

A DICTIONARY
OF
ENGLISH IDIOMS

侯梅琴著 黎肇汉校

常用
英语成语
词典

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前 言

《英语常用词组2500例》所选英语词组均是在英美报刊、小说、教科书和英语广播电台出现过，例句除大部分来自现用中学课本、大学英语课本（包括许国璋教授编写的《基础英语》）、引进的外国英语教材（包括“Essential English”，“New Concept English”，“English For Today”等）以及部分英语阅读材料之外，有相当一部分来自英、美、加拿大的书报和我国出版的英语报章杂志和中国名著的英译本。有些例句是经删节后选用的，没作任何改动的原文例句均用引号，以示区别。

本书按英语字母顺序排列。有一个常用意义的词条，一般配两个例句。如果是多义的，选用其中较常用的几个，然后各配上两个例句。每条词组均有英语解释，这些解释取材于不同的词典，其中包括“Oxford American Dictionary”。由于目前美国口语、俚语已常出现在英美书报上，本书还有意识地选用了一部分常见的口语词组。

本书主要供初三以上的中学生、大专学校低年级学生、英语自学人士和英语工作者参考使用。对大中学校英语教师和其他涉外单位使用英语的同志，也有一定的参考价值。

本书在编写过程中，得到暨南大学外语教学中心的领导和同事的大力支持。李宗渭副教授还作了个别修改、补充。叶华享副教授、张繁如副教授、黄惠云讲师以及李锦平副教授、龙春娉教授、陈爱玖副教授等都在不同程度上给予支持、帮助，提出了一些宝贵意见。此外，本书还得到林青同志、香东胜同志、袁绮云同志、王威同志、侯苑媚同志和外语系以及外语教学中心的打字室的同

志的帮助。对此，仅借此机会向以上同志致以衷心的感谢。

由于编者水平有限，编写时间仓促，书中难免有错漏之处，敬请批评、指正。

编 者

1990年8月28日

再版前言

《英语常用词组 2500 例》自 1992 年 12 月出版以来,颇为读者所喜爱,已全部售罄。为进一步满足读者需要,现将原书名改为《常用英语成语辞典》再版发行。现借再版之际,对广大读者以及加拿大多伦多约克大学原副校长、加中友协主席威廉·斯莫尔先生(William Small)前后两次来信给予本书的肯定、鼓励和宝贵建议,表示衷心的感谢。错漏之处,还请读者批评指正。

编者

1995 年 2 月

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A

taken aback — disconcerted 吃惊; 吓了一跳

1. "Yi was too taken aback to dismount." "羿还呆坐在马上。"

2. "The dark man, rather taken aback, did not change color." "黑色人也仿佛有些惊慌, 但是面不改容。"

abide by — to be faithful to, to keep 忠于, 遵守, 依从

1. They should abide by the rules. 他们应遵守规章制度。

2. The official explained at the recent Guangzhou Fair that business people had to abide by the rules. 在最近举行的广交会上, 这位官员解释说商人得遵守规章制度。

abound in (or with) — to have in large numbers or great quantity 充满, 富有

1. The lake abounds in fish. 湖里有大量的鱼。

2. This forest abounds in wild animals. 森林里有许许多多的野生动物。

be about to — to be on the point or verge of doing something 即将

1. He seems about to say something, his mouth open as he stares straight ahead, his eyes wide. 他好像要开口说什么似的, 眼瞪瞪地望着前头, 口张开, 眼

眼睛睁得大大的。

2. We were about to leave when we noticed a bag lying on the floor. We were greatly surprised. 我们就要离开时，看见一个手袋放在地上，我们很惊奇。

above all — most important of all 最重要的是

1. Above all, he is honest. 最重要的是，他为人正直。
2. Above all, our firm is a big one. 最重要的是我们的公司是间大公司。

be (or keep) abreast of — to know all the time the most recent facts about (something non-material) 赶得上，不落伍

1. We must keep abreast of times in science and technology. 我们在科技方面必须跟上时代的步伐。
2. He reads newspaper to keep abreast of the current affairs in the world. 他读报以熟悉世界时事。

by accident — accidentally 偶然，意外

1. This morning he cut his finger by accident. 今早他不慎割伤了手指。
2. They met Tom in the street by accident. 他们偶然在街上碰见汤姆。

(be) in accord with — (to be) in agreement with 和……一致，符合……的

1. My wife's opinion is in accord with mine. 我妻子的意见和我的一致。
2. His words are in accord with his thought. 他的言行一致。

3 in accordance with

of one's own accord — without being asked or compelled 主动地, 自动地

1. She mentioned it of her own accord. 她主动提起这事。
2. Under the new policies, enterprises elsewhere are also allowed to seek foreign investment and hard currency of their own accord. 根据新的政策, 各地企业可允许自筹外资外汇。

with one accord — all agreeing 一致

1. Then with one accord we straightened up silently. 大家默默无言不约而同地伸直了腰杆。
2. They passed the resolution with one accord. 他们一致通过了决议。

according to—as stated by or in, in a manner consistent with or in proportion to 依照, 依据, 根据

