馮浪波編

## 大家英文成語辭典

大家出版社

idioms

## 大家英文成語辭典 馮浪波編

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#### A NEW DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH IDIOMS

by L. P. Fung

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### 大家英文成語辭典

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## 前 言 幷說明

1. 5月25日,再一次着手棒這本成語字典寫序, 也再一次擲筆而起,因為仍然想不出怎樣用三言兩語便 有力地指出成語的重要性。隨手翻開當天的南華早報, 一期新聞躍入眼簾,序言的好材料竟然自己找上門來

了:有什麼比這則新聞更有說服力呢?

新聞原 支影印如下:

# So sorry, says pink-faced ATV

Asia Television has apologised for a misunderstanding over elephants and ducks in a popular TV show.

ATV yesterday said sorry to viewers for getting various Chinese subtitles on the English programme Smiley's People wrong and thus disturbing the story-line.

A station spokesman said no script was supplied with the BBC-produced programme and this meant their staff had to transcribe the dialogue by ear.

"We're trying to get the best people we can, but some Chinese find it difficult to understand English idioms.

"We'll try to avoid this sort of incident," he said.

The spokesman was replying to a letter in the SCM Post which pointed out translation errors such as "he is getting his ducks in the road"

for what should have been "he is getting his ducks in a row" on the programme.

"Rogue elephant". was translated as "pink elephant."

ATV also replied to another letter by pointing out that what had been mistaken for "cops and robbers" on a video game in a programme were actually "dictators and fighters for democracy."

The letter writer said he was shocked to find out that a video game being played on the Chinese Whiz Kids' Time apparently involved robbers escaping from the police.

The station spokesman said before the game was played on the programme, it was explained the "robbers" were a democratic people escaping from a dictatorship and not the "police."

The spokesman added the station plans to cancel the game soon.

#### 2 前言

### [譯文(大意)]

標題:ATV 紅着臉說"對不起"

為了一些有關大象和鴨子的誤解,亞洲電視經已 道歉。

亞洲電視昨天對觀衆說聲對不起,因為在英語節 HSmiley's People中,它的中文字幕弄錯了好幾處地方。

一位發言人說,該節目的製作公司沒有把劇本的 對白供應給他們,因此,他們的職員只能用耳朵把對 話翻譯成中文(一面聽,一面譯)。

"我們已竭力找尋嚴好的工作人員,可惜一些中國人覺得英文成語很難懂。

"我們會設求避免這種意外事件,"他說。

南華早報讀者來信指出該台的一些翻譯上的錯誤,例如節目中本來指"他正引導鴨子排成一行" (in a row)的,翻譯出來時却變成"他正引導鴨子走到路上(in the road)。

Rogue elephant (離羣亂闖的大象)翻譯成"粉紅色的大象" (pink elephant)。

回答另一封來信的時候,亞洲電視也指出某節目中的所謂"警察和划匪"實際是"獨裁者和捍衞民主的戰士"。

海洲等 治療 建定水 维维亚的

2. 不懂成語就沒法正確理解一篇文章或一段談話,這不僅指英文,也指中文。讀完中學(電視台的譯員極可能還是大學生理)而仍然聽不懂一句普通英語(因而電影的對話只能聽懂五六成或更少),究其原因,是莎土比亞讀得太多而成語(特別是日常成語)學得太少了。最要命的事實是:英國人(其實我們中國人也一樣)偏偏愛用成語。

"他站起來。"他們不愛說He stood up 而喜歡說He rose to his feet.

"高聲一點!"他們少說 Speak louder 而多用 Speak up.

"給火毀了"他們不愛用文緣緣的 destroyed by fire 而喜歡 go up in smoke.

"放手"是 let go, "别管他"是 leave him alone, "送别"是 see one off, 都是用非常连白的字組成的短語。

至於用 have words with 代替 quarrel with (吵架), have a word with 代替 talk to (說句話), throw up 代替 vomit (嘔吐), between you and me 表示"守秘密",則更"其妙無窮"了。

3. 上面一則新聞中,電視台發言人的話有一點說得對,有一點則不對。說對的是 ..... some Chinese find it difficult to understand English idioms (有些中國人覺得英文成語很難明白),不對的是這位發言人把一切過失都推給"成語"。

把 in a row (一行,一列) 誤解爲 in the road 和成語. 無關,譯者把單字 row (注意,是單字,不是成語)誤 4 前点

is road co

把 rogue elephant(離羣亂闖的象)誤爲 pink elephant

非常肯定,一本英文成語字典對學英語的人是**很有** 類助的。

4. 這本書的成語接照字母次序排列(in alphabetical order),但冠詞(article,例如 the, a, an)和 infinitive verb(不定式動詞)中的 to 不算在內 (preposition 的 to

