

英语成语双解词典

A DICTIONARY OF
ENGLISH IDIOMS
WITH BILINGUAL EXPLANATIONS

骆世平 吕云芳 林明金 邓小玲 编著

福建人民出版社

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语成语双解词典/骆世平等编著. —福州: 福建人民出版社, 2001. 8
ISBN 7-211-03880-2

I. 英... II. 骆... III. ①英语—成语—双解词典
②成语—双解词典—英、汉 N. H313. 3-61

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2001) 第 022984 号

英语成语双解词典

YINGYU CHENGYU SHUANGJIE CIDIAN

骆世平 吕云芳 林明金 邓小玲 编著

福建人民出版社出版发行

(福州东水路 76 号 邮编: 350001)

福州七二二八工厂印刷

(福州鼓屏路 33 号 邮编: 350001)

开本 850 毫米×1168 毫米 1/32 30.625 印张 4 插页·1613 千字

2001 年 8 月第 1 版

2001 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

印数: 1—3000

ISBN 7-211-03880-2

H. 138 定价: 55.00 元

本书如有印装质量问题, 影响阅读, 请直接向承印厂调换。

序

英语成语(idiom)是英语里的一种特殊的语言现象。英语成语在结构上具有凝固性、整体性和不可替代性;在语义上,大都属于一个语义单位,也就是成语的意义往往不是其构成词的意义总和。英语成语是经过长期使用、千锤百炼而创造出来的语言形式。除了寓意深刻、表达力强等特点之外,成语比词汇更富于特定的文化内涵。它们不仅是文化的记载,也是文化的反映。成语的这些特点也给英语学习带来许多困难。《英语成语双解词典》的编写出版无疑为我国英语学习者和工作者提供了一部很有实用价值的工具书。纵观全书,这部词典较突出的优点有:

一、条目新颖 “新”是词典的生命,成语词典也不例外。随着语言的不断发展,旧的成语弃而不用,新的成语不断形成。本词典编者注重收录新成语,包括国内许多同类词典未收录的新条目,如 blow sb out of the water, pit one's wits against sb, put sth down to experience, chase one's tail, come with the territory, love handles, play hardball, on a wing or a prayer, at peace with the world, be full of piss and vinegar, love to pieces, the roof caves in 等等。这些充分体现了本词典的时代气息。

二、释义英汉双解 国人编写的英语成语词典多数用汉语诠释,为了提高适应性,编者常常给同一个义项配上几个相近的汉语释义,尽管如此,也还远远不能满足千变万化的上下文的需要。读者有了英汉双解,可以英汉对照,根据上下文更准确地确定成语的含义。英语教师在讲课时,经常碰到成语,虽然能理解意思,但要如何用英语作解释,往往要花费时间去查找,双解成语词典可为他们提供方便。本双解词典的英语释义简明、易懂,汉语释义准确、达意。

三、文化背景知识丰富 成语的形成和锤炼脱离不了特定的文化背景,成语常常被认为是反映某种文化的镜子。因此,要理解成语的深刻含义,必须认真研究成语形成的背景。本书编者

广泛收集资料,精心为许多成语提供了语源、出处或解释。这类信息比起国内同类辞书来说是很突出的,如 an albatross round one's neck, kill the fatted calf, add insult to injury, beat about the bush, behind the eight ball, bell the cat, blow hot and cold, bring home the bacon, cut and run, cook sb's goose, bite the bullet, go the whole hog 等都作了语源说明,这样不但帮助读者理解成语,也可激发他们学习成语的兴趣。

四、语法、语用信息充足 英语成语和单词一样,有其自己的句法功能,如人称与数的一致等语法规则以及与其他词语的搭配等方面都有自己的特点。由于中西文化的差异,汉语里可行的用法在英语里就未必可行。该书编者为了帮助读者正确使用成语,编入了许多与成语相关的语法、搭配和语用信息,如 see how the land lies 条注明“本语中的 see 还可由动词 learn, know, discover, show, reveal 或 find out 替换”; every mother's son 条注明“常后接 of them, of us, of you 等;但作主语时,它的谓语用单数形式;用此语会被视作不礼貌,除非明显地开玩笑,否则应尽量避免使用”; sb's eyes are bigger than his belly 注明“此语通常用于对小孩说的”。这些信息对准确使用成语有很大的帮助。

