

外教社

剑桥

国际英语成语词典

(双语简体中文版)

CAMBRIDGE
INTERNATIONAL
DICTIONARY
OF IDIOMS

(BILINGUAL SIMPLIFIED CHINESE CHARACTERS EDITION)

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图书在版编目(CIP)数据

剑桥国际英语成语词典: 双语简体中文版 / 姚文振, 张致祥, 齐卫权
编译.

—上海: 上海外语教育出版社, 2005

ISBN 7-81095-257-9

I. 剑… II. ①姚… ②张… ③齐… III. 英语—成语词典
IV. H313.3-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2004)第 047563 号

出版发行: 上海外语教育出版社

(上海外国语大学内) 邮编: 200083

电 话: 021-65425300 (总机)

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网 址: <http://www.sflep.com.cn> <http://www.sflep.com>

责任编辑: 江雷红

印 刷: 上海市印刷七厂
经 销: 新华书店上海发行所
开 本: 850×1168 1/32 印张 19.625 字数 1648 千字
版 次: 2005 年 4 月第 1 版 2005 年 4 月第 1 次印刷
印 数: 5 000 册

书 号: ISBN 7-81095-257-9 / H · 077

定 价: 29.00 元

本版图书如有印装质量问题, 可向本社调换

Introduction

Idioms are a colourful and fascinating aspect of English. They are commonly used in all types of language, informal and formal, spoken and written. Your language skills will increase rapidly if you can understand idioms and use them confidently and correctly. One of the main problems students have with idioms is that it is often impossible to guess the meaning of an idiom from the words it contains. In addition, idioms often have a stronger meaning than non-idiomatic phrases. For example, *look daggers at someone* has more emphasis than *look angrily at someone*, but they mean the same thing. Idioms may also suggest a particular attitude of the person using them, for example disapproval, humour, exasperation or admiration, so you must use them carefully.

The *Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms* explains the meaning and use of around 7,000 idioms in a clear and helpful way. It is a truly international dictionary; it covers current British, American and Australian idioms.

It includes:

- traditional idioms (e.g. turn a blind eye to sth. throw the baby out with the bathwater)
- idiomatic compounds (e.g. fall guy. turkey shoot)
- similes and comparisons (e.g. as dull as ditchwater. swear like a trooper)
- exclamations and sayings (e.g. Bully for you!. Over my dead body!)
- clichés (e.g. all part of life's rich tapestry. There's many a true word spoken in jest.)

The definitions are clear and precise. They have been written using a carefully controlled defining vocabulary of under 2,000 words. Every idiom is illustrated with examples based on sentences from the Cambridge International Corpus. This means that all of the examples reflect natural written and spoken English. Information about grammar is shown clearly, without complicated grammar codes. The origins of idioms are explained, where appropriate, to help understanding.

In addition, there are theme panels showing idioms grouped according to their meaning or function. There are also photocopiable exercises at the back of the dictionary. This dictionary aims to help you not only as a comprehensive reference book but also as a valuable learning aid.

引 言

成语在英语中是一个多姿多彩、引人入胜的领域。成语经常使用在正式和非正式的、口头和书面的各类言语中。如果你能懂得成语,并有把握地正确使用成语,你的英语技能就会得到迅速提高。学生在学习成语时遇到的主要问题之一就是几乎不可能从字面上猜出成语的意义。其次,成语比非成语性的词组具有更为强烈的含义。例如,look daggers at (怒目而视)比 look angrily at 在口气上更露锋芒,但含义相同。成语还可能暗示说话者的某种态度,如反对、幽默、恼怒、赞美等,使用时必须谨慎在意。

《剑桥国际英语成语词典》对7,000余条英语成语的意义和用法作了解说,简明而又实用。这是一本货真价实的国际词典,把当代英国、美国和澳大利亚的英语成语尽收其中。

本词典包括:

- 传统成语,如 turn a blind eye to sth (视而不见), throw the baby out with the bathwater (将精华和糟粕一同扬弃)
- 成语性质的复合词,如 fall guy (替罪羊), turkey shoot (双方武力悬殊的战争)
- 明喻和比较,如 as dull as ditchwater (单调乏味,犹如一潭死水), swear like a trooper (像个小兵那样破口大骂)
- 惊叹语和谚语,如 Bully for you! (太棒了!), Over my dead body! (我死也不同意!)
- 陈词套语,如 all part of life's rich tapestry (生活中不可回避的事), There's many a true word spoken in jest. (玩笑中吐真情。)

释义清晰而精确。释义中的词汇量控制在2,000个词以内。每条成语均附例句说明,例句以“剑桥国际语料库”为依据。换句话说,每个例句均能反映自然状态下的书面英语和口头英语。对语法的讲解也很简明,没有使用复杂的语法符号。在必要的地方,对英语成语的来源作了注释,以加深理解。

本词典还附有主题分类条目,把意义或功能相同的成语列在一起。在词典末尾还编有允许复印的练习题。本词典以帮助读者为宗旨,不仅是一本综合性的参考书,而且是一种弥足珍贵的学习工具。

How to use this dictionary

Finding an idiom

Where do you look?

The best way to search for an idiom is to look in the index at the back of the dictionary. You can look under any important word in the idiom to find out where the entry for that idiom is. The keyword (the word where you will find the entry) is shown in dark type:

take **pot** luck

(**pot** is the keyword, so the entry is at 'pot')

give someone a taste of their own **medicine**

(**medicine** is the keyword, so the entry is at 'medicine')

Each entry is listed under a keyword. The keyword is shown in dark type in the index.

acid

an acid test

a test which will really prove the value, quality, or truth of something • *The new show was well received but viewing figures for the next episode will be the real acid test.*

Idioms are not usually listed in the index under words like 'a', 'the', 'all', 'these', 'where' or 'no', except when the whole idiom is made of such words. e.g. be **all in**. be **out** of it.

Words are listed in the index in the same form as they appear in the idiom. For instance, look up 'pushing up the daisies' at 'pushing' or 'daisies', *not* 'push' or 'daisy'.

When there are several idioms listed under one keyword, the entries are ordered as follows:

- entries beginning with the keyword
- entries beginning with 'a' + keyword
- entries beginning with 'the' + keyword
- all other entries in alphabetical order of the words they begin with

For example, the entries under the keyword 'tongue' are ordered like this,

tongue in cheek
tongue-in-cheek
a tongue-lashing
bite your tongue
find your tongue
get your tongue round/around sth
hold your tongue
loosen your tongue

trip off the tongue

Where British and American idioms have different spellings, e. g. take centre stage (*British*)/take center stage (*American*), the idiom is at the British keyword, but you can look up the American spelling in the index to find out where it is.

This is the basic form of the idiom.

paint the town red *informal*

to go out and enjoy yourself in the evening, often drinking a lot of alcohol and dancing • *Jack finished his exams today so he's gone off to paint the town red with his friends.*

Many idioms have different possible forms. When that difference is just in one word, it is shown like this.

put/stick the knife in *British &*

Australian, informal

to do or say something unpleasant to someone in an unkind way • *'No one in the office likes you, you know, Tim,' she said, putting the knife in.* • *The reviewer from The Times really stuck the knife in, calling it the worst play he'd seen in years.*

When the difference is more than one word, the alternative forms are shown on different lines.

raise (sb's) hackles

make (sb's) hackles rise

to annoy someone ~~to~~ Hackles are the hairs on the back of a dog's neck which stand up when it is angry. • *The politician's frank interview may have raised hackles in his party.* • *The movie's pro-war message made many people's hackles rise.*

Words in brackets can be omitted, and the meaning will be the same.

have had it (**up to here**) *informal*

to be so angry about something that you do not want to continue with it or even think about it any more • *I've had it! From now on they can clear up their own mess.* • (often + **with**) *I've had it up to here with lawyers!*

Idioms with different forms in British, American or Australian are shown on separate lines. There is a list of regional labels on page xvii.

blow a raspberry *British & Australian,*

informal

give a raspberry *American, informal*

to make a rude noise by putting your tongue between your lips and blowing

If an idiom is formal, informal, old-fashioned, etc., this is shown with a label. There is a list of register labels on page xviii.

