

英語會話實習

**EXERCISES IN ENGLISH  
CONVERSATION**

葛傳槩著

上海競文書局印行

# EXERCISES IN ENGLISH CONVERSATION

Being the Second Part of *English Conversation:*  
*Principles and Practice*, with the Phonetic  
Transcriptions and Translations  
Omitted and the Notes  
Somewhat Revised

By

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(Compiler of *Present-day English Prose* Etc.; author  
of *The Diary of a Student* Etc., editor of  
*Translation by Examples* Etc.)

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## 告 全 國 英 文 界

敝局鑒於國人研習英文之重要而集資創辦，以出版各種英文書籍爲職志，承各界愛護，已差有成績，茲將今後出書之目標，臚列如后，幸垂察焉：

- (一) 所出各書以應中學生，一般研究英文者，及實用英文者爲主，讀物與參考書並重。
- (二) 執筆者均爲國內英文專家，且每稿均由葛傳槩先生校閱，務使就能力所及，盡善盡美。
- (三) 每書均列編著人姓名，以示負責。
- (四) 拼法等以依據英國牛津簡明字典 (*The Concise Oxford Dictionary*) 爲原則；惟(甲)凡該字典與其編著者 H. W. Fowler 氏所著 *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage* 所言不同之處，悉依 *A Dictionary of Modern English Usage*，蓋該書出版較後，其中所言，皆爲 H. W. Fowler 氏編著牛津簡明字典後多年研究之結果也；(乙) 牛津簡明字典之注音頗簡略，恐非一般讀者所能了解，故凡需注音之處，概用國人所熟知之 Webster 符號（依據一九三五年所出 *Webster's New International Dictionary of the English Language, Second Edition* 較國內所出各字典中所用 Webster 符號爲詳備），惟符號雖用 Webster 而所注之音未必均依據 Webster 字典，蓋 Webster 字典以美國音爲根據，而敝局未敢苟同也，此乃敝局煞費苦心之處，幸讀者注意之。
- (五) 歡迎全國英文界批評指教，并祈隨時以國人研究英文所需而爲國內所尙無出版之書籍見告，俾敝局聘專家編著，以副衆望。

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## PREFACE

This book is the second part of my *English Conversation: Principles and Practice*, with the phonetic transcriptions and Chinese translations omitted. It may be called a school edition of the larger book, in which much of the material teachers of English, especially those whose mother tongue is English, would no doubt find unnecessary.

All the dialogues have been written by myself. I wish to thank Mrs G. I. Fletcher for reading them over. However, I am responsible for any fault that may have crept in.

HERTZ C. K. Kê

July, 1937

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## EXERCISES IN ENGLISH CONVERSATION

### Exercise One

#### About Speaking English

CHINESE. You've more than once said<sup>1</sup> that I write correct English. But I'm afraid<sup>2</sup> that I cannot even speak English half so well as I write it.

ENGLISHMAN. No, not so well<sup>3</sup>. But you can make yourself understood<sup>4</sup>. If you don't speak English fluently, it's because you haven't had much practice.

CHINESE. I should think so<sup>5</sup>. I hope my pronunciation is fairly good<sup>6</sup>.

ENGLISHMAN. It's very good. I often<sup>7</sup> meet Chinese whose pronunciation is so bad that<sup>8</sup> I simply don't<sup>9</sup> understand what they say. Only the other day<sup>10</sup> a well-dressed young Chinese talked to me. He really spoke English, but I thought he was speaking German and told him as much<sup>11</sup>. Nor did *he* understand *me*<sup>12</sup>. He wrote down these words: "You didn't seem to understand me when I spoke English.



I'm only sorry that<sup>13</sup> I don't understand *you*, since you speak French or Spanish<sup>14</sup>."

CHINESE. What an amusing story!<sup>15</sup> I'm glad that my English isn't German to you, nor is your English French or Spanish to me. But still I often don't understand what Englishmen say. I find it especially hard to understand when I listen to some Englishmen talking among themselves.

ENGLISHMAN. Well<sup>16</sup>, I think I know where the shoe pinches<sup>17</sup>. You know<sup>18</sup>, connected speech isn't so simple as you may think. We don't speak as if we were<sup>19</sup> saying single words.

CHINESE. Oh, that's it<sup>20</sup>. I learnt about it some time ago from a little book called *English Conversation: Principles and Practice*<sup>21</sup>.

ENGLISHMAN. Is it a new book? I wonder if<sup>22</sup> it contains exercises with phonetic transcription<sup>23</sup>.

