

葛维德 ● 著

新编

英语习语教程

A NEW COURSE OF ENGLISH
COLLOQUIAL IDIOM FOR
ESL LEARNERS



黑龙江人民出版社

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内 容 简 介

本书是一本富于实践性的大学英语口语与阅读相结合的实用教程,它既有助于各层次学生参加中高级口语考试前的强化训练,准备到海外留学学生出国前的常识性口语培训,更有助于广大学生通过对英语习语的训练掌握地道的语言表达捷径。全书共分十五单元,分别涉及学习,驾照考试,求职,应聘,日常生活与生活方式,旅游,健康保健以及尊重隐私等热门话题。各单元所选的内容时尚新颖,练习形式多样,信息涵盖丰富。学习者可将其视为实用型读本,出国留学者可将其看作国外生活导读,英语教师可将其当作理想的口语与阅读教学参考书。

Speech is civilization itself.

—— *Thomas Mann*

On every speaking situation, one's aim should be to use only words and phrases that are appropriate, fit, suitable, and proper.

—— *Harry Shaw*

Idioms may also suggest a particular attitude of the person using them, for example, disapproval, humor, exasperation or admiration, so you must use them carefully.

—— *Michael McCarthy*

Even when the origin of a phrase is unknown, or when the connection between the origin and the current meaning is obscure, the formation of an idiom could seldom have been mere bedevilment, any more than, in usage in general are the grossest verbal and syntactical misuses.

—— *V. H. Collins*

It is often difficult for the foreign student to appreciate the full social significance of an idiom — in what situation it is used, by what sort of people, in what tone of voice, and so on — and to know when he may safely use it himself.

—— *A. J. Worrall*

Preface

English idioms, as their name suggests, refer to those set idiomatic phrases or clauses which have been habitually and extensively used, express adequate meanings and are formulated in structure. And they have become an essential component of English vocabulary and given people the impression of terseness in form but succinctness in meaning as well as the sense of vividness and humour if properly used. V. H. Collins, the well-known English linguist, holds that "It is commonly acknowledged that idiom is an extensively-used and indispensable element among current standard spoken and written languages. It can embellish and enrich the language if carefully used."

However, English beginners, especially ESL (English as a Second Language) learners may become easily frustrated with their errant attempts at idiomatic comprehension and usage which are likely to cause misunderstanding because idiom does not follow strict patterns. Sometimes the meaning of an idiomatic phrase cannot even be understood from the meaning of its individual words. Therefore quite a number of cautious ESL learners tend to evade the use of idiom, as a result, they have unconsciously lost a natural, idiomatic and vivid means of expression, thus affecting their effective linguistic communication with the outside world.

Esther Ellin-Elmakiss, an American ESL Coordinator, claims that "Because idioms are used extensively in everyday speech, it is necessary to have a good understanding of their meanings and to be able to use them properly and easily." Loretta S. Gray, another American ESL

scholar, definitely points out: "Because rules regarding idiomatic phrases are often vague, practice is the only way to truly master them." In view of the fact that so far the teaching materials which aim at popularizing the commonly used English idioms have been few and far between, and they are only confined to dictionaries of English idiom. Unfortunately, however, these dictionaries cannot play the role of integrating common idioms and standard language into a complete and longer text, and consistently expounding a certain topic in oral or written form.

On the basis of the above view, I attempt to focus on the theme concerning various kinds of social situations in international students' learning, daily life and work with the help of American idioms as well as a number of general idioms and phrasal verbs, probing into a new pattern of using and mastering English idioms correctly and skillfully in the form of conversation and/or reading comprehension.

The book, "A New Course of English Idiom for ESL learners", consists of fifteen units of different topics. Each unit is divided into Section A and Section B, with the former focusing on a variety of social situations in the study, daily life and work of a young couple, two international students who are living in the USA. To strengthen the usage of the idioms used in each unit, Section A contains the definition of idioms and typical examples. More importantly, a variety of relevant oral and written exercises have been designed, in the hope of helping the learners memorize and understand the idioms in each unit by way of concept clarification and practice. As a supplemental exercise, Section B is made up of texts of different genres, like conversation, letter and advertisement etc, serving as supplemental extensive reading materials for Section A. It is also equipped with a number of exercises. The appendices of the book include the Chinese versions of Sections A and the key to the exercises of the units.

The book is characterized by the following three strengths :

1. It is designed for the integration of common English idioms with standard language in order to work on a certain topic within a longer text by means of conversation or other forms. Up to now the materials of similar styles have been very few.

2. Different from the previous materials which only introduced the general or normal topics regarding international students' life in USA or other English-speaking countries, this book focuses on some particular topics which are closer to the life of international students, such as choice of courses in university, job hunting and interview, driving test, the culture of foreign cuisine, modern shopping concepts as well as showing respect to others' privacy.

3. To reinforce the practice and memory of common idioms in each unit, this book has designed a number of relevant oral or written exercises for ESL learners and tried to impress them with balanced rate of idiomatic usages in the unit.

