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SUSAN STEMPLSKI



ENGLISH OK!

英语OK!

美式英语

American English



外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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**英语 OK!**

**美式英语**

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\* \* \*

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## 序 言

“英语OK!”系列丛书第一批9本书，虽涉及不同的题材，却有许多共同的特点。

首先，是它们的实用性。明明是《英语语法》(English Grammar)这个令一般人感到枯燥乏味的内容（请原谅，语法学家除外），但却以“一些旅游用语”开始，进而谈到“几个有趣的问题”，其中包括“Do you promise to start being good (你保证以后会好好做人吗)?”这样句子的分析，以说明动词不定式和动名词的用法。这样，既学习了语法，又学会许多实用的语言。

其次，是它们的功能性。这里指的是狭义的，即所谓Functions。在《短语动词》(Phrasal Verbs)、《社交英语》(Social English)、《商业英语》(Business English)等册中，都提供了许多在不同功能项目中可以灵活使用的语言。学习了这些语言，就可以在各种不同的功能需要的场合中较自如地进行交际。

再次，是它们的多元文化性。除在《美式英语》(American English)一册中专门介绍美式英语因而必然涉及北美文化外，在其他各册中也都让读者注意到不同英语国家以及英语在世界不同地区使用时的文化差异。到处都可以看到English is Spoken Here的牌子以广招徕，而同是英语国家但马路上开车一个靠左，一个靠右。你在国外打电话，若是话务员或接线员问你Are you through?你可先要想

一想你是在英国（或英国英语国家或地区）、还是在美国（或美国英语国家或地区）。在英国，Are you through? 是话务员好心地问“您接通了吗？”而在美国则是在问“您打完了吗？”

第四，是它们的语境性。在这9册书中，所有的语言材料，直至语法规则，都是在一定的、有意义的（meaningful）上下文中来介绍的。一个简单的例句，就提供了一个情景，使你能恰当地理解词义。You don't have to wear a suit, but you should wear a tie, 不仅学习了 have to 和 should 的用法，还介绍了一点西方生活习俗。

第五，是它们的趣味性。这9册书，很抱歉我又要说，直至包括枯燥乏味的语法，内容都是非常生动有趣、贴近生活的。其中的插图也达到漫画的水平。一打开书，就给人一种活泼欢快的印象，吸引人去看个究竟。当然，最主要的还是内容吸引人。一本教材，不论它面向什么年龄段或什么层次的读者，趣味性常常是首要的。

第六，是它们的知识性或信息性。这9册书，给读者提供了大量的多方面的知识和信息。它们的原编者是英国广播公司。这是一家历史悠久、具有较高人文水准的新闻机构。它的产品，无论是新闻广播或电视，或以古今小说名著为本的电影以及英语教学材料都能提供极广泛的知识 and 信息。学习这套教材，是可以使读者一举数得的。

最后，但不是最次要的，是它们的交际性。著名的语言学家和教材编写专家 Jack C. Richards 曾说：Language is best learned when used for meaningful communication (语言只有在有意义的交际中使用才能学得最好)。“英语OK!”系列教材正是为读者提供了大量的可以进行有意义的交流的

语言材料，包括短文、故事、对话、活动、练习等。这套材料的名称本身“英语OK!”就是一个十分响亮的语言交际符号。

出版社编者要我这套丛书写个小序，因而得以先睹为快，看了校稿。我应当感谢编者，使我不仅“开卷有益”，而且得到了极大的知识享受。

陈琳  
二〇〇二年冬令

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# HOME AND HOME

## 家居

In both American and British English, the place where you live is your *home*, no matter what type of building it is. However, the words Americans and Britons use to name the specific type of home they live in are usually quite different. Some American terms, like *ranch house*, describe types of houses that are native to America and so unknown in Britain. Other American terms, like *apartment*, are more familiar to British people, but in Britain they are used to describe different things, e.g. *the Royal Apartments*. 在美式和英式英语中，凡是供人居住的处所，无论建筑式样如何，都被称为 *home*（家）。然而，在描述家的具体式样时，美国人和英国人的说法却大不一样。比方说，美语中有一些特殊的词汇，如 *ranch house*（牧场主或农场主的住宅）等，专指一些美国独有的建筑类型，英国人听来就摸不着头脑了。美语中还有一些说法，如 *apartment*（公寓）之类的词，是英国人很熟悉的，可是在英式英语中，它的意思却不尽相同，指 *Royal Apartments*（皇室官邸）。

