

流行 美语

—— 简 — 明 — 手 — 册 ——

A Handbook of
**Popular
American
Expressions**

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柯鸿冈 任彦辉 龙约翰

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大象出版社

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前言

习语是语言的丰味剂,是一种色彩丰富的生动表达方式(colorful expressions);许多习语语言结构有趣,但又令人迷惑,表现力准确、生动,色彩丰富但与单词的表面意思有天壤之别;没有习语,语言就因呆板、书究气而缺乏活力。驾驭英语的能力强的人都深知习语在语言中的点睛作用,都会把习语用于自己的著作和社会交流中以使语言色彩缤纷,表达精确,更富有感染力。但众多基础相当好,语言表达能力强,口语流畅的大学生及英语工作者,在使用英语习语方面却常常缺乏自信。

《流行美语简明手册》意在给大、中学生,英语老师,英语口译、笔译者,编辑,新闻工作者提供一部案头参考书,经常翻阅浏览,以提高自己驾驭习语的能力,使社交语言简明畅达、幽默多彩,写作和笔译更加准确生动、文雅、庄重。

本手册共收进地道的美国流行习语 7 000 余条,它们异彩纷呈,表现力生动逼真,富有画面性,其例释多源于当今美国图书、报纸、杂志、广播电视节目、社交活动等。

语言是鲜活的,在社会迅速发展的今天,有些过去惯用的习语可能已慢慢被淘汰,而一些过去登不上大雅之堂的口语、俚语却正在为社会所接受,并不乏出现在美国报刊、广播、电视节目甚至官方的文件中,这些常用的、流行的口语、俚语有一些也被收进此书。

主编,朱茂林,河南人民广播电台英语部主任。参与编著此书的还有:吕晓丽,湖南人民广播电台英语高级编辑;贺华,郑州师范学院英语教师;陈光,美国之音节目部主任,高级编辑;任彦辉,BBC 国际台高级编辑;柯鸿冈,BBC 国际台高级制片,高级编辑;龙约翰,澳洲广播电台北亚部主任,高级编辑。

书内如有谬误之处,敬请指正。

编者



a bird in the hand (is worth two in the bush) 一鸟在手胜于两鸟在林;十赅不如一现

如一现

He offered me a hundred dollars. It was not much, but it was a bird in the hand, and I accepted the money.

他愿出一百块钱,虽不多,但总是现成的,所以我接受了。

Tom has a job as a salesman, but he wants a job in a PC home. His father says that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

汤姆是售货员,但想到网吧工作。他爸爸说已有的工作比不一定能获得的工作要好。

a bit trying 苦恼的,烦恼的

My mother is a bit trying today.

妈妈今天有点儿烦恼。

I'm a bit trying now, because my PC is going wrong these days.

我现在有点儿心烦,因为我的电脑这些天出毛病了。

a bolt from/out of the blue 突如其来;

大出意料;晴天霹雳

We had been sure she was not in Beijing, so her sudden appearance was a bolt from the blue.

我们确知她不在北京,所以她突然出现时,我们实感意外。

The announcement that the president of our university was quitting to go to another school hit us like a bolt out of the blue.

我们大学校长宣布他要辞职到另外一所学校工作,我们都感到非常吃惊。

a bundle of nerves 神经紧张;担惊受

怕;惴惴不安

I've been a bundle of nerves since the company told us it will have to lay off 20 percent of our staff.

自从公司告诉我们要裁员20%以后,我一直神经紧张,惶惶不可终日。

a burnt child dreads the fire; one bitten,

twice shy 吃一次亏,学一次乖;吃一堑,

长一智

A month ago Mary got lost when her mother took her downtown. But a burnt child dreads the fire, so now Mary stays close to her mother when they are downtown.

一个月前玛丽的母亲带她上街时她走失了。不过吃一堑,长一智,现在上街时,她一定紧跟着她的母亲。

a class act 能力出众的人物

Tom was, as Jack said, a class act.

正如杰克说的,汤姆很出众。

David is a class act, and all his colleagues respect him. 戴维能力出众,他的同事都很尊敬他。

a closed book 全然不知,完全不懂

The modern scientific management is a closed book to me.

我对现代科学管理一窍不通。

Grandpa is over seventy. EMBA is utterly a closed book to him.

爷爷七十多岁了,他全然不知高级经理工商管理硕士是什么。

a face that only a mother could love; a

face that could stop a clock 很难看的脸

He has a face that only a mother could love.

他的脸长得很难看。

He is crying, and he has a face that could stop a clock. 他在哭,而且脸很难看。

a feast or a famine 富饶或饥荒;大成功

或大失败

In this business it's either a feast or a famine.

这行业不是大成功,就是大失败。

Tom is very careless with his money. It's always a feast or a famine with him.

汤姆花钱不注意,经常有钱就大吃,没钱就挨饿。

a fly in the ointment 美中不足之处;杀

风景之处

I find the house wonderful, but there is a fly in the ointment — it is too far from the town.

我觉得房子非常好,美中不足的是离市区太远。

a fool and his money are soon parted

做荒唐事,钱很快就花光;蠢人不存财

Jimmy spends all his money for traveling. A fool and his money are soon parted.

吉米把所有的钱都花在旅游上,真是荒唐。

a little knowledge/learning is a

dangerous thing 似懂非懂则殆

John has read a book on driving a car and now he

A

thinks he can drive. A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.

