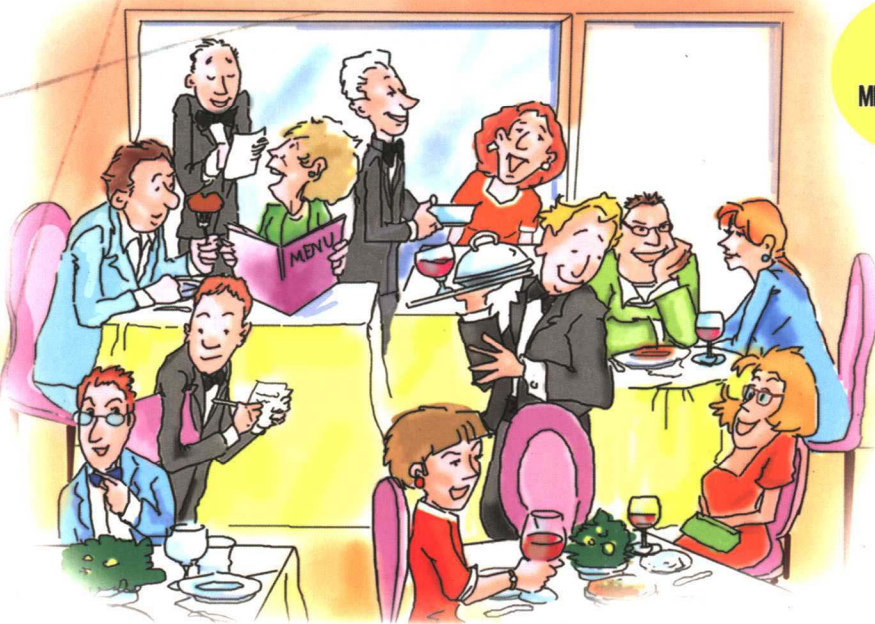


100 TOPICS FOR SPOKEN ENGLISH

英语情景口语 100 主题

Mark Griffiths Carol Rueckert 著

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周荣娟 魏琳 王青 译



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Introduction

Students often come to me with questions about how to improve their spoken English. There are many different ways of achieving this worthwhile aim. This book provides a three-step method which students of any level can use.

First, we have provided a list of useful, commonly used vocabulary and phrases on a wide variety of topics. It is essential that students focus on learning useful vocabulary and phrases, rather than those that they will rarely, or even never, need. Students need commonly used vocabulary and phrases for two reasons. One is that they should learn to speak as contemporary people speak—not as people spoke prior to World War II or even earlier. The other reason is that, in conversations with other English users, they will hear these words and phrases being used and will need to understand them. Students need vocabulary and phrases covering a range of topics because they cannot predict what topics they will meet and because a well rounded individual should be able to converse on a variety of subjects, not just the few that particularly interest them.

Second, we have supplied a selection of questions and sentences. These demonstrate how words and phrases can be built into structures, around which conversations can take place. The words and phrases provided at the beginning of each topic are used as the basis for these structures. The questions and sentences have been divided into three groups—for beginners, intermediate students, and advanced learners. I would strongly recommend that students bear in mind two things when they are reading the questions and sentences. One is to pay careful attention to the structures used—especially those that include modal verbs. Many of my students overuse one or two modals (usually ‘will’ and ‘can’) and so deprive themselves of the ability to communicate with precision and efficiency. The other thing students should remember is that the ability to read a sentence or a question in a book is quite different from being able to use it in conversation. Students should only progress to the questions and sentences in the ‘intermediate’ and ‘advanced’ sections if they can already use the ones in the ‘beginner’ section in real life conversations.

The third thing we have given students is a pair of dialogues for each

topic. These demonstrate how different structures can be combined naturally in order to produce coherent conversations between individual people. My guess is that most students will simply try to memorise these dialogues and then confuse the people they are trying to communicate with when they hold conversations. My hope is that smarter students will use these dialogues as a basis for conversations with others, perhaps by reading together and discussing the points raised in them.

The most important thing for all students to do is to get away from the ill-considered notion that a language is simply an inanimate tool. The English language is lively and constantly developing as people use it in different ways to accomplish their aims. The best way to keep up to date with its progress is to keep up to date with the people who use it—in other words, go out and make conversation!

