

朗文

袖珍英汉双解习语词典

LONGMAN

Pocket

ENGLISH-CHINESE IDIOMS

DICTIONARY

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THE COMMERCIAL PRESS



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主编 [英] 德拉·萨默斯

翻译 高永伟

王艳琳

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出版前言

朗文词典以“朗文词库网络”为强大后盾，汇聚美英两国教学与研究资源，品质精良，世所公认。2004年，承蒙培生教育出版集团授权，商务印书馆推出“朗文袖珍系列词典”一套四本，其中包括《朗文袖珍英语词典》(*Longman Pocket English Dictionary*)、《朗文袖珍英语联想词典》(*Longman Pocket Activator*)、《朗文袖珍英语短语动词词典》(*Longman Pocket Phrasal Verbs Dictionary*)和《朗文袖珍英语习语词典》(*Longman Pocket Idioms Dictionary*)，受到读者欢迎。在此将这一系列词典的英汉双解版奉献给读者，相信将对广大学生、英语教师和英语学习者有所助益。

运用英语习语有两难，一是理解与记忆，二是把握分寸与场合。《朗文袖珍英汉双解习语词典》收集常用习语3000余条，结构精巧，释义简明，尤其在具体语境中展示大量鲜活的例证，并运用形象的联想方法，将最常用的习语按主题编排，有助于学习者轻松掌握准确而恰当的英语表达方式。

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► Using the Dictionary 用法说明

What are idioms and how are they used?

什么是习语? 习语是怎么使用的?

An idiom is a group of words whose meaning as a group is different from the meaning those words would have if you considered each one separately. Idioms add colour to the language, giving us lively and interesting ways of expressing ourselves. We use them in a wide variety of situations, from friendly conversations and business meetings to more formal written contexts.

习语由几个词语构成, 你无法从这几个词语的意义上看出该习语的意义。习语给语言增添了色彩, 使我们的语言表达更为生动和有趣。我们可以在各种场合使用习语, 从友好的交谈到商务会议或到更为正式的书面形式都会用到习语。

The *Longman Pocket English-Chinese Idioms Dictionary* focuses on over 3000 common idioms. It covers expressions whose meanings are fairly easy to understand, such as *put your heads together* and *can't hear yourself think*, as well as some that are less obvious, like *face the music* and *keep your shirt on*. Many compound nouns (nouns made up of more than one word but which have a single meaning), like *wild card* and *acid test*, are also included. So are phrases which you will frequently hear in everyday situations, such as *it's just as well* and *of all things*. Examples show the idiom in a typical context, and give the reader access to real language

and natural speech. The *Idiom Activator* (pages 162–172) provides a further tool for language learners, grouping together idioms which have a similar meaning and making it easier to choose the right expression for a particular situation.

《朗文袖珍英汉双解习语词典》收录常用习语 3000 多条。本词典收录了一些意义容易理解的习语，如 *put your heads together* 和 *can't hear yourself think*，也包括意义不是很明显的习语，如 *face the music* 和 *keep your shirt on*。许多复合名词也被收录其中，如 *wild card* 和 *acid test*。同样有些日常生活中经常听到的词组也被收录进来，如 *it's just as well* 和 *of all things*。所提供的例证显示了习语使用的特定场合，使读者能接触到真实使用的语言。习语联想部分(162–172 页)为语言学习者提供了进一步学习的工具，它将意义相似的习语归类在一起，更易于读者选择特定场合所用的正确用语。

How do I find the idiom I am looking for?

如何查找习语?

Idioms are entered under 'keywords', which are listed in alphabetical order and shown in CAPITAL LETTERS. Many of these keywords are nouns. If the idiom you are looking for contains a noun, or more than one noun, look it up under the first noun in the idiom. For example, *go bananas* is at BANANAS, *cost the earth* is at EARTH, and *piece of cake* is at PIECE. Compound nouns are also found at the first noun. For example, you will find *wild card* under CARD, and *acid test* under ACID.

每条习语均收录在“关键词”条目下，关键词用大写字母表示，

并按字母顺序排列。许多关键词都是名词。如果你要查找的习语含有一个名词或几个名词，请在第一个名词条下查找。例如，go bananas 可在 BANANAS 条下查得，cost the earth 可在 EARTH 条下查得，piece of cake 可在 PIECE 条下查得。复合名词也可在第一个名词条下查找。例如，wild card 可在 CARD 条下查得，acid test 可在 ACID 条下查得。

If there is no noun in the idiom, look under the first word which clearly carries a meaning. This will usually be an adjective or a verb. For example, *thick and fast* is at THICK, *sb has something to prove* is at PROVE, and *where it's at* is at WHERE.

