

英語決まり文句のもじり

豊田 一男

Parodies of Set Phrases

TOYODA, Kazuo

Introduction

This is a collection of parodies of set phrases. The set phrases in this paper include quotations, catchphrases, abbreviations, clichés, idioms, and so forth. Clichés usually include proverbs, but they are excluded here, because the present writer has already published *Punctionary*, which is a coined word meaning a dictionary of puns, and in it about 100 proverbs that are “punned” have been taken up. This is a trial to illustrate how set phrases are parodied, twisted, or punned.

はじめに

筆者は『東京家政学院筑波短期大学紀要』、『東京家政学院筑波女子大学紀要』に12回にわたって「Punctionary の試み」を発表した。これは英語のしゃれ (pun) を含む短いジョークを、1) 同音同綴語・多義語に基づくもの、2) 同音異綴語に基づくもの、3) 異分析 (Metanalysis) に基づくもの、4) 縁語 (associate words) に基づくもの、5) 頭韻転換 (Spoonerism) に基づくもの、6) 対照語 (contrastive words) に基づくものに分類し、これらをしゃれに関わる単語をアルファベット順に見出し語とし、辞書形式にしたものである。

これと平行して、大塚英語教育研究会の機関誌『大塚フォーラム』に同じく12回にわたって「An Apple a Day - ジョークの中のことわざ」を発表した。これは英語のことわざ

の中でどんなものが、どのような形でジョークの中に現れるかを探ったものである。

前者では単語 (word)、後者では文 (sentence) を中心に取り上げたことになる。この両者の一部を合体させたものを昨年 (2003年) 11月に『英語しゃれ辞典 Punctionary』(研究社) と題して上梓した。

本稿は上記2つの論文、著書で取り上げなかった決まり文句・成句 (set phrase) のもじり (parody)、ひねり (twist)、しゃれ (pun) を含むものを取り上げる。

では決まり文句・成句とは何か？

“set phrase” を *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* (CIDE) で見てみると、

an unvarying phrase having a specific meaning, such as ‘raining cats and dogs’, or being the only context in which a word appears, for example ‘amends’ in ‘make amends’

とある。

“idiom” を上記辞典で見ると

a group of words established by usage as having a meaning not deductible from those of the individual words (e.g. *over the moon*, *see the light*).

とある。(ちなみに、*over the moon* は「月を越えて 非常に喜んで」、*see the light* は「初めて光を見る 生まれる、発明される、初演される、初めて人目に触れる」の意味である。)

“cliché” を見ると

a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays the lack of original thought.

とある。

Betty Kirpatrick (1996) *Dictionary of Cliché* (柴田元幸監訳『英語クリーシェ辞典 もんきりがた表現集』(2000年)(研究社))ではクリーシェを次の12の範疇に分けて説明している。以下に本稿に必要と思われる部分のみ引用する。

比喩 (simile) 厳密には「直喩」: *cool as a cucumber*, *like peas in a pod* など。

外来語 (foreign) 外国語から入ってきたクリーシェ。

ことわざ (proverb)

間接的引用 (allusion) 聖書や文学作品の一節を部分的に引用したり、伝説や逸話を踏まえたクリーシェ。

引用 (quotation) 文学作品を引用したクリーシェ。

二重句 (doublet) *safe and sound* など同義語を反復したクリーシェ。

婉曲 (euphemism) *kick the bucket* など、婉曲表現がクリーシェ化したもの。

イディオム (idiom) *light at the end of the tunnel* など。

キャッチフレーズ (catchphrase) 広告、映画、テレビドラマの科白などから生まれた

クリーシェ。

流行語 (vogue) *the bottom line* など、しばしば何らかの専門用語が一般化して流行したクリーシェ。

場つなぎ (filler) *needless to say* などほとんど意味なく使われがちなクリーシェ。

略語 (abbreviation)

紋切型 (hackneyed phrase) 以上のどの範疇にも収まらない、最初は新鮮だったが使われすぎて陳腐になったすべてのフレーズ。いわばもっとも正統的なクリーシェ群。(上掲書 vi, vii)

本稿では *call it a day* (「1日と呼ぶ」*「その日の仕事を終える」*) *get out of bed on the wrong side* (「反対側からベッドを降りる」*「今日は不機嫌だ」*) のようにクリーシェ (cliché) と言えるものから、*make a[the] bed* (ベッドを整える) *take ... 's breath away* (...をあっと言わせる) のような日本ではしばしば熟語と呼ばれるもの、*Mind your own business!* (余計なお世話だ!) *The prices are subject to change without prior notice.* (価格は予告せずに変更することがあります) のように sentence の形になっているものも含めるが、クリーシェ (cliché) とも見なせることわざ (proverb) は除外してある。

以下に見出しとして決まり文句とその決まり文句としての意味を示し、それがどのようにもじられ (parodied) ひねられ (twisted) しゃれにされる (punned) かの実例を示す。必要と思われる時には cf. として、コメントを加える。

A

Abominable Snowman (ヒマラヤに住むという) 雪男 ((*abominable* (忌まわしい) は蔑称; チベット名 *yeti* (=little manlike animal)) (1) *Dreadful actor: an abominable showman.*

(2) Howard F. Fritfiths says that a Russian diplomat is an abominable no-man.

Alcoholics Anonymous (AA)((米)) 匿名アルコール中毒患者更正協会((アルコール中毒経験者の禁酒団体))

(1) The trouble with a small town's alcoholics is that they are not anonymous.

Adam and Eve (人類の始祖の) アダムとイブ

(1) What Adam and Eve started, atom and evil may end.

much ado about nothing から騒ぎ((Shakespeareの喜劇 *Much Ado About Nothing* の題名から))

(1) Hay fever is much achoo about nothing.

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address リンカーンが南北戦争の激戦地ゲティスバーグの国立墓地開設式で行った演説

(1) The last one on record is 128 Main Street.

(2) A reckless speeder was hauled before a judge in Los Angeles, Calif., traffic court. The judge delivered quite a sermon, but the offending lady driver was neither impressed nor chastened.

"Aren't you the eloquent one," she sneered. "I'll bet you can recite Lincoln's Gettysburg Address by heart, too."

"I'm proud to say I can," admitted the judge. "And I hereby fine you four-score and seven bucks."

cf. Four score and seven years ago 87年前((ゲティスバーグの演説の冒頭部分))

"*Four score and seven years ago* our father brought forth on this continent a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal..."

act one's age 年相応に振舞う

(1) My parents are having an age problem.

He won't act his and she won't tell hers.

(2) Human intelligence is millions of years old, but it doesn't seem to act its age.

