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# 美國校園英語與學生俚語

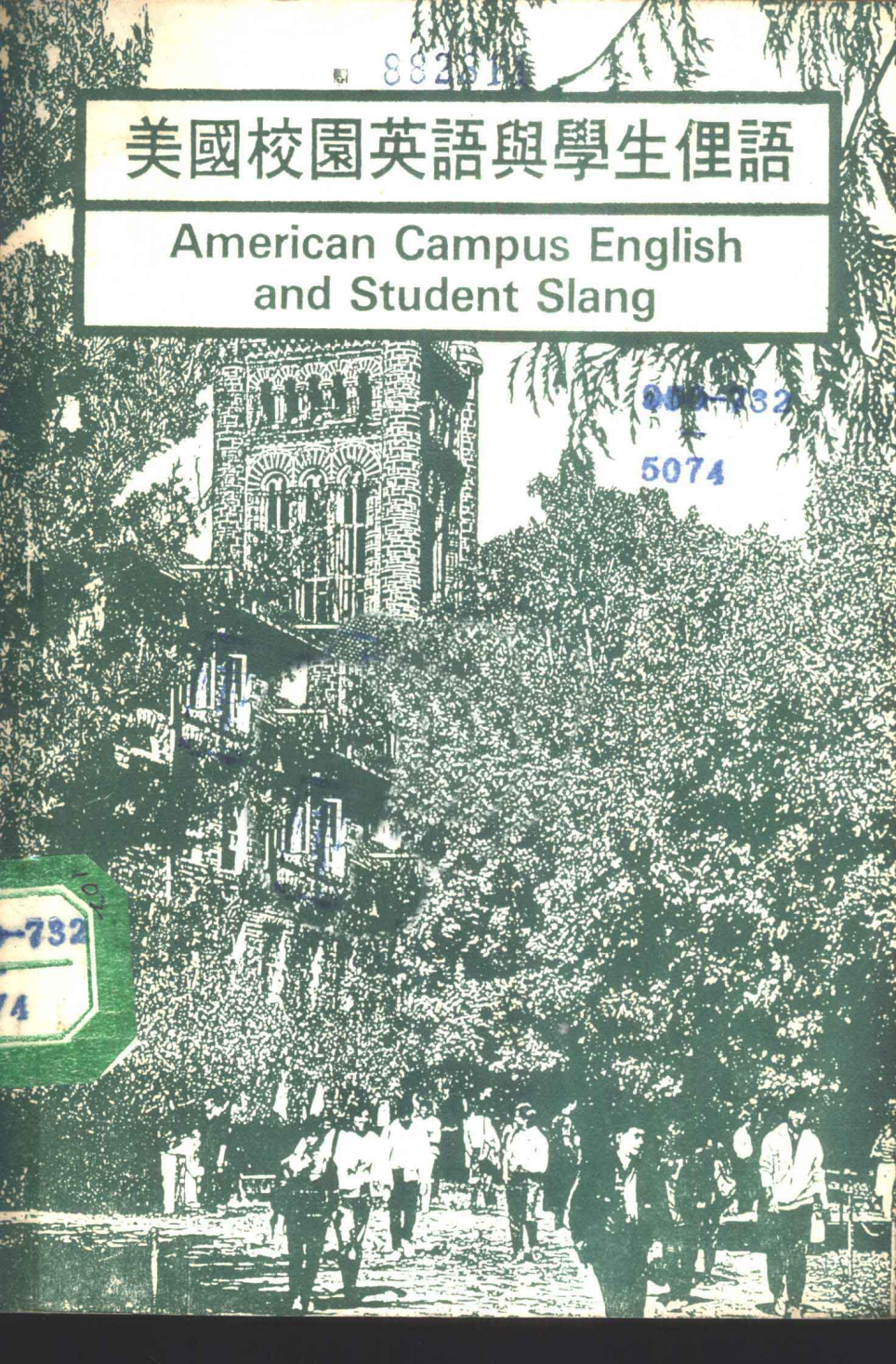
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and Student Slang

