



Talk about China in English

无论是工作生活、社交应酬，还是娱乐休闲，你都要会

用英语介绍中国

高黎 崔喜哲 等编著



京剧、国宝、故宫、川菜、春节……
这些中华民族的瑰宝，你该如何向老外介绍？
用洋文说中国，展现最出色的沟通能力和别样的中华文明！



中国水利水电出版社
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内容提要

外宾面前,你能否用一口流利的英文介绍自己的国家?走出国门,你是否能够让更多的外国人了解中国灿烂悠久的历史?本书向读者精选了最经典的中国城市文化、人文历史、风景名胜、国宝美食、民俗国粹等内容,能够让读者在短时间内掌握各种中国元素的英文说法,最终实现轻松向老外介绍中国的目标,在国际交流中一展出色的沟通能力!

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使用说明

User's Guide

Geographic Position (地理位置)

中华人民共和国简称中国。它位于北半球，在全球最大的大陆——东部和全球最大的海洋——太平洋的西岸，西南面距印度洋不远。

10大方面，100余主题

本书共100多个文化主题，详细展示中华民族的各个方面。

1 中国地理位置常识介绍

The People's Republic of China is located in the center of the western Pacific rim. It is a vast land, covering 9.6 approximately seventeen times the size of France, 1 million of Europe, and 600,000 square kilometers smaller than Oceania.

有关中国常识的地道英语表达

这些有关中国常识的英语，让你在拓展知识面的同时，在国际交流中，一展出色的沟通力。

2 与地理位置有关的术语

用英语介绍中国的必备术语

多学习一些与此文化主题相关的术语，让你在用英语介绍中国时更加得心应手。

1. 可能会用到的词汇、短语及相关知识
across, border, continent, face (v), landmark, lie, locate, locate, r
描述方位的用语: in, on, between, in the middle of, or

3 让我们谈谈中国的地理位置

Ann: Guess! Guess! Guess! What is your gift?

安妮：猜，猜，猜，我

Lily: It's a book, right?

莉莉：一本书，对吗？

与主题相关的精彩对话

对话场景全真模拟，找对话题，让交流更加自然与深入。

扩充词汇量

再多储备一些实用单词，让你的英语力更上一层楼。

4 再多学点单词吧！

★ continent n. 大陆，陆地

Africa is a continent.
非洲是个大陆。

★ inhabitant n. 居民，居住者

The inhabitants of this island are very friendly.
这个岛上的居民很友善。

Preface

前言

内知国情，外知世界，在国际交流中挥洒自如，在世界舞台上展示自我。

学了十几年英语的我们，一碰上老外多半会面临这样的尴尬：寒暄客套之后就无话可说！也难怪老外常说我们中国人捉摸不透，其实多半得怨语言这层窗户纸。因此，要想在国际交流中如鱼得水，就得修炼出用英语高谈阔论的功夫。

在国际交流场合，个人所代表的民族文化是最显著的身份标志。作为一名中国人，用流利的英语谈论一些中国文化中有意思的话题，无疑是展示个性魅力的最佳手段。试想，当你用一口流利的英语将中外文化做番比较，或者将孙悟空和哈利波特PK一番，你的国际形象是否会提升许多呢？为此，我们编写了本书，本书有以下特点：

首先，100多个话题让你自如选择。为切合外国人对中国文化的兴趣点，《用英语介绍中国》的主题参照了近年来欧美媒体对中国的报道，分为中国概况、人文历史、魅力城市、风景名胜、文化掠影、风土人情、缤纷国粹、瑰丽国宝、美食天下、民俗节日十大板块。作者还特别关注那些令西方人不解的中国文化习俗，平和而不乏诙谐地将疑惑一一化解。本书以轻松的形式将中国文化的方方面面娓娓道来，以真诚、坦荡的笔触将中国的特色元素逐个梳理。

其二，生动的语言让你表达得体。每个话题均设有情景会话，语言秉承生动、简洁、有效的原则，生词、难词很少见，而英美人士间耳熟能详的固定表达却很丰富。这样的语言让谈话者看上去有修养、不做作，也便于学习者模仿记忆，并迅速运用到实际交流中。