'sb' means 'somebody'. It can be replaced by a person's name or by 'him/her/you/them/me/us'.

'sth' means 'something'. It can be replaced by a non-human object.

'your' can be replaced by 'his/her/their/our/my'.

'swh' means 'somewhere'. It can be replaced by the name of a place.

Some idioms have more than one possible meaning. In such cases, the different meanings are numbered.

• (often + at) *A boy of no more than six appeared, blew a raspberry at me and then ran away.*

be/go (out) on the razzle *British*,

informal, old-fashioned

to enjoy yourself by doing things like going to parties or dances • *We're going out on the razzle on New Year's Eve - do you fancy coming?*

give sb the push

1 *British & Australian, informal* to end someone's employment • *After twenty years' loyal service, they gave her the push.*

let sth ride

to not take action to change something wrong or unpleasant • *Don't panic about low sales. Let it ride for a while till we see if business picks up.*

blow your stack/top *informal*

to suddenly become very angry • *My mother blew her top when she saw the mess we'd made in the kitchen.*

be fresh from swh *British*

be fresh out of swh *American &*

Australian

to have just finished education or training in a particular school or college and not have much experience • *Our course is taught by a young professor fresh out of law school.*

without fail

1 if something happens without fail, it always happens • *Every Tuesday afternoon, without fail, Helga went to visit her father.*

2 something that you say in order to emphasize that something will be done or will happen • *'You will meet me at the airport, won't you?' 'Don't worry, I'll be there without fail.'*

Sub-entries

Sometimes idioms have a basic form but are often found in slightly different constructions. If they are common, these different constructions are shown in sub-entries.

have your head in the clouds

to not know what is really happening around you because you are paying too much attention to your own ideas
 • *He's an academic. They've all got their heads in the clouds.*

with your head in the clouds • *He was walking along with his head in the clouds as usual when he tripped over a paving stone.*

Sometimes different parts of speech can be formed from the basic idiom. In this case, the main form is a verb phrase and the sub-entry is an adjective.

catch sb's eye

1 to be noticed by someone because you are looking at them • *She lit a cigarette while he tried to catch the waiter's eye.*
 2 to be attractive or different enough to be noticed by people • *There were lots of dresses to choose from, but none of them really caught my eye.*

eye-catching • *There is an eye-catching mural in the hall.*

Opposites are shown as sub-entries.

strike a blow for sth/sb

to do something to support an idea or to change a situation to something which you believe is good • *He claims to be striking a blow for gender equality by employing an equal number of men and women.* • *This latest agreement will strike a blow for free trade within the EU.*

opposite strike a blow against/at

sth/sb • *The court's decision strikes a blow against minority rights.*

The definitions

All definitions use simple words to make them easy to understand.

at the top of your voice

if someone says something at the top of their voice, they say it as loudly as they can] • *'Stop it Nathan!' she shouted at the top of her voice.*

Definitions show the most typical range of objects for an idiom.

on top of sth

if you are on top of a situation, you are

dealing with it successfully • *We had a lot of work to do, but I think we're on top of it now.*

Definitions show the typical range of subjects for an idiom.

see eye to eye

if **two people** see eye to eye, they agree with each other • (often negative; often + **with**) *He's asked for a transfer because he doesn't see eye to eye with the new manager.*

For adjectival idioms, the definition explains what the idiom usually describes.

day-to-day

a day-to-day **activity** is one of the things you have to do every day, usually as part of your work • (always before noun) *It's Sheila who's responsible for the day-to-day running of the school.*


The emotions or attitude of the person using the idiom are explained in the definition.

On yer bike! *British & Australian. very informal*

an impolite way of telling someone to go away] • *'Can you lend me some money?'*
'On yer bike, mate!'


