

A DICTIONARY OF
EVERYDAY ENGLISH METAPHORS

英语常用隐喻辞典

(英汉双解)

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前 言

学习英语的人们,甚至从事英语语言工作的人们,常会读到或听到一句英语而不解其意,在考试中出错,写出望文生义的错译,比如:

Does that ring a bell?

He wears his heart on his sleeve.

He cried all his way to the bank.

Let's give him enough rope to hang himself.

这些话里的每个词都是你平常非常熟悉的。不需要花什么力气就能学会的东西,如果你不了解这些话的意思,理解错了,甚至翻译错了,岂不是太冤枉了吗?而这种现象恰恰是经常出现的。这往往就是隐喻的问题。

隐喻都很生动活泼,简单明快,以很少的字眼可以说出很丰富的意思,精当的比喻,生动形象,往往能给人以深刻的印象。一个精妙的隐喻一出现,就会广为流传,因此隐喻是基层群众喜闻乐见的语言形式,并非阳春白雪,曲高和寡的东西。过去自视高人一等的人会对普通群众创造的这种鲜活语言形式嗤之以鼻,称之为俚俗语言,但近年来,无论政坛枭雄或商界巨擘,都喜欢打出平民牌,在某些场合也喜欢使用平民语言,包括隐喻。翻开报纸,尽是某某公司 go to the cleaners, final nail on his coffin, the minister buttoning up the purse, the plot thickens 等等,新闻语言充满了隐喻。打开电视机,收音机,与人交谈,到处都会听到隐喻。无论在文学作品或各类其他文章中,到处有大量隐喻。隐喻的使用是非常广泛的。所以,不熟悉隐喻,很难说熟悉英语,要听懂和看懂都很难。

本书收集的都是常用隐喻,共有 7100 多条,我们不能声称全面包括了英语隐喻,但它们是经过岁月的淘汰,在英语中相对稳定下来的用语,不包括正在创造出来的隐喻。当然有些隐喻也可归类为谚语、习语或成语等等。

因为编著者水平有限,且缺乏编写辞典的经验,本书中遗漏或谬误在所难免,诚挚希望专家和读者不吝指正。

秦涵荣

2009 年 10 月于南非

使用说明

1. 条目排列

隐喻大多表现为短语,短语的排列一般按短语中第一个实词的字母顺序排列,如:

carte blanche, 见 *carte blanche*

to abandon a ship, 见 *abandon a ship*, to

in the eye of the storm, 见 *eye of the storm*, to be in the

when one's ship comes in, 见 *ship comes in*, when one's

2. 本书对隐喻的解释力求简明扼要。英文和中文的解释常是不可完全相互替代的,以英汉双语解释的目的,在许多情况下,是希望以两种解释互相补充,使释义更为清楚。所以中文的解释,并非英文解释的翻译。

3. 对有些短语,注明了文体色彩,可供参考,如 *fat cat* (informal), *to shit a brick* (very rude, taboo).

但是有些短语的文体色彩很难绝对化,比如, *feather in one's cap*, *a (old-fashioned)*, 虽然注明是 *Old-fashioned*, 但今天还是常会有人用到,又如: *to sail close(near) to the wind* (British), *to be after someone's scalp* (American), 在各种媒体如此发达,各国文化交流如此顺畅的今天,很难把一个短语的使用限定在某个地区。

4. 例句均摘自英文原文著作,除少数例句因编著者 10 多年来搬迁频仍,资料丢失而未能列出出处外,均注明原文出处。为节省篇幅,使用了很多节略语。如需要请查书后节略语表。

5. 例句翻译,除少数名著的译文采用现有译家译文,均由编著者提供,仅供参考。



a to z, from from start to finish, including everything 从头到尾, 全面包括: Miami's eclectic collection of stores, boutiques, and other shopping destinations offers you everything from A to Z. (Miami Sunpost) 迈阿密各种各样的商店、精品店及其他各种购物场所向你提供应有尽有的各种东西。

A1 first-class, best 一流的, 最好的: He'd had a medical check only three weeks before and was, apart from the weight, rated A1 in health. (MT: DDp49) 他在三个星期前刚做了体检, 除了体重以外, 他的健康是一流的。/ We can't afford to hang around until she's A1, Ed. (JT: CTp156) 埃德, 在她没有完全康复以前我们可不能到处闲逛。

A1 at Lloyd's the very best, to be in perfect order 最好的, 在完好的状态: Don't worry, I've been tested and I'm Lloyds A1 insurance prospect. (JGD: TTMTp54) 别担心, 我已体检过了, 从保险的角度来看我的状况是最好的了。/ This is a much easier rating to obtain and less prestigious than "A1 at Lloyd's." (WS: HSp118) 这个等级要想达到是要容易得多, 但没有“第一流”那么有声望。

abandon a ship, to to leave an organization 离开某组织: Battered by losses and with investors abandoning ship in droves, Lloyd's of London is on the verge of sinking, and it is taking many investors down with it. (Time, 3/5/93) 在连年亏损的打击之下, 投资者又纷纷弃之而去, 伦敦劳埃德保险公司这只大船正处于沉没的边缘, 它也会把许多投资者拖下去。

able to (can) do something standing on one's head, to be to be able to do something without efforts 闭上眼睛也会做某事: I know a man who could do it standing on his head. (CE: DTp152) 我认识一个可以轻而易举地干好这件事的人。

able to do something with one hand behind one's back, to be (informal) to be able to do something very easily 可以轻而易举干好某事: Can a man with one hand tied behind his back beat an expert bricklayer at his own game? Charlie Smith thinks he

can. (Charlie the Challenger, British Comics, 6 episodes appeared in The Rover issues 1731-1736 (1958) D. C. Thomson & Co Ltd, Vic Whittle 2005) 会有一个人能够轻易地在一个砌砖老手自己那行里胜过这老手吗? 查理·史密斯认为他可以做到。

able to lay/get one's hands on something/someone, to be to succeed in obtaining or finding something/someone 得到或找到了某物或某人: If I could get my hands on Keller I could squeeze the truth out of him, and have that Sheriff Travers handy to listen to him sing. (WF: TVTp23) 要是我能找到凯勒, 我会逼他说出真相, 再让特拉弗斯长官过来听他说出实情。

about-face a complete reversal of someone's idea, plan, way of action or talking, etc. 某人的思想, 计划, 行动或言谈方式等的完全改变: And if it was understandable why Ralph Valenti had given Finley a false alibi, what had later induced him to do an about-face? (EL: PUSp195) 而如果拉尔夫·瓦伦提向冯莱提供了一个假的不在现场证明, 其理由可以理解的话, 后来是什么使得他又完全推翻呢?

