

# 英语

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# 习语

(附练习)



# 1500条

# 前 言

本书原名为“English Idioms for Foreign Students with Exercises”和“More English Idioms for Foreign Students with Exercises”，共分两册，由沃勒尔 (A. J. Worrall) 编著，索沃 (D.G. Sawyer) 修订，英国朗曼出版公司 1975 年出版。中译本定名为《英语习语 1500 条 (附练习)》，合成一本，分上、下编。

上编选收常用英语习语 832 条，包括单词、短语、短句和谚语，词条按习语的来源分类列出。下编选收常用动词习语 672 条，包括动词习语的各种组合形式，词条按组成习语的主要动词的字母顺序排列。

为了帮助读者正确地理解和使用英语习语，编著者在每个词条后面都注上了用法标记，就英语习语使用的不同场合和特定的语言环境给读者以提示。用法标记分为五类，就是：

- g — idioms in general use (通常使用的习语)；
- p — proverbs (谚语)；
- f — formal idioms (正式使用的习语)；
- c — colloquial idioms (口语)；
- s — slang idioms (俚语)。

另外，每节正文之后，均配有练习，有利于读者达到学以致用目的。

中译本基本上保持原书的体例。词条的释义采用英汉双解，以便于通过两种语言的对照更确切地理解习语的涵义。少数词条的注释是译者加的，用以解难释疑。为方便读者查阅，我们编了条目索引，作为附录置于书末。

本书是一部实用性与知识性并蓄的语言工具书，选条精当而形式多样，释义准确而简明扼要，例句浅显而语言地道，适合我国学习英语的学生使用和参考，可作为英语教学用书和自修英语读物。编著者提出的英语习语分类方法、标记方法，对我们研究英语习语有不少值得借鉴的地方。

参加本书翻译的有:盛丽生(上编: I-V)、许慎安(上编: VI, VII)、张学英(上编: VIII—X)、李子彬(下编: I—III)、陈柏松(下编: IV—VI), 由盛丽生校阅定稿。限于译者的水平和经验, 译本一定存在不足之处, 恳切地希望读者批评指正。

李华驹同志对本书进行编辑加工, 就译文和体例方面提出了许多宝贵意见, 在此谨向他表示感谢。

译 者

1984 年 5 月

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## 上 编

### I — Animals, Insects, Birds, Fish

#### (动物、昆虫、鸟、鱼)

**ass about** *s* behave foolishly  
行为愚蠢,干傻事:

Those boys are not working; they are just *assing* about. 那些男孩不工作,尽干傻事。

**ass about with** *s* meddle with,  
play stupidly with 乱弄,瞎弄:

Don't *ass* about with the television; you'll break it. 别乱弄电视机,你会把它搞坏的。

**an ass** *c* a foolish person 傻瓜:

Look what you're doing, you silly *ass*; you're spilling your tea! 瞧你干的,笨蛋;你把茶泼出来了!

**make an ass of oneself** *c* seem foolish, behave so that one is laughed at 做傻事,使自己出洋相:

He was not used to public speaking and made a complete *ass* of himself. 他不习惯于在公共场合讲话,于是出了个十足的洋相。

**badger** *c* worry with questions, requests etc. (以问题、要求等) 困扰,纠缠:

If you *badger* him long enough I'm sure he'll agree. 如果你老缠着他,我肯定他会答应的。

**as blind as a bat** *c* having very poor eyesight 瞎得象蝙蝠一样的;眼力不行的:

Without my glasses I'm as blind

as a *bat*. 不戴上眼镜,我什么也看不见。

**have bats in the belfry** *s* have strange ideas, be slightly mad  
思想古怪;精神略微不正常:

Don't take any notice of his theories; he's got *bats* in the belfry. 别理他那一套,他的思想有些古里古怪。

**be bats (or batty)** *s* be mad, crazy 发疯(狂)的:

If you think I'm going to lend you money, you must be *bats*. 如果你以为我要借钱给你,想必是你发疯了。

**a bear** *g* a bad-tempered or bad-mannered person 粗鄙的人,鲁莽的人:

That old man is a *bear*; he's always grumbling. 那个老头儿是个鲁莽汉,总在发牢骚。

**be like a bear with a sore head** *c* be very bad-tempered, angry  
脾气暴躁的:

What's wrong with you today? You're like a *bear* with a sore head! 你今天怎么啦?脾气怪不好的!

**a beast** *g* a cruel, brutal person  
凶恶的人,举止粗暴的人:

Just look at the way he treats his wife! He's a *beast*. 且请看看他对待妻子的那副样儿吧!他是个凶狠的人。

(jokingly) Give me one of your

sweets; don't be a *beast*! (开玩笑地)给我一块糖果吧,别那么狠!

