
英文生活成語 ENGLISH IDIOMS AND HOW TO USE THEM

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東華書局印行



無罪者的話 ●

你可知道,成語(或謂智語)不是可以隨便套用的?

成語〔習慣語〕在英文的學習中, 佔據極重要的一環, 無論說寫,適當地運用,都能够使辭意更加活潑,更有生命力,充分反映出人類日積月累的生活智慧。譬如下面這一句, "l've been working since six o'clock this morning, I think I'll call it a day."(從早六點就開始工作,我想今天工作得够了。) 其中成語 call it a day 的運用是多麼生動有力!

認得字却不懂意思

但面對英文成語,最令學習者頭痛的地方,便是,即使你認得每一單字,瞭解它的文法結構,可是當它們統統擺在一起時,往往不知所云。譬如說"She is no chicken." 光看字面,實在不易揣知它的正確意思是「她年紀不小了。」要不要再另試一個看看?也許你想的與它的原意正好相反——請試:"tafk turkey"

僧得意思但不會用

然而,就算你懂得意思,卻也很難把握它完整的社會意義。換句話說,當你看到 "Ass about" 這個成語,懂得意思,卻拿捏不準應該在怎樣的場合,怎樣的情况下使用?什麼時候用,什麼時候不可用?它所蘊藏的語氣又如何?那一類的人才使用這句成語?你自己何時使

本書幫你解決困惑

針對諸如此類的問題,我們因此根據英美人士的使用習慣,分別 在每一條成語之後,附加一個英文字母代號(見「如何正確使用成語」,第 vii 頁),以幫助讀者解決以上的問題。

這是本書的最大特色,也是坊間此類書籍的創舉。因爲我們希望 經由這本「英文生活成語」,能够減少你的閱讀障礙,提高你的英文 寫作實力!

四大功能活學活用

- 一、作爲一本工具書,本書在實際應用方面,有很大的幫助,只 要秉持毅力,必有立竿見影的成效。
- 二、各條例句,生動活用,曉暢明白,可作爲英文背誦的脚本。 例: In his speech the Minister did not try to play down the difficulties the country is facing.
- 三、每日背誦敷句,日積月累,可作爲日常會話的素材。 例: Will you turn the radio on, please? I want to hear the news.
- 四、腹笥充實,信手拈來,亦是寫信、作文的靈感泉源。
 - 例: I forgot to look over the letter before I signed it, and did not notice the mistakes.
- 五、經常使用,熟能生巧,對於翻譯的技巧必有所領悟,舉一反 三,終必百尺竿頭更上一層樓。
 - 例: It rained cats and dogs all day and we could not go out. 整日大雨傾盆,我們無法外出。

編例

- 一、本書總收1,500多條最常用成語;共分兩部,部I將可歸類之成語,分門別類,如顏色(Colours),食物與烹飪(Food and Cooking),身體(Parts of Body)等等共分十類。其餘難以歸類者則依照字母順序,編入部II。
- 二、有關釋意部份,除非中文裏現成的習慣說法與原文的十分貼 切,否則編譯者寧顧不嫌其繁,務求把原意說個明白,以免 讀者對原意的瞭解產生偏差。
- 三、例句的選擇,務求活發活用;中文翻譯,兼採直譯和意譯。
- 四、生字標音一律採用KK音標。
- 五、每一單元之後,附有應用練習,加強學習功效。
- 六、書末附有英文索引,包括部 I 和部 II 的所有條目,依照英文字母順序排列,以便檢閱。
- 七、本書所依據的主要藍本爲 A. J. Worrall 所著,D. G. Sawer 所修訂的 "English Idioms for Foreign Students" 及 "More English Idioms for Foreign Students"。

