

Speaking Good English

英语口语练习

200 New
Articles for
Spoken English

新200

练习口语和写作的小百科

A Mini Encyclopedia for Speaking and Writing in English

楼钦元 主编

Edward Johnson 审校



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谨以此书献给我的家人
Dedicated to my family

前 言 PREFACE

本书为《英语口语练习 200 篇——助你练就一口流利英语》(浙江大学出版社 2013 年出版)的姐妹篇。本书所收录的 200 篇短文在内容分类上与前书基本相同,涵盖日常生活、中外文化、社会现象、健康常识、趣闻轶事等。本书与前书相比,大部分短文篇幅增加,在 300—500 字之间,短文结构改为分段式,知识深度和文字难度也有所加大。短文或为作者本人撰写,或从美国新闻媒体摘录改编。

在练习这些短文时,要读懂、读熟和复述。**读懂短文**,包括语义 and 知识层面,列出自己不懂的单词和词组;如有知识层面上的问题,也要设法搞懂,因为不理解会影响记忆。**读熟短文**,一般要反复多遍,要求对语言和知识难点按自己的理解用英语进行解释,这样做有助于记忆和自然表达。**复述短文**,要想象一些场景,比如你是在和朋友交谈,做讲座,给学生上课等,给自己创造语言环境;不要逐字背诵原文,可加入模拟互动,如提问、回答、解释和自己的评论等。

在进行英语口语练习时,除了自己创造 one-man stage,最好能有真正的语言环境,比如英语课的课堂讨论、英语角的活动、英语演讲等。本书短文为这些活动提供了主题和素材,是很好的辅助材料。在准备各种英语应试口语和写作时,常见学生背诵网上流传的范文,有千篇一律之虑,而学习本书短文会获得新鲜语言元素和实例,因此,对提高谈话和写作技巧也大有帮助。

本书可用作普通大学生、研究生、英语专业学生进一步提高英语口语水平的教学辅助材料,也可做托福、雅思、研究生入学等英语考试的辅导书籍。本书短文附有录音,为本书校对者——来自美国的 Edward Johnson 先生和作者本人共同朗读。请登录浙江大学出版社官方网站(<http://www.zjupress.com>)下载。

作者谨向本书所参考的一些材料的原作者和提供这些材料的原出处表示感谢。

楼钦元

2016年夏

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一 英语学习

ENGLISH STUDY (10)

1. One-man stage—toward being bilingual 通向双语的单人舞台

What is the **ultimate** goal of learning English? The answer is to be **bilingual**. The state of being bilingual is being able to use two languages with equal fluency. This seems a difficult thing for many English learners, and you may think the only way to reach this goal is to go to English speaking countries to live for several years. No, we don't have to go abroad to learn; we can do it right here where we are. Still remember the one-man stage strategy recommended in the previous book of *Spoken English Etudes 200*? Its full name is ONE-MAN STAGE—TOWARD BEING BILINGUAL. The stage has 4 supporting **pillars**: pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and knowledge.

Pronunciation is the first supporting pillar of the one-man stage, which requires us not only to sound out each individual word correctly, but also to take care of the linking of sounds, tones, and intonations. While practicing on the one-man stage, we should be alert that words are uttered correctly and tones are used properly. But if you still have some basic pronunciation problems and you are not able to do self-correction during practice, you're not ready for the one-man stage yet, because the more you practice, the more **die-hard** your problems will be. If this is your case, you should spend some time, a few weeks or a few months, **tackling** your pronunciation problems.

Grammar is the second pillar of the one-man stage. When we put words together to express ourselves, we need grammar. Therefore, grammar is the key to making a correct sentence. Although it's not very difficult to master grammar, it's harder to use than to understand it. Besides, when we are reading or writing, we can stop to refer to grammar usage if necessary, but when we're talking, we have no time to do so. Therefore, we will need to firstly understand the grammar and then practice a great deal on its usage on the one-man stage.

The third pillar is vocabulary. English words are vast in number, and nobody can claim to know them all. Undoubtedly, we must learn the words that are listed in the **glossary** of a text book, but we'd better also pick up those commonly used words and expressions that occur in our everyday life. Then you may ask which is and which is not. The **rule of thumb** is that during practice, when you have to say "I don't know how to put it in English," that's the word or expression you'll need to pick up right away. Don't be lazy, because if you are, you're letting the best learning moment go away from you.

The fourth pillar is knowledge. In a good, deep talk, usually a specific topic is involved, and to be able to talk about specific things, we must have certain knowledge. Therefore, if we want to talk about many topics in English, we must have a **big body of** knowledge expressed in English. When we store these pieces of knowledge in our brains, we're actually developing a **repertoire** for our one-man stage practice. The more pieces we store, the more powerful we are in English communication. Moreover, when picking up a piece of knowledge, we're also picking up useful terms, new words, and expressions, which is also a good way to expand our vocabulary.

After the four pillars are strongly established, you're ready to perform solidly on the one-man stage. In imagination, you can set up a talk show, a radio or a TV program with your own name or a name you like; you can pretend to be a teacher teaching a class, a speaker making a speech, or a journalist reporting the latest news on the scene. To avoid being **rusty**, you will need to squeeze out time to make your one-man stage drama go on regularly. It's fun, and it acts as a brain exercise, enhancing your mentality and uplifting your mood.



This new *Spoken English Etudes 200* is a **companion volume** of its previous book. Together, they provide you with **screenplays** to help you have a high quality of one-man stage practice and accompany you in reaching your bilingual goal.

ultimate 最终的, 根本的

pillar 台柱, 栋梁

tackle 应付, 处理

rule of thumb 经验法则

repertoire (排好待演的) 常备

剧目, 保留节目

companion volume 姐妹篇

bilingual 能用两种语言的

die-hard 顽固的

glossary 词汇表

a big body of 大量 (用于修饰不可数名词, 如 information 等)

rusty 荒废的

screenplay 剧本



2. Culturally habitual expressions 文化环境中的习惯性表达

Many expressions in both Chinese and English languages can easily find their English or Chinese equivalents because their meanings are universal and straightforward. The best example would be “I love you”—我爱你 and other examples can be “I’ll believe it when I see it”—眼见为实, “We have a little something for you, please take it”—一点小意思, 请笑纳, “There’s no use crying over spilt milk”—覆水难收, “Like father, like son”—有其父必有其子, and “When in Rome, do as the Romans do”—入乡随俗.

Both languages have vivid expressions for similar situations. For instance, when greatly surprised or not believing that something will happen, Chinese people may say “If he quits smoking, I’ll write my last name upside down” or “If he stops gambling, I won’t be surnamed Zhang.” And native English speakers would say “Well, I’ll be a monkey’s uncle, if he wins” or “If Joe really passes the exam, I’ll eat my hat.” When expressing that a painful experience would cast its negative shadow for a long time, we say “Once bitten by a snake, the person will fear the snake-like well ropes for 10 years.” The English counterpart for this is “Once bitten, twice shy.”