

英语中恰如语境的一语三“款”

Shawn Holley 编著 朱恩怀 译 程慕胜 审订

SHAWN HOLLEY'S ENGLISH IN 3-D

1

formal

2

informal

3

slang



清华大学出版社

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ENGLISH IN 3-DIMENSION

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(京)新登字 158 号

内容提要

学习英语稍微入门之后,您会感到在不同的交际环境中,如何恰到好处地选词造句是个大难题。但这又是一个深入学习必须涉及的问题。本书作者肖恩·霍利先生,按照 12 个主题整理挑选了 644 组例句,以对比的方式列出了在正式、非正式和较随意三种场合下,表达同一种句意可采用的三种表达方式,以地道、生动的美语,向读者展示了措词范例。阅读本书时请注意决定语句雅俗程度的黑体字。

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

英语中恰如语境的一语三“款”/(美)霍利(Holley, S.)著;朱恩怀译. —北京:清华大学出版社,1998

书名原文: English in 3-Dimension

ISBN 7-302-02997-0

I. 英… II. ①霍… ②朱… III. 英语-词汇 N. H313

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(98)第 14380 号

出版者: 清华大学出版社(北京清华大学校内,邮编 100084)

[http:// www. tup. tsinghua. edu. cn](http://www.tup.tsinghua.edu.cn)

印刷者: 清华园胶印厂

发行者: 新华书店总店北京科技发行所

开 本: 787×1092 1/32 印张: 4.75 字数: 106 千字

版 次: 1998 年 8 月第 1 版 1998 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

书 号: ISBN 7-302-02997-0/H·206

印 数: 0001~8000

定 价: 6.80 元

INTRODUCTION

The Japanese language has 3 very distinct levels of speech. It is easy to see this in Japanese culture because these levels are also accompanied by visual signs including body language. But it wasn't until I lived in Japan that I became aware of the different levels of speech in the English language. Even though they are perhaps more subtle in American, they still exist. This book is designed to illustrate those different levels of English to the non-native English speaker.

"ENGLISH IN 3-D" has been divided into 12 basic sections. Each section contains a variety of topics. Each topic set is followed by 3 example sentences written in the following three styles: (1) formal or polite, (2) informal, and (3) idiomatic slang. Look at the following example:

A. It sure is **cold** today. (formal)

B. It's **freezing** today. (informal)

C. It's **cold as hell** today. (slang)

All 3 sentences contain basically the same meaning, the main difference is the level of politeness of each sentence. The highlighted words show you the part of the sentence which changes the sentence's level of politeness.

HOW TO USE THE LEVELS:

As a general rule, the first or formal sentence is best

for “written” English, and most appropriate for formal or business situations, or when talking with people whom you don’t know well.

The second or informal sentence is all right to use in everyday conversations with people who you are familiar with. The third or slang sentence is also acceptable to use in everyday conversation. In fact, the use of slang and idiomatic expressions helps to give variety to English conversation and makes it more colorful and interesting. It is particularly interesting for Americans to hear non-native speakers using English idioms.

With a little practice, you will become familiar with the different levels of speech and when to use them. Your English-speaking friends and associates will notice the difference in your English abilities. Remember, If you want to make an impression, use an idiomatic expression!

As we enter into the 21st century and business communications and opportunities between China and the U. S. continue to increase, the ability to speak and write proper English will become more valuable than ever before in history. I believe the insight this book will give the reader into the different levels of English speech will be a definite advantage in the global opportunities of the future.

——Shawn Holley (U. S. A.)

