

THE WORLD OF AMERICAN  
SPOKEN ENGLISH

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## 前 言

“我要当面对他谈一谈”。语言的力量,常常须亲口一谈,才能得以发挥。在日常生活中,与人交往、传递感情、协商事务、交流信息,口头交谈往往是最有效的一种方式。学习英语的人,无论是刚刚入门,还是修业多年,常常最想知道的就是:某件事情用英语到底该怎么说?

很久以来,我们一直想写一本书,介绍美国人日常会话交谈的用语和方式,为中国广大的英语学习者提供一些实用的借鉴。此次有机会与美国的弗桑博士夫妇合作,终于夙愿得偿。里奥·弗桑博士的专业是心理学,比特丽丝·弗桑夫人在美国是语言教师。他们对英语的应用和教学均深有造诣。他们怀着对中国人民友好的感情,来中国教授英语;并以自己丰富的经验,为英语学习者的学习与提高指出了一条路径。

《美国口语大观》内容涉及广泛的生活领域。它以会话的形式,展现美式口语的风格;同时为读者提供多种信息,介绍美国人的文化、传统和生活方式以及中美人民之间的相互交往。本书把各种情景下较常见的基本话语以醒目的形式分句列出,读者一目了然,便于模仿,举一反三。另外,每一主题篇章内的生动会话可使读者对口语的实际应用更增加一层感受。我们希望本书能为读者学习美国口语提供有益的帮助,使大家都能用道地的英语“和美国人当面谈一谈”。

杨 力

于中国科学技术大学

1999年1月

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COMMUNICATION

交 际

## 1.1 Meeting, Greeting and Parting      会面、问候、告别

### Part I Basic Expressions

### 基本表达

[A] How are you?

你好吗?

Response: I'm fine, thank you. And you?

答:我很好,谢谢。你好吗?

Please compare [A] with the following exchanges of greetings (from formal to informal):

请把[A]句与下列问候做比较(形式由正式到较随便):

1. How do you do?

你好。

R: How do you do? (It's nice to see you.)

答:你好。(见到你很高兴。)

2. How are you doing?

你好吗?

R: Good, thanks. How about you?

答:很好,谢谢。你好吗?

3. How's it going?

你好吗?

R: All right.

答:挺好。

4. How are things?

你(情况)好吗?

R: Everything's fine.

答:一切都挺好。

5. Good morning, Jack.

杰克,早哇。

R: Good morning, Mary.

答:早,玛丽。

6. Hi, Paul.

保尔,你好。

R: Hi, Jack.

答:你好,杰克。

[B] How's your little girl?

你的小姑娘好吗?

R: She's fine, thanks.

答:她很好,谢谢。

When you're asking about somebody or something, you may also say:

当问候他人或询问某事物时,你也可以这样说:

1. How are your friends?

R: They are pretty good.

2. How's your work?

R: It's all right.

3. How are your Chinese lessons going?

R: I'm working on them.

4. How's your new car?

R: It's wonderful.

你的朋友好吗?

答: 他们都很好。

你工作情况怎样?

答: 情况挺好。

你的汉语课进展如何?

答: 我正努力学习呢。

你的新车好吗?

答: 棒极了。

**[C] It's nice to meet you.**

见到你很高兴。

**Here are more expressions of greetings:**

以下是另一些致意的表达:

1. (It's) Good to see you.

看到你很高兴。

2. It's a pleasure to meet you.

和你见面十分高兴。

3. How nice to see you.

见到你真高兴。

4. (I'm) Very glad to see you.

见到你我真高兴。

5. Pleased to meet you.

很高兴见到你。

6. (I'm) Delighted to see you.

看到你十分愉快。

7. Very happy to meet you.

认识你非常高兴。

**[D] I'd like you to meet Ms. Susan Bird,  
my colleague at General Motors.**

我想请你见一见我在通用汽车公司的同事苏珊·伯德女士。

**When you're making an introduction, you  
may also say:**

为人做介绍时,也可以这样说:

1. I'd like to introduce you to Mr. Jim Kent,  
president of my company.

我想介绍你认识我的公司总经理吉姆·肯特先生。

2. Have you met Li, my friend from China?

你见过我的中国朋友力吗?

