

地道口语随心说丛书

Speak English as You Wish

英语应该这样说

情景口语话题荟萃

[美]白若德 (Barrutia, D. A.) 著

Say It So

Practice does not make perfect.
Only perfect practice makes perfect.



首都师范大学出版社

CAPITAL NORMAL UNIVERSITY PRESS

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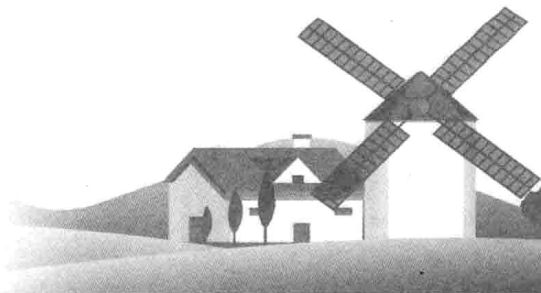
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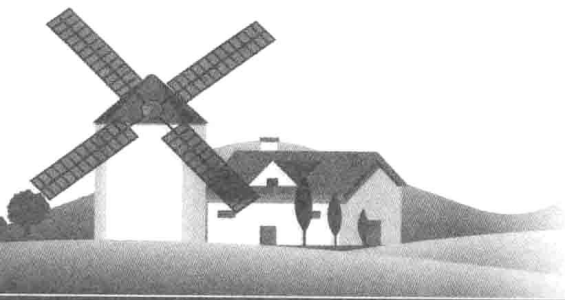
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Preface

The opportunity to speak is the biggest deterrent to the progress of Chinese students' oral English. While the best method is to travel abroad to an English-speaking country and be immersed in the language and culture, many students do not have the means and ability to do so. And yet, many oral-English books available for students only prepare them for speaking situations abroad. In fact, the best opportunity for students to practice their oral skills is speaking with foreigners in China. The increasing number of foreigners in China offers students more opportunities to speak English and learn about foreign culture. Indeed, even though some foreigners may not be native English speakers themselves, English is most commonly used to speak since it is the international language in business practice. Many Chinese students are no doubt aware of this priceless opportunity, as evidenced by the need for language exchange partners. Yet, many of them do not successfully find such a suitable foreign partner or friend. This may seem somewhat puzzling since many foreigners, themselves, would like to meet Chinese friends and learn from them about Chinese language and culture. The foreigners in China have immediate needs themselves, in terms of adapting to the environment and learning local customs, all of which could be easily remedied with the help of a Chinese friend.

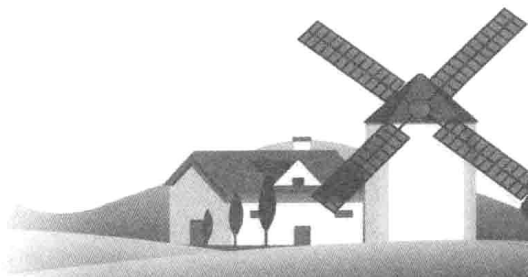


The roadblock to creating such mutually beneficial exchanges has to do with differences, not simply with language and culture, but more particularly with interpersonal communication styles and cultural empathy. For example, while foreigners are considered more direct in terms of communication style, this is not always true. Foreigners find it uncomfortably direct when Chinese students tell them straightforwardly that they want to become friends with them. "I want to make friends with you" is a common phrase foreigners hear, and even though they may want to make friends, this sounds too direct and foreigners usually distance themselves from such people. A friendship, in a foreigner's mind, must not be so aggressively sought after, especially among strangers. Instead, it must come naturally as a result of "good chemistry" between two people. Furthermore, such a direct request sounds one-sided. There must be a sense of mutual respect and interest in order for a true friendship to blossom. Lastly, an understanding or an appreciation to understand foreign cultures is necessary to create a warm and friendly atmosphere.

With these real-life conditions in mind, this book has been designed to prepare students to speak with foreigners in China.

