

# 本書優點

- (一) 本書專為適合考試之用，所以把不要的習題一律刪去，使讀者能集中精力，得以準備更形充分，考得更形理想。
- (二) 本書為加強讀者印象，習題先用中文測驗一遍，然後再用原來英文測驗，如此便易了解，便易記住不忘。
- (三) 每個成語後都附有註解，使讀者完全了解，完全消化。
- (四) 本書末尾另加高中課本中最重要最有考試可能的成語五十個，作為補充之用。
- (五) 本書是重行編排，所以每句英文解釋後即附有中文解釋，一目了然，實非它書所能望其項背。
- (六) 習題附解答

# 英文成語精解(三) 目 錄

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## LESSON 1



### 1. absent-minded: (forgetful) 健忘，心不在焉

1. He is the typical *absent-minded* professor, always leaving his umbrella and other possessions on the bus or streetcar.

他是一個典型的健忘教授，總是把雨傘或其它所有物遺忘在公共汽車或電車上。

2. Tom seemed very *absent-minded* during the historical lecture.

上歷史課的時候湯姆好像心不在焉。

註：Absent 作“缺乏”講，minded 係分詞，作“注意”講，兩字連接作為“健忘”講。

### 2. a bit: (somewhat) 稍許

1. He is *a bit* older than I.

他比我稍許年齡大一點。

2. He is *a bit of* a humorist.

他稍帶有一點幽默家的風度。

註：A bit 作“稍許”講，但 a bit of 後面，用人的場合，當作

帶“有---風度”講。

3. **black sheep**: (a good-for-nothing member of a family)

墜家聲者，家中沒有出息之人

1. The oldest son is a **black sheep** in the family.

那個長子是這一家最沒有出息之人。

2. All the brothers except James became successful business men. James was always the **black sheep** of the family.

除傑姆外所有兄弟都成為很成功的商人；傑姆終是這一家的敗類。

4. **all at once**: (suddenly) 突然地

1. **All at once** it began to rain.

突然地天開始下雨了。

2. I was reading when **all at once** there came a loud knock.

當我正在讀書的時候，突然 來了一陣很響的敲門聲。

■：At once 作“立刻”講，加 all 只是加強語氣，變為“突然”之意。

5. **all day long**: (the entire day) 終日，整天

1. **All day long** the wife sat at the window, watching the vessel in which she expected her husband.

那妻子整天坐在窗口，注視她盼望她丈夫坐的船。

2. We spent **all day long** looking for that error of our accounts.

我們化了整天的時間，來尋找帳目中的錯誤。

■：All day 就作“整日”講，加 long 只是加強語氣。

6. **a long face**: (a sad or displeased expression)

面有憂色，面帶不悅之色

1. Why do you have **a long face**?

為什麼你面有憂色？

2. What's the matter with Mary? She's been walking

around here with **a long face** for two days.

瑪麗不知道出了什麼毛病？她走來走去面帶不悅之色有兩天了。

註：此成語和我們中國人的想法完全一樣，我們拉長了臉，不是指憂愁或是指生氣。

7. many a man (also many a student, many a child): (many men) 許多人

1. **Many a man** has the same experience as I.

許多人有我同樣的經驗。

2. **Many a student** cheats in the examination.

許多學生在考試作弊。

註：Many a 雖然意義是複數，但它後面接的名詞却是單數而且動詞亦須單數。

補註：英語文裏面，只要是兩個字或兩個以上的字，經常連在一起用，就叫着“片語”(phrase)。而片語裏面又有一部份，從上下文中，沒有辦法看出它們是什麼意思，或者覺得完全沒有道理，這種片語語叫做“成語”(idiom)。many a 就是典型的成語。many是很多，a 是一個。很多一個-----？講不過。當然，如果我們進一步去了解英文文法，從“字序”(Word-Order)去研究 many a，many a 就講得通了。構成“字序”的因素之一，“親密度”——某一個字經常和另一字在一起出現，那這兩個字的“親密度就高了。冠詞與它所修飾的名詞，比起修飾這個名詞的“數量”形容詞，“親密度”就高了很多。因此當人們在講話時，在腦海中，很容易最先出現 a man，才想到 many，因此就變成了 many a man。除非有興趣研究英語文，否則碰到“成語”，最好是把它背下來。