其三，灵活的模块设计让你自主学习。此书的学习功能将与一般的赏析类英语读物区别开来，无论是用于课堂教学还是自学，都具有相当大的伸展度和灵活性。

在外国人的眼里，中国是一个神奇的国度。中国的风土人情、文化历史都是那么地吸引世界人民的眼球。随着中国对外开放程度的日益加深，已经有越来越多的外国人来到中国旅游或者生活。那么，作为一个国际化国度里的公民，要向外国友人展示我们中华文化的博大精深之处，就需要我们能用英语很好地表达出祖国各方面的特色。本书正是一本学习英语，了解中国文化，从而帮助你能够熟练地用英语向外国人介绍中国的手册。

参与本书编写的人员有廖桂冬、沈琳、李金鑫、沈春杰、宋晓冬、胡庆、李月英、李璟瑜、杨永铎、董立新、王迪、幕鹏鹏、周彦冰、龙巍坚、肖冉等，在此一并致谢。

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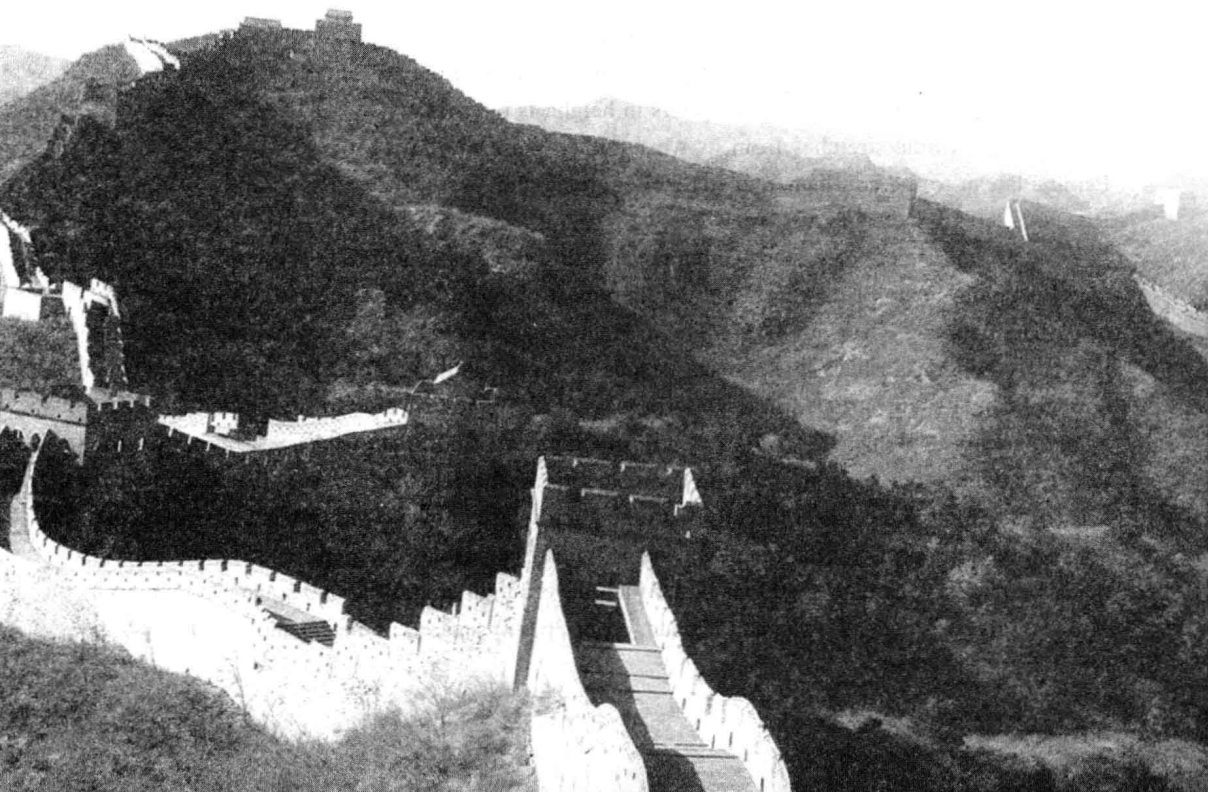
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Chapter 1

