

A Book for English Students and the English Classroom

It's Time for Real English

英语口语与文化

North America

北美篇

(中) 张民和
(加) Andrew Best 编著
(加) Michael Voth

You'll learn about

- North American Culture and Language through Interesting Readings
- Student Life in North America
- Hundreds of Modern Slang and Idioms Commonly Used in North America



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

A Book for English Students and the English Classroom

It's Time for Real English

英语口语与文化

North America

• 北美篇 •

(中) 张民和
(加) Andrew Best 编著
(加) Michael Voth

You'll learn about

- North American Culture and Language through Interesting Readings
- Student Life in North America
- Hundreds of Modern Slang and Idioms Commonly Used in North America



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

本课程是作者在经过慎重而周密的考虑后,结合目前国内各大院校(包括公办院校和民办院校在内)总体的外语(主要是英语)水平和英语教学的实际情况而决定开设的一门独特且富有生趣的课程。

本书以介绍北美文化为主,选材新颖,内容丰富,体例生动。本书不但是一本形式活泼的教材,更是广大英语学习爱好者在培养英语听说能力、了解北美文化的一本极佳的参考书。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语口语与文化·北美篇/张民和等编著. —北京:机械工业出版社, 2004.8
ISBN 7-111-15103-8

I. 英… II. 张… III. ①英语—口语②英语—文化语言学 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2004) 第 083112 号

机械工业出版社 (北京市百万庄大街 22 号 邮政编码 100037)
责任编辑:余红 版式设计:张世琴 责任印制:李妍
北京机工印刷厂印刷·新华书店北京发行所发行
2004 年 8 月第 1 版·第 1 次印刷
880mm×1230mm A4·15 印张·412 千字
0 001—6 000 册
定价:48.00 元

凡购本书,如有缺页、倒页、脱页,由本社发行部调换
本社购书热线电话 (010) 68993821、88379646
封面无防伪标均为盗版

作者简介

张民和，1962年出生，汉族，陕西省西安市人。西安思源学院外语系主任兼外语教研室主任，学科带头人。

在工作中，他敢于改革和创新，为西安思源学院的外语教学创出了一条卓有成效的新路子。在教学方面，他采取了一系列改革措施，从根本上改变了原先陈旧的教学模式。在提高学生学习质量方面，他极力主张以挖掘学生最大知识潜力为核心进行教学改革。在

2004年5月底由陕西省13个部委局主办的“汉斯杯”陕西省首届大学生才艺大奖赛英文讲演赛及英文辩论赛中，西安思源学院分别获得讲演赛与辩论赛的冠军，并在讲演赛的前15名中有6名来自西安思源学院，辩论赛前四名中，前两名来自西安思源学院。

除编写实用英语教材《英语基础》、《英语口语与文化（北美篇）》（《It's Time for Real English》）外，还编写教材《英语演讲》一书。



中国十大万人著名民办高校

学院简介

西安思源学院



西安思源学院是经陕西省教育厅批准，由百年名校西安交通大学产业出资创建的一所全新的、现代化、规范化、独立设置的全日制民办高等院校。2002年6月，经陕西省政府批准，国家教育部备案，在西安思源学院基础上成立了“西安思源职业学院”，纳入国家统一招生计划。

西安思源学院的前身是西安交通大学机械学院培训中心。中心成立于1994年，是以举办计算机培训和自学考试本、专科班为主的专业培训机构。中心自成立之日起，先后为社会培养了各类人才近百万名，是西安乃至西北地区规模最大、实力最强、质量最高的办学机构。1996年3月28日，江泽民主席在与西安交通大学、上海交通大学、西南交通大学、北方交通大学负责人座谈时指出：“要进一步优化教育结构，调整好学校布局，改革和完善学科与专业设置，加强思想建设和教材建设，提高教育资源的合理配置和利用率，把我国教育水平提高到一个新的高度。”1998年7月，经有关部门批准，西安交大机械学院培训中心走出交大，与西安交通大学产业集团共同出资创建了“西安思源学院”。

外教公寓



群星璀璨，名师荟萃。西安思源学院以其强大的办学背景，率先在全国民办高校中首家建立了“千名教授师资库”。学院拥有一批成就卓著的学科带头人，在近千名的教师队伍中教授、副教授占60%以上，由来自于西安交通大学等著名高校的专家教授组成的思源学院“学术学科建设指导委员会”、“教学指导委员会”、“教学督导委员会”，保证了学院高起点的学科建设和高水准的教学质量，高考成绩连续八次名列全省第一，受到了社会各界的广泛赞誉。

创新教育，引领未来。思源人以创新的精神，创造了中国教育史上的一个奇迹，走进思源就是走在中国民学发展的最前沿。

饮水思源——你明日的成功，

源于今日的选择！



思源湖

Introduction

This book was specifically designed to help Chinese students learn English, to learn about western culture, and more specifically North American culture. Most new English learners have trouble speaking, listening, and being comfortable with western people and their culture. This book can help with these problems by providing interesting stories and articles, mostly of western culture issues. Our idea for this book was to use many different American and Canadian sources and cultural influences for the lessons.

