

常用英语成语

1000 例

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李维祥 编著

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编 者 的 话

我们在教学和翻译实践中，搜集并积累了大量的英语成语（其中包括一些惯用语和俚语）资料。为方便初学者使用和尽快地掌握运用常用的成语，我们经过多次统计，反复筛选，对语言上较为陈旧或生僻的词加以删减，同时，参阅国外有关词汇常用率的统计资料，选出常用率最高的约 1000 个词条加以注释，以利读者掌握这些最基础最常用的成语，从而提高阅读、写作及日常会话的能力。

本书词条均按英文字母顺序编排，每个词条附有汉释，并通过例句加以说明。所选例句大部分依据英美原著，只有小部分系编者自撰的。例句在搭配上注意了词汇与结构的变化，力求通俗简明，易于上口，便于记忆。所选例句均附有汉译文。由于英语的句子比较灵活，同样一个句子在不同场合可能有不同含义，只有通过上下文才能正确加以判断，因此，不宜把译文与原句完全等同起来，附译文的目的仅在于帮助读者正确理解。此外，书中对读者难于理解的或易于产生望文生义的词条均加以说明或辨析。

本书初稿曾蒙赵德先教授、马俊明教授及邹国凡同志审看，并提了宝贵意见，谨此致谢。

由于编者水平有限，错误与不妥之处在所难免，恳请读者批评指正。

编著者

1983 年 1 月

a bit 有一些, 稍微

The price is a bit higher than I can pay. 这价钱比我能够付的稍高一点。

The news seems a bit strange. 这消息似乎有些奇怪。

That comforts me a bit. 那事多少给了我点安慰。

Do you mind my opening the window? Not a bit.

我打开窗子你介意吗? 一点也不。

〔注〕a bit 与 a little 意义相同。如果在这两个成语前面加上否定副词 not, 则意义大不相同。not a bit 是“一点也不”, 而 not a little 是“不少, 很多, 很”。not a bit 相当于 not at all。not a little 相当于 much, 或 extremely。

例如: He was not a little surprised. 他大为吃惊。

a bit of a... 有点像……

He is a bit of a poet. 他有点象诗人。

He has a bit of a humourist in him. 他的性格有点幽默。

〔注〕a bit of a... 后面所接的名词总是指人的。如:
Comrade Li seems to be a bit of a coward.

about to(do)

1) 就要……

The ship was about to set sail. 这条船就要启航。

My son is about to leave for Shanghai. 我的儿子就要到上海去了。

2) 有意; 打算……

Freddy wasn't about to give me any of his ice-cream cone. 弗雷迪不打算给我冰淇淋。

"Will she come with us?" asked Bill. "She's not about to," answered Mary. 比尔问道: "她是否同我们一块去?"

玛丽回答: "她没有这个意思。"

〔注〕about to...之后不能用表示时间的词语, The dean is about to attend the meeting. 是正确的, 如果说 The dean is about to leave for London tomorrow (或 at once) (主任明天将去伦敦或将立即赴伦敦) 就欠妥, 应该去掉时间状语 tomorrow 或 at once.

above all 尤其是; 最重要的是

Above all, don't talk to anybody about it. 最重要的是, 别把这件事告诉任何人。

Never waste anything, and above all, never waste time. 决不可浪费任何东西, 尤其不要浪费时间。

Above all, be punctual. 最重要的是要遵守时刻。

〔注〕above all 用作状语修饰整个句子, 也可看作是插入语。这个成语的英文解释是 more important than all, 译为汉语, 不妨灵活一些。例如: Above all, be frank. (最重要的是要坦率。) Mr. Green has a taste for arts,

and above all for music. (格林先生喜爱艺术, 尤其是音乐。)

according to...

1) 依照……

According to all accounts, the game was interesting. 根据各方面叙述, 那场比赛很有意思。

We must act according to circumstances. 我们必须按照情况行动。

2) 据……说

According to Mr. Smith, no one was injured. 根据史密斯先生说, 没人受伤。

According to the weather forecast, a cold current will sweep North China. 据天气预报, 将有寒流袭击华北。

account for...

1) 说明…… (原因)

How do you account for the difference? 你怎么说明那个差别?

He himself can't account for his failure. 他自己也不能说清楚他失败的原因。

2) 由于……, 因为……

His illness accounts for his absence. 他的缺席是因为生病。

Idleness often accounts for poverty. 贫穷常常起因于懒惰。

accustomed to... 习惯于……

He is accustomed to early rising. 他习惯于早起。

He was accustomed to say that knowledge is power. 过去他常说，知识就是力量。

He soon became accustomed to hard work. 不久，他对艰苦的工作就习惯了。

My mother is accustomed to use her left hand. 我妈妈常常用左手工作。

〔注〕accustomed to... 后面常接名词或动名词。如：
The boy is accustomed to hard work (working hard).
这句话中的 accustomed 如改为 used 也完全可以，如：

The boy is used to $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{hard work.} \\ \text{working hard.} \end{array} \right.$

这个成语后面也有时接不定式。大致说简单的行为用动名词的情况比较多一些，而复杂的行为用不定式的情况比较多。但有些英美人并不遵守这个说法。如：

Mr. Taylor was accustomed to speaking Spanish.