about-turn to reverse one's thinking, to take a stand opposite the previous one 逆转自己的想法, 采取与以前相反的立场: Reserve Bank governor Tito Mboweni, who has irritated many in the market with his apparent obsession with inflation at the expense of growth, did a similar about-turn yesterday and was rewarded with a 3c gain in the value of the rand. (BD, 15/6/01) 储备银行行长铁托·卜威尼明显地痴迷于对付通胀不惜牺牲经济成长, 激怒了市场中的许多人。他昨天也作了类似的彻底转向, 结果兰特兑美元的价值增了3分。/ Manuel is hardly likely to do an about-turn because Sacob is still banging on about the negative effect on jobs and entrepreneurship. (BD) 曼纽是不大可能来个180度大转弯的, 因为南非商会仍在翻来覆去地谈论着对工作机会和企业家精神的负面影响。

above board, to be to be honest, straightforward 坦诚, 光明正大: Again, the guarantees were to be a

secret between himself and the Cabinet. This was Asquith's way of protecting the monarchy. To the King, it did not sound above-board. (EL: RHWP54)担保书又一次成为他自己和内阁之间的一个秘密。这就是亚斯奎斯保护君主政体的办法。在国王看来,这并不显得光明正大。/Just as long as everything you do is legal and above board. (WF: TVTp48)只要你做的每件事都合法、光明正大就行。

Abuzz, have someone 见 **have someone abuzz**

accept something with both hands, to to accept something with enthusiasm 双手接捧,渴望地接受: It was a one-time opportunity and we accepted it with both hands. (Midtown Madness, 14 Jul 2002)这是个一次性的机会,我们热切地接受了。

according to Hoyle 见 **Hoyle, according to**

account is square a good (bad) turn is paid with another, not owing to each other 互不欠情,两清: Don't you think that your account is square with him? You saved him in Dartmoor and he broke you out of Albany. (KR: NBp17)难道你认为你和他之间还有什么帐没清吗?你在达特摩尔救了他,而他曾帮你在奥尔巴尼越狱。

ace in the hole (American) something powerful not revealed only to be used at advantage when the opportunity comes 机会一到就可用以大占便宜的事物,秘而不宣的法宝,关键时刻的王牌: What was under his belt was more than an equalizer then; it was an ace in the hole. (GS: Hp249)那时他所拥有的可就不仅仅是一件武器了;这是秘而不宣的一件法宝了。/Cricket World Cup will be an ace in the hole for 2010 bid. (BD, 29/1/03)世界杯棒球赛将会是竞办2010年世足赛的法宝了。

ace of something, to be within an to be extremely close to something 几乎: Holmes wanted nothing to do with Scott who, with Bulman, had brought him within an ace of enforced resignation over the Murison business. (KR: NBp60)霍姆斯不想和斯科特有任何关系,因为斯科特和布尔曼一道使得他几乎因为姆利森的事被迫辞职。/John knew he had come within an ace of losing his job then, and had a nasty feeling he was now facing a similar crisis. (PO: TOTTp343)约翰知道他几乎丢掉了他的这份工作,而且现在有一种将会面对同样的危机的不祥之感。

ace up one's sleeve something powerful hidden away only to be used at advantage when the opportunity comes 机会一到就可用以大占便宜的事物,秘而不宣的法宝,关键时刻的王牌: Joubert may also have a few other aces up his sleeve. (BD, 8/1/03)朱伯特也可能还有一些秘而不宣的王牌。/Right from the moment Lee had let her go, she had been the ace up his sleeve. (JT: CGp181)就从李让她走的那会儿起,她就成了他手中的一张王牌。/But Absa has also shown an ace up its sleeve with the appointment of Israel Skosana to its exco, the first black member. (FM, 15/3/02)但联合银行任命了伊斯雷尔·斯克萨纳为它的执行委员,成了它的第一个黑人成员,从而也打出了它的王牌。

Achilles' heel, someone's a weakness in an otherwise strong person 某人的致命弱点: Crime remains the Achilles' heel of the African National Congress government and the police force. (BD, 8/2/00)犯罪问题仍是非洲国民大会政府和警察队伍的致命弱点。/Moreover, Volkskas had its own Achilles Heel: its own culture. (BA: ITp163)何况,人民银行也有它自己的致命弱点: 它自己的文化。/Bel was his Achilles heel, for he had never expected to fall in love, had never expected to want to spend his life with a woman. (PO: FFGp174)对贝尔的感情是他的致命弱点,因为他从来没有期望过与人相爱,从来没有想过要与一个女人度过他的一生。

acid test a test to verify the genuineness, usefulness or effectiveness of something just as nitric acid was applied to the gold to test its genuineness, where if the piece was false gold, the acid decomposed it, but if it was genuine gold, the gold remained intact 酸性试验,用以验证某物的真实性、实用性和有效性;严峻考验(将黄金浸入硝酸,假金被分解,真金留存): As expected, Mr Bush got nowhere in persuading Europeans of the views that led him to reject the Kyoto climate change protocol. Other acid tests of his real commitment to a partnership with Europe have yet to come. (BD)如所预料的一样,在劝说欧洲人接受他拒绝京都气候改变条约的观点方面,布什先生完全徒劳。考验他对于与欧洲的伙伴关系是否真正负责任的严峻关头还在后头。/She passed the virtuoso acid test of the Rose Adagio and the final pas de deux fish dives brilliantly. (BD, 13/8/02)她很成功地通过了艺术行家对她的

罗斯柔板和最后双人舞鱼跃的严格的考试。

acid tongue sharp-tongued 说话尖刻的, 尖嘴利舌:

He had a sharp, incisive brain and an acid tongue to go with it. (JT: CGp62) 他有着敏锐、清楚的头脑, 和与之相配的一张利嘴。

across the board 见 **board**, **across the**

across the pond 见 **pond**, **across the**

act (play) as a devil's advocate, to to pretend to support a point of view which one does not really support in order to make people discuss it in more detail regarding a proposition 佯称支持一观点, 以便引起对某一问题的讨论: While Barnardt was often contrarian, it was not merely to play devil's advocate. (BD, 18/9/01) 巴纳特经常持反对意见, 倒不仅仅是为了故意引起讨论。/But Khassim was a masterful devil's advocate. (EL: HCp68) 但卡西姆在佯称支持某一观点引发讨论方面倒是经验很老到。

act as a safety valve, to to be a way which allows persons with strong negative emotions to ventilate them in an orderly fashion without harming other people 用作安全阀门; 让具有强烈不满情绪的人以不损害他人的平缓方式发泄出来: It appears that they don't want to give Castro a safety valve. (emigration to US) (Time, 29/8/94) 看来他们不想给卡斯特罗一个安全阀门。

act (serve) as a sounding board, to to give one's opinions or ideas tentatively 提出某种看法或想法作为试探: The column also served as Johnson's sounding board, often at the expense of his own staff, whose bad grammar and errors of fact he lampooned mercilessly and, to outsiders, often incomprehensibly. (BD, 16/1/03) 该栏目也被约翰逊用以对舆论进行试探, 常常让他自己的那班子人吃亏。这些人糟糕的语法和搞错了的情况会受到他无情的嘲讽, 这嘲讽对于局外人来说常常无法理解。

act out a charade, to ostentatiously to pretend to be doing something in an ethical fashion 故意地在人面前作出以一种很有道德的方式在做事: Or rather, the words between them become another sort of music, as each is forced to act out a charade of artistic passion as a means of arriving at the real thing. (The American Spectator, 7/5/2005) 或者更确切地说, 他们之间的谈话变成了另一种音乐, 因为每个人都被迫装作很有艺术热情的样子, 作为达到那真目的的手段。

act the goat, to to act the fool, to behave in a silly way, sometimes in order to make people laugh 作蠢人之举, 有时仅为博人一笑: Famous faces act the goat in west Belfast. (Belfast Telegraph, 1/6/07) 名人们在西贝尔法斯特做出蠢人之举。

