

咖啡屋美语丛书

当代美国 情景语句 500例

肖恩·霍利 著
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500
Modern American Common
Situational English Expressions

当代美国情景语句 500 例

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前 言

我们有这样一个说法：举一反三。其实，英美人也相应的说法：different ways to say the same thing。比如，在讲到某人漂亮的时候，英语中有多种不同的表示方法：She looks pretty, She looks beautiful, She is a knock-out, She's a kill, She's like a flower, 等等，都讲的是“漂亮”。那么，什么时候应该用哪一种说法，就取决于语言的情景了。在本书中，我们列举了各种不同的情景，在每一个情景中又列举了五个或更多的语句，并且用对话的形式举例说明这些语句的使用方法。

在英语学习中我们常遇到书本知识与日常实际用语的差距问题。比如，对于象“长相一般”这样一种概念的口语表示方法，大多数的教科书很少涉及，即使提到，也是一带而过，很少有详细的解释。既然如此，生活在非英语世界之中的中国学生又怎能了解到英美人在日常生活中实际应用的真实语言呢？为了解决这个问题，我们在此书中系统地介绍了涉及生活中各个方面的语言词条。

我们把日常生活的情景分为十五部分：(1)语言交流，(2)日常餐饮，(3)每日例事，(4)真实人生，(5)往来交通，(6)分分秒秒，(7)上班际遇，(8)身体健康，(9)人的性格，(10)爱情婚姻，(11)相貌外观，(12)金钱地位，(13)大众文化，(14)内心深处，(15)

老话新说。在这十五种情景的大标题下,我们又通过 500 个具体的话题,比较全面地概括了日常生活中的各个方面,详细介绍了每一个话题各不相同的英语表示方法。对于有些为中国学生所不熟悉的语言词条,我们还加了中文注释,为学习者对这些词条的理解提供了方便。

本书中的语言情景以及这些情景中每一个话题的各种表示方法由肖恩·霍利先生编写;中文注释及对话由汪福祥编写。我们相信,对于中国学生提高英语的会话技能,迅速掌握英语的会话技巧,该书一定会起到积极的协助作用。

编者

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Speaking & Communication

语 言 交 流

SPEAK UP 讲话大声点

001

1. Speak up!
 2. I can't hear you.
 3. Can't you talk?
 4. Cat got your tongue?
 5. Could you talk a little louder, please.
-

DIALOGUE

Joe: Speak up, Tom. I can't hear you!

Tom: I beg you pardon?

Joe: I was asking you to talk a little louder. I couldn't hear you.

注: Cat got your tongue 可译为“难道你就没长舌头”。

LANGUAGE 语言

002

1. Can you speak English?
 2. Can you speak the local language?
 3. Can you speak the main lingo?
 4. Do you know the lingua franca?
 5. Do you know the local vernacular?
-

DIALOGUE

Joe: Do you know the local vernacular?

Tom: The local vernacular? What do you mean?

Joe: I asked if you could speak the local language?

Tom: Sure thing. I learned Russian at school.

注:上述的 *lingua franca*, *main lingo* 都是“当地语言”(the local language) 的意思。

LANGUAGE FLUENCY 语言的流利程度 : 003

1. How many languages can you speak?
 2. How many different tongues do you speak?
 3. How many different dialects do you know?
 4. How many languages are you fluent in?
 5. How many languages are you comfortable in?
-

DIALOGUE

Mary: How many different tongues do you speak, Jane?

Jane: What do you mean by “different tongues”?

Mary: Oh, that means “different languages”.

Jane: Well, I can speak three foreign languages.

Mary: What are they?

Jane: They are Russian, Spanish and French.

MOTHER TONGUE 母语 : 004

1. What is your mother tongue?
 2. What is your native language?
 3. What language do you usually speak?
 4. What is your first language?
 5. What language did you speak growing up?
- BONUS:** What language does your parents use?

Dialogue

Mary: You speak very good English, sir. But, what is your native language?

