

新编简明英语手册
A Series of New Concise English Handbook

H313.3-62
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主编 王正元

新编简明英语

习语手册

A New Concise
Handbook of
English Idioms

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主编寄语

随着科学技术日新月异的变化和全球经济的日趋一体化，跨国交流已不是新鲜事，不同民族的人在一起共事的多元文化背景也越来越多。为求得生存、发展与进步，英语对于我们当代中国人来说，显得从没有过的重要。从儿童到成年人，学英语、用英语的热情不断地高涨起来，因此，大家都希望有本好的英语工具书相帮。

什么样的工具书是好的呢？这几年英语工具书林林总总，也确实出版了不少。但我想，现在大家都很忙，时间对于大家都很宝贵，大家需要简明、便捷、实用的工具书。鉴于这方面的考虑，由我领衔主编，同大家一起编写了这套《新编简明英语手册系列》。这套手册共10本，包括语法、短语、搭配、俚俗语、新词语、缩略语、时事用语、广告英语、商务英语、英语写作10个方面，突出了简明、实用的特点，至于“新编”，主要体现在收词内容上具有时代性，所收录的都是实用的语言知识，目的是希望给读者带去方便。

这套书的作者是北京外国语大学、辽宁大学、重庆大学、燕山大学的青年教授、副教授、中年学者，他们为编写此书付出了极大的艰辛；知识出版社的张高里、何为先生认真的工作态度与执著的敬业精神也使人感动。

这里我还要特别感谢给予本手册系列大力帮助的辽宁大学范岳和陈峰两位教授。由于时间紧，本手册系列中一定有许多不足之处，欢迎读者批评指正。

王正元
2002年春

前 言

在英语的学习和应用中，对习语的掌握从来就是一个提高英语能力和水平的重要方面，尤其当你面对“真正的英语”时。

《新编简明英语习语手册》(以下简称“手册”)的编纂遵循以下的指导思想：

1. 努力反映和包含新环境下英语的习语状态和面貌，以及相应的学习和应用要求。其词条的选择主要覆盖文化、科技、经济、政治、军事等几个方面。其选择和评价的依据为在现代交流环境下习语出现的频率。

2. 努力从使用者的角度，去组织和设计手册的内容和结构，尽可能给出习语的相关背景和提示性信息。

在手册的编纂过程中，我们从近年来国内外出版的若干部大、中型英语习语词典中得到了不少语料和启示。在此，谨向有关编者和出版社表示谢意。

手册的编纂得到了辽宁大学外语学院副院长陈峰教授和燕山大学王正元教授的悉心指教，尤其是在手册编写方案的设计阶段，这些对手册的最终形成是必不可少的。谨致衷心的感谢。由于编者水平有限，经验不足，难免有疏漏之处，望读者不吝批评指正。


编著：孙乔

2002 年春





体 例

1. 本手册所列习语是指按一定语法规则或习惯用法搭配而成。
 2. 为了统一编排和方便查阅, 本手册所有习语均按英语字母顺序排列, 用黑正体排印。
 3. 每个习语均有释义, 并配有典型例句。
 4. 每个习语有多种释义时, 分别用 1. 2. 3. …… 标出, 并附有例句。
 5. 习语中 “/” 表示斜线前后单词可以替代。习语中圆括号表示括号内的词语或字母可有可无, 排列时不计入字顺。
 6. 习语开头的冠词 a, an, the 不计入字顺, 放在习语末尾, 用逗号隔开。
 7. 必要的说明放在例句之后, 前面用 “[说明]” 标明, 范围包括: 词源、语体色彩、习语变体、必要的英汉习语比较、必要的语法和用法说明, 等等。
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A a

ABC of, the 基础知识：入门

His father gave him a book called *The ABC of Music*. 他的父亲给了他一本叫做《音乐入门》的书。

He pretended to know all about sport, but I discovered that he didn't even know the ABC of basketball. 关于体育，他不懂装懂，但我发现他甚至连最基本的篮球知识都不懂。

abide by 遵守

As long as you come to the library, you should abide by the rules here. 只要你来图书馆，你就应遵守这里的规则。

above all 尤其是；最主要的是

He is hardworking, practical, but above all, very reliable. 他勤奋，注重实际，但最重要的是，很值得信任。