Adam was a boy, since for a very long time 很久以来: Since Adam was a boy: the good words cool more than cold water. 很久以来都是这样: 听一句好话比大伏天喝凉水还舒服呢。

add a pinch of salt to, to not to completely trust someone's words 对某人的话不全信: Add a pinch of salt to prophecy (标题) (BD, 14/9/01) 对预言不要全信

add apples to oranges, to to put unconnected things together in a illogic fashion 不合逻辑地把不相干的东西相加: We can no longer add apples to oranges or mix exceptional values with prices. 我们不能再把不相干的东西糅合在一起, 或者说把特殊的价值与价格混淆起来。

add fuel to the fire, to to make a bad situation even worse 火上加油: These are peculiar circumstances in the global economy, so I do not want to add fuel to the fire. (BD, 22/8/01) 这是全球化经济中特有的情况, 所以我就不想火上加油了。/〈Variation〉: It would add fuel to her argument that Grace was not competent. (PO: TOTTp252) 〈变体〉: 这会给她葛瑞斯能力不够的说法增添口实。

add insult to injury, to to make a bad situation even worse for someone 使得某人的情况雪上加霜: To add insult to injury, De Viliers decided to play some serious hardball. (BA: ITp316) 德维利亚斯决定采取强硬态度, 真是雪上加霜。

add spice to life, to to make life more colourful 让生活增色: The occasional few rounds with pump-action shotgun also added spice to life. (JW: MSp109) 那偶然的几个用滑膛复射枪扫射的几个回合还让生活增加了色彩呢。

adds up, it 见 **it adds up**

adrenaline level rises to become more nervous 更加紧张: Adrenaline levels among many commercial property investors are rising as they watch general market conditions veer towards catastrophe. (BD, 9/10/02) 看到总的市场状况走向灾难, 许多商业地产投资者神经更加紧张。

afoot in operation, at work 开始执行: And yet

Islamabad seems unlikely to take the bait of the jets, while New Dehli is worried that another U.S. "tilt" towards its foe may be afoot. (Time, 11/4/94) 而况伊斯兰堡看来不大可能吞下喷气式飞机的诱饵, 而新德里担心美国可能又在向它的宿敌“倾斜”。

afraid of one's own shadow extremely timid 太胆小, 杯弓蛇影: Chas (Ben Stiller), a real estate wheeler-dealer, is afraid of his own shadow. (The Royal Tenenbaums, 21/12/01) 查斯(本·斯蒂尔饰), 一个房地产生意人, 总是杯弓蛇影。/ There are 27 ministers, 11 of whom are from the opposition. There is an interim President afraid of his own shadow. (Time, 29/8/1994) 内阁有 27 位部长, 其中 11 位来自反对党。这位过渡时期总统特别容易受惊。

air a grievance (some opinion), to to put forward for discussion some grievance or other matter which should be made public 将某些应当公开的意见或事情提出来讨论: These grievances were aired in the Parliament yesterday. 这些意见昨天在议会提出讨论。The end of war in Iraq was supposed to mark a return to "normal" politics, permitting an airing of long-neglected economic and social issues and allowing Democrats to press what they assumed would be their natural advantage. (FT, 25/4/03) 伊拉克战争的结束应当标志着政治上恢复“正常”, 允许将长期以来被忽视的经济和社会问题提出来讨论, 让民主党人争得他们认为很自然地属于他们的优势。

air, in the people feel or are aware that something is going to happen 人们感到, 觉察到有什么事要发生: But the change is in the air. (BD, 10/4/00) 但人们感到改革即将来临。/ Bernard knew that he should in honesty admit that there were others working in the same field; the idea had been in the air for years. (AM: LLP9) 伯纳德知道, 他应该诚实地承认, 在同样的领域里其他人也在工作; 这主意人们已经想到了好些年了。/ Queensland employees have had a dream run as the state's economy went from strength to strength but change is in the air. (The Courier Mail, Aus., 9/8/08) 因为昆士兰州的经济越来越强, 职工们过得很轻松, 但人们感到变化即将来临。

air, up in the 见 up in the air

air is thick with something, the there is a lot of something 充满了某种东西: The air is thick with

talk of incentives for those who play the games, penalties for the spoilers and the stigma of antipatriotism for any who dare stand in the way. (BD, 7/8/02) 到处都是对于循规蹈矩者要有奖励, 对搞坏事情的人要有处罚, 对任何胆敢阻挠的人给与反爱国主义标签的议论。

Aladdin's cave, an a place full of unexpected treasure 阿拉丁的神洞, 充满了意外财宝的地方: It is a house that can be described as Aladdin's cave. Crammed with age-old beauties, it is an antique collector's dream. 这是一间可以描述为阿拉丁的神洞的房子。这里充满了古老的漂亮东西, 是古董收藏家向往的地方。/ Ivan gets busy in his Aladdin's Cave of goodies. 伊凡在他那充满意外财富的地方忙碌。We currently have two retail outlets that stock an Aladdin's cave of electrical goods. 目前我们有两个存有各种各样电器产品的零售点。

alarm bells are ringing, the it is better not to proceed 最好停下来, 不要再继续下去: Alarm bells are ringing for anyone planning to list a telecoms company in the foreseeable future. (BD, 20/2/01) 对于任何想在可预见的将来将一家通讯公司上市的人来说, 警钟已经响起来了。

albatross around someone's neck, an (literary) to be a great burden which is difficult to get rid of 难以甩去的包袱: She's the albatross around our necks, Ed. Ditch her and we might stand a chance. (JT: CTp147) 她可是我们背上的包袱, 埃德。甩掉她, 我们或许还有机会。/ A R90m deficit was the albatross around the university's neck, forcing it to depend on bank loans to pay staff salaries and to keep it running. (BD, 30/5/02) 九千万兰特的赤字是该大学的一个包袱, 迫使它依靠银行贷款来支付职工薪水, 维持下去。〈Variation〉: Government spending needs to be slashed, and soon, which possibly explains Mugabe's apparently increasing willingness to rid himself of the Democratic Republic of Congo albatross. (BD, 19/10/00) 〈变体〉: 政府支出需要消减, 而且要快, 这可能就是穆加贝显得越来越愿意丢掉刚果民主共和国这个包袱的原因。

Ali Baba caves, the a place where treasure is kept 存放财富的地方: William James, Harvard's most distinguished professor of psychology, wrote six sentences that could have a profound effect on your life, six sentences that are the open sesame to Ali

