

A Book for English Students and the English Classroom



It's Time for Real English

英语口语与文化

North America

北美篇

(中) 张民和
(加) Andrew Best 编著
(加) Michael Voth



You'll learn about

- North American Culture and Language through Interesting Readings
- Student Life in North America
- Hundreds of Modern Slang and Idioms Commonly Used in North America



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

A Book for English Students and the English Classroom

It's Time for Real English

英语口语与文化

North America

• 北美篇 •



机械工业出版社
CHINA MACHINE PRESS

本课程是作者在经过慎重而周密的考虑后,结合目前国内各大院校总体的英语水平和英语教学的实际情况而决定开设的一门独特且富有生趣的课程。

本书以介绍北美文化为主,选材新颖,内容丰富,体例生动,全彩印刷。本书不但是—本形式活泼的教材,更是广大英语学习爱好者在培养英语听说能力、了解北美文化的一本极佳的参考书。

另外,本书配有 MP3 光盘,由标准美音的四位外籍教师全文朗诵。

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

英语口语与文化·北美篇/张民和等编著.—北京:机械工业出版社,2004.8
ISBN 7-111-15103-8

I. 英… II. 张… III. ①英语—口语②英语—文化语言学 IV. H31

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2004) 第 083112 号

机械工业出版社 (北京市百万庄大街 22 号 邮政编码 100037)
责任编辑:余红 版式设计:张世琴 责任印制:李妍
北京机工印刷厂印刷·新华书店北京发行所发行
2005 年 2 月第 1 版·第 2 次印刷
880mm×1230mm A4·14.25 印张·412 千字
6 001—10 000 册
定价:50.00 元

凡购本书,如有缺页、倒页、脱页,由本社发行部调换
本社购书热线电话 (010) 68993821、88379646
68326294、68320718

封面防伪标均为盗版

序

《庄子·秋水》里有这样一个故事：战国时代，有个燕国人来到了赵国都城邯郸。他看到那里的人走路的姿势很优美，就跟着人家学。跟着一个人学了一阵以后，他发现另一个人的姿势更美，于是便又跟着另一个人学。结果，学来学去，不但别人的走法一个没学会，反而连自己原来的走法也给忘掉了。最后，只好爬了回去。这个故事本来旨在讽刺那些缺乏自信，一味模仿他人的人，不但模仿不成，反而把自己本来的东西都丧失了。今天，用这个故事来形容我国英语教育的现状，的确再合适不过了。

谈及我国的英语教育，其投入，其制度，其手段，其过程，虽则不足为世界之最，但均足以位列前茅。论投入，无论是中央政府还是地方财政，无论是教育管理部门还是各类院校，无论是学生家长还是学生自己，每年都在英语教育、教学、学习方面花费大量的财力、物力、时间和精力。从整洁优雅的校园到装备先进的教室，无一不标示着政府和全社会对英语教育的密切关注和慷慨解囊；从校门前潮水般家长焦灼期待的目光到荧光灯下学子们疲惫的神色，无一不折射出家庭和学生对英语学习的巨大付出。论制度，TOEFL、EPT、GRE、雅思、中考、高考、考研、晋职、公务员，以及英语专业四、八级和非英语专业四、六级考试等，门类齐全，规则森严。每种考试参加人数之多、动用机构之广、所花费用之大、对考生影响之深，都是史无前例的。论手段，教育主管部门及广大教师殚精竭虑、煞费苦心，从传统的语法、词汇教学到交际法，从功能教学法到新课标，几乎季季有新法，年年用新书，教师不堪其烦，家长不堪其忧，学生不堪其累。论过程，从小学到中学，从英语专业到非英语专业，从硕士生教育到博士生教育，教师苦口婆心地教，学生不厌其烦地学，一次次地循环，一遍遍地往复，但英语的迷宫总是那样渊深，那样令人无奈。我们虽然对英语如此不惜热情、不计成本、不乏聪敏、不少睿智，但英语却并未因此对我们稍多眷顾，它依然神秘遥远、陌生，这个中原因究竟是什么？