Practical Conversations

Based on an investigative survey on the most common conversation topics between foreigners and Chinese in China, this book outlines by chapters all the various practical situations that a student may come across. Within each chapter, an example conversation is given, based on a true conversation between the



author (D) and a real student in Beijing (C). In the conversation, both the incorrect speech of the student and the corrected speech, as it would be said in native English, are provided as a comparison. The reader can thus see both common oral English mistakes, as he or she might have made, and the corrected version as would have been said by a native speaker. And these conversations have been translated into Chinese, in order for the reader to grasp the complete meaning.

Learning from Mistakes

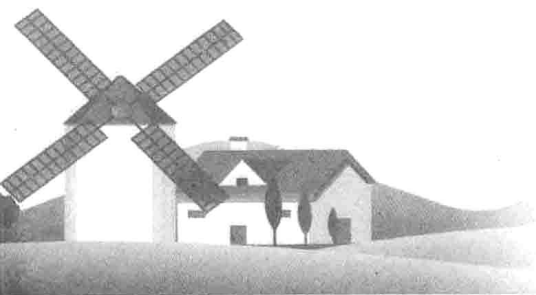
Immediately after the conversation, there are a few teacher comments on selected mistakes, as footnoted within the conversation. These comments highlight some common errors that had been made in the conversation and that could be made in other scenarios.

Introduction of Idiomatic Expressions

After the teacher comments, the reader are introduced to a couple idiomatic expressions that can be incorporated in similar situations. These popular and native expressions are explained and their use is further illustrated through mini dialogues.

Reinforcement Through Exercises

Finally, at the end of each chapter, there are two types of exercises that help reinforce the reader's learning. One set of questions is based on listening comprehension of the conversation, in which readers are prompted to speak out their response. In addition, there are guided free talks in which the reader along with a classmate can elaborate on the conversation topic or related topics,



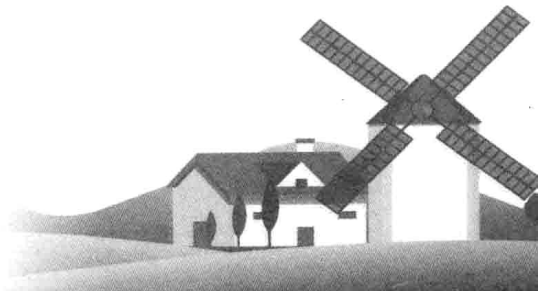
based on given scenarios and prepared vocabulary that gives students ideas of what to say.

In all, the book offers students a complete immersion into the practice of speaking English with foreigners in China. A thorough study of the book will enable students with the skills and confidence that are necessary to confront the most practical situations when dealing with foreigners. Through this comprehensive method, students may feel rest assured that they have done their best in their preparation to capitalize on any opportunity to speak English in China, thereby improving their oral English while building lasting friendships.

The quote "Practice does not make perfect. Only perfect practice makes perfect." comes from the great American football coach Vince Lombardi, who was legendary for his coaching success and motivational philosophy. It captures the attitude you need to achieve your success. Your success is in your hands.

Good luck!

David A. Barrutia



前言

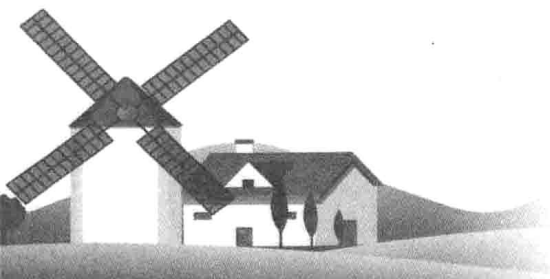
缺乏开口说英语的机会是中国学生英语口语学习之路上的最大障碍。尽管置身于英语国家并融入它们的语言与文化之中是学习口语的最佳方式,但多数学生难以拥有这种机会,也没有能力去获得。而且,市面上很多口语书也只教他们在国外的某些场景中应该如何说。实际上,学生们练习口语的最佳机会是和在中国的老外交流。在中国的外国人数量的增加为中国学生开口练英语和学习外国文化提供了更多的机会。即使一些外国人的母语并非英语,但作为商业活动中的国际通用语言,英语也是他们说得最多的语言。显然许多中国学生已经意识到这个宝贵的机会,他们急于寻找自己的语言交流伙伴。但是,很多人并未顺利地找到这样一个合适的外国伙伴或朋友。这多少有点儿令人费解了,因为很多外国人自己也想结识中国朋友,借以学习中文和中国文化,而且他们也迫切需要适应环境并了解当地风俗,这一切都可在一个中国朋友的帮助下轻松解决。

