

允晨語文叢書 1

# 流行美語

——動詞慣用語

● 楊愛華編譯



掌握語文利器・開拓知識領域

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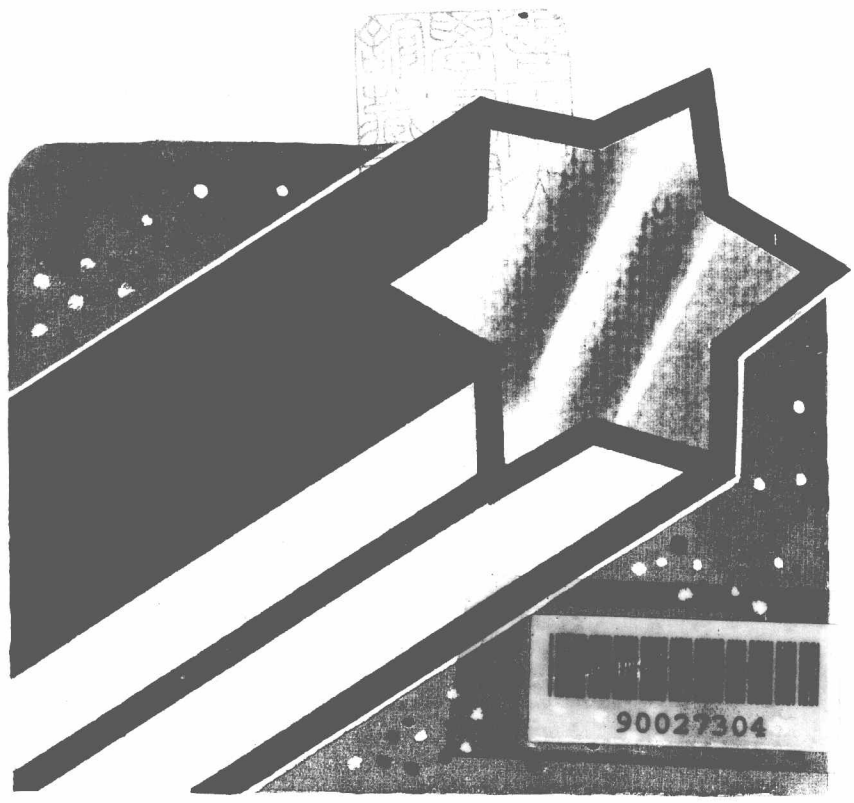
允晨語文叢書 1

港台書室

# 流行美語

——動詞慣用語

●楊愛華編譯



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掌握世界新知



創造美好生活

語文叢書① 流行美語

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## 編 譯 序

所謂的慣用語(idiom)是指一組字群，其整體的涵義並不等於個別單字加起來的意義，譬如 look up to ( 尊敬 ) 並非結合 look ( 看 )，up ( 往上 )，to ( 朝向 ) 等單字的個別字義就可揣摩出來。由此可見，對慣用語的理解與應用能力，從「約定俗成」的角度來學習與接受是唯一的途徑，妄自臆測的結果往往不得其門而入。

國人在學習英文時，慣用語（尤其是動詞慣用語）的運用能力是最弱的一環。國人往往對英文文法瞭若指掌，而且其字彙之豐富，經常不在英美人士之下，但是講出來寫出來的英文卻硬幫幫的缺乏生命力，甚至顯得不倫不類，滑稽突兀，這全因其英語的說寫不夠生活化的緣故。比如說在表達「故障」、「廢除」、「改善」等意念時，只會使用 malfunction, abolish, improve 等字眼，而拙於使用 break down, do away with, polish up 等更生動的慣用語。因此在表達「我的汽車故障了」這句話時，就有可能會說出“My car malfunctioned.”這種生硬的句子，而不會用“My car broke down.”這類活潑生動的表達法。

