



最实用的话题 最地道的表达

*Talking with
Foreigners
About Daily Life*



老外最想与你聊的 生活英语话题

50个话题、100篇对话、最实用的词汇，助您突破英语口语瓶颈
实现与老外进行深层次对话和交流

孙澜 | 编著
[美] E·巴蒂

[加拿大] G·T·楚 | 审定



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 老外聊天
系列



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Preface

This book is not just a book on oral English. It's more like a window showing various aspects of daily life to the readers. The book focuses on the hottest topics of the day, such as topics related to Generation 90s, the drifters in Beijing, the freelancers, the single, the senior citizens, etc. Other daily topics such as career, marriage, interpersonal relations, etc are also included in the book. While learning idiomatic ways of expressions, readers can get a further understanding of the background knowledge and therefore have more confidence when talking with foreigners.

The book covers 50 topics in 10 chapters, talking about drifting in Beijing, freelancers, Generation 90s, the job market, the single, relationships, marriage, the senior citizens, interpersonal relations and social life respectively. With the purpose of facilitating readers in their communication with foreigners, each topic includes two dialogues that take place in a particular setting. To make the experience easier for beginners and medium-level learners, each set of dialogues are followed by the explanations of some key words and phrases from the dialogues. Also, in each section of the book, there's a "background information super link" aiming at expanding the readers' knowledge related to the topic. A MP3 CD recorded by experts is also available together with the book. Readers can read after the recorded voice, which will be of great help for both the oral and listening abilities.

Topics in the book are independent from one another. When reading the book, readers don't necessarily have to follow the sequence of the sections. Readers can start from whatever topics they find interesting. They can make their own dialogues according to the topics they choose, compare them with the ones in the book, and then learn by heart the new words and expressions used in the book. As a final step, they can read the dialogues through, or stage a role-play performance with friends or classmates, therefore making the learning experience more interesting. Readers can review the key words and phrases they have learnt after some time, or even try to compose their own dialogues. By doing this, they can make full use of this book to improve their English level and realize the goal of having enjoyable communication with foreigners.

In writing the book, the writer has received a lot of help from her foreign friends Erika Baty and George Tony Chu, which has greatly enriched and refined the language in the book. Also the writer's sincere thanks go to her friends and families that have been supporting and helping her throughout the whole process.

However, due to the writer's limited knowledge, it's inevitable that there would be errors and mistakes in the book. Any comments, ideas and corrections will be greatly appreciated by the writer.

Last but not least, the writer's sincere thanks go to the readers who have chosen this book among so many others. Wish all the readers have a pleasant, enjoyable and fruitful experience in their reading.

Editor

前言

《老外最想与你聊的生活英语话题》一书不仅是一本口语书，它更像是一扇橱窗，向读者展示了生活的方方面面。书中关注的焦点都是最热门的话题，比如 90 后、北漂、自由职业者、单身贵族，老龄化现象等等。此外，书中还包含了日常生活中最常见的各类话题，比如职场、婚姻、人际交往等。读者在学习地道英语表达的同时，可以深入了解相关背景，和老外交谈时，畅所欲言。

本书共包含 50 个话题，分为北漂之路、自由职业者、聚焦 90 后、初入职场、单身贵族、恋爱密语、婚姻殿堂、银发族、人际交往、社会广角等 10 篇。以与外国友人进行交流为出发点，每个话题都包含精心编写的两组情景对话。为了方便初级、中级英语水平的学习者使用，对话后面附有“词汇 & 词组”，以消除阅读障碍，提高英语能力。每个话题后面还专门设置了相关的知识链接，对各个话题的背景知识作了介绍。此外，本书还配有由北京外国语大学英语教育专家配音录制的 MP3 光盘，读者在学习的时候可以模仿朗读，对口语和听力的提高都很有帮助。

