

酷美语

酷美语 2

Book

English

将系列场景置入一个引人入胜的
对话体侦探小说之中
涉及当代美国文化诸多方面

(美) Norman Gilliland 著
李波

外语教学与研究出版社
FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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北京 BEIJING

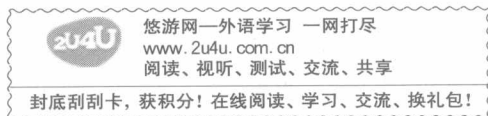
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作者 简介

诺曼·格里兰 (Norman Gilliland)

“五月花号”新教徒爱德华·富勒的第12代孙，生长于佛罗里达州甘斯维尔，获佛州大学英美文学和传播学双硕士学位。诺曼在佛州“WRUF-FM”和“WUFT-FM”电台开始其主持人和制作人生涯，1983年起，一直供职于威斯康星州公共电台。他已有三部作品出版：长篇小说《沙地大厦》、《棕榈街谋杀案》和随笔集《雅致音符》。其中《雅致音符》在中国有两个译本（中央编译出版社出版的中英文对照版《音乐启蒙书》和北京大学出版社出版的中文版《音乐的希望》）。他和妻子Amanda有两个儿子，现居威斯康星州。

李波

作家、翻译。祖籍山西，上世纪60年代末生于四川，曾京漂八年，2007年起移民美国。主要作品：译著小品文集《音乐启蒙书》、小品文集《音乐的希望》等；长篇小说《美国处男》（知识出版社）、《回头无岸》（中国电影出版社）；文化评论《中国食文化批判》（华龄出版社）、《口腔里的中国人》（东方出版中心）；杂文集《狗眼看世界》（中国友谊出版公司）；社会评论《老板是靠不住的》（西苑出版社）等。最新50万字京漂小说《我在北京有张床》即将出版。

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作者序（一）

诺曼·格里兰

首先对你决定学习对话英语表示祝贺。本书写给非英语国家的英语学习者——尤其是那些中国学习者，范围从初学者到熟练者。

和很多语言一样，英语也有着书面（通常指“标准英语”）和口头（即“口语”）之分。本书的目的是为了使读者学习口语，以应对各种会话场合。

本书中的短语采用惯用的口头语，而不是那些可能一两年就过时的、会貶笑大方的短暂俚语。

然而，在学习英语方面，无论本书还是任何别的书，都不能取代身临其境，也就是通过置身于英语环境来学习英语。既然身临其境不可能总是那么现实，退而求其次的办法就是在中国结识那些来自英语国家的人，和他们进行一些轻松随意的对话，哪怕每周一个或半个小时。不要羞怯！

第三个窍门，就是求助于那些母语非英语、但英语水平又比你高的老师、同学或见多识广的朋友。有英语字幕的电影也是学习英语的另一个途径——尽管这些字幕不会给你太多使用方法上的指导，尽管你在一些斯文朋友前借用这些表达方式时，会因用词不雅而引起误会和不快。

当然，你可能会发现，在本书里这样的“粗口”一个也没有。

对大多数中国人而言，最难发的音是“r”。这个音发起来就像一声发自深喉的咆哮，当空气从前舌和硬腭之间通过时，后舌边缘触及臼齿后部。中国人（和其他亚洲人）常常将“l”发成了“r”音，结果

Foreword

Norman Gilliland

Congratulations on your decision to learn conversational English. This book is dedicated to foreign English students, especially those Chinese learners from beginners to the advanced.

Like many other languages, English has a written style, usually referred to as *standard* English, and a spoken style, known as *colloquial* English. The aim of this book is to enable you to learn colloquial English for the purpose of initiating and carrying on conversations in a variety of everyday situations.

The phrases in these pages use colloquial idiomatic English, not ephemeral slang that might sound outdated in a year or two and elicit a laugh at the speaker's expense.

But neither this book nor any book can take the place of learning English by immersion, that is, by surrounding oneself with native speakers of the language. Since immersion isn't always an option, the next best thing is to develop the acquaintance of native English speakers in China and engage them in ongoing casual conversations, perhaps an hour or half-hour once a week. Don't be shy!