约翰看了一点儿驾驶汽车的书,自以为能开车了,一知半解真是危险。

a miss is as good as a mile 差之毫厘,

失之千里

We thought Tom had a home run, but the ball went foul by inches. A miss is as good as a mile.

我们以为汤姆打了一个全垒打,可是球以数寸之差出界,真所谓差之毫厘,失之千里。

a piece of cake 容易

Honey, I finally asked Old Man Jones for my raise. And it was a piece of cake.

亲爱的,我终于对老琼斯提出了增加工资的事。我没有费吹灰之力,他一口就答应了。

The commander told me it would be a tough flight. But it turned out to be a piece of cake.

司令员告诉我这次飞行任务可能很艰巨。但结果倒是非常容易。

a rolling stone gathers no moss; a

rolling stone 滚石不长苔; 见异思迁的

人, 终一事无成; 常改变其工作、生活地

点之人难成功

I don't want to be a rolling stone all my life, but I would like to see the world before I get too old.

这辈子我并不愿像滚石一样随处移动, 可我很想在不太老的时候去看一看世界。

He is a rolling stone. I don't think he can lay up much money.

他常跳槽, 我想他不会存很多钱。

a square peg in a round hole; a round

peg in a square hole 不称职的人; 跟环

境格格不入的人

I'm like a square peg in a round hole in this job. Everyone else in the office seems much cleverer than me. 在这个工作上我像一个不称职的人。办公室其他的每个人都似乎比我聪明得多。

Arthur is a square peg in a round hole when he is playing ball.

阿瑟不适合打球。

a straw in the wind 某事将要发生的小

的迹象、预兆、苗头

The doctor's worried face was a straw in the wind.

大夫忧虑之表情预示将有事情发生。

The teachers' recent demand for a large pay increase is a straw in the wind.

教师最近强烈要求大幅增加工资预示要出事。

a stroke of luck 意外的好运

Mary has been happy all these days, because strokes of luck have come to her one after another.

玛丽近些天一直很高兴, 因为意外的好运接二连三向她涌来。

a stuffed shirt 傲慢、自负、自以为了不起的人

When I first saw him I knew that he was nothing but a stuffed shirt.

我第一次见到他, 就知道他是一个自命不凡的人。

He thinks that just because he's rich, he's cleverer than everyone else. He's nothing but a stuffed shirt.

他认为正是因为他有钱, 他就比别人聪明。他不过是一个狂傲自大的人罢了。

a war/battle of nerves 神经战; 心理战

Our competitors are conducting a war of nerves against us by trying to make us lose our confidence.

我们的敌手在对我们实行神经战, 试图以此使我们丧失信心。

a white lie (为了不使对方难受的) 谎话

I told a white lie when I told Mary her boyfriend was good-looking. The truth is he's just about the ugliest man I've ever seen.

我骗玛丽说她的男朋友很英俊。其实, 他大概是我看到的所有男人中最难看的了。

My mother and dad taught me never to tell a lie. So I feel guilty every time when I tell even a little white lie, although I do it just to make somebody feel better.

我爸妈教我不要撒谎。因此, 每当我撒谎, 即便是好心的谎言, 我都感到内疚。

a whole new ball game 因形势变化而转变策略

The Republicans were having a hard time finding anybody to run against this popular senator. But now he's retiring. So it's a whole new ball game—many people want to run for the job.



共和党人原先很难找到人跟这位深得人心的参议员竞争,但现在他要退休了,局面大为改观。很多人都要竞选此职位。

able to charm the birds from the trees

很有吸引力

The sound is able to charm the birds from the trees.

这个声音很迷人。

This great man is able to charm the birds from the trees.

这个伟人很有吸引力。

about/around one's ears 失败; 毁灭;

(计划、希望等)落空

They planned to have factories all over the world, but the economic crisis brought their plans down about their ears.

他们计划在世界各地设厂,但是经济危机使他们的计划成为泡影。

John hoped to go to college and become a great scientist some day, but when his father died he had to get a job, and John's dreams came crashing about his ears.

约翰希望上大学,将来成为一个伟大的科学家,但父亲去世了,他得工作,希望也破灭了。

according to Hoyle 依照; 按理

It's not according to Hoyle to hit a man when he's down.

打击一个倒下的人是不公正的。

In quitting without notice, he didn't act according to Hoyle.

他不辞而别,有悖常理。

act/play the fool with 愚弄、戏弄某人;

装傻; 扮小丑(逗人发笑,但也可能惹恼

别人)

I advise you not to play the fool with me any longer.

我劝你别再戏弄我了。

If you played the fool in class a little less and worked a bit harder, you could do quite well.

如果你在课堂上少出点儿洋相,多用点儿功,你会学得很好。

During the whole party they acted the fool.

在整个聚会中他们都在装傻。

act up 行为不良; 出毛病

Every time she used the vacuum cleaner, the television would act up.

她每次用真空吸尘器的时候,电视机总会出毛病。

Don't take any notice of the baby. If you scold him, he'll only start acting up.

不要注意那孩子。如果你骂他,他反倒开始耍赖皮了。

"The young lady's rather easily upset," the landlord said. "When the chaps tease her, she doesn't quite know how to act up."

"那位小姐情绪相当容易受干扰,"房东说,"当那些男孩逗她玩儿时,她不知如何应付。"

add fuel to/fan the flame/fire 火上浇

油; 使情况更糟

Nothing could help her when she became worried; words of encouragement just added fuel to the flame.

