



老外聊天
系列

最实用的话题 最地道的表达

老外最想与你聊的 中外文化

金浩 | 编著

[美] Nellie Connolly [美] Logan M. West | 审定

Cultural Topics
Relevant
Foreigners



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中国对外翻译出版公司



老外最想与你聊的 中外文化

金浩 编著

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Preface

As China's economic status rising in the world, more and more foreigners come into China and learn more about China. Economic cooperation and cultural exchanges between China and foreign countries become more frequent too. Therefore, the importance of English learning has been further improved, and more people eager to improve their English level so as to effectively communicate with foreigners.

In order to meet the needs of many English fans to practice their oral English, this book provides a wealth of new and practical topics and compiles these topics into separate dialogue covering almost every aspect of social culture, including Media, Literature and Films, Sports and Games, Love and Family and so on.

The format of this book is in English-Chinese and there is background knowledge in each chapter, which is convenient for the readers to study. As to the useful expressions, we list them separately so that the readers can learn them by heart as basic sentence patterns. All the new words and phrases in each dialogue are added with explanatory notes, which are easy for the readers to accumulate their vocabularies. In addition, this book is appendix with a CD recorded by experts from Beijing Foreign Studies University. You can imitate to read and recite after the CD while learning, which is quite helpful to improve your spoken English and listening comprehension.

Each topic is independent in this book, so there is no need to follow the original chapter when you are learning. You can choose the order according to your own interest flexibly. You can learn by yourself, playing two parts at the same time or you can invite a partner to communicate with each other and practice together and finally reach the goal of mutual promotion and progress. This book can also be used as a textbook for small-class oral teaching with the teacher and all the students participating together and discussing the differences between Chinese and western cultures. It can help everyone enlarge their views.

In order to be more authoritative and idiomatic in the English language, we particularly invited some American linguistic experts Nellie Connolly, Logan West and Graham Paterson in Beijing Foreign Studies University to take part in compiling and revising this book. They made great contributions to the publication of this book. Therefore, we'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to them all!

We hope you can enjoy the idiomatic spoken English and meanwhile learn about cultural knowledge both at home and abroad after reading this book. We also hope it can arouse your interest in English and train your excellent language speed and sense. We believe that practice makes perfect. As long as you make unremitting efforts, you will make progress in oral English by leaps and bounds.

Editor

Beijing, early summer of 2011

前言

随着中国在上世界上经济地位的提升，越来越多的外国人开始走进中国，了解中国。中外间的经济合作与文化交流也变得日益频繁。因而，英语的重要性进一步提高了，更多的国人渴望提高自己的英语水平来进行有效的文化交流。

为了满足广大英语学习爱好者练习口语的要求，本书提供了关于社会文化方面的丰富话题，并将其编写成独立的对话，内容新颖而实用，其中包括：传媒天地、文学与电影、文体娱乐、爱情与家庭、文化与社会等等。

本书采用了中英文对照的形式，每个话题都有相关背景知识的介绍，便于读者学习；其中对于重要表达方式单独列出，读者可以作为句型记忆；每篇对话中的生词和短语都给予了注释，便于读者对词汇进行积累。此外，本书还配有由北京外国语大学专家配音录制的 MP3 光盘，读者在学习的时候可以模仿朗读，对口语和听力的提高都有很大帮助。

本书的每个话题都独立成篇，不需要按章节依次学习。读者可以根据自己的兴趣爱好灵活选择。您可以独立自学，一人扮演两个角色；您也可以选择一个语伴，两人进行交流，互动练习，最终达到相互促进、共同进步的目的。本书还可以作为小班制口语教学的教材，师生共同参与，探讨中西方文化差异，有助于增长知识，开拓眼界。

为了增加本书的权威性并使本书语言标准地道，我们还特别邀请了北京外国语大学美国语言专家 Nellie Connolly、Logan West 和 Graham Paterson 参与了本书的编写和审校工作。他们也为本书的创作付出了艰辛的劳动，在此，表示衷心地感谢！

希望本书能让您在感受地道英语口语的同时，学习中外文化知识，激发您学习英语的兴趣，培养良好的语速和语感！我们相信“熟能生巧”，只要您坚持不懈，您的英语口语一定会有突飞猛进的提高。

