

A  
COMPLETE DICTIONARY  
OF  
CHINESE IDIOMS WITH  
ENGLISH TRANSLATION

漢英習語  
大詞典

張學英 編

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张学英 编

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## 序 言

《汉英习语大词典》的问世注入了编者30多年的心血，体现了有志者事竟成这一真理；适应了我国改革开放、国际交往日益频繁新时期的需要。可喜可贺！

20世纪50年代末，编者青年时期，在空军部队工作。他在积极完成本职任务的同时，抱着发挥自己一技之长为祖国社会主义建设多作贡献的愿望，决心利用业余时间奋力编写一部大型汉英习语辞书。为此，他孜孜不倦地刻苦钻研，努力提高英、汉语水平，并持之以恒地广泛收集有关资料，经历不少风雨，排除各种阻力，坚持不懈地朝着既定目标迈进。

1975年夏，敬爱的周恩来总理在病中还非常关怀辞书的建设，批发了国务院关于编纂中外辞书规划的文件。我们武汉教育学院与武汉大学、华中师范大学担负其中《英语惯用短语词典》和《俄汉成语词典》的编写任务。编者闻此讯息，喜出望外，向我表露了他亟想参与词典编写的心迹和志向。经有关组织的同意，借调我院，加入了《英语惯用短语词典》编写组。嗣后，他以高度的责任感，专心致志从事编写，为编好该部词典发挥了较大的作用。1979年，他调到武汉大学，专职从事辞书编纂工作。他参加编写或审校的《中级英语修饰语搭配词典》和《外层空间法》等五部词典、专著已经出版。即将由北京商务印书馆出版的大型双语工具书《英语习语大词典》，他也是几位主要编写人员之一。他接受中国科学院武汉物理研究所特约聘请主编的《WHD-1型电子词典》亦即将问世。

编者在漫长时间编写辞书的实践中，与众多专家学者切磋琢磨，专业水平不断提高；同时，从工作中所接触的浩瀚的词典工具书和大量书报杂志中，又为《汉英习语大词典》积累了丰富的资料。为适应时代发展的要求，满足广大读者之急需，编者夜以继日，奋力拼搏，博采众长，精益求精，终于利用业余时间编写出这部大型双语工具书，可谓既是水到渠成，又是应运而生。

习语，是一种定型的词组或句子，使用起来，一般不能随意改变它们的结构。正确掌握和运用中、外习语极其重要，有助于语言精炼，形象生动。汉语习语丰富多采，大量是言简意赅或言近旨远的成语，也包括谚语、俗语、歇后语、惯用语以及格言、警句。随着时间推移，语言不断发展，新的习语也日益增加。编者考虑到汉语习语诸方面因素，收集条目，广谋博采，参照已问世同类辞书，审慎允当地予以选收。此外，还从其它书刊中增选了不少新条，其中包括近些年来新出现的含义新颖、流行广泛的固定词组，反映了时代的要求。因此，本书词条之多，可以说是目前同类辞书之冠。

为确保词典的质量，编者在英语译文、例证、注释以及体例诸方面，亦狠下了一番功夫潜心探索，力趋完善。汉语习语，有的可以审视字词的涵义，直接理解；有的必须知其来源，方能理解透彻；不少成语就是一则典故，必须了解故事梗概，才能知道其确切含义。很多习语，往往有多种解释；由于语言环境或修辞色彩不同，其含义亦有所差异。所有这些，均需借助例句或注释来帮助加深理解。编者对此作了认真研究，从读者的要求着想，区分不同情况，予以不同处理。竭力做到译文确切、详尽，例句丰富、典型，注释简明、翔实。在体例安排上，从词典的科学性出发，力求做到统一严谨。为便于不同层次的读者查阅，还附编了三个索引，考虑颇为周全。

《汉英习语大词典》既集同类词书之所长，又有其诸多鲜明的特色，确有很高的实用价值。编者锲而不舍的努力终结硕果，夙愿得以实现，我甚为之高兴，谨写此序，表示祝贺。

蔡 刚

1990年3月于羊城

# 前言

《汉英习语大词典》是一部大型双语工具书，主要供翻译工作者、英语教师和大专院校学生使用，也可供广大锐意进修英语的读者使用，对进修汉语的外籍读者亦颇有参考价值。

本词典共选收汉语习语22,300余条，英语译文计达81,200余条，例证共有8,800余条，此外，选编有注释的条目计有326条。全书字数近300万。

本词典所指的习语，乃就其广义而言。所收条目以定型的四字成语为主，同时兼收其他三字或四字以上的成语、谚语、俗语、惯用语、歇后语以及格言、警句和少数诗词妙语。对于近年来出现的一些言简意赅的固定词组，择其流行较广泛者，也酌予收入，如“一国两制”、“脱贫致富”、“以权谋私”、“适销对路”等，力求做到广收博采，审慎允当。

条目的英语译文力求确切、完备，尽量多收与条目相应的英语习语，英语中无现成对应习语者，则采用直译或意译，抑或直译、意译兼而用之。历时30春秋，博览了包括“主要参考书目”（见附录）在内的百余部中、外词典工具书和数以千计的英文书刊，但凡认为切合汉语语体特点并符合英语习惯表达方式的译文，均予收入，旨在使大部分条目皆备有丰富多采的译文供读者选用，如在“无论如何”、“千方百计”条目下的译文，就各有60余条之多；其他译文数超过30条者，还有“兴高采烈”、“孤注一掷”等数十条条目。此外，本着要求典型、实用的原则，从广泛浩繁的阅读资料中，选编了大量的例证，说明习语的用法及其在特定语言环境中的不同译法；对某些有典故出处的汉、英习语，还选编了注释，翔实地为读者提供有关习语的背景知识，以利于加深对习语的理解和正确应用。