These chapters are geared for both individual learning as well as classroom lesson plans. The questions and activities at the end of each lesson will be useful to promote oral English practice. Within the thirty-one lessons in this book, there are numerous stories, articles, quizzes, facts, and fictions that will interest each student looking for western culture knowledge. These sections contain many modern idioms and slang expressions that are used on an everyday basis. To aid in the comprehension of each story hundreds of pictures are used, as well as a vocabulary section is included on each page. The questions and activities are designed to encourage thinking and speaking.

The authors of this book are a Chinese English teacher Mr. Zhang Min He and two young Canadian men, Michael Voth and Andrew Best. We are all very excited to help the students around the country to learn to speak great English. We hope that this book is of value to anyone interested in learning English and learning information about North American culture.

Finally, we encourage everyone to have fun reading the lessons and practicing their English!

Zhang Min He Andrew Best Michael Voth

Table of Contents

Introduction	
Lesson 1	University Student Life in North America p. 3
Lesson 2	Columbia Space Shuttle Tragedy p. 7
Lesson 3	Picture Perfect p. 9
Lesson 4	New Year's Traditions p. 13
Lesson 5	Shyness p. 17
Lesson 6	Michael Jordan and Emotional Intelligence p. 21
Lesson 7	An Interview with a TV Star p. 27
Lesson 8	Do You Follow Your Head or Your Heart? p. 31
Lesson 9	Advertising p. 35
Lesson 10	Money p. 39
Lesson 11	Get That Job p. 43
Lesson 12	Questions and Answers p. 47
Lesson 13	Intercultural Couples p. 51
Lesson 14	The Legend of St. Patrick and St. Patrick's Day p. 55
Lesson 15	Peer and Cultural Influence p. 59
Lesson 16	Smoking p. 65
Lesson 17	Riddles p. 69
Lesson 18	Health and Fitness p. 73
Lesson 19	Anxiety and Depression p. 77
Lesson 20	The Touching Stories p. 81
Lesson 21	An Interview with NBA Basketball Star Yao Ming p. 99
Lesson 22	World Records p. 107
Lesson 23	The Legend of Count Dracula p. 115
Lesson 24	Introduction of Constellation p. 119
Lesson 25	QUIZ: Animal Instincts p. 127
Lesson 26	Ghost Stories p. 131
Lesson 27	An Interview with Environmental Activist David Suzuki p. 141
Lesson 28	The Life of Martin Luther King Jr. pg. 149
Lesson 29	Murder Mysteries p. 157
Lesson 30	Popular Western Music pg. 171
Lesson 31	Radio Broadcasts pg. 201



LESSON 1

University Student Life in North America (short article)

This is a short article about the life of college and university students in North America. You can find out what students do in their free time, and learn some new idioms and slang expressions that students may use.

University Student Life

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Answer the questions
- Do the activities

What will I learn?

- ◆ What it is like to be a university student in North America
- ◆ New vocabulary and idioms

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

For many Westerners, going to university is a very exciting time in life. Most people choose to go to a university that is away from home. Most students choose to live away from home even if they go to a university that is close to their parents' house. This is usually the first time that young people live away from their parents, and begin their adult lives.

Most parents consider their child *leaving the nest* for university to be a good thing. They believe it gives the student an opportunity to face many new experiences without the help of their parents. Most Westerners have the opinion that a good university education needs a balance of hard studying, doing extra-curricular activities, and doing some fun social things such as going dancing with friends.

Often students find a romantic love. It is common to see two lovers *hand in hand* as they walk down the street. Parents in the West usually do not mind if their child has found a romantic love. Generally, universities also do not mind if students date.

In the first year of university, students usually live in *residence* where they meet people. Most residence rooms are double rooms where two students share one room. Sometimes students can get single rooms if they are lucky. In the later years, it is common for a student to move into a *student house* with some of his or her friends. In these houses, each student has their own bedroom, but usually share a bathroom, kitchen, and living room with other students. It is getting more and more common to have girls and boys living in the same house.

