

Interactive Listening-Speaking

大学英语互动教材系列

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何江胜 刘长江 何 焱 主编

# 这样说

——新视角大学英语口语突破(上)

# Speak This Way

—Oral English from a New Perspective(I)



科学出版社

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主编/ 何江胜 刘长江 何 烨

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北 京

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# 前言

非英语专业大学生英语口语表达能力不强是当今外语教育中的一大关切。对此，教育部已明确指出“大学英语教学的目标是培养学生的英语综合应用能力，尤其是听说能力，使他们在以后的工作和社会交往中能用英语进行有效的口头和书面的信息交流，……”（《大学英语课程教学要求》试行，2004年）。大学生英语口语表达能力是英语综合应用能力的一个重要方面，怎样提高，是一个值得研究的大课题。

早期的结构主义教学理论提倡学习者学习语言规则，尤其语法规则，认为学习者学会了语言规则，就可以生成无限的句子。英语口语中的句型教学就是一个典型体现。后来的功能语言学教学理论则强调人际功能和语篇功能的作用，教学重点由语言规则和理想的话语转向语境和情景。英语口语中的情景教学、功能意念教学是其集中表现。以上两种教学理论和实践有其合理性，能取得一定的教学效果，但各有其不足。结构主义理论中的口语教学易忽略语言的实际交际，难以完成理想的交际任务；功能语言学理论中的口语教学涉及的语境和情景，大多与人们最基本的生活需求，诸如谈天气、打电话、去机场、上邮局、下餐馆等有关。两者对语言所载的文化知识的教学都不够，学生所掌握的谈话内容显得不足。学生只能学会一些固定的句型和简单场景下的生活会话，而在超越一些简单的生活场景，进入文化话题交流时，他们往往话语不多、甚至无话可说。这才是真正意义上的言时少物、甚至无物的“哑巴英语”。

本书是一本以文化话题为主线的口语教材，力求传授日常生活中、社会热点话题下的语言知识和文化知识，培养学习者在交际中能较丰富地表达思想，谈论观点，阐述见解的能力。本书的话题在我校三级起点的部分大学英语口语教学班上用过，学生通过一个学期（32学时）的课程学习，明显感到对有关话题的表达有话可说了，表达的内容丰富了，表达的思想深刻了。

本书有15个文化话题，涉及教育、大学生活、环境与污染、科学与技术、交通、社会行为、娱乐、假日、尊敬的人、天气、体育、购物、媒体、找工作和职业、家庭。编写体例有：

1. 对话：有对话2篇，反映单元话题中的相关话语；
2. 问题与回答：有15个与话题相关的问题和简要回答，它们与大学英语四、六级口语考试（Spoken English Test）中的话题有关；
3. 看图说话：给出与话题相关的图片3张和简短描述，它们与大学英语四、六级口语中的话题有关；





4. 相关段落: 列出 5 篇与话题相关的段落, 提供更多话题范围内的知识。

本书适合英语爱好者学习语言知识和文化知识, 扩大文化视野, 丰富思想表达; 同时还有助于在校大学生准备国家大学英语四、六级口语考试, 提高口语考试成绩。

邵珊老师、张春英老师参与了本书部分问题回答的编写, 在此致谢。本书得到了南京航空航天大学哲学社会科学基金项目(R0462-104)和南京航空航天大学青年资金(Y0445-103)资助。

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# Topic one Education

## Part One: Dialogues

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### ◆ Dialogue 1 Chinese Education System

(Tom is a foreign English teacher. He meets a Chinese colleague, Wang, in his office.)

**Wang:** I'm glad that you've come to China to work with us.

**Tom:** Me too. Well, I'm just new here. Would you please tell me something about the Chinese education? I'd like to have some knowledge about it before I'm going to work.

**Wang:** No problem. In China, the education is divided into three categories. They're basic education, higher education, and adult education.

