

走向世界实用英语

English Idioms

英语成语妙译

(英汉对照)

张 雪 石晓杰 徐 莹 编 著

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总 序

年轻的朋友，我们都是幸运的人。跨越世纪是“百年不遇”跨越千年更是“千载难逢”我们就是这样的幸运儿。

为了迎接新世纪的挑战，实现走向世界的理想，越来越多的年轻人正在学习外语。但是真正做到外语学有所成、运用自如的人却并不多。很难设想死啃一种课本的人能把活的语言学到手，很难设想学完就扔的人能永生不忘。

阅读外语书刊是温故知新的必由之路。每天茶余饭后读上几页外语也许会是无上的乐趣。短小精悍、饶有趣味、实用性强——这是外语阅读材料的必备条件。摆在你面前的这套丛书就是这样的书籍。你会发现外语学习原来是轻松愉快的事情！

汪榕培

1995年10月于大连

前 言

在英语不断普及的今天，我们出版这本《英汉成语妙译》有着广泛的现实意义。对于每一个英语工作者和爱好英语的人来说，在英语和汉语的应用过程中，都会发现这样一个问题，英语恰到好处的表现力，若能找到相应的汉语把它表现出来，不但能表达其意思，更主要的是能深刻领会跨文化之间的内在联系。一个好的英语短语，若能找到相应的汉语成语，不仅能使人理解其含义，更重要的是能使其锦上添花，起到画龙点睛的作用。例如“a drop in the ocean”“海中一滴水”若译成“沧海一粟”不仅可以增添文字色彩，更具语言表现力，同时也恰当地表现了英语的实际含义。

在长时间的英语学习过程中，我们发现有些英语短语想把它恰当地译成汉语成语很难，这除了是跨文化语言差异的原因，最主要的是通过上下文才能恰当说明其意义。而此书的目的就是希望通过英语动词短语、形容词短语、名词

短语的分析 将其译成相应的比较常见的汉语成语 以便能帮助英语工作者在学习过程中，更好地运用语言这一工具。

语言作为交流工具 有其很重要的作用。通过语言 我们可以了解其文化背景、文化的发展 更好地在英语和汉语之间架起桥梁。通过比较 我们能发现两种语言的共同之处 更有利于双语的学习、提高。在翻译过程中 我们不但力求准确、易懂 同时强调其实用性。因此 每一个短语 其汉语成语的意思最多不超过两个，例句也是选最易理解的意思。

由于编者水平有限 加之时间仓促 在理解两种语言及翻译方面 难免有不妥的地方 还望广大英语读者及热爱两种文化事业的读者，给予批评指正。

作 者

1996年 10月

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- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | 1 a drop in the bucket |
| 1 | 2 a drop in the ocean |
| 1 | 3 about one's ears |
| 1 | 4 above suspicion |
| 2 | 5 absorb in |
| 2 | 6 ace in the hole |
| 2 | 7 act high and mighty |
| 3 | 8 add fuel to the flame |
| 3 | 9 add insult to injury |
| 3 | 10 after one's own heart |
| 3 | 11 all along |
| 3 | 12 all dressed up |
| 4 | 13 all ears |
| 4 | 14 all eyes |
| 4 | 15 all in one piece |
| 4 | 16 all manner of |
| 4 | 17 all of a sudden |
| 5 | 18 all out |
| 5 | 19 all-out effort |

5	20 all over someone
5	21 all over the earth
5	22 All roads lead to Rome.
6	23 all shook up
6	24 all systems (are) go
6	25 all talk and no action
6	26 all the way
7	27 all thumbs
7	28 all tuckered out
7	29 all wet
7	30 all worked up over something
8	31 along for the ride
8	32 an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth
8	33 angle for
8	34 annex to
8	35 ants in one's pants
9	36 apple of one's eye
9	37 apple-pie order
10	38 apple polishing
10	39 arm and a leg
11	40 arm in arm
11	41 around the clock
11	42 around the corner
11	43 as a duck takes to water
11	44 as an old shoe
11	45 as best one can

