



Words Worth

英语学习

小词语，大能量



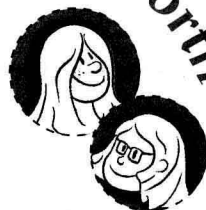
蒋素华 (美) Susan Gould 编著

hot high
look
say
in take big small
cool come
old in out
down new
on off
give
long
see

Words Worth

英语学习

小词语， 大能量



蒋素华 [美] Susan Gould 编著

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS
北京 BEIJING

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

小词语, 大能量 / 蒋素华, (美) 古尔德 (Gould, S.) 编著. — 北京: 外语教学与研究出版社, 2009.8

ISBN 978-7-5600-8937-9

I. 小… II. ①蒋… ②古… III. 英语—词汇—自学参考资料 IV. H313

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2009) 第 155515 号

universal tool · unique value · useful source · unanimous choice



悠游外语网

www.2u4u.com.cn

外研社全新推出读者增值服务网站, 独家打造双语互动资源

欢迎你:

- 随时检测个人的外语水平和专项能力
- 在线阅读外语读物、学习外语网络课程
- 在线观看双语视频、名家课堂、外语系列讲座
- 下载外语经典图书、有声读物、学习软件、翻译软件
- 参与社区互动小组, 参加线上各种比赛和联谊活动
- 咨询在线专家, 解答外语学习中的疑难

此外, 你还可以通过积累购书积分, 兑换图书、电子书、培训课程和其他增值服务 ...

你有你“优”, 你的优势就是你的拥有。即刻登录, 抢先体验!

出版人: 于春迟

责任编辑: 金 辉

装帧设计: 赵 欣

插图: 杨 柳

出版发行: 外语教学与研究出版社

社 址: 北京市西三环北路 19 号 (100089)

网 址: <http://www.fltrp.com>

印 刷: 北京爱丽龙印刷有限责任公司

开 本: 730×1000 1/16

印 张: 7.375

版 次: 2009 年 9 月第 1 版 2009 年 9 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 978-7-5600-8937-9

定 价: 21.90 元

* * *

如有印刷、装订质量问题出版社负责调换

制售盗版必究 举报查实奖励

版权保护办公室举报电话: (010)88817519

物料号: 189370001

PREFACE

前言

其实学英语最令人头疼的既不是语法，也不是那些生僻的词语，而恰恰是那些频繁出现在日常口语中看似简单的小词。语法规则是有限的，可以在有限的时间内掌握；生僻的词，词义有限，查查词典，会读会拼，也就一劳永逸地学会了。而小词则不然，因为它们词义丰富，用法变化多端，而且往往具有强大的再生能力。随着时间的推移，社会的变化，这些常用词不断地再生新意，或和其他词结合衍生出更多的新的词组。翻开英语词典就会发现，像come, go, give, take, speak, talk, say, on, off, up, down, live, die, life, death等等常用词的词条所占的篇幅比其他的词大得多，也常常需要花更多的时间和精力才能很好地掌握。

八年前，作者在美国学习期间，发现美国人之间说话时基本用小词，并且可以用这些小词表达各种意思。比如说他们经常用hot, cool这两个词来形容一个人或描述某个东西。当时对这两个词的用法我并不是很清楚，于是，我就请教同班的Susan，从她那里我对这两个词的意义和用法有了更清晰的认识。也就是从那时起，我萌生了要写写这些小词的想法。我从语言学和英语教学的理论得到启发：把词汇放在具体的语境中来学习效果最好。我又想到这些小词最常出现在日常会话中，那么用会话的形式来展现这些小词的用法是最合适不过的。确实如此，对话的形式最适合答疑解惑。古希腊的哲学家们就开创了对话的学习方式，学习是一种思维活动，而思维活动可以比作打球，思维在发球和接球的过程中流动起来。