本词典所收汉语习语均附有汉语拼音字母注音，并标明调号。条目按汉语拼音首字母顺序排列。为了便于各类读者查阅，也考虑到港、澳同胞、台湾同胞和海外侨胞的特殊需要，词典正文之后还附编有“条目首字拼音索引”、“条目首字笔画索引”和“条目索引”。在前两个索引中，简体字与繁体字一并列出，以供对照。

综上所述，本词典收条广泛充实，译文确切详尽，例句实用典型，注释翔实有据，索引周全完备，体例统一严谨。集此六大特点于一身，在迄今国内外已问世同类辞书中，本词典堪称首部。诚然，鉴别一部词典的优劣，只有使用词典的广大读者才最有发言权，才最有资格根据实际作出恰如其分的评价。作为编者，自当洗耳恭听，虚心采纳各方面的批评意见，尽心竭力把词典进一步修订得更臻完善，使之更有效地为广大读者服务。肺腑之言，尽述于此。

张学英

1989年11月于武汉大学

# 体例说明

## 一条目

1. 本词典共选收汉语习语条目22,300余条。所收条目均附有汉语拼音字母注音,除读轻声的字之外,皆标明调号。条目按汉语拼音首字母顺序排列。首字发音相同者,按声调的阴平(一)、阳平(ˊ)、上声(ˇ)、去声(ˋ)顺序排列;首字同音同调者,按第二字的音序排列,依此类推;首字同形且音、调皆同者,排列在一起,然后按第二字、第三字…音序排列。如:

【鞭辟入里】 biān pì rù lǐ

【扁担没扎,两头打塌】 biǎn dan méi zā, liǎng tóu dǎ tā

【变本加厉】 biàn běn jiā lì

【变废为宝】 biàn fèi wéi bǎo

【变化多端】 biàn huà duō duān

【变化莫测】 biàn huà mò cè

.....

【遍地开花】 biàn dì kāi huā

2. 条目包括主条和参见条两类。主条是习语的早期或主要形式,参见条乃习语的其他表现形式,与主条形异义同,常可互换使用,前者行文处理,后者则以参见方式出现,不另附加译文和例证。如:

【龟年鹤寿】 guī nián hè shòu

long life/One's age is reckoned with that of the stork and the tortoise./very old age

【龟龄鹤算】 guī líng hè suàn

见“龟年鹤寿”

3. 首字同形而音、调和词义不同者,不排列在一起,各自按其音序排列。如:

【兴问罪之师】 xīng wèn zuì zhī shī

【兴妖作怪】 xīng yāo zuò guài

【兴妖作孽】 xīng yāo zuò niè

【星斗满天】 xīng dòu mǎn tiān

【星火燎原】 xīng huǒ lián yuán

.....

【兴高采烈】 xīng gāo cǎi liè

【兴尽悲来】 xīng jìn bēi lái

## 二 译文

1. 本词典所收条目的英语译文计达81,200余条。译文中有很大一部分采用相应的英语习语;有一部分采用直译;有一部分采用意译;另有部分条目则先给直译,加破折号“——”后再给意译或解释。如:

【千方百计】 qiān fāng bǎi jì

to do one's utmost to/to explore every avenue to/to leave no avenue unexplored/to leave no means untried/to leave no stone unturned/to move heaven and earth to/to pull all(the) stops out to/to pull out all (the) stops to/by fair means or foul/by hook or by crook/...

【千钱除不如八百现】 qiān qián shē bù rú bā bǎi xiàn

[谚] Better an egg than a hen tomorrow. / [谚] A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

(以上两例译文采用相应的英语习语)

【十五个吊桶打水,七上八下】 shí wǔ gè diào tǒng dǎ shuǐ, qī shàng bā xià

to be in a tormoil/(like) fifteen buckets being lowered alternately into a well for water —eight going down while seven were coming up

(前者意译,后者直译)

【下笔千言,离题万里】 xià bǐ qiān yán, lí tí wàn lǐ

A thousand words from the pen in a stream, but ten thousand *li* away from the theme—to write fast and at length but not to the point.

(直译—意译)

【隔靴搔痒】 *gé xuē sāo yǎng*

to scratch an itchy place through the boot—to fail to get to the root of the matter or fail to strike home

(直译—解释)

2. 译文按英语首字母顺序排列, 而首先排列以动词短语形式出现的译文, 然后排列以名词短语、介词短语、形容词短语、副词短语或句子等形式出现的译文, 最后再排列以单词或带连字号“-”的复合词出现的译文。凡译文有两条以上者, 其间用斜线“/”隔开。如:

【规规矩矩】 *guī guī jù jù*

to be on one's good behavio(u)r/to behave oneself/to remain orderly/as good as gold/law-abiding/morally/well-behaved

3. 在与汉语习语相应的英语译文中, 有些是口语、俚语、谚语、方言或苏格兰语, 有些是英国用语或美国用语, 而另有一些则是英语中常用的外来语, 如拉丁语、法语等; 按其修辞色彩区分, 有的属于委婉语、戏谑语, 有的却属讽刺语、轻蔑语或粗鄙语; 就其使用场合而言, 又有一些分别属于诗歌用语、军事用语、法律用语、体育用语或航海用语, 如此等等。此外, 译文中除已废弃的陈旧语外, 还收录了少量的古语和罕用语。为便于读者使用, 用方括号“[ ]”分别注明这些译文不同的使用地区、场合或修辞色彩。在下列各例中, 用圆括号括出该译文所归属的汉语习语条目。如:

[口]to walk the chalk line (循规蹈矩)

[俚]dancing master (梁上君子)

[谚]Where there's a will, there's a way. (有志者事竟成)

[方]pimlico parliament (乌合之众)

[苏]to have a want (傻里傻气)

[英]to bury the hatchet (化干戈为玉帛)

[美]forked tongue (欺人之谈)

[拉]et hoc genus omne (诸如此类)

[法]parti pris (先入之见)

[婉]to go the way of nature (与世长辞)

[谚](as) green as grass [a gooseberry] (少不更事)

[讽]justices' justice (轻罪重罚)

[蔑]ragtag and bobtail (乌合之众)

[组]to get one's rag out (暴跳如雷)

[诗]even [equal] scale (势均力敌)

[军]Ready all! (各就各位)

[律]unwritten law (不成文法)

[体]to throw in [up] the sponge (甘拜下风)

[海]to turn in all standing (和衣而睡)

[美口]to crowd the mourners (操之过急)

[美俚]banana oil (花言巧语)

[美谚]to go where the woodbine twineth (销声匿迹)

[古]of a verity (千真万确)

[罕]to be struck with thunder (大吃一惊)

4. 译文中的方括号“[ ]”, 用于括出可与括号前单词互换使用的单词或词组; 用圆括号“( )”括出的单词或词组, 则表示其在使用中可去可存。此外, 圆括号还用于括出译文中的注释部分(见下文四1.)或某些补充性说明, 亦用于归并某些词的英、美拼法。如:

【玉洁冰清】 *yù jié bīng qīng*

pure and noble [virtuous]

【过目成诵】 *guò mù chéng sòng*

to have a photographic [very retentive] memory

【发人深省】 fā rén shēn xǐng

to provide food for (deep) thought

【诡计多端】 guǐ jì duō duān

full of craft (and cunning)

【载沉载浮】 zài chén zài fú

(of a sailing boat) bobbing up and down

【劳而无功】 láo ér wú gōng

to spend one's labo(u)r to no purpose

5. 译文中某些非特定形式的代词，分别用下列代词表示：

1) one——指“本人”，即行为主体本身。如：

When good luck comes, one has good ideas. (福至心灵)

2) one's——指“本人的”，即行为主体的。如：

to make a rapid success in one's career (扶摇直上)

3) oneself——指“自己”或“自身”，表示动作返回到行为主体本身。如：

to be unable even to protect [fend for] oneself (自身难保)

4) sb——指“某人”，表示动作及于行为主体以外的客体。如：

to show sb the door (下逐客令)

5) sb's——指“某人的”，表示动作及于行为主体以外的客体的。如：

impossible to refuse sb's hospitality (盛情难却)

6) sth——表示“某事”或“某物”。如：

to do sth without proper excuse (师出无名)

上述代词均作为译文的一部分参加排列。

至于译文中那些只以特定形式出现的代词，则仍保留其特定形式。如：

May your fortune be as boundless as the Donghai Sea and may you live a long and happy life! (福如东海，寿比南山)

A man has no more goods than he gets good of. (广厦千间，夜眠七尺)

just as a blind man is wasting a candle by lighting it (瞎子点灯白费蜡)

to lay [put, throw] the blame on somebody else (归咎于人)

(of a dead person's soul) find reincarnation in another's corpse—(of something evil) revive in a new guise (借尸还魂)

### 三 例证

1. 面对浩繁的资料广收博采，本着要求典型、实用的原则，本词典共选收例证 8,800 余条。例证中所用习语，其格式如与条目完全相同，用代字号“~”代替；若因受原文上下文的限制，其格式有所变化，或其中插有其他文字，则不用代字号。有些引自现代文学作品或古典诗文、小说等原著的例句，为了使文义清楚，编者有时根据原书上下文酌加补充或注解，置于方括号内。如：

【抛砖引玉】 pāo zhuān yǐn yù

.../a modest spur to induce others to come forward with more valuable opinions

例：我们的看法只算是~，希望大家共同讨论，得出正确的结论。Our observations may serve as a modest spur to induce you to come forward with more valuable opinions. We hope that you will join in the discussion so as to reach correct conclusions.

【过河拆桥】 guò hé chāi qiáo

to pull [tear] down the bridge once the river's crossed—to abandon one's friends who have helped one to achieve one's aim/...

例：[平儿]咬牙道：“没良心的，‘过了河儿就拆桥’，明儿还想我替你撒谎呢！”“You beast!” she cried through clenched teeth. “As soon as the river's crossed you pull down the bridge. Don't ever expect me to lie for you again.”

2. 例证绝大部分以句子形式出现，有时也采用短语形式，其排列顺序与例证中所用条目译文的顺序相同，



例证英译文中,属于习语译文部分的词语或句子排斜体,以利读者辨析。如:

【十万八千里】 *shí wàn bā qiān lǐ*

a distance of one hundred and eight thousand *li/miles* away/poles apart [*asunder*]

例:离题~ *miles away* from the subject

他俩的性格相差~。The two of them are *poles apart* in character.

【失信于人】 *shī xìn yú rén*

to break faith with others/to go back on one's word

例:我们说话算话,决不~。We mean what we say and we'll never *break faith with others*.

他这人很可靠,绝不会~。He is a reliable man and will never *go back on his word*.

3.例证若系诗词,不另起行;英译文按诗句标点,在行与行之间用竖线“|”隔开。如:

【俯首甘为孺子牛】 *fǔ shǒu gān wéi rú zǐ niú*

Head-bowed, like a willing ox I serve the children.

