

金 钥 匙 英 语 书

8

Gems of English

Correct Uses

英语精选成语例解

of Common

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Idioms

of Common  
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鲍屡平 著

湖北教育出版社



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# 英语精选成语例解

## Correct Uses of Common Idioms

鲍屡平 著



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## ①《金钥匙英语书》如是说①

有 数词曰：不是我不明白，这世界变化太快。一切都在变。  
以前，我们说“He's bad.”，只是说“他坏”之意，哪知 Michael Jackson 在舞台上颤栗着喊：“Who's bad!”，竟是“太棒了！”。bad 词义变化之大，令人目眩。

语言是活的，它是随社会的发展而发展的。英语，这门世界性语言，亦不例外。唯其发展，英语才有生命力、才有魅力。

发展中的语言，我们该“如何面对”？一筹莫展？否！

语言的变化归根结蒂还是离不开其根本的，可以说，一切变化均衍生于其根本。学习直至掌握一门语言，最最重要的是把握其根本，也只有把握住了根本，方能从容应付日新月异的变化。

“金钥匙英语书”就是向高中生至大学各年级的学生提供这些“根本”，涉及到英语语言及文化知识精华的方方面面，诸如英文语法（包括词汇、句法）、英文应用写作、英文流利口语技巧、英文翻译技巧、轻易学好英语技巧、英语阅读技巧、英语一般写作技巧、西方国家礼仪、英语国家知识等。悉其根本，即习得语言精华，对各种变化即可“迎刃而解”。

“金钥匙英语书”每册均采用新颖的体例、精当的行文，“新、精”是其特点。一句话，就是要 Better your English。

## PREFACE

---

To master a language one must familiarize oneself with its established usage. A Chinese student of English should learn to obtain a good command of those forms of expression which are peculiar to the language; for, although it is pretty simple in the matter of grammar, English remarkably abounds with idioms. A conscientious student will note that Englishmen and Americans say 'catch fire' but never 'catch **a** fire' or 'catch **the** fire', and that there is a great difference between 'keep house' and 'keep the house'. He won't use 'agree with' where 'agree to' is required. A majority of our young students, however, are ignorant of all these! The fact is that an idiom has a particular form and signification. With a view to helping them over such 'stumbling blocks', I have endeavoured to write a book on everyday idioms.

The present work comprises 2000 entries, in which twenty hundred idiomatic phrases are rather fully handled and many others briefly treated. Most of these phrases are plain idioms, while figurative idioms constitute but a very small part of the book. Every idiom is explained in definite words, largely according to *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Current English*. Following each explanation are one or more illustrative sentences, intended to show the correct use of the idiom in question.

A principal word is chosen from each idiom as a topic. Under each topic there may be one or more sections. The topics are arranged in alphabetical order. The so-called principal word generally signifies:

1. The subject of a clause:—  
as the **story** goes      as **it** is
2. A qualified or modified word:—  
small **hours**      no **longer**  
**man** of letters      **quick** as thought

**one** of these days      ever **since**  
**wet** to the skin      even **if**

3. A word followed by a preposition:—

|                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>cause</b> of      | <b>along</b> with        |
| <b>influence</b> on  | <b>instead</b> of        |
| <b>afraid</b> of     | <b>account</b> for       |
| <b>anxious</b> about | <b>arrive</b> at         |
| <b>ashamed</b> of    | <b>congratulate</b> ~ on |
| <b>lacking</b> in    | <b>rob</b> ~ of          |

4. A verb modified by a simple adverb:—

|                  |                       |
|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>break</b> out | <b>bring</b> together |
| <b>drop</b> in   | <b>hear</b> out       |

5. A word followed by a gerund, an infinitive, or a conjunction:—

|                   |                        |
|-------------------|------------------------|
| <b>busy</b> -ing  | <b>ought</b> to        |
| <b>avoid</b> -ing | <b>seeing</b> that     |
| <b>ready</b> to   | <b>whether</b> ~ or no |
| <b>about</b> to   | <b>hardly</b> ~ when   |

