

留美实用口语

● 李保玉 著

**Trip to the
United States**

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A Trip to the United States

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1. Learning English

Part A VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

lately	最近, 近来
hitting the books	用功读书啊!
brush up on	加强一下(温故而知新)
What keeps you so busy?	怎么那样忙呢?
tied up with	忙于……; 与……有关系
this coming summer	今年夏天
a bit nervous	有点儿紧张
just saying that to be nice	只是说说客气话
I'm telling the truth.	我是讲真的; 我说的是实话。
get confused	弄不清楚; 搞糊涂了
Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)	托福考试
word order	字的次序, 句子里的字先后排列
expression	字或辞(表达特别意思的一群字)
idioms	惯用语(见 Part C)
It is complicated.	……是很复杂的。
sentence structure	句子的结构(文法的组织)

awkward
Chinese-speaking people

I'm so embarrassed.
People lose me in the middle of a conversation.

vice versa
You shouldn't fret about it.

Don't get so upset.

Let's call it quits.

Take a walk.

(Let's) take a break,

get tired easily

at a distance

near-sighted

to wear glasses

make passes at

contact lenses

catch ... eyes

far-sighted

... wouldn't work for me

take your word for it

make an appointment

Ah-choo! (She sneezes)

(God) Bless you!

It's chilly out,

不顺口的;不适合的;别扭的
讲中文的人(以中文为本国
语)

我很窘;我真不好意思。

别人听不懂我讲什么。

反之亦然(原为拉丁文)

你不要烦恼;你不应该担心。

别那样不高兴嘛!

我们来休息一下;停一会。

去散散步。

让我们休息一下吧!

很容易疲倦

远处

近视

戴眼镜

对某人发生兴趣多看几眼

隐形眼镜

引起(某)人注意

远视

不适合我用;我用不上

(好吧)相信你的话

约个时间见面

啊啾(她打喷嚏)

祝福你!保佑你!

外头有点凉。

chat

Just as you say.

Shoot the breeze.

Let me fix some coffee for
you.

You take it black, right?

not going to any trouble
You're not putting me out.
Make yourself at home.

I'll be right with you.

This really hits the spot.

It's funny.

playing mah-jongg

chess

to kill time

tutor

a bunch of

fixed in your mind

learned them by heart

drill

apply

Boring!

Practice makes perfect.

That's what's bothering

聊天

好吧!就随你的便,就听你的
吧!

聊天。

我去给你煮(冲)点咖啡。

你喝咖啡不加奶(连糖也不
加)对吗?

(希望)不会给你添任何麻烦
一点也不麻烦。

别拘束啊!(就像在你家里一
样)

我马上就来。

嗨!这正是我所需要的。

真有趣(带点奇怪的意思)!

打麻将

西洋棋

消磨时间

家教

一大堆

牢记心头

用心好好地记起来

练习

应用在……

烦人的!乏味的!

熟能生巧。

问题就在这儿;这就是我所

me.	烦恼的。
getting discouraged	令人泄气
actually	事实上
record player	电唱机
tape recorder	录音机
records	唱片
tapes	录音带
native voices	道地的腔调(纯正的口音)
loan	借出
borrow	借入
as long as	只要
listening comprehension	听力
speaking ability	说的能力
native tongue	本国语
to express their ideas	表达他们的意思、思想、观念
the muscles of speech or- gans	发音器官(声带、舌、口、鼻腔 等)
instrument	工具
cultural background	文化背景
intimately tied to	与……有密切的关连
bound up with	与……有密切的关系
nationality	国籍
religion	宗教
feeling of self	自己的感觉
developed in different areas	在不同的地区发展
however	可是;然而;但是;不过
That's neat!	真棒!

sounds like	好像是
master's degree (M.A., M.S.)	硕士学位
dissertation	博士论文
doctorate degree	博士学位
How marveious!	多好啊!
I have to be on my way.	我现在必须走了。
Hit the sack.	睡吧!睡觉 (见 Part C)。
an hour or so	大约一小时
It would do you good.	那样对你有益处。
Sounds good to me!	这倒不错 (我赞同您很好的 意见)。
a nap	小憩;小睡
Take care (of yourself).	保重(等于再见)!

Part B DIALOGUE

Burt: Hi, Ruth. Where have you been hiding lately?

Rut: I've been hitting the books.