引 言

在日语文化中极易发现日语语体有三种明显的不同层次,因为这种语言层次还伴随有身体动作之类的视觉符号。等我身临日本之后,我才逐渐意识到英语中语体也是有不同层次的,尽管英语中的层次比较难以捉摸,但仍然是存在的。本书正是向以英语为外语的读者例解若干英语语体差异的。

本书分成 12 个基本部分,各部分都包括多个话题,每个话题配有三个例句,以表示语体的三个层次:(1)正式的或礼貌用语;(2)非正式的;(3)俚语、习语的。请看下面的例子。

A. It sure is **cold** today. (正式体)

B. It's **freezing** today. (非正式体)

C. It's **cold as hell** today. (俚语、习语)

以上三句基本上是一个意思,都极言天气的寒冷;其主要的不同在于句子的雅俗有别。本书例句中,黑体字正是有雅俗之别之处。

下面谈谈如何使用这些语体层次:

作为一般原则,书中每个例子中的第一句(或称正式体),最好用于“书面英语”,正式场合或商务活动中,或者,在你的交谈者对你并不熟悉时加以运用。各例中的第二句(或称非正式体),可用于和熟人的日常交谈中。各例中的第三句(或称俚语)用于日常会话也是可以接受的。事实上,使用俚语或习语

性的表达方式,还有助于突出英语会话的多样性,使之更丰富多采而趣味盎然。美国人听到非英语国家人士说习语觉得特别有趣。译者注:“有趣”不一定是好的。”

经过一些练习,你会逐渐熟悉英语语体中的不同层次,并加以适时地使用。于是,你说英语的友人或同事会注意到你的英语水平已有所不同。记住,想让人对你的谈吐有印象,请多使用一些习语来表达。

我们即将进入 21 世纪,中美之间的商务往来和其他机遇正处在与日俱增之时,能否说、写得体的英语比以往任何时候更值得我们注意。本书向读者介绍了有关英语语体中若干不同层次,我相信对读者在未来全球机遇面前肯定会有所裨益。

肖恩·霍利

于美国

• 本书中的英语原文,除极个别的地方外,没有做文字上的改动,但希望读者注意以下几点:

1. 有的句组的第三句,或属粗话,很不礼貌的话,或为不常用的俚语,故在该句前加上叹号“(!)”,表示读者以不运用该俚语为好,如 C. (!) It's cold as hell today. 随便使用这类俚语,听话的人反而会对说话的人产生不好的印象。

2. 有时一组例句中其中一句的中心词或词组与另外两个句子的中心词或词组在意思上有差异,审订时在句后括号内另补充了本意或加以注释。

3. 个别地方的第三句中把 going to 写成 gonna,把 you 写成 ya,是模仿其口语中的实际发音。

——审订者

TABLE OF CONTENTS

目 录

INTRODUCTION	(I)
(引言)	(Ⅲ)
PART 1 ACTION	(1)
(行动)	
PART 2 BEHAVIOR	(30)
(行为)	
PART 3 COMMUNICATION	(37)
(人际交往)	
PART 4 DUTY	(44)
(义务,责任)	
PART 5 EMOTION	(48)
(情绪,感情)	
PART 6 THE MENTAL WORLD	(64)
(精神世界)	
PART 7 MORALITY	(72)
(道义,道德)	
PART 8 THE PHYSICAL WORLD	(82)
(物质世界)	
PART 9 QUALITY	(98)

(品质, 质量)

PART 10 RELATIONSHIP (120)

(社会关系)

PART 11 SIZE & MOVEMENT (125)

(尺度和运动)

PART 12 TIME & SPACE (132)

(时间和空间)

PART 1: ACTION

(行动)

1) ABANDONMENT 遗弃, 放弃

- A. Your father **abandoned** you.
- B. Your father **left** you.
- C. Your father **left** you **high and dry**.

你父亲把你遗弃了

2) ABILITY 能力

- A. Mike is a **master** at karate.
- B. Mike has **fantastic abilities** in karate.
- C. Mike really **knows his stuff**, when it comes to karate.

迈克在空手道方面是位大师。

3) ACCOMPLISHMENT 成就

- A. I wish you **success** in your endeavors.
- B. I know you will **accomplish great things** in your efforts.
- C. You're gonna **go places**.

