

A

Dictionary

of American Idioms

英英 英漢 美國成語大辭典

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(附最通用成語一覽表)

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序

這是一本獨特而非常有用的辭典。坊間雖不乏英漢成語字典，但編輯不及本書詳盡精確。本辭典最大的特色是每一片語、慣用語、俚語、或諺語都附有數種不同的例句，並在每一例句之下以較為正式、較少成語意味的文字加以解釋，此外又列有詞性及特殊用法的說明，數管齊下，當真是做到了一目了然的地步，學者有此一部辭典，不僅學到了美國人士彼此交談時所習用的語句，也增進了對一般較為正式的英語的瞭解能力。

平心而論，這可能是我看到的英文成語字典中最好的一部。這本辭典所收錄的，皆屬時下美國最常用的成語；原書首刊於一九六六年，幾經再版，一九七五年重新擴大修訂，可以說是最詳實、最新穎、讀後最能獲益的一部。

本書的中譯由成文出版社編輯部諸君執筆，譯後由我逐條校正，再由何光謨先生及邱蕊玲小姐整修之。惟翻譯成語是一種相當吃力的工作，一方面希望能引述相應的中文成語，一方面又須兼顧中美文化背景的不同，於斟酌損益的過程中，難免有一、二疏略之處，當於再版時修訂之。

abide by v. To accept and obey; be willing to follow. *A basketball player may know he did not foul, but he must abide by the referee's decision.* (The player must be willing to follow the referee's decision; he must do as the referee says or he cannot play.) *The members agree to abide by the rules of the club.* (They promise to obey its rules.)

服從；遵守。籃球選手可能不以為他犯了規，但他必須服從裁判的判決。會員們同意遵守會規。

a bit n., informal A small amount; some. *There's no sugar in the sugar bowl, but you may find a bit in the bag.* (You may find some sugar in the bag.) *If the ball had hit the window a bit harder, it would have broken it.* (The ball nearly broke the window.)—Often used like an adverb. *This sweater scratches a bit.* (This sweater is a little scratchy.)—Also used like an adjective before *less, more*. *Janet thought she could lose weight by eating a bit less.* (She did not eat as much as usual.) *"Have some more cake?" "Thanks. A bit more won't hurt me."*—Often used adverbially after verbs in negative, interrogative, and conditional sentences, sometimes in the form *one bit*. *"Won't your father be angry?" "No, he won't care a bit."* (He will not be even a little angry; it will make no difference to him.) *Helen feels like crying, but I'll be surprised if she shows it one bit.* (I do not think she will show how she feels.)—Sometimes used with *little* for emphasis, also in the emphatic form *the least bit*. *"Wasn't Bob even a little bit sorry he forgot his date?" (Wasn't Bob sorry some?) "No, Bob wasn't the least bit sorry."* (Bob didn't care.) Syn. A LITTLE, Compare A FEW. Contrast A LOT.

少許；一些。盛糖器中無糖，但你可可在袋中找到些許。如果球再稍擊重一點的話，窗戶就會被打破了。毛衣有點皺了。珍妮特認為少吃點可以減肥。「再來點蛋糕吧？」「謝謝！再來一點點就好了。」「你父親不生氣嗎？」「不，一點也不。」海倫像是要哭，但如她稍露一點哭的神色，我會感到驚訝。「鮑伯一點也不為失約而抱歉嗎？」「不，他一點也不覺得抱歉。」

about one's ears or around one's ears adv. phr. To or into complete collapse, defeat, or ruin; to the destruction of a person's plans, hopes, or happiness.—A cliché. *They planned to have factories all over the world but the war brought their plans down about their ears.* (The war ruined their big plans.) *John hoped to go to college and become a great scientist some day, but when his father died he had to get a job, and John's dreams*

came crashing around his ears. (John's dream of becoming a great scientist was spoiled when he had to leave school.) Compare ON ONE'S HEAD.

毀滅無遺；落空。他們計劃在世界各地設廠，但戰爭使他們的計劃成為泡影。約翰希望上大學，將來成爲一個偉大的科學家，但父親去世，他得工作，希望也就破滅了。

about time n. phr. Finally, but later than it should have been; at last. *Mother said, "It's about time you got up, Mary."* (Mary got up late, and Mother told her she should have gotten up earlier.) *"The basketball team won last night. About time."* (It has been a long time since the team won a game.)

最後（但比預定時間遲些）；終於；該。母親說：「瑪麗，你該起床了。」「這球隊昨晚贏了一仗，他們該贏一次了！」

about to 1 Close to; ready to.—Used with an infinitive. *We were about to leave when the snow began.* (We were ready to leave when snow began to fall.) *I haven't gone yet, but I'm about to.* (I'm almost ready to go.) Compare GOING TO, ON THE POINT OF. 2 informal Having a wish or plan to.—Used with an infinitive in negative sentences. *Freddy wasn't about to give me any of his ice-cream cone.* (He had no plan to give me any.) *"Will she come with us?" asked Bill. "She's not about to," answered Mary.* (She certainly won't come; she doesn't want to come with us.)

1. 正欲；即將。我們正準備離去時雪就下了。我還沒走但正想走。2. 有意；打算。福瑞迪不打算給我冰淇淋。比爾問：「她是否要與我們去？」瑪麗答說：「她沒有這個意思。」

above all adv. phr. Of first or highest importance; most especially. *Children need many things, but above all they need love.* (They need love the most.) Syn. FIRST AND LAST. 最重要者；尤其。小孩子需要很多東西，但最重要的是愛。

above suspicion adj. phr. Too good to be suspected; not likely to do wrong. *The umpire in the game must be above suspicion of supporting one side over the other.* (The umpire must be a fair man who would not help one side against the other.)

無庸置疑；不容懷疑。比賽中的執行裁判應該沒有被人懷疑偏袒一方之處。

absentia See IN ABSENTIA. Acapulco gold n., slang, drug culture Marijuana of an exceptionally high quality. *Jack doesn't just smoke pot, he smokes Acapulco gold.* (Jack doesn't smoke ordinary marijuana, he uses the highest quality stuff there is.)

一種特別高品質的大麻煙。傑克不只抽大麻煙而已，他抽的是「亞卡布魯哥那」這種品質特別高的大麻。

accord See OF ONE'S OWN ACCORD OR OF ONE'S OWN FREE WILL.

according as *conj.* 1 Depending on which; whichever. *You may take an oral or written exam according as you prefer.* (Which do you like better, an oral exam or a written exam? You may take the one you like better.) 2 Depending on whether; if. *We will play golf or stay home according as the weather is good or bad.* (If the weather is good, we will play golf, if it rains we will stay home.)

1. 隨……而定。你喜歡口試或筆試，悉聽尊便。
2. 視……而定。我們要打高爾夫球或留在家裏，就視天氣好壞而定。

according to *prep.* 1 So as to match or agree with; so as to be alike in. *Many words are pronounced according to the spelling but some are not.* (Many words are pronounced in a way that agrees with their spelling.) *The boys were placed in three groups according to height.* (The boys were divided by height into three groups. The boys in each group were similar in height.) 2 On the word or authority of. *According to the Bible, Adam was the first man.* (The Bible says that Adam was the first man.)

1. 隨着；按着。很多字按其拼法來發音，有些則否。男孩子們按身高分成三組。
2. 依據。依聖經所述，亞當是第一個男人。

according to Hoyle *adv. or adj. phr., informal* By the rules; in the usual and correct way; regular.—A cliché. *It's not according to Hoyle to hit a man when he's down.* (It's not fair to hit a man when he's down.) *In quitting without notice, he didn't act according to Hoyle.* (In quitting without first telling the boss, he didn't act by the rules.)

按理；公正規矩地；正常的。打擊一個倒下的人是欠公平的。他不告而辭，有背常理。

account See CALL TO ACCOUNT, CHARGE ACCOUNT, LEAVE OUT OF ACCOUNT, ON ACCOUNT, ON ACCOUNT OF, ON ONE'S ACCOUNT, ON ONE'S OWN ACCOUNT, SAVINGS ACCOUNT, TAKE INTO ACCOUNT.

ace See WITHIN AN ACE OF.

ace in the hole *n. phr.* 1 An ace given to a player face down so that other players in a card game cannot see it. *When the cowboy bet all his money in the poker game he did not know that the gambler had an ace in the hole and would win it from him.* (He did not know that the gambler had a hidden high card which would win the game and the money he bet.) 2 *informal* Someone or something important that is kept as a surprise until the right time so as to bring victory or success.—A cliché. *The football team has a new play that they are keeping as an ace in the hole for the big game.* (They are keeping the play as a surprise to win the game.) *The lawyer's ace in the hole was a secret witness*

who saw the accident. (No one knew that the lawyer had a witness who had seen the accident.) Compare CARD UP ONE'S SLEEVE.

