

101 对

汉英常用谚语对照



活到老，学到老
make hay while the sun shines

千里送鹅毛，礼轻情意重



101

Pairs

of

Chinese-English

Common

Sayings

one is never too old to learn

不怕一万，就怕万一

nothing ventured, nothing gained

forewarned is forearmed

有志者，事竟成

不入虎穴，焉得虎子

王晓钧 编著

By Xiaojun Wang Ph. D.

A Bilingual Handbook



北京语言大学出版社
BEIJING LANGUAGE AND CULTURE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

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图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

101 对汉英常用谚语对照 / 王晓钧编著. — 北京: 北京语言大学出版社, 2008.2

书名原文: 101 Pairs of Chinese-English Common Sayings

ISBN 978 - 7 - 5619 - 2023 - 7

I. 1… II. 王… III. 英语 - 谚语 - 汉、英 IV. H313.3

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2008) 第 016336 号

书 名: 101 对汉英常用谚语对照
责任印制: 汪学发

出版发行: 北京语言大学出版社

社 址: 北京市海淀区学院路 15 号 邮政编码: 100083

网 址: www.blcup.com

电 话: 发行部 82303650/3591/3651

编辑部 82303647

读者服务部 82303653/3908

网上订购电话 82303668

客户服务信箱 service@blcup.net

印 刷: 北京中科印刷有限公司

经 销: 全国新华书店

版 次: 2008 年 5 月第 1 版 2008 年 5 月第 1 次印刷

开 本: 787 毫米 × 1092 毫米 1/16 **印张:** 15.25

字 数: 254 千字 **印数:** 1—3000

书 号: ISBN 978 - 7 - 5619 - 2023 - 7/H·08012

定 价: 38.00 元

凡有印装质量问题, 本社负责调换。电话: 82303590

前言

如果说人类语言丰富绚丽，如同那多姿多彩的大海，那么蕴涵其中的民间谚语就像那晶莹闪烁的颗颗明珠。无论哪种语言都有不少谚语以口笔相传的形式流传于世。谚语听起来真切易懂，说起来朗朗上口，回味起来受益无穷。它们既是人民生活经验的提炼，又是民族智慧的结晶，同时也是语言与文学中不可缺少的部分。

汉语和英语中都有丰富多彩的民间谚语。尽管语言和文化不同，但是两种语言中的不少谚语竟好像出自同一源头。比如，汉语的“趁热打铁”与英语的“**strike while the iron is hot**”就有异曲同工之妙。正所谓“路有千条，理只一个”，不同民族的人民往往会用不同的语言来表达他们对生活的共同经验和感受。如果学习者能够把自己母语中的谚语与目的语中相对应的表达联系起来，那么不仅可以增强对所学谚语的理解，找到它们之间的相同点与区别，而且能提高兴趣，加深对不同语言文化的理解，并做到运用自如。

有鉴于此，本书在编写方法上进行了新的尝试。编者在搜集整理的数千条英、汉谚语进行归类的基础上，将英、汉两种语言中反映近似哲理的谚语作了对照比较，从中精选了 101 对英、汉意义相近或相关的谚语，分对列出，加注词语解释，提供真实用例，以期使学习者对各条谚语在真实语境中如何使用有所了解，并能在交际中正确运用，举一反三，从而迅速提高外语表达能力。在注释方面，编者针对学习者不同的语言背景，每一条谚语不仅用读者母语加以解释说明，而且还用简明的对话方式表明具体情景和用法，并通过摘抄例句的方式提供已发表作品中的典型用例，以便于模仿使用。为了帮助理解与记忆，增强趣味性，所有谚语还配有插图。从学习者的角度讲，把英、汉意思相近的谚语列在一起，不仅可以互相参照，互为注脚，而且可以避免按字面翻译而造成的生涩难懂的困扰以及由于文化差异而产生的隔阂。学习者也会自然而然地把自己的母语与目的语联系起来，对目的语中谚语的意思和表达法心领神会，达到融会贯通的效果。

为了便于读者查找，书前、书末分别附有拼音索引和英文索引。为了方便读者，很多谚语条目下面还提供了与其意思相近或相关的其他谚语，以供

参考。这样，读者可以按谚语表达的意思进行归类，在近似语义的谚语中找出最贴切的谚语来表达自己的意思（参见【参】）。很多谚语在流传使用中，也出现了一些不同形式和表达方法，读者可参见【异】项来选择使用这些谚语的不同表达形式。

对于正在学习英语或汉语的读者，掌握目的语中传统而地道、精练而生动的语句和表达法无疑是十分必要的。不言而喻，谚语的学习对提高外语水平与表达能力不但很重要，而且往往可以收到事半功倍的效果。对于那些对异国文化、民俗、社会感兴趣的人来说，通过谚语的学习与欣赏，也可以窥视到异国的风土人情，感受到异国文化的魅力，领略外国人民的智慧。对外语教师、语言研究者、文学爱好者和哲学工作者而言，本书也具有一定的参考价值。“明珠放到哪里都闪光”，各类读者一定会在语言的海洋中发现并拾取到更多的语言明珠。

王晓钧

Preface

A proverb, in Chinese, English or other languages, is a common saying with words of advice or warning. In order to become popular and memorable, it has not only to be succinct, but also imply wisdom. Proverbs, as the Dutch say, are the daughters of experience. They are expressions of significant thoughts and are the crystallizations of universal truths. Proverbs are also widely used by people to "provide the sauce to relish the meat of ordinary speech."¹ They become an integral part of a language and literature.

