

# 大学英语口语

上

## Oral English for College Students

姚林生 编著



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# ORAL ENGLISH FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

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(上)



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# 前言

为了使大学生尽快提高英语口语交际能力,真正适应社会发展的需要,特编此书。此书适用面广,既适用于在校大学生,也适用于其他英语自学者。

不少学生对英语口语有惧怕感,常感到掌握英语口语困难,突破不了口语关。有些大学英语教材中数量有限的口语问答及对短文的记忆背诵难以提高学生在实际生活中用英语进行口头交际的能力。有不少大学生因为在校时没有练好口语,在以后的工作面试中痛失了理想的机会。也有不少人因无法用正确的英语交流,而给自己带来了许多不便和尴尬。希望本书能对大学生这方面能力的提高有所裨益。

本书课文内容与大学生的生活、学习、思想、行为、情操、成功紧密相关,都是年轻人感兴趣且乐于交谈的话题,且适合当代我国大学生学习英语口语的特定环境。在提高大学生用英语进行口头交际的强烈欲望的同时,本书有意识地把语言形式与社会语境结合起来,注重对大学生自身素质的提高。

本书注意培养学生全面的口语能力,包括叙述、对话、交谈、辩论等多种能力。全书内容丰富,不仅涵盖了大学生感兴趣的热门话题,而且还为读者提供了基本句型和英汉互译题。

任何会话必须是思想、信息、感情的有意义的交流。有些人由于不了解英语国家的习俗而说话不得体。这种不得体的语言往往不被英语本族人所理解,而常被误解,有的甚至造成严重后果。笔者根据多年从事外事工作的经验体会到,在实际的语言交际中,一些常用的语句往往包含着极其复杂的结构模式,绝不是“一句对一句”那样简单。本书以情景为纲,以语言的表达功能为素材,使学生能针对一定的交际条件来使用语言。

本套教材共分上、下两册。为了能让学生尽快地完成从校园生活到社会生活的顺利过渡,在选材上,上册侧重于学习生活、娱乐交际、文化习俗等内容;下册侧重于商务礼仪、涉外交流、国际合作等内容。

本书在编著过程中,学者 Dr. Claire Bunday 审阅了所有课文, Ms. Robin Trouchett 也给予了支持,周冬梅小姐也从华盛顿寄来真实生活的写照,在此一并

感谢。

书中谬误之处，敬请读者斧正，是为至幸。

编者 姚林生

2002年6月于复旦大学

# Contents

Unit 1	The Secret of Success .....	1
Unit 2	Good Marks and Study Method .....	13
Unit 3	Learn to Debate .....	25
Unit 4	How to Become a Fluent English Speaker? .....	36
Unit 5	Coming Down from Your "Ivory Tower" .....	48
Unit 6	Manners, Behaviour and Personality .....	61
Unit 7	Love, Sex and Marriage .....	73
Unit 8	What Is Happiness and Where Is It? .....	84
Unit 9	Where Does My Tuition Come from? .....	96
Unit 10	Cheating, Plagiarism and Corruption of Social Morals .....	108
Unit 11	Preparing for an Oral Test on Computer .....	120
Unit 12	The Secrets and Skills of Interview .....	131
Unit 13	Market for Human Resources .....	145
Unit 14	Going Abroad to Pursue Advanced Study .....	157
Unit 15	Exercise Reaps Good Health .....	169
Unit 16	Young People Universally Crave Recreation .....	180
Unit 17	Helping to Prevent Crime .....	191
Unit 18	A Day of Ms. Zhou Dongmei at Washington University .....	202
Unit 19	Doctor Claire Bunday Is Teaching in a Chinese College .....	215
Unit 20	Wave Power .....	225
Key to the Exercises .....		234

# Unit 1

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## The Secret of Success



*A professor, after explaining the main idea of a text concerning the “Secret Of Success”, is having a discussion with his students.*

**Student A:** Professor, I'd like to explore the secret of success, but I'm not sure how to go about it. As you know, everyone of us wants to be successful in the future. Please tell us what makes for success.