A third technique is to rely upon non-native speakers whose knowledge of the language is better than your own—teachers, fellow students, or well-traveled friends. Subtitled films are another source of learning English, although they will not give you much indication of the appropriate use of the language, and will use many expressions that can get you into trouble if you use them in polite company.

Of course, you will probably find none of those expressions in this book.

For most Chinese speakers, the most difficult English sound is represented by the letter *r*. It's produced like a growl, deep in the throat, with the back edges of the tongue touching the backs of the molars as the air passes between the front of the tongue and hard palate. Too often, Chinese (and other Asians) settle for using the *l* sound instead, which can lead to some embarrassing miscommunications. The *l* sound is made by touching the tip of the tongue to the back of the upper incisors and vibrating the vocal chords.

可能会闹出一些笑话。发“l”音时应该以舌尖抵住上齿龈，振动声带发出。

第三个让很多母语非英语者犯错的发音是“th”。这个音既以清音形式出现，又以浊音形式出现。清音如 Thursday, thirsty, thin，发这个音时，舌尖接触上门牙尖部，然后推气而出；浊音形式，如 the, this, they, then，发音要领和清音方式基本一样，只是同时要振动声带。除了反复摹仿英语熟练者来掌握这些重要的英语发音，别无捷径。

所以，掌握这些发音非常重要。你可以把它们看成英语发音中的“长城”——掌握了它，你就登上了长城顶峰。整个英语发音体系，就如同一片迤逦风光，在你面前豁然开朗。掌握这几个音，你将获益匪浅。

如果嗓门大是自信的保证，学习英语的最佳场所就是疯人院了。所以，请不要认为你必须通过在屋顶鬼哭狼嚎，或对着一大群人河东狮吼，才能练习你的英语。相反，你可以找来母语为英语的人，和他娓娓而谈，尤其要努力营造出投机的氛围和话题，从而修炼你的中国传统美德——谦逊和含蓄。

但是，当遇到“打破坚冰”或“一触即发”之类的日常生活场景时，最好还是找到恰如其分的表达法来“切入话题”。

本书附带的录音为美国中西部口音——这种口音被公认为地方口音最少，因而绝大多数说英语的人都能听懂。

衷心祝愿你能掌握这些街头、校园、家庭、办公室、酒吧、餐馆、机场、医院、商场等等场合的英语表达方式，这对你理解美国文化将大有裨益。

诺曼·格里兰

于美国威斯康星州米德顿市

2009年8月10日

The third English sound that eludes speakers of many nationalities is the *th*, which occurs very often both in the unvoiced form and voiced form. In the unvoiced form it occurs, for example, in the words *Thursday*, *thirsty*, and *thin* and is made by touching the tongue to the tips of the upper incisors and pushing air through. Its voiced form, also extremely common—as in the words *the*, *this*, *they* and *then*—is made almost exactly the same way, but while simultaneously vibrating the vocal chords. Nothing but repeated imitation of an accomplished speaker will make you adept at achieving these important English sounds.

Those sounds are extremely common in English and, therefore, extremely important to master. You might think of it as the Great Wall of English pronunciation: Master them and you've scaled the wall and the whole world of correct English pronunciation lies before you like a vast beautiful landscape. Master those ones and you will do well.

If being loud were a guaranteed route to self-confidence, the best place to learn English would be a madhouse. So please do not feel that you have to practice your English by shouting it from rooftops or yelling it in large groups. On the contrary, you can practice the traditional Chinese virtues of modesty and restraint by engaging in polite English language conversation with native speakers, preferably in situations that allow the congenial exchange and development of ideas.

But when it comes to “breaking the ice” or getting by in those everyday “touch and go” situations, it's best to know the right phrase for getting the conversation off to “a good start.”

The audio recording that comes with this book uses a Midwestern American pronunciation, which is generally considered the American English that has the least regional accent and is therefore understandable to the greatest number of English speakers.

Best wishes in your quest to master the English of the streets, campuses, homes, offices, bars, restaurants, airports, hospitals, stores, etc. This will hopefully enable you to understand American culture more easily.

