

英语地道口语通系列

# 与美国人交往的 地道口语

AMERICAN INTERPERSONAL  
ENGLISH

赵丹 编著



大连理工大学出版社

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*American Interpersonal English*

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# 前

# 言

Last year, 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 stood 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."

我在去年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 venture. This provided

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,我从美国回到了中国,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 of English.

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，很多翻译和中外人员沟通起来感觉困难。这些翻译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过时的、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. I truly hope that our engineers and translators can have this book as early as possible. They could then adapt to their training in the U.S. better. They could then communicate much more effectively. 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,第十九世纪是英国的世纪,二十世纪是美国的世纪,二十一世纪是中国的世纪。要让这个说法成为现实,英语无疑是一个重要的工具。我真心希望我们的工程师和翻译能早点用上这本书,让他们在美国的培训更顺利, 让他们的翻译工作做得更好。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

2004 年 3 月

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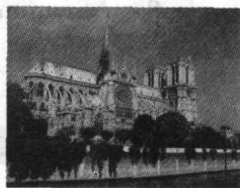
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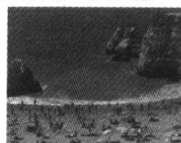


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## Chapter One Greetings

## 第一章 问候语



*In the past, the English textbook always taught us to say "How do you do?" if you met somebody for the first time. This has been out of date for a long time. In the U.S., nobody speaks like that any more. The greetings are also different when you meet somebody for the first time and when you meet somebody you see every day. For formal situations, you want to 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.

布莱恩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。布莱恩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?

布莱恩: 你好,我是布莱恩。你是谁?

Amy: Hi, Brian. I'm Amy.

艾米: 你好。我是艾米。

Brian: Nice to meet you. Where are you from?

布莱恩: 很高兴认识你。你是哪里人?