**Professor:** You are more likely to be successful if you have goals and persevere. Do you know the great ancient Greek philosopher Socrates? A similar question was put to him by his students: How can a student become very learned? Socrates didn't answer the question directly; instead, he asked his students to turn their arms back and forth 300 times a day. All the students laughed and said “So easy, whoever can't do

that?" One month later, when Socrates asked his students how many of them continued this simple action, 90% of them raised their hands with pride. After one year, Socrates asked the same question, only one student raised his hand. Later on he became another great philosopher—Braddo, in Greece. So there's no secret, only persistence leads to success. Even for the simplest thing, without perseverance, the door leading to success will not open.

**Student B:** Sir, I'd like your advice about the possibility of success. Life in college has taught us to be independent, with our own minds, relying on our own strength. When faced with a strange or complex situation, we do our best to cope with it. Would you mind telling me if my thinking is correct?

**Professor:** I think you're right. Your thinking shows the confidence and enthusiasm of youth, shows you're ready to tackle anything, also shows you believe in yourself and your ability to get along. People who must meet new situations learn to be inventive, at the same time they learn not to be afraid of the new or the difficult.

**Student C:** Oh, good, I'm very much in favour of what you are saying. Could you please explain it in detail?

**Professor:** I mean it is never too late to tap our creative potential. Some of us, however, find it difficult to think in imaginative and flexible ways because of our set pattern of approaching problems.

**Student D:** That's exactly the case. Am I right when I interpret what you say as meaning: Being creative doesn't necessarily mean being a genius. It means looking at situations in a new way or putting something together in a new form that makes sense. "Success is 10% inspiration and 90% perspiration."

**Professor:** I really appreciate your interpretation. It's very philosophical. I think there is a lot of truth in what you said.

**Student E:** All of you have a knack of getting to the core of things, whereas I'm in need of some interesting example to show what creative thinking really



is. So if you can put on your thinking cap, I'd be grateful.

**Professor:** Let me think about it. It might help you understand if I give you this example. I remember reading a report about a young college professor Mr. Lee. When he had a newly-born daughter, his wife fell ill and had to lie in bed all the year round because of serious arthritis. He was in great difficulty as he had to take care of his wife and daughter, with his profession just at the beginning. He thought deeply about his difficulties and how to get out of them. One day a sudden inspiration came into his mind: he could focus his research on children's linguistic ability, using his own daughter as subject. After six years' perseverance, he succeeded with the cooperation of his bedridden wife, in writing and publishing a book on exploring children's potential ability in questions and answers, which amazed the linguists both at home and abroad. From then on, his books about research on children's language came successively and brought him great success.

**Student F:** It seems that everything depends on their having the courage of their convictions. Although the ideas of the young professor would be considered as something unpopular and impossible, he had the courage of his convictions to see them through.

**Professor:** So this example teaches us that on the way to our goal we may neglect some beautiful scenery, lose other possible ways to our success. Some of our talents may be buried by our other talents. We must break our thinking patterns, and be flexible. The door to success often opens only once. From that example we should learn never to give up our belief in success. Also, don't let any opportunity slip. Have you ever thought about what you would like to accomplish in your life?

**Student G:** Yes, I have thought about the type of work that I want to do as an adult. But some people claim the success factor is largely a matter of luck. Sir, would you please comment?

**Professor:** I'd be glad to tell you what I think. Though we say sometimes but rarely, it's true the luck would bring us some happy surprise. I think

it's not proper for our college students to plan for their future success just based on luck. We hope our students will get the ability through training to see their environment in new ways, open their perspective and allow themselves to make all kinds of discoveries.

**Student H:** Thank you for your points. I think we're very much in agreement on this. However, there are far too many students who plan their future on luck. I think there's still some risk of failure.

**Professor:** Don't be afraid of failure if you try hard. If you do fail, make failure a stepping stone to success. Regard each failure as a stimulus for further efforts. Remember the saying "Failure teaches success."