I am thinking of renting a house. It should be comfortable, not far from the school, and above all, the rent should not be too high. 我正在考虑租一所房子，要舒适，离学校不远，最重要的是，租金不能太高。

above and beyond 大于；多于；远远

The soldiers showed courage above and beyond what was expected. 士兵们表现出来的勇气远远出乎人们的预料。

above board 正直；诚实；不隐瞒

He did not act above board. 他做事不坦诚。

I don't think he is a mean person. Everything he does is above board. 我认为他不是一个小人。他所做的一切都是光明磊落的。

[说明] 该习语与汉语成语“光明正大”的语义基本对应。

above one's breath 低声；细语





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She always speaks above her breath in class. 她上课讲话总是低声细语的。

about one's ears 失败：落空

We had planed to go fishing the other day, but the heavy rain brought the plan down about our ears. 那天，我们本打算去钓鱼，可是那场大雨使我们的计划落空了。

above one's head 太难：超出某人的理解能力

Chemistry is above my head. 化学对我来说太难了。

What he said is above our heads. 他说的话太难了，我们理解不了。

above oneself 自命不凡：趾高气扬

Some people argued that to educate the working classes would only lead to their getting above themselves. 有些人认为，让劳动阶层接受教育，只会使他们变得骄傲自大。

above price 价格昂贵：无价的：难以定价的

Good advice is above price. 好的建议是无价的。

That diamond is above price. 那颗钻石是无价之宝。

[说明] 该习语亦作 beyond price.

above the common 杰出：异乎寻常

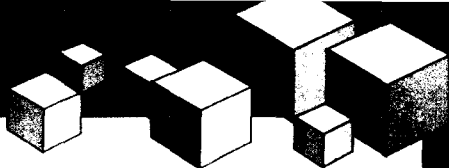
She is a student above the common. 她是个非常优秀的学生。

above the salt 坐于上席：居于荣耀地位

They took the retired old teacher up above the salt. 他们请那位退休的老教师坐上座。

above the world 重精神的：摆脱世俗之念的

With such an income as that, we should be above the world. 既然收入就是那样，我们应该注重精神生活。



above water 摆脱困境；摆脱债务

To stay above water, the company has been forced to take desperate measures including cutting down the number of employees. 为了摆脱困境，这个公司被迫采取非常措施，包括裁减员工。

Because of his wife's extravagant taste, they never seemed to be able to get above water. 由于他的妻子生活奢侈，他们似乎总是难以摆脱困境。

[说明] 该习语为口语。

abreast with 同步前进；不落后于

Watching TV is one of the ways to keep abreast with what is going on. 看电视是跟上形势的途径之一。

He who keeps abreast with time is wise. 能跟时代同步的人才是明智的人。

absence of mind 心不在焉；不专注

His absence of mind during driving nearly caused an accident. 他开车时心不在焉，差一点出车祸。

absent oneself from 缺席；不到场

The chairman of the committee deliberately absented himself from the meeting. 那个委员会的主席有意不到会。

absorb in 陷于；沉浸于

The professor was so absorbed in his work that he didn't hear his wife enter the room. 教授专心致志地工作，以至于都没有听到他的妻子进屋的声音。

The mother was so absorbed in reading a novel that she didn't notice that her child had already left the house. 那位母亲专注地在读一本小说，以至于没有注意到他的孩子已经离开了那所房子。

accept as 相信；把……当做



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The audience accepted his statement as truth. 听众对他的话信以为真。

The old couple accepted the young man as their own son. 那一对老人把这个年轻人当做自己的亲生儿子。

accident prone 易于遭受意外的

Children are less accident prone than people suppose. 小孩子并不像人们想象的那么容易发生意外。

Accidents can happen. 总有可能会发生一些未曾料到的、无法控制的事端。

Don't commit yourself to completing the book next month — accidents can happen, you know. 不要限定自己下个月完成这本书。要知道，有些事情是无法预料的。

[说明] 此为谚语，意义基本等同于：Accidents will happen in the best-regulated families. 家规再严，事端难免。

according as 依照

You may go to bed or watch TV, according as you decide. 你可以上床睡觉或是看电视，随你的便。

according to all accounts 众口一词；异口同声

According to all accounts, that English party was an unusual entertainment. 大家都说，在那个英语晚会上玩得特别开心。

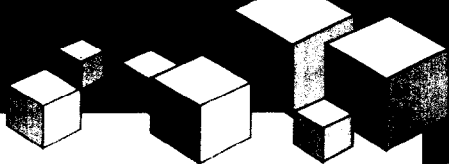
according to one's (own) lights 按照某人自己的信条或道德标准

