

## 语言中的不同形象表达

汉语的形象表达与其他语言的形象表达在很多方面是不同的。有些表达比较接近，但为数不很多；有些表达是不同的，为数较多；还有些表达是汉语中常使用形象性表达而其他语言中不使用，或者其他语言比如英语中常使用的形象性表达而汉语却没有。

以汉语和英语的形象表达为例。

### 1) 常用汉英相似的形象表达

hot key 热键

old hand 老手

hold water 滴水不漏

sour grapes 酸葡萄

show one's cards 摊牌

an olive branch 橄榄枝

plain sailing 一帆风顺

breathe one's last 断气

ostrich policy 鸵鸟政策

chain reaction 连锁反应

son of a bitch 狗娘养的

fold one's hand 袖手旁观

computer virus 计算机病毒

green revolution 绿色革命

this dirty dog 这个狗东西

rack one's brains 绞尽脑汁

drop in the ocean 沧海一粟

crocodile tears 鳄鱼的眼泪

shuttle diplomacy 穿梭外交

castles in the air 空中楼阁

a two-edged weapon 双刃武器

perish the thought 死了心吧

go with the stream 随波逐流

open-door policy 门户开放政策

armed to the teeth 武装到牙齿

a straw to clutch at 救命稻草

pour oil on the flames 火上浇油

open one's mouth wide 狮子大开口

a gentleman's agreement 君子协定

throw cold water on 对.....泼冷水

Blood is thicker than water. 血浓于水

bring the water to sb's mouth 使人垂涎

draw water with a sieve 竹篮打水一场空

like a fish out of water 如鱼离水，不适应

an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth 以牙还牙，以眼还眼

A blind cat caught a dead mouse in a dark room. 瞎猫碰上个死耗子。

### 2) 常用汉英不同的形象表达

a yes man 应声虫

dominoes 多米诺骨牌  
black sheep 害群之马  
silken tongue 巧舌如簧  
gild the lily 画蛇添足  
Waterloo 滑铁卢 (惨败)  
gild the lily 画蛇添足  
dark horse 冷门 (黑马)  
save one's breath 沉默  
serve the time 随波逐流  
it is Greek to 一窍不通  
wallow in money 腰缠万贯  
in the doghouse 名声扫地  
keep good hours 早睡早起  
hang by a thread 千钧一发  
break a deadlock 打破僵局  
wind in the head 自命不凡  
hang by a thread 一发千钧  
run mountains high 汹涌澎湃  
lie down on the job 磨洋工  
law of the jungle 弱肉强食  
be a bit of a dog 花天酒地  
siren 塞壬 (迷人的恶毒女人)  
birds of a feather 一丘之貉  
written in water 昙花一现的  
waste one's breath 白费口舌  
lose one's breath 喘不过气来  
burn the midnight oil 开夜车  
write like an angel 下笔成章  
diamond cut diamond 棋逢对手  
Tom, Dick and Harry 张三李四  
at sixes and sevens 乱七八糟  
have an axe to grind 别有用心  
look the other way 翻脸不认人  
be green with envy 眼红得要命  
boys in the backroom 智囊人物  
Love me, love my dog 爱屋及乌  
like a rat in a hole 瓮中之鳖  
pennies from heaven 天上掉馅饼  
all things to all men 八面玲珑  
smite with the tongue 血口喷人  
Neither fish nor fowl. 非驴非马。  
gilded youth 千金之子 (纨绔子弟)  
through thick and thin 同甘共苦  
spend money like water 挥金如土

oil one's tongue 说奉承话, 谄媚  
square the circle 做办不到的事情  
enough to wake the dead 震耳欲聋  
A cat has nine lives. 狗有九条命  
hit the nail on the head 一针见血  
eat the bread of idleness 游手好闲  
be afraid of one's shadow 疑神疑鬼  
water and vinegar 水火不相容的东西  
after a storm comes a calm 雨过天晴  
bury one's head in the sand 掩耳盗铃  
New brooms sweep clean 新官上任三把火  
throw straws against the wind 螳臂当车  
find an elephant in the moon 水中捞月  
big fish in a little pond 羊群中的骆驼  
look one way and row another 声东击西  
be put down in black and white 白纸黑字  
follow in somebody's footsteps 步人后尘  
mount the high horse 趾高气昂, 耀武扬威  
pour oil on the troubled waters 平息争端  
look for a needle in a haystack 大海捞针  
make a mountain out of a molehill 小题大作  
bread-and-butter period of life 豆蔻年华  
More is meant than meets the ear. 意在言外  
break the butterfly on the wheel 杀鸡用宰牛刀  
lock the door after the horse is stolen 亡羊补牢  
every dog has its day 风水轮流转 (人都有得意的时候)  
cannot see beyond the length of one's nose 鼠目寸光  
The pot calls the kettle black 五十步笑百步 (锅嫌罐黑)。  
a light purse is a heavy curse 有钱走遍天下, 无钱寸步难行  
Make him drink. 牵马河边强令喝水 (老牛不喝水, 不能强按头)  
Two heads are better than one. 三个臭皮匠, 赛过一个诸葛亮。  
the sword of Damocles 千钧一发 (悬挂在达摩克里斯头顶上的剑)  
kill two birds with one stone (one stone, two bird) 一箭双雕  
A burnt child dreads the fire. (或 Once bitten, twice shy.) 一朝遭蛇咬, 十年怕井绳。