1. 底牌。當牛仔在撲克牌中下了全部的錢為賭注時，他不知道對方握有一張制勝的A牌(ace)。2. 出奇制勝；王牌。這足球隊保衛了一種新的打法以便在重要的比賽中出奇制勝。律師的王牌是一位目睹此事件的秘密人證。

acid head *n., slang, drug culture* A regular user of LSD on whom the hallucinogenic drug has left a visible effect. *The reason John acts so funny is that he is a regular acid head.* (The reason why he acts funny is that he is a regular user of LSD which has left a detrimental effect on him.)

服迷幻藥的人。約翰狀至滑稽，因他是個經常服迷幻藥的人。

acid rock *n., slang, drug culture* A characteristic kind of modern jazz in which loudness and beat predominate over melody; especially such music as influenced by drug experiences. *John is a regular acid rock freak.* (John is unusually and excessively fond of hallucinogenic modern jazz in which beat predominates over melody.)

現代夢幻爵士舞。約翰是個徹底的現代夢幻爵士舞迷。

acorn See GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW.

across the board *adv. phr.* 1 So that equal amounts of money are bet on the same horse to win a race, to place second, or third. *I bet \$6 on the white horse across the board.* (I bet \$2 that the white horse would win, \$2 that he would be second, and \$2 that he would be third in the race.)—Often used with hyphens as an adjective. *I made an across-the-board bet on the white horse.* (Equal amounts were bet that the horse would either win or place second or third.) 2 *informal* Including everyone or all; so that all are included. *The President wanted taxes lowered across the board.* (He wanted the taxes of everyone, rich and poor, to be lowered.)—Often used with hyphens as an adjective. *The workers at the store got an across-the-board pay raise.* (Everyone got more pay.)

1. 以平均的數目賭一匹馬可贏前三名。我以六塊錢，平均每一名次二元，賭這隻白馬必贏前三名。我以同樣價錢連賭三次這隻白馬會贏(前三名)。2. 全部包括；總括。總統希望所有的人不分貧富一律減稅。這店的工人全都加了薪。

across the tracks See the tracks.

act See READ THE RIOT ACT.

actions speak louder than words What you do shows your character better and is more important than what you say.—A proverb. *John promised to help me, but he didn't. Ac-*

tions speak louder than words. (It is more important for John to help than just to promise to help.) Joe is very quiet, but actions speak louder than words. He is the best player on the team. (We judge Joe by the way he plays, not by what he does or doesn't say about it.)

實行遠勝於空言。約翰答應幫忙，但他沒有，空言有何益！喬非常沉默，但行動是最好的證明——他是隊上最佳的選手。

act one's age or be one's age v. phr. To do the things that people expect someone of your age to do; not act as if you were much younger than you are. Bobby cried when he broke his kite. Mother said, "You're a big boy now. Act your age." (Mother told Bobby to act like a big boy, not cry like a baby.) Mr. O'Brien was playing tag with the children at the party. Then Mrs. O'Brien said, "Henry! Act your age!" and she stopped.

適齡行爲。鮑比弄破風箏而哭泣，母親說：「你已是一個大孩子了，要像個大孩子的樣子。」歐布林先生在會中與孩子拔河，他太太說，「亨利，放端莊一點！」他便停止。

actor See BAD ACTOR.

act out v. 1 To show an idea, story, or happening by your looks, talk, and movements. He tried to act out a story that he had read. (He tried to tell the story by acting and talking like each person in it.) 2 To put into action. All his life he tried to act out his beliefs. (He tried to do what he believed.) Syn. CARRY OUT.

1. 比手劃腳表達之。他想以比手劃腳的方式說出他所讀過的故事。 2. 實踐；實現。終其一一生他想實現他的信仰。

act up v., informal 1 To behave badly; act rudely or impolitely. The dog acted up as the postman came to the door. (The dog barked and jumped when the mailman came.) 2 To work or run poorly (as a machine); skip; miss. The car acted up because the spark plugs were dirty. (The car ran in a jerky way because the spark plugs needed cleaning.)

1. 行爲不良；舉動粗魯、無禮。當郵差走向門來時，狗吠叫不已。 2. 運行不順；有毛病。火星塞髒了時，汽車走起來便很不順。

add fuel to the flame v. phr. To make a bad matter worse by adding to its cause; spread trouble; increase anger or other strong feelings by talk or action.—A cliché. By criticizing his son's girl, the father added fuel to the flame of his son's love. (The father made his son love the girl more when he criticized her.) Bob was angry with Ted and Ted added fuel to the flame by laughing at him. (Ted laughed at Bob and Bob became angrier.)

火上加油；益增情熱；激怒更甚。父親批評兒子的女友，反使兒子更愛她。鮑伯本就對泰德不滿，泰德又嘲笑他，更令他怒上加怒。

add insult to injury v. phr. 1 To hurt someone's feelings after doing him harm.—A cliché. He added insult to injury when he called the man a rat after he had already beaten him up. (He fought the man and also called him bad names.) 2 To make bad trouble worse. We started on a picnic, and first it rained; then, to add insult to injury, the car broke down. (On the way to the picnic we were caught in rain, and then, to make things worse, the car broke down.)

1. 辱上加辱；打罵交加。他打了那人後，又罵他是壞蛋。 2. 每況愈下；更糟。我們開始野餐時，先是下雨，接着更糟的是車子又拋錨。

addition See IN ADDITION.

address See PUBLIC-ADDRESS SYSTEM.

add up v. 1 To come to the correct amount. The numbers wouldn't add up. (He couldn't add the numbers so as to get the right total.)

2 informal To make sense; be understandable. His story didn't add up. (His story didn't make sense.)

1. 與確數相符。這些數目字加起來與總數不符。 2. 合情合理。他的故事不合情理。

add up to v. 1 To make a total of; amount to. The bill added up to \$12.95. (The bill amounted to \$12.95.) 2 informal To mean; result in. The rain, the mosquitoes, and the crowded cabin all added up to a spoiled vacation. (It meant a spoiled vacation.)

1. 總共；總計。此帳單總共是十二元九角五分。 2. 顯示；意味；導致。下雨、蚊子與擁擠，意味著度假的失敗。

advance See IN ADVANCE OF IN ADVANCE OF.

advantage See TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, TO ADVANTAGE.

a few n. or adj. A small number (of people or things); some. The dry weather killed most of Mother's flowers, but a few are left. (A small number of flowers are still alive.) In the store, Mary saw many pretty rings and bracelets, and she wanted to buy a few of them. (Mary wanted to buy some of the jewelry.) After the party, we thought that no one would help clean up, but a few couples did. (Not many boys and girls stayed to help, but some did.) Alice wanted to read a few pages more before she stopped. (Alice wanted to read several pages more.)—Usually a few is different in meaning from few, which emphasizes the negative; a few means "some," but few means "not many." We thought no one would come to lunch, but a few came. (Some came.) We thought many people would come to lunch, but few came. (Not many came.) But sometimes a few is used with only, and then it is negative. We thought many people would come to lunch, but only a few came. (Not many came.)—Sometimes used like an adverb. Three students have no seats; we need a few more chairs. (We need some more chairs.) If we can set up chairs faster than

people come and sit in them, we will soon be a few ahead. (We will have a small number of chairs ready before they are needed.)—Sometimes used with *very* for emphasis. *Uncle Ralph gave away almost all of his sea shells, but he still had a very few left.* (He still had a very small number of shells.) Compare A LITTLE. Contrast A LOT, QUITE A FEW.

少許；一些。乾旱天氣將母親種的花大都弄死了，只剩下一些還活著。在這店中，瑪麗看到很多漂亮的戒子、手鐲，她想買一些。我們以為在會後沒人會幫忙清掃，但有少數人幫了忙。愛麗絲想在放下書本之前再多看幾頁。我們以為沒有人會來午餐，但還是有一些來了。我們認為會有很多人來午餐，但只有少許人來。三位學生沒有座位，我們需要多幾張椅子。如果我們能排座位較之來客快的話，我們就可以多出幾張椅子以備急需。拉爾夫叔叔幾乎把他的貝殼全送光了，但他還留著幾個。

affair See LOVE AFFAIR.

afoul of prep. 1 In collision with. *The boat ran afoul of a buoy.* (The boat struck a buoy.) 2 In or into trouble with. *The thief ran afoul of the night watchman.* (The thief was seen and caught by the night watchman.) *Speeders can expect to fall afoul of the law sometimes.* (People who drive too fast can expect to get in trouble with the law.)

1. 和……相撞。那艘船與浮標相撞。2. 碰上麻煩；惹禍上身。那小偷撞上了巡夜的人。超速者總有惹上麻煩的時候。

afraid of one's shadow adj. phr., informal Scared of small or imaginary things; very easily frightened; jumpy; nervous.—A cliché. *Mrs. London won't stay alone in her house at night; she is afraid of her own shadow.* (She is afraid of all sorts of little things.) *Johnny cries whenever he must say hello to an adult; he is afraid of his own shadow.* (He is so shy that he is afraid to say "hello.")

