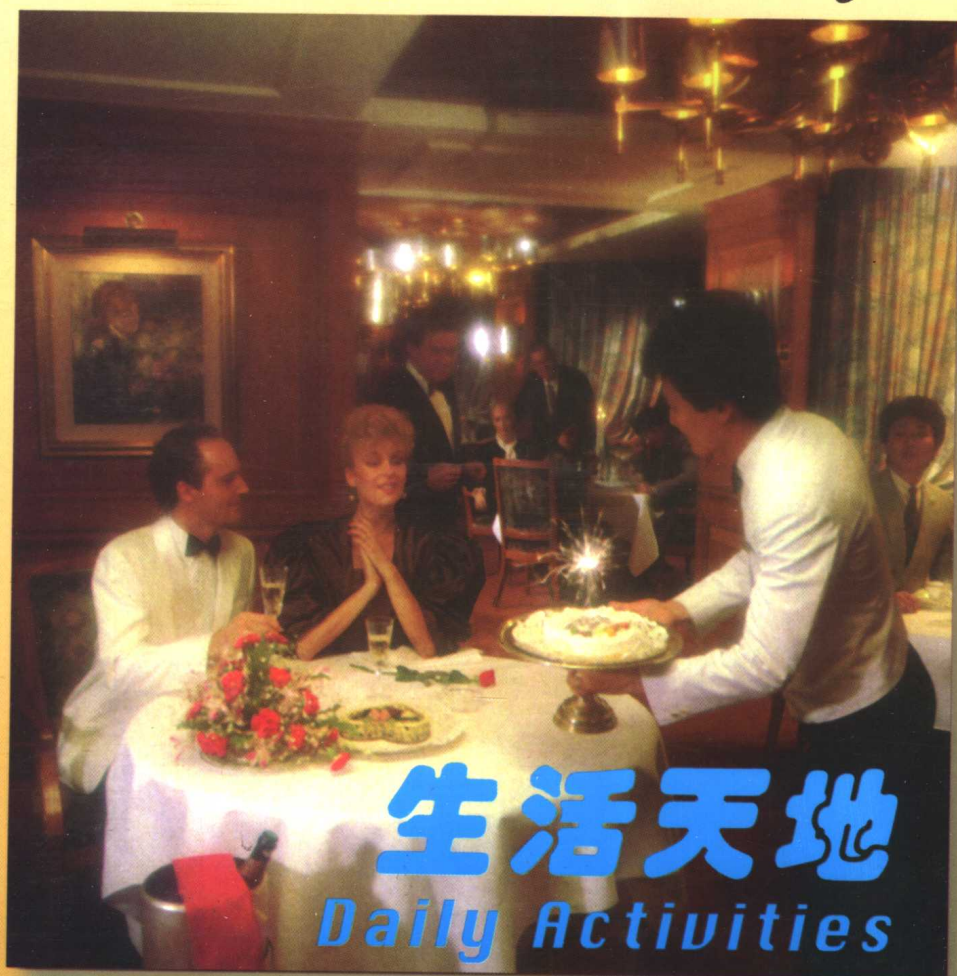


★ 中央电视台教育节目用书

新世纪美语

21st Century American English



生活天地

Daily Activities

海南(三环)出版社

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版权登记图字 30-1996-01 号

新世纪美语

生活天地

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海南出版社出版发行

(570105 海口市滨海大道华信路 2 号)

北京市外文书店总发行

北京昌平百善印刷厂印刷

1997 年 5 月第一版 1997 年 6 月第二次印刷

开本:850×1168 毫米 1/32 印张:5.875

字数:158 千字 印数:10 001-20 000

ISBN7-80617-898-8/G·498

全套定价:36.80 元

前 言

在即将到来的 21 世纪,全球面临的仍然是和平与发展两大主题。各个国家之间的交往与联系,将更加频繁紧密。《新世纪美语》教材适应上述形势的需要,在世纪之交的时刻问世,为人们提供了进行国际交往的语言工具。

有些人学习了多年的外语,却常有学而难用的困扰,尤其缺乏听、说方面的表达能力,不能够用外语进行交际。《新世纪美语》即是为已经入门的学习者,渴望进一步提高外语水平,特别是为提高听、说的能力而设计编排的。这套教材遵循功能教学的方法,在讲述语言结构规则的同时,更注重语言的使用规则。用生动的语言材料,培养学习者掌握实用的交际本领。

