



AUTHOR'S NOTE

After spending six years in the middle school and two years in college studying English, a Chinese student is still unable to carry on a conversation with a foreigner. Why? One of the main reasons is because what is being taught here in school is impractical. The foreigners unconsciously use a lot of idomatic phrases, colloquial and slang expressions with which the students are unfamiliar. Since they are a part of the English vocabulary, they are being used every day by native speakers. In order to communicate successfully, the Chinese simply have to learn these seemingly strange phrases. "Have You Heard This One?" is written particularly with this in mind in addition to providing laughs for the readers.

The author is not foolish enough to claim that the lingo in this book is the only English you should know. Far from it, but I do maintain that it is indispensible if you intend to make a living out of the English language which for all practical purposes is the lingua franca in today's world.

I am not pulling your leg. You will be



convinced if you take a glance of these statistics. Twelve countries use English as their first language and thirty-three as their second. In fifty-six countries, English is a compulsory course in schools. Seven hundred fifty million citizens of the world or one out of every seven speaks the language to some extent. The amazing figures tell you, loud and clear, "If you wish to do any business with the world community, learn English. If you wish to communicate with others in any capacity, learn English. The better you speak the language, the more successful you will become."

Let me give you a concrete example. Dora Su, the owner of D. Frederick, who speaks impeccable English has become a great success in her own enterprise. Her customers speak English with her exclusively. She can trade kneeslappers and match wits with them without a hitch. They admire her ability and adore her charming personality. You know what? After a hearty laugh, contracts are signed and business deals clinched.

Do you wish to be like this competent young lady? You'd better get on the ball and



learn the English language, idiomatic phrases, colloquial expressions and slangs. Last but not least, a word of appreciation is in order to Lucy Chen, the talented young lady for drawing cartoons for this book.

作者的话

中国学生在中学里念了6年的英文,在 大学里又学了2年,但仍无法和外国人侃侃而 谈,原因何在?最主要是因为学校教的东西不 实用。外国人常用的惯用语、俗语和俚语,学 生根本没有学过或听过。但是这些惯用语、俗 语及俚语不但是英文字汇的一部分,还可以算 是道地的英文,为美国人所爱用。为了与外国 人成功沟通,中国学生必须学习一些看起来很 奇怪的成语。《会心集》便是专为此而写的一 本书。此外,亦希望此书能带给读者无限的乐 趣。

当然,作者绝不是主张这本书内的惯用



语是我们唯一必学的英文;但是,作者绝对坚持,如果你想立足于这个充到处讲英语的世界,学好这些惯用语是绝对必要的。

我并不是在开玩笑。当你看过下列这些 统计数字后,就会明白我所言不虚。世界上有 12个国家以英语为母语,33个国家视之为第 二语言,56个国家将之列为学校的必修课程; 世界上共有7亿5千万人使用英文,占了全球 人口的1/7。这些惊人的数字很清楚地告诉我 们:"假如你希望与国际人士通商,你必须学好 英文;假如你希望能与他人充分沟通,也必须 学好英文;英文学得愈好,你成功的机会也愈 大。"

让我们举个实例:苏清凤小姐由于说得 一口道地的英文,因而成功地建立了自己的事 业,顾客们乐于与她交易,她可以毫无困难地 和他们谈笑风生,语言水平旗鼓相当,毫不逊 色。顾客们佩服她的能干,仰慕她那迷人的风 彩。你知道吗?在一番会心的谈笑之后,双方

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签下了合同,生意就这样成交了。

你希望和苏小姐一样,成为一个能干的人吗?那么你最好有所警觉,好好学习这些惯用语、俗语及俚语。

最后,要感谢陈璐茜小姐这位多才多艺的 女孩,为这本书画了许多传神的漫画。



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Father John Lee, the author of "Have You Heard This One?" needs very little introduction. In recent years, he has written more than thirty books. Just walk into any bookstore and very likely you will see the shelves all filled with his publications.

How does this priest know so many hilarious kneeslappers? Being an offspring of the "Yellow Emperor", he is endowed with a sense of Chinese humor; and then he lived more than thirty years in the United States and the American humor was bound to rub off on him. So, we may call him a two-fisted humorist since he is thoroughly acquainted with the East as well as the West.

