

# 英语谚语集锦

YINGYU YANYU  
JIJIN

● 英汉对照

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Yingyu Yanyu Jijin

英 语 谚 语 集 锦

金学镛 编译

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**Proverbs are the daughters of daily experience.**

谚语是日常生活经验的产物。

**Proverbs are the abridg(e)ments of wisdom.**

谚语是智慧的结晶。

**A good maxim is never out of season.**

好的格言永远不会过时。

## 前 言

谚语是一种特殊的习语。与成语不同的是，谚语不仅表达完整的思想，而且大部分有完整的句子结构。谚语也有别于格言，格言多出自名家之手，而谚语则是人民大众的口头创作，是集体智慧的结晶。

英语谚语作为人民大众的口头创作，经过千家万户的传诵、锤炼、加工、完善，句式精短，语言简炼，音调和諧，哲理深刻，富于形象和比喻，富于浓厚的民族色彩。它是英语的精华，也是英国文学艺术宝库中绚丽多采的瑰宝。

对于学习和从事英语工作的人来说，学点英语谚语很有好处。学习英语谚语可以帮助我们了解英国人民的人生哲理；了解英国的历史和文化，风土和人情，从而丰富我们的知识，扩大我们的视野；同时还可以学到生动活泼的大众语言。尤其对英语教学工作来说，英语谚语还为基础语音，基础语法和基本词汇的教学提供了很好的素材。

《英语谚语集锦》收集了常见的英语谚语（包括部分格言）三千多条。本集锦是按英语谚语出现的第一个字母先后次序排列的，意思完全相同而表达方式不同的谚语基本上归并为一條。谚语的翻译以直译为主，直译和意译相结合。凡能直译的谚语都直译或首先直译，不能直译或直译不好的谚语则采取意译，同时还根据每条谚语的意义尽可能提供多种译法。译文在忠于原文的前提下，力求做到通顺、易懂、精炼和谚语化。本集锦对英语谚语的选择注意了思想性和教育

意义。但由于英语谚语是英国社会的产物，因而其中有一部分不可避免地反映了资产阶级的思想和道德观念。本集锦对反映和揭露资本主义社会本质的谚语也酌情收集一部分。希望读者在阅读和使用过程中加以鉴别和批判。

在编译过程中，曾参阅了各种英语谚语词典和多种英汉词典及其它有关谚语的书籍。本集锦由南京师范学院外语系黄龙副教授审阅。东北师范大学外语系王佩兰同志初审了部分内容，原系主任傅茵波教授对本集锦的编译给予热情的指导和帮助，在此一并表示感谢。

编 者

一九八三年七月

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- A -

- A bad beginning makes a bad ending.  
不善始则不能善终。
- A bad bush is better than the open field.  
一片稀疏的丛林也比旷野强。
- A bad compromise is better than a fair law-suit.  
吃亏的和解胜于打赢的官司。
- A bad custom is like a good cake, better broken than kept.  
好糕点宜吃不宜留，坏习惯宜除不宜留。
- A bad day never hath a good night.  
白昼行恶，夜难安眠。
- A bad dog deserves a bad rat.  
恶狗应得坏耗子。无功者不受赏。
- A bad excuse is better than none at all.  
站不住脚的借口，总比没有借口好。
- A bad excuse is worse than no excuse.  
站不住脚的辩解还不如不辩解。
- A bad life, a bad end. (or An ill life, an ill end.)  
一生行恶，不得善终。恶有恶报。
- A bad padlock invites a picklock.



坏挂锁招来了撬锁贼。开门揖盗。

- A bad shearer never had a good sickle. (or An ill shearer never got a good hook.)

笨拙的收割者不会有快镰刀。人笨刀也钝。

- A bad thing is dear at any price.

坏货再贱也是贵。

- A bad thing never dies.

坏事不会消失。劣迹难以磨灭。

- A bad wife is the shipwreck of her husband.

妻不贤，夫受害。

- A bad workman quarrels with (or complains of) his tools. (or Bad workmen find fault with their tools.)

拙匠常怨工具差。劣工常尤器。人笨怪刀钝。不会撑船怪河弯。不会写字怨笔秃。

- A baited cat may grow as fierce as a lion.

上钩之猫猛如狮。人急造反，兔急咬人。

- A baker's wife may bite of a bun, a brewer's wife may bite of a tun.

面包师的妻子吃面包，酿酒人的妻子喝美酒。近水楼台先得月。

- A bargain is a bargain.

