实用英语成语

功能意念与活用

程中文 许妹林

新编



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—— 功能意念与活用

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内容简介

本书共收集英语常用成语约 950 条,均有英中文解释,并配以精当的例句。所收成语按其功能意念共分为 25 类,大多类收有同义、近义及反义成语,使用者在进行写作、翻译或口头表达时,可以准确方便地查出所需要的成语。 书末将所有成语按字母顺序排列,便于查找。

本书为各层次英语学习者学习成语的必备之物,可供教师进行词汇教学时参考,可作为语言翻译工作者的工具书,对于出国人员及涉外工作人员也有一定帮助。

前 言

学英语不可不学语法结构,更不可不学英语成语。中国人学英语有时出笑话,往往不在语法方面、而多半是由于对英语成语望文生义所致。英语成语不仅丰富了英语词汇,更加强了英语表达的灵语与生动。编者积多年数学与外事翻译之经验,深切体会到英语成语的掌握和运用对一个人的英语交际能力起着非常重要的作用。一个人的英语水平如何,往往可以从他使用英语成语的数量和定理,我已出版的英语成语工具书基本上是将成语变字不仅要用来描述客观事物,而且也要用来表达人们的思想和意念,即对事物的看法与态度。编纂此书的目的就在于为使用者提供一本被功能意念分类编排的英语成语工具书,让使用者能容易地找到本种的看法的英语成语。编者在数学实践中,在美国留学期间,刻意搜集了一些较为常用的英语成语,把它们编辑在一起,并配以例句,希望能给使用者提供方便。

本书共收集英语常用成语约 950 条,均有英中文解释,全部按 其功能意念分类排列,所以它是一本类义工具书。使用者在进行写作、翻译或口头表达时,可以很方便地从各种类义中查找适当成语,即从词义查词条。所收英语成语共分 25 类,许多类除收同义成语外,还收了近义成语及反义成语,关系密切的尽可能排在同一类中。由于语义的分类关系错综复杂,有些类别相互渗透,相互交织在一起,很难绝对划分,因此有些成语的类别只能是相对的。我们的原则是主要根据词义的细微区别及使用背景来分类。个别成语可以表达不同的意念,则分别列入不同的类别。 本书各词条均配以经过精选的若干例句,例句绝大部分来自 于英文原文资料,也有少量来自国内外权威性辞书。例句力求较好 地表现该成语的使用背景,而且注意了该成语的结构。例句均译成 中文,以便使用。

正文之后有总词汇表,将所有词条按字母顺序进行排列,并注明该词条属于哪一类义,以便使用者查找。

此书是学生(包括中学生、大学生及研究生等)学习英语的必备书;可供教师进行词汇教学时参考;也可作为教科书;还可作为 语言工作者或翻译工作者的工具书;至于出国人员、留学生或涉外 工作人员,备有此书,更会带来十分的便利。

为编此书,编者搜集了三倍于此书篇幅的素材;素材经多次筛选,再经多次全部重新编排,终成此书。我们希望此书对读者学习和工作有所助益。由于编者水平有限,加之这样的编排方法还是一种尝试,有不当之处,欢迎指正。

在编纂此书的过程中,得到周定之教授的多次指教,在此特向 她表示衷心的感谢。

编者 1995 年 11 月 使用说明

- 1. 本书共分 25 类。每一类中,各词条仍按字母顺序排列。
- 2. 词条用黑体字排出。词条中()内单词表示可有可无;"/"之后的词可替换前面的词。
- 5. 成语第一个单词若为动词,则前面加 to。
- 5. 因篇幅关系,例句均不注明出处。

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1 Success & Failure 成功与失败

□to be in the big time: to belong to the top group; be in the leading class 属于最高的一级;处于重要的地位

Sam, the star football player at a small college, just signed a contract to play with a national team. He is in the big time now.

萨姆本是一所小学院足球队的明星队员,刚签订一份与国家 队比赛的合同。他现在成了一流球员了。

Many young actors go to Hollywood, but few of them are in the big time.

许多年轻演员到好莱坞去,但很少能够成为一流的明星。

□to be low man on the totem pole: to be last 最后的,最差的

Tom was the worst. He was low man on the totem pole. 汉原县集举的 叶思思三 女

汤姆是最差的,他是最后一名。

Jack was low man on the totem pole in the boxing world several years ago, and he gradually got ahead.