Norman Gilliland
Middleton, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
August 10, 2009

作者序（二）

李 波

20年前，我还是一个刚踏入大学校园的英语专业学生，和大多数同学一样，我对自己的专业和前程兴致勃勃、踌躇满志。当一名英语教师或英语翻译，曾经是我的梦想。然而，在听了一场系主任的讲座后，我们都倍感沮丧。当时，他在美国作了为期一年的学术访问刚刚归来。我还记得，他用比以前流利得多的英语告诉我们，当他进入美国后，立即变成了一个“聋哑人”，甚至在很多简单的场合，比如问路、餐馆点菜、购物、看病或旅馆住宿，也被弄懵了。他说，身为一堂堂英语教授，自己的英语说得却还不如街头小贩或乞丐！这让他十分灰心丧气。我们的听力教师也曾经对我们坦陈，甩开那本教师参考书，磁带里的对话内容，他几乎连一半也听不懂。

我当时想，这两位，要么太谦虚，要么就是夸大其词了。

直到9年前当我搬到北京最大的使馆区附近居住、有机会和外国人直接交流时，我才意识到当初我的老师说的是大实话。再后来，当我踏入美国，和美国人朝夕相处，又娶了一位美国太太，并且重蹈了很多中国人的覆辙后，我对当初老师们的话更是感同身受。我的口语确实还不如我在街头遇到的乞丐。在我用一些生僻词汇如 *antidisestablishmentarianism*（国家与教会分立主义的反对派）、*sagacious*（圣贤般的、充满睿智的）、*maverick*（特立独行者）等等把美国朋友弄得一愣一愣的同时，却又陷入了无法简单表达自己的困境——尤其是当我们用电话交流而无法借助身体语言的时候。有时候，我们花上两三分钟，也无法将几个简单词汇或习语就可以搞定的事情扯清楚。

Introduction

Bo Li

Twenty years ago I was a new college student majoring in English. Like the majority of my classmates, I was very enthusiastic and optimistic about my major and future. To be an English teacher or a translator was my dream. However, after listening to a lecture by our dean, who had just returned from America after a year as a visiting scholar, we were terribly discouraged. I still remember him telling us frankly, in much more fluent English than ever, that when he entered America he suddenly acted like a deaf-mute. He even got confused in many simple situations such as asking for directions, eating in a restaurant, going shopping, seeing a doctor, or checking into a hotel. Despite being an English professor, he said he spoke English poorer than that of a street peddler or a beggar. It dismayed him considerably. Our listening comprehension teacher also confided that, without a reference book, even he was hardly able to understand half of the conversation tapes.

I thought that both of them were either too humble or given to exaggeration.

Only nine years ago, as I moved into the vicinity of the biggest embassy district in Beijing, getting the chance to communicate with foreign friends, did I come to realize that my teachers were telling the truth. What they had said became all the more valid when I arrived in the U.S., living with American friends day and night, then marrying an American lady. I stumbled into the same impasse encountered by many Chinese. My oral English was indeed worse than that of the beggars I met on the street. While I startled my American friends with some big words such as antidisestablishmentarianism, sagacious, maverick..., I often got confused when it came to simple communication, especially when talking over the phone without the aid of body language. Sometimes we spent two or three minutes to make sure of something that could otherwise have been made clear with a couple of simple words or idioms.

这种令人窘迫的情况怎么会发生在一个学了二十多年英语、还翻译了好几本书的人身上呢？

众所周知，在英语教育方面，中国学生强在语法、阅读和作文。中国学生的托福和GRE成绩之高，足以让美国的大学教授都疑虑重重，但是如果这些教授目睹我们中国学生在学英语上付出了多大努力，忍受了多少痛苦，他们就不会这么觉得可疑了。

