# 美國商用俚語精粹

A Collection of American Commercial Idioms

美語雜誌外語中心主任

胥 宏 達 編著

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九和出版有限公司

## 序

在現今這個瞬息萬變,競爭激烈的時代裏,如果不能隨時注意周遭環境的變動,吸收新知的話,很容易就會被社會所淘汰。「學如逆水行舟,不進則退。」是一句千古不變的箴言。而在語言方面,尤其是有「世界語」之稱的美語,隨着社會的變遷和工商結構的改變,也逐漸衍生出一些新的句型與字義,許多累贅冗長,不合時宜的句子也因使用者的日益減少而有被淘汰的趨勢。簡短扼要,能夠「一言以蔽之」的短句、片語而成爲目前美國社會上最流行的一種語言,那就是俚語。

但是,目前在台灣尙無一本將此類流行俚語中在商業方面所常見常用者加以蒐集、彙總出書者。其實,商用俚語的學習相當重要,比方說,美國的客戶來台灣採購商品,如果您能用純熟流利的俚語和他交談,會使他感覺格外的親切,您也能更明確且更口語化的表達自己的意思,使您們賓主盡數,相處得更爲融洽,大大的提高了生意的成交率。所以,如果您是從事貿易方面的工作的話,這種商用俚語就一定要學,對您的事業將會有意想不到的幫助。

筆者有鑑於此,乃多方面蒐集資料加以整理,力求詳盡,全書共收集了1200 句美國商業上常用的俚語,依照字母順序排列,清晰易查,每句並附有中文解釋及實用例句,務必使您對每個句子都能徹底瞭解它的意思。另外我們還聘請了前 ELS 外語中心美籍主任 GARY CHAMBERLAIN 先生以純熟、標準的美語,配合課文內容,爲您錄製了6 擔卡式帶,藉著聽和讀的過程來加深您的印象。有了深刻的印象後,自然而然就能記下來,並靈活運用在您的工作上。

俚語雖然不是正統語言,但却是最社會化、生活化,並廣為一般人所接受,因此我們不能忽略它。同樣的,和美國商業人士往來,就一定要研讀美國商用俚語,希望本書的付梓能對您的事業有所助益。同時,您的成功,就是給予筆者的最大鼓勵。

胥 宏 達 謹識

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### 

1. above board 誠實的

That salesman is above board.

那個推銷員是誠實的。

2. **keep abreast of** 晚得最近的動態
I like to *keep abreast of* local news.

我喜歡注意最近的冊方新聞。

3. of one's own accord 自願的;自動的
He returned the stolen watch of his own accord.

他自動的退還倫來的手錶。

4. acid test 嚴重的考驗
Poverty is an acid test of marriage.

窮困是婚姻的最佳考驗。

ad lib 隨機應變;臨時編的
 I didn't know the answer so I ad libbed。
 我不知道答案因此我便信口回答。

6. advanced in years 年事已高
That musician is really advanced in years.
那個音樂家年紀可眞不小了。

have an affair 婚姻以外的戀情
 That man and woman are having an affair.
 那男的和女的有不尋常的關係。

8. be after someone 要求
My parents are always after me to do my work.
我的父母總是要我工作。

9. get after someone 責罵
Would you stop getting after me?
停止罵人好嗎?

- 10. after one's own heart 趣味相投 He's a man after my own heart. 他和我趣味相投。
- 11. hot air 誇大不實 He's full of hot air. 他儘說些誇大不實的話。
- 12. up in the air 遅疑不決的
  My plans are up in the air.
  我的計劃仍然没有定案。
- 13. all ears 注意的;好奇的 That man is all ears. 那個人正在注意聽著。
- 14. all here 清醒的;注意的 I am not sure you're all here. 我不曉得你是否是在注意聽。
- 15. up one's alley 內行
  That's right up my alley.
  這正是我所內行的。
- 16. make allowance for 考慮
  Please make allowance for my lack of experience.
  請考慮到我的經驗不夠。
- 17. on approval 如壞包退(商品)
  You can take this television home on approval.

你可把這電視買回家,如壞包退。

18. up in arms 激怒的
The employees are up in arms over the wage cut.
雇員對於減薪感到慘怒。

19. to have been around 見聞廣博的
He's really been around.

他實在是見聞廣博。

20. as yet 至今

As yet I haven't received a letter from him.
至今我還没有收到他的信。

21. to be attached to 非常喜爱 He's really attached to her. 他非常喜歡她。

22. **awkward age** 尶尬的年齡
She's at the *awkward age*.
她正處於尶尬的年齡。

## [B]

23. back out 無法履行(承諾)
Don't try to back out of our agreement.
不要想試著不履行我們的合約。

24. turn one's back on 背棄
When I was hard up, hế turned his back on me.
當我在很艱苦的時候,他背棄了我。

25. **in the bag** 如探囊取物;成功了 I've got that job *in the bag*. 我已經成功的得到了那工作。

26. on the ball 機警的
He's really on the ball.

