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THE ENGLISH ECHO



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The English Echo

A Textbook of Spoken English to Teach
Conversation

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編纂者 J. Ingram Bryan

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THE ENGLISH ECHO

A TEXTBOOK OF SPOKEN ENGLISH
TO TEACH CONVERSATION

BY

J. INGRAM BRYAN, M.A., M. LITT., B.D., PH.D.

THE COMMERCIAL PRESS, LIMITED

CHINA

1944

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PREFACE

This little volume forms the first attempt that has been made to furnish Oriental students with a textbook of spoken English. The oral language of the Anglo-Saxon peoples as a rule never finds its way into print, Dialogues, novels, and other forms of conversational literature are mostly in a language artificial in the extreme. For reasons of interest and entertainment such books constantly indulge in forms of speech that would never naturally find a place in practical everyday life; and for purposes of acquiring fluency in conversation the Oriental student does little better than waste his time in studying or memorizing them.

For help in attaining fluency in conversation the Oriental student is absolutely dependent upon a teacher to whom English is a mother tongue. But the few hours a week that in most schools the student is permitted to spend with the foreign teacher are quite inadequate to reaching a command of colloquial speech, especially as a considerable portion of the time must be devoted to composition and study of literature. Hence the demand for such a book as this, which aims to supplement the work of the English teacher with an array of conversational forms as nearly natural and life-like as is possible in the printed page.

It may be of interest to students and teachers to be reminded that this little work is based on the latest methods of linguistic instruction as practiced in the best

language schools abroad. The same form has been used in Europe and America for many years with results so satisfactory as to give it extensive circulation: "The Echo" is designed to supply the student with a comprehensive vocabulary of words and expressions in common use among the English-speaking people, and to aid him in obtaining command of the idioms of the language; in short, it aims to furnish material for intelligent, correct and varied expression in the language as spoken everywhere English is known. No grammar will enable the learner to master the English heard in business, on travel, at a hotel, in the chit-chat of society, or in the common conversation of every-day life.

The method adopted in "The English Echo" is unlike that developed in books on conversation. It teaches the student, not to translate his thoughts, but to think in the language which he is to speak. He is carried, as it were, into the very midst of the scenes of actual life, and is taught to sustain his share in the interchange of social talk. At the same time he learns much of the manners and customs of the country whose language he is seeking to master, and is thus not only enlarging his familiarity with the language, but with the people themselves. As to the most advantageous use of the book, there is nothing better than the old motto: *Gutta cavat lapidem non vi sed saepe cadendo* ("The drop hollows the stone, not by force, but by the frequency of its fall").

To those who may wish to have the various speaker represented in the dialogues more clearly designated, the author can only reply that the student will make more solid progress by being thus left to distinguish the

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speakers for himself. If he fails to understand when one party to the dialogue stops speaking and the other begins, he must take it as proof that he has not yet mastered the language. In fact, this is an important feature of the author's method in assisting the student toward a mastery of spoken English; and the same principle has been adopted by the great language teachers abroad, who follow the same method. It is also an assistance to the teacher in ascertaining how far the student has advanced, or is advancing, in the language; for when a student, for example, asks and answers his own question, thus taking the part of both parties to the dialogue, the teacher may be quite sure the student does not understand what he is saying.

J. INGRAM BRYAN.

THE ENGLISH ECHO

I

- A. How do you do?
- B. Good afternoon.
- A. Please come in. Take this seat. It's a long time since I've seen you.
- B. Yes, I have been very busy lately. I'm afraid I've been very remiss in not calling upon my friends.
- A. It is some time since I have been able to call upon you; but I also have been much occupied of late. How have you been since I saw you last?
- B. Very well, thank you. And you?
- A. I've been a bit under the weather for the last few days.
- B. Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. I hope you are getting all right again.
- A. Yes, thank you; I'm about over it now. But I find this changeable weather rather trying.
- B. Yes, it is. I want to thank you for the nice present you sent me from Hangchow.
- A. Oh, that was nothing. I'm glad you liked it; I hope you will find it useful.
- B. It was very kind of you to think of me in that way.
- A. It's a mere trifle. I thought you would like a souvenir from the beautiful West Lake.
- B. How long were you there?
- A. I stayed only three days.
- B. What kind of weather did you have?
- A. Real November weather: sharp, bright and no rain.
- B. Were there many visitors there?
- A. Yes, quite a number.
- B. Did you go alone?