3. This is Sally, my roommate.

这是我的室友萨丽。

**[E] Where are you from?**

你是哪里人?

**You may also ask:**

你也可以这样问:

1. Which country do you come from?

你是哪国人(你从哪国来的)?

2. Are you from China?

你是中国人吗(你从中国来吗)?

3. Which part of China are you from?

你从中国哪个地区来的?

[F] My name's Leo Wang?

我叫里奥·王。

**You can also say the following about names:**

关于姓名,也可说下面的话:

1. Please call me Leo.

请叫我里奥。

2. How do you pronounce your last name?

你的姓怎么读?

3. How do you spell your surname?

你的姓怎样拼写?

4. My last name is spelled W-A-N-G.

我的姓拼成 WANG。

5. I don't have a middle name.

我没有中名。

6. We have the same first name.

我们的名字一样。

7. In China, we put our surname first.

在中国我们把姓放在前面。

[G] It was a pleasure meeting you.

认识你很高兴。

I hope we'll meet again.

我希望我们以后还会再见面。

**At the end of a meeting, you may also say:**

会面结束时,你也可以这样说:

1. (It's) Good meeting you.

和你见面很高兴。

(I hope to ) See you again.

(我希望)以后再见。

2. Nice talking to you.

和你谈话很高兴。

We'll meet again some time.

我们以后找时间再见面聊聊。

[H] I have to leave.

我该走了。

**When you're leaving somebody, you may also say:**

与人告别时,你也可以这样说:

1. I'm leaving.

我要走了。

2. I'm going to go.

我准备走了。

3. I had better take off.

我最好动身了。

4. Good-bye, have a good evening.

再见,祝你晚上愉快。

5. Bye-bye, have a nice day.

再见,祝你愉快。

6. Bye-bye, take care (of yourself).

再见,多保重。

7. Bye. Good luck.

再见,祝你好运。

8. Bye, see you later.

回头见。

9. So long.

再见。

### [Notes]

1. pretty 很,挺,十分(作副词) 应与其形容词用法区别。
2. work on (习语) 从事,致力于 也说成 work at 。
3. Ms. [miz] 女士 冠在姓名前,不表明婚姻状态。
4. General Motors 通用汽车公司(简称) 全称是:General Motors Corporation。英语中许多公司名以简称出现时,将“公司”一词省去。
5. introduce sb. to sb. 把某人介绍给另外的人
6. name 姓名 英文姓名由 first name(也叫 given name), middle name 和 last name 三部分构成。中间名有时以首字母形式出现在全名中,如:Bill H. Smith。华人入乡随俗,中西合璧,常起一个英文名,但许多人仍保留原姓。
7. It was a pleasure meeting you 这是见面结束时的话,应区别于刚见面的问候。
8. had better 最好 后接动词原形,表示现在或将来的行为。
9. take off (习语) 离开,动身,出发
10. take care of (习语) 照顾(某人),处理(某事)

## Part I Conversations 会话

### 1. A Meeting of Professors

Professor Shrader: Dr. Li, I'd like you to meet Dr. Reed, Chairman of the Chemistry Department. Dr. Reed, this is Dr. Li. She's a visiting professor from the University of Science and Technology of China.

Dr. Li: How do you do, Dr. Reed?

Dr. Reed: It's a pleasure to meet you, Dr. Li. I'm very glad that we finally have the opportunity to meet.

#### 一、教授会面

史瑞德教授:李博士,请你见见化学系主任里德博士。里德博士,这位是李博士。她是从中国科学技术大学来的访问教授。

李博士: 你好,里德博士。

里德博士: 见到你真高兴,李博士。我非常高兴我们终于有机会见面了。

### [Note]

Dr. 对有博士学位者的称呼。在美国大学里,这种称呼较常见。以教授称呼则较少。另外,

医生的称呼也相同。

## 2. Take It Easy

George: Hi John, how's it going?

John: Not too bad. How about yourself?

George: I'm exhausted. I had to work until 2 o'clock this morning.

John: Take it easy. Don't work too hard.

George: No way. I must get everything ready before noon.

John: Then, take this afternoon off.