After you. どうぞお先へ

(1) "After you," as the glass of water said to the pill. (Evan Esar)

in the air 空中に; 宙ぶりんで

(1) A radical is a man with both feet firmly planted in the air. (F. D. Roosevelt)

with open arms 両手を広げて; 心から歓迎して

(1) They are so friendly in Las Vegas, they welcome you with open palms.

art for art's sake 芸術のための芸術; 芸術至上主義

(1) Art for art's sake makes no more sense than gin for gin's sake. (W. Somerset Maugham)

The ayes[noes] have it. 可[否]とする者多数((議長の言葉))

(1) A cold is both positive and negative; sometimes Eyes have it and sometimes the Nose. (Phelps)

B

behind ...'s back ...のいない所で; ...の陰で

(1) A friend is a person who goes around saying nice things about you behind your back.

beauty spot 景勝地、名所; ((英)) (顔の) ほくろ

(1) A woman went to the doctor's clutching the side of her face.

"What seems to be the problem?" asked the doctor.

"Well," said the woman, removing her hand, "it's this pimple on my cheek. There's a small tree growing from it, and a table and chairs, and a picnic basket. What

on earth can it be?"

"It's nothing to worry about," said the doctor. "It's only a beauty spot."

get out of bed on the wrong side=get up on the wrong side of the bed(今日は)不機嫌だ; 虫の居所が悪い((寝るときにベッドに入ったのと逆の側から起きると不吉とされる迷信から))

(1) *Lodger*: I'd like to complain about the facilities in this hotel—they're practically non-existent.

Landlady: Well, well. Who got up on the wrong side of the floor this morning?

(2) *Letter from soldier overseas*: "If I sound blue, it isn't that I got up on the wrong side of the bed. It's that I got up on the wrong side of the world."

make a[the] bed ベッドを整える; ベッドメイキングをする

(1) A man checked in to a run-down hotel.

"The room is 18 dollars a night," said the manager. "It's eight dollars if you make your own bed."

"OK, I'll make my own bed."

"Right, I'll get you some nails and wood."
the beginning of the end 終わりの始まり((結果を暗示する最初のきざし))

(1) To a woman the first kiss is just the end of the beginning; to a man it is the beginning of the end. (Helen Rowland)

hit below the belt ベルトより下を打つ((ボクシングでのルール違反)); ルール違反をする

(1) I can stand brute force, but brute reason is quite unbearable. There is something unfair about its use. It is hitting below the intellect. (Oscar Wilde)

for better (or) for worse 幸いにも災いにも; いかなる運命になろうと(行く末永く)

(1) We married for better or worse, but

not for good.

(2) You've got to feel sorry for him. He took her for better or for worse and she took him for everything.

cf. *The Book of Common Prayer* (イギリス国教会祈祷書) 婚姻の誓いの言葉

"To have and to hold from this day forward, *for better, for worse*, for richer, poorer, in sickness, and in health, to love and to cherish, till death do us part."

(今日より善き時も、悪しき時も、豊なる時も、貧しき時も、病める時も、健やかなる時も、死が二人を分かちまで愛し慈しむために、持ち抱き続けることを)

(God) **Bless you!** お大事に((「あなたに神の恵みがありますように」の意で、くしゃみをした人に対して言う; くしゃみは不吉なものと考えられていた))

(1) What do people say when God sneezes? (Henny Youngman)

take ...'s breath away ...をあっと言わせる

(1) Reducing salon: where they take your breadth away.

Et, tu, Brute! ブルータス、お前もか((「and you Brutus」の意味のラテン語; Shakespeare の *Julius Caesar* からの引用・暗殺者の仲間に友人のブルータスが入っていることに気づいてシーザーが言った言葉))

(1) How is it that Julius Caesar, the Roman Conqueror, was killed?

Because he called a man a brute.

cf. brute は「獣; 獣のような人」の意

(2) When Brutus asked Caesar, "How many hotdogs did you eat at the Forum today?" what did Caesar answer?

"Et tu, Brute."

cf. Forum (古代ローマの) 公共広場

Ate two, Brute. のしゃれ。

a bull in a china shop (瀬戸物屋で暴れ

る牛のように) なんでもぶちこわしをやる人; がさつで不器用な人

(1) Robert Muldoon is a bull who carries his own china shop with him. (Inder Jit)

Mind your own business! 余計なお世話だ! ((「自分のことに気をつけろ」から))

(1) There are two reasons why some people don't mind their own business: (1) no mind; (2) no business.

(2) Gold digger: a girl who mines her own business.

cf. minds mines のしゃれ

a bus stop バス停

(1) Brassiere: a bust stop. (Bob Levinson)

get down to business 本気で仕事にかか
る; 本論に入る

(1) "I'm getting down to business," as the miner said when he was lowered into the pit. (Evan Esar)

C

raise Cain 大騒ぎを起こす

(1) No marriage is perfect: even Adam and Eve raised Cain.

(2) In Cuba they raise cane to make rum, and drink rum to raise Cain.

Canada Dry カナダドライ ((世界で最も売
れているジンジャーエール))

(1) I saw a notice which said "Drink Canada Dry" and I've just started.

burn the candle at both ends 朝から晩
まで働いて精力を使い果たす; 無茶をする
((「ろうそくを両端からともす」の意から))

(1) John Boland, speaking of a friend, says, "He's terribly frank—burns the candor at both ends."

cf. candor candle のしゃれ

build castles in the air 空中楼閣を築く;
非現実的なことを空想する

(1) Neurotics build castles in the air. Psy-

chotics live in them, and psychiatrists collect the rent.

(2) Castles in the air cost a vast deal to keep up. (Baron Lytton)

(3) Yes, modern women still build castles in the air, but nowadays they are supplied with things like automatic heating, TV, electric washers and dryers, and electronic ovens.

let the cat out of the bag うっかり秘密
を漏らす ((「袋に入れた猫を出してしまう」
の意から))

(1) Gossip—Letting the chat out of the bag.

**The prices are subject to change with-
out prior notice.** 価格は予告せずに変更す
ることがあります。

(1) All babies are subject to change with-
out notice.

cf. change the baby おむつを取り替える
checks and balances ((政治)) 抑制と均衡

(1) Banking is just like our government—a system of checks and balances. If you want to cash a check, you have to have a balance.

(2) The nation is still based on a system of checks and balances. She writes the checks, and he tries to figure out the balances.

keep one's chin up 元気を失わずにがんば
る

(1) "Doctor, I think I've broken my neck."

"Really? Well, keep your chin up!"

up to one's chin あごの所まで(深く); 深
入りして

(1) Violinist: a fellow who is always up to his chin in music.