此外,该词典的附录《英语常用成语分类》也别具特色。

词典编纂是一项很艰巨的工作,要编出一部十全十美的词典更是难上加难。本词典在提供附加信息方面似乎不够平衡,但这并不影响该书条目新颖、信息充足、释义准确等优点。

连淑能

2001年5月1日
于厦门大学外文学院

前 言

本词典收录英语成语（或习语）1万余条，其中包括英语书面成语、口语成语、俚语成语、常用谚语和部分日常生活常见的复合词语。这些成语有的年月已久，有的则是新近发展形成的。它们都是当代书籍、报刊、杂志、媒体、影视、交际场合、日常生活等使用最广、出现率最高的。在编纂过程中，我们参考了国内外英语辞书、成语词典等几十种，尤其主意参考 90 年代后半期国外出版的辞书，从中吸取了许多丰富的语言材料和相关信息，为本词典的准确、新颖、可靠和实用提供了保证。

本词典不收录短语动词和容易从字面上理解的习语。

本书所有条目释义实行英汉双解，英语释义力求简洁易懂、措词规范，汉语释义力求准确、达意。成语的意义主要收录其具有习语性的意义，字面意义一般不作收录。绝大多数释义配有一两个例句，例句全部汉译，译文力求准确、通顺、规范。许多条目还提供了语法、语用、搭配、语源、解释以及相关的文化背景知识；尽量为读者准确理解和使用成语提供方便。书后附有《英语常用成语分类》，以帮助读者进行书面、口头表达时使用成语。

本词典适于广大英语工作者、英语学习者和英语教师使用。

本书的编写承蒙巫维銮教授的热情帮助，他审阅了本书部分稿件，并提出了许多宝贵意见。特表诚挚谢意。

我们非常感谢厦门大学外文学院院长、博士生导师连淑能教授为本书写了序言。

编者在此向有关参考书的作者和出版社表示感谢。同时对热情支持编纂本书的福建人民出版社表示感谢。

本书的 A、C、G、O、P、Q、R、U、X、Y 由骆世平完成；F、J、K、L、S、V、Z 由吕云芳完成；B、E、M、W 由林明金完成；D、H、I、N、T 由邓小玲完成；邱碧芬完成附录《英语常用成语分类》。全书由骆世平审校。厦门大学英语系研究生王

斑协助电脑排版。

由于我们水平有限，书中缺点、错误在所难免，敬请读者、行家批评指正。

编 者

2001. 5

体 例 说 明

- 一、本词典所收条目按中心词字母顺序排列；同一中心词的条目按开头字母顺序排列。
- 二、中心词一般按名词、形容词、动词、副词、代词等顺序确定；即条目中有名词者，以名词为中心词；无名词者，以形容词为中心词；无形容词者，以动词为中心词；余类推。如：

条目	中心词
<i>chance one's arm</i>	ARM (名词)
<i>play sb false</i>	FALSE (形容词)
<i>run for it</i>	RUN (动词)
<i>far from it</i>	FAR (副词)
<i>be at it</i>	IT (代词)

- 三、条目中可作为中心词的同类词如超过一个时，一般以前者为中心词；如果两个同类词是修饰与被修饰关系的，则以后者为中心词。如：

条目	中心词
<i>let the cat out of the bag</i>	CAT
<i>cut and run</i>	CUT
<i>far and wide</i>	FAR
<i>girl Friday</i>	FRIDAY

- 四、条目中的 *be* 一般不作中心词，如 *be at it* 的中心词是 **IT**。有些条目的中心词较难确定，为便于查阅，通常采用“见”的形式，用箭头“⇒”表示。如 *stay put* 条设在中心词 **STAY** 下，但在中心词 **PUT** 下可找到：*stay put* ⇒ **STAY** 的提示。又如 *(as) cool as a cucumber* 设在名词 **CUCUMBER** 中心词下，但在 **COOL** 中心词下可查到：*(as) cool as a cucumber* ⇒ **CUCUMBER**。

- 五、条目释义采用英汉双解，先英语释义后汉语释义。为节省篇幅起见，释义的补充信息不作双解，只在汉语释义前或后用括注的形式加以说明；释义的使用地区、场景、修辞色彩等也不用双解。如：

put in an (或 one's) appearance — to appear just for a little while 〈非正式〉露一下面；到场一会 儿；短暂出席（常指出于责任或礼貌而露面）

其中“〈非正式〉”和补充说明“常指出于责任或礼貌而露面”不作双解。

六、条目释义不同时，各项释义分别列出，前面冠以 1)、2)、3) 等数码。同一项内释义较近者用逗号分隔，稍远者用分号分隔。

七、“亦作”表示条目的变体，变体的条目一般可在其所属的位置查到。如：

on no account (亦作 *not on any account*)

make the air turn blue (亦作 *turn the air blue*)

八、条目中的代词分别表示：

one —— 表示本人

one's —— 表示本人的

sb —— 表示某人 (是 *somebody* 的缩略式)

sb's —— 表示某人的

sth —— 表示某事或某物 (是 *something* 的缩略式)

