

大学生实用英语丛书

大学英语沙龙

English Matters

Li Fang and David Kellogg



西安交通大学出版社

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内 容 简 介

本书意在提高学生英语实际运用能力,其内容涉及面广,包括金钱观、恋爱婚姻、竞争、出国以及艾滋病预防等。其练习形式新颖,题型多样化,目的在于提高篇章分析能力,同时扩充词汇量。本书对提高英语写作、辩论能力会有很大帮助。

本书可作为大学生阅读辅助教材,也可供其他英语爱好者参阅。

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作者的话

《大学英语沙龙》*English Matters* 是一本专门为中国中、高级英语学习者编写的提高实际语言运用能力的书籍。

不同于一般的四、六级,托福应试模拟题集,《大学英语沙龙》*English Matters* 以介绍英语学习方法为主旨,以培养良好的英语学习习惯为出发点,鼓励学生在英语学习过程中发挥主动性,以改过去那种被动选择 A, B, C, D 的方法。如果你能按练习的要求去做,学完此书你会在英语交流方面有明显的提高。如果做练习有困难可参阅答案部分。本书以“教”为主,避免“考”学生,所以参阅答案的过程也是学习英语的过程。不同于一般的标准答案,此书提供给你建议性的答案,同时讲解选此答案的原因以及其它答案的可能性。其主旨是帮你摆脱对标准答案的依赖性,同时意识到在很多情况下“标准答案”并非标准的现实,树立起在语言学习中没有唯一绝对正确答案的思想。那种试图利用学习模拟题提高英语水平的想法是不明智的。因为一张四、六级证或托福高分并不能保证你有听、说、读、写的基本能力。对此许多出国留学人员深有体会。这也正是许多有识之士呼吁改革四、六级考试,使英语教学重点转移到提高实际运用能力方面的原因。

《大学英语沙龙》*English Matters* 在为中国人的提供另一种更实用有效的英语学习途径方面做了大胆的尝试。考虑到学生对篇章法分析时无处下手,我们特意编写了课文分析,而且更进一步地引导你表达自己的观点,使英语变为你表达自己思想的工具。

深知学生记单词之苦,本书设计了“编写你自己的字典”、“字谜”、“填空”等多种练习形式,使大学英语考试大纲中的四级词汇在不同题型中多次出现以达到帮你记住、掌握单词的目的。书后附有词汇索引帮你迅速查出生词在文中的出处及用法。单词索引也是你在学完此书后消灭单词方面“漏网分子”的速效剂。

在编写过程中,我们以英语教授英语为主导思想,用最简单易懂的文字讲解课文难点,避免汉语注释,全书提供给你的是全英语式教学。《大学英语沙龙》*English Matters* 的全部文章专门为中国读者而写,其内容涉及到青年人关心的社会问题,例如:金钱观、竞争、出国、男女平等、恋爱婚姻以及艾滋病预防等等。其目的在于:在英语这个不熟悉的语言环境下,为你提供一个熟悉的世界。

最后,我建议您在使用此书之前认真阅读本书的英文介绍,以进一步了解第二作者 David Kellogg 编写此书的目的。我衷心希望我们的《大学英语沙龙》*English Matters* 给您的英语学习提供巨大的帮助。

李 芳

一九九七年十月 于伦敦

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Li Fang

Introduction

Of course English matters. You need it to pass tests, your profession needs it to meet world standards, and your country needs it. . . well, never mind. Let's just talk about you.

English matters a lot to you, or you wouldn't be spending money on it now, with prices so high and so many other things to buy. Why English is important to you is none of my business. Some English books are concerned with that; they teach you English for engineering, English for waitressing, English for dentistry, chemistry, biology, sociology, you name it. This book doesn't try to do that. This book just teaches matters as they come up, matters that affected the author, matters that will involve you. It teaches English as if English itself matters. What you do with your English is then up to you.