Wang: My native language is Chinese.

Mary: Do you speak your mother tongue here?

Wang: Sometimes.

ENGLISH STUDY 英语学习

005

1. We need to study English.
 2. We need to bone up on our English.
 3. We need an English refresher course.
 4. We need to review our English studies.
 5. We need to go over our English.
-

DIALOGUE

Mary: You should bone up on your English.

Jack: I know. That's why I'm going to an English refresher course in May.

Mary: Have you got a plan for reviewing your English?

Jack: Depends on how I'm going in the refresher course.

注: bone up 是个俚语, 意思是“专心研究”, 后常跟介词 on, 形成 to bone up on... 的形式。

MEETING 会见

006

1. Do I know you?
2. Haven't we met before?

3. Don't I know you from somewhere?
 4. Haven't I seen you here before?
 5. Didn't we go to school together?
-

DIALOGUE

Jack: Haven't we met somewhere before?

Dick: I can't remember.

Jack: Didn't we go to the Evening School together?

Dick: Oh, that reminds me. You are Jack, from the Fifth Street.

Jack: You're right.

I CAN'T TELL HER 我不能告诉她

007

1. I don't have the heart to tell her.
 2. I can't bring myself to tell her.
 3. I can't bare to tell her.
 4. I can't bare the thought of telling her.
 5. I could never tell her in a million years.
-

DIALOGUE

Mary: Did you tell Sally that her husband was killed in the accident?

Jack: No. I couldn't have the heart to tell her that.

Mary: But she will have to be told of that.

Jack: Well... I can't bare the thought of telling her that now anyway.

注: not have the heart to do... 的意思是“不忍心干……”。

1. We need to have a heart-to-heart talk.
 2. We need to have a serious talk.
 3. We need to talk openly about this.
 4. We need to express how we really feel.
 5. We need to put our cards on the table.
-

DIALOGUE

Sandra: You look upset. What's eating you?

Frank: I had a quarrel with Lily.

Sandra: Sorry to hear that. But what for?

Frank: She said that she hated my coming back home late.

Sandra: Then, you should have a heart-to-heart talk with her.

Frank: But she insisted my coming back home before seven.

注: put one's cards on the table 相当于汉语“把问题摆在桌面上”,意思是“开诚布公地讲出自己的心里话”。

LEARNING 学习**009**

1. I want to ask you some questions.
 2. I want to pick your brain.
 3. I want you to teach me.
 4. I want to learn from you.
 5. I want your expertise.
-

DIALOGUE

Dick: I've come to pick your brain.

Jack: About what?

Dick: I bought a computer, but I don't know how to operate it. So I want you to teach me how to use it.

Jack: Let's make a time so that I can tell you what to do.

注: expertise 的意思是“专门知识”。

TALKING 谈话

010

1. You need to talk to someone?
 2. You need to get it off your chest?
 3. You need to face this.
 4. You need to confront him about this.
 5. You need to get some counseling.
-

DIALOGUE

Secretary: Good morning. May I help you?

Client: I need to talk to someone .

Secretary: Yes. You need to get some counseling, I suppose?

Client: I need to talk to someone about your products.

Secretary: Very well. Will you wait here and I'll get that someone.

MISSING THE POINT 话不对题

011

1. Your comment tells me that we're off the mark.
2. Your comment tells me that we're not on the

same wavelength.

3. Your comment tells me that we don't see eye to eye.
 4. Your comment tells me that you're missing the point.
 5. Your comment tells me that we're not communicating.
-

DIALOGUE

Mary: What did you mean by "we are not on the same wave length"?

Jack: What I meant was that you had missed the point of my comment.

Mary: What exactly is your comment?

Jack: My comment is this: you should know that there's a weak link in your service.

注: on the same wave length 直译为“属于同一波长”, 意指“看法一致”。

ACCURATE OBSERVATIONS 准确的观察 012

1. Your observations were right on.
 2. Your observations were right on target.
 3. Your observations were right on the money.
 4. Your observations were dead on.
 5. Your observations hit the nail on the head.
-

DIALOGUE

Frank: I'm very much impressed by your observations.