我和Susan关于小词的对话从2005年1月开始在《英语学习》杂志上的《小词当家》栏目中连载，到2007年12月为止，每月一篇，共发表了36篇。现在外研社把这36篇对话集结成册。另外，我们在每篇对话后增加了相关的典型例句和名人名言，使得内容更加丰富。又请了主修视觉传达专业的研究生杨柳同学根据我们的设想给每篇对话配上插图，每幅画都有画龙点睛之功，也让此书更为风趣、活泼。经过几年的酝酿和创作，《小词语，大能量》终于问世了！学好一门语言，从很大程度上取决于熟练掌握和应用这门语言中的常用词，希望这些关于小词的对话对广大英语学习者有所帮助。

蒋素华

2009年4月9日

CONTENTS

目录

1. Is It **HOT** or **COOL**? 1 “火” 还是 “酷”
2. The **BIG** and **SMALL** of It 6 大大小小，人人知晓
3. The **INs** and **OUTs** 12 里里外外，明明白白
4. What Goes **UP** Must Come **DOWN** 17 有上必有下
5. Turn It **OFF** or Leave It **ON**? 22 “打开” 还是 “关掉”
6. **COME GO** with Me 28 请跟我来
7. **GIVE** and **TAKE** 34 生活的真理：多给点儿，少拿点儿
8. Feeling **HIGH** or Laying **LOW** 40 感觉很好，还是很糟?
9. The **LONG** and **SHORT** of It 46 总而言之
10. Something **OLD**, Something **NEW** 52 有些新，有些旧
11. Not **NEARly** as **FAR** 58 还差得远呢
12. Ring **OUT** the **OLD** and Bring **IN** the **NEW** 64 辞旧迎新

13. Take the **GOOD** with the **BAD** 70 不能光拿好的
14. A Little of **THIS** and a Little of **THAT** 77 来点儿这个，来点儿那个
15. Should the Door Be **OPENED** or **CLOSED**? 83 开放还是封闭?
16. Are You **LEFT** or **RIGHT**? 89 左还是右?
17. Do You Like It **FAST** or **SLOW**? 95 “快”和“慢”，哪个好?
18. Is It Too **HEAVY** or **LIGHT** for You? 102 太沉重还是太轻松?
19. Shall We Call It a **DAY** or a **NIGHT**? 110 现在是白天还是晚上?
20. **SOFT** Words Can Melt **HARD** Hearts 117 轻言柔语融化铁石心肠
21. The **EARLY** Bird Is Never **LATE** 123 勤奋者永不败
22. **PULL** Together to **PUSH** Through 130 齐心协力度难关
23. **WHITE** Tie and **BLACK** Tail or
BLACK Tie and WHITE Tail 136 白配黑，还是黑配白?
24. Is This the **END** or Only the **BEGINNING**
of an **END**? 143 是结束，还是结束的开始?
25. **SPEAK** Up! What Did You **SAY**? 149 大声说！说清楚！
TALK Some Sense!

26. Let's Have a **LOOK**, **SEE** and **WATCH** This 156 看一看，是什么？
27. We Have It All from **FIRST** to **LAST**, but What's **NEXT**? 162 从头到尾都有了，下一个是什么？
28. Are You Stepping on **EARTH**, **LAND** or **SOIL**? 169 你脚下是地、是土、还是泥？
29. The **HEART** and **SOUL** of Education Is to Develop the **MIND** 176 教育的核心就是发展心智
30. Do We Live in a **COUNTRY**, a **NATION** or a **STATE**? 183 我们生活在一个国土、国家还是政体里？
31. Did You Get **HALF** or Only **PART** of the **WHOLE**? 190 你得到了一半还是一部分？
32. **CLEAN** Up and **CLEAR** Out 197 彻底清理每个角落
33. Some **LOVE** to **HATE**, Others **LIKE** to **DISLIKE** 203 有人喜欢，有人讨厌
34. It's a Matter of **LIFE** and **DEATH** 209 生死攸关
35. Does My **VOICE** **SOUND** like **NOISE**? 216 声音何时变噪音？
36. **SMALL** Words Make a **BIG** Difference 222 小词语，大能量

Is It **HOT** or **COOL**?