### TYPES OF HOMES 形形色色的家



apartment 公寓

apartment house 公寓楼

apartment hotel

提供清洁服务或膳食的公寓

condo/condominium

居住者拥有房产的公寓房

duplex apartment 跃层公寓



flat

block of flats

service flats

owner-occupied flat

a flat on two floors



duplex house

半独立式房屋 (两家共用一面墙)

row house 独立房屋

efficiency 有厨房和卫生设备的小套公寓

semi-detached house

terrace house

bedsitter

## AMERICAN HOMES

### 美式房屋



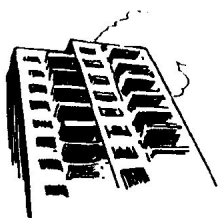
ranch house

农场主或牧场主的住宅



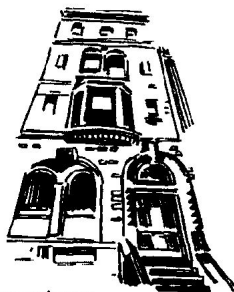
mobile home

(由汽车拖拉的) 活动房屋



apartment house

公寓楼



brownstone

豪华住宅



row houses

排屋; 独立房屋

## ONE MORE FLOOR?

### 还有一层?

The system Americans use to indicate the floors of a building is

different from that used by the British. Americans use *first floor* to describe an apartment on the ground level, whereas the British use *first floor* to mean the one above the ground level. To Americans, that floor (the one above the ground level) is the *second floor*, and this difference continues all the way up to the top. To make things even more confusing, Americans who live on the ground level will sometimes say they live *on the ground floor* and those who live on the level above ground level will say they live *one flight up*. 美国人对楼层的描述方法与英国人有所不同。他们所说的 *first floor* 就是指楼房的底层，而英国人所说的 *first floor* 是指底层上面的那一层，也就是美国人所说的 *second floor* (第二层)。这种说法上的差别一直延续到房屋的顶层。更令人迷惑的是，住在底层的美国人有时借用英国的说法，称自己住在 *ground floor*，而住在二楼的人会告诉你说他住在 *one flight up* (楼上)。

### OK! TIP 知识点滴

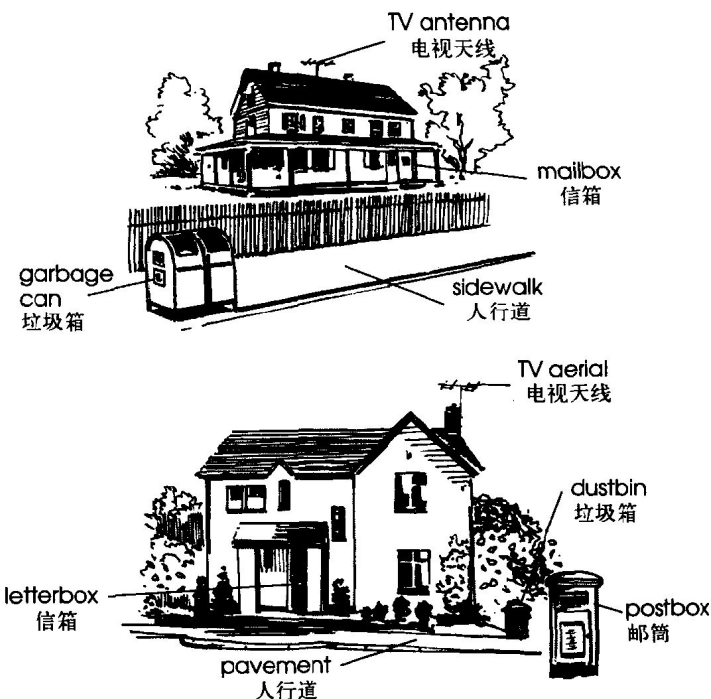
If you want to go higher in a building (without walking), you take an *elevator*, not a *lift* (British English). To an American, a *lift* is something you put on the heel of your shoe when it gets worn down.

如果你不愿步行上楼，就得乘坐 *elevator* (电梯)，而不是 *lift* (英式英语的说法)。记住，照美国人的理解，*lift* 是指为了保护磨损的鞋跟而钉的鞋掌。

## THINGS ON OR OUTSIDE A HOUSE

### 房屋的外观

While American and British English share the same terms to describe most common parts on or around the exterior of a house (*window*, *door*, *roof*, *garage* etc.), there are a few important differences. Compare the following illustrations. 在描述房屋的外观 (门、窗、屋顶、车库，等等) 时，美国人和英国人所用的说法大致相同，但也存在一些显著的差别。对比下面两幅图：



## GARDEN OR YARD?

### 园子还是院子?

Americans use the word *yard* to describe any enclosed or partly enclosed area around a house, whether it is covered with flowers, grass or concrete. They also distinguish between a *front yard* (located in front of a house) and a *backyard* (located behind a house). Thus most British *gardens* would be called *backyards* in America, where the word *garden* is used only to describe that part of a yard which is planted with flowers or vegetables. 美国人用 *yard* 一词来形容围绕在房屋周围的任何一块全封闭或半封闭的场地，不论是种植着鲜花绿草，还是

