

美國成語手冊

Handbook
of
AMERICAN IDIOMS
and
Idiomatic Usage

by

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新 最
美 國 成 語 手 冊

尹 讓 輟 編 譯

文 友 書 局 印 行

最 新

美 國 成 語 手 冊

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定價：港幣拾貳元正

序 言

有經驗的英語教師久已承認成語的重要性，以其對於口語或寫作能使多彩多姿而增加優美與典雅。

全世界以學習英語為第二語文的民族均感運用成語使其流利之不易。甚至對英語素有修養的人對於成語的結構也時常感到困惑。倘使他們避開成語而不用，他們的說話和寫作將成為拘謹和矯揉造作的。

為適應這種情況，編者提供這本美國成語手冊，包括通用成語和美語結構四千五百餘條，並附例句。

本書力求實用，對於從下列動詞bring, take, go, come, get, do, let, leave, make, put, find, 所構成的基本成語，更特別着重。專用的或秘傳的成語，以其色彩過濃而使用不多，故未列入。俚語之論述僅限於最通用者。

本書主旨在使其成為學習美國英語者進修的手冊和教本。

本書希望能作國內外學習英語者的參考書；使他們在閱讀時，或在美國城市中所聽到的會話，在美國電影或時代文學中所遇到的成語，能知道它們的定義和解釋。

學語文的人無疑地會覺得英美表達同一意思而用字不同。例如，英文汽油用petrol，而美語則用gasoline；電影英文用cinema，而美語則用movie；電車英文用tram，而美語則用street car等等。

在成語的用法方面，其區別更大而更微妙。因之，to put one's foot into it 意為失錯，在英國則用to drop a brick，這在美國便非一般人所了解。本書對於學者和許多研究英語術語學而不諳「美國英語」的歐洲人，該是有用的。

本書係依字母次序排列。在字典方面，問題的屬簡單，但在成語方面，因每一成語包括不止一字，究應使讀者如何尋得，確是一個問題。

本書採下述系統：所有成語俱依字母次序排列，但以成語中關鍵的字為主。如make out在make中可以尋得，up to par在par中，on the heel在heels中尋得。此外，更擴大搜集成語，列在動詞go, get, do, make, take等項目之下。這是為了教育的目的，使學者明瞭這些英語的基本動詞在美國成語中的結構。

Harold C. Whitford

Robert J. Dixon

尹讓轍譯

A

about face 方針或決心的突然改變。

His choice of that house was an about face from his original intention. 他對那房子的選擇是他原來意向的突然改變。

be about (1) 從事於……

What is he about now? 他現在在做什麼? (2) 包含……

What is that novel about? 那小說包含些什麼?

be about to 正要做某事。

We were just about to leave when you telephoned. 當你打電話來的時候,我們正要離開。

what about 有關消息,關於。

What about those books you were going to bring me? 你要帶給我的那些書是什麼書?

above all 尤其是,最重要的。

You must, above all, be loyal to your country. 你必須特別對你的國家忠貞。

above board 正直的,誠實的。

All his business dealings were above board. 所有他商業上的交易都是正直的。

keep abreast of 獲悉最近的發展。

It is difficult to keep abreast of the international situation these days. 這些日子要能熟知國際局勢是困難的。

absent-minded 健忘的。

He is the typical absent-minded professor, always leaving his umbrella and other possessions on the bus or streetcar. 他是典型的健忘教授,時常把雨傘及所帶的東西忘記

在公共汽車或電車上。

by accident 偶然地

I met him quite by accident on Fifth Avenue. 我很偶然地在第五號街遇到他。

of one accord 一致的。

We were of one accord in placing the blame on Helen. 我們一致歸罪於海倫。

of one's own accord 自願地。

He went to the police and confessed of his own accord. 他自願地到警察機關自白。

on account of 因為。

He was discharged from the army on account of his poor health. 他因健康情形不佳而被解除軍職。

on no account 決不。

On no account are you to touch an electrical appliance with wet hands. 你決不可用潤溼的手去觸摸電器用具。

