

Using English Proverbs in Conversation

英文諺語 脫口說

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世紀諺語大對決



雷根

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編者的話

——你知道“The pot calls the kettle black”是什麼意思？
「鍋笑壺黑」。到底是什麼意思嘛?! 如果你想進一步走入中西文化交流的新境界，本書是您最好的選擇。

——> 讓諺語成爲你的口頭禪 <——

“Proverbs are the wisdom of the ages.”諺語不但是歷代智慧的結晶，也是人們日常生活的產物。“Proverbs are the daughters of daily experience.”由此可見，諺語與我們的生活是息息相關的。本書即針對這個重點，將大家耳熟能詳的諺語，置於輕鬆活潑、生動有趣的會話中，使讀者能充份了解諺語所要表達的意義，同時進一步能學習如何靈活運用。

大部分的人，從國中便開始學習英文，有的人甚至從小學就開始起步了。俗語說：“When in Rome do as the Romans do.”（入境隨俗。）對於一個英文學習者來說，怎能對英文中的精華，視而不見，棄若敝屣呢？不懂得英文諺語，就不能算是學好英文，好比不懂中國成語，就無法出口成章一樣。如果您想學會道地的英文，“英文諺語脫口說”，便是您最好的選擇。

——> 諺語——美俄對抗的秘密武器 <——

1988年5月底，美俄兩大超級強國於莫斯科舉行第四度高峯會議。爲了這次二巨頭的會面，雙方顯然都是有備而來。面對衆多

的採訪記者，兩人不約而同引用了對方的諺語，以助長自己的聲勢。一方面顯示入境隨俗的禮貌，一方面也顯示自己較高一籌。表面上以諺語做盾牌，暗地裡卻你來我往的比劃高下。面臨這世紀的大對決，如果少了諺語的點綴，不知要避色多少呢！



—> 熱情有勁的諺語派 <—

為了引導讀者進入諺語的世界，本書特別附有中文說明，內容包羅萬象，旁徵博引，提供您諺語的背景出處，或是採用實例加以闡釋，篇篇引人入勝，切中要旨。此外，還有數百個「同義諺語」、「反義諺語」、「實用語句」，讓你能夠聞一以知十，不再搜索枯腸，而感腹衝甚窘了。凡遇有特殊單字或生字，本書皆附有註釋，供您參考，以增加您閱讀時的興趣與便利。

出版好書，好書不斷，是學習追求的目標。在這本書裡，我們為您準備了一道豐美的語言饗宴，希望能厚植您的英文實力。有了它，不但使您英文突飛猛進，更能增進對中國諺語的了解，促進中西文化交流。一書在手，帶給您兩種不同的樂趣與享受。我們期待您的鑑賞與批評，若有疏漏不周之處，煩請惠予賜教。

本書採用米色宏康護眼印書紙，版面清晰自然，
不傷眼睛。

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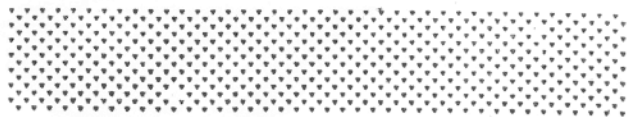
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Time passes away, but proverbs remain...

時移事往，唯有諺語流傳久遠……



I

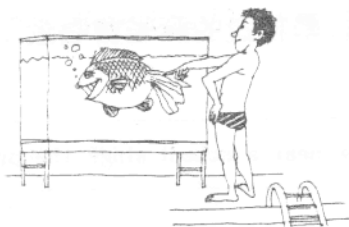
孔夫子面前賣文章。

To teach a fish how to swim.

中國人嘲笑在專家面前賣弄自己雕蟲小技的人，是「班門弄斧」，「在孔夫子面前賣文章」。老外也有這種調侃人的話，而且對象不只是人，還遍及動物，像「教狗怎麼追兔子」、「告訴總統白宮在哪裏」、「教教宗怎麼祈禱」，令咱們老中自嘆不如，不知道是不是老外比較愛「現」，不信請看：

<同義諺語>

- Can you teach a dog to chase rabbits? (你能教狗追兔子嗎?)
- Would you show the President where the White House is?
(你能告訴總統白宮在哪裏嗎?)
- Do you have to teach the Pope how to pray?
(你需要教教宗怎樣祈禱嗎?)
- You talk like a Confucius in front of Confucius.
(孔夫子面前賣文章。)
- How can you use Chinese maxims in front of Confucius?
(你怎能在孔夫子面前賣文章?)



A : You're not eating your spaghetti correctly.