例:横眉冷对千夫指,~。Fierce-browed, I coolly defy a thousand pointing fingers; | Head-bowed, like a willing ox I serve the children.

## 四 注释

汉、英习语均丰富多采,其来源皆极其广泛;有的典出寓言故事,有的来自神话传说,有的源出历史事件,还有的引自作品名句。了解习语的典故、出处及其有关的背景知识,无疑将有助于加深对该习语的理解和有利于对其正确使用。有鉴于此,编者精选了326条较为典型的习语,就其脍炙人口的典故、确凿有据的出处或密切相关的背景,加编了注释。注释的文字,视具体情况分别用英语或汉语表述。

1.对于汉语习语的典故、出处及其背景知识,我国读者一般说来并不陌生,而非以汉语为母语的读者,却往往知之不多。旨在为外国读者提供这方面的信息,有关汉语习语的注释用英语表述,以圆括号括出置于相应的译文之后。如:

【逐鹿中原】 *zhú lù zhōng yuán*

to chase the deer on the Central Plains—to try to seize control of the empire (Origin: The Historical Records: Qin has lost the stag—the imperial power—and all the world was chasing after it. The prize would go to the ablest and the swiftest.)

【赔了夫人又折兵】 *péi le fū rén yòu zhé bīng*

.../to lose one's lady as well as one's men—instead of making a gain, suffer a double loss (The allusion is from *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*: In trying to get back Jingzhou occupied by Liu Bei of Shu, Sun Quan of Wu and his general Zhou Yu worked out a plan in which a pretended marriage was to be arranged between Sun's younger sister and Liu Bei so as to lure the latter to come to Wu and then hold him as a hostage in exchange for the occupied territory. When the plan was put into practice, however, Liu Bei, following his advisor Zhu Geliang's strategy, succeeded not only in consummating the marriage, but also in fleeing back with his newly-wedded wife, while the pursuing army led by Zhou Yu fell into an ambush laid by Zhu Geliang and suffered a complete defeat. Jeering at Zhou's defeat, the soldiers of Shu joked, "How wonderful is Zhou's plan to seize the land! He lost his lady as well as his men.")

2.对于译文中与汉语习语相应的英语习语的典故、出处或背景知识,以英语为母语的读者,由于耳闻目睹的机会较多,通常比较熟悉,而一般非以英语为母语的读者,却很可能不甚了了。着眼于满足国内广大读者的需要,有关英语习语的注释用汉语表述,其前加“注”字,置于相关的条目和译文之后,译文后若有例证,则置于例证之后。如:

【两雄相遇,其斗必烈】 *liǎng xióng xiāng yù, qí dòu bì liè*

[谚] When Greek meets Greek, then comes [is] the tug of war. / [谚] When Greeks joined Greeks, then was the tug of war.

注: Greek, 指古希腊人。古希腊在公元前8至5世纪间,分化成立了许多奴隶制的城邦。一些城邦为争霸希腊而相互角逐,战争不断。上面两条英语谚语即典出于此。

【画饼充饥】 *huà bǐng chōng jī*

.../a Barmecide feast/a painted cake to satisfy one's hunger—a vain promise

例：官人今日眼见一文也无，提甚三五两银子！正是教俺…“～”！As you have no cash today you need not talk about giving silver tomorrow. It seems to me you're showing me...a painted cake to satisfy my hunger.

注：a Barmecide feast 一语源出《天方夜谭》，阿拉伯王子 Barmecide 用自称珍味而实系空杯空盘的筵席请客。

## 五 附录

如前所述，在词典正文中，条目按汉语拼音首字母顺序排列，这对熟悉汉语拼音的读者说来，查阅固然较为方便，但由于汉语同音同调的字数较多（如所收条目中的首字，其音调读作“shì”、“yì”者，各达十几个之多），而且收条范围较广（如：以“不”字起首的条目计达 623 条，起止跨越版面三十余页；其他在同一首字之下条目达百条以上者，还有“一”、“无”等首字十余个），仅凭条目所注的拼音直接查阅，显然难保尽如人意。同时，考虑到汉语拼音目前尚未全面普及，而且有些条目的首字，并不见得人人都熟悉其读音和声调，再者，由于历史、习惯等方面的原因，简体字和繁体字还在不同程度上同时使用，为了使不同地区、不同层次的广大读者均得以根据各自的需要选择自己比较满意的查阅途径，得心应手地使用本词典，编者不厌其详地附编了下述三个索引供读者选用。

### 1. 条目首字拼音索引：

- 1) 全部首字按汉语拼音字母顺序排列。
- 2) 同音同调者，按笔画多少排列，笔画少的在前，笔画多的在后。
- 3) 笔画数相同者，按起笔笔形排列，笔形以点“·”、横“一”、横折“乚”、竖“丨”、竖折“乚”、撇“丿”、撇折“ㄥ”为序；起笔笔形相同者，按第二笔的笔形，依此类推。
- 4) 首字中凡已通行简化者，以简体字参加排列，繁体字则加圆括号列在简体字之右侧，以供对照。

### 2. 条目首字笔画索引：

- 1) 全部首字按笔画多少排列，笔画少的在前，笔画多的在后。
- 2) 笔画数相同者，按起笔笔形点、横、横折、竖、竖折、撇、撇折顺序排列。
- 3) 起笔笔形相同者，按汉语拼音字母顺序排列，发音相同者，再以声调的四声顺序排列。
- 4) 简体字与繁体字一起同样参加排列，便于使用繁体字的读者有可能直接通过本索引查阅正文。在繁体字右侧亦加上圆括号将简体字列出，以利于读者查阅正文时对照使用。

### 3. 条目索引：

本索引中全部条目的顺序与正文条目的排列顺序完全相同。所用汉字形体均以现在通行的为标准。

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## A

【阿家阿翁】 ā jiā ā wēng

a husband's father and mother/father-in-law  
and mother-in-law

【阿毛阿狗】 ā máo ā gǒu

Tom, Dick and [or] Harry

【哀兵必胜】 āi bīng bì shèng

An army burning with righteous indignation  
is bound to win.