3) 常用汉语没有使用而英语却可能使用的形象表达

feel blue 发愁  
lily white 纯洁  
red face 难为情  
lucky dog 幸运儿  
bag job 秘密勾当  
lose weight 减肥  
daily bread 生计  
out of bread 失业

see red (发)火  
in low water 拮据  
eat dirt 忍辱负重  
dog tired 非常疲劳  
kill time 消磨时间  
have cold feet 胆怯  
white elephant 累赘  
rock the boat 捣乱  
know the ropes 懂行  
all at sea 毫无主意  
a safe hand 可靠的人  
too far north 精明的  
sink a feud 言归于好  
from A to Z 从头至尾  
be yellow 真是胆小鬼  
go into the red 亏空  
black looks 愁眉苦脸  
brain drain 人才外流  
think aloud 自言自语  
have a ball 玩得开心  
in hot water 陷于困境  
in rough water 很困难  
on the ropes 摇摇欲坠  
golden hours 幸福时刻  
on the ropes 摇摇欲坠  
boil the pot 敷衍塞责  
put up the sword 讲和  
put to the sword 屠杀  
sink or swim 不论成败  
a windbag 满嘴空话的人  
a yes-man 唯唯诺诺的人  
pinch pennies 精打细算  
into thin air 无影无踪  
see the lions 游览名胜  
make the air blue 诅咒  
lilies and roses 美貌  
bark at the moon 徒劳  
too far north 过于狡猾  
burn daylight 白费时间  
hold one's tongue 缄默  
on easy street 生活优裕  
wheel and deal 一意孤行  
fifth column 隐藏的敌人  
donkey's years 很久很久

a big mouth 信口开河的人  
run the streets 流落街头  
a stone's throw 投石之遥  
be in a brown study 沉思  
break sb's heart 使人伤心  
bread-winner 养家糊口的人  
break bread with 受到款待  
an Arcadian youth 乡下佬  
bread and water 粗茶淡饭  
be a green horn 是个新手  
bite the tongue 保持缄默  
rise to the fly 上了圈套  
go with the times 随大流  
not care a straw 毫不在乎  
call white black 混淆黑白  
There is no down. 平安无事。  
a nose of wax 没有主见的人  
take French leave 不辞而别  
in smooth water 处于困境中  
buy a white horse 浪费钱财  
a die-hard 死硬派(顽固派)  
be worth one's salt 有能力  
Might is right. 强权即公理。  
balance of powers 三权鼎立  
pass into silence 已被忘却  
not worth a straw 毫无价值  
back to the wall 落入圈套  
have a green thumb 没有经验  
have two left feet 极其笨拙  
in deep water(s) 陷入困境的  
paint the town red 寻欢作乐  
wag one's tongue 不停地唠叨  
turn a deaf ear to 充耳不闻  
turn a blind eye to 视而不见  
with a wet finger 毫不费力地  
hunt the wrong hare 错怪某人  
live at a high rate 生活豪华  
once in a blue moon 千载难逢  
the gift of tongues 外语才能  
have time to burn 有的是时间  
a stuffed shirt 爱摆架子的人  
dead hours 半夜三更(夜深人静)  
lock, stock and barrel 一古脑  
face the music 勇敢地面对困境

It's a piece of cake. 这很容易。  
blue-collar worker 体力劳动者  
beggar-my-neighbor 损人利己的  
back the wrong horse 估计错误  
beautiful people (or BP) 名流  
The penny dropped. 目的已达到  
have a royal time 过得愉快极了  
give a dog a bad name 人言可畏  
white-collar worker 脑力劳动者  
once in a blue moon 偶然的机  
Achilles' heel 唯一的致命弱点  
flog a willing horse 旧事重提  
have a nimble tongue 能说会道  
button up one's mouth 保持缄默  
the salt of the earth 社会中坚  
a fly in the ointment 美中不足  
a fly on the wheel 自高自大的人  
不可为之而为之  
cat and dog life (夫妻) 不和睦  
show the white feather 表现胆怯  
in one's true colors 看清真面目。  
Quaker-oats look 故作严肃的表情  
black sheep of the family 败家子  
be purple with rage 气得脸色铁青  
let sleeping dogs lie 别惹麻烦了。  
roll out the red carpet 隆重欢迎  
Now or never. 机不可失, 时不再来  
the turn of the wheel 命运的转折  
on everyone's tongue 被众人所谈论  
from China to Peru 遍天下(到处)  
draw water to one's mill 有利皆图  
the Trojan horse 木马计(内部颠覆)  
Big Science 投入大量资金的科学研究  
a nine days' wonder 轰动一时的事物