

剑桥“英语在用”(English in Use)丛书

(中文版)

剑桥英语习语

ENGLISH IDIOMS IN USE

(英) Michael McCarthy
(英) Felicity O'Dell 著

英 语 在 用

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外语教学与研究出版社
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剑桥“英语在用”(English in Use)丛书原由剑桥大学出版社出版,是一套享誉全球的英语学习用书,主要包括英语词汇、短语、习语、词汇惯用搭配和英语语法等系列,自出版以来,全球销量已逾千万册,被称作“英语学习者的‘圣经’”,既可用于读者自学,也可用于课堂教学,是许多学习者手边必备的参考书。

剑桥“英语在用”丛书专为非英语国家的学习者编写,作者均为剑桥大学出版社卓有经验的权威,内容实例取材于剑桥国际英语语料库,在编排结构上条理明晰,形式简约,重点突出,注重实用;并采取版面左页讲解、右页练习,书后附参考答案的方式,达到即学即练的巩固效果。

自2001年以来,外语教学与研究出版社从剑桥大学出版社陆续引进了“英语在用”丛书的词汇、语法系列的学习用书及练习册,深受英语学习者和一些培训学校的青睐和好评。近来剑桥大学出版社重新修订、扩充了丛书内容,并推出了新的版本,其中有的还配有CD-ROM学习光盘。鉴于“英语在用”丛书在学习者中的口碑和良好的学习效果,外语教学与研究出版社新引进了“英语在用”丛书的词汇、语法系列的修订新版以及此前未有的系列(短语、习语等),特此推介给广大的读者,同时稍微更改了纸型和版式,使之更便于阅读。希望读者朋友们通过这套高品质的学习丛书,真正提高自己的英语水平。

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使用下列关键词的习语

- 45 finger, thumb, hand
- 46 foot, heel, toe
- 47 bones, shoulder, arm, leg
- 48 head
- 49 face, hair, neck, chest
- 50 eyes
- 51 ear, lips, mouth, nose, teeth, tongue
- 52 heart
- 53 brain, mind, blood与guts
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Michael McCarthy and Felicity O'Dell, March 2002

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本书使用指南

写作本书的目的是什么？

本书旨在帮助你增加关于英语习语的知识。习语是一些固定的表达方式，其含义往往并非一目了然，不是其中单个词义的简单相加。在你日常所听到和读到的英文中，都会包含大量的习语，因此学习习语的含义和用法是非常重要的。本书既可以在教师的指导下使用，也可以用于自学。

我们希望通过本书鼓励学生在学习语言时兼顾习语的学习。过去，一些教师曾经认为学习习语是浪费时间，因为学习者可能无法正确或恰当地使用习语。但是现在习语的使用如此广泛，忽视它们的存在显然是不明智的。本书将关注当代学生需要掌握的英语习语，并提供帮助你理解和正确使用这些习语的知识 and 练习。

本书中的习语是如何选定的？

英语中有大量的习语，但是其中一些已经过时或者使用范围很小。本书中的习语均选自庞大的语言数据库——由诺丁汉大学与剑桥大学出版社联合开发的 CANCODE 英语口语语料库，以及剑桥国际书面英语语料库。经过计算机搜索，本书从中选取了大约 1000 个最为重要的英语习语。这些数据库为我们展示了以英语为母语的人在会话、报纸、小说和许多其他语境中是如何使用这些习语的。本书所选的习语也都全部收录于《剑桥国际英语习语词典》(Cambridge International Dictionary of Idioms, CIDI) 中，你可以从中找到更多的例句和用法注释。你还可以登录 <http://dictionary.cambridge.org> 在线使用该词典。

本书是如何编排的？

本书共有 60 个单元，每个单元为一对开页。左页展示每个单元所要讲解的习语，通常你会看到对每个习语含义的解释和习语在语境中的应用实例，有时你还可以看到对习语用法的特殊说明。每个单元的右页都包含一系列与左页习语相对应的练习题，用以考查你对这些习语的掌握情况。习语的含义和用法是练习题考查的重点，因为对于大多数学习者而言，这比能够主动地使用它们更为重要。

本书分为三大部分：

第一部分“谈论特定话题的习语”根据习语所讨论的话题对其进行分类。这样，**to be snowed under** [to have an enormous amount of work to do] 就被归入 Unit 25 “工作”。

第二部分“涉及特定范畴的习语”根据习语所涉及的形象对其进行分类。这样，**hit the roof** [react in a very angry way] 就被归入 Unit 41 “房屋与家居用品”。