前言

学生们经常问我如何才能提高英语口语水平,要实现这个目标有很多方法。本书介绍的三步学习法可供不同水平的学习者借鉴使用。

首先,我们提供了一系列常用的单词和短语,这些词汇经常出现在各类话题中。同学们要重点掌握它们,而不要把精力花费在口语中不常用甚至用不上的词汇上。为什么这样呢?原因有二。第一,你要学的是现代人的讲话方式,而不是像二战前甚至更早时期的人那样讲话。第二,当你用英语与别人交流时经常会听到这些词汇,因此需要对它们有所了解。此外,你需要记住涉及不同话题的单词与短语,因为你无法预料将会遇到什么话题。况且,一个知识面丰富的学生也应该能够就广泛的话题与别人交谈,而不仅是自己感兴趣的有限几个。

接下来,我们精选了一系列问题和句子,从中可以看出上述单词和短语是如何被组织成句的,谈话又是如何展开的。也就是说,前面的词汇是这部分句子的基础。问题和句子共分为3组,分别针对初级、中级和高级的学习者。本人强烈建议同学们在阅读这些问题与句子时记住两件事:首先要特别注意句子的结构,尤其是那些包含情态动词的句子。我的很多学生总会过多地使用一到两个情态动词(通常是 will 和 can),这便使交谈丧失了准确性与有效性。此外,同学们还要记住,能够读懂这些句子和问题不等于能够在交谈中运用它们。如果你已经掌握并能灵活运用初级部分的内容,就可以进入中级与高级部分的学习。

最后,我们为每个话题配备了2组对话。通过这部分你可以了解到不同结构的句子怎样自然地结合在一起,从而产生顺畅的交流。我猜,大部分学生在学习这部分的时候,只是试图背这些对话,与别人交谈时照样将对方搞得一头雾水。我希望,聪明的学生通过与别人一起阅读,一起讨论里面的问题,能将这些对话灵活地运用到与他人的交流中。

很多同学认为语言仅仅是一种没有生命力的工具,这种观点是错误的,务必要彻底抛弃!英语是有生命力的,人们为不同的目的以不同的方式使用它,它便在这一过程中不断发展。我们要跟上英语的进步,最好的方式就是和说英语的人保持交流。换言之,就是要一走出去,说出来!

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英语情景口语 *100* 主题

1 Age 年龄

Useful Expressions

► *Beginner*

1. Sally is in her early-thirties / mid-forties / late-twenties.
2. John retired last month.
3. He died at the age of 89.
4. Tina gave birth to a baby boy yesterday.
5. Tim is 17 years old tomorrow.
6. Did you have an interesting childhood?
7. The thief was a 9 year-old boy.
8. The baby will be born in 3 months.

► *Intermediate*

1. Do retired people get pensions in your country?
2. Teenagers are often rebellious.
3. What is the life expectancy in your country?
4. What age is considered a turning point in your culture?
5. Kids seem to grow up very quickly nowadays.
6. When do you think it is a good age to have a child?
7. Becoming an adult is an important stage in life.

► *Advanced*

1. You look older when you wear make-up.
2. I don't know how old he is, but he is certainly middle-aged.
3. Jim got married as soon as he left school.
4. Legally, people reach adulthood at the age of 18 in my country.
5. Is there a big generation gap between parents and their children in your country?

常用表达

初级

1. 莎丽30出头/35岁左右/快30了。
2. 约翰上个月退休了。
3. 他89岁去世的。
4. 昨天蒂娜生了个男孩。
5. 蒂姆明天满17岁。
6. 你的童年快乐吗?
7. 小偷是个9岁的男孩。
8. 再过3个月孩子就出生了。

中级

1. 在你们国家退休的人有养老金吗?
2. 青少年都比较叛逆。
3. 你们国家人口的平均寿命是多少?
4. 在你们的文化中,多少岁被认为是一个转折点?
5. 现在的孩子好像都长得很快。
6. 你认为什么年龄生小孩比较好?
7. 长大成人是一生中重要的阶段。

高级

1. 你化了妆显得大些。
2. 我不知道他多大了,但肯定是已经中年了。
3. 吉姆一毕业就结婚了。
4. 在我们国家,到了18岁在法律上就成年了。
5. 在你们国家,父母与孩子之间有代沟吗?

Words

young 年轻的
old 年老的
middle-aged 中年
elderly 年长的
childhood 童年
adulthood 成年
teenager 青少年

generation gap 代沟
retire 退休
early-twenties 20出头
mid-thirties 35岁左右
late-forties 年近50
baby 婴儿
toddler 初学走路的孩子

adolescent 青少年
kid 幼儿
life expectancy 平均寿命
21 years old 21岁
look (older) 显(老)
turning-point 转折点
mature 成熟

child 孩子
youth 青年
life 生命
middle age 中年
old age 老年
pension 退休金

Phrases

grow up 长大
have a child 生育一个小孩

become an adult 成人
leave school 毕业

get married 结婚
be born 出生

become pregnant 怀孕
give birth 分娩

Dialogues

► *Beginner*

A: How old is Keith?

B: He's 21. How old is James?

A: He's a year older than Keith, but he looks younger.