**make a *beast* of oneself** *c* eat or drink greedily 贪吃(喝),现出馋相:

The man made a *beast* of himself and left nothing for his companions. 这个人嘴馋,不给他的同伴留下任何东西。

**a *bee*** *g* a meeting for combined work and amusement (美)(为共同工作或娱乐而举行的)集会:

The women of the village are having a sewing *bee* tonight. 今天晚上,这个村子的妇女要举行一次缝纫会。

[注] 缝纫会指妇女们聚在一起做针线活。

**as busy as a *bee*** *c* very busy 非常忙碌:

Whenever they have guests for dinner she's as busy as a *bee* all day long. 每当他们招待客人吃饭时,她整天就象蜜蜂一样忙个不停。

**have a *bee* in one's bonnet** *c* be concerned or think about only one idea 一心挂念;想得入了迷:  
Since he became treasurer of the club he has had a *bee* in his bonnet about economy. 自从他当了这个俱乐部的财务主管以来,他就一心扑在经济上。

**make a *bee-line* for** *c* go quickly or by the shortest way towards 迅速地到...去;径直到...去,抄近道:

As soon as I got to the party I made a *bee-line* for the bar. 我一赶到这个聚会,就径直向酒吧间走去。

***beef*** *c* strength, muscles 体力;

肌肉:

He can lift it alone; he's got plenty of *beef*. 他一个人举得起它,他很有一把力气。

***beef* (about) *s* complain (about)** 抱怨,发牢骚:

Stop *beefing* about your headache and get on with your work! 别再抱怨叫你头痛的问题,继续干你的工作吧!

***beefy*** *c* strong, muscular 强壮的;肌肉发达的:

You're a *beefy* chap; you don't need a porter for your luggage. 你是个强壮的小伙子,用不着搬运工人替你搬行李。

**a *bird* *s* a girl** 少女(尤指女伴):

Bill is taking his *bird* to the pictures tonight. 比尔今晚带他的女伴去看电影。

**a *bird* in the hand is worth two in the bush** *p* a thing which is certain is worth more than a risk which might be profitable 双鸟在林不如一鸟在手;多得不如现得:

If you invest this money you might make a fortune; but a *bird* in the hand is worth two in the bush. 如果你把这笔钱投资,你可能致富;但多得不如现得。

**the *bird* is (or has) flown** *f* the prisoner has escaped, the person wanted has left etc. 犯人(俘虏)逃了,要通缉的人逃跑了:

When the police arrived to make the arrest, the *bird* had flown. 当警察来逮捕时,犯人已经逃跑了。

**give (an actor) the *bird*** *s* hiss

or boo at 对(演员)发嘘声,喝(演员的)倒采:

When he forgot his lines the audience gave him the *bird*. 当他忘记台词时,观众就对他发嘘声。

**birds of a feather flock together** p people of similar tastes, characters etc. seek each other's company 物以类聚,人以群分:

You say his fiancée is also a poet? Well, *birds of a feather flock together*. 你说他的未婚妻也是个诗人吗?对,物以类聚,人以群分嘛。

**kill two birds with one stone** p achieve two aims at once 一箭双雕;一举两得:

I killed two *birds* with one stone by going to the bank on my way to the shops. 我在去商店的途中顺便到银行去。一举两得。

**a little bird told me** c I have been told, I have heard 有人告诉我,我听说:

A little *bird* told me your wife is expecting a baby. 我听说你的妻子在怀小孩。

**a bird of passage** f a person who does not stay long in one place 候鸟(随季节迁徙的鸟类,如雁、燕等);飘泊无定居的人:

He was a *bird of passage* until he married and bought a house. 他成家并购买房屋以后才定居下来。

**a bird's-eye view** g a view from the air 鸟瞰图;概观:

You get a good *bird's-eye view* of the town from the top of the church tower. 从教堂塔顶,你可鸟瞰全镇。

**a bitch** s an unpleasant or cruel

woman 令人讨厌的妇女;泼妇:

She can be a *bitch* when she thinks she is being treated unfairly. 当她认为自己在受到不公平的待遇时,她会撒泼。

**like a bull in a china shop** c in a very clumsy, rough way 象公牛闯进瓷器店地;非常笨拙粗野地:

The workman stamped around the kitchen like a *bull* in a china shop. 这个工人象公牛闯进瓷器店地绕着厨房直跺脚。

**like a red rag to a bull** c a cause of anger 发怒的原因:

To a bank manager, carelessness in money matters is like a red rag to a *bull*. 对一个银行经理来说,使他发火的是在银钱问题上粗心大意。