6. The object to a transitive verb or preposition; the substantive in a prepositional phrase modifying a verb, in a phrase preposition or in a phrase verb:—

|                       |                             |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| catch <b>fire</b>     | go to <b>church</b>         |
| foot <b>it</b>        | commit ~ to <b>memory</b>   |
| spare no <b>pains</b> | look one in the <b>face</b> |
| enjoy oneself         | take for <b>granted</b>     |
| by <b>chance</b>      | on <b>account</b> of        |
| in <b>debt</b>        | in <b>connexion</b> with    |
| in <b>short</b>       | pay <b>attention</b> to     |
| at <b>once</b>        | take <b>delight</b> in      |
| put on <b>airs</b>    |                             |

7. An adjective preceded by a verb:—

|                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| go <b>mad</b>     | do <b>wrong</b>      |
| come <b>true</b>  | leave ~ <b>alone</b> |
| make <b>merry</b> | keep ~ <b>secret</b> |

8. The first of the two words connected by a coordinate conjunction:—

|                      |                        |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| <b>day</b> and night | <b>here</b> and there  |
| <b>little</b> or no  | <b>sooner</b> or later |

When several idioms come under the same topic, those with the principal word in the most ordinary sense will appear first. An idiom composed of a verb and a preposition is usually placed before one composed of the same verb and an adverb.

Care has been taken in preparing notes for cross-references. If the reader is asked to **see** such-and-such a section, it means that an equivalent idiom is discussed there. If he is called upon to **compare** such-and-such a section, it means that an idiom is dealt with there, which is different either in sense or in structure from that under consideration.

The sign ‘ ~ ’ needs special mention; it represents one or more unspecified words. The word **do** is sometimes used in an explanation to stand for a verb. Occasionally a statement is made on the illustrative example that contains either a peculiar construction or else uncommon diction.

My indebtedness is due to H. W. and F. G. Fowler’s **Concise Oxford Dictionary** which I have frequently consulted for the exact meanings of idioms. Again, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Professors Y. W. Wang, W. F. Chao, and B. A. Slocum for their constant encouragement and valuable suggestions.

As this book is of an experimental nature, any corrections and criticisms that tend to its improvement will be gladly received and highly appreciated.

Bau Lüping  
Revised, 1994  
Hangzhou University

- 一、要学好英语,必须熟练掌握其习惯用法。为此撰写本书,以应读者需要。
- 二、本书论述最常见的英语成语 2000 条。释义大抵根据 Fowler 兄弟的《简明牛津英语词典》,颇为清晰正确;所附汉语释义,力求通达易懂,不图简练。每条义项下,举例一二句,以使读者知其用法。
- 三、各成语择一主要词作标题,标题词按字母顺序排列。所谓主要词,尚无绝对客观的标准,但一般指:
  1. 从句的主语;
  2. 动词以外的被修饰的词;
  3. 跟有介词的词;
  4. 为副词所修饰的动词;
  5. 跟有不定式、动名词、或连接词的词;
  6. 及物动词或介词的宾语,短语介词(如 *on account of*)、短语动词(如 *pay attention to*)或修饰动词的介词短语(如 *go to church*)中的名词;
  7. 跟在动词之后的形容词;
  8. 由并列连接词连接的两词中的第一个词。
- 四、同一标题下有几条成语的,则以成语中主要词用作最常用意义的居先;形或义相近的也使其位置相近;动词后跟有介词构成的成语通常放在该动词后跟有副词构成的成语之前,必要时并注明有关词的词性。
- 五、各条目下,对用法或意义相同、相似、或相反的成语以及结构相似或相异的成语,注以相互参照条目,以便比较。
- 六、释义中的斜体词表示加用的词,*do* 指一动词,~号则代表未确定的一词或数词。例句中偶有形义特殊的,加以诠释。
- 七、正文后附有成语索引,以便查找。
- 八、全书英语例句,均由著者鲍屺平教授自撰。例句译文中绝大部分由王锦副教授翻译,部分由姚祖培教授翻译,并由姚祖培教授审阅例句译文。全书由孙玲副教授校阅。本书在撰写过程中先后得到北京大学李赋宁教授、西南师范大学赵维藩教授以及许多好友的关怀与帮助,谨此一并致谢。



## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

|                                                            |                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| a. ....adjective 形容词                                       | intr. ...intransitive 不及物的                   |
| abs. ....absolute 省略通常后续成分(如及物动词的宾语等)                      | joc. ....jocose 戏谑的                          |
| adv. ....adverb 副词                                         | iron. ....ironical 讽刺的                       |
| colloq. ...colloquial 口语的                                  | lit. ....literal (意义)字面的                     |
| commerc. ...commercial 商业的                                 | mili. ....military 军事的                       |
| conj. ....conjunction 连接词                                  | n. ....noun 名词                               |
| ellip. ...elliptical 省略的                                   | n. ....note 注释                               |
| e. g. ....exempli gratia (L., for example) 例如              | N. B. ....nota bene (L., note well) 注意       |
| equiv. ...equivalent 同义的, 相等的                              | neg. ....negative 否定的                        |
| esp. ....especially 特别地, 尤其是                               | orig. ....original 原先的                       |
| etc. <b>or</b> &c. ...et cetera (L., and so forth) 等等, 及其他 | parenth. ....parenthetical 插入的               |
| excl. ....exclamation 感叹语                                  | pass. ....passive 被动的                        |
| fig. ....figurative (意义)比喻的                                | p. p. ....past participle 过去分词               |
| gen. ....general 一般的                                       | pred. ....predicative 表语                     |
| i. e. ....id est (L., that is) 那就是, 即                      | prep. ....preposition 介词                     |
| imp. ....imperative 祈使的                                    | refl. ....reflexive 反身的                      |
| int. ...interjection 感叹词                                   | s. s. ... (of) similar structure (具有)相似结构(的) |
| interrog. ....interrogative 疑问的                            | theatr. ...theatrical 戏剧性的                   |
|                                                            | trans. ...transitive 及物的                     |
|                                                            | U. S. ....United States 美国                   |
|                                                            | usu. ....usually 通常                          |
|                                                            | v. ....verb 动词                               |

# **CONTENTS**

---

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>PREFACE</b>               | 1 |
| 说明                           | 4 |
| <b>LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS</b> | 5 |

|            |   |           |    |           |    |
|------------|---|-----------|----|-----------|----|
| Abide      | 1 | Allowance | 10 | Auspice   | 17 |
| About      | 1 | Alone     | 10 | Average   | 17 |
| Accident   | 1 | Along     | 10 | Avoid     | 17 |
| Accord     | 1 | Amend     | 11 | Awake     | 18 |
| Accordance | 1 | Anchor    | 11 | Aware     | 18 |
| According  | 2 | Another   | 11 | Away      | 18 |
| Account    | 2 | Answer    | 11 | Axe       | 19 |
| Accustom   | 3 | Anxious   | 12 | Back      | 19 |
| Acquaint   | 4 | Anything  | 12 | Bad       | 19 |
| Add        | 4 | Apply     | 13 | Bar       | 19 |
| Addition   | 4 | Approve   | 13 | Bargain   | 20 |
| Admit      | 5 | Arm       | 13 | Base      | 20 |
| Advance    | 5 | Arrear    | 13 | Battle    | 20 |
| Advantage  | 5 | Arrive    | 14 | Bay       | 20 |
| Afar       | 6 | Art       | 14 | Bear      | 20 |
| Afraid     | 6 | Ashamed   | 14 | Beat      | 21 |
| Again      | 6 | Ask       | 14 | Beautiful | 22 |
| Age        | 6 | Asleep    | 15 | Because   | 22 |
| Agree      | 7 | Assure    | 15 | Become    | 22 |
| Ahead      | 7 | Astray    | 15 | Bed       | 22 |
| Aim        | 7 | Attach    | 16 | Begin     | 23 |
| Air        | 7 | Attend    | 16 | Beginning | 23 |
| All        | 8 | Attention | 16 | Behalf    | 24 |
| Allow      | 9 | Attribute | 17 | Believe   | 24 |