九、符号说明

1、圆括号“()”表示括号内的单词或词组可去可留；如 *paint the town (red)* 条中，可以用作 *paint the town*，也可以用作 *paint the town red*。如果括号内单词或词组前有“或”字，则表示该单词或词组可与括号前的单词互换。如 *all of (或 in) a tremble (或 flutter, twitch, quiver)* 条中，*in* 可以替代 *of*；*flutter, twitch* 和 *quiver* 可以分别替代 *tremble*。括号还用来对条目释义进行补充说明；如：

(*do sth*) *till one is blue in the face* — …… 一再重复做同样的事，不停地做 (通常指不成功)

stare sb in the face — …… (事实等) 摆在某人面前；显而易见

2、箭号“⇒”右方表示要“见”的条目或中心词。如：

hold sb to account ⇒ *call sb to account*

put on the acid ⇒ *shoot the shit* ⇒ SHIT

fall (或 run, go) afoul (或 foul) of ⇒ FOUL

3、方括号“[]”内用来说明条目的语源、文化背景，或对条目进行解释。如：

in sackcloth and ashes — …… [来自《圣经·以斯贴记》第4章：古代以色列人为了表示哀悼或忏悔，身穿麻衣，头上撒灰。]

above the salt — …… [按英国旧习惯，盐瓶摆在桌子当中，主人、家人和贵客坐在它的上首，仆人和家庭教师坐下首。]

4、空心鱼尾号“[]”内用来提供成语的语法、语用、搭配、变体等信息。如：

act (或 *be*) *one's age* — …… [常用于祈使句或用于劝告小孩。]

go without saying — …… [常用 *it, that* 作形式主语, 后接 *that* 引导的主语从句。]

sow the seeds of sth — …… [动词还可用 *plant*; *of* 的宾语可以是 *discontent, doubt, war, destruction, rebellion* 等等。]

5、三角号“〈〉”内表示条目或释义的使用区域、场景、修辞色彩等; 如: 〈美〉、〈非正式〉、〈贬义〉。

6、“◆”用来隔开释义与例句, 或例句与例句。

7、为节约篇幅起见, 本书的中英文省略号一律用三点, 即“…”和“…”。

十、缩略语 本书尽量少用缩略语, 多用较为直观的方法标注, 以方便读者; 如〈幽默〉、〈委婉语〉、〈非正式〉等。一些常用缩略语如下:

〈口〉…………… 口语

〈俚〉…………… 俚语

〈文〉…………… 文学语言

〈粗〉…………… 粗话

〈谚〉…………… 谚语

〈谑〉…………… 戏谑语

〈英〉…………… 英国英语

〈美〉…………… 美国英语

esp. = *especially* *usu.* = *usually* (只在英文释义中使用)

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A

A

A1 (亦作 *A-1*, *A-one*, *A1 at Lloyd's*) — 1) the best possible; excellent; of the highest quality; very good 〈非正式〉最佳的; 优秀的; 第一流的; 很好的 ♦ *Everything in his house was A1.* 他家里的每一件东西都是高级的。2) in good health 〈非正式〉健康的 ♦ *Yesterday I was ill but today I am feeling A-one.* 我昨天病了, 可是今天我感觉好极了。3) perfectly, right 〈非正式〉完全地, 恰好地 ♦ *That'll suit me A1. I had an engagement, but it was quite unimportant.* 那对我非常合适。我本来有个约会, 但是并不重要。[此语源自英国著名的《劳埃德船舶年鉴》(*Lloyd's Register of Shipping*), 该年鉴载明各国船只的吨位、等级等, 新船或大修过的船标上 A, 船上的设备和补给按 1、2、3 列等; 因此标有 A1 标志的船均属最好的船。]

from A to B — from one place to another 从一处到另一处 ♦ *I don't care what a car looks like as long as it gets me from A to B.* 我不在乎车的外观如何, 只要能载着我四处跑就行了。♦ *What's the quickest way to get from A to B in London?* 在伦敦, 最快捷的交通方式是什么?

from A to Z (亦作 *from A to Izzard*) — from beginning to end; very thoroughly and completely 从头到尾; 完完全全; 彻底地 ♦ *Mr. Smith is a senior professor, he knows his subject from A to Z.* 史密斯先生是一位资历很深的教授, 他对他的学科了如指掌。[通常与 *know*, *learn* 连用。]

the A to Z of — everything about (a subject) 〈非正式〉(关于某学科的) 全部知识 ♦ *Jack knew the A to Z of flower arrangement.* 杰克对插花十分内行。

