American Interpersonal English

美语回语

赵丹 编著



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那。 言

My first English book "American Spoken English" was published. The book received warm welcome from the readers, simply because it was easy to learn, reflected the popular American English, and standed out based on my seventeen years of personal experience in the U.S.A. The publisher was encouraged by the good outcome, and contacted me for another English book. This time, they wanted to focus on interpersonal communications with Americans. When planning for this book, I suggested a number of topics to them for interpersonal communications. The publisher told me: "We could tell by the topics that they were written by someone stayed for long time in the U.S."

我出版了我的第一本英语书"美国口语速成"。这本书受到了读者的热情欢迎。 究其原因,不外乎是简单易学,反映了美国流行的地道英语,同时它是在我留美十七年的经验基础上写成的。受到读者热情反响的鼓舞,出版社希望我再写一本英语书。这次他们想要侧重于和美国人的人际交流方面。在开始计划本书时,我向他们建议了人际交流方面的一些话题,出版社告诉我:"这些话题一看就知道是在美国生活多年的人写的。"

Because of work assignment, I came back to China from the U.S., and I am working for a China-American joint me a good opportunity to assess the needs of learning spoken English. Since China joined the WTO, trade between China and the rest of the world has been increasing at a high speed every year. Foreign investment and joint ventures are both multiplying rapidly. A popular saying is: China is connecting to the world. Communications between Chinese and foreigners are more important than ever. The needs come from all aspects of life: trade, joint ventures, training, commercial negotiations, service sectors, and many more. For example, our joint venture plans to send a large number of engineers to be trained in the U.S.A., but I worried very much of their English skills. How could they be trained if they cannot communicate with their U.S. trainers?

由于工作的需要,我从美国问到了中国,为一个中美合资企业工作。这给了我一个研究国内学习英语口语需求的好机会。自从中国加入世贸组织以后,中国和世界其他国家的贸易逐年高速增长,外国投资和合资企业都在快速递增。有一句流行的话:"中国在和世界接轨。"中国人和外国人的交流比以往任何时候都重要。这种需求来自生活的各个方面:贸易、合资企业、培训、商务谈判、服务行业,还有许多其他方面。例如,我们的合资公司要送一批工程师去美国培训,可是我非常担心他们的英语水平。如果他们不能和美国的培训人员交流沟通,他们怎么能得到有效的培训呢?

Another surprise to me after I came back to China was that a lot of translators could not communicate effectively when translating. Those are English graduates from top universities, but they simply cannot translate well. It created a lot of misunderstandings and slowed down the pace of Chinese and foreign cooperation. Why could not they translate effectively? They do not have a feel

可。 言 言

of English. venture. This provided They do not understand the meaning behind the words. They do not understand slang. They do not know the new expressions, words, and professional terms. All they learnt in universities were out of date textbook English that had been there for a number of years.

我回中国以后另一件让我吃惊的事情是,很多翻译员和中外人员沟通起来感觉困难。这些翻译员都是名牌大学的英语专业毕业生,可是他们初到企业时深感困难,也造成中外双方的误解,给双方的合作拖了后腿。他们为什么对做好翻译工作感到困难?因为他们对英语没有感觉,他们不懂英语词句隐含的意思,他们不懂俚语,他们不知道那些新的表达法、新词和专业术语。他们在大学里学的只是书本上那些讨时的,多年不变的英语。

The problems are so real. In my first English book, I introduced simple, natural English to readers. However, we need another book that deals with higher—level communication topics. This book is right in picking these communication topics. It covers not only everyday life topics, but also the trade, the joint venture, and the commercial side of English communications. After reading this book, you should be able to communicate with foreigners in all aspects of life, work, and studies. Like my last book, the conversations in this book are all based on real stories, which makes you feel like you are in the U.S.A. when reading these dialogues.

问题是这么真实而严重。在我的第一本英语书里,我给读者介绍了简单的、地道的英语。但是我们还需要另一本有较高水平的人际交流方面的书。这本书选择了实用的交流方面的话题,涵盖了日常生活用语和贸易、合资企业等方面的商务用语。读完这本书,您就能够在生活、工作和学习的各个方面同外国人交流。和我的第一本英语书一样,这里的例子都是基于美国生活中的真实故事。这些对话读起来,会使你有身临其境的感觉。

I heard of this a lot from foreigners. The nineteenth century was British century; the twentieth century was American century; and the twenty first century is Chinese century. To make this a reality, no doubt English is an important tool. More importantly, I truly hope this book can reach our readers in time for their once—in—life—time mission to make the difference for China in the world.