契约终是契约。合同岂可撕毁？买卖一言为定。

- A barking dog is better than a sleeping lion.

睡狮不如吠犬。

- A barley-corn is better than a diamond to a cock.

对公鸡来说，大麦粒胜过金刚石。麦粒虽贱，可以果腹；钻石虽贵，难以充饥。

- A bashful dog never fattens. (or A modest dog seldom grows fat.)

羞怯之狗长不肥。

- A bean in liberty is better than a comfit in prison.

自由中的一粒豆，胜过监狱里的一颗糖。

- A beggar can never be bankrupt.

乞丐永远不会破产。

- A beggar may sing before a pickpocket.

乞丐可以在扒手面前唱歌。乞丐不怕掏兜。

- A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush (or wood).

一鸟在手胜于双鸟在林。多得不如现得。十赚不如一现。

- A bird may be known by its song.

听音知鸟。

- A bird is known by its note, a man by his talk.

听音知鸟，闻言知人。言为心声。

- A bit in the morning is better than nothing all day.

早晨得一点胜似整天无所得。聊胜于无。

- A black hen lays a white egg.

黑鸡下白蛋。丑妇生俊儿。

- A blind man will not thank you for a looking-

glass.

送镜给瞎子，不会受感谢。瞎子不谢馈镜人。

- A boaster and a liar are all one.

吹牛者和撒谎者是一丘之貉。

- A boisterous horse must have a rough bridle.

烈马得配粗笼头。

- A bold attempt is half success.

大胆的尝试等于一半成功。

- A book is the same today as it always was and it will never change.

书历千载常如新。

- A book that remains shut is but a block.

书本若不打开，等于印板一块。开卷有益。

- A borrowed cloak does not keep one warm.

借来的斗篷不暖身。拾人牙慧毫无价值。

- A bow long bent grows weak.

久拉之弓其力渐弛。

- A brave retreat is a brave exploit.

勇敢的退却也是英勇的行为。

- A bribe will enter without knocking.

贿赂进屋，不用敲门。贿赂开道，通行无阻。官不怪送礼的，狗不咬拉屎的。

- A broken friendship may be soldered, but will never be sound.

破裂的友谊可以焊接，但不会牢固。友谊破裂难修复。

- A bully is always a coward. (or Bullies are

generally cowards.)

恃强凌弱者胆小鬼。欺软怕硬是懦夫。

- A burden of one's choice is not felt.

自己挑选的担子不觉重。爱挑的担子不嫌沉。

- A (or The) burnt child dreads the fire.

烧伤过的孩子怕见火。一次被火灼，见火就惊慌。  
一朝被蛇咬，三年怕井绳。惊弓之鸟。

- A burnt child fears the fire and a bitten child the dog.

烧伤过的孩子怕见火，咬伤过的孩子怕见狗。一回被蛇咬，十回怕踩草。惊弓之鸟。

- A candle lights others and consumes itself.

蜡烛照亮了别人，燃尽了自己。

- A carpenter is known by his chips.

看木片就知道木匠的手艺。什么木匠出什么活。

- A carper will cavil at anything.

吹毛求疵者，事事要挑剔。

- A cat has nine lives.

猫有九(条)命。(英国迷信说法，指生命力强)

- A cat in gloves catches no mice. (or Muffled cats catch no mice.)

带手套的猫捉不到老鼠。懒猫逮不住耗子。

- A cat may look at a king.

猫也可以瞧瞧国王。猫也有权看看国王。(指：小人物也应有平等权利)

- A (or The) chain is no stronger than its weakest link. (or The strength of the chain is

in the weakest link.)

全链条的强度寓于最薄弱的一环。一环离，全链断。一环薄弱，全局必垮。绳子总在细处断。

- A cheap(or Cheap)purchase is money lost.

买了便宜货，等于白丢钱。贪图便宜吃了亏。

- A cheerful countenance betokens a good heart.

心情愉快，满面春风。

- A cheerful look makes a(or one) dish a feast.

怡颜使一盘菜成为一桌筵席。怡颜悦色饭菜香。

- A cheerful wife is the joy of life.

有个性情愉快的妻子是一生的快乐。

- A child is better unborn than untaught. (or Better unborn than untaught.)

小孩生而不受教育，还不如不出生。

- A child's back must be bent while it is young.

修树要趁早，育人要趁小。

- A city that parleys is half gotten.

跟敌人谈判归属的城市等于被占领了一半。

- A civil denial is better than a rude grant.

宁被婉言谢绝，不受粗鲁恩赐。

- A clean fast is better than a dirty breakfast.