编者

2011 年初夏于北京

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1. What's Your Favorite TV Series

最爱美剧

知识链接

拓展视野，掌握背景知识

“美剧”是中国人对美国电视剧的简称。20 世纪 80 年代,《大西洋底来的人》、《加里森敢死队》等热播。《成长的烦恼》让我们走进美国家庭,体验了代际沟通的现象及其背后的美国式幽默。凡此种种,都已成为那个年代的文化切片。“季”是指各大电视网播出新作品的季节,一般从每年的 9 月中旬开始到次年 4 月下旬结束,时长约 30 周。此外,美剧又分肥皂剧 (Soap Opera)、情景喜剧 (Sitcom)、情节系列剧 (Drama) 等。

难点点拨

知识难点看一看,情景实战热热身

1. present 出品,制作

It is by now the most successful sitcom in America, presented by Warner Bros and initially broadcast on NBC.

这是美国迄今为止最成功的情景喜剧,最初由华纳兄弟公司制作,美国全国广播公司播出。

2. be caring and helpful 互相照顾,互相帮助

They fight like brothers, always caring and helpful toward each other, even in the hardest times.

他们像兄弟一样并肩作战,即便再苦再难也总是互相扶持,互相帮助。

3. make a great success 获得巨大成功

It is hard to change an actor's initial image in the audience's hearts once he has made a great success in a certain play.

演员一成了名,就很难摆脱观众对他的第一印象。

4. be based on 根据,建立在

The TV series *Band of Brothers* is actually based on a book of the same name by a historian Stephen Ambrose.

《兄弟连》实际上是根据一本同名书改编的,这本书是一位叫史蒂芬·安布洛斯的历史学家写的。

情景实战

跟着老外听一听，读一读，练一练

会话 1

Kelly: Do you like American TV series?

Liz: Of course. I often spend a whole day watching and it is good for my English listening and speaking.

K: So which series do you like most?

L: Hard to say. They belong to different types—I mean, some are humorous, and some are exciting.

K: For me, I like *Friends* most, it always makes me laugh. It is by now the most successful sitcom in America, presented by Warner Bros and initially broadcast on NBC. Besides, it is enormously long—ten seasons, you can imagine, from 1994 to 2004.

L: I appreciate the love affair between Ross and Rachel most. It is so moving and exciting.

K: Yes, and boys are always stupidly cute, especially Joey.

L: Yes, boys are boys.

K: Now I am watching another series *Gossip Girl*, which is very interesting and enthralling. I highly recommend it to you.

L: In fact I am watching it now and it really enthralls me. Besides, I can also learn a lot about American English and the American culture from this story.

K: That's true, you can learn a lot through entertainment.

L: Next time you find some good new series, please let me know.

凯利：你喜欢看美剧吗？

利兹：当然了。我经常一看就是一天。这对英语听力和口语都有好处。

K：那么你最喜欢哪部美剧？

L：很难说。这些美剧各不相同，有的幽默，有的刺激。

K：我个人最喜欢《老友记》了。我一看就笑。这是美国迄今为止最成功的情景喜剧，最初由华纳兄弟公司制作，美国全国广播公司播出。而且这剧也非常长，一共有 10 季，你想一下，从 1994 年一直演到 2004 年。

L：我觉得罗斯和瑞秋的爱情故事最好了，既感人，又有趣。

K：是啊。男孩儿都蠢得可爱，特别是乔伊。

L：嗯，年纪再大也是孩子。

K：现在我在看另一部新剧《绯闻女孩》呢，它既精彩又有趣。我推荐你看。

L：实际上我也在看呢，确实吸引人。而且我能从中学到不少有关美式英语和美国文化方面的知识。

K：是啊，寓教于乐嘛。

L：下次你要是发现好看的新剧了，跟我也说说。

核心词汇记一记

Words Storm

sitcom	['sitkɒm] <i>n.</i> 情景喜剧
enormously	[i'no:məslɪ] <i>ad.</i> 非常地
appreciate	[ə'pri:fiət] <i>v.</i> 感激，感谢，欣赏
enthralling	[in'θrɔ:liŋ] <i>a.</i> 扣人心弦的
recommend	[,rekə'mend] <i>v.</i> 推荐，介绍
entertainment	[,entə'teɪnmənt] <i>n.</i> 娱乐

Phrases

love affair	风流韵事
boys are boys	(男人) 年纪再大，也是孩子

会话 2

Loren: Have you watched *Band of Brothers*?

