

美国习语手册

MEIGUO

XIYUSHOUCE



机械工业出版社

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〔美〕所罗门·威纳 著  
章以钧 译



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# **A Handy Book of Commonly Used American Idioms**

Solomon Wiener

Regents Publishing Co. Inc., 1981

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## 译 者 的 话

在美国语言中,习语和成语特别丰富。在我们的日常会话和写作中,习语和成语显得简便、生动、风趣、诙谐和精确。但成语从单个词的意义上是不能理解的,而必须从整个句子来弄清楚它的含义。本手册收集了1200余条常用习语和成语,列出了各种基本词组,注明了每个词组的含义,并用实际例句解释了每个习语和成语,对于渴望学习美国人现代口语和写作的人来说,会有很大帮助。

本书由王恩光同志审校,在此表示深切感谢。

## A

**A-1** excellent, superior 优秀的;超等的

This man is an A-1 mechanic. 这男人是优秀的机械师。

**A B C** fundamentals, rudiments 基础;基本

His mother is teaching him the A B C of dancing. 他的母亲正在教他舞蹈的基本步法。

**ABOUT-FACE** turn in the opposite direction 向后转

The soldiers made an about-face and marched away. 兵士们向后转,齐步走开了。

**ABOUT TO** prepared, ready 准备

The train was about to leave when we arrived. 我们到达时火车正要驶离。

**ABOVE ALL** especially, mainly 特殊地;主要地

Above all, never mention it to anyone. 特别是, 对任何人都不要提起它。

**ACCORDING TO HOYLE** correct, proper  
正确的; 恰当的

His conduct last night was not according to Hoyle. 昨晚他的行为不当。

**ACT OF GOD** natural occurrence 天灾

Earthquakes or hurricanes are called acts of God. 地震和飓风被称为天灾。

**AFTER ONE'S OWN HEART** with similar interests 趣味相投

With his love for music, he is a man after my own heart. 他喜爱音乐, 与我趣味相投。

**AGAINST THE GRAIN** annoying, irritating 烦恼; 气恼

It goes against the grain to lend them money. 借钱给他们使人烦恼。

**ALL ALONG** from the beginning 从一开始

We knew all along that he would succeed. 从一开始我们就知道他成功。

**ALL AT ONCE** suddenly, unexpectedly 突然地; 意外地

All at once there was a loud crash. 突然出现了猛烈的撞击声。

**ALL DAY LONG** the entire day 整日

We studied for the examination all day long. 为准备考试我们整日学习。

**ALL EARS** listening attentively 洗耳恭听

When I mentioned the party, he was all ears. 我提到这次聚会时, 他就洗耳恭听。

**ALL IN** exhausted, very tired 筋疲力尽

He was all in after playing tennis for four hours. 打了四小时网球后他感到筋疲力尽。

**ALL IN ALL** considering everything 总而言之

All in all we enjoyed the evening at her home. 总而言之, 今晚在她家里我们都很愉

快。

**ALL NIGHT LONG** the entire night 整夜

The men worked steadily all night long. 男人们整夜不断地工作。

**ALL OF A SUDDEN**

类似于 **ALL AT ONCE** 突然

**ALL OVER** a) completed, finished 完成;  
结束

She shouted, "The game is all over!" 她叫道:  
“比赛结束了!”

b) in every place 到处

The news of the armistice spread all over the world. 停战的消息传遍全世界。

**ALL OVER THE PLACE** scattered, widely separated 到处

The children's toys were all over the place.  
孩子们的玩具到处乱放。

**ALL RIGHT** correct, satisfactory 合适; 满意



It will be all right to have a party on Friday.

星期五举行聚会是合适的。

**ALL SET** prepared, ready 准备

We are all set for the picnic in the park. 公园的野餐我们已准备就绪。

**ALL THE SAME** a) alike, without difference 相同; 无区别

There menus seem to be all the same. 这些菜谱看来全都一个样儿。

b) nevertheless 然而

All the same, I will not sign the document. 然而, 我不要在文件上签字。

**ALL THERE** mentally alert, sane 机敏; 头脑清楚

That aged woman is not all there. 那个老妇头脑不清。

**ALLOW FOR**

类似于 **MAKE ALLOWANCE FOR** 考虑; 体谅

**APPLE-PIE ORDER** neat, tidy 整洁; 井然有序

The maid left the house in apple-pie order.  
女仆把屋子收拾得井然有序。

**ARMED TO THE TEETH** heavily armed  
全副武装; 武装到牙齿

They were armed to the teeth, ready for any emergency. 他们武装到牙齿, 准备应付任何事变。

**AS A MATTER OF FACT** truthfully 事实是

As a matter of fact, he is madly in love with her. 事实是, 他疯狂地爱着她。

**AS THE CROW FLIES** in a straight line  
直线

The towns are ten miles apart by railroad but only six miles apart as the crow flies. 这两个城镇铁路距离十英里, 但直线距离只有六英里。