〔通常与 *learn*, *know*, *teach* 连用。〕

with a big (或 capital) A (或 *B*, *C* 等) ⇨ CAPITAL

ABC

the ABC of ... — of the simplest and most basic knowledge ... 的基础知识, ... 的入门 ♦ *There are several books available that give you the ABC of personal computer.* 这里有买好几本个人电脑基础知识的书。♦ *My mother gave me a book called *The ABC of Cooking*.* 我妈妈给我一本叫《烹调入门》的书。[源自一种用来教小孩认字母的叫 ABC 的书。]

ABEYANCE

fall (或 go) into abeyance (亦作 *be in abeyance*) — to be waiting or in suspense 等待; 搁置; 未定 ♦ *The decision is in abeyance until the president returns from holiday.* 这项决议要搁置到校长度假回来才能决定。♦ *The usual rules of the game are in abeyance during informal practices.* 进行非正式训练时, 可以不按照正常的比赛规则。

ABOUT

be about to — just going to; on the point of 正要; 刚要 ♦ *I was about to leave when she called.* 我正要离开时她突然来了电话。♦ *The apple tree is about to bloom.* 那棵苹果树就要开花了。

How about... ? — 1) (used to find out information or to ask sb's opinion) 〈口〉... 怎么样了? 对... 怎么办? ... 怎么样? (用于询问有关消息或征求某人意见) ♦ *How about the matter we discussed the other day?* 我们那天讨论的事怎么样了? ♦ *How about going to play basketball with us this afternoon?* 今天下午和我们一起去打篮球怎么样? 2) (used to express disapproval) 〈口〉那么为什么...? ... 又是怎么回事呢? (用于表示与对方意见不同时的反问) ♦ *"I always return my library books on time!" "Always? How about the time you kept the *English Idioms* for four weeks too long?"* "我总是按时还图书馆的书!" "总是? 那次你借《英语成语》那本书超过了四周又是

怎么回事呢?”

How (或 What) about that! ⇒ **HOW**

what about ⇒ **WHAT**

ABOVE

above all ⇒ **ALL**

above and beyond — greater than; more than; further than 大于; 多于; 远于 ♦ Our soldiers showed courage above and beyond what was expected of them. 我们的战士们表现出来的勇气远远出乎人们的意料之外。♦ But ... above and beyond financial security, what you should be striving for this month is personal stardom and recognition. 但是...比确保经济收入更重要的是, 这个月你应该努力争取外界承认你的明星地位。

be not above — to be not very honest, to have a lower standard of behaviour 不太诚实; 行为不佳 ♦ He's not above taking paper and envelopes from work for his own use at home. 他不那么诚实, 甚至把办公用纸和信封拿回家私用。

ABREAST

be (或 keep) abreast of sth — to be or to remain up to date with or well informed about sth 保持跟上某事; 不落后至某事; 及时了解某事 ♦ One of the difficulties of researchers in computer science is keeping abreast of current development. 在计算机科学方面, 研究人员的一个困难是紧跟当前的发展速度。

ABROAD

be all abroad — confused and unable to understand 茫然不解, 感到莫名其妙 ♦ I am all abroad with anything to do with computer. 我对电脑一窍不通。

ABSENCE

Absence makes the heart grow fonder. — One likes a person better when one has been away from him for a little time. 〈谚〉人不见更想念; 别久情深。♦ They work in different cities and are together only at weekends. Still absence makes the heart grow fonder. 他们在不同城市工作, 只有周末才在一起。真是人不见更想念。

♦ I am actually glad to be back at work again. Absence makes the heart grow fonder. 其实我很高兴再回来工作。离开了更想这个地方。〔此语现在不限定指人, 也可用来指某种情况、地点等; 有时也用作幽默或讽刺。〕〔此语源自 17 世纪初的一首无署名诗的开头第一行。〕

conspicuous (或 distinguished) by sb's absence — the absence of sb is noticeable and likely to be remarked upon 某人因缺席而引人注目; 因某人不在场而引起谈论 ♦ The minister was conspicuous by his absence from the dinner. The press are saying that he is going to resign. 那位部长因没有出席晚餐而引起纷纷议论。报界说他就要辞职了。

AC

AC/DC — sexually attracted to both males and females; bisexual 〈俚〉对两性都具有性欲的; 异性恋和同性恋的; 两性的 ♦ We must help the AC/DC youngster to shape his actions in a heterosexual direction. 我们应当帮助搞两性的年轻人朝异性恋的方向改变自己的行为。〔原指交流 (AC)、直流 (DC) 两种电都适用。〕