**take the bull by the horns** g meet a difficulty instead of trying to avoid it 不畏艰难,断然处置难局:

He decided to take the *bull* by the horns and confess to the police. 他断然处置难局,向警察部门自首。

**have butterflies in one's stomach** c have a feeling of nervousness (因害怕而)感到紧张:

I had *butterflies* in my stomach for an hour or so before I was due to make my speech. 在预定我演说之前,有一个小时左右我心里都是怪紧张的。

**calf-love** 见 puppy-love

**the straw that breaks the camel's back** g something added to a task, burden etc. which makes it intolerable 使人不能承受的工作,超过限度的负担:

When he told me the difficult job had to be finished by noon, it was the straw that breaks the camel's back. 当他告诉我这桩困难工作要在中午以前做完时,我感到这种超过限度的负担叫人受不了。

**play cat and mouse with c** leave (someone) in a position of uncertainty before taking action 象猫捕鼠似地迷惑人; 欲擒故纵: The police played cat and mouse with the gang in the hope of catching them all at once. 警察抱着把这帮歹徒一网打尽的希望,象猫捕鼠似地迷惑他们。

**a cat s** a spiteful or unpleasant woman 心地恶毒或令人讨厌的女人:

Don't listen to her gossip; she's a cat. 别听她搬弄是非,她是个心地恶毒的女人。

**a cat may look at a king p** even the most humble person may criticize his superiors 小人物也可批评上级:

He is only the office-boy but we should listen to what he says. A cat may look at a king. 他只不过是勤杂员,但是我们应当倾听他的意见。小人物也可批评上级嘛。

**not (enough) room to swing a cat s** a very confined space 地方狭窄,没有转身的地方:

After we had got all our furniture into the flat, there wasn't enough room to swing a cat. 我们把所有的家具搬进这套房间以后,就没有转身的地方。

**the cat (or the cat-o'-nine tails) s** a whip with which criminals or sailors were once beaten 九尾

鞭 (用以鞭挞罪犯或水手的工具): The Captain sentenced him to ten strokes of the cat. 舰长鞭打了他十下以示惩罚。

**let the cat out of the bag c** give away a secret 露马脚; 泄露秘密:

Their engagement was to be a secret but the ring on her finger let the cat out of the bag. 他们订婚还没有公开,但她戴的戒指却泄露了秘密。

**wait for the cat to jump (or see which way the cat will jump) c** wait to see what others are thinking or doing before giving advice, making plans etc. 在未获悉别人的想法或作法以前拒作忠告、决策等; 观望形势然后行动: Cautious politicians always wait for the cat to jump before agreeing with any proposal. 谨慎的政治家在对任何提议表示赞同之前总要先观望形势。

**rain cats and dogs c** rain very hard 大雨滂沱,下倾盆大雨:

It rained cats and dogs all day and we could not go out. 整天大雨滂沱,我们不能外出。

**a cat-and-dog life c** (of a husband and wife) a life full of quarrels (指夫妇) 象猫狗一样不和的生活; 经常争吵的生活:

They have led a cat-and-dog life ever since they were married. 他们从结婚起就一直过着争吵的生活。

**a cat-burglar s** a thief who enters a building from an upper storey 惯于从屋顶进入的窃贼: The robbery in the top flat was obviously the work of a cat-burg-



*lar.* 楼房顶层发生的偷盗,显然是从屋顶进入的窃贼干的。

**catty** *s* spiteful, gossiping 恶意的;搬弄是非的:

Don't be *catty*; it's none of your business where she gets her clothes. 别搬弄是非;她的衣服从什么地方弄来与你无关。

**chicken** *s* cowardly 胆怯的:

His friends said he was *chicken* when he refused to take part in the robbery. 当他拒绝参加偷盗时,他的同伙都说他胆怯。

**no chicken** *s* not young 并不(显得)年轻的(尤指妇女):

She's no *chicken*. She's forty if she's a day! 她并不年轻,至少有四十岁了!