Baba's treasure cave of courage.(DC: QEWp23)哈佛最杰出的心理学教授威廉·詹姆斯写了可能对你的生活发生深刻影响的六句话,这六句话是打开阿里巴巴勇气宝洞的大门。/Dirty money disappears into the Ali Baba caves of our banks and emerges respectably laundered for investment.(Reader's Digest 11/85)肮脏钱隐藏于我们银行的藏钱的地方,体面地洗过以后,作为投资出现了。

Alice in Wonderland something unreal 爱丽丝在奇景中,不现实的事: Lord Bellmaster's and Birdcage's worlds were all pure Alice in Wonderland except that the executions and the blood were real.(VC: Bp197)贝尔马斯特爵爷和波德凯基的世界都是纯粹的爱丽丝的奇境,只有处决的刑罚和流血是真的。

alive and kicking to be in good shape, strong, in good health 硬朗,仍有精神,活蹦乱跳的: Black empowerment is alive and kicking in SA, and don't let anyone tell you otherwise.(BD, 23/8/01)在南非,加强黑人实力的机制很有活力,别听信任何人说的另外一番话。/And yet, so as he knew, Zotov was still alive and very much kicking.(KR: FOp165)况且,正如他所知道的,左托夫仍然硬朗地活着呢。

all accounts, by according to what most people say 根据大多数人的话来看: By all accounts, the Gulf War shocked Chinese generals out of their doctrinal boots.(Time, 10/5/93)根据大多数人的说法,海湾战争把中国的将军们从他们的教条中惊醒了。/One infamous meeting with the German submarine consortium—by all accounts the toughest nut for the South Africans to crack—dragged on until 4 am.(BD, 20/9/99)与德国潜水艇财团的会议很差劲,一直拖到早晨4点。根据大多数人的说法,这是南非人最难对付的一伙人了。

all along the line all through the process; at every stage in a process 一贯,自始至终: My husband replied, yes, but of course I would be watched over all along the line. Whereupon Mr. Churchill said, "I will notify my people all along the line to look after her." This was not reassuring to me. (The Atlantic Magazine, March 1965)我丈夫回答说,是的,但是我当然会自始至终被监视的。对此丘吉尔先生说:“我会通知我所有的人从头到尾关照她。”这并不能使我放心。

all arms and legs thin, bony 瘦骨伶仃: He was a tall,

gangling boy, all arms and legs, who had outgrown his strength.(CE: aDDp6)他是个个子高高、瘦长的男孩子,瘦骨伶仃,个子高得和他的力气不相称。/"She (mare) completely lost her action," Edward said, speaking of the filly Leonora, "and when we let her down again, she was all arms and legs." (DN: TBRp118)说到那小雌马利奥诺拉时,爱德华说:“她(母马)完全不能行动,当我们再次让她下来时,她是瘦骨伶仃的。”

all at sea, to be to be confused as to what is going on and what can be done 茫然不知所措: The little Dutchman, he thought, would be all at sea. (FE: SADp404)他想,那身材矮小的荷兰佬会茫然不知所措。

all come out in the wash, it will 见 it will all come out in the wash

all dressed up with nowhere to go to be well prepared for something but do not have the opportunity to do it 充分准备好做某事,但没有机会做;万事俱备,只欠东风: Malaysia: All dressed up with nowhere to go (Asia Times, July 4, 2000)马来西亚:万事俱备,无所作为/All dressed up with nowhere to go? Get used to it. (The Yale Herald, October 3, 2003 vol. xxxvi, No. 5)准备好了但无事可干?让自己习惯起来吧。

all ears (informal) to be very attentive, listening 全神贯注地听: Their representatives were all ears. (BD, 20/11/01)他们的代表们全神贯注地听着。

all eyes to observe very closely, watchful 全神贯注地看: But get up and show me what you do when you drive a ball down the fairway and I am all eyes and ears.(DC: QEWp72)但你站起来,让我看看,在你把球打进球道时你怎么做,我会全神贯注地看。/"Tell us what?" Victoria was all eyes. (PO: TOTTp437)“告诉我们什么?”维多利亚瞪大了眼睛问。

all eyes are on something everybody is looking at something 人人都在关注某事,某事在众目睽睽之下: All the eyes are on the October general election. (BD, 27/7/00)人人都在关注十月的大选。

all fingers and thumbs to do something in a clumsy way and keep making mistakes 笨手笨脚,老做错事: I'm all fingers and thumbs.(CE: WTP120)我真是笨手笨脚。

all fours, on very similar to 很相似的: And during

all these years of service have you ever had cause to investigate a case more or less on all fours with this one? (MT: DDp100)在所有这些年的服务中,你曾经因故调查过和这个案子多少有些相似的案子吗?

all grist to the mill, it is 见 **it is all grist to the mill**

all hands on deck everybody is requested to help out 大家都来帮忙: All hands on deck for the environment (CSIRO Media Release, July 28, 2003)大家都来为环境出力 / England will need all hands on deck to survive in Sri Lanka. (The Times, 16/11/07)英国队需要人人都出力才能在斯里兰卡挺过来。 (Variation): It was Koos Bekker getting hands on deck in anticipation of the competition from the newly launched Sunday World. (BD, 18/10/99) (变体): 预见到新创办的《星期日世界》的竞争, 古斯·贝克要求人人都出力。

all hands to the pumps everybody is requested to help out 大家都来帮忙: To tackle it we will need all hands to the pumps. (Socialist Review Magazine, July 2005)要处理好这事我们需要大家都参与。 / So, all hands to the pump, please! (PO: TOTTp64)所以, 大家一齐动手干吧!

all hell breaks loose (*informal*) a great confusion erupted 天下大乱, 暴发出很大的混乱: The court has learned through bitter experience that all hell breaks loose when it crosses the sacred line. (BD, 11/11/99)法庭通过痛苦的经验了解到, 如果它越过神圣的界限, 就会出现乱子。 / Once the liquidation had taken place, all hell broke loose. (BA: ITp363)一旦发生清算的事, 就会出现混乱。

all in a day's work (1) something that can be done without difficulty, part of one's responsibilities 可容易地做好的事, 某人责任的一部分: Granted, it suits us to think that brash yuppies in London trash the rand all in a day's work before going off for a Red Bull and vodka. Yet it's not quite that simple. (BD, 16/10/01)确实, 我们是会这样想的: 伦敦那些草率的雅皮士们在出去喝一杯红牛或伏特加以前轻易地将兰特打下去。但其实并非那么简单。(2) a routine matter 某人的正常工作: But for the good doctor, the observance of the minutiae of policy and protocol is all in a day's work. (BD, 19/7/02)但对于好的医生来说, 遵守政策和礼仪的细节乃是日常工作。

all mouth and trousers / all mouth and no trousers

to talk a lot about doing something but never actually do it 光说不做: To use a phrase still common in the northern heartlands, where you can still buy a house for under £60, 000, the chancellor is in danger of becoming all mouth and trousers. (The Guardian, Wednesday March 16, 2005)用一句仍在北部腹地通用的话来说, 只怕那大臣会变得光动嘴皮不做事了。在北部腹地你仍可以以低于60,000 英镑的价格买到一套房子。

