. Then he got out and **looked around**. (*R. Dahl*) 他走下车向四面张望。
4. She **looked at** him with her most winning smile. (*B. Shaw*) 她施出全副妩媚劲儿笑着对他看了看。
5. Arthur **looked away** with a sense of awe-struck wonder. (*E. L. Voynich*) 亚瑟不由起了一种畏惧的感觉,诧异地急忙把头转过去。
6. She **looked back** from the pavement, and Irene was still standing in the doorway. (*J. Galsworthy*) 她走到人行道上时回过头来看看,伊琳仍旧站在门口。
7. Kino **looked down** to cover his eyes from the glare. (*J. Steinbeck*) 奇诺垂下眼睛,躲避那眩目的光芒。

8. We all turned and **looked** around **for** Gatsby. (*F. S. Fitzgerald*)
我们都掉转身来,四面张望去找盖茨比。
9. I **have been looking forward to** meeting you ever since Arthur told us. (*Jack London*) 自从阿瑟告诉了我们,我一直盼望着跟你见面呢。
10. **Look here**, now, if you give me one word out of your head, I'll smash your face in. (*H. B. Stowe*) 听着,如果你口出狂言,我就打扁你的脑袋。
11. He stopped the car and **looked in** through the hole behind his seat. (*E. Hemingway*) 他停住车,从车座后那个窟窿望了进来。
12. Nancy Lee thought deeply, but she could recall none in all the encyclopedias or geographies she **had ever looked into**. (*L. Hughes*)
南茜·李深思着,但她想不起在她翻阅过的所有百科全书和地理书上曾经见过。
13. ... the gnarled roots **looked like** skeleton claws. (*D. du Maurier*)
……节瘤毕露的根部活像骷髅的魔爪。
14. By this time we had come to the house, where I found his room to be one just within the side door, with a little window in it **looking on** the court-yard. (*Ch. Dickens*) 这时我们已走进室内,一进门有间屋子,有扇小窗临着院子,他就住在那里。
15. Tobin came back and sat down, and I began to **look out** for him, for the man's adversities were becoming frequent. (*O. Henry*)
托宾回来坐下,我见他倒霉事接踵而来,便开始替他留点神。
16. "**Look out for** me tomorrow," he whispered, "three o'clock, I'll wait for you in the road; it's save time." (*J. Galsworthy*) "明天来找我,"他低声说,"三点钟。我在大路上等你;节省时间。"

17. He was lounging in a large easy-chair, **looking over** some letters that had come in the afternoon mail, ... (*H. B. Stowe*) 他躺在一把大靠椅上,正在拆阅下午收到的几封信,……
18. Kizzy slid alongside the cabin's wall until she could **look through** the cabin's single window toward the big house. (*A. Haley*) 吉西沿着小屋的墙溜到屋内唯一的窗户前,通过窗子往大房子瞧。
19. I saw two women, **looking towards** the grave, **looking towards** me. 我看见两个女人朝着坟墓看,也朝着我看。
20. Coyotito **looked up** for a moment and closed his eyes and slept again. (*J. Steinbeck*) 小狗子仰着头望了一会儿,又闭上眼睛睡着了。
21. She **looked upon** him as her errand-man, and humble slave. (*W. M. Thackeray*) 她把他看作一个跑腿的佣人,一个不值钱的奴才。

II. 以名词为中心的成语

其主要结构有两种:

A. 动词 + 名词(+介词)。例如:

1. But we shall **do our best** for you, of course. (*A. Christie*) 当然,我们将为你尽最大的努力。
2. Where did you **make his acquaintance**? (*Jack London*) 你在什么地方结识他的呢?
3. It evidently **made no difference** whether I was there to look after things or not. (*E. Hemingway*) 那里有没有我照看,显然没有多大关系。
4. Hold on, now; don't **make such a fuss** over a little things. (*H. Garland*) 得了,别说了;这点小事还值得这么大惊小怪的。
5. You **take delight in** vexing me. (*J. Austen*) 你是故意惹我气

恼,以此为荣吧。

B. 介词 + 名词(+介词)。例如:

1. It was all **on her account**. (*T. Hardy*) 这一切,都是为了她的缘故。
2. **At times** the fellow in the corner howled in a writhing agony of his imaginations. (*S. Crane*) 那个睡在角落里的汉子时不时地从梦中发出几声凄厉的哀号。
3. Eric is in his early twenties, not quite **at ease**, half shy, half assertive. (*J. Priestley*) 伊里克二十岁出头,不很自在,有点羞怯,也有点自以为是。
4. She had something to live for **in addition to** her son. (*T. Hardy*) 除了儿子之外,她又有了新的东西,值得为它活下去。
5. **By dint of** listening patiently, Phyl learned that Matt would finish on his boat by early afternoon at latest, ... (*J. Lindsay*) 由于耐心地听着,菲儿知道麦特最迟在过午就可以卸完他那条船上的货,……

Ⅲ. 以形容词为中心的成语

其主要结构有两种:

A. be 动词 + 形容词(包括过去分词)(+介词)。例如:

1. Somebody said you should **be able to** learn it in two weeks. (*E. Hemingway*) 有人说学两星期就应该能学会。
2. He liked the people who **were fond of** him ... (*W. H. Thackeray*) 凡喜欢他的人,他都喜爱……
3. He **was proud of** himself, **proud of** his success, **proud of** Carrie. (*T. Dreiser*) 他很自豪,为他的成功而骄傲,为嘉莉而骄傲。
4. That **was worth** getting expelled from the university. (*M. Mitchell*) 这次被学校开除还是值得的。
5. The restaurant **was filled** now **with** people who chatted and laughed

to an orchestral background and a clatter of plates, ... (*D. du Maurier*) 餐厅里已经高朋满座,伴随着管弦乐队的琴鼓喇叭,人声笑语不绝于耳,还有盘碟清脆的碰撞声,……

B. 系动词 + 形容词。例如:

1. And we didn't give up, because we believe in the American dream, and in our power to make that dream **come true**. (*L. Hughes*)
不过我们并没有认输,因为我们相信这个美国的梦想,相信我们有力量来实现这个梦想。
2. Of course, during these performances pitch darkness falls from time to time, when the machine **goes wrong**. (*D. H. Lawrence*) 当然,在放电影时,有时放映机出了毛病,便会漆黑一团。
3. ... for the captain **falling sick** of an ague, we could not leave to Cape till the end of March. (*J. Swift*) ……因为船长害疟疾,我们一直到三月底才离开好望角。
4. Just **keep quiet**, Eric, and don't get excited. (*J. Priestley*) 安静点,伊里克,不要激动。
5. I reckoned they'd **turn pale**. But no, nary a pale did they turn. (*Mark Twain*) 我以为他们的脸一定吓白了。但是不然,他们的脸才吓不白呢。

IV. 其它成语

包括一些连词短语、介词短语、分词短语以及其它不规则短语和短句。例如:

1. Should the meanest thing alive slap me on the cheek, I'd **not only** turn the other, **but**, I'd ask pardon for provoking it. (*E. Brontë*)
要是天底下最下贱的东西打了我一个耳光,我不但要转过脸去,把另一面给他打,而且还要向他赔不是,说是我惹恼了他。
2. **If only** Nell was here, we could have the first-class party, just the three of us. (*J. Lindsay*) 要是尼尔在这里就好了,我们三个人

可以开一个头等的晚会。

3. Beth said nothing, but wiped away her tears with the blue army sock, and began to knit **with all her might**, ... (*L. Alcott*) 贝思一声不响,用蓝军袜抹去眼泪后,使出浑身解数开始织起袜子来,……
4. “**Generally speaking**, ” said Miss Murdstone, “I don’t like boys. How d’ye do, boy?” (*Ch. Dickens*) “一般说来,”摩德斯通小姐说道,“我不喜欢男孩子。你好,孩子?”
5. He let the debtor off **again and again**, expanding the time whenever possible. (*H. Garland*) 他让债户一次又一次地延期,只要可能,就把期限放宽。
6. She was, **all in all**, exceedingly happy. (*T. Dreiser*) 总之,她是非常地快乐。
7. Julia was his eldest step-brother’s wife, and **a thorn in his side**. (*E. Voynich*) 朱丽娅是他异母长兄的妻子,是他肉中的一根毒刺。
8. That suggestion of mine, it **has** indeed **stirred up the nest of hornets**. (*A. Christie*) 我的建议可捅了马蜂窝了。
9. The horses were carrying goods. They were being guarded because **it was said** that Mr Faggus was near and might steal the goods. 马驮着货,(士兵们)护卫着,因为据说弗格斯先生就在附近,他可能要抢货物。
10. I thank you, sir, **if you please**. (*Ch. Dickens*) 谢谢你,先生,请别见怪。

除上述四类英语成语之外,还有一类属口语。例如:

1. She’s **all out** to do the best for the family. (*A. Christie*) 她竭尽全力为这个家庭效劳。
2. I can’t come **right away**, Nick. I have an important engagement.

- (*Pearl S. Buck*) 我不能马上就来,尼克。我有个重要的约会。
3. She reminds me of a skinny hen perched on a chair, her eyes **kind of** bright and blank and scared, all ready to flap and squawk at the slightest move anybody makes. (*M. Mitchell*) 她叫我想起那只卧在椅子上的瘦骨嶙峋的母鸡,眼睛亮闪闪的,一副茫然惊恐的样子,只要听见一点动静,就会扑着翅膀咯咯地叫。
4. And we **are in for** a time of steadily increasing prosperity. (*J. Priestley*) 我们必然会面临一个稳步上升的繁荣时期。
5. And then she **did it up** again nervously and quickly. (*O. Henry*) 然后她又神经质地、迅速地把头发梳起来。
6. I put down the needle and thread and **let on** to be interested. (*Mark Twain*) 我放下针线,装出很感兴趣的样子。
7. But the next moment he nearly **jumped out of his skin**. (*A. Haley*) 于是接下来,他就几乎吓得魂不附体。
8. **I dare say** Mr Bingley will be very glad to see you ... (*J. Austen*) 我想宾格勒先生一定很高兴看到你的……
9. **Never mind**; I must rewrite the passage. (*E. L. Voynich*) 没有关系,我要把这一节重新写过。
10. It is not so expressed, but **what of that?** (*W. Shakespeare*) (借约上)并没有这样表达出来,可是那又有什么相干呢?