within an ace of 在很短的距離內。

The car came within an ace of hitting the child. 那車子差點碰到那孩子。

acid test 徹底而周密的考驗。

Misfortune is an acid test of friendship. 災難是友誼最有力的考驗。

act of God 非人類所能控制者(天災)。

Some insurance policies do not protect the insured against acts of God. 有些保險政策並不保護因天災而受害的被保險者。

act upon 跟隨,依……進行。

The committee acted upon the suggestions the experts made. 委員會依據專家所作的建議行動。

in advance 預先。

advanced in years

It is necessary to pay in advance for the lessons. 這些學科須預先繳費。

advanced in years 年紀高的，不年青的。

Parsons was well advanced in years when he started his new business. 白松士開始他的新事業時，年紀已相當大了。

take advantage of (1) 利用他人以獲取利益。

Taking advantage of John's ignorance, the dealer sold him a worthless car. 利用約翰的無知商人賣給他一輛無價值的車。(2) 利用機會
Many veterans have taken advantage of the opportunity offered them to attend school at government expense. 很多老兵宿將利用給他們的機會以政府的公費就學。

have an affair 與異性有正式婚姻外的關係。

It is rumored that he is having an affair with her. 傳說他和她有關係。

after all 畢竟：終歸。

It has turned out to be a nice day after all. 畢竟是一個好日子。

be after someone 追求，尋求以達到。
He is always after me to go into business with him. 他時常求我與他合夥經商。

get after someone 責罵，批評。
When Jill failed in three courses, her father got after her. 琪兒因三科不及格，而受她父親的責罵。

go after something 努力以達到……，

under age

設法達到……

Now that he has graduated from college he wants to go after a master's degree. 他既已大學畢業，他希望得到碩士學位。

after one's own heart 因具有共同的興趣，而喜歡某人。

With his love for the great outdoors he is a man after my own heart. 因他愛好戶外活動，他正是合我心意的人。

again and again 屢次，一再。

He makes the same mistakes again and again. 他一再犯着相同的錯誤。

as much again 雙倍。

These shoes cost me as much again as the last pair I bought. 這雙靴子的價錢為我上次買的那雙的兩倍。

now and again 偶然地，有時。

Now and again I see Chris walking along Broadway. 有時我看到克里斯在百老匯行走。

against the grain 不合意的不順意的。

It goes against the grain to have to pay him for such poor work. 對這種不良工作的支付是件違心的事情。

of age 21歲或21歲以上的。

When Harry comes of age he will inherit a great deal of money. 當哈里到了21歲的時候，他就可以繼承一筆很大的遺產。

over age 逾齡。

He was not eligible for the examination because he was over age. 他因在年齡太大，不能參加這項考試。

under age 太年青，年齡不够。

John was rejected by the army be-

cause he was under age. 約翰因年齡不夠而被軍隊所拒。

ahead of time 在指定或約定時間之前。

Whenever I have an appointment, I always like to arrive a little ahead of time. 每當我有約會的時候，我總喜歡稍為提前到達。

go ahead 開始，進行，前進。

We are going ahead with our plans to move to Florida. 我們正在進行遷往佛州的計劃。

air-minded 擁護空中旅行的。

America has become air-minded during the past decade. 在過去10年中美國已擁護空中旅行。

by air 乘飛機。

When I travel, I prefer to travel by air. 我旅行的時候，喜歡乘飛機。

hot air 誇大的談話。

Don't pay any attention to him; what he told us was a lot of hot air. 不要聽他，他所講的很多是誇大的話。

in the air 在謠傳中。

What changes they will make nobody knows, but there is something in the air. 沒有人知道他們將作何改變但正有某些謠傳。

on the air 在廣播中。

that the President will go on the air tonight at ten o'clock. 據說總統將於今夜10時廣播。

up in the air (1) 混亂的，尚未決定的。

Our plans for a vacation are still up in the air. 我們假期的計劃尚未決定。(2) 激怒的，激奮的。

He is all up in the air because

he had to wait for her a few minutes. 他因須等她幾分鐘而發怒。

gives herself airs. 作威作福的態度。

Ever since her husband was elected Mayor Mrs. Allen's neighbors resent the way she gives herself airs. 自她的丈夫被選為市長以後，艾倫太太的鄰居對她作威作福的態度很為氣憤。