all one is worth, for with all one's energy, with the utmost effort 拼命地, 尽力地: Consider that not only Mugabe, but now Nujoma as well, are beating the anti-colonialist drum for all he is worth. (BD, 3/9/02)考虑一下, 不仅穆加贝, 现在连努拒麻也在拼命敲起反殖民主义的战鼓。 / But that's politics, and the DA can be sure that the scandal will be milked by its opponents for all it is worth. (BD, 31/5/02)但那是政治, 而DA 可以肯定, 那丑闻会被它的反对者们拼命利用到极致。

all one's birthdays on one day/all one's birthdays come together / all one's Christmas come together

to feel extremely happy 非常高兴: ...it must have seemed that all his birthdays and Christmases had come together. We were all so pleased for the poor fat sod. (Stephen Malkmus, Featuring the Jicks) ...看来他一定非常开心。我们都为这个可怜的胖小子高兴。 / Tony, old son, today it's all your birthdays on one day. (FE: SADp421)托尼, 儿子啊, 今天你可高兴了。 / When little Billy is invited to step inside Mr Magico's mysterious cabinet, it is as if all his birthdays have come at once. (The Guardian, December 10, 2002)当小毕利受邀走进马吉克先生的神秘小房间时, 他高兴极了。

all over, bar the shouting, to be to be virtually finished, almost finished 基本上结束了: I'll give you any odds you like that it's all over, bar the shouting. (JT: CTp27)随便你愿意怎样, 我都跟你打赌, 那事儿已经基本结束了。 / It is all over now, bar the shouting—and there is a lot of that. (BD, 7/7/03)那已基本结束, 只剩尾声了——而尾声倒是很大。

all over the shop / all over the lot (American) (1)

across a large area or over a wide range of things 范围很广: Kevin has performed his stand-up all over

the shop—Shanghai, Bangkok, Dubai, South Africa, Vietnam and Portloaise. (The 1989 show) 凯文到处表演他的喜剧——上海、曼谷、迪拜、南非、越南和葡特略伊斯。(2) confusing, not well organized 使人搞不清的, 乱的: Athens is all over the shop. (The Age (Australia), 13/3/06) 雅典让人摸不清。/ We believe in appropriate and consistent sentencing, not sentencing that is all over the shop, depending on where you come from. (Legislative Assembly for the ACT: 2003 Week 13 Hansard (26 November), Page 4748, Australia) 我们相信适当的前后一贯的判决, 而不是根据你从哪里来而做出的糊里糊涂的判决。

All roads lead to Rome There are many different ways to do one thing 条条大道通罗马, 殊途同归: Search: Will all roads lead to Rome? Matt Hindman: "Because of link/traffic patterns, we may be facing a situation in which all search engines are returning the same results." (Information Manager Journal, April 21, 2004) 搜索: 殊途同归吗? 马特·辛德曼说: “由于连接/交通的方式, 我们可能会面临所有搜索引擎得出相同结果的情形。”

all sweetness and light unexpectedly friendly and pleasant 出人意外地友好热情, 令人愉快: But you wouldn't be able to convince Denista it was all sweetness and light? (CE: DTp120) 但你无法让丹尼斯塔相信这事儿出乎意外地令人感到愉快吗?

all systems "go" everything is ready for something to start 一切准备妥当, 万事俱备立即可开始: I'm just going to put this in the fridge and then it's all systems "Go". (MT: COVp97) 我要把这放入冰箱, 这样就准备妥当, 可以开始了。/ All systems go as JSE switches to LSE service (BD, 14/5/02) 约堡证交所换用伦敦证交所服务时, 一切都已准备好。

all that glitters is not gold (British, literary) sometimes people or things that appear attractive may not necessarily be good 闪光的并非全是金子; 金玉其外, 败絮其中也是可能的。

all the dogs are barking this news is widely spread 这新闻广为流传: ...what we have is another stone marker about to be laid down with the new constitution and all the dogs are barking. (DF) ...我们所拥有的是另一个因为新宪法而将树立的里程碑。这则新闻到处都在传扬。

all the king's men powerful people 政坛枭雄, 权势

人物: All the king's men couldn't put the bank together again. (BD, 15/2/02) 政坛枭雄都无法再维持该银行。

all the odds no doubt 毫无疑问: If I let myself be made into a small time operator and make a regular job of sticking my neck in the noose, all the odds are that I shan't be. (DW: TGp11) 假如我让自己成为一个无足轻重的经纪人, 把自找麻烦作为日常工作, 毫无疑问我是不会这么做的。

all the marbles, to have 见 have all the/one's marbles, to (informal)

all the odds are stacked up against someone to be disadvantaged in everything 事事均不如意: He has a great knack of beating the system when all the odds are stacked against him. (KR: NBp21) 他有不如意, 在诸事都不如意的情况下打败整个体系的了不起的诀窍。

all the rage (old-fashioned, informal) extremely popular or fashionable 非常流行, 受欢迎或时髦: Dancing schools such as the famous Elmayer are still all the rage. (FT, 19/2/00) 舞蹈学校如著名的爱尔梅耶舞校仍很受欢迎。/ At least I learned how to kiss a woman's hand without making lip contact. In 16th century Paris, when poisoned lady's gloves were all the rage, this would have been a life-saver. (FT, 19/2/00) 至少我学会了怎样吻一个女人的手而不接触到嘴唇。在16世纪的巴黎, 当涂有毒药的女士的手套非常时髦的时候, 这还是救生的手段。

all the way down the line at every stage of a process 在某一过程中的每个阶段: Fate has perfect wings. All the way down the line. 命运有着完美的双羽。在任何阶段都是这样。

all washed out very feeble, very tired 精疲力竭: She was all washed out, drained of all reserves of strength and momentum. (Dreams of Decadence, Vampire Poetry and Fiction) 她精疲力竭, 所有积存的力量和干劲消失殆尽。

all wool and a yard wide genuine and of excellent quality 真货, 质优的货: Three dollar, Plymouth Rock all wool and a yard wide, guaranteed not to rip and tear...三块钱, 真正的普利茅斯洛克, 保证不会折断和磨损.../ Choose all wool and a yard wide material, polychrome color, add the designer's inspiration. 选择多种色彩的优质材料, 外加设计师的灵感。

alley, up one's (informal) 见 up one's alley

(informal)

Alpha to Omega, from from start to finish 从头到尾: We have been caught up in a fever where we go from alpha to omega and back again within a matter of days, he noted. (Yale Bulletin and Calendar, 9/2/-16/2/98)他注意到,在短短几天时间内,我们从头到尾在狂热来狂热去的。

