

TESOL



# 英语彩桥

WE ARE  
COLLEGE STUDENTS

留美生活情景会话



吉林大学出版社

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江苏工业学院图书馆

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## 修订版前言

《留美生活情景会话》，原名《当代交际流行英语》，完成于美国，是由高访学者刘希彦教授和他的导师亨利克森博士合著。该书确实是一部独具风格的口语教材。其主要特色：(1) 语言新。该书以当代美国现实生活中最流行的大众英语 (Street English) 为素材。(2) 内容全。该书几乎囊括了美国大学生日常生活中所需要的全部交际用语。(3) 情景逼真。书中情景均是实际生活中的片段，因此生动、真实、自然、有立体感。(4) 会话灵活。会话灵活，能使读者活学活用是该书又一特色。每个单元实际上就是一个会话主题目。在主题目之下分若干个分题目。任何一个分题目下有几个或十几个会话。会话是在不同的情景之中，根据不同的功能，针对不同的对象，以不同的表达方式展开。这就打破了传统的一个题目，一个会话，一种表达方式的呆板局面。

由于该书语言地道新潮，会话灵活实用，文化背景知识介绍全面，语言与文化注释击中要点，它一问世就受到广大读者的热烈欢迎。1991年2月第1次印刷，3月第2次印刷，仅仅两个月发行15300册！

为了使该书更能适应培养学生交际能力的需要，我们在原书的基础上进行了第一次修订，并更名为《留美生活情景会话》(We Are College Students)。

早在 1997 年 8 月，刘希彦教授第 2 次赴美留学之前，我们已着手策划修订该书，并责成他在留美期间收集语言素材。1998 年 9 月，刘老师按时回国，修订工作开始，并于 1999 年 9 月完工。

修订后的《会话》增加了找房子、去银行、去邮局三个单元，使《会话》更加具有代表性。现在该书共分二十三个单元。功能会话主要有：问候用语，介绍、自我介绍用语，感谢用语，道歉用语，表示赞成或反对用语，警告、建议用语，约会用语，邀请、接受或拒绝邀请用语，获取信息和问路用语。此外该书还着重介绍了如何打电话，如何找房子，如何购物，如何到饭店用餐，如何看医生，如何上学（包括注册，选课等），如何使用图书馆，如何找工作，如何办理存款、取款，如何办理邮件，以及如何旅游（包括订票，订饭店，乘车、船、飞机等）。

由于该书几乎囊括了留美日常生活所需要的全部交际用语，对那些正在学习英语的大学生、研究生以及即将赴美留学或工作的科技人员尤其实用。

**学好《情景会话》，走遍美国也不怕！**

编 者

2000 年 1 月

## 前 言

当今中国，英语学习盛行，孜孜不倦者不计其数。然而遗憾的是他们从书本上学来的英语不但呆板，而且陈旧，听起来很不自然。当他们与操英语的人交际时，经常遇到困难。他们讲英语，就象是在背书，而听英语时，则无法弄懂一些非常流行的表达方式。

为了帮助中国学生克服这些困难，我们编写了这本《当代交际流行英语》(Popular English for Modern Communication)。本书向您展示了当今美国现实生活中所流行的大众语言。学习并掌握本书会话中的用语将特别有助于开发中国学生的会话能力，并能为他们未来的交际工作打下坚实的基础。

书中例话源于真实生活中谈话、电视节目、流行书刊中的对话。搜集资料工作是在美国进行的，共用了一年多时间。然后对全部资料进行分类、编辑。最后由以英语为母语的美国教师对书中会话进行核对、再核对，看其是否地道、自然、逼真，直至满意。因此，本书会话中的语言真正代表了当今美国现实生活中的流行用语。

本书可作为大专院校英语会话课教材（包括英语专业和非英语专业），也可作为中、高级英语培训班口语课教材。本书对高中生及其他有一定基础的英语爱好者也很适用，可使他们一开始就学习地道美国英语。

在每个单元的开始，都对该单元所涉及的语言和文化背景知识作了较全面的介绍和讲解。当然了，每个单元最重要的部分莫过于那些长短相宜的会话了，有三、五句长的微型会话 (Mini-conversation)，有十句、八句长的会话 (Conversation)，还有较长的展开会话 (Extended Conversation)，全部会话都是在特定的情景中展开。由于采用了地道的大众化语言，在情景的烘托下，每个会话都显得那么自然、逼真、有立体感。