VOCABULARY

leaving the nest - children moving out of their parent's house

hand in hand - two people holding hands

residence - an on-campus dormitory, where students live on campus

student house - a house that is close to the campus but not on the campus, and gets rented out to students for them to live in





In the West, universities have many **extra-curricular** activities that the student can choose from. Students can play many different sports. They can play **pick up**, **intramural**, or **varsity sports**. Sometimes intramural sports are **co-ed**. If sports are **not your thing**, then you can do photography, art, drama, or many other things.

Some students do not like to participate in these extra-curricular activities that are offered by the school. The good news is that there are a variety of other ways to spend your time away from studying. Many students like to do social things such as going to **clubs** to find a romance. Some students just like to go to clubs to drink alcohol and dance. Many boys like to drink beer. Although surprising to many cultures, many Western girls like to drink alcohol as well. Many girls like to drink "**girlie**" drinks. Of course, some boys like to drink "girlie" drinks and some girls like to drink beer. After a hard week at school, the weekend is usually the time that people go to these clubs. To get into a club in Canada you must be at least 19 years old; in the USA you must be at least 21. The reason for this is that these are the **legal drinking ages** in these countries. When you go to a club or try to buy alcohol in the store, a worker will ask you for **ID**. If you do not have an acceptable ID then you must leave. Many students however know how to get a **fake ID**.

In short, students in Western Universities have a lot of fun, freedom, and interesting experiences.

extra-curricular - activities that students can do and that are not part of their academic program.

pick up - playing an unorganized sport with friends. Whoever wants to play can just go and play.

intramural - an organized league of sports where maybe once per week students go and play against other students from the same school for fun

varsity - Each university has one boys team and one girls team. This team competes against other universities.

co-ed - boys and girls together

not your thing - something you do not like to do

clubs - popular places for young people to go dance, drink, and party; dance bars

girlie drinks - alcohol drinks that girls like, for example fruit drinks

legal drinking ages - the age you must be to be sold alcohol by bars, restaurants or stores

ID - identification cards that tell you who this person is. Some common forms of ID are driver's licenses and student cards. **fake ID** - a drivers license that isn't yours but it says you're old enough to drink. You can use an older friend's driver's license or try to make your own! Using a fake ID is illegal but there is no real punishment for it.

Working out is becoming a more and more popular activity. Both boys and girls like to go to the gym to workout. Many Westerners have fun trying to stay healthy and **sculpt their bodies**. Students also like to socialize by going to **pubs** to have some beer, talk with friends, and maybe listen to some **live music**. Some students are content to stay at home and study all of the time. Some do little studying and spend most of their time on the internet or watching TV.

working out - exercising in a gym or workout room

sculpt their bodies - exercise to get a great looking body

live music - when a singer or a group of musicians play in a bar or club



Students love to go to the clubs to dance, drink and party.



Students go out into the streets on their first week of school as freshmen (1st year students). Often, they try to raise money for charity organizations.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think about students dating in university?
2. If you went to a Western university, how do you think you would spend your time?
3. What is your opinion on a legal drinking age?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write a short speech about what you think the advantages and disadvantages are in co-ed student residences.
2. **Debate:** The purpose of going to university is mainly to get a university degree. Things such as dating and drinking are a waste of time and interfere with studying.



LESSON 2

shuttlecode

Columbia Space Shuttle Tragedy (short article)

5/17 This is a short article about the tragic destruction of the famous America space shuttle in 2003, and the lives that were lost.

Columbia Tragedy Article

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Learn some new vocabulary about outer space and astronauts
- Answer the questions

What will I learn?

- ◆ About the Columbia space shuttle
- ◆ New vocabulary

The Columbia Tragedy

tragedy

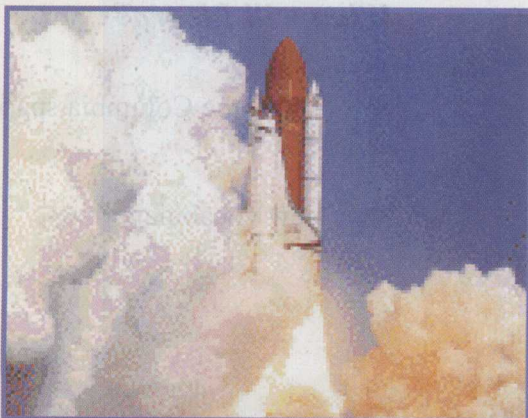
On Saturday February 1, 2003 the *space shuttle* Columbia was *descending* to Earth. It was returning from a 16-day space flight. At 9 a.m., just 16 minutes before landing, something went terribly wrong. The shuttle broke up and all seven *astronauts perished*. The seven *crew members* included two women, one African American and an Israeli.