则仍算人)。 —— 催是一個單字不能算是"語",因此這本書不收在

内。
 本書的成語句括日語和側語,與國的和美國的。

本書的成語包括口語和俚語,英國的和美國的。 成語的來源或典故在可能範圍內盡量列出,但如果

本身意思已很明顯而沒有特殊意義的,例如 keep it dark, keep it under your hat (保守秘密),則不尋根問底。

Let's return to our muttons 言歸正傳;如果不追本溯源,知道原來這句話出自數百年前法國一法庭(證 人老是說些與本案無關的話,因此法官就說"讓我們问

到我們的羊隻——案中主要點——那裏去吧"), muttons 一字就無從解釋:何以不說 cats, dogs 而偏偏選中"羊", 原來是有道理的。

Hold a candle to the devil 為虎作長,替魔鬼點燭 照路,也有個故事。原來聖者邁克爾把魔鬼踏在脚下時, 一老婦持燭給聖者,但另一隻手又持燭給魔鬼,因爲這 老婦心想,這一來,將來無論自己上天堂或下地獄,都 有個朋友。 至於指出 Good wine needs no bush 中的 bush 不解矮木叢而是從前酒舖子用來做標誌的長春藤, jump the gun 中的 gun 是賽跑時作起跑號用的鎗, give one the cold shoulder 中的 cold shoulder 不是指自己的"冷肩"而是指冷而硬的牛肩肉(用以奉客使對方感到此地不能再留),肯定對讀者大有幫助。

5. 成語的例句原則上用意譯,但有時候也用相當 西化的值譯(希望不致使人看不懂),目的在求"忠實" 於原句,也好使讀者明白英語句子的結構。在頗多情形 下,直譯和意譯兼備,例如 within reach 旣解"可拿到 的範圍內(直譯)",又解"伸手可及之處(意譯)"。

有些句子意思非常明白,那就簡單解釋兩三句,意譯或直譯,不多費筆墨。例如最後一則成語 You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours 解你幫我忙,我也幫你忙,不把整句本來意思直譯(你替我背抓癢,我也會替你背抓癢)。

例句中盡量使用動詞的過去時態和過去分詞(用以構成完成時態),以便一石二鳥(或三鳥),既可使讀者明白該則成語的運用方法,又可以告訴讀者成語中某一個動詞的過去式和過去分詞是什麼和怎樣使用。(在某些特殊情况下,還特別注明,例如在 lay wait for 一則下,由於怕讀者把 lie 和 lay 混淆起來,在例句中使用 laid 後,加上一句 laid: past tense of lay ,而在第二例句後加注 lay: past tense of lie.)

6. 最後,不得不提一下這本書的難產經過。 本書的完成,約後於"大家中文成語辭典"一年(該 是1975或1976了),直至現在才能面世,是拜兩家植了公司之賜。A公司花了很長時間斷斷續續的把稿植出來了,却歪歪斜斜,錯漏百出,實在不能拿出來見人。無法可想之下,把稿子拿給B公司"修補",却給老闆一拖數年,直至稿子發霉,不能再用。

己:幸而我還能"把壞事變成好事"。在全書重植的過程中,我發現了一些不可饒恕的錯字,發覺從前的排列方式不夠完善,也發現一些應收進而未收進的成語。還有,有些解釋太簡單,有些典故非交代不可......

如果不甘心就此給活活氣死,最好找些話來安慰自

在我這方面來說,這本書是以"新"形式和讀者見面的,我衷心希望它真的能夠幫助讀者學到一丁點東西。

馮 浪 波 1983年 香港

## A

ABC 基礎;初步;入門。

We are all beginners. Let's start 我們都是初學,找一本 from an ABC book.

入門書開始吧。

abandon oneself to 縱情於;恣意於。

He abandoned himself to despair. 他自暴自棄。

abide by 遵守;堅持。

He still abides by his own 他仍固執己兒。 opinion.

about to 正要·····。

I was about to leave when he 他來訪時我正想離去。 called.

above all 最重要的一點;尤其。

Above all, don't let him escape. 無論如何不要讓他跑掉。 above ground 生存。

He is old and weak, but still 他年老體衰,但仍活着。 above ground.