“火” 还是 “酷”

What's HOT, what's not? HOT stuff, COOL people; HOT news, COOL ideas... What's COOL can become HOT and vice versa. Can people be both HOT and COOL? A COOL person tends to keep up with what's HOT and what's COOL in their life.



Suhua

Nowadays we often hear the expression, “This is hot stuff.” meaning something that a lot of people talk about or want to get hold of. Am I right?



Susan

Yes, but it also has another meaning. It could mean that it is stolen. “Hot stuff” can mean that people are looking for it because it was stolen, so you want to get rid of it as soon as possible before anyone discovers you have it. I guess the difference depends on the situation—the people talking and the item(s) being discussed. I prefer to think of “hot stuff” as something “cool”.



Suhua

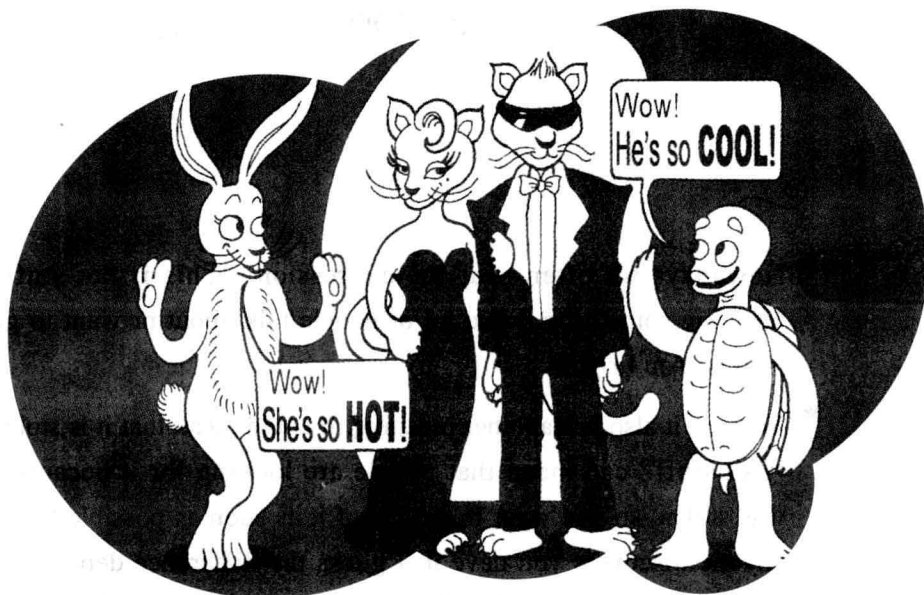
That's interesting. Probably I should say dot com was very HOT in the 90's, that is, many people wanted to go into this field. Can we say dot com was COOL?



Yes, we can say both. Dot com was really HOT in the 90's, and many people tried to make a lot of money. Some people succeeded because they had some COOL ideas. We could reverse it and say, "Dot com was really COOL in the 90's, and many people tried to make a lot of money. Some people succeeded because they had some HOT ideas." HOT ideas would be ideas that become very popular. COOL ideas would be clever or creative ideas.



That sounds COOL and a bit of brain twisting. I wish I could think of some HOT or COOL ideas so that I could make a lot of money. With the development of the Internet, computers can do more and more COOL things, such as buying and selling, banking, teaching, learning, arranging travel, chatting, making phone calls, sending camera images... It's incredible!



At first I thought computers were bothersome, but now I think they are really COOL. I love being able to go online and research topics at my fingertips. I love being able to talk to friends around the world. I'm not sure now how I could live without a computer.



Suhua

I also heard people using HOT and COOL to refer to a person. What's the difference between someone who is COOL and someone who is HOT?



Susan

Whew! A HOT person is someone who is really sexy—female or male. A COOL person is someone who is really nice, aware of who he or she is, and aware of others—someone who dresses very well and is in tune with the times—a good all-around person.