8. man-of-war: (a large battleship) 戰艦

1. There are many men on the **man-of-war**.

戰艦上有許多人。

2. We sent out a call for help, and shortly a large **man-of-war** appeared on the horizon.

我們發出求救的呼號，不久一艘大的戰艦出現在水平線上。

註：Man-of-war 係單數，如果係複數須變成爲 men-of-war.

9. anything but: (quite contrary to) 決不，並不

1. His manners are **anything but** pleasant.

他的態度決不使人愉快。

2. It is **anything but** agreeable to be sick with mis-eases.

患痲症決不好受。

註：But 在此成語中是表示否定意思。

10. a number of: (many) 許多

1. I have **a number of** letters to write.

我有許多信要寫。

2. **A number of** boys are taking a walk in the woods.

許多男孩正在樹林中散步。

註：A number of 雖然係單數，但動詞却須用複數。

11. to apply oneself to (to give the chief part of one's time and attention) 專心

1. He **applied himself to** the study of music.

他專心研究音樂。

2. He **applied himself to** his task with great assiduity.

他專心用力工作。

註：Apply 原作“申請”“應用”講，但後面加 oneself to 就成爲“專心”了。

12. apt to: (liable to) 易於

1. He is **apt to** spend his money freely.

他易於隨便化錢。

2. He is **apt to** lose his temper.

他易於發怒。

註：Apt to 係形容詞，所以它前面必須用 to be.

## EXERCISE 1

A. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1. All \_\_\_\_ once the door flew open.
2. Tom is anything \_\_\_\_ honest.
3. Harry is a bit \_\_\_\_ a hero.
4. She applied herself \_\_\_\_ the study of English.

B. Substitute, in place of the italicized word or words, the corresponding idiomatic expression indicated in parentheses:

1. There are *many* girls present in the party. (a number.....)
2. I am *liable to* catch cold. (apt.....)
3. He *gave his chief part of time and attention to* his study. (apply.....)
4. He told me a story about a *forgetful* farmer. (absent.....)
5. Tom is always very busy *the entire day*. (all day.....)
6. He is *somewhat* angry. (a.....)
7. *Suddenly*, Tom got sick and died. (all.....)
8. Harry is a *good-for-nothing* member of the family. (black.....)
9. A large *battleship* was seen on the sea. (man.....)
10. Mary has a *sad expression*. (a long.....)

## LESSON 2

1. black and blue: (bruised badly) 擦傷很重，遍體鱗傷

1. Her ankle was *black and blue* from the fall of the tree.

她的足踝因為從樹上掉下來擦傷很重。

2. The butcher had a fight with his wife and beat her **black and blue**.

那屠夫和太太打架，把她打得遍體鱗傷。

■：Black and blue 照字義作“黑青”講，因為人受了傷皮膚上就有此種顏色，所以就用此兩字，來描寫人受傷情形。

2. to back up: (to support) 支持，擁扶

1. The president **backed up** the statement made by his assistant.

總統支持他助理發表的聲明。

2. We should **back up** our friends when they are in need.

我們應該支持我們的朋友，當他們有困難的時候。

■：Back 原係名詞作“背”講，但此處係動詞，再加 up 就作“支持”講。

3. by all means: (definitely, certainly) 務必，一定

1. When you visit Taiwan, **by all means** go to Peitou.

當你去台灣觀光，務必要去北投。

2. **By all means** try not to keep bad company.