Because English is so terribly important, and so terrifically difficult, many students panic. They want to take short cuts. They want to learn vocabulary—so they just study a dictionary. They want grammar, so they read a grammar book. They want to pass tests, so they just study tests. Some students just study the answer keys! This sounds stupid, because of course the answer keys you can study are probably not the answers you will need. But the same thing is true of the model test questions students study. These are old tests, and probably not the tests you will need. You need to study a wide range of English. Sometimes, there just isn't a short cut.

Actually, like the English-for-waitressing books, the narrow English-for-my-immediate-goal method can work. People do pass the TOEFL after doing ten or twenty TOEFL practice tests. Almost anything can work if you work hard enough. In fact, many Chinese

students have made model tests work very well. A narrow method that you use is always better than a broad, better thought-out method—which you don't use. But there is a price that you pay for using short cuts. You cut your English too short. That's why a lot of you have trouble expressing yourselves beyond the tests, out into the English Corners, and beyond them, abroad into the English-speaking world. Chinese learners are not narrow people; they've just learnt a narrow form of English.

We're going to assume that English matters because what you have to say matters. In the long run, English matters not because you need to pass a test or get a job, but because it is a language you can live in. You can discuss everything that matters in English, from flushing the toilet to falling in love. And that is what we are going to do in this book.

For this reason, we are not presenting you with what foreigners have to say. You can get that from the VOA and the BBC and from other books. The texts in this book (except for this one) were written by Chinese learners of English just like you. True, the author is a very successful Chinese learner, but the subjects she writes on are things that you will know and be able to talk about.

Do so. Use this book with a friend. Take it to English Corners and get into arguments over it. If you can't do that, get a blank notebook and write out the answers to the questions in the exercises in full. Don't look at the answer key until you are finished. And don't believe the answer key if it disagrees with you. There is more than one correct answer, and the answer key is really just an attempt to compare your answer with the sort of answer a foreigner might have given. Don't worry about making lists of words with the Chinese meaning written next to it; that will only have you remembering the Chinese and

forgetting the English. There is an English-English glossary in the back if you need it. Sure, it will take a bit longer, but it will help you remember and learn more than one way of saying the same thing.

It is not necessary to do the units in any particular order, and *English Matters* is written with the assumption that you will not simply read it from front to back. Some parts of it you will find a lot easier than others, but you will not find these at the front (Units 3, 5, 6 and 8 are fairly easy). Others are so difficult you will probably have to leave them and come back to them later when you have more confidence (Units 7 and 9 are the really tough ones). We have tried to give you a variety of work, from restful to quite challenging, to keep you from getting either too bored or too frustrated. But we do hope you will attempt all the units, whether they are too difficult or not, because we have tried to design the book so that certain words keep reoccurring. If you don't understand them completely the first time you see them, you will after you've seen them a few times. If necessary, you can find them again by looking them up in the glossary-index, which will help you review.

Because this is basically a reader, you will find a strong emphasis on vocabulary. For most people, reading is about words. We do teach you some quite difficult grammar, but we recognize that most people assume that what they are reading is grammatically correct and do not give the grammar too much thought. Alas, most people don't think explicitly about grammatical rules until it is time to write or speak. For this reason, we strongly urge you to WRITE OUT the exercises, or at least discuss them with a partner.

The texts in this book are by a Chinese English speaker, although they have been read and rewritten by a foreign expert. Some students will think this is strange. Why are the texts written by a Chinese, and

the exercises written by a foreigner? Usually, in English books, it is the other way around—the texts are by foreigners and the exercises are by Chinese teachers. There is a very good reason for doing things differently.

English matters because it is an international language. But this means that there is no single standard, no English *putonghua*. Many countries in the world—India, South Africa, Singapore, America, Canada, Australia—have developed their own standard English, just as good and just as understandable as all the other standards of English. China has not developed this yet.

