

常用英語對話

DIALOGUES

by W. M.



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常用英語對話

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本書所收集的常用英語對話，在一份晚報的英語週刊連載，歷時兩年多，極受歡迎，現仍在連載中。現應廣大讀者的要求，輯成單行本，經由原作者修改及校勘。

本書共有百餘組對話，均為人們日常在各種社交場合或某種情形中常會用到或聽到的對話，十分簡易實用，對學會話的讀者會有直接的幫助和啟發。

• 編者 •

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Chapter 1

(1) 另一個新年

Another New Year

- A: Happy New Year. 甲：恭賀新禧。
- B: The same to you. 乙：恭賀新禧。
- A: I understand you will soon have another New Year, right? 甲：你們不久將另有一個新年，對嗎？
- B: Yes, we'll have another one in about three weeks. 乙：對的，大約三個星期左右，我們將另有一個新年。
- A: How could it be that you have two New Years? 甲：怎麼會有兩個新年的呢？
- B: The coming one is the lunar New Year, better known as the Chinese New Year. Some call it New Year of Agricultural Calender. That is of course a literal translation from the Chinese, and I don't think the name is used in English. 乙：行將來臨的是陰曆新年，許多人叫它做中國人新年。有些人則叫它做農曆新年。當然，那是從中文直譯過來的，我不以為英文也有這個名稱。
- A: Very interesting. By the way, when will it be? 甲：非常有趣。且說，它是哪一天呢？

- B: The New Year's Day falls on the 21st of January. 乙：元旦是一月二十一日。
- A: Does it always fall on the 21st January? 甲：總是二月二十一日嗎？
- B: No, it varies. Incidentally, this year New Year's Day comes rather early; it usually falls in February. 乙：不是的，它是不一定的。順便說，今年的元旦來得較早；通常是要到二月份才來的。

(2) 恭喜發財

Kung Hei Fat Choy

- A: Kung hei fat choy. 甲：恭喜發財。
- B: The same to you. 乙：恭喜發財。
- A: I am saying kung hei fat choy, but honest I don't know what does it mean. 甲：我會講恭喜發財這句話，可是老實說，我並不懂得它是什麼意思。
- B: It means wishing you a prosperous New Year. 乙：它的意思是祝你新年興盛。
- A: Is this a literal translation? 甲：是直譯過來的嗎？
- B: No. 'Wishing you have a lot of 乙：不是的。直譯過來

祝賀 恭喜 萬事如意

money' should be the literal translation.

應該是「祝你有很多錢」。

A: Oh, really, how interesting.

甲：哦，當真的嗎，倒真有趣呢。

B: But of course this is only a popular expression in the South. The Northerners say only kung hei.

乙：可是，這只是南方的流行語。北方人只說恭喜。

A: What does that mean?

甲：是什麼意思呢？

B: It's the same as your wishing you a Happy New Year.

乙：像你們的祝你新年快樂一樣。

(3) 元 宵

The Lantern Festival

A: How do you enjoy your New Year?

甲：新年過得高興嗎？

B: Well, in the usual way, visiting each other, distributing lucky money and eating a lot.

乙：像往常一樣，跟人拜年，分派利是，大吃大喝。

A: But your New Year is not over yet.

甲：可是，你們的新年還沒有過完呢。

B: No, not until the Lantern Festival has passed.

乙：沒有，要過了燈節才算過完。

A: Lantern Festival?

甲：是燈節嗎？

B: Yes, sometimes called Yuan Shiao Festival. It's on the Fifteenth Day of the First Moon, and this year it will be the Fourth of February.

乙：是的，有時又叫元宵節。那是正月十五日，公曆今年是二月四日。

A: Why is it called the Lantern Festival?

甲：為什麼叫燈節呢？

B: Lots of lanterns will be lit on that day. It was a quite important festival in the old days, but it is now mainly for the children. There is really not much to be seen.

乙：那天會點着許多花燈的。那在從前是一個很重要的節日，然而現在却主要是兒童們的節日。當真沒有什麼好看的了。

A: What a pity! I missed your New Year's Day and hoped to have some fun before I leave.

甲：多麼可惜啊！我錯過了你們的元旦，倒希望在離境之前能看到一些有趣的東西。

(4) 聖誕咭

Christmas Cards

A: Do you have Christmas cards in Chinese traditional designs?