務必設法不要結交壞的伴侶。

■：Means 作“方法”講，所謂用盡各種方法，就是“務必”。

4. by degrees: (gradually) 逐漸，漸漸

1. I withdrew from business **by degrees**.

我逐漸從商業上撤退。

2. He is picking up the language **by degrees**.

他學那語言逐漸有進步。

■：Degree 作“程度”講，和 by 連用，表示程度逐漸加深。

5. out of sight: (not within the field of sight) 看不見

1. Slowly the aeroplane flew **out of sight**.

飛機慢慢地飛得看不見了。

2. We watch the balloon till it was **out of sight**.

我們注視着氣球直到看不見它了。

■：Sight 作“視線”講，out of 作“越出”講，兩者連起來，



就作“看不見”講。

6. to fall on: (to attack; to take place on) 攻擊，落在

1. The robbers hid in the bushes and **fell on** him from three sides.

強盜隱藏在叢林中，從三方面攻擊他。

2. This year my birthday **falls on** a Friday.

今年我的生日落在一個禮拜五。

■：此成語有兩種意思，第一種意思很顯明不必說明，第二種意思，係專指日期碰到那一天，如：Christmas **falls on** December 25.

7. to fall sick: (to become sick) 生病

1. Tom has **fallen sick** with a cold.

湯姆曾患傷風。

2. She **fell sick** last week and has been in bed ever since.

她上星期病了，而且自從那時起一直臥病在床。

■：Fall 在此成語中帶有 become 的意思，因此它後面可以接形容詞 sick.

8. to eat one's words: (to retract, to apologize humbly)

取消前言，卑恭道歉

1. I made him **eat his words** concerning my receiving a bride while I was in office.

關於我在職時受賄一事我讓他卑恭道歉。

2. When confronted by such clear evidence, the Senator was forced to **eat his words** in public.

面對如此顯明的證據，那參議員被迫在當眾取消前言。

■：把自己說的話 (words) 吃下去，那就是把自己的話說了不算向人卑恭地道歉。

9. a rainy day: (a period of misfortune) 困窮時期，不幸時期

1. One should always put a little money aside for a

**rainy day.**

一個人終是應該儲蓄一點錢以備困窮時期之用。

2. He never thought of laying up against **a rainy day.**

他永想不到儲蓄金錢來防備困窮時之用。

註：中國有一句成語“毋未雨而綢繆”，也是用雨來指窮困時期，所謂中西不約而同。

10. **child's play: (something easy to perform)**

輕而易舉之事

1. He may consider it as **child's play.**

他可能認為它是一輕而易舉之事。

2. That simple game is **child's play** for Tom, who is an expert in all forms of athletics.

那種簡單的運動對湯姆而言是一輕而易舉之事，因為他對各種運動都是專家。

註：所謂“孩童遊戲”，當然指明非常容易做成，不必費力。

11. **to call one's own: (to possess, to have)** 擁有

1. I am so busy that I have but few minutes I **can call my own.**

我因為非常忙所以我只有幾分鐘的時間可資利用。

2. He is so poor that he doesn't have one suit of clothes to **call his own.**

他因為非常窮所以連一套衣服都沒有。

註：一樣東西能夠稱為自己的，那就是“擁有”的意思。

12. **to break up: (to break into small pieces; to terminate)**  
) 破碎，結束

1. I **broke up** the candy and gave each child a small piece.

他把糖破碎了，分給每個孩子一小塊。

2. The meeting didn't **break up** till twelve o'clock.  
會議直到十二點才結束。

註：這個成語有兩種意思，第一種是實際的把東西破成碎片，第二種是抽象的，指會議結束。

## EXERCISES 2

A. Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1. I am determined to back \_\_\_\_\_ what my friend has said.
2. Their friendship \_\_\_\_\_ degrees grew into love.
3. You should \_\_\_\_\_ all means try to do your best.
4. The holiday happened to fall \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.
5. The steamer is now out \_\_\_\_\_ sight.
6. The farmers are breaking \_\_\_\_\_ the ground.
7. The meeting broke \_\_\_\_\_ at ten o'clock last night.

