



留美会话专集

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ENGLISH
CONVERSATION



国际文化出版公司

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留美会话专集

李保玉 著

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CHAPTER 1

Learning English

Part A VOCABULARY AND EXPRESSIONS

What keeps you so busy?	怎么那样忙呢?
lately	近来;最近。
a bit	有点儿。
get confused	弄不清楚;搞糊涂了。
Test of English as a Foreign Language (=TOEFL)	托福考试。
expression	字或词(表达特别意思的一群字)。
complicated	复杂的。
awkward	不顺(口)的;不合适的;别扭的。
people lose me in a conversation	别人听不懂我讲什么。
vice versa	反之亦然(原为拉丁文)。
torture	折磨。
(Let's) take a break.	让我们休息一下吧!
at a distance	远处的。
near-sighted	近视。
far-sighted	远视。
contact lenses	隐形眼镜。
wouldn't work for me	不适合我用。
take your word for it	相信你的话。
Ah-choo! (She sneezes)	啊啾!(她打喷嚏。)
(God) Bless you!	祝福你。
It's chilly (out)	(外头)有点凉。
chat	聊天。

Just as you say.	好吧;随你的便。
Let me fix some coffee for you.	我去给你煮(冲)点咖啡。
You take it black, right?	你喝咖啡不放奶(连糖也不搁)对吗?
Make yourself at home.	别拘束啊(就像在你自己家里一样)!
I'll be right with you.	我马上就来。
playing mah-jongg	打麻将。
to kill time	消磨时间。
tutor	家庭教师。
a bunch of	一大堆。
apply	应用。
boring	可厌的;烦人的;乏味的。
record player	唱机。
tape recorder	录音机。
record	唱片。
tape	录音带。
native voice	道地的腔调(纯正的口音)。
listening comprehension	听力。
native tongue	本国语。
develop	扩充运用(启发性的训练)。
the muscles of speech organs	发音器官(声带、舌、口、鼻腔等)。
instrument	工具。
cultural background	文化背景。
intimately tied to	与……有密切的关连。
bound up with	与……有密切的关系。
developed in different areas	在不同的地区发展。
master's degree (=M. A. ;M. S.)	顶士学位。

dissertation 博士论文。

doctorate degree 博士学位。

How marvelous! 多好啊!

Hit the sack. 睡吧。

Take care (of yourself). 保重(等于再见)。

Part B DIALOGUE

- Burt: What keeps you so busy lately?
- Ruth: Studying English.
- Burt: What makes you study English so hard?
- Ruth: You know I'm planning to go to the United States this coming summer if I'm lucky enough to be admitted to Miami University. I'm a bit nervous about my English.
- Burt: Your English is very good.
- Ruth: Thank you, but I'm afraid my pronunciation isn't accurate enough and that I might get confused.
- Burt: Don't worry about it. As an American, I understand you quite well. Besides, you've passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language.
- Ruth: Yes, I have passed the TOEFL but I still find the word order very difficult. Sometimes I know every word in an expression, but I don't know what it implies. Honestly, I understand very little.
- Burt: Yes, it is complicated. Sometimes the sentence structure is awkward for Chinese-speaking people.
- Ruth: You know, I'm embarrassed when people lose me in the middle of a conversation or vice versa.
- Burt: Relax, Ruth. You shouldn't torture yourself. Let's take a break.
- Ruth: O.K., fine. Ten minutes.
- Burt: Ten minutes! Shall we take a walk to the swimming pool?
- Ruth: Swimming pool? What do you intend to go there for?
- Burt: To get some fresh air. You need a rest and so do your eyes. You've been reading a lot lately.
- Ruth: Oh yes, my eyes get tired easily. Sometimes after I read too much, I can't see things at a distance.
- Burt: Have you checked with the doctor? You might be nearsighted.
- Ruth: You know, I would hate to have to wear glasses.
- Burt: These days a lot of people wear contact lenses. I'm slightly far-sighted, so I need glasses to read. Contact lenses wouldn't work for me.
- Ruth: I'll take your word for it, Burt. I'll make an appointment with a doctor tomorrow.
- Ah-choo! (She sneezes.)