膽小；易受驚嚇；緊張兮兮。蘭敦太太夜間不願單獨在家；她連自己的影子都害怕。每當小約翰必須和大人招呼時他就哭；他真是容易畏縮害怕。

after a fashion adv. phr. Not very well or properly; poorly. *He played tennis after a fashion.* (He knew how to play tennis, but he did not play well.) *The roof kept the rain out after a fashion.* (The roof leaked in places.) Compare IN A WAY.

不高明；差勁地。他網球打得不高明。那屋頂不能擋雨。

after all adv. phr. 1 As a change in plans; anyway.—Used with emphasis on *after*. *Bob thought he couldn't go to the party because he had too much homework, but he went after all.* (At first Bob thought he couldn't go

to the party, but he changed his plan and went to it; he went anyhow.) 2 For a good reason that you should remember.—Used with emphasis on *all*. *Why shouldn't Betsy eat the cake? After all, she baked it.* (Betsy should eat some cake because she baked it. Don't say Betsy can't have any cake; remember, she baked it.)

1. 還是；雖然……終於。雖然鮑伯因有太多的家庭作業以為不能參加聚會，但他終於還是去了。

2. 畢竟；到底；終歸。為何貝西不該吃蛋糕？畢竟是她自己烘的啊！

after hours adv. or adj. phr. Not during the regular, correct, or usual time; going or open after the usual hours. *The store was cleaned and swept out after hours.* (The store was cleaned after the regular closing time.) *The children had a secret after hours party when they were supposed to be in bed.* (The children had a party secretly after the time they should have been in bed.)

公餘時間；規定時間後。商店在打烊後便打掃乾淨。孩子們在別人以為他們已睡覺的時間之後，舉行一個秘密聚會。

after one's own heart adj. phr., informal Well liked because of agreeing with your own feelings, interests, and ideas; to your liking; agreeable.—A cliché. Used after *man* or some similar word. *He likes baseball and good food; he is a man after my own heart.* (I like him because he likes the same things that I like.) *Thanks for agreeing with me about the class party; you're a girl after my own heart.* (You pleased me by agreeing with me about the party.) Compare SEE EYE TO EYE.

志趣相投；取悅於人；正中下懷。他喜歡棒球與美食，是位與我志趣相投的人。在班際舞會上，感激妳與我意見一致，妳是位令人愉悅的女孩。

after while informal or in a while adv. phr. Later, at some time in the future; after a time that is not short and not long. *"Dad, will you help me make this model plane?" "After while, son, when I finish reading the newspaper."* (I will help you later, not now.) *The boys gathered some wood, and in a while, a hot fire was burning.* (The boys made a fire and soon had it burning well.) Syn. BY AND BY. Contrast RIGHT AWAY.

稍後；待會兒；不久；即刻。「爸，幫我做這模型飛機好嗎？」「孩子，待會兒吧，等我看完這報紙。」男孩們檢了些木柴，不久一堆火就燃起來了。

again See COME AGAIN, EVERY NOW AND THEN or EVERY NOW AND AGAIN, NOW AND THEN or NOW AND AGAIN, OFF AGAIN, ON AGAIN or ON AGAIN, OFF AGAIN, SOMETHING ELSE AGAIN, THEN AGAIN, TIME AND AGAIN, YOU SAID IT or YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN.

against it See UP AGAINST IT.

against the clock See AGAINST TIME.

against the current or against the stream See SWIM AGAINST THE CURRENT.

against the grain *adv. phr.* **1** Across rather than with the direction of the fibers (as of wood or meat). *He sandpapered the wood against the grain.* (He sandpapered the wood the wrong way.) **2** So as to annoy or trouble, or to cause anger or dislike.—Usually follows *go*. *His coarse and rude ways went against the grain with me.* (His rudeness irritated me.) *It went against the grain with him to have to listen to her gossip.* (He hated to listen to her mean talk.) Compare RUB THE WRONG WAY.

1. 反方向。 他用沙紙磨木頭磨反了方向。**2. 不合意；不順意。** 他的粗魯舉止使我反感。必須聽她囉囉，使他不快。

against time or against the clock *adv. phr.*

1 As a test of speed or time; in order to beat a speed record or time limit. *John ran around the track against time, because there was no one else to race against.* (John timed himself with a watch to see how fast he could run around the track.) **2** As fast as possible; so as to do or finish something before a certain time. *It was a race against the clock whether the doctor would get to the accident soon enough to save the injured man.* (The doctor had to get there as quickly as possible or the injured man might die.) **3** So as to cause delay by using up time. *The outlaw talked against time with the sheriff, hoping that his gang would come and rescue him.* (The outlaw kept talking so his friends would have more time to come and save him before the sheriff could put him in jail.)

1. 量時間。 由於沒有其他人跟約翰比賽，他就自己繞著跑道跑以測量速度。**2. 盡可能地搶時間。** 醫生必須搶時間才能及時到達現場搶救受傷的人。**3. 盡可能地拖時間。** 不法之徒盡可能與警長談話以拖時間，希望他的同黨能及時來救他。

age See ACT ONE'S AGE OR BE ONE'S AGE, DOG'S AGE OR COON'S AGE, LEGAL AGE OR LAWFUL AGE, OF AGE, OVER AGE, UNDER AGE.

agent See FREE AGENT.

ago See WHILE AGO.

agree with *v.* To have a good effect on; suit. *The meat loaf did not agree with him.* (The meat loaf made him sick.) *The warm, sunny climate agreed with him, and he soon grew strong and healthy.* (It had a good effect on his health.)

有益；相宜。那些肉不對他的胃口。溫暖、多陽光的氣候有益於他的身心，不久他就長得強壯健康了。

ahead See DEAD AHEAD, GET AHEAD.

ahead of *prep.* **1** In a position of advantage

or power over. *He studies all the time, because he wants to stay ahead of his classmates.* (He studies hard, because he wants to have the best marks in his class.) **2** In front of; before. *The troop leader walked a few feet ahead of the boys.* (The boys followed a few feet behind the leader.) **3** Earlier than; previous to; before. *Betty finished her test ahead of the others.* (Betty finished writing the test before the other students.)

1. 領先。 他整天唸書，因為他要領先班上的同學。**2. 在……前面。** 領隊的走在男孩們前面幾呎。**3. 早於；先於。** 貝蒂比別人先考完。

ahead of the game *adv. or adj. phr., informal* **1** In a position of advantage; winning (as in a game or contest); ahead (as by making money or profit); making it easier to win or succeed.—A cliché. *The time you spend studying when you are in school will put you ahead of the game in college.* (You will get along better in college than others who have studied less.) *After Tom sold his papers, he was \$5 ahead of the game.* (He made a \$5 profit.) **2** Early; too soon; beforehand. *When Ralph came to school an hour early, the janitor said, "You're ahead of the game."* (The janitor said, "You are early.") *John studies his lessons only one day early; if he gets too far ahead of the game, he forgets what he read.* (When John reads his lesson very early, he forgets what he reads.)

1. 優勢；領先；超出。 你現在花在學校裏唸書的時間，會使你在大學裏領先其他的人。湯姆賣了紙張後，他比平常多了五塊錢。**2. 太早；事先。** 當拉爾夫早一個小時到學校時，工友說：「你來得太早了。」約翰只在事先一天唸書，假如太早唸他會忘記。

ahead of time *adv. phr.* Before the expected time; early. *The bus came ahead of time, and Mary was not ready.* (The bus came early.) *The new building was finished ahead of time.* (It was finished before the day on which the builder had promised to be done.) Contrast BEHIND TIME.

提早；提前（在指定或約定時間之前）。巴士提早來了，而瑪麗還沒準備好。那新建築物提前完工。

aim See take aim.

air See BUILD CASTLES IN THE AIR, CLEAR THE AIR, GIVE ONESELF AIRS, GET THE AIR AT GET THE BOUNCE 1., GIVE THE AIR AT GIVE THE BOUNCE 1., IN THE AIR, INTO THIN AIR, LEAVE HANGING or LEAVE HANGING IN THE AIR, ON THE AIR, OUT OF THIN AIR, UP IN THE AIR, WALK ON AIR.

air one's dirty linen in public or wash one's dirty linen in public *v. phr.* To talk about your private quarrels or disgraces where others can hear; make public something embarrassing that should be kept secret.—A

cliché. *Everyone in the school knew that the superintendent and the principal were angry with each other because they aired their dirty linen in public.* (They quarreled where anyone could hear.) *No one knew that the boys' mother was a drug addict, because the family did not wash its dirty linen in public.* (The family did not talk to other people about its secrets.)

