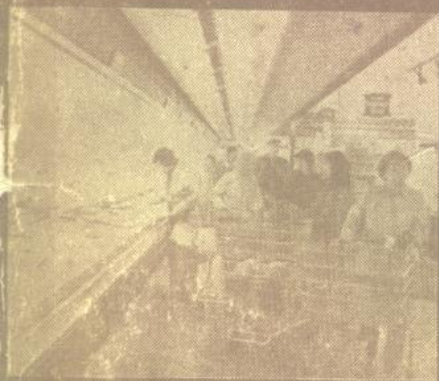


英汉对照读物

现代美国生活会话



**AMERICANS
AS THEY SPEAK
AND LIVE**

W. Tasker W.



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SPEAK AND LIVE

〔美〕 W. TASKER WITHAM 著

张大帆 译注

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出版说明

本书以当代美国日常生活为题材,用美国英语写出,经张大帆先生译注。原书文字生动活泼,反映了美国人民日常生活的实际用语。在中美经济、文化交流日益频繁之际,本书的出版将有助于我国人民了解美国人民生活的若干侧面,可供大专院校英语专业师生及出国留学生参考。现经钱歌川先生推荐,特予重新校订出版。在校订中尽量保持原译文的内容和风格,对若干明显的疏漏和排印中的错误作了订正,取消了插图,统一了规格体例。原作者序和钱歌川先生序一并印出。注解包括原作者的加注和译注。

一九八〇年六月

钱歌川先生序

大家总以为美国和英国是同文同种的国家，其实并不尽然，美国的人种极杂，英国人的子孙，只占人口的一小部分；至于说到同文方面，应当是没有问题的，但我们也还记得，美国之采用英语作国语，不过是两票的优势所决定的，国中不会说英语的人相当的多，政府才规定美国公民必须认识四千个英语的基本字。老一辈的人，还在说他们故国的话，大家聚族而居，各种不同祖国的移民，形成各个不同语言习俗的区域。这是美国所独有的一种特殊现象。

在这种情况下，国语一定不会很纯粹的。即以英语而论，英国移民于一千六百二十年乘“五月花”号从英伦三岛带到美洲大陆的语言，也和现代英语不同。在今日的美国话中，还保留了一些英国文字的古代用法。最普通的，例如以叶落知秋的落字来代表秋天，原是英国十六世纪中叶（一五四五年）的用法，现在早已不通用了，一般人看起来，还以为这是纯粹的美国话呢。

美国在立国的初期，出了一位大语言学者韦伯斯脱，他不仅为美国人编了一部大辞典，而且还为美国人改革了文字，把许多英国字中不发音的字母都去掉了。现代又出了一位学者门肯，把美国的语言，加了一番整理的工夫，想在美国语与英国语之间，划出一条界线，使美国语能够自成一派，不再寄人篱下。

英国有些固本位的学者，主张本国语文的纯正，反对接纳美国的新字，但一般的英国人挡不住美国电影的洪流，无形中自己也用起美国话来而不自觉。因此许多美国的单句和表现法，都进入了英国，而变成英国语的一部分了。

虽然如此，英国语既不会因此而完全美国语化，就是美国人所说所写的英语，也不会与英国人所说所写的英语完全趋于一致。它们在许多地方还是很不相同的。许多美国的特殊用法在本质上，是不适于向外输出的，何况美国人的创造新字的天才，未尝片刻停止，当一个美国字渡过大西洋向英国而去的时候，另外一个新的美国字又从中西部那块语言的肥沃土地上生长出来，而填补了那个空缺。不过，尽管美国语与英国语有许多不同的地方，也决不至于使得美国语变成一种崭新而独立的语言。它们虽有小异，毕竟是大同的。它们那种分歧，有时虽大到认不出原来本是同根生的程度，但总脱离不了英语的范围。