─● 何謂成語〔習慣語〕 ●─

就算是以英語(或美語)爲母語的人,使用成語的時候不免也要 感到困擾。大部份我們所聽見的或是所使用的成語都有幾個共同的特 點: ()耳熟能許 (口根深蒂固 (口使用普遍 四容易明白。

idiom (成語) 和 idiomatic (慣用的) 這兩個字都是由希臘字 術變來的,其根本意思是「特有的」(peculiar) 或是「各別的」 (individual)。成語的形成,沒有一定的公式可依循,也沒有什麼規則 可遵守。我們知道每一種語言都各自有其獨特的個性,有許多成語, 雖然不合邏輯,或者違反文法規則,但是大家都是這麼用的,或許 「積非」便「成是」。就以中文來說也有這樣的例子:「養病」(「病」豈 非愈「養」愈大),「恢復疲勞」(「疲勞」是要去除而非「恢復」)。

若要勉強把成語歸約出一個泛論,對於非以英語(美語)爲母語的人,大概可以這麼說:所謂成語,乃是由幾個字連結而成,但往往喪失其原來字面正確的意義,所表達出來的只是其中任何一個字隱晦的喩意,譬如: bed of rosas, birds of a feather, black list, dark horse, read between the lines, toe the line.

第二個概括的說法是,以人體各部位的名稱爲根;由於日常生活的需要而創造出生動的成語爲數最多,例如:all my eye, burn one's fingers, stretch one's legs, take heart, pay through the nose, down in the mouth等。

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最後一條通則是,相同的字往往因爲後面跟隨不同的字辭,而形成許多意義不一樣的「片語」,這也算是成語由來的主要方式之一。 譬如 look 這個字可組成下列不等的成語: look after, look ahead, look on, look like, look into, look out, look over, look to, look up, look oneself.。而 make 這個字的組合情況更爲複雜, 讀者可自行參 考內文。

然而這樣的組合並非可以隨心所欲,而是必須爲一般人所共同接 受的。有些比較可靠的字典,雖然在這方面的解釋算是十分詳細,但 是遺漏或不清楚的地方仍是在所難免。

下面例學二十對「習慣」和「不合習慣的」用語(等於錯誤用語), 算是這類困難一小部份的代表,希望讀者在對照之餘,提高這方面的 警覺,只用 idiomatic 的部份,不可用 unidiomatic 的部份:

IDIOMATIC

according to
accord with
acquaint with
adverse to
aim to prove
among themselves
angry with (a person)
as regards
authority on
cannot help talking
comply with

UNIDIOMATIC

according with
accord to
acquaint to
adverse against
aim at proving
among one another
angry at (a person)
as regards to
authority about
cannot help but talk
comply to

— v —

conform to, with

correspond to (a thing)

desirous of identical with

in accordance with

prefer (one) to (another)

prior to

superior to

unequal to

conform in

correspond with (a thing)

desirous to identical to

in accordance to

prefer (one) over (another)

prior than

superior than

unequal for

如何正確使用成語



- g 指「一般用法」(in general use),也就是說任何形式的 談話或寫作裏都會使用到的。
- p 指「格言或格言式的辭句」 (proverbs and proverbial expressions) , 也是各類英文中最常見的一種成語。
- f 指「正式成語」 (formal idioms) 而言,限於高雅談話或文 學創作中使用。
- c 指使用於非正式文章或談話中的「俗語」(colloquial idioms), 但使用者並非必然指未受教育者,毋寧說是一種比較非正式 而優雅的英文。
- 指「俚語」(slang idioms),使用於非常不正式的談話中, 通常爲某一特定階級或一羣人所使用。



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部 I

一句一句的背誦下來, 背誦是英文寫作的基礎。



Aaugh! You hit below the belt.

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動物、昆蟲、鳥、魚

ANIMALS, INSECTS, BIRDS, FISH

ass about s 行為愚蠢可笑

Those boys are not working; they are just assing about.

那些孩子不工作,卻盡在那兒瞎搞。

ass about with s 干預或擾亂他人或他人之事; 愚蠢地玩弄某物

Don't ass about with the television; you'll break it.

淆玩那電視機;你會把它弄壞了。

an ass c 笨人; 私人

Look what you're doing, you silly ass; you're spilling your tea!