Jack: What did the boss say?

Frank: He said that your observations hit the nail on the head.

Jack: What did he mean by “hit the nail on the head”?

Frank: He said that your observations were right on the target.

注: hit the nail on the head 的意思是“正中要害”或“把话说到点子上”。

GRAIN OF SALT (一粒盐) 不可全信

013

1. You can't take Dave seriously.
 2. You have to take what Dave says with a grain of salt.
 3. You can't let Dave get to you.
 4. You can't believe everything Dave tells you.
 5. You can't let Dave get the best of you.
-

DIALOGUE

Henry: I'm sorry to learn that you were hooked again by Dave.

Frank: But I didn't think he would betray me.

Henry: You should have taken what he said with a grain of salt.

Frank: He sounded so sincere, so I was taken in by his hypocrisy.

注: to take what one says with a grain of salt 的意思是“对某人说的话不能轻信”。

IN THE SPOTLIGHT 出风头

014

1. Jane just loves compliments.
 2. Jane just loves getting praised.
 3. Jane just eats up all the attention.
 4. Jane loves being in the spotlight.
 5. Jane loves being the center of attention.
- BONUS:** Jane loves getting all the publicity.
-

DIALOGUE

Jenny: I can't understand why you should like to cooperate with Sandra. She's not a pleasant person to work with.

Sally: I know what you mean. You mean she loves being in the spotlight?

Jenny: Sure thing. She enjoys being in the spotlight and getting all the publicity.

Sally: Well... we need someone, actually, who loves being the center of attention in the job.

SPEECHLESS 无言可答

015

1. Lori was speechless when she met her favorite actor.
2. Lori was dumbstruck when she met her favorite actor.
3. Lori was in awe when she met her favorite actor.
4. Lori was tongue-tied when she met her favorite actor.
5. Lori was unable to speak when she met her favorite actor.

BONUS: Lori was dumfounded when she met her

favorite actor.

DIALOGUE

Jack: Did you speak to the famous star?

Lily: I wanted but I was a bit tongue-tied when I was face to face with him. I didn't know what to say.

Jack: Well, many people do that. Before they meet their favorite star they seem to have a lot to say. But when they actually meet, they are dumbstruck and unable to say anything.

注:dumbstruck 通常指“被吓得发楞”,这里指“无话可讲”; be tongue-tied 的意思是“说不出话来”。

PHONE CALL 打电话

016

1. Call me.
 2. Give me a call.
 3. Call me up sometime.
 4. Give me a ring.
 5. You know my number.
-

DIALOGUE

Mary: We haven't seen each other for a long time. Isn't it a good idea to have a good chat?

Lisa: Sure thing. We must have a lot to talk about. But what time shall we meet again?

Mary: How about this Saturday? I don't have anything to do this Saturday. But before you come, please give me a ring so that I know when to expect you. You know my number, don't you?

Lisa: Yes, I do. I'll certainly give you a call.

注: Give me a buzz, 意思相当于“给我挂个电话”。

BAD INTERVIEW 糟糕的面试

017

1. I don't interview well.
2. I botched the interview.
3. I blew the interview.
4. I bombed the interview.
5. My interview was a disaster.

DIALOGUE

Bob: How was the interview last week, Tom?

Tom: Well... I botched it. I was extremely nervous when I was talking with the personnel department manager.

Bob: I'm sorry that you blew the interview, but I don't think that was a disaster. What did he say?

Tom: He just told me to wait for further notice. That was all.

注: botch 是个动词, 意思是“笨手笨脚把某事干坏”。

UNBELIEVABLE STORIES 难以置信

018

1. You've told me a lot of stories but this one is unbelievable.
2. I've heard a lot of stories, but this one takes the cake.
3. I've heard a lot of stories, but this one tops them all.
4. Of all your stories, this one beats them all.