我国文字虽同，但各地的语音变化很大，我们外省人来到台湾，竟至言语不通。我们都知道台湾话是从闽南带过来的，可是台湾经过日本五十年割据的关系，也和原来的闽南话有了分歧，美国脱离英国，快到两个世纪，语言怎么也不可能完全一致了。在发音上，在字汇上，在成语上，在用法上，都有许多美国独特的地方，这是不待言的。

一本美国语的字典，对于我们查阅某一个美国字的用法是有用的，但它却不能满足我们的要求。我们要学的，不是一个美国字，而是一句美国话。告诉我们学美国话的，最好当然是会话书。张大帆先生翻译的这本美国生活会话，内容包括美国日常生活的各方面，甚至语言的各等级，从儿童游戏的会

话到文艺茶会的清谈，应有尽有，社会各色人等，各有各的特殊语，也都应用到了。想学美国话的人，能够熟读这本会话，随时运用，自然水到渠成，可收事半功倍之效。是为序。

钱 歌 川

PREFACE

Is there an American language? If Americans do not speak English, what language do they speak? If it is the same language, it certainly differs in many important respects from that spoken by the British. Because of the close contacts between Americans and Europeans, resulting from the recent war and the establishment of the peace, there seems to be a greater need than ever before for a book which will illustrate with some accuracy the everyday speech of educated Americans, and point out differences between it and British usage.

The most noticeable differences can hardly be conveyed in print, as those in tempo, rhythm, intonation, and inflection. However, there are some striking differences in pronunciation and vocabulary; the student who masters these, after knowing the fundamentals of the common English language, will be able to make conversation in either England or America.

This book tries to show how Americans really speak in various situations of daily life. These situations have been chosen with two purposes in view: first, to present a cross section of American life, with special emphasis on the aspects which are unusual or unknown in the Old World; and second, to illustrate various levels of speech formality, from that of children at play to that of ladies at a literary tea. A number of slang and even ungrammatical expressions have been used, as these occur frequently in the informal speech of educated Americans; but footnotes indicate any terms which are not acceptable in formal

usage. Especially vulgar or illiterate expressions have been avoided.

The work is by no means complete. In order to make the dialogues as realistic as possible, the book uses repeatedly the idioms which are heard most frequently in real life, and omits many common idioms which would not naturally occur in the particular situations presented.

It would be impossible in a brief preface to express appreciation to all who have helped in preparing this work, but acknowledgment is certainly due to my wife for many helpful suggestions and much loyal cooperation, to Dr. Frederick Ungar, Dr. Leo Herland, and Miss Carol McDonald for encouragement and advice, and especially to Dr. Robert Lohan for so much assistance that he should really be called collaborator as well as translator.

W. TASKER WITHAM

著 者 序

究竟有没有一种美国语言呢？美国人若不说英语还说什么话呢？诚然美国人说的是英语，不过在若干重要地方是与英国人所说的英语不同的。由于第二次世界大战与战后和平的重建，美国人和欧洲人之间发生了密切的接触，因此，把受过教育的美国人所说的日常语言相当精确地表现出来，并在英语的用法上把英美的用法指出来，这样的一本书的需要似乎越发迫切了。

英美人说话的速度，节奏，腔调，抑扬顿挫等最显而易见的区别，在书本上是难以表现的。不过，学者若在英语上有了基础，再把英语在英美的发音和语汇上明显的不同弄清楚，不论在英国在美国，也就能够交谈了。

本书所要表现的，就是在日常各种情形下，美国人实际上是怎么样谈话。书里各主题之选择具有两层用意：第一是要显示美国生活的横剖面，并且极其重视其特殊之处和欧洲人所不了解之处；第二是要表现各种情形下的语言形式，下自儿童游戏，上至高等妇女的文艺茶会。本书也采用了一些俚语，甚至有些不合乎语法的语句，这就是因为受过教育的美国人在随便谈话时经常如此应用的缘故。不过书中遇有此种文句，在脚注里都有所辨正，以便与正规文句有所分别。特别鄙陋粗俗的语句都避免了。

