

新话题

陈素燕 Alexander Newman(英) 包育彬 著

英语口语教程

LEARNING ORAL ENGLISH THROUGH ISSUES IN MODERN DAY SOCIETY



浙江大學出版社

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前言

随着中国改革开放的全方位深入和加入 WTO,我国与世界的交往日益扩大和频繁。英语作为世界语言和国际交流的主要工具,在中国各个领域使用的机会和频度大为增加。因此,英语的实用性和交际功用日益凸现。多年来广大英语教育工作者都在积极探索英语口语教学的方法与途径,以适应不断提高的新的时代要求,但苦于没有合适的口语教材。现有的多数英语口语教材缺乏时代感和现实感,信息量不足。各方反映强烈,要求合适的教材。

今欣悉《新话题英语口语教程》(Learning Oral English Through Issues in Modern Day Society)编写而成,阅后顿见新鲜和喜悦。综观整个教材,题材新颖,内容丰富,涉及了政治、经济、文化、体育、人文、风情等社会生活的方方面面,富有时代气息。这些方方面面的内容不仅是广大学生所关心的热点问题,也是当今社会各阶层广为谈论的话题。本书集趣味性、科学性、教育性于一体,图文并茂,便于读者轻松地用英语表达思想感情,接触社会,使读者拥有丰富的交流素材,大有信手拈来之感,使你信心倍增,驰骋于交流成功的畅快之中。

本教程不仅话题新颖,编排灵活,它的创新之处还在于文章开篇之初就详告读者一个适用实战的范文框架,并引领读者驾驭话题交际的技巧,如怎样打开话题,怎样表达自己的观点,怎样将话题步步深入等等,便于读者实际操用。每个话题分三块进行训练:就话题的内容提问;对文本话题进行延伸演示活动;对延伸的某一问题进行辩论。这些都是实际交际活动的再现和展开。这些充分训练能较好地激发谈话动机、动力,拓展用英语思维的能力,提升口语表达能力,最终使学生能够投入到自主学习和创新之中。交际功能、语言形式和语言内容这三个要素的有机结合是本书每个话题所遵循的原则。

本教材不仅适合在校大学生使用,也广泛适用于国家公务员、涉外人士及其他学习者,是近年来难得的贴近生活、贴近英美国家社会、生动活泼的口语教材。它能帮助读者在较短的时间内迅速走上掌握英语口语的捷径,享受到一段新奇、充满自主学习和无限情趣的英语之旅。

万昌盛

2004年5月20日

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Part I

Useful Phrases and Expressions

Chapter 1

Asking for and Expressing Opinions

Asking for Someone's Opinion

What do you think about/of...?

e.g. What do you think about the increase in divorce in America?

How do you feel about/of...?

e.g. How do you feel about the problem of environmental pollution in the world?

What are your feelings about...?

e.g. What are your feelings about the method of studying English at university?

What is your opinion of...?

e.g. What is your opinion of America's economic policy?

What is your view of...?

e.g. What is your view of the Iraq War?

Tell me what do you think about...

e.g. Tell me what do you think about the spread of the Internet in today's society.

Have you got any comments on...?

e.g. Have you got any comments on discrimination against women in the workplace?

Could you please express your views on...?

e.g. Could you please express your views on how China has changed in recent years?

I'd be grateful to have your opinion on...

e.g. I'd be grateful to have your opinion on life in a foreign country.

Giving Your Opinion**I think...**

e.g. I think that the environment in the country is better than in the city.

I feel...

e.g. I feel that Chinese people are more traditional than foreign people.

I believe...

e.g. I believe that women are equal in today's society.

In my opinion...

e.g. In my opinion, children should be encouraged to be independent.

From my point of view...

e.g. From my point of view, I think that the government should increase taxes.

I reckon...

e.g. I reckon that Chinese people are becoming richer day by day.

If you ask me...

e.g. If you ask me, the standard of living is improving.

If I may say so...

e.g. If I may say so, the living conditions in the city are good.

As far as I'm concerned...

e.g. As far as I'm concerned, the government should spend more money on education.