**AS YET** up to the present time 迄今

As yet she has not received the invitation. 她迄今还没有收到请帖。

**AT ALL** in any manner 全然

The immigrant could not speak English at all. 这个移民完全不会说英语。

**AT FAULT** mistaken, wrong 引咎自责

You were at fault for not greeting him. 你没有迎候他, 应该引咎自责。

**AT FIRST** at the beginning, originally 一开始

At first the work seemed to be very difficult. 工作一开始似乎就很困难。

**AT FIRST SIGHT** immediately 立即

He liked her at first sight. 他对她一见倾心。

**AT LARGE** free after an escape 逍遥法外

The prisoners who escaped are still at large. 逃犯一直逍遥法外。

**AT LAST** eventually, finally 终于

At last, Edward and Helen were together again. 终于 Edward 和 Helen 又在一起了。

**AT LEAST** as a minimum 至少

Spend at least one hour each day practicing your piano lessons. 每天至少花一小时练习你的钢琴课程。

**AT ONCE** immediately 立即

You must send this telegram at once. 你必须立即打这封电报。

**AT ONE'S FINGER TIPS** readily available 轻而易举; 垂手可得

He has all the necessary facts at his finger tips. 他轻而易举地掌握了所有必要的事实。

**AT ONE'S WITS' END** mentally exhausted trying to solve a problem 无计可施; 徒劳无功

He was at his wits' end trying to borrow money. 他试图借钱, 但无计可施。

**AT SEA** confused 迷惑

Although he explained it to her, she was still completely at sea. 虽然他向她再三解释, 她还是完全迷惑不解。

**AT TIMES** at intervals, occasionally 偶尔  
At times the sick man seemed to recognize us. 病人偶尔似乎还认识我们。

## B

**BACK AND FORTH** frequent travel between two places 频频往返

He travels back and forth between Chicago and New York. 他频频往返于芝加哥和纽约之间。

**BACK NUMBER** not recent or current 过期刊物

Back numbers of the magazine may be obtained at the library. 可以在图书馆里借到过期杂志。

**BACK OUT** withdraw from a promise or agreement 取消一个允诺或协议

She promised to speak but backed out at the last minute. 她答应去演说,但在最后时刻取消了。

**BACK UP** a) drive or go backwards 开倒车

I backed up the car and parked under a tree.  
我开倒车把它停在一棵树下。

b) support, uphold 支持;后援

Her friends backed her up in the argument.  
在辩论中她的朋友们支持她。

**BAD BLOOD** antagonism, hatred 敌对;宿怨

There has always been bad blood between these men. 这些人之间一直总有宿怨。

**BAG AND BAGGAGE** with all portable possessions 随身行囊

The hotel manager asked them to leave, bag

and baggage immediately. 旅馆经理要他们带着随身行囊立即离开。

**BAKER'S DOZEN** thirteen 13 个

Although we had ordered only twelve, the storekeeper gave us a baker's dozen. 虽然我们只订购 12 个, 店主却给了我们 13 个。

**BARGE IN** arrive or enter unexpectedly  
不期而至

We were discussing an important matter when George barged in. George 闯进来时我们正在讨论一件重要事情。

**BAWL OUT** reprimand 痛责

Her mother will bawl her out for coming late. 因她迟到她的母亲会痛加斥责。

**BEAR ARMS** carry weapons 带武器

All able-bodied men are required to bear arms in time of war. 战争时期要求所有健康的人都拿起武器。

**BEAR IN MIND**

类似于 **KEEP IN MIND** 记住

**BEAR OUT** confirm 证实

The newspaper reports bear out what I told you yesterday. 报纸记者证实了昨天我告诉你的消息。

**BEAR UP** endure hardship 含悲忍痛

How is he bearing up after the loss of his son? 失去儿子之后,他怎能含悲忍痛?

**BEAR WITH** be patient with, endure 宽恕; 忍耐

Please, bear with me until I regain my health. 在我恢复健康之前请多包涵。

**BEAT ABOUT THE BUSH** delay coming to the point 转弯抹角

Don't beat about the bush, tell us what happened. 不要转弯抹角, 告诉我们究竟发生了什么事。

**BEAT BACK** force to retreat 被迫退却

We attacked the enemy but were beaten



back. 我们攻击敌人, 但被迫退却。

**BEAT IT** leave immediately 立即离开

The policeman told the boys to beat it. 警察要这些男孩立即离开。

**BEAT ONE'S BRAINS OUT** work vigorously 绞尽脑汁

He beat his brains out trying to solve the problem. 他绞尽脑汁, 试图解决这个问题。

**BECOME OF** happen to 发生; 结果如何

I wonder what will become of them. 我不知道他们的结果如何。

**BEFORE ONE'S TIME** before one was born 在一个人出生之前

That happened in 1886, much before my time. 那件事发生在 1886 年, 远在我出生之前。

**BEHIND BARS** in prison 入狱

The thief was put behind bars for six months. 这个小偷被监禁六个月。