本书当然并不包罗一切。但为了使对话充分真实，本书把现实生活里最常见的成语都经反复使用，不切合实际的成语则一概屏弃不取。

在这样一篇短短的序文里，向帮助作者写出本书的人们一一表示谢意，实在不容易。但是特别应该感谢我的妻子，她曾提出若干很好的意见，也曾多方通力合作；还有弗雷德里克·恩加博士，利奥·赫尔兰德博士，卡罗尔·麦克唐纳尔德小姐，他们都曾惠予鼓励并予忠告指示。罗伯特·洛汉博士对作者的帮助最大，虽然他是本书德文的翻译人，就称之为本书的共同作者也无不可。

W. 塔斯克·维特黑姆

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1. RISING AND BREAKFAST

(The alarm clock rings violently, arousing Mr. Weaver from deep sleep.)

MR. WEAVER (sleepily): Darn^① that thing.

(Still half asleep, he gropes for^② the clock, manages to turn off^③ the alarm, then pulls the covers over himself again. Mrs. Weaver, who for some time has been lying awake beside him in the double bed, laughingly gives her husband a push.)

MRS. WEAVER: Wake up, lazybones.^④ You'll miss your breakfast again and be grumpy all morning.

MR. WEAVER: (from under the blankets): Five minutes more.^⑤ Let me know when you're through with^⑥ the bathroom.

(Mrs. Weaver goes to the bathroom, returns a few minutes later, and pulls the covers off her husband.)

MRS. WEAVER: Come on, sleepyhead. Get up and shave those whiskers^⑦ off. You look like an old bear hibernating.

(Mr. Weaver stretches, yawns, rises reluctantly and plods heavily into the bathroom. He fills the basin with water, plunges his hands in, and draws them out again quickly, roaring with pain.)

①darn 为 damn 之俗写。咒骂之字，原为遭天谴。

②grobe for, 摸索。

③turn off, 关闭，停止，指水、电，此处指闹钟之响铃。

④lazybones 此字最后之 s 不可少。

一、起床和早餐

(闹钟猛响着,把韦佛先生从沉睡中闹醒。)

韦佛先生(睡眼朦胧地):该死的东西。

(他半醒半睡地去摸那个钟,设法把响铃关住,然后又把被子拉过来盖上。韦佛太太在双人床上丈夫身旁已经醒着躺了一会儿,这时笑着推了丈夫一下。)

韦佛太太:醒来吧,懒骨头。不然你又要耽误了早饭,闹一早晨脾气了。

韦佛先生(从毛毯下面说):再睡五分钟。你用完了浴室告诉我好了。

(韦佛太太走到浴室去,几分钟之后回来了,把丈夫身上的被子拉了下来。)

韦佛太太:好了,懒虫。起来刮刮脸上的胡子去。你简直象个冬眠的老熊。

(韦佛先生伸伸懒腰,打了个呵欠,勉强起床,迈着沉重的脚步走进浴室去。把脸盆放满了水,把手一下子放进去,又很快地拿出来,疼得直喊。)

⑤会话中常省略,全句当为“Let me sleep five minutes more.”

⑥through 美语,相当英国俗语中之 finished,有宾语时后面往往用 with。

⑦whiskers 现代常用复数, s 不可少,以前偶用单数。在英国指两颊上生的胡子,在美国指全脸上的。

MR. WEAVER: Confound^⑧ the dad-blasted^⑨ water! Why didn't you tell me it was so hot?

MRS. WEAVER (unsympathetically): Don't blame me if you're too sleepy to see it steaming. And for heaven's sake, don't wake the whole neighborhood!

(Mr. Weaver adds cold water to the basin and washes himself; then, with face and hands dripping and eyes tightly closed, he reaches for a towel. His fingers closed on^⑩ something small and silky.)

