

DON'T GET TONGUE-TIED!
LEARN THE GIFT OF GAB!



跟

“美国舌”

学美国俚语

德里克·戴维斯 (Derek Davis) 编著



American Slang

American Idioms

Proverbs & Expressions

Includes example sentences!



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出版说明

本书包含当今美国社会最常用的俚语、俗语、习惯用语和常用语。书中以通俗易懂的英语作为解释，让读者原汁原味地理解词义。同时，每一个词语都配有例句，读者学习后能真正懂得如何正确运用这些词语。

本书作者德里克·戴维斯，美国籍，拥有教育学学士学位和 TESOL 证书，从事英语教育达 14 年，有丰富的 ESL 教学经验。他曾经为美国政府部门编写工作手册，有严谨的文风，曾获得美国财政部颁发的高效沟通奖。他于 2012 年在深圳创办了美国舌沟通，主要从事英语教育和（英语）公开演说的培训。他是一位资深的电台播音员，曾在北美排名前十的 WGRR 电台和中国国际广播电台任职。

德里克·戴维斯在中国工作和生活多年，发现中国图书市场上出版了很多中国作者或非英语为母语作者的书，书中经常会出现错误，这是因为编写者不太懂语言背后的文化，亦或是翻译时丢失了某些含义。中国英语学习者应该跟英语为母语的作者学会怎样正确使用这些语言。美国之音每天有一个关于美国俚语的课，中国有成千上万的英语学习者都在收听这个节目。同时，美国电视剧，例如“老友记”和“绝望的主妇”等也教美国俚语，这类用语的使用越来越普遍。

所以他编写了这本《跟“美国舌”学美国俚语》。书中全部用通俗易懂的英语解释词义，并配有例句，帮助学生准确理解这些词语，从而能恰当运用。美国俚语、习惯用语和常用语通常是在非正式场合，但是有些习惯用语也可以用于生意场合等正式场合。只有在正确学习和理解后，英语学习者才能恰如其分地运用这些词和词组，避免使用不当而造成误会。

备注：本书正文中所有的中文翻译，译者：胡玉琴。

Preface

This book is intended for readers who enjoy American slang, idioms, proverbs, and expressions, or those who wish to learn them in order to understand native speakers. This book is not a complete compilation of American slang, idioms, proverbs and expressions by any means, but rather, a compilation of some of the more widely used terms and phrases. Its aim is to be a useful reference guide or for reading pleasure.

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American Slang

AMERICAN SLANG



美国俚语

American slang can be described as informal speech consisting of words or phrases that are unique to American culture. Just as American culture is constantly changing, so is its language. Undoubtedly, every native speaker has used slang at some time or another. It is virtually impossible to avoid using or reading slang in daily life in the United States.

Attention: Some slang is inappropriate in certain situations. That's why you see the word "caution" after some of these slang words. Some slang is considered to be vulgar*.

*vulgar** = impolite or considered a swear word. Don't use it in business or with someone who might be offended.

美国俚语是美国文化里特有的、非正式场合说话里使用的词或词组。就像美国文化不断变化一样，美国英语也是这样。毫无疑问，美国人在某些场合都用过俚语，在日常生活中，美国人根



本不可能不用俚语。

注意：有些俚语在一些特定场合是不适合用的，当本书中的俚语旁边出现“Caution”字样，就表示此类词语要慎用。有些俚语甚至会被认为是粗俗、下流的。

vulgar* 意思为：不礼貌的、粗俗的词语。在正式场合或生意场合不要使用这类词语，以免冒犯他人。

airhead:

【释义】a person who is a little stupid or unable to concentrate.

【例句】*I'm such an airhead today. I forgot to bring my lunch to work.*

a. k. a. :

【释义】also known as (pronounce each letter a-k-a). Used for someone or something with two names.

【例句】*His name is Derek Davis-a. k. a. American Tongue.*

all about _____:

【释义】This recently became popular. Use it before an interest or something that you desire.

【例句】*He's all about his job these days. He never stops talking about what he does at work.*

all-out:

【释义】used as an adjective to mean a person or a group works very hard at something.

【例句】*The employees at that company are making an all-out effort to survive the recession.*

ammunition:

【释义】toilet paper.

【例句】*Help! We're completely out of ammunition!*

anal:

【释义】easily upset over small problems; in total control.

【例句】*Rosie is a little anal when it comes to her garden. It doesn't have a single weed in it.*

armpit:

【释义】dirty, unappealing place.