Matthew: Of course I have. It is a must for me as I am especially interested in military things. The display of warfare is fabulous and shocking—when the combat begins, you can really smell the smoke of gunpowder and experience the cruelty of war.

L: And the friendship between members of the Easy Company?

M: Yes, they are really a good team. They fight like brothers, always caring and helpful toward each other, even in the hardest times.

L: And a funny thing—the instructor at the very beginning of the story is played by David Schwimmer, who has also played Ross in *Friends*.

M: The moment I saw him as a peevish drill instructor in the army, I burst into laughter—only to see his face makes me laugh.

L: It is hard to change an actor's initial image in the audience's hearts once he has made a great success in a certain play. I mean, Schwimmer will always be “Ross” in our hearts because we have already been deeply impressed by that image.

M: That's right. The TV series *Band of Brothers* is actually based on a book of the same name by historian Stephen Ambrose.

L: Therefore it is historically faithful.

M: Correct.

劳伦: 你看过《兄弟连》吗?

马修: 当然了。对我这种军事迷来说, 这个是必须要看的。战争场面非常壮观, 震撼人心——每次战斗打响, 你都能真切地闻到硝烟的味道, 体会到战争的残酷。

L: 而且 E 连战友的兄弟之情也很深, 对吧?

M: 是啊, 真是个好队伍。他们像兄弟一样并肩作战, 即便再苦再难也总是互相扶持, 互相帮助。

L: 有件特有趣的事儿——故事开头的教官是大卫·施维默扮演的, 他在《老友记》里演过罗斯。

M: 我一看他扮演这么一个坏脾气的教官, 当场就笑喷了——一看他的脸我就想笑。

L: 演员一成了名, 就很难摆脱观众对他的第一印象。我的意思是, 施维默对大家来说永远都是那个罗斯, 因为我们早已经被这个形象打动了。

M: 是啊。《兄弟连》实际上是根据一本同名书改编的, 这本书是一位叫史蒂芬·安布洛斯的历史学家写的。

L: 所以剧情都是真实可信的。

M: 是这样的。

核心词汇记一记

Words Storm

must	[mʌst] <i>n.</i> 必须做的事
display	[ˈdisˌpleɪ] <i>n.</i> 展示, 表现
warfare	[ˈwɔːfɜː] <i>n.</i> 战争, 冲突
fabulous	[ˈfæbjʊləs] <i>a.</i> 难以置信的, 极好的
historian	[hɪsˈtɔːriən] <i>n.</i> 历史学家

Phrases

burst into	突然爆发
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2. Is News Unbiased

新闻可靠吗

知识链接

拓展视野，掌握背景知识

现代媒体的新闻报道，原则上应当是真实可靠、客观公正的。这一方面要求新闻工作者要有一定的自由和勇气，敢于为公众报道真相；另一方面要求他们要有社会责任感，不掺杂私假，不以自己的观点为绝对真理强加给公众。西方各大媒体一直宣称自己是恪守这些基本原则讲实话的，但是某些时刻依然存在违背客观公正原则的新闻报道。当然，西方媒体的某些批评也是有一定道理的。

难点点拨

知识难点看一看，情景实战热热身

1. add sth. in sth. 向某物里添加进某成分

Sometimes those who report the news will add their own opinions in it, thus making the news full of pride and prejudice.

有时候新闻工作者会添加一些他们自己的主观意见，这样新闻就会带有傲慢和偏见了。

2. hold back sth. from sb. 向某人隐瞒某事

Some news reporters will hold back negative information from the public, in order not to irritate them or make a stir.

一些记者会刻意向公众隐瞒一些负面消息，以免引起民愤，或是招惹是非。

3. make a false accusation against 诬告，诋毁

Sometimes they intentionally make a false accusation against their enemies.

有时候他们也会故意造谣诋毁对手。

4. impose on 强加

Sometimes the western media exaggerates the superiority of western value, and wants to impose this value on other nations.