As I see it...

e.g. As I see it, this is not a good solution to the problem.

Saying You Have No Opinion**I really don't have any opinion about...**

e.g. I really don't have any opinion about what should be done to solve environmental pollution.

I've no strong feelings about...

e.g. I've no strong feelings about the problem of racism in American society.

I really couldn't say.

It doesn't really affect me/matter to me.

It is not something I've considered a great deal.

I don't hold any particular position on that matter/issue.

I've never given it a thought.

I don't know.

Chapter 2

Expressing Agreement and Disagreement

Agreeing

Exactly!

Absolutely!

I agree with you 100%.

I couldn't agree with you more.

I completely agree.

Yes, that's right.

Yes, I agree with that.

I feel/think that John is right.

I think so too.

That's a good point.

Mmm...that's true.

Disagreeing

I completely/totally disagree.

That's not the point/problem/question!

I don't think so!

I don't agree!

That's not true/right!

I'm sorry, but I don't agree with you. I think...

I don't agree at all!

I'm afraid I disagree.

I don't entirely agree.

I'm not sure I agree with that.

I understand what you're saying/you mean, but I don't quite see it the same way.

I see what you mean, but I think...

I agree in part but...

Chapter 3

Asking for and Offering Suggestions and Advice

Asking for Someone's Suggestions and Advice

Can you give me some advice on/about...?

e.g. Can you give me some advice on the best way to get to Beijing?

Do you have any suggestions on/about/for...?

e.g. Do you have any suggestions on what the government should do to stop pollution?

What would you advise...to do about...?

e.g. What would you advise the company to do about increasing productivity?

What do you think...should do about...?

e.g. What do you think the police should do to stop road traffic accidents?

Offering Suggestions and Advice

I would advise...to...

e.g. I would advise the government to encourage recycling as a method of reducing

pollution.

I suggest...

e.g. I suggest that you take the plane to Beijing.

I think that...should...

e.g. I think that the university should only accept students with good marks in their entrance examinations.

Chapter 4

Comparing and Contrasting

Asking Someone to Compare and Contrast

What is (are) the difference(s) between...?

e.g. What is the difference between Western and Chinese culture?

Can you compare ...with...?

e.g. Can you compare the transportation in Shanghai with the transportation in your hometown?

How do (does)...differ from...?

e.g. How does the weather in China differ from the weather in France?

In what ways do (does)...differ from...?

e.g. In what ways does the education system in Australia differ from that in the USA?

Compare...with...

e.g. Compare Chinese food with Western food.

Making a Comparison and Contrast

The main difference(s) between...and...is...

e.g. The main difference between Chinese and Western education is that Chinese education focuses on students' ability to remember information while Western education focuses on students being active in class.

...have (has) more...than...

Part I

Chapter 5 Asking and Explaining Why Things Happen

e.g. Big cities have more opportunities than small towns.

...are (is) more...than/ ...are (is)...(er) than

e.g. Shanghai is more exciting than Beijing.

e.g. Chinese food is tastier than Korean food.

Saying There Are Few/No Differences

There are few/no differences between...and...

e.g. There are few differences between education in Japan and education in China.

...and...are very similar.

e.g. The living standards of people in the UK and the USA are very similar.

...and...do not differ a great deal

e.g. The attitudes of people in France and Italy do not differ a great deal.

Chapter 5

Asking and Explaining Why Things Happen

Asking Why Things Happen

What are the causes of...?

e.g. What are the causes of unemployment in America?

What do you think are the reasons for...?

e.g. What do you think are the reasons for youth crime?

Why do...?

e.g. Why do people in China learn English?

Explain people's attitudes to...

e.g. Explain people's attitudes to marriage in China.

Explaining Why Things Happen

I think the causes of...are...

e.g. I think the causes of pollution are the release of industrial waste from factories and exhaust gases from cars.

The reasons for...are...

e.g. The reasons for the increase in obesity are people eating more junk food and doing less exercise.

Chapter 6

Advantages and Disadvantages

Asking About Advantages/Disadvantages

What are the advantages and disadvantages of...?

e.g. What are the advantages and disadvantages of going abroad to study?