原因有三。其一，东西方文化不同。母体语言背景不同使得英语教学很容易产生功利主义思想，从而会导致教育目标和教学过程的失衡。其二，本末倒置的教学评价观念。任何一个有教育常识的人都知道：英语教育的目的是培养学生用英语进行交际的基本技巧，无论是讲授英语语言知识，还是进行各种交际技能的训练，都是实现教育目的的手段。然而，国内的各种测试，诸如：中考、高考、四（六）级考试、专业四（八）级考试、研究生考试、职称考试、公务员考试等无一不是任意抽取的一组英语语言知识作为最终评价标准。这样的评价理念必然反过来影响到教学的实现过程。其结果，英语教育在很大程度上演变成测试训练过程，而英语教育的真正目的则被边缘化。其三，英语学习过程被简单化。我国英语教学长期以来一直沿袭祖国语言的传统教授模式——识字教学。这种教法忽视了两个基本事实：第一，汉语的识字教学是在学生的语言思维已发育成熟、语言交际能力已基本形成的前提下才开始的，而我国学习英语的学生根本不具备这两个先决条件。第二，英语是一门外国语，维系并支持其运行的是英国及其他英语国家的文化、传统、习俗、生活方式、思维方式等，脱离了后者，英语便失去了其赖以存在的文化本体，变成毫无意义的空壳。因此，片面传授英语语言知识，势必把英语变成僵死的教条，教者苦，学者更苦。而且，这千苦万苦换来的还不是正果，而是令人难以下咽的苦果。

近年来，随着英语教学研究的深入发展，英语教育界进行了极富有成果的探索，达成了前所未有的共识：首先，语言是文化的产物，也是文化的载体。因此，脱离文化而单纯学习语言的路子是走不通的。再之，语言交际能力的培养是一个由生理到心理、由心理到思维、由思维到行为、由个体到群体、再由群体到全社会的系统工程，所以，单纯学习语言知识是无法启动这个系统工程进入工作状态的。正因为有以上共识，教育部于数年前出台了中学英语教学新大纲，明确提出了要教“真正的英语”（Real

English) 的号召。这是一个划时代的号召, 一个正本清源、重整旗鼓的行动。新大纲颁布以来, 英语教育界同仁进行了, 并继续进行着富有建设性的探讨。广大英语教师在英语教法方面的大胆实践和摸索也令人称道。然而, 到目前为止, 什么是“真正的英语”? 怎样才能不走样地让学生学会“真正的英语”? 仍然是一片亟待开发的处女地。

张民和等编著的系列英语学习丛书《英语口语与文化》(It's Time for Real English) 在这块处女地上竖起了第一面拓荒的大旗。该系列丛书介绍美国、加拿大、英国、澳大利亚、新西兰及爱尔兰等英语国家的日常生活文化及年轻人所关注的日常话题, 并通过灵活多样、生动活泼的操作方式, 把学习者融入到生活的实际情景之中, 使其在逼真的生活实践中, 体味英语的真实用途, 借以激活学习者记忆中的词语、语法, 把学习者变成使用者。通过这种方式, 不仅可以丰富学习者的英语文化知识, 更重要的是, 它补上了语言知识转化为语言交际能力过程中一度缺失的链条, 使学习者在近似生活实际的学习和使用英语的过程中, 养成习惯, 培植行为, 最终可以用“真正的英语”进行流利的交流和交往, 成为一个名副其实的英语使用者。

此外, 本书取材新颖、语言时尚、内容丰富, 每课均介绍一定数量国外新近流行的俚语, 且附有标准发音光盘。实为英语教师和英语学习者一本难得的好书。

我和张民和先生素有交往, 受其之邀, 谨奉以上之言, 是为序。

陕西师范大学
侯玉海 教授
2005年1月

Introduction

This book was specially designed to help Chinese students learn English, to learn about culture and what young people enjoy and concern in the countries of the United States and Canada. Most Chinese students have trouble speaking, listening, and being comfortable with native English speakers, their culture and what young people enjoy and concern. This book can help with the problems that Chinese students have by providing simplified stories and articles, mostly about cultural issues of the United States and Canada. Our idea for this book was to encourage students to activate the words they have already memorized in their minds and to use them in everyday English and also encourage learners to use simple words in explanation for complicated meanings, for the purpose of creating a new way for Chinese students to use English as a real tool for international communication.