The Geographic, Climatic and Political
Conditions of China (**中国概况**)



Geographic Position (地理位置)

中华人民共和国简称中国。它位于北半球，在全球最大的大陆——欧亚大陆的东部和全球最大的海洋——太平洋的西岸，西南面距印度洋不远。

中国幅员辽阔，陆地总面积约为960万平方公里，约占全球陆地面积的1/15，亚洲面积的1/4。在世界各国中，中国的面积仅次于俄罗斯和加拿大，居第3位。

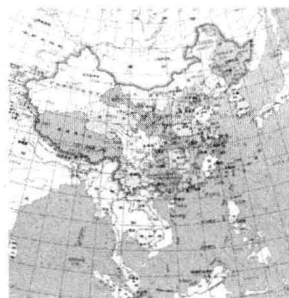
身为中国人的你可能对祖国的地理位置并不陌生，但是你知道怎么用英语来介绍自己祖国的位置吗？那么就来看下面的介绍吧。

1

中国地理位置常识介绍

The People's Republic of China is located in the eastern part of the Asian continent, on the western Pacific rim. It is a vast land, covering 9.6 million square kilometers. China is approximately seventeen times the size of France, 1 million square kilometers smaller than all of Europe, and 600,000 square kilometers smaller than Oceania (Australia, New Zealand, and the islands of the south and central Pacific). Additional offshore territory, including territorial waters, special economic areas, and the continental shelf, totals over 3 million square kilometers, bringing China's overall territory to almost 13 million square kilometers.

Western China's Himalayan Mountains are often referred to as the roof of the world. Mount Qomolangma (known to the West as Mount Everest), over 8,800 meters in height, is the roof's highest peak. China stretches from its westernmost point on the Pamir Plateau to the confluence of the Heilongjiang and Wusuli Rivers, 5,200 kilometers to the east.



When inhabitants of eastern China are greeting the dawn, people in western China still face four more hours of darkness. The northernmost point in China is located at the midpoint of the-Heilongjiang River, north of Mohe in Heilongjiang Province. The southernmost point is located at Zengmu'ansha in the Nansha Islands, approximately 5,500 kilometers away. When northern China is still gripped in a world of ice and snow, flowers are already blooming in the balmy south. The Bohai Sea, Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea border China to the east and south, together forming a vast maritime area. The Yellow Sea, East China Sea, and South China Sea connect directly with the Pacific Ocean, while the Bohai Sea, embraced between the two "arms" of the Liaodong and Shandong peninsulas, forms an inland sea. China's maritime territory includes 5,400 islands, which have a total area of 80,000 square kilometers. The two largest islands, Taiwan and Hainan, cover 36,000 square kilometers and 34,000 square kilometers respectively.

From north to south, China's ocean straits consist of the Bohai, Taiwan, Bashi, and Qiongzhou Straits. China possesses 20,000 kilometers of land border, plus 18,000 kilometers of coastline. Setting out from any point on China's border and making a complete circuit back to the starting point, the distance traveled would be equivalent to circling the globe at the equator.

2

与地理位置有关的术语

1. 可能会用到的词汇、短语及相关知识

across, border, continent, face (v), landmark, lie, locate, mountain range, situate

描述方位的用语: in, on, between, in the middle of, on the coast of, off the coast of, on the left, on the right, in front of, behind, near, next to, opposite, above, below, in the south of, to the east of

2. 以 east 为例, 方位表示方法如下

(1) in the east 表示我们生活中和地理位置上的绝对方向, 如 The sun rises in the east and sets in the west.

(2) on the east 表示某事物位于另一事物所朝的方向, 这里的方向指相对, 如 China faces the Pacific on the east.