## 二、悠着点

乔治：嗨，约翰，你好吗？

约翰：还可以。你怎么样？

乔治：我累死了。我一直得干到今天早上 2:00。

约翰：悠着点。不要操劳过度。

乔治：不行啊，我必须在中午前把一切都做好。

约翰：那么，今天下午就休息一下吧。

### [Notes]

1. take it easy (习语) 不要太紧张、太激动、太着急
2. how about “……怎么样”(引导省略句) 例: How about your TV?
3. no way (俚语) 行不通, 没门儿
4. take (time) off (习语) 抽出时间 (离开所从事的活动。)

## 3. Long Time No See

Leo: Hi Anita, long time no see.

Anita: Yeah, where have you been lately?

Leo: I've been in China to work on the new project.

Anita: Oh, I see. I've had lots of work to do here in New York too.

## 三、好久不见了

里奥：嗨，安妮塔，好久不见了。

安妮塔：是啊，你最近到哪儿去了？

里奥：我一直在中国搞一个新项目。

安妮塔：噢，原来是这样。我在纽约也有好多工作要做。

[Notes]

1. long time no see 原是不合语法的洋泾浜英语。英语本族人模仿后使它在口语中被接受，并别具色彩。用于非正式场合。
2. yeah [jeə] (口语词) 等于 yes, 极常用。类似的还有 yep。
3. lots of 等同于 a lot of, 后接可数及不可数名词。

#### 4. Getting Late

Carl: It's getting late. I guess I'd better leave.

Lewis: Must you go so soon? Everybody is having a good time.

Carl: I'm afraid I really have to go. I'll have to get up pretty early tomorrow morning.

Lewis: Well, in that case, we won't keep you any longer. We'll get together some time again.

#### 四、天色晚了

卡 尔：天色晚了。我想我该走了。

刘易斯：那么快就走？大家正玩得高兴呢。

卡 尔：我恐怕真得走了。明天早上我要早起。

刘易斯：好吧，既然如此，我们就不久留你了。我们以后再聚。

[Notes]

1. have a good time 度过一段愉快时光，玩得好（常用搭配）
2. in that case 在那样的情况下，假如那样的话
3. get together 聚会

#### 5. Your Address

Linda: Hi, Diana. Haven't seen you for a long time.

Diana: Hi, Linda. Really nice to see you. Do you know I've moved?

Linda: I know. What's your new address?

Diana: My address is 85 Church Street. It's only a 10-minute walk from the office. Why don't you drop by some time?

Linda: I'd love to. Can I take Fang along? She wants to see your new place, too.

Diana: Sure. I'd like to show you both around.

## 五、你的地址

琳 达: 黛安娜, 你好哇。好久没见到你了。

黛安娜: 你好, 琳达。看到你真高兴。你知道我搬家了吗?

琳 达: 我知道。你的新地址在哪儿?

黛安娜: 我的地址是教堂街 85 号。离办公室只有 10 分钟步行路程。你什么时候顺便来看看吧。

琳 达: 我很想来。我能带芳一起来吗? 她也想看看你的新地方。

黛安娜: 当然可以。我很愿意让你们俩参观一下。

### [Notes]

1. 85 Church Street 英语地址的表达习惯顺序是从小到大。例如: 11 Main Street, Beacon, New York (纽约州比肯市主街 11 号)
2. why don't...? 是常用的建议形式, 类似于 you should...
3. drop by (习语) 顺便, 随便走访
4. would love/would like 想要, 愿意 是比较客气的用语。
5. take... along 带上某人或某物一起
6. show sb. around 向人展示某处, 带人参观某处

## 6. The New Secretary

Susan: Good morning, Ma'am.

Olive: Good morning.

Susan: Are you Ms. Kelsey, the office manager?

Olive: Yes, I am. Who are you?

Susan: I'm the new secretary.

Olive: Oh, yes. I was out of town last week and didn't get to meet you. What's your name?

Susan: My name's Susan Lee.

Olive: It's nice to have you with us. We have a lot of work to do here. You'll be very busy. That's your desk over there.

Susan: Thank you, Ms. Kelsey.

Olive: And that's your computer. There's a fax machine at either end of the cor-

ridor.

Susan: It's really convenient. I love this place.

Olive: And please call me Olive.

Susan: Thank you, Olive, and I like to be called Sue.

