

原汁原味 English 派



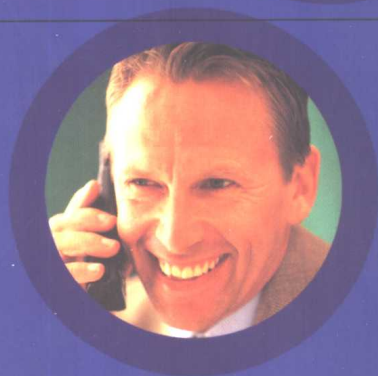
美国口语

American Popular Spoken English

速成



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Dan Zhao 编著 Iris Jumbe 审校



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前言

英语教学在中国可谓源远流长。笔者在赴美前学习英语八年,其中有六年是跟美国和加拿大外教学习,可是赴美后仍觉得听说困难。究其原因,有如下几条:第一,国内英语教学长期以来基本以英式英语为主,而不是美语,其二者之间发音和用词均有差异;第二,国内的英语教材跟不上流行英语的发展,教的英语不地道。近年来大量外教参与国内英语教学,而外教并不了解中国学生乍到美国的处境,所教并非一定所需;第三,现有英语教材包罗万象,不利于迅速掌握口语,也并非生活工作所必需;第四,忙着出国留学的学生钻进 TOEFL 和 GRE 考试的牛角尖,反而忽略了一般的生活用语。学英语的主要目的只有一个,就是学以致用,并非是为了考试或其他目的。学口语就是要能在生活中听和说,这也就是本书想要帮助英语学习者达到的目的。多数英语学习者不能在口语上学以致用,主要是学习时局限在传统的书本上。实际的生活用语往往大不相同,很多实际的用语更简单些,但是我们不知道。这本书就是要把简单易学的口语介绍给大家,句型和对话都是来自于生活,既真实又有用。

在刚出国时,常常遇到这样的情形:知道自己想说什么,但是不能用简洁、地道的口语表达出来。有一次,一个中国学生和他的美国教授出差,安排行程时教授问他想坐飞机还是开车,这个学生想说请教授来决定和安排,但是想不出怎样说更简洁,于是说了一大串英语。后来口语好起来了才知道,在这种情况下,只需要说:“It's up to you.”或者“Your choice.”

初到国外,还有很多事情和情形和国内不同,比如买东西、吃饭、找厕所、打电话、买保险、开银行账户、办理信用卡、买车、考驾照、看病、开会、住旅馆、租房子等等,不小心还可能出事故。这些情形都有特殊用语,本书一一介绍并举例。笔者在美

国学习、生活、工作已有十七年之久,自编了这本美国口语速成书。这本书的宗旨是流行、地道、简练、日常。它的读者应该是有一定英语基础的中学生、大学生、研究生、外企工作人员、预备出国人员及外交外贸工作者。本书也可供英语教师做参考。有一定英语基础的人能在一个月内达到能听说基本的日常生活用语,可以说是速成。

本书附带的录音是纯正美国语音。初学口语者最忌就是发音不正,所以纯正的语音练习非常重要,而且每章末附有地道美语发音讲座。学口语时,一定要听说并重,二者可以互相促进。因此,本书一定会成为你提高英语口语的良师益友。

这本书里的例子大多是我生活中的经历。读了这本书,你也就像在美国生活了十几年。不但会学到英语,还会学到很多在美国生活的经验。随我来畅游美国吧,有酸甜苦辣的各种感受。更精彩的是,读完了这本书,你会美语连篇,妙语连珠!

特别感谢大连外国语学院常骏跃老师对本书语音讲座部分的编写。

Dan Zhao

2003 年于底特律

Foreword

There is a long history of learning English in China. I had studied English for eight years before I came to the USA, and although six years out of the eight I learnt from American and Canadian teachers I still found it difficult to understand the professors when I came to the USA. From this, I drew several conclusions: First, the English taught in China was mainly British English and American spoken English was not the mainstream. Secondly, the textbooks were unable to keep up with popular American English. Introducing American teachers was a big help, but American teachers do not know the exact needs of Chinese students who face American culture. What was being taught might not be really useful in real life. Thirdly, the current English text included various contents, which cannot be learnt quickly and used skillfully, and might not be really needed. Fourthly, the students were too busy to study for TOEFL and GRE exams, but the words needed for these tests were not everyday English.