对于同一种事物或行为可用几种方法表达。在此种情况下，我们将其他表达方式置于方括号内。对于那些具有选择性的词、表达法和指示性的话语，则置于圆括号内。

在每个单元的结尾，都对该单元所出现的语言点和特殊的文化背景知识进行了注释。学生和老师都会发觉这些注释是非常有用的，并从中得到启发。

本书是中、美两国有关学校和个人友好合作的结果。我们对曾给予我们大力支持的吉林大学、夏威夷杨伯翰大学及波利尼西亚文化中心的管理人员致以衷心的感谢！我们特别感谢夏威夷杨伯翰大学奥尔顿·威德校长和吉林大学伍卓群校长，是他们的远见卓识和良好愿望才使两校交流项目得以实施！

著 者

1990 年 4 月

## Preface

The English language is very popular in modern-day China. Millions of students are diligently trying to master it. Unfortunately, the English they learn from their textbooks is often old fashioned and stilted. When they try to use the English they have studied, it does not sound natural.

When these students try to communicate with English speakers, they often have problems. When they speak, they sound like books instead of people. When they listen, they can not understand many of the expressions English speakers use.

This book, *Popular English for Modern Communication*, is designed to help Chinese students overcome these problems. It presents the English language as it is actually spoken in the United States today. Students who master the language contained in its sample conversations will be much better prepared to communicate with English speakers.

The conversations in the book are based on speech samples taken from real-life conversations, television programs, and popular books. These samples were gathered in the United States over a period of one year. They were categorized, compiled, and then checked (and double-checked) for naturalness by native-speaker teachers of English. The result is an authentic representation of



English as it is spoken by Americans today.

*Popular English for Modern Communication* may be used as a textbook in English classes at the university level (for both English majors and non-English majors). High-level students in middle school will benefit from this book also, as they learn natural, authentic English from the beginning.

At the beginning of every unit, the language and culture which it focuses on are introduced and explained thoroughly. Additional explanations are provided within many units. Of course, the major portion of each unit consists of dialogs or conversations of varying lengths (mini, normal, and extended), which present English as it is actually spoken in the United States. For many lines in these conversations, additional alternate expressions are given in square brackets. Optional words, explanations, and instructions are given in parentheses. At the end of each unit, particular points of difficulty (either linguistic or cultural) in the conversations are explained. Teachers and students will find these notes valuable and enlightening.

This book is the result of friendly cooperation among various individuals and institutions in the United States and China. The authors wish to thank the administrative officers of Jilin University, Brigham Young University-Hawaii, and the Polynesian Cultural Center for their support. A special expression of thanks goes to President Alton Wade (BYU-Hawaii) and Pres. Wu Zhuo-qun (Jilin University), whose vision and good will made the exchange program between their two universities possible.

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## Unit 1

### Greetings

Greetings are indispensable in our lives. We use them many times every day to make contact with other people, recognize their presence, and show friendliness.

It is important to remember that the expressions used for greeting people usually do not carry any literal meanings. For example, "What's up?" does not really mean, "What is up?" It is only an expression of greeting. Also, remember that a positive response to greeting is usually expected, even if it is not totally true. For instance, if someone greets you by saying, "How are you?" "Fine." is the most appropriate response—even if you are feeling bad.

Greetings vary in their level of formality. Using a greeting that is too formal or too casual for a particular situation is a social error which may be offensive or embarrassing.

There are at least five different styles in English: frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate.<sup>1</sup> The style which is appropriate for a situation depends on the age and the relationship of the people speaking as well as where they are and what they are talking about.

**Frozen style** is seldom used in normal speaking situations. It

is a classic, literary, almost ceremonial style reserved for the most formal occasions, such as declamatory speeches to large audiences. Language in this style is carefully edited and rehearsed. It is used for one-way communication, and the listeners remain social strangers to the speaker.