on the alert 注意的，警戒的。

They must be constantly on the alert for enemy planes. 他們對於敵機必須時刻警戒。

alive with 充滿着。

When we opened our picnic basket, our lunch was alive with ants. 當我們打開野餐籃子時，我們的午餐裏充滿了螞蟥。

all along 自始至終地。

Even though she had changed very much in those years, I knew all along that it was Joan. 縱令他在這幾年中有 很多的改變，我自始至終知道他是瓊安。

all at once 突然，立刻。

All at once it began to rain. 突然下起雨來。

all at sea 混亂不清。

When I try to compute my income tax, I am all at sea. 當我試算我的所得稅時，我搞得頭暈腦脹。

all ears 好奇的，注意的。

When John heard his name mentioned, he was all ears. 當約翰聽到他的名字被提到時，他非常注意。

all in all 一般地說，大體看來；全體；全然。

He has his faults, but all in all, he is a valuable employee. 雖然他有他

的缺點，但大體看來，他是一個有價值的雇員。

all of a sudden 突然。

We were sitting peacefully at dinner, when all of a sudden the lights went out. 我們平靜地在用餐的時候，電燈突然熄滅。

all out 澈底的，完全的，全面的。

The strike proved to be an all-out battle between management and labor. 該次罷工無疑地是勞方與管理方面的全面爭戰。

all over(1) 完結。

By the time we arrived, the party was all over. 我們到達時，宴會已經結束了。(2) 到處，全部。

The news of the catastrophe was broadcast all over the world. 大災禍的消息傳播全世界。

all set 準備就緒。

Our plans for the new corporation are all set. 我們新的合作計劃已經準備就緒。

all the better 更好。

If we plant early, it will be all the better for our garden. 如果我們早點種植，我們的田園將會更好些。

all the same(1) 一樣。

It's all the same to me whether we meet on Tuesday or on Thursday. 星期二或星期四相會，對我都是一樣的。(2) 不管怎樣。

All the same, I would enter the contest, if I were you. 不管怎樣假使我是你的話，我一定參加競賽。

all there 清醒的。

Ever since he has not been quite all there. 自他頭部受傷以來，他從

未完全清醒過。

all told, 總計。

He owns fifteen horses all told. 總計他擁有15匹馬。

down (up) one's alley 一個人所熟悉或熟練的事。

With your knowledge of sports, that football question should be right down your alley. 就你對運動方面的知識而言，那個足球問題你應該是熟知的。

allow for 考慮；供給。

In working with this cloth, be sure to allow for shrinkage. 在使用這布料時，必須考慮收縮問題。

make allowance for 考慮。

In judging his work, we must make allowance for his lack of experience. 在判定他工作的時候，我們必須考慮他的缺乏經驗。

amount to 總共。

His total sales didn't amount to more than a few hundred dollars. 他的營業總共不超過數百元。

answer for 負……責任；保證。

If you don't tell the truth now, you may have to answer for it later. 假使你現在不說實話，你以後或須對它負責。

answer the purpose 適合特殊的需要，合用。

This room will answer the purpose until we can find something better. 在我們找到較好的房間以前，這個房間可以適合需要。

answer to 符合，一致：應答。

He answers to the name of Charles. 他應答查理士的名字。

ante up 支付（不顧地）。

When his wife was awarded alimony by the court, Kerr had to ante up. 當她的太太被法庭判定需授以離婚贍養費時，卡爾不得不付。

in any case 無論如何。

In any case, we must help all we can. 無論如何，我們必須盡力幫助。

keep up appearances 保持繁榮的外觀。

After Mr. Darrell failed in business, his family had great difficulty keeping up appearances. 自達雷爾事業失敗後，他的家庭很難保持繁榮的外觀。

make an appearance 出場，到達。

It was ten o'clock when he finally made an appearance. 他露面時已10時了。

be the apple of another's eye 被珍視的。

She is the apple of her mother's eye. 她是她母親的掌上明珠。

upset the applecart 敗於笨拙，使失敗。

The moment he referred to that incident of last summer, he upset the applecart and the whole deal fell through. 當他提及去年夏天的意外事件時，他搞壞了一切而整個交易亦因而失敗。