我常常听到外国人这样说, 第 19 世纪是英国的世纪, 20 世纪是美国的世纪, 21 世纪是中国的世纪。要让这个说法成为现实, 英语无疑是一个重要的工具。更重要的是, 我真心希望我们的读者能早日看到这本书, 让这本书能为他们一生难得的机会和重任、为中国在世界上做出贡献助一臂之力!

赵 丹 2009年1月



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第一章 /

Greetings

the English textbook always In the past, taught us to say "How do you do?" if you met somebody for the first time. This has been out In the U.S., nobody of date for a long time. The greetings are speaks like that any more. also different when you meet somebody for the first time and when you meet somebody you see For formal situations, you want to every day. pay respect, but you also want to respect yourself at the same time. In this chapter, we learn how to greet people in different situations.

过去,英语课本里教的是,第一次见面,要说"How do you do?"这是早已过时的问候语。在美国已经没人这么说了。你初次和人见面同你与某人天天见面,问候当然也会不同。对于正式场合,要有礼貌,但也要保持尊严。这一章里,我们来学习各种不同情形下的问候用语。



Topic 1 Meeting for the First Time

第一题 初次见面

Greetings for the first time are very important because it provides you the opportunity to express yourself and impress the people you meet. It does not mean that this is your only opportunity, but it does show your manners. At the end of the day, it is your capability, personality, and the work you perform that put yourself apart from the others. However, paying attention to greetings is always good.

第一次见面时的问候语特别重要,它是你留给别人的第一印象。 虽然以后你还有表现的机会,但是问候表现了你的修养。当然,最终还是你的能力,人格,和所做的工作使你脱颖而出。 但重视与人见面时的问候总是好事。

Scene 1

场景1

Brian was born in a middle class family in the U.S.. His parents are all engineers immigrated from China to the U.S. years ago as foreign students. Brian grew up under the influence of Chinese culture, with special feelings about China. Today he was walking on the campus of Harvard University and saw a Chinese girl nearby. He approached her and tried to strike a conversation.

布来思出生在美国一个中产阶级家庭里,父母都是工程师,早年作为留学生从中国移民到美国。布来思在中国文化的影响下长大,对中国有着特殊的感情。今天他正走在哈佛大学的校园里,看见有一个中国姑娘在附近,他走上前去试着和她交谈。

Dialogue 1 对话 1

Brian: Hello, I'm Brian. You are?

布来恩: 你好, 我是布来恩。 你是?

Amy: Hi, Brian. I'm Amy.

艾米: 你好, 布来恩。 我是艾米。

Brian: Nice to meet you. Where are you

布来恩: 很高兴认识你。 你是哪里人?

from?

Amy: Two years.

Amy: I'm from China.

艾米: 我是中国人。

Brian: Really? How nice. How long have

布来恩: 是吗? 真好。 来美国多久了?

you been in the U.S.?

艾米: 两年了。

Brian: That's a long time. Have you been

布来恩: 很长时间了。 回过国吗?

back to visit?

Amy: No.

艾米: 没有。

艾米:

Brian: You must miss your home.

布来恩: 你一定想家吧?

Amy: Sure. I miss my family and friends,

艾米: 当然。 想家人和朋友。

Brian: How do you like America?

布来恩: 喜欢美国吗?

Amy: Pretty nice. I met some friendly

挺好的。 我认识了一些很友好的人。

people.

Brian: I'm one of them, right? Just kidding.

Amy: You do look nice.

Brian: Thank you so much. Very nice to meet

you. Hope to see you again.

Amy: Me too. See you later!

Brian: Bye-bye!

布来恩: 我就是其中一个吧? 和你开玩笑。

艾米: 你挺面善的啊。

布来恩: 太谢谢了。 很高兴认识你。 愿我们能

再见。

艾米: 我也很高兴认识你。 再见!

布来恩: 再见!