Ammunition some facts or argument used to attack others 炮弹,用以攻击他人的事实或论点: This in turn will provide the company with the ammunition for its next foray. (BD, 12/12/01)这又为那公司下一次的争斗提供了弹药。

anchor something to support oneself 支撑,依靠: In the midst of a traumatic transition, one that was badly handled by police managers and politicians, the police force lost its anchors. (BD, 1/8/02)在由警察的当权者们和政客们处理得很糟糕的令人头痛的过渡之中,警察队伍失去了支撑它的力量。

anchor, to to fix firmly 稳固下来: He is building a string of bilateral relationships with Namibia, Mozambique and Zimbabwe anchored on deeper economic co-operation. (BD, 22/5/00)他正在建立一连串的和纳米比亚、莫桑比克和津巴布韦的双边关系,这些关系因为更深层次的经济合作而稳固下来。

angel, to be an someone who is very helpful 乐于助人的人: Paula, would you be an absolute angel and get me a cup of coffee? (FE: SADp112)鲍拉,你不可以帮我一个大忙,给我弄杯咖啡来? / Darling, be an angel and help me pack. (NB: OSP-RDp232)亲爱的,帮帮我的忙,帮我把行李打起来。/ I do have a farm manager—Tom. He's been an angel, especially since the break-in. (PW: LLp396)我确有一个农场经理——汤姆。他一直很愿意帮忙,尤其是从那次贼人破门偷窃以来。

anointed one, the the desired and appointed successor 选定的合意的人: Anointed US representative kept his nose clean. (BD, 14/6/99)选定的美国代表并未参与其间。/ Uhuru Kenyatta, President Daniel arap Moi's anointed heir, said a new ethos was critically needed in the public service because there was "too much laxity and avoidance of responsibility." (AP via BD, 25/10/02)总统丹尼尔·阿拉·毛易的选定的继承人,乌呼鲁·肯雅塔说,公共服务业急需一种新的社会道德风尚,因为存在着“太多的松懈和逃避

责任的现象。”/ The US has not anointed anyone to be the future leader of Iraq or to be the leader of the interim Iraqi authority. (Sapa-AFP via BD, 14/4/03)美国没有选定任何人来担任伊拉克将来的领导人或伊拉克过渡政权的领导人。

another arrow in one's quiver an additional reason, means 更多的理由,办法: New Scandia Township resident Robert Anderson got "another arrow in his quiver" when the town board unanimously agreed to support an initiative for greater local control over the placement and regulation of community residences. (Forest Lake Times, 10/3/06)因为市政委员会一致同意支持一项为加强当地对社区住宅的布局 and 规划所提出的提案,新斯坎迪亚城镇居民罗伯特·安德森有了“另一个办法”。

another iron in the fire, to have 见 have another iron in the fire, to

another/final/last nail in someone's coffin a further step toward someone's downfall 更进一步击败某人/最后地击败某人: Just another nail that was being hammered into the Tollgate coffin. (BA: ITp123)完全取缔收费站的又一个举措。

another pair of shoes an entirely different matter 根本不同的另一件事: "Am I not a member of the consulting commission?" Mere Lefrancois looked at him for a few moments, and ended by saying with a smile— "That's another pair of shoes!..." (Chapter Eight, Madame Bovary) “难道我不是咨询委员会的成员吗?”勒法朗索瓦大娘盯着他看了好一会儿,最后笑笑说——“那可是另一回事儿了!……”

another string to one's bow, to have 见 have a second/another string to one's bow, to

another vein, in as an alternative way of looking at things, in another mood or manner 另一方面,以另外一种心情或方式看: In another vein, many spiritual pilgrims are returning to an appreciation of mysticism. (Time, 6/7/08)另一方面,很多精神上的朝圣者正回到对神秘主义的欣赏。

answer is a lemon, the the outcome is inconclusive 并非最终结果,回答不确定: Assuming my data on production levels to be correct, the effect on Durban Deep's production costs will be such as to easily lift them above R100 000/kg. This has to be compared with revenue, running at about R84 000/kg at today's prices. The result is a seriously wrinkled lemon. (BD,

31/3/03)关于生产水平,假如我的数据是正确的,对德班底坡矿的生产成本的影响是,成本会很容易地提高到100 000 兰特/公斤。这要和收入作比较,这收入按目前的价格是84 000 兰特/公斤。这计算的结果完全无法确定,不能算作最终结果。〈Variation〉: Zimbabwean Lemon... (subtitle of a paragraph), Is there any of that in Zimbabwe? (the last sentence of the paragraph) (BD, 27/6/02) 〈变体〉:关于津巴布韦,结论还难下....(文章标题)在津巴布韦还会有结论吗?

answer the call of nature, to (humorous) to urinate 小便: It's a situation anyone could find themselves in—having to answer the call of nature in the middle of an important meeting. (BBC, 15 September 2005) 这是个任何人都会碰到的情景——在一个重要会议当中需要上厕所。

answer to a maiden's (someone's) prayer, the a happening which is very welcome 少女的祈祷得到实现,天从人愿,心想事成,如愿以偿: Cochefert might lack most of those physical attributes which would have made him the answer to a maiden's prayer, but he had fulfilled his tiresome function in a friendly spirit and appeared to be entirely satisfied. (DW: TGp65) 柯席夫的身体特质多半不能令人满意,但他以友好的精神完成了他吃力的工作,并显得极为满意。〈Variation〉: Looks like you'll soon have the answer to all your prayers. (FE: SADp404) 〈变体〉:看来很快你就会如愿以偿了。

antediluvian very outmoded, extremely old-fashioned 非常过时: John Tanner, a young, radical writer, is named along with Roebuck Ramsden, an antediluvian conservative, to be the guardian of the attractive and wealthy Ann Whitefield. (Man and Superman, by George Bernard Shaw) 约翰·唐纳,一个年轻激进的作家,和罗伯克·拉姆斯顿,一个非常守旧的保守派,一同被提名为有魅力的富有的安·怀特费尔德的监护人。

ants in one's pants, to have 见 have ants in one's pants, to (humorous)

anvil, on the in discussion, in the making 在讨论中,准备中,研讨中: Since a cut in the rates is on the anvil, it would be better for investors to invest now as much as possible. (The Hindu Business Line, 22/12/2002) 因为减税的问题正在讨论之中,投资者最好现在尽量多投资。

any port in a storm anything which helps in a difficult situation is welcome 饥不择食,病急乱投医: Of course, I can't say I admire your taste in women, Ed, but then maybe it's a case of any port in the storm. (JT: CTp190) 当然,埃德,我不能说我佩服你对女人的欣赏趣味,但也许那是饥不择食的情况了。

any stick to beat a dog any reason will do if it serves one's purposes 为达目的随便找个理由: His irritation with the neo-orthodox image of Hawthorne is understandable, but he seems to be in the mood of reaching for any stick to beat a dog. (The New York Review of Books, Volume 7, Number 7 • November 3, 1966) 他因赫松的新正统形象而恼怒,这是可以理解的,但他似乎有着一一种为了达到目的什么理由都可以用的心情。

anyone with even a half brain anybody 任何人: Does anyone with half a brain actually believe any of this stuff? 有人相信这话吗?

apocryphal fictitious but resembling truth 杜撰的,似是而非的: I had heard the apocryphal story about her beginning a marketing lecture at the business school by ripping open her blouse and saying, "Now, this, boys, is marketing. Have I got your attention?" (BA: ITp66) 我听到过那个荒诞的故事,说她在商学院开始讲授市场营销课前扯开自己的衬衫说,“喏,小伙子们,这就是市场营销。你们的注意力集中过来了吗?”

