

Phrases and Idioms

【美语冲击波系列】

横扫

美语习语用法障碍

[美] Richard A. Spears 著
邓晴 译

中国科学技术大学出版社

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内 容 简 介

本书为引进版图书《美语冲击波系列》之一。书中收录了近 2 000 个美国当今日常使用频率较高的习语词条,每个词条至少给出两种不同场景的例句,帮助读者如何在不同场合讲最恰当的话,才能使语言更加得体、生动。书中还给出了习语的缩写形式和完整形式的表达,具有工具书之功效。

本书适用于有一定英语基础的英语爱好者。本书对广大读者深刻掌握词汇含义,地道地运用美语交流定会有所裨益。

作者介绍:

理查德·斯皮尔斯(Richard A. Spears)博士是美国的语言学专家,现任教于美国西北大学,同时也是 NTC 出版集团字典部门的总编,编著过为数众多的英语学习书籍,受到广大英语学习者的一致好评。

出版者前言

在 21 世纪,英语技能的掌握已成为衡量现代人是否具备工作能力的标准之一。要想在日常工作、生活中讲一口流利、地道的英语,除了需要累积一定量的常用词汇与表达方法外,习语也是英语交流的重要组成部分。

习语是体现美国文化与传统的一种方式,习语的掌握一向是体现英语功底是否深厚的一项标准,是英语交流必不可少的环节。传统英语教学,往往忽略了习语短语的搭配使用,即使我们知道习语短语里每个单词的意思,但也无法直接从字面意思来释义。为了弥补这一不足,我们引进了由美国语言学专家理查德·斯皮尔斯(Richard A. Spears)主编的《美语冲击波系列》,原汁原味地向广大读者展示习语独特的魅力,帮助读者在不同的场合,讲最恰当的话,让语言更加生动得体,真正缩短对外交流的距离,增强对外交流的自信。

《美语冲击波系列》收录了当今美国最新最常用的习语短语。在目前美国英语学习类图书中,《美语冲击波系列》的销售量一直名列前茅,其中的《横扫美语听说障碍》、《横扫美语习语用法障碍》等分册将陆续由中国科学技术大学出版社出版发行。

- 《横扫美语听说障碍》按字母顺序收集了近 1 900 个使用频率较高的口语惯用语词条,同一个词条配有两种以上的生活口语例句,可帮助读者掌握地道的美语简洁表达方式,提高英语会话能力。
- 《横扫美语习语用法障碍》按字母顺序收集了近 2 000 个美国最新的习语短语,每个短语配有两种不同场景的例句,充分体

现其实用性。书中还给出习语的缩写形式和完整形式的表达,具有工具书之功效。

该系列中英文对照,可无师自通,适合以下有一定英语基础的读者:

- 英语听力、交流有障碍的人;
- 从事英语教学的老师;
- 有意提升自我英语学习能力的上班族和学生;
- 准备出国进修、旅游观光的人。

为了让读者对《美语冲击波系列》有更深入的了解,我们摘录部分国外网站对该系列的评价,以供参考:

* Level With Someone, July 20, 2002

Reviewer: soulmates4ever (see more about me) from Milwaukie,
Oregon United States

... to be honest with someone ... So I am going to level with you. These books are necessary for anyone in love with our ever changing American English ... so read them and rediscover your love affair with words. These books are perfect gift for anyone new to America and help us know our way of reshaping the English Language.

* English As A Second Language, August 8, 2003

Reviewer: A reader from Bend, or United States

I am a tutor in an advanced English as a second language class. Students at this level have a terrible time understanding American idiomatic phrases. These books meet their needs quite well. The examples of the correct use for each idiom are particularly helpful.

How to Use

This Book

First, try looking up the complete phrase in the book. The entries are in absolute alphabetical order — that is, phrases are alphabetized letter by letter, disregarding spaces, hyphens, and punctuation — except that if the first word is an article (*a*, *an*, or *the*), the article is not counted. This means that **a bull in a china shop** will be found under the letter *B*. Entry phrases are never inverted or reordered; for example, **in full swing** is listed under **in**, not as **full swing**, **in** or **swing**, **in full**.

In entry phrases and definitions that refer to one or more persons or things, the word *someone* or *one* stands for persons and *something* stands for things.