【哀而不伤】 āi ér bù shāng

deeply felt but not sentimental

【哀鸿遍野】 āi hóng biàn yě

Famine refugees swarm the countryside./  
Starving people fill the land./The wilderness  
is filled with sufferers.

【哀毁骨立】 āi huǐ gǔ lì

to be emaciated with grief

【哀莫大于心死】 āi mò dà yú xīn sǐ

[谚] Have you gear, have you none, tine heart  
and all's gone./[谚] He begins to die that quits  
his desires./Nothing gives so much cause for  
sorrow as the death of one's heart./There is  
no poverty like poverty of spirit./There is  
nothing worse than apathy./[谚] Tine heart,  
tine all.

【挨家挨户】 āi jiā āi hù

from door to door/from house to house/on  
the knocker/house-to-house例:~给小孩打预防针 go from door to door to  
give children inoculations/他们~地询问,但仍找  
不到那失踪的孩子的下落.They went from house  
to house making inquiries, but could find no  
trace of the lost child./~推销宝石很快就会成为  
郊区生活中的一种常见现象。Selling gemstones  
on the knocker will soon become a familiar  
feature of suburban life.

【挨家逐户】 āi jiā zhú hù

见“挨家挨户”

【挨肩擦背】 āi jiān cā bèi

to go in a jostling crowd

【挨肩迭背】 āi jiān dié bèi

shoulder against shoulder, chest against back  
—very crowded

【挨门挨户】 āi mén āi hù

见“挨家挨户”

【挨门串户】 āi mén chuàn hù

to go from family to family(to...)

【挨门乞讨】 āi mén qǐ tāo

to beg from door to door

【挨门逐户】 āi mén zhú hù

见“挨家挨户”

【唉声叹气】 āi shēng tàn qì

to heave a deep sigh/to heave great sighs/  
to moan and groan/to sigh and moan/to sigh  
in despair例:受伤的人们躺在那儿~。The wounded men  
lay there moaning and groaning.

【挨打受骂】 āi dǎ shòu mǎ

to be beaten and cursed/to put up with blows  
and scoldings/to suffer beatings and receive  
[endure] scoldings

【挨打受气】 āi dǎ shòu qì

to be bullied and beaten

【挨冻受饿】 āi dòng shòu è

to endure cold and hunger/to go cold and  
hungry/to suffer from cold and hungry/to  
suffer hunger and cold

【挨饥受冻】 āi jī shòu dòng

to suffer cold and hunger

【挨骂受气】 āi mǎ shòu qì

to be scolded and suffer indignity

【矮人面前莫论侏儒】 āi rén miàn qián mò lùn zhū rú

One doesn't talk about midgets in front of  
dwarfs.

【矮中取长】 āi zhōng qǔ cháng

to make the best of a bad job

【蔼然可亲】 āi rán kě qīn

accessible/affable/amiable/kindly

例:我总觉得他是一位非常~的人。I've always  
found him a most amiable fellow.

【爱不释手】 āi bù shì shǒu

to be so delighted with sth that one could  
hardly bare to put it down/to be so fond of  
sth that one is redutant to lay it aside/to  
be too fond of sth to let go of it/to be unable  
to tear oneself away from sth/to be unwilling  
to let sth out of one's hands/to fondle admir-  
ingly/to like sth so much that one cannot bear  
to part with it/can hardly bear to put (it)  
down/can not bear to part with

例:这是她~的玉簪。It is a jade hairpin that



she can't bear to part with.

【爱财如命】 ài cái rú mìng

to be a money-grubber/to be greedy for money/to love money as much as life itself/to love money as one loves one's life/to love wealth greedily as one's life/to make an idol of wealth/to put money above everything else/to regard wealth as one's very life/actuated by love for riches/miserly

例：～的守财奴 a miser who puts money above everything else

【爱才若渴】 ài cái ruò kě

One's love for scholars [talents] is equal to one's thirst for water.

【爱厂如家】 ài chǎng rú jiā

to love one's enterprise as one loves one's home

【爱管闲事】 ài guǎn xián shì

to have a finger in every pie/to have an ear in every man's boat/to love meddling in other people's affairs

【爱国一家】 ài guó yī jiā

All patriots belong to one big family  
例：～，不分先后。All patriots belong to one big family, whether they rally to the common cause early or late.

【爱己及物】 ài jǐ jí wù

to extend love of self to others

【爱理不理】 ài lǐ bù lǐ

to attend to sb halfheartedly/to be standoffish/to look cold and indifferent/standoffishly

例：他冷冷地看着那代为求情的人，～地说：“这事根本与你不相干。” He looked coldly at the pleader and said *standoffishly*: "It's none of your business."

【爱面子】 ài miàn zi

to be concerned about face-saving/to be keen on face-saving/to be sensitive about one's reputation

【爱民如子】 ài mǐn rú zǐ

to love the people [masses] as one's children

【爱莫能助】 ài mò néng zhù

to love but have no ability to render assistance/not to be able to help sb even if one would like to/would be glad to help but cannot

【爱人打棍子——无害】 ài rén dǎ gùn zi——wú hài

[谚] Lover's tiffs are harmless.