- Burt: Bless you!
- Ruth: It's chilly out. Why don't we just stay home and have a little chat?
- Burt: Just as you say.
- Ruth: Let me fix some coffee for you. You take it black, right?
- Burt: Right.
- Ruth: Make yourself at home. I'll be right with you.
(Time passes.)
- Burt: So, tell me more.
- Ruth: Well, it's funny. I used to study English for entertainment because I didn't have a special hobby, like playing mah-jongg, to kill time. Now I have a particular purpose for it.
- Burt: So what's the problem?
- Ruth: The tutor assigned me a bunch of home work. She wants me to memorize all the phrases and expressions.
- Burt: She simply wants you to practice them over and over again until they are fixed in your mind.
- Ruth: Yes, she said it is necessary to drill as much as possible and the more I apply it in real situations the more natural it will become. Drill is boring!
- Burt: She is right.
- Ruth: So, that's the problem. I need so much practice and I'm getting discouraged.
- Burt: Actually, the fastest way to reach your goal would be to have a record player or a tape recorder.
- Ruth: Why all of that?
- Burt: Well, the records or tapes have native voices and you can study them by listening again and again and imitating the sounds as many times as you wish.
- Ruth: That's a good idea. That way I'm not only training my listening comprehension but also my speaking ability.
- Burt: Besides, since English is not your native tongue, you must develop the muscles of your speech organs to produce unfamiliar sounds. When you read, read aloud.
- Ruth: And the tutor also said that language is an instrument. People use it to express their ideas, thoughts, feelings, etc. , and all these are determined by culture. When you understand the cultural background, you can better use the language.
- Burt: Yes, language is intimately tied to man's feelings and activities. It is bound up with nationality, religion, and the feeling of self. As groups of men developed in different areas of the world, each group created its own spoken language. Howev-

er, the written language came about long after the spoken language was created.

Ruth: She said that, too.

Burt: She surely sounds like an expert.

Ruth: She is, I guess. She holds her master's degree in Education and now she is doing research for her dissertation for her doctorate degree.

Burt: How marvelous! You're certainly lucky to have her as your tutor.

Ruth: I'm glad to hear you say that.

Burt: I've enjoyed our talk, but I have to leave now.

Why don't you hit the sack for an hour? It would do you good.

Ruth: However, I don't have time for a nap this afternoon.

Burt: Well, take care.

Ruth: 'Bye.

Part C CULTURAL BACKGROUND.

1. Oxford, Ohio: 俄亥俄州的牛津城(Oxford)是一个大学城。城里有两所大学,其一为 Miami 州立大学,创校于一八〇九年,学生现约有一万三千人,其中以教育学院最著名。该校的足球队在美国相当出名,其体育系的毕业生多成为著名的足球教练,所以他们称 Miami University 为 football cradle,但此 Miami 非 Florida 海滩之 Miami。牛津的另一校为 Western College,创校于一八五三年,为一贵族女校,学生约有六百人;该校注重国际文化背景的交流与其比较研究,故学生包括来自世界六十余国之多。以上两校只隔一条马路,四周有大树丛环绕着,环境优美。该城在学校放假期间,电影院、馆子等都关门休息。
2. Take it black。(此 it 指咖啡):喝咖啡不加糖,只加奶,或只加糖而不加奶,或者两样东西都不加,有多种说法,即连美国人自己也弄不清楚,因为各个地区的移民习惯不同也。总之,说 Take it black 时,咖啡里不是少掉糖,就是少掉奶,或两样都没加。
3. Hit the sack: "sack" 一字原意为袋子,在世界大战时,军人为着行军临时住宿方便,美国大兵背上都有各人的保暖袋子,做得与人一般大小(美国人称睡袋)。袋上有一长拉链。人钻进去后,就把拉链拉上,只留头在外头;这种袋子替代了床(bed)。“Hit”是 go to 的意思,所以 Go to bed=Hit the sack。
4. Cultural Background: 由于近日语言学者应教学的需要而从事于各国各地语言之比较研究,发现传统的英语教学失败最大的症结乃在于学习过程中未能配合以文化背景之了解与获得。所以,往往学上几年英文而徒劳无功,一讲就错,提起笔来又踌躇的不知如何下笔。文化背景对学习语言之重要已见于本书之序文,此书之 Part C 更是朝着这个目标对 Part B 之课文加以补充发挥。虽然,鄙陋之处在所难免,但抛砖引玉之义亦所窃比焉。

CHAPTER 2

An Assistantship