愛情是無價的。

above one's head = over one's head

above price 無價;非常珍貴。 Love is above price.

above suspicion(行爲)完全無可置疑。

Nove suspicion(行爲)完全無り直疑。

He is above suspicion. 他行為清白,無可置疑。

He broke out into abusive terms. 他破口大駡。

accommodate oneself to 適應(環境)。

He has succeeded in accom- 他對艱苦的工作已能適 modating himself to hard 應。 work.

accommodate with 給予(方便);供給(住宿)。

I can accommodate you with a 我可貸款給你。 loan

We can accommodate you with a 我們可以給你一個房間 bedroom for the night.

住宿一宵。

according to 根據;依照。

According to the newspaper, the he will held meeting tomorrow.

根據報章所載,會議將 於明天舉行。

The goods will be delivered according to your instructions. must act according

貨物的交付,將依照你 們的指示辦理。 我們要隨機應變。

circumstances.

account for 解釋。

He must be asked to account for 一定要他解釋爲什麼會 the delay.

**涯**艘。

an account to settle 算帳;解決紛爭。

We two have an account to settle. 我們兩人有帳要算。

accountable for 負責:解釋原委。

對失竊事件,一定要他 He should be held accountable 解釋淸楚。 for the theft.

Achilles' heel 弱點。(傳說古希臘勇士阿奇里斯全身刀槍不 入,唯蹟部乃致命弱點。)

Laziness is his Achilles' heel.

懶惰是他的最大弱點。

acquaint one with 告知;使熟悉。

On his arrival, we acquainted 他抵達後,我們即把新 him with the new discovery. 發現告訴他。

across the street (or road); over the way 對面街道。

My school is just across the street. 我的學校就在對面街上。 act up to 薄從。

I am sure he will act up to my 我深信他會遵從我的勸 告。 advice.

act upon (or on) 根據或遵照……而行事;對……有功效。 The police acted upon the 警察根據所接獲的報告 information received. 而採取行動。

This medicine acts upon the 這藥物對腸臟有效。 howels

add fuel to the flames 火上加油。

He added fuel to the flames by telling him that she had done this many times before.

add to 增加。

This will add to their difficulties. 這會增加他們的困難。 add up to 加起來;歸根結蒂。

All that this adds up to is that she does not want to come. 是了。 addle one's wits 使人胡纶;使人莫名其妙。

These problems are enough to 這些問題足以把任何人 addle any man's wits.

adopt a course 採取確實步驟。

be after 尋覓;謀取;追暴。 What are you after?

He is after your money.

The police are after him. after all 終於;畢竟;總少。

He lost the game after all.

After all, there are things that 總之,有些東西是金錢 money cannot buy. 所買不到的。

after a fashion; in a fashion 不大使人滿意;不夠熟練;不大

他火上加油,告訴他說 她以前已做過這種事

很多次。

總而言之,她不想來就

弄至莫名其妙。

你目的何在?(你要什麼?) 他想盗(騙)取你的錢。 警察正在追緝他。

他畢竟環是輸了這場比 奪。

有效。

He cooked the dinner after a 他的晚餐煮得並不出色。 fashion.

after one's own heart 合自己心意。

他的爲人正合我的心意。 He is a man after my own heart. again and again; time and again --- 而中。

I told him again and again not 我一再叫他不要這樣。 to do this.

against the grain 不合意願;和意願相違。(這裏的 grain 指木材的紋理而非穀粒。)

I did it although it went against the grain.

against a rainy day 以備不時之需。

We have to save money against a rainy day. against time 儘快;以最高速度。

We are working against time. agree to 同意。

I agree to his proposal.

agree with 同意;符合;適宜。

I cannot agree with him on that

point. His story does not agree with

The climate here does not agree

with him. ahead of 領前;超前。

what I have heard.

He walked ahead of us.

The work was completed ahead 工程提前完成。 of schedule.

這事我雖然做了,但並

我們要積蓄一些錢以備 不時之需。

我們正加緊工作。

非出自本意。

我同意他的提議。

這一點我不能同意他的 看法。

他所說的和我所聽到的 大不相同。

這裏的氣候不適合他身 體。

他走在我們前頭。

ahead of time 在規定時間之前;提前。

We completed the work ahead of 我們提前完成工作。 time.

aim at 瞄準;以……爲目標。

He aimed at the tiger and fired. 他问老虎瞄準開鎗。

His remarks were not aimed at 他的說話並非對對你。 you.

He aims at becoming a painter. 他立志要做畫家。
air a grievance; air one's opinions 使别人得知自己的冤曲或意思。

He wrote to the press to air his grievance.