Hobson's choice 選り好みを許されない選
択 ((馬を貸すのに客に選ばせず、戸口に近
い馬から順に貸したという貸馬屋 Thomas
Hobson の名前から))

(1) Hobson's choice: Mrs. Hobson. (Leo

Rosten)

the chosen people 神の選民((イスラエル人、ユダヤ人))

(1) Eskimo: God's frozen people.

for Christ's sake どうぞ、お願いだから
((「キリストのために」の意から))

(1) Ballparks are religious places. I keep hearing, "Sit down, for Christ's sake!"

The coast is clear. 今なら大丈夫だ((「沿岸警備隊はいない」の意から))

(1) My neighbour must think I'm in the coastguard. Every few days he phones my wife to ask if the coast is clear.

from coast to coast(アメリカの)太平洋岸から大西洋岸まで、全国的に

(1) Thanks to the Interstate Highway System, it is now possible to travel from coast to coast without seeing anything.

the cold shoulder 冷淡な態度、無視
((「嫌な客に出す」冷えた羊の肩肉」の意から))

(1) What did the cannibal get when he was late for dinner?

The cold shoulder.

the Ten Commandments(モーセの)十戒

(1) I've joined a new church. It's very liberal. They've whittled it down to five commandments and five suggestions.

(2) Say what you will about the Ten Commandments, you must always come back to the pleasant fact that there are only ten of them. (H. L. Mencken)

(3) The Eleventh Commandment: Thou shalt not be found out. (George Whyte-Melville)

cf. 「十戒」は具体的には次のようになっている。

1 . You shall have no other gods before me.

2 . You shall not make for yourself a

graven image...

3 . You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain...

4 . Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy...

5 . Honor your father and your mother...

6 . You shall not kill.

7 . You shall not commit adultery.

8 . You shall not steal.

9 . You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

10 . You shall not covet your neighbor's house, you shall not covet your neighbor's wife. (Exodus 20: 1-17)

inferiority complex 劣等感

(1) A person who always butts in has an infuriating complex.

in conclusion(スピーチなどの最後に)最後になります

(1) Beware of the conversationalist who adds 'in conclusion'. He is merely starting afresh. (Robert Morley)

for conscience' sake 気がとがめて; 気休めに

(1) Men never do evil so fully and so happily as when they do it for conscience's sake. (Pascal)

at ...'s earliest convenience ご都合のつき次第

(1) Pawnbroker's sign: "See me at your earliest inconvenience."

a far cry (from...) (...には)遠く及ばないもの; 大違いのもの

(1) Although it is a far cry from there to here, he laughed all the way. (Arthur Baer)

D

call it a day その日の仕事を終える;(仕事などを)打ち切る

(1) God was talking to one of his angels.

He said: "I've just created a 24-hour period of alternating light and darkness on Earth."

The angel said: "What are you going to do now?"

And God replied: "I think I'll call it a day."

have seen better days (今は落ちぶれているが) 全盛時代があった

(1) A beggar says to a man, "I've seen better days."

The man answers, "I haven't got time to talk about the weather."

(2) Anecdote: a joke that has seen better days.

a good deal 大量、たくさん

(1) Bridge is a game in which a good deal depends upon a good deal.

cf. deal (トランプで) 札を配ること

deep down 心の底では、実際は

(1) When lawyers die, why are they buried in holes 20 feet deep?

Because deep down, they're nice guys.

play the devil with... ...をだめにする

(1) Bierce, Ambrose: a wit who played the devil with the dictionary.

cf. **ピアス**は *The Devil's Dictionary* (『悪魔の辞典』) の著者。

keep a diary 日記をつけている

(1) Everyone should keep someone else's diary. (Wilde)

in all directions 四方八方へ

(1) He flung himself upon his horse and rode madly off in all directions.

cf. この種の滑稽で矛盾する [ありえない] 話を Irish Bull という。

a dog's life みじめな暮らし

(1) Husbands complain of a dog's life, but dogs have no wife.

Down Under オーストラリア ((「地図の下の方; 地球の裏側」の意から))

(1) Do people in Australia call the rest of the world "Up Over"?

reckless driving 無謀運転

(1) Many a taxpayer feels that he is being fined for reckless thriving.

a drop in the ocean [bucket] 大海の一滴、取るに足らないもの

(1) "Johnny and I were playing on the pier when one of the planks broke and he fell in."

Mother: That's terrible! Is he all right?

Johnny: Oh, yes. It was only a drop in the ocean.

(2) In national affairs a million is only a drop in the budget. (Burton Rascoe)

a dual personality 二重人格

(1) One girl told her chum, "My boy friend has a dual personality—sometimes he's a lot of fun, other times he's broke."

E

go in one ear and out the other (言われたことが) 頭を素通りして行く、記憶に残らない

(1) Gossip is what goes in one ear and in another.

(2) Fad—Something that goes in one era and out the other.

(3) Calendar—Something that goes in one year and out the other.

(4) Anything you tell a woman usually goes in one ear and out to the neighbors.

an early bird (おどけて) 早起きの人; 他の人より先に到着する人

(1) Our idea of an early bird is one who gets up to serve his wife breakfast in bed.

cf. The early bird catches the worm.
((ことわざ)) 「早起きは三文の徳」

a life of ease 安楽な生活

(1) A life of ease is a difficult pursuit. (W.

(Cowper)

make (both) ends meet 収支を合わせる ; 借金しないで生活する

(1) At today's prices you can hardly make one end meet.

(2) The people who are most likely to make ends meet are those on a crowded dance floor.

(3) Just about the time you think you can make both ends meet, somebody moves the ends.

(4) From the time an infant tries to get his toes into his mouth, life's a continual struggle to make both ends meet.

narrow escape かるうじて逃れること ; 九死に一生

(1) Did you hear about a young lady who planned an Announcement Party, but when the engagement was broken, she went ahead and had a Narrow Escape Party?

a necessary evil 必要悪 ; 避けられない害悪

(1) Optimism: The world is the best of all possible worlds, and everything in it a necessary evil. (F. H. Bradley)

(2) A critic is a necessary evil, and criticism is an evil necessity. (C. Wells)

(3) A necessary evil is one we like so much we don't care to abolish it.

learn from experience 経験から学ぶ

(1) We learn from experience that men never learn anything from experience. (G.B. Shaw)

F

face to face (with...) ...と面と向かって ; 直面して

(1) *As the Irish beggar said with feeling:*

"Spare a copper, sir, I am face to face with an empty stomach."

make faces しかめ面をする ; いやな [ふざけた] 顔をする

(1) An actor is a man who make faces for a living.

(2) She herself makes her own faces, and each morning wears a new one.

(W. Congreve)

the facts of life (子供に聞かせる) 性についての基礎知識

(1) *Father:* I think it's about time we talked about the facts of life.