These chapters are geared towards individual learning as well as classroom lesson planning. The questions and activities at the end of each lesson will be useful to promote oral English practice. Within the thirty one lessons in this book, there are stories and articles which will provide a lot of information such as student life, history, what young people enjoy and concern, festivals, dances, music, western education, introduction to famous cities, universities and tourist attractions, famous stories and famous people of the United States and Canada. These materials will greatly interest each student looking for western cultural knowledge. The sections contain many modern idioms and slang expressions that are used on an everyday basis. To aid in the comprehension of each story, a lot of pictures are used as well as a vocabulary section is included on each page. The questions and activities are designed to encourage thinking and reasoning, thus improving speaking.

The authors of this book are a Chinese English teacher Mr. Zhang Minhe and two Canadian men, Andrew Best and Michael Voth. All of the authors are experienced in teaching English and promoting student thinking and speaking. We are all very excited to help the students around China to learn to speak real English. We hope that this book is of value to everyone interested in learning English and information about the United States and Canada.

Finally, we encourage everyone to have fun reading the lessons and practicing their English.

Chief Compiler: Zhang Minhe

Table of Contents

序

Introduction

- Lesson 1** **University Student Life in North America p. 3**
- Lesson 2** **Columbia Space Shuttle Tragedy p. 7**
- Lesson 3** **Picture Perfect p. 9**
- Lesson 4** **New Year's Traditions p. 13**
- Lesson 5** **Shyness p. 17**
- Lesson 6** **Michael Jordan and Emotional Intelligence p. 21**
- Lesson 7** **An Interview with a TV Star p. 27**
- Lesson 8** **Do You Follow Your Head or Your Heart? p. 31**
- Lesson 9** **Advertising p. 35**
- Lesson 10** **Money p. 39**
- Lesson 11** **Get That Job p. 43**
- Lesson 12** **Questions and Answers p. 47**
- Lesson 13** **Intercultural Couples p. 51**
- Lesson 14** **The Legend of St. Patrick and St. Patrick's Day p. 55**
- Lesson 15** **Peer and Cultural Influence p. 59**
- Lesson 16** **Smoking p. 65**
- Lesson 17** **Riddles p. 69**
- Lesson 18** **Health and Fitness p. 73**
- Lesson 19** **Anxiety and Depression p. 77**
- Lesson 20** **The Touching Stories p. 81**
- Lesson 21** **An Interview with NBA Basketball Star Yao Ming p. 99**
- Lesson 22** **World Records p. 107**
- Lesson 23** **The Legend of Count Dracula p. 115**
- Lesson 24** **Introduction of Constellations p. 119**
- Lesson 25** **QUIZ: Animal Instincts p. 127**
- Lesson 26** **Ghost Stories p. 131**
- Lesson 27** **An Interview with Environmental Activist David Suzuki p. 141**
- Lesson 28** **The Life of Martin Luther King Jr. pg. 149**
- Lesson 29** **Murder Mysteries p. 157**
- Lesson 30** **Popular Western Music pg. 171**
- Lesson 31** **Radio Broadcasts pg. 201**



LESSON 1

University Student Life in North America (short article)

This is a short article about the life of college and university students in North America. You can find out what students do in their free time, and learn some new idioms and slang expressions that students may use.

University Student Life

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Answer the questions
- Do the activities

What will I learn?

- ◆ What it is like to be a university student in North America
- ◆ New vocabulary and idioms

UNIVERSITY STUDENT LIFE

For many Westerners, going to university is a very exciting time in life. Most people choose to go to a university that is away from home. Most students choose to live away from home even if they go to a university that is close to their parents' house. This is usually the first time that young people live away from their parents, and begin their adult lives.

Most parents consider their child *leaving the nest* for university to be a good thing. They believe it gives the student an opportunity to face many new experiences without the help of their parents. Most Westerners have the opinion that a good university education needs a balance of hard studying, doing extra-curricular activities, and doing some fun social things such as going dancing with friends.

Often students find a romantic love. It is common to see two lovers *hand in hand* as they walk down the street. Parents in the West usually do not mind if their child has found a romantic love. Generally, universities also do not mind if students date.

In the first year of university, students usually live in residence where they meet people. Most residence rooms are double rooms where two students share one room. Sometimes students can get single rooms if they are lucky. In the later years, it is common for a student to move into a *student house* with some of his or her friends. In these houses, each student has their own bedroom, but usually share a bathroom, kitchen, and living room with other students. It is getting more and more common to have girls and boys living in the same house.