裸露的水泥地。他们对 front yard (位于房屋的正前方) 和 backyard (位于房屋后方) 也进行了区分。这样一来, 英国人所说的 garden 在美国只能被称作 backyard, 而美国人眼中的 garden 仅仅是指院子里种植着鲜花或蔬菜的那一小块。



mail (n)	邮件
mail (v)	邮寄
mailbag	邮包
mailbox	邮箱
mailbox	信箱
letter carrier	邮差



post (n)
post (v)
postbag
postbox
letterbox
postman

While the term *mailman* is still widely used in America, the United States Postal Service prefers to use a different term. For a long time the Service has used the gender-free and so more 'politically correct' term *letter carrier* to describe people who deliver the mail. As more and more American women take on jobs that were once exclusively done by men, gender-specific terms like *mailman* are likely to disappear altogether. If you want to appear modern and progressive, you are advised to avoid using such words.

虽然 mailman (邮差) 这个词在美国仍被广泛使用, 美国邮政系统还是选择了另外一个词。长期以来, 他们一直用 letter carrier (送信人) 这一不含性别歧视, 不会冒犯任何人的说法来称呼送邮件的人。随着美国妇女们越来越多地参与到那些以往被男性独占的行业中来, 诸如 mailman 这类有性别取向的词汇很可能会被彻底摒弃。如果你想跟上时代潮流, 最好避免使用这类词。

### OK! TIP 知识点滴

Compared to post offices in Britain – which handle not only the mail but all sorts of things like bills, telegrams, old-age pensions, savings accounts and giro – post offices in the United States are much more limited. There are usually only three things you can do in an American post office: (1) mail letters and parcels; (2) buy stamps or money orders; and (3) wait in line.

在英国，邮局除了处理邮件，还兼有处理账单、电报、退休金、存款等多项职能；相比之下，美国的邮局就轻松多了。通常顾客在那里只能做三件事：寄信寄包裹；买邮票或汇票；排长队等候。

### GRAMMAR POINT: IN OR ON? 语法要点：用in还是on?

The use of prepositions in American English is often different from that in British English, and this is especially true of the prepositions *in* and *on*. While Britons live *in* a street, Americans live *on* a street. Here are some examples illustrating this American usage of *on*. 美式英语和英式英语在介词的使用上也有很大差别，*in*和*on*的用法就是一个显著的例子。英国人live *in*(住在)某条街上，美国人则用live *on*。下面的几个句子就是典型的美式英语：

*I live on Bleeker Street.*

*What street did you say you lived on?*

*I met her on the street the other day.*

## ROOMS IN A HOUSE

### 房间的布局

The good news is that Americans and Britons use the same words to describe most of the rooms in a house: *kitchen*, *bathroom*, *bedroom* and *dining room*. However, the following American terms are different.

所幸美国人和英国人在谈及屋内的房间时，用词几乎没有差别，都用 kitchen (厨房), bathroom (洗手间), bedroom (卧室), dining room (餐厅)。不过，美式英语中有一些特别的说法：

- **living room** The main room in the house where people usually sit and do things together like watch television and entertain visitors is always called the *living room*. The British name for this room, *sitting room*, sounds old-fashioned or foreign to Americans.

**living room**: 指家人通常聚在一起看电视或待客所用的房间。它在英式英语中被称为 *sitting room*，在美国人听来那是一个既过时，又古怪的词。

- **dinette** Many American homes have a *dinette* (a small dining area in or near the kitchen) instead of, or in the case of very large apartments or houses, as well as a dining room. Americans also use the term *dinette* as well as *dinette set* to describe a table and matching chairs used when people are having meals. A *dinette* is cheaper than a dining table and chairs and not as elegant.

**dinette**: 多数美国人家中没有专用的饭厅，只有 *dinette* (紧挨厨房的一块小面积的，用于进餐的场所)，当然面积很大的房子里通常会有专门的 dining room。美国人也用 *dinette* 或 *dinette set* 来称呼餐桌和配套摆放的几把椅子。它比专门的餐桌椅价格低，看起来也不那么气派。

- **closet and cupboard** In American English, a *closet* is a cupboard built into the wall of a room which goes from floor to ceiling. Americans hang their clothes in a *closet* and would be very surprised to hear someone tell them to hang them in a *cupboard*. To Americans, a *cupboard* is a kitchen cupboard or larder – a place for storing food or plates and dishes.