ACCENT

accent you could cut with a knife — very strong, noticeable accent 很重的口音 ♦ As soon as he opened his mouth, I knew he was a New Yorker. You could have cut his accent with a knife. 他一开口我就知道他是纽约州人, 他的土腔很重。♦ His father had lived in London for ten years but he still had an accent you could cut with a knife. 他父亲已经在伦敦住了 10 年, 但口音仍然很重。

ACCIDENT

a happy accident — a pleasant situation or event that is not planned or intended 意外的好事 ♦ We never planned to have a third child — it was a happy accident. 我们从来没有打算要生第三个孩子, 这是个意外的好事。

accidents will happen — some unfortunate

events must be accepted as inevitable 不幸的事在所难免 ♦ Oh well, accidents will happen. I can always buy another bowl. 噢，失手是难免的，我随时都可以再买个碗。〔通常用于安慰遇到不幸或出差错的人时说的。〕

an accident waiting to happen — a potentially dangerous situation which could very easily turn into a disaster 很可能酿成大祸的险情，潜在的危險 ♦ The school should board up that old house to stop the children playing there. It's an accident waiting to happen. 学校应该用木板把那栋旧房子的门窗封起来，不要让孩子们在那里玩。要不随时都可能发生灾难。

by accident — accidentally, unexpectedly 偶然地，无意中 ♦ By accident I discovered that she had visited London. 我无意中发现她游览过伦敦。♦ I met John and his girlfriend quite by accident in the National Park. 我非常偶然地在那个国家公园碰见约翰和他的女友。

have an accident — 1) sb is injured or sth is damaged without anyone intending them to be 发生事故；遭受意外 ♦ My father had an accident last week. 我父亲上星期出了车祸。♦ I have had an accident in the kitchen and broken all the glasses. 我在厨房里不小心失手，把所有的玻璃杯都摔破了。2) (a child) urinates by mistake (委婉) (小孩) 尿裤子 ♦ Mother asked Billy to go to the bathroom before they left so that he wouldn't have an accident in the car. 妈妈叫比利在他们离开前先上厕所，免得在车上尿裤子。

more by accident than (by) design — because of luck and not because of skill 由于运气好而不是技术高，靠运气 ♦ I kicked the ball and, more by accident than design, it found its way into the net. 我把球踢出去，由于运气好而不是我技术高，它竟钻入网底。

(whether) by accident or design — whether intended to be this way or not 不

管是否有意 ♦ The system, whether by accident or design, benefits people who live in the cities more than people who live in the country. 不管这项制度是否有意安排，它对住在城里的人较之住在乡下的人好处多。

ACCORD

of (或 on) one's own accord — willingly 自愿地；主动地 ♦ I'll have to order him to do it because he won't do it of his own accord. 我得命令他去干那件事，因为他不会自动去做的。

reach an accord with sb — to agree with sb (on sth); to reach an agreement with sb (在某事上) 同意某人的意见；与某人达成协议 ♦ After one month, we were still unable to reach an accord with them. 一个月之后我们仍然没能和他们达成协议。

with one accord — everyone agreeing; unanimously 一致同意地；一致地 ♦ He had only just started to sing when with one accord they left the room. 他刚开始演唱，他们就一齐离开房间。♦ The students protested with one accord that they had not done it. 学生们异口同声地争辩说他们没有干那件事。

ACCOUNT

balance accounts with ⇨ settle accounts with

blow-by-blow account — detailed description 详细描述 ♦ He bored us all with a blow-by-blow account of what he did on holiday. 他详细地把假期里做的事讲给我们听，把我们都烦透了。〔源自对拳击比赛的现场报道，指一拳一拳地详细解说。〕

bring sb to account ⇨ call sb to account

by (或 from) all accounts — according to what has been said or reported 据说；据报道 ♦ I've never been there but it is, by all accounts, a lovely place. 我没有去过那个地方，但大家都说那是个好地方。

♦ The Crown Hotel is the best in town by all accounts. 据说皇冠旅社是城里最好的旅社。

by sb's own account — according to what sb says 根据某人自己说的 ♦ He was accused of shoplifting but by his own account he has never even been in that shop. 他被指控在商店里行窃, 但根据他自己所说, 他从从来没有去过那家商店。

call (or bring, hold) sb to account — 1) to demand an accounting or an explanation from sb 责问某人; 要求某人作出解释 ♦ The teacher called Tom to account after he left school without permission. 老师要汤姆解释为什么未经许可而擅自离校。2) to blame sb; to reprimand sb 责备某人; 谴责某人 ♦ Peter called his son to account for not studying hard at school. 彼得责骂他儿子在学校不认真学习。