当她变得烦恼时,再怎样帮助她也无济于事,鼓励的话只是火上浇油。

He was feeling uncomfortable in that shabby old jacket of his and his classmates fanned the flame by laughing at him.

他穿着那件破旧夹克感到很不自在,同学们的嘲笑更是火上浇油。

add insult to injury 每况愈下,更糟

In the morning, the lights went out suddenly. At noon, to add insult to injury, there was no water from the tap. 上午突然停电了;更糟糕的是,到了中午,连水也没有了。

We started on a picnic. First it rained, and then to add insult to injury, the car broke down.

我们开始野餐时,先是下雨,接着更糟的是车子又抛锚了。

afraid of one's own shadow 连见到自

己的影子都怕; 极为胆小、软弱

He is a yellow belly, afraid of his own shadow.

他是一个胆小鬼,连自己的影子都害怕。

She stays at home all the time and never makes any new friends. She seems to be afraid of her own shadow. 她总是待在家里,从不交新朋友。她好像太怯懦了。

after a fashion 达到某种程度; 稍微; 略

有几分(往往有贬义)

He knows French after a fashion.

A

他略懂法文。

She is pleasant in conversation and witty after a fashion.

她谈话很悦人,且略具机智。

after one's own heart 志趣相投;正中下怀

He likes literature. He is a man after my own heart.

他喜爱文学,是位与我志趣相投的人。

He likes baseball and good food. He is a man after my own heart.

他喜欢棒球与美食,是位与我志趣相投的人。

against the grain 逆自然趋势,习惯

It would certainly go against the grain to do anything in bad taste.

不光明正大地做任何事情肯定都是不合人之常情的。

I would not like to acquire a great deal by working against the grain.

我不愿意为了赚大钱而做有悖常理的事情。

against time/the clock 抢或拖时间;测量时间或速度

I always felt as if I was riding a race against time.

我总觉得好像是在骑着赛马抢时间。

The senator was talking against clock.

该参议员讲话意在拖时间。

John ran around the track against time.

约翰绕跑道跑步以测量速度。

against/with the tide/current/stream 逆(顺)潮流、习惯或他人的行为方式

All of us have agreed to do what our boss has asked us to do. We'd not like to swim against the tide.

我们都按照老板吩咐的去。我们不愿意违背他的意愿。

These days she is just swimming with the current, relaxing and letting things happen.

这些天她一直顺应形势,放松自己,任凭事情发生。

ahead of game 赢;赚钱

Let's get out of the stock market while we are still ahead of the game.

趁我们现在还赚钱赶快从股票市场撤退。

ahead of time 提前;提早

The bus came ahead of time, but Mary was not ready.

汽车已提前抵达,可玛丽尚未准备好。

The new building was finished ahead of time.

新大楼提前建成。

air one's knowledge 炫耀、吹嘘自己博学

A true knowledgeable person would not like to air his knowledge.

一个真正有学问的人不喜欢吹嘘自己的学识。

I don't like the new history teacher. He is not really teaching what we ought to know but instead airing his knowledge on the subject.

我不喜欢新来的历史老师。他不是在教学我们真正该学的东西,而是在卖弄自己的学问。

alive with 充满;挤满

At the last Spring Festival her house was alive with merriment.

去年春节她家充满着欢乐的气氛。

Her face was alive with laughter.

她满面笑容。

all at once/of a sudden 同时;突然

All of a sudden the ship struck a rock.

突然那船撞到了岩石上。

Bill can play the piano, sing, and lead his orchestra all at once.

贝尔能够弹钢琴、唱歌和领导他的管弦乐队。

All at once we heard a shot and the boy fell to the ground.

我们突然听到一声枪响,接着那孩子便倒地了。

all better 完全康复;都好了;不再痛了

"All better now," he kept repeating to the little girl.

他不停地对那小女孩说:“现在全好了。”

all boy 行为像男孩

We don't know why Mary becomes all boy.

我们不知道玛丽怎么变得像男孩子。

all dressed up 穿得漂亮;盛装

She is all dressed up for the party.

她穿得很漂亮准备赴会。

The girls are all dressed up this evening for the concert.

姑娘们今晚盛装听音乐会。

all ears 洗耳恭听;倾听

Go ahead with your story. We are all ears.

开始讲故事吧,我们洗耳恭听。

When John told about the circus, the boys were all ears.



约翰讲到马戏团时,男孩子们都聚精会神地听着。

He is all ears to my speech.

他全神贯注地听我讲演。

all eyes 全神贯注地看

The paintings are beautiful. I am all eyes at them.

这些画作非常漂亮,看得我目不转睛。

The children became all eyes when the lion was led onto the stage.

狮子被带上舞台时,孩子们都瞪大了眼睛。

all hell breaks loose; all hell is let loose

喧闹;混乱

All hell breaks loose in the city when the soldiers arrived.

士兵们进了城,全市一片骚动。

all in a/the day's work (常用幽默语) 轻

易能完成、处理的事;家常便饭

To anyone working in a hotel, angry complaints from guests are all in a day's work.

对饭店工作的人来讲,处理客人们的抱怨、批评是家常便饭。

My car had a flat tire yesterday but my brother said that it was all in the day's work.