apple-pie order 井井有條。

Before her guests arrived, the hostess had put her house in apple-pie order. 在客人到達前，女主人已將家裏的一切安排得井井有條。

applesauce 不可信的，誇大其辭的。

A lot of those campaign promises to lower taxes were just so much applesauce. 很多關於降低稅率的競選諾言都是不可信的。

give one's right arm 犧牲。

During the long sermon I would have given my right arm for a smoke. 在漫長的佈道期間我必須犧牲吸煙。

keep at arm's 保持一個距離，離開一個人。

She kept him at arm's length, thinking that he might try to kiss her. 她想他會試吻她，所以與他保持一相當的距離。

bear arms 攜帶武器。

Every able-bodied man was expected to bear arms against the enemy. 所有壯丁都要拿起武器反抗他們。

take up arms 拿起武器準備戰鬥。

When the Germans invaded Belgium, the Belgians immediately took up arms against them. 當德人侵入比利時時，比利時的人民立刻拿起武器抵抗他們。

up in arms 發怒；預備戰鬥。

Everyone was up in arms about the new parking restrictions. 每個人都為新的停車限制而發怒。

with open arms 由衷的歡迎。

He was received with open arms when he returned to his family. 他回家時受到由衷的歡迎。

as a matter of fact 實際上。

As a matter of fact, there are as many oranges grown in California as in Florida. 實際上加州的柑橘產量與佛州一樣多。

as far as 至……程度，在……限度，就……而言。

As far as I am concerned, we can

leave on either Saturday or Sunday.
就我而言，我們可在星期六或星期日離開。

as it were 換言之；可以這樣說；可謂。

He became, as it were, a kind of hero from a strange land. 換言之，他成了一個異地來的英雄。

as long as 只要，當……時候。

As long as they don't annoy us, we cannot take any legal action. 只要他們不亂我們，我們是不能採取任何法律行動的。

as to 關於，就……而言。

As to his lack of education, there is nothing he can do about it now. 就其缺乏教育而言，現在他是無能為力。

as yet 迄今，至今。

As yet we have not heard a word from him. 至今我們未得他的音信。

aside from 除……之外。

Aside from his meagre savings, he has no resources to fall back on. 除他微薄的積蓄以外，他無資源可靠。

at all 全然。

I doubt whether he knows any English at all. 我懷疑他是否懂得英語。

at best 充其量，至多。

At best, this car will go only fifty miles an hour. 這車每小時最多可以跑50哩。

at large (1) 一般的，普遍的，全體的。
He has been elected as a delegate-at-large. 他已被選為全體代表 (2) 自由自在地。

The prisoner who escaped is still at large. 超獄的囚犯尚未捕獲。

at most 至多。

They will give you, at most, four or five dollars for the watch. 他們至多付你這隻錶4元或5元。

at once 立刻。

She told him to leave the room at once. 她叫他立刻離開那房間。

at one 一致。

We were at one in our opinion of the matter had been handled. 對於處理這事的方式，我們的意見是一致的。

at that 雖然，不管

Helen's assertion that Tom and she are strangers is absurd; but at that, I doubt whether he has known her for more than a few weeks. 海倫強調湯姆與她是陌生人是無理的，但不管怎樣，我懷疑他認識她是否已有數星期之久。

at times 有時。

At times he prepares his lessons well; at other times he does very poor work. 有時他功課準備得很好，有時他做得很差。

to be attached 對……有相當的情愛。

He seems more attached to his dog than to his wife. 他好像愛他的狗勝於愛他的太太。

awkward age 笨拙時期（體質與社交上尚未成熟的青春時期）。

Although she is at the awkward age now, she will probably become a beautiful, graceful young woman. 雖然她正在她笨拙的青春時期，但他可能變成一個美麗溫雅的少婦。

AWOL 不請假或未獲准而缺席的。

Don was demoted from corporal

to private because he had been AWOL. 杜昂因無故缺席所以由士官被降級爲士兵。

get the axe 被解雇。

Henry got the axe when he arrived late for work three days in succession. 亨利因三天連續遲到工作而被解雇。

have an axe to grind 存有獲利或自私的動機。

In suggesting the sale of the building he had an axe to grind, because it meant a big commission for him. 他建議出賣這樓房是存有自私的動機的因爲那對他是一筆大佣金。