**Student I:** At present college students are facing a challenge in job searching as they find it difficult to obtain employment in the job market; and on the other hand, job fairs have imposed fierce competition for job hunters. Professor, would you mind giving me some advice on how to face competition and challenge?

**Professor:** I enjoy competition and challenge through which I get the excitement and opportunity for growth that my work provides. You know the story about wolf and deer. On one side of a river, there's no wolf, all the deers were living very peacefully with great leisure, but on the other side, deers were always alert and running, because there were some wolves there, so that means all those deers were facing challenges. The result shows that on the side with wolves, the deers' growth was much better than those on the peaceful side.

**Student J:** Professor. You are a clear thinker! It's difficult for us to think through this maze of factors leading to success. Besides all those you've discussed and mentioned, what else do you think necessary for success? What about opportunity and courage?

**Professor:** There aren't many opportunities in our life. If good opportunity has presented itself for doing what you suggested, don't hesitate. You should seize it in both hands with your great courage. If we're provided with opportunities, but lack the necessary ability, opportunity will

never wait for us. Success includes many factors. Many successful people have achieved their personal goals through self-training. Please remember, to make it big, executives must possess four basic skills: first, drive; second, common sense; third, communication skills; fourth, the ability to remain calm under pressure. Some people's great achievements were got after years of diligent research and study. So diligence combined with natural ability would earn you more opportunities and luck than other factors. If there is a secret of success, in my opinion, that's it.

### Useful Sentences

1. Diligence combined with natural ability earned him commendations from superiors.
2. I'm hoping that my new job will provide me with more of a challenge than my last one.
3. This challenging book is one of the most thought-provoking that I've ever read.
4. It's no good asking me all the time, you'd better learn to think for yourself.
5. I know she will always do well because she thinks big (=has big plans).
6. You should think long and hard before you make any important decisions.
7. Had he been given time to think the question through, he would have come up with a better answer.
8. Clearly everyone connected with the enterprise put on his thinking cap, and thought big.
9. The value of this exercise is that it challenges the student to express themselves in an imaginative way.
10. He was behind the others in ability, but before them in diligence.
11. You can win if you have the will to try hard.
12. It's hard to put new ideas together in an organized way within the time limit. I can never think quickly to allocate my time properly, so I wind up trying to finish the last question or two in five minutes.

13. He blamed himself bitterly for missing a golden opportunity.
14. They are marching courageously forward in the teeth of difficulties.
15. People should have the courage to stand up for their beliefs.  
They were courageous enough to break away from conventions.
16. Failure in an examination should not deter you from trying again.
17. There are three kinds of goals, that is, lifetime, long-range and short-range goals.
18. When you know what your goals are, you are able to manage your time better.
19. When we are inflexible in our approach to situations, we close our minds to creative possibilities.
20. If you have a trained and powerful mind, you are bound to have it stored with something, its value is more in what it can do, what it can grasp and use, than in what it contains.
21. In many parts of the world, personal influence is essential in achieving success.  
This is not true in the United States, where success usually results from hard work, education, skill and personal initiative.
22. If you made a go of it, no matter who you were, you were equal to the next man.
23. Here traits which lead to success are generally considered to be the willingness to work hard, scholarship or skill, initiative, an agreeable and outgoing personality.

### Word List

- |                 |                  |                          |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. persevere    | [ˌpɜːsɪ'veɪə]    | vi. 坚持, 不屈不挠             |
| 2. persistence  | [pə(:)'sɪstəns]  | n. 1. 坚持, 固执 2. 持续, 存留   |
| 3. tap          | [tæp]            | vt. 1. 轻拍 2. 开发, 挖掘      |
| 4. potential    | [pə'tenʃəl]      | a. 潜在的 n. 潜力, 潜能         |
| 5. flexible     | [ˈfleksəbl]      | a. 可变通的, 灵活的, 易弯曲的       |
| 6. inspiration  | [ˌɪnspə'reɪʃən]  | n. 1. 灵感 2. 鼓舞, 激励 3. 吸入 |
| 7. perspiration | [ˌpɜːspə'reɪʃən] | n. 1. 排汗 2. 汗            |