我的车昨天爆胎了,可是我弟弟说那是常事。

all in one piece 完好无损;没遭到伤害

Mr. Smith brought our kids all in one piece.

史密斯先生把我们的孩子们平平安安地带了回来。

She came out of it all in one piece.

她安然脱身。

I've driven all that way and nothing has happened.

I've brought the bus back all in one piece.

一路上我就那么开着,没有发生什么事情,我已把车安全、成功开回。

all/just the same 仍然,同样

Everyone opposed it, but Sally and Bob got married all the same.

尽管大家一致反对,萨丽和鲍勃还是结婚了。

He gives us a lot of trouble, but I like him all the same.

他给我们带来了许多麻烦,但我仍然喜欢他。

all kinds/sorts of 多种;多样

After class they take part in all kinds of recreational activities.

课后他们参加各种文娱活动。

The little boy picked up all sorts of things out there—pens, picture books, pencil boxes, etc.

小男孩儿从那里检出各种各样的东西——钢笔、图画书、文具盒……

all manner of 各式各样的、五花八门的 (人、东西等)

His garden contains all manner of medicinal herbs.

他的园子里有各种各样的药草。

They asked me all manner of questions.

他们向我提了各种各样的问题。

all my eye 胡说八道,一派胡言

"Tom said you owed him one hundred dollars." "That's all my eye! Just now I lent him two hundred dollars."

"汤姆说你欠他一百块钱。""胡说,刚才我还借给他二百块哪。"

all over but the shouting 大局已定只待 宣布

By mid-afternoon when most of the votes had been counted, it was all over but the shouting.

到了下午过半的时候,大部分选票已经计出,大局已定。

John and Tom both tried to win Mary, but after John's promotion it was all over but the shouting.

约翰和汤姆都追求玛丽,但是在约翰的职位晋升后,二人的追逐赛即告结束。

all/right down the line 完全,彻底

Bob always follows the teacher's directions right down the line.

鲍勃总是完全听从老师的指示。

I agree with your statement right down the line.

我完全赞成你的陈述。

all shook up 烦躁不安,心烦意乱

What are you so shook up about?

什么使你如此烦躁不安?

all systems go/are go 一切就绪;万事 俱备

Now the teacher has taken his seat. All systems are go. 现在老师已就座,一切就绪。

It is all systems go for the meeting now.

会议的准备工作都做好了。

After they wrote out the invitations, it was all systems go for the wedding.

他们写好请帖后,婚礼就一切就绪了。

all thumbs 笨手笨脚的人

It's funny how Doctor Brown can do delicate brain surgery in the operating room,yet his wife says he's all thumbs at home.

布朗医生能在手术室做非常精细的脑外科手术,但他妻子说他在家里却笨手笨脚的。

Mary is all thumbs. I'm afraid it's going to take Mary years to finish a sweater.

玛丽笨手笨脚的,要织好一件毛衣恐怕要花费几年的工夫。

all walks of life 各行各业;各种职业

He has got to be able to work under pressure and get on with people of all ages in all walks of life.

他不得不学会顶着压力工作,并且同不同年龄的各行各业的人打交道。

all washed up 彻底完蛋

Gloria's marriage is all washed up now. She found her husband was seeing another woman. Now she's suing for divorce.

格罗丽亚的婚姻完了。她发现她丈夫有外遇。现在正向法院请求离婚。

He used to be a very good player. But then he started drinking and just two years later he was all washed up.

他原是一名优秀的运动员,后来酗酒,两年后他的运动生涯就完蛋了。

all wet 错误的;大错特错

He insisted that our assumptions were all wet.

他硬说我们的假定完全是错误的。

If you think I am lying,you're all wet.

如果你认为我在撒谎,你就大错特错了。

along for the ride 沾名钓誉;投机取巧

He wants no members in his political party who are just along for the ride.

他不要投机分子在其党内。

We're here practicing photography except John just along for the ride.

我们都在练摄影,约翰只是随大流。

along/on in years 上了年纪,老迈

As grandfather got on in years,he became quiet and thoughtful.

祖父上了年纪后,变得寡言深思了。

My dog isn't very playful because it is getting along in

years.

我的狗不活跃了,因为它已渐老。

an ace up one's sleeve 取胜手段、花招

I believe we'll win the case. Unless the lawyer on the other side has an ace up his sleeve and has bribed a witness to give false testimony. This man is known for his cheating.

我相信我们会赢得这场官司,除非对方律师不择手段,收买证人作伪证。这人也确实有欺诈的名声。

an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth;

an eye for an eye 以牙还牙,以眼还眼

We should forgive people who hurt us,not follow the rule of an eye for an eye.

我们应该宽恕伤害过我们的人,不要遵循以牙还牙的规则。

In ancient times if a man's eye was put out by his enemy,he might get revenge by putting his enemy's eye out. This was the rule of an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

古时候某人的眼睛若被敌人挖出,他一定要挖出敌人的眼睛作为报复。这就是以眼还眼、以牙还牙的惯例。

an/one's ace in the hole 出奇制胜;王牌

牌

His strength in a crisis is his ace in the hole.

临危不乱乃是他的制胜本领。

The lawyer's ace in the hole was a secret witness who saw the accident.

该律师制胜之王牌是一位目击此事件的秘密证人。

and so forth 等等;依次类推

The grocer deals in tea,coffee,spices,and so forth.