Terms and Symbols

□ (a box) marks the beginning of an example.

▢ (a box containing a T) marks the beginning of an example in which the word order is different from that used in the entry head.

ALSO introduces additional forms within an entry that are related to the main entry head.

AND indicated that an entry head has variant forms that are the same as, or similar to, the entry head in meaning. One or more variant forms may be preceded by AND.

cliché is a phrase that is overused and sounds trite.

entry head is the first word or phrase, in boldface type, of an entry; the word or phrase that the definition explains.

see means to turn to the entry head indicated.

see also means to consult the entry indicated, where you will find addi-

tional information or expressions similar in form or meaning to the entry head where the “see also” instruction appeared.

see under means to search within the text of the entry indicated for a phrase that is in boldface type and is introduced by ALSO.

本书使用说明

首先,在本书中查找片语。所有词条不管其中是否有空格,连字符或标点符号,均按字母顺序排序,不包括首单词是冠词 a, an 或 the 的情况。例如:a bull in a china shop 排在字母 B 序列。词条片语不会被倒置或重复出现,如:in full swing 被编排在 in 序列,而不是 full swing, in 或 swing, in full。

当片语或片语解释中提及一个或更多的人或事物时,单词 some-one 或 one 表示某人,单词 something 表示某物。

术语和符号

□ (方框) 表示例句的开始。

▣ (包含 T 的方框) 表示例句的开始,此例句里词组中的单词的排序与主词条中的不同。

ALSO: 介绍与主词条相关的其他形式词条。

AND: 表示同义词条的多种形式。

cliché: 表示陈旧,过时的片语。

entry head: 词条。

see: 表示“请参照词条”。

see also: 表示“同样参照词条”。

see under: 表示“参照黑体字被 ALSO 引出的词条”。

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A

according to Hoyle according to the rules; in keeping with the way it is normally done. (Refers to the rules for playing games. Edmond Hoyle wrote a book about games. This expression is usually used for something other than games.) ☐ **按照惯例;根据规则**(这里指埃德蒙·贺利写的纸牌游戏规则;此片语常用于除游戏外的其他场合。)

<input type="checkbox"/> That's wrong. <i>According to Hoyle</i> , this is the way to do it.	这是不对的,按惯例应该这么做。
<input type="checkbox"/> The carpenter said, "This is the way to drive a nail, <i>according to Hoyle</i> ."	那位木匠说:“照常规,应该这样钉钉子。”

Achilles' heel a weak point or fault in someone or something otherwise perfect or excellent. (From the Greek hero Achilles, who had only one vulnerable part of his body, his heel. According to the legend, his mother had held him by the heel and dipped him in the River Styx to make him invulnerable.) ☐ **某人或某物的致命弱点**(希腊神话英雄阿契里斯的脚踝是其身上惟一一个易受攻击的部位;根据神话记载,他的母亲为让他无懈可击,曾特地把他的脚踝浸入冥河里。)

<input type="checkbox"/> He was very brave, but fear of spiders was his <i>Achilles' heel</i> .	他胆子挺大,惟一的不足就是怕蜘蛛。
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill is an excellent manager, but his <i>Achilles' heel</i> is that he trusts people too much. His employees take advantage of him.	比尔是一位优秀的经理,但他的致命弱点就是太过于信任他人,所以才会被员工利用。

the **acid test** a final test whose findings are beyond doubt or dispute. ☐ **决定性考验**

<input type="checkbox"/> Her new husband seems generous, but <i>the acid test</i> will be whether he lets her mother stay with them.	她的新丈夫看上去挺大方的,不过最后还得看他是否愿意让她母亲同他们一块儿住。
<input type="checkbox"/> The mayor isn't very popular just now, but <i>the acid test</i> will be whether he gets reelected next year.	从目前的情况看,市长不太受欢迎;但决定性考验还是他明年能否续任。

act high-and-mighty to act proud and powerful; to act haughty. ☐ 行为骄傲而有权势,行为傲慢

<input type="checkbox"/> Why does the doctor always have to <i>act so high-and-mighty</i> ?	为什么这位医生总是这么傲慢呢?
<input type="checkbox"/> If Sally stopped <i>acting high-and-mighty</i> , she'd have more friends.	如果沙莉不再这么傲慢,她会有更多的朋友。