Burt: Why have you been studying so hard?

Ruth: I need to brush up on my English.

Burt: So that's what keeps you so busy recently!

Ruth: Yes, I've been tied up with my studies. You know I'm planning to go to the United States this coming summer if I'm lucky enough to be admitted to Miami University, and I'm a bit nervous about my English.

Burt: I'm sure you will be accepted. As a matter of fact, your English is very good.

Ruth: You're just saying that to be nice.

Burt: No. I'm telling the truth. As an American, I understand you quite well.

Ruth: Thank you, but I'm afraid my pronunciation isn't accurate enough and that I might get confused.

Burt: I wouldn't worry about it. Besides, you've passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language.

Ruth: Yes, I have passed the TOEFL, but I still find the word order very difficult. Sometimes I know every word in an expression, but I don't know what the expression implies. It's the English idioms that are really hard for me.

Burt: You're right. It is complicated. Sometimes the sentence structure is awkward for Chinese-speaking people.

Ruth: I'm so embarrassed when people lose me in the middle of a conversation, or vice versa.

Burt: Relax, Ruth. You shouldn't fret about it. Don't get so upset. Let's call it quits and take a walk to the swimming pool.

Ruth: That's a great idea. Let's take a break. The swimming pool? What should we go there for?

Burt: Just to get some fresh air. You need a rest, and so do your eyes. You've been reading a lot lately.

Ruth: That's true. My eyes get tired easily. In fact,

sometimes after I read too much, I can't see things at a distance.

Burt: Have you checked with the doctor? You might be near-sighted.

Ruth: But I would hate to have to wear glasses. You know what they say: "Boys don't make passes at girls who wear glasses."

Burt: You could wear contact lenses instead. A lot of people do that these days. Then you will still catch the boys' eyes. I'm slightly farsighted, so I need glasses to read. Contact lenses wouldn't work for me, unfortunately.

Ruth: I'll take your word for it. Burt. I'll make an appointment with a doctor tomorrow. Ah-choo!
(She sneezes)

Burt: Bless you.

Ruth: Thank you. It's chilly out. Why don't we just stay home and have a little chat?

Burt: Just as you say. We'll shoot the breeze for a while.

Ruth: Let me fix some coffee for you. You take it black, right?

Burt: Right. I hope you're not going to any trouble, though.

Ruth: Not at all. You're not putting me out at all. Make yourself at home. I'll be right with you.

(Time passes)

Burt: You make a great cup of coffee. This really hits

the spot, but tell me more about yourself.

Ruth: Well, it's funny. I used to study English for amusement because I didn't have a special hobby, like playing mah-jongg or chess, to kill time. Now I have a particular purpose for it.

Burt: I see. So now you intend to study hard. So what's the problem?

Ruth: The tutor assigned me a bunch of homework. She wants me to memorize all the phrases and expressions.

Burt: Memorization is an important part of learning any new language. She simply wants you to practice them over and over again until they are fixed in your mind and you've learned them by heart.

Ruth: Yes, she said it is necessary to drill as much as possible, and the more I apply it in real situations, the more natural it will become. But drills are boring!

Burt: Your tutor is right ... though. Practice makes perfect.

Ruth: Yes, that's what's bothering me. I need so much practice I'm getting discouraged.

Burt: Actually, the fastest way to become fluent would be to have a record player or a tape recorder.

Ruth: Why all that?

Burt: That will help you reach your goal. The records or tapes have native voices, and you can study

them by listening again and again and imitating the sounds as many times as you wish.

Ruth: But I don't have a tape recorder.

Burt: I have a tape recorder that I can loan you if you'd like.

Ruth: Thanks a lot. I think I will borrow it from you, Burt.

Burt: You're welcome to use it for as long as you need it.

Ruth: That way I'll be able to train my listening comprehension as well as my speaking ability. I can surely use practice in both.

Burt: Okay. I think it will be good for you. Since English is not your native tongue, you must develop the muscles of your speech organs to produce unfamiliar sounds. When you read, read aloud.

Ruth: I would also like to learn more about the culture behind the language. My tutor said people use language as an instrument to express their ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc., and all these are determined by culture. When you understand the cultural background, you can better use the language.

Burt: Yes, language is intimately tied to man's feelings and activities. It is bound up with nationality, religion, and the feeling of self. As groups of men developed in different areas of the world, each group created its own spoken language. However,

the written language came about long after the spoken language was created.

