

<<牛津英语谚语词典>>

图书基本信息

书名：<<牛津英语谚语词典>>

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作者：[英] 辛普森编

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## 前言

In the sixteen years since the appearance of the first edition of the Concise Oxford Dictionary of Proverbs the lively tradition of the proverb in the English-speaking world has continued to flourish and evolve. This revised third edition takes the opportunity to include much newly researched material relating to proverbs already in the first two editions. This material, together with parallel sayings from other languages and comparable quotations from the Bible, has been incorporated in expanded headnotes to many of the entries. In a number of cases fresh evidence for the historical development of proverbs already in the earlier editions has also been included, as in the entry for Great minds think alike, which hitherto was unattested in this precise form before the twentieth century. Finally, many illustrative quotations have also been culled from 1990s publications in both Britain and the USA as evidence of the proverb's continuing vitality.

The thematic index, primarily designed to enable those who wish to look up proverbs on a particular topic to locate them with ease, complements the wordbased cross-references in the body of the dictionary text. Since many proverbs can be used both positively and negatively to apply to a range of situations, a number of the index entries are antithetical in form——'action and inaction', 'hope and despair', etc. Index headings listed at the end of dictionary entries are a new feature for this edition, drawing the reader's attention to the site in the index at which proverbs on the same or related topics are grouped. In this way it is hoped that the index will serve also to bring to the reader's notice proverbs with which he or she may not be familiar. As was the case with the previous editions, it has often proved difficult to separate the emerging proverb from the established 'quotation'. The touchstone in this instance has to be to what extent a saying is used outside the context from which it originally stems. However, in borderline cases, the reader may wish to consult the Oxford Dictionary of Modern Quotations or the Oxford Dictionary of Phrase, Saying, and Quotation. Much of the material in the headnotes relates to the proverb's history in languages other than post-medieval English. Traditionally this history has emphasized classical Greek or Latin models. However, many Middle English sayings were borrowed, as with so much of the language at that time, from French, and the publication of J. W. Hassell's *Middle French Proverbs, Sentences and Proverbial Phrases* (1982) documented a large corpus of early French proverbial material representing a bridge between the classical and the modern English traditions. Much of the material relating to medieval French proverbs has been incorporated in the Dictionary on the basis of Hassell's researches. Many correspondents have made helpful suggestions for proverbs to be included in this new edition or have provided earlier or later sightings of proverbs already included, and the editor would like to express thanks to all of them. Primarily, however, gratitude is due to Mr William F. Deeck of College Park, Maryland, who has been unwearied in his vigilance for proverbs in contemporary US magazines and newspapers and in fiction of all periods.

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内容概要

本系列书涉及语言学、文学、文化、艺术、社会学、数学、物理学、化学、生物学、医学、食品与营养、计算机等社会科学和自然科学门类近百种。

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## 章节摘录

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“（该词典）编排出色...我毫无保留地向所有学习英语语言的学生和文学爱好者推荐，也向那些爱卖弄学问、痴迷于填字游戏和在争论中争强好胜的人们推荐。

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