B: How's your father?

A: He's fine. He retired last week. It's a turning point in his life. Now he can relax and enjoy his retirement.

B: He can spend more time with his grandchildren.

A: Oh, I don't think he wants to. He wants to travel to several different countries around the world.

B: So, he wants to have a more active retirement. Good idea!

A: How do you want to spend your old age?

B: In the same way, probably.

► *Intermediate*

A: What's the life expectancy in your country?

B: I'm not sure, but probably about 75 years. How about in your country?

A: About 70, I think. This newspaper article talks about the problems of an aging population. It's a problem that will soon affect most of the world.

B: I heard that the government might need to increase the retirement age, because otherwise there will not be enough workers to support the young and the elderly.

A: Perhaps we need to have more babies! Tina gave birth to a baby boy yesterday.

B: Did she? That's great. However, if we have too many children, that will have a bad effect on the environment.

A: How's your son these days?

B: Oh, he's fine. Kids seem to grow up very quickly nowadays.

A: He'll be a teenager before you know it! Teenagers are often rebellious! When do you think it is a good age to have a child?

B: I had mine when I was 24. That's a little young. I'd suggest you wait until you are in your late twenties, or even in your early thirties if you have a good career.

A: Yes, I think you're right. I'm thinking about having a child, but not just yet.

B: Is there a big generation gap between parents and their children in your country?

A: Yes, there is. Teenagers do not want to live traditional lives. They want to go out, have fun, and explore the world. They want to develop their own view of

life. Parents usually try to discourage them, but they don't often succeed.

B: Parents usually give their children more freedom in my country. Sometimes they give them too much freedom.

A: It's almost impossible to get the right balance. If you are too strict, kids might ignore you. If you are too lenient, they might go wild.

对 话

初 级

A: 基思多大了?

B: 他21岁了。詹姆士呢?

A: 比基思大一岁,可看起来更小些。

B: 你父亲怎么样了?

A: 他很好。上周退休了。这是他一生的转折点。现在他可以放松下来享受退休生活了。

B: 他可以有更多的时间和孙子们在一起。

A: 噢,我觉得他不想这样。他想去世界上好几个国家旅行。

B: 这么说,他想把退休生活过得积极些。好主意!

A: 你晚年想怎么度过呢?

B: 可能和他一样吧。

中 级

A: 在你们国家,人口的平均寿命是多少呢?

B: 不肯定,可能75岁左右吧。你们国家呢?

A: 我想大概70岁。报纸上这篇文章在谈论人口老龄化的问题。这个问题很快就会影响世界上大多数国家。

B: 听说政府可能需要提高退休年龄,否则就没有足够的劳动者来养老扶幼了。

A: 或者我们该多要些孩子!昨天蒂娜生了个男孩。

B: 是吗? 太棒了。可是,如果我们的孩子太多,会对环境有不利影响的。

A: 你儿子近来怎么样?

B: 还好。现在孩子总是长得很快。

A: 不知不觉他就长成十几岁的少年了。十多岁的孩子很叛逆的。你认为什么年龄生小孩比较好?

B: 我24岁要的孩子。有点早。建议你等到30来岁,或者30岁出头,如果你有份好事业的话。

A: 是的,你说得对。我在考虑要小孩,但不是现在。

B: 在你们国家,父母与孩子之间有很大的代沟吗?

A: 有。年轻人不愿意过传统的生活,他们想出去、想玩、想探索世界,想形成自己对生活的看法。父母总是试图打消他们的念头,但很少奏效。

B: 在我们国家父母会给孩子很大的自由。有时候有些太自由了。

A: 几乎不可能找到合适的平衡点。太严厉了,孩子会不理你,太仁慈了他们又会管不住。

2 Character 性格

Useful Expressions

► *Beginner*

1. He's too ambitious and dishonest.
2. They are alike.
3. They are completely different.
4. I think I'm polite.
5. He looks very unfriendly.
6. What do you think of George?
7. Are you generally quiet or noisy?
8. Are you happy with your character?

► *Intermediate*

1. Paul is very sociable and much more honest than his brother.
2. Do you think people get their personalities from their parents?
3. Parents influence their kids' personalities a lot.
4. Most parents want their kids to be like them.
5. It's good that he has an outgoing personality.
6. Do you ever pretend to be polite?
7. She's not only beautiful, but she also has a great personality.

► *Advanced*

1. You are always chatting with new people when we go to a party.
2. Why do you think many kids have personalities that are so different from their parents'?
3. Do you think that teenagers get a lot of their bad behaviour from TV and movies?
4. 1. Many people are considered shy, but are really very extrovert.
5. Taxi drivers find that a lot of careless and forgetful people leave things in cabs.