Many learners believe that they need to imitate foreigners as closely as possible in order to try to get rid of grammar mistakes, bad pronunciation and mistakes in usage. I don't agree. I think that the correct model for a Chinese learner is not British English or American English. I think it is Chinese English, that is, the English of a near-native Chinese speaker of English who is completely familiar with both English and American varieties, like Ms. Li Fang. That is why this book is based on her writings instead of old articles from foreign magazines.

But who Chinese learners take for a model is of little importance. Whether it is through their efforts or despite their efforts, a new standard English with Chinese characteristics is gradually taking shape. Your English matters. You are not simply learning others' language. You are creating your own.

David Kellogg

London, 12 April 1996

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Unit One: Love and Money

ANY ANSWERS?

It is a good idea to start thinking before you read. In each unit, we would like you to look at the pictures, look at the title, and consider the topic first. In order to help you do this, there is an exercise for you to do first. Do it with a friend if possible. Write your answers in a notebook if not. Don't worry—there are no real right answers here. Any answers will do.

Anyone can tell a man from a woman by sight, and almost anyone can tell by sound. But can you tell by their English? Read the following two titles and guess: Who is writing, a man or a woman?

ROMANTIC COMMODITIES

by... a) a man

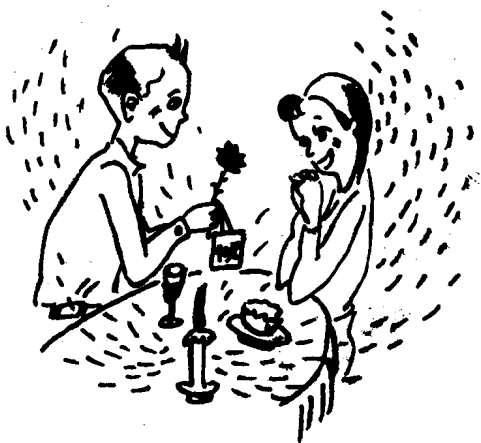
b) a woman

(Circle One)

Nowadays whenever people mention romantic love, the romance always seems to involve something one must spend money on.

Take, for example, candlelight dinners, which so often appear in

foreign films, so very romantic in the eyes of the young. Although in a foreign setting, it is very easy and natural for Chinese young people to accept. It is, after all, a tradition in China to express love through food; we Chinese are good eaters as well as lovers! So this candlelight dinner scene has



become something that Chinese youth long to experience and digest. But in a restaurant serving candlelight dinners, you not only have to pay for the food, but also the romantic atmosphere the candlelight creates for you. Mind you, the restaurant owner won't give you a discount for the electricity fee you save him.

Fresh flowers, red roses in particular, come next. I am wondering who the first person was to express love through roses. Suppose he claimed the copyright for it; he would be able to make a hell of a lot of money, since there are so many rose licensees and flower franchisers emerging in every part of the world. Reading *21 st Century* on Valentine's Day, I learnt that on that day in Beijing a single rose in Beijing rose from ten to 40 yuan. True love may be constant in value, but the market price is allowed to fluctuate.

Flowers in hand, on the way to a date with a candlelight dinner,

1

"I'm sorry, but we don't have the song which your boyfriend requested, lady.
but I can offer you a different boyfriend...."



you are bound to think of chocolates of various kinds. Even if you don't get out much, you cannot miss the advertisement on TV. They figure out different ways to lure you to buy it. This St. Valentine's Day is very much like a sticky plot between businessmen and dentists.

At present radio stations all over China provide song-requesting programmes, an ancient trick in the West to attract listeners. Because it appeared in China not long ago, many young people are quite eager to join in. They patiently pay up to borrow radio media to express "their" special love to their special beloved ones and ten million others who are listening. If you weren't listening when your lover's request was played, never mind; the very limited selection of popular songs is played hundreds of times by other people's lovers. Anyway, very often the host or the hostess will change the request for another song if what your lover requested was not at hand. More than 300 years ago, Shakespeare said that music was the food of love. Well, pop music

must be the instant noodles of love.