- A. No, I went with a friend, who had never been there.
- B. Indeed! Then it would be a pleasant surprise for him.
- A. May I offer you a cup of tea?
- B. Thanks. You should not have troubled to order tea for me.
- A. I usually have a cup myself in the afternoon. Do you take sugar and cream?
- B. Yes, please; but only one lump of sugar.
- A. Help yourself to cake. Perhaps you prefer bread and butter?
- B. No, thank you. This cake looks delicious.
- A. Have another cup of tea.
- B. Not any more, thank you. Well, I think I must be going now.
- A. Don't hurry. It's early yet.
- B. I am obliged to leave now, as I have an engagement at five o'clock. Give my kind regards to your father, please.
- A. Thank you. He will be sorry to have missed your call. Drop in again soon.
- B. Thanks, I'll try to do so. Good-bye.
- A. Good-bye! I am glad you called.

II

- Boy. Good morning, sir!
- MR. BROWN. Good morning, my boy. Is Mr. Davis in?
- Boy. Yes, he's in the inside office writing a letter. I'll tell him you have come.
- MR. BROWN. Oh, don't disturb him. He'll be through in a moment, I suppose.
- Boy. Sit down, please. I'll tell him.
- MR. BROWN. May I trouble you for a drink of cold water? I feel rather thirsty.
- Boy. Certainly, sir. It's very hot to-day, isn't it? I will ring for some water. John,

fetch a jug of fresh water, and a glass.
The glass on the tray there will do.

MR. BROWN. Oh, thank you. That water tastes good.
It's very refreshing.

✓MR. DAVIS. ✓ Oh, good morning, Mr. Brown. I'm sorry
to have kept you waiting.

MR. BROWN. Not at all. I'm glad to have a moment's
rest. How are you this morning? Ah,
that's good. Very hot, isn't it?

MR. DAVIS. Yes, fearfully hot. Did you walk?

MR. BROWN. Yes, and I feel quite tired out. I walked
quite a long distance, and the sun has
given me a slight headache. I did not
take much breakfast: only a glass of
milk and a bit of toast, which was
hardly enough.

MR. DAVIS. No; of course it wasn't. Won't you stay
and take lunch with us? If you are
willing to take potluck, we shall be
glad to have you.

MR. BROWN. Thank you. Perhaps I had better do so,
as it will be late before I get back.
What time is it? Oh, it's already half
past twelve. What time do you lunch?

MR. DAVIS. We always lunch about one o'clock. The
house, as you know, is only a few
minutes away. We shall be off in a
moment. . . . Mother, I've brought Mr.
Brown home to lunch.

MRS. DAVIS. Oh, did you? I'm sure we are delighted
to have him. How do you do, Mr.
Brown? It's some time since we have

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seep you. How have you been? Are Mrs. Brown and the family well?

MR. BROWN. Yes, thank you, quite well. I hope you are all well.

MRS. DAVIS. Very well, thank you. One of the children had a cold, but has got quite over it. The lunch bell has just rung so we had better go in. Come along, Mr. Brown. Will you kindly take this seat? It's rather oppressive here. Mary, open the window a little more, please. Do you take soup, Mr. Brown? We take it cold in hot weather.

MR. BROWN. Yes, thank you. I am very fond of soup. One is apt to take too much water in the hot weather.

MRS. DAVIS. May I help you to a little cold tongue? Help yourself to vegetables, please. Do you care for catsup with tongue?

MR. BROWN. Yes, thanks, This tongue is delicious. You must have had it on ice.

MRS. DAVIS. Will you have some soda water, Mr. Brown?

MR. BROWN. Yes, thank you. Mrs. Davis, this pudding is very good.

MRS. DAVIS. Oh, I'm so glad you like it. Our cook is very good at puddings and desserts. Do you care for fruit? There are apples, oranges, nuts and raisins. Please help yourself to whatever you prefer.