Actions speak louder than words. a proverb meaning that it is better to do something about a problem than just told about it. ☐ (谚语)行胜于言。

<input type="checkbox"/> Mary kept promising to get a job. John finally looked her in the eye and said, " <i>Actions speak louder than words!</i> "	玛丽不断地保证她会找到工作,最后约翰直瞪着她说:“别净说空话,行胜于言。”
<input type="checkbox"/> After listening to the senator promising to cut federal spending, Ann wrote a simple note saying, " <i>Actions speak louder than words.</i> "	听完参议员关于保证削减联邦财政支出的计划后,安在便条中写道:“凡事行胜于言。”

act of God an occurrence (usually an accident) for which no human is responsible; an act of nature such as a storm, an earthquake, or a windstorm. ☐ 天灾;自然灾害(如暴风雨、地震或风暴)

<input type="checkbox"/> My insurance company wouldn't pay for the damage because it was an <i>act of God</i> .	我投保的公司不会赔偿损失,因为那属于自然灾害。
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<input type="checkbox"/> The thief tried to convince the judge that the diamonds were in his pocket due to an <i>act of God</i> .	小偷想说服法官相信钻石在他口袋里纯属巧合。
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act one's age to behave more maturely; to act as grown up as one really is. (This is frequently said to a child or a teenager.) ☐ **举止成熟; 行为举止像个真正的大人** (常指小孩或青少年)

<input type="checkbox"/> Come on, John, <i>act your age</i> . Stop throwing rocks.	约翰, 都这么大的人了, 别再丢石子啦。
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary! Stop picking on your little brother. <i>Act your age</i> !	玛丽! 别再和你弟弟过不去了, 懂事点!

add fuel to the fire AND **add fuel to the flame** to make a problem worse; to say or do something that makes a bad situation worse; to make an angry person get even more angry. ☐ **火上浇油, 使问题更严重; 说的或做的使形势更糟糕; 使某人更加生气**

<input type="checkbox"/> To spank a crying child just <i>adds fuel to the fire</i> .	这样责骂一个哭哭啼啼的孩子, 只会是火上浇油。
<input type="checkbox"/> Bill was shouting angrily, and Bob tried to get him to stop by laughing at him. Of course, that was just <i>adding fuel to the flame</i> .	比尔很生气, 在叫叫嚷嚷呢, 而鲍勃还泼冷水嘲笑他。很显然, 想以这种方式制止比尔只会是火上浇油。

add fuel to the flame ☐ 参照“**add fuel to the fire**”

add insult to injury to make a bad situation worse; to hurt the feelings of a person who has already been hurt. (A cliché.) ☐ **使形势更糟; 伤害之外又侮辱某人** (陈旧语)

<input type="checkbox"/> First, the basement flooded, and then, to <i>add insult to injury</i> , a pipe burst in the kitchen.	首先, 地下室被淹了, 更糟的是, 厨房内的水管竟然裂了。
<input type="checkbox"/> My car barely started this morning, and to <i>add insult to injury</i> , I got a flat tire in the driveway.	今天上午, 我的车差点发动不起来; 更糟糕的是, 车胎在马路上又爆了。



afraid of one's own shadow easily frightened; always frightened, timid, or suspicious. ☐ 易受惊; 常常受惊, 胆怯或猜疑

<input type="checkbox"/> After Tom was robbed, he was even <i>afraid of his own shadow</i> .	汤姆自从上次被抢劫后, 总是担惊受怕。
<input type="checkbox"/> Jane has always been a shy child. She has been <i>afraid of her own shadow</i> since she was three.	三岁以后, 珍妮一直很胆小。她是个害羞的孩子。

against the clock in a race with time; in a great hurry to get something done before a particular time. ☐ 与时间赛跑; 为在某时间前完成任务而加工作速度; 抢时间做

<input type="checkbox"/> Don't bother me. I'm working <i>against the clock</i> to finish this project by noon.	别烦我! 我在赶时间呢, 这个项目必须在中午之前完成。
<input type="checkbox"/> In a race <i>against the clock</i> , they rushed the special medicine to the hospital.	他们终于及时地把这些特殊的药品送到了医院。

ahead of one's time having ideas or attitudes that are too advanced to be acceptable to or appreciated by the society in which one is living. ☐ 观念或态度太超前, 以致很难被社会接受或欣赏