我祝愿你事业成功。

4) ACQUISITION 获得

- A. John is eager to **acquire** this piece of land.
- B. John is anxious to **buy** this land.
- C. John can't wait **to get his hands on** this land.

约翰急欲购得这块地皮。

5) **ACTIVITY** 活动

- A. Mrs. Gump is very **active** in her religion.
- B. Mrs. Gump is **enthusiastic** about her beliefs.
- C. (!) Mrs. Gump is **going great guns** about her church.
根葡夫人在宗教信仰方面很虔诚。

6) **ADVANTAGE** 优势

- A. Our competitors have an **advantage** in this field.
- B. Our rivals hold the **avored position** in this field.
- C. Our competitors **have an edge** in this field.
我们的对手在这一领域有优势。

7) **AGGRESSIVENESS** 咄咄逼人的劲儿

- A. I detest **aggressive** salesmen.
- B. I dislike **pushy** salesmen.
- C. (!) I hate salesmen who try to **move in on** me.
我不喜欢售货员太咄咄逼人。

8) **AGITATION** 心烦意乱

- A. My employer was extremely **agitated** by the loss.
- B. My boss was really **disturbed** by the loss.
- C. My boss was **hot under the collar** about the loss.
我的老板因这笔损失而不胜烦恼之极。

9) **ALERTNESS** 警惕

- A. Please remain **alert** during this presentation.
- B. Please **stay awake** during this presentation.
- C. **Keep your eyes open** during this presentation.

在这次报告会上要保持头脑清醒。

10) ATTENTION 注意

- A. That girl sure caught my **attention**.
- B. That girl sure got me to **notice** her.
- C. That girl sure **caught my eye**.

那个姑娘确实引起了我的注意。

11) ATTENTIVENESS 专心致志

- A. The audience remained **attentive** to the speaker.
- B. The audience was **enthralled** by the speaker
- C. The audience was **glued to their seats** by the speaker.

听众对演讲者洗耳恭听

12) ATTRACTION 吸引力

- A. Susan is **captivated** by you.
- B. Susan is **attracted** to you.
- C. Susan is **giving you the eye**. (向某人调情)

苏珊被你迷住了

13) BASIS 基础

- A. What is the **basis** of your thesis?
- B. What is the **background** of your thesis?
- C. What is **at the heart** of your thesis?

你这篇论文的主题思想是什么？

14) CAUSATION 成因

- A. Bill is always trying to **cause** trouble.
- B. Bill is good at **bringing about** trouble.
- C. Bill likes to **cook up** trouble.

比尔总是制造麻烦。

15) CERTAINTY 肯定

- A. Do we know **with certainty** that he committed the crime?
- B. Do we know **without a doubt** that he committed the crime?
- C. Do we know **for sure** that he did it?
我们能肯定知道他犯了法吗?

16) CHALLENGE 质问

- A. I **challenge** you to prove anything.
- B. I **question your ability** to prove anything.
- C. You'll **have a hard time** trying to prove anything.
我看你有没有本事来证实此事。

17) CHANCE 机会

- A. Are you willing to **risk your life** on it?
- B. Are you willing to **gamble your life away**?
- C. Are you ready to **roll the dice**? (打赌)
你愿意为此事冒生命危险吗?

18) CHANGE 变化

- A. Miki wants to **change everything**.
- B. Miki wants to **make a difference**.
- C. Miki wants to make an **about-face**. (完全改变自己原来的意见)
米吉想改变一切。

19) CIRCULATION 流传

- A. The news of the crime **circulated** around the office.