The Columbia was 39 miles above Texas and was going 12,500 miles per hour. It had just re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. It was gliding into land in Florida. Suddenly there was no *contact* with the shuttle. *NASA* doesn't know what happened. Pieces of the shuttle fell to the ground. *Debris* was found from Dallas to Louisiana.

The Columbia was built in 1981 and cost \$1 billion. It went into space 28 times. NASA has *put all space flights in the future on hold*. This is a national *tragedy* for the U.S.A..

Questions:

1. What happened to the space shuttle?
2. Where did it happen?
3. When did it happen?
4. Who was on the shuttle?
5. When was the Columbia built?
6. Do you think the shuttle program should continue?



VOCABULARY

space (outer space) - above and outside of the planet Earth

shuttle (see the picture below)- the plane or craft that goes into space

descending - coming down; returning from above

astronaut - someone whose job is to study outer space.

perished - died

crew members - people on the space shuttle

re-entered - come back; returned

atmosphere - the sky around the Earth; Earth's air

gliding - flying slowly and smoothly

contact - communication; radio communication between the shuttle and NASA

NASA - North American Space Association

debris - pieces of destroyed material

put all space flights in the future on hold - stopped space flights TEMPORARILY

tragedy - a terrible accident



LESSON 3

Picture Perfect (magazine article)

Picture Perfect is an article from a very popular magazine in the USA. The name of the magazine is "*Seventeen Magazine*". It is a magazine that is read by many young people, especially girls. The magazine is often about teenage romance, and the culture of young people today. Boys also like to read this magazine to see what the girls are interested in. The magazine is available for sale in Canada as well as the USA.

There are many great "idioms" in this article. Use the VOCABULARY section and try to understand the meaning of these modern idioms so that you can use them in your daily speech!

Perfect Boy Quiz

What should I do with this?

- This is a quiz for girls to see what kind of boy they want
- Girls should choose their favorite five qualities about boys from the article
- Boys should choose the five qualities that they think girls want most in a boy
- The boys and girls can share their answers with each other after they have finished

What will I learn?

- ◆ New vocabulary and popular, modern idioms about romance
- ◆ Something about what boys and girls think
- ◆ Something about American magazines for young people



Read the following list, then pick out the TOP 5 QUALITIES (check the boxes!!) you most want in a guy. Then add up the number of boxes you checked in each color to find out just who you are hoping to meet.

☐ **A** He scores the winning goal (or basket) at the big game.

☐ **C** He gets you talking for hours about things you didn't even realize you *felt so strongly* about.

☐ **D** He knows *who's throwing the best parties*.

☒ **B** He notices your favorite coffee, chocolates and flowers, and brings you surprises *on a regular basis*.

☐ **A** You think your mother likes him more than you do.

☒ **D** He is as fun and outgoing when he is *hanging* with your friends as he is with his own friends.

☒ **C** If you are nervous about something - like eating sushi for the first time or going to a new job - he can always give you that *extra push* you need.

☒ **A** He will look great with you when you go out and even better in photos with you.

☐ **B** He remembers all the *sappy lines* from your favorite movie, and whispers them to you.

☒ **C** He takes you places you've never been. The art museum one day and a concert the next day.

☐ **D** Every night out is a lot of fun; he's the kind of guy who changes a boring day into *the time of your life*.

☐ **B** He leaves love notes on your desk for no special reason.

VOCABULARY

felt so strongly - had a serious opinion

who's throwing the best parties - who's having the best parties

on a regular basis - regularly

hanging - spending free time

extra push - encouragement

sappy lines - romantic words in movies

the time of your life - a really great time

A He looks surprised when you tell him how many girls *are dying to get with him*.

C He isn't *knocking down your door* to see you - the fact that you can't have him is fun for you.

D He has the whole cafeteria laughing during lunch.

B Schedules dates that frequently involve picnicking and *stargazing*.

A He was voted "Best Dressed" in his class.

C So smart and yet so *bad-ass* - you're always learning something new about him.

A How good will you look with him in his new car?

B On birthdays, holidays and random Tuesdays he will send flowers and *serenade you*.