该杂货商经销茶叶、咖啡、调味品等。

and then some 还有别的;还不止这些;

更多一些

He paid a thousand dollars and then some.

他支付了不止1000美元。

It would cost all the money he had and then some.

要买这件东西,他拿出全部积蓄还不够。

another nail in one's coffin 有害健康、

危及生命之物

You are really ought to stop smoking. Every cigarette you light up is another nail in your coffin.



你该戒烟了。你点燃一支烟，就等于向死亡迈进一步。

answer back 回嘴；还口；反驳

When your mother scolds you, you shouldn't answer back.

当你母亲责备你时，你不应该回嘴。

John criticizes in public a man whose position forbids him to answer back.

约翰公开批评一个地位使他不能反唇相讥的人。

It's unfair to attack a person in the newspaper when he can't answer you back.

在报纸上攻击一个无法反驳你的人，是不公平的。

ants in one's pants 坐立不安；像热锅

上的蚂蚁；烦躁

You have ants in your pants today. Is something wrong? 你今天坐立不安，出什么事啦？

He's got ants in his pants about the contract. He's worried that we won't be paid if we don't finish the work before the time agreed.

他对合同很有点儿不放心。他担心，如果我们不能按时完成工作，我们将拿不到钱。

Mary can not sit still; she has ants in her pants.

玛丽今天无法安安静静地坐一会儿，她魂不守舍。

any which way 无一定方向的；随便的

The fence lay any which way between the bare yard and the broken sidewalk.

围墙弯弯曲曲地立在空院与破烂的人行道之间。

I'm sure he just goes any which way, so you can't find him.

我相信，他去无定向，你不可能找到他。

A-OK 运行正常；不必操心

Your X rays are A-OK.

你的X光检查一切正常。

The plan is going A-OK.

计划顺利进行。

apple of one's eye 极为珍爱之人或物

Her son is the apple of her eye.

她儿子是她的眼珠子。

Charles is the apple of his mother's eye.

查尔斯是他母亲的心肝宝贝儿。

apple-pie order 井然有序

The house was in apple-pie order.

房子收拾得很整洁。

Like a good secretary, she kept her boss' desk in apple-pie order.

像每个出色的秘书那样，她总是把老板的桌子收拾得干干净净。

apple-polish 拍马屁；阿谀奉承

He hopes to pass the course by apple-polishing the instructor.

他想讨好老师，以便能通过该学科的考试。

arm to the teeth 全副武装；武装到牙齿

We shall see every nation arming to the teeth for the sake of her national honor and safety.

我们将看到每个国家都会全副武装以维护其尊严和安全。

The high way robbers were armed to the teeth.

拦路强盗全副武装。

around the bend/twist 疯狂的，失去控制的

You haven't got my troubles. My wife won't love me and she's driving me around the bend.

你不知我的苦恼，我妻子不爱我，快把我气疯了。

around the clock 昼夜不停地

The factory operated around the clock until the order was filled.

那家工厂不分昼夜地赶工，直到把订的货物赶出来为止。

around the corner 即将来临；近在咫尺

A friend of Jane's told her that there would be an adventure for her just around the corner.

珍妮的一位朋友告诉她说她即将有奇遇。

as a matter of fact 事实上；其实；说真的

I don't agree, as a matter of fact.

事实上，我并不同意。

Do you think I'm an experienced sailor? No, as a matter of fact, I've never been at sea before.

你认为我是一位有经验的海上旅客吗？不，事实上，我从来没有出过海。

as a rule 通例，常例；通常；寻常

As a general rule, people are apt to consider it impossible for a man to be in two places at once.

一般说来，人们不信一个人可以同时出现在两个地方。

He goes to work at eight o'clock in the morning as a rule.

他通常早上8点钟上班。

as easy as ABC/as falling/as lying/pie

极为容易,易如反掌;容易得很,犹如读

一二三

You can do it of course. It is as easy as ABC.

你当然能做事,它非常容易。

Will it be as easy as ABC? No, I don't believe that.

它像学ABC那么容易吗?不,我并不这么认为。

This matter is as easy as falling.

此事易如反掌。

as easy as rolling off a log/as shooting

fish in a barrel/as taking candy from a

baby 非常容易;非常简单;轻而易举

His job is as easy as taking candy from a baby.

他的工作极好做。

The exam was as easy as rolling off a log.

这次考试真是太容易了。

as fit as a fiddle 健康,神采奕奕

In spite of his old age, he is still as fit as a fiddle.

尽管他上了年纪,但看上去仍然精神焕发。

as good as gold 规规矩矩的;好到极点的

Mary is as good as gold — most of the time.

玛丽在绝大部分的时间里是规规矩矩的。

That is as good as gold; you won't find a better quality anywhere.

那东西好极了,你在任何地方都找不到质量比它更好的。

as good as one's word/promise 可信

赖的;一诺千金;守约不违

We knew she was always as good as her promise, so we trusted her.

我们知道她一向信守诺言,所以我们相信她。

They were as good as their word and arrived at exactly the time they had promised.

他们信守诺言,如约准时抵达。

The teacher's action was not as good as his promise.

那位老师的行为与他的承诺不符。

as happy as a clam/king/lark 非常快

活;非常高兴;无比幸福

My uncle is retired now and happy as a clam. He's not rich by any means but his pension is just enough to let him live quietly.