## 六、新秘书

苏珊: 太太, 你早。

奥莉夫: 早。

苏珊: 你是办公室主管凯尔西女士吗?

奥莉夫: 我是。你是谁?

苏珊: 我是新来的秘书。

奥莉夫: 噢, 对了。我上星期不在城里, 没能见到你。你叫什么名字?

苏珊: 我叫苏珊·利。

奥莉夫: 你能来, 太好了。我们这儿有许多工作要做。你会很忙的。你的桌子就在那边。

苏珊: 谢谢你, 凯尔西女士。

奥莉夫: 那是你的计算机。走廊两头各有一台传真机。

苏珊: 这太方便了。我非常喜欢这里。

奥莉夫: 另外, 请叫我奥莉夫好了。

苏珊: 谢谢你, 奥莉夫。我喜欢别人叫我苏。

### [Notes]

1. ma'am [mæm] 太太, 夫人, 小姐 称呼女士。(madam 的口语形式)
2. out of town 不在城里 相反的用语是 in town.
3. Sue Susan 的昵称。

## 7. Saying Good-bye

Rob: How time flies! You've been in this country for over a year. I didn't realize your departure was imminent.

Lee: It's time for me to go home, you know. Before I leave, I want to thank you again for all that you've done for me. Without your help, I would never have achieved so much.

Rob: I've really done nothing. It is your own efforts that have made your stay so

fruitful.

Lee: It's been a really unforgettable experience. I'll miss you, Rob. I hope we'll meet again some day in my country.

Rob: I hope so too. We'll keep in touch.

## 七、告 别

罗勃: 光阴似箭。你来这个国家已经一年多了。我还不知道你很快就要离开了。

利: 是我回家的时候了。走之前,我想再次感谢你为我所做的一切。没有你的帮助,我绝不可能有那么多收获。

罗勃: 我其实并没做什么。是你自己的努力才使你的访问获得了这么多成果。

利: 这确实是个难忘的经历。罗勃,我会想念你的。我希望以后我们能在我的国家再见面。

罗勃: 我也希望如此。我们将保持联系。

### [Notes]

1. How time flies 直译为: **时间是怎样地飞逝啊!**(感叹句) 注意词序。
2. would never have achieved 动词虚拟语态,表示假设的情况。
3. It is... that... 强调句型,把需突出的部分放在 it is 后先说,其他在 that 后说出。再看一例: It is her that I'm thinking about. 我想的正是她。
4. keep in touch 也说成 stay in touch。

## 1.2 Talking about Other People 谈论别人

### Part I Basic Expressions

[A] Do you know how old Jane is?

你知道珍多大年纪了吗?

Response: I think she's in her mid-thirties.

答:我想她三十四五岁吧。

Please compare [A] with the following questions and responses about one's age:

请把[A]句与下列关于年龄的问答做比较:

1. Do you have any idea about her age?

你知道她的年龄吗?

R: No, I have no idea.

答:我不知道。

2. Can you guess how old he is?

你能猜出他多大年纪了吗?

R: Let me see. He can't be more than twenty-five.

答:我看他不可能超过 25 岁。

3. What do you think his age is?

你认为他多大年纪?

R: I don't think he's as old as he says he is.

答:我认为他没有他自己说的那  
么大。

[B] I think she's the most beautiful girl in the world.

我觉得她是世界上最漂亮的女孩。

You may also say the following about one's appearance:

关于外表,你也可以这样说:

1. Roger looks so young.

罗杰看上去真年轻。

2. Her husband is a big guy.

她丈夫是个大块头。

3. His girlfriend has brown hair and is quite short.

他的女朋友是棕色头发,个子矮小。

4. She's obviously in poor health.

她显然身体不太好。

5. From her appearance, I guess she's an

从她的样子看,我猜她是亚洲

Asian.

6. I found he was a little overweight.

人。

我觉得他有点太胖了。

**[C] What do you think of her ability?**

你认为她能力怎样?