CHINESE. Yes, there are many<sup>24</sup>. Do you think it advisable<sup>25</sup> to read them aloud for practice?

ENGLISHMAN. Yes, it is. As your pronunciation of single words is very good, I hope careful reading with phonetic transcriptions will help you a great deal<sup>26</sup>.

Exercise Two

On the Telephone

LADY SECRETARY.<sup>1</sup> Hullo, this is Mr A. M. Porter's office.

CHINESE. Hullo, is Mr Porter in<sup>2</sup>? This is W. H. Yang speaking<sup>3</sup>.

LADY SECRETARY. Mr Porter hasn't come yet. Shall I take a message<sup>4</sup>?

CHINESE. Thank you, but I think I'll ring him up<sup>5</sup> later this morning.

LADY SECRETARY. Well, Mr Porter's home phone<sup>6</sup> number is 19564.

CHINESE. Thank you.

CHINESE. Hullo, is Mr Porter at home?

SOMEONE AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE. Mr Porter? I'm afraid you've got the wrong number<sup>7</sup>. Ours<sup>8</sup> is 19565.

CHINESE. So sorry, I've got the wrong number.

CHINESE. Hullo, is Mr Porter at home?

SOMEONE AT THE OTHER END OF THE LINE. Yes; please hold the line<sup>9</sup> for a moment.

MR PORTER. This is Porter speaking. Is Mr Yang there?<sup>10</sup>

CHINESE. Yes; I've just called you up<sup>11</sup> at your office and have been told that you hadn't yet come. Your secretary offered to take a message. But I thought I had better<sup>12</sup> talk to you personally.

MR PORTER. She told me by phone<sup>13</sup> just now<sup>14</sup> that you wanted to talk to me.

CHINESE. What about the matter you spoke of last Sunday?<sup>15</sup> I think——

MR PORTER. Oh, there are many difficulties in the way<sup>16</sup>. I don't think we can talk it over<sup>17</sup> on the phone. Besides, I can't hear you clearly; perhaps<sup>18</sup> there's something wrong with<sup>19</sup> my receiver. Can you call at my office between two and three this afternoon?

CHINESE. Certainly. Good-bye.

MR PORTER. Good-bye.

### Exercise Three

#### About Newspapers and Magazines

CHINESE. What are you reading, Mr Scott?

ENGLISHMAN. *Punch*<sup>1</sup>. Ever heard of it?<sup>2</sup>

CHINESE. Yes; I think I found it mentioned in a Chinese<sup>3</sup> magazine, but I've never seen it. Is it easy to read?

ENGLISHMAN. Hard to say<sup>4</sup>. The language is rather easy. But perhaps the wit and humour<sup>5</sup> will prove too much for the average Chinese student of English<sup>6</sup>.

CHINESE. Is *Punch* a recently established comic periodical?

ENGLISHMAN. It is a comic periodical, perhaps the best known of its kind. But it isn't a new one. It was founded in 1841.

CHINESE. What's the most famous daily paper published in England?

ENGLISHMAN. *The Times*<sup>7</sup>, I should say.

CHINESE. I understand<sup>8</sup> that it has a weekly supplement called *The Times Literary Supplement*<sup>9</sup>, hasn't it?

ENGLISHMAN. Yes. This literary supplement holds a very important position in English literary circles<sup>10</sup>. It carries critical articles<sup>11</sup>, book reviews<sup>12</sup>, correspondence on bibliographical and other subjects<sup>13</sup>, and a record of current literary publications<sup>14</sup>.

CHINESE. Then it would seem<sup>15</sup> to be unsuitable for the general reader. Can you recommend me some English periodicals of a more “general” nature?

ENGLISHMAN. Let me see<sup>16</sup>. *Chambers’s Journal*<sup>17</sup>, a monthly, and *Answers*<sup>18</sup>, a weekly. I take<sup>19</sup> both, and should<sup>20</sup> be glad to lend you some copies.

CHINESE. Thank you very much. Do you read any English newspaper published here in Shanghai?

ENGLISHMAN. Yes, *The North-China Daily News*<sup>21</sup> and *The China Press*<sup>22</sup>. By the way<sup>23</sup>, don’t you know why *The North-China Daily News* is so called? Of course one wouldn’t<sup>24</sup> call Shanghai North China.

CHINESE. I don’t know. I wonder<sup>25</sup> I never thought of this point. Now<sup>26</sup> you mention it, I should like<sup>27</sup> to know the reason.