B

babes in the woods 無辜及無經驗的人。

In that difficult and competitive business the Hunts are like two babes in the woods. 在那困難而競爭的生意中，韓德夫婦正像兩個沒有經驗的人。

baby grand 小的堅立的鋼琴。

If we can sell our old upright piano, we shall buy a new baby grand. 假若我們能把舊的堅立鋼琴賣出，我們將買一個新的小巧的。

back away 後退，離開。

He backed away from the window as though it were the edge of a precipice. 他退離窗邊，好像它是懸崖的邊緣一樣。

back down 引退，自從前的職位引退。

Don't back down on what you said to them. 不要撤回你對他們所說的。

back number 不合時宜的。

Among so many young people on the dance floor he certainly fe-

lt like a back number. 在舞場很多青年中，他確實覺得有一點不合時宜。

back out 不能履行前約或義務。

Although he tried to back out of the agreement, the court finally made him fulfill all its terms. 他雖然想法子違背協定，但法庭終於使他履行全部條款。

back talk 無禮，輕率的回答。

She told the man that she would tolerate no back talk from him. 她告訴那人說，她不能容忍他無禮的回答。

back the wrong horse (在選舉中支持了失敗者)

In voting for Smith for mayor, you certainly backed the wrong horse, since he lost by 10,000 votes. 在市長選舉中投史密斯的票可說是支持錯了人，因他輸了一萬張票。

back up (1) 支持。

The President backed up the statements made by his assistant. 總統支持他助理所作的聲明。

(2) 放入倒檔，(開倒車)。

She put the car in reverse instead of in first gear and backed up over the curb. 她倒開了車而碰上了路的邊沿。

be back 回來。

I'll be back in an hour. 我將在一小時內回來。

have one's back to the wall 處於被攻的地位，處於防禦地位。

Because of the enemy's superior numbers our troops found themselves with their backs to the wall. 因

turn one's back on

敵人超越的人數，我們的部隊發見自己處於被攻的地位。

turn one's back on 拒絕幫助，冷淡。

Being a good Christian, she did not turn her back on her neighbors when they needed help. 因其為基督教徒，她從未拒絕幫助需要她幫助的鄰人。

backfire 反作用，相反的效果。

The candidate's plan to discredit his opponent backfired, and his own reputation suffered greatly. 候選人毀壞敵對者的計劃得到相反的效果，結果他自己的名譽大受影響。

bad blood 敵意；惡感。

The slavery issue stirred up bad blood between the North and the South. 奴隸的爭端激起了北方與南方的敵意。

be too bad 可憐，可惜。

It is too bad he doesn't know English better. 可惜他英語懂得不多。

go bad 變壞。

The pudding went bad so we had no dessert with our dinner. 因布丁壞了，以致我們沒有尾食品。

in bad 失寵，失體面。

John is in bad with his boss for coming late to work every day. 約翰因每天遲到而失去上司的歡心。

bag and baggage 一個人的全部財物，一個人所攜帶的全部東西。

They arrived at our house bag and baggage, at one o'clock in the morning. 他們於清晨一時帶了全部行李抵達我們家裏。

in the bag 安排或處理妥善。

keep the ball rolling

Judging by the enthusiastic reception given him everywhere, they felt that his election was in the bag. 由其到處所受的熱誠接待來判斷，他們覺得他的選舉是預先安排好的。

bail out (1) 跳傘。

When the plane's motor failed, the whole crew bailed out. (當飛機發動機發生故障時，全體人員均行跳傘)。