【例句】*This cheap motel is an absolute armpit!*

artsy or artsy-fartsy:

【释义】A person or thing that tries too hard to show off artistic qualities.

【例句】*There were all these artsy-fartsy people at the party, so we left.*

asap:

【释义】as soon as possible. Spoken as “A-sap” or pronounce each letter “a-s-a-p”.

【例句】*I have to get this letter mailed asap.*

ass:

【释义】1. a mean person; someone who doesn't cooperate.
2. someone's butt or rear end. (**caution**: a little vulgar, but it's not a swear word if you choose to use it.)

【例句】1. *Don't be such an ass. Just let me borrow your car for a couple of hours!*

2. *Her ass looks big in those jeans.*

awesome:

【释义】great and impressive.

【例句】*Avatar was truly an awesome movie!*

baby:

【释义】1. a person who complains all the time, or someone who



always gets what he or she wants. 2. a person that you like, love, or are attracted to. 3. something that's valuable to you.

【例句】1. *I hate playing baseball with that guy. He's such a big baby when he loses.*

2. *Hey, baby, let's go out to dinner tonight.*

3. *Take a look at these babies. (apples) I bought them at the grocery store today.*

baby boomer:

【释义】a person born from the end of the Second World War until the early 1960s.

【例句】*Bill was born in 1961, so he's considered a baby boomer.*

bad:

【释义】good or tough. (African-American slang)

【例句】*He thinks he's so bad now that he got those new shoes.*

badmouth:

【释义】to say something bad about someone.

【例句】*She was heard badmouthing her boss and that's why she got fired.*

baggage:

【释义】a burden, problem or responsibility that a person carries with them in life that may affect others.

【例句】*Bob likes me and wants to go on a date. But, he is divorced with 3 kids, he's not financially secure and drinks too much. He has too much baggage for me!*

bail:

【释义】to leave someone without helping; to abandon.

【例句】*Don't bail on me, man! I really need you to help me!*

bail out:

【释义】to help or provide financial assistance.

【例句】*I need \$100. Can you bail me out?*

baloney:

【释义】nonsense; something stupid.

【例句】*She wants me to work this weekend? ! That's a bunch of baloney.*

bang:

【释义】1. a very powerful thing. 2. a powerful effect.

【例句】1. *Disneyland is really a bang!*

2. *Japanese sake has a real bang!*

barf:

【释义】throw up, vomit; to have a negative reaction.

【例句】*I almost barfed when I saw the accident. There was blood and guts everywhere.*

barfly:

【释义】a person who is always at a bar, usually someone who drinks a lot of alcohol at a bar.

【例句】A: *You've been a real barfly lately. What's up?*

B: *Well, I don't start work until the afternoon now, so I can stay up late.*

beat:

【释义】tired.

【例句】*It's been a long day. I'm beat!*

beat the hell out of:

【释义】to win easily in competition or a game. (“heck” is a good substitute for “hell”. Some conservative religious people really don't like to hear the word—ever.)



【例句】*Did you see the Twins play last night? They really got the hell beat out of them.*

beats me:

【释义】I don't know.

【例句】A: *Who was the 36th President of the United States?*

B: *Beats me. Why don't you look it up online?*

beer belly:

【释义】a big stomach from drinking too much beer.

【例句】*If you party a lot, you have to start worrying about developing a beer belly after the age of 40.*

be good:

【释义】good-bye, usually when the absence is long.

【例句】A: *Bye. See you later.*

B: *Okay. Be good. I'll call you next year.*

better half:

【释义】a husband or wife.

【例句】*Before I buy this car, I'm going to have to talk to my better half.*

big brother:

【释义】the government. This is a reference to the George Orwell novel, 1984, critical of authoritarian government.

【例句】*Big Brother does his best to keep people from doing drugs, but he can't completely prevent this behavior.*

big deal:

【释义】a big problem; something serious.

【例句】*She came in late to work today, but her boss told her it was no big deal because the restaurant wasn't busy.*

biggie:

【释义】a big problem; something serious. (same meaning as **big deal**)

【例句】*She came in late to work today, but her boss told her it was no biggie because the restaurant wasn't busy.*

big guy:

【释义】often used when saying hello to a friend. Usually used by men.

【例句】*Hey, big guy! What's going on?*

big of:

【释义】good; admirable.

【例句】*It was big of him to apologize for his mistake.*

big money:

【释义】a lot of money.

【例句】*It's going to cost big money to get our car fixed.*

bite the bullet:

【释义】do something that's difficult but important.