假如习语中没有名词，请在第一个实词词条下查找。这个词通常是形容词或者动词。例如，可在 THICK 条下查到 *thick and fast*，在 PROVE 条下查到 *sb has something to prove*，在 WHERE 条下查到 *where it's at*。

What happens when idioms have different forms?

如何查找有多种词形的习语?

Very few idioms are fixed in form. This dictionary shows how a phrase can vary in the following ways:

词形固定的习语为数不多。本词典用以下几种方式表示习语的异体形式：

► Variations of the main form of the idiom which mean the same thing are shown in italics straight after it:

如果主条目的异体形式与其意义相同，该条目则用斜体表示紧排于其后：

the 64,000 dollar question *also*
the million dollar question

- ▶ If part of the expression can be left out, it is shown in brackets:
假如习语的一部分可省略，这部分用括号表示：

make (all) the right noises

- ▶ In idioms such as *a _____-free zone*, the space with a line under it means that many different words could fill the gap, depending on what you are talking about; for example, *a politics-free zone*, *a humour-free zone*.

在如“a _____-free zone”等习语中，下划线上的空格表示上面可选用许多不同的词语，这取决于你想说的内容，如 a politics-free zone(不谈政治的地方), a humour-free zone(没有幽默的地方)。

- ▶ Opposites are shown after the main entry and are followed only by an example. Variations which contain the same basic idiom as the main form but take a different standpoint are shown in the same way:

对应的习语列在主词条之后，其后面只跟例证。与主条目基本词形一致但词义不同的异体形式也是以同样的方式处理：

fight a losing battle to keep trying to do something that you cannot succeed in doing ▶ *She was fighting a losing battle against cancer.* **be a losing battle** ▶ *We try to teach our kids to enjoy books, but with TV and pop music it's a losing battle.*

- Common adjectives and nouns which are related to the idiom appear at the end of the entry:

与习语相关的常用形容词和名词出现在词条的结尾部分：

stab sb in the back to do something, usually secretly, that harms someone you are working with ► *There was a very competitive atmosphere in the marketing department, with everyone stabbing each other in the back.* **a stab in the back** N ► *Nielson's decision to leave the party was seen by his comrades as a stab in the back.* **backstabbing** N ► *People work together in local politics; it's not like the backstabbing that goes on in central government.*

- Where there are two versions of the same idiom which contain different nouns, a cross-reference guides you from the less common form to the main entry:

如果同一习语的两形式含有不同的名词，较不常用的条目下设有主条目的参见：

HAY

hit the hay ► hit the **SACK**

hit the sack also **hit the hay** to go to bed and sleep ► *I guess we'd better hit the sack – we've got to get going early tomorrow.*

Abbreviations used in this dictionary

本词典使用的缩写形式

- ADJ adjective 形容词
- etc etcetera 等
- N noun 名词
- sb somebody, someone 某人
- sth something 某物
- v verb 动词

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Aa

A

the A to Z of sth 亦作 **from A to Z** (describing or dealing with) every part of a subject (关于某学科的) 全部知识; 从头至尾; 彻底地; 完全地 ▶ *'the A to Z of Baby Care'* 《幼儿护理大全》

ABOVE

sb is getting above himself/herself someone has begun to think they are better or more important than they really are 自高自大, 自命不凡 ▶ *He played once for the local team, and then he started getting above himself.* 他过去曾经效力于地方队, 然后就不知道自己姓什么了。

ABSENCE

absence makes the heart grow fonder being away from someone you love makes you love them more 距离增进感情, 距离产生美 ▶ *They say that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but relationships can be difficult when you are apart.* 他们说距离可以让双方的心更近, 但是当你们分开的时候维持关系可能会很难。

ACCIDENT

an accident waiting to happen a person, thing, or situation that is likely to cause an accident 将会发生的事故 ▶ *All those old bottles of half-finished medicine in your cupboard are an accident waiting to happen!* 你橱柜里那些装着半瓶药的旧瓶子总有一天会惹出事来的!