doctor the accounts — to falsify the accounts to make them appear better (or worse) than they really are 篡改账目 ♦ He avoided paying tax for three consecutive years by doctoring the accounts. 他通过做假账连续三年逃避纳税。

give a good account of oneself — to do sth well; to be successful 表现不错, 取得好成绩 ♦ I hope you will give a better account of yourself in the examination. 我希望你下次考试会有更好的成绩。♦ He gave a good account of himself during the match. 他在比赛中表现出色。

give a poor account of oneself — to do sth badly and lose approval 表现不好, 成绩不佳 ♦ They can't always win, I know, but I've never seen the team give such a poor account of themselves. 我知道他们不可能一直保持不败, 但我从未见过这个队的表现这么差。

go (or be called, sent) to one's (long) account — to die 死 ♦ Hyde is gone to his account and it only remains for us to find the body of your master. 海德已经死了, 现在剩下来要我们做的只是找你主人的尸体了。[按基督教的说法, 到上帝的最后审判日 (Day of Judgment), 每个

亡灵都要叙述在人间的所作所为。]

hold sb to account ⇨ **call sb to account**

leave (sth or sb) out of account (or consideration) — to fail to consider (sth or sb) when making a decision 不予考虑, 不予重视, 置之度外 ♦ They went hiking and got wet for they left out of account that it might rain. 他们徒步旅行时被淋湿了, 因为他们没有考虑到会下雨。♦ Make sure that nothing is left out of account. 务必把一切情况都予以考虑。

no accounting for taste — not being able to explain why sb prefers one thing to another 偏好是无法解释的, 各人有各人的爱好 (表示说话人不赞成的口气) ♦ Have you seen her new dress? It's purple with yellow flowers on it — still, there's no accounting for taste. 你看过她的新连衣裙吗? 是紫色的, 上面绣有黄花 —— 真是人各有所好呀。♦ "I love having a cold shower before breakfast." "Well, there's no accounting for taste!" "我很喜欢吃早饭前先冲个冷水澡。" "哦, 兴趣真是无法解释。"

not on any account ⇨ **on no account**

of little account — of little importance; insignificant 不大重要的; 微不足道的 ♦ He was thought to be a man of little account. 他被认为是一个无足轻重的人。♦ His achievements in literature were of little account. 他在文学上的成就微不足道。

of much (or great) account (〈诗〉) **of high account** — of great importance or value 很重要的; 很有价值的; 很有意义的 ♦ It is of much account that children have good companions. 孩子们要交好的同伴, 这点很重要。♦ Whether you go or stay is of great account. 你去还是留, 关系重大。

of no account — trifling; insignificant 没有价值的, 无意义的; 不重要的, 无足轻重的 ♦ Everyone thought he was a man of no account in this department. 大家都认为他在这个部门无足轻重。

on account — 1) on installment plan 用

分期付款 ♦ We bought this apartment on account. 我们以分期付款的方式买了这一套间。2) (money paid or owned) on debt; as a part, esp. the first of several parts 作为暂付款; 作为(付款或取货的)第一部分 ♦ This is a payment on account. 这是一部分付款。

on account of — because of 因为, 由于 ♦ We delayed our departure on account of the bad weather. 我们因天气不好而推迟离开。♦ I was thinking of going down to the seaside for two weeks, on account of my health. 由于身体原因, 我正在考虑到海边去住两周。

on no account (亦作 **not on any account**) — for no reason; absolutely not 决不可以, 切莫 ♦ We must give them full attention and must never on any account negligent. 我们必须充分注意它们, 决不能疏忽。♦ My telephone number must on no account be mentioned to anyone. 一定不要把我的电话号码告诉任何人。

on one's own account — 1) for oneself 为了自己 ♦ He asked no one's permission or advice; he did it on his own account. 他没有征求任何人的同意或意见, 他是自行其是。2) independently 依靠自己, 独立地 ♦ Very well, do it on your own account. I hope you will be successful. 那好, 你独自去干吧。我祝你成功。3) at one's own risks 自担风险, 冒险地 ♦ It is a dangerous plan, you'll have to follow up on your own account if you keep it going. 这是一项危险的计划, 你要继续干下去, 就得自担风险。

on sb's account — because of sb 为了某人的缘故 ♦ But you need have no anxiety on her account. 但是你没有必要为她担心。♦ Mary thinks you're leaving your parents on her account. 玛丽认为你是因为她而离开父母的。

on that (或 this) account — for that (or this) reason 由于那个(或这个)原因 ♦ It was raining and on that account I brought an umbrella with me. 天正在下雨, 因此我带了一把雨伞。♦ Philip had