(比较简单)

Mr. Jackson was accustomed to speak French in public. (比较复杂)

add to... 增加……

Worthy friends add to the happiness and value of life. 良友能增加人生乐趣和价值。

That will only add to our difficulties. 那只能增加我们的困难。

〔注〕 add to... 和 add...to... 意义有别。前者是 increase (增加), 后者是“把……加到……上面去”。例如:

① I don't want to add to your trouble. 我不想给你增加麻烦。

② Please add the item to my bill. 请把这一项加在我的账单里。

a few 几个

A few of my students have finished their homework. 我的学生中有几个已经完成了家庭作业。

He has a few English novels. 他有几本英文小说。

In a few more months, the whole situation will become better still. 再过几个月, 整个的形势还会变得更好。

〔注〕 a few 当“虽然不多但还有几个 (some though not many)”讲。a few 和 few 有区别。few 的意思是“虽然不是没有, 然而很少”, 含有“几乎没有”的否定意味, 二者的不同不在于实际的多少, 而在于观点的不同。比如说“他有几本书”, He has a few books. 就含有“幸亏还有几本书”的意思, 说 He has few books. 就含有“可惜书太少”的意思。

after all 毕竟; 到底

After all, why did you do such a thing? 你到底为了什么做这件事呢?

You are right after all. 你毕竟是对的。

Our views are not so far apart, after all. 我们的观点毕竟相差不太远。

again and again

1) 再三地

He mentioned it again and again. 他一再提到这件事。

2) 反复地

My student listened to the tape recording again and again. 我的这个学生反复听了这个录音。

agree to... agree to(do) 同意, 允许……

I agree to what you say. 我同意你所说的话。

I agree to pay half the sum. 我同意支付这项款数的一半。

Father agreed to my becoming a nurse. 爸爸同意我当护士。

I told him about my plan and he at once agreed to it. 关于我们计划, 我已经告诉了他。而且, 他立刻表示同意这个计划。

We agreed to go there together. 我们已经同意一块到那儿去。

agree with...

1) 适合……

Too much meat does not agree with me. 我不宜吃肉太多。

Late hours do not agree with the old man. 老年

人不适合晚睡晚起。

2) 一致

Your report does not agree with the facts. 你的报告和事实不符。

The verb agrees with its subject in number and person. 动词和它的主语在数和人称上必须一致。

3) 同意……

I cannot agree with you in this matter. 在这个问题上, 我不同意你的意见。

She quite agreed with him on that point. 在那一点上, 她同他的意见非常一致。

I agree with neither side. 我对两方面都不同意。

To some extent I agree with you. 在某种程度上, 我同意你的意见。

I agree with you, but with some reservations.

我同意你的意见, 但是还有某些保留。

a good few (quite a few) 许多

I saw a good few of my students play(ing) table-tennis the other evening. 那天晚上, 我看见许多学生在打乒乓球。

Quite a few students go in for swimming in summer. 许多学生在夏天参加游泳。

a great deal 大量; 许多

It took me a great deal of time to memorize the new words. 记忆这些生词花了我不少时间。

The camel can keep a great deal of water in its

stomach. 骆驼在胃里储存了大量的水。

We have learned a great deal from the workers.

我们从工人师傅那里学到了很多东西。

You can play the piano a great deal better. 你钢琴弹得比我好得多。

〔注〕 a great deal 相当于 much, 用于不可数名词之前, 例如可以说 a great (good) deal of money, 但不能说 a great (good) deal of dollars.

a great (good) many 许多

A great many foreign friends visited the Summer Palace last summer. 去年夏天, 许多外国友人游览了颐和园。

A great many English novels have been translated into Chinese. 许多英文小说已经译成中文。

I've been there a good (great) many times. 我已经去过那里好多次了。

〔注〕 a great (good) many 的后面直接接名词, 不用 of, 如 a great (或 good) many toys. 不说 a great (或 good) many of toys.

a good while (or for a good while) 长久, 很久

I have not seen him for a good while. 我很久没见到他了。

He kept us waiting (for) a good while. 他使我们

等待了很久。

a little 一些

There is still a little air in the tube. 在这个试管中还有一些空气。

He knows a little of everything. 他每件事都懂得一些。

The patient is a little better now. 那位病人现在好了一些。

〔注〕a little 和 little 有别。little 的意思是“不能说没有，但却很少”，含有“几乎没有”的否定意味。两者差别不在乎实际的多少，而在于观点之不同。比较下面的两句话：