ACES

hold all the aces to have all the advantages in a situation 手中握有王牌; 占尽优势 ▶ *Don't make the mistake of assum-*

ing that the interviewers hold all the aces; they are probably under as much pressure as you. 不要误以为面试官握有生杀大权, 他们可能承受着和你同样的压力。

An ace is the playing card that has the highest value, and you keep it to play at the best opportunity. A纸牌是扑克牌中最大的牌, 通常留到最佳时机出。

ACHILLES

the Achilles' heel (of) a weakness in someone's character that causes problems, or the weak part of a plan or argument 阿喀琉斯的脚踵; 致命弱点, 唯一的弱点 ▶ *Maria's doing well at school, but science is her Achilles' heel.* 玛丽亚在学校成绩不错, 但提到理科她就不行了。

ACID

the acid test something that shows you whether a plan works well, or shows you whether something is true 决定性的试验; 严峻的考验 ▶ *Questions about drug use were, at one time, the acid test for political candidates; now nobody cares what they've done in their past lives.* 吸毒问题曾经是对政治候选人的严峻考验, 现在没有人关心他们过去都做了些什么。

Acid is used to test the quality of metals. For example, nitric acid is used to test for gold because it is the only acid that will react with it. 酸被用来测定金属的特性。例如, 硝酸是用来测定黄金的, 因为这是唯一一种能与其反应的酸。

ACQUAINTANCE

have a nodding acquaintance with 亦作 **have a passing acquaintance with** to know a person, place, or subject slightly 与...是点头之交; 肤浅地了解 ▶ *The witness said that she had a nodding ac-*

A *quaintance with the man.* 这个证人说她与那个男人只是点头之交。► *I've got a good knowledge of PCs but only a passing acquaintance with other types of computer.* 我精通个人电脑, 但对其他类型的电脑只是略知一二。

ACT

a balancing act a situation in which someone is trying to do a lot of different things at the same time, especially when this is difficult 公平处理问题; 平衡各方权益的行动► *Going out to work and looking after the family can be a difficult balancing act for new parents.*

外出工作和照顾孩子对年轻父母来说很难做到两全。

catch sb in the act to see someone doing something, usually something wrong 当场捉住► *I caught the girls in the act of lighting up cigarettes.* 我当场逮住正在点烟的女孩子们。

clean up your act to start behaving in a more acceptable way after you have been behaving badly 洗心革面, 改过自新► *Unless the party cleans up its act, we can expect a clear swing to the Opposition in the next election.* 除非该党洗心革面, 不然在下一届选举中我们会看到反对党将大获全胜。

do a vanishing act 亦作 **do a disappearing act** to deliberately go away from a place so that nobody can find you 突然故意离开► *Bob always does a vanishing act when I want him to help in the garden.* 每当我想请鲍勃在花园里帮忙的时候, 他总是不知何时就溜了。

get in on the act to take part in an activity



that someone else has started, in order to get some of the advantages for yourself (为了想得到好处而)插手, 参加► *They are the only two countries with military satellites, and they don't want others to get in on the act.* 他们是仅有的两个拥有军事卫星的国家, 他们不想让其他国家加入他们的队伍。

get your act together to do something in a more organized and effective way than before 有条有理地高效行事► *He'll have to get his act together and improve his grades if he wants to study medicine.* 如果他想学医的话, 必须集中精力, 提高成绩。

be a hard act to follow 亦作 **be a tough act to follow** someone has done something so successful or impressive that it will be difficult for anyone else to be as good 难步其后尘; 难以企及► *Shulman's magnificent first novel is an extremely hard act to follow.* 舒尔曼第一本小说如此成功, 让人难望其项背。

ACTION

a piece of the action 亦作 **a slice of the action** an opportunity to be involved in something that is successful or exciting 参与精彩活动的机会► *Now the band is so successful, everyone in the music business wants a piece of the action.* 现在乐队如此成功, 音乐界里每个人都想要分一杯羹。

ACTIONS

actions speak louder than words what you do is more important than what you say, and people will judge you by the things you do 行动比言语更重要; 事实胜于雄辩► *Actions speak louder than words, so we have to make sure that we give our customers what we have promised them.* 做比说更重要, 因此我们必须设法确保我们兑现给顾客我们所承诺的东西。

ADAM

not know sb from Adam not to know someone at all 根本不认识 ► *A year ago, we didn't know him from Adam — now he's on the front page of every sports section.* 一年前, 我们根本不认识他——而现在他已是所有报纸体育版的头版人物。

ADMIRATION

a mutual admiration society when two people, groups, or organizations praise each other a lot 互相欣赏(或赞扬) ► *Now we've praised each other's work, let's forget the mutual admiration society and talk about money.* 我们已经称赞了彼此的工作, 现在我们停止互相吹捧, 来谈谈钱的事情吧。

ADVOCATE

play devil's advocate to pretend to disagree about something so that there will be a discussion about it 假装不同意以挑起争论 ► *Let me play devil's advocate here and ask 'Why shouldn't we legalize drugs?'* 让我在这里唱反调吧, 试问: “为什么不可以让毒品合法化?”