【爱人者，人恒爱之】 ài rén zhě, rén héng ài zhī

Kindness always begets kindness.

【爱如己出】 ài rú jǐ chū

to love (a child) like one's own

【爱如珍宝】 ài rú zhēn bǎo

to love as if it were a gem or a pearl

【爱屋及乌】 ài wū jí wū

to love for a person extends even to the crows on his roof/to love one thing on account of another/[谚] He that loves the tree loves the branch./[谚] He who loves Bertrand loves his dog./[谚] Love me, love my dog./[法] Qui m'aime aime mon chien./[拉] Qui me amat, amat et canem meum./The love for a house extends even to the crows perching on it.

例：如果有什么人邀请玛丽而不清爱妮，玛丽就不会去，这真是要求人家～了。Mary never accepted an invitation unless Anne was included in it. It was a case of *love me, love my dog*.

【爱校如家】 ài xiào rú jiā

to love the school as dearly as one does one's own home

【爱憎分明】 ài zēng fēn míng

to be clear about what to love and what to hate/to be clear-cut on what to love and what to hate/to draw a clear demarcation between whom [what] to love and whom [what] to hate/to draw a sharp line between love and hate/to have a clear idea of what one should love and what one should hate/to have a clear-cut stand on what to love and what to hate/to know whom to love and whom to hate/to understand what to love and what to hate/clear distinction between love and hatred/unequivocal love and hatred

例：白求恩大夫是一位立场坚定，～的无产阶级战士。Dr. Bethune is a proletariat fighter who is firm in stand and *clear-cut on what to love and what to hate*.

【碍难照办】 ài nán zhào bàn

to find it difficult to comply

例：你们提出的要求我们～。We find it difficult to comply with your request.

【碍难照准】 ài nán zhào zhǔn

to find it difficult to approve/cannot approve

【碍手碍脚】 ài shǒu ài jiǎo

to be a hindrance/to stand [be] in the way/one too many

例：这张双人床～的，把它搬到那间屋子里去吧。

This double bed is *standing in the way*. Let's move it to that room./她想把房子打扫一下,可是这婴儿老是~的。She tried to clean the house, but the baby was always *in the way*./你留在这儿帮不了多少忙,反而会~的。Your stay here can't be of much help. On the contrary, you may be *one too many*.

【碍于情面】 ài yú qíng miàn

for fear of hurting sb's feelings/just to spare sb's feelings/out of consideration for sb's feelings

例:他~不愿揭发她工作中的错误。He would not expose mistakes in her work *for fear of hurting her feelings*.

【安邦定国】 ān bāng dìng guó

to bring peace and stability to the country/to bring peace to the country and have it settled on a firm basis/to rule the country and give peace to the world/to tranquil(l)ize the nation and settle the country

【安步当车】 ān bù dāng chē

[口] to foot [leg] it/[美俚] to hoof it/[谚] to ride Bayard of ten toes/'[俚] to ride in the marrow-bone coach [stage]/to ride on the horse with ten toes/[美俚] to ride [go on] shanks' mare/to stroll leisurely instead of taking a carriage/to stroll over instead of riding in a carriage/to tramp it/to walk on one's two legs/to walk over leisurely instead of riding in a carriage/to walk rather than ride/[美俚] on the hoof

例:我们没有赶上火车,因此不得不~。We missed the train and *had to tramp it*. /车站离这儿不远,我们还是~吧! 好吗? The station isn't far from here. Let's *foot it*. OK?

【安不忘危】 ān bù wàng wēi

In peace do not forget danger./In time of security do not be unprepared for the possibility of danger./mindful of possible danger in time of peace/Never relax our vigilance while we live in peace.

【安插亲信】 ān chā qīn xìn

to assign faithful followers to important posts/to hand out jobs to one's close associates/to place henchmen in important posts/to put one's trusted followers in key positions

【安插亲信, 排除异己】 ān chā qīn xìn, pái chú yì jǐ  
to put in one's own men and kick out all the others

【安常袭故】 ān cháng xí gù

contented with old ways and loath to change

【安定人心】 ān dìng rén xīn

to reassure the public/to set people's minds at rest

【安定团结】 ān dìng tuán jié

stability and unity

例:我国的建设、改革和开放,任何时候也离不开政治上的~。Our construction, reform and open policy must never be divorced from political *stability and unity*.

【安渡难关】 ān dù nán guān

to pull through/to tide over a crisis/to tide over (the) difficulties

例:经济形势确实是严重的,但我们以前曾遇到过同样的情况,也都安渡了难关。The economic situation is certainly serious, but we have faced others just as serious before, and have *pulled through*.

【安分守己】 ān fēn shǒu jǐ

to abide by the law and behave oneself/to accept one's position in life/to act dutifully/to act proper to one's status/to be contented with one's lot/to behave discreetly/to content with one's lot/to keep [fulfill] one's duty and exercise self-control/[美俚] to keep one's nose clean/to keep oneself to oneself/to keep to one's own line/to know one's place/to mind one's own business/to reconcile oneself to one's situation/to remain in one's proper sphere/to stick to one's last/dutiful/law-abiding

例:细纱间没有一个人不知道她~,巴巴结结做生活。Those in the spinning shop regarded her as a girl who *kept herself to herself* and tried to do her best at her job./人们通知激进分子说,若不~,就把他们清除出工会。The radical members were told that if they didn't *keep to their own line* they might be expelled from the union./告诉他要~而不要自讨苦吃。Let him *know his place* and not make a rod for his own back./他父母曾一再劝他要~,但他不听。His parents had time and again advised him to *remain in his proper sphere*, but he wouldn't listen./~的公民遵守交通规则。Law-abiding citizens observe the traffic regulations.