on that account taken a sudden dislike to her. 由于那个原因, 菲利普突然对她感到厌恶。

put to (good) account ⇨ **turn to (good) account**

settle (或 square, balance) accounts with — 1) to settle one's financial accounts with (sb) 与...结清账目 ♦ I should manage to square accounts with the bank before the end of the year. 我应该设法在年底前和银行结清账目。2) to get even with (sb); to revenge oneself on (sb) 跟...算账; 向...进行报复 ♦ I will settle accounts with Jack for criticizing me behind my back. 杰克背后抨击我, 我要找他算账。

square accounts — 1) to settle one's bill 结账 ♦ Each month, as soon as I get paid, I like to square all my accounts. 我每个月总喜欢一拿到工资就把所有的账目还清。2) to straighten out an misunderstanding 消除误解 ♦ Tom, you and I are going to have to square accounts. 汤姆, 你和我必须消除误解。

take account of — to consider; to make allowance for; to pay attention to 考虑, 估计到; 重视 ♦ We must take account of the interests of the country, the collective and the individual. 我们应该考虑到国家、集体和个人的利益。♦ Taking account of the high overhead, the price is not excessive. 考虑业务开支很大, 这个价格不算太贵。♦ We should take account of these factors. 我们应重视这些因素。

take into account — to consider; to pay attention to 考虑; 注意, 重视 ♦ We must take into account the fact that he has been studying hard for the whole semester. 他整个学期一直在努力学习, 我们必须把这点考虑进去。♦ Taking into account the differences between the students' mother tongue and the target language. 注意学生的母语和目的语之间的差别。

turn (或 put) to (good) account — to make good use of; to profit by 充分利用; 从中获利 ♦ We hope the new secretary

will turn to good account her knowledge of computer. 我们希望新来的秘书会充分利用她在电脑方面的知识。

ACE

ace in the hole — 1) (sth or sb) held (secretly) in reserve; anything which can help in an emergency (非正式) 大牌; 备而未用的人或物; 应急的法宝 • When Tom bet all his money in the game he did not know that the gambler had an ace in the hole and would win it from him. 汤姆把所有的钱都押在那个赌注上, 他不知道那个赌徒手中有大牌, 会把他的钱赢走。2) a helper in difficulties (非正式) 患难中可靠的朋友 • I got a millionaire for an ace in the hole. 我有一个百万富翁作我的后盾。[源自牌戏。ace 是纸牌中的 A 牌, 是一张大牌。在明扑克中, 正面朝下的牌英文叫 hole, 如果正面朝下的牌是 A, 该牌的持有者在关键的时候即可打出, 取胜的机会大增。]

(as) black as the ace of spades — very black; very dirty (非正式) 非常黑; 非常脏 • The children had been playing in the mud, and they were black as the ace of the spades when they came in for tea. 孩子们在泥淖里玩, 进屋喝茶时, 全身都是黑乎乎的。

have (或 keep) an ace (或 aces, a card) up one's sleeve — to have sth effective kept secretly in reserve 手中留有王牌; 有应急的妙计 • Mr. Heath believes he has some aces up his sleeve for his final campaign. 希思先生自认为在竞选的最后关头还有一些绝招可以使出来。[此语产生于 19 世纪, 当时打牌作弊猖獗。有些专门以此为生的人常常把大牌 A 藏在袖口里, 关键的时候才打出来。]

hold (或 have)(all) the aces — to be in a favourable position; to be in a controlling position (非正式) 手中握有王牌, 有制胜的法宝; 处于支配地位 • How can I advance in my job when my enemy holds all the aces? 我的仇敌掌大权, 我在工作上怎么能够提升呢? • I tried to get them to change their minds but the

opponents to the proposal held all the aces and I was outvoted. 我想使他们改变主意, 但该项建议的反对者占据主动权, 结果我在投票中失利。[原指打牌时手上拥有四张 A 牌。]

It's ace! — It is the best! 好极了! • Have you heard their new record? It's ace! 你有没有听过他们新出的唱片? 棒极了!

play one's ace — to use one's best resources 使出绝招; 拿出最大本事 • The general decided to play his ace and send in the tanks. 那将军决定使出绝招, 派出坦克参战。

trump sb's ace — to counter an opponent's strong action with an even stronger one 用王牌打掉某人的 A 牌; 以更强的手段还击某人 • When the application of William Morris, the motor car manufacturer, to join a golf club was refused by its members, he trumped their ace by buying the club. 汽车制造商威廉·莫里斯想加入一高尔夫球俱乐部, 当他的申请遭到该俱乐部成员拒绝时, 他便以更绝的手段回击, 干脆把它买过来。[源自牌戏; ace 即纸牌中的 A 牌, 比其他有点数的牌都大, 但王牌(trump)能压过它。]

within an ace of — almost; very near to 差点儿, 险些儿, 几乎 • I was within an ace of punching him, I was so angry. 我差一点就揍了他, 我非常气愤。• The car came within an ace of hitting the old lady. 那辆汽车险些儿撞到那个老太太。[通常与 come 或 be 连用。] [此语源自掷骰子赌博, ace 是骰子面上的一个点; 原意是“差一个点就(赢)”。]