在英語世界中，慣用語數以萬計，日常會話、書報、雜誌、音樂、電影裏，到處充斥著慣用語的踪跡，人情世態的細緻之處，也靠慣用語這帖活性劑來刻劃，而動詞慣用語正是其中不可或

缺的一門，堪稱英語表意世界中的「渡船」，爲了航抵彼岸，必須靈活駕馭這艘渡船，才不致徒勞無功。

書中收錄的動詞慣用語可以分成四種類型：

(一)不及物動詞＋介副詞(Particle)：如 take off

Three airplanes took off at the same time. (三架飛機同時起飛。)

(二)不及物動詞＋介詞，如 come from

He comes from a very good family. (他出身於良好的家庭。)

(三)不及物動詞＋介副詞＋介詞：如 put up with

I couldn't put up with the noise any longer.

(我再也無法忍受那噪音。)

(四)及物動詞＋介副詞：如 call up

He called me up this morning. (他今早打電話給我。)

必須注意的是，第一類的動詞慣用語之後不可加受詞，第二、三類的慣用語必須在介詞之後加上受詞。而最特殊的是第四類，當慣用語的受詞是名詞時，放在介副詞前後皆可，慣用語的受詞是代名詞時，則必須放在介副詞之前（即動詞與介副詞之間）。

[比較]

① May I { call you on (誤) } tomorrow?  
          { call on you (正) }

(我明天能拜訪你嗎?)

※call on屬於第二類，on是介詞。

② He { called up me (誤) } this morning.  
      { called me up (正) }

(他今早打電話給我。)

※call up屬於第四類，me是代名詞，必須置於介副詞之前。

- ③ Put { on your hat. (正)  
          your hat on. (正)

(把你的帽子戴上。)

※ put on 屬於第四類，hat 是名詞，置於介副詞前後皆可。

爲了提供讀者掌握動詞慣用語的環境，本書的編寫方式是以「生活化的說寫情境」爲重心，因此每一組慣用語都先用精簡的英文加以解說，接著安插各種不同人士之間的對話，最後並精選範例一句，旨在創造說寫英文的臨場感，使讀者能體會各慣用語的細緻用法，以期活學活用英文，掃除語言枯澀之病。書中並附有譯文可供參照，希望讀友不吝指正。

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*Action is the proper fruit of knowledge.*

行動是知識的美果。

**ACT ON** (proceed in accordance with) 遵照；遵循

B: Boss (老闆)

S: Secretary (秘書)

B: Did you receive my instructions?

S: Yes, I got your letter on the 12th.

B: Have you acted on them yet?

S: Yes, I did so immediately.

B: Good.

B: 你有沒有接獲我的指示？

S: 有的，我在十二號接到你的信。

B: 你已經依照指示去辦了嗎？

S: 有的，我立刻照著做了。

B: 很好。

[ 範例 ]

I'm acting on orders from the director.

我正依主任的命令在做。



**ACT UP (behave badly) 不守規矩**

**F: Father** (父親)

**M: Mother** (母親)

**F:** What did Tommy's teacher call you about?

**M:** Tommy was **acting up** in class again today.

**F:** Why does he always do that?

**M:** I have no idea, but it worries me.

**F:** 湯米的老師打電話給你幹嘛?

**M:** 湯米今天在課堂上又不守規矩了。

**F:** 他爲什麼老是這樣?

**M:** 我也搞不清楚，真令人擔心。

[ 範例 ]

If you act up during dinner, I'll be angry.

晚餐時你若不老實，我會很生氣。

**ADD UP (total) 把…合計起來**

**B: Bookkeeper** (會計)

**T: Trainee** (見習生)

**B:** Have you compiled last month's credits?

**T:** Yes, I have them here. What should I do now?

**B:** **Add them up** and give the total to me.

**B:** 上個月的貸方帳目你編好了嗎?

**T:** 編好了，就在這兒。我現在該怎麼處理?

**B:** 合計好，給我總額。

[ 範例 ]

I added up my expenses for the month.