你吃義大利麵條的方法不正確。

B : I'm not ? 不正確嗎 ?

A : You're supposed to put your spaghetti in the spoon and twirl it with the fork.

你該把麵條放在湯匙上，然後用叉子轉著吃。

B : (*laughs*) 笑。

A : Why are you laughing ? 你為什麼笑呢 ?

B : Why do you want to teach a fish how to swim ?
你幹嘛想在孔夫子面前賣文章呢 ?

A : What do you mean ? 什麼意思 ?

B : I was born in Italy ! 我是義大利人 !

** spaghetti [spə'ɡetɪ] n. 義大利麵條

DIALOG

2

學校邊的麻雀會唱歌；潛移默化。

The sparrow near a school sings the primer.

.....

所謂「近墨者黑，近朱者赤；近鮑者臭，近蘭者香。」在在說明環境造化人的能力。中國古代有孟母三遷，西方人也有不少關於這類型的至理真言，多半用以誨誡人們遠離邪惡勢力的影響範圍，以免沾染惡習性。聖經經外書（*Apocrypha*，即偽經）上寫道，“*As the wild ass is the lion's prey in the wilderness, so the rich eat up the poor.*”最好還是潔身自愛，擇取良善的友類為伴，勿與虎狼為伍。

<同義諺語>

- After three years even the school dog will begin to recite.
（三年的浸淫陶冶，連校狗也會吟誦詩詞。）
- Who keeps company with the wolf will learn to howl.
（與狼為伍，學狼嗥。）
- Men are known by the company they keep.（以其友，知其人。）
- He that touches pitch shall be defiled.（近墨者黑；近朱者赤。）
- The rotten apple injures its neighbors.
（一只爛蘋果，壞了近鄰。）



A: Is there Dennis? 在那裏丹尼絲嗎?

B: Oh, you mean, "Is Dennis there?"
噢，你的意思是，“丹尼絲在那裏嗎？”

A: Yes, is there Dennis? 是的，在那裏丹尼絲嗎?

B: No! Is DENNIS THERE? Repeat: Is Dennis there?
不對！丹尼絲在那裏嗎？說：丹尼絲在那裏嗎？

A: Is Dennis there? 丹尼絲在那裏嗎？

B: No, I'm sorry, he isn't. 不，很抱歉，他不在。

A: Who is this? 你是誰？

B: This is his son. 我是他兒子。

A: Hmmmm. The sparrow near a school sings the primer.
哼，學校邊的麻雀會唱歌（潛移默化）。

** primer [ˈpraɪmər] n. 初階

DIALOG

3

一條麪包勝過衆鳥的歌唱。

A loaf of bread is better than
the song of many birds.

飲食起居乃人生大事，肚囊空空時，即使是美景當前，也無心領略。“*Even seeing the Alps must follow a meal.*”欣賞過阿爾卑斯山壯麗的山嵐秀色之後，還是得填飽肚子。有些人認為這種論調似乎過於入世俚俗，不夠感性。的確，我們固然不必故作清高，大唱高調，但是也不能止於口腹之慾的享受。英國清教徒的清規在勸人不應把「吃」當作人生主要目的，只要吃得足以過有意義的生活就行了，所謂“*Live not to eat, but eat to live.*”

<同義諺語>

- Without Ceres and Bacchus, Venus grows cold.
(缺乏五穀女神和酒神，維納斯的滿腔熱情也會被澆熄。)
- The way to a man's heart is through his stomach.
(要抓住男人的心，先填飽他的肚子。)
- Man does not live by bread alone. (人不僅僅是靠麵包而活。)
- Life is not all beer and skittles. (人生並非只是吃喝玩樂而已。)
- Half a loaf is better than no bread. (麵包半塊聊勝於無。)
- Bread is the stuff of life. (麵包是生存的支柱。)



A: I'm starving! When will dinner be ready?
我餓死了！晚餐什麼時候好？

B: It'll be at least another hour and a half.
至少得再一個半鐘頭。

A: You're kidding! I'll be dead by then.
開玩笑！那時我已經死了。

B: Oh, quit complaining and enjoy the beautiful scenery
and the gorgeous sunset.
啊呀，不要抱怨，來欣賞美麗的風景和燦爛的落日。

A: How can I enjoy beauty when I'm dying of hunger? A
loaf of bread is better than the song of many birds.
我餓的快死，怎麼欣賞美景？一條麵包勝過衆鳥的歌唱。

** gorgeous ['gɔ:dʒəs] *adj.* 華麗的；燦爛的

DIALOG