**play chicken** *s* withdraw from a dangerous activity only at the last moment in order to prove one's courage 比胆量(最后退出冒险活动以显示自己的胆量):

The youths were playing *chicken* by standing in the path of fast-moving cars. 男青年们站在快速行驶汽车的公路上比胆量。

**chicken out (of)** *s* withdraw (from a dangerous activity) 畏缩不前,中途而废:

The bank robbery was all planned, but one of the gang *chickened out*. 抢劫银行的方案都已策划就绪,但歹徒中有一个退缩了。

**count one's chickens before they are hatched** *p* be over-confident of success 蛋未孵,先取雏;过早乐观:

You think you have won the election, but don't count your *chickens* before they are hatched. 你满以为竞选已操胜券,可是不要过早乐观。

**chicken-feed** *s* a very small, trifling sum of money 为数甚微的钱:

To a man as rich as he is, £50 is *chicken-feed*. 对一个像他这样富的人来说,五十英镑是微不足道的。

**chicken-hearted** *f* cowardly 胆怯的,懦弱的:

The soldiers proved themselves *chicken-hearted* and ran away. 这些士兵丧胆逃跑。

**till the cows come home** *s* for a long time 永远,无限期地:

If you're waiting for a bus, you'll have to wait till the *cows* come home. They're on strike. 如果你要等公共汽车,你得无限期地等下去。他们罢工了。

**crabby** *c* bad-tempered, irritable 脾气坏的,易怒的:

You're very *crabby* today. What have I done wrong? 你今天脾气很坏。我做了什么对不住你的事呢?

**crocodile tears** *g* insincere tears or sorrow 鳄鱼的眼泪;假哭,假慈悲:

He wept a few *crocodile tears* over his wife's death and then got married again at once. 他对妻子的死流下了几滴假惺惺的眼泪,而后很快又结了婚。

**as the crow flies** *g* direct, in a straight line 笔直地,成直线地:

The station is five miles away by road but only three as the *crow* flies. 去火车站走公路要走五英里,但直线的距离只有三英里。

**as dead as a dodo** *c* completely out of fashion (The dodo is an extinct bird of Mauritius) 完全过时地,完全不迎合时尚地:

Fashion experts say that long skirts are as dead as a *dodo* this year. 时装专家说,长裙今年完全过时了。[注]渡渡鸟(*dodo*)系产于毛里求斯的一种巨鸟,现时绝种。

**dog (or dog someone's footsteps)**  
c follow closely 尾随,跟随:

Wherever I go, my little brother *dogs* my footsteps. 不论我走到哪里,我的弟弟总跟着我。

**give a dog a bad name and hang him** p if you give someone a bad reputation, it will stay with him 一旦给人加个坏名声,他就永远洗刷不掉;谗言可畏:

Only one newspaper mentioned him in connection with the scandal, but his career was ruined; give a *dog* a bad name and hang him. 有关这一丑闻,只有一家报纸提到了他,可是他的一生却从此完了;真是谗言可畏。

**a dog in the manger** c a person who selfishly keeps what is useless to himself in order to prevent somebody else from enjoying it 自己不享用又不让别人享用的人;占着毛坑不拉屎的人:

If you don't know how to skate, why don't you give your skates to me? Don't be a *dog* in the manger! 如果你不会滑冰,为什么不把滑冰鞋给我用呢? 不要占着毛坑不拉屎!

**love me, love my dog** p if you want me to be your friend, you must accept my friends as well 爱人及物,爱屋及乌:

They both had grown-up children when they got married, so it was a case of love me, love my *dog*. 他

俩结婚时,双方都带有成年的孩子,于是就存在这种情形:爱我就要爱我的子女。

**go to the dogs** s a) (of people) become morally, mentally or physically bad (指人)(道德上、思想上或身体上)变坏;堕落:

Since his wife left him, he has gone to the *dogs* and spends his time in dirty bars. 自从他的妻子离开他之后,他变堕落了,经常在下流的酒吧间鬼混。

s b) (of things) become worse, be ruined (指事物)变糟;完蛋,毁灭:

People say that this country has gone to the *dogs* since the end of the war. 据说这个国家从战争结束以来一直每况愈下。

**not a dog's chance** s no chance at all 毫无机会:

He hasn't a *dog's* chance of beating the champion. 他打败冠军的机会一点儿也没有。

**a dog's life** c an unpleasant experience or time; trouble 不愉快的经历或时刻;困扰:

It's a *dog's* life having to travel 30 miles to work every day. 每天上班得走三十英里,这是真叫人够受的。

**lead(or give) someone a dog's life** c give him continual trouble, give him no peace 使某人经常苦恼,使不安宁:

When I was working under him he led me a *dog's* life. 我过去在他手下工作时,他使我经常不得安宁。

**a gay dog** c a lively, pleasure-loving person 快活人,好玩的人: She likes to stay at home, but her

husband is a bit of a gay *dog*. 她喜欢呆在家里, 可是她的丈夫有点好玩。

**be top dog** *s* be in a position of power, be the person who rules 身居高位, 处于支配地位:

Though still a young man, he is already top *dog* in his firm. 他尽管还年轻, 但他已在自己的商行中身居高位。