几年前,杰克是拳击界中最差的,但他逐渐获得了成功。

□ to be the cream of the crop: to be the best; be the top choice 最好的;最精选的部分,精华

Sally is always first in everything she does, she is the cream of the crop.

萨莉干什么事总是最好的,她是最优秀的人材。

That university accepts only students who are the cream of

the crop.

那所大学只招收最优秀的学生。

The merchants advertise their tobacco as being the cream of the crop.

这些商人吹嘘他们的烟草是最好的。

□to be top dog: to be the most important person 首领,魁首;夺魁者,胜利者

Mr. Johnson is top dog in the company. He is the president. 约翰逊是这个公司的主要负责人。他是总经理。

The new top dog of the boxing world is "Killer Claw".

拳击界新的优胜者是"魔爪杀手"。

Dbig shot: important person 重要人物,大人物;了不起

The politician knew a lot of big shots in business who donated a great deal of money to his campaign.

那位政治家认识很多商界的要人,他们为他的竞选活动捐了 很多钱。

The world is full of people who think that they are big shots, but few ever get into the history books.

满世界都是自以为了不得的人,但极少数能载入史册。

The students who are active in government and sports on our campus think they are big shots, but I don't think so.

我们学校里那些在行政管理和体育运动方面很活跃的学生认为他们自己很了不起,但我不这么看。

□to bite the dust/ground/sand: to lose a game or one's life 失败,

—败涂地;送命,战死

My school's basketball team worked very hard to win this year, but they bit the dust.

我们学校的篮球队下了很大的功夫想今年夺冠,但是他们还

是失败了。

We tried hard to win, but our team bit the dust this season, 我们尽量想打赢,但我们队这个赛季还是失败了。

□to bring up the rear; to do least well; do the most poorly of a group; to be last 最差;最后

John got the lowest mark in his class. He brought up the rear.

约翰是他班上得分最低的,他是最后一名。

Ned brought up the rear with a portfolio of drawings.

内德拿着一卷画走在最后。

□to carry out:to fulfil, to accomplish 贯彻,执行,完成

He carried out all his promises so everyone looked up to him.

他一贯信守诺言,因此大家都很尊敬他。

You have always carried out your duties well so I am going to give you a raise.

你总是很好地履行了你的职责,因此我准备给你增加工资。

One good thing about Clarence is that he not only makes wonderful plans, he also carries them out.

克拉伦斯的一个长处是他不仅计划得很好,而且总是能兑现。 Your suggestions to improve office procedures are excellent.

Now we have to do is to carry them out.

你改进办公程序的建议很好,现在我们要做的是付诸实现。

- ☐to cross the wire: to finish a race 跑到终点
 - "Teri was in a bicycle race yesterday."
 - "Did she cross the wire?"
 - "特里昨天参加自行车赛了。"
 - "她骑到终点了吗?"

I think your pony is going to cross the wire before mine. 我想你的马会比我的马先跑到终点。

□to drop out: to quit school 中途退学

When did he drop out?

他什么时候退学的?

He dropped out of school last year and he still can't find a job.

他去年就退学了,但到现在还没有找到工作。

□to fall by the wayside; to give up before finishing something 半途而废

Did you finish rebuilding the motor for your car, or did your plans fall by the wayside?

你把马达重新装到汽车上了吗?还是没装好就不管它了?

Pete's plans had to fall by the wayside. His father became sick while he was in his second year in college, and Pete had to go to work to support himself and his family.

被特的(学业)计划不得不半途而废。当他上大学二年级时,他 父亲病了,他只好去工作以养活自己和全家。

□ feather in one's cap: something to be proud of; an honor 荣耀的事,荣誉,光荣

Shirley won first prize in the national math competition. She's really excited. She deserves to be proud. It's a feather in her cap.

雪莉在全国数学竞赛中获得第一名,她感到极为激动。她应为此自豪,这是她的光荣。

Winning the competition was another feather in Mark's cap. 赢得这场竞赛是马克的又一荣耀。

Obviously, it would be a feather in their cap if they could get

this scheme off the ground without a public inquiry.

显然,如果他们毋需公开调查就能开始这项计划,这应该说是一件好事。

David thought his meal was first-rate, but Mary thought hers was only second-rate.

戴维认为他的饭菜是一流的,而玛丽认为她自己的饭菜不过 是二流的罢了。

John really enjoyed the first-rate movie starring two of his favorite actors.