瞧你在幹什麼,你這笨驢;茶溢出來了!

make an ass of C 器止暴棄, 胎实大方

oneself

He was not used to public speaking and made a complete ass of himself. 他不習慣於公開複雜,因此參願百出。

badger C 編;以問題或要求困堪他人

If you badger him long enough I'm

sure he'll agree.

祇要你据他得够,我相信他一定會同意。

as blind as a bat c 喻親力非常差

Without my glasses I'm as blind as a bat.

ass (æs) 驢 badger ('bædʒə') 雜 bat (bæt) 蝙蝠

英文生活成語

沒了眼鏡,我就像蝙蝠瞎了眼一樣。

have bats in the belfry

\$ 想法古怪;有一點狂(好比麗人的話「神經病」) Don't take any notice of his theories: he's got bats in the belfry. 别理他那一套(理論);他的腦筋有點古怪。

be bats(or batty) s

實狂的 If you think I'm going to lend you money, you must be bats. 如果你以爲我會借錢給你,你一定是神經病。

a bear g 指牌氣暴躁或態度惡劣之人 That old man is a bear; he's always grumbling. 那老頭子牌氣暴躁,老是埋怨個不停。

be like a bear c 脾氣暴戾;氣瘋了 with a sore head

What's wrong with you today? You're like a bear with a sore head! 你今天怎麼搞的?脾氣變得像頭瘋能!

a beast g 喻生性残酷,野橙之人; 壞蛋 Just look at the way he treats his wife! He's a beast 看看他對待他妻子的態度!簡直像畜牲一般。 (jokingly) Give me one of your sweets; don't be a beast! (開玩笑的口腔) 給我一顆糖嘛;不要那麼壞!

make a **beast** of **c** 實婪地吃喝 oneself

The man made a beast of himself and left nothing for his companions. **酒個人儘管自己狼吞虎嚇, 什麽也沒留給同伴。**

a **bee g** 集會,聚會(一起工作或娛樂) The women of the village are having

helfry ['belfri] (俚) 頭 bear [ber] 熊 beast [bist] 歡

a sewing bee tonight. **今晚村惠的婦女有個鋒釰娶會。**

as busy as a bee C 非常忙碌

Whenever they have guests for dinner she's as busy as a bee all day long. 他們家派要有客人來吃晚飯,她便整日傷蜜蜂一樣地 信務。

have a bee in C 死心眼地祇想一件事 one's bonnet

Since he became treasurer of the club he has had a bee in his bonnet about economy. 自從當了俱樂部的財務之後,他滿腦子紙想着節約一 A o

make a bee-line c 向目標很快地或直接走去

for

As soon as I got to the party I made a bee-line for the bar. 我一到漆宴會便徑向酒吧走去。

beef c 體力: 力気

He can lift it alone; he's got plenty of beef. 他的臂力奇大,一個人便能將它疊起來。

beef (about) s

(Complain about) 构怨;粉牢驛 Stop beefing about your headache and get on with your work! 蔓再抱怨說你頭痛,工作罷!

beefy c 强壮的; 肌肉酸液的

You're a beefy chap: you don't need a porter for your luggage. 你是個健壯的小伙子,無需挑夫再幫你拾行李。

a bird s 女孩;女朋友

Bill is taking his bird to the pictures tonight. 比爾今晚要帶他的女朋友去看電影。

bonnet ['bonit] 軟帽 beef [bif] 牛肉

英女牛沃皮縣

a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush

D 多得不如現得: 手車一隻烏膊於林裏二隻鳥 If you invest this money you might make a fortune; but a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush. 倘若你把缝盒去投膏,也許會賺一筆;但是多得不加 現得。

the bird is(or has) f

flown

囚犯逃走;要找(捕)的人已經跑掉 When the police arrived to make the

arrest, the bird had flown. 整察捏到要隶人時,犯人已經兆之夭夭。

give(an actor) the s bird

嘲笑 (演員);作號聲;唱倒采 When he forgot his lines the audience gave him the bird.