Ruth: My tutor knows quite a bit about language and culture. I guess you could call her an expert.

Burt: That's neat. She surely sounds like an expert.

Ruth: She holds her master's degree in education, and now she is doing research for her dissertation for her doctorate degree.

Burt: How marvelous! You're certainly lucky to have such an intelligent and ambitious tutor.

Ruth: I'm glad you think so, too.

Burt: I've enjoyed talking to you, Ruth, but I have to be on my way.

Ruth: You have to leave now?

Burt: Yes. Why don't you hit the sack for an hour or so? It would do you good.

Ruth: Sounds good to me, but I don't really have time for a nap this afternoon. I can't even lie down for a while.

Burt: That's too bad. Well, take care. See you later.

Ruth: Bye, Burt.

Part C CULTURAL BACKGROUND

1. Oxford, Ohio: 俄亥俄州的牛津城 (Oxford) 是一个大学城。城里有两所大学, 其一为 Miami 州立大学, 创校于一八〇九年, 学生现约有一万三千人, 其中以教育学院

最著名。该校的足球队在美国相当出名,其体育系的毕业生多成为著名的足球教练,所以他们称 Miami University 为 football cradle, 但此 Miami 非 Florida 海滩之 Miami。牛津的另一校为 Western College, 创校于一八五三年,为一贵族女校,学生约有六百人;该校注重国际文化背景的交流与其比较研究,故包括来自世界六十余国的学生。以上两校只隔一条马路,四周有大树丛环绕着,环境优美。该城在学校放假期间,电影院、馆子等都关门休息。

2. Idioms: 惯用语;即语言中之辞汇,也就是一组组的字合起来表示一个意思,如“nose is running”即“流鼻涕”之意,并非“鼻子在跑”,又如“You said it.”即“你说对了”之意,而非“你说这个”。“idioms”是不分时间及地区为大家所通用的,而与“slang”不同。因为“slang”是某个地区新生出来的用语,而这种用语往往仅限于某个地区,其他地区未必懂得,并且可能在短时期内又不流行了。
3. Sentence structure is awkward for Chinese-speaking people.: 英文句子结构对我们讲中文的人来说有时是很别扭的;甚至有颠倒之感,如“two-third”即“三分之二”,“20% off”即“打八折”之意。在学习英文句子结构时若能稍加注意,即不难融会贯通。
4. Hit the sack: “sack”一字原意为袋子,在世界大战时,军人为行军临时住宿方便,美国士兵背上都有各人的保暖袋子,做得与人一般大小(美国人称睡袋),袋上有一长拉链,人钻进去后,就把拉链拉上,只留头在外头,这种袋子替代了床(bed)。“Hit”是 go to 的意思,所以 go to bed 即为 Hit the sack。

2. An Assistantship

Part A VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

Snap out of it.	醒醒!别发呆了。
I'm still in shock.	我还在发楞(在突来的惊讶中);惊人的事令我发呆。
something else	还有别的
admission	入学许可
financial aid	各类奖学金补助金的总称 (见 Part C)
Fantastic!	好极了(妙极之意)!
fellowship	研究院的一种奖学金(给资格高的研究者)
assistantship	助教奖学金(给研究院学生的)
scholarship	奖学金
stipend	薪水;薪俸
cover	包括;足敷
tuition	学费
room and board	膳宿
to sponge off	依赖(如海绵吸取于)
my folks	我的家人(父母)
That's great!	好极了;好棒。

grant	奖助金(补助金)
cost of	花费
round-trip (ticket)	来回(车票、机票)
vacation expenses	假期生活费(因为奖学金只 包括九个月)
miscellaneous costs	杂费
academic year	学年
U. (University)	大学的简写
off to	前往
sunny South	暖和的南方
just happens to be	刚巧是(加重语气时讲); 刚 好
assumed	以为
What's your field?	你主修什么? 你是哪一系的?
to major	主修
what with	因为
working part time	半工半读(打零工)
M.A. degree (Master of Arts degree)	文学硕士(见 Part C)
Ph.D. (Doctor of Philoso- phy)	博士学位
hold on	请等一等, 请停一停!(正在 说话或做着什么事)
You're talking too far ahead.	你扯得太远了。
master's (master's degree)	硕士学位的简写
what's more	况且更