我叔叔现在退休了,倒也蛮自得其乐。他绝对不算富裕,但是他的退休金足以让他过安静清闲的日子。

as happy as the day is long 非常愉快的

If I didn't have you to worry about, I could be as happy as the day is long.

要不是为你操心,我本可以一直非常快活的。

as it were 有几分像;好像是

These books give, as it were, a picture of the country.

这些书多多少少介绍了一些该国的情况。

He became, as it were, a kind of hero from a strange land.

他好像变成了一个异乡来的英雄。

as luck would have it 碰巧;碰运气

As luck would have it, I arrived half an hour too late for the steamboat.

事有凑巧,我迟到了半个小时,汽船已经开了。

We were worried that the football match might not be played since it had snowed the day before. But as luck would have it, the following day was fine.

因前天下雪我们担心足球赛办不成了,可事有凑巧,第二天天气放晴了。

as one/a man 统一;团结

They came forward as one man to welcome their leaders. 他们统一出动欢迎他们的领袖。

The country rose as one man against the invaders.

全国团结一致起来反抗入侵者。

as sure as death (粗俗用语) 必定;一定

As sure as death, there our master and mistress come home.

一定是我们的男主人和女主人回来了。

as sure as a gun 必然

He will send you a summons as sure as a gun.

他一定会送传票给你。

The ticket office promised to send me the air ticket as sure as a gun.

售票处答应一定把我的机票送过来。

as sure as one stands/lives/sits there/

here 毫无疑问;确实;一定

As sure as you are sitting there, you will have to go.

A

A

毫无疑问,你必须走。

I see a dozen women sitting round a table drinking tea and talking, and there is your wife, as sure as you live. 我看到十几个女人围桌而坐,喝茶聊天,你妻子也在内,绝对没错。

as sweet as honey 甜言蜜语; 一团和气(实际上并不真诚)

She's the kind of person who's as sweet as honey to your face but says nasty things about you to other people.

她是那种当面甜言蜜语而背地里说你坏话的人。

as the crow flies 成直线地; 取捷径地

It's seven miles to the next town as the crow flies, but it is ten miles by the road, which goes around the mountain.

到下一个乡镇,直线距离是七里,但走绕山公路有十里。

To go as the crow flies is better than going other ways. 径直走比走其他路好些。

as usual 如常; 通例

In spite of the great turmoil in the world, our people are engaged in their respective work as usual.

尽管时局混乱,我们的人民照旧各司其职。

He came at four o'clock, as usual.

他和往常一样于4点钟来到。

ask/cry for the moon 渴望或者要求不可能得到的东西; 海底捞月; 异想天开

John asked his mother for \$100 today. He's always asking for the moon.

约翰今天向他母亲要100美元。他总是异想天开。

ask for it/trouble 自讨苦吃; 自找麻烦;

冒险

If you climb mountains in fog, you're asking for trouble. 如果你在大雾天爬山,你是在冒险。

You'd better not touch the apples in that orchard. If you do you're just asking for trouble.

你最好别动那个果园里的苹果。如果你不听,那是你自找麻烦。

"You asked for it," the mother said as she slapped the child, "and now you've got it."

"你自找苦吃。"妈妈边说边打孩子,"现在遭报应了。"

asleep at the switch; asleep/lie down

on the job 未及时采取行动; 不机警而

失去机会; 玩忽职守

Mr. White was asleep on the job and the two trains crashed.

怀特先生玩忽职守,造成火车相撞。

When the clay pigeons, the targets which are used in skeet shooting, flew over, the shooter was asleep at the switch and missed his shot.

当向飞碟射击使用的泥鸽靶飞过时,那个射击运动员未能及时开枪。

at a blow/stroke 一下子; 一举; 一次动作或一次努力

They annihilated three enemy battalions at one stroke.

他们一举消灭三营敌军。

He killed two robbers at a blow.

他一举打死两个强盗。

We brought down two enemy planes at a blow.

我们一举击落两架敌机。

at a loss 一片混乱, 乱七八糟; 困惑, 不知道

I am quite at a loss what to do.

我全然不知道该怎么办。

I am at a loss to understand my own emotion.

我脑子乱七八糟,搞不懂我现在的感情。

"Who can it be?" I am quite at a loss to guess.

能是谁呢? 我实难猜测。

at all hours; all hours 不按照时间; 很晚或很早

It is dark. It must be all hours.

天黑了,一定很晚了。

The boy's mother said he must stop coming home for meals at all hours.

那孩子的母亲告诉他不可再按时回家吃饭。

at arm's length 一臂之距; 疏远; 不接近

He held the picture at arm's length.

他把照片拿到距面前一臂长的距离。

Jones rarely speaks to his wife. He keeps her at arm's length.

琼斯和太太疏远,很少和她说话。

I keep trying to get friendly with that lovely blonde.

A

But she keeps me at arm's length.

我一直设法和那个金发姑娘接近，可是她老是和我保持一定距离。

at cross purposes 背道而驰；互相误解

Tom's parents acted at cross purposes in advising him. His father wanted him to become a doctor but his mother wanted him to become a teacher.

汤姆的双亲所给他的忠告各不相同。他父亲要他成为医生，但他母亲要他成为教师。

We must be talking at cross purposes.
我们一定话不投机。

at death's door 快死了

He seemed to be at death's door from his illness.
他似乎病入膏肓，生命垂危。

He still keeps working though he is at death's door.
他的生命虽然快结束了，但他仍继续工作。

at ease 无拘束；安逸

The governor's affability puts everyone at ease in his presence.