他是很**機警的。** 

27. jumps on the bandwagon 多數人

Whenever there's a new fad, Mary jumps on the bandwagon.

當流行一樣時尚的時候,瑪麗一定會加入多數人的(時尚)。

28. get a bang out of 欣賞自得;喜歡
I get a bang out of watching children play.
我喜歡看小孩子們玩耍。

29. bargain for 期待

That's more than I bargained for.

這比我預期的要多些。

30. get to first base 好的開始;初步成功 I couldn't get to first base with that girl. 我和那女孩子的關係毫無進展。

31. not to know beans about 一無所知 I don't know beans about that. 我對於那件事一無所知。

32. spill the beans 走漏風聲
Don't spill the beans about this.
別走漏了風聲。

33. beat about the bush 兜圈子;拐彎抹角
Stop beating about the bush and get to the point.
不要拐彎抹角的,直截了當地設出來。

34. beat one to it 後來居上

I wanted the job, but someone beat me to it. 我想得到那工作,但是後來却讓別人得到了。

35. beat the rap 宣告無罪

Although he seems guilty, he'll probably beat the rap. 雖然他好像有罪,但是他可能宣告無罪。

36. to beat one 不了解

It beats me.

我不了解。

37. beat out (將火)踏熄

You should beat out the fire.

你應將火踏熄。

38. beef about 抱怨

He's always beefing about all his work.

他總是抱怨他的工作。

39. make a beeline for 走捷徑

At five o'clock all the employees made a beeline for the exit.

五點正時,所有的雇員都抄小路到出口處。

40. behind bars 入獄

He was behind bars for six months.

他坐過六個月的牢。

41. behind the times 落伍的

Our boss is behind the times.

我們的老板實在是落伍了。

42. get behind 支持

J'ack always gets behind us in whatever we do.

不論我們做什麼,傑克總是支持我們。

#### 43. bellyache 抱怨

Stop bellyaching all the time.

不要整天抱怨。

#### 44. below par 水準以下

This food is below par for this restaurant.

這家餐廳的菜在水準以下。

#### 45. bend over backwards 儘量

She always bends over backwards to make us feel at home.

她儘量使我們有賓至如歸之感。

#### 46. best-seller 暢鈴書

Although his book wasn't written well, it became a best-seller.

雖然他書寫的並不好,但是也變成了暢銷書。

#### 47. all for the best 明智的(決定)

I dislike his decision, but I'm sure it's all for the best.

我不喜歡他的決定,但是我相信那是明智的。

#### 45. you bet 那還用說

You bet!

那還用說!

#### 49. think better of 重新考慮

He was going to get married, but he thought better of it.

他原本要結婚的,但是他又重新考慮一番。

- 50. make it big 飛黃騰達;很成功
  No one could believe it when John made it big.
  没有人能相信約翰竟飛黃騰達了。
- 51. bird in hand 已經擁有的東西
  A bird in hand is worth two in the bush.
   烏在手勝於二鳥在林。
- 52. birds of a feather 物以類聚

  Birds of a feather flock together.

  物以類聚。
- 53. for the birds 没有價值之物
  This cheap pen is for the birds.
  這便宜的鋼筆毫無價值可言。
- 54. do one's bit 盡其本分
  Whenever there is something to do, Tom always does his bit.
  只要有事,湯姆德是很盡責的。
- 55. bite off more than one can chew 逞強 I always bite off more than I can chew. 我總是勉強做我能力所不及的事。
- 56. bite one's head off 憤怒的回答
  I just asked a simple question, you don't have to bite my head off.
  我只是問你一個簡單的問題,你不必如此憤怒地回答。
- 57. in black and white 白紙寫黑字(明文交待)
  Would you please put that in black and white?
  請您以書面表達好嗎?

- 58. on the blink 故障
  Our TV is on the blink again.
  我們的電視又壞了。
- 59. chip off the old block 有其父必有其子 He's just a chip off the old block. 他和他父親一模一樣。
- 60. blow off steam 生氣
  What's he blowing off steam about now?
  他現在爲什麼生氣?
- 61. blow one's own horn 大吹法螺(吹牛)
  He's always blowing his own horn about how great he is.
  他總是喜歡自我吹驢一番。
- 62. blow one's stack (blow one's top ) 生氣

  If the boss finds out we got to work so late, he'll blow his stack.

  假如老板發現我們遲到那麼久,他一定會很牛氣的。
- 63. blow over 平息

  The talk about the scandal will blow over soon.