I don't agree with her at all; but according to her own lights, she is always right. 我一点都不同意她的意见。但是，在她自己看来，她总是对的。

account for 交代；解释

He will have to account for every penny of the money that was entrusted to him. 他得把交给他保管的每一分钱都作个交代。

Jim must be crazy. It's the only thing that will account for his strange



behavior. 吉姆一定是疯了，这是他行为怪异的惟一解释。

ace in one's hand, the 王牌在手

If you want to defeat such a strong opponent, you have to have the ace in your hand. 如果你想打败如此强大的对手，必须有王牌在手。

[说明] 该习语为英式用语。

ace in the hole 具有决定性意义的事物：留到紧要关头才运用的手段

Tim's strength in a crisis is an ace in the hole. 临危不乱是蒂姆的看家本领。

She doesn't usually risk that much unless she thinks she has an ace in the hole. 她通常不会就此冒大风险，除非觉得自己有很大的把握。

ache for 为……感到遗憾；同情；渴望

My heart aches for the girl. 我真为那个女孩感到惋惜。

Being away from home for a long time, he always aches for home. 离开家乡很久了，他常常想家。

acid test 严密的考察

The acid test of his ability came when he was put in charge of an important trade company. 当他被指派去主管一个重要的贸易公司时，对他的能力的真正考验就开始了。

acquired taste 学来的爱好或嗜好

Listening to rock and roll is his acquired taste. 听摇滚乐是他后来养成的嗜好。

Many Chinese don't like cheese when they first eat it; it is an acquired taste. 许多中国人第一次吃奶酪时都不喜欢，吃奶酪是一种学来的嗜好。

across lots (如横穿田地) 取捷径

We should all understand that success is not reached across lots. 我们都



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应该明白，成功是没有捷径的。

across the board 全部包括

He has done those exercises across the board. 那些练习他全都做过了。

That policy applies to the companies across the board in the country. 这个政策适用于所有国内公司。

act in cold blood 采取行动时不动感情；深思熟虑后才采取行动

The policeman acted in cold blood when he ordered the old man to be evicted. 那个警察毫不留情地下令驱逐那个老人。

act like a charm 效果神奇；立见奇效

That medicine acted like a charm on my mother's disease. 这种药对我母亲的病有奇效。

act one's age 行为与年龄相符

Sit down and act your age! 坐下。别表现得像个小孩子似的。

Elderly ladies who dress like young girls are not acting their age. 上了年纪的妇女穿少女的服装显得与年龄不相称。

act the fool/giddy goat

1. 扮丑角：胡闹

In the party, Dick acted the giddy goat. 在晚会上，迪克扮演了小丑。

2. 干蠢事

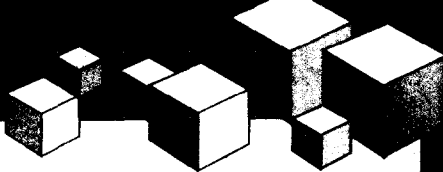
Tell him not to act the fool any more. 告诉他不要再荒唐下去了。

action station 大家准备好

Action stations, everybody! The guests will arrive in the office in a few minutes. 各位准备好！客人几分钟后就要到了。

[说明] 该习语为口语。

Adam's ale/wine 水



When he came to, we gave him a glass of Adam's ale. 他苏醒过来后, 我们给了他一杯水。

adapt as 将……变成……

Many of her works have been adapted as films. 她的许多作品都被改编成了电影。

adapt for 为……而改编

That best-selling novel has already been adapted for the screen. 那本畅销小说已经被改写成电影。

adapt from 根据……改写或改编

That film is adapted from a legend. 这部电影是根据一个传说改编的。

adapt to 改装; 使适应

They will have to adapt that building to the needs of the college students who are going to live in it. 他们得把那座建筑物改建得适合即将住进来的大学生的需求。

add fuel to the fire/flames 火上加油

Let him be. Any words will just add fuel to the flames. 别管他。对他说什么都只能使情况更糟。

[说明] 该习语为非正式用语。

add insult to injury 辱上加辱; 雪上加霜; 更糟的是

They started off late; to add insult to injury, their car broke down on the way. 他们已经出发晚了。但更糟的是, 他们的车又在路上抛了锚。