第三部分“使用下列关键词的习语”根据习语中的关键词对其进行分类。例如，Unit 48 包含一系列以 **head** 为中心词的习语。

此外，本书还附有所有练习题的答案，以及全部习语所在单元的索引。

如何使用本书？

除了主体部分的 60 个单元以外，在本书的开头还有两个介绍性的单元：Unit i “什么是习语？”和 Unit ii “使用词典”。强烈建议你首先学习这两个单元，然后你可以根据自己的需要，按照任意的顺序学习以后的单元。

学习本书时还需要什么？

你需要一个笔记本或文件夹，用以记录你在本书中所学的以及在其他地方见到的习语。

此外，你还需要有一本好词典。我们强烈推荐《剑桥国际英语习语词典》，它能提供有关习语的必备信息。当然，你的老师也可能会推荐其他适合的词典。

总之，我们希望本书能够对你学习英语习语有所启发 (shed light, 见 Unit 8)，而且在学完全部单元之后，你能够自信地说出：“英语习语，小菜一碟 (a piece of cake, 见 Unit 17)！”

什么是习语？

A

习语及其含义

习语是一些固定的表达方式，其含义往往并非单个词义的简单相加。例如，**drive somebody round the bend** 这个习语的意思是“令某人生气或沮丧”，这一含义是无法从字面判断出来的。

理解习语最好的方法就是将其放在语境之中。如果某人说：This tin opener's driving me round the bend! I think I'll throw it away and get a new one next time I'm in town. 这时，通过语境和常识即可推断 **drive round the bend** 表示的可不是在路上行车驶过一个弯。由上下文可知，是因为开瓶器不好用而影响了使用者。

B

习语的类型

形式	示例	释义
动词 + 宾语 / 补语（及 / 或 状语）	kill two birds with one stone	produce two useful results by just doing one action
介词短语	in the blink of an eye	in an extremely short time
复合词	a bone of contention	something which people argue and disagree over
明喻（as + 形容词 + as, 或 like + 名词）	as dry as a bone	very dry indeed
成对词（单词 + and + 单词）	rough and ready	crude and lacking sophistication
三个词（单词 + 单词 + and + 单词）	cool, calm and collected	relaxed, in control, not nervous
从句或句子	to cut a long story short	to tell the main points, but not all the fine details

C

习语的固定性

大多数习语的形式是固定不变的。但有时，习语的语法结构或其中的词汇也可以略做改动。当你在本书或词典中看到了习语可做改变的情形，一定要将相关的信息记录在词汇笔记本上。

变化	例句
少数情况下，用主动语态表达的习语可以变为被动形式	Government Ministers always pass the buck if they are challenged about poverty. [blame somebody else / refuse to accept responsibility] The buck has been passed from Minister to Minister. No one seems prepared to accept the responsibility.
有些以动词为中心词的习语也有复合名词的形式	There is too much buck-passing in government nowadays. No one accepts the blame for anything.
习语中的一个或多个单词可以改变	Stop acting the fool/goat! [stop acting stupidly]

练习

i.1 仅从语境中你能猜出这些习语的含义吗? 根据你对粗体词的理解, 在相应的方框中打钩。

- 1 I decided I was going to get a place at university **by hook or by crook**. It had always been my dream to study for a degree in history.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/ CAN'T TELL	
means using illegal methods if necessary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means nothing will stop me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means I was very determined	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	参见 Unit 17

- 2 The government and the unions are **at loggerheads**; there may be a general strike.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/ CAN'T TELL	
means have a good relationship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means hate each other	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means disagree very strongly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	参见 Unit 22

- 3 We had to **pay through the nose** to get our visas in five days instead of the usual 30 days.

	YES	NO	DON'T KNOW/ CAN'T TELL	
means suffer in some way	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means pay a small sum of money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
means pay a large sum of money	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	参见 Unit 24

i.2 根据语法类型对下列句子中的习语进行分类:

类型 A: 动词 + 宾语 / 补语 (及 / 或状语)
类型 B: 介词短语
类型 C: 复合词

类型 D: 明喻
类型 E: 成对词或三个词并列
类型 F: 从句或句子

- Should we fly or go by train? What are the **pros and cons**?
类型: 参见 Unit 10
- I'm **having second thoughts** about going on holiday with Jean. She can be a bit difficult.
类型: 参见 Unit 5
- When I had finished all my exams, I felt as **free as a bird**.
类型: 参见 Unit 60
- I don't know much about design, so I gave the decorator a **free hand** in my new flat.
类型: 参见 Unit 45
- She comes from a rather **well-to-do** family. She's always had a comfortable life.
类型: 参见 Unit 24
- My old school friend Harriet arrived **out of the blue**. I hadn't seen her for 15 years.
类型: 参见 Unit 42

i.3 借助括号中的线索, 修改下列句子中的习语错误。必要时使用一本好的通用词典或习语词典。



- My father's foot was put down when I said I wanted a car for my seventeenth birthday. He said I was too young. (语法—语态) 参见 Unit 46
- Her words put the cat among the birds; Jim is furious. (词汇) 参见 Unit 37
- You'll be pleased to hear we arrived sound and safe in Peru. (成对词) 参见 Unit 16
- He was lying in his teeth when he said he had got a first-class grade in his exam; the truth is he failed. (语法—功能词) 参见 Unit 51