The sole purpose of learning English is to use it in real life, not to pass tests. This book is to help students to learn everyday English in real life. Most Chinese students cannot effectively speak English. The primary problem is that they limit their learning to traditional textbooks. In real life, the way of speaking and the words used are quite different, oftentimes easier than in the textbooks. But we simply don't know. This book is to teach you the easy way to talk in English. The conversations and the way of talking are all from real life, true and practical.

When first out of China, we often face situations where we need to speak English. We know what we want to say, but we cannot express it concisely. One day, a Chinese student was going on a trip with his professor. The professor asked him if he preferred to fly or to drive. The student wanted to have the professor to decide. But he could not think of an easy way to say it, so he said many sentences to express the idea. Later he found he could have just said, "It's up to you." or "Your choice."

When you first go abroad, everything changes. Going to the supermarket, eating in restaurants, going to the restrooms, making phone calls, buying insurance, opening a bank account, applying for credit cards, buying cars, taking driver's license tests, seeing a doctor, having a meeting, staying in a hotel, renting

an apartment, having an accident and the list goes on. All of those require skillful everyday English. They are all included in this book with several dialogue examples of each case.

I have been in the USA for seventeen years now. I have written this book based on my experience here. I want to keep the book current, practical and concise. The readers of this book should be high school students, university students, graduate students, employees of foreign enterprises or joint ventures, people who are about to go abroad, diplomats and people engaged in foreign trade. English teachers can also refer to it. If you have learnt English before, you can speak and understand basic everyday English in one month by reading this book. It is a quick way to learn certain aspects of spoken English.

The included record is pure American English. Pronunciation is most important when you start to learn spoken English. American accent training is also added at the end of each chapter. The readers should balance listening and speaking, which can compliment each other. The book will become a good friend of yours in learning spoken English.

The dialogue examples in this book are mostly from my personal experience. Reading this book is like living in the USA for many years. You are not only learning English, but also learning of my many years' experience. Enjoy your reading as you travel in the USA with me in this book with all the feelings I had. Most importantly of all, after reading this book, you will be able to speak fluent American spoken English!

Dan Zhao
Detroit, USA, 2003



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常用口语短语及应用举例

第一篇

准备留学

Chapter 1 Preparing to Study Abroad



To prepare for studying abroad is probably the first time we use spoken English for real purposes. You need to apply for schools, contact schools and professors, apply for a visa, buy airplane tickets, find out how to get to where you want to go, and finally get there. It is an exciting experience. Appropriately spoken English can get you there faster.

准备留学的过程可能是我们第一次真正在生活中用上英语。你要申请学校,和学校及教授联系,申请签证,买飞机票,搞清楚如何去你要去的城市,最后到达那里。这是一个令人兴奋的过程。正确地应用你的英语会事半功倍。

Applying for American Schools

话1题

申请学校



Dialogue 1

Amy: Hello, Mary. I've made up my mind to go to the U.S. for my graduate studies.

Mary: Really? How nice! Have you applied to any school?

Amy: Not yet. I was going to ask you. Which school is good in Mechanical Engineering?

Mary: Oh, quite a few. MIT, Stanford, UC Berkeley, CMU, Cornell. I think you should apply for a few good schools and also a few average schools. Your chance of getting in would be greater.

Amy: Right. I plan to apply for three top schools, three average schools, and a couple of not so good ones. What are the pros and cons of applying to different schools?

Mary: Good schools have more assistantships. If you can get in, the chance of getting financial aid is greater. However, the competition is hot. The average schools are easier to get in, but they may not have many assistantships.

Amy: I do need some financial aid. I am not rich, and my folks aren't either.

Mary: Then try the good ones. You may want to apply for five good schools instead of three. Have you taken TOEFL and GRE?

Amy: Not yet. I will talk to you tomorrow about it. Thanks a lot.

Mary: You are welcome. Talk to me anytime.

Amy: Sure. Bye! See you tomorrow!