(3) in/on/at the east of

- ◆ A在B范围之内, 要表示A在B的东部, 用 A is in the east of B.
- ◆ A在B范围之外, 要表示A在B的东方, 用 A lies to the east of B.
- ◆ A与B相接, 要表示A在B的东侧, 用 A is on the east of B.
- ◆ 如果把方位词看作一个整体, 或者看成一个地点, 就用 A is at the east of B, 如: There was a big battle at the north of the Liaodong Peninsula. 在辽东半岛的北边有一场大战。
- ◆ 如果表示A位于B东面100公里处, 既可以说 A lies 100km to the east of B, 也可以说 A lies 100km east of B.

(4) 要表示方位“偏向”通常用by, 如正南偏东: south by east.

3

让我们谈谈中国的地理位置

Ann: Guess! Guess! Guess! What is your gift?	安妮: 猜, 猜, 猜, 我给你带来了什么?
Lily: It's a book, right?	莉莉: 一本书, 对吗?
Ann: Absolutely right, but do you know what kind it is? It's a magazine.	安妮: 完全正确, 但你知道是什么类型的吗? 是本杂志。
Lily: Oh, my god, it's National Geographic. I love it so much. Thank you.	莉莉: 哦, 天啊, 是《国家地理》, 我太爱它了, 谢谢。

Ann: Before the party begins, you can read it in advance.	安妮: 在派对开始之前, 你可以先看看。
Lily: Fine. It's an old one. This book is about Tibet and it was put out very early.	莉莉: 好的, 这是旧的, 这本书是关于西藏的, 很早就出版了。
Ann: Because I know you like to read and collect it, so I asked some senior friends whether someone had National Geographic.	安妮: 因为我知道你喜欢读, 喜欢收集, 所以我问了一些年长一点的朋友是否有《国家地理》。
Lily: Who was the owner of this magazine?	莉莉: 这是谁的呢?
Ann: Do you remember the old man we both know near the town? The other day I went to visit him and mentioned that I was looking for an old NG.	安妮: 你是否还记得我们都认识的在镇上的那个老爷爷? 那天我去拜访他, 提到了正在找一本旧的《国家地理》。
Lily: So he gave this one to you. Great. I can know more about China.	莉莉: 所以他就给你这本了。太好了, 我可以知道更多中国的事情。
Ann: OK, since you are so interested in China, tell me something about Geographic Position of China.	安妮: 好吧, 既然你对中国那么感兴趣, 那你告诉我一些中国地理位置的东西吧。
Lily: It is a vast land, covering 9.6 million square kilometers. China is approximately seventeen times the size of France, 1 million square kilometers smaller than all of Europe.	莉莉: 中国地域广阔, 面积有960万平方公里, 大概是法国的17倍, 只比整个欧洲小一百万平方公里。
Ann: You are amazing and remember every number.	安妮: 你太厉害了, 你还记得那么多数字。
Lily: Hey, remember I am quite interested in it. If you have any question about China's geographic position, I am just the walking dictionary.	莉莉: 嘿, 记住了, 我对这些很感兴趣。如果你有任何关于中国地理位置的问题, 我就是个活字典。
Ann: OK, OK, somebody is boasting herself.	安妮: 好啦, 好啦, 有人在自吹自擂啦。

4

再多学点单词吧!

★continent n.大陆, 陆地

Africa is a continent.

非洲是个大陆。

★inhabitant n.居民, 居住者

The inhabitants of this island are very friendly.

这个岛上的居民很友善。

★territory n.领土, 版图, 领域

The war was carried into enemy territory.