|        |    |              |    |                      |         |
|--------|----|--------------|----|----------------------|---------|
| Belong | 24 | Build        | 39 | Clever               | 55      |
| Bent   | 25 | Burn         | 39 | Close                | 55      |
| Best   | 25 | Bush         | 39 | Cold                 | 56      |
| Better | 26 | Business     | 40 | Come                 | 56      |
| Beware | 27 | Busy         | 40 | Command              | 60      |
| Big    | 27 | But          | 40 | Common               | 60      |
| Bind   | 27 | Button       | 41 | Company              | 61      |
| Bird   | 27 | By           | 41 | Compare              | 61      |
| Birth  | 28 | Call         | 41 | Comparison           | 62      |
| Bit    | 28 | Can          | 43 | Complain             | 62      |
| Black  | 29 | Candle       | 44 | Compliance           | 62      |
| Blank  | 29 | Cap          | 44 | Compliment           | 62      |
| Bless  | 29 | Capable      | 44 | Compose              | 63      |
| Blind  | 29 | Capacity     | 44 | Conclusion           | 63      |
| Block  | 30 | Captive      | 45 | Condition            | 63      |
| Blood  | 30 | Care         | 45 | Confer               | 64      |
| Bloom  | 30 | Careful      | 46 | Confess              | 64      |
| Blow   | 30 | Carry        | 46 | Confident            | 64      |
| Board  | 31 | Case         | 47 | Confine              | 64      |
| Boast  | 31 | Cash         | 49 | Conformity           | 65      |
| Boat   | 31 | Cast         | 49 | Congratulate         | 65      |
| Body   | 32 | Castle       | 49 | Connexion or Connec- | tion 65 |
| Book   | 32 | Cat          | 50 |                      |         |
| Boot   | 32 | Catch        | 50 | Conscious            | 65      |
| Both   | 32 | Cause        | 51 | Consequence          | 66      |
| Bottom | 33 | Certain      | 51 | Consideration        | 66      |
| Bound  | 33 | Certainty    | 51 | Consist              | 67      |
| Branch | 33 | Chance       | 52 | Consult              | 67      |
| Brave  | 34 | Charge       | 52 | Contact              | 67      |
| Bread  | 34 | Chase        | 53 | Content              | 68      |
| Break  | 34 | Cheer        | 53 | Contrary             | 68      |
| Breath | 36 | Choice       | 53 | Contrast             | 68      |
| Bring  | 36 | Church       | 53 | Convince             | 68      |
| Brink  | 38 | Circumstance | 53 | Cooperation          | 69      |
| Brunt  | 38 | Claim        | 54 | Cope                 | 69      |
| Bud    | 39 | Clear        | 54 | Correspond           | 69      |