Individual words in the idioms are explained when this helps to understand the meaning of the idiom.

an eager beaver

someone who works very hard and is eager to do things  A beaver is a small animal which people traditionally believe to be hard-working. • *Who's the eager beaver who came in at the weekend to finish this work off?*

The history of idioms is explained when this helps to understand the meaning of the idiom.

be in the doldrums

1 if a business, an economy or a person's job is in the doldrums, it is not very successful and nothing new is happening in it  The doldrums was the name for an area of sea where ships were not able to move because there was no wind.

Examples

Examples show how idioms are used in natural speech and writing.

put a bomb under sth/sb *British & Australian*

if you want to put a bomb under a person or an organization, you want to make them do things faster. *I'd like to put a bomb under those solicitors.*

Very common collocations are shown in dark type.

blow-by-blow

a blow-by-blow description of an event gives every detail of how it happened

• *She gave me a blow-by-blow account of her car crash.*

Grammar

The basic grammatical structure of an idiom is shown in its entry:

This idiom is followed by an infinitive.

be man enough to do sth

to be brave enough to do something • *He was man enough to admit he had made a mistake.*

This idiom is followed by an -ing form.

be on the brink of doing sth

to be likely to do something very soon • *The club's manager dismissed reports that he was on the brink of buying Peter Beardsley.*

This idiom is always reflexive.

tie yourself (up) in knots

to become very confused or worried when you are trying to make a decision or solve a problem

This idiom is always used in continuous tenses.

pushing

be pushing up (the) daisies *humorous*

to be dead • *It won't affect me anyway. I'll be pushing up the daisies long before it happens.*

Idioms which are whole sentences start with a capital letter and end with a full stop or other punctuation.

Act your age!

something that you say to someone who is being silly to tell them to behave in a more serious way • *Oh, act your age. Chris! You can't expect to have your own*

way all the time.

This idiom is always used in negative sentences.

not **look a gift horse in the mouth**

if someone tells you not to look a gift horse in the mouth, they mean that you should not criticize or feel doubt about something good that has been offered to you. *Okay, it's not the job of your dreams but it pays good money. I'd be inclined not to look a gift horse in the mouth if I were you.*

Common grammatical features are labelled at examples which demonstrate them.

This idiom is often followed by the preposition 'of'.

a **rich seam** *formal*

a subject which provides a lot of opportunities for people to discuss, write about or make jokes about. (often + of) *Both wars have provided a rich seam of drama for playwrights and novelists alike.*

This idiom is often followed by a question word.

not **have the faintest** (*Idea*)

to have no knowledge of or no information about something. 'Do you know where Anna is?' 'I haven't the faintest.'
(often + question word) *I haven't the faintest idea what you're talking about.*

This idiom is often an order.

get a move on *informal*

to hurry. (often an order) *Get a move on, man! We don't have all day.*

This idiom is usually used in a passive construction.

bring sb to book *British & Australian*

to punish someone. (usually passive)
A crime has been committed and whoever is responsible must be brought to book.

This adjectival idiom is always used before the noun it describes.

up-and-coming

becoming more and more successful in a job. (always before noun) *She founded a summer school for up-and-coming musicians.*

使用说明

查找成语

如何查找成语

查找某一成语的最好方法是查看词典后面的索引。你在该成语包含的任何一个主要词的条目下查找,即可找到该成语条目的位置。该成语的关键词在条目中用**黑体表示**:

take **pot** luck (pot 是关键词,故此成语列在“pot”条下。)
give someone a taste of their own **medi-**
cine (medicine 是关键词,故此成语列在“medi-
cine”条下。)

每个条目列在关键词下。关键词在索引中用**黑体**标示。

acid

an acid test

酸性试验,泛指能真正证明某事的价值、质量或真相的试验。新的节目受人欢迎,但下一集的收视率才是真正的考验。

索引中的成语一般不列在 **a, the, all, these, where** 或 **no** 等词的条目下,除非整条成语是由这类词组成的,如 **be all in** (精疲力竭)、**be out of it** (被冷落)。

索引中列出的单词在形式上与成语中的形式相一致,如 **pushing up the daisies**, 需查 **pushing** 或 **daisies**, 而不是查 **push** 或 **daisy**。