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## American Campus English and Student Slang

秦興培編著  
by Herbert Qin



三聯書店香港分店  
Joint Publishing Co. (HK)

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## 前 言

一年之前，在伊利諾大學歐巴拿校園裏聽見一位美國同學說了這樣一句話：“Boy, did I bomb it!” 這句話中生詞一個都沒有，但一細想，他是決不至於轟炸了什麼東西的。後來才知道，他是說考試未考好。當時我就想，倘寫一本關於常用的學生俚語和校園用語的書，或許對別人會有所幫助。他們或許也會像我一樣，聽到一般美國學生的常用語，會感到茫然。於是就着手調查研究，收集材料。然而，如果沒有伊利諾大學各系和各學院一百多位美國同學和朋友的熱情幫助和鼓勵，本書的問世也是不可能的。

本書的語句，都以對話的形式出現。在這些對話中，有外界人士不一定熟悉的校園用語及學生俚語，也有學生使用的一般俚語。有些新詞、新用法，是一般詞典未及收入的，如現今家喻戶曉、而由年青人首創的“awesome”，“air head”，“check out,” 等。有些俚語用法，雖已有十年以上的歷史，也未見於一般詞書，如“za,” “catch rays”, 原先均為七十年代學生俚語，後者已在一般人中使用。又有些詞，詞典上以次要地位列出其俚語或次要意義，但在年青人的口語中，其俚語或次要意義反而佔了上風，如“cool,” “neat,” 在大多數情況下都是“極好”的意思，而非“涼爽”和“整潔”。

在使用本書時要注意的一點是，俚語必須用於適當的場合。比如，你沒有去上一位教授的課，你對他說，“I blew off your lecture,” 他會感到驚訝；不過在美國，師生間的關係往往不拘禮節，所以他多半知道你是在開玩笑，也就不計較了。但在同學和朋友之間，則多用俚語，這也正是使用俚語的適當場合。如果你想說某事某物好得很，可以用“real good,” “really nice,” “excellent” 等較正式的用語。在朋友之間，則可用“great,” “terrific,” “super,” “fantastic,” 等較非正式的用語。你也可以用“cool,” “neat,” 以及其他俚語，全憑具體場合而定。如果你要向朋友描繪某物或某人實在是好得“一

場糊塗”，那末“totally awesome”就是你語驚四座的俚語了。

非正式場合的日常會話及用語，常被拒之語言課程的門外。筆者希望本書對已在美國、或將來美國留學的中國學生會有所裨益。如果做到了這一點，那麼這本書的目的也就達到了。

本書的出版，特別要感謝下列美國同學和朋友的幫助和支持：

伊利諾大學歐巴拿—香檳分校的羅素·凱利斯，戴維·約翰遜，巢懋開；加利福尼亞州立大學北嶺分校的茱莉葉·李，及加利福尼亞大學洛杉磯分校的何塞·雷果羅。

我在上海師院時的同學，現在美國讀工商管理碩士學位的王世賢對本書提出了極有價值的意見，亦在此深表感謝。

秦興培

一九八四年六月

於美國伊利諾大學

## Preface

A year ago, on the Urbana Campus of the University of Illinois, I heard an American student say, "Boy, did I bomb it!" Although I thought I understood him, for he hadn't used any words whose meaning was unknown to me, after thinking awhile I felt it impossible that he would literally have bombed something. As it turned out, he had failed or "bombed" his exam. It was then that the idea struck me that a book which contained and explained commonly used student slang and campus terms in daily conversational speech might be helpful to others who, like myself, might be at a loss for words when confronted with commonly understood usage of the average American students. I thus proceeded to research and compiled the necessary material for such a book. However, had it not been for the whole-hearted encouragement and help on the part of more than one hundred fellow students and friends from various departments and colleges of the University of Illinois this book would not have been possible.

