

常用英语成语双解词典

A
Dictionary
of
Common
English
Idioms
with
Chinese
Translation

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A Dictionary of Common English Idioms with Chinese Translation

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前 言

英语成语是在英语的长期发展过程中约定俗成的固定词组。它们大多言简意赅，形象生动，为人们广泛使用。要学好英语，就必须掌握一定数量的英语成语。解放后出版的英汉成语词典已有数种，但都只有汉语释义。本词典采用英汉双解释义，目的在于通过两种文字的解释，帮助读者加深对这些成语的意义、感情色彩和用法的了解，还可以对两种语言的使用习惯和表达方式的共同进行比较。英语释义均以原文词典和有关语言学著作为依据。编者曾不厌其烦地为每一词条查考多种英文著作，从中挑选出比较准确浅显的解释，以期读者易于理解并提高阅读原文的兴趣，部分例句摘自英美文学和语言学原著，包括一部分近代著作，其中有的是脍炙人口的名言佳句。所用名句均注明出处及作者姓名。此外还有一些体例方面的说明如下：

1. 成语条目以第一词的字母顺序排列。
2. 如果第一词是动词，则成语之后附加动词不定式标志“to”，隔以逗号。如果成语的第一个词是冠词，则将冠

词加在后面也隔以逗号。

例：(1) beat one's brains, to 绞尽脑汁

(2) penny for your thoughts, a 呆呆地在想什么

(3) observed of all observers, the 众人瞩目的中心

3. 方括号内 [] 表示可以用来替代的词，圆括号内 () 表示可有可无的词。

4. 词条后面一般都附有例句，以体现该成语在句子中其它词之间的搭配关系，或可供使用者仿效。为了节省篇幅，本词典的条目都是先列最基本的，其它相关词条则放在同一条目下加以介绍，不再另立条目。例如，on speaking terms (彼此相识) 和 on speaking terms with 与……相识这两条成语是相关的，本书以前者为基本词条，后者放在该条目下进行介绍，例句则采用后者的：He is only on speaking terms with them. 他和他们不过是点头朋友而已。

5. 如果一条成语有多种意义，只选最常用的加以解释和举例。

6. 汉译文以达意为基本要求，尽可能按原文的结构直接译，让读者了解原文的结构。如果直译与规范汉语出入大，则采用意译。

编者在四十多年教学过程中，时刻留意报刊、杂志

和各种书籍中出现的英语成语，见则必录。十年动乱中，一度辍教在家，便全力以赴进行收集和整理工作。海外故人亲朋好友也提供了大量图书资料。最近又着重收集了一些新出现的英语成语，前前后后共收录词条二十多万词，这次本着实用的原则从中精选出约四千条。

在编写过程中承罗达尊、雪樵、刘富生、刑思焕、邢思芙、钱积权、徐杰民、洪本俊、沈治方、吴小英、李劼、蔡晓、冯九龄、王祖德、程为国、陶元等同志协助编者精选和整理，在此谨表谢意。

尽管编者作了很大努力，但由于思想水平和业务水平有限，难免有疏漏和缺点，错误之处，还请读者批评指正。

编 者

1984年7月

A

A 1 [or **A number one** or **A No. 1**] — first class; best kind 第一流; 优等的:

An **A number one** cook, and no mistake.
是个第一流的厨师, 没错。

about and about——about the same 大致相同;
差不多

about one's ears——(1) to or into complete collapse, defeat, or ruin 垮台; 崩溃:

The war brought their great plans down about their ears. 战争把他们伟大的计划给毁了。

(2) causing trouble 引起某人的麻烦:

You'll bring these matters about your ears if not settled. 如果这些事情不解决, 你将要遇到麻烦。

about right——(1) in a proper way 适当地; 恰当地:

He does his work about right. 他的工作做

的对头。

(2) severely 重重地；严厉地：

I thrashed the thief about right. 我把那小偷痛打了一顿。

above all——most especially; of first or highest importance 尤其是；最重要的是：

He was beloved by all, and above all by the children. 他为众人所爱戴，尤其是受到孩子们的爱戴。

above board——without trick or concealment 公正；正大光明：

All his dealings are square, and above the board. 他待人接物都正大光明。

above one's bend [or hook or huckle-berry]——beyond one's ability or power 力所不能的；难于领会的：

This problem is above his bend. 这个问题非他所能了解。

above oneself——(1) in high spirits 兴高采烈：

He is above himself today. 他今天非常高兴。

(2) to behave in a proud way 自命不凡。

That child needs to have a strict teacher

—he's getting far above himself. 那个孩子需要一位严格的教师——他太自命不凡了。

above one's reach—impossible of attainment or performance 力所不能的：

This work is above my reach. 这项工作不是我力所能及的。

absence of mind—inattention to what is going on 心不在焉；漫不经心

absent oneself from, to—to keep oneself from 不出席……；不到……地方；离开……；

He absented himself from the city. 他离开了那个城市。

absorbed in—interested in 专心；全神贯注在……上：

He is absorbed in the pursuit of knowledge. 他一心一意研究学问。

acceptance of persons—undue favour on personal grounds 徇情；偏私；偏爱：

He always does justice without acceptance of persons. 他公平正直，不徇私情。

accept one's face, to—to grant one a favour 看在某人面上；容某人所请；徇私：

I accepted his face to do the work. 我是

看在他的面上做这项工作的。

accommodate oneself, to——to alter one's habit in order to suit 适应; 顺从:

You must accommodate yourself to the situation. 你必须适应环境。

accomplished in——good at 专长; 擅长; 精通:

He is accomplished in painting. 他擅长绘画。

according to all accounts——everyone says 众口一词:

According to all accounts, this plan is executive. 大家都说这个计划可以实行。

accounted of, to——to esteem 重视:

Such books are little accounted of nowadays. 在目前这种书是不受重视的。

account to, to——to explain to the person who is to receive the reckoning 向(某人)说明:

You must account to the schoolmaster for what you have done. 你必须对校长说明你的所作所为。

accustom oneself to, to——to habituate oneself to 使自已习惯于:

He accustomed himself to this sort of work.
他使自己习惯于这种工作。

ace in the hole——a faithful friend; money, etc. put aside for emergency 患难与共的朋友; 留待急用的钱; 备而不用的有效办法;

This sum is his ace in the hole. 这笔款子是他留待急用的。

acid test——test that gives conclusive proof of the value or worth of something 严峻的考验;

This difficult task is the acid test for all of us. 这个艰巨的任务对我们大家是一种严峻的考验。

acknowledge (the) receipt of. to——to receive 告知收到; 接奉(手书):

I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your favou dated 27 th Nov.十一月二十七日惠书奉悉。

acquainted with——(1) known to; 认识, 知道; 和(某人)熟悉:

I am not acquainted with him. 我不认识他。

(2) familiar with 精通:

He is well acquainted with chemistry. 他精

道化学。

acquaint one with, to——to make one aware of
使(某人)熟悉;把……告诉某人:

They acquainted the man with this matter. 他们把这件事告诉了那个人。

acquire currency, to——to put in circulation; to
be made public 流传; 散布:

This good news has already acquired currency. 这个好消息早已传播开来了。

act a double part, to——to act in two characters, one openly and the other secretly 当面一套, 背后一套; 欺骗:

An honest man won't act a double part.
诚实的人是不会阳奉阴违的。

act a part, to——(1) to sustain the part of one of the characters 扮演; 做戏:

He acted a part in that play. 他演过那出戏:

(2) to dissemble 假冒; 假装; 假托:

Is he acting a part, or is he really ignorant of this matter? 他是假装呢, 还是真的不知道这件事?

act on [or upon], to——(1) to act in accord.