ACID

behind acid — using acid; under the influence of the drug LSD (美、俚) 服毒品; 服迷幻药; 处于幻觉之中 • The girl was behind acid for about a week. 那女孩服了迷幻药, 飘飘欲仙了大约一个星期。• Poor kid! She spent most of her time behind acid. 可怜的孩子! 她大部分时间都处于幻觉之中。

blue acid — the drug LSD (美、俚) 迷幻

药(毒品) ♦ Blue acid is the cheapest thing around here. Toot is a lot more. 这一带迷幻药最便宜, 可卡因就贵多了。 ♦ Who makes this blue acid? 是谁制造出这种迷幻药的?

come the old acid — (to try) to deceive (sb) (想) 欺骗(某人) ♦ I don't believe you, so don't come the old acid with me. 我不相信你, 因此你别想来骗我。

put on the acid ⇒ **shoot the shit** ⇒ SHIT

ACQUAINTANCE

have a nodding (或 bowing) acquaintance with — to have only a slight knowledge of (a subject or sb) 与(某人)有点头之交; 对(某学科)略知一二 ♦ Mr. Morris has become merely a nodding acquaintance with me. 莫里斯先生跟我只不过是点头之交而已。

make the acquaintance of sb (亦作 **make sb's acquaintance**) — to get to know sb; to meet sb personally 结识某人 ♦ Who is Perry? I have never made his acquaintance. 佩里是谁? 我根本不认识他。 ♦ At this place I made the acquaintance of Miss Kettering. 就在这个地方我结识了凯特林小姐。

scrape (up) an acquaintance with (sb) — to make friends with (sb) to a slight degree; to become friendly with (sb) in order to win an advantage for oneself, esp. to gain secret information 结识(某人); 设法同(某人)结交(为得到好处, 尤指为获取情报) ♦ They're some people we scraped up an acquaintance with on holiday; I can't claim to know them well. 他们是在度假时认识的, 我谈不上对他们很熟识。[通常用一般时态。]

ACT

act of God — 1) unforeseen and damaging event; act of nature such as a storm, earthquake, etc 不可预测的事; 不可抗力; 天灾(如风暴、地震等) ♦ My insurance company wouldn't pay for the damage because it was an act of God. 我的保险公司不赔偿这项损失, 因为这是不可抗力所造成的。2) what seems like

an act of divine mercy 上帝的恩惠; 上天的造化 ♦ It was an act of God that everyone escaped from the airplane unhurt. 简直是上天的造化, 大家都从那架飞机上安然逃脱。

balancing (或 juggling) act — a difficult situation in which you try to achieve several different things at the same time 费劲而复杂工作 ♦ Keeping both sides in the dispute happy was a difficult juggling act which required an extraordinary degree of diplomacy. 要使争执的双方都高兴是件很难办的事, 这需要有非凡的外交手腕。

catch sb in the (very) act (of doing sth) (亦作 **catch sb red-handed**) — to discover sb doing sth illegal or wrong 当场捉到某人, 当场发现某人(正在做坏事) ♦ The farmer caught the boys in the act of stealing his apples. 那农民当场捉住那些正在偷苹果的男孩子。 ♦ The police were tipped off, and the thief was caught in the very act of loading the stolen goods into his car. 警方接到举报, 因此那个盗贼正往他的车里装赃物时被当场抓获。[经常用被动语态, 后面常接 of 所带的短语。]

clean up one's act — to start to behave in a more acceptable way (非正式) 开始表现好些, 改邪归正 ♦ There's a very strong anti-press feeling at the moment. A lot of people think it's time they cleaned up their act. 当前有一股反对报界的非常强烈的情绪; 许多人认为该是报界好好改正的时候了。

get into the act (亦作 **get in on the act**) — to become involved in some activity or venture; to take part in (俚) 参与; 插手 ♦ Whatever we are doing, Stanford always wants to get into the act. 不管我们在做什么, 斯坦福都想插一手。 ♦ When the children started to kick the ball about the dog tried to get in on the act as usual. 当孩子们开始踢球玩时, 这只狗照样也来凑热闹。[原义是指某人想挤进去参加演出]