|             |    |            |    |           |     |
|-------------|----|------------|----|-----------|-----|
| Cost        | 70 | Depend     | 84 | Ear       | 96  |
| Cough       | 70 | Dependent  | 85 | Earnest   | 96  |
| Count       | 70 | Deposit    | 85 | Earth     | 97  |
| Countenance | 70 | Deprive    | 85 | Ease      | 97  |
| Courage     | 71 | Desirous   | 85 | Easy      | 97  |
| Course      | 71 | Detail     | 86 | Eat       | 97  |
| Court       | 72 | Deuce      | 86 | Effect    | 98  |
| Cousin      | 72 | Die        | 86 | Either    | 98  |
| Coventry    | 72 | Differ     | 87 | Elbow     | 98  |
| Cover       | 72 | Difference | 87 | Employ    | 99  |
| Crack       | 72 | Dint       | 88 | Encroach  | 99  |
| Crazy       | 73 | Direction  | 88 | End       | 99  |
| Credit      | 73 | Discretion | 88 | Engage    | 101 |
| Crop        | 74 | Dispense   | 89 | English   | 101 |
| Crow        | 74 | Disposal   | 89 | Enjoy     | 101 |
| Cry         | 74 | Dispose    | 89 | Enough    | 102 |
| Cut         | 75 | Distance   | 89 | Enter     | 102 |
| Danger      | 76 | Do         | 90 | Entitle   | 103 |
| Dark        | 76 | Dog        | 91 | Equal     | 103 |
| Dash        | 77 | Door       | 91 | Escape    | 103 |
| Date        | 77 | Doubt      | 91 | Essential | 103 |
| Dawn        | 77 | Down       | 91 | Eve       | 104 |
| Day         | 78 | Doze       | 92 | Event     | 104 |
| Daylight    | 80 | Draw       | 92 | Ever      | 104 |
| Deaf        | 80 | Dress      | 92 | Example   | 105 |
| Deal        | 81 | Drink      | 92 | Excel     | 105 |
| Dear        | 82 | Drive      | 93 | Exception | 106 |
| Death       | 82 | Drop       | 93 | Excess    | 106 |
| Debt        | 82 | Drunk      | 94 | Excuse    | 106 |
| Decrease    | 83 | Dry        | 94 | Expert    | 107 |
| Defensive   | 83 | Duck       | 94 | Expose    | 107 |
| Deference   | 83 | Due        | 94 | Extent    | 107 |
| Defiance    | 83 | Dumb       | 95 | Extreme   | 108 |
| Degree      | 84 | Dust       | 95 | Eye       | 108 |
| Delay       | 84 | Duty       | 95 | Face      | 109 |
| Delight     | 84 | Dwell      | 95 | Fact      | 110 |

|            |     |         |     |            |     |
|------------|-----|---------|-----|------------|-----|
| Fail       | 110 | Frank   | 129 | Hang       | 155 |
| Fair       | 111 | Free    | 129 | Happy      | 155 |
| Fall       | 111 | Fresh   | 129 | Hard       | 155 |
| Familiar   | 114 | Freeze  | 130 | Hardly     | 156 |
| Fancy      | 114 | Friend  | 130 | Haste      | 156 |
| Far        | 115 | Front   | 130 | Have       | 156 |
| Fashion    | 116 | Full    | 130 | Head       | 157 |
| Fault      | 117 | Fun     | 131 | Health     | 158 |
| Favour     | 117 | Future  | 131 | Hear       | 159 |
| Fear       | 117 | Gain    | 131 | Heart      | 159 |
| Feed       | 118 | Gather  | 131 | Heaven     | 161 |
| Feel       | 118 | General | 132 | Heavy      | 161 |
| Few        | 118 | Get     | 132 | Heed       | 161 |
| Fight      | 119 | Give    | 137 | Heel       | 162 |
| Figure     | 119 | Glance  | 139 | Help       | 162 |
| Fill       | 120 | Go      | 139 | Here       | 163 |
| Find       | 120 | God     | 144 | High       | 163 |
| Fire       | 120 | Good    | 144 | Hit        | 164 |
| Firm       | 122 | Grace   | 146 | Hither     | 164 |
| First      | 122 | Grant   | 146 | Hold       | 164 |
| Fish       | 123 | Grasp   | 147 | Home       | 167 |
| Fit        | 123 | Grave   | 147 | Honour     | 167 |
| Fix        | 124 | Greedy  | 147 | Hope       | 167 |
| Flare      | 125 | Grief   | 147 | Horse      | 168 |
| Flight     | 125 | Ground  | 147 | Hour       | 168 |
| Fly        | 125 | Grow    | 148 | House      | 168 |
| Follow     | 125 | Grudge  | 148 | How        | 169 |
| Fond       | 126 | Guard   | 148 | Hungry     | 169 |
| Fool       | 126 | Guess   | 149 | Hunt       | 169 |
| Foot       | 126 | Guilty  | 149 | Hurry      | 170 |
| For        | 127 | Guisse  | 149 | Hush       | 170 |
| Force      | 127 | Habit   | 149 | Idle       | 170 |
| Form       | 128 | Had     | 150 | If         | 170 |
| Fortune    | 128 | Hair    | 150 | Ignorant   | 171 |
| Foul       | 128 | Half    | 150 | Ill        | 171 |
| Foundation | 129 | Hand    | 151 | Importance | 172 |