战争已伸展到敌方领土。



Terrain and Topography (地形地势)

我国地形复杂多样，山区面积广大。山区是指山地、丘陵和比较崎岖的高原的总称。我国山区面积占全国总面积的2/3，平原面积仅占10%多一点。除此以外，还有广阔的高原、盆地等，地形种类齐全，地质构造复杂。

地势西高东低，呈三级阶梯状分布。第一级阶梯——我国西南部的青藏高原，平均海拔4,000米以上，号称“世界屋脊”。第二级阶梯——青藏高原向东、向北到大兴安岭、太行山、巫山、雪峰山一线，主要由盆地、高原组成，海拔在1,000~2,000米之间；第三级阶梯——位于我国东部，主要由平原和丘陵组成，大部分地区海拔在500米以上。第三级阶梯向东，是我国大陆向海洋自然延伸的部分，是属于我国的近海大陆架，它包括渤海、黄海的全部，东海的大部分和南海的一部分。

1 中国地形地势常识介绍

China's topography is varied and complicated, with towering mountains, basins of different sizes, undulating plateaus and hills, and flat and fertile plains.

A bird's eye view of China would indicate that China's terrain descends in four steps from west to east.

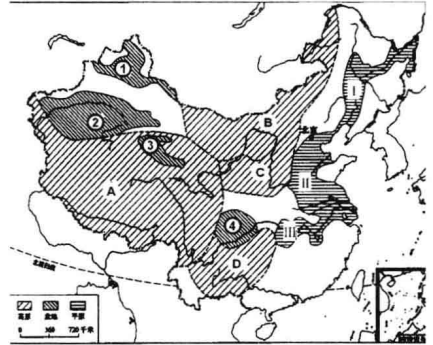
The top of this four-step "staircase" is the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau. Averaging more than 4,000m above sea level, it is often called the "roof of the world." Rising 8,848m above sea level is Mt. Qomolangma, the world's highest peak and the main peak of the Himalayas.

The second step includes the Inner Mongolia, Loess and Yunnan-Guizhou plateaus, and the Tarim, Junggar and Sichuan basins, with an average elevation of between 1,000 m and 2,000 m.

The third step, about 500 - 1,000 m in elevation, begins at a line drawn around the Greater Hinggan, Taihang, Wushan and Xuefeng mountain ranges and extends eastward to the coast. Here, from north to south are the Northeast Plain, the North China Plain and the Middle-Lower Yangtze Plain. Interspersed amongst the plains are hills and foothills.

To the east, the land extends out into the ocean, in a continental shelf, the fourth step of the staircase. The water here is less than 200 m deep.

China abounds in rivers. More than 1,500 rivers each drain 1,000 sq km or larger areas. More than 2,700 billion cu.m. of water flow along these rivers, 5.8 percent of the world's total. Most of the large rivers find their source in the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau, and as a result China is rich in waterpower resources, leading the world in hydropower potential, with reserves of 680



million kw.

2

与中国地形地势有关的术语

1. 地形相关名词翻译

平原	plain
低地	lowland
高地	highland
丘陵	hill
山	mountain
山脉	mountain range, mountain chain
岭	range, ridge
峰	peak, mount
山麓	piedmont
半岛	peninsula
岛屿	island
群岛	archipelago
海峡	strait
地峡	isthmus
盆地	basin

山间盆地	intermountain basin
山峰	mountain peak
崖	cliff, scarp
山麓平原	piedmont plain
高原	plateau
峡谷	gorge, canyon
谷	valley

2. 地势相关名词翻译

第一阶梯	the first step
第二阶梯	the second step
第三阶梯	the third step
海拔[高度], 又称“绝对高度”	altitude, height above sea level
相对高度, 又称“比高”	relative height
青藏高原	Qinghai-Tibet Plateau
云贵高原	Yunnan-Guizhou plateaus

3

让我们谈谈中国地形地势

Cathy: What are you doing?	凯西: 你在做什么?
Jack: I'm just looking at this map of China. I'm preparing for a geography class.	杰克: 我在看中国地图。我正在为地理课做准备。
Cathy: There are no provinces marked on the map.	凯西: 地图上没有标记省份。
Jack: No, there aren't. This map just shows the geographical features. Look at the Himalayan Plateau with the highest peaks in the world.	杰克: 对, 没标。这张地图只显示地理特征。来看看世界第一高峰喜马拉雅山脉。
Cathy: It is the highest mountain in China and in the world. It is just so amazing.	凯西: 它不仅是中国最高的山而且是世界上最高的山, 简直太神奇了。
Jack: I find it incredible how millions of years of volcanic activity have created mountains thousands of meters tall.	杰克: 几百万年前地球上的火山活动创造出几千米高的山, 这真是太不可思议了。