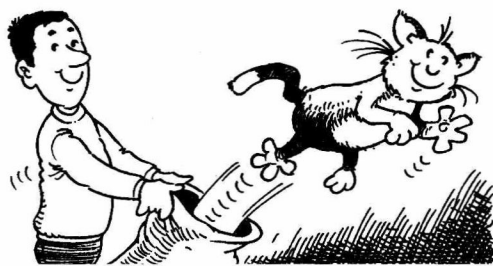
A

在词典中查什么?

即使你认识一个习语中的全部单词,仍然有可能判断不出这个习语的含义,因此我们常常需要借助词典来查找习语的意思。如果你使用的是CD-ROM版本的词典,在查找习语的时候就不会有困难,但如果使用的是传统的纸质词典,就要首先确定习语的位置。一条习语通常是由几个单词组成的,那么究竟该在词典中查哪个单词呢?比如, **kill two birds with one stone** 这个习语,该查 *kill*, *two*, *birds* 和 *stone* 中的哪一个单词呢?再如, **let the cat out of the bag** 这个习语,是查找 *let*, *cat* 还是 *bag* 呢?



如果你使用的是《剑桥国际英语习语词典》(CIDI) 或者《剑桥高级英语学习词典》(Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary, CALD),那么最简单的方法就是先查词典最后面按字母排序的索引。索引中列出了词典里包含的全部表达式,并且将检索条目用粗体标记。通过这种方法,你就会发现,在CIDI中, **kill two birds with one stone** 列在 *two* 词条下,而 **let the cat out of the bag** 列在 *cat* 词条下;在CALD中,这两个习语分别列于 *kill* 和 *cat* 词条下。



如果你使用的是其他的词典,现在就去读一读它的使用说明,看看该怎么查找习语,这样就可以避免查找习语时找错词条的烦恼了。

B

词典提供了哪些信息?

除了习语的含义,词典还可以提供很多其他的信息。习语的用法是相对固定的,因此认真阅读词典中的每一条注释不但有助于理解习语的含义,而且可以指导你正确地使用它们。

在一本好的习语词典中,你可以找到下列信息:

- 可以相互替换的单词,例如: **drive/send sb round the bend**;
- 习语的用法,比如用括号表示习语中可以省略的单词,例如: **I (can) feel it in my bones**;
- 习语的语法注释,比如有些注释注明某个习语通常用于被动语态或进行时态,或者用于否定句中;
- 习语的应用实例;
- 关于语域的注释,CIDI中的语域标注包括:非正式 (informal)、正式 (formal)、非常不正式 (very informal)、过时 (old-fashioned)、忌讳 (taboo)、幽默 (humorous)、文学 (literary);
- 习语使用的地域差异,这一点也很重要,因为许多英国习语会令美国人感觉非常陌生,反之亦然。

TIP

本书对每个习语的介绍不可能如词典一般详尽,因此,碰到你特别感兴趣的习语时,可以去词典中查一查,并且将查到的更多信息和例句记录在词汇笔记本上。

练习

ii.1 在词典中查找下列句子中的习语，看看每个习语列在哪个词条之下。



- 1 It's the person in the street who **picks up the bill** for the government's mistakes.
- 2 She had a wonderful trip to Australia, but now she's **come back down to earth with a bump**.
- 3 John had a furious argument with his supervisor, but he managed to **stand his ground**.
- 4 He's feeling very miserable, so there's no need for you to **stick the knife in** too.
- 5 You're **banging your head against a brick wall** trying to get him to help you.
- 6 You **scared the living daylights out of** me by creeping up behind me like that.

ii.2 在下列所使用的习语中哪些单词可以省略？

- 1 It's always hard when you have to **come back down to earth with a bump** after a holiday.
- 2 No one thought she could climb the mountain without oxygen, but she succeeded **against all the odds**.
- 3 She **hit him where it hurt most** by telling him that he had always been a disappointment to his parents.
- 4 The way he reacted **scared the living daylights out of** me!