【例句】*Next year I'll have to bite the bullet and start looking for another job.*

blast:

【释义】a good time; something fun.

【例句】*This new video game is such a blast!*

blah blah blah:

【释义】used when someone talks too much or used in place of a lot of words.

【例句】*The teacher went on and on, blah blah blah, about how important it is to study.*



bling:

【释义】jewelry or expensive items that a person uses to show off a car, a house, or oneself. This word originates in hip-hop music and culture. Sometimes “bling” takes the form of dental work.

【例句】*He's got so much bling on him he needs a security guard.*

blow away:

【释义】to make a big impression.

【例句】*The band was awesome! They blew everyone away!*

blow one's mind:

【释义】to make an impression on an intellectual level; something is interesting.

【例句】*It blew my mind to see how many people came to my party.*

bomb:

【释义】to do a bad job, especially on a test.

【例句】*After she bombed the test, the teacher let her take it over again and she got a better grade.*

bonkers:

【释义】crazy.

【例句】*Waiting in traffic makes me go bonkers!*

booboo:

【释义】1. a mistake or an accident. 2. an injury.

【例句】1. *I made a booboo on my driving test, but I still passed!*

2. *Susie fell down and got a booboo on her leg.*

boobs:

【释义】a woman's breasts. (use with **caution**. It's not bad but in mixed company it might be better to say “breasts”.)

【例句】*Wow! She has big boobs.*

booger:

【释义】the stuff that's inside your nose. (caution)

【例句】*When the little girl sneezed, a big booger flew out of her nose.*

book:

【释义】1. to make a reservation; 2. to leave a place quickly.

【例句】1. *I booked a flight for Las Vegas next weekend.*

2. *The police are here! Let's book!*

booze:

【释义】alcohol.

【例句】*Pick me up some booze on your way home.*

brain(s):

【释义】intelligence; a smart person.

【例句】*The brain of the class always gets the best grades.*

bread:

【释义】money, cash.

【例句】*Can I borrow some bread? I need to pay the rent.*

breeze:

【释义】something that is very easy.

【例句】*Although it might look hard, it's a breeze to learn how to drive a car.*

brew:

【释义】1. coffee. 2. beer.

【例句】1. *Every morning Dave needs a fresh cup of brew to get him going.*

2. *Do you want another brew, dude?*

brewski:

【释义】beer.



【例句】*I love drinking brewskies!*

brownie points:

【释义】credit for having done something good.

【例句】*He'll get brownie points from his wife if he cleans the bathroom.*

buck:

【释义】a dollar, money. Still quite commonly used. The word originates from early American settlers who traded with native Indians for furs.

【例句】*I'll give you ten bucks if you can give me a ride to the airport.*

B. S.:

【释义】(abbreviation) **caution**: although you only use the initials, everyone knows what they stand for.

【例句】*That's a bunch of B. S! You're lying to me!*

bummer:

【释义】a bad situation; something depressing or sad.

【例句】*I'm sorry you lost your job. That's a bummer.*

bum (one) out:

【释义】(verb) to make someone feel sad.

【例句】*Let's not see a movie that bums us out. I want to see something funny.*

burn out:

【释义】to feel overworked or stressed. This results from working too much.

【例句】*Todd is starting to feel a little burned out from his job as a lawyer.*

buzz:

【释义】a little high from drugs, alcohol, or caffeine.

【例句】*Jerry got a big caffeine buzz off of his espresso. Does drinking coffee give you a buzz?*

call it quits:

【释义】stop working and, maybe, leave the place where you work. Also, call it a day.

【例句】*We called it quits after a 10-hour day and went out for a few beers.*

can do:

【释义】completely possible. Also used in the negative—no can do.

【例句】*This company needs a can-do attitude if it wants to be successful.*

catch-22:

【释义】an impossible situation with no easy solution; a contradiction; illogical reasoning. This is a reference to a book, *Catch-22*, written by Joseph Heller about a bureaucratic military during World War II. This is hard to use, and it's often misused, but it remains popular.

【例句】*The harder I work, the more money I pay in taxes. It seems like a catch-22.*

check it out:

【释义】look at this; this is interesting; listen to me.

【例句】*Check it out! I got the new Google phone!*

cheesy:

【释义】something kind of cheap; an appeal to popular taste in decorating and entertainment; not of high quality—sometimes regarded as an insult.

【例句】*Where did she find that cheesy old picture? It looks like*