我合計了這個月的花費。

**AGREE TO** (consent to do something) 贊成；同意

C: Customer (顧客)

S: Salesman (銷售員)

C: Can you give me a 20% discount?

S: I'm sorry, but my boss would never **agree to** such a large discount.

C: How about 15%?

S: He might **agree to** that.

C: 你能不能打八折？

S: 抱歉，老闆絕不會同意這麼高的折扣。

C: 八五折怎樣？

S: 這他可能會同意。

[ 範例 ]

They agreed to a delay in beginning the project.  
他們贊成延緩實施此一計劃。

**AGREE WITH** (share an opinion) 同意

A: Friend A (友人A)

B: Friend B (友人B)

A: Did you hear what the Prime Minister said about taxes?

B: No, what did he say?

A: He thinks they should be lowered.

B: I **agree with** him.

A: 首相對稅賦的意見你聽說了嗎？

B: 沒有，他怎麼說？

A: 他認為稅賦應該降低。

B: 我同意他。

[ 範例 ]

I agree with everything you say.  
我同意你所說的每一件事情。

**ALLOW FOR (take into consideration) 考慮到**

C: Customer (顧客)

S: Salesman (銷售員)

C: When can you deliver the order?

S: We should be able to deliver it within two months.

C: Why does it take so long?

S: Well, it's coming by ship, and we have to **allow for** delays.

C: 你們什麼時候能交貨?

S: 我們應該可以在兩個月內交貨。

C: 爲什麼要花這麼久?

S: 哦，這批貨是交船運送的，必須考慮到延誤的可能。

[ 範例 ]

You have to allow for his lack of experience.

你必須考慮到他缺乏經驗。

**AMOUNT TO (add up to) 總計爲**

M: Mechanic (技工)

C: Customer (顧客)

M: You need four new tires, a new battery, new brakes and a new muffler.

C: How much will all this amount to?

M: About \$500.

M: 你需要四個新輪胎，一個新電池，新的煞車器，及一個新的消音器。

C: 這些總價多少?

M: 約五百美元。

[ 範例 ]

The cost for the repairs amounted to \$462.

修理費總計爲四百六十二美元。

**ANSWER BACK (respond rudely) 頂嘴**

**A: Student A (學生A)**

**B: Student B (學生B)**

**A:** Are you in trouble again?

**B:** I'm afraid so.

**A:** What did you do this time?

**B:** I **answered back** in class.

**A:** 你又惹上麻煩了嗎？

**B:** 恐怕是的。

**A:** 你這回又做了什麼？

**B:** 我在課堂上頂嘴。

[ 範例 ]

I don't like children who answer back.

我不喜歡頂嘴的孩子。

**ANSWER FOR (be responsible for) 對……負責任**

**A: Auditor (查帳員)**

**M: Manager (經理)**

**A:** One of your accounts doesn't balance.

**M:** Please speak to my assistant about that.

**A:** I'll speak to him, but you'll have to **answer for** it in the end.

**A:** 你們的帳目有一條不符。

**M:** 請和我的助手去談吧。

**A:** 我會跟他談，但是你最後仍須負責。

[ 範例 ]

You'll have to answer for any broken equipment.

任何器材上的破損，你都應該負責。

**ASK FOR** (request someone or something) 向(某人)要求(某物)

W: Waiter (侍者)

C: Customer (客人)

W: Is there something wrong, sir?

C: Yes, I didn't order this hamburger.

W: What did you order?

C: I asked for an omelet.

W: 先生，有什麼地方不妥嗎？

C: 是的，我並沒有叫漢堡。

W: 您叫了什麼？

C: 我要了一客煎蛋捲。

[ 範例 ]

She gives her children everything they ask for.