B. Substitute, in place of the italicized word or words, corresponding idiomatic expression indicated in parentheses:

1. He *broke into pieces* the bread and divided equally between the two boys. (break.....)
2. He was *bruised badly* from the fall. (black and.....)
3. I will always *support* the motion you are going to make. (back.....)
4. He *became sick* from eating too much. (fall.....)
5. To Tom the work is just a *thing easy to perform*. (child's.....)
6. The enemy *attacked* us under cover of night. (fall.....)
7. We should put up something against *a period of misfortune*. (a rainy.....)
8. The train is *not within the field of sight*. (out.....)
9. You should *definitely* avoid making the same mistake.

ke. (by.....)

10. He got over his difficulty *gradually*. (by.....)

### LESSON 3



1. to break one's word (promise): (to fail to fulfil promise or obligation) 食言，失信

1. You can trust him; he is not the kind of person who will easily **break his word**.

你可以信任他，因為他不是那種容易食言的人。

2. No one wishes to deal with a person who is accustomed to **breaking his word**.

沒有人希望和慣於失信的人來往。

■ : **Word** 在此成語中作“話”講，把自己的話破碎，就是食言，或失信。

2. to break one's heart: (to become heart-broken or grievously afflicted) 憂心，憂戚

1. He **broke his heart** over misfortunes.

他因為不幸而傷心。

2. Her refusal ever to see him again almost **broke**

**his heart.**

她拒絕永不再見他使他傷心。

■：如果一個心碎了，當然感覺到十分憂愁，此成語和中文完全相同。

3. **at most: (at the utmost, maximum)** 最多，充其量

1. They will give you, **at most**, four or five dollars for the watch.

他們最多將出四或五元錢來買你的錶。

2. **At most**, the judge could only sentence the criminal to five year's imprisonment.

法官最多只能判那罪犯五年徒刑。

■：**Most** 是最高級符號，就是說事情或數字到頂了，不能再多了。

4. **at first sight: (at the first glance)** 一見

1. They tell in love **at first sight**.

他們一見鍾情。

2. **At first sight**, my impression of him was favorable.

我一見他印象就非常佳。

■：**Sight** 作“看見”講，第一次看見，當然係初次會面。

5. **at heart: (really, in real character)** 真正的，確實的，本性

1. **At heart** he is a simple, generous fellow.

他確實是一個單純的慷慨的傢伙。

2. His manners are cold, but he is **at heart** a kind man.

他的態度很冷漠，但照他本性確實是一個仁慈的人。

■：**At heart** 照字義講，是指人的本性，但也可譯為“真正的”“確實的”。

6. **at fault: (in error, mistaken)** 錯誤

1. You were **at fault** for speaking to him so sharply.

你對他說話如此嚴厲是錯誤的。

2. He is not **at fault** in this matter.

他對這件事沒有錯。

註：Fault 作“過失”講，一個人有了過失，就是錯誤，就是不應做而做。

7. **step by step**: (gradually) 逐漸，漸漸

1. He has now come, **step by step**, to the end of this study.

他逐漸地結束這種研究。

2. A foreign language cannot be learned rapidly; it must be learned **step by step**.

外國語言不能馬上學好，一定要一步一步腳踏實地學習。

註：Step 作“步伐”講，而 by 表示漸進的意思，所以譯成爲“逐漸”，如果成譯爲一步，一步當然也可以。

8. **to stop short**: (to stop suddenly) 突然停止

1. A rock had fallen into the highway, and the horse **stopped short** on reaching it.

一塊巖石掉落在公路上，馬到了那邊就突然停止了。

2. When he heard his name called, he **stopped short**, 當他聽見有人叫他的名字，他就突然停止了。

註：此成語中之 short 不是形容詞，作“短”講，而是副詞，作“突然”講。

9. **to store up**: (to accumulate) 聚積，貯藏

1. I have **stored up** some fruit for the winter.

我已貯藏一些水果爲冬季之用。

2. **Store up** your grain against famine.