In the course of writing the book I am grateful to all the friends who have offered their selfless support or help. First of all, I wish to express my most sincere appreciation to Prof. Xi Yongji, a well-known scholar in the study of Comparative Aesthetics of Translated Works of Shakespeare. Prof. Xi once taught me in 1980s and has read the whole manuscript meticulously and given numerous valuable advice and proposals; Tremendous thanks are owed to Mrs. Dai Qing, a member of Nanjing Artists Union, for helping me with excellent drawings; I am indebted to Mr. Ge Jian for his commitment for the elaborate layout of the whole book. Thanks are also due to Mrs. Shi Dongmei for her tireless hours of typing and proofreading the manuscript.

Here I also have to admit that the book still has some drawbacks due to some reasons. Firstly, the primary data I've collected are not adequate enough, thus affecting the choice of typical idioms; secondly, the idioms I've allocated to the units are not quite well-balanced.

Owing to my limited knowledge and inadequate language-handling ability, I sincerely appreciate all the criticism and valuable comments from my colleagues or friends who will frankly point out all the flaws and errors in this book.

Contents

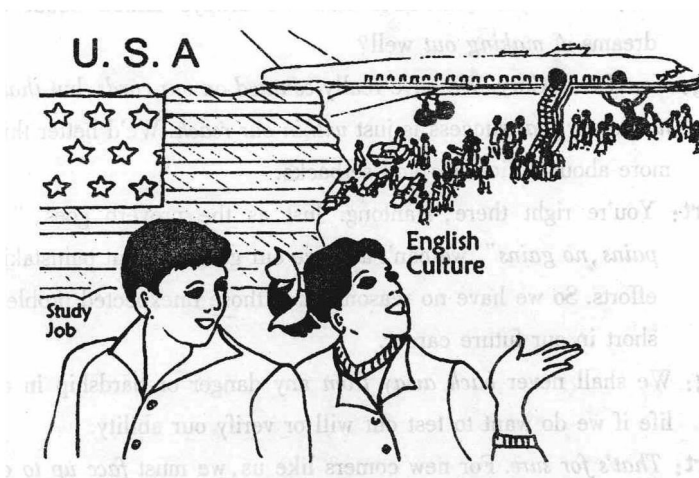
Preface	(1)
Unit One	Getting Used to the New Environment (融入异国)	(1)
Unit Two	Giving A Better Account of Ourselves (精彩亮相)	(21)
Unit Three	Passing the Driving Test with Flying Colors (驾考成功)	(43)
Unit Four	Going in for Job Hunting (疲于求职)	(67)
Unit Five	Fishing for Yourself (奋力以求)	(90)
Unit Six	We can work it out (迎难而上)	(111)
Unit Seven	Getting Our Money's Worth (物有所值)	(132)
Unit Eight	A Square Meal (美餐一顿)	(153)
Unit Nine	Fixing up Our Apartment (美化新居)	(174)
Unit Ten	Swings and Roundabouts (有得有失)	(196)

Unit Eleven	Planning out the Rest Cure (返璞归真)	(217)
Unit Twelve	Good Health is Above Wealth (健康是福)	(239)
Unit Thirteen	Getting a Real Kick out of the Car Tour (寻趣驾游)	(260)
Unit Fourteen	Never Trespassing on Other's Territory (尊重隐私)	(281)
Unit Fifteen	Hankering after Bright Prospects (憧憬未来)	(305)
全书课文译文(A篇)		(327)
全书课文练习答案		(348)

Unit One

Section A

Getting Used to the New Environment



Gary Robert, an Irish scholar, came to China and studied as a Master of Science in a well-known university in Nanjing several years ago. Wang Hantong, a young woman teacher of English, was then working in the same university. Gary Robert and Wang Hantong met by chance at an English evening of the university two years ago, they got to know and *fell in love with* each other. Since Gary Robert had finished and passed all the courses required, and had been conferred Master's degree of Science,

the young couple decided to go to USA for their further study. Three months ago, they arrived in San Francisco. Now they are recollecting the exciting moment of their arrival in this new adopted country.

Wang: Gary, can you remember how we felt when we arrived in San Francisco *by air* some months ago?

Robert: Surely I can, Hantong! I remember how *tired out* and confused we were then!

Wang: That was true. But we *were* really *carried away* by the exciting trip to the country.

Robert: We had wonderful views of the life in the United States, didn't we? Can't you remember how we always talked about our dreams of *making out* well?

Wang: Yes, I can, Gary. We have really *counted on our cards*, but *that is not to say that* success is just *within our reach*. We'd better think more about difficulties and setbacks.

Robert: You're right there, Hantong. Just as the proverb goes, "*No pains, no gains*", we can't achieve our goals without painstaking efforts. So we have no reason to *sell* those unexpected problems short in our future career.

Wang: We shall never *back away from* any danger or hardship in our life if we do want to test our will or verify our ability.

Robert: *That's for sure*. For new comers like us, we must *face up to* our challenges or responsibilities and never try to *get out of* them. And there are lots of difficulties to *get over*.

Wang: Yeah, especially when we *bone up on* some courses in our study.

Robert: Also we have to learn how to *get used to* our new environment, and how to *adapt ourselves to* new cultures and customs.