There is a little salt left. (幸亏剩下一点盐。)

There is little salt left. (可惜剩下的盐太少了。)

a stone's throw 一箭之地，很短的距离

The service centre is only a stone's throw from our dormitory. 服务站离我们的宿舍不过一箭之地。

We happened to pass within a stone's throw of the dentist's clinic. 我们经过牙科诊疗所附近的地方。

Mr. Wang lives a stone's throw from the college. 王先生住家离学院很近。

〔注〕在句③中的 a stone's throw 之前加上 not，意思不变。a stone's throw 直译是“一块石头所能投到的距

离”，而 not a stone's throw 直译是“不满一块石头所能投到的距离”。用 not 虽然对，但不常用。a stone's throw 中的 stone's 间或变成 stone。这可能是因 为 省去 “'s” 便于读音。请比较：a stone's throw[ə'stounz'θrou] 和 a stone throw[ə'stoun'θrou]。

all along 始终，一向

He has known, all along, that I hate him. 他一向知道我痛恨他。

I knew that all along. 我自始就知道那件事。

I knew all along that he was ill. 我一直就知道他在生病。

all at once 忽然

All at once, there was a strange sound in the air.

忽然，空中响起了一声奇怪的声音。

All at once, we heard a loud noise. 忽然，我们听到一阵大声喧哗。

【注】all at once 是 suddenly (忽然) 的意思。这成语和 at once (立刻)，大不相同。参看 at once.

all but 几乎

The boy all but died of T. B. 那男孩差点得肺病死了。

We are all but satisfied. 我们几乎满意了。

Crows all but destroyed a farmer's field of corn.

乌鸦几乎把农民田里的玉米都吃光了。

all (the) day (long) 整天

We have been listening to the radio all day. 我们听了一整天收音机。

He used to work in the office all the day. 他过去常常整天在办公室里工作。

Yesterday it rained all day long. 昨天下了一整天雨。

All the day long, the girl sat at the door waiting for her mother's return. 那女孩子整天坐在门口等她母亲回来。

〔注〕all day, all day long, all the day, 和 all the day long 四个成语意思完全相同, 但 all day 用的较普遍, all the day long 用的不普遍。

all night (long) 整夜

He was writing letters all night long. 他整夜写信。

It snowed all night last night. 昨晚下了一夜雪。

〔注〕all night 比 all night long 常用。

all of a sudden 突然

All of a sudden, he rushed out of the room. 突然, 他由屋子里冲出来了。

All of a sudden, it began raining. 突然, 下起雨来了。

allow for 考虑到

We must allow for the wind. 我们必须考虑到刮不

刮风。

You had better allow for his youth and in-experience. 你们最好考虑到他的年轻和缺乏经验。

Allowing for the train being late, we should be back by 10:30. 即使把火车要迟到考虑在内, 我们也应当在十点半之前回来。

〔注〕allow for 中 allow 是不及物动词, allow for 是短语动词当 take into consideration(考虑到)讲。allow 常用如及物动词, 当“允许”讲。

比较: { We must allow for his youth and inexperience. (我们必须考虑到他的年轻和缺乏经验。)
Allow me to congratulate you on your success. (请允许我祝贺你的成功。)

all one's life 一生, 一辈子

He has worked in the factory all his life. 他在工厂里工作了一辈子。

He was a student of physics all his life. 他终身从事物理学研究。

all right

1) 令人满意

Everything seems to be all right. 一切似乎令人满意。

It's all right with him. 他一切都顺利。

2) 好吧

I'm ready. —— All right. Let's go. 我准备好了——
好吧，咱们走吧。

All right, you may come at any time you like.

好吧，你愿意什么时候来，就可以什么时候来。

3) 健康

Do you feel all right? 你觉得身体好吗?

How are you? —— Oh, quite all right, thanks.

你身体好吗? —— 啊，很好，谢谢你。

all the more 更加

We ought to be all the more grateful to them. 我们应当对他们更加感谢。

We like our lessons all the more, as they are difficult. 正因为功课难，我们更加喜爱它们。

We love him all the more, because he is so simple. 正因为 he 单纯，我们更加喜爱他。

I like her all the more for her childishness. 正因为她孩子气，我更加喜欢她。

〔注〕 “all the + 形容词或副词的比较级”常含有“反而更加……”的意思。例如：① The patient is all the worse for taking the medicine. (病人服药身体反而更坏。) ② You should be all the more obedient to your old mother. (你更应该听你老母的话了。)

all the same 仍然

You don't answer me, but I understand you all