他投函報紙訴說他的**笼** 屈。

alive and kicking 生動;活力充沛。

He has come out from the hospital and is alive and kicking.

他已出院,而且生**龍**活 虎似的。

alive to 覺察;知曉。

He was fully alive to the dangerous situation.

他完全明白目前**處境**危 險。

all alone 獨力;單人匹馬。

He completed the work all alone.

他獨力完成了該項工作。

all along 由頭到尾;自始至終。 There were trees all along the

沿途都有樹木。

road.

He knew all along that she was lying.

他一直就知道她是說謊。

all along the line 任何一方面;全部。

I agreed with them all along the 他們的提議我完全同意。 line.

all at once; all of a sudden 突然之間。

All at once, the people fled in all 突然之間,人們四數齊

directions.

all but 除了……之外;幾乎完全。

All but a few hard-working 除了幾個勤奮的人之外 people have left. 其他的都離去了。

挑。

His proposals are all but 他的建議差不多等於廢 meaningless. 話。

all found 一切都供應。

The firm will pay you eight 公司每月付你八百元, hundred dollars a month, all 一切由公司供應。 found.

all Greek 不懂;難以明白。

all hands on deck 集中人力;出動全部員工。(原係船長在

聚急時召集全體船員到甲板上候命所用語。)

We must finish the work today. 我們一定要在今天完成 Get all hands on deck. 工作。集中全部人力 來幹。

all hands to the pumps 動員一切力量。(船隻濕水太嚴重時,船長即出動全體船員用抽水機抽水。)

We need all hands to the pumps 如果要挽救公司,我們 if we are to save the business. 就得動員一切力量。

all hell broke loose 一片喧鬧;騒動;亂烘烘一片。

She started to sing and all hell 她開始唱歌,跟着就天 broke loose. 翻地覆。

all in all 非常重要;總而言之。

TOTAL CONTROL OF THE SPECIAL TOTAL TOTAL

They were all in all to each 他們之間十分恩愛。 other.

All in all, self-confidence is 總而言之,自信心是很 important. 重要的。

all the kicks and none of the ha'pence 只有責備而無讚賞;有壞處沒好處。

Nobody likes to be the treasurer because he gets all the kicks and none of the ha'pence.

沒有人願意做司庫,因 爲這工作做得不好會 大受攻擊,而做得好 却沒有人讚賞。

all kinds of ways = all manner of ways

all manner (or sorts or kinds) of ways 各種方法;所有方法。
They came to me for help after —切辦法都失敗之後,
all manner of ways had failed. 他們便來向我求助。

all my eye; all my eye and Betty Martin 廢話; 一派胡言。 What he told you is all my eye. 他告訴你的全是一派胡 Don't believe him. 言。不要信他。

all of a piece with 和·····一致;符合。

His offer to help is all of a piece 他拔刀相助,這一點正 with his good character. 符合他的良好品格。

all one 一樣;並不重要;毫無分别。

It is all one to me whether she 她來不來,對我都是一will come or not. 樣的。

all one's fingers are thumbs 遅鈍不堪;笨拙。

If you ask him to wash up the 如果你叫他洗碗碟,我 dishes, I'm afraid he will drop ne or two things. All his fingers are thumbs.

all out 全力以赴。

We are going all out to finish the 我們正 work before five. 五點

我們正竭盡全力,務求 五點鐘之前把工作完 成。

all over 遍佈(各處);完畢。

We have friends all over the world. 我們的朋友遍天下。

all over the shop 到處;四處。

I have looked for it all over the 我已四處找過。 shop.

all the rage 風靡一時;流行。

The new musical picture 在新戲院上演的新音樂 showing at the New Theatre 片大受歡迎。 is all the rage.

all the same 一樣;無論怎樣;依然。

It is all the same to me whether 她來不來,對我都是一 she will come or not. 樣的。

All the same, I am leaving 不管怎樣, 我明天走。 tomorrow.

all sorts of ways = all manner of ways

all square (分數)相同;各不相欠;相等。

不虧欠。 all the time (在某一段時間內)一直;自始至終。

I kept reminding him all the time. 我一直提醒他。

It was raining all the time.一直下着雨。She was weeping all the time.她一直在哭泣。

all the way 遠自;專程而來。

He came all the way from Tibet. 他遠自西藏來。

He came all the way to say 他專程來道謝。 "thank you."

all the world and his wife 所有的人;所有上流社會的人。
All the world and his wife were 所有的人都在舞會露面。
at the ball.

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