

美国文化简明读本

LIFE IN  
THE USA

生活在美国

(英汉对照)

金臣圣 编译



同济大学出版社

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## 内 容 提 要

本书是一本介绍美国青少年日常生活的英汉对照读物。

书中的话题广泛，涉及青少年学生的生活、学习、娱乐等各个方面，对于每一个话题，都有背景知识介绍。本书语言浅显易懂，自然而地道。对话短小、生动、活泼。书中出现的一些词汇和短语均附有注释。书后有总词汇表。

本书与所配的录音磁带，可供具有一定英语基础的读者学习现代美国口语用，同时也可增进对美国日常生活和文化状况的了解。

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## 前 言

《生活在美国》(Life in the USA)介绍了美国典型的青少年生活中各种各样的情景。本书是用美国青年人实际使用的直率、自然的语言来写的。

每一章的开头均有一个简明的词汇表列出主要的单词和习惯用语。接下来是一段对话，描述大多数青年人和他们家庭的兴趣爱好和活动。读者可以了解有关学校、假期、家庭生活、朋友、打零工、固定假日以及许多其他有趣的话题。“文化背景”介绍这部分解释了美国所特有的每一个情景的各个方面。

每章最后的练习给读者有机会对单词和习惯用语进行练习。书后的总词汇表便于读者参考和学习。

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## 1. The Allowance 零用钱

### Words and Notes 单词和注解

- ① **allowance** [ə'laʊəns]*n.* 津贴, 补贴; 零用钱

例: Each child has an allowance.

每个孩子均有零用钱。

a housing allowance 房租

a meal (travel) allowance 伙食(出差)补贴

- ② **increase** [ˈɪnkri:s]*n.* 增加; 增长

例: an increase in pain 疼痛的加剧

the increase in knowledge 知识的增长

注意: **increase** [ɪn'kri:s] 为动词。

- ③ **get along** (勉强)过活; (勉强)对付过去

例: get along on a small income 靠微薄的收入过活

We can get along without your help.

没有你的帮助我们也能对付过去。

- ④ **Let's see.** 让我想一想。

这里 see 是“想”、“考虑”的意思。

例: We can't give you an answer yet, but we shall see.

现在我们还不能答覆你, 我们再考虑考虑。

- ⑤ **spend** [spend] (过去式和过去分词 **spent** [spɛnt])*v.*

用(钱), 花费

例: spend money on books 花钱买书

下面对话中埃米(Amy)回答说“Books, records, movies…”是“I am going to spend it on books, records, movies …”的意思。

- ⑥ **fair** [fɛə] *a.* 应得的, 应有的  
例: do one's fair share of the household chores  
做自己应做的一份家务活
- ⑦ **provided** [prə'vaɪdɪd] *conj* 如果, 以……为条件  
例: We agree to rent the house provided the roof is repaired.  
如果房顶修好, 我们同意租用这房子。
- ⑧ **to keep one's room in good shape** 使(某人的)房间保持整洁
- ⑨ **budget** ['bʌdʒɪt] *v.* 安排; 规划  
例: budget one's time 安排自己的时间  
budget one's debt repayment 作出还债的规划
- ⑩ **expenses** [ɪks'pensɪs] *n.* (名词, 复数) 开支, 花费  
例: cut expenses 紧缩开支  
holiday expenses 假日花费  
housing expenses 住房费用  
traveling expenses 旅费

## Dialogue 对话

**Amy:** Dad, can I have an increase in my allowance? I'm going to be fourteen years old next week, and I can't get along on the

ten dollars you give me.

埃米: 爸爸, 可以给我增加零用钱了吧? 下个礼拜我就要 14 岁了, 你给我这 10 块钱我已经不够花了。

Mr. Chase: Let's see ... What are you going to spend it on?

切斯先生: 让我想一想……。你要把这钱花在什么上呢?

Amy: Books, records, movies...

埃米: 买书, 买唱片, 看电影……。

Mr. Chase: What do you think is a fair allowance?

切斯先生: 那你看该给多少零用钱呢?

Amy: Peter gets fifteen dollars a week, and Joan gets fourteen. But she's only twelve years old.

埃米: 彼得每周可得 15 块钱, 琼一周也有 14 块, 可她才 12 岁呢。

Mr. Chase: All right. I'll give you an allowance of fifteen dollars every Saturday ... provided you keep your room in good shape and help your mother.

切斯先生: 那好, 我就每星期六给你 15 块零用钱……, 不过你得让自己的房间保持整洁, 还要帮你妈妈干些活。

## Culture Note 文化背景介绍

American parents often give their children a weekly allowance—a fixed sum of money they can spend as



they wish.