(2) 移去船內的水。

While John rowed, his wife bailed out the water from the leaky boat. 約翰在划舟，而他的太太將漏船中的水移去。

go bail 以錢保釋犯人，或作 **put up bail**

The driver who had been arrested had no trouble in finding someone to go bail for him. 被捕的駕駛員毫無困難地找到了保釋他的人。

baker's dozen 13件而非一打(12件)。

When we opened the package, we found that he had given us a baker's dozen. 我們打開包裝時，我們發見他給我們13件而非一打。

ball up 混亂，迷失。

We got balled up in our directions and drove miles out of the way. 我們迷失了方向，而駛離了道路有數哩之多。

have a lot on the ball 有能力的，熟練的。

He will do well in that work because he has a lot on the ball. 那工作他將做得很好，因為他是很熟練的。

keep the ball rolling 使能順利進行，防止落後。

Although we were strangers, the

dinner was successful because our hostess, a good conversationalist, easily kept the ball rolling. 雖然我們是生客，但因女主人是一個善談的人，所以宴會進行非常順利。

on the ball 警醒地，敏捷地，留意地。

If we want to finish this on time, we must keep on the ball. 假使我們希望準時完成，我們必須敏捷爲之。

baloney 無意義，無價值的諾言(俚語)。

His talk about helping the working man is a lot of baloney. 他對幫助工人的談話，是一大堆無意義的諾言。

band together 成羣，結合。

The citizens banded together to protest the closing of the highway. 人民成羣結隊以抗議公路之被關閉。

get on the bandwagon 加入多數派。

All the delegates to the convention began to desert Smith in order to get on the bandwagon with Jones. 所有到會代表，因要加入喬尼的多數派而開始冷落史密斯。

with a bang 成功地；熱心地。

The new movie went over with a bang. 該新影片大獲成功。

bank on something 依靠，依賴。

You can always bank on Collins if you need money. 你需要錢的時候可以依靠柯林士。

bargain for 期望，預期。

She got more than she bargained for when she undertook to care for the kittens. 當她開始愛顧小貓時，她所得到的比她所期望的還大。

barge in 闖入，干涉，尤指魯莽地或

笨拙地干涉。

We were sitting there minding our own business when Evans barged in. 伊凡斯闖入時，我們正坐在那裏考慮我們的事情。

bark up the wrong tree 走錯了路。

If he expects to borrow money from me, he is barking up the wrong tree. 要是他想向我借錢，那麼他走錯了路了。

have someone over a barrel 使其人處於窮迫的地位。

We had no other alternative but admit defeat; they had us over a barrel. 他們使我們處於窮迫的地位，我們除認輸以外別無他法。

go to bat for 幫助；防禦。

In an emergency we can always depend upon Smith to go to bat for us. 在緊急的時候，我們常可依賴史密斯的幫助。

not to bat an eye 保持鎮靜，不受影響。

When the jury pronounced him guilty of murder, he did not bat an eye. 當陪審官宣告他謀殺罪行的時候，他保持鎮靜。

right off the bat 立刻。

He told us, right off the bat, that he intended to leave her. 他立刻告訴我們說他想離開她。

bawl out 責罵，譴責。

Ralph's boss bawled him out for being lazy. 拉爾夫的主管責罵他懶惰。

at bay 陷入困境。

When held at bay, cowards will often fight. 當被困的時候，就是懦夫亦常會奮起而戰。

off (on) the beam 走錯了方向，做得不對。

Judging by his confused remarks, I would say that he is slightly off the beam. 由他混亂的言談來看，我敢說他一定做得有一點不對。

not to know beans about 一點不知道。

Don't ask Jim. He doesn't know beans about forestry. 不要問金謨，他對於森林學一點也不知道。

spill the beans 洩漏秘密。

The trip was supposed to be a secret, but Fred spilled the beans when he mentioned buying train tickets. 該旅行本來想秘密進行的，但佛來德在談及買車票的時候，洩漏了秘密。

bear a grudge 對他人保持惡感。

Mary won't speak to John because she still bears a grudge against him for his rudeness last year. 因對他去年的粗暴還存有惡感，所以瑪嘉不跟約翰談話。

bear down upon 迫近。

From all sides, the crowd bore down upon the street from where the flames were coming. 群眾從各方向向發出火燬的街道迫近。

bear in mind 記住。

Bear in mind that I am not so young as I used to be. 記住我井不如我以往地那麼年輕。

bear off 漸漸遠離。

Near the river the road bears off toward the left. 接近河流時道路漸向左方遠離。

bear out 證實，確定。

Those facts bear out what I told you yesterday. 那些事實證實了我昨天所告訴你的一切。

bear up 忍受痛苦。

Amy is bearing up well after the loss of her brother. 阿美自她的弟弟死後很能忍受痛苦。

bear with 容忍，忍耐。

If you will bear with me a little longer, I am sure I can locate those papers. 假使你能再容忍一會，我相信我能把那些報紙找出來的。