她對兒女有求必應。



*Beauty's sister is vanity, and its daughter lust.*

美與虛榮、情慾同氣連枝。

**BACK DOWN** (retreat from a position) 退讓

**M: Factory Manager (廠長)**

**L: Union Leader (工會領袖)**

**M:** Your demands are unreasonable.

**L:** You have our final offer.

**M:** If you won't **back down**, we will be forced to close the factory.

**M:** 你們的要求毫無道理。

**L:** 這是我們最後的提案。

**M:** 如果你們不退讓的話，我們將被迫關閉工廠。

[ 範例 ]

The government backed down in the face of violent opposition.  
政府在強烈的反對下退讓了。

**BACK OUT OF (withdraw) 食言；未能履行**

**F: Father (父親)**

**D: Daughter (女兒)**

**F: What are you crying about?**

**D: John wants to back out of his promise to marry me.**

**F: Why does he want to do that?**

**D: I don't know. He wouldn't tell me.**

**F: 你哭什麼？**

**D: 約翰想食言，不娶我了。**

**F: 他為什麼要這麼做？**

**D: 我不曉得。他不告訴我。**

[ 範例 ]

Why did you back out of the agreement?

你為什麼不履行這項協議呢？

**BACK UP [1] (reverse direction) 向後退**

**P: Policeman (警員)**

**A: Driver A (駕駛人A)**

**B: Drive B (駕駛人B)**

**P: What's happened here?**

**A: This fool hit the back of my car!**

**B: I did not. He backed up into the front of my car!**

**P: 這裏出了什麼事？**

**A: 這個笨蛋撞了我的車尾！**

**B: 我沒有。他倒車時撞了我的車頭！**

[ 範例 ]

He backed up without looking and hit a tree.

他後退時看也不看，結果撞上一棵樹。

**BACK UP [2] (support) 支持**

**P: Politician (從政者)**

**F: Friend (友人)**

**P:** I'm going to run for mayor in the next election.

**F:** I think that's a great idea.

**P:** Do you think I'll have any chance of winning?

**F:** I certainly do. I know a lot of people who will back you up.

**P:** 下次選舉時我將競選市長。

**F:** 很好啊。

**P:** 你想我有贏的機會嗎？

**F:** 我想當然會有。我知道有許多人會支持你。

[ 範例 ]

Don't worry! I'll back you up at the meeting.

不要擔心！開會時我將支持你。

**BE ABOUT TO (be on the verge of) 正要……**

**A: Friend A (友人A)**

**B: Friend B (友人B)**

**A:** Why didn't you come to the party last night?

**B:** I was about to leave when the telephone rang. It was my boss and I had to go back to the office.

**A:** 你昨晚爲什麼沒赴宴？

**B:** 我正要動身時電話響了。是我的老板打的，因此我必須返回辦公室。

[ 範例 ]

He came when I was about to go to bed.

我正準備上床時，他來了。



**BE BASED ON** (be founded on) 根據

**B: Boss** (老闆)

**E: Employee** (員工)

**B:** How did you reach this conclusion regarding sales?

**E:** It's **based on** the latest market research.

**B:** Do you think the information is accurate?

**E:** Yes, I do. We can rely on it.

**B:** 你是如何獲致這項有關銷售的結論？

**E:** 根據最近的市場調查。

**B:** 你認為消息正確嗎？

**E:** 是的，我認為正確。我們大可以信賴。

[ 範例 ]

My opinion is based on years of experience.

我的意見是以多年的經驗為根據。

**BE BETTER OFF** (be in a better position) 較為有利

**S: Student** (學生)

**T: Teacher** (教師)

**S:** I really want to become fluent in English. Should I study with a dictionary or listen to the radio?

**T:** I think you'd **be better off** speaking English with a foreign friend each day.

**S:** 我很想把英文練得很流利。我應該配合字典或是聽收音機來讀呢？

**T:** 我認為每天用英文與外國朋友交談較為有利。

[ 範例 ]

He'd be better off buying a used car.

他買舊車比較有利。