【安富尊荣】 ān fù zūn róng

to content with one's wealth and high rank/to enjoy one's wealth and high rank/to enjoy

wealth and hono(u)r

例：我常劝你总别听那些俗语，想那些俗事，只管～才是。I'm always urging you not to listen to that vulgar talk or think about those vulgar matters. Just *enjoy your wealth and high rank*.

【安家落户】 ān jiā luò hù

to domicile oneself/to establish oneself/to make one's home/[美口] to make one's pitch/to plant oneself/to put down roots/to settle (down)

例：他们请他来西西里岛～。They invited him to come and *plant himself* in Sicily. /我一旦娶了个当地的老婆，就该在那里～了。Once I took a wife of the locality, I should have to *put down roots*. /他们已经在农村～。They have *settled in the countryside*.

【安居乐业】 ān jū lè yè

to enjoy a good and prosperous life/to live a good life/to live a prosperous and contented life/to live and work in peace (and contentment)/to live and work in peace and happiness/to live in peace and work in happiness/to live in prosperity and contentment/enjoying a happy, secure life

例：只有从解放以来，我们才过上了～的生活。Only since liberation have we been able to *live in peace and work in happiness*. /全国安定团结，经济持续发展，人民～。We have had nationwide stability and unity, the national economy has been developing steadily and our people are now *enjoying a happy, secure life*.

【安乐窝】 ān lè wō

a bed of down / a bed of roses [flowers] / an easy, comfortable life / cosy [cozy] nest/place of ease and comfort

【安民告示】 ān mín gào shì

a notice to reassure the public / advance notice

例：开会要事先通知，象出～一样…。Notice of meetings should be given beforehand; this is like issuing a "*Notice to Reassure the Public*"...

【安民恤众】 ān mín xù zhòng

to improve the conditions of the people and maintain order

【安内攘外】 ān nèi rǎng wài

to maintain internal security and to repel

foreign invasion/to maintain internal security and to resist foreign aggression

【安贫乐道】 ān pín lè dào

to be content with poverty, caring only for one's principles or the way/to find contentment in poverty / contented in poverty and devoted to things spiritual/willing to suffer poverty and unwilling to leave the right track

例：劝人～是古今治国平天下的大经纶，开过的方子也很多，但都没有十全大补的功效。Since ancient time urging men to *find contentment in poverty* has been one great way of preserving peace and order; but though many prescriptions have been made out, none is completely effective.

【安然脱逃】 ān rán tuō táo

to get off scot-free/to run away safely

例：马用后蹄站了起来，然后～。The horse reared, and then *ran away safely*.

【安然脱险】 ān rán tuō xiǎn

to be out of danger/to escape scot-free

例：动手术第二天，医生宣称病人已经～。The doctor pronounced the patient *out of danger* the second day after the operation. / 所有旅客全都～。The passengers all *escaped scot-free*.

【安然无事】 ān rán wú shì

to go scot-free/to meet no danger

【安然无恙】 ān rán wú yàng

to keep a whole skin/ (as) right as a trivet/ completely uninjured/[口] in [with] a whole skin/in safety/safe and sound/without a scratch/unscathed

例：他从着火的大楼里～地逃了出来。He escaped from the burning building *with a whole skin*. / 两个男孩为洪水所困，爬上一块突起的岩石，在那里～，直到人们前去营救。Cut off by the rising waters, the two boys climbed on to a ledge of rock, where they remained *in safety* until they were rescued. / 他们冒死探险，现已～地回来了。They returned *safe and sound* from a dangerous expedition. / 两部汽车猛然相撞，可是幸运得很，我们竟～。The two cars collided heavily but fortunately we got off *without a scratch*.

【安然自愉】 ān rán zì yú

to take the rough with the smooth

例：谁也不能指望形势的发展总是与己有利。困难和挫折在所难免，但无论顺境逆境，人都得～。You

can't expect things always to go in your favour. There are bound to be setbacks and difficult time, but you must *take the rough with the smooth*.

【安如磐石】 ān rú pán shí

absolute tranquil(ly) / (as) firm [solid, steady] as a rock/(as) secure as a huge rock/great security

【安如泰山】 ān rú tài shān

to be safe from all danger/(as) stable[secure, solid, steady] as Mount Taishan/rockfirm

例：不要着急。我们的阵地～。敌军要想突破是不可能的。Don't worry. Our position is *as stable as Mount Taishan*. It's impossible for the enemy troops to break it through.

【安身立命】 ān shēn lì mìng

to rest one's body and set up one's name / to settle down and get on with one's pursuit [work]/to settle down to a quiet life 例：那里是用人去处，足可～。There I could get employment and *settle down to a quiet life*.

【安身之所】 ān shēn zhī suǒ

the sort of place where one can live

【安守本分】 ān shǒu běn fēn

to act up to one's duty/to keep to one's own business/law-abiding

【安土重迁】 ān tǔ chóng qiān

to be attached to one's native land and unwilling to leave it/to be reluctant to move from one's native district/to be too rooted down to consider moving to another place / to dislike transfer of population to a new place / to hate to leave one's native land / to love one's homeland and not wish to leave it / not to care to migrate from native land

【安危与共】 ān wēi yǔ gòng

to share safety and danger/to share weal and woe

【安闲无事】 ān xián wú shì

to have no work[duties]

【安闲自在】 ān xián zì zài

leisurely and carefree

【安享清福】 ān xiǎng qīng fú

to be unoccupied and enjoying happiness

【安营扎寨】 ān yíng zhā zhài

to encamp[camp]/to pitch a camp/to set up a base camp

例：勘探队员们在工地上～。The prospectors camped at the worksite.