The book is composed of dialogues in which there are campus terms and student slang with which those outside the university might not be familiar. There are also general slang expressions used by students. Some of the new words and expressions are not included in standard dictionaries, such as "awesome", "air head", "check out", etc., which are known by the general public but were first coined by the younger generation.

Other slang words and expressions, which have already been in use for more than a decade, are not to be found in dictionaries either, such as "za", or "catch rays", both of which belong to the student slang of the 70's, the latter having been adopted in everyday speech of the public at large. Again, the slang or secondary usages of some words, which are usually listed in dictionaries under their regular meaning or usage but as secondary meanings, have assumed the primary usage or meaning in the conversation of young Americans across the U.S. For instance, the words "cool" and "neat", in most cases, are used to mean "excellent", instead of the primary definitions offered in standard dictionaries.

One thing must be kept in mind when we refer to this book, and that is slang must be used in the correct environment and situation. For example, your professor might be shocked were you to tell him you "blew off" his lecture, but due to the informal nature of the student-professor relationship in the U.S. he would most likely understand that you were joking and not take offense. But among fellow students and friends, the use of slang is a common occurrence. When you want to say that something is very good, you could use "real good", "really nice", "excellent", etc., which are rather formal. The more appropriate form among friends might be "great", "terrific", "super", "fantastic", etc., which are much more informal. You could also use "cool", "neat", as well as other slang words or phrases. It all depends



on the situation. If you want to shock or impress your friends with an exaggeration, you could use the slang expression "totally awesome" instead of just "cool" or "neat".

I hope that the foreign students who are either studying or coming to study at an American university will find this book a useful aid in assisting them to better cope with the daily conversation encountered in informal settings, which is all too often the very language which language courses do not teach. If it fulfills this function, the aim of this book will have been accomplished.

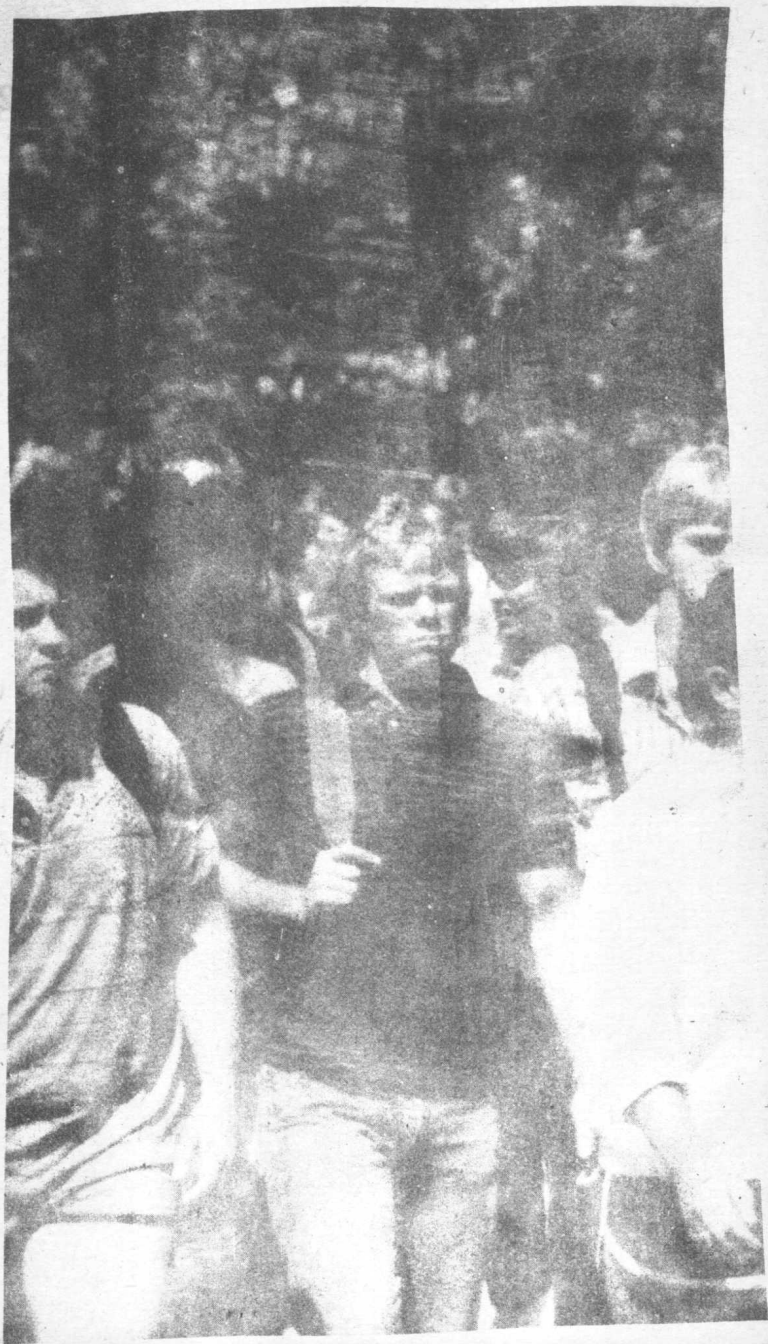
I am extremely grateful to the following of my fellow American students and friends whose assistance, advice, and support have seen this book to its completion:

Russell Kallis, David Johnson, and Mark Chow, of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Julie Leigh of the California State University, Northridge, and Jose Reguero of the University of California at Los Angeles.

I am also especially indebted and thankful to Steven Wang, who was my schoolmate in the Foreign Language Department of the Shanghai Teacher's College and is now working toward his M.S.B.A. degree in the United States. His advice and comments were invaluable.

Herbert Qin

University of Illinois  
at Urbana-Champaign  
June, 1984



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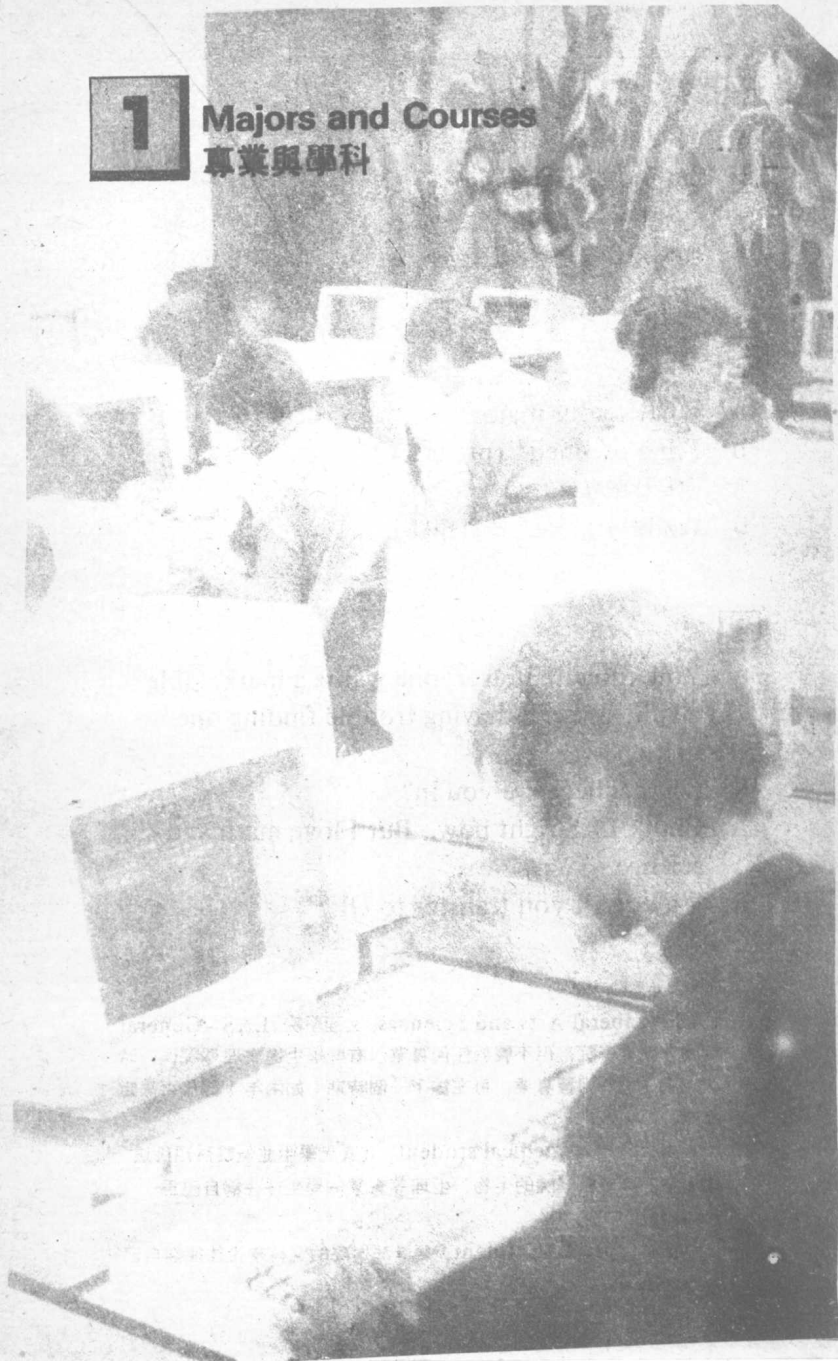
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# 1