1. Then knowledge began to be accumulated according to a systematic plan. 于是依照系统的方案, 知识开始积累起来。
2. Cut the dress according to the figure. 量体裁衣。

in accordance with — according to 依照, 依据, 根据

1. In accordance with your orders he sold the car. 他按照你的命令把车卖了。
2. "This was not in accordance with tradition and, taken by surprise, we were at a loss." "这模样, 是老例上没有的, 先前也未曾预防到, 大家都手足无措了。"

account for — to give an explanation or reason for 解释, 说明

1. She could not account for her failure in her examination. 她无法说明考试不及格的原因。
2. The official could hardly account for the failure of launching the spacecraft on time. 那位官员几乎解释不了不能准时发射飞船的理由。

take into account — to consider 考虑, 斟酌

1. Now they pressed hard, and had to be taken into account. 如今他们步步紧逼, 不得不要有所考虑了。
2. Analysts note that in drawing up the plan, they must have taken into full account of the current conditions in the country. 分析家们说, 制订计划时, 他们一定是充分考虑到了国家目前的条件的。

on no account (or not on any account) — not for any reason 决不, 莫不

1. So we must on no account act like the common herd. 我们决不可做俗人。
2. They ought on no account to pass the buck.
他们不该推卸责任。

be accustomed to — to be used to, to be in the habit of 习惯于

1. They are accustomed to hard work. 他们习惯干艰苦的工作。
2. Soon the soldiers were accustomed to the use of the new weapons. 不久士兵们便习惯使用新式武器了。

be acquainted with — to know slightly 熟悉

1. Though Mrs Bussmann was fully acquainted with this story, she thought that there was a chance in a million that she might be right. 尽管巴斯曼太太十分熟悉这一说法，但她仍然认为她的想法有可能对。
2. They have come two weeks early in order to get acquainted with Beijing. 他们提前两周到达北京以便熟悉情况。

act as — to serve as 充当，做

1. The pole acted as a weapon against the thief. 竹杆被用作打小偷的武器。
2. Reporters kept pressing for interviews so lawyers had to be employed to act as spokesmen for the family at the press conference. 记者不断要求会见，所以只好请律师来，在记者招待会上充当这家人的发言人。

act out — to express (thoughts, unconscious fears etc.) in actions and behaviour rather than in words 比划着表达，表演

1. He got out his knife and acted out cutting into the bag. 他掏出刀子比比划划地做着割睡袋的样子。
2. He tried to act out a story that he had read. 他想把他读过的故事边说边比划地讲出来。

act up — to behave or perform badly 行为不良，出毛病

1. The car is old so it often acts up. 这辆车旧了，

in the act of (doing) 6

经常出毛病。

2. Whenever I turn on the radio, my television set will act up. 每当我扭开收音机收听时, 我的电视机便出毛病。

in the act of (doing) — while doing, at the moment of doing 正在动作时, 当场

1. The thief was caught in the act of stealing a purse from a passenger. 小偷扒一位旅客的钱包时, 当场被抓住。
2. The terrorist was caught in the act of planting a bomb in a passenger plane. 那个恐怖分子在一架客机上放置炸弹时被当场抓获。

take action — to begin to act 开始行动, 采取行动

1. It was impossible for the "Ombudsman" to take action. "伸正员"未能采取行动。
2. They tried to take some united action to control the situation. 他们设法采取一些联合行动来控制局势。

out of action — not working, no longer able to do a typical activity 失效, 损坏, 出故障

1. Three batties and three victories in 40 days put 20 000 enemy troops out of action. 40天内三战三捷把敌军2万人打得丧失了战斗力。
2. The flood put the traffic out of action. 洪水使交通瘫痪。

add up — to find the total of, to combine 合计, 加起来

1. These figures added up correctly. 这些数目加起来正确。
2. Every time she added these figures up she got a different answer. 她每次把这些数目加起来时，得出的答案都不同。

add up to — to amount to, to seem to be
总共达，似乎是

1. Machine tool left idling during breaks can add up to 20 percent to electric bills. 休息时机器在那里空转使电费总共多20%。
2. The evidence added up to a case of treason.
证据显示出似乎是一宗叛国案。

in addition (to) — as well (as) 此外，加之

1. You need money and time. In addition, you need hard working. 你需要金钱和时间。此外，你需要艰苦奋斗。
2. She met some friends and classmates in addition.
此外，她碰见一些朋友和同学。
3. But now, in addition to handing over the grain, he gives the State about 10 000 yuan every year in taxes. 但现在，他除了交售粮食给国家外，每年还交近一万元的税款给国家。
4. "In addition to the uncertainty regarding Ah Q's surname, personal name, and place of origin, there is even some uncertainty regarding his 'background'."
“阿Q不独是姓名、籍贯有些渺茫，连他先前的‘行状’也渺茫。”