**Tom:** Tell me more about it, please.

**Wang:** Basic education in China includes pre-school education, primary education and regular secondary education. Pre-school, or kindergarten, can last up to three years, with children entering as early as age three. Students get six-year primary education before they enter the stage of secondary education which lasts about five or six years. Higher education at the undergraduate level includes two-year or three-year junior colleges, four-year colleges and universities offering programs in both academic and vocational subjects. Many colleges and universities also offer graduate programs leading to the master's or Ph.D. degree.

**Tom:** Thank you very much. Also, I would like to know something about adult education, which is important for a big country like China, I suppose.

**Wang:** Adult education in China consists of adult primary education, adult secondary education, and adult higher education. Adult primary education includes Worker's Primary Schools, Peasants' literacy classes, etc. Adult secondary education includes radio/TV specialized secondary schools for staff and workers, in-service teacher training schools and correspondence specialized schools. Adult higher education includes radio/TV universities, cadre institutes, correspondence colleges, and educational colleges.

**Tom:** Who invest the education in China?

**Wang:** We have the system with the government as the major investor and social partners as co-investors. As for social partners, they might be industrial organizations, businesses and public institutions.

**Tom:** Well, talking about higher education in China, can most high school graduates be admitted by a university?





**Wang:** No. I'm afraid only some of them can. But the number is still large. According to the 2006 education report by the Ministry of Education, about 5.3 million senior secondary school graduates were enrolled into regular universities and advanced vocational colleges.

**Tom:** I see. By the way, how do Chinese students cover the cost of a college education?

**Wang:** It depends. Students from wealthy families may not need to work at all in their sparetime, while those from working class families or from underdeveloped regions take part-time jobs as sellers, tutors, etc, to cover their tuition.

**Tom:** In my country, part-time jobs are an important part of the college experience. I gained some experience with a part-time job in the university library.

**Wang:** In China, college students don't have to do that, even those from poor families, because they can get financial aids from the government and universities to finish their education.

**Tom:** That's nice. Thank you so much for the information. It'll be very helpful to my new job.

## ◆ Dialogue 2 Selecting Courses

(Student Natalie is a freshman. Robert is a senior. The two are in a computer room.)

**Natalie:** Excuse me, could you give me some advice on how to select courses. I'm new here. I really don't know how to make a start.

**Robert:** With pleasure. What's your major?

**Natalie:** English.

**Robert:** I figured as much. Do you know how many credits you need this semester?

**Natalie:** 35 credits all together. At least 28 have to be from the core courses.

**Robert:** Ok. (They look at the course list on the computer screen). It's the list of compulsory courses of your major open to freshmen. The remaining 7 credits are for elective courses.

**Natalie:** Yes, but the trouble is what courses I should select as it's my first semester.

**Robert:** I think for freshmen it's better to select some courses that offer you the basic knowledge and skills in your major, such as Comprehensive English, Listening, Speaking, Grammar, etc.

**Natalie:** Sounds great. What I dream of is to work as an interpreter after I graduate. I also need to have some other knowledge such as arts.

**Robert:** Well, here, how about *Introduction to Western Music* and *Arts Appreciation*?

**Natalie:** OK, great! I'll take them. Then should I do?

**Robert:** You just click the button *Yes*. The greatest thing of selecting courses on the net is that you can know the result in no time.

**Natalie:** Hey, I get them registered. (Excited) It's great fun, isn't it? That's my first time to register for anything on the Internet.

**Robert:** You see, computers and Internet do change our lives.

**Natalie:** Thank you so much for your help. You have been very nice to me.

**Robert:** It's my pleasure. Come to me anytime if you need more help. I know it's a bit more difficult for freshmen to get things started.