**let sleeping dogs lie** *p* not disturb someone or something which may give trouble, not look for trouble 莫惹是非, 别找麻烦:

We should let sleeping *dogs* lie and not tell him that we disobeyed him. 我们莫惹是非, 不要告诉他说我们不服从他。

**a dog's-body** *s* a person who does the hard, dull work for someone else 替别人干单调无味的苦差事的人:

The office junior has to make the tea, do the filing and run the errands — she's the *dog's-body* for everyone else. 凡是沏茶、管理档案和跑腿的事, 办公室职位低的人样样都得干——她就是这样一个人替别人干单调无味的苦差事的人。

**a donkey** *c* a foolish person (usually a child) 蠢驴; 笨蛋(常指儿童):

Why did you put your finger in the fire, you silly *donkey*? 你为啥自讨苦吃, 小傻瓜?

**donkey work** *c* hard work needing no skill 不需要技能的苦活: In my office the boss makes all the decisions and I do all the *donkey* work. 在我的办事处, 老板决定一切, 我完全干没有技术性的苦活。

**a dove** *g* a person who desires or argues for peace (cf. a hawk) 鸽派; 主和派:

After years of war, the *doves* came to power and peace was made. 经过多年战争, 鸽派当权, 从而谋求和平。

**flutter the dove-cotes** *f* excite quiet people 扰乱鸽棚; 惊扰处于安定和平之境的人们:

The scandal in the quiet village certainly fluttered the *dove-cotes*. 这个宁静的村庄所发生的丑闻, 一定把全村闹得鸡犬不宁了。

**make a duck** *s* fail to score at cricket (板球戏) 获零分:

He made fifty in his first innings but a *duck* in his second. 他在第一局获五十分, 可是在第二局却获零分。

**take to something like a duck to water** *c* learn to do a new activity easily, naturally (象鸭子入水) 很容易地、自然地新学会做某事:

Perhaps because her brother was already there the little girl took to school like a *duck* to water. 也许是她的哥哥在学校的原故, 这个小姑娘上学读书毫不吃力。

**like water off a duck's back** *c* without having any effect, without leaving a mark 不发生作用地, 毫无影响地:

He has such a high opinion of himself that criticism flows off him like water off a *duck's* back. 他对自己的评价这样高, 以致批评对他毫无作用。

**play ducks and drakes** *f* waste 挥霍, 浪费:

He played *ducks* and *drakes* with

his winnings and was soon as poor as before. 他大肆挥霍赢来的钱, 很快就贫穷如故。

**eagle-eyed g** having very keen sight 目光敏锐的:

The *eagle-eyed* policeman immediately noticed the spot of blood on her dress. 这个目光敏锐的警察顿时就注意到了她服装上的血迹。

**a white elephant g** something which costs a lot but is useless 昂贵而无用的东西, 累赘:

That standard lamp is a real white elephant—it doesn't work and it doesn't go with the rest of the furniture. 那台落地台灯真是累赘——它不好使, 而且跟别的家具不相配。

**have other fish to fry c** have other, more important things to do 另有更重要的事情要干:

No, I haven't time to play with the children; I have other *fish* to fry. 我没有时间同孩子们玩耍, 我另有更重要的事情要干。

**a pretty kettle of fish c** a state of confusion, disorder or trouble 乱七八糟, 糟糕透顶:

Here's a pretty kettle of *fish*! I've left all my money at home. 这真糟糕!

我把我所有的钱都忘在家里了。

**cry stinking fish g** condemn one's own products, actions etc. 叫卖臭鱼; 诋毁自己的产品; 拆自己的台:

We know our goods are not as good as they were, but we're not going to cry stinking *fish*. 我们明白, 我们的货物不及以往的好, 可是我们还不打算拆自己的台。

**neither fish, flesh nor good red**

**herring p** of an uncertain nature, neither one thing nor the other 非驴非马; 不伦不类, 不三不四:

This church has a Norman tower and a Gothic façade; it's neither *fish*, flesh nor good red *herring*. 这座教堂既有诺曼式的塔, 又有哥特式的门面, 不伦不类。

**fish in troubled waters g** try to obtain benefit for oneself from a state of confusion 混水摸鱼:

He started a rumour of a financial crisis so that he could *fish* in troubled waters. 他造财政危机的谣言, 以便混水摸鱼。

**like a fish out of water c** in the wrong place or situation 如鱼出水; 不得其所, 不自在:

In my old gardening clothes I felt like a *fish* out of water among all those elegant people. 我穿着旧园艺服, 在那些文雅人士中间, 感到很不自在。

