

英语文化驿站系列



感悟

Understanding the Canadian Culture

加拿大文化

—— 英语趣味会话

李桂山 编著



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS



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本书以对话的形式介绍了加拿大的文化背景知识和风土人情。共分 33 篇对话，每个对话中含有 5 ~ 10 个英语习语，它们都是加拿大和美国的朋友在和作者的交谈中自然运用的习惯用语。为方便读者，本书对每一习语作了简明的英汉释义，并列举了两个或三个例句来补充说明；每个对话后还附有一些必要的词汇和注释，以供参考。

本书适合高等学校英语学生、研究生、英语教师等阅读，还可作为英语口语教科书，也可供广大英语自学者使用。

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

感悟加拿大文化：英语趣味会话 / 李桂山编著. —北京：机械工业出版社，2008.1

(英语文化驿站系列)

ISBN 978-7-111-22693-2

I. 感… II. 李… III. ①英语—口语 ②文化—概况—加拿大 IV. H319.9
G171.1

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字 (2007) 第166933号

机械工业出版社 (北京市百万庄大街22号 邮政编码100037)

策划编辑：刘 涛 杨 娟 责任编辑：杨 娟 茹雪飞

封面设计：饶 薇 责任印制：李 妍

保定市中国画美凯印刷有限公司印刷

2008年1月第1版·第1次印刷

169mm×239mm·10.125印张·297千字

标准书号：ISBN 978-7-111-22693-2

ISRC CN-M10-07-0138-0 / A·G4 (光盘)

定价：25.00元 (含MP3光盘一张)

凡购本书，如有缺页、倒页、脱页，由本社发行部调换

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编辑热线电话：(010) 88379710

封面无防伪标均为盗版

Preface

This book, through the witty conversations, introduces the background knowledge of Canadian society and culture.

Over the last 36 years, I have learned several foreign languages successfully and recently began studying Chinese and Japanese. For the past 27 years, I have also been a teacher of languages and a trainer of language teachers. It has been my experience that one of the most effective and efficient ways of learning the spoken variety of languages is to study increasingly complex conversations. Words and sentences in isolation are easily forgotten, but conversations usually have a beginning, a development, and an end, and are much more memorable than odd snippets of languages.

Mr. Li Guishan has visited Canada many times in the past twenty years and has the honor of making the acquaintance of Canadian people in all the walks of life. Mr. Li's conversations in this book are all derived from dialogues that he overheard or participated in while he was in Canada. He has edited them somewhat, to concentrate on the many idioms that fill spoken English, but they are still quite reflective of modern, conversational, informal English. This book does contain good witty idiomatic expressions that are frequently used in everyday

life.

I am sure that intermediate and advanced-level Chinese learners of English will find this book of dialogues to be a useful way of increasing their knowledge of idioms. It should prove to be a bestseller.

Palmer Acheson, Ph. D.

Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics

Director, Undergraduate Programs

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Language**

Concordia University

Montreal, Quebec, Canada

这本书通过诙谐幽默的对话，向读者介绍了加拿大社会与文化背景知识。

在过去的30个春秋里，我已成功地学习了数种外语。近来我又开始学习汉语和日语。我执教已有27载，曾从事语言教学，培养语言教师。积多年之经验，我认为循序渐进地学习一些内容丰富的会话是训练语言表达能力最富有成效的途径。单独的词汇和语句易于忘记，而会话往往有始有终，有情节发展过程，因此比只言片语更容易记住。

本书作者李桂山先生在过去的二十几年里多次访问加拿大，他有幸结识加拿大各界朋友。据其在交往中的所闻、所用，他编撰了这本英语会话书。在编写过程中，他侧重于运用英语口语中丰富的习语，使本书语言通俗上口，饶有现代气息。这本书的确包含了许多诙谐幽默的惯用妙语。

我可以断言，那些学有所长的中国英语爱好者会发现，此书对他们增长习语方面的知识大有裨益。它将会是一本畅销书。

帕尔默·艾奇逊博士

应用语言学副教授

大学研究项目主任

英语作为第二种语言教学中心

康科迪亚大学

蒙特利尔，魁北克省，加拿大

前 言

本人于 1976 年至 1978 年在加拿大留学，1990 年 2 月获加拿大大学研究奖金，应加拿大政府外交部的邀请再次赴加，进行加拿大社会和文化方面的实地研究和考察。