约翰确实喜欢看由他最喜欢的两个演员主演的电影。

□to flunk out; to fail a course; have to leave school because of poor grades 不及格;因不及格而退学

Donna's grades were so low that she flunked out of school. 唐娜的分数太低,她退学了。

Twenty students have been flunked out and had to leave the college.

20 个学生成绩不及格,他们不得不退学。

If Ed wants to get ahead, he has got to work hard.

如果埃德想获得成功,他就得努力工作。

Many people feel that in order to get ahead and be a success in this world, they must have a good education.

很多人都感觉到,在这个世界上要想取得成功,就必须受到良好的教育。

□to get to:to succeed in 能够,得以成功

Freddy finally got to enter college and his mother was

pleased.

弗雷迪终于进了大学,他母亲很高兴。

The prisoners escaped after getting to the guards to leave the gate open.

在说服了看守让门开着以后,囚犯们就逃走了。

☐ to get to first base: to make a good beginning or early progress 获得初步成功,有一个好的开头

The salesman tried to get the manager to buy a new copying machine, but he couldn't get to first base with her.

推销员想让经理买一台新的复印机,但一开口就遭到了她的 反对。

You're not going to get to first base if you do it that way. 如果那样做,你连起码的成功都得不到。

□to go far: to be successful, accomplish a great deal 大有成就, 大为成功

Antonia and Belinda have opened a pizza parlor. They work hard and their pizzas are great. I think they'll go far.

安东尼奥和比琳达开了一家意大利式馅饼店。他们工作卖力, **他们的馅饼也很好。我想**他们一定会大为成功的。

Kathy plans to study computer science. She works for a computer company part time. She said to her boss, "I'm sure I'll go far."

凯茜计划学计算机科学,她部分时间为一家计算机公司干活。 她曾对老板说:"我敢肯定我会大有作为的。"

□to go from bad to worse; to deteriorate; get gradually worse 每况念下,念来念坏

We all thought Murdock was the president we needed, but unfortunately, under his administration things went from bad to worse.

我们都认为墨多克是我们所需要的校长,不幸的是在他任职期间情况却每况愈下。

Do you think present world conditions are going from bad to worse?

你认为目前世界上的情况是愈来愈糟吗?

Lito hit the jackpot: to be very lucky or do exactly the right thing 运气极好,获得最大成功,获得大笔钱

I thought I would never find the book I was looking for, but then I hit the jackpot.

我还以为再也找不到我要找的那本书了,但后来还是找到了。 I hit the jackpot. I won a lot of money.

我运气极好,赢了一大笔钱。

□land-office business: a very large amount of business; more than usual 大生意,好买卖;比往常多

Connie was so tired on Saturday because her store did a land-office business;

康尼星期六很累,因为她商店的生意比往常好。

The day after Christmas, May Henderson, who worked at Crawford's Department Store, worked from 10 until 4:30, and during those hours the store really did a land-office business.

梅·亨德森在克鲁福特的百货店工作,圣诞节的第二天,他从 10点一直干到4点半,那几个钟头,商店确实生意兴隆。

□late bloomer: someone who does not achieve at first, but later becomes very proficient or successful 后来居上者,大器晚成的人

Antonio had trouble with his English at first but now he is

the best student in class. He was definitely a late bloomer. 安东尼奥开始学英语时很困难,但现在他是班上学得最好的。 他确实是后来居上。

I have to admit Scott was a late bloomer. 我不得不承认斯科特是后来居上者。

□to look up:to improve, prosper 好转,改善 Business is looking up again. I sold three cars last week. 生意又好起来了,上个星期我卖出了 3 辆车。

We had a difficult time at first but at last things are beginning to look up with us.

起初我们处境很困难,但后来形势开始好转了。

good in business today.

□to make good; to become successful 有成就,获得成功
It takes intelligence, integrity, and a sense of politics to make

如今在生意上要获得成功不仅需要聪明才智、诚实正派,还需要有政治头脑。

Phil has been studying his English very hard for several weeks. His teacher was very impressed. She said he would make good.

菲尔好几个星期以来一直在努力学习英语,他的老师很受感动。她说他会成功的。

Inot hold a candle to: not to be fit to be compared with; not be in the same class with 不能与……相提并论,远不如

Sandy thinks modern literature does not hold a candle to literature of the last century. She thinks nineteenth century literature is better.

桑迪认为现代文学远远比不上上个世纪的文学。她认为 19 世纪的文学要好一些。