本书的每个话题都独立成篇，不需要按章节依次学习。在阅读时，可以根据您的兴趣，从最喜欢的章节学起。选好章节后，可以先根据话题，自己试着说一说。然后再参照本书的对话，记住生词和新的表达。最后，通读对话，还可以找同学或朋友分角色朗读，使学习的过程更有意思。隔一段时间之后，可以回过头来巩固关键词和关键短语，并尝试自己编一段对话。相信通过这样的方法，您可以充分利用本书，达到提高英语水平、与外国朋友愉快交流的目的。

在创作过程中，作者的外国友人给予了很大的帮助。专业英文撰稿人 Erika Baty 参与了本书的编写，由于她的参与，本书的语言更加饱满、生动、形象；华裔加拿大人 George Tony Chu 对书稿进行了认真审校，他在美国出生，加拿大长大，精通英汉两门语言，深谙两种文化，为本书的编写提供了宝贵的修改意见；同时，作者的朋友也为本书付出了辛勤的劳动，特此感谢。

然而，由于水平有限，书中难免也会存在一些疏漏之处，恳望诸位读者、同业前辈不吝赐教、批评指正。

最后，感谢各位读者选择了本书，相信本书的阅读过程将会是愉快、轻松并且颇有收获的。

编者

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Drifting in Beijing

北漂之路

1

Unemployment upon Graduation

毕业即失业

Useful Expressions

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I've submitted my resume to some companies and had a couple of interviews, but so far I haven't had any positive feedback. | 1. 我把简历提交给了一些公司也面试了几回,但目前为止还没有得到准信儿。 |
| 2. The financial crisis last year had a huge impact on the job market. | 2. 去年的经济危机对就业市场的影响很大。 |
| 3. What's more, living costs in big cities are very high, which means if you can't get a decent salary, your life will be miserable! | 3. 大城市的生活成本都很高,这就意味着如果你没个体面的收入,你会过得很不爽。 |
| 4. I don't mind having a low starting salary. I think what's more important is the opportunities a company can provide for its employees. | 4. 我不在乎起薪不高,因为我认为一个公司能提供给员工的发展机会更加重要。 |
| 5. One job in hand is worth two in the bush. This year is the financial downturn, who knows what's gonna be next? | 5. 有个工作总比什么都没有的好。今年是经济低迷,谁知道明年又是什么呢? |
| 6. What are the odds that I run into you on the subway! | 6. 竟能在地铁上碰到你! |
| 7. No big bites yet, just had a couple of nibbles. The job market is very competitive this year, and there are always bigger fish in the sea. | 7. 没什么好的,倒有一些小的机会。今年就业市场的竞争太强了,时不时会遇到强人。 |
| 8. For me the worst case scenario is that I couldn't find anything I like here so I will have to leave Beijing to try my luck in other cities, which will be fine. | 8. 对我来说最坏的情况也就是我在这儿找不到喜欢的工作,然后我不得不离开北京,到其他城市试试运气,这也没什么。 |
| 9. It could be that looking for a job is equally difficult in other places, given the current situation. | 9. 但现在的大环境下在别的城市找份工作也不是件容易的事。 |

Dialogue 1

Andrew: Hello, Lisa, how's it going?

Lisa: Well, I am trying to find a job.

A: Had any luck?

L: I've submitted my resume to some companies and had a couple of interviews, but so far I haven't had any positive feedback.

A: Take it easy. I am sure you will find one eventually. It's just a matter of time.

L: I hope so. But this year the job market is extremely competitive. You know in the past few months, many big companies cut jobs due to the economic crunch. As a result many people lost their jobs, and now they too are competing with us in the job market, which puts us into a disadvantaged situation. Companies usually prefer those who've had some experience.

A: Oh yeah. The financial crisis last year had a huge impact on the job market, especially in big cities like Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, etc. However, even at normal times, it's not easy to find a good job for new graduates in these places. Every year people from all over the country come to these big cities to find jobs, making it harder and more competitive. What's more, living costs in big cities are very high, which means if you can't get a decent salary, your life will be miserable!

L: Yeah, I know. But, I like Beijing and I want to live here. I don't mind having a low starting salary. I think what's more important is the opportunities a company can provide for its employees. For me, a position that provides frequent on-the-job training and many business trip opportunities is very attractive.