Child: Certainly. What do you want to know?

family tree 家系図

(1) You can't make a place for yourself in the sun if you keep sitting in the shade of the family tree.

(2) Family tree: a genealogical diagram showing that you belong to a family better dead than alive.

(3) "Let me tell you we have a wonderful family tree."

"The tree is all right, but the crop is a failure."

So far, so good 今までのところそれでよい

(1) He's an eternal optimist. If he fell out of a window on the fortieth floor, as he passed the twentieth, he'd still be saying, 'So far, so good.'

(2) Safari: up to this point. *Ex.* Safari (So far), so good.

live off the fat of the land ぜいたくな暮らしをする

(1) A girdle manufacturer lives off the fat of the land.

stand on one's own (two) feet (人に頼らず) 自立する

(1) The funniest thing about going to a psychiatrist is that you have to lie down to

learn how to stand on your own two feet.

(2) A woman admires a man who stands on his own two feet—particularly when he's on a crowded bus.

play second fiddle 脇役を務める ((「セカンドバイオリンをひく」の意から))

(1) The sweetest music to a woman's ear is another woman playing second fiddle.

(2) One man, upon being asked if he played an instrument of any kind, replied, "Only second fiddle at home."

cut a ... figure ...の印象を与える

(1) I rode through town on my fine white steed. People said that I cut a fine figure on that horse. They were right. I'd sat on my sword.

keep one's fingers crossed 幸運を祈る ((人差し指に中指を重ねることは災難よけになるという迷信から))

(1) I'm seriously worried about the pound these days. I looked at one this morning and the Queen had her fingers crossed.

drink like a fish 大酒を飲む

(1) If you drink like a fish — swim — don't drive.

(2) "Daddy, can you still do tricks?"

"What do you mean, son, 'do tricks'?"

"Well, Mamma says that when you were young, you used to drink like a fish."

(3) There is nothing wrong with drinking like a fish as long as you drink what a fish drinks.

put one's foot in it [in one's mouth] へまなことをする [言う] ((「うっかり犬の糞に足を突っ込む [口に足を入れる]」の意から))

(1) Afterthought: that mad desire to shut your mouth after you've put your foot in it.

(2) Roy P. Stewart says that congressmen often suffer from foot-in-mouth disease.

follow in ...'s footsteps ...のしたとおりに

する; ...の仕事 [遺志] を継ぐ

(1) He comes from a family of criminals and now he's following in his father's fingerprints.

four-letter word 四文字語、タブー語 ((性、排泄に関する4文字語が多いことから))

(1) Love is just another four-letter word. (Tennessee Williams)

(2) Even these days there are a few four-letter words which can still shock most brides, like cook, wash, dust and iron.

freedom of speech 言論の自由

(1) In our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either.

(Mark Twain)

G

generally speaking 概して、一般的に言つて

(1) Woman, generally speaking, is generally speaking.

give-and-take 公平な条件でのやりとり; 和やかな意見の交換

(1) He said it had been a marriage based on give-and-take. He gave, she took.

(2) A bachelor remarked, "I know marriage is a matter of give-and-take, but so far I haven't been able to find anybody who'll take what I have to give."

God knows 誰も知らない; 神のみぞ知る

(1) Is there a God? God only knows.

Thank God it's Friday! (TGIF) ありがたい、今日は金曜だ!

(1) What did Robinson Crusoe say when he found out who the footprints belonged to?

Thank Goodness it's Friday.

good for nothing 何の役にも立たない

(1) “Johnny, I wish you’d be a good little boy.”

“I’ll be good for a nickel.”

“The idea! Why can’t you be like your father, good for nothing?”

too good to be true 話がうますぎる、信じられないくらいよい話だ

(1) He was too bad to be true. (Michael Holroyd)

(2) The trouble with today’s news is that, most of the time, it’s too true to be good.

(3) Platitude: a remark that is too true to be good.

(4) Atrocity: an incident too bad to be true.
government of the people, by the people, for the people 人民の、人民による、人民のための政治 ((リンカーンの言葉))

(1) Democracy means simply the bludgeoning of the people, by the people, for the people. (Oscar Wilde)

the grapes of wrath (神の怒りの象徴としての) 怒りのぶどう

(1) Hangover: the wrath of grapes (Oscar Levant)

cf. J.W. Howe “The Battle Hymn of the Republic” (cf. *Isa* 63: 2–3, *Rev* 14: 19–20) にある表現。Steinbeck の小説の題名にもなっている。

have one foot in the grave 棺桶に片足を突っ込んでいる ; (病気・老衰などで) 死にかけている

(1) When I have one foot in the grave, I will tell the whole truth about women. I shall tell it, jump into my coffin, pull the lid over me, and say, “Do what you like now.”

turn (over) in one’s grave (死者が) 嘆いて [立腹して] 安らかに眠れない

(1) “If your father could see you now,”

said the mother turkey to her wayward son, “he’d turn over in his gravy!”

(all) Greek to... ...にとってちんぷんかんぷん

(1) Two Greeks were watching their first football game, and one said to the other: “This is all American to me.”

H

better half (おどけて) 自分の妻 [夫]

(1) Bridegroom: a man who exchanges good quarters for a better half.

Hall of Fame (for General Americans) 栄誉の殿堂 ((ニューヨーク大学にあるアメリカの偉人たちの記念館))

(1) Grand Canyon: Hole of Fame.

ask for ...’s hand ...に結婚を申し込む

(1) When I asked her father for her hand, he said, “You can take the whole girl or nothing!”

(2) Five years ago I asked for her hand—and it’s been in my pocket ever since.

live from hand to mouth その日暮らしをする ((「食べ物が入るとすぐ口へという生活をする」の意から))

(1) Beggar: a man who lives from handout to mouth.

hands down 楽々と、たやすく

(1) “You said you could beat him hands down.”

“He doesn’t want to keep his hands down!”

a hands-off policy 無干渉主義

(1) *The Irish News*:

Venus de Milo was the earliest example of a ‘hands-off’ policy.

on every hand 四方八方に

(1) *Teacher* (brightly): As we walk out-of-doors on a cold winter’s morning and look

about us, what do we see on every hand?