|              |     |            |     |         |     |
|--------------|-----|------------|-----|---------|-----|
| In           | 172 | Knot       | 187 | Little  | 206 |
| Inasmuch     | 172 | Know       | 187 | Live    | 207 |
| Inch         | 172 | Labour     | 188 | Living  | 208 |
| Indebted     | 173 | Lack       | 189 | Lock    | 208 |
| Independent  | 173 | Land       | 189 | Log     | 208 |
| Inferior     | 173 | Large      | 189 | Long    | 208 |
| Influence    | 173 | Last       | 189 | Look    | 210 |
| Inform       | 174 | Late       | 190 | Lookout | 214 |
| Innocent     | 174 | Laugh      | 191 | Loose   | 214 |
| Inquire      | 174 | Law        | 191 | Lose    | 215 |
| Insist       | 175 | Lay        | 191 | Loss    | 215 |
| Instance     | 175 | Lead       | 193 | Lot     | 215 |
| Instant      | 176 | Leaf       | 194 | Love    | 216 |
| Instead      | 176 | Leak       | 194 | Luck    | 216 |
| Intent       | 176 | Leap       | 194 | Lurch   | 216 |
| Intention    | 177 | Least      | 195 | Mad     | 216 |
| Interest     | 177 | Leave      | 195 | Main    | 217 |
| Interfere    | 177 | Leg        | 197 | Make    | 217 |
| Interval     | 178 | Leisure    | 197 | Man     | 219 |
| Introduce    | 178 | Length     | 198 | Manner  | 222 |
| Invite       | 178 | Less       | 198 | Many    | 222 |
| Involve      | 179 | Lesson     | 199 | Mark    | 223 |
| Irrespective | 179 | Lest       | 199 | Mask    | 224 |
| It           | 179 | Let        | 199 | Matter  | 224 |
| Jack         | 181 | Letter     | 201 | Means   | 225 |
| Jealous      | 181 | Liable     | 201 | Measure | 226 |
| Jest         | 181 | Liberty    | 201 | Meek    | 227 |
| Join         | 181 | Lie        | 202 | Meet    | 227 |
| Joke         | 182 | Lieu       | 203 | Memory  | 227 |
| Jove         | 182 | Life       | 203 | Mercy   | 228 |
| Jump         | 182 | Light      | 204 | Merry   | 229 |
| Justice      | 182 | Like       | 205 | Mess    | 229 |
| Keep         | 183 | Likelihood | 205 | Middle  | 229 |
| Kind         | 186 | Limit      | 205 | Midst   | 229 |
| Kith         | 186 | Line       | 206 | Might   | 230 |
| Knock        | 187 | Listen     | 206 | Mind    | 230 |