VOCABULARY

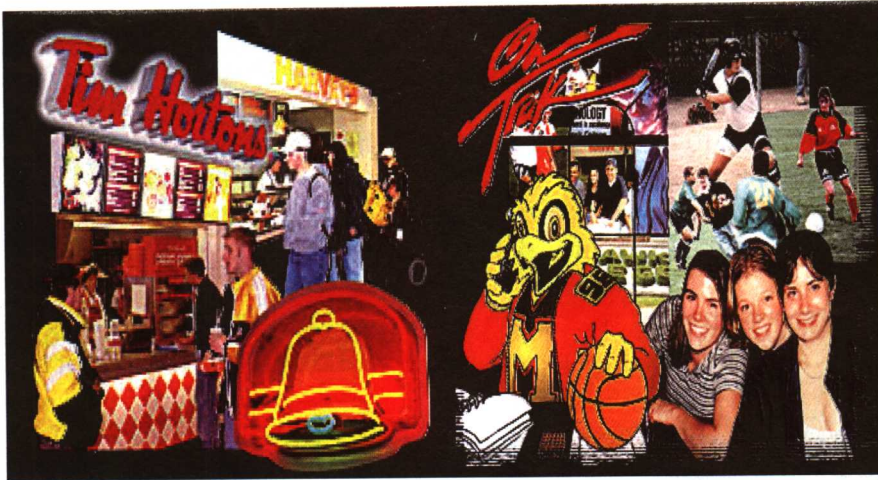
leaving the nest - children moving out of their parent's house

hand in hand - two people holding hands

residence - an on-campus dormitory, where students live on campus

student house - a house that is close to the campus but not on the campus, and gets rented out to students for them to live in





In the West, universities have many *extra-curricular* activities that the student can choose from. Students can play many different sports. They can play *pick up*, *intramural*, or *varsity sports*. Sometimes *intramural* sports are *co-ed*. If sports are *not your thing*, then you can do photography, art, drama, or many other things.

Some students do not like to participate in these extra-curricular activities that are offered by the school. The good news is that there are a variety of other ways to spend your time away from studying. Many students like to do social things such as going to *clubs* to find a romance. Some students just like to go to clubs to drink alcohol and dance. Many boys like to drink beer. Although surprising to many cultures, many Western girls like to drink alcohol as well. Many girls like to drink “*girlie*” drinks. Of course, some boys like to drink “*girlie*” drinks and some girls like to drink beer. After a hard week at school, the weekend is usually the time that people go to these clubs. To get into a club in Canada you must be at least 19 years old; in the USA you must be at least 21. The reason for this is that these are the *legal drinking ages* in these countries. When you go to a club or try to buy alcohol in the store, a worker will ask you for *ID*. If you do not have an acceptable *ID* then you must leave. Many students however know how to get a *fake ID*.

In short, students in Western Universities have a lot of fun, freedom, and interesting experiences.

extra-curricular - activities that students can do and that are not part of their academic program.

pick up - playing an unorganized sport with friends. Whoever wants to play can just go and play.

intramural - an organized league of sports where maybe once per week students go and play against other students from the same school for fun

varsity - Each university has one boys team and one girls team. This team competes against other universities.

co-ed - boys and girls together

not your thing - something you do not like to do

clubs - popular places for young people to go dance, drink, and party; dance bars

girlie drinks - alcohol drinks that girls like, for example fruit drinks

legal drinking ages - the age you must be to be sold alcohol by bars, restaurants or stores

ID - identification cards that tell you who this person is. Some common forms of *ID* are driver's licenses and student cards. *fake ID* - a drivers license that isn't yours but it says you're old enough to drink. You can use an older friend's driver's license or try to make your own! Using a fake *ID* is illegal but there is no real punishment for it.

Working out is becoming a more and more popular activity. Both boys and girls like to go to the gym to workout. Many Westerners have fun trying to stay healthy and *sculpt their bodies*. Students also like to socialize by going to *pubs* to have some beer, talk with friends, and maybe listen to some *live music*. Some students are content to stay at home and study all of the time. Some do little studying and spend most of their time on the internet or watching TV.

working out - exercising in a gym or workout room

sculpt their bodies - exercise to get a great looking body

live music - when a singer or a group of musicians play in a bar or club



Students love to go to the clubs to dance, drink and party.