**fishy c** suspicious 可疑的:

I don't believe his story; it sounds *fishy* to me. 我不相信他说的话, 它听起来很可疑。

**a fly in the ointment g** a small thing that spoils the enjoyment 使人扫兴的小事; 美中不足之处:

It was nice to go out for the day; the only *fly* in the ointment was the dull weather. 这日子外出可真好, 唯一美中不足之处是天气阴沉。

**there are no flies on him s** he is very clever, efficient, not easy to deceive etc. 他很机灵、能干、不会上当等等:

He'll do the job properly; there are

no *flies* on him. 他会把这件事办妥当,他非常能干。

he couldn't say "boo" to a *goose* c he is very timid, shy 他连对鹅都不敢哼一声儿;他很胆小、懦弱: Don't expect him to complain; he couldn't say "boo" to a *goose*. 别指望他诉苦,他很胆小。

kill the *goose* that lays the golden egg p sacrifice a great benefit in the future for a small benefit in the present 杀鹅取卵;为满足眼前需要而牺牲未来的利益:

Cutting down fruit trees for firewood is an obvious case of killing the *goose* that lays the golden egg. 砍掉果树当柴烧,这明明是杀鹅取卵,自绝生财之道。

what's sauce for the *goose* is sauce for the *gander* p what is fair for one person is fair for the other 适用于甲者也适用于乙:

If you go to the cinema tonight, you must let me go tomorrow; what's sauce for the *goose* is sauce for the *gander*. 如果你今晚看电影,明天就得让我看;对自己怎样对别人也应怎样。

cook someone's *goose* s a) ruin someone's hopes or chances 使某人的希望或机会破灭:

You really cooked my *goose* when you told her about my other girlfriend. 要是你把我的另一个女朋友告诉她,你便真正拆了我的台。

s b) prevent him from causing trouble 制止某人捣乱:

He's a very inefficient criminal; the police will soon cook his *goose*. 他是个很无能耐的罪犯,警察很快就会制止他捣乱的。

a *hawk* g a person who desires or argues for war (cf. a *dove*) 鹰派;主战派:

The *hawks* won the election and war was declared. 鹰派竞选获胜,从而宣战。

*hen-pecked* c dominated by one's wife 受妻子支配的;怕老婆的:

He says he is *hen-pecked*, but it's always his wife who does the unpleasant jobs. 他老说他受妻子的支配,可是倒霉的事儿总是他的妻子干。

a *hen-party* c a party attended only by women 妇女聚会:

Sunday lunch will be a *hen-party* since none of the men can come. 星期日午餐将是一个妇女聚会,因为没有一个男人能到会。

a *red herring* g a remark, idea etc. which draws attention away from the subject being discussed or the problem being dealt with 把话题扯到别处的谈话、意见等:

After that *red herring*, let's get back to the subject. 扯了那番不相干的话以后,让我们回到本题吧。

stir up a *hornets' nest* (or bring a *hornets' nest* about one's ears) g

cause trouble, cause others to be angry 捅马蜂窝;惹麻烦,犯众怒:

When she told her parents that she was leaving home, she really stirred up a *hornets' nest*. 当她把自己要离开家的事告诉父母时,她果然惹麻烦了。

eat like a *horse* c eat a lot 吃得很多:

It's strange he's so thin; he eats like a *horse*. 真奇怪,他长得这么瘦;他吃得倒很多的。

**from the horse's mouth c** (of information, advice etc.) from a first-hand source, from the person who is best informed (指消息、劝告等)直接得来的, 从消息灵通人士得来的:

The papers haven't reported the news yet, but I had it straight from the horse's mouth. 报纸还没有报导这则消息, 我是从消息灵通人士那里直接听来的。

**lock the stable door after the horse has gone (or been stolen) g** try to prevent something after it has happened 贼走关门(为时已晚): You should take this medicine before you start a cold; otherwise you're locking the stable door after the horse has gone. 你应当不等患感冒就服这剂药, 否则就是贼走关门, 太晚啦。

**put the cart before the horse g** do or say things in the wrong order; do or say second what should be first 颠倒次序, 本末倒置: Wait until we buy a car before you build the garage; don't put the cart before the horse. 等我们把汽车买到手你再修建车库好了; 不要本末倒置。

**a dark horse g** a person who may do better than expected; a person who may cause surprise “黑马”(赛马时出冷门的马); 竞争中意想不到的获胜者: Don't think you'll beat him easily; he may be a dark horse. 别以为你会轻而易举地击败他, 他可能是出乎意料的获胜者。

**flog a dead horse c** waste time

and energy on a hopeless cause 白费力气, 徒劳:

You'll never persuade him! You're flogging a dead horse. 你是绝对说服不了他的! 你在白费力气。

**look a gift horse in the mouth g** be displeased with a present because of its faults 挑剔礼物有瑕疵:

It's not exactly what I wanted for my birthday but one shouldn't look a gift horse in the mouth. 这不完全是我希望得到的生日礼物, 不过也不应过于挑剔。

**follow the hounds(or ride to hounds) g** go hunting with a pack of hounds 骑马带着猎狗打猎:

His family has always followed the hounds, but he doesn't even like riding. 他全家总是骑马带着猎狗打猎, 可是他本人连骑马也不欢喜。

**hunt with the hounds and run with the hare f** try to support two opposing sides at the same time; take a middle course 两面讨好; 采取中间路线:

Either you are with us or against us; you cannot hunt with the hounds and run with the hare. 要么同意我们, 要么反对我们, 你总不能两面讨好。

**be up with the lark g** get up early in the morning 早起:

On the first day of the holidays, the boys were up with the lark. 在假期的头一天, 孩子们黎明即起。

**a lion g** a person who brings honour to those who know him, invite him to parties etc. 名流, 社交场合的宠儿:

The *lions* at her party included two famous authors and a musician. 她宴请的名流包括两位名作家和一位音乐家。

**as brave as a lion** *g* very brave  
勇猛如狮; 非常勇敢:

He may be small and not very strong, but he's as brave as a *lion*. 他尽管个子小而又不挺强壮, 但很勇敢。

**a mare's nest** *g* a trick; a wrong suspicion; a discovery, belief etc, which turns out to be false  
骗局; 错误的怀疑; 假的发现、信仰等:

The police checked up on the anonymous phone call, but it proved to be a *mare's nest*. 警察部门检查了匿名电话, 经证实是一场骗局。

**monkey with** *c* meddle with, interfere with; play mischievously with  
乱动, 瞎弄; 戏弄:

Someone's been *monkeying* with my typewriter again; it won't work properly. 有人又乱动我的打字机来了, 它不好使了。

**a monkey** *c* a mischievous child  
顽童, 小淘气:

Come here, you little *monkey*. What have you done? 过来, 你这个小调皮鬼。你干什么来了?

**make a monkey out of someone** *c*  
make him seem foolish 愚(戏)  
弄某人; 使某人出丑:

He's only twelve years old, but as far as knowledge about football goes he makes a *monkey* out of me every time. 他年纪只十二岁, 但就有关足球比赛的知识而言, 他总是使我出丑。

**as quiet as a mouse** *g* very quiet,

silent (象老鼠一样) 一声不响; 非常安静:

I sat as quiet as a *mouse* and listened to his story. 我坐着一声不响地听他讲故事。

**as stubborn as a mule** *g* very stubborn, obstinate (象骡子一样)  
犟; 非常执拗:

You'll never persuade him; he's as stubborn as a *mule*. 你说服不了他, 他非常固执。

**as dead as mutton** *s* dead beyond all doubt; old-fashioned 确已僵死了的; 老式的, 过时的:

The animal looked healthy enough, but in three hours it was as dead as *mutton*. 这牲畜看起来够强壮的, 可是过三小时它真死了。

**get back (or return) to one's muttons** *c* return to the subject one was discussing 回到本题, 言归正传:

We will talk about your idea later, but now let's get back to our *muttons*. 往后我们要谈论你的意见, 可是现在还是让我们言归正传吧。

**have the digestion of an ostrich** *c*  
be able to digest any kind of food 有鸵鸟般的消化力; 消化力强:

At the age of 80 he still had the digestion of an *ostrich*. 他八十岁消化力仍很强。

**as proud as a peacock** *g* very proud  
孔雀般地高傲; 非常高傲:

The boy was as proud as a *peacock* when he showed me his new football boots. 这男孩给我新足球鞋看时神气活现。

**pig it** *s* live, stay in dirty or uncomfortable conditions 像猪

一般生活;住在肮脏的环境里,挤在一起生活:

The hotels were all full, so we had to *pig* it in an old hut for the night. 旅社全部客满,我们只好挤在旧棚屋里过夜。

**a *pig* c** a greedy, dirty or bad-mannered person 贪婪、肮脏或无礼貌的人:

Don't be a *pig*, Jimmy; leave some cake for your brother. 别嘴馋,吉米,留些蛋糕给你兄弟吧。

**buy a *pig* in a poke g** buy something without seeing it or without knowing its value (未见实物或不管好坏)瞎买东西;乱买: I want to see the tennis racquet before I agree to the price. I don't intend to buy a *pig* in a poke. 我要先看网球拍再定价钱,我不打算瞎买一气。