有时候西方媒体夸大了西方价值观的优越性，想把这种价值观强加给其他国家。

5. be universally applicable to 普遍适用于

There are some principles universally applicable to all human beings.

有一些原则是适用于全人类的。

情景实战

跟着老外听一听，读一读，练一练

会话 1

Robin: Do you believe what you see in TV news or newspaper?

Maria: Not exactly. Sometimes those who report the news will add their own opinions in it, thus making the news full of pride and prejudice.

R: Really? I have never thought of this point before.

M: Some news reporters will hold back negative information from the public, in order not to irritate them or make a stir. Therefore, what we can see in the news is only a part of the whole situation, and the public opinion on the reported affair might be misled.

R: Sometimes ugly things are not suitable for publicity, so reporters may keep reticent.

M: Sometimes they intentionally make a false accusation against their enemies. They make up stories and false evidence. As a result, their enemies may feel great pressure.

R: So media is a weapon indeed, and it can be used for political purposes. The pen is far mightier than the sword.

罗宾：你相信电视或者报纸上的新闻吗？

玛丽亚：不全信。有时候新闻工作者会添加一些他们自己的主观意见，这样新闻就会带有傲慢和偏见色彩了。

R：真的吗？我还从没想到过这问题呢。

M：一些记者会刻意向公众隐瞒一些负面消息，以免引起民愤，或是招惹是非。所以我们看到的新闻只是事件的一个方面而已，公众对于报道事件的意见可能被新闻误导了。

R：是的，也许一些丑事不适合公开，记者也就保持缄默了。

M：有时候他们也会故意造谣诋毁对手，编造一些故事和伪证。这样他们的对手就会感到压力很大。

R：所以媒体确实也是武器，可以用在政治斗争上。笔杆子有时候比枪杆子还厉害呢。

核心词汇记一记

Words Storm

prejudice	['predʒudis] <i>n.</i> 偏见
irritate	['iriteit] <i>v.</i> 激怒
reticent	['retisnt] <i>a.</i> 缄默的
intentionally	[in'tenʃənəli] <i>ad.</i> 故意地
accusation	[ækju:'zeiʃən] <i>n.</i> 谴责

Phrases

make a stir	引起骚动
public opinion	公众意见
make up	编造

会话 2

Kevin: Sometimes I find the news reported by some western news agencies irritating.

Judith: Why is that? because they always report bad news, such as disasters.

K: Nope. It is hard to put it clear. An example—when there is a conflict in some Middle East or African country, the western reporters always show an air of arrogance and prejudice in their reports. They think they are much superior to the local people in the conflict, and often accuse them of inhumanity and insanity. These reporters regard the western people as saviors and the local people as savages, but they never see the inner reason for such a conflict.

J: Yes, sometimes the western media exaggerates the superiority of western value, and wants to impose this value on other nations. This is destined to fail.

K: To me, everything has a deep underlying reason. If we want to know it completely, we should dig out the reason and have a serious study of it. Besides, different cultures have different ways of thinking. We should not interfere with other people's business.

J: However, there are still some principles universally applicable to all human beings, such as friendship, love, peace, and democracy. Sometimes the criticism from westerners is reasonable.

K: Well, it depends.

凯文: 有时候我觉得西方的新闻机构报道的一些新闻很讨厌。

朱迪思: 为什么? 因为他们总是报道坏消息, 比如灾难什么的。

K: 不是的。很难说清原因。举个例子吧, 如果中东或者非洲的某国有冲突事件, 西方记者报道的时候, 总是表现出一种傲气和偏见。他们觉得自己比深陷冲突中的当地人更聪明、更厉害, 总是谴责当地人, 说他们没人性, 说他们疯了。这些记者认为, 西方人就是救世主, 而当地人就是野蛮人, 但是他们从来不去考虑冲突背后的深层次原因。

J: 是的, 有时候西方媒体夸大了西方价值观的优越性, 想把这种价值观强加给其他国家。这肯定是不行的。

K: 依我看, 每件事都有某种深层次原因。如果我们想充分了解这个事件, 就得究其根源, 严肃认真地研究。况且不同文化背景下的人思考问题的方式也不同。我们最好不要干涉别人的私事。