<input type="checkbox"/> People buy that artist's work now, but his paintings were laughed at when he was alive. He was <i>ahead of his time</i> .	如今人们都购买那位画家的作品了; 在他没去世前, 他的作品总由于太前卫而受人嘲笑。
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary's grandmother was <i>ahead of her time</i> in wanting to study medicine. Women were expected to stay at home.	玛丽的祖母观念超前, 一直都想学医, 但在那个年代, 妇女们是应该留守家中的。

air one's dirty linen in public to discuss private or embarrassing matters in public, especially when quarreling. (This linen refers to problems as if they were sheets and tablecloths or other soiled cloth. **See also wash one's dirty**



linen in public.) ☐ 在公众场合讨论私人或尴尬的话题,尤其是争吵的时候(linen 指床单,台布或其他的脏布。)

<input type="checkbox"/> John's mother had asked him repeatedly not to <i>air the family's dirty linen in public</i> .	约翰的母亲曾多次告诫他,不要在公众场合讨论家庭隐私。
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are arguing again. Why must they always <i>air their dirty linen in public</i> ?	杰克逊先生和夫人又在拌嘴了。真搞不懂他们为什么总要在公众场合争吵?

all in day's work part of what is expected; typical or normal. ☐ 意料之中;典型的、正常的

<input type="checkbox"/> I don't particularly like to cook, but it's <i>all in a day's work</i> .	我并不特别喜欢做饭,但那是每天都得做的事。
<input type="checkbox"/> Putting up with rude customers isn't pleasant, but it's <i>all in a day's work</i> .	容忍一些粗鲁的顾客并不是件开心事,但那是应该的。

all joking aside being serious for a moment; in all seriousness. ☐ 认真点;严肃点

<input type="checkbox"/> I know I laugh at him, but <i>all joking aside</i> , he's a very clever scientist.	我知道我是嘲笑了他,其实说句实在话,他还是一位挺聪明的科学家。
<input type="checkbox"/> I know I threatened to leave and go round the world, but <i>all joking aside</i> , I do need a vacation.	我知道我是吓唬他们说要离开去周游世界,不过话说回来,我确实需要休假了。

all over but the shouting decided and concluded; finished except for a celebration. (An elaboration of all over, which means "finished.") ☐ 确定的、结束的;除了庆典都结束了(此处的 all over 指:结束,完成)

<input type="checkbox"/> The last goal was made just as the final whistle sounded. Tom said, "Well, it's <i>all over but the shouting</i> ."	最后的一球是在终场哨子吹响时进的。汤姆说:"任务完成啦,就差一个庆功会了。"
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<input type="checkbox"/> John worked hard in college and graduated last month. When he got his diploma, he said, "It's <i>all over but the shouting</i> ."	约翰在大学里学习努力并于上月毕业了。当他拿到毕业文凭时,他说:“大学结束了,就差毕业典礼啦。”
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All roads lead to Rome. a proverb meaning that there are many different routes to the same goal. ☐ (谚语)条条大路通罗马。意指达到同一目标可以有多种路线、多种方法

<input type="checkbox"/> Mary was criticizing the way Jane was planting the flowers. John said, "Never mind, Mary, <i>all roads lead to Rome</i> ."	玛丽在批评珍妮的种花方法,约翰说道:“没关系的,玛丽,毕竟条条大路通罗马嘛。”
<input type="checkbox"/> Some people learn by doing. Others have to be taught. In the long run, <i>all roads lead to Rome</i> .	一些人可以自学成才,另一些人得要人来教。从长远来看,这些方法都行得通。

all skin and bones ☐ 参照“**nothing but skin and bones**”

All's well that ends well. a proverb meaning that an event that has a good ending is good even if some things went wrong along the way. (This is the name of a play by Shakespeare. It is now used as a cliché.) ☐ (谚语)结果好一切都好。意指虽然过程中难免有些波折,但是喜剧结果。(源自莎士比亚一剧本名;陈旧语)