A: Yeah. If you like traveling and you don't mind training, I think a job with a foreign company might be your best choice.

L: I think so, too. But the current situation is I don't get to choose what I want, I am chosen by the companies. I wish I still had one more year in school like you. Actually, I wish I could be a student forever!

A: I think I would prefer to start working early. One job in hand is worth two in the bush. This year is the financial downturn, who knows what's gonna be next?

L: I guess you have a point. I don't want to be unemployed when I graduate.

A: Well, good luck then! Keep me posted on everything new.

L: You bet!

安德鲁：嘿，莉萨，最近怎么样？

莉萨：嗯……我在找工作。

安德鲁：有什么眉目了么？

莉萨：我把简历提交给了一些公司也面试了几回，但目前为止还没有得到准信儿。

安德鲁：别急，我相信你最终会找到的，只是时间问题。

莉萨：希望如此吧。今年的人才市场竞争格外激烈。你要知道在过去的几个月里由于经济不景气，许多大公司都裁员了，许多人也因此丢掉了工作，现在，他们也和我们一起在就业市场里竞争，这使我们的处境很不利。一般来说，招聘的公司更倾向于那些有工作经验的求职者。

安德鲁：嗯，是啊。去年的经济危机对就业市场的影响很大，尤其是像北京、上海、广州等这样的大城市。即便在平时，对于应届毕业生来说在这些地方找到一份合适的工作也不是件容易的事情。每年，全国各地的人都会涌入到这些大城市来求职，使就业变得更难，竞争也更激烈。此外，大城市的生活成本都很高，这就意味着如果你没个体面的收入，你会过得很不爽。

莉萨：是啊，我知道。但我喜欢北京，我想在那里生活。我不在乎起薪不高，因为我认为一个公司能提供给员工的发展机会更重要。对我来说，能经常提供在职培训和有很多公差机会的工作岗位是很有吸引力的。

安德鲁：嗯，如果你喜欢出差又不反感培训，我觉得去一个外企也许是你的最佳选择。

莉萨：我也是这么想的。但现在的情况是我不能选择自己想去哪家公司，而是公司选择要不要我。我真希望我能像你一样还能在学校学习一年。实际上，我多希望自己永远是个学生！

安德鲁：我倒希望我能早点工作。有个工作总比什么都没有好。今年是经济低迷，谁知道明年又是什么样子呢？

莉萨：你说的也有道理。我可不想毕业就失业。

安德鲁：嗯，祝你好运了！有什么新消息告诉我。

莉萨：一定的！

Dialogue 2

L: Hi, Andrew!

A: Oh, hi, Lisa! What are the odds that I run into you on the subway!

L: I know! I wouldn't have expected to see you either! Where are you heading to?

A: I am going to see a friend. He's just moved to a new apartment, so he's holding a house warming party. So, how's your job hunt?

L: No big bites yet, just had a couple of nibbles. The job market is very competitive this year, and there are always bigger fish in the sea.

A: I am sure you will find something.

L: I hope so, but it doesn't seem too promising this year. Good jobs are in tight supply and there are way too many people looking for one here in Beijing.

A: How about your classmates?

L: Well, there are a couple of them that have already received offers, but almost all of them got

the jobs through their networks of friends or relatives. Most are just like me, seizing every chance for a job interview without hearing anything back.

A: I think you shouldn't worry too much.

L: I am not too worried. For me the worst case scenario is that I couldn't find anything I like here so I will have to leave Beijing to try my luck in other cities, which will be fine.

A: I thought you would like to work in Beijing?

L: Yeah, I always wanted to. But there are too many people pouring in now, and everyone wants to stay here. The chance to get what I want is slim and I don't want to be unemployed upon graduation. What I've been thinking recently is maybe I should find a job elsewhere and then see if there will be opportunities to transfer back after a year or two.

A: I think that's an idea. It will be easier to get a job in Beijing if you have some experience.

L: Yeah, I think so too. It could be that looking for a job is equally difficult in other places, given the current situation.