他把臺詞忘掉了,觀衆噓聲四起。

birds of a feather

flock together

物以藥聚

You say his fiancée is also a poet? Well . birds of a feather flock together. 你說他的未婚妻也是詩人?

是啊,物以類聚。

kill two birds with p 一衛豐鸝;一學兩得 one stone

I killed two birds with one stone by going to the bank on my way to the shops. 我到店事買東西時順便去了銀行,一點兩得。

a little **bird** told **c**

我聽人設起

me

A little bird told me your wife is

expecting a baby. **聽說你太太懷孕了。**

a bird of passage f 侯鳥;喻一個人不在同一地方久智

He was a bird of passage until he

bush [bus] 灌木叢 feather ['feða] 羽毛 flown [flon] (pp. of fly)飛 passage ['pæsid3] 經過

married and bought a house. 他居無完所,直到結了婚,買了展子才定下來。

a bird's-eye view g 凌空俯视;鳥瞰

You get a good **bird's-eye** view of the town from the top of the church tower.

從數當的落頂,你可以俯視全城,一旦瞭然。

a bitch s 兇狠的女人; 母老虎; 腱女人 She can be a bitch when she thinks

She is being treated unfairly. 一想起人家對她不公至,她便變得很兇。

like a **bull** in a **c** 喻人行爲租魯笨拙 china shop The workman sta

DP The workman stamped around the kitchen like a **bull** in a china shop.

那工人在厨房裏粗手粗脚的,彷彿一頭公牛闖入瓷器

店--般。

like a red rag to a c 觸怒的原因

bull To a bank manager, carelessness in money matters is ilke a red rag to a bull.

matters is like a red rag to a Dull. 經手金錢,粗心大意,在銀行經理看來,無異於一塊

挑逗公牛的紅布。

take the **bull** by **g** 面對離應而不透避;毅然應斷難局 the horns He decided to take the **bull** by the horns and confess to the police.

他 毅然而對事實, 向警方坦供。

have butterflies c 忐忑不安或興奮的感覺

I had **butterfiles** in my stomach for an hour or so before I was due to make my speech.

在輪到我演講之前,我已經緊張了大約一小時。

view (vju) 親城,限界 china ('tfainə) 陶瓷 horn (hərn) 犄角

in one's stomach

bitch ('bitf) 母狗,母狼 bull (bul) 公牛 rag [ræg] 布塊 butterfly ('batə,flai) 蝴蝶

8 英文生活成語

calf-love

the straw that breaks the **camel's**

參見 puppy-love

壓斷駱駝背脊的那根稻草; 担不加兩 , 喻負擔已太 章,不可再加分憂。

back

When he told me the difficult job had to be finished by noon, it was the straw that breaks the camel's back.

他告訴我那件難事要在中午之前完成,無異是在要我 的命。

play cat and c mouse with

C 捉弄;在採取行動之前,讓(某人)處於不定的狀態下 The police played cat and mouse with the gang in the hope of catching them all at once. 警方以「貓捉老鼠」的方法對付那幫匪徒,希望立刻 將他們一綱打造。

a **cat s** 喻心懷惡意,令人厭惡的女人 Den't listen to her gossip; she's a **cat.** 莫聽帅張言提語;她是關惡心婦人。

a **cat** may look at a king 即使吸卑微的人也可以批評他的長官 He is only the office-boy but we should listen to what he says. A cat may look at a king. 雖然他紙是一個工友,我們也應該聽聽他說些什麼; 即使貓也可以直顧國王。

not (enough) room s to swing a cat

\$無轉身餘地,喻空間擁擠

After we had got all our furniture into the flat, there wasn't enough room to swing a cat. 我們把所有傢俱都提出來之後,便連轉身的餘地也沒有了。

the cat (or the cat-o'-nine tails)

\$ 九尾鞭;昔日用來鞭笞囚犯或水手的鞭子(由九卷網子合組而成)

The Captain sentenced him to ten strokes of the **cat.** 船長間他上鞭。

straw [stro] 乾草,麥稽 swing [swiŋ] 搖擺,旋轉 camel ['kæml] 駱駝