AGENDA

a hidden agenda the things that you secretly intend to achieve from a plan or action 秘密议程 ► *He was elected to serve his country, but he had a hidden agenda — all his friends have positions of power now.* 选民选他是让他为国家服务, 但他那时却有不可告人的计划——现在他所有的朋友都得到了权势。



AGREEMENT

a gentleman's agreement an agreement

that is not written down, but is made between people who trust each other 君子协定 ► *Business in this region has traditionally been conducted by gentleman's agreement — a simple handshake secures a deal.* 这个地区的生意传统上都是按照口头协定来操作的——握个手就完成了一笔交易。

AIN'T

it/sb ain't all that something or someone is not as good or special as someone else thinks 不如想象中的好 ► *Next time Julie tries to make you feel bad, you just tell her she ain't all that.* 下次朱莉想让你难受时, 你就告诉她她并不是十全十美。
if it ain't broke, don't fix it don't try to change the way something works or is done, when it works well the way it is 不要轻易改变, 顺其自然 ► *These guys on the board want to change the management structure again. I say, if it ain't broke, don't fix it.* 董事会中的这些家伙又想要改变管理层的结构了。照我说, 应该顺其自然。

AIR

clear the air to discuss a problem to try to solve it or get rid of bad feelings 消除误会(或紧张、猜疑)的气氛 ► *Mel finally tried to clear the air by asking Carla what was bothering her.* 梅尔最后通过问卡拉有什么烦心事来试着缓解气氛。

hot air statements that sound very impressive or exciting but really have no meaning 空话, 大话 ► *Why do our politicians spout so much hot air?* 为什么我们的政客们总是信口雌黄?

be in the air if a feeling or idea is in the air, everyone seems to be feeling it or thinking about it 流传开 ► *There was a hint of panic in the air yesterday as the markets fell to their lowest point this month.* 昨天当股市跌至本月最低点时出现了一丝恐慌。 ► *Divorce may be in the*

A *air for Cara and her latest husband.* 卡拉和她的现任丈夫被传可能会离婚。

be up in the air to be unplanned at the moment 悬而未决 ► *Everything's up in the air until we hear what's happening in December.* 直到我们知道 12 月发生了什么事情之前，一切都还是未知数。

vanish into thin air 亦作 **disappear into thin air** to disappear suddenly in a way that is surprising or difficult to understand 突然消失 ► *I don't know, money just seems to disappear into thin air.* 我不知道怎么搞的，这笔钱好像蒸发掉了一样。

be walking on air to feel extremely happy, often so that you do not notice anything else 显得异常高兴，得意忘形 ► *The play just got a great review in New York, so I'm walking on air today.* 这出戏在纽约得到了好评，所以我高兴极了。

AIRS

put on airs 亦作 **give yourself airs** when someone is behaving as if they were more important than other people 摆架子 ► *I like him — he doesn't put on airs about his famous sister.* 我喜欢他——他没有因为自己有个名人姐姐而摆架子。

AISLES

be rolling in the aisles laughing a lot while watching or hearing something 捧腹大笑 ► *Kevin's jokes still keep audiences rolling in the aisles.* 凯文的笑话让观众们还在大笑不止。

ALARM

a false alarm something that seems about to happen, but then does not 假警报 ► *I thought I had an ulcer last month, but it was a false alarm.* 上个月我以为自己得了溃疡，但只是虚惊一场。

ALBATROSS

an albatross (around sb's neck) a problem, often one that is your own fault, that

prevents you from succeeding 套在脖子上的枷锁；沉重的负担，无法摆脱的痛苦 ► *The failure of her first film has been something of an albatross round her neck.* 第一部电影的失败一直是她心头的阴影。

An albatross is a very large white seabird that sailors (=people who work on ships) think it is very unlucky to kill. In Coleridge's poem, *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*, a sailor kills an albatross and has to wear it around his neck as a punishment. 信天翁是一种白色大海鸟。据海员们说，杀了这种鸟会带来晦气。在柯尔律治的诗作《古舟子咏》中，一名海员杀死了一只信天翁，之后作为惩罚只得把它套在他的脖子上。