Students go out into the streets on their first week of school as freshmen (1st year students). Often, they try to raise money for charity organizations.

QUESTIONS

1. What do you think about students dating in university?
2. If you went to a Western university, how do you think you would spend your time?
3. What is your opinion on a legal drinking age?

ACTIVITIES

1. Write a short speech about what you think the advantages and disadvantages are in co-ed student residences.
2. **Debate:** The purpose of going to university is mainly to get a university degree. Things such as dating and drinking are a waste of time and interfere with studying.



LESSON 2

Columbia Space Shuttle Tragedy (short article)

This is a short article about the tragic
destruction of the famous America space
shuttle in 2003, and the lives that were lost.

Columbia Tragedy Article

What should I do with this?

- Read the article
- Learn some new vocabulary about outer space and astronauts
- Answer the questions

What will I learn?

- ◆ About the Columbia space shuttle
- ◆ New vocabulary

The Columbia Tragedy

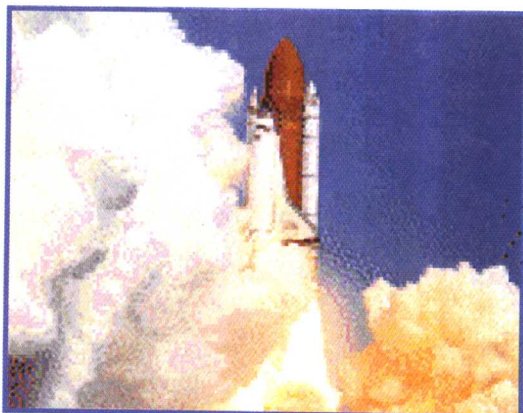
On Saturday February 1, 2003 the *space shuttle* Columbia was *descending* to Earth. It was returning from a 16-day space flight. At 9 a.m., just 16 minutes before landing, something went terribly wrong. The shuttle broke up and all seven *astronauts perished*. The seven *crew members* included two women, one African American and an Israeli.

The Columbia was 39 miles above Texas and was going 12,500 miles per hour. It had just re-entered the Earth's atmosphere. It was *gliding* in to land in Florida. Suddenly there was no *contact* with the shuttle. *NASA* did not know what has happened. Pieces of the shuttle fell to the ground. *Debris* was found from Dallas to Louisiana.

The Columbia was built in 1981 and cost \$1 billion. It went into space 28 times. NASA has *put all space flights in the future on hold*. This was a national *tragedy* for the U.S.A..

Questions:

1. What happened to the space shuttle?
2. Where did it happen?
3. When did it happen?
4. Who was on the shuttle?
5. When was the Columbia built?
6. Do you think the shuttle program should continue?



VOCABULARY

space (outer space) - above and outside of the planet Earth

shuttle (see the picture below)- the plane or craft that goes into space

descending - coming down; returning from above

astronaut - someone whose job is to study outer space

perished - died

crew members - people on the space shuttle

re-entered - come back; returned

atmosphere - the sky around the Earth; Earth's air

gliding - flying slowly and smoothly

contact - communication; radio communication between the shuttle and NASA

NASA - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

debris - pieces of destroyed material

put all space flights in the future on hold - stopped space flights TEMPORARILY

tragedy - a terrible accident

LESSON 3

Picture Perfect (magazine article)

Picture Perfect is an article from a very popular magazine in the USA. The name of the magazine is “*Seventeen Magazine*”. It is a magazine that is read by many young people, especially girls. The magazine is often about teenage romance, and the culture of young people today. Boys also like to read this magazine to see what the girls are interested in. The magazine is available for sale in Canada as well as the USA.

There are many great “idioms” in this article. Use the VOCABULARY section and try to understand the meaning of these modern idioms so that you can use them in your daily speech!