家醜外揚；揭人隱私。由於督學和校長互揭隱私，學校裏每一個人都知道他們弄得不愉快。

由於家醜沒有外揚，故沒人曉得孩子們的母親有毒癮。

air shuttle *n., colloquial* Air service for regular commuters operating between major cities at not too far a distance, e.g., between Boston and New York City; such flights operate without reservation on a frequent schedule. *My dad takes the air shuttle from Boston to New York once a week.* (He uses the unscheduled air service between the two cities.)

短程班機。我父親每星期搭一次從波士頓到紐約的短程班機。

à la prep. In the same way as; like. *Billy played ball like a champion today, à la the professional ball players.* (He played so well that people might have thought he was really a professional player.) *Joe wanted to shoot an apple off my head à la William Tell.* (He wanted to shoot the apple from my head in the same way that William Tell shot one from his son's head.) [From French *à la*, in the manner of.]

像……一樣。畢利今天球打得像選手一樣，不亞於職業球員。喬想要像威廉泰爾一樣從我頭上射落一個蘋果。

alert See ON THE ALERT.

a little *n. or adj.* A small amount (of); some.—Usually a little is different in meaning from *little*, which emphasizes the negative; a little means “some”; but *little* means “not much.” We say “*We thought that the paper was all gone, but a little was left.*” (Some was left.) But we say, “*We thought we still had a bag of flour, but little was left.*” (Not much was left.) Also, we say, “*Bob was sick yesterday, but he is a little better today.*” (He is better today; he is getting well.) But we say, “*Bob was sick yesterday, and he is little better today.*” (He is nearly as sick today as he was yesterday.) Sometimes a little is used with *only*, and then it is negative: *We thought we had a whole bag of flour, but only a little was left.* (Not much was left.) *We have used most of the sugar, but a little is left.* (A small amount of sugar is left.) *We did not eat all the cake; we saved a little of it for you.* (We saved some cake for you.) *I'm tired; I need a little time to rest.* (I need some time to rest.) *Where is the paper? I need a*

little more. (I need two or three more pieces of paper.)—Often used like an adverb. *Usually the teacher just watched the dancing class, but sometimes she danced a little to show them how.* (Sometimes the teacher danced for a minute to show the students the right way.) *The children wanted to play a little longer.* (They wanted to play several minutes longer.)—Sometimes used with *very* for emphasis. *The sick girl could not eat anything, but she could drink a very little tea.* (She could take a swallow of tea.) Syn. A BIT. Compare A FEW. Contrast A LOT, QUITE A LITTLE.

少量；一些；一點。我們以為紙都沒有了，但還是剩下一點。我們以為仍有一袋麵粉，但其實只剩下一點了。鮑伯昨天生病，但今天好一點了。鮑伯昨天生病了，而今天也不見好多少。

我們以為我們有一整袋的麵粉，但其實只剩一點點。我們用了大部分的糖，但還留下一點。我們並未吃了所有的蛋糕，我們留下一些給你。我累了，我需要一點時間休息。紙在那裏？我還需要一些。通常老師只是看學生跳舞，但有時候她也示範一些給學生們看。孩子們想要玩久一點。那生病的女孩無法吃東西，但她能喝很少量的茶。

a little knowledge is a dangerous thing *literary* A person who knows a little about something may think he knows it all and make bad mistakes.—A proverb. *John has read a book on driving a car and now he thinks he can drive.* *A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.* (It would be dangerous for John to try to drive just because he has read about it.)

似懂非懂則殆矣。約翰看了一點關於汽車駕駛的書，現在他就以為自己會開車了；半生不熟真是危險的。

alive See COME ALIVE, KNOW ——— IS ALIVE, LOOK ALIVE, SKIN ALIVE.

alive *with prep., informal* Crowded with; filled with. *The lake was alive with fish.* (The lake was filled with fish.) *The stores were alive with people the Saturday before Christmas.* (There were crowds of people in the stores.)

稠滿；充滿。湖裏充滿著魚。在聖誕節的前一星期六，商店裏擠滿了人。

all See AFTER ALL, AND ALL, AT ALL, BEAT ALL OR BEAT THE DUTCH, FOR ALL, FOR ALL ONE IS WORTH, FOR ALL THE WORLD, FOR GOOD also FOR GOOD AND ALL, FROM THE BOTTOM OF ONE'S HEART or WITH ALL ONE'S HEART, HAVE ALL ONE'S BUTTONS or HAVE ALL ONE'S MARBLES, IN ALL, JUMP ON or JUMP ALL OVER or LAND ALL OVER, KNOW-IT-ALL, ON ALL FOURS, ONCE AND FOR ALL, PUT ALL ONE'S EGGS IN ONE BASKET, STRIKE ALL OF A HEAP, WALK OVER or WALK ALL OVER or STEP ALL OVER.

all along or (informal) right along *adv. phr.*
All the time; during the whole time. *I knew all along that we would win.* (I knew it all the time.) *I knew right along that Jane would come.* (I believed during the whole time she would come.)

自始至終；一直就；從開始便。我自始就知道我們會贏。我始終相信珍會來。

all at once *adv. phr.* **1** At the same time; together. *The teacher told the children to talk one at a time; if they all talked at one time, she could not understand them.* (The teacher could not listen to all the children at once; they should speak one at a time, in turn.) *Bill can play the piano, sing, and lead his orchestra all at once.* (He can do three things at the same time.) **2** or **all of a sudden** Without warning; abruptly; suddenly; unexpectedly. *All at once we heard a shot and the soldier fell to the ground.* (Suddenly we heard a shot and the soldier fell to the ground.) *All of a sudden the ship struck a rock.* (Without warning the ship struck a rock.) Compare **AT ONCE**.

1 同時；一起；共同。老師叫小孩子們每次一個人講；假如他們一起講，她無法聽清楚。比爾能夠同時彈鋼琴、唱歌和領導他的管弦樂隊。

2 毫無預兆；突然地；出人意料。突然我們聽見槍聲，接著那士兵就倒地。突然間船撞到了岩石。

all better *adj. phr.* Fully recovered; all well again; no longer painful.—Usually used to or by children. *"All better now," he kept repeating to the little girl.* (He kept telling the little girl that the pain was all gone away.)

完全康復；又都好了；不再痛了。他不斷地對那小女孩說：「現在全好了。」

all but *adv. phr.* Very nearly; almost. *Crows all but destroyed a farmer's field of corn.* (They ate nearly all the corn.) *The hikers were exhausted and all but frozen when they were found.* (The hikers were almost frozen.) 差不多；幾乎。鳥鴉幾乎把農夫田裏的玉米都吃光了。徒步旅行的人被發現時，他們都已筋疲力盡，幾乎凍倒在地。

all ears *adj. phr., informal* Very eager to hear; very attentive.—Used in the predicate. *Go ahead with your story; we are all ears.* (We are very eager to hear your story.) *When John told about the circus, the boys were all ears.* (They heard nothing else.)

洗耳恭聽；傾聽；靜聽。開始講你的故事吧，我們洗耳恭聽。當約翰談到馬戲團時，男孩們都聚精會神地聽著。

alley See **BLIND ALLEY, DOWN ONE'S ALLEY** or **UP ONE'S ALLEY**.

alley cat *n., slang* **1** A stray cat. **2** A person (usually a female) of rather easy-going, or actually loose sexual morals; a

promiscuous person. *You'll have no problem dating her; she's a regular alley cat.* (She will offer you no resistance; she is easy to seduce.)

1 街貓。 **2** 馬子 (浪蕩女子)。你約她絕無問題；她是個標準馬子。

all eyes *adj. phr., informal* Wide-eyed with surprise or curiosity; watching very closely.—Used in the predicate. *At the circus the children were all eyes.* (The children were interested in the circus and watched closely.)

瞠目直視；凝眸。在馬戲團裏，小孩子們看得眼睛都突了出來。

all here See **ALL THERE**.

all hours *n. phr., informal* Late or irregular times. *The boy's mother said he must stop coming home for meals at all hours.* (She told him to stop coming early or late to meals instead of at the regular time.) *He stayed up till all hours of the night to finish his school work.* (He worked until very late at night.)

不照時間；深夜。那男孩的母親告訴他不可以再不照時間回家吃飯。他熬至深夜才完成學校功課。

all in *adj. phr., informal* Very tired; exhausted. *The players were all in after their first afternoon of practice.* (They were very tired.) Syn. **PLAYED OUT, WORN OUT**.

疲倦；累得要死。在他們第一個下午的練習之後，選手們都筋疲力竭。

all in all *n. phr., literary* The person or thing that you love most. *She was all in all to him.* (He loved her more than anything else in the world.) *Music was his all in all.* (Music was the most important thing in his life.)