be a bear for 做事熱心有活力。

William is a bear for work. 威廉是一個做事熱心而有活力的人。

have bearing upon 與……有關。

What he said has absolutely no bearing upon the subject under discussion. 他所說的與在討論中的題目絕對沒有關係。

beat about the bush 迂迴延緩，間接地進行，

Instead of answering my question about his marks, he began to beat about the bush and tell me all about the different courses he was taking. 他不直接答我關於他分數的問題，而開始間接地談起他現在正在修習的各種課程。

beat it 離開。

He kept bothering me so I told him to beat it. 他一直在打擾我，所以我叫他離開。

beat one to it 到達，在他人之先。

Fred applied for the job, but some one else had heard about the vacancy and beat him to it. 佛來德謀求那項工作，但已有人知道該空缺

在他之前申請了。

beat one's brains out 奮力拼命工作。
(絞腦汁)

The poor author beat his brains out trying to find someone to publish his novel. 可憐的作家絞盡了腦汁找到出版他小說的人。

beat one's head against a stone wall 努力克服不能克服的困難。

It is useless for him to seek work in that company; he is just beating his head against a stone wall. 在那個公司求職是無用的，他這樣做是徒勞無益的。

beat the rap 逃脫合法的處罰(俚語)

Despite the strong evidence against him, the prisoner beat the rap and went free. 不管强有力的證據，囚犯仍然逃脫了。

beat time 跟着音樂的節奏打拍。

He beat time with his foot. 他用腳打拍子。

beat up 毆打。

The thieves not only took his money but beat him up badly. 竊賊不但搶走了他的錢而且打得他遍體鱗傷。

beaten path 習慣上的途徑，亦作 **beaten track**

He is a conservative person who can be counted upon to follow the beaten path. 他是一個保守的人，可以信任按舊法做的。

become of 爲……結局，變成怎樣。

What will become of the children now that both parents are dead? 雙親既然都死了，孩子將會得到怎樣的結局？

be becoming 到合適，合身。

That hat is very becoming to you. 那個帽子對你很适合。

bed of roses 美麗而舒適的地方。

Anyone who thinks that the job of being President of the United States is a bed of roses is quite mistaken. 把美國總統的工作當作舒服的工作是大錯特錯的。

have a bee in one's bonnet 具有愚笨而誇張的念頭。

He has a bee in his bonnet about reforming the world single-handed. 他存有獨力改造世界的愚笨念頭。

beef about 抱怨，(俚語)。

He is always beefing about the amount of work he has to do. 他時常抱怨他必須做的工作分量。

make a beeline for 採取可能的最短途徑。

At exactly twelve o'clock everyone made a beeline for the dining room. 在正12點鐘的時候，人人取最近的途徑向飯廳前進。

before long 不久。

We'll be seeing you again before long. 不久我們將再見你。

beg the question (證實前的假設)

To refer to the accused as a "thief" at the outset of the trial is to beg the question. 在審判前把被告當作竊賊是一種證實前的假設。

begin with 首先。

To begin with, John is too young for that kind of job. 首先約翰過于年輕不能作那類工作。

behind bars 坐牢。

The judge will put him behind bars for at least five years. 判官祇少將判

behind one's back

best man

他坐牢5年。

behind one's back 背後說人壞話做壞事。

Jean seems very fond of her friend Ellen, behind her back. 珍似乎非常歡喜她的朋友愛倫，但她喜歡講她背後的話。

behind the eight ball 不吉的，處於不利的地位的。

Because of his handicap, it is very difficult for him to obtain work, so that if he loses his present position he will certainly be behind the eight ball. 因他的缺陷，要找到工作是很困難的，因此要是他失去了目前的職位，即他將處於很不利的境地。

behind the scenes 幕後的，臺後的。

That documentary film took us behind the scenes and showed us how the Department of Justice really operates. 那文件照片是幕後拍的，它告知我們司法院的真正活動情形。