American Culture and Custom

美国文化和习惯

When meeting somebody the first time, it is polite to introduce yourself first. This was what Brian did. He then asked Amy her name and how long she had been in the U.S.. You can ask somebody's name, home country, hometown, etc., but you should not ask questions about age, living habit, address, and phone numbers, when talking to somebody of opposite sex. Those questions are too personal and would be viewed impolite. There are some questions you should never ask, no matter how long you have known him, such as a person's salary, property, financial situations and social security number.

和某人初次见面,应该有礼貌地先自我介绍。布来思正是这样做的。他然后问了艾米的名字和来美多长时间了。你可以问人家的名字、国家、家乡,但和异性交谈时,不要问年龄、生活习惯、住址、电话号码。这些问题太牵扯个人隐私,是不礼貌的。有些问题是永远也不该问的,不管你们认识多久了,比如工资、财产、经济情况和社会保险号。

If you want to know where a person was born, you can ask: "Where are you originally from?" This way, you can avoid confusion, because people may have lived in different areas or countries, so "Where are you from?" can be confusing.

如果你要知道某人在哪里出生的,你可以问:"您最早是哪里人?"这样会比较清楚。因为人们可能在不同的地区或国家居住过,问"您从哪里来"可能比较模糊。

■ Related Words and Phrases 相关词语

1 kidding:开玩笑。 举例:Are you kidding? 你在开玩笑吧? You must be kidding. 你一定是在开玩笑。

2 nice:好,善良。 举例:Henry is nice. 亨利人很好。 His house is very nice. 他家的房子很漂亮。

Patterns 句型

I'm from ... 我是 人。 我从 来。

How do you like ... 你喜欢 ····· 吗?

Substitute Exercise 替换练习

Hello, I'm Mark.你好,我是马克。Hello, I'm Betty.你好,我是贝蒂。Hello, I'm Brian.你好,我是布来恩。

Hello, I'm Chris Stevens. 你好,我是克瑞斯·史帝文森。

Hello, I'm Mike.你好,我是迈克。Hello, I'm Jeff.你好,我是杰夫。

I'm from New Zealand.我是新西兰人。I'm from Germany.我是德国人。I'm from France.我是法国人。I'm from Korea.我是韩国人。I'm from Singapore.我是新加坡人。I'm from India.我是印度人。I'm from New York.我是纽约人。

How do you like studying here? 你喜欢在这里学习吗?
How do you like the homework? 你喜欢这次的作业吗?
How do you like Chris? 你喜欢北京吗?
How do you like Beijing? 你喜欢北京吗?

Scene 2 场景 2

Brian said goodbye to Amy and kept going. This time, he met an American boy. The two started chatting.

布来恩告别了艾米,继续往前走。这次,他遇见了个美国小伙子,他们俩聊了起来。

Dialogue 2 对话 2

Brian: Hello! How are you doing? 布来恩: 你好! 一切都好吗? George: Pretty good. How about you? 乔治: 挺好的。你好吗?

Brian: Not bad. Not bad at all! 布来恩: 不错。蛮好的。

George: What a nice day! Hate to stay on 乔治: 多好的天气! 真不想呆在校园里。

the campus.

Brian: Right. I'm going to hit the road in 布来恩: 是啊。我一会儿就去郊游。

a little bit.

George: Where are you going? 乔治: 去哪儿啊? Brian: Marble Head. 布来恩: 理石头。

George: Great! I heard it was very nice. 乔治: 太好了! 听说那儿很漂亮。

Brian: It is. I'd better get going. By the 布来恩: 是漂亮。我得走了。对了,你叫什么名字

way, what's your name? 啊?

George: George Miller. 乔治: 乔治。乔治·米勒。

Brian: Nice name. I'm Brian Zhao.

George: Thank you! Where are you from?

Brian: I was born in Pennsylvania.

George: WHERE are you from?

Brian: I don't understand.

George: I mean your country of origin.

Brian: Oh, my parents were from China.

George: Okay. Nice to meet you!

Brian: You too! See you!

George: Bye!

布来恩: 名儿挺好听的。我叫布来恩·赵。

乔治: 谢谢! 你是哪里人?

布来恩: 我出生在宾州。

乔治: 我问你是哪里人?

布来恩: 我听不懂你的意思。

乔治: 我是问你祖辈是哪个国家的。

布来恩:噢,我父母从中国来的。

乔治: 啊。认识你很高兴!