这种互惠交流路障的产生不只是简简单单的语言和文化的差异,而且更多的是人际交往方式和文化同感的差异。例如,尽管外国人被认为在交流方式上直率坦诚,然而也并非总是如此。当中国学生直截了当地告诉外国人想跟他们成为朋友时,外国人会觉得不自在。“我想跟你交个朋友”是外国人最经常听到的话语,就算他们想交朋友,但这听起来也太过直接,他们常常会跟这样的人保持距离。在老外心目中,友谊不应如此强硬追逐,特别是陌生人之间。相反,友谊应该是两人之间良好“化学反应”的结果。此外,这样直接的要求让人感觉是单方面的,而真正的友谊需要相互尊重和兴趣的浇灌。最后要铭记的一点是,只有了解外国文化或欣赏外国文化才能创造一个热情友好的氛围。

基于现实生活中的这些情况,本书旨在培养中国学生与居留中国的外国人交流的能力。

会话实用

对话均选自老外和中国人之间最常见的话题,并且分章概述了各



种学生可能遇到的实际情况。每段对话均为作者和某北京学生之间的真实会话实例(对话中的D指David,C指中国学生)。并且对话提供了中国学生的不正确表达及地道英语表达的对比,这样,读者既可以看到自己在同样语境下有可能犯的口语错误,又可以学到更正后地道的英语说法。所有对话后均附有译文,以方便读者掌握大意。

指点迷津

紧跟对话之后是一些教师针对中国学生表达过程中出现的典型错误的点评,这些点评再次强调那些在会话中以及其他相关场景下容易犯的错误。

经典表达

教师点评之下的“经典表达”版块介绍了一些可以在类似语境下使用的习惯用语,对这些实用地道的表达略作点拨后又通过“迷你对话”进一步阐释其用法。

练习强化

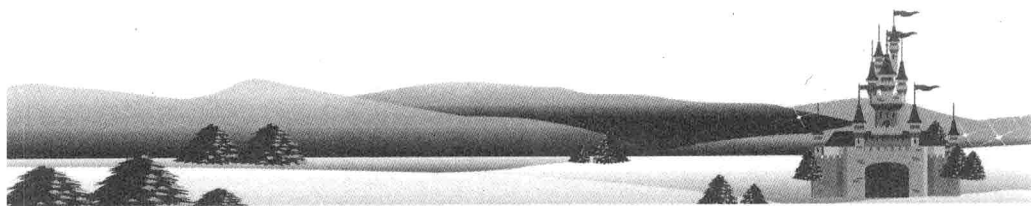
为巩固读者学习成果,在每章结尾都设有两类练习。“趁热打铁”是听完对话录音后的即时问答;“小试牛刀”是本章相关话题的拓展论谈,读者可以基于给出的场景和单词,和同学围绕会话主题或相关主题展开谈话。

总之,本书提供了与外国人用英语交流的各种场景。认真学习本书将会显著提高您的交际技能与信心。通过全方位的练习方式,将会使您在各种英语交流机会中做到最好,并且在提高口语能力的同时建立持久的友谊。

封面上“练习不能创造完美,只有完美的练习才能创造完美”这句名言出自美国著名橄榄球教练文斯·隆巴迪之口,他曾因成功训练一支名不见经传的球队而成为传奇人物,他激发球员潜力的领导哲学也一直为人传诵。这句话点明了获取成功所需具备的态度,您的成功是由您自己来把握的。

愿您好运!