Suhua

I see. I should say Brad Pitt is HOT; he's the guy who played Achilles in the movie *Troy*. My son goes nuts about him. And in the mind of many young Chinese, Wang Fei is the COOLEst pop singer in China. Can you think of a person who is both HOT and COOL, Susan?



Susan

Well, who is COOL and who is HOT becomes a matter of personal choice. I think your selections have some universal HOT and COOL appeal. I'm trying to think of someone who fits both categories. Maybe Marilyn Monroe is considered both COOL and HOT. Some people think that Nicole Kidman is both COOL and HOT. I think maybe Kate Winslet fits both categories for me. As far as guys are concerned, COOL and HOT never remain constant. I am always changing my mind. Oh, I just thought of someone, Colin Firth. He played the lawyer, Bridget's boyfriend in *Bridget Jones' Diary*.



Suhua

Wow, so many big names! Nicole Kidman is that tall, slender blonde who acted in a lot of movies such as *Cold Mountain* and *Moulin Rouge* and whose name often appears in the entertainment news. I agree with you that she's both HOT and COOL. She is the ex-wife of Tom Cruise, another HOT and COOL guy for many people. I like Kate Winslet too. She became well known after the movie *Titanic*. What a pity I haven't seen any of Colin Firth's movies. Do you have a picture of him? I'd like to see what your COOL and HOT guy looks like.



Susan

You can find his picture on the Internet. Maybe at first glance you might not agree with my COOL and HOT description, but when he acts, he is COOL and HOT.



Suhua

Well, English is fascinating. Thank you for your illuminating explanations. So much for HOT and COOL for the time being. Let's think of some other COOL words for our next chat. It's great fun talking to you. Until next time.



Susan

Yeah, I like the idea of examining words that appear to be opposite like COOL and HOT and finding that sometimes they are interchangeable.

例句

1. Many people watched the Beijing Olympic Games during August of 2008. It was a HOT month for sports.
2. While a HOT sports car is fast and responsive¹, a COOL sports car is excellent and first-rate.
3. As Britain gets HOTter than Casablanca and Rio de Janeiro with temperatures soaring beyond 30°C, the British government issued a "KEEP YOUR COOL" warning.²
4. That HOT sports car is worth a COOL (full) million.
5. John's a COOL (attractive, and socially adept) dude³; Mary's dress is really COOL (fashionable); they really make a HOT couple.

1. responsive: 灵敏的。

2. Casablanca: 卡萨布兰卡, 摩洛哥西北部港市; Rio de Janeiro: 里约热内卢, 巴西东南部港市。

3. dude: 家伙。

名言

"Love is like swallowing HOT chocolate before it has COOLed off. It takes you by surprise at first, but keeps you warm for a long time."

——Unknown

"Coach always tells us to keep a COOL head in a HOT game."

——Sophia Young (索菲娅·扬, 美国安东尼奥银星女子篮球队前锋队员)

"It's HOT, it's damn HOT here, but we have to stand it here for our land to COOL down."

——Sondhi Limthongkul (林明达, 泰国传媒大亨)

"Television is a COOL medium, we learned more than 40 years ago, one that requires no effort on the part of the consumer. The Internet is a HOT medium, one that is defined by the effort exerted⁴ by the consumer. The more effective learning is going to occur in the HOT medium, not the cold one."

——Frank Saia (弗兰克·塞伊亚, 美国媒体从业者)

"Southwest.com is the gateway for HOT fares and COOL destinations. We are offering super low fares across our system and highlighting additional savings to select destinations."

——Kevin Krone (凯文·克朗, Southwest.com 市场及营销部副总监)

4. exert: 运用, 发挥。

The **BIG** and **SMALL** of It

大大小小，人人知晓

How come **BIG** people enjoy **SMALL** talk while **SMALL** people like to talk **BIG**? Even though some people come from **SMALL** towns, they can dream **BIG**. Never forget **SMALL** words; they play a **BIG** part in every language.