如果几个成语都列在同一个关键词下,条目的排序如下:

- 以关键词开头的条目
- 以 **a+** 关键词开头的条目
- 以 **the+** 关键词开头的条目
- 按第一个词的字母顺序排列的其他条目。

例如,以 **tongue** 为关键词的条目排序如下:

tongue in cheek (开玩笑)
tongue-in-cheek (诙谐地)
a tongue-lashing (严加呵责)
bite your tongue (缄口不语)
find your tongue (终于开口说话)
get your tongue round/around sth (正确地发音)
hold your tongue (保持缄默)
loosen your tongue (口无遮拦)
trip off the tongue (脱口而出)

如果同一成语在英国英语和美国英语中拼写有差别,如 **take centre stage** (英)/**take center stage** (美), 则将该成语列在按英国英语拼写的关键词下,但读者仍能在索引中按美国英语拼写的词条下找到它。

这是成语的基本形式。

paint the town red *informal*

外出去过夜生活, 饮酒跳舞。· 杰克今天考完了, 便和朋友们一起去享受红灯酒绿的夜生活。

许多成语可能有多种形式。如果差别仅限于一个词, 则如此标明。

put/stick the knife in *British & Australian, informal*

恶语伤人。· “办公室里没人喜欢你, 蒂姆, 你应当明白。” 她单刀直入地说。· 《泰晤士报》评论员用犀利的文笔, 声称这是他近几年来看到的最糟糕的剧本。

如果差别不限于一个词, 则分行写出可供选择的形势。

raise (sb's) hackles
make (sb's) hackles rise

恼怒 公狗发怒时会竖起其颈背部上的毛。· 这位政治家在采访中坦率的谈话可能会在党内引起愤慨。· 这部电影中的亲战情绪激怒了许多观众。

圆括号内的词可以省略, 其意义不变。

have had it (up to here) *informal*

受够了, 不愿再干下去, 甚至不愿再考虑。· 我受够了! 从现在起, 由他们去收拾残局吧! · (often + with) 我和律师的交往到此结束。

英、美、澳的成语如有不同形式, 则分行写出。参看“地域标志”(第 XXIV 页)。

blow a raspberry *British & Australian, informal*
give a raspberry *American, informal*

伸舌于唇外爆气发出表示轻蔑、嘲弄等的呖声。· (often + at) 一个不满 6 岁的男孩跑来, 朝我发出呖声, 便跑开了。

如成语属于正式用语、非正式用语或旧时用语等, 均加以注明。参看“语域标志”(第 XXV 页)。

be/go (out) on the razzle *British informal, old-fashioned*

外出狂欢。· 新年除夕, 我们打算进行狂欢。你想来吗?

sb 指 somebody (某人), 可用人名或 him/her/you/them/me/us 置换。

give sb the push

1 *British & Australian, informal* 解雇。· 她忠心耿耿地服务了 20 年后, 被解雇了。

sth 指 something (某事), 可用其他事物置换。

let sth ride

听之任之。· 物价低迷, 别惊慌。且沉住气, 等一阵, 看生意是否会有起色。

“your”可用 his/her/their/our/my 置换。

blow **your** **stack/top** *informal*

勃然大怒。母亲看见我们把厨房搞得一团糟，便大发雷霆。

swh 指 somewhere (某地)，可用任何地名置换。

be fresh from [swh] *British*
be fresh out of [swh] *American & Australian*

初出茅庐，刚从学校[学院]毕业或受完培训，实际经验尚不足。给我们上这门课的是一位刚从法学院毕业的年轻教授。

有些成语不止一种含义。为此，用数字标出其不同的含义。

without fail

- 1 从未间断。每星期二下午，赫尔嘉总会去看望她的父亲。
- 2 务必，必定。“你会去机场接我，对吧？”
“别担心，我一定会在那儿的。”