MR. WEAVER: What the dickens!^⑪ (He opens his eyes.) Hey! Who the Sam Hill^⑫ has been hanging panties^⑬ on my towel rack?

MRS. WEAVER (at the bathroom door): Quiet, please, Frank. I'd like^⑭ to have the children get some sleep.

MR. WEAVER (holding up a dainty undergarment): But what about this?

MRS. WEAVER: Hazel was washing out^⑮ some of her undies^⑯ last night, and your rack was the only empty one, so she hung them there to dry. It's nothing to get excited over.

MR. WEAVER: Well, where's my towel? That's what I want to know.

MRS. WEAVER: I put it in the laundry. It was filthy.

⑧confound 俗用咒骂语,作“混账”或“混蛋”解。

⑨dad-blasted, 为 God-blasted 之俗写,作“天打雷劈的”或“该死的”解。

⑩close on, 即 close fingers on, 抓,拿。

⑪“what the dickens!” 咒骂语,有时只为加重语气, dickens 为 deuce 与 devil 之俗写。

⑫Sam Hill 为 hell 之变,俗语,咒骂词,借以加强语气,意为“到底”,“究竟”。

韦佛先生：混蛋天打雷劈的水！为什么你刚才不告诉我水这么热呢？

韦佛太太(毫不同情地说)：不要怪我，是你困得没看见水冒热气。看着老天爷的面子，别把街坊四邻都吵醒吧！

(韦佛先生把凉水加在脸盆里洗起来；后来脸和手都滴着水，眼睛紧闭着去摸手巾。手指头抓住一件又小又柔软的东西。)

韦佛先生：简直见鬼！(他睁开了眼睛。)嘿！到底是谁把短裤挂在我的手巾架子上？

韦佛太太(在浴室门口)：弗兰克，请安静一点。我还想让孩子多睡一会儿呢。

韦佛先生(手里举着一件美丽的内衣)：但是这是怎么回事呢？

韦佛太太：海子昨天晚上洗内衣，那时只有你的架子还空着，她就挂在上头晾着。这有什么大惊小怪的。

韦佛先生：喂，我的手巾在哪儿？这个我得要知道哇。

韦佛太太：我把它送去洗了。已经脏了。

⑬panties 女人极短之内裤，在正规英语中尚无同义字。

⑭I'd like, 在英国为 I should like, 在美国则多为 I would like, 意思相同。

⑮out 在此无何重要意义，省去亦可。如 He washed out his mouth (嗽口)。

⑯undies 为 undergarment 之讳称或雅语，内衣。尤指女人、儿童内衣。

MR. WEAVER: And never thought to get me a clean one,^{①⑦} of course.

MRS. WEAVER: You know where the linen closet is; you could help yourself. (She gets one for him.) Now go ahead and shave. I'll have your breakfast ready for you when you're through.

(She descends to the kitchen.^{①⑧} He inspects his face in the mirror, then leisurely applies a heavy coating of lather, while amusing himself by making faces^{①⑨} at his reflection. At last he begins to assemble his safety razor. Not finding a blade, he goes to the door and shouts angrily.)

MR. WEAVER: Helen! What have you done with my blades?

MRS. WEAVER: Your blades? I haven't had them. Oh, Frank, haven't you begun to shave yet? Your eggs will be cold.

MR. WEAVER (louder than ever): Somebody must have had them. A package of razor blades doesn't run away and hide.

MRS. WEAVER: Frank, do be quiet.^{②①} Have you looked in your bathrobe pocket?

MR. WEAVER: Of course I have. They're not — (He finds the blades in his pocket, where he has put them a few minutes earlier.) Well, I don't know how they got there.

MRS. WEAVER: If you'd^{②②} use the electric shaver I gave you for Christmas, you wouldn't have to bother with blades or brushes or any of that messy stuff.

①⑦省去主词。

①⑧美国房屋中 dining room, living room, kitchen 在楼下, bed room 及 bath room 在楼上。