in advance — ahead in place or time 事先，

预先

1. We'll tell you in advance that our answer is a moderately cheerful "no". 我们将事先通知你们, 我们的答复是条使人感到高兴的“异议”。
2. The man paid the hotel bill in advance. 那人先付了旅馆费。

after all — in spite of everything 毕竟, 终究, 尽管

1. Yet what happened to us as individuals was after all not so important. 不过, 作为个人来说, 不管出了什么事也不是什么了不起的大事。
2. After all, they say, the current policies are sound. 他们说目前的政策毕竟是好的。

again and again (or time and again) — very often, repeatedly 一再, 屡次

1. Everything I have never done I do again and again in my mind. 凡我从未做过的事, 我心里都一再盘算着做。
2. He staked successfully again and again. 他赢了又赢。

now and again — occasionally, from time to time 有时, 不时, 时而

1. We go to the films now and again. 我们不时去看电影。
2. Tom drops in now and again. 汤姆不时来访。

be (or come) of age — to be or reach the age at which one has an adult's legal rights and responsibilities 达到成人年龄

1. Has she come of age? 她达到成人年龄了吗?
2. When does he come of age? 她什么时候才达到成人年龄?

agree with — to be in accordance with, to suit the health of 和……一致, 适合, 相宜

1. That agreed with what I had heard in my home in Tennessee. 那和我在田纳西州所听到的相符。
2. The climate in this region did not agree with her health. 该地区的气候不适宜她的健康情况。

come to an agreement — to agree 同意, 达成协议

1. The two nations at last came to an agreement. 两国最后达成了协议。
2. After a long discussion, the two sides came to an agreement. 经过长时间讨论, 双方达成协议。

ahead of — in advance of, better than 在……之前, 优于, 胜过

1. Pay raises have been big enough to keep them ahead of the cost of living in the place. 在这个地方工资的增长大, 足以使增长高于生活费用的增加。
2. There was no sign ahead of Attiwapiskat. 在阿提瓦皮斯卡特前面没有什么信号。

by air — in or by aircraft 坐飞机

1. Jack will go to Beijing for a visit by air tomorrow. 明天杰克坐飞机到北京访问。
2. Travelling by air is faster than by train. 坐飞机旅行比乘火车快。

in the air (or up in the air) — (of stories, talk, rumours, etc.) being passed on from one person to another, not fully planned or settled, uncertain 在流传中, 悬而未决, 未定, 渺茫

1. There are rumours in the air. Don't believe them.
谣言四散, 别信它。
2. His plan is still quite in the air. 他的计划仍很渺茫。

on the air — broadcast or broadcasting by radio or television 在广播中

1. After a couple of commercials, Teddy Pendergrass is on the air and Lindsey is not. 广播了两个商业广告后, 特迪·彭德格拉斯在广播而林西则没有。
2. "Radio Beijing" is on the air now. Let's turn on our radio. "北京广播电台"正在广播, 让我们扭开收音机听听。

put on airs — to behave in an affected haughty manner 摆架子

1. Whenever he was asked to give a lecture, he liked to put on airs as if he were a big shot. 每当请他作讲演时, 他喜欢摆架子, 好像他是一位大人物似的。
2. She doesn't put on any airs. 她不摆架子。

on the alert (for) — in a state of watchfulness for danger, as after a warning 警惕着, 警觉着

1. Troops are on the alert against any possible aggression. 军队处于戒备状态，准备反击任何可能的侵略。
2. The dog was on the alert for any strangers.

这只狗注视着任何生客。

alive with — covered with or full of (living things) 充满(活的东西)

1. Look, the cakes are alive with ants. 瞧，蛋糕上爬满了蚂蚁。
2. The dark beyond the edge of the deck is alive with lightning-bugs. 在甲板边沿后的暗处全是萤火虫。

all but — almost, nearly 几乎

1. We could, at one time, repair ourselves — well enough, at least, to overcome all but the most instantly fatal illnesses and accidents. 偶然，我们能够自己治愈，起码能够治愈几乎所有立刻使人致命的疾病和祸事。
2. The night air was cold on the veranda, my father was wet to the waist, and we were all but half dressed. 晚上走廊上的空气冷，我父亲半身都淋湿了，而我们几乎是半裸着。

all in all — all things considered, as a whole, in general 所有的事都考虑到，总的来说，一般来说

1. After some polite exchanges we finally got seated and down to business. It was quite a story all in all. 寒暄几句后，我们终于坐下来谈正事。一般来说，这倒是一回事。