Suhua

I saw an ad the other day as I was surfing the Internet: "To save **BIG**". It's the word **BIG** here that caught my eye. We tend to believe that we know perfectly well the meanings of such basic words. But these seemingly **SMALL** words usually have **BIG** meanings.



Susan

Well, in the case of the ad you're talking about, the meaning is very clear to me, "To save **BIG**" means "to save a lot of money". I have never heard anyone say, "I saved **BIG**." I think it's poetic license¹ for advertisers. People are more inclined to say, "I saved **BIG** money." It's no **SMALL** thing to save **BIG**.



Suhua

If we look in the dictionary we'll find that the **SMALLer** the words, the longer the entries. These words are so active and productive that

1. poetic license: 诗的破格, 指诗歌中不按一般语言规则行文的自由。

dictionaries keep adding new meanings and usages. People rarely say, “I saved BIG.” But do you not often say, “eat BIG,” “win BIG,” or “lose BIG?”



Susan

I have heard “win BIG” but not “eat BIG.” I guess if “win BIG” is common, there must be a “lose BIG” not far behind though I don’t think it is as common as “win BIG.” This is an interesting conversation because when I think of BIG and SMALL, I am inclined to think of a more hip-hop usage or something a little more contemporary.



Suhua

What’s a hip-hop usage?



Susan

Well, there was a well-known rap artist named BIGgy SMALLs, but he was a bit of a gangster and was killed. Let’s see—expressions like, “That’s BIG of you.” meaning that’s generous or considerate of you, and “Don’t be so SMALL.” meaning you are being petty. “SMALL-time” means that the person is insignificant, and “BIG-time” means just the opposite. The person is influential.



Suhua

Does hip-hop mean rap? I still don’t know what hip-hop is. I like the name BIGgy SMALLs. It’s witty though it sounds paradoxical. This is also a special way of combining words—words of opposite meanings put together.



Susan

Hip-hop is a culture and rap is part of that culture according to one Website. It’s the music of the culture. As far as combining words that are opposites. I think they are called oxymorons like jumbo shrimp and pretty ugly,² but let’s get back to BIG and SMALL. “SMALL potatoes” is an expression that has nothing to do with potatoes. “SMALL potatoes” means it’s not important, so don’t worry about it.