三、学习英语成语的注意事项

- A. 对于不熟悉的成语,不能妄加猜测,以免误解原意。例如:
1. Life lost was lost **for good**. (*J. Galsworthy*) 生命是一去不复返的。(for good 意为“永远”,不是“有益”。)
2. ... until the air **is alive with** chatter and laughter, ... (*F. S. Fitzgerald*) ……到后来整个空气里充满了欢声笑语,……(be alive with 意为“充满”,不是“活泼的”。)

3. "I would not **for the world**, sir," replied Oliver, "Indeed you may believe me." (*Ch. Dickens*) "我决不骗你,先生,"奥立弗回答说,"你确实可以相信我。"(在否定句里,for the world 意为"决不",不是"为了世界"。)
4. **Neck or nothing**, we must go with him. (*H. B. Stowe*) 纵有天大的危险,我们也得跟他走。(neck or nothing 意为"铤而走险地",不是"脖颈和无物"。)
5. They thought **none the less** of her lack of interest. Indeed, they thought more. (*M. Mitchell*) 他们并不因为她不感兴趣而看轻她,反而更喜欢她。(none the less 意为"虽然如此,仍然,还是",不是"没有较少"。)

B. 对于类似的成语,要善于比较和鉴别,避免混淆。例如:

1. ① Hold on a minute, I'll **put you up** a snack to eat. You might want it. (*Mark Twain*) 再等一会儿,我给你预备点吃的带着。你也许用得着它。
- ② ... and yet he **put her up to** it, and has spent the money, no doubt. (*W. M. Thackeray*)这件事无疑是他指使的,钱也是他花的。
- ③ I must **put up with** the things, I know, to keep your affection. (*J. Galsworthy*) 我知道,为了保持你的感情,有些事情只好容忍。
2. ① I wonder where they do go, **by-the-by**? (*Ch. Dickens*) 顺便说一句,我实在不知道它们究竟跑到哪儿去了呢?
- ② He asked but few questions, but **by and by**, the story of Haskins's struggles and defeat came out. (*H. Garland*) 他没怎么提问题,可是不一会儿,赫斯金斯奋斗和失败的历史便一清二楚了。
- ③ Nature had come into her own again and, **little by little**, in her

stealthy, insidious way had encroached upon the drive with long, tenacious fingers. (*D. du Maurier*) 原来自然界早已恢复了本来的面目,渐渐地把细长的手指顽强地、偷偷摸摸地伸到车道上来。

3. ① Wouldn't listen to a word, though I would have offered to **make up** the money out of my own pocket, ... (*B. Shaw*)
虽然我情愿从自己口袋里掏钱出来还这笔帐,(他)还是毫不理会,……

- ② ... after **having made it up** with my mother, she kneeled down by the elbow-chair, and **made it up** with me. (*Ch. Dickens*)
……当她跟我母亲和好以后,她跪在扶手椅旁,也跟我言归于好了。

4. ① Jeems did not like to jump fences, but he had jumped higher ones than this in order to **keep up with** his masters. (*M. Mitchell*) 詹姆斯本不喜欢跳篱笆,但为了跟上主人,比这再高一点的篱笆也跳得过去。

- ② It was ~~far too~~ much **taken up with** what was going on to be of the slightest use as watcher. 我完全被眼前发生的事情吸引住了,以致没有起到丝毫守望警卫的作用。

C. 对于多义成语,则要联系上下文,慎重选择合适的词义。例如:

1. Nancy Lee was a coloured girl, ~~few~~ years **out of** the South. (*L. Hughes*) 南茜·李是个黑种女孩子,从南方来了还不多几年。
2. The dawn came quickly now, a wash, a glow, a lightness, and then an explosion of fire as the sun arose **out of** the Gulf. (*J. Steinbeck*) 黎明很快地来到了,一抹淡彩,一道红光,一片明亮,然后爆发出一团烈火——太阳从海湾里升起了。
3. Then **out of** a very little, she could dress herself, you see, better than most others could **out of** a deal, and that made things unpleas-

- ant. (*Ch. Dickens*) 并且她能用很少的东西,你知道,比大多数
人用很多的东西打扮得更好,这就使得情形不愉快了。
4. And he shut the gate quickly **out of** shame. (*J. Steinbeck*) 然后,
由于感到羞耻,他急忙关上了大门。
5. I was feeling better, then, but I wished I was **out of** there, any-
how. I couldn't look up yet. (*Mark Twain*) 这时候,我心里觉
得舒服了一点儿;可是,尽管如此,我总希望离开这儿。我还是
不敢抬起头来看(她)。
6. My mother's down sick, and **out of** money and everything, and I
come to tell my uncle Abner Moore. (*Mark Twain*) 我妈在家
里害病,手里又缺钱,什么都没有。我这才跑来告诉我的舅舅
阿伯·穆尔。