布来恩: 也很高兴认识你! 再见!

乔治: 再见!

American Culture and Custom

美国文化和习惯一

In the above dialogue, George was a white boy born in the U.S.. Compared to other western countries, people from U.S.A. are easier to access. Racist is a serious crime in the U.S.. However, it is a fact that Chinese look different from white people. In the dialogue, George kept asking WHERE Brian was from, because he meant Brian's ancestors were not from America. This kind of questions could be impolite.

在上面的对话里,乔治是个土生土长的美国白人小伙子。和其他西方国家相比,美国人比较随便,容易接近一些。种族主义在美国是严重的犯罪。但是中国人和白人长得确实不一样。在对话里,乔治追问布来恩是哪儿的人。他意思是布来恩的祖辈不是美国人。这种问题有可能是不礼貌的。

Sometimes in the U.S., when you first meet somebody, he may ask you: "Are you Japanese?" Some Americans think that the Japanese has higher technology and living standards in Asia, so people from other Asia countries won't be mad if they are being asked such a question. It is absolutely wrong to think like that. Asia people feel offended when being asked if they are Japanese. This question looks down on other Asia countries.

在美国,有时第一次见到的人,可能会问你"你是日本人吗?"有些美国人认为日本在亚洲有较高的 科技地位和生活水平,要是这样问,其他亚洲国家的人不会生气。实际上这样想是绝对错误的。亚洲人被 这样问的时候会感到受侮辱,因为这个问题本身就轻视了其他的亚洲国家。

In the U.S.A., nationality is a sensitive question because this is an immigrant country. It can hurt feelings. It is okay to ask somebody: "Where are you from?" or "What is your country of origin?" The latter would be for somebody who was born in the U.S.A. But avoid asking, "What's your nationality?" It sounds inquisitive and impolite, unless you are an FBI.

因为美国是个移民国家,在这里,国籍(种族)是个敏感的问题。这样的问题容易伤人。可以问别人: "你从哪儿来?"或者"你祖辈是哪个国家的?"后者用于在美国出生的人。但是避免问:"你的国籍是什么?"这听起来有点像盘问,也不礼貌,除非你是联邦调查局的。

- pretty good:挺好。举例:I'm doing pretty good.我挺好的。
- 2 not bad:好,不错。举例:The air quality is not bad.空气质量不错。
- 3 Marble Head:理石头,波士顿附近的一个小旅游城市

- 4 hit the road:上路,去旅行。"Hit ..."这个句型要用于特定的、小的目标。不能用这个句型说:I'm going to hit China.我要去中国。中国太大了。
- How about Chinese? 在这句话里, "Chinese"的意义依情形而定。要是在商量去哪里吃饭, 它代表中餐。如果在说语言, 它代表中文。倘若是在谈论各国人, 它表示中国人。

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How doing?	好吗?
How about	怎么样?
Hit	, #
Substitute Exerc	ise 替换练习
Hi, Mark. How are you doing?	嗨,马克,你好吗?
How is she doing?	她好吗?
How is Betty doing?	贝蒂好吗?
How are they doing?	他们一切都好吗?
How about going to a movie?	去看电影怎么样?
How about her?	她怎么样?
How about a drink?	喝杯酒吧?
How about pizza?	吃比萨饼好吗?
How about Chinese?	吃中餐怎么样? 学中文怎么样? 中国
	人怎么样?
I'll hit the restroom.	我要去洗手间。
I'm going to hit the beach.	我要去海滩。

Scene 3 场景 3

Bruce is a funny old man who is always kidding around. Today he came to a restaurant. Let's see how he met people for the first time.

布鲁斯是个风趣的老头。他总是开玩笑。今天他来到了一家餐馆。我们来看看他是怎样和第一次见 面的人谈话的。

Dialogue 3 对话 3

Receptionist: Hello! How are you? 迎宾小姐: 您好! 今天好吗?

Bruce: Good. 布鲁斯: 很好。 Receptionist: How many? 迎宾小姐: 几位?

Bruce: Just myself. 布鲁斯: 就我自己。 Receptionist: This way please. 迎宾小姐: 请这边来。

Receptionist: How about this table? 迎宾小姐:坐这里行吗? Bruce: Fine. Thank you. 布鲁斯: 行。谢谢。