ii.3 在下列习语中哪些单词可以用其他的单词来替换？

- 1 Don't worry about a thing – I'm sure the company will **pick up the bill**.
- 2 I **came back down to earth with a bump** when I saw the pile of post waiting for me after the weekend.
- 3 The army had lost many of its men, but it managed to **stand its ground**.
- 4 Why do critics seem to enjoy **sticking the knife into** untalented actors and writers?
- 5 I feel as if I'm **banging my head against a brick wall** with him at the moment.
- 6 It's a terrifying film – it **scared the living daylights out of** me!

ii.4 查一查词典中给出了下列习语的哪些语法信息？阅读这些信息，然后用每个习语造一个句子。



- 1 look a gift horse in the mouth
- 2 be pushing up the daisies
- 3 be on the brink of
- 4 tie yourself up in knots
- 5 be man enough

ii.5 从方框里为下列句中的习语选择恰当的语域标注。

formal humorous informal literary old-fashioned very informal

- 1 I really don't like him – he's such a **slime ball**.
- 2 OK. I'll do the washing-up. **There's no peace for the wicked!**
- 3 Her family has lived in that village **from time immemorial**.
- 4 My grandma always used to say that **an apple a day keeps the doctor away**.
- 5 The food was so delicious – we **stuffed our faces**.
- 6 I hope that what I have said **will give you pause for thought**.

健康

A

描述健康状况的习语

Mark had been feeling **under the weather**¹ for weeks. One day he came into work **looking like death warmed up**² and so we told him to go away for a few days to **recharge his batteries**³. After one day beside the sea, he no longer felt **off-colour**⁴ and by the second day he knew he was **on the road to recovery**⁵. He sent us a postcard and we were all glad to learn that he was **on the mend**⁶. By the end of the week, he returned to work **as fit as a fiddle**⁷. And he's been **as right as rain**⁸ ever since.

¹ not very well

² looking extremely ill

³ do something to gain fresh energy and enthusiasm

⁴ felt unwell

⁵ getting better

⁶ getting better

⁷ perfectly well

⁸ perfectly well



as fit as a fiddle

B

表示 **mad** (精神失常) 的非正式习语

有许多非正式的习语可以表示某人的精神不正常:

He's not all there.

She's a basket case.

She's off her trolley.

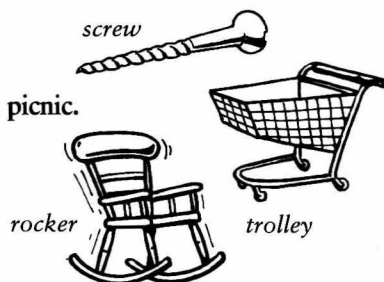
He's off his rocker.

He's not right in the head.

She's one sandwich short of a picnic.

She's got a screw loose.

He's as nutty as a fruitcake.



C

表示 **die** (死亡) 的非正式习语

还有很多表示 **die** 的非正式习语, 例如:

She's popped her clogs.

She's given up the ghost.

She's kicked the bucket.

He's bitten the dust.

He's fallen off his perch.

D

借用医疗现象的习语

习语	释义	例句
a sore point/spot	a subject which someone would prefer not to talk about because it makes them angry or embarrassed	Try not to mention baldness while he's here – it's a sore spot for him.
give someone a taste/dose of their own medicine	do the same bad thing to someone that they have done to you in order to show them how unpleasant it is	Refusing to lend him money now would give him a taste of his own medicine – he's never lent you any.
a bitter pill to swallow	unpleasant, but has to be accepted	Losing my job was initially a bitter pill to swallow.
sugar the pill	do something to make something unpleasant more acceptable	The boss has sugared the overtime pill by offering a large extra payment.
have itchy feet	want to travel or move on	I can't stay in one place for more than a year without getting itchy feet.

练习

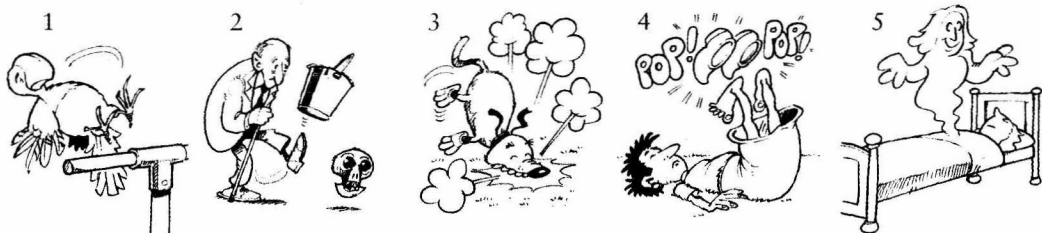
- 1.1** 将下面的习语分成4组，每组表达相同的含义（其中有两组包含2个习语，另外两组包含4个习语）。说出每组习语的含义。

give up the ghost be on the road to recovery bite the dust be on the mend
be as nutty as a fruitcake feel off-colour be not all there feel under the weather
pop your clogs be off your trolley fall off your perch be a basket case