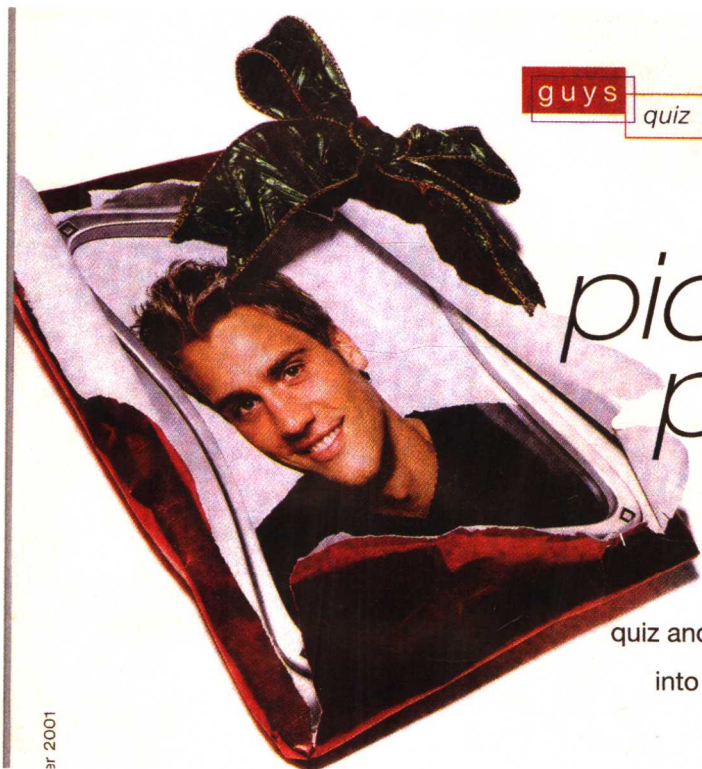
Perfect Boy Quiz

What should I do with this?

- This is a quiz for girls to see what kind of boy they want
- Girls should choose their favorite five qualities about boys from the article
- Boys should choose the five qualities that they think girls want most in a boy
- The boys and girls can share their answers with each other after they have finished

What will I learn?

- ◆ New vocabulary and popular, modern idioms about romance
- ◆ Something about what boys and girls think
- ◆ Something about American magazines for young people



guys quiz



picture perfect

Not sure **what kind of guy** you're looking for? Take this quiz and bring your dream boy into focus. **by Melissa Daly**

© 2001

Read the following list, then pick out the TOP 5 QUALITIES (check the boxes!!) you most want in a guy. Then add up the number of boxes you checked in each color to find out just who you are hoping to meet.

A He scores the winning goal (or basket) at the big game.

C He gets you talking for hours about things you didn't even realize you **felt so strongly** about.

D He knows **who's throwing the best parties**.

B He notices your favorite coffee, chocolates and flowers, and brings you surprises **on a regular basis**.

A You think your mother likes him more than you do.

D He is as fun and outgoing when he is **hanging** with your friends as he is with his own friends.

C If you are nervous about something - like eating sushi for the first time or going to a new job - he can always give you that **extra push** you need.

A He will look great with you when you go out and even better in photos with you.

B He remembers all the **sappy lines** from your favorite movie, and whispers them to you.

C He takes you places you've never been. The art museum one day and a concert the next day.

D Every night out is a lot of fun; he's the kind of guy who changes a boring day into **the time of your life**.

B He leaves love notes on your desk for no special reason.

VOCABULARY

felt so strongly - had a serious opinion

who's throwing the best parties - who's having the best parties

on a regular basis - regularly

hanging - spending free time

extra push - encouragement

sappy lines - romantic words in movies

the time of your life - a really great time

A He looks surprised when you tell him how many girls *are dying to get with him*.

C He isn't *knocking down your door* to see you - the fact that you can't have him is fun for you.

D He has the whole cafeteria laughing during lunch.

B Schedules dates that frequently involve picnicking and *stargazing*.

A He was voted "Best Dressed" in his class.

C So smart and yet so *bad-ass* - you're always learning something new about him.

A How good will you look with him in his new car?

B On birthdays, holidays and random Tuesdays he will send flowers and *serenade you*.

D Can really dance well. The two of you could show people your great dancing.

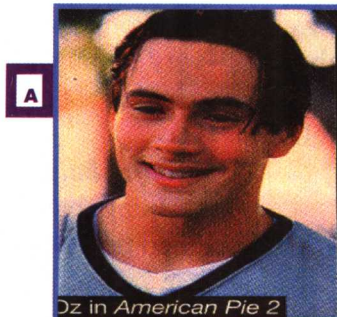
are dying to get with him - really want to be with him

knocking down your door - really wanting to see you

Stargazing - watching the stars at night

bad-ass - a bad boy; a rebel

serenade you - sing to you



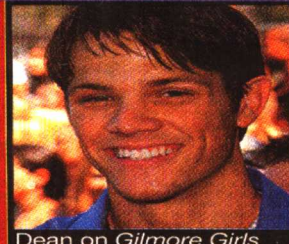
A

The Trophy (mostly purple)