|                 |     |            |     |             |     |
|-----------------|-----|------------|-----|-------------|-----|
| Miracle         | 232 | Offence    | 249 | Pick        | 268 |
| Moment          | 233 | Oh         | 250 | Piece       | 268 |
| Money           | 233 | Oil        | 250 | Pity        | 269 |
| Mood            | 233 | Old        | 250 | Place       | 269 |
| More            | 233 | On         | 250 | Play        | 271 |
| Most            | 235 | Once       | 250 | Plea        | 271 |
| Motion          | 235 | One        | 252 | Please      | 271 |
| Much            | 236 | Only       | 253 | Pleasure    | 272 |
| Muster          | 238 | Open       | 253 | Plentiful   | 272 |
| Name            | 238 | Opinion    | 254 | Plenty      | 273 |
| Natural         | 239 | Oppose     | 255 | Point       | 273 |
| Nature          | 239 | Opposite   | 255 | Poor        | 274 |
| Near            | 239 | Opposition | 255 | Pore        | 274 |
| Necessity       | 240 | Order      | 255 | Position    | 275 |
| Need            | 240 | Other      | 257 | Possess     | 275 |
| Neither         | 241 | Ought      | 258 | Possession  | 275 |
| Nest            | 241 | Out        | 258 | Power       | 276 |
| Next            | 241 | Over       | 259 | Practice    | 276 |
| Noise           | 242 | Owe        | 260 | Practise    | 276 |
| Nonsense        | 242 | Own        | 260 | Prefer      | 277 |
| Nose            | 242 | Pace       | 260 | Preparation | 277 |
| Note            | 243 | Pain       | 261 | Prepare     | 277 |
| Nothing         | 243 | Part       | 261 | Presence    | 278 |
| Notice          | 245 | Partake    | 263 | Present     | 278 |
| Notwithstanding | 245 | Particular | 263 | Press       | 278 |
| Now             | 245 | Pass       | 264 | Pretence    | 279 |
| Null            | 246 | Passion    | 265 | Pretext     | 279 |
| Number          | 247 | Patient    | 266 | Prevail     | 280 |
| Nut             | 247 | Patronage  | 266 | Prevent     | 280 |
| Oats            | 247 | Pay        | 266 | Previous    | 280 |
| Object          | 247 | Peace      | 266 | Pride       | 280 |
| Obligation      | 248 | Peg        | 267 | Print       | 281 |
| Oblige          | 248 | Penny      | 267 | Prison      | 281 |
| Occur           | 248 | Persist    | 267 | Private     | 281 |
| Odd             | 248 | Person     | 268 | Profit      | 281 |
| Off             | 248 | Pertain    | 268 | Progress    | 282 |

|            |     |             |     |          |     |
|------------|-----|-------------|-----|----------|-----|
| Prohibit   | 282 | Relation    | 300 | Satisfy  | 316 |
| Proportion | 282 | Relative    | 300 | Say      | 316 |
| Prospect   | 283 | Rely        | 300 | Scale    | 317 |
| Proud      | 283 | Remain      | 301 | Scarcely | 317 |
| Provide    | 283 | Remind      | 301 | School   | 318 |
| Public     | 284 | Repair      | 301 | Sea      | 318 |
| Pull       | 284 | Repent      | 301 | Search   | 318 |
| Purpose    | 285 | Reserve     | 302 | Season   | 319 |
| Pursuance  | 287 | Resort      | 302 | Seat     | 319 |
| Pursuit    | 287 | Respect     | 302 | Second   | 319 |
| Push       | 287 | Response    | 303 | Secret   | 319 |
| Put        | 287 | Responsible | 303 | See      | 320 |
| Qualify    | 291 | Rest        | 304 | Seek     | 321 |
| Quarrel    | 292 | Result      | 304 | Seize    | 321 |
| Quest      | 292 | Return      | 305 | Self     | 322 |
| Question   | 292 | Rhyme       | 305 | Send     | 329 |
| Quick      | 293 | Rich        | 305 | Sense    | 330 |
| Rain       | 293 | Rid         | 306 | Sentence | 330 |
| Random     | 293 | Right       | 306 | Serve    | 330 |
| Rate       | 294 | Ring        | 307 | Service  | 330 |
| Rather     | 294 | Riot        | 308 | Set      | 331 |
| Reach      | 294 | Rise        | 308 | Settle   | 334 |
| Ready      | 295 | Risk        | 308 | Sex      | 334 |
| Reality    | 296 | Rob         | 309 | Shame    | 334 |
| Reckon     | 296 | Room        | 309 | Share    | 335 |
| Record     | 296 | Root        | 309 | Shelter  | 335 |
| Red        | 296 | Rote        | 310 | Shift    | 335 |
| Reduce     | 296 | Round       | 310 | Shoe     | 335 |
| Refer      | 297 | Rule        | 310 | Shoot    | 335 |
| Reference  | 298 | Run         | 311 | Shop     | 336 |
| Refrain    | 298 | Saddle      | 314 | Short    | 336 |
| Refuge     | 298 | Safe        | 314 | Shoulder | 337 |
| Regard     | 298 | Sail        | 314 | Show     | 338 |
| Regardless | 299 | Sake        | 315 | Shut     | 338 |
| Rein       | 299 | Sale        | 315 | Shy      | 339 |
| Relate     | 299 | Same        | 315 | Sick     | 339 |