彻底的禁食胜于不干不净的早餐。宁为清贫，不为浊富。

- A clean hand wants no washing.

干净的手用不着洗。廉洁的人无需自我表白。

- A clear conscience is a sure card.

问心无愧，万无一失。平生不做亏心事，半夜不怕鬼叫门。

- A clear conscience laughs at false accusations.

只要问心无愧，就可对旁人无端的指责一笑置之。  
身正不怕影子斜。

- A clear stream is avoided by fish.

河水清，鱼儿少。水太清则无鱼。

- A close mouth catches no flies. (or No flies get into a shut mouth.)

闭着嘴苍蝇进不去。病从口入，祸从口出。

- A cock is valiant on his own dunghill. (or Every cock crows on its own dunghill.)

公鸡总是在自己的粪堆上称雄。狗是百步王，只在门前狂。夜郎自大。

- A cold hand, and a warm heart.

冰冷的手，温暖的心。外表冷淡，内心温情。

- A collier's cow and an alewife's sow are always well fed.

烧炭人的牛，酿酒妇的猪，总是喂得饱饱。

- A colt you may break, but an old horse you never can.

小驹可驯，老马难驭。

- A constant friend is a thing hard and rare to find. (or A faithful friend is hard to find.)

忠实的朋友煞是难得。

- A constant guest is never welcome.

常来之客不受欢迎。常客招人嫌。

- A contented mind(or man) is always rich.  
心满意足者永远富裕。知足常富。
- A contented mind is a continual(or perpetual) feast.  
心满意足等于不散的筵席。知足常乐。
- A courageous foe is better than a cowardly friend.  
懦怯的朋友还不如勇敢的敌人。
- A courageous(or wise) man never wants weapons.  
勇士(智者)不缺武器。良工不择器。善书者不择笔。
- A covetous man is good to none, but worst to himself.  
贪婪者害人更害己。
- A cracked bell can never sound well. (or A cracked bell is never sound.)  
裂缝的钟发不出悦耳之声。哑的嗓子唱不出好听的歌儿。
- A cracked pipkin is discovered by its sound.  
(or Cracked pipkins are discovered by their sound.)  
听声音就会发现瓦器有裂缝。听其声而知瓦器之好坏, 闻其言而知人之无识。
- A creaking door(or gate)hangs long on its hinges.  
嘎嘎响的门长久地牢挂在铰链上。病夫多长寿。
- A crooked stick will have a crooked shadow.

弯柄的枝条必有弯曲的影子。上梁不正下梁歪。

- A crowd is not company.

一伙人并非都是朋友。

- A crow is never whiter for often washing.  
(or Crows are never the whiter for washing themselves.)

黑乌鸦怎么洗也不白。黑乌鸦，洗不白。

- A crown is no cure for the headache. (or The royal crown cures not the headache.)

王冠治不了头痛。

- A curst cow has short horns. (or Curst cows have short horns.)

烈牛生短角。爱斗的牛角短。

- A danger foreseen is half avoided.

预见危险等于避免了一半。预见其患则患不足惧。

- A dawdle in one thing is a dawdle in all.

一事怠惰，事事怠惰。

- A day to come shows longer than a year that's gone.

未来的一天比过去的一年还长。来日方长。

- A dead man does not speak.

死人才不会说话。人死口闭。

- A dear ship stands long in the haven.

索价高的船，停在港口的时间长。

- A deceitful peace is more hurtful than an open war.

骗人的和平比公开战争危害性更大。



- A disarmed peace is weak.

解除武装的和平软弱无力。

- A disease known is half cured. (or To know the disease is half the cure.)

弄清了病情，等于治好了一半。治病要找病根，刨树要刨树根。

- A dog in the manger, that neither eats nor let others eat.

占着马槽的狗，自己不吃，也不让别人吃。占着毛坑不拉屎。

- A dog which barks much is never good at hunting.

狂吠之犬不善猎。自我炫耀者并无真才。

- A dog will not howl if you beat him with a bone.

肉骨头打狗狗不叫。

- A draught is cold, that comes in through a chink.

隙缝里吹进的风凉飕飕。

- A drowning man will catch(or clutch, or grasp) at a straw.

溺水者连一根救命稻草也要抓。溺水抓稻草，绝处只求生。急不暇择。病笃乱投医。

- A duck will not always dabble in the same gutter.

一只鸭子不会老在同一条沟里玩水。

- A dwarf on a giant's shoulder sees farther of