甲：有沒有中國傳統圖案的聖誕咭呢？

B: Yes, we do.

A: Can I have a look at them?

B: Certainly. Here they are. You have a very wide range to choose.

A: How about this one?

B: It's paper cutting, a traditional Chinese art well-known for centuries. Every design is cut by hand with a pair of scissors.

A: How wonderful. I think I'll take a dozen.

B: Here are cards with reproductions of painting by famous Chinese painters.

A: Lovely. You mean these are reproductions?

B: Yes. They do look like original, do they?

A: Surely they do. Who are the painters?

乙 有的。

甲：給我看一看，可以嗎？

乙：當然可以。這就是了。有很多種款式，隨便挑選。

甲：這種怎樣呢？

乙：那是剪紙，是一種傳統的中國藝術，聞名了好幾世紀。每一種圖案都是用手拿剪刀剪成的。

甲：好極了。我想買一打。

乙：這種咭印的是中國名畫家作品的複製品。

甲：真可愛。你說這是複製品嗎？

乙：是的。它們倒像是原作一樣，可不是嗎？

甲：的確像。那些畫家是誰呢？

- B: Well, the horses are by Hsu Pai Hung, the landscapes by Huang Ping Hung and the flowers by Chi Pai Shih.
- 乙：畫馬的是徐悲鴻，風景是黃賓虹，花卉是齊白石。
- A: Oh, I've heard of these names.
- 甲：我也聽過這些名字。
- B: It's not surprising. Their works are quite well-known in Europe too.
- 乙：毫不奇怪。他們的作品在歐洲也很有名氣。
- A: Can you choose two dozens for me, each with a different picture, if possible.
- 甲：給我選兩打吧，儘可能每張的畫都不要相同。
- B: With pleasure.
- 乙：樂意之至。

(5) 答謝聖誕卡

Acknowledging X'mas Cards

- A: People are busy sending Christmas cards. I have received quite a few, and I don't know whether I should acknowledge them.
- 甲：現在大家都忙着投寄聖誕卡了。我已經收到好幾份，可不知道要不要答謝。
- B: You should.
- 乙：當然要啦。
- A: Supposing I receive a card after
- 甲：假使過了聖誕才收

Christmas, do I have to acknowledge too?

到，那又要不要答謝呢？

B: You have to. You can send your friend a New Year's card.

乙：也要。你可以同敬一張拜年咭給你的朋友。

A: There is another question. Does my wife have to sign her name on the card I send to my friends?

甲：還有另一個問題。寄咭給朋友時，要不要寫上我太太的名字？

B: The question should be whether both your name and that of your wife should appear on the card. You may sign your own name and your wife's name if the card is intended for someone you both know. If the card is for a business associate who does not know your wife, you sign only your own name; your wife's name should not appear on the card.

乙：那是你夫妻兩人的名字要不要同時寫在咭上的問題。如果那張咭要寄去的人，你們夫妻兩人都認識，那就可以寫上兩個名字。如果是寄給同事，你太太不認識他，那就只要寫你的名字，你太太的不必寫了。

(6) 重 陽 節

Chung Yeung Festival

- A: Yet another festival for the Chinese people here! By the way, what does the name *Chung Yeung* mean?
- 甲：這裏的中國人又過一個節了！順便說說，重陽是什麼意思呢？
- B: Honest, I don't know its origin. All I know is that it falls on the ninth day of the ninth moon, and *chung* in Chinese means double.
- 乙：老實說，我也不明白它的來歷。我只知道它適逢九月初九日，中文「重」字是雙重的意思。
- A: I suppose it's a quite important festival traditionally.
- 甲：恐怕也是傳統上一個大節吧。
- B: No, it cannot be compared to the Mid-Autumn or the Dragon Boat festivals. People mark the festival by going to mountain tops or visiting their ancestors' graves.
- 乙：不是的，比不上中秋節或端午節那樣大。重陽節的紀念辦法是去登高或掃墓。
- A: Is that all?
- 甲：就這樣了嗎？
- B: I think so. After all, it is not a public holiday, and you won't see much festive spirit.
- 乙：我想是的。畢竟那不是公眾假期，不會有濃厚的節日氣氛。