Class (as one man): Gloves!

cf. as one man いっせいに

on the other hand 他方では、これに反して

(1) I want a one-armed economist so that the guy could never make a statement and then say 'on the other hand...' (Harry Truman)

put one's hand in one's pocket (慈善に) 金を出す ((「ポケットに手を入れる」の意から))

(1) Posing the farmer and his college-age son for a picture, the photographer suggested that the boy stand with his hand on his father's shoulder. "If you want it to look natural," said the parent, "he could put his hand in my pocket."

show one's hands (トランプで) 自分の手の内を見せる; 本心を打ち明ける

(1) Every time a boy shows his hands, someone suggests that he wash them. (Ed Howe)

with an open hand 気前よく

(1) A politician is a man who approaches every question with an open mouth. (Adlai Stevenson)

hard cash 現金

(1) Hard cash: the softest thing to fall back on.

cf. fall back on... に頼る

bury the hatchet 仲直りする; 戦いをやめる ((いくつかの北米インディアン部族が和平を宣言する際に和解のしるしにまさかりを地中に埋めたことから))

(1) Nobody ever forgets where he buried the hatchet. (Frank McKinney ("Kin") Hubbard)

(2) He's decided to bury the hatchet—between his enemy's shoulder blades.

(3) The easiest way to bury a hatchet is with the corpse.

stand on one's head 逆立ちする

(1) He's so tall he can stand on his head.

cf. Irish Bull

heads or tails 表か裏か ((コインを投げて勝負するときのことば))

(1) God gave us two ends—one to sit on and one to think with. Success depends on which we use most. Heads we win, tails we lose.

drink to ...'s health ...の健康を祈って乾杯する

(1) We drink to one another's health and spoil our own. (Jerome K. Jerome)

help oneself to... ...を自由に取って食べる [飲む]; 勝手に取る

(1) "Will you donate something to the Old Ladies' Home?"

"With pleasure. Help yourself to my mother-in-law."

feel at home くつろぐ

(1) Anyone who has been to an English public school will always feel comparatively at home in prison. (Evelyn Waugh)

"Home on the Range" 「峠の我が家」((アメリカの民謡; カンザス州の公式州歌で、フランクリン・ルーズベルト大統領の愛唱歌として知られる))

(1) "Home on the range" is the teapot's favorite song.

"Home, Sweet Home" 「埴生の宿」((イギリスの民謡; 貧しくとも故郷の我が家を愛する気持ちを歌った歌))

(1) Bird house: Home, tweet home.

hot water 湯; 苦しい状況

(1) Life is like a shower: one wrong turn and you are in hot water.

cf. One good turn deserves another. ((ことわざ)) (恩に報いるに恩をもってする)

get into hot water 苦しい状況に陥る

(1) I believe in getting into hot water; it keeps you clean. (G.K. Chesterton)

bring down the house (演技・俳優などが) 満場の喝采を浴びる

(1) Samson had the right idea about advertising. He took a couple of columns and brought down the house.

cf. 怪力の英雄 Samson が最後に神殿を倒し、多くのペリシテ人とともに死んだことを暗示している。

(2) I'm sure you know about the termite who boasted to his friends, "This'll bring down the house."

on the house (酒などが) 店のおごりで; 無料で

(1) Why did the hot dog climb to the top of the roof?

Because he heard that the meal was on the house.

horse sense 常識的判断力; (日常的な) 常識

(1) If "horse sense" is such a valuable attribute, how come it did so little for the horse? (Leo Rosten)

(2) What's another word for horse sense?
Stable thinking.

(3) Horse sense is what a horse has that keeps him from betting on people.

(W.C. Fields)

(4) The ideal combination of the road is to have the horse sense of the driver equal to the horse power of the car.

a sense of humor ユーモア感覚

(1) E.B. White says that a farmer is a handy man with a sense of humor.

cf. humus 腐葉土

I

every inch どの点からも、まったく

(1) He is every other inch a gentleman. (Rebecca West)

live within one's income 収入以内の生活をする

(1) You should always live within your income, even if you have to borrow to do so. (Josh Billings)

live beyond one's income 収入以上の生活をする

(1) I'm living so far beyond my income that we may almost be said to be living apart. (e.e.cummings)

an ivory tower 象牙の塔

(1) When they come downstairs from their ivory towers, idealists are apt to walk straight into the gutter. (L. P. Smith)

cf. the gutter 貧民街; どん底生活

J

in a jam 困ったことになって、窮地に陥って

(1) "Waiter, there's a fly in my jerry!"

"Are you sure, sir?"

"Yes. Why?"

"He seems to be in rather a jam, sir."

keep up with the Joneses (経済的に・社会的に) 隣人たちに負けまいと見栄を張る

(1) Things are tough. Even the Joneses are having trouble keeping up with themselves!

(2) We never worry about keeping up with Joneses. We passed them years ago!

(3) We've made a deal with our next-door neighbours. We'll stop trying to keep up with them if they'll stop trying to keep up with us!

(4) You've probably never thought about it, but we imagine no one has more trouble keeping up with the Joneses than old man Jones.

K

know better (人よりも) 知識 [経験] がある、(そんな) ばかなことはしない

(1) Better: What every girl should know.
(Charles Jones)

L

walk under a ladder はしごの下を歩く
((はしごの下を通り抜けると不吉だという迷信がある))

(1) I'm not saying he's small or superstitious—but he *does* think it's unlucky to walk under a black cat.

cf. アメリカでは黒猫を不吉と考える人も少なくない

Ladies and gentlemen (ご来場の) みなさん

(1) Ladies and gentlemen. The Ladies is over there (*point*) and the Gents is over there (*point*).

the last straw 耐え切れなくなる最後の負担 [重荷] ((It is the last straw that breaks the camel's back. (ラクダの背骨を折るのは最後に載せた 1 本のわらである ; たとえわずかでも度を過ぎすと大事に至る) ということわざから))

(1) What did the horse say when he got to the end of his nose bag?

That's the last straw!

cf. nose bag (馬の鼻先につける) 飼い葉袋
(2) During the war when help was scarce a supervisor told a lazy workman: "This is the last straw, Jerkins! I'm giving you two years' notice."

rest on one's laurels 現在の成功に甘んじて何もしない、現状に満足する

(1) Success: Don't rust on your laurels.

have the last word (議論などで) 最終的な発言をする、決定権を持つ

(1) An apology is the only means of hav-

ing the last word with a woman.

by leaps and bounds とんとん拍子に、飛躍的に

(1) Children grow by leaps and bounds—especially in the apartment overhead.

legal tender 法定通貨

(1) Women prefer men who have something tender about them—especially legal tender.

a man of letters (男性の) 文学者、文人

(1) He is a distinguished man of letters. He works for the Post Office.

all one's life 一生の間 ; 今までずっと

(1) "Tell me, have you lived here all your life?"

"Not yet."

a matter of life and [or] death 生死にかかわる問題

(1) A chicken and a pig were drinking in a bar one night. When the chicken said,

"Why don't we go into business together? We could open a ham and egg restaurant."

"Not so fast," said the pig. "For you it's just a day's work. For me, it's a matter of life and death."