而与此同时，当我们中国学生试图和来自英语国家的人当面交流时，却不幸沦为了“聋哑人”。

我们不得不承认，中国人身上存在着一种“英语学习综合征”。因为对话交流的条件有限，我们不得不采取一种最笨拙的英语学习方法。为了考试，我们在词汇、语法和阅读上倾注了太多的精力。就拿词汇来说，词典翻烂了一本又一本；一些人甚至试图将相当于两块砖头拼在一起那么厚的词典给生吞活剥地背下来！但是语言本身的功能——日常交流，尤其是口头交流——却被忽视了。事实上，那些简单而生动的——由大量的口头语、口头禅、俚语、习语、方言、行话和讥诮语构成的——日常口头表达法，比书面表达更加实用，除非你是要投身于学术类的职业。的确，我们中国人倾向于使用文绉绉的学术词汇和复杂句式——以一种结结巴巴的方式。这就是为什么当中国人刚开始和外国人交流时，常常词不达意。一个能用GRE里的生僻词汇把英语人士弄得一愣一愣的中国人，常常在一些最简单的表达上捉襟见肘。正应了那句中国谚语，我们“捡了芝麻，丢了西瓜”。

这也是我和诺曼·格里兰先生对新合作一拍即合的原因。他对很多亚洲人在日常英语方面的困境已经关注很长时间了。

经过长时间的讨论，我们找到了一条学习日常英语的捷径，即通过一系列相关联的情景和场合来学习。事实上，除非你是在写论文或搞研究，否则你主要还是通过简单的日常对话来沟通。考虑到已经有大量“场景英语”或“情景英语”之类的书籍，我们于是另辟蹊径。

How could such embarrassments befall a person who has studied English for more than 20 years and has translated a couple of entire books?

It's well known that, in English education, Chinese students are good at grammar, reading comprehension, and composition. The scores for TOEFL and GRE in China are so high that American professors would find them suspect. But if those professors had witnessed how diligent and painstaking we Chinese students are in learning English, they would not be so skeptical.

In the meantime, when we students try to talk to English-speakers in person, unfortunately we become deaf-mutes.

We have to admit that there's a syndrome of Chinese English learners. Living in a limited conversational environment, we have to cope with an unwise approach to learning English. For the sake of examinations, we focus too much on vocabulary, grammar, and reading. In the case of vocabulary, dictionaries were worn out one after another due to overuse. Some of us even tried to recite a dictionary as huge as two bricks put together! But the original function of language, daily communication, orally in particular, has been neglected. As a matter of fact, those simple yet vivid daily oral expressions, consisting of a great deal of colloquialisms, pet phrases, slang, idioms, dialects, jargon, and ironies, are more practical than the written expressions, unless you are pursuing an academic career. Yes, in a stammering way, we Chinese have a tendency to use genteel and academic words and complicated sentence structures. That's why, many Chinese feel so disconnected when they talk to foreigners. The same Chinese who can surprise or startle an English speaker with big words from the GRE vocabulary are liable to get stuck on the simplest expressions. Just like that Chinese proverb, we can "find the sesame seeds but lose the watermelon."

That's why Mr. Norman Gilliland and I could come to an immediate agreement for a new joint venture. He had long since noticed that many Asians struggle with simple day-to-day communication in English.

After lengthy discussions we hit upon an approach to learning everyday English through a series of related situations or scenes. Actually, unless you're writing a paper or doing research, you communicate mostly via oral English. Considering there are already lots of books with titles like "Scenic English" or

本书两册都涉及到当代美国文化的诸多方面——其中充满了大量很“酷”的美式习惯用语。而且，两册书之间存在着一定程度的联系。尽管第一册中的某几个场景显得有些松散游离，但其中一些人物和人物关系会在第二册中重新出现，情节发展扣人心弦。在第二册中，我们将一系列的场景置入一个完整的、引人入胜的故事中——像按照电影脚本设计的侦探小说，有发展、矛盾、高潮和结局，故事情节随着一个个场景的变换而不断深入。所以，这种学习角度与那些场景互不关联、结局彼此割裂而乏味的“场景英语”或“情景英语”很不一样。

作为一名作家和专业电台主持人，诺曼·格里兰先生对“酷”美语可谓信手拈来，同时他还拥有一付动听的好嗓子，所以本书专门配置了音频录音，由他和他的同事们分角色朗读，同时还采用了特技配音作为背景。在欣赏故事的同时，我们也可以提升发音和听力。

我要向杰出的英语教育专家——新东方学校的俞敏洪先生、徐小平先生和包凡一先生——给予的评价和鞭策表示真诚的敬意。9年前，我在新东方接受的培训，尽管很短暂，却让我终身受益。

我还要感谢我妻子金伯利，她对本书英语部分进行了细致的审阅和校对。

最后，对读者的任何纠错和建议，我们都深表谢意。

李 波

于美国威斯康星州菲奇堡市

2009年8月18日

“Situational English”, we took a different direction.