Yesterday evening, the lights went out suddenly; to add insult to injury, there was no water from the tap not long after that. 昨天晚上, 突然停电了, 更糟的是, 不久水也没有了。

afraid of one's shadow 如惊弓之鸟; 胆小如鼠; 疑神疑鬼

Mrs. King won't stay alone in her house at night; she is afraid of her own



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shadow. 金夫人晚上不肯一个人呆在家里；她胆子非常小。

The girl is afraid of her own shadow. Can't say I blame her. After all, she is only ten. 这个女孩胆子很小。这也不能怪她，毕竟她才 10 岁。

after all (is) said and done 总而言之

You shouldn't feel guilty for not helping her; after all, you have helped her many times in the past. 你不必为没有帮助她而感到内疚。毕竟你过去帮助过她很多次。

After all said and done, you have to find something to do. 总而言之，你该找一些事情做。

after you with 你……完了让我……

After you with the newspaper, please. 你看完了报纸就给我。

[说明] 该习语为口语。

against (all the) odds 尽管有很难克服的困难

Against all the odds, Jack finished his work ahead of time. 杰克服了重重困难，提前完成了任务。

ahead of one's time (思想等) 超前：超越时代

Many scientists are so far ahead of their time that they do not receive the praise they deserve until after they are dead. 许多科学家思想极为超前，以至直到他们死后，才得到他们应得的赞扬。

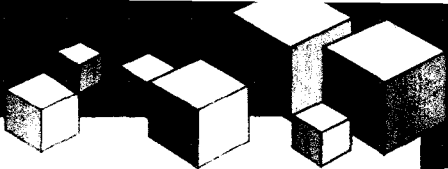
ahead of the game 领先：处于优势

The time we spend in our experiments will put us ahead of the game in this field. 我们花在实验上的工夫会使我们在这个领域处于优势。

[说明] 该习语为非正式用语。

air your dirty laundry in public 家丑外扬

We shouldn't air our dirty laundry in public, and if I were in your position, I'd say nothing at all. 家丑不可外扬。如果我处在你的位置，我就什么



都不说。

airs and graces 装腔作势：摆架子

I have never liked him and his wife is so full of airs and graces. 我从来就不喜欢他，而他的妻子也是一副装腔作势的样子。

The monitor of our class has lost many friends because of her airs and graces. 我们班的班长因为摆架子，已经失去了很多朋友。

alive and kicking 精力充沛的：活泼的

We are very glad to see our grandfather still alive and kicking when he is already 80 years old. 看到已是 80 岁高龄的爷爷仍然精力充沛，我们非常高兴。

all along 自始至终：从一开始起一直

I knew the whole thing all along. 我从一开始就知道整个事情。

Don't look surprised. You've known about our plans all along. 不要显得那么惊讶。你始终就知道我们的计划。

all at once

1. 突然：忽然

All at once, she heard a tremendous crash. 她突然听到一声巨响。

2. 同时：一下子

On Saturdays, we often go to the supermarket and buy a lot of food all at once. 每逢星期六，我们经常去超市一次性购买很多食物。

all bets are off 未来形势：难以预料

This election year all bets seem to be off. In fact even the folks who make a living predicting what the voters will do find themselves on shaky ground. 今年的大选结果很难预料。事实上，即使是那些专门预测选民投票倾向的人也感到心中没底。

all but 除了……都



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All but Jane have read the wonderful novel. 除了简以外, 所有人都读了那本写得非常精彩的小说。

all ear(s) 听得非常认真; 侧耳倾听

The audience were all ears to his lecture. 听众们都在非常认真地听他的讲座。

When he told the story, the children were all ears. 他讲故事的时候, 孩子们都全神贯注地听着。

all eyes 全神贯注; 目不转睛

The children waited all eyes as their mother carefully unwrapped the parcel. 当妈妈小心翼翼地打开包裹的时候, 孩子们全神贯注地等待着。

all hours 不定时; 深夜

It is late. It must be all hours. 很晚了, 一定是深夜了。

He often has to stay up all hours of the night to finish his work. 为了完成工作, 他经常要熬到半夜。

all in all

1. 完全的

Help me not at all, or all in all. 要么根本不要帮我, 要么就帮到底。

2. 最爱的人和物; 最为重要的

His daughter is the all in all to him in the world. 在这个世界上, 女儿是他最爱的人。

His wife is all in all to him. 他的妻子对他最为重要。

3. 最有权利; 最紧要

In his family, grandma is the all in all. 在他的家里, 奶奶是最有权威的人。

all in one piece 完整的; 未受过伤害

I've brought the car back all in one piece. 我已经把车安全地开回来了。