ALEC/ALECK

a smart alec 亦作 **a smart aleck** someone who is annoying because they think they are very clever, especially saying clever things 自作聪明的人，自以为样样都懂的人，自以为是的人 ► *"What are you going to wear tonight?" "Clothes." "Don't be such a smart alec."* “你今晚穿什么？”“穿衣服。”“不要自以为是。”

ALIVE

be alive and kicking (of a person) to be still healthy and active; (of an activity) to exist successfully still 活蹦乱跳；仍在活跃 ► *It's nice to know your grandparents are alive and kicking.* 很高兴知道你的祖父母还健在。

ALL

be all about sth to put all your time and energy into an activity, or be excited about it 全力投入 ► *Right now, I'm all about teaching. I've never worked so hard in my life.* 当前，我全心全意教书。我这辈子从来都没有这么努力工作过。
be all dressed up with nowhere to go to be completely ready to do something,

but unable to do it 白准备了一场 ▶ *The crew of the delayed space flight were all dressed up with nowhere to go today, but repairs should only take another 24 hours.* 飞行被延误的宇航员们今天白忙活了, 仅检修就需 24 个小时。

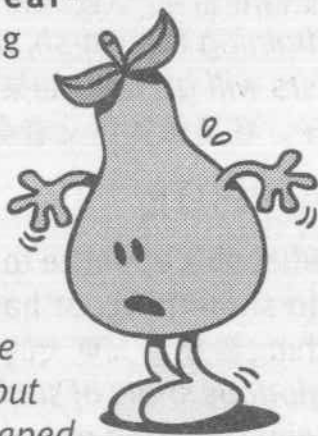
be all over sb to be kissing and touching another person in a sexual way 亲吻搂抱 ▶ *Julia and Dan were all over each other in the back of the car.* 朱莉娅和丹在后车厢里卿卿我我。

be all over sth to be feeling happy, excited, or confident about doing something 很喜欢(或有信心)做… ▶ *Man, I was all over that computer course today.* 啊, 我太喜欢今天那计算机课啦。

do sth for all you are worth to do something using all your energy 拼尽全力 ▶ *She dived into the sea and started swimming towards the beach for all she was worth.* 她跳进大海, 开始用尽全力往岸边游去。

sb is not all there someone seems rather stupid or is not thinking clearly 头脑不清醒; 注意力不集中, 开小差 ▶ *I'm sorry, I was thinking about something else. I'm not all there this morning.* 对不起, 我在想另外的事情。我今天早晨心不在焉。

it's all gone pear-shaped something has gone wrong, or failed, after starting off well 出错, 出岔子; 失败 ▶ *Internet companies like hers were set to make enormous profits, but it all went pear-shaped*



when her business partner died. 像她这样的网络公司原本可以赚大钱, 但自从她的生意伙伴死后, 生意就不行了。

ALLEY

a blind alley a course of action that is not

succeeding 不会成功的行动方案 ▶ *In my opinion, medical science is stuck up a blind alley with all this money being spent on genetic modification.* 在我看来, 把钱都花在转基因研究上会把医学带进一个死胡同的。

A blind alley is a road that is closed at one end, so that it is impossible to go anywhere. “blind alley” 指死胡同, 所以不可能通向任何地方。

be right up sb's alley 亦作 **be right up sb's street** to be exactly what someone likes or is good at doing 为某人所喜爱; 与某人才能相称 ▶ *Simon's reviewing a travel guide; it's a great job that's right up his alley.* 西蒙正在为一本旅游指南写评论, 这正是他的拿手活。

ALLIANCE

an unholy alliance an association between people who are not normally linked together, and who unite for a bad purpose 邪恶的同盟 ▶ *Prices are artificially high because of an unholy alliance of established retailers and big manufacturers.* 由于现存的零售商和大制造商之间的不正当联合, 价格被人为地提高了。

ALL-SINGING

all-singing, all-dancing (of a machine, software etc) having many of the newest technical features, enabling it to do a lot of things (机器、软件等) 具备最新技术性能的 ▶ *Promotion of the week is a new all-singing, all-dancing entertainment centre.* 这个星期的推广产品是具有最新功能的娱乐中心。

ALTAR

be sacrificed on the altar of ___ to be destroyed so that something else can be achieved, especially something you do not approve of 为了达到某种目的而牺牲