最鍾愛者；最珍惜者。她是他的心肝寶貝。他最喜愛的就是音樂。

all in all or **in all** *adv. phr.* When everything is thought about; in summary; altogether. *All in all, it was a pleasant day's cruise.* (A few things went wrong, but mostly the day on the boat was pleasant.) *All in all, the pilot of an airplane must have many abilities and years of experience before he can be appointed.* (An airplane pilot needs many skills and many years of experience in order to get the job.) Compare **ON THE WHOLE** 1. *Counting the balls on the green, we have six golf balls in all.* (With the four balls here, we have six counting the two on the green.)

總而言之；概括而言；合計。總之，今天的水上旅行是愉快的。概括而言，飛機駕駛員必須具有多方面的能力及數年經驗始能任職。連草地上的球在內，我們總共有六個高爾夫球。

all in a day's work or **all in the day's work** *adj. phr., informal* Unpleasant or bad but to be expected; not harder than usual; not unusual. *Keeping ants away from a picnic lunch is all in the day's work.* (The ants are

a usual nuisance at picnics.) *When the car had a flat tire, Father said that it was all in a day's work.* (Flat tires are common, they must be expected.) Compare PAR FOR THE COURSE, PUT UP WITH.

難免不快的常事。 野餐時有螞蟻原不足怪。

父親說車輪爆胎是常事。

all kinds of *adj. phr., informal* Plenty of. *People say that Mr. Fox has all kinds of money.* (People say he has plenty of money.) *When Kathy was sick, she had all kinds of company.* (Many people came to visit her.) Compare GREAT DEAL.

許多的；充分的。 人們說福克斯先生有很多錢。 凱蒂生病時有很多人來陪伴她。

all manner of *adj. phr., formal* Many different kinds of; all sorts of. *In a five-and-ten-cent store you can buy all manner of things.* (You can buy many kinds of things.)

各式各樣；五花八門；包羅萬象。 在小店裏你可以買到各式各樣的東西。

all of *adj. phr., informal* 1 At least the amount or number of; fully; no less than. *It was all of ten o'clock before they finally started.* (It was at least ten o'clock, if not later.) *She must have paid all of \$50 for that hat.* (It looks like a very expensive hat.) 2 Showing all the signs of; completely in.—Used with a. *The girls were all of a twitter before the dance.* (They were greatly excited.) *Mother is all of a flutter because of the thunder and lightning.* (She is frightened and nervous.) *The dog was all of a tremble with cold.* (The dog was trembling all over with cold.)

1. 至少；完全地；不少於。 他們至少到十點鐘才正式開始。 她至少花了五十元買那頂帽子。

2. 顯然。 舞會前女孩子們顯然都很興奮。 由於打雷閃電，母親顯然很緊張。 那隻狗顯然冷得發抖。

all of a sudden See ALL AT ONCE 2.

all out *adv. phr., informal* With all your strength, power, or determination; to the best of your ability; without holding back.—Usually used in the phrase *go all out*. *We went all out to win the game.* (We tried our hardest to win.) *John went all out to finish the job and was very tired afterwards.* (John used up a lot of energy and was tired out.) Compare ALL THE WAY 2, FULL TILT, GO THE WHOLE HOG, GO TO ANY LENGTH, LEAVE A STONE UNTURNED, WITH MIGHT AND MAIN.

全力以赴；盡其所能。 我們全力以赴贏得了這場比賽。 約翰盡了全力完成工作，事後覺得非常疲累。

all over *adv. phr.* 1 In every part; everywhere. *He has a fever and aches all over.* (All parts of his body ache.) *I have looked all over for my glasses.* (I have looked everywhere.) Compare FAR AND WIDE. 2 *informal* In

every way; completely. *She is her mother all over.* (She is just like her mother.) 3 *colloquial* Coming into very close physical contact, as during a violent fight, wrestling. *Before I noticed what happened, he was all over me.* (Before I noticed what happened, he was wrestling and tangling with me.)

1. 遍及；到處。 他發高燒，渾身感到酸痛。 我到處尋找我的眼鏡。 2. 完全；處處。 她處處像她媽。 3. 糾纏着。 當我發覺是怎麼回事時，他已經黏上了我。

all over but the shouting *adv. phr., informal* Finally decided or won; brought to an end; not able to be changed.—A cliché. *After Bill's touchdown, the game was all over but the shouting.* (Bill's touchdown decided the winner of the game.) *John and Tom both tried to win Jane, but after John's promotion it was all over but the shouting.* (John's promotion made Jane decide to marry him instead of Tom.)

大局已定；結束。 在美式足球賽中，比爾的觸地得分贏定了這場比賽。 約翰和湯姆都想獲得珍，但在約翰職位晉陞後，此番追逐賽遂宣告結束。

all over someone See FALL ALL OVER SOMEONE.

allowance See MAKE ALLOWANCE.

allow for *v.* To provide for; leave room for; give a chance to; permit. *She cut the skirt four inches longer to allow for a wide hem.* (She cut the skirt four inches long to leave material for a wide hem.) *Democracy allows for many differences of opinion.* (Democracy gives people the opportunity to tell their own opinions.)

供給；允許；考慮。 她把裙子做長四吋，用來鑲寬花邊。 民主政治允許很多不同的意見。

all right *adv. phr.* 1 Well enough. *The new machine is running all right.* (The new machine is doing satisfactorily.) 2 *informal* I am willing; yes. "Shall we watch television?" "All right." ("Shall we watch television?" "Yes.") Compare VERY WELL. 3 *informal* Beyond question; certainly.—Used for emphasis and placed after the word it modifies. *It's time to leave, all right, but the bus hasn't come* (It is certainly time to go, but the bus has not come.)

1. 順利地。 這部新機器轉動得很順利。 2. 好吧。「我們看電視好嗎？」「好吧！」。 3.

無疑地。 無疑地，時間是到了，但公車未到。 **all right** *adv. phr.* 1 Good enough; correct; suitable. *His work is always all right.* (His work is always satisfactory.) 2 In good health or spirits; well. "How are you?" "I'm all right." (How do you feel? I feel fine.) 3 *slang* Good. *He's an all right guy.* (He's a good fellow.)

1. 令人滿意地。 他的工作績效總是令人滿意。

2. 健康甚佳。「你好嗎?」「我很好。」3. 好。他是一位好人。

all right for you *interj.* I'm finished with you! That ends it between you and me!—Used by children. *All right for you! I'm not playing with you any more!* (I'm angry with you and I won't play with you any more.)

算了吧。算了吧!我再也跟你玩了。

all roads lead to Rome *literary* The same end or goal may be reached by many different ways.—A proverb. *"I don't care how you get the answer," said the teacher, "All roads lead to Rome."* (If you get the right answer to the question, it makes no difference how you figure it.)

條條道路通羅馬;殊途同歸。老師說:「我不在乎你怎樣得到答案,反正條條道路通羅馬。」

all shook up *adj., slang* In a state of great emotional upheaval, disturbed, agitated. *What are you so shook up about?* (What is it that disturbs you so?)

煩擾不安。什麼使你如此煩擾不安?

all systems go *Originally from space English, now general colloquial usage* Everything is complete and ready for action; it is now all right to proceed. *After they wrote out the invitations, it was all systems go for the wedding.* (After they wrote the invitations, everything was in order to proceed with the wedding ceremony.)

一切就緒;萬事皆妥;一應俱全。他們發出請帖後,婚禮就萬事就緒了。

all the' *adj. phr., dial.* The only. *A hut was all the home he ever had.* (A hut was the only home he had in his whole life.)

唯一的。一間茅屋是他唯有的家。

all the *adv. phr.* Than otherwise; even.—Used to emphasize comparative adjectives, adverbs, and nouns. *Opening the windows made it all the hotter.* (Opening the windows made it even hotter than it was before.) *Take a bus instead of walking and get home all the sooner.* (If you take a bus, you will get home sooner than you would walking.) *If you don't eat your dessert, all the more for us.* (We will have even more than we would if you didn't leave yours.)

更;甚至。打開窗戶反而更熱。以車代步將能更快地回到家裏。你若不吃那份甜食,我們就有更多好吃。

all the better See ALL THE.²

all the —er *superlative* The —est; as... as.—Used with a comparative adjective or adverb and subordinate clause in place of a superlative adjective or adverb. *That was all the bigger he grew.* (That was as big as he grew. He didn't grow any bigger.) *Is that all the faster you can go?* (Is that the fastest you can go? Can't you go faster than that?)

最;頂多。——跟比較級形容詞、副詞等連用以

代替最高級。他頂多就能長這麼大。你最快就只能走這麼快嗎?

all there or all here *adj. phr., informal* Understanding well; thinking clearly; not crazy.—Usually used in negative sentences. *Joe acted queerly and talked wildly, so we thought he was not all there.* (He showed that he was somewhat crazy.)