### Words and Expressions

kindergarten	<i>n.</i>	幼儿园
academic	<i>adj.</i>	学术的
literacy	<i>n.</i>	有文化, 扫盲
enroll	<i>v.</i>	录取
tuition	<i>n.</i>	学费
interpreter	<i>n.</i>	口译工作者
click	<i>v.</i>	点击、按

category	<i>n.</i>	范畴
vocational	<i>adj.</i>	职业的
in-service	<i>adj.</i>	在职
underdeveloped	<i>adj.</i>	欠发达的
compulsory	<i>adj.</i>	必修的, 义务的
appreciation	<i>n.</i>	鉴赏, 欣赏

## Part Two: Related Questions with Suggested Answers

### 1. Which course do you think has benefited you most at university?

I think English has benefited me most. In English classes we learn not only words, grammar and sentence structures but also English culture. By reading we get to know how English people live, what they value and how they behave. Luckily, I have an English teacher who is knowledgeable, humorous and patient. He has a positive method in teaching, encouraging students to answer questions and praising students when they are motivated in learning. He often tells stories and jokes to amuse us. We don't feel frustrated even when we answer his questions incorrectly. He often says, "take your time. No hurry. I think you can do it." He also gives us assignments, which we do on the Internet. So English learning at university is a quite rewarding experience for me. My skills in reading, listening, speaking and writing have greatly improved. I am now more aware of the differences between English and the Chinese cultures and I am more willing to communicate with people from another culture than before.

### 2. Would you like to go to work or continue your studies after graduation? Why?

Well, for me, I think, more education would be necessary. Undergraduate education just enables me to learn some basic knowledge and skills in my major, which is not enough. Definitely I need a graduate education and if possible I will work on a doctor's program. To be competitive in the future, I need more time to learn knowledge, to develop my interest, to improve my skills and to get myself more specialized in my future profession.

### 3. Would you like to go to study abroad? Why?

Yes. I think if I am going to study abroad I can have chances to be taught by instructors from other cultural backgrounds and to learn more knowledge in my field. With the knowledge I get abroad I can develop my academic rigor and make my academic achievements, which is good for my future career. I can also experience a life from a different perspective, which might challenge my life and develop my appreciation of diverse cultures. Moreover, I can expand my circle of friends and expose myself to parts of the world that I have never imagined.



#### **4. Do you think a university education is essential to finding a good job? Why?**

Yes, I think so. University education nowadays still remains one of the best ways for personal development. In universities students learn the knowledge and develop the skills that are necessary for successful employment. Generally speaking, with a better university education one can be more capable of accomplishing his or her work. People may find that on the job markets graduate students have more chances to get jobs than undergraduate students. Ph. D degree holders are in a better position to be employed and are better paid. That is why more and more undergraduate students are ready to work on a master's program and more and more undergraduate students are ready to enter a doctor's program.

#### **5. Is it important to develop higher education in China? Why or why not?**

Yes, definitely. Higher education is necessary for any country of the world. It is particularly important for a country like China which has a large population. As China is trying to develop its economy, science and national defense China needs more talents with a good knowledge of natural science, social science and humanities. Higher education can give people such kind of knowledge and prepare people for professional careers as doctors, engineers, lawyers, economists, managers and teachers, etc. Higher education can also give people a better appreciation of such fields as art, literature, history and human relations. Only do we have enough people with good higher education can we develop our science and economy and make our country stronger and more competitive in the world.

#### **6. Do you think it is good for young children to study abroad? Why?**

In recent years, studying abroad is popular in our country. More and more middle school students would like to go abroad through mediators. I think it is both good and bad to study abroad. On the one hand, it has some advantages. Studying abroad can provide better studying conditions. Young students can make rapid progress in their foreign language study and they can widen their vision and make new friends. Meanwhile, they can learn advanced science and technology from foreign countries and exchange cultures of different nations. On the other hand, it has some disadvantages. For example, because of the lack of living experience and the poor capability of taking care of themselves, they may feel lonely, homesick and frustrated. In addition, high living expenses and tuition fees will become a heavy burden upon their parents.

So I think whether studying abroad or not should be decided according to one's own circumstances. It is no good to follow others.

#### **7. Do you think it is a good idea for more and more universities to invite foreign teachers to teach in Chinese universities? Why?**

Yes, I think so. As China is getting more and more open to the outside world we need foreign teachers to teach students foreign languages. First of all, native speakers of a foreign language have advantages over non-native speakers when it comes to a foreign language teaching because they grow up with the language they speak. The way they speak a foreign language is natural and idiomatic. Secondly, we have foreign teachers in universities who teach Chinese students foreign cultures so that



cross-culture communication is made easier. When these students study or work abroad they don't have so much culture shock and can get better adapted to the foreign environments.