12	46 as big as life
12	47 as busy as a beaver
12	48 as busy as Grand Central Station
12	49 as clear as mud
12	50 as cool as a cucumber
12	51 as different as night and day
13	52 as easy as (apple) pie
13	53 as easy as duck soup
13	54 as far as anyone knows
13	55 as free as a bird
13	56 as full as a tick
14	57 as good as one's word
14	58 as happy as a clam
14	59 as happy as a lark
14	60 as hard as nails
14	61 as high as a kite
14	62 as hot as hell
15	63 as hungry as a bear
15	64 as if one has come out of a handbox
15	65 as light as a feather
15	66 as mad as a hatter
15	67 as mad as a hornet
16	68 as mad as a wet hen
16	69 as naked as a jaybird
16	70 as plain as day
16	71 as plain as the nose on one's face

16	72 as poor as a church mouse
17	73 as pretty as a picture
17	74 as proud as a peacock
17	75 as quick as a wink
17	76 as quiet as a mouse
17	77 as scarce as hen's teeth
17	78 as slick as a whistle
18	79 as slippery as an eel
18	80 as strong as an ox
18	81 as stubborn as a mule
18	82 as thick as thieves
18	83 as weak as a kitten
18	84 as wise as an owl
18	85 ask/cry for the moon
19	86 asleep at the switch
19	87 at a blow/stroke
19	88 at a snail's pace
19	89 at all hazards
19	90 at any rate
20	91 at arm's length
20	92 at bay
20	93 at both ends
20	94 at/on call
20	95 at cross purposes
21	96 at death's door
21	97 at hand

21	98 at large
21	99 at liberty
22	100 at loose ends
22	101 at one's beck and call
22	102 at one's ease
22	103 at one's fingertips
23	104 at one's leisure
23	105 at sea
23	106 at sixes and sevens
23	107 at stake
23	108 at swords points
24	109 at the end of nowhere
24	110 at the end of one's rope/tether
24	111 avenge on
24	112 awake to
25	113 ax to grind

B

26	114 babe in the wood(s)
26	115 baby kisser
26	116 back out
26	117 back to the wall
27	118 backward(s) and forward(s)
27	119 bad-mouth someone
27	120 bag of tricks
27	121 balk at

27	122 banana oil
27	123 band together
28	124 bang away
28	125 bang into
28	126 bark up the wrong tree
28	127 bark worse than one's bite
28	128 barter/bargain away
28	129 bat an eye (eyelash)
29	130 bats in one's the belfry
29	131 bawl out
29	132 be a cold fish
30	133 be a copy-cat
30	134 be a dead duck
30	135 be a fan of someone
30	136 be a goner
30	137 be above one's head
30	138 be at a dead end
31	139 be at a halt/standstill
31	140 be beneath contempt
31	141 be beside oneself
31	142 be beyond endurance
32	143 be beyond one's ken
32	144 be beyond question
32	145 be beyond redemption
32	146 be bushed
32	147 be careful

33	148 be done with somebody/something
33	149 be down to
33	150 be for the high jump
33	151 be half-hearted
33	152 be hip to
33	153 be in evidence
34	154 be in order
34	155 be in the open
34	156 be in the public eye
34	157 be of one mind
34	158 be on about
34	159 be on at
35	160 be out of someone's reach
35	161 be out of sorts
35	162 be out of the blue
35	163 be out of the picture
35	164 be over the moon
36	165 be poles apart
36	166 be the spit and image of someone
36	167 be up against it
36	168 be up in arms
36	169 be up to one's eyes in
37	170 be well up in
37	171 bear down on/upon
37	172 bear the brunt of something
37	173 beat a dead horse