2. oxymoron /ˌɒksɪˈmɔːrɒn/: 矛盾形容法, 逆喻; jumbo: 特大(号)的; shrimp: 小虾。



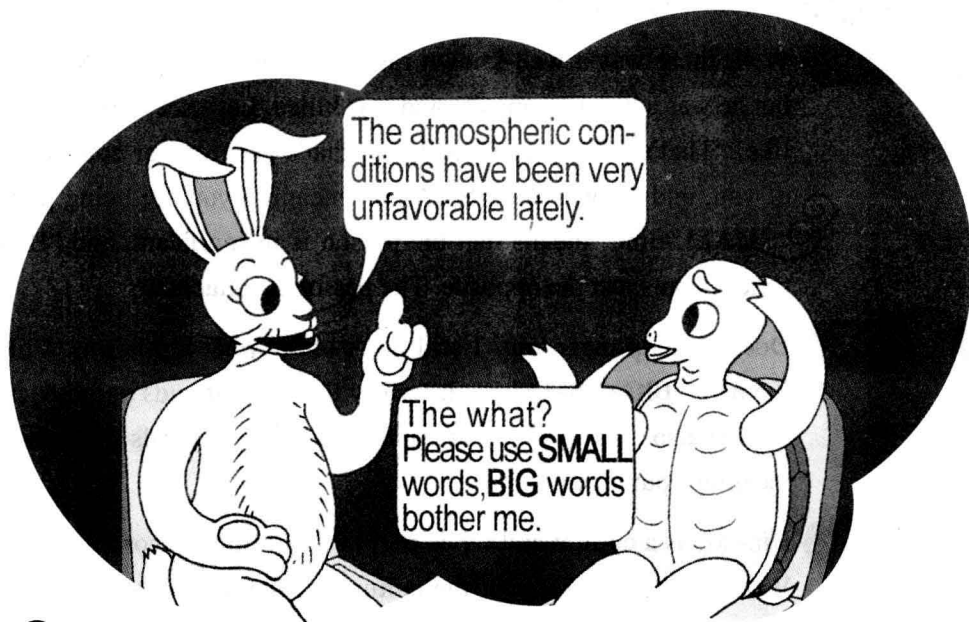
Suhua

I've heard this expression before. I wonder how "SMALL potatoes" came to mean "not important." I know in the old days potatoes used to be the staple food³ for the Irish and some American people. Because small potatoes were not as attractive as big ones, so people simply threw them away instead of eating them. Well, that's my wild guess.



Susan

I looked on the Internet for some reference to the origin of "SMALL potatoes," but the only thing I could find was that the expression is fairly recent. I did find something that said the SMALL potatoes used to be tossed into the pig trough⁴ as they were considered worthless.



Suhua

So my guess is not groundless. Let's go back to "BIG-time" and "SMALL-time". Let me think of some BIG-time people. Well, Michael Jordan is certainly a BIG-time basketball player, and Zhang Yimou is a BIG-time film director. There are always BIG-time people in whatever society, but I guess most of us are SMALL-time.

3. staple food: 主食。

4. trough /trɔ:f/: 饲料槽。



Susan

I think you're right. There are many SMALL-time people who take themselves as BIG-time, and certainly there are those with BIG mouths. If you have a BIG mouth, you talk too much and say things you shouldn't be saying, like telling a secret that you are supposed to keep to yourself.



Suhua

A BIG mouth is certainly not welcome in many cases. And there are also those who talk BIG but live SMALL.



Susan

After a while it becomes difficult to distinguish one from the other with people who are BIG pretending to be SMALL, and those who are SMALL putting on a BIG act.



Suhua

While talking BIG is not recommended, thinking SMALL sometimes can be harmful. As a recent news headline states, "Two Congressmen Think SMALL, Leaving Nation at Risk."



Susan

Great example. According to this news story, it was recommended by the 9/11 Commission to reorganize all the intelligence groups in the US government so that information could be easily exchanged to increase the strength of intelligence gathering. However, these two Congressmen were not thinking about the recommendations and the good of the country; they were more concerned about their self-interests. They were not thinking BIG for the benefit of the country. They were thinking SMALL—thinking about protecting themselves. Fortunately, the bill finally got passed despite their difficulty in seeing the BIG picture.



Suhua

On the other hand, it seems a popular practice for IT and the rest of the business world to "think SMALL." At least, this is what the news reports leading us to believe. Just take a look at some of the news headlines: "Tech's BIG boys take a fancy to the SMALL business; Think SMALL Grow BIG."



I don't think they are thinking SMALL when they purchase and absorb a SMALL business. I think they are thinking very BIG with the idea of dominance in an ever-changing industry world. Well, I guess that's the BIG and SMALL of it for now. I think we have managed to present the ever-confusing world of those simple adjectives—BIG and SMALL. Hopefully we have shed a little light on their usage.

例句

1. She was up until the SMALL hours⁵ of the morning trying to finish her essay.
2. They're BIG (important) in Japan, but no one's heard of them here.
3. Grunge music⁶ was very BIG (popular) in the early 1990s.
4. If you can help us IN A SMALL WAY (to a limited degree) it would be greatly appreciated.
5. The new Schwarzenegger⁷ movie will be the Hollywood BIGGIE (something very important) this summer.

5. small hours: 凌晨时分。

6. grunge music: 垃圾摇滚乐, 风靡于20世纪八九十年代的一种摇滚乐, 由朋克和重金属摇滚发展而来。

7. Schwarzenegger: 施瓦辛格, 美国电影艺术家, 现任美国加州州长。