州长的和蔼态度使见到他的每一个人都会感到拘束。

My mind is at ease about it.
我对此事处之泰然。

at every turn 每次；无例外

Because of his drinking, the man was refused a job at every turn.

因为他酗酒，所以他每次求职都遭到拒绝。

The commission would find itself hampered at every turn.
委员会将发现其行动处处都会遇到障碍。

at fault 对过失负责；有错

The driver who didn't stop at the red light was at fault in the accident.

闯红灯的司机应对车祸负责。

I should not scold him. Now I know I am at fault.
我不该辱骂他。我知道我错了。

My memory was at fault.
我的记忆有错误。

at first sight/glance 一见之下

At first sight it seemed quite easy.

乍看起来它似乎十分容易。

At first glance his guess was that the whole trouble between the two men resulted from personalities that did not agree.

一见之下，他猜想这二人之间难相处是由于性格不合。

Tom met Mary at a party and it was love at first sight.
汤姆在一次聚会上碰到玛丽，两人一见钟情。

at/from (the bottom of) one's heart 真诚的，诚挚的

I love you from the bottom of my heart.
我真心实意地爱着你。

at hand 在手边；即将来临

When he writes, he always keeps a dictionary at hand.
他写作时，总在手边放本词典。

Exams are past and Commencement Day is at hand.
考完试了，毕业即将来临。

He always thinks the storm is at hand.
他总认为风暴即将来临。

at heart 真正地，在思想深处

His manners are rough but he is a kind man at heart.
他态度虽粗鲁，但心地好。

She looked like a girl who was happy and loved meeting people, but at heart she was timid.

看起来她像一个活泼、愉快、爱和人说笑的姑娘，但实际上她胆子很小。

at home 舒服；家中招待(午后或晚间款待客人)

An "at home" will be held in Mrs. Howard's house at 5 p. m. tomorrow.

明天下午五时，霍华德夫人将在家里招待客人。

I don't feel at home when I am with him.
当我和他在一起的时候，我感到不舒服。

The school master tried hard to make the new students feel at home in his school.

校长尽力使新生在学校里感觉很自由舒适。

at/in one fell swoop 一击(指不幸之事或灾祸)；一下子

At one fell swoop it had cleared the sideboard of glasses and decanters.

一下子一橱柜玻璃杯和酒瓶全被打碎了。

He was waiting for a fine day so that he could paint the whole of the rest of the house at one fell swoop.

他在等待一个晴天以便把房子的剩余部分全部油漆完毕。

at least/the least 至少，起码



You should brush your teeth at least twice a day.
你每天至少要刷两次牙。

Mr. Johnson must weigh 200 pounds at least.
约翰逊先生肯定至少有200 磅重。

at liberty 空闲的;随意;自由

When will you be at liberty?
你何时有空?

The principal will see us as soon as he is at liberty.
校长一有空就会接见我们。

You are at liberty to leave at any time during the meeting.

开会时,你可以随便在任何时候离开。

at loggerheads 争端;和……相争

He and his wife are always at loggerheads.
他和他妻子经常争吵。

The two senators had long been at loggerheads on foreign aid.

两位参议员在外援问题上恶言相向已久。

at loose ends 处理不善;混乱;感到无

聊、乏味;无事可做

His business affairs are at loose ends, and he is likely to become bankrupt.

他的业务经营不善,因此他有可能破产。

He has finished college but hadn't found a job yet, so he was at loose ends.

他读完了大学,但是还没有找到工作,所以他一直闲着。

I don't know about you, but as for me I never feel bored or at loose ends.

我不知道您的情况,但对我来说我从来没有感到无聊过。

at odds 冲突;争吵

The partners have been at odds with each other over hiring a new manager.

股东之间为聘请新经理发生了争执。

She is now at odds with fate.

她现在正同命运斗争。

at/on first blush 乍一见;初见

At first blush the matter seems easy.
乍看起来,此事似乎很容易。

At first blush the offer looked good, but when we studied it, we found things we could not accept.

初看起来此建议很好,但细研究之后,我们发现其中有无无法接受之处。

at/on sight 见到……立刻;一见……就

They were ordered to shoot the murderer at sight.
他们奉命见到杀人犯立即将其击毙。

Mary had seen many pictures of her grandfather, so she knew him on sight.

玛丽已见过祖父的很多张照片,所以她一见到他马上就认出来了。

at once 立刻;马上

She told him to leave the room at once.

她要他马上离开那个房间。

Mother called the children to lunch and they came at once.

妈妈叫孩子们吃午饭,孩子们马上就来了。

at one's beck and call 随时准备(完全

听命于人)

The most junior member of the office staff is always at the beck and call of everyone else.

办公室里资历最浅的人总是听从他人的支使。

at one's elbow 在身边;附近

The president rode in an open car with his wife at his elbow.

总统乘坐敞篷车时,夫人就在身边。

Mary practiced for several years to become a champion swimmer, and her mother was always at her elbow to help her.

玛丽为了成为游泳健将练习游泳多年,她母亲一直在旁边协助她。

My wife was always at my elbow to help me when I was in trouble.

我遇到困难时,我妻子总在身边帮助我。

at one's fingertips 唾手可得;熟悉

Seated in the cockpit, the pilot of a plane has many controls at his fingertips.