作为访问学者，在过去的三十多年里，我多次赴加拿大和美国进行学术研究、讲学、访问和进行国际教育合作等多项工作。在此期间，我结识了一些加拿大和美国各界人士，与这些新朋老友进行了广泛交谈。我从与美、加朋友交谈中获取了大量的有关加拿大文化的背景知识，同时也学到了许多诙谐的英语成语，使我深感英语成语纷繁浩瀚。英语成语的妙用所营造的那种轻松愉快的气氛使我记忆犹新。我的体会是，成语使用得恰如其分，成语掌握得纯熟流利，就可以增强语言的表达能力，好比锦上添花。

本书通过对话形式，记录了美、加朋友们与我的交谈内容。它介绍了北美，尤其是加拿大的风俗、社会、民族特点等文化背景知识。

本书分 33 篇对话，每个对话中含有 5 ~ 10 个英语习语，它们都是加拿大和美国的朋友在和我的交谈中经常运用的习惯用语。为方便读者，本书对每一习语作了简明的英汉释义，并列举了两个或三个例句补充说明，每个对话后还附有一些必要的词汇和注释，以供参考。为更好学习和理解对话内容，感悟加拿大文化，每篇对话配有英、中文化对照的背

景知识。

课后的习语例句的汉译英部分和每课背景知识的英译汉是由廉晋萍老师承担完成的。

本书有幸得到了加拿大康科迪亚大学英语应用语言学副教授帕尔默·艾奇逊博士的校阅并提出了宝贵建议。在此谨向他表示衷心的感谢。

本书适合高等学校英语学生、研究生、英语教师等阅读。本书可作为英语口语教科书，也可供广大英语自学者使用，同时也是出国人员、留学生和涉外人员的必备书。

编者

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Unit 1 Places to Stay 住宿

It is not difficult for a visitor to find a place to live in Canada. Places to stay may be called hotels, motels, inns, lodges, resorts or homestay. Firstly, look in the Classified Ads in the newspaper or look for ads on notice boards. Many places such as community centers, grocery stores, and campuses in the universities have notice boards. Secondly, you can start by comparing the services and prices offered in the ads. In any case, you'll have to call them and see if they have the kind of room you are looking for.

Canadian law says that the landlord cannot refuse to rent a place to people because of their race, skin color, age, birthplace, religion, sex, marital status, or disability. A landlord can refuse to rent to pet owners and people who smoke.

When you agree to rent a house or apartment, you and the landlord are making a contract. It can be a written or spoken agreement. The law says the landlord must make the repairs if the roof leaks or the toilet doesn't work or there is no hot water.



Motels have plenty of parking spaces and are usually near freeways and highways. Inns are usually like motels. Lodges and resorts are in the mountains, on the coast, or near the lakes. Lots of hotels have special facilities for conventions—large and small meeting rooms, banquet rooms.

Electricity in North America is 110 volts, not 220. You cannot use your



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hair dryer or your electric razor unless you can change it to 110 volts. When telephoning from your hotel room, you will often have to go through the hotel switchboard, especially for long distance calls. These calls can be quite expensive, because the hotel usually adds a high service charge to the calls you make. On the other hand, local calls can generally be made from your room by dialing directly. You can also ask the hotel receptionist to give you a wake-up call in the morning.

If your hotel does not have a laundry service, maybe you can find a Laundromat nearby, which might even be open 24 hours a day. You will need exact change to operate the washing machines and dryers. You will always find soap, towels and linen in hotels and motels in Canada.

Phone cards are available in Canada and in the United States. It is inexpensive and convenient to use phone cards to make long distance calls.

The housing offices or foreign student offices at the universities may tell you of possible places. Or you may also see ads in a newspaper. While you are talking with the landlord on the telephone, ask as many questions as you can. You need \$300 to \$500 or more at once when you first rent the apartment. The landlord keeps this money until you move out. The landlord can use some of this money to pay for any damage there is. If there is no damage, and you clean the apartment, the landlord will give you back all the money, plus interest.