apology for something, to be an (humorous) a poor substitute for something 劣质替代品: This is all the more true in States like Haryana where what is being imparted, especially in rural areas, is only an apology for education. (The Tribune, India, 4/7/2000) 在像哈尔雅那那样的州更是如此,在那些州里尤其在农村地区所传授的东西,很难说是教育。

appetite desire 欲望: The unexpected return of Hugo Chavez to Venezuela's presidential palace underlines the diminishing appetite of Latin American soldiers for political power. (FT, 14/4/02) 雨果·查韦斯出人意料地回到委内瑞拉总统府这事表明,拉丁美洲士兵对政治权力的欲望越来越小。

apple of discord a cause of dispute or rancor (from Greek mythology) 争端与怨恨的根源: Israel-Palestine: Jerusalem is an apple of discord (Pravda, Russia, 2005-04-05) 以色列—巴勒斯坦:耶路撒冷是争端的根源

apple of someone's eye, the person of whom another, usually a senior person, is proud and loves most 宝贝儿,掌上明珠(汉语“掌上明珠”多指女儿,孙女儿等女性,而英语apple of someone's eye 不仅指女性,也指男性): After Prince Eddy's death, Prince George became the apple of his eye.(EL: RHWp46) 在埃迪王子死后,乔治王子就成了他的宝贝。/ His son Sergei was turning into a bright boy, the apple of his father's eye.(RP: GT, RD, p208) 他的儿子赛盖正转变成为一个聪明的孩子,他父亲的宝贝。/ Because he was the son, slightly favoured by his parents and the apple of his grandmother's eye.(JW: DFp32) 因为他是儿子,父母稍稍偏爱一点,也是祖母的宝贝。

apple-pie order (old-fashioned) very tidy, in good order 井井有条,整洁有序: Her rooms were not ready in the sense that the bed was not aired; but everything else was in pristine, apple-pie order.(NT: PSp218) 那张床还没有给吹吹风透透气,从这个意义上来说她的房间还未准备好,但其他一切都干干净净,井井有条。/ He is going over the car now—filling her up and seeing that she is in apple-pie order for a long time.(DW: TGp210) 现在他在检查车子——加满油,要使她在很长时间内保持良好状态。

apply the blowtorch to something, to to burn or totally destroy something/someone 焚烧或彻底毁坏某物/某人: But he will apply the blowtorch to Swan, Smith and Conroy, all of them capable frontbenchers who will be of more use to Labor.(The Age, 15/6/03) 但他会毁了斯旺、史密斯和康罗伊,这些人都是能干的重要人物,对工党来说他们更有用。

architect of something, to be the designer of something 某物的设计者: He saved Stalin's hide when the Fascists were knocking on the gates of Moscow and went on to become the architect of victory at Stalingrad, Kursk, and Berlin.(CE: Tp38) 在法西斯攻击莫斯科时他救了斯大林的命,并在后来成了取得斯大林格勒、库尔斯克及柏林胜利的设计师。/ Wildly he grabbed for his pistol to pump the whole six loads into the architect of his downfall.(EC: PMp156) 他疯狂地抓起手枪,对造成他倒台的主谋者猛射了整整六发子弹。

argue the toss, to (British, informal) to disagree

with a person on something 争执: I'm not going to argue the toss with you here, darling, in public.(AP: APOVp169) 亲爱的,我可不想要在这儿当着大家的面跟你争执起来。

argue (fight, defend, stand) one's corner, to to defend one's opinions vigorously 申辩,抗辩: He has surrounded himself with men and women who trust their own opinions and seem willing to fight their corners.(BD, 29/4/03) 他把相信他们自己观点的男男女女集中到他自己周围,这些人看来愿意为自己的观点而抗辩。

argument holding water, an an argument which is supported by facts 站得住脚的说法: Arguments that these documents are similar to personal medical records do not hold water.(BD, 13/9/99) 说这些文件类似于个人病历的说法站不住脚。/ Finally, the Coega port holds some water.(BD, 12/12/02) 柯迦港口项目终于算是有了点道理。

arm of law power of law 法律的威力: Bogus unions will feel the long arm of labour law.(BD, 19/7/02) 假工会会感觉到劳动法的强大威力。

arm and a leg to do something, to give 见 give an arm and a leg to do something, to

arm-twist, to to try very hard to persuade or force someone to do something they do not want to do 强要某人做某事,向某人施压: Colombian officials reacted quickly, contending that the whisper campaign was being inspired by the U.S. in an effort to arm-twist Bogotá into launching a new war against its drug lords.(Time, 25/7/94) 哥伦比亚官员们反应迅速,争辩说耳语运动是由美国唆使而起的,其目的是强要波哥大向该国的贩毒头子发动一场新的战争。

arm-twisting to force someone to do something they do not want to do 强要某人做某事,向某人施加压力: A lot of arm-twisting seems to be taking place to ensure that several state-owned enterprises build the infrastructure needed to get the development off the ground.(BD, 11/12/01) 看来(政府)采取了不少强制性的手段,从而使得几家国有企业为了开发工作得以启动而建设所需的基础设施。/ Thanks to a little subsidy from Congress and a lot of arm-twisting from the Federal Aviation Administration (overseen by the ridiculed Mr. Mineta, by the way) passenger airplanes that fly in America have, as of last week,

cockpit doors that can withstand bullets, crowbars and even hand grenades.(NYT, 18/4/03)由于国会的一点点补贴以及联邦航空局的强行要求,从上周开始在美国上空飞行的载客飞机要有能够防弹,防撬棍,甚至防手榴弹的座舱门。(顺便说,联邦航空局是由被嘲笑的米内塔先生监管)。/It is taking notice of public pressure for an investigation of allegations that bribe offers and intimidation were part of the long night of Republican arm-twisting when the Medicare drug subsidy bill squeaked through Congress last year.(NYT, 27/3/04)它现在注意到有公众压力要求调查这一指控:贿赂和恐吓是共和党人在去年那个长长的夜晚所进行的施压活动的组成部分,那天夜里,国会勉强通过医疗药物补贴法案。

arm's length, at a distance between parties who are strangers bearing no special duty to each other and who have no financial or other relationship with each other(legal term)各方之间保持距离,相互间没有特别的义务,没有财务关系或其他关系(法律用语): But no serious player on the world's stage can afford to keep a country rapidly becoming one of the globe's largest economies at arm's-length.(BD, 11/12/01)但是在世界舞台上没有一个认真的玩家可以把一个迅速成为全球最大的经济体之一的国家拒为陌路。

arm's-length, to be a distance deliberately maintained between two people to prevent familiarity 两人之间刻意保持距离,以免产生亲密或控制关系: Despite denials and insistence that there was an arm's-length relationship between Regal and Mettle, the latter apparently lost its appetite for Regal shares after the negative publicity.(BD, 26/6/01)据称Regal和Mettle两公司之间是一种各不相关的关系,尽管攻之者否认,辩之者肯定,在负面信息公开后,后者对Regal公司的股票显然倒了胃口。

armchair in a comfortable position 安逸的,坐在扶手椅里空想的: One look at the map and even an armchair strategist could see that Versfurt was well nigh indefensible.(JT: CTp99)只要看一看地图,就是一个不做什么事的战略家也会清楚,维尔斯福特几乎是没救了。/Korea would be unforgettable because it tested his courage, and no man is entitled to an armchair opinion about that.(JAM: Sp204)朝鲜是不会给忘了的,因为它考验了他的勇气,而没有