内词条

有时，有些成语在基本形式之外有变体。如果这些变体很常用，就设置在内词条中。

have your head in the clouds

想入非非，心不在焉。他是个学究，这种人都是想入非非，不切实际的。

with your head in the clouds · 他像往常一样，心不在焉地朝前走去，被一块铺路石绊倒了。

有时，成语的基本形式可以派生出不同的词性。此时以动词短语为主要条目，以形容词为内词条。

catch sb's eye

- 1 引人注目。在他招呼服务员时，她点燃了一支烟。
- 2 因华美俏丽或与众不同而引人注目。有许多女装可供选购，可是没有一件能让我看上眼。

eye-catching · 大厅里有一张壁画
光彩夺目。

意义相反的成语示于内词条内。

strike a blow for sth/sb

支持一种想法，扭转一种形势。他雇用数量相等的男女职工，以此声称自己赞成男女平等。· 这份最新协议将促进欧盟内部的自由贸易。

OPPOSITE strike a blow against/at

sth/sb · 法院的这一判决将损害少数派的权益。

定义

每条定义均使用简明的文字,使之明白易懂。

at the top of your voice

高声地。·“住手,内森!”她大声喊道。

定义显示出和该成语连用的最典型宾语。

on top of sth

成功地控制住某种**形势**。·我们有许多工作要做,但我想我们现在完全能够驾驭它。

定义显示出和该成语连用的典型主语。

see eye to eye

两人**观点一致**。·(often negative; often + with)他要求调动,因为与新任经理意见不合。

对定语性质的成语,定义说明它通常修饰的词语。

day-to-day

日常的**活动**。·(always before noun)负责学校日常管理工作的**是希拉**。

定义揭示使用成语者的态度或情感。

On yer bike! *British & Australian. very informal*

去你的!(一种不礼貌的让人离开的说法)。·
“借点钱给我吧?”“**穷鬼,走开!**”

有时对成语中的单词进行注释,以帮助理解该成语的含义。

an eager beaver

工作卖力的人。·**海狸**一向被视为勤劳的小动物。·周末来这里并把这项工作卖力做完的人到底是谁呢?

有时说明成语的历史渊源,以帮助理解该成语的含义。

be in the doldrums

1 停滞状态(指商业、经济处于不景气的**萧条状态**,或某人的工作没有起色)。**doldrums**指海洋上的无风区。

例句

例句说明成语在自然言语和写作中的用法。

put a bomb under sth/sb *British & Australian*

催促某人办事 **我想催促一下办案的那些律师。**

最常用的词语搭配用**黑体**标出。

blow-by-blow

详尽的。她把撞车的经过向我作了**详细的陈述**。

语法

有关成语的基本语法结构在条目中载明。

此成语与动词不定式连用。

be man enough to do sth

勇于做某事。他勇于承认自己犯了错误。

此成语与动词-ing形式连用。

be on the brink of doing sth

即将做。俱乐部经理对于他即将购买彼得·比尔兹利公司的报道予以否认。

此成语常用反身代词。

tie yourself (up) in knots

在你作出决定或解决问题时,感到紧张或困惑

此成语常用进行时态。

pushing

be pushing up (the) daisies *humorous*

死去。此事反正不会对我有什么影响,在它发生之前我早已长眠于地下了。

成语构成完整的句子时,句首大写,句尾用句号或其他标点符号。

Act your age!

要像个小孩子!(让淘气的孩子收敛些)。别淘气了,克里斯。你总不能由着性子一直闹下去吧!

此成语常用于否定句。

not look a gift horse in the mouth

不要挑剔。行啦,这虽不是你想要的工作,可薪水很高。我要是你,我就不会这样挑三拣四。

常见的语法特征标示在有关的例句前:

此成语常与 of 连用。

a rich seam formal

热门话题。(often + of) 两次大战已成为许多剧作家和小说家取之不尽的题材来源。

此成语常与疑问词连用。

not have the faintest (idea)

全然不知,一无所知。“你知道安娜在哪里吗?”“我一点也不知道。”(often + question word)
我对你们正谈论的事情一无所知。

此成语常用作命令。

get a move on informal

赶快。(often an order) 老兄,快点!我们可没有一整天的时间。