【安于现状】 ān yú xiàn zhuàng

to be content with the *status quo*/to be content with things as they are/to be reconciled to the situation/to be satisfied with the existing state of affairs / to come to terms with one's existence/to stick in the mud/to take things as they come [are]/stick-in-the-mud

【安于现状，故步自封】 ān yú xiàn zhuàng, gù bù zì fēng

to be satisfied with the existing state of affairs and reluctant to move forward/satisfaction with things as they are and inertia to move forward

【安于宴乐】 ān yú yàn lè

to feel happy in material pleasures

【安于职守】 ān yú zhí shǒu

to be willing in the discharge of one's duties / to stay at one's post

【安枕高卧】 ān zhěn gāo wò

to lie peacefully on the pillow

【安枕无忧】 ān zhěn wú yōu

to rest assured without anxiety / to sleep at peace/to sleep without any anxiety

【安之若素】 ān zhī ruò sù

to bear(hardship, etc)with equanimity/to regard(wrongdoing,etc.)with equanimity/to take it very calmly/with equanimity and indifference

例：有些同志听凭别人宣传主观主义，也～。Some people tolerate subjectivist propaganda and *regard it with equanimity*.

【安坐而食】 ān zuò ér shí

to be fed without work

【鞍马劳顿】 ān mǎ láo dùn

fatigued by a long journey/travel-worn

【鞍马生活】 ān mǎ shēng huó

life on horseback

【按兵不动】 àn bīng bù dòng

to bide one's time / to halt one's troops and wait / to hold the ring / to keep quiet / to keep the troops immobilized / to make no move / to remain inactive[quiet] / to sit tight / to station one's troops / to stop the advance of an army / to take no action / not to move / not to throw the troops into battle

例：大家都干起来了，你却还在这儿～。怎么一回事？Everybody else has started work, but you are still here to *bide your time*. What's



the matter?/尽管诸葛亮再三挑战, 司马懿仍然~。Despite Zhuge Liang's repeated challenge, Sima Yi still *halted his troops and waited*. 在没有打听到他们下一步准备干什么之前, 我打算~。I'm going to *sit tight* till I hear what they are going to do next.

【按部就班】 àn bù jiù bān

to follow the prescribed order/to keep to conventional[fixed] ways of doing things/to move[run] in a groove/to work strictly by protocol/in a rut/step by step

例: 如果我们还要~, 怎能保住大坝不塌方呢? If we still *keep to conventional way of doing things*, how can we save the dam from collapsing?/为了找出问题所在, 我们就得~对整个过程作全面检查。In order to find out where the trouble lies, we will have to go through the entire procedure *step by step*.

【按部就班, 循序渐进】 àn bù jiù bān, xún xù jiàn jìn

[谚] First creep and then go./[谚] Learn to creep before you leap.

【按道理说】 àn dào lǐ shuō

in the ordinary course of events/in the very nature of things/normally

例: ~, 这种病不该有并发症。Normally there are no complications with this illness.

【按方配药】 àn fāng pèi yào

to fill a prescription/to have a prescription filled at the pharmacy/to make up a prescription

【按计行事】 àn jì xíng shì

to act upon a plan/to adhere to a plan

【按劳分配】 àn láo fēn pèi

to each according to his work/distribution according to work [labo(u)r]

例: 各尽所能, ~ from each according to his ability, to *each according to his work*/真正打破平均主义, 搞好~do away with egalitarianism and correctly implement the principle of distribution according to work

【按捺不住】 àn nà bù zhù

cannot control [contain] oneself/could not restrain any longer/unable to restrain [hold back]/irrepressible

例: ~激动的心情 *unable to hold back* one's excitement

【按时上班】 àn shí shàng bān

to get to work on time/to start work on

schedule

【按时作息】 àn shí zuò xī

to keep good hours/to work and rest according to the time table

【按图索骥】 àn tú suǒ jì

to locate sth by a plan[chart]/to look for a noble steed with the aid of its picture→to try to find sth by following up a clue/to search after sth according to the tracks/to trace... by following the clue

例: 她已经和你谈了一些情况。你为什么~呢? She has already told you something about his whereabouts. Why don't you *trace* him by following the clue?

【按下葫芦浮起瓢】 àn xià hú lu fú qǐ piáo

hardly has one gourd been pushed under water when another bobs up→to solve one problem only to find another cropping up

【按需分配】 àn xū fēn pèi

to each according to his needs/distribution according to need

【按质定价】 àn zhì dìng jià

to fix the price according to the quality

【按质分等】 àn zhì fēn děng

to grade according to quality

【按质论价】 àn zhì lùn jià

to determine the price according to the quality

【暗暗称奇】 àn àn chēng qí

silently admire sth rare

【暗淡无光】 àn dàn wú guāng

in dim and dreary colo(u)rs

【暗渡陈仓】 àn dù chén cāng

to act before another is aware/to advance secretly along [by] an unknown path/to do sth behind the facade of/to do sth in secret/to have illicit sexual relations with/to steal a march on[upon]/to taste secret bliss with  
例: 该部队~——夜行军, 早袭击, 出奇制胜。The army *stole a march on* the enemy by marching at night and attacking them in the morning.

【暗访民情】 àn fǎng mín qíng

to inquire secretly into the people's conditions/to make secret inquiries into the condition of the masses

【暗箭难防】 àn jiàn nán fáng

A covert attack is hard to avoid./An unseen arrow is hard to guard against./Hidden