What are the advantages and disadvantages of...compared with...?

e.g. What are the advantages and disadvantages of using the bus compared with using the train?

What are the positive and negative effects of...?

e.g. What are the positive and negative effects of industrialisation?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of...?

e.g. What are the strengths and weaknesses of Shanghai's transportation system?

What benefits can...gain from...?

e.g. What benefits can a company gain from using the Internet?

What good/bad things result from...?

e.g. What good things result from a decrease in unemployment?

Explaining Advantages/Disadvantages

The advantage(s) of...is (are)...and the disadvantage(s) is (are)...

e.g. The advantage of going abroad to study is that you can learn about a new culture and the disadvantage is that it costs a lot of money.

Compared with...the advantage(s) of...is (are)...

e.g. Compared with using the bus, the advantages of using the train are its convenience and speed.

The positive effect(s) of...is (are)... The bad effect(s)...is (are)

e.g. The positive effect of industrialisation is an increase in living standards. The bad effect is an increase in pollution.

The strength(s) of...is (are)...but the weakness(es) of...is (are)...

e.g. The strength of the team is its speed but the weakness is its lack of experience.

The benefits of...are...

e.g. The benefits of using the Internet in the workplace are increased efficiency and an improvement in communication between different departments in a company.

The good/bad things resulting from...are...

e.g. The good things resulting from a decrease in unemployment are higher living standards and a fall in crime.

Chapter 7

Making Presentations

Introducing Your Presentation

1. Good morning/afternoon/evening, ladies and gentlemen/classmates/colleagues/everybody.
2. I'd like to talk to you today about...
I'd like to make a presentation about...
I'd like to explain to you today...
3. I shall take about 5 minutes of your time.
I aim to talk for about 5 minutes.
This will take about 5 minutes.

Introducing Your First Point

To start with, then, I'd like to consider...

First of all, I'd like to look at...

Finishing a Point

Those are the main points on...

That's all I have to say about...

Now we've looked at/dealt with...

Starting a New Point

Now let's move on to...

I'd like now to examine...

Next we come to...

The next point I'd like to make is...

Referring to What You Have Said

As I said at the beginning...

I told you a few moments ago that...

In the first part of my talk, I said...

As I've already said...

As I mentioned earlier...

Referring to What You Will Say

I'll come to this later.

I'll return to this point in a few minutes.

I'll comment on this in my conclusion.

I'll talk about this later.

Summarising

So now I'd just like to summarise the main points.

In brief, we have looked at...

Concluding

That's all I have to say for now.

I think that covers most of the points.

That concludes my talk.

Thank you for your attention.

Thank you for listening.

Inviting Questions

And now, if you have any questions, I'll be glad to answer them.

Does anyone have any questions?

Any questions?

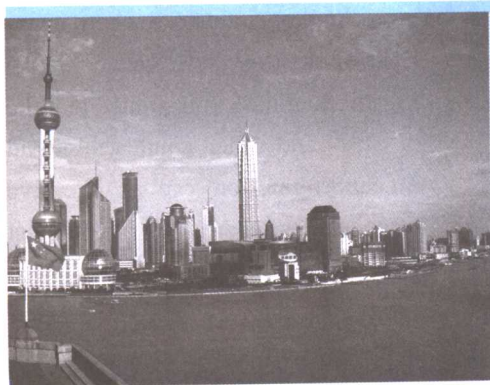
Part II

Topics for Discussion

Chapter 1 Economy

Free Trade: China's Entry into the WTO

The definition of free trade is international trade free of barriers, such as protective customs tariffs put in place by governments that restrict the free flow of goods and services between countries. On 11th December 2001, China entered the World Trade Organization (WTO). The WTO was set up to promote free trade, enforce free trade rules and arbitrate in free trade disputes between member states. China's entry



into the WTO has many implications for both the domestic market in China and the international market. Tariffs and quotas will be reduced on Chinese goods, allowing Chinese producers to sell their products abroad more easily. China's tariffs will also be reduced, allowing foreign companies easier access to