## Majors and Courses

### 專業與學科



**1**

A: What college are you in?

B: I'm in Las-General.<sup>1</sup>

A: 你是什麼學院的?

B: 我是文理學院一般專業的。

**2**

A: What's your major?

B: I'm a pre-med<sup>2</sup> (pre-law).<sup>3</sup>

A: 你是什麼專業的?

B: 我是醫科預科生(法科預科生)。

**3**

A: You know that everyone wants a marketable major. But I'm having trouble finding one I like.

B: What college are you in?

A: I'm in LAS right now. But I love math and science.

B: Why don't you transfer to GE?<sup>4</sup>

1 LAS = Liberal Arts and Sciences, 文理學院。LAS-General 指屬於文理學院, 但不屬於任何專業。有些學生進文理學院, 一時決定不了選擇何種專業, 可在修了一個時期(如兩年)課後再決定專業。

2 pre-med = pre-medical student, 其實大學中並無醫科預科這個專業。擬考醫學院的生物、生理等專業的學生往往稱自己為 pre-med。

3 pre-law = pre-law student, 要考法學院的文科學生往往稱自己為 pre-law。

A: 你知道人人都想讀一個能找到好工作的專業, 可我却找不到我所喜愛的。

B: 你是哪一個學院的?

A: 我現在是在文理學院。但我喜愛數學及理科。

B: 那你為什麼不轉到普通工程系去呢?

#### 4

A: Hey, man,<sup>5</sup> did you know how many times Jesse's been switching majors?

B: Yeah, he's gotta<sup>6</sup> make up his mind soon if he wants a degree from the University.

A: 嗨, 朋友, 你知道傑西改變了幾次專業嗎?

B: 是呀, 要是他想從學校得到學位, 他得馬上決定了。

#### 5

A: You wanna<sup>7</sup> go to B school?<sup>8</sup>

B: I'm thinking of it. But I'm not sure if I can get into it.

A: 你想去讀商學院嗎?

B: 我正在考慮, 但我不知道進不進得去。

4 GE = general engineering, 普通工程系, 屬工程學院。GE 也用作 general education 的略稱。見第16組對話。

5 man: 口頭語。不論放在句首、句中或句末, 都讀升調。青年中使用頻率較高, 旨在引起對方注意等。使用時無性別限制, 亦可稱女性為“man”。源自黑人用法。

6 he's gotta = he's got to = he has to

7 wanna = want to

8 B school = business school, 商學院, 但全稱較為常用。

## 6

A: Do you think I'll have any difficulty getting into grad school?<sup>1</sup>

B: I guess not. 3.0<sup>2</sup> is their minimum requirement.