D Can really dance well. The two of you could show people your great dancing.

are dying to get with him - really want to be with him

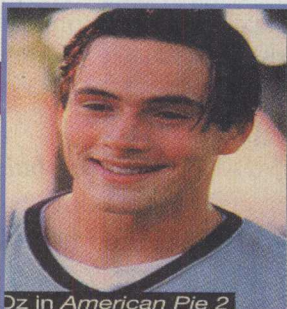
knocking down your door - really wanting to see you

Stargazing - watching the stars at night

bad-ass - a bad boy; a rebel

Serenade you - sing to you

A



Dz in *American Pie 2*

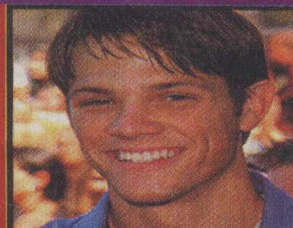
The Trophy (mostly purple)

Looking for a little eye candy in your stocking? You've set your sights on snagging Mr. Popularity. Every girl wants him to be *her* man, and you're convinced that being coupled with him will raise your own stock a few points. Yes, your friends will be jealous and your dad will call him "son," but as nice as VIP seating at your guy's basketball games is, the season only lasts so long. Just make sure he's got some brains and personality inside that pretty head of his, so your relationship will outlast the roar of the crowd.

B

The Romantic (mostly red)

You've watched one too many chick flicks, and now you're looking for your own leading man to shower you with all the chocolates you can eat and all the flowers you can press. With so many guys out there trying to prove their manliness, ladies' men can be hard to find. But once you've wrapped one around your little finger, get ready for love notes and sweet-nothings galore.



Dean on *Gilmore Girls*

C



Pacey on *Dawson's Creek*

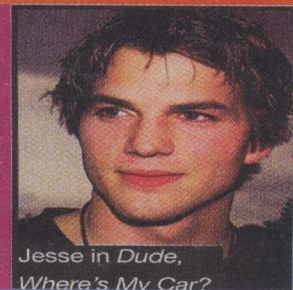
The Challenge (mostly orange)

You're not looking to take it easy; you want your guy to bring it on—from a debate about celebrating religious holidays in school to sampling raw squid at the new sushi joint. You need someone who'll give you that extra push out of the comfort zone and into a place full of different opportunities and experiences. He may be a little rough around the edges; he may even be someone you didn't think was your "type." But if you're willing to take a chance on him, he'll return the favor by showing you a whole new side of yourself.

D

The Party Animal (mostly pink)

Girls just want to have fun—and the type of guy you're going for totally understands. He's the one holding court at parties: More people crowd around him than around the food table. Even when he's just kicking back with you and your friends, he adds to the night. With all that charisma, party boys can be players. But wow him with your own crowd-pleasing wit—plus a few turns on the dance floor—and he'll be all yours. ■



Jesse in *Dude, Where's My Car?*

SEE VOCABULARY ON NEXT PAGE!!

Picture Perfect Vocabulary

The Trophy

The Trophy - the handsome and popular guy; or the beautiful and popular girl

a little eye candy - something that looks really good; a handsome boy or beautiful girl

in your stocking - as a gift in a Christmas stocking!

set your sights - decided what you want

snagging - winning; conquering; getting the boy or girl you want

raise your own stock - make yourself seem more attractive

VIP - Very Important Person; someone who has social connections

The Romantic

the Romantic - (a noun) a person who is very romantic

one too many - too many

chick flicks - romantic movies that mostly girls like to watch; a "chick" is a girl and a "flick" is a movie

to shower you - to give you a lot of things

manliness - (a noun) describes the qualities or characteristics of being a good man

ladies' men - a "ladies' man" is a guy who treats girls really well and is very romantic

sweet-nothings - nice words that guys may say to girls, for example "I'm so lucky to be with you", "you're the girl of my dreams", "I'm so crazy about you"

The Challenge

The Challenge - a person who is intelligent, open-minded, and who "challenges" you with new ideas and to try new things

take it easy - relax and not worry about anything; to not challenge yourself or be challenged

the new sushi joint - the new sushi restaurant

give you that extra push - challenge you

the comfort zone - a feeling of being comfortable and in control

He may be a little rough around the edges. - He may not be perfect.

your type - the type of person you like and want to be with

a new side of yourself - characteristics or qualities that you didn't know you had

The Party Animal

The Party Animal - someone who acts crazy, likes to party and have a good time

holding court at parties - he's "the life" of the party; everyone finds him very funny and exciting

kicking back - relaxing; having a good time; having fun

player - someone who likes to have fun and spend time with many girls; a playboy

a few turns on the dance floor - a few good dance moves; some good dancing