清醒的;思慮明晰的。喬的行動怪異言語狂妄,所以我們認為他不太對勁。

all the same' or all one *n. phr.* Something that makes no difference; a choice that you don't care about. *If it's all the same to you, I would like to be waited on first.* (If it doesn't make any difference to you, I would like the clerk to wait on me before you.) *You can get there by car or by bus—it's all one.* (It makes no difference if you go by car or if you go by bus; you can get there at the same time.)

無二致;沒兩樣;不介意;不在乎。假如你不介意的話,我想先來。你可開車或搭巴士到那裏——這之間沒啥差別。

all the same' or just the same *adv. phr., informal* As if the opposite were so; nevertheless; anyhow; still. *Everyone opposed it, but Sally and Bob got married all the same.* (Although everyone was against their getting married, Sally and Bob did so.) *Mary is deaf, but she takes tap dancing lessons just the same.* (Although Mary can not hear, she is learning to tap dance as if she could hear.) Compare AT THAT 3. IN SPITE OF.

雖然如此;仍然。儘管每個人都反對,莎莉仍然與鮑伯結婚。儘管瑪麗耳聾,她還是去學習踢踏舞。

all the time *adv. phr.* 1 or all the while During the whole period; through the whole time. *Mary went to college in her home town, and lived at home all the while.* (Mary always lived at home while she was going to college.) *Most of us were surprised to hear that Mary and Tom had been engaged all year, but Sue said she knew it all the time.* (Sue knew it all year.) 2 Without stopping; continuously. *Most traffic lights work all the time.* (The lights that tell the cars when to stop and go work all day and all night.) 3 Very often; many times. *Ruth talks about her trip to Europe all the time, and her friends are tired of it.* (Ruth talks too often about her trip to Europe.)

1. 在那段時間裏;一直。瑪麗在她家鄉上大學,並且在那段時間裏一直住在家裏。聽到瑪麗和湯姆已訂婚整年了,我們大部分人都感到驚訝,但蘇說她一直就知道這件事。2. 不停地;不會間斷。大部分紅綠燈的效能都不會間斷。

3. 時常;三番二次地。露絲三番二次地談她的歐洲之旅,她的朋友們都聽膩了。

all the way or the whole way *adv. phr.* 1

From start to finish; during the whole distance or time. *Jack climbed all the way to the top of the tree.* (He climbed as high as he could go.) *Joe has played the whole way in the football game and it's almost over.* (He has played the whole game till now.) 2 In complete agreement; with complete willingness to satisfy.—Often used in the phrase *go all the way with. I go all the way with what George says about Bill.* (I agree completely.) *Mary said she was willing to kiss Bill, but that did not mean she was willing to go all the way with him.* (Mary wasn't willing to do anything that Bill wanted.) *The bank was willing to lend Mr. Jones money to enlarge his factory, but it wasn't willing to go all the way with his plans to build another in the next town.* (The bank wasn't willing to satisfy Mr. Jones by building a factory in another town.) Compare ALL OUT, GO THE WHOLE HOG.

1. 自始至終；一直。傑克一直爬到樹頂。在美式足球賽裏喬一直都上場到快要結束為止。

2. 完全同意；完全順應。我完全同意喬治對於比爾的看法。瑪麗說她願吻比爾，但那並不意味她願完全順着他。銀行願借錢給瓊斯先生去擴大他的工廠，但對他在鄰鎮建另一工廠的計劃却不完全支持。

all the worse See ALL THE.?

all thumbs *adj., informal* Awkward, especially with your hands; clumsy. *Harry tried to fix the chair, but he was all thumbs.* (Harry had trouble fixing the chair, because his hands were clumsy.)

笨手笨腳；笨拙。哈利想修理那張椅子，但他實在笨手笨腳。

all told *adv. phr., informal* Counting or including everything. *Including candy sale profits, we have collected \$300 all told.* (We have collected a total of \$300, including profits from candy sales.)

總共；總計。包括賣糖菓的利潤，我們總共進賬三百元。

all to the good See TO THE GOOD.

all up *adj. phr., informal* Near to certain death or defeat; without any more chance or hope. *With their ammunition gone the patrol knew that it was all up with them.* (They knew that defeat and capture were now certain.)

完了；沒有希望；一切報銷。由於子彈用光了，巡邏隊知道他們註定絕望了。

all very well *adj.* All right; very good and correct; very true.—Usually followed by a *but* clause. *It's all very well for you to complain but can you do any better? It's all right to complain, but can you do better yourself? It's all very well if Jane comes with us, but how will she get back home? (Jane can come with us, but how will she get home again?)*

Compare WELL AND GOOD.

不錯；很好；可以……但。你固然可以抱怨，但你自己能做得更好嗎？珍跟我們一起來當然很好，但她將怎麼回家呢？

all wet *adj., slang* Entirely confused or wrong; mistaken. *When the Wright brothers said they could build a flying machine, people thought they were all wet.* (When the Wright brothers told of their plans for a flying machine, people thought they were imagining something impossible.) *If you think I like baseball, you're all wet.* (You are all wrong, if you think I like baseball.) Compare OFF THE TRACK.

大錯特錯；異想天開。當萊特兄弟說他們能造一飛行器時，人們都認為他倆異想天開。如果你認為我喜歡棒球的話，那你就大錯特錯了。

all wool and a yard wide *adj. phr.* Of fine character; especially, very generous and kind-hearted.—A cliché. *He's a wonderful brother—all wool and a yard wide.* (He's a very good brother—so generous and helpful.)

為人要得；慷慨仁慈。他是個不可多得的好兄弟——又慷慨又肯幫忙。

all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy Too much hard work without time out for play or enjoyment is not good for anyone.—A proverb. *Bill's mother told him to stop studying and to go out and play, because all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.* (Bill's mother did not want him to work too hard or make himself sick.)

過份勞累於人無益。比爾的母親叫他放下書本到外頭去玩玩，因為過份勞累有害身心。

alone See LET ALONE or LEAVE ALONE, LET WELL ENOUGH ALONE or LEAVE WELL ENOUGH ALONE.

along See ALL ALONG or RIGHT ALONG, COME ALONG, GET ALONG, GO ALONG, RUN ALONG, STRING ALONG.

along for the ride *adv. phr., informal* Being in a group for the fun or the credit without doing any of the work.—A cliché. *He wants no members in his political party who are just along for the ride.* (He wants no members who will not work for the party.)

投機取巧；沽名釣譽。他不要有投機取巧者在他的政黨裏。

along in years or on in years *adj. phr.* Elderly; growing old. *As Grandfather got on in years, he became quiet and thoughtful.* (As Grandfather became elderly, he became quiet and thoughtful.) *Our dog isn't very playful because it is getting on in years.* (Our dog isn't very playful because it is growing old.)

趨於老邁；上了年紀。祖父上了年紀後，變得沉靜細心。我們家的狗不太活躍了，因為牠已漸趨老邁。

alongside of *prep.* 1 At or along the side of. *We walked alongside of the river.* (We walked

near the edge of the river.) 2 Together with. *I played alongside of Tom on the same team.* (Tom and I played together on the team.) Compare SHOULDER to SHOULDER, SIDE BY SIDE. 3 *informal* Compared with or to; measured next to. *His money doesn't look like much alongside of a millionaire's.* (The amount of money he has is small compared to a millionaire's.)

1. 沿着邊；循行。我們沿着河邊走。 2.—一起。我和湯姆一起在同一球隊打球。 3. 較之；和……比起來。他的錢和百萬富翁比起來不算多。

a *lot n., informal* A large number or amount; very many or very much; lots. *I learned a lot in Mr. Smith's class.* (I learned much in Mr. Smith's class.) *A lot of our friends are going to the beach this summer.* (Many of our friends are going to the beach.) —Often used like an adverb. *Ella is a jolly girl; she laughs a lot.* (Ella often laughs.) *Grandfather was very sick last week, but he's a lot better now.* (Grandfather is much better now.) *You'll have to study a lot harder if you want to pass.* (You must study much harder to pass.)—Also used as an adjective with *more, less, and fewer.* *There was a good crowd at the game today, but a lot more will come next week.* (Many more people will come to the game next week.)—Often used with *whole* for emphasis. *John has a whole lot of marbles.* (John has a very large number of marbles.) *Jerry is a whole lot taller than he was a year ago.* (Jerry is much taller.) Compare GOOD DEAL, GOOD MANY, A NUMBER. Contrast A FEW, A LITTLE.

很多；大量；常。在史密斯先生的課裏，我學了很多東西。我們很多朋友這個暑假要到海邊去。愛拉是個愉快的女孩，她常笑。上星期祖父病得很厲害，但他現在好多了。假如你要求及格，你必須更加用功唸書。今天有一大羣人來看球賽，但下禮拜人會更多。約翰有一大堆的玻璃珠。傑瑞比一年前高得多了。

aloud See THINK ALOUD or THINK OUT LOUD.
alphabet See ROMAN ALPHABET or LATIN ALPHABET.

alter See CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.

always See GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FENCE.