译文

2 对一个游客来说，在加拿大找一个住宿的地方并不困难。提供住宿的地方被称为旅馆、汽车旅馆、小旅馆、小屋、疗养地或家庭住宿。首先，你可以在报纸上查找分类广告或在告示牌上寻找广告。许多地方比如社区中心、杂货店和大学校园都有告示牌。然后，比较各个广告上提供的服务和价格。无论如何，你都得打电话，询问他们是否有你想要的房子。

Unit 1 Places to Stay 住宿

加拿大法律规定, 房东不能以种族、肤色、年龄、国籍、宗教信仰、性别、婚姻状况或残疾的原因拒绝出租房屋。但是房东可以拒绝出租房屋给饲养宠物的人和吸烟者。

一旦你承租一个房子或一套公寓, 你和房东需要签订租赁合同, 这个合同可以是书面的, 也可以是口头协议。法律规定如果屋顶漏雨、马桶有故障或者没有热水, 房东必须负责解决。

汽车旅馆有足够大的停车场, 而且通常临近大路或高速公路。小旅馆类似于汽车旅馆。在山上、海边或湖畔建有住宿和度假的小屋。许多旅馆还为会议准备了专门的设施: 大、小会议室和餐厅。

在北美, 电压为 110 伏, 而不是 220 伏。只有把电压转换为 110 伏时, 你才可以使用电吹风或电动剃须刀。当你在旅馆拨打外线特别是长途电话时, 需要通过总机转接。这样的电话费用会很高, 因为旅馆通常要附加一些高额服务费。另一方面, 本地电话只需要从你的房间直接拨打就可以了。你还可以要求旅馆服务员在清晨为你提供电话叫早服务。

如果你所入住的旅馆不提供洗衣服务, 你可以在附近找一家自助洗衣店, 也许还是 24 小时营业的。你必须用正好的零钱操作洗衣机和烘干机。加拿大的旅馆和汽车旅馆一般都提供肥皂、毛巾和床单。

加拿大和美国可以使用电话卡, 这对打长途电话来说既方便又便宜。

大学里的住宿办公室和留学生办事处可能会告诉你一些可住宿的地方供你选择, 或者你也可以查阅报纸上的广告。当你和房主通电话时, 一定要尽可能地多问问题。第一次租房时需要一次性交纳 300~500 加币或者更多的押金。在你搬走之前, 房东会保留这笔押金, 他会用一部分钱支付可能发生的损坏赔偿。如果没有任何损坏, 而且你还清扫了房间, 房东会把押金以及利息都还给你。





Dialogue

Let's Keep Our Fingers Crossed

- Ann: You don't look cheerful today. You look exhausted.
- Li: That's right! As you know, I'm leaving for Canada in two days. But I haven't found a place to stay in my first stop in Vancouver.
- Ann: You could stay a few days at my mom's. You will be certainly greeted with a warm and friendly welcome.
- Li: Thank you very much. How generous you are! Ann, could you give me some ideas on how I *go about* finding a place to stay after a few days at your mom's?
- Ann: My pleasure. There are several ways to find housing. The housing office or foreign student office at the university may tell you of possible places. Or you may also see an ad in a newspaper. While you are talking with the landlord on the telephone, ask as many questions as you can. You need \$300 to \$500 or more at once as a downpayment when you first rent the apartment.
- Li: I've learned from our special orientation that you usually have to pay some extra money when you move in. Right?
- Ann: Correct. The landlord keeps this money as a damage deposit until you move out. The landlord can use some of this money to pay for any damage there is. If there is no damage, and you clean the apartment, the landlord will give you back all the money, plus interest.
- Li: Thank you very much for your info. Can I come to visit you tonight? You could give me the introductory letter to Prof. Mike Jefferson.



Ann: *Drop in* at any time tonight. I'll phone my mom first and then you take my letter to my mom. Remember, phone my mom if anything unusual *crops up* when you are in Canada, or you find yourself in a difficult situation—no one to meet you at the airport, no place to stay and nothing to eat...

Li: ...and tramp the streets. Are you going to talk to me like this?

Ann: Oh, no, I'm just kidding. I'm sure you will be taken good care of by Canadian friends. *Let's keep our fingers crossed.*

Li: Thank you very much for what you have done for me.

Ann: My pleasure.



Vocabulary and Notes

How generous you are!

你太慷慨大方啦!

orientation

定向, 定位; 熟悉情况; 出国前的培训

If there is no damage, and you clean the apartment, the landlord will give you back all the money, plus interest.

如果房间没有损坏, 而且你把它打扫得干干净净, 房东会把所有的钱加上利息一并还给你。

tramp the streets

流落街头



Idioms for Everyday Use

go about (doing something)

start working on (doing something) 着手干, 做(某事)