**R: She's quite competent for the job.**

答:她十分胜任这项工作。

**Please compare [C] with the following expressions about people's ability.**

请把[C]句与下列有关人们能力的表述做比较:

1. Mr. James Hood is a talented person.

詹姆斯·胡德先生是个有才华的人。

2. He's highly gifted in music.

他在音乐方面极有天赋。

3. In my opinion, Bill's more skillful in handling such matters.

依我看,比尔在处理这类问题方面更有技巧。

4. In my view, they are not intelligent enough to understand this question.

依我看,他们不够聪明,理解不了这个问题。

5. He's a stupid man and you should pay no attention to him.

他是个傻瓜,你不要理他。

**[D] She's a little shy.**

她有点腼腆。

**You can also say the following to describe people's attitude:**

你也可以说下列话来描述人们的态度:

1. The Chinese are a friendly people.

中国人是友好的民族。

2. She's very kind to the students.

她对学生非常好。

3. The old man is fond of pulling your leg.

那个老人喜欢开滑稽玩笑。

4. Jane appears to be very uncomfortable with those people.

珍看起来和那些人在一起很不融洽。

**[E] Jill says she's going to marry Ed.**

吉尔说她要嫁给埃德。

**Please compare [E] with the following:**

请比较[E]句及下列各句:

1. He said he would talk with her about it.

他说他会和她谈这件事。

2. They told me they had done nothing wrong.

他们告诉我他们没做错。

3. She doesn't think it's a good idea.

她觉得那不是个好主意。

4. Anyone can tell at a glance that they're madly in love. 谁都能一眼看出,他们在热恋之中。

[Notes]

1. in one's mid-thirties 30 岁至 39 岁的中段,即 34 岁~36 岁。
2. have any idea about 知道 类似于 know(about)
3. can't be 不可能是 表示说话者的推测。
4. as... as 像……一样 后一个 as 是连词,可接从句及其省略结构。
5. in poor health 处在很差的健康状态中 相反为: in good health。
6. in one's opinion/view 以某人的观点看(常用搭配)
7. pay attention to 注意(常用搭配) 也说成 give attention to。
8. a people 一个民族,一国全体人民 区别于“人们”这一用法。
9. be fond of 喜爱 后接名词类或动名词短语。
10. pull one's leg (习语) 开玩笑,取笑某人
11. appear to be 看上去是,好像 类似于 seem to be。to be 常可省略。
12. at a glance 一瞥 试比较: fall in love at the first glance (一见钟情)。
13. in love (与某人)处在爱恋中 后可接 with sb.。

## Part I Conversations

### 1. Do you think so?

Margaret: Do you think Ben and Jane are going to get married?

Linn: I don't know. Do you think they are?

Margaret: Sure. Don't you see them together all the time?

#### 一、你这样想吗?

玛格丽特: 你觉得本和珍会结婚吗?

林: 我不知道。你觉得他们会吗?

玛格丽特: 当然。你没看见他们俩总呆在一起吗?

[Note]

get married 结婚 与某人结婚则说成 get married with/to sb.。

## 2. A Rich Woman

Carol: Well, wouldn't you know it?

Steve: Know what? Aren't you going to tell me?

Carol: According to the newspaper, Sally has quit her job.

Steve: Why was she working anyway? She's rich.

Carol: She wanted something to do, I guess.

Steve: With all that money, she ought to have people working for her.

## 二、有钱的女人

卡罗尔：嘿，你想知道这么件事吗？

史蒂夫：什么事？你不打算告诉我吗？

卡罗尔：报上说萨丽辞职不干了。

史蒂夫：真弄不懂她当初为什么要工作。她是有钱人呀。

卡罗尔：我猜想她想找点事做吧。

史蒂夫：有她那么多钱，她应该雇人替她工作才对。

### [Notes]

1. wouldn't you... 以否定形式提问，语义更强一些。

2. ought to 应该 类似 should。

## 3. A Pekingese in New York

Bill: Hi Leo, do you know Jack Wang?

Leo: Jack Wang? No, I don't think I know him.

Bill: You don't know Jack Wang? You're kidding. He's a very famous person in Chinatown. He's also from your home city, Peking.

Leo: What's so special about him?

Bill: Well, for one thing, he's my sister's boyfriend. Ann talks about Jack all the time.

Leo: What else?

Bill: Jack's a genius at business. When he came to the States five years ago, he had only forty dollars in his pocket and the clothes on his back. Now he's got his own trading company. Ann told me he made four million dollars last