behind the times 不合時宜的，落伍的。

Their courses in physics are very much behind the times. 他們的物理課程是很落伍的。

believe 在信仰……的存在。

Atheists do not believe in God. 無神論者不信上帝的存在。

belly-ache 抱怨（俚語）。

He's always belly-aching about the amount of traveling he has to do. 他時常抱怨他須作那麼多的旅行。

below par 不够標準，在標準之下。

His health has been below par recently. 近來他的健康情況不佳。

bend over backwards 作極度的努力。

She bent over backwards to show that she had overlooked the incident. 她極力表示她對該事故的漠視。

beneath one 低於一個人的威嚴或理想的，委屈的。

He felt it would be beneath him to accept such a menial job. 他覺得他接受這種下賤的工作是委屈的。

give someone the benefit of the doubt 當某人為無罪不加懷疑。

The money had been stolen and John was in the house at the time, but we gave him the benefit of the doubt and assumed that some burglar had taken it. 錢被偷的時候約翰恰在那房子，但我們並不懷疑他而認為被某些夜賊所偷。

bent on 下決心

He is bent on becoming a lawyer. 他決心成為一個律師。

give a wide berth to 避開。

He disliked his uncle and always gave him a wide berth. 他不喜歡他的叔父所以常常避開他。

beside oneself 發怒的；瘋狂的。

She was beside herself with grief at the news of her son's accident. 聽到她孩子的意外消息時，她悲痛得發狂。

beside the point (beside the question) 不適當的，離正題的。

We were discussing political parties, and his remarks about high prices were completely beside the point. 我們正在談論政治上的黨派，他有關高價的談論可說完全離了正題。

best man 男傧相。

Who will be your best man when you get married? 你結婚時誰將為你

的男儼相？

best-seller 暢銷的書。

Gone with the Wind was a famous best-seller. 「飄」是一本有名的暢銷書。

all for the best 最好的。

He has decided to continue at the university, and I am sure that it is all for the best. 他已決定續繼上大學，我確認那是再好沒有的。

have the best of 贏得；佔優勢。

Although Carl put up a good fight, his opponent had the best of it. 雖然卡爾準備了一場好爭戰，但他的敵對者畢竟贏了他。

make the best of something 盡力利用之。

Since we can't find a bigger apartment, we'll have to make the best of what we have. 因我們不能找到較大的房間，我們只有盡量利用我們所有的了。

better half 妻。

I'll go with you if my better half lets me. 假使我的妻肯的話，我願意跟你去。

better off 較富裕的較舒適的較幸福的。

You will be better off living nearer to your work. 要是你住靠近一點你的工作地點，你將會舒服些。

get the better of 勝過，擊敗。

He always gets the better of anyone he deals with. 他時常勝過他所交往的人。

had better 爲善，爲好。

He had better head off just because I asked you. 在被感染以前他最好去看醫生。

so much the better 愈好，多多益善。

If he sells more goods it will be so much the better for his company. 他貨物賣得愈多對他的公司愈好。

think better of 再度考慮，審慎地決定。

He was going to leave school, but later he thought better of it. 他即將離開學校，但後來他又重新考慮過。

big shot 重要人物（俚語）。

He is a big shot in the State Department. 他在國務院是個大人物。

in the big time 佔有重要的地位。

Since the war he has always associated with a lot of big-time lawyers and politicians. 戰後他常與佔有重要地位的律師及政治家往來。

talk big 自誇。

He talks big, but don't pay any attention to what he says. 讓他自誇吧，不要聽他所說的話。

bird in hand 既得的事物，在手中的鳥。

A bird in hand is worth two in the bush. 一鳥在手，勝於雙鳥在林。

birds of a feather 同類的人或物。

If he associates with criminals then he himself must be a criminal, because birds of a feather flock together. 因爲物以類聚，所以假使他與罪犯往來，即他自己亦必然是一個罪犯。

give someone the bird 嘲笑，揶揄。

Every time the speaker referred to all he had done for the organization they gave him the bird. 每次講演者提起他對該組織所做的貢獻時他們就嘲笑他。

do one's bit 自己的職務。

In wartime everyone should do his bit, either at the front or at