**Formal style** is sometimes used in speaking (such as in university lectures and formal introductions), but it is most commonly used in written form in text and reference books, reports, and business letters. Formal utterances are usually either formulaic (established words and structures are used repeatedly with little variation) or prepared in advance (carefully composed and edited). Although it is used for communicating information, formal style typically does not allow immediate feedback from listeners. It is a socially detached style for addressing strangers or large groups.

**Consultative style**, the first of two colloquial styles in English, is used for two-way communication between people who do not belong to the same social group. It is typical of interactions between a dominant person (such as a professor or a supervisor) and his/her social subordinate (such as a student or a worker). Consultative style allows cooperation and communication without social integration. Conversations in this style are usually not prepared in advance but are composed as they develop.

**Casual style** is used among members of the same social group (for example, students in the same grade, co-workers in an office, or two teachers who are friends) or for integrating strangers into a social group. Casual conversations are usually not planned, composed, or edited in advance. Rather, they develop through interaction.

Their content and direction depend on continuous and immediate feedback from other members of the conversation group.

**Intimate style** is reserved for members of a small closely related group (such as a family or club) or pair (such as husband and wife, mother and child, or boyfriend and girlfriend). It joins personalities and reflects a cozy relationship. Intimate utterances are abbreviated and minimal, with much of the message left unsaid but understood since the conversational partners are so close. "Insider words," whose special meanings only the partners understand, are common in intimate style, as are titles which show affection, such as *dear*, *sweetheart*, *darling*, or *honey*.

Formal style is typically used when people first meet. With the passage of time, as a friendly relationship develops, the style used will become casual. Be careful, however, not to shift styles too quickly. Becoming friendly or casual too soon can be offensive. In the course of a conversation, it is possible to switch or alternate styles, but only from one style to its neighbor. Do not take more than one step at a time.

Greetings can consist of a statement and/or a question. Used alone, the question (such as "How are you?") seems rather abrupt. Generally, the question comes only after a greeting statement (such as "Hello. ").

In different regions of the United States and among different ethnic groups, non-standard greetings are common. For example, in the West, "Howdy?" is a common greeting. In the South, people say, "Hi, y'all."<sup>2</sup> and in Hawaii you may be greeted with the question, "Howzit?"<sup>3</sup> Some ethnic groups add special titles also, result-

ing in greetings such as "Hey, bro. " "While it is useful to be able to recognize these greetings, you should use them cautiously. They often imply a casual or intimate relationship and may be offensive if used by an outsider.

### 1-1 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two strangers meet at night. <sup>5</sup> (formal→consultative)  
 Mr. A: Hello.  
 Ms. <sup>6</sup>B: Good evening. <sup>7</sup>

### 1-2 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two acquaintances meet. (formal→casual)  
 Katherine: Hello, Robert. <sup>8</sup>  
 Robert: Hello, Katherine.

### 1-3 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two acquaintances or friends. (casual→intimate)  
 Katherine: Hi, Bob.  
 Robert: Hi, Kathy. <sup>9,10</sup>

### 1-4 Mini-conversation

- Situation: Two people who are familiar with each other's faces but do not know each other's names meet. (casual)
- Person A: Hi, there.
- Person B: Hi.

**1—5 Mini-conversation**

- Situation: Two acquaintances or friends greet each other. (formal→casual)
- Katherine: Hello, how are you?
- Robert: Fine, thanks, and you?
- Katherine: Fine.

**1—6 Mini-conversation**

- Situation: Two acquaintances or friends meet. (consultative→casual)
- Mary: Hi. How are you?
- John: Fine. How are you?
- Mary: Good. <sup>11</sup>

**1—7 Mini-conversation**

- Situation: Two friends meet again after being apart for a few days or weeks. (consultative→casual)
- Louie: Hi, Garmen. How have you been?



Garmen: Pretty good, and you?

Louie: Just fine.

### 1—8 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two well acquainted young people meet. (casual)

Grace: Hey, Ted. <sup>12</sup>What's happening?

Edward: Not much.

### 1—9 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two well acquainted people meet. (casual)

Andrew: What's happening?

Caroline: Not much.

### 1—10 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two well acquainted young people meet. (casual)

Bruce: Hey, what's new (with you)?

sherry: Nothing.

### 1—11 Mini-conversation

Situation: Two friends or acquaintances meet. (casual)

Georgia: What's up?