ENGLISHMAN. They say<sup>28</sup> that the paper was so named because the Englishmen in Hongkong<sup>29</sup> thought Shanghai *was*<sup>30</sup> in North China. Surely Shanghai lies far to the north of Hongkong<sup>31</sup>.

Exercise Four

An Interview with the Prospective Employer

CHINESE. Can<sup>1</sup> I see the manager?

CLERK.<sup>2</sup> Your card, please.

CHINESE. Sorry, but I haven't brought my card with me, but here is his letter to me. My name is Harold L. Liang.

CLERK. Wait a minute<sup>3</sup>, please.

CHINESE. All right.

CLERK. Please go upstairs, sir.

CHINESE. Thank you.

MANAGER. Come in. Good morning.

CHINESE. Good morning, sir.

MANAGER. Take a seat, please. I was favourably impressed with<sup>4</sup> your application, but I thought I must see you before I could make a decision. I've had over<sup>5</sup> a hundred applications, and have written to<sup>6</sup> five applicants for a personal interview. You say you can handle English correspondence?<sup>7</sup>

CHINESE. Yes, sir. I did this work for two years for Mr B. K. Tan, an eminent Chinese lawyer as I said in my letter.

MANAGER. I see<sup>8</sup>. Do you smoke?

CHINESE. No, sir.

MANAGER. You're punctual?

CHINESE. Yes, sir.

MANAGER. Well, if I employ you, I'll pay you ninety-five dollars a month at the start<sup>9</sup>. You can accept the terms<sup>10</sup>?

CHINESE. Yes, sir.

MANAGER. All right. I'll let you know<sup>11</sup> in a day or two<sup>12</sup>, if I decide to employ you.

CHINESE. Thank you. Good morning.

### Exercise Five

#### About Health and Illness

CHINESE LADY. Good evening, Mrs Baker.

ENGLISH LADY. Good evening, Miss Chow. I hear that Miss Wei is in hospital<sup>1</sup>. Do you know what's the matter with<sup>2</sup> her?

CHINESE LADY. Nothing to speak of<sup>3</sup>, only a slight cold. I've just called on her<sup>4</sup>, and found her in good spirits<sup>5</sup>.

ENGLISH LADY. Delighted<sup>6</sup> to hear it. I hope a day or two in bed<sup>7</sup> will put her right again<sup>8</sup>.

CHINESE LADY. Certainly. But what do you think she said in a note to me this afternoon? She thought she had got T.B.<sup>9</sup> and might not be able to live another week.

ENGLISH LADY. Did she<sup>10</sup>? What a nervous lady! Even if she had really got T.B., she could not possibly<sup>11</sup> die within a week.

CHINESE LADY. It's a pity that many so-called educated people, both men and women, are always finding<sup>12</sup> themselves suffering from something or other.<sup>13</sup> Some time ago a young man of my acquaintance insisted on being operated upon<sup>14</sup> simply because he felt a pain in his left side.

ENGLISH LADY. But that's nothing to<sup>15</sup> the story I've heard from a friend. A young lady committed suicide as soon as<sup>16</sup> she caught a fever. She left a letter saying that she had made up her mind<sup>17</sup> to kill herself so as to<sup>18</sup> avoid any possible consequences<sup>19</sup>. As if things worse than death could happen to a person in a fever!<sup>20</sup>

CHINESE LADY. That's simply absurd. For my part<sup>21</sup>, I take good care of<sup>22</sup> my health, but am



not in the habit of seeing doctors and taking medicines.

ENGLISH LADY. Nor am I<sup>23</sup>. I quite agree with an actor who used to <sup>24</sup> say, "We don't get sick, because we can't afford that luxury".<sup>25</sup>

CHINESE LADY. That's a wise saying. Let's<sup>26</sup> keep it in mind<sup>27</sup>.

ENGLISH LADY. And do mention<sup>28</sup> it when you see Miss Wei again.

### Exercise Six

#### Asking the Time and the Way

CHINESE. Could<sup>1</sup> you tell me the time, Mr Johnson?

ENGLISHMAN. One-twenty<sup>2</sup>—well, I'm wrong. My watch has run down<sup>3</sup>. What time is it by your watch, Mrs Smith?<sup>4</sup>

ENGLISH LADY. Half past two, but I'm afraid my watch is a little slow. I suppose it's two-forty or thereabouts<sup>5</sup>.

CHINESE. Thank you very much, Mrs Smith. I have an appointment<sup>6</sup> for half past three, and I think I must be going. Good-bye.

CHINESE. Excuse me. Is Willow Lane in this neighbourhood?