2

译文

艾米：您好，玛丽，我决定去美国读研究生了。

玛丽：真的？太好了！申请学校了没有？

艾米：还没有。我想问问你，哪个学校的机械系好？

玛丽：啊，好多。麻省理工学院，斯坦福大学，伯克利加州大学，卡内基梅隆大学，康乃尔大学。我觉得你应该申请几个好学校，几个一般的学校，这样录取的机会大一些。

艾米：是。我打算申请三个好学校，三个一般的学校，还有几个不太好的学校。申请不同学校的好处坏处是怎样的？

玛丽：好学校助学金多。要是录取了，得到助学金的机会大一些。当然竞争也激烈。一般的学校容易进，但是没有多少助学金。

艾米：我还真需要资助。我没钱，我家里也没钱。

玛丽：那就申请好点儿的学校吧。也许你应该申请五个好学校。考托福和 GRE 了吗？

艾米：还没有。明天再请教你。谢谢。

玛丽：不客气。随时来找我。
艾米：好的，再见，明天再聊！

Dialogue 2

Mary: Hi, Amy.
Amy: Hi, Mary. I was just looking for you.
Mary: What's up?
Amy: Which semester should I apply for the schools?
Mary: Usually, American schools start in the Fall, about the end of August. You can apply for the Spring semester as well, but your chance of getting financial aids is lower.
Amy: For the Fall semester, when should I send the application materials?
Mary: All the application materials should arrive at the schools before the end of February to make sure you get full attention. You'd better start early since it takes 10 days for letters to get there.
Amy: I got the forms for taking TOEFL and GRE. When do you think I should take them?
Mary: It takes a month for the score to get to schools, so you'd better take them before the end of this year if you apply for the Fall of next year.
Amy: I'm going to apply for ten schools. It will cost me a fortune to send the scores to every school.
Mary: Tell me about it! Plus the application fees, \$20 to \$50 for each school. Good luck!
Amy: I have my fingers crossed.
Mary: Right. Hope for the best. Prepare for the worst.

译文

玛丽：你好，艾米。
艾米：你好，玛丽。我正找你呢。
玛丽：什么事儿？
艾米：你说我该申请哪个学期入学？
玛丽：一般来说，美国学校秋天开学，大概在八月末。你也可以申请春天入学，但是春天得助学金的机会小。
艾米：如果申请秋天入学，什么时候交申请材料？
玛丽：所有申请材料都要在二月末以前交到，这样机会大些。赶早不赶晚，邮信要十天哪。
艾米：我拿到考托福和 GRE 的申请表了。你认为我什么时候参加考试好？
玛丽：成绩到学校要一个月。你要是申请明年秋天入学，最好在今年年末以前考。



艾米：我想申请十个学校。送成绩到每个学校得很多钱啊。

玛丽：可不是嘛！还有申请费，每个学校都要二十到五十美元。希望你运气！

艾米：我为自己祈祷。

玛丽：是啊。盼最好结果，做最坏打算。



► Notes 评注

Applying for American schools usually starts by contacting the schools to get application forms. You need to find the mailing addresses of the schools and write to them to get the forms. The schools require application forms for admission and financial aid, recommendation letters from professors, your grades from college or high school in English, TOEFL and GRE scores, as well as application fees. Apply early in case you need more documents.

申请美国学校先要和学校联系，要申请表。要找到学校的通信地址给他们写信要表格。学校要求入学申请表、资助申请表、教授推荐信、大学或者高中成绩单（英语的）、托福和 GRE 成绩，还有申请费。提早申请以备万一需要别的材料。

Related Words and Expressions 有关的词汇和短语

1. make up one's mind: 决定。
2. graduate studies: 读研究生。
3. quite a few: 很多。
4. What's up? 什么事？怎么样？
5. Tell me about it! 可不是嘛！
6. keep one's fingers crossed: 祈祷，希望成功。
7. pros and cons: 好处和坏处。

Contacting American Schools

话题2

和美国学校联系



Dialogue 1

Mary: Hello, Amy, how are your applications for schools coming?

Amy: Not so good.

Mary: What happened?

Amy: I haven't heard from the schools for ages.

Mary: Call them, or send e-mails.

Amy: I tried e-mails, but that didn't work. I should give them a call.

Mary: Yeah, make sure they have your materials.

Amy: Should I call the admission office or the professor?

Mary: Try both.

Amy: Okay, I will. Thanks.

Mary: You bet.

译文

玛丽：你好，艾米，学校联系得怎么样了？

艾米：不太好。

玛丽：为什么？

艾米：一直没有学校的消息。

玛丽：打电话给他们，或者发电子邮件。

艾米：我试过电子邮件，没回音。我应该打电话。

玛丽：对。确信他们收到你的申请材料了。

艾米：应该问录取办公室还是教授？

玛丽：都问。

艾米：好的，我来打。谢谢。

玛丽：不客气。



5

Dialogue 2

(Telephone conversation 电话对白)

Secretary: Hello, Admission Office, this is Julie.

Amy: Hi, this is Amy Zhao. I applied for your graduate school for this Fall. Just want to make sure you have everything you need.

Secretary: Could you spell your name please?

Amy: Sure. My last name is Zhao, spelled Z as in Zebra, H as in Henry, A as in

准备留学