<input type="checkbox"/> I'm glad you finally got here, even though your car had a flat tire on the way. Oh, well, <i>All's well that ends well</i> .	虽然车胎在路上爆了,但我很高兴你终于还是到了,现在一切都好啦。
<input type="checkbox"/> The groom was late for the wedding, but everything worked out all right. <i>All's well that ends well</i> .	尽管新郎婚礼上迟到了,但后来一切都进展顺利,只要结果好就万事大吉啦。

All that glitters is not gold. a proverb meaning that many attractive and alluring things actually have little or no value. ☐ (谚语)所有发光的东西不一定是金子。意指许多表面炫烂夺目的东西实际上毫无价值



<input type="checkbox"/> The used car looked fine but didn't run well at all. "Ah, yes," thought Bill, " <i>all that glitters is not gold</i> ."	那辆旧车看上去不错,但并不好用。比尔想道:“的确啊,发光的东西不一定是金子。”
<input type="checkbox"/> When Mary was disappointed because the handsome man had not noticed her, Jane reminded her, " <i>all that glitters is not gold</i> ."	玛丽因那位帅哥没注意到她而感到沮丧,这时珍妮提醒她:“并不是所有发光的东西都是金子。”

all thumbs very awkward and clumsy, especially with one's hands. (It implies that one's hands have only thumbs.) ☐ 十分笨拙,尤其是手(原指某人的手只有拇指而笨拙无用)

<input type="checkbox"/> Poor Bob can't play the piano at all. He's <i>all thumbs</i> .	可怜的鲍勃一点也不会弹钢琴,他的手不够灵巧。
<input type="checkbox"/> Mary is <i>all thumbs</i> when it comes to sewing.	玛丽的很笨,她不会缝纫。

all walks of life all social, economic, and ethnic groups. (Does not occur in the singular or without all.) ☐ 各行各业,指所有社会、经济和种族群体(注意:此片语无单数形式且 all 不能缺少)

<input type="checkbox"/> We saw people there from <i>all walks of life</i> .	我们在那里看到了来自各行各业的人们。
<input type="checkbox"/> The people who came to the art exhibit represented <i>all walks of life</i> .	参观本次艺术展览会的代表们来自各行各业。

All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. a proverb meaning that one should have recreation as well as work. (Jack does not refer to anyone in particular, and the phrase can be used for persons of either sex.) ☐ (谚语)人应该劳逸结合。(此处“杰克”并不特指某个人,该片语可用于任何人。)

<input type="checkbox"/> Stop reading that book, and go out and play! <i>All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy</i> .	别再看书了,出去玩玩吧!人应该劳逸结合。
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☐ The doctor told Mr. Hones to stop working on weekends and start playing golf, because *all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy*.

医生建议豪斯先生周末不要工作了,去打打高尔夫球,毕竟人应该劳逸结合。

any port in a storm a phrase indicating that when one is having trouble, one must accept any way out, whether one likes the solution or not. ☐ 指人在遇到麻烦时,不管他是否喜欢某种解决方案,都必须接受。

☐ I didn't want to live with my parents, but it was a case of *any port in a storm*. I couldn't find an apartment.

我并不想同父母一块儿住,但是没办法,我还没找到公寓。

☐ He hates his new job, but it's better than having no job at all. *Any port in a storm*, you know.

他并不喜欢这份新的工作,但总比没工作好。他只是别无选择而已。

the apple of someone's eye someone's favorite person or thing; a boyfriend or a girlfriend; a person or thing that someone wants. (A person or a thing that has caught someone's eye or attracted someone's attention.) ☐ 掌上明珠;男朋友或女朋友;某人想要的人/物(指某人或某物引人注目)

☐ Tom is *the apple of Mary's eye*. She thinks he's great.

汤姆是玛丽的男朋友,她认为他很棒。

☐ John's new car is *the apple of his eye*.

约翰把他的新轿车视为掌上明珠。

armed to the teeth heavily armed with deadly weapons. (As if all types of armaments were used, up to and including weapons held in one's teeth.) ☐ 全副武装(好像配备了所有类型的武器,包括用牙齿咬住的武器。)

☐ The bank robber was *armed to the teeth* when he was caught.

当那个银行抢劫犯被抓的时候,他全副武装。

☐ There are too many guns around. The entire country is *armed to the teeth*.

到处都是枪,全国各地枪支泛滥。

arm-in-arm [of persons] linked or hooked together by the arms. ☐ (指人)