A: I am sure there will be something out there. I am afraid I have to get off at this stop. Nice talking with you.

L: Nice talking with you too! Have a good time.

A: Thanks, good luck with your job hunt!

莉 萨：嘿，安德鲁！

安德鲁：噢，莉萨！真巧啊，竟能在地铁上碰到你！

莉 萨：是啊！我也没想到能在这儿碰到你！你这是要去哪儿啊？

安德鲁：我去见个朋友。他刚搬了新家办了个暖屋会。对，你工作找得怎么样了？

莉 萨：没什么好的，倒有一些小的机会。今年就业市场的竞争太强了，时不时会遇到强人。

安德鲁：我相信你会找到工作的。

莉 萨：希望如此。不过今年的形势不是很好，在北京好的工作机会太少又有太多太多的人竞争。

安德鲁：那你的同学情况怎么样？

莉 萨：有一些人已经拿到了聘书，不过他们之中几乎所有的人都动用了朋友、亲戚等人际关系。大多数人还是像我一样，抓住每一个面试的机会但却都杳无音信。

安德鲁：我觉得你也不用太担心。

莉 萨：我不是特担心，对我来说最坏的情况也就是我在这儿找不到喜欢的工作，然后我不得不离开北京，到其他城市试试运气，这也没有什么。

安德鲁：我以为你喜欢在北京工作啊！

莉 萨：是啊，我一直想。但现在越来越多的人涌入北京来找工作，大家也都想待在这里。在这里找到我想要的工作几乎不太可能。而我也不想一毕业就失业。最近我一直在考虑也许我应该在其他地方找份工作先干着，工作一两年后看有没有机会

再调回来。

安德鲁：这倒是一个主意。如果你有一些工作经验再来北京找工作会更容易些。

莉萨：嗯，我也是这么想的。但现在的大环境下在别的城市找份工作也不是件容易的事。

安德鲁：相信肯定会有机会的。我得在这儿下车了，很高兴能跟你聊天。

莉萨：我也很高兴，玩得开心啊！

安德鲁：谢谢，祝你找工作好运！

知识链接

这两年，国际金融危机对我国经济造成的困难日趋显现，2009年即将毕业的611万大学生与往年未能就业的150万大学生叠加，就业形势面临严峻挑战。这种严峻的形势一方面让大学生更为积极主动，四面出击，另一方面，也让他们自觉降低了就业期望值。此外，随着国家公务员“凡进必考”的全面实施，以及面向应届大学毕业生招录公务员相关规定的出台，不少大学毕业生对于参加各级各类公务员录用考试趋之若鹜，使得公务员考试逐年升温，成为继高考和考研后的“中国第三热考”。

核心词汇

Words Storm

crisis	危急关头,危机
crunch	艰难局面,困境
decent	得体的,相当好的
nibble	轻咬,啃
financial	金融的,财政的
odds	机率
pour	倾泻
scenario	情节
submit	呈送

Phrases

financial crisis	经济危机
impact on	对…影响
job market	就业市场
starting salary	起薪
business trip	公差
what are the odds	机率有多大
head to	到…去
job hunt	找工作
transfer back	调回