|           |     |             |     |         |     |
|-----------|-----|-------------|-----|---------|-----|
| Side      | 339 | Square      | 354 | Take    | 367 |
| Siege     | 340 | Stake       | 354 | Tale    | 370 |
| Sight     | 340 | Stamp       | 354 | Talk    | 370 |
| Silence   | 342 | Stand       | 355 | Taste   | 371 |
| Silent    | 342 | Standard    | 356 | Tear    | 372 |
| Silly     | 342 | Standstill  | 356 | Tell    | 372 |
| Similar   | 342 | Stare       | 356 | Temper  | 372 |
| Since     | 343 | Start       | 356 | Ten     | 373 |
| Sit       | 343 | Step        | 357 | Term    | 373 |
| Six       | 344 | Stick       | 357 | Thames  | 373 |
| Sky       | 344 | Still       | 358 | Thanks  | 373 |
| Sleeve    | 344 | Stock       | 358 | That    | 374 |
| Slip      | 344 | Stone       | 358 | Theatre | 375 |
| Smile     | 345 | Store       | 358 | There   | 375 |
| Snatch    | 346 | Storm       | 359 | Thick   | 375 |
| Sneer     | 346 | Story       | 359 | Thing   | 375 |
| Snuff     | 346 | Stranger    | 359 | Think   | 376 |
| So        | 346 | Straw       | 360 | Though  | 377 |
| Sober     | 348 | Stress      | 360 | Through | 377 |
| Soft      | 348 | Strike      | 360 | Throw   | 377 |
| Somehow   | 348 | Stupid      | 361 | Time    | 379 |
| Something | 348 | Subject     | 362 | Tire    | 384 |
| Song      | 349 | Succeed     | 362 | Tit     | 384 |
| Soon      | 349 | Succession  | 363 | To      | 384 |
| Sorry     | 350 | Such        | 363 | Toil    | 384 |
| Sort      | 350 | Sudden      | 363 | Token   | 385 |
| Spade     | 351 | Suffer      | 364 | Too     | 385 |
| Speak     | 351 | Suit        | 364 | Tooth   | 385 |
| Speed     | 352 | Sum         | 364 | Top     | 385 |
| Spick     | 352 | Sun         | 364 | Touch   | 386 |
| Spirit    | 353 | Superior    | 365 | Trial   | 386 |
| Spite     | 353 | Supposition | 365 | Trifle  | 386 |
| Sport     | 353 | Sure        | 365 | Trouble | 387 |
| Spot      | 354 | Sweet       | 366 | Truant  | 387 |
| Spring    | 354 | Sympathy    | 366 | True    | 387 |
| Spur      | 354 | Table       | 367 | Trumpet | 388 |