Behind the candlelight, the roses, the chocolates and the chances you get by paying to have songs broadcast, there is always someone out there collecting your money. So what have you bought with your money? The answer is, . . . your own feelings. Only this time they have been packaged to make them as beautiful and impersonal as possible; a mass-produced, mass-marketed, one-size-fits-all sort of love.

Romance is supposed to be personal, imaginative, creative, unlike mass marketing. But none of these romantic commodities requires a little bit of imagination or creativity—all you need is money. They are something you pay for, like any other goods in a department store. True, you have provided a chance for businessmen to feel the deeply personal joy of making a profit. But you have paid to get what you already have.

CONFIDENCE—BUILDING AND SOCIETY-BUILDING COSMETICS

by . . . a) a man

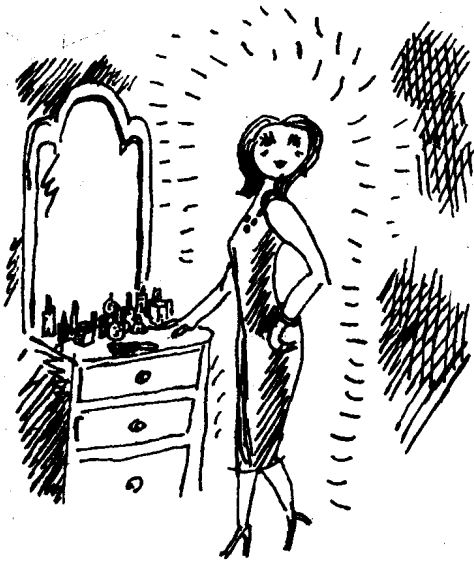
b) a woman

(Circle One)

Everyone has the desire to look good, whether he or she was born good looking or not. One of the most effective ways is to use cosmetics. Due to the marvelous effects they have on the human appearance, cosmetics have already become the object of intense research in many

fields, including aesthetics, physiology, psychology, sociology, chemistry, and health care.

The previous effects of cosmetics were in disguising defects in women's faces, such as dark colours and spots, and fortifying their advantages, such as



enlarging their eyes, and making the shape of the lips stand out. In modern society, women have become more independent and they have many opportunities to participate in social life. They use cosmetics not only to make themselves more beautiful, but also to reflect their particular personalities. Different social situations require women to have different characters. In some public relations activities, an elegant, beautiful and sociable lady is welcome; at work, cleverness, energy and openness is demanded; among friends, an enthusiastic and understanding lady will be the centre. If a lady wants to be accepted in different circumstances, she should adjust herself accordingly, in manner, dress and make-up. With proper make-up, a person can properly show her respect to others and give others the best impression.

This will bring her new opportunities.

Now cosmetics are essential to human confidence. With cosmetics, a lady will see an entirely new “her”. She might be able to do things which she originally could not do. She might do something better that she originally did only awkwardly. Similar to speaking and to dress, make-up can show a person’s quality, cultivation, and social status.

Personally, I regard cosmetics as a measure of how developed a society is. By the public attitude towards cosmetics, we can measure the degree of one’s civilization, and by the sophistication of the cosmetic itself, we can measure its level of technology and health care. What’s more, cosmetics are an outward side of modern life. When we walk in the streets, girls with cosmetics as well as colorful ads, wide streets and skyscrapers, all make me feel that a modern life for all is coming to China. That in turn inspires me to take part in bringing that modern life about. What marvelous effects! No wonder that many girls have become cosmetic addicts, in spite of the fabulous prices. No wonder that many gentlemen are already standing in the line of cosmetics consumers.

Part One: Analyzing the text and understanding vocabulary

1. Decide which author wrote which article:

- a) a young university girl from a poor background who hasn’t got a rich boyfriend.
- b) a young university man who is selling cosmetics part time.
- c) a young woman teacher who has just married another poor teacher.