2

Renting a House in Beijing

“租”在北京

Useful Expressions

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What is your place like? | 1. 你们住的地方什么样? |
| 2. It's not too big, about 60 square meters. We've got two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a small living room. | 2. 不是很大, 大概有 60 平方米。我们有两间卧室、一个厨房、一个浴室和一个小客厅。 |
| 3. Some had good locations, but the rent was too high. Others were less expensive, but weren't convenient for traffic. | 3. 有些位置不错但租金太高了。有些便宜些但交通不太方便。 |
| 4. We have to pay 2,100 RMB for the rent, not including water and electricity. | 4. 我们房租 2100 块钱, 不包括水电费。 |
| 5. I would rather to live in the dorm and save one third of my salary. | 5. 我倒是想继续住在宿舍里, 这样就能省下我工资的 1/3 了。 |
| 6. I remember you complained a lot about dorm life before. | 6. 我还记得你原来总是抱怨住宿舍呢。 |
| 7. It was not the scene of a robbery. | 7. 这不是被盗的样子。 |
| 8. She was speechless and finally admitted that she rented the apartment on a short-term basis to someone else, knowing that both Joy and I would go home for the holiday | 8. 她没有话说了, 最终承认在得知我和乔伊要回家过年后, 把公寓按短期租给了其他人。 |
| 9. That's unbelievable! You know you could probably sue her. | 9. 这简直难以至信! 你知道你们都可以告她。 |
| 10. When you have a fall in the pit, you should gain in your wit. | 10. 吃一堑, 长一智。 |
| 11. I hate all these hassles! I wish that someday I can hit the jackpot and then I would have enough money to buy my own apartment. | 11. 我真是太讨厌这些麻烦事儿了。真想有一天能中个头彩, 这样我就能有足够的钱买自己的房子了。 |

Dialogue 1

Lisa (L) Allen (A)

Lisa: Hi, Allen, will you be free this Friday night?

Allen: I think so, why?

L: Well, Joy and I have just moved into a new apartment, so we want to invite old friends over for a get-together. You want to come over?

A: Sounds great. What is your place like?

L: Well, it's not too big, about 60 square meters. We've got two bedrooms, a kitchen, a bathroom and a small living room.

A: That sounds pretty good. How did you find this place?

L: Well, we saw many places before this one, but none were very good. Some had good locations, but the rent was too high. Others were less expensive, but weren't convenient for traffic. Then our house agent contacted us and suggested this new place. We had a look at the place and decided on the spot that it was what we wanted. The neighborhood is quiet, and transportation is convenient.

A: That's good. I think it must be very exciting to move into your own place. I have never lived on my own.

L: It is! You can come back home as late as you want. I feel so free now!

A: Yeah, I think having a nice roommate is also very important.

L: Exactly. Joy and I lived in the same dorm for two years in college, now we are both excited about this new life off campus.

A: How much is the rent per month?

L: We have to pay 2,100 RMB for the rent, not including water and electricity.

A: That's not too bad, but not cheap either.

L: Well, we think it's a fairly good price. Usually the rent for an apartment of this size in the downtown region is around 2,500 RMB.

A: Oh, I see. I wish I could live on my own too.

L: Well, soon. You will have to live on your own once you graduate.

A: Yeah, I still have one year.

L: Well, living in the dorms isn't too bad. It's almost free. I would rather to live in the dorm and save one third of my salary.

A: You sure about that? I remember you complained a lot about dorm life before.

L: Nonetheless it's still cheap to live in a dorm. Anyway I have to go now. So see you Friday night!

A: See you then!

莉萨：嘿，艾伦，你这周五有空么？

艾伦：应该有，怎么了？

老外最想与你聊的生活英语话题

莉萨：我和乔伊刚搬了新家，我们打算邀请一些老朋友过来聚一聚。你能来吗？

艾伦：好啊，你们的新家什么样？

莉萨：不是很大，大概有 60 平方米。我们有两间卧室、一个厨房、一个浴室和一个小客厅。

艾伦：听上去不错。你是怎么找到这房子的？

莉萨：在这套房子之前我们看了许多地方，但都不是特别好。有些位置不错但租金太高了。有些便宜些但交通不太方便。后来房屋中介联系我们并给推荐了这间公寓。我们过来看了看，当场就决定这就是我们想要的。周围环境很安静，交通也便利。