Cathy: Rivers have created deep valleys and canyons.	凯西: 河流冲刷形成了峡谷。
Jack: Hey, don't you think the terrain and topography of China is very interesting? Look, there are three staircases of its terrain.	杰克: 嘿, 你不觉得中国的地形地势非常有趣吗? 看, 它的地形有三级阶梯。
Cathy: Yes, I see, the first "staircase" is the Qinghai-Tibet Plateau.	凯西: 是的, 我看见了, 第一节阶梯是青藏高原。
Jack: It is interesting. Look, here is the Middle-Lower Yangtze Plain.	杰克: 很有趣, 看, 这里是长江中下游平原。
Cathy: Yeah, it is all so interesting. I'll have to find more information about it on the Internet. Or perhaps I should try and attend your geography class.	凯西: 是的啊, 全部都很有趣。我要去上网搜搜更多相关的信息。也许我应该去听听你们的地理课。
Jack: I will warmly welcome you. Hey, I will have a presentation about it this class. You can really come and I will be more confident if you are there.	杰克: 我会热情欢迎你的。嘿, 我这堂课有个展示, 如果你能在那里, 我会更加自信的。
Cathy: OK, I will come. Anyway, it is also a good chance to learn more about China's terrain and topography. I won't miss it.	凯西: 好的, 我会去的, 不管怎样, 这可是一个能够知道更多中国地形地势的好机会, 我可是不会错过的。

4

再多学点单词吧!

★ **fertile** adj. 富饶的, 肥沃的; 能生育的

Fertile lands in some states could be mistaken for lakes.

有些州肥沃的土地可能会被误当作湖泊。

★ **elevation** n. 高地; 海拔; 提高; 崇高; 正面图

The third coordinate is elevation.

第三项坐标是高地。

★ **drain** vt. 喝光, 耗尽; 使流出; 排掉水

If we re-route the emergency generators, we could drain a stairway.

如果能够启动紧急发电机的话, 可以抽干楼梯的水。

★ **hydropower** n. 水力发出的电力; 水利发电

China has abundant hydropower resources.

水电资源充裕。

Climate of China (气候)

中国季风性气候十分显著，大半个中国都受季风性气候影响。

主要有温带季风性气候、亚热带季风性气候，还有海南、云南西双版纳等部分地区受热带季风性气候影响。

另外，中国的西北地区由于处在内陆，属于温带大陆性气候，冬冷夏热，降水少。而西南地区是高原山地气候。以秦岭—淮河为界，以北为温带季风气候，夏季高温多雨，冬季寒冷干燥；以南为亚热带季风气候，夏季高温多雨，冬季低温少雨。

1

中国的气候常识介绍

China has a marked continental monsoonal climate characterized by great variety. Northerly winds prevail in winter, while southerly winds reign in summer. The four seasons are quite distinct. The rainy season coincides with the hot season.

From September to April the following year, the dry and cold winter monsoons from Siberia and Mongolia in the north gradually become weak as they reach the southern part of the country, resulting in cold and dry winters and great differences in temperature. The cold summer monsoons last from April to September.

The warm and moist summer monsoons from the oceans bring abundant rainfall and high temperatures, with little difference in temperature between the south and the north. China's complex and varied climate results in a great variety of temperature belts, and dry and moist zones.

In terms of temperature, the nation can be divided from the south to the north into equatorial, tropical, sub-tropical, warm-temperate, temperate, and cold-temperate zones; in terms of moisture, it can be divided from southeast to northwest into humid (32 percent of land area), semi-humid (15 percent), semi-arid (22 percent) and arid zones (31 percent).



2

与中国的气候有关的术语

1. 主要的气候种类

热带雨林气候

tropical wet climate

热带草原气候

savanna climate

热带沙漠气候

tropical desert climate