坐在驾驶舱里,驾驶员伸手可触及许多操作机关。

He has several languages at his fingertips.

他通晓几种语言。

He had the whole design of the machine at his fingertips.

他对机器的设计了如指掌。

at one's service 随时准备提供服务

A

You'll have an English-speaking guide at your service at all time.

英语向导随时为您提供服务。

I'm at your service, Madam.

夫人,我随时准备为您效劳。

at one's wit's/wits' end; at the end of

one's wits 无计可施;手足无措;计穷力竭

He was almost at his wit's end how to act.

他几乎不知所措。

I'm at my wits' end with this terribly complicated situation.

我对于这种极端复杂的情况束手无策。

With all three children at home all day, the mother was at the end of her wits trying to keep the house clean.

有三个孩子整天在家,要保持房间清洁,把母亲弄得计穷力竭。

at rest 休息中;睡觉中

Nothing could put his mind at rest.

什么事都无法使他的心安下来。

Don't disturb him, please. He is at rest.

请不要打扰他。他在休息。

at sea 不知所措;茫然;迷惑

The job was new to him, and for a few days he was at sea.

此工作对他来说是陌生的,有好几天他都不知所措。

I can't understand this problem. I am at sea.

我不懂这个问题,我茫然不知所措。

I am quite at sea regarding his explanation.

他的解释使我如坠五里雾中。

at sixes and sevens 乱七八糟

The house is rather at sixes and sevens.

那房子乱七八糟。

I'm all at sixes and sevens about what to do.

我完全不知道该怎么办。

Everything is at sixes and sevens in our house after last night's party.

昨晚的聚会以后,我家里杯盘狼藉,乱七八糟。

at swords' points 针锋相对;剑拔弩张;

争吵

It happened at the height of the quarrel when the two groups were at swords' points.

这事发生在双方争斗最激烈而均在剑拔弩张的时

候。

The mayor and the reporter were always at swords' points.

市长和那位记者两人动不动就吵架。

at the drop of a hat 立即;马上;随时准备

I am not satisfied with this job, so I am ready to resign at the drop of a hat.

我不满意此职位,准备随时辞职。

Tom is usually a good-hearted, friendly guy. But he has one problem—a hot temper. Say something he doesn't agree with, and he'll start a loud argument at the drop of a hat.

汤姆一般来讲心地善良,友好待人,但他有一个毛病,就是脾气坏。要是你说一些他不赞同的话,他就马上与你大声争辩。

He used to fight at the drop of a hat.

以前,他动不动就想打架。

at the end of one's rope/tether 处于困

境;遭遇不幸;筋疲力竭

With his savings gone and bills piling up, Tom was at the end of his rope.

汤姆已到了山穷水尽的地步,因为他已经花完了所有储蓄,并且债台高筑。

Mary was at the end of her rope now, because her husband is out of work and she's been the only breadwinner for her family.

玛丽遭到不幸,丈夫失业了,她成了唯一的养家糊口的人。

After two hours of hearing the children shout and argue, I really was at the end of my tether.

听那些小孩吵吵嚷嚷了两个钟头,我真是受够了。

at (the) most 最高估计;充其量;至多

It was a minor offense at most.

最坏也只是小小的冒犯而已。

It is at most a slip of the hand.

那至多是笔误而已。

I can pay only fifty dollars at most.

我最多只能付50美元。

at the ready 枪被举起,准备发射

All the competitors were at the ready, awaiting the pistol shot that would start the race.

所有竞赛者均已就位,等着起跑的信号枪响。



at the same time 同时;然而

I'll forgive you. At the same time, you must never do it again.

我可以宽恕你,但你以后决不能再干这种事。

We can all be pleased that this problem has been settled so easily. At the same time, it must be remembered that this is only the first of many.

我们很高兴此问题这么容易就解决了,可要记住这仅是许多问题中的一个。

at the top of one's voice/lungs 高声;大声的

When the man saw that the house was on fire, he cried "Fire!" at the top of his voice.

当那个人看见房子着火了,他就高声喊叫:“失火了!”

He shouted at the top of his lungs.

他尽量大声喊叫。

at the wheel 负责;控制

You want to know what my career plan is? I'll tell you honestly. My ambition is to be at the wheel of a big corporation by the time I reach forty

你想知道我的事业计划?坦白告诉你,我的愿望是在40岁时成为一家大公司的总裁。

at times 有时;间或

At times he prepares his lessons well. At other times he

does very poor work.

有时他的功课准备得很好,有时则做得很不好。

At times Tom's mother lets him hold the baby.

汤姆的妈妈偶尔让他抱孩子。

at will 任意;随便;听便

The magician can make the box big or small at will.

这个魔术师可随意让盒子变大或变小。

With an air conditioner fixed in our house, we can enjoy comfortable temperatures at will.

房子里装了空调,我们就可以随意享受舒适的温度了。

You may look at anything at will.

你可以随意看。

at your disposal 由你做主;听你的

Say anything you like. I am at your disposal.

你拿主意吧,我听你的。

away out in left field; out/off in left field

离正确答案差得远;错得离谱

Johnny tried to answer the teacher's question, but he was away out in left field.

约翰尼努力回答老师的问题,但错得离谱。

Susan tried to guess what the surprise was, but she was away out in left field.

苏珊想猜是什么意外之喜,却错得离谱。