- 1.2** 将下面的习语补充完整。

- Don't mention the merger to him – it's a bit of a spot for him.
- Telling Joe what you feel may be a pill for him to swallow, but you owe it to him nevertheless.
- Watching travel programmes on TV always gives me feet.
- I wonder what's happened to Stan – he looks like death up!
- Plans to put increased funds into education are supposed to sugar the of increased taxation.
- Imagine someone as unfit as Ruth going on holiday in the Himalayas. She must have a loose.
- A good game of golf at the weekend always helps to my father's batteries.
- Tom was quite ill for a while last year, but he's as fit as a now.
- I was exhausted when I got home from work, but, after a nice cup of tea, I'm as as rain.
- Helen won't understand the problem – she's one short of a picnic.

- 1.3** 下面的图片让你想到哪个表示 *die* 的习语？



- 1.4** 将左边的陈述与右边的答语对应起来。

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 I've got itchy feet. | Oh dear, I hope he's OK tomorrow. |
| 2 He's as right as rain now. | Yes, but she'll soon get over it. |
| 3 He's not right in the head. | Where would you like to go? |
| 4 I'm going to tell him what I think of him. | That is a relief! |
| 5 Dad's a bit off-colour today. | Good. Give him a dose of his own medicine. |
| 6 Failing the exam was a bitter pill to swallow. | I know, Jane told me he was off his rocker. |

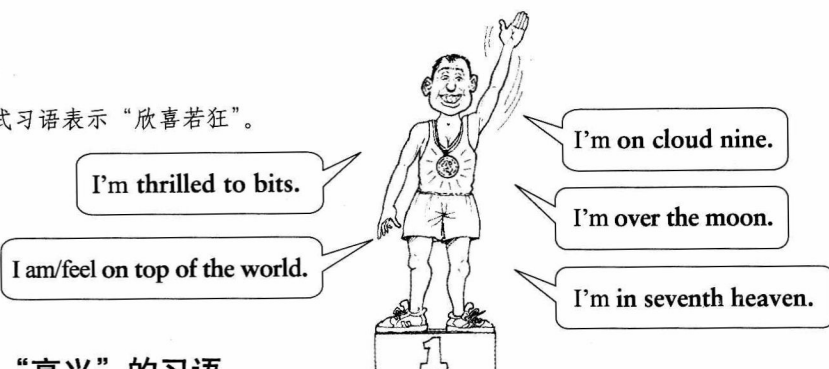
FOLLOW UP

想一想为什么有这么表示 *mad* 和 *die* 的习语？在中文中是否也是这样？你认为使用这些表示 *mad* 或 *die* 的英文习语是否恰当？如果恰当，可以在哪些情况下使用？如果不恰当，为什么？

A

欣喜若狂

有许多非正式习语表示“欣喜若狂”。



B

其他表示“高兴”的习语

习语	释义	例句
get a (real) kick out of something	very much enjoy doing something (informal)	I get a (real) kick out of going for a run first thing in the morning before anyone else is up.
do something for kicks	do something because it is exciting, usually something dangerous (informal)	Sandra is keen to have a go at bungee-jumping – just for kicks.
jump for joy	be very happy and excited about something that has happened	Rowena jumped for joy when she heard that she'd won first prize.
be floating/ walking on air	be very happy about something good that has happened	I've been walking on air ever since Chris and I started going out together.
something makes your day	something makes you feel very happy	It's great to hear from you. It's really made my day.

C

悲伤

Dear Louise,

Hope all goes well with you. Unfortunately, everyone here is **out of sorts**¹. Will is **down in the dumps**² because he doesn't like his teacher this year. I've told him that **it's not the end of the world**³ and that he'd better **just grin and bear it**⁴, but I think he likes being a **miserable guts**⁵ and so he complains about her every night. Pat is also suffering from **sour grapes**⁶ because I got the role in the school play that she wanted. This **puts a damper on**⁷ every meal, so I'm really looking forward to staying with you at the weekend.

Love,

Karen



¹ slightly unhappy or slightly ill

² unhappy (informal)

³ what has happened won't cause any serious problems

⁴ accept a situation you don't like because you can't change it

⁵ someone who complains all the time and is never happy (very informal)

⁶ being jealous about something you can't have

⁷ stop an occasion from being enjoyable
(有时用 *dampener* 取代 *damper*)