Father Lee's stories are as diversified as the many hats he wears. Besides being a zealous clergyman and a popular preacher, he has been a clinical psychologist, a TV and Radio news analyst, a columnist, a working journalist and a professor.

How can one man do so much? You Will be more astonished when you hear that this clergyman is legally blind. Due to retinitis



pigmentosa, an incurable eye disease, he lost his reading ability eight years ago. Today, he listens to the "talking books", namely records and tapes sent to him by the U.S. Library of Congress and Recording for the Blind. You see, you can't keep a good man down. The spirit of resiliency of this five and five little man is simply amazing. "Life is too short," he is fond of saying, "I must make a good use of the time alloted to me by the Almighty to help His children here on earth. I have lost my vision, but I still possess other faculties. Yes, I am disabled, but there are millions who are worse off than I. All of my faculties were given to me by my heavenly Father and one day, He will want me to report to Him how I have made use of them. He will throw the book at me if I'd sit on my hand, goldbricking."

The world would be such a pleasant place to live and play, if everyone thinks and works like Father Lee.



作者简介

本书作者李奠然神父近年来写了不下 30 本书,你只要走进书店就会发现书架上堆满了 他的作品。

李神父如何获知那么多上乘的笑话?作 为是炎黄子孙,他有与生俱来的中国幽默感。 他在美国居住了30多年,那些美国笑话当然 逃不出他的手掌心。因此我们可以称他为"汇 通中西的幽默大师",因为无论是东方还是西 方的笑话,他都了若指掌,毫不含糊。

李神父的故事富有变化,类型多样;他是 个热心的神父、受欢迎的传道者,也是个临床 心理医师、广播电视新闻评论家、专栏作家、新 闻记者及教授。

你或许会问,一个人真能身兼那么多职务 呀!如果我告诉你,李神父还是位法定盲人, 相信你一定更为震惊。由于得了无药可治的 "色素性网膜炎",李神父失明巳达8年之久。 他阅听名为"有声读物"的唱片或录音带,这

よ 活



是由美国国会图书馆和盲人录音会寄来的。 一个硬汉是不会被击倒的。李神父虽然只有5 尺5寸高,但其精神实在令人敬佩。他常说"人 生苦短。"、"我必须善用时间,虽然丧失了视 力,但我仍具有其他的感官能力,虽然我有所 缺陷,但世界上仍有成千上万的人比我还糟。 我的天赋皆天父所赐,总有一天,他会问我如 何利用这些天赋,如果我游手好闲、无所事事, 他一定会重重地责罚我,并且骂声我懒鬼!"

假使世界上的每一个人都能像李神父般 的辛勤工作,那么世界上将充满着喜乐和欢 쑃。



NOT SO DUMB FARMER AREN'T YOU EMBARRASSED? DOLLAR FOR COFFEE OVER MODEST GOING BANKRUPT BALLET-DANCERS ANCESTERS WHAT'S YOUR OCCUPATION? BEDBUGS ROMANCE DAD'S FUNERAL SURPRISE PARTY TRUTH IS STRANGER THAN FICTION DON'T YOU AGREE? HOW TRUE! HOW ABOUT THAT DOCTOR'S HANDWRITING WHAT IS SICKNESS GOOD FOR TOOTH CARE RINGING IN EARS OPERATION NEEDED MENTAL ILLNESS OUACK DOCTOR'S HOUR **OVERHEARD** SURE CURE quack

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YOU CAN'T WIN DOCTOR'S ADVICE ANOTHER GOLF GAG DRIVING CB CONFESSION WHAT COLD CREAM GOOD FOR **BE QUIET** HOW TO BE A MILLIONAIRE CONCEITED BORING SPEAKER AMERICAN KNOW-HOW FULL MIRROR HOG CALLING FUNERAL FOR MOTHER-IN-LAW BEAUTY PARLOR NEOPHITE GOLFER THIS IS A FOOTBALL MY WIFE IS TIRED OF ME JUST CALM DOWN PLAYPEN HYPOCHONDRIAC HE WAS RIGHT FINALLY TRY AND TRY AGAIN TIRED NERVOUS DESPERATE



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PARANOID TAKE AN ASPIRIN BOY AND GIRL EFFECTIVE REMEDY



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