ance with 奉行；依照……而做：

He acts on my advice. 他照我的劝告做。

(2) **to exert an influence** 操纵；对……起影响或反应：

Alcohol acts on the brain. 酒对大脑有影响。

act one's age, to——to be no longer naughty
不再顽皮了；有大人气了：

Their son has acted his age. 他们的儿子有大人气概了。

act reason, to——to act according to reason
循理行事：

To hear reason is easier than to act reason.
听大道理要比照大道理办事容易。

address oneself to, to——(1) to speak to 和…谈话：

He addressed himself to me that he would no longer teach Chinese. 他对我说，他不再教中文了。

(2) **to apply oneself to** 从事于；致力于：

I address myself to this work. 我集中全副精力从事这项工作。

advanced in years——becoming old 年近：

He works hard though advanced in years.
他虽然年事已高，还是努力工作。

advise with one's pillow, to—to take a night to
consider; to take counsel of one's pillow
整夜考虑；躺在床上细想：

He advised with his pillow on the subject.
这个问题他考虑了一夜。

afar off—from a long distance 远隔；远离；
在遥远的地方：

The boat is afar off. 这只船离得很远。

affected airs—presumed manners 装模作样：

I don't like his affected airs. 我不喜欢他的
装模作样。

afflicted with—suffering from 害(病)；为……
所苦：

She is afflicted with an incurable disease.
她身惟不治之症。

afraid of one's own shadow—exceedingly timid
杯弓蛇影；胆子小；吓得魂不附体

afraid to say—uncertain 不能确定；不敢说定：

I'm afraid to say if he will go. 很难说他是
否会去。

after a fashion [or sort]—to a certain degree

多少；有几分；依稀：

He can speak English after a fashion. 他能说一点儿英语。

after all——everything else being considered
毕竟；总之：

"After all", as a pretty girl once said to me, "women are a sex by themselves, so to speak." (Sir Max Beerbohm, "The pervasion of Rouge") 正如一位漂亮的姑娘曾经对我说过："女人嘛毕竟是女人，就是这么回事。" (马克斯·比尔博姆爵士，《胭脂的传播》)

after hours——after the regular hours of work
业余时间：

He translated the book after hours. 他利用业余时间译了这本书。

after one's (own) fancy [or fashion or heart or liking or soul]——exactly what he likes or admires 投其所好；称某人的心意：

He has found a place after his own fancy. 他已找到一处自己中意的地方。

after one's powers——to the best of one's ability 竭力：

He did this after his powers. 他尽力做了这

事。

after the cloth is removed—when the meal is over 席散后; 饭吃好后;

We'll go to the theatre after the cloth is removed. 吃完饭后我们要到戏院去。

after the fashion—in accordance with prevailing style 入时; 流行; 时髦;

He is a man who runs after the fashion. 他是个赶时髦的人。

after the fashion of—according to the style or ~~way~~ of 照……方法; 照……派头和式样;

He is dressed after the fashion of a soldier. 他穿得象士兵一样。

after the flesh—after the manner of man; in bodily appearance or likeness 象凡人一样; 随从世俗;

He behaved after the flesh. 他从俗行事。

after (the) life—from the living model 写生; 拿原物做范本;

It is a portrait after life. 那是一幅写生画。

after the manner of—in imitation of 仿效……; 学……的样;

She dresses after the manner of your sist.

er. 在穿着方面她学像姐姐的样。

against a rainy day—in preparation for the time 未雨绸缪；以备不时之需：

He has saved much money against a rainy day. 他积累了很多钱以备不时之需。

against one's inclination [or skins or will]—
against one's wishes 违反本意；不愿意：

It is against my inclination to do anything dishonest. 我不愿做不正当的事。

against the grain—against the fibers of the wood; hence against the natural temper; contrary to desire or feeling (木料的) 逆纹理；违反意愿：

It goes against the grain with me. 那是违反我的意愿的。

against the wind—(1) in opposition to the wind 逆风；顶着风：

Their ship is sailing against the wind. 他们的船正顶着风航行。

(2) in debt or difficulty 欠债；处境不遂：

He leads a life against the wind. 他处境困难。

against time—(1) with the intention of com-