艾伦：不错啊。我想有了自己的新家你一定特激动吧。我从来都没自己一个人住过。

莉萨：特别激动！你可以想多晚就多晚回。我现在觉得很自由！

艾伦：嗯，我觉得有个好室友也很重要。

莉萨：没错。我和乔伊在大学同寝过两年，现在我俩都觉得这种离开学校的新生活很令人兴奋。

艾伦：那房租每月多少钱？

莉萨：2100，不包括水电费。

艾伦：还行，不过也不太便宜。

莉萨：我们觉得这价钱还可以。通常，在市区这么大的公寓一般月租都得 2500 块钱左右。

艾伦：哦，我知道了，希望以后我也能有自己的公寓住。

莉萨：会很快的。毕了业你就不得不自己找地方住了。

艾伦：是啊，我还有一年毕业。

莉萨：其实住宿舍也还不错了，几乎是免费的啊。我倒是想继续住在宿舍里，这样就能省下我工资的三分之一了。

艾伦：你确定？我还记得你原来总是抱怨住宿舍呢。

莉萨：尽管如此，还是住宿舍便宜啊。先这样，我得走了，周五晚上见！

艾伦：到时见！

Dialogue 2

A: Last time at your place, I had a great time!

L: I am glad that you enjoyed it, but I am afraid we have to look for a new place again.

A: But you just moved in. What happened?

L: It was rather unpleasant. We were very satisfied with the place until we came back from the spring festival. I came back first and couldn't believe my eyes when I unlocked the door. The place was a mess. The floor was littered with bags and garbage, and there were clear traces that our beds had been slept on. Joy and I had cleaned our place before we left. It was not the scene of a robbery, and there was only one possibility, obviously our landlady had let other people live in our apartment while we were back home visiting.

A: That's terrible! Did you talk to the landlady and ask her about it?

L: Yeah, I called her immediately and insisted she come over right away.

A: Did she come?

- L: Yes. At first she tried to pretend that she didn't know anything about it. Then I showed her the traces of noodle soup or whatever it was on our floor, and told her that we hadn't used our kitchen since we had moved in.
- A: What did she say about that?
- L: She was speechless and finally admitted that she rented the apartment on a short-term basis to someone else, knowing that both Joy and I would go home for the holiday.
- A: That's unbelievable! You know you could probably sue her.
- L: No, we don't want to make it a big issue. So we just asked her to reimburse us for the first three months, which we paid in advance. She reluctantly agreed, then we packed our stuff and moved out. Now here we are, looking for a place again!
- A: It's really a shame.
- L: It is... You know we really like the neighborhood. We thought we would live in the apartment for a long time.
- A: Anyway, next time maybe you should know more about the personality of the landlord. As they say, when you have a fall in the pit, you should gain in your wit.
- L: Yeah, that's what we told ourselves. Ugh.... I hate all these hassles! I wish that someday I can hit the jackpot and then I would have enough money to buy my own apartment.
- A: That's a nice thought.

艾伦：上次去你们那里玩得很开心！

莉萨：很高兴你玩得不错，但恐怕我们又得再找个新地方住了。

艾伦：可是你们不是才搬进去的吗，出什么事儿了？

莉萨：说起来让人很不痛快。过完春节回来之前我们对住的地方还是挺满意的。我先回来的，但当我回来打开房门的时候，简直不敢相信自己的眼睛。我们屋里乱得一塌糊涂，满地的袋子和垃圾，床也有明显被人睡过的痕迹。我和乔伊离开前收拾过屋子。那不像是被盗的样子，所以只有一种可能，显然是我们的女房东在我们回家访亲时让别人住进了我们的公寓。

艾伦：太恶劣了！那你们和房东谈过这件事情了吗？

莉萨：嗯，我当时就给她打了电话，并坚持让她马上就过来。

艾伦：那她过去了吗？

莉萨：嗯，一开始她还假装什么都不知道。后来我让她看了地板上可能是面条汤，也可能是其他东西留下的痕迹，并告诉她我们自搬过来还从来没有用过厨房。

艾伦：那她怎么说？

莉萨：她没有话说了，最终承认在得知我和乔伊要回家过年后，把公寓短期租给了其他人。

艾伦：这简直难以置信！你知道你们都可以告她。

莉萨：我们没有那么做，不想把事情弄得太大，所以就让她把我们提前支付的三个月房租还给我们。她很不情愿地同意了，之后我们就收拾东西搬出来了。就是现在的样子，我们又得找新的地方住了！

艾伦：真是太可惜了。

莉萨：是啊。你要知道我俩真的很喜欢周围的环境，还想着在那里多住一段时间呢。