  關於那酸聞的話題將會很快平息的。
- 64. blue moon 很少
  He visits us once in a blue moon.
  他很少來訪問我們。
- 65. in the same boat 同舟共濟;同病相憐 We're all in the same boat. 我們的命運都是一樣的。
- 66. bog down 減慢;擱置

I'm really bogged down with all this work. 這些工作都擱置下來了。

67. bone up on 複習;學習

You'd better bone up on those statistics before your interview.

在你面試以前最好把這些統計學看一下。

68. in one's book 依某人之見解

In my book, this is useless.

依我看,這毫無用處。

69. born yesterday 無知;容易受騙
Don't cheat me, I wasn't born yesterday.
不要騙我,我不是那麼無知的。

70. bosom buddies 好友

Those two have always been bosom buddies.

他們倆一直是好朋友。

71. bottom dollar 最後一文錢
I'm down to my bottom dollar.
這是我最後僅有的錢。

72. get to the bottom of 追根究底
The police finally got to the bottom of the case.
警察終於把案子查個水落石出。

73. bow out 退出;收山 I'm going to bow out now. 我現在就要退出。

74. brainstorm 心血來潮;好主意 I have just had a brainstorm. 我剛巧有個好主意。

75. break forth (burst forth ) 冒出;突然發出
The employees broke forth in cheers when they got the raise.

職員們得到加薪時,爆出一陣歡呼。

76. break the ice 打破冷場;打破僵局
It took a long time before the ice was broken.
過了很久,僵局才被打破。

77. give another person a break 給別人一個機會 Give me a break. 給我一個機會。

78. save one's breath 不必多費唇舌 Save your breath! 你可不必多費唇舌!

79. take a breather 休息一下 Let's take a breather. 我們休息一下吧。

80. brief one 指示
Could you brief me on what I should do?
請你指示我應如何做?

81. go for broke 孤注一擲;揮霍金錢 I might as well go for broke. 我可能也會孤注一擲。

82. buck for 爭取

That man is bucking for the job.

那人正在爭取這項工作。

- 83. pass the buck 推諉責任
  Stop passing the buck!
  不要推諉責任!
- 84. buckle down 專心
  I'm going to buckle down and get my work done.
  我會專心的把工作做好。
- 85. to bug one 煩擾
  You're bugging me.
  你煩死我了。
- 86. to bum a ride ( to hitch a ride ) 搭便車
  May I bum a ride with you to the store?
  我可不可以搭你的便車到市場去?
- 87. bum around 遊蕩;無所事事
  I'd like to bum around this summer.
  今年夏天我要好好玩一下。
- 88. give a bum steer 引導錯誤
  He gives me a bum steer.
  他給我一個錯誤的指示。
- 89. bump off 殺害

  The criminal was bumped off by another criminal.
  這罪犯被另一個罪犯殺害了。
- 90. bundle one off 催趕
  His parents bundled him off to bed.
  他的父母趕他上床睡覺。
- 91. bundle up 穿得温暖
  It's pretty cold outside, you'd better bundle up well.

外面很冷,你最好穿多一點。

- 92. burn a hole in one's pocket 強烈購買慾
  This money is burning a hole in my pocket.
  我實在很想買。
- 93. burn up 生氣

  It burns me up!

  貞令我生氣!
- 94. in ean business 認真的
  Don't think I'm joking, I mean business.
  不要以爲我在開玩笑,我是跟你講真的。
- 95. butt into 侵犯;干涉
  Don't butt into my affairs!
  不要干涉我的事!
- 96. buttonhole 連絡找人
  I've been trying to buttonhole you for days.
  我這幾天一直在找你。
- 97. give one a buzz (ring; call) 打電話
  Give me a buzz tomorrow.
  明天打電話給我。
- 98. not by a long shot (no way) 不行
  Not by a long shot!
  不行!
- 99. let bygones be bygones 忘掉過去的事 Let's let bygones be bygones. 過去的讓它過去吧。

2

### 

- 160. have one's cake and eat it too 魚與熊掌不可兼得
  You can't have your cake and eat it too.
  魚與熊掌不可兼得。
- 101. call it a day 打烊,今天就到此爲止. Let's call it a day. 我們打烊吧!
- 102. call one's bluff 挑戰
  One of these days, that man is going to call your bluff.

  . 總有一天那個人會向你挑戰。
- 103. · call to account 指責
  I was called to account for what I had done.
  我的作爲受到指責。
- 104. call to order 會議開始 I call this meeting to order. 本人宣佈會議開始。
- 105. canned music 唱片音樂
  All that party has is canned music.
  這舞會的音樂都只是唱片放的。
- 106. in the cards 命中註定的
  Our meeting each other was in the cards.
  我倆相遇是有絲份的。
- 107. carry off 執行