- |                    |                    |                                |                       |
|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8. interpretation  | [ˌɪntɜːpri'teɪʃən] | n. 1. 解释, 阐明 2. 翻译             | <i>interpret</i>      |
| 9. knack           | [næk]              | n. 1. 诀窍, 窍门 2. 特殊技艺(能力)       | <i>knack</i>          |
| 10. arthritis      | [ɑː'traɪtɪs]       | n. (医)关节炎                      | <i>arthritis</i>      |
| 11. conviction     | [kən'vɪkʃən]       | n. 1. 定罪 2. 深信 3. 服罪           |                       |
| 12. slip           | [slɪp]             | vi. 1. 滑动 2. 溜走 3. 疏忽          |                       |
| 13. approximate    | [ə'prɒksɪmət]      | a. 近似的, 大约的                    |                       |
| 14. stimulus       | ['stɪmjʊləs]       | n. 刺激, 刺激物, 促进因素               | <i>stimulus</i>       |
| 15. alert          | [ə'lɜːt]           | a. 1. 警惕的, 警觉的 2. 活跃的          | <i>alert</i>          |
| 16. executive      | [ɪg'zekjʊtɪv]      | a. 1. 执行的 n. 1. 行政部门<br>2. 执行者 | <i>executive</i>      |
| 17. commendation   | [ˌkɒməneɪ'deɪʃən]  | n. 1. 称赞, 表扬 2. 推荐             |                       |
| 18. provoking      | [prə'vʊkɪŋ]        | a. 惹人恼火的, 使人烦恼的                | <i>provoking</i>      |
| 19. deter          | [dɪ'tɜː]           | vt. 使不敢, 威慑, 吓住                | <i>deter deter</i>    |
| 20. specialization | [ˌspeʃəlaɪ'zeɪʃən] | n. 特殊化, 专门化                    | <i>specialization</i> |
| 21. inflexible     | [ɪn'fleksəbl]      | a. 1. 僵硬的 2. 固执的 3. 不可改变的      | <i>inflexible</i>     |
| 22. instinctual    | [ɪn'stɪŋktʃʊəl]    | a. (出于)本能的, 天性的                | <i>instinctual</i>    |
| 23. painstakingly  | ['peɪnzɪ'teɪkɪŋli] | ad. 苦干, 辛勤, 煞费苦心               | <i>painstakingly</i>  |
| 24. initiative     | [ɪ'nɪʃɪətɪv]       | n. 首创精神, 主动, 积极性               | <i>initiative</i>     |

### Related Expressions and Patterns

- go about (sth.)**: 继续做某事物, 忙于某事物  
You're not going about the job in the right way.
- likely**: 既可作形容词或副词, 可跟不定式从句, 也可作定语表示“可能的、可信的”。  
He's much more likely to be at Southend.
- get along with sb. ; get along (together)**: 与某人合得来, 与某人和睦相处  
Do you get along with your boss? (Do you and your boss get along?)
- in favour of sb. /sth.**: 赞成(支持)某人/某事物  
He said he was in favour of people working shorter hours.

5. **make sense**: 有意义;有道理;讲得通;合情理的

It doesn't make sense to buy that expensive coat when these cheaper ones are just as good.

6. **to the core**: 达到中心;地道

He is English to the core. (completely English in manner, speech, dress, etc.)

7. **thinking cap**; 〈口〉 **put one's thinking cap on**: 经思考而努力去解决问题

I'm in need of some interesting suggestions, so if you can put your thinking cap on, I'd be grateful.

8. **see through sb. /sth.**: 看穿/看透某人/某事(不受骗)

We all saw through him. (realized what type of man he really was)

9. **let sth. slip**: 错过/放过机会等

What she did let slip was that she was desperately hard up.

10. **think sth. through**: 全面地考虑(问题等)

Think it through carefully before you give me your final decision.

11. **present itself**: (机会等)出现

Somehow the right chance never seemed to present itself.

12. **come up with**: 提出

For years Jones has kept coming up with new and good ideas.