《新世纪美语》从学习者实际出发,把在对外交往中使用较多、范围较广的一些题材编辑成“生活天地”、“社会交际”、“工作就业”、“商业贸易”四册专集。以对话为主,文化背景知识为辅。用生动的画面,标准的语言对白,表现各种人物在不同场合,不同的对象所使用的得体语言。力求把学习的过程变为在实际场景中的交际过程,达到既定的学习目标。

这套教材所突出的交际功能和实用功能,会使那些学而难用或在听、说方面长期徘徊不前的学习者,有一个根本性的突破。对于报考英语四、六级和其他职称等级的应试者,也会有实际的帮助。

本教材概括有以下特点:

1. 紧跟时代。课程的内容及语言材料,反映了世纪之交现代美语的特点,语言规范,运用得体;
2. 实用性强。课程中的对话,均来自生活实际,通过音像演示,展现真实的交际过程,培养学习者使用美语的组织与表达能力。
3. 文化注解。针对东西方不同的生活习俗和文化差异,每课附

有文化背景介绍,提供交际中必备的文化知识。

4. 语文规范。由美籍教学专家主持讲解。情景对话,生动有趣,活泼自然。促进学习的功效。

《新世纪美语》已作为中央电视台的外语教学节目,将于1997年6月,向全国播出。本教材在编写过程中,北京语言学院美籍教师Gretta Thomas女士对全书进行了审校和修改。在教材出版之际,谨向Mrs Gretta Thomas表示衷心的感谢!

由于水平有限,对教材中编写不当之处,恳请读者批评指正。

海南(三环)出版社

编辑部

1997年5月

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IT'S MY BIRTHDAY

我的生日

DIALOG

John: Wow! It's my birthday soon.

Martha: When were you born?

John: On October 28, 1956 (nineteen fifty-six).

Martha: Hey, you're really getting old, aren't you?

You're almost forty.

John: How about you?

Martha: My birthday's on March third.

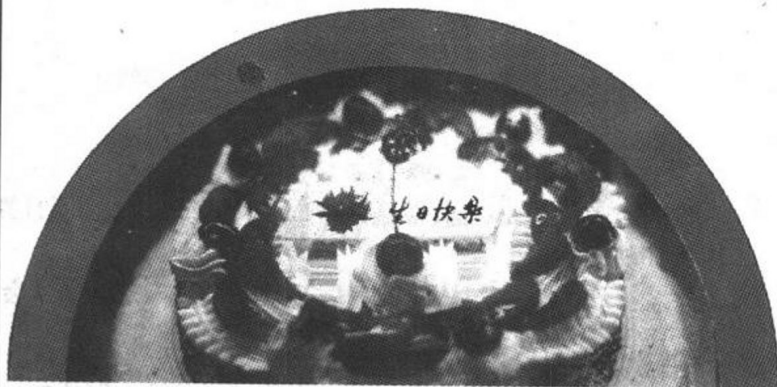
John: No, I didn't mean that. I meant, "How old are you?"

Martha: I'm sorry, but only my father and mother know that.

John: Please forgive my asking. I forgot that women are sensitive about age.

Martha: You bet we are!

John: Well, how do you think I look? With my gray hair?



Martha: A little gray at your temples only makes you look distinguished.

By the way, aren't you going to celebrate your fortieth birthday?

John: Well, it's too late to plan a birthday party. Maybe I'll make up for it with a little get-together one of the coming weekends.

Martha: Come on, John. If you can wait, I can't. Let me take you out to a nice restaurant tomorrow night.

John: I don't know. I think it's my turn.

Martha: Don't be silly, John. It's my treat. Just don't forget to invite me to the party you were talking about.

John: O.K. Thanks a lot.

约翰:哇!我的生日快到了。

玛莎:你什么时候出生的?

约翰:一九五六年十月二十八日。

玛莎:嘿,你真是一大把年纪了。快四十岁啦。

约翰:你呢?

玛莎:我的生日是三月三日。

约翰:不,我不是这个意思。我是说,你今年多大了?

玛莎:对不起,只有我的父母知道。

约翰:请原谅我的问题,我忘了女人对年纪都是很敏感的。

玛莎:那当然!

约翰:嗯,你觉得我的花白的头发看起来怎么样?

玛莎:你的两鬓微霜,只使你看起来很出色。顺便问一下,你不打算庆祝你的四十岁生日吗?