- 37 | 174 beat a path to somebody's door
37 | 175 beat a retreat
38 | 176 beat about the bush
38 | 177 beat all hollow
38 | 178 beat one's brains out
38 | 179 beat one's head against the wall
38 | 180 beat somebody to the draw/punch
38 | 181 beat/bring someone to his knees
39 | 182 beef up
39 | 183 beg for the moon
39 | 184 beg the question
39 | 185 Beggars can't be choosers.
40 | 186 begin to see daylight
40 | 187 begin to see the light
40 | 188 behind the eight-ball
40 | 189 bend/fall/lean over backwards
41 | 190 beside the point/question
41 | 191 bet on the wrong horse
41 | 192 bet one's boots/bottom dollar
41 | 193 bet one's life
42 | 194 between a rock and a hard place
42 | 195 between life and death
42 | 196 between the devil and the deep blue sea
42 | 197 between two fires
42 | 198 betwixt and between
43 | 199 beyond/out of one's depth

- 43 | 200 beyond one's means
43 | 201 beyond/without question
43 | 202 beyond the pale
43 | 203 beyond the shadow of a doubt
44 | 204 bide one's time
44 | 205 big as life and twice as natural
44 | 206 big deal
44 | 207 big frog in a small pond
44 | 208 big lie
44 | 209 Birds of a feather flock together.
45 | 210 birthday suit
45 | 211 bite off more than one can chew
45 | 212 bite one's nails
45 | 213 bite someone's head off
45 | 214 bite the dust
46 | 215 bite the hand that feeds one
46 | 216 black sheep of the family
46 | 217 blaze up
46 | 218 blend with
46 | 219 blind alley
47 | 220 blind leading the blind
47 | 221 blood freezes/runs cold/turns to ice
47 | 222 blood is thicker than water
47 | 223 blow a fuse/gasket
48 | 224 blow hot and cold
48 | 225 blow one's/sb's brain's out

48	226 blow one's/sb's mind
49	227 blow one's own horn/trumpet, toot one's own horn
49	228 blow one's top
49	229 blow over
49	230 blow someone's cover
49	231 bluster it out
50	232 boast of/about
50	233 body blow
50	234 boggle someone's mind
50	235 boggle the mind
50	236 bolt from/out of the blue
51	237 bone up on
51	238 born yesterday
51	239 borrow trouble
51	240 bound to
52	241 bow and scrape
52	242 brain drain
52	243 brave it out
52	244 break out into tears
52	245 break up
52	246 breathe easily/freely
53	247 breathe one's last
53	248 breeze through
53	249 bright and early
53	250 bring down the house
53	251 bring home to

54	252 bring something into sight/view
54	253 bring to bay
54	254 bring together
54	255 bristle with
54	256 brood over/on/upon/about
55	257 brown off
55	258 brush off
55	259 brush up against
55	260 buckle under
55	261 bug-eyed
56	262 build castles in the air/Spain
56	263 bump into
56	264 burn one's boats/bridges
56	265 burn one's fingers
56	266 burn oneself out
57	267 burn up the road
57	268 burnt child dreads the fire
57	269 burst at seams
57	270 burst into tears/burst out crying
57	271 burst with joy
58	272 burst with pride
58	273 bury one's head in the sand
58	274 bury the hatchet/tomahawk
58	275 butter someone up
59	276 butter wouldn't melt in one's mouth
59	277 butterflies in one's stomach

- 59 | 278 button one's lip/mouth, zip one's lip
59 | 279 by a hair's breadth/whisker
60 | 280 by/to all appearances
60 | 281 by hook or by crook
60 | 282 by leaps and bounds
60 | 283 by the sweat of one's brow/face

C

- 61 | 284 call a spade a spade
61 | 285 call the tune/shots
61 | 286 can't see beyond the end of one's nose
61 | 287 cannot see the wood(s)/forest for the tree
62 | 288 carry coals to Newcastle
62 | 289 carry the ball
62 | 290 catch/take one's death of cold
62 | 291 catch one's eye
62 | 292 champ at the bit
63 | 293 chaw up
63 | 294 chicken out
63 | 295 climb/jump on the bandwagon
63 | 296 clip somebody's wings
63 | 297 close/shut one's eyes to
64 | 298 cock and bull story
64 | 299 come down in the world
64 | 300 come out in the wash
64 | 301 come/draw to a head