**closet 和 cupboard**: 在美式英语中，*closet* (壁橱)是指嵌入墙里，高及屋顶的柜子。因此，美国人把衣服挂在 *closet* 里面，而不是 *cupboard* 里。对他们而言，*cupboard* 是用来放置食物或餐具的。

### OK! TIP 知识点滴

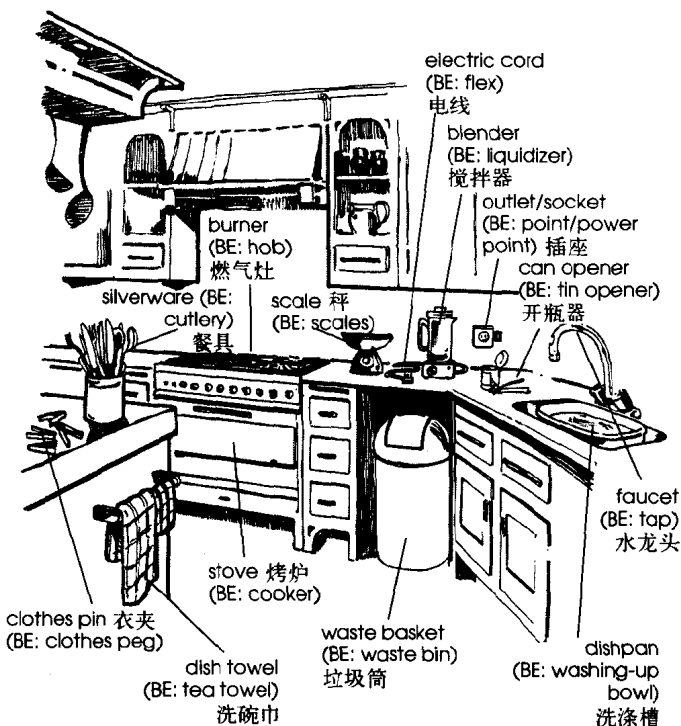
The bathroom in an American home always includes a toilet, and in the United States the word *bathroom* is often used as a polite synonym for the word *toilet*, which most Americans consider indelicate. If you want to use the toilet in an American home, you should say something like, 'May I use the bathroom?' Note that this polite use of the word *bathroom* is sometimes taken to extremes in the United States. American children will say things like *The puppy went to the bathroom on the rug* or *Johnny went to the bathroom in his pants*.

美国人家中的 bathroom (卫生间)里通常放置着 toilet (马桶), 按他们的语言习惯, bathroom 是和 toilet 同义的一个更委婉、更文雅的说法。在美国人家中作客时, 若你想去方便一下, 不妨说: "May I use the bathroom?" 值得注意的是, 在美式英语中, 这个词有时也被滥用了。孩子们会说 "The puppy went to the bathroom on the rug" 或者 "Johnny went to the bathroom in his pants"。

## IN THE KITCHEN

### 厨房

Examine an American's kitchen and you will find a relatively large number of appliances and other items that have their own unique American names. 研究一下美国人的厨房, 你会发现相当一部分的烹饪用具和器皿都有独特的叫法。



## FURNITURE AND FURNISHINGS 家具与装潢

While most items of furniture and household furnishings share the same names in American and British English, there are few exceptions that are important to remember. 关于家具用品的名称，美式英语和英式英语的说法大同小异，不过也有一些例外值得注意。



bureau/dresser 五斗柜



chest of drawers



comforter	羽绒被	duvet
cot	行军床	camp bed
crib	儿童小床	cot
drapes	窗帘	curtains
shade	遮光帘	roller blind
floor lamp	落地灯	standard lamp

### OK! TIP 知识点滴

Polite houseguests in America *wash up* before they have dinner, and offer to *do the dishes* after. These days more and more Americans *do the dishes* (wash the pots, pans, dishes, plates and cutlery) in a dishwasher, but some still have to do them in a *dishpan* and suffer the problem of 'dishpan hands' (dry hands caused by washing dishes). The British terms associated with washing dishes – *wash up* and *washing-up bowl* – confuse Americans because to them to *wash up* means to clean yourself or part of your body, especially your hands and face.

在美国人家中作客时，有礼貌的客人通常会在用餐前 *wash up* (洗手)，饭后则主动要求 *do the dishes* (洗碗)。如今越来越多的美国家庭用洗碗机来清洁餐具，但也有些人在清洁槽中用手来清洗，从而患上了“洗涤症”(因清洗餐具导致的双手干燥皴裂)。英国人所用的一些与洗碗有关的说法如 *wash up* 和 *wash-up bowl*，会令美国人摸不着头脑，因为在他们的语言中，*wash up* 是指清洗自己的身体，尤其是手部和脸部。

### SPELLING 单词拼写

Many people who are learning English prefer the American version because they think it's easier. The one area in which American English is clearly simpler is spelling, and for that we can thank Noah Webster, the revolutionary lexicographer who introduced American spelling to the world in his Dictionary of 1806. 许多英语学习者选学美式英语，是因为发现它简单易学，其中最明显的就是它的拼写。这都得归功于一位勇于创新的词典编纂人诺亚·韦伯斯特，是他首次将美式英语的