積穀防荒。

註：Store 作“店舖”講，此處係動詞作“貯藏”講，後面接 up 只是加強語勢。

10. **to take shelter**: (to seek refuge, protection) 躲避

1. We **took shelter** under a tree.

我們在樹下躲避。

2. They **took shelter** from the storm in an old barn.

他們在一個舊倉庫裏躲雨。

■ : Shelter 作“避難處”講，和 take 連用，作“躲避”講。

11. to settle down: (to adopt a regular mode of life, after one's youthful fling) 安居，定居

1. I think it is about time that Tom got married and **settled down**.

我認為湯姆應及時結婚安居。

2. After trying various pursuits, he has **settled down upon** a farm.

經試做過各種職業後，他在一個農場上定居下來。

■ : Settle 原可作“定居”講，不過後面接 down 只是加強語勢，說明一個生活飄泊不定的人，定居某地有了歸宿。

12. to set down: (to state in writing) 記錄，記下

1. I **set down** the temperature in my notebook at twelve o'clock every day.

我每天十二點鐘把溫度記錄在我筆記簿上。

2. The lawyer asked him to **set down** the facts just as he remembered them.

那律師要求他照他所記憶的事實記錄下來。

■ : Set 的過去和過去分詞都是 set.

### EXERCISE 3

A. Fill the blanks with appropriate prepositions:

1. It is \_\_\_\_ most a fault.
2. Step \_\_\_\_ step his ambition grew.
3. It is a case of love \_\_\_\_ first sight.
4. Ants store \_\_\_\_ food against winter.
5. Tom grew tired of his wandering life and settled \_\_\_\_ at his native town.

6. He is \_\_\_\_ heart a good man.
  7. Let me set \_\_\_\_ my name on the list.
  8. My memory is \_\_\_\_ fault.
- B. Substitute, in place of the italicized word or words, the corresponding expression indicated in parentheses:
1. You should improve your English *gradually*. (step...  
...)
  2. The things you are going to do should be *stated in writing*. (set.....)
  3. They *stopped suddenly* at hearing the sound. (stop  
.....)
  4. Students should try their best to *accumulate* knowledge. (store.....)
  5. You must *not fail to fulfil your promise*. (break.....)
  6. The news caused me *heart-broken*. (break.....)
  7. It is at *the utmost* half past four. (at.....)
  8. *At the first glance*, Tom seems quite an honest man. (at.....)
  9. He does not *really like* your proposal. (at.....)
  10. He *sought refuge* on a farm during the rain. (take...  
....)

## LESSON 4

1. to fool away: (to waste to spend in trifles, idleness or folly) 虛度，浪費

1. He *fooled away* his time in youth, and lived without respect in his manhood.

他年青時虛度他的時光，所以成年時活著不受人尊敬。

2. He has *fooled away* much money.

他浪費許多金錢。

■ : Fool 原係名詞，作“愚人”講，此處却係動詞，和 away 連用



，作浪費時間與金錢而言。

2. to get about: (to move about; to circulate) 行動，傳播

1. The invalid is unable to *get about* yet.

那病人尚不能行動。

2. How did the story of her marriage *get about*?

他結婚的消息如何傳播開來？

圖：About 含有“周圍”的意思，和 get 連用，構成“行動”“散播”意味。

3. to get ahead: (to succeed; to prosper) 成功，發展

1. He *gets ahead* fast in his studies.

他學業進步很快。

2. Tom will *get ahead* in any business he goes into.

湯姆做什麼生意都會成功。

圖：Ahead 作“在前地”講，與 get 連用，作有超人頭地之意。

4. to give birth to: (to bear a child) 生產

1. She has *given birth* to twins.

她生了雙胞胎。

2. Mrs. Reese *gave birth to* her second child this morning.

李斯太太今天早晨生產第二個孩子。

圖：Birth 作“生育”講，give to 作“添”講，兩者拼成爲“生產”。

5. from the bottom of one's heart: (heartily, sincerely)

由衷，誠心

1. I wish you success in business *from the bottom of my heart*.

我由衷希望你商業成功。

2. He loved the girl *from the bottom of his heart*.

他誠心誠意愛那女孩子。

圖：Bottom 作“底”講，由一個人心底發出的感情，當然是誠心誠意的。