### **8. Why do you think more and more graduates are coming back to China?**

It is true that China has witnessed a rise in the number of students who completed their study abroad and returned to China for their own careers. I think it is because the country's rapid development has created a good stage for these talented professionals and the government's policies have made it possible for a large number of students to return to China. Also in China a number of national research funds, scholarship award programs have been set up to create a better environment for returned scholars and elite talents to carry out research and open up businesses. China now needs a large number of scholars and professional talents to develop its economy and to do scientific research and can provide them with the living and working conditions that they need.

### **9. Do you think it is important to have a college education? Why or why not?**

Yes, I think it is quite important for people to be educated in college. College education is one of the best investments a person can make. It gives one knowledge and skills in accomplishing things and provides one with opportunities for personal development, better career opportunities and a good capacity for public service. More specifically, with a good college education one can qualify oneself for better jobs, for more money and for a better life.

### **10. Do you think it is good for universities and colleges to increase their enrollment of students now?**

Yes, I think so. In recent years, China has increased its enrollment of college students so that more high school graduates can have chances to study in universities. To me, enrollment expansion is beneficial to our country and people. It stimulates domestic demands, increases economy of the scale and reduces the gap between the strong desire for higher education and the limited access to it. But some people begin to worry about the quality of the education with such a big enrollment. I think, colleges and universities can have better staff, floor space, teaching and research facilities and equipment, student accommodation and libraries with more money from the students who pay their tuition. As a result, the teaching quality could be improved when colleges and universities get better developed.

### **11. Is it reasonable for college students to pay their tuition? Why or why not?**

The tuition system has become one of the hottest topics in China since it was put into effect. Different people have different opinions on it. I think it is reasonable for college students to pay their tuition. As China is a developing country with the largest population in the world, the government is unable to allocate enough funds to pay for various teaching facilities and many different kinds of expenses. Many universities in China lack enough funds to develop themselves. One of the ways to solve the problem is to let students pay their own tuition. The money raised in this way can be used to improve the conditions for running schools so that more students can be enrolled to receive higher education.

However, others are opposed to the tuition system. They argue that the living standard of the



Chinese people, especially of those in the poor rural areas, is still low, compared with that in the Western World. The university tuition will certainly add to the already heavy burden of the parents, who live on their salaries or wages. Moreover, tuition may become an obstacle to the development of China's higher education. This is because it hinders some talented people from entering the university just on account of their poverty.

### **12. Have you ever thought of studying for a Ph.D in the future? Why or why not?**

Yes. For me, the most important thing is to study harder and to learn more so that I can succeed in becoming a graduate student in two years. During my future graduate studies, I think, my knowledge and skill will be greatly improved. Even so, graduate education is not enough for my future. Getting a PhD is a great idea for me because working on PhD program, I can enjoy an academic environment in which I pursue further studies and have more intellectual challenges. With a PhD education, I will be more competitive in job-hunting and in securing my future career because students with higher degrees are more favored and valued.

### **13. Bill Gates did not even finish university. Do you think it is necessary to get a university degree?**

Bill Gates is the most successful entrepreneur in the American history. Every day, the products his company has created are used by more than a billion people, especially young people who probably have no idea about the role Mr. Gates and Microsoft play in their everyday life. How did he rise to become the youngest multi-billionaire ever in the U.S.? What contributes to his success is definitely not higher education. He did not have one. However, this does not mean that university education is not necessary. On the contrary, for young people higher education is very important because it can give them knowledge and skills that are needed in their careers such as doctors, engineers, lawyers, or teachers. Also university education can help them enjoy richer and more meaningful lives.

### **14. What is your idea about Lifelong Learning?**

It is true that college education gives a chance to learn and to experience new things. In addition to some knowledge and skills needed in our major, the most important things we have learned, I think, are a good method and the right attitude towards learning. So after graduation we are going to face the changing and challenging world that demands new knowledge and skills. In today's knowledge economy, lifelong learning is almost a must. If we want to stay competitive in society and function well as members of our communities, the best way is to keep on learning, trying to equip ourselves with the new knowledge and new skills that are necessary at our workplace.