(2) Shotgun wedding is a case of wife or death.

cf. shotgun wedding (妊娠させた女性の父親から銃で脅されて責任を取らされる) やむなき結婚

life after death 死後の生命

(1) Is there life after birth?

(2) "Do you believe in life after death?" the company boss asked one of his young employees.

"Yes, sir."

"That's good, because after you left early yesterday to go to your grandmother's funeral, she called in to see you."

life, liberty, and the pursuit of

happiness 生命、自由、幸福の追求 ((米国独立宣言の中にある表現))

- (1) A bachelor is a fellow who believes he is entitled to life, liberty, and the happiness of pursuit.

draw the line 区別する ; 一線を描く

- (1) Mason-Dixon: Two gentlemen who knew where to draw the line.

cf. Mason-Dixon line メーソン・ディクソン線 ((米国ペンシルベニア州とメリーランド州の境界線 ; 俗に北部と南部の分界線とされる))

read between the lines 行間を読む ; 言外の意味を理解する

- (1) I kept reading between the lies. (Goodman Ace)
- (2) Cosmetics are woman's way of keeping a man from reading between the lines!
- (3) "I see strength, courage, kindness, and despair in your face."

"But how can you see all that in my face?"

"I can read between the lines."

and they lived happily ever after 二人はその後ずっと幸せに暮らしましたとき (((おとぎ話の最後の決り文句)))

- (1) They were married and lived happily even after.

the cost of living 生活費

- (1) Alimony: the cost of loving.
- (2) Alimony: the high cost of leaving.

London bridge is falling down. ロンドン橋落ちる ((「マザーグース」の童謡の出だしの文句))

- (1) "Did he find anything wrong with you?"
- "My teeth. They were all good except one bridge which was put in by a dentist in London."

"I get it. London bridge is falling down."

Long time no see. お久しぶり ; 長いこと

姿を見なかったね

- (1) "You haven't touched the fish," said the waiter.

"Long time no sea," explained the diner.

- (2) Overdue doctor's bill: Long time no fee.

love at first sight 一目ぼれ

- (1) Love at first sight saves a lot of time and money.
- (2) The cure for love at first sight is second sight.
- (3) It was a case of love at first sight. She first saw him in his Cadillac convertible.
- (4) Gold digger: a girl who falls in love at purse-sight.

M

man and wife 夫婦

- (1) The other day I was attending a wedding ceremony where the minister solemnly pronounced the couple person and person.

live within one's means 分相応な生活をする

- (1) We should all live within our means—even if we have to borrow to do it.

a melting pot (金属を溶かす) のつぼ ; (人種の) のつぼ ((アメリカ合衆国を指すのに用いられるが、現在では salad bowl と呼ぶ人が多い))

- (1) Canada has never been a melting pot; more like a tossed salad. (Arnold Edinborough)

Don't mention it. ((英)) どういたしまして ((お礼またはわびに対する返事))

- (1) A bribe is when the giver says "thanks," and the receiver says "don't mention it."

hold the mirror up to nature 自然に向かって鏡を掲げる

- (1) He holds the mirror up to Nietzsche. (Guedalla)

cf. Shakespeare の *Hamlet*, III. ii. 1-16にある表現

the missing link ミッシングリンク ((進化の過程で人類と類人猿の間に存在したと仮想される生物))

(1) The evolutionists seem to know everything about the missing link except the fact that it is missing. (G. K. Chesterton)

Molotov cocktail 火炎びん

(1) You always know when the middle classes have joined the revolutionaries: the Molotov cocktails have olives in them.

make money 金を儲ける、稼ぐ

(1) "I'm in prison because I made big money."

"How much?"

"About a quarter of an inch too long."

(2) I cannot afford to waste my time making money. (Louis J. R. Agassiz)

(3) A mint is the only business that make money without advertising.

marry money 金持ちと結婚する

(1) Nobody works as hard for his money as the man who marries it. (Kin Hubbard)

morning sickness つわり

(1) My mother had morning sickness after I was born. (Rodney Dangerfield)

down in the mouth (口の両端がへへの字に下がって) しょげた顔をして

(1) What you might get if you eat a duck.

cf. down ダウン ((鳥の綿毛))

face the music (自分の失敗などについて) 潔く責任をとる; 非難を受け止める

(1) You'll never lead the band if you can't face the music.

N

stick one's nose into... ...に干渉する

(1) Censor: A guy who sticks his No's into other people's business.

O

strike oil 石油を掘り当てる; ポロ儲けする

(1) My formula for success is rise early, work late, and strike oil.

know one's onions 万事心得ている

(1) *Doctor*: You have just come from dinner.

Patient: How did you know?

Doctor: I know my onions.

open-door policy 門戸開放政策

(1) Open-door policy: one way to keep your home cool without air conditioning.

open house 自宅開放パーティー; (学校などの) 公開参観日; (モデルハウスなどの) 一般公開

(1) Open house: home without a roof.

P

mind [watch] one's p's and q's 言行に気をつける ((「(書き間違えないように) p と q に気をつける」の意から))

(1) Politicians are people who have to mind their appease and accuse.

a pain in the neck 悩みの種; いらいらさせる人 [物]

(1) *Jack*: What's a guillotine?

Jill: I'm not sure exactly, but it would sure give you a pain in the neck.

(2) Women, did you get up this morning with a pain in the neck? Or did your husband get up before you?

(3) A man without a woman is like a neck without a pain.

(4) Patriotism: that pain you feel in the neck when a foreigner wins the championship.

wear the pants 家庭で主導権を握っている

(1) In my house I'm the boss. I wear the pants, even though they're protected with an apron.

(2) Henpecked husband: one who wears the pants at home—under the apron.

cf. be tied to *one's* wife's apron 妻の言いなりになっている

perpetual motion 永久運動

(1) Perpetual motion: the family upstairs.

on pins and needles そわそわ[やきもき]して ((「針の上に立って」の意から))

(1) Disc jockey: one who lives on spins and needles.

the Leaning Tower of Pisa ビサの斜塔

(1) What's 50 metres and made of dough?

The Leaning Tower of Pizza.

plastic surgery 形成外科

(1) When the veteran movie star got her face lifted, it was a job of drastic surgery.

the prime of life 全盛期; 働き盛り

(1) An old maid: a woman in prim of life.

cf. prim (特に女性が) 取り澄ました

the (world's) oldest profession 世界最古の職業 ((売春のこと))

(1) Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I have come to realize that it bears a very close resemblance to the first. (Ronald Reagan)

pull oneself together 元気[落ち着き]を取り戻す

(1) "Doctor, doctor, I keep thinking I'm a pair of curtains."