人能够悠闲地想象而得到这方面的见解。

armchair critic a critic in a comfortable position 安逸的或空想的批评家: Admittedly, it is much easier to be an armchair critic like yours truly, than to deal with the dilemmas that face Leon.(BD, 28/10/02)我承认,比起李昂所处理的两难局面,当一个像笔者一样的安逸的批评家要容易得多。/At least we South Africans are competing on the international front and for that we armchair critics should be grateful if not a little proud.(BD, 9/7/02)至少我们南非人是在国际战线上竞争,而为此我们这些安逸的批评家如果不是感到有点自豪的话,应当充满感激。

armchair ride, to get an 见 **get an armchair ride, to**
armed to the teeth excessively armed 武装到牙齿:

Hands up if you have ever moved house surrounded by Metropolitan Police officers armed to the teeth with semi-automatic weapons.(FT, 18/3/01)如果你曾经在以半自动武器武装到牙齿的城市警官前呼后拥之下搬过家的话,那你就举手投降吧。

armpit, to be in something up to one's 见 **up to one's armpit, to be in something**

arms against something, to be up in 见 **up in arms against something, to be**

around some difficulty, to get 见 **get around some difficulty, to**

around someone, to get 见 **get around someone, to**

arrive on the dot, to to arrive on time 准时到达:

Four thirty on the dot. Mrs Avery had made her husband see reason all right; punctuality in this instance was a sign of a nervous man.(CE: DASp212) 4点30分电话准时到了。艾弗瑞夫人使得她丈夫懂得了其中的道理;在这件事上这么准时,说明这是一个紧张的男人。

article of faith, an a fundamental belief on which certain behaviour is based 信条: It was almost an article of faith with him.(CE: WSp299)对他来讲这几乎是个信条。

ask/cry for the moon, to to ask for something not possibly available 想要得不到的东西: "Don't let's ask for the moon..."(Telegraph, 12/3/06)"我们不要要求得不到的东西……"/Paris, perhaps, or London—or am I asking for the moon? (PO: TOTTp199)在巴黎,也许在伦敦——或者我是在想那些做不到的事情吧?

arse to an anchor, to get one's 见 **get one's arse to an anchor, to**(very informal)

arse, get off your 见 **get off your arse** (very informal)

arse-licking(very informal) to try very hard to please someone, in a way which one insults himself 尽力献媚取悦于人,到了自辱的程度;舔屁眼,拍马屁(非常不正式的用语): It's worse than Bosworth at his most arse-licking.(FE; SADp95)这比鲍斯沃斯拍马屁的大多数时候还要糟糕。

ascend to glory, to to die 死,上西天: Bob Edmiston came near ascending to glory on the tricky end of a mule, last week, but escaped by the skin of his nose. (Clinton Public, Clinton, Illinois January 5, 1883 Newspaper Extracts—1883) 鲍勃·爱德米斯顿上周差点在一辆需要小心的小机车后面上了西天了,但他很侥幸地避免了。

ascertain(know) the lay of the land, to to get the information about a situation 观察形势: From what I hear, he's been around a lot. Before I do anything I regret, I want to know the lay of the land. (EL: SLp149)从我听到的情况来看,他经常出没于此。我要搞清情况,以免作出什么后悔的事来。

ass is on the line, someone's (American, very informal) someone is taking a risk and likely to be blamed when fail. 某人在冒险,可能会受到责备: Atop of that you have Corey Glover singing like his ass is on the line. (Vampire Magazine, 25 July 2004) 你让科里·格洛夫在那上面唱,好像他是在冒险。

assassinate character, to to defame 中伤,毁坏名誉: It is mean-spirited to assassinate the charater of someone fresh in his grave.(BD, 17/5/02)毁坏一个刚刚入土的人的名誉是很卑鄙的。/SACP spokesman Mazibuko Jara accused the ANC of attempted charater assassination on Cronin.(BD, 18/7/02)南非共产党发言人马齐布库·贾拉指控南非国民大会党企图毁坏克罗宁的名誉。

assume(win, take over)someone's mantle, to to take over another person's role, position 取代另一人的作用或地位: To help perpetuate the species, Deller is grooming his older son Mark, 27, to assume his mantle: "His voice is exactly like mine—uncannily so."(Time, 26/11/1965)为了有助于延续这个种类(的艺术),戴乐正在推出他的长子,27岁的马克,以便继承他的衣钵:“他的声音全然像我的——惊

人地像。”/Since its launch in 1997, the UDM has attempted to take over the “rainbow nation” mantle from the ANC as the ruling party shifted to emphasising its African nationalist roots.(BD, 13/1/00)从1997年成立时起,联合民主运动企图取代非洲国民大会党在建立“彩虹民族”中的作用,因为这时执政党转而强调它的非洲民族之根。

attack with a vengeance, to to attack very strongly 猛烈攻击: Undismayed Gasquet attacked with a vengeance, notably on the backhand which is a wonderfully uninhibited shot, and levelled. (The Guardian, April 16, 2005)盖斯凯特没有泄气,进行猛烈攻击,尤其是反手击球,不可抵挡,棒极了,而且是平着发出的。

attract(draw)flak, to to attract criticism 招致非议: The decision draws political flak and is slated by a consumer organisation.(BD, 7/6/02)该决定在政治上受到非议并已被一个消费者组织痛批。

Aunt Sally, an a person who can readily be singled out and criticized on behalf of a group 一群人中找出来代人受过的人: Once the jurors had sat down in theirs(their seats)only the tops of their heads were visible, giving them the appearance of twelve aunt sallies at a fair stall.(MU: PMp161)陪审员们一落座,人们只能看见他们的头顶,他们看起来像是交易摊位里的十二个代人受过的人。

avalanche a great amount appears suddenly 瞬息之中大量涌现: That will stop the avalanche of negative media coverage still haunting the SABC (South African Broadcasting Corporation)(BD, 19/10/00)那会制止排山倒海而来的媒体的负面报道。这些报道仍在困扰南非广播公司。

avenue method, approach 方式,途径: Skills of all kinds will continue to be a serious bottleneck for the foreseeable future, the more so as most avenues of business become more knowledge-intensive.(BD, 14/4/99)各种技术的短缺会继续成为可以预见的将来的瓶颈,而随着商业的大多数方式越来越知识密集化,技术的短缺就越会成为瓶颈。/As the economy enters its fifth year of recession and food shortages grip the country, stocks represent one of the few avenues for investors to offset annual inflation of 176% in November.(Bloomberg via BD, 10/1/03)随着经济衰退进入第五个年头,而国内食物短缺,股票就代表了十一月份投资者用以抵消年通胀率