约翰:现在计划生日晚会太晚了,也许我会在某个周末来个小聚会补上。

玛莎:得了,约翰。即使你能等我可等不了。我明天晚上请你去一

家象样的饭馆吃饭。

约翰:这合适吗? 应该我请你。

玛莎:别犯傻了,约翰。这回我请客。只要你别忘了请我参加你刚才说的那个晚会就行了。

约翰:好吧,那就多谢了。

KEY WORD

Wow	[wau]	(int) 哇(惊叹声)
birthday	[ˈbɜ:θdeɪ]	(n) 生日
sensitive	[ˈsensitiv]	(a) 敏感的
temple	[ˈtempl]	(n) 太阳穴
distinguished	[dɪˈstɪŋɡwɪʃt]	(a) 杰出的, 显著的
celebrate	[ˈselibreɪt]	(v) 庆祝
get-together	[ˈgetəˌgeðə]	(n) 聚会
silly	[ˈsɪli]	(a) 傻, 蠢
treat	[ˈtri:t]	(n) 款待
invite	[ɪnˈvaɪt]	(v) 邀请

WORD STUDY AND IDIOMS

born (a) 出生, 天生的

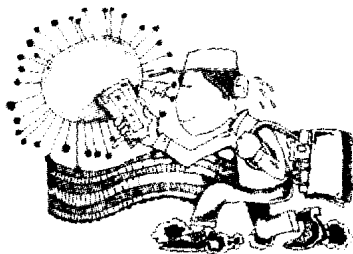
a. I was born in Shanghai.

我出生于上海。

b. Mozart was a born musician.

莫扎特是个天生的音乐家。

to get old 变老



a. Many people fear getting old.

许多人都害怕变老。

b. To get old doesn't always mean to get wise.

年龄增加并不一定意味着智慧也与日俱增。

aren't you? 反意疑问句中的附加问句。特别要注意回答时不要受汉语的影响(请对比例句 b 和 c 中的中英文)。

a. Q: You are Mr Johnson, aren't you?

问:你是约翰逊先生,对吗?

A: Yes, I am. /No, I am not.

答:对,我是。/不,我不是。

b. Q: You don't want to buy this book, do you?

问:你不想买这本书,对吧?

A: Yes, I do. /No, I don't.

答:不,我想买。/对,我不想买。

c. Q: He couldn't answer the question, could he?

问:他不能回答这个问题,对吗?

A. Yes, he could. /No, he couldn't.

答:不,他能回答。/对,他不能。

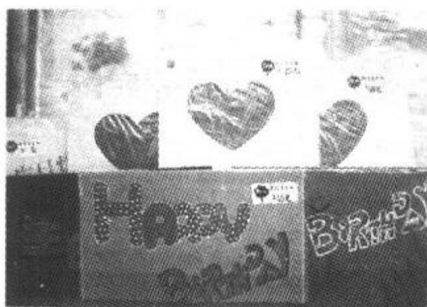
already 与 *all ready* 的区别

a. It's already November.

现在已是十一月了。

b. The food's all ready.

食物都准备好了。



mean (v) 意指 (a) 卑鄙的

a. What do you mean by that remark?

你那句话是什么意思?

- b. He's really mean to break that child's toy.
他弄坏那孩子的玩具,心眼真坏。

you bet 一定,当然

- a. You can bet we won't get a raise this year.
你可以打赌,我们今年不会加薪。
- b. You bet I'm not going to give up easily.
对,我不会轻易放弃。
- c. That test was difficult. 那个考试很难。
You bet! 那当然。

distinguished (a) 出色,气派

- a. The president looked quite distinguished on television.
总统在电视上看起来相当有派头。
- b. He's a distinguished professor of philosophy.
他是一位有名的哲学教授。
- c. He had some distinguished guests at home last nights.
昨天晚上他家里高朋满座。

by the way 顺便说一下(谈话中的插入语)

- By the way, I saw Tom yesterday.
顺便说一下,我昨天看到汤姆了。

too ... to 太 不能

- a. This exercise is too difficult to finish in 20 minutes.
这个练习太难,二十分钟做不完。
- b. It's too hot to let children play outdoors.
太热了,不能让孩子们在户外玩。

make up 弥补, 补偿

a. You should make up the lessons that you didn't attend when you were ill.

你应该补你因病而缺的课。

b. I said I would take you to a movie but I didn't. I'll make up for it on Saturday.

我说过我要带你去看电影可没带,我这个星期六补上。

get-together 聚会

a. Do you remember the old school get-together that we went to a few months ago?

你记得几个月前我们参加的旧校友联欢会吗?

b. Our last get-together was a potluck dinner.