—— and —— 1 —And is used between repeated words to show continuation or emphasis. *When the children saw the beautiful Christmas tree, they looked and looked.* (The children looked for a long time at the Christmas tree.) *Old Mr. Bryan has known Grandfather for years and years, since they were boys.* (Mr. Bryan has known Grandfather for many years.) *Billy dived to the bottom of the lake again and again, looking for the lost watch.* (Billy dived many times.) *Everyone wished the speaker would stop, but he talked*

on and on. (The man talked longer than he should have talked; he did not stop.) Compare THROUGH AND THROUGH. 2 —When *and* is used between words with opposite meaning, it often emphasizes how much you mean. *Mr. Jones worked early and late to earn enough to live.* (Mr. Jones worked from early morning till late in the evening.) *The parents hunted high and low for the lost child.* (The parents looked everywhere for the lost child.) Compare DAY AND NIGHT, FROM

—— TO, INSIDE AND OUT.

1. 用於重複字中間以表達連續或強調。小孩們看到美麗的聖誕樹時，他們看了又看。從孫提到現在，老布萊恩先生認識祖父已好久了。畢利一再潛到湖底尋找遺失的錶。每人都希望演講者結束，但他却一直講下去。 2. 用於不同字義中間常表強調。瓊斯先生從早工作到晚才足以餬口。家長各處尋找失蹤的小孩。

anchor See AT ANCHOR.

and all informal And whatever goes with it; and all that that means. *We don't go out much nowadays, with the new baby and all.* (We stay home because the new baby needs many things done for him.) *Jack's employer provided the tools and all.* (His employer provided everything he needed to do the job.)

連同；在在。現在我們不常出門，小孩子在在需要我們照顧。傑克的僱主供給他所有必需的工具有。

and how! informal Yes, that is certainly right!—Used for emphatic agreement. *"Did you see the game?" "And how!"* (I surely did!) *"Isn't Mary pretty?" "And how she is!"* (She is very pretty!) Syn. YOU BET, YOU SAID IT. Compare BUT GOOD.

當然；確定。「你看過那場競賽嗎？」「當然！」「「碼麗長得好看嗎？」「當然，她很漂亮！」

and so forth or and so on And more of the same kind; and further amounts or things like the ones already mentioned. *The costumes were red, pink, blue, purple, yellow, and so forth.* (The costumes seemed to include every color—red, pink, blue, purple, yellow and all the others.) Compare WHAT HAVE YOU.

等等；諸如此類。這些服裝有紅、粉紅、藍、紫、黃等等顏色。

and then some And a lot more; and more too. *It would cost all the money he had and then some.* (It would cost all the money he had, and more too.) *Talking his way out of this trouble was going to take all his wits and then some.* (It was going to need more cleverness than he had to explain his way out of this trouble.)

還要多；更多一些。買那東西要花比他所有還要多的錢。要解釋以免除這個麻煩，他將需要多動一點腦筋。

and what not See WHAT NOT.
 another See DANCE TO ANOTHER TUNE.
 answer back See TALK BACK.

answer for v. 1 To take responsibility for; assume charge or supervision of. *The secret service has to answer for the safety of the President and his family.* (The secret service is responsible for the safety of the President and his family.) 2 To say you are sure that (someone) has good character or ability; guarantee; sponsor. *When people thought Ray had stolen the money, the principal said, "Ray is no thief. I'll answer for him."* (When people thought Ray might have stolen the cash, the principal spoke for his honesty.) 3 Take the blame or punishment for. *When Mother found out who ate the cake, Tom had to answer for his mischief.* (Tom was punished.)

1. 負責。安全人員必須負責總統及其家人的安全。
 2. 保證。當人們認為雷偷了錢時，校長說：「雷不是小偷，我可以保證。」
 3. 接受處罰。當母親發現是誰偷吃了蛋糕時，湯姆必須因他的不良行為接受處罰。

ants in one's pants n. *phr., slang* Nervous over-activity; restlessness.—A cliché. *Jane can not sit still; she has ants in her pants.* (Jane is a very restless girl. She always likes to do something.) *You have ants in your pants today. Is something wrong?* (You are very nervous today. Are you worried about something?)

(褲中有螞蟻) 坐立不安；神不守舍。珍無法安安靜靜地坐一會，她是神不守舍。你今天坐立難安，有什麼不對勁嗎？

a number n. A rather large number; numbers.—Used when there are more than several and fewer than many. *The parents were invited to see the program, and a number came.* (A small crowd of parents came.) *We knew the Smiths rather well; we had visited them a number of times.* (We had visited them fairly often.)—Used like an adjective before less, more. *We have not set up enough folding chairs; we need a number more.* (We need to set up about a dozen more.) Compare QUITE A FEW.

不少；頗多；若干。家長們被邀請來看這節目，已有不少人來了。我們和史密斯家相當熟，我們已拜訪他們好幾次了。我們的摺椅準備得不多，我們還需要一些。

any See HARDLY ANY or SCARCELY ANY.

any number n., informal A large number; many. *There are any number of reasons for eating good food.* (There are many reasons for eating good food.) *Don't ask George what his excuse is. He can invent any number.* (George can think of many excuses.) Compare A LOT, A NUMBER, GOOD MANY.

很多；許多。要吃好東西有很多理由。別問喬治他的理由，他可以虛構很多藉口。

anything See HAVE NOTHING ON or NOT HAVE ANYTHING ON, IF ANYTHING.

anything but *adv. phr.* Quite the opposite of; far from being. *I don't mean he's lazy—anything but!* (Whatever he is, he is not lazy.) *The boys knew they had broken the rules, and they were anything but happy when they were called to the office.* (They were unhappy and afraid.)

並不；絕不；絕非。我並不是說他懶惰——絕非如此。孩子們知道犯了錯，所以他們被叫到辦公室時絕不會高興。

anything like or anywhere near *adv.* Nearly.—Used in negative, interrogative, and conditional sentences, often in the negative forms *nothing like or nowhere near.* *It's not anything like as hot today as it was yesterday.* (It is not nearly as hot today.) *Do you think that gold ring is worth anywhere near a hundred dollars?* (Is that ring worth as much as \$100?) *Today's game was nowhere near as exciting as yesterday's game.* (Today's game was much less exciting.) *Studying that lesson should take nothing like two hours.* (Studying that lesson should not take two hours; it should take much less.)

幾乎；那麼——用於否定、疑問、條件句。

今天不像昨天那麼熱。你認為那金戒指差不多值一百元嗎？今天的比賽一點也不像昨天那麼精彩。讀那一課書一點也不該花兩個小時的時間。

anywhere near See ANYTHING LIKE or ANYWHERE NEAR.

any which way See EVERY WHICH WAY.

apart See JOKING ASIDE or JOKING APART, POLES APART, TELL APART.

apart from or aside from *prep. phr.* Beside or besides; in addition to. *The children hardly see anyone, apart from their parents.* (The children hardly see anyone other than their parents.) *Aside from being fun and good exercise, swimming is a very useful skill.* (Besides being fun and good exercise, swimming is a useful skill.) Syn. EXCEPT FOR, OUTSIDE OF.

除……之外。除了父母親外，小孩子們幾乎看不到其他任何人。除了有趣與運動外，游泳還是個有用的技能。

apartment See GARDEN APARTMENT.

appear See SPEAK OF THE DEVIL AND HE APPEARS.

appearance See PUT IN AN APPEARANCE also MAKE AN APPEARANCE.

apple See POLISH THE APPLE.

applecart See UPSET THE APPLE CART or UPSET ONE'S APPLE CART.

apple of one's eye n. *phr.* Something or someone that is adored; a cherished person or object.—A cliché. *Charles is the apple of his mother's eye.* (Charles's mother loves him

more than anything else. She adores him.) *John's first car was the apple of his eye. He was always polishing it.* (John was very proud of his first car.)

掌上明珠；心肝寶貝。查理是他母親眼裏的寶貝。約翰的第一輛車子是他的寶貝，他總是把它擦得亮亮的。

apple-pie order *n. phr., informal* Exact orderly arrangement; neatness; tidy arrangement. *The house was in apple-pie order.* (The house was neat and tidy.) *Like a good secretary, she kept the boss's desk in apple-pie order.* (The secretary kept her boss's desk orderly and neat.)