MR. BROWN. This fruit is very good. A juicy apple goes well on a hot day. The fruit this year is better than last, don't you think?

MRS. DAVIS. Yes, I think so. Personally, in hot weather I prefer acid fruits, like

strawberries, gooseberries, or apricots. Sometimes I go in for peaches and plums too. How about a little cheese, Mr. Brown?

MR. BROWN. No, thank you. I will just have this cup of black coffee.

MRS. DAVIS. Won't you be helped to something more? Have another cup of coffee?

MR. BROWN. Not any more, thank you.

MRS. DAVIS. Mary, the front door-bell is ringing. Go and see who it is!

Well, let us go into the drawing-room.

Mr. Brown, you smoke, do you not?

My husband smokes. Perhaps you and he would like to have a pipe together in the study?

III

1. I'm glad you dropped in. Take this chair. How have you been since I saw you? You don't look well to-day. Are you ill? No, I'm all right, thank you; but I have a toothache, and you know what that is. Yes, a toothache is a horrid thing. Can't you do something for it? Have you been to the dentist? Yes, but it's an old hollow tooth that has been bothering me for a long time. The dentist thinks it's too far gone to fill and wants me to have it crowned. You had better have it done, had you not? If you neglect it, you may lose it altogether. Yes, I must attend to it right away. It gave me no peace last night. It throbbed with pain all night. The one next to it ached in sympathy. I rubbed some spirits of camphor on the gum, but it gave me no relief, relief.

2. And you, how have you been? I have not seen much of you lately. Oh, I have been pretty well, except for a nasty cold. Still, that's nothing to having the toothache. Ah, I'm sorry to hear that. How did you

get the cold? I hardly know. Colds come so mysteriously sometimes. I went to a concert the other evening, and sat in a draught before a window, which brought on a slight chill; so I suppose that was how I got the cold. Yes, that is the quickest way to catch cold. I am not very sensitive to draughts myself, but I know they are dangerous, and I always avoid sitting near an open door or window. Are you taking anything for your cold? Yes, I went to the doctor and got a prescription, which relieved me somewhat, but I don't like dosing myself very much. What is the best thing for a cold? Quinine is good if taken in time; but it's no use after the cold is under way. It must be taken at the very beginning. Yes, I have always understood that quinine is good. What is the dose? The adult dose is about four grains, I think. If I feel a cold coming on, I usually take that amount and it sets me up all right. After a cold has got into the system, the best way is to lie up and keep warm. My father has been a bit under the weather lately too. Ah, that's too bad. Is he getting better? Yes, thanks, he's on the mend now. Colds are very prevalent this time of year. It is always so at a change of season, isn't it? Yes quite so. I met our friend Smith the other day; and he was feeling a bit blue,—not from a cold, however, but on account of a disappointment in business. Poor Smith has been somewhat unlucky of late, but I guess he'll get over it.

3. Oh, it looks like a shower, doesn't it? Yes, somewhat. I hope it will keep off half an hour or so, for I've forgotten to bring an umbrella. The clouds look rather threatening, don't they? May I trouble you to lend me an umbrella? Certainly, you may have mine with pleasure. Can you let me have it again this evening, as I have an engagement at eight? Yes, I will see that it is returned as soon as I get home. You have no rubbers, either. No, I seldom wear them. I depend on my good thick-soled boots. That is the English custom, isn't it?

Americans always wear rubbers in wet weather. It is not good to get the feet damp, especially if one has a cold. No, I know it isn't but perhaps it won't rain after all. I'll hurry along and try to get home before the shower comes on. If the rain holds off, I'll drop in and see the doctor on my way back. I feel a little feverish and my tongue is coated. Ah, let me feel your pulse. It is a bit fast, but quite regular. Let me see your tongue. Put it out well. Yes, it is a bit furred. You had better see the doctor. You need some medicine, I think.