白若德



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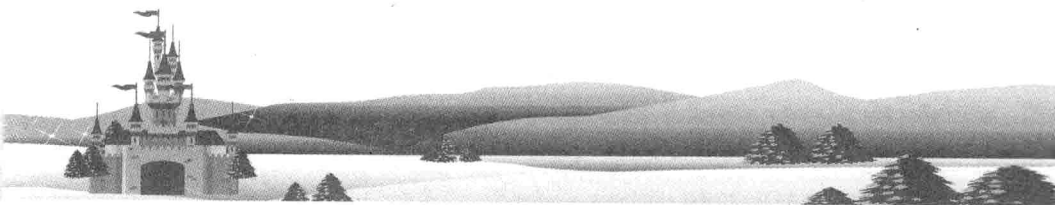
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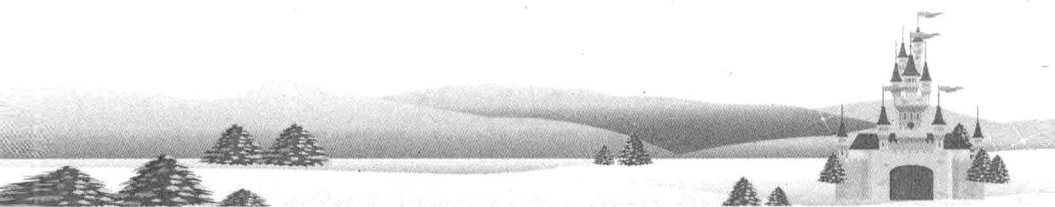
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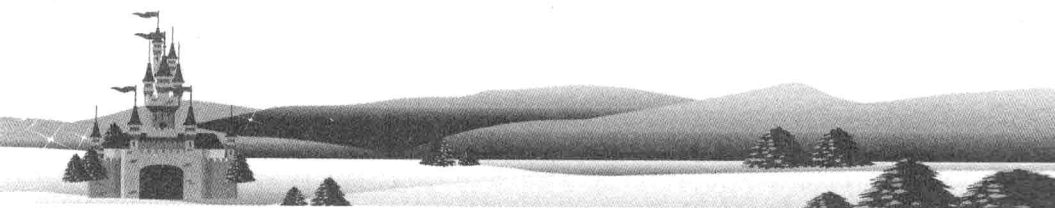
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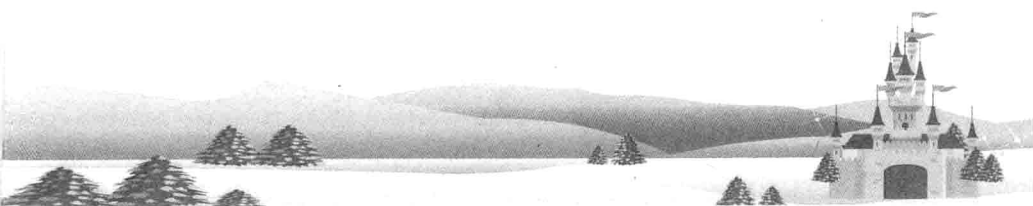
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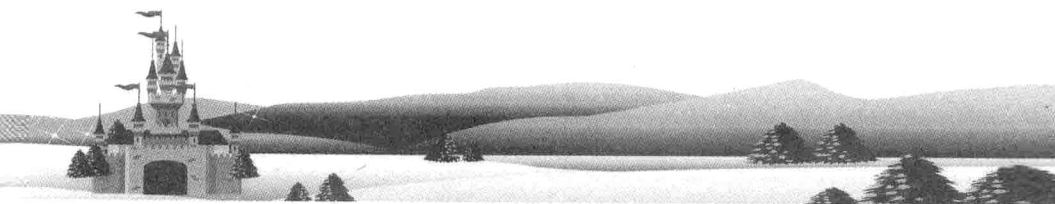
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第一部分

安居篇

APARTMENT HUNTING TALK

Be careful of your thoughts; they may become words at any moment.

—*Iara Gassen*