"For heaven's sake, woman, pull yourself together."

cf. for heaven's sake お願いですから

Q

the Queen's English (女王の治下で用いる) 純正[標準] 英語

(1) "Don't you know the Queen's English?"

"Of course I do. And so's the King."

cf. Queen's English Queen is English
王の治下では the King's English という。

R

the three R's 読み、書き、計算 ((reading, writing, arithmetic のこと))

(1) It has been said that we have not had the three *r's* in America, we had the six *r's*: remedial readin', remedial 'ritin', and remedial 'rithmetic. (Robert M. Hutchins)

(2) The three R's in the school of experience: at twenty it's romance; at thirty it's rent; and at sixty it's rheumatism.

a rabbit' foot ウサギの後ろ足 ((幸運のまじないとして持ち歩く))

(1) A rabbit's foot may be lucky—but not for the original owner.

pull a rabbit out of the hat うまくごまかして切り抜ける; 思いがけない行動をする

(1) Experimental psychologist: a scientist who pulls habits out of rats. (L.L. Levinson)

from rags to riches 無一文から大金持ちへ

(1) Did you hear about the television comedian who went from rags to riches?

for a rainy day まさかの時の用意に

(1) A man wanted something for a rainy day, so a friend gave him a rubber check!

(2) "Have you got anything put away for a rainy day?"

"Yeah—an umbrella."

(3) What a mother should save for a rainy day is patience.

see red かつとなる、かんかんに怒る

(1) When you see red, start living within your income.

round robin 総当り戦

(1) Round robin: a chubby bird.

raise the roof (屋根を吹き飛ばすほどに) 大騒ぎをする

(1) Poise is the art of raising the eyebrows instead of the roof.

give ... enough rope (自滅を期待して)...

にしたい放題させる

(1) Give a man enough rope and the Christmas package will come apart in the mail.

cf. Give a fool enough rope to [and he will] hang himself. ((ことわざ))(愚か者を気ままにさせておけばきつと身を滅ぼす)

a bed of roses 安楽な生活[身分](「バラを敷き詰めたベッド」の意から))

(1) An unhappy person is someone whose life is just one big bed of neurosis.

cf. neurosis new roses のしゃれ

R.S.V.P. 折り返しお返事ください((フランス語 *Répondez s'il vous plaît* (=Please reply) から))

(1) R.S.V.P.: Short for: Rush in, Shake hands, Vanish Promptly.

the golden rule 黄金律((キリストの山上の垂訓中の Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. (自分が人にしてもらいたいと思うように人にしてあげなさい)を指す))

(1) The golden rule is that there is no golden rule. (G.B. Shaw)

(2) The Golden Rule: Whoever has the gold makes rules.

rush hour ラッシュアワー

(1) Why is the time of the day with the slowest traffic called rush hour?

S

scissors and paste のりとはさみの仕事((他人の著書・論文などから安易に切り取って編集すること))

(1) Anthologist: a person who uses scissors and taste. (Philip Van Doren Stern)

three score (years) and ten 70(年)((聖書に Human life is but three score (years) and ten. (人生はわずか70年である)とあることから「人間の寿命」の意))

(1) Three score years and ten is enough; if a man can't suffer all the misery he wants in that time, he must be numb. (Josh Billings)

Scotland Yard ロンドン警視庁

(1) Scotland Yard: Two feet eleven inches.

cf. one yard= three feet スコットランド人はけちということになっている

a second opinion 別の医者[専門家]の意見

(1) "Doctor, can I have a second opinion?"

"Of course, come back tomorrow."

(2) A pessimist is a man who gets a clean bill of health from the doctor, then demands a second opinion.

screen test スクリーンテスト((映画俳優志望者への映画撮影による審査))

(1) Screen test: something that insects are always trying to pass.

second sight 千里眼、予知能力

(1) The only true love is love at first sight; second sight dispels it. (Israel Zangwill)

"Oh, say, can you see?"

(1) "Oh, say, can you see?": the eye doctor's theme song.

cf. アメリカ合衆国の国歌 "Star-Spangled Banner" の冒頭部分

short cut 近道

(1) Short cut: a small wound.

step into ...'s shoes ...の後釜に座る

(1) The young man who's looking forward to stepping into his father's shoes ought to be reminded that Dad doesn't wear loafers.

cf. loafer のらくら者; loafers かかとの低いひもなしのカジュアルシューズ

a skeleton in the closet 他人に知られたくない家庭の醜い秘密[事情]

(1) There's something about a closet that makes a skeleton terribly restless. (John

Barrymore)

(2) Not only is there a skeleton in every closet, but there is a screw loose in every skeleton. (S. Butler)

cf. have a screw loose ((俗)) 頭が少し弱い

spelling bee つづり字コンテスト

(1) Spelling bee: an insect that gets high grades in English.

(2) “What is more amazing than a talking dog?”

“A spelling bee.”

talk in one's sleep 寝言を言う

(1) A professor is one who talks in someone else's sleep. (W. H. Auden)

(2) An after-dinner speaker is one who talks in other people's sleep.

a snake in the grass 目に見えない敵 [危険] 偽りの友

(1) Hula dancing is a snake in the grass.

a soap opera ソープオペラ ((テレビの連続メロドラマ))

(1) Soap opera: singing while taking a bath.

soul music ソウルミュージック ((ゴスペルとブルースから生まれた黒人音楽))

(1) The sound made by squeaky shoes.

cf. sole soul のしゃれ

sour grapes 負け惜しみ ((イソップの「すっぱいぶどう」の話から))

(1) Rumor: what is heard over the sour grapevine.

call spade a spade (相手の嫌がることを) ありのまま言う ((「鋤(すき)を鋤と呼ぶ」の意から))

(1) lisp: When you call a spade a thpade.

cf. lisp 舌もつれの発音 (([s]を[]のように発音するなど))

(2) “I believe in calling a spade a spade,” said the emphatic man.

“That's right, friend,” replied Bronco

Bob. “There was a man who nearly lost his life here by getting into a game and ‘trying’ to call a spade a club.”

be born with a silver spoon in one's mouth 金持ちの家に生まれる ((「銀製のスプーンを口にくわえて生まれる」の意から))

(1) He was born with a silver spoon in his mouth—and he hasn't stirred since.

(2) “Bragson claims to have been born with a gold spoon in his mouth.”

“If he was, I'll bet it had somebody else's initials on it.”

(3) My brother-in-law is a big eater. Some people are born with a silver spoon in his mouth. He was born with a shovel in his hand.

a square meal 十分な食事

(1) Square meal: a box lunch.

a standing ovation (観客の) 総立ちの拍手喝采

(1) We've got the most incredibly inspiring preacher. After every sermon, the congregation give him a kneeling ovation!

the Lone Star State 一つ星州 ((テキサス州の愛称 (州旗が星が1つであることから))

(1) Lone Star State: a country with only one actor in it.

a shooting star 流星

(1) Shooting star: a famous actor who uses his gun too often.

watch one's step 足元に気をつける; 用心して行動する

(1) *Sign on steps of courthouse*: “This way for marriage licenses—Watch your step.”

(2) By the time a man gets old enough to watch his step, he isn't going anywhere.

the stock exchange 証券取引所

(1) Stock exchange: a place where you trade in your old cattle.

a stone's throw 近距離 ((「石を投げて届くほどの距離」の意から))

(1) The house we stayed in on holiday last year was only a stone's throw from the beach and very easy to find. All the windows were broken.

leave no stone unturned あらゆる手段を尽くす ((「裏返さない石を一つも残さない」の意から))

(1) It's rough traveling behind someone who never leaves a stone unturned.

(2) Detour: A road where no turn is left unstoned.

(3) A drama critic is a man who leaves no turn unstoned. (G. B. Shaw)

to make a long story short 簡単に[手短かに]言えば

(1) To make a long story short, there's nothing like having the boss walk in.

(Doris Lilly)

(2) To make a long story short, don't tell it.

(3) *Husband interrupting wife talking to guests*: "To make a long story short, dear, let me tell it."

the survival of the fittest 適者生存

(1) Capitalism—the survival of the fattest.

(2) Modern journalism justified its own existence by the great Darwinian principle of the survival of the vulgarest.

(Oscar Wilde)

by the sweat of one's brow 額に汗して、つらい肉体労働をして

(1) A lazy German lives by the sweat of his frau.

cf. frau ((ドイツ語)) 妻

T

a table of contents 目次；目録

(1) Book jacket: a fable of contents

the theory of relativity 相対性理論

(1) When a man sits with a pretty girl for an hour, it seems like a minute. But let him sit on a hot stove for a minute—and it's longer than any hour. That's a relativity. (Albert Einstein)

(2) I have a theory of relatives, too. Don't hire 'em.

(3) the Theory of Relativity: a theory about aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters, etc.

think twice もう一度よく考える

(1) Politician: a person who thinks twice before saying nothing.

throw in the towel (ボクシングで) タオルを投げ入れる；負けを認める

(1) Any bachelor can dry his girl's tears by throwing the towel.

under ...'s thumb ...の言いなりになって

(1) Sizes are often deceiving. Sometimes a woman's thumb has a man under it.

kill time 時間つぶしをする

(1) Does killing time damage eternity?

(2) Lots of people spend time making money and then spend money killing time.

lose no time in doing 時を置かず[すぐさま]...する

(1) Many thanks for your book—I shall lose no time in reading it. (Benjamin Disraeli)

with tongue in cheek 冗談に、皮肉に ((「舌で押して頬をふくらませて」から))

(1) A queer Arab is one who speaks with tongue in sheik.

cf. sheik (アラブの) 家長、族長

the naked truth ありのままの真実

(1) There are those who so dislike the nude that they find something indecent in the naked truth. (F. H. Bradley)

the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth 真実、真実の一切、そして

真実のみ ((法廷での宣誓中の決まり文句))

(1) I said to my dentist, 'Do you pull the tooth, the whole tooth and nothing but the tooth?'

(2) A court official, swearing in a woman witness, asked, "Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and stop there?"

U

up and down 上がったたり下がったり ; (健康・気分などが) 良かったり悪かったり

(1) *Mary*: Jack, I'm glad to hear that you've just joined a big elevator company. How's business?

Jack: Oh, up and down.

ups and downs (道などの) 上り下り ; (人生の) 浮き沈み

(1) Nobody has more ups and downs than the person in the end seat at the theatre.

V

vice versa (and の後に置いて) その逆も同様 ; 逆に

(1) He thought vice versa was a rude poem.

cf. versa verse のしやれ

vicious circle 悪循環

(1) Vicious circle: a round geometric figure with a nasty temper

(2) A group of women searching for a name for their new club decided on "The Vicious Circle."

W

Well done! よくやった、上出来だ ((賞賛の言葉))

(1) *Diner*: Waiter, didn't you hear me say 'Well done'?

Waiter: Yes, sir; thank you very much, sir. It's seldom we get any thanks, sir."

wet blanket その場の楽しい雰囲気をこわす人 [物]

(1) *Young father, discussing baby*, "We just can't go anywhere—he is such a wet blanket."

a big wheel (会社の) 経営者 ; 大物

(1) Spokesman: a person who talks like a big wheel.

To whom it may concern 関係者各位 ((相手の宛名が不明瞭なとき証明書・紹介状などの冒頭に Dear Sir などの代わりに用いる))

(1) My marriage licence reads, 'To Whom It May Concern'.

second wind (激しい運動中の) 息つき、呼吸の調整 ; (小休止の後の) 元気の回復

(1) The man who divorces a talkative wife and remarries may just be getting his second wind.

wishful thinking 希望的観測、自分に都合のいい判断

(1) People who say they are going on a diet are just wishful shrinkers.

(2) Flirting: wishful winking.

at one's wit's end 途方にくれて

(1) The king fell madly in love with the court jester and from then on was always at his wit's end.

cf. wit 機知 [ウイット] に富む人

a wolf in sheep's clothing 羊の皮をかぶったオオカミ

(1) He is a sheep in sheep's clothing. (Winston Churchill (of Clement Atlee or Stafford Cripps))

(2) buffoon: A sheep in clown's clothing.

knock on wood 木をたたく、木製品に触る ((自慢した後などにその幸運が逃げないようにするしぐさ))

(1) Xylophonists must be superstitious—they go round knocking on wood.

参考文献（主要なもののみ掲げる）

- Berle, Milton (1989), *Milton Berle's Private Joke File* (Crown)
- Kirkpatrick, Betty (1996), *Dictionary of Clichés* (柴田元幸監訳『英語クリーシェ辞典 もんきりがた表現集』(研究社))
- Metcalf, Fred (1993), *The Penguin Dictionary of Jokes* (Penguin)
- MacHale, Des (1996), *"Wit"* (Prion)
- (1997), *More "Wit"* (Prion)
- (1998), *Yet More "Wit"* (Prion)
- Rosten, Leo (1996), *Leo Rosten's Carnival of Wit* (Plume)
- Tibballs, Geoff (2000), *The Mammoth Book of Jokes* (Robinson)
- 郡司利男 (1966) 『英語熟語笑辞典』(英友社)
- 丸山孝男 (2002) 『ジョークの教科書』(大修館)
- 豊田一男 (2003) 『英語しゃれ辞典 Punctionary』(研究社)