J: 可是总归有一些原则是适用于全人类的, 比如友谊、关爱、和平和民主。有时候西方的批评也有道理。

K: 嗯, 这得看情况而定。

核心词汇记一记

Words Storm

conflict	['kɒnflikt] <i>n.</i> 冲突
savior	['seɪvjə] <i>n.</i> 救世主
savage	['sævidʒ] <i>n.</i> 野蛮人
exaggerate	[ig'zædʒəreɪt] <i>v.</i> 夸大

Phrases

news agency	通讯社, 新闻机构
be superior to	比……更强
western value	西方价值观

3. Interesting Sidelights

花边新闻

知识链接

拓展视野，掌握背景知识

西方的媒体非常注重挖掘一些明星的小道消息、绯闻趣事，在这点上，中外几乎没有差别。狗仔队会想尽办法跟踪明星，监视他们的一举一动，找出各种值得作为谈资的小事，从而吸引读者和观众。而正因为如此，一方面公众对明星的私生活越来越感兴趣，明星的一切都会成为街头巷尾的谈资；另一方面，许多明星越来越不喜欢自己的隐私被曝光。当然，有些人还是会想尽一切办法做出各种雷人的事情来，这样做无非就是为了引起公众的注意，增加知名度。

难点点拨

知识难点看一看，情景实战热热身

1. make a stir 引起大众骚动、议论

Mrs. Obama wore shorts on her visit to the Grand Canyon, which made a stir.

奥巴马夫人去大峡谷旅游的时候穿了短裤，这就出了问题。

2. spy on 监视

The paparazzi always spy on famous people.

狗仔队总是监视这些名人。

3. be exposed to 暴露在……下

Their daily life will be exposed to the limelight.

他们的日常生活坦露在公众目光下。

4. raise one's attention 引人注意

They do all kinds of crazy things, just to raise the public attention.

他们做很多疯狂的事情，就是为了引起公众注意。

情景实战

跟着老外听一听，读一读，练一练

会话 1

Monica: Come, come. I'm reading something interesting from a webpage.

Alicia: What are you reading? You seem so engrossed.

M: Some gossips about stars. You see, Paris Hilton once flirted with Beckham, praising him for his good shape. This irritated Victoria Beckham so much that she warned Paris to 'stay away from David'.

A: Haha! You have a special interest in these gossip things.

M: Don't you think it funny? It is just like what happens in a film. Er... Another thing. Diane Kruger, the actress who has played Helen in the film *Troy*, admits that she is happy to be maltreated and beat up by Brad Pitt in the film *Inglorious Bastards*, because Pitt is so handsome and manly.

A: I just cannot understand why you are so interested in these things.

M: It is funny, isn't it? You see the life of these stars, and you feel their happiness and sorrow—you experience another life, a life totally different from yours. It is just like reading a novel or watching a film.

莫妮卡：过来，过来。我在上网看到一些好玩的东西。

艾莉西亚：都是些什么啊？这么感兴趣。

M: 明星的一些花边新闻。你看，帕丽斯·希尔顿有一次跟贝克汉姆调情，夸他身材棒。维多利亚就生气了，并警告帕丽斯“离我丈夫远些”。

A: 哈哈！你特别喜欢这类花边新闻吧。

M: 你不觉得这些事儿好玩吗？就跟演电影似的。哦，还有一条。黛安·克鲁格，就是在《特洛伊》里演海伦的那个，说她喜欢在电影《无耻混蛋》里被布拉德·皮特虐待毒打，因为皮特太帅太有男人味了。

A: 我就是不明白你为什么对这些事情感兴趣。

M: 这很好玩，不是吗？你看到这些明星的生活，能感受他们的喜怒哀乐——你简直就是在经历一种完全不一样的人生。就跟读小说看电影是一样的。

核心词汇记一记

Words Storm

engrossed	[in'grəʊst] <i>a.</i> 全神贯注
gossip	['gɒsɪp] <i>n.</i> 闲话，流言蜚语
maltreat	[,mælt'reɪt] <i>v.</i> 虐待
manly	['mænli] <i>a.</i> 有男人味的
sorrow	['sɒrəʊ] <i>n.</i> 悲伤

Phrases

flirt with sb.	与某人调情
praise sb. for sth.	称赞
good shape	好身材