4. Well, I have just got back. I've been to the doctor's about my cold. He says there is nothing serious, but I must lie up for a few days. He gave me some powders to break it up. I have to take one at night and another in the morning. Dear me, I don't like taking powder. They always stick to my tongue so. I never put a powder on my tongue. I always put it in a glass of water and drink it. If it is a powder that floats. Mix it with some jam and take it. It is better, however, to have one's powders put up in capsules. The powders will fix you up all right. At least I hope so. Have you had lunch? No, but I'm not at all hungry. This cold has taken it out of me a good deal, and I have little or no appetite. But you know the old saying Feed a cold and starve a fever. You had better have something to eat. What would you like for supper? How about a cheese souffle, or would you prefer scrambled eggs? No, thanks, I don't fancy anything. A lightly boiled egg won't hurt you. No, thank you I think not. Perhaps I will have a glass of hot milk before going to bed. Very well; I will leave orders with the cook.

IV.

1. There's a ring at the door-bell, Jane. Go and see who is there. It's Mr. Johnson, ma'am. Oh, how do

you do, Mr. Johnson? How are you, Mrs. Taylor? I hope I find you well. Nicely, thank you; and you? Oh, I am always fit. Be seated, won't you? Thanks. How are all with you? We are all pretty well, except my sister. She has had one of her old attacks of rheumatism and has been laid up for a few days. I am sorry to hear that. How did she bring on the attack? She took a little cold on the train the other day, and her bones have been aching ever since. It seems something like influenza, but she has been subject to rheumatic pains for a long time, and I think the cold has made her rheumatism worse. A cold is always difficult to shake off. She's delicate, you know, and does not stand the weather so well as stronger people. Yes, that's so. I hope she will soon be around again. Thanks, I hope so. Have you heard from your brother lately? No, not for six months or more. He was quite well when he last wrote, and getting on splendidly. Does he never speak of coming home? No, he seems too busy to think of that. Well, I am glad to hear good news of him. Please remember me to him when you write. Certainly; he will be glad to know his old friends are well.

2. Willie, tell Frank that Mr. Johnson is here. Frank will be down directly. If he is engaged, please do not trouble him. I can see him again. He is upstairs shaving, I think. Probably he'll not be through for some time yet. I think I will not wait for him now. I don't want to see him about anything in particular. Please tell him I shall hope to meet him at the club at twelve noon. Oh, must you go? Do not hurry, there's lots of time. Thank you, I must hurry away as I have a few little things to do before lunch. Remember me kindly to your mother, and tell her I hope to call upon her soon. It seems an age since I have seen her. Yes! she will be glad to have a call from you at any time. Though she is old now, she is usually very well and always happy to see her friends. Let me see: how old is

she now! She will be eighty her next birthday. That is a good old age. Yes; but her mother lived to be ninety-seven. Our family are all long-lived. My father is nearly one hundred. He is about twenty years older than my mother, you know. Yes, I know he has reached a great age. It's nice to be so old, if one can be strong enough to enjoy life. Well, I must be off now; so I will bid you good morning. Good morning. I will give your message to Frank. Thanks, good morning.

3. Hello, Johnson! Well, Frank, is that you! I thought you'd probably be waiting. Have a cigar. Thanks; a good Havana too! You are a trumper. I know you like a good cigar. Aren't you going to smoke yourself? No, thanks, I've just been smoking. I smoke too much, I fear, but I'm awfully fond of the weed, especially if it's first class. Too much of it is not good for one, however. You are a heavy smoker too, Frank, are you not? Yes, I smoke a good many cigars a day. Aren't you afraid of getting the tobacco heart? No, I have not felt any ill effects yet. Nicotine is harder on the pocket than on the heart. Yes, the price is going up, isn't it? That's the high duty, I suppose. Have a light! Those matches seem damp; they don't strike well. Yes, they may be a little damp. I had them in my rain-coat pocket yesterday. Say, your tie has come undone. Can you fix it without a glass? Oh, thanks, I will do it up in a moment. And my shoelace has become untied, I see. I must tie it again. It always makes one dizzy to stoop. It is a rush of blood to the head, I suppose.

4. Well, where shall we go? It's time we were off. Yes, let us be off. I don't want this dog to follow us. Boy, watch that dog and don't let him come with us! Hurry and shut the gate. Oh, dear me, the dog has got out. Boy, try and get him back again! Tie him up till we are out of the way. Where did you say you would