***pigs* might fly p** the impossible might happen 奇事也许会发生,无奇不有:

His chances of winning are extremely small, but *pigs* might fly. 他获胜的机会极小,不过什么怪事都会有。

**it's not my *pigeon* c** it's not my concern or responsibility 这不是我关切的事;这不是我的责任: Sales are falling, but it's not my *pigeon*, thank goodness. 销售额连连下降,可这不是我的责任,谢天谢地。

**a *puppy* c** an unpleasant young man 令人讨厌的小伙子:

He was very rude to the old man, who told him he was an insolent young *puppy*. 他对这位老人非常粗暴无礼,老人说他是个人讨厌的傲慢的小伙子。

***puppy-love* (sometimes *calf-love*) g** young or inexperienced love 初恋;童年时的恋爱:

We all thought it was a case of *puppy-love*, but their long and happy marriage proved us wrong. 我们原来都以为那是少年男女间的恋爱,可是他们长久的和幸福的婚姻证明我们的想法错了。

***rabbit* s** talk, chat, gossip 谈话;聊天,闲谈:

Put that phone down! You've been *rabbiting* with your sister long enough. 把电话机放下!你跟你妹妹闲谈够久的了。

**a *rabbit* c** a person who plays a game badly 蹩脚的运动员(尤指网球运动员):

Our opponents were complete *rabbits* and we beat them 6—0, 6—0. 我们的对手完全是蹩脚的运动员,我们均以六比零的比分赢了他们两局。

***rat* (on someone) s** be disloyal (to him); break a promise 背弃(某人);违反诺言:

His partner *ratted* on him and left the firm when business began to get difficult. 当生意开始变得不景气时,他的合伙人背弃了他而脱离了商行。

**a *rat* s** a person who behaves selfishly; a person who is disloyal 自私的人;不忠实的人:

The *rat* took his share of the money and then left me alone to face the police! 这个自私的人一拿到他的那份钱就撒手不管,竟让我一个人去对付警察!

**smell a *rat* c** suspect that some-



thing is wrong 感到有可疑之处,觉得事情不妙:

He spoke very persuasively but I smelled a *rat* and refused his offer. 他说得头头是道,但我总觉得有些可疑,于是拒绝了他的建议。

like a drowned *rat* c very wet (淋得)象落汤鸡;透湿:

It had been raining all day and I came home looking like a drowned *rat*. 整天雨落个不停,我回到家里,淋得象落汤鸡似的。

*rat* race g ruthless competition for greater and greater wealth, fame, power, social status etc. (为贪图更多名利、权势、社会地位等而进行的)无情的竞争:

I am quite happy with my modest job in the provinces and have no desire to take part in the *rat* race in London. 我为自己在大都市以外的地方有一个正当的工作而感到愉快,却无意置身于伦敦作争权夺利的竞争。

a *shark* c a dishonest business man; a swindler 狡猾的商人; 骗子:

She entrusted all her savings to a *shark* who promised to double her money. 她把全部储蓄交给了一个答应给她加倍偿付本利的骗子。

at a *snail's* pace g very slowly 慢吞吞地:

The traffic was heavy and we drove through the town at a *snail's* pace. 来往行人车辆很多,我们只好缓慢地开车通过市镇。

a *snake* in the grass g a deceitful person 狡诈的人:

Don't trust him; he looks honest but he's a *snake* in the grass. 别

信任他;他外表上看起来老实,实际上是个狡诈之徒。

a *stag-party* c a party attended by men only 男子交际会:

The bridegroom gave a *stag-party* on the night before his wedding. 这个新郎在行婚礼的前夜举行了一次男子交际会。

one swallow does not make a summer p something which starts well may not continue to go well 一燕不成夏;不可凭一件事遽下推断;开头好并不等于今后万事大吉:

You were successful this time, but one swallow does not make a summer. 这次就算你成功了,但决不可说以后万事大吉。

talk *turkey* s talk frankly, bluntly 坦白地说;直截了当地说:

I'm not here to waste time, so talk *turkey* or I'll go. 我不是来这里浪费时间的,你开门见山地谈吧,要不然我就走了。

turn *turtle* c (of a ship) capsize, turn upside down (指船)倾覆,翻:

A huge wave caused our little boat to turn *turtle*. 巨浪使我们的小船倾覆了。

a *whale* of a time c a very enjoyable time 非常愉快的时光:

We took our holidays in Cornwall and had a *whale* of a time. 我们在康瓦耳休假,玩得开心极了。

wolf c eat quickly and greedily 狼吞虎咽:

Don't wolf your food; there's no hurry. 吃东西别狼吞虎咽,不用着急。