有條不紊；井然有序；條理分明。這房子打理得有條不紊。她把老闆的桌子整理得井然有序，就像一位好秘書該做的。

apple polisher; apple polishing See POLISH THE APPLE.

approval See ON APPROVAL.

apron See TIED TO ONE'S MOTHER'S APRON STRINGS.

apropos of prep., formal In connection with; on the subject of; about; concerning. *Apropos of higher tuition, Mr. Black told the boy about the educational loans that banks are offering.* (In connection with higher tuition, Mr. Black told the boy that banks now lend money to students to help them pay for their college education.) *Mr. White went to see Mr. Richards apropos of buying a car.* (He went to see Mr. White about buying a car.)

關於；至於；論及。關於學費昂貴的問題，布雷克先生告訴那學生銀行提供有教育貸款。懷特先生爲了有關買車子的事去看理查德先生。

arm See GIVE ONE'S RIGHT ARM, IN THE ARMS OF MORPHEUS, KEEP AT A DISTANCE OR KEEP AT ARM'S LENGTH, SHOT IN THE ARM, TAKE UP ARMS, TWIST ONE'S ARM, UP IN ARMS, WITH OPEN ARMS.

arm and a leg *n., slang* An exorbitantly high price that must be paid for something that isn't really worth it. *To get a decent apartment these days in New York you have to pay an arm and a leg.* (You have to pay an exorbitant amount to get a decent apartment.) 貴得出奇。今天想在紐約住棟像樣的公寓，必須付出極高的代價

armed to the teeth *adj. phr.* Having all needed weapons; fully armed.—A cliché. *The paratroopers were armed to the teeth.* (They had many things to fight with.)

全副武裝。傘兵部隊都全副武裝。

arm in arm *adv. phr.* With your arm under or around another person's arm, especially in close comradeship or friendship. *Sally and Joan were laughing and joking together as they walked arm in arm down the street.* (The two girls' arms were joined together because

they felt close and friendly.) *When they arrived at the party, the partners walked arm in arm to meet the hosts.* (Each girl's arm was linked around the arm of her boyfriend as they walked together.) Compare HAND IN HAND

手挽着手。莎莉和瓊兒手挽着手談笑風生地在街上走着。到達舞場時，舞伴們手挽着手面見主人。

around one's ears See ABOUT ONE'S EARS.

around the clock *also the clock around* *adv. phr.* For 24 hours a day continuously; all day and all night. *The factory operated around the clock until the order was filled.* (The factory ran for 24 hours a day until it had filled the order.) *He studied around the clock for his history exam.* (He studied all day and all night for his history exam.)—**round-the-clock** *adj.* *That filling station has round-the-clock service.* (You can go there or telephone for help all day and all night.)

通宵連日；不眠不休；馬不停蹄。工廠日以繼夜地趕工，直到趕完顧主的訂貨。他日以繼夜地準備歷史考試。那加油站提供廿四小時的服務。

around the corner *adv. phr.* Soon to come or happen; close by; near at hand.—A trite expression. *The fortune teller told Jane that there was an adventure for her just around the corner.* (The adventure would soon happen.)

即將來臨；近在咫尺。算命先生告訴珍說她即將有奇遇。

arrest See UNDER ARREST.

as See FOR AS MUCH AS, INASMUCH AS.

as a judge See SOBER AS A JUDGE.

as an old shoe See COMFORTABLE AS AN OLD SHOE.

as an old shoe See COMMON AS AN OLD SHOE.

as — as — Used with an adjective or adverb in a comparison or with the effect of a superlative. *John is as tall as his father now.* (John's height is the same as his father's height.) *I didn't do as badly today as I did yesterday.* (Today I did better than yesterday.) *John's father gave him a hard job and told him to do as well as possible.* (Father gave John more than he could do, but told him to do the best he could.) *The sick girl was not hungry, but her mother told her to eat as much as she could.* (Her mother told her to eat the most she could eat.)—Also used in the form *so — as in some sentences, especially negative sentences.* *This hill isn't nearly so high as the last one we climbed.* (This hill is lower than the last one.)—Often used in similes (comparisons that are figures of speech). *The baby mouse looked as big as a minute.* (The baby mouse looked very tiny.) *Jim's face was red as a beet after he made the foolish mistake.* (Jim's face became very red

from embarrassment.)—Most similes in conventional use are clichés, avoided by careful speakers and writers.

——與形容詞或副詞連用以示比較或最高效果。約翰跟他父親一樣高了。我今天做的不像昨天做的那樣差。約翰的父親給他一樁困難的工作並叫他盡可能做好。生病的女孩並不餓，但母親却要她儘量地吃。——有時，特別在否定句中，跟 so 連用。此山不若我們上次所爬的那座高。——用於直喻。那個小鼠鼠看起來真小。——犯了那個愚蠢的錯誤後，吉米的臉漲得像紅甜菜。

as best one can adv. phr. As well as you can; by whatever means are available; in the best way you can. *The car broke down in the middle of the night, and he had to get home as best he could.* (When the car broke down late at night, he had to get home in any way he could find.) *George's foot hurt, but he played the game as best he could.* (Although his foot hurt, George played the game as well as he could.) *The girl's mother was sick, so the girl got dinner as best she could.* (The girl tried hard to fix a good dinner, but it was not as good as her mother's dinner.)

盡其所能；用一切方法；全力以赴。車子半夜裏拋錨，他必須想盡辦法回家。喬治的腳受了傷，但他還是盡全力比賽。那女孩的母親病了，所以她盡其所能地把晚餐弄好。

as catch can See CATCH AS CATCH CAN.

as far as or so far as adv. phr. 1 To the degree or amount that; according to what, how much, or how far. *John did a good job as far as he went, but he did not finish it.* (He did a good job at first, but did not finish.) *So far as the weather is concerned, I do not think it matters.* (I do not care what the weather is.) *As far as he was concerned, things were going well.* (He was satisfied with affairs.) 2 To the extent that; within the limit that. *He has no brothers so far as I know.* (Within the limits of my knowledge, he has no brothers.) Compare FOR ALL 2.

1.就……之限度。就約翰所做的而言，他做得很好，但他並沒把工作做完。只就天氣而論，我不認為有什麼要緊。就他而言，事情進展得很順利。2.在……範圍內。據我所知，他沒有兄弟。

as far as that goes or as far as that is concerned or so far as that is concerned also so far as that goes adv. phr. While we are talking about it; also; actually. *You don't have to worry about the girls. Mary can take care of herself, and as far as that goes, Susan is pretty independent, too.* (Mary can take care of herself and, actually, Susan can too.) *I didn't enjoy the movie, and so far as that is concerned, I never like horror movies.* (I

didn't like this particular movie, and in fact, I don't like any horror movie.) Syn. FOR THAT MATTER, IN FACT, Compare COME TO THINK OF IT.

就此而論；也；實際上。你別替女孩們擔心；瑪麗能照顧她自己，實際上，蘇珊也很有獨立性。我不喜歡這電影，實際上我從來沒喜歡過恐怖片。

as follows A list of things that come next; what is listed next.—Followed by a colon. *My grocery list is as follows: bread, butter, meat, eggs, sugar.* (My grocery list is written next.) *The names of the members are as follows: John Smith, Mary Webb, Linda Long, Ralph Harper.* (The names of the members are those that come next.) *The route is as follows: From City Hall go south on Main Street to Elm Street, east on Elm to 5th Street, and south on 5th two blocks to the school.*

如下。我要買的東西如下：麵包、奶油、肉、蛋、糖。會員名字如下：約翰、瑪麗、玲達、拉爾夫。路線如下：從市政廳的緬因街向南走到榆樹街，再向東到第五街，然後向南走再過兩條街到學校。

as for prep. 1 In regard to; speaking of; concerning. *We have plenty of bread, and as for butter, we have more than enough.* (Speaking of butter, we have plenty.) 2 Speaking for. *Most people like the summer, but as for me, I like winter much better.* (I prefer the winter.) Compare FOR ONE'S PART.

1.至於；關於。我們有很多麵包，至於奶油，我們有太多了。2.說到。大部份人喜歡夏天，但我呢，我喜歡冬天多了。

as good as adv. phr. Nearly the same as; almost. *She claimed that he as good as promised to marry her.* (She claimed that he talked about marrying and she got the idea that he would marry her.) *He as good as called me a liar.* (He almost called me a liar, but not exactly.) *We'll get to school on time; we're as good as there now.* (We're almost to the school now.) *The man who had been shot was as good as dead.* (The man was almost dead.) —Often used without the first as before adjectives. *When the car was repaired, it looked good as new.* (When the car was repaired it looked like a new car.)

幾乎等於；差不多。她直稱他幾乎等於答應娶她。他幾乎等於說我是謊子。我們會準時到達學校；我們現在就差不多到了。被射殺的人差不多死了。車子修理好後看起來就跟新的一樣。

as good as a mile See MISS IS AS GOOD AS A MILE.

as good as one gets See GIVE AS GOOD AS ONE GETS.

as good as one's promise See AS GOOD AS