13. **wind (sth.) up**: 结束(讲话等)

Before I wind up, there are two more things to be said.

14. **in the teeth of sth.**: 不顾某事,反对某事

The new policy was adopted in the teeth of fierce criticism.

15. **break away (from sb. /sth.)**: 突然逃脱,挣脱(束缚等)

Fortunately, he broke away from that lawless group years ago.

16. **deter sb. (from doing sth.)**: 使某人决定不做某事

Failure did not deter him from making another attempt.

17. **close one's mind to sth.**: 不愿认真思考某事;拒不考虑某事

He seemed to have closed his mind to something.

18. **make a go of**: 使成功;相处得好

The agency wasn't much good at first but he made a go of it.

19. **attribute one's success entirely to ...**: 把自己的成功完全归功于……



and four. Remember it's your turn to give a presentation next Monday.

- 4) A: Do you really think Professor Green will make you redo the entire experiment?

B: \_\_\_\_\_. I'll cross that bridge when I come to it.

- 5) A: How are you getting along with your term paper, Susan?

B: I have written and rewritten so much that I don't know \_\_\_\_\_.

- 6) A: You really seem to enjoy your literature class?

B: \_\_\_\_\_! I've never read so much in my life!  
I'm exposed to the thoughts of some of the world's best writers.

- 7) A: What are you going to do this weekend? \_\_\_\_\_.

B: Don't tempt me. I have to study for the coming examinations.

- 8) A: Now tell me, Laura. How do you like your work and life here on campus?

B: Well, \_\_\_\_\_. Now I'm beginning to feel the pressure. None of the courses are as simple as they appear to be.

**2. After reading each of the short dialogue write down in the bracket the main idea they're talking about.**

- 1) A: Tom, don't you try your best to study hard and get good results?

B: Well, if you could stop asking me to do lots of housework and give me more time, I might have done a bit better, Mum.

*The son suggested ( ).*

- 2) A: Alice applied to colleges for admission and she has not yet received any acceptances.

B: I am sure things will work out for her. She is not a poor student after all.

*The second person thinks that Alice ( ).*

- 3) A: How did Professor Clington's lecture go last night?

B: We hadn't expected such a large audience. Even after we moved to a larger hall, there were still people crowding in the corridor.

*What we know about Clington's lecture is ( ).*

- 4) A: I could have made the highest grade in this exam if I hadn't made that



careless mistake.

B: You still did well; making the second highest grade is nothing to complain about.

*The first speaker's problem is ( ).*

5) A: Friday's speaker is supposed to be wonderful. Are you going to attend the seminar that day?

B: Yes, but I haven't got my ticket yet. Since the lecture is open to the public, I imagine that the tickets may already be sold out.

*The second speaker thinks ( ).*

6) A: I stayed up all night studying for the test. So sorry I can't go out with you today.

B: Again! How do you get by with so little rest is a mystery to me.

*The second speaker means ( ).*

7) A: I have plenty of good ideas, professor Johnson, but haven't been able to organize them clearly. May I give you the paper a few days later?

B: You know that I always prefer a well-written paper even if it is late.

*The professor means ( ).*

8) A: Parson, would you come with me to the book department store?

B: No, I can't. I'll get to finish my homework, but please get me some reference books on history.

*Parson wants the first speaker ( ).*

### 3. Translate the following English into Chinese or Chinese into English.

- 1) What I do is simply what lies easiest to my hand. It happens that I was born with an intense and insatiable interest in ideas, and thus like to play with them. It happens also that I was born with rather more than the average facility for putting them into words. In consequence, I am a writer and editor.
- 2) 现在来谈谈你们的参观计划。今天下午,你们将参观车间;星期二和星期三,讨论技术问题;星期四到浦东去观光并到商店购物;星期五上午去北京。你们认为这样安排行吗?
- 3) 首先,我代表在座的各位先生,欢迎你们来到我厂。希望你们过得愉快。在你们参观车间之前,我想趁此机会把我厂的情况作一简短的介绍。我厂有6 000