Wang: And there're so many occasions for feeling *mixed up* about *which way to turn*, for example, can you remember the day when we

landed at the airport, I was suddenly gripped by the feeling of homesickness and burst into tears, Gary?

Robert: Yes, I can. I understood your mixed feelings. But your homesickness will *pass off* once we really *fall in love with* this country. I *look up to* those who make their homes wherever they are.

Wang: We've been *shown around* this city these days, it *has grown on* me.

Robert: I share the same feeling with you, Hantong. I'm sure our patience, hard work and resource can *bring us through* all the difficulties and hardship.

Wang: *In that case, little by little, we'll draw ahead.*

Notes for Section A

1. get used to: have learnt to accept sth; be accustomed to (some environment or condition) 适应或习惯于(某种环境或条件)

e. g. You won't mind the long hours once you get used to them.

一旦你习惯了,你就不会介意这样长的时间了。

2. by air: in an airplane; by airplane; via airplane 乘飞机

e. g. They went to Houston by air last weekend.

上周末他们飞往休斯顿。

3. tired out: very fatigued; exhausted; overtired 精疲力竭

e. g. Little children are all tired out from working all day at school.

在学校学习一整天后,小孩子们都精疲力竭。

4. carry away / be carried away: cause (sb) to lose self-control or be very excited 使(某人)失去自制力或非常兴奋

e. g. The music carried her away.

这音乐使她入迷。

She tends to get a bit carried away when she is dancing.
她跳舞时往往兴奋异常。

5. make out: get along; succeed; manage(sth)

进展; 成功; 设法应对(某事)

e. g. We'll make out, despite all these troubles.

尽管有这么多麻烦, 我们还是会设法应对过去的。

6. count on one's cards: anticipate success under the circumstances

期盼成功

e. g. Despite the worsening situation, the troops plunged on and counted on their cards by breaking the enemy's blockades again and again.

尽管局势恶化, 部队仍继续挺进, 不断突破敌人的封锁线, 力争胜利。

7. that is not to say(that): that(i. e. a previous statement) does not mean (that)... 那(指先前的陈述)并不是说……; 那并不意味着……

e. g. We've achieved a lot economically. That is not to say, of course, that we can waste our limited natural resources and become extravagant.

我们在经济方面取得了很大的成就。当然, 这并不意味着我们就可以浪费自己有限的自然资源, 就可以挥霍和浪费了。

8. within one's reach: attainable to(sb); within one's capability, authority, effectiveness etc

可以被(某人)得到; 在(某人)的能力, 权力, 影响等所及范围内

e. g. Education was not within his reach then.

那时他读不起书。

9. no pains, no gains: nothing can be gained without taking trouble
不付出努力就无收获; 不劳则无获

e. g. You haven't worked hard, that's why you have failed the exam. No pains, no gains.

你学习不努力,这就是你考试不及格的原因。不劳则无获。

10. sell short; underestimate (sb or sth) 低估(某人或某物)

e. g. When you say Frank is inefficient, I think you're selling him short.

你说弗兰克无能,我想你是低估了他。

11. back away (from): retreat from (sb or sth out of fear or dislike)

(因恐惧或厌恶)躲开; 从(某人/某物)处后退

e. g. The child backed away from the big dog.

那小孩向后退,躲开那条大狗。

12. that is for sure/certain: you can be sure of that; that's true; certainly
那是毫无疑问的; 那是肯定的

e. g. I know one person who won't be happy with the decision, that's for sure.

我知道有一个人会对这个决定感到不开心,这一点可以肯定。

13. face up to: accept or deal with something unpleasant or difficult
courageously 勇于接受; 敢于面对; 敢于承担

e. g. His situation was desperate, but he faced up to it bravely.

他的处境极为困难,但他仍勇敢地面对。

14. get out of: (help sb to) avoid (sth or doing sth)

(帮助某人)逃避,摆脱或避免做某事

e. g. I wish I could get out of that party.

但愿我能不去参加那个聚会。

15. get over: overcome; surmount or master (sth)

克服; 战胜; 掌控(某事)

e. g. The singer had to learn how to get over her stage fright before audience.

这位歌手得学会如何在观众面前克服怯场的毛病。

16. bone up on: make a close study of (sth)

刻苦学习; 对……下苦功

e. g. She has been boning up on American history.

她一直在刻苦攻读美国历史。

17. adapt (oneself) to: change one's behavior and attitude to suit

使(自己)适应于……; 改变(自己的)行为和态度以适应于……

e. g. He doesn't think he can adapt himself to the wet weather in early summer in the south.

他认为自己难以适应南方初夏的潮湿气候。

18. mixed up: confused; perplexed; confounded

困惑的; 糊涂的; 头脑混乱的

e. g. I get all mixed up over the money whenever I travel abroad.

每当我出国旅行,我对理财方面的事务全然稀里糊涂。

19. which way to turn: which choice to make; what to do; what to decide 作何选择,作何决定

e. g. He didn't know which way to turn after losing this opportunity of lifetime.

在失去这一千载难逢的机会之后,他不知道该作何选择。