A: 你看我進研究院有什麼困難嗎?

B: 我看沒問題。他們的最低要求是平均成績 3.0。

## 7

A: How many hours<sup>3</sup> are you taking this semester?

B: Seventeen.

A: Are you taking any 300 level courses<sup>4</sup> in your major?

B: Yeah, finally. And I have a feeling it's gonna be a killer.<sup>5</sup>

A: 這學期你修幾個學時?

B: 十七個。

A: 你自己專業的三百號課程，你學不學呢?

B: 學的，終於學三字頭的課程了。可我覺得一定會很難的。

## 8

A: I really want to take econ 101.<sup>6</sup> Do you know anything about it?

1 grad school = graduate school, 研究生院

2 3.0, 即 GPA 3.0, 亦即 grade-point average 3.0, 這裏是指五分制的 3.0。有些學校使用四分制。

3 hour = credit hour, 見 13 組注。平時說話多用 hour。

4 300 level courses, 三百號的課程, 三字頭的課程。參見第 8 組注 6。

5 it's gonna be a killer = it's going to be a killer.

killer: 難的課程或考試。

B: They say it's a blow-off course.<sup>7</sup> But I'm not really sure. Ask Julia, she's an econ major.

A: 我真想修經濟學101。你知道不知道這門課?

B: 聽人說這門課很容易, 可我還不能確定。你去問茱莉婭, 她是學經濟的。

### 9

A: I'm taking soc<sup>8</sup> 102. It's so interesting. I wish I was a soc major.

B: Well, why don't you transfer, or you can become a double-major.<sup>9</sup>

A: 我在修社會學102。非常有意思。我希望我是學社會學的。

B: 那末, 你爲什麼不轉系呢? 或者你也可讀雙重專業。

### 10

A: How do you like your anthro<sup>10</sup> class?

B: It's great. Anyway it's a Mickey Mouse class.<sup>11</sup>

A: 你覺得你的人類學課怎麼樣?

B: 好極了。不管怎麼說吧, 那是一門米老鼠課。

6 econ ['i:kən] 101: 經濟學 101 號。課程的號碼, 標誌課文的程度, 如 100, 101, 爲大學中程度最低的課程, 其他如 204, 206, 305, 307, 412, 425, 等等, 各爲二百號、三百號、四百號的課程。課程號碼究竟是 212 或 213 等, 並無精確標準, 全憑教授決定。從 200 至 299 號, 並無 99 等程度。如生物二百號課程, 可以只有三、四個, 如 bio 201, 212, 234。

7 blow-off course: 容易的課, 亦作 blow-off class。

8 soc [səʊf] = sociology, 社會學

9 double-major: 雙重專業的學生

10 anthro = anthropology, 人類學

11 Mickey Mouse class: 容易的課



**11**

A: Does your psych<sup>1</sup> class help you understand people?

B: Well, it's hard to say. Most of the time I don't even understand myself.

A: 你的心理學課有沒有幫助你理解人們的心理呢?

B: 這個麼, 難說。大多數時候我連自己的心理都不理解。

**12**

A: How did you like biochem?<sup>2</sup> I've signed up for next semester.<sup>3</sup>

B: It was a breeze.<sup>4</sup> No problem.

A: 你覺得你修過的生化課怎麼樣? 我已經登記下學期要讀了。

B: 容易得很, 沒問題。

**13**

A: No wonder that mythology class is so popular. They get two credit hours<sup>5</sup> for a one hour class.

B: And this is an interesting course, too.

A: 難怪有那麼多人修那門神話課。他們上一個小時的課, 却能得到兩個學時。

B: 而且這門課還很有趣哩!

1 psych [saik] = psychology, 心理學

2 biochem = biochemistry, 生物化學, 生化

3 sign up for next semester: 指前一學期在 pre-registration form (預先注册表) 上簽字登記修下學期的課。

4 breeze: 容易的事