我们上次聚会是大家带菜来的聚餐。

Come on. 在不同的上下文中有不同的含意,可以表示鼓励、催促等意思。

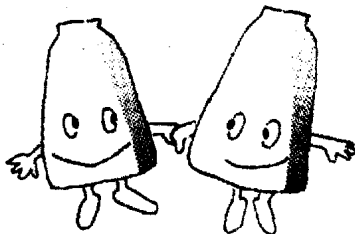
turn 在这里是名词,表示:轮到...,该...

a. Next time is my turn.

下次轮到我了。

b. It's your turn to clean the classroom.

该你们打扫教室卫生了。



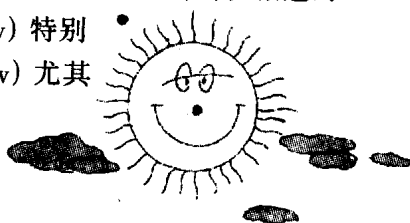
CULTURE NOTES

Birthdays are very special events for some people, but other people don't want to talk about birthdays. The reason is that birthdays and age

are, naturally, very closely related. Women all over the world are sensitive about their ages, and many men are, too. In most countries it's all right to ask someone, "When is your birthday?" but, in some countries, especially in Western countries, it's not polite to ask anyone how old he or she is or to ask: "When were you born?". This is particularly true of women. So you should never ask an American or British woman the question "How old are you?"

对有些人来说,生日是很重要的日子,但有些人则根本不愿提它。很自然,原因在于生日和年龄的关系密切。全世界的女人对年龄都很敏感,而且很多男人也不例外。在大多数的国家,你尽可以问别人“你生日是哪一天?”但在另一些国家,特别是在西方国家,问起别人的年龄或是“你是什么时候出生的?”却是很不恰当的,对于妇女尤其是这样。因此,千万不要问一个美国或英国妇女“你多大岁数了?”

closely related	[ˈkləʊsli rɪˈleɪtɪd]	紧密相关的,密切相连的
especially	[ɪˈspeʃəli]	(adv) 特别
particularly	[pəˈtɪkjʊləli]	(adv) 尤其



EXERCISES

1. Paraphrase 选出与原句意思最接近的句子:

1. John is all ready to go.
 - a. He already left.
 - b. He is prepared to leave.
 - c. He left before.

2. She's too sensitive about her age.
- a. She's very young.
 - b. She can't remember her age.
 - c. She doesn't like to talk about her age.
3. You bet I'm angry.
- a. I certainly am angry.
 - b. I'm angry when I bet.
 - c. I'm not angry.
4. His birthday is already over.
- a. He's ready for his birthday.
 - b. His birthday is passed.
 - c. He had a nice birthday.
5. He is a very mean person.
- a. His meaning is very clear.
 - b. He is a distinguished person.
 - c. He treats people very badly.



2. Sentence Completion 选出最恰当的答案完成下列句子:

1. It's my birthday_____.
- a. yesterday
 - b. last week
 - c. soon
 - d. 20 years ago

2. My birthday's on June _____.

- a. three
- b. thirteen
- c. thirty
- d. thirteenth

3. The old professor looks _____.

- a. extinguished
- b. distinguished
- c. you bet
- d. forgive



4. Don't talk about age; she's too _____.

- a. young
- b. mean
- c. distinguished
- d. sensitive

5. Let's eat, everybody; the food's _____.

- a. all ready
- b. already
- c. gone
- d. fast

3. Choose the Best Response 听录音带, 选出最恰当的答案:

1. a. My birthday's on July second.
b. I was born in the South.
c. On February 1, 1966.
2. a. My birthday's on May first.
b. I'm eighteen.
c. My birthday was last week.
3. a. Almost, just a minute.
b. Yes, I already went.
c. I already left.
4. a. Yes, they're very distinguished.
b. Yes. They don't like to talk about it.
c. Yes, women always look young.
5. a. It's my birthday soon.
b. Pretty good.
c. I'm distinguished.

EXERCISES

4. Dictation 听写:

1. I _____ born _____ September 21, 1963.
2. Hey, you're _____ getting old, _____ you?

3. What do you _____ by that _____ ?
4. Well, how do you _____ I feel?
5. Your _____ sideburns make you _____ distinguished.

LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Discussion Questions 讨论题:

1. Are birthdays important in China? Why or why not?
Do families celebrate birthdays in China?
2. Is age important in China? Why or why not?
Do people often ask others, in your culture, how old they are?
3. Are women sensitive about their age? Are men sensitive about their age?
What age is considered to be "old"?
What age is considered to be "young"?

Role Play 口语练习:

1. You are with two friends. One of your friends just remembered that tomorrow is his brother's birthday. He