There are many rich and colorful proverbs, traditional or modern, in both Chinese and English. Even though their origins and language forms are different, it seems that some proverbs are related to each other, since popular wisdom over a vast variety of subjects is common to all cultures and countries. Therefore, it is possible to compare and pair them up based on their meanings. For example, 趁热打铁 in Chinese and *strike while the iron is hot* in English have different tunes but the same wisdom. If we can relate a proverb in our mother tongue to the corresponding expression in a foreign language with similar thought and application, it will be helpful for us to understand the meaning of the proverb, increase our motivation and interest to learn, enhance memory and have a good command of it in the form of the target language. However, it is important to remember that the usage of a proverb in one language could differ from the paired one in the other language.

This handbook is a collection of 101 pairs of Chinese-English proverbs based on comparison and analysis over thousands of proverbs in both languages. Each pair of the Chinese-English proverbs reflects similar everyday experience and popular wisdom with memorable forms. In order to help both Chinese language learners and English learners, each pair of the Chinese-

¹ J. A. Simpson, (eds.) (1982) *The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs*. Oxford University Press.

English proverbs is listed together with literal translations and explanations in the learners' native language. Since many of the proverbs have oral traditions and reflect the genius of language as used by the common people, the conversational examples are provided for the users to see how those proverbs are used by native speakers in real-life situations. In addition, the included illustrative quotations establish evidence for each proverb's present value, although many of the proverbs perhaps were in common oral use before being written down. An illustration is also included to make the learning and reading a fun experience, and to increase users' interest in the proverbs. It is our intention to see each pair of Chinese-English proverbs will be easily assimilated by the readers.

Proverbs are generally listed in two ways: Alphabetical sequence and thematic presentation. To be user-friendly, this handbook orders paired proverbs in straight alphabetical sequence based on *pinyin*. An index of English proverbs paired with Chinese proverbs is also provided at the back of the book. As a result of proverbs' metaphorical application and oral tradition, many proverbs are widely different in form and/or wording, but have very similar meanings. This is a reflection of the proverbs' vitality. For those proverbs to confer with the listed ones, please see 【参】 in the English proverb section and/or 【Cf.】 in the Chinese section. It can be also used as the thematic category, since most of those proverbs are grouped with similar application for their essential meanings. For those proverbs that vary in wording from the listed ones, please see 【异】 and/or 【Var.】 in either the English or the Chinese section. Those are the varied forms of the same proverb.

This handbook can serve several purposes. For foreign language learners, it will be a very effective way to learn and use proverbs in the target language to make their speech more concise, expressive and impressive. For language instructors, linguists and writers, it can be used as a reference book. For those who are interested in foreign languages, cultures and societies, it can provide fruitful resources for them to catch glimpses of the foreign cultures, local customs and popular wisdoms through those proverbs.

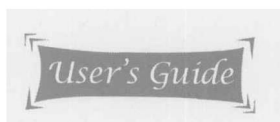
使用说明

- 1 本书正文的谚语条目按汉语拼音顺序排列。汉语谚语均加注拼音。英语的对应条目排列在相应的汉语条目之后。
- 2 在书末有按英语字母顺序排列的谚语索引。汉语对应条目排列在英语条目后，共同组成一对谚语。
- 3 汉语谚语条目的字义、直译和解释等用英语斜体缩略语标出，以便于母语为英语的汉语学习者查阅。如：

<i>Voc.</i>	=	Vocabulary
<i>Lit.</i>	=	Literal translation
<i>Exp.</i>	=	Explanation
<i>Ex.</i>	=	Example
<i>Quot.</i>	=	Quotation
<i>Cf.</i>	=	Confer
<i>Var.</i>	=	Variation

- 4 英语谚语条目的直译、解释、用例等用缩略语在鱼尾号【】中标出，以便于母语为汉语的英语学习者查阅。如：

【义】	=	直译
【解】	=	意译
【例】	=	用例
【引】	=	引例
【参】	=	参见
【异】	=	异体



1 The Chinese-English proverbs of the text are arranged in alphabetic order of *pinyin* in this book. The pronunciation of each Chinese proverb is spelled out by *pinyin*. Each corresponding English proverb is listed under the Chinese proverb as a pair.

2 An index of English proverbs paired with Chinese proverbs is provided at the back of this book. Each corresponding Chinese proverb is listed under the English proverb as a pair.

3 The list of abbreviations related to vocabulary, literal translation, explanation, etc. on each Chinese proverb is given in italics for Chinese learners whose native language is English. For example:

Voc. = Vocabulary
Lit. = Literal translation
Exp. = Explanation
Ex. = Example
Quot. = Quotation
Cf. = Confer
Var. = Variation

4 The list of abbreviations related to literal translation, explanation, examples, etc. on each English proverb is given in [] for English learners whose native language is Chinese. For example:

【义】 = 直译
【解】 = 意译
【例】 = 用例
【引】 = 引例
【参】 = 参见
【异】 = 异体

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