Many parents think that a regular allowance is an excellent way to teach children the value of money. With an allowance, they learn to budget their expenses. If they don't, they will have no money to spend by the end of the week.

在美国，做父母的都经常给自己的孩子一周的零用钱——一笔数目固定的孩子们愿怎么花就怎么花的钱。

很多父母认为给些固定的零用钱是教育孩子懂得金钱价值的极好的方式。有了零用钱，孩子们就学着如何来花钱。要是他们不能好好支配，那么，到了周末他们就会无钱可花了。

## Exercises 练习

A. Answer the questions on the dialogue.

根据对话回答下列问题。

1. How old is Amy?
2. What does she ask her father for?
3. What is she going to spend her allowance on?
4. What is Peter's allowance?
5. Why is Joan's allowance only fourteen dollars a week?
6. How much will Mr. Chase give Amy?
7. On what condition?

B. Complete the sentences according to the dialogue.

根据对话补全下列句子。

1. A fixed sum of money parents give regularly to their children is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. They can spend their allowance \_\_\_\_\_.
3. With an allowance, children learn to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If children don't budget their expenses, they'll have no \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Joan gets only fourteen dollars a week because \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Amy's father will give her a fifteen-dollar allo-
7. wance provided \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Amy will receive her allowance \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2. Babysitting for the Neighbors 替邻居临时照看小孩

### Words and Notes 单词和注解

- ① **babysitting** ['beibi,sitiŋ] *n.* 代人临时照看小孩

此词由动词 babysit 而来。

例: Don't bother. I'll babysit Bonnie.

不用操心,我会代你照看邦尼的。

- ② **Can I be of help?**

我能为你效劳吗?

同 Can I help you.。也可说成 “Can I be of any help to you?”。

- ③ **Would you please?**

请你问问他好吗?

这里 “Would you please?” 是 “Would you please ask him?” 的省略。

- ④ **sure** [ʃʊə] *adv.* 的确,一定

相当于 “Yes, of course.”, 美国口语中常用它来代替 of course.

例: Are you going? 你去吗?

Sure. 当然去啦。

- ⑤ **Find out at what time, will you?**

请你问一下要我什么时候去, 好吗?

这里相当 “Will you ask her at what time she wants

me at her house?”。

“find out” 意为 “learn”, “discover”

有“发现;得知”的意思。

例: I don't know, but I'll find out for you.

我虽不知道,但会为你去打听(探明)的。

⑥ **O.K.** [*'əu'kei*] *a. & adv.* 对;好;行

美国口语中常用,相当于“all right”,也可写成 OK。

这里“*It's O.K. with him.*” 意为 “*He(Stevie) can babysit for you.*”。

⑦ **show** [*ʃəu*] *n.* 演出;节目

show 可以指电影,也可以指戏剧或其它形式的舞台演出。

例: a film show 一场电影

go to a show 去看戏(或电影等)

⑧ **to be back** 回来;回家

be back 相当于 return

⑨ **youngster** [*'jʌŋstə*] *n.* 年轻人,小伙子;小孩

⑩ **supplement** [*'sʌplɪmənt*] *v.* 增补,补充

⑪ **do odd jobs** 打杂;做额外的零星活

odd [*ɒd*] *a.* 临时的,不固定的;额外的

⑫ **maid** [*meɪd*] *n.* 侍女;女仆

⑬ **relative** [*'relatɪv*] *n.* 亲属,亲戚

⑭ **hire** [*'haɪə*] *v.* 租用;雇用

例: hire a boat 租一条小船

They have hired a team of labourers to dig the road.

他们雇了一队劳工来掘路。

注意：租赁土地、房屋一般用 rent，若系暂时租借也可用 hire。

⑮ **amuse** [ə'mju:z] *v.* 给……提供娱乐(或消遣)

例：keep a child amused with new toys 用新玩具使孩子久久不觉厌烦

• He plays the piano only because it amuses him.

他弹钢琴只是因为弹琴给他带来乐趣。

⑯ **change diapers** 换尿布

**diaper** ['daɪəpə] *n.* 尿布

⑰ **emergency** [i'mə:dʒənsi] *n.* 紧急情况；不测事件；非常时刻

例：He is able to meet the emergency.

他能应变。

keep a fire extinguisher for use in an emergency 备一架灭火器供紧急时使用

该词也可作形容词，意为“紧急情况下使用的，紧急的，应急的”。

例：an emergency exit 太平门

the emergency room 急诊室

⑱ **charge** [tʃɑ:dʒ] *v.* 要(价)，要(人)支付

例：The airlines charge half price for students.