Both of the books involve many aspects of contemporary American culture full of cool idiomatic American English. Moreover, the two books connect to each other to some extent. Although a few scenes in the first book seem to be divergent, some of the characters and relationships established in Book One reappear in a compelling story in Book Two. In the second book, we built a series of scenes into a complete and intriguing story—a detective mystery written as a movie script with a development, crisis, climax, and denouement as it develops from one scene to the next. Therefore, it differs considerably from those “scenic” or “situational” books in which the scenes seem unrelated, the result being disjointed and tedious.

As a writer and a professional radio host, Mr. Norman Gilliland has both a familiarity with cool American English and a charming voice, so these books come with an audio recording in which he and his colleagues play the various roles. For the background sounds, we used some SFX techniques. While enjoying the story, we can improve our pronunciation and listening comprehension.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to the distinguished English educators from The New Oriental School—Mr. Minhong Yu, Mr. Xiaoping Xu and Mr. Fanyi Bao—for their generous endorsements and encouragements. The training I received there nine years ago, though brief, was beneficial and unforgettable.

Also, I’d like to acknowledge my wife, Kimberley, for her meticulous revising and proofreading of the English version.

Finally, we’d appreciate any corrections and suggestions you might have for these books.

Bo Li
Fitchburg, Wisconsin, U.S.A.
August 18, 2009

本书主要 人物表

Character List



曼迪——“白俄敏”公司雇员，内部揭发者
Mandy—an employee at Bio Means, whistleblower



珍妮弗——迪克现任女友，“白俄敏”公司雇员，内部揭发者
Jennifer—Dick's current girlfriend, an employee at Bio Means, whistleblower



昆廷——便衣警察，“白俄敏”案调查者
Quentin—an undercover policeman and investigator of Bio Means



塞缪尔（萨姆）·杰克逊——“白俄敏”公司副总裁和元老，盗用公款者
Samuel (Sam) Jackson —a vice-president and founder of Bio Means, embezzler

本杰明（本）·本森——“白俄敏”公司主管，盗用公款者

Benjamin (Ben) Benson—a supervisor at Bio Means and embezzler



埃塞尔·约翰逊夫人——“白俄敏”公司人力资源专员，塞缪尔·杰克逊的同伙

Mrs. Ethel Johnson—human resources person at Bio Means and accomplice of Samuel Jackson



查德·斯坦福——《环球报》城市版编辑，塞缪尔·杰克逊不为人知的兄弟和同伙，谋杀案杀人犯

Chad Stanford—city editor of the *Globe*, secret brother and accomplice of Samuel Jackson, murderer



道格拉斯·宾——化名道格·多伊，《环球报》记者，调查“白俄敏”内幕者

Douglas Bing—alias Douglas Doe, reporter for the *Globe*, investigator of Bio Means



鲍勃·张——华裔美国人，《环球报》记者，调查“白俄敏”内幕者

Bob Zhang—Chinese-American, reporter for the *Globe*, investigator of Bio Means





贝蒂——《环球报》前台接待
Betty—a receptionist at the *Globe*



罗斯——贝司手，理科研究生
Ross—a bass player and graduate student in the sciences



乔丹——罗斯的朋友，理科研究生
Jordan—a graduate student in the sciences, friend of Ross



苏珊——罗斯和乔丹的朋友，理科研究生，“菲雅餐馆”女招待
Susan—a graduate student in the sciences and waitress at Chez Faye, friend of Ross and Jordan



迪克——苏珊前任男友，交通局雇员，中国餐馆兼职领班
Dick—Susan's former boyfriend, employee at Department of Transportation, and part-time host at a Chinese restaurant