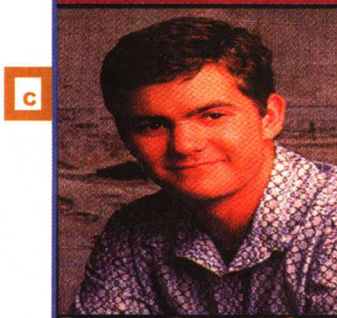
Looking for a little eye candy in your stocking? You've set your sights on snagging Mr. Popularity. Every girl wants him to be *her* man, and you're convinced that being coupled with him will raise your own stock a few points. Yes, your friends will be jealous and your dad will call him "son," but as nice as VIP seating at your guy's basketball games is, the season only lasts so long. Just make sure he's got some brains and personality inside that pretty head of his, so your relationship will outlast the roar of the crowd.

Oz in *American Pie 2*

B You've watched one too many chick flicks, and now you're looking for your own leading man to shower you with all the chocolates you can eat and all the flowers you can press. With so many guys out there trying to prove their manliness, ladies' men can be hard to find. But once you've wrapped one around your little finger, get ready for love notes and sweet-nothings galore.



Dean on *Gilmore Girls*



C

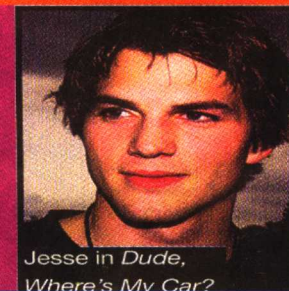
The Challenge (mostly orange)

You're not looking to take it easy; you want your guy to bring it on—from a debate about celebrating religious holidays in school to sampling raw squid at the new sushi joint. You need someone who'll give you that extra push out of the comfort zone and into a place full of different opportunities and experiences. He may be a little rough around the edges; he may even be someone you didn't think was your "type." But if you're willing to take a chance on him, he'll return the favor by showing you a whole new side of yourself.

Pacey on *Dawson's Creek*

The Party Animal (mostly pink)

D Girls just want to have fun—and the type of guy you're going for totally understands. He's the one holding court at parties: More people crowd around him than around the food table. Even when he's just kicking back with you and your friends, he adds to the night. With all that charisma, party boys can be players. But wow him with your own crowd-pleasing wit—plus a few turns on the dance floor—and he'll be all yours. ■



Jesse in *Dude, Where's My Car?*

Picture Perfect Vocabulary

The Trophy

The Trophy - the handsome and popular guy; or the beautiful and popular girl

a little eye candy - something that looks really good; a handsome boy or beautiful girl

in your stocking - as a gift in a Christmas stocking!

set your sights - decided what you want

snagging - winning; conquering; getting the boy or girl you want

raise your own stock - make yourself seem more attractive

VIP - Very Important Person; someone who has social connections

The Romantic

the Romantic - (a noun) a person who is very romantic

one too many - too many

chick flicks - romantic movies that mostly girls like to watch; a "chick" is a girl and a "flick" is a movie

to shower you - to give you a lot of things

manliness - (a noun) describes the qualities or characteristics of being a good man

ladies' men - a "ladies' man" is a guy who treats girls really well and is very romantic

sweet-nothings - nice words that guys may say to girls, for example "I'm so lucky to be with you", "you're the girl of my dreams", "I'm so crazy about you"

The Challenge

The Challenge - a person who is intelligent, open-minded, and who "challenges" you with new ideas and to try new things

take it easy - relax and not worry about anything; to not challenge yourself or be challenged

the new sushi joint - the new sushi restaurant

give you that extra push - challenge you

the comfort zone - a feeling of being comfortable and in control

He may be a little rough around the edges. - He may not be perfect.

your type - the type of person you like and want to be with

a new side of yourself - characteristics or qualities that you didn't know you had

The Party Animal

The Party Animal - someone who acts crazy, likes to party and have a good time

holding court at parties - he's "the life" of the party; everyone finds him very funny and exciting

kicking back - relaxing; having a good time; having fun

player - someone who likes to have fun and spend time with many girls; a playboy

a few turns on the dance floor - a few good dance moves; some good dancing