航空公司对学生收半价。

⑲ **flat fee** 统一收费，固定收费

**flat** [flæt] *a.* 一律的，固定的

例：a flat rate 统售价格

a flat fare of ten cents a ride 每次乘车一角  
钱的固定车费

## Dialogue 对话

**Mrs. Henry:** Good evening, Dorothy. Is your daughter home?

亨利太太: 晚上好, 多萝茜。你女儿在家吗?

**Mrs. Jenkins:** Oh hello, Edith. No, she isn't. Can I be of help?

詹金斯太太: 哦, 你好, 伊迪丝。不, 她不在家。我能帮你什么吗?

**Mrs. Henry:** I wanted to ask her to babysit for me Friday night. Is she free?

亨利太太: 我想请她星期五晚上给我临时照看一下孩子。她有空吗?

**Mrs. Jenkins:** I don't think she is, but I could ask Stevie.

詹金斯太太: 我想她没空, 不过我可以问一下斯蒂维。

**Mrs. Henry:** Would you please? The baby loves him too.

亨利太太: 那么请你问问他好吗? 孩子也喜欢他的。

**Mrs. Jenkins:** Stevie, are you free Friday night to babysit for Mrs. Henry?

詹金斯太太: 斯蒂维, 星期五晚上你有没有空替亨利太太照看一下小孩?

**Stevie:** Sure. Find out at what time, will you?

**斯蒂维:** 当然可以。你是不是问一下要我什么时候去, 好吗?

**Mrs. Jenkins:** It's O.K. with him, Edith. At what time do you want him at you house?

**詹金斯太太:** 伊迪丝, 他没问题。你要他什么时候到你家呢?

**Mrs. Henry:** Well, we're going out to dinner and then to a show. If he comes at about 6:30, we'll have the baby all ready for bed. We should be back before midnight.

**亨利太太:** 嗯, 我们要出去吃晚饭, 然后去看戏。如果他在六点半左右来, 我们会给孩子做好上床的一切准备的。我们可能在午夜前回家。

**Mrs. Jenkins:** Fine then, he'll be there. Good night, Edith.

**詹金斯太太:** 那好, 他会去的。晚安, 伊迪丝。

**Mrs. Henry:** Good night, and thanks.

**亨利太太:** 晚安, 那么多谢了。

## Culture Note 文化背景介绍

Many American youngsters supplement their allowance—if they get one—by doing odd jobs for their neighbors. Babysitting is one of the most common of

these jobs. Most couples do not have maids or relatives living with them, and they need to hire someone to watch the children if they want to go out.

The babysitter is expected to watch the children, feed them, amuse them, put them to bed at the proper time, and change diapers if necessary. Before leaving, the parents usually give the babysitter a telephone number where they can be reached in an emergency.

A babysitter charges between two and three dollars an hour or a flat fee of twenty to thirty dollars for a whole day.

许多美国年轻人,要是他们有零用钱,那么,还会通过替邻居干些杂活来补充一些自己的零用钱。替别人临时照看小孩便是这些活儿中最常见的一种。大多数夫妇是没有女仆或亲戚同他们住在一起的,因此,如果他们想要外出就需要雇个人来照看自己的孩子。

对于代人照看小孩的人,要求能照看好小孩,喂孩子吃东西,逗他们玩,在适当的时候送孩子上床睡觉,如果需要,还得更换尿布。孩子的父母在离家前通常会给来照看孩子的人留下一个在紧急情况下可以用来找到他们的电话号码。

临时给人照看小孩者的要价在每小时 2—3 美元之间,干一整天的统一费用 20—30 美元。

## Exercises 练习

A. Answer the questions on the dialogue.



根据课文回答下列问题。

1. Is Mrs. Jenkins' daughter home?
  2. What did Mrs. Henry want?
  3. Whom could Mrs. Jenkins ask to do it?
  4. Can Stevie do it?
  5. What time does Mrs. Henry want Stevie at her house?
  6. Where are the Henrys going?
  7. What time will they be back?
- B. Reply by using the short forms of the verb, as in the example.

参照例子用动词的简略形式进行回答。

Example:

Is your daughter home?

No, she isn't.

1. Is she free to babysit Friday night?
2. Is Stevie home?
3. Is he free to babysit Friday night?
4. Are the Henrys going out that evening?
5. Are they going to visit some friends?
6. Are they going to be back before midnight?
7. Is Stevie going to put the baby to bed?