- B. The news of the crime **spread like wildfire** around the office.
- C. The news of the crime **made the rounds** at the office.
有关此犯罪行为的消息在办公室里广为流传。

20) COLLAPSE 崩溃

- A. Some people believe the economy is going to **collapse**.
- B. Some people think the economy is going to **fail**.
- C. Many think the economy is going to **fall apart**.
有人相信经济行将崩溃。

21) CONTROL 掌权

- A. Steve likes to **direct** things.
- B. Steve likes to **take charge** of things.
- C. (!) Steve is a **control-freak**.
史蒂夫爱管事。

22) COURAGE 勇气

- A. It took a lot of **courage** for you to do that.
- B. That was a **brave thing** for you to do.
- C. It took a lot of **nerve** for you to do that.
你做了这件事,你的勇气很大。

23) CRISIS 危机

- A. We're in the midst of a **crisis**.
- B. We're in the middle of a **disaster**.
- C. We're in the middle of a **crunch**.
我们正处在一场危机之中。

24) CURRYING OF FAVOR 谄媚求宠

- A. The **preferential treatment** you give Lisa is obvious. (上级对下极)
- B. It's obvious how you **favor** Lisa.
- C. Everyone knows that you **play up to** Lisa.
很明显你特别优待讨好丽莎。

25) **DECISION** 决定

- A. It's your **decision**.
- B. It's your **choice**.
- C. You need to **make up your mind**.
这要你决定。

26) **DEFEAT** 战败

- A. The hometeam **defeated** their opponents.
- B. The hometeam **outplayed** their opponents.
- C. The hometeam **killed** their opponents.
主队击败了对手。

27) **DELAY** 拖延

- A. We must not **delay** any longer.
- B. We cannot **stall** any longer.
- C. We can't **drag our feet** any longer.
我们不能再拖延了。

28) **DESPERATION** 奋不顾身,拼命

- A. Scientists are **desperate** to find a cure.
- B. Scientists are **trying hard** to find a cure.
- C. Scientists are **scrapping the bottom of the barrel** for a cure. (退而求其次)

科学家们在努力寻找一种治疗方法。

29) DETERMINATION 决心

- A. Brenda is **determined** to succeed as a singer.
- B. Brenda is **driven** to make it as a singer.
- C. (!) Brenda is **hell bent** on becoming a singer.

布伦达已下定决心要成为歌唱家。

30) DISCOVERY 发现

- A. We **discovered** a rare book in our attic.
- B. We **found** a rare book in our attic.
- C. We **stumbled upon** a rare book in our attic.

我们在阁楼里发现了一本稀有的书。

31) DISMISSAL 辞退,解雇

- A. Ted was **dismissed** from his company today.
- B. Ted was **laid off** from his job today.
- C. Ted **got the ax** today.

特德今天被他的公司解雇了。

32) DISPUTATION 争吵

- A. You always have something to **dispute**.
- B. You always want to **argue** about something.
- C. You always have a **bone to pick**.

你们总有点儿事要争吵。

33) DOMINATION 控制

- A. Bill's wife completely **dominates** him.
- B. Bill's wife really **controls** him.
- C. Bill's wife **wears the pants** in that family.

比尔的妻子已经完全控制住他。

34) DURESS 胁迫

- A. I know you've suffered a lot of **duress** in your life.
- B. I know you've suffered a lot of **hardship** in your life. (困难)
- C. I know you've been **under** a lot of **pressure** in your life. (压力)

我知道你一生历经许多磨难。

35) DYNAMIC (PERSONALITY) 精力充沛(个性)

- A. Amanda is a **dynamic** individual.
- B. Amanda is an **energetic** woman.
- C. Amanda is a **go-getter**.

阿曼达是个精力充沛的人。

36) EAGERNESS 热切的渴望

- A. I am **eager** to begin my new position.
- B. I'm **looking forward** to starting my new job.
- C. I'm **gung ho** to start my new job. (非常积极)

我急切希望早日开始我这份新工作。

37) ECONOMICAL 节约

- A. Mrs. Cook is a very **frugal** woman.
- B. Mrs. Cook is **good with money**.
- C. Mrs. Cook is a **penny-pinching** woman.

科克夫人是位十分节俭的妇女。

- A. We want something that's **economical**.
- B. We want something that's **cost-effective**.