

not give a fig

Einstein did not give a fig for authority. 爱因斯坦对权威毫不在乎。

not give a fig (for sb./sth.): 对...毫不在乎

为什么？让我们来做一番理据探究。

首先，英语中表示“毫不在乎”(not care at all) 的短语有很多很多，主要分两种情况：

not care (a) + 名词 + (**about/for** sb/sth)

not give (a) + 名词 + (**about/for** sb/sth)

上面句子也可以写成：

Einstein did not **care** a fig for authority. 爱因斯坦对权威毫不在乎。

加在not care (a) / not give (a) 后面的这个名词有很多，如：

not care + a +名词

not care a **bean**

not care a **cent**

not care a **dime**

not care a **pin**

not care a scrap

not care a straw

not care a rap

not care a cuss

not care a damn

not care a fig

...

not give + (a) +名词

not give tuppence

not give a continental

not give a damn

not give a fig

not give a monkey's

not give a rap

not give a rat's ass

not give a shit

not give a shite

not give a tinker's curse

...

通过分析，这些名词可以分为如下三类，并各具特征：

1. 表示钱，很少的钱，没有价值的钱。如：

bean: 豆子； = penny（一便士） I do not have a bean. 我不名一文。（没钱！）

cent: 一美分

dime: 十美分的硬币

farthing: 英国旧时面值为四分之一便士的硬币

doit:（古）苏格兰硬币，为 $\frac{1}{3}$ farthing, 指（古）很小的金额

groat:（史）格罗特（欧洲中世纪的硬币，尤指1351—1662年间英国发行的四便士银币）

tuppence: two pence 两便士

pin: pin money（古代男人给妻子买衣服等用的）私房钱（pin-up beauty 海报美女）

continental: 美国独立战争期间发行的货币，欧陆货币，贬值后一文不值。

2. 表示极少的量或没有价值，没有重要性的东西。

a hill of beans: (北美，非正式)一文不值；毫无价值之物

jot: very small amount 极少量

scrap: 碎片，小块；少量

straw 麦草，微不足道的事物或数量

3. 表示诅咒，骂人的脏话（詈言【li yan】）

curse, cuss 诅咒

damn [TMD]

sh*t; shite

f*ck

rap → fart 体内气体的排除（现在的说唱，B-box）

a rat's ass [ass: 动物排大便的地方]

a tinker's damn/curse ... [tinker: 流浪者]

a monkey's (后面的脏字省略)

not give/care + a 表示强调

我不在乎。

我真的不在乎。

我一毛钱都不在乎。

我一点都不在乎

我TMD不在乎！

那么, fig到底什么意思呢?

do not care a fig; do not give a fig怎么解释?

fig 1. figure 图, 插图 常缩写为fig., 例: fig. 1-5 插图1-5

短语in full fig 表示盛装 (来源于书本插图中服装很漂亮)

也可作为figurative (比喻, 引申) 的缩写 (不在讨论之列)

2. 无花果, fig leaf 无花果树叶→ 遮羞布

(Adam and Eve的故事)

On the sixth day of the creation, God made Adam out of dust from the ground(clay) in his own image, and blew the breath of life into Adam's nostril. Adam became a living being. God found Adam so unhappy and lonely that he took a rib from Adam and made a woman as his companion, whom he named Eve.

God put Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden and instructed them under a tree: “You may eat freely from every tree of the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge **of good and evil.**” (禁: to give instructions under a tree not to do sth.)

Adam and Eve were **innocent (无邪)** and lived in the Garden of Eden very happily. However, every time Eve came standing under the Tree, she looked at the apples in the tree with her mouth watering (婪: woman standing under the tree). Then came the Serpent who deceived Eve: “If you eat the fruit, you will not die. For God knows that in the day you eat it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Under the temptation of the serpent, Eve took the fruit and ate it. Immediately, she got intelligence and became a real human being, who felt shy because she found herself naked. She took some **fig leaves** to cover the parts of her body (That is why we often have fig leaves in the oil paintings covering some parts of the portrayed woman).

Eve then told Adam to eat the fruit. Adam listened to his wife and ate the apple. When he was trying to swallow the bite, God came and stopped everything. The bite of the apple was stuck in the throat of Adam, which is where the term **Adam's Apple(喉结)** originated.

Adam and Eve disobeyed God's order and committed the **sin**(sin: 原罪). God was angry and drove them out of the Garden of Eden and let them multiply in the world of today.

fig leaf: 用来遮羞的树叶

not care a fig/no give a fig

不愿去遮羞，该咋地咋地，不在乎

还有一个解释来自于the fig sign:

putting the thumb between the first two fingers

-- 成熟无花果裂开时的样子

→ 非常侮辱人的手势，类似于give the finger这个手势

竖中指， 骂人手势

竖中指手势的来源：它本身其实非常干净，并不是有些同学想象的那样。

“竖中指”手势：最早出现在英法战争期间。英国有一种长弓yew (用杉木yew做成)。因射程很远，让法军损失惨重。这种长弓必须用中指才能拉开（pluck the yew），所以每次法国抓住英国弓箭手，便会剁掉其中指，使其失去战斗力。但是还是有许多英国长弓手逃脱了法军的摧残。他们再次在战场与法军见面时，便会亮出中指，大叫“Pluck Yew!（我还能拉弓！）”，以挑衅并侮辱法军。这一侮辱性的手势迅速在西方国家蔓延开来。后来yew 演绎成you，而PL变成F。

回到not give a fig **fig: 骂人的手势**

总结：

1. 从give sb. a fig 出发，分析了表示“毫不在乎”的各种表达法
2. 解释了fig 一词的意义及意义来源，即亚当与夏娃的故事
3. 分析了 fig 手势以及竖中指手势的来源与意义