### **15. Do you think that students can learn more outside the classroom? Why or why not?**

Yes. With the development of our society, the campus should not be an "Ivory Tower" any more. It is necessary for college students to go outside and get to know the world. They are supposed to

acquire knowledge not only from books but also from outside the classroom so that they adapt themselves more quickly to the society after graduation. It will do them good if they take part-time jobs such as tutoring, working in a company or doing some investigation in some factories or some villages.

### Words and Expressions

humorous *adj.* 幽默的  
academic rigor 学术严谨性

expose *v.* 暴露

frustrated *adj.* 苦恼的

idiomatic *adj.* 地道的

accomplish *v.* 实现

stimulate *v.* 刺激, 鼓励

allocate *v.* 分配

obstacle *n.* 障碍

intellectual *adj.* 智力的, 脑力的

multi-billionaire *n.* 千万富翁

motivated *adj.* 有动力的

diverse *adj.* 多样化的

vision *n.* 视觉, 眼界

circumstances *n.* 处境, 情境

cross-culture *n.* 跨文化

enrollment *n.* 录取

accommodation *n.* 住宿

facility *n.* 器材

on account of 以……为理由

entrepreneur *n.* 企业家

Ivory Tower 象牙塔

## Part Three: Related Pictures with Suggested Descriptions

### Picture One My University Life

In my opinion, university life is about learning things, enjoying yourself and realizing your dreams. The class timetable in the university is flexible, which gives students more free time. Even so we are pretty busy all day long because we want more knowledge and good scores which are important to us students. Every day we attend classes and lectures by professors. We do assignments and projects. In the evenings we stay in the library, reading books. For most students their learning ambition is so high that they claim their seats as soon as the library doors open. But many prefer to do something more enjoyable such as playing Gu-Zheng, an ancient Chinese musical instrument. My roommate has one. She paid 500 Yuan for it, which was a big decision for her, because her family's financial situation is not so good. My friend earned all the money herself by tutoring junior students twice a week. She only spent five Yuan every day over three meals. After three months, she realized her dream.







As we students are getting older we can start making our own decisions. With this right comes responsibility. Most of us take part-time jobs as tutors to earn some pocket money—a few capable students will gain enough money to be self-sufficient. By teaching we realize the challenge of making a living.

There are other exciting things going on at university. Love stories are an indispensable part of life on campus. Though it may cause both happiness and bitter feelings, many can't help looking for true love. One of my best friends has had her heart broken twice. Maybe it's partly her fault through picking boyfriends by appearance, the way most people do. Love can make you blind to someone's less pretty sides. But my friend feels that it's worth it to keep trying until she finds the right person. Those who don't want to find their prince or princess in college can devote their time to other things.

To me, it's simple. Life on campus is about leaning and enjoying myself and about being part of a group who work to achieve interesting and creative goals.

## Picture Two Study Abroad



Studying abroad is one of the most beneficial and life expanding experiences that students can participate in during their college years. It is a way for students to study in a foreign country, perfect their foreign language skills, meet new and exciting people, learn about a different culture, eat great ethnic cuisine, and learn more about themselves.

In a foreign country you might find yourself facing situations that are not accepted in your culture, and have trouble getting accustomed to them. For example, relationships between men and women, the informality of American life, political and religious attitudes, and the social behavior of Americans may seem immoral or unacceptable to you. Take it as an opportunity to learn about a new culture or religion. You can be flexible, open-minded and respectful to the new culture. If somebody talks about sex in your class you should respond in a mature and sensible way instead of showing a line of shock on your face. You have to accept the openness of the new culture and make a place for yourself in it.

Also in universities outside of China, you can attend various lectures by professors with different cultural